

Cleaning Up Our Community - Trash Day and Cleanups Planned

Looking for somewhere to drop off hard-to-dispose-of trash? The Township is planning a trash day to provide residents a place to discard large items such as mattresses, old appliances and other non-hazardous materials. On Saturday, June 10, the Township will have dumpsters available from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. in the Township parking lot. There will be a small charge according to the size of the load you bring in. Proof of residency (driver's license or tax bill) will be required. Township staff will also be running a chipper for residents. This is a great way to shred some of your larger yard wastes into mulch and wood chips you can use. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Chris Haynor at the township offices.



See page three for more on cleaning up our community.

WHAT: Brooks Township Clean-up Day
WHEN: Saturday, June 10 9am – 3pm
WHERE: Brooks Township Hall parking lot
COST: Car load \$5.00, pickup load \$10.00, single axle trailer \$10.00
 Double axle trailer \$25.00, dual wheel truck \$25.00

What we will accept:
 All old appliances
 Auto parts & engines (with oil removed)
 Lawn mowers
 Lawn chairs
 Sheet metal
 Old bicycles
 Bed spring & mattresses
 Fencing or wood
 Plastic & vinyl siding
 Furniture and TV's
 Roof material

What we will not accept:
 No gas tanks
 No propane tanks
 No sealed containers
 No paint or hazardous materials*
 No compost
 No concrete
 No batteries*
 No household garbage
 No car bodies or frames
 No tires

PROOF OF RESIDENCY IS REQUIRED

-Be Prepared To Unload Your Own Items-

*Newaygo County will accept these items. Call 689-7225 for more information.

FROM THE CLERK'S OFFICE

Lora L Jones, CMC

**ELECTION 2000
VOTER INFORMATION**

Mark your calendar for the **Primary Election on Tuesday, August 8** and the **General Election on Tuesday, November 7, 2000**. Polls will open at 7:00 A.M. and close at 8:00 P.M.

You must be registered to vote.

You are qualified to register to vote if you meet all of the following requirements.

You must be:

- A Citizen of the United States
- At least 18 years of age on the day of the election
- A resident of the township for at least 30 days before the election
- You must register to vote before the close of registration before the election you wish to vote.

You can register to vote at the Michigan Secretary of State or your township clerk. *The last day to register to vote for the August 8th, 2000*

Primary is July 10, 2000 and the last day to register for the November 7th General is October 10th, 2000.

A new law went into effect this year that effects your voter registration address and your drivers license address. Both address must now be the same. If you change your address for any reason the other will automatically be changed by the state. If you have questions about this please feel free to contact me.

Absentee Voting is a wonderful option for those residents that meet the following requirements.

If you:

- Are 60 years of age or older
- Expect to be absent from the community where you are registered to vote
- Are physically unable to attend the polls
- Can not attend polls due to religion
- Confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial

Absentee voting is convenient and easy. If you are interested in voting absentee, please call my office and I will be glad to send you an application. 231 652-6763 ext. 12.

CENSUS 2000

The United States Department of Census is still out in the field making sure every one is being counted. **PLEASE HELP** The census is the largest peacetime effort in the history on the United States. Your answers are important!!!



**THIS IS YOUR FUTURE.
DON'T LEAVE IT BLANK.**

From the Zoning Administrator...

Any Township resident considering construction or repairs on their home must obtain a zoning permit before beginning. Permits are available from the Zoning Administrator, Dave Olwin, or from the Assistant Zoning Administrator, Sherry Wigent.

**Cleaning Up Our Community...
Local Residents Care For Our Forests**

Twice this year local residents have made their way into the forests to clean up the mess others have made. This past April 27th and May 6th, residents from Grant, Sparta, Kent City, Canadian Lakes, Newaygo, Grand Rapids and other towns met in the Manistee National Forest off of Oak St. in Brooks Township to pick up garbage illegally dumped by others. Children, parents and grandparents worked for two consecutive Saturdays and filled three thirty yard dumpsters with items such as shingles, automotive parts, computer parts, tires, appliances and household trash. Additionally, they collected over a ton of scrap metal, which will now be recycled. The U.S. Forest Service, who provided the dumpsters, is making efforts to prevent future dumping, including the posting of signs, more patrols of the area, and additional efforts to educate the public on the dangers of illegal dumping. Future cleanups of our public forests are being planned for the future, and if you are interested in participating please contact Brooks Township Treasurer Chris Haynor or Kara McCrimmon, Land Use Vision Project Coordinator, at 652-6763.

Interested in getting involved with trash? We're looking for people to participate in township clean-ups. If you'd like to volunteer, give us a call at 652-6763. Ask to talk with Chris or Kara.



ATTENTION ALL NEWAYGO COUNTY RESIDENTS

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 10, 2000**. 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** by calling 231-689-7225. Leave your name and number on voice mail and we 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. Business hazardous wastes 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

Meet your neighbors...

Get involved...

Make a difference...

