



**GET READY FOR THE 6th ANNUAL
BROOKS TOWNSHIP CLEAN-UP DAY!
RESIDENTS ONLY!**

WHAT: Brooks Township Clean-up Day
WHEN: Saturday, June 4, from 8am – 2pm (or until dumpsters are full)
WHERE: Brooks Township Hall parking lot
COST: Car load \$5.00, pickup load: \$10.00, single axle trailer: \$15.00
Double axle trailer: \$20.00, dual wheel truck: \$20.00
Refrigerators: \$5.00 extra

What we will accept:

All old appliances**
Note: Refrigerators MUST have doors removed
Auto parts & engines (with oil removed)
Lawn mowers
Lawn chairs
Electronics
Sheet metal**
Old bicycles**
Bed springs **& mattresses
Fencing or wood
Plastic & vinyl siding
Furniture
Roof material

What we will not accept:

NO TIRES !!!!!!!
No gas tanks
No propane tanks
No sealed containers
No paint*
No hazardous materials*
No batteries*
No concrete
No compost
No household garbage
No car bodies or frames

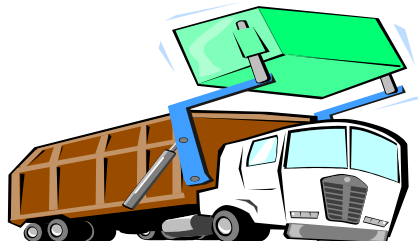
*Newaygo County will accept these items. Call 231-689-7225 or see page 6 for more information.

**We will have dumpsters available to recycle scrap metal. To make unloading easier, put scrap metal at the bottom of your junk pile.

PROOF OF RESIDENCY IS REQUIRED

Be Prepared To Unload Your Own Items!

We are in need of volunteers. Lunch will be provided. If you would like to help please contact Chris Haynor at 231-652-6763, ext. 13.



TAX CHANGES BEGIN WITH 2005 SUMMER TAX BILL

We would like to make you aware of a change the State has made in the property tax collection process. This change will impact your future tax bills. The change in the State law (Public Acts 356 & 357 of 2004) requires all county allocated operating millage to be shifted from the winter tax bill to the summer tax bill over a 3-year period. One-third of this millage will be moved to the July 2005 property tax bill, another third in July 2006, and in July 2007, and each year thereafter, all of the County's allocated mills will be levied and collected in the summer.

Because of this change in the State law, you should notice an increase in the amount of millage to be paid on your July 2005 property tax bill, with a corresponding decrease on the December 2005 tax bill. For estimating purposes, your July 2005 County operating millage amount should be approximately one-third of the amount itemized on your December 2004 tax bill as "Newaygo County." Other taxes normally collected by the County in December such as the millage for Commission on Aging, Road Patrol, and Veterans Affairs are not affected by this new law.

Summer tax bills are sent out on July 1 each year and the bill must be paid by September 14 to avoid being charged additional interest each month. If you have questions, please call Christina Haynor, Treasurer, at 231-652-6763, ext.13 or the Newaygo County Treasurer at 231- 689-7230.

FROM THE ASSESSOR

Matt Frain, Brooks Township assessor, will be continuing to re-appraise property in Brooks Township this spring and summer. He will be verifying measurements, taking digital photographs and meeting with homeowners when possible. If you have any questions regarding this process please call the township at 231-652-6763, ext. 16.

TO OBTAIN A BURNING PERMIT CALL: 231-745-3111

Bits And Pieces

RECYCLING UPDATE!

Recycling continues at Brooks Township during the 3rd week of each month. The containers are brought in on Friday and available for 10 days. When you recycle materials, especially plastics, please be aware of contaminating the materials with bottle caps and lids and with plastics that are not accepted. Plastic bags are another common contaminant. Please do not put plastic bags containing newspapers, papers or plastic in with the recyclables. #2 plastic grocery bags can be recycled separately. Rinsing and cleaning the plastic containers is also important to avoid contamination. As the weather warms it can get pretty smelly at the processing plant if containers aren't rinsed clean. Household batteries will not be recycled. Since 1992 household batteries are not made with mercury or lead and are considered non-hazardous waste and may be put in a landfill. If you aren't already a member of the "Friends of Recycling for Newaygo County", become one today. As a member you will help make recycling efforts sustainable, receive a quarterly newsletter, be eligible to be a candidate for board member and be able to vote to elect members to the board.

Memberships:

Household: \$40/year	Classroom Sponsor: \$25/year
Patron: \$75/year	Corporate Sponsor: \$300/year
Benefactor: \$150/year	

For more information call Bob Pinder, Recycling for Newaygo County, at 231-924-5822.



ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

It's spring and time for the Adopt-A-Highway program. Residents will again be cleaning a section of M-82. The first pick-up was held on April 30. The remaining two pickups this year will be July 16 and Sept. 17. The pick-ups will start at 9:00 a.m. and the group will meet at the corner of Basswood and M-82. The 2-mile section runs from Summer Ave. to the corner of M-37 and M-82. It is a lot of fun and a chance to meet some of your neighbors. Also, this is a great way for high school students to receive for community service hours. If you would like to volunteer to help please call Chris Haynor at 231-652-6763.



ROAD NEWS

The Township has scheduled several road repair projects that will take place this summer. They include resealing Basswood and 76th St., approximately 1.3 miles; Summer Ave. south of M-82, approximately .2 miles and; Spruell south of M-82, approximately .25 miles. Work will also begin on Thornapple Ave. from M-82 north to the launch access road. This work will consist of grubbing, grading, graveling and paving. Brining is scheduled to take place the first part of May depending on the weather. Other projects may take place depending on need and availability of funds.

MORE BITS AND PIECES

TOWNSHIP CALENDER

May 3	School Board Election (polls open at 7:00 a.m.) (vote at Township Hall)
16	Township Board Mtg.
20-30	Recycling
23	Planning Comm. Mtg.
June 4	6th Annual Cleanup Day (8:00 a.m. –2 p.m.)
17-27	Recycling
20	Township Board Mtg.
27	Planning Comm. Mtg.
July 15-25	Recycling
16	Highway Pickup
18	Township Board Mtg.
25	Planning Comm. Mtg.
Aug. 15	Township Board Mtg.
19-29	Recycling
22	Planning Comm. Mtg.
Sept. 16-26	Recycling
17	Highway Pickup
19	Township Board Mtg.
26	Planning Comm. Mtg.

FROM THE ZONING DEPARTMENT

Brooks Township is working to help improve and protect your property. One of the ways is by adopting standards (ordinances) that are enforced through the Zoning Department. Check with the Zoning Department if you have any questions or need a permit. Some of the items that require permits are:

- New residential homes
- Additions
- Garages, sheds, carports and other accessory structures
- Decks
- Pools
- Fences
- Lot splits
- Camping

Please contact Warren Bender, Zoning Administrator, at 231-652-6763, ext.14 for more information.

COOLBOUGH NATURAL AREAS

Are you looking for a place to take a long hike, go fishing, have a picnic or go bird watching? Then the Coolbough Natural Areas is the place for you. Come and hike over 4 miles of marked trails and enjoy many scenic views. The Coolbough Natural Areas offers you a unique opportunity to see mother nature at her best. One of the additions this year will be wooden benches for you to sit and enjoy this beautiful park. If you haven't visited the Coolbough Natural Areas yet, please do so this summer. If you have already visited, "Welcome Back". Maps are located on the bulletin boards and at Brooks Township Hall.

Recreation and Natural Resource Conservation Plan

Submitted by Harry Burkholder, Community Planner,
Land Information Access Association

Imagine canoeing on Hess Lake and watching a Bald Eagle majestically fly through the air. Then, in an instant, the Eagle makes a sharp dive and gracefully grabs a fish out of the water with its sharp talons. Before your jaw can hit the ground, you realize the Eagle is flying right at you. Then, within about 10 feet of certain collision, the bird effortlessly soars nearly 50 feet right over your head. This story and many like it were recalled as part of an exercise that asked the nearly 40 people who participated in the March 17th “Defining a Vision for the Future” meeting to offer a brief description of a memorable sports, recreation, or nature experience within the Newaygo Community.

The exercise was the beginning of a “visioning” discussion about what citizens want for the future of the Newaygo Community. Participants were asked to describe their ideas for improving Newaygo’s recreational and natural resources. The meeting was part of a larger collaborative process between the City of Newaygo, Brooks Township, Everett Township, and Garfield Township to create a *Joint Recreation and Natural Resource Conservation Plan*.

Late last year, the four local governments began discussions about planning together for the future of the community. City and Township officials agreed that there was community-wide interest in conserving the area’s wide array of valuable natural features and enhancing recreation opportunities, including the development of cross-county ski trails, biking and hiking trails, and new sports facilities that would accommodate activities such as soccer and baseball.

As discussions progressed, city and township officials sought assistance from the *Partnerships for Change* grant program. The grant program was established by the Land Information Access Association, a non-profit organization based in Traverse City, in association with the Michigan Municipal League, Michigan Townships Association, Michigan Society of Planning, and Michigan State University Extension. *Partnerships for Change* is designed to help cities, villages, and adjacent townships cooperate for improved land use planning by providing planning and technical assistance. Funding for the program has been provided by several foundations throughout the state to support the multi-year program including a generous contribution from the Fremont Area Community Foundation.