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Do you remember the Brooks Township Land Use Vision? Do you even know what the Land Use Vision is? Do you want to know what your elected officials are doing to make this community a better place to live? Do you want to get involved in making this community a better place to live? If any of these questions have peaked your interest, keep reading.

If you're unfamiliar with the Brooks Township Land Use Vision, here's a brief history. In March of 1998, Township residents, elected officials and representatives from conservation organizations got together to discuss issues of concern in Brooks Township, especially what people love about this area and the threats to the unique character of this community. By March of 1999, their hard work and visioning was captured in a document – the Brooks Township Land Use Vision. The Land Use Vision identifies natural features and resources that residents value, threats to these features and steps that Township residents and officials can take to protect these valued resources.

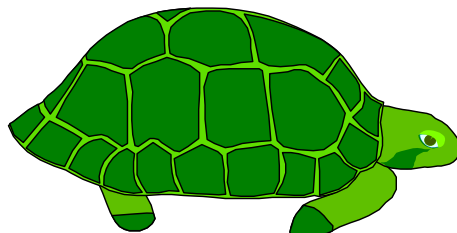
But producing this document wasn't the end of the process. It was only the beginning. In September of 1999 the Township undertook the process of requesting funds from The Fremont Area Foundation, and by the end of the year the Township was awarded \$30,000 from The Fremont Area Foundation to help with the implementation of the Land Use Vision. By March of 2000, the Township hired a new employee – Kara McCrimmon – to work on making the recommendations that township residents outlined in the Land Use Vision a reality. And two months later, we are in the beginning stages of making it happen.

THIS IS WHERE YOU – BROOKS TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS – CAN HELP! Those who have already been participating in this process know that making this dream a reality is going to require help in some form or another from all Township residents. Here's what you can do to help out.

1. **START AT HOME.** What can you do in and around your home to make a difference? The Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program's Home*A*Syst and Lake*A*Syst programs can help you identify and reduce environmental risks around the home. Check out the next page for more information.
2. Volunteer to serve on one of our newly appointed Action Committees. There are seven committees that have been organized to work on implementing some of the recommendations of the Land Use Vision. Whether you are interested in prairie restoration, forest clean-ups, water quality monitoring, or environmental education, there is something you can contribute.
3. Call the Brooks Township Land Use Vision Project Coordinator – Kara McCrimmon – if you have any questions or want to know what else you can do to get involved. And keep you eyes on the newspapers for announcements of upcoming events. Your participation is important and greatly appreciated!

Brooks Township Land Use Vision *Implementation Has Begun!*

And here's your opportunity to make a difference,
starting in your own backyard.



With support from the Newaygo Conservation District and Michigan State University Extension, Brooks Township is offering residents FREE ON-SITE HOME AND PROPERTY CONSULTATIONS for possible environmental risks. Known statewide as HOME*A*SYST, this program is voluntary and absolutely confidential, and can be used to identify and reduce risks to the environment from common everyday household activities. Topics covered include:

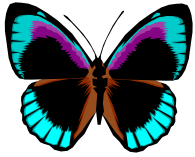
- Home-site Assessment
- Yard and Garden Care
- Household Wastewater
- Managing Household Trash
- Hazardous Household Products
- Liquid Fuel Management
- Drinking Water Wells
- Stormwater Management
- Managing Shoreline Properties (Lake*A*Syst)

Sign up now and receive one free MSU Extension soil test. This offer is only good for a limited time, so sign up now.

Contact Kara McCrimmon, Brooks Township Land Use Vision Project Coordinator, at 652-6763 x 26 to find out more about the program or to set up an appointment for your free consultation.

Summer Nature Series - Newaygo's Native Prairies

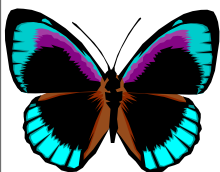
Prairie Paradise - Newaygo Prairie Field Trip



Calling all nature lovers, hiking enthusiasts and people who love to be outdoors. Mark your calendars for Sunday, July 30th. We have invited John Legge, an entomologist and landscape conservation planner with The Nature Conservancy, to lead an exciting field trip on our local Newaygo Prairies. The Nature Conservancy has been working to restore the native plants and grasses that once dominated a large portion of this area, and the work that they have done has created an enticing paradise for many species of prairie plants and animals. Participants will learn to identify some of the plant species that make up the unique prairie in the Newaygo area, and with any luck, will also get to identify and observe butterflies and other exiting critters that call the prairie home.

This field trip will run from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday July 30, 2000. Participants are encouraged to wear sturdy shoes and sunscreen, and may also want to bring a water bottle and a camera. This session is offered free of charge to area residents through the Brooks Township Land Use Vision Project. However, pre-registration is required and space is limited. Please contact Kara McCrimmon at the Township to register.

Newaygo Prairie Restoration – Hands-On Learning Opportunity



Nature lovers, conservation minded gardeners and outdoor enthusiasts – this is one you do not want to miss! The Nature Conservancy has been working to restore prairie areas around Newaygo. Earlier this spring prescribed burn crews worked to selectively burn parts of the prairies in an effort to combat alien weeds. In these “work and learn” sessions, participants will lend a hand to pull the invasive, non-native weeds that have sprouted after the fire while learning about prairie ecology, restoration and the plants and animals that call Newaygo prairies home.