Ultimately, all four local governments adopted resolutions articulating a strong, clear commitment to the cooperative development of a recreation and natural resource conservation plan and the nine-month planning process was formally announced and publicized at a community-wide meeting on February 1, 2005.

To learn more about the Recreation and Natural Resource Conservation Plan including how you can get involved, please check out the project web-site: <http://www.newaygocommunitynrplan.org/>



**ATTENTION:
ALL NEWAYGO COUNTY RESIDENTS...Here's Your
Opportunity To Dispose of Dangerous Household
Chemicals for FREE!**

**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE
COLLECTION**

The Newaygo County Board of Public Works has arranged for the **FREE** disposal of your Household Hazardous Waste at the Newaygo County Road Commission garage on **June 11, 2005**. Household Hazardous Wastes include all toxic materials, pesticides, automotive fluids, oil based paint only, and batteries found in your home or garage. **Appointments Must Be Made. Call (231)689-7225. Leave your name and number on voice mail and someone will get back to you** to set up your time and to document what type of household waste you have. Please, this applies to household hazardous wastes only. Hazardous waste generated by business **WILL NOT** be accepted. The cost of this program to the county is approximately \$68 per participant, so **any and all donations will be greatly appreciated.**

Cindy Sullivan, Chairperson

Newaygo County Board of Public Works

NOTE: Most Hazardous Household Chemicals are not adequately filtered by septic systems. Overuse of these materials may result in contamination of water resources. Use this free service to protect the environment and the health and safety of yourself and your family.

**NEWAYGO PUBLIC SCHOOL
BOARD ELECTION**

The Newaygo Public Schools will hold their annual school board election on May 3, 2005. Voting will take place at the **Brooks Township Hall**. In the past voting took place at Newaygo High School. Polls will open at 7 a.m. and will close at 8 p.m. If you would like an absentee ballot please call Lora Jones at 231-652-6763.

“Natural Newaygo”

The “Natural Newaygo” booklets and maps to the Coolbough Natural Areas are available at the township hall. Stop by and pick them up during office hours. Our office hours are Monday-Thursday 9a.m.- 4 p.m. and Friday, 9 a.m.-noon.

CHAIN OF LAKES SEWER PROJECT UPDATE

The Chain of Lakes Sewer System is in full swing. The plant is running smoothly and residents are connecting daily. There has been mis-information circulated regarding the operation of the plant and the status of the project. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call Lora Jones at Brooks Township. Residents that have already hooked up have been pleased with the operation of the system. If you are a resident that is waiting until summer to hook-up you may want to begin applying for your permits now. The permits are effective for 6 months. A State Plumbing Inspector must do the plumbing inspections and he is responsible for a large multi-county area. By applying now you may avoid a delay in having your system inspected. Again, if you have any questions regarding these permits, connections or operation of the system please call Brooks Township at 231-652-6763.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Nature's Classroom Volunteer Training

If you are interested in sharing the excitement of seeing a pitcher plant for the first time on NCCS Camp Newaygo's Wetland Trail through the eyes of a seven year old or discovering the natural treasures of Brooks Township's Coolbough Prairie with a local Boy Scout group, this training is for you.

In establishing Nature's Classroom, NCCS Camp Newaygo is recruiting volunteer nature enthusiasts who will be trained to recognize the highlights of local natural areas. These volunteers will then lead interested groups on discovery tours to guide and educate others about these natural areas.

Coolbough Prairie training will be conducted by *The Nature Conservancy* on May 12 and the Camp Newaygo Wetland Trail training will be conducted by science teacher Terry Grabill on May 19. Plan now to attend! Both trainings will be from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. For more details or to sign-up, contact Jane Vitek at NCCS Camp Newaygo, 924-0641, or email her at jvitek@nccsweb.org.



Brooks Township Office
P.O. Box 625
490 Quarterline
Newaygo, MI 49337

Brooks Township Meeting Dates and Times

Brooks Township Board

Third Monday of the Month

Dale Black , Supervisor

Lora Jones, Clerk

Christina Haynor, Treasurer

Bob Wood, Trustee

Bob Henning, Trustee

Planning Commission

Fourth Monday of the Month

Kim Hoyle

Fred Norton

Mark Pitzer

Fred Hawkey

Bob Wood

Marc Libants

Jim Leonard

(2 openings)

Zoning Board of Appeals

Meets as needed

Bob Henning

Mark Pitzer

Frank Janusz

Irv Boeskool

Dick Besser

***Brooks Township Hours: 9:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday
(office closed noon till 1:00)**

Friday, 9:00 a.m. till noon

Phone 231-652-6763 Fax 231-652-6721

www.brookstownship.org

All meetings are held at the Township Office at 490 Quarterline, Newaygo at 7:00 p.m.

***note new office hours**