Two dates have been scheduled as prairie restoration work and learn sessions –Saturday, June 10th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and Friday, June 23rd from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For those interested in participating, sturdy shoes, sunscreen and water bottles are recommended. The Nature Conservancy will provide all other equipment. There is no fee for either of these sessions. However, pre-registration is required so we have enough materials for everyone. The prairie site where the sessions will be held is in the north-central part of Brooks Township. Participants will receive directions when they call to register. For more information or to register, contact Kara McCrimmon at 652-6763 or Liesl Bohan, Nature Conservancy Volunteer Coordinator, at 517-332-1741.

Prairie Management Workshop for Local Landowners

This session is geared for local landowners who have prairie or prairie remnant areas on their property. This day long session is being hosted by the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) and is being offered to local landowners through the Brooks Township Land Use Vision Project. Speakers will include native plant and prairie specialists from the DNR and MACD and will cover topics such as recognizing prairie areas, understanding how a healthy prairie system functions, indicator plants of prairie systems and restoration and management techniques for prairie areas.

This session is being offered state-wide as a training for Conservation District staff, and we've managed to set aside ten slots for Newaygo area residents who may be interested in applying prairie management techniques to their own property. This session will be held in Newaygo (exact location to be confirmed) on Tuesday, June 20, 2000 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The cost is \$20, which includes speakers, materials and lunch. The latter part of the workshop will include field trips to prairie areas in the Newaygo area (transportation will be provided), and participants are encouraged to wear appropriate clothing for the outdoor sessions. Space is limited, and those interested in attending should contact Kara McCrimmon, Brooks Township Land Use Vision Project coordinator, at 652-6763. Spots are available on a first come, first serve basis, so call soon to reserve your spot.

More Township News From Your Elected Officials

Sewer, Water and Environment

Dale Black, Supervisor

As many of you are aware, there are two separate sewer feasibility studies presently underway. Both projects are limited to "neighborhoods" and therefore do not directly affect the Township at large. Direction and oversight for each project is by a Steering Committee consisting of representatives from affected lake associations, elected officials from the local governments and the Newaygo County Drain Commissioner.

One project is the "Chain of Lakes" – Kimball, Pickeral, Emerald and Sylvan. Kimball and Pickeral Lakes are in Garfield Township. The northern half of Sylvan is in Everett Township. The balance of Sylvan and all of Emerald are in Brooks Township. OMM is the consulting engineering firm hired to complete the preliminary study. Conceptual design is complete and the estimated cost per user has been calculated. A public informational meeting was conducted Saturday May 6, 2000. It is estimated that 150 or more persons attended this meeting. There were many questions. The response is predominately positive. A supporting petition is being circulated.

The Hess and Brooks Lakes project is not as far along as the "Chain of Lakes" project. The Steering Committee for this project met with the consulting engineer from Gosling-Czubak April 27, 2000. The purpose of the meeting was to review preliminary engineering findings and confirm future direction of the engineering study. The plan calls for public informational meetings and circulation of a supporting petition over the summer months.

What motivated lake residents to initiate action to obtain an updated engineering feasibility study for a sewer? Why is a sewer important? The most direct answers relate to water quality and ultimately property values. Water quality is an important health, social and economic issue to all landowners in the Township.

History Comes to Brooks Township

The recently acquired old records for Brooks Township have an abundance of names belonging to some of the early settlers of this area. They range from year 1893, Supervisor – G.W. Fry, Clerk – Wm. Shinn, Treasurer – Wm. Glanville, to the present day.

In 1893, besides Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer, Commissioner of Highways, School Inspector, Justice of the Peace, Constables and Drain Commissioner handled the Township affairs. These books may be viewed at the Township offices but may not be removed.

News from your County Commissioner

County Commissioner Larry Hansen is the representative for the 6th District, which includes Brooks Township. He is always willing to listen to any problems or concerns Brooks Township residents have. Please feel free to contact him with any questions or problems. You can reach him at the County Commissioners offices in White Cloud or at 231-652-4534.

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
Steve Hulst, Trustee

Planning Commission

Fourth Monday of the Month

Ron Koenigsknecht
Fred Norton
Mark Pitzer
Fred Hawkey
Bill Sherman
Bob Wood
Rob Aitchison
Kim Hoyle
Deb Bisel

Zoning Board of Appeals

Meets as needed

Steve Hulst
Mark Pitzer
Frank Janusz
Irv Boeskool
Dick Besser

Brooks Township Hours: 9:00 a.m. till noon...Monday through Friday
Phone 231-652-6763 Fax 231-652-6721

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

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

The Township newsletter is sometimes the only communications some residents have with the Township. We feel that it needs to contain what is important you, the residents of Brooks Township. We welcome any suggestions to help make the newsletter what it should be, a link between the happenings in the Township and it's residents. Please feel free to call or write with any input you may have.