

# BROOKS TOWNSHIP

BROOKS TOWNSHIP  
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[contact@brookstownship.org](mailto:contact@brookstownship.org)

## FROM YOUR TREASURER

As a service to residents I would like to make you aware of a recent change in the property tax collection process, which will impact all future property tax bills. The State of Michigan passed Public Act 243 of 2002, which requires the State Education Tax (SET) on all property in the state to be collected on a summer property tax bill. As a result of this law, all taxpayers will be receiving a summer property tax bill every year starting in July 2003.

The SET is the 6-mill tax that was created in 1994 as a part of Proposal A. The tax, while collected locally, is actually a state tax used to support all school systems in the state. For 2003 only, the tax rate will be reduced from 6-mills to 5-mills. In 2004 the rate will return to the usual 6-mill rate. While the SET will be paid in the summer, the early collection of the SET will not change the overall amount of property taxes paid each year. Beginning in 2003, the SET will not be collected on the December winter tax bill as it has been in the past.

Summer tax bills are sent out on July 1 and the bill must be paid by September 14 in order to avoid any interest penalty. Select properties may defer payment of the tax until the time that winter taxes are due.

- The homestead property of persons 62 years of age or older or the surviving spouse of a person who was 62 or older at death, with a household income below \$25,000 are eligible to apply for the deferral.
- Persons with a disability that allows them to qualify for an extra personal exemption on the state income tax form are also eligible for the deferral.
- Property that is classified or used as agricultural property may qualify if the gross receipts of the farming operation are not less than the household income of the owner.

Individuals who meet the above criteria for deferral must complete a form available through my office in order to receive the deferral. The form must be completed each year in order to have taxes deferred without penalty in any given year. The form must be filed with my office by September 14 to receive the deferral.

I appreciate you understanding regarding this change in state law. If you have any questions regarding this change please call me at 231-652-6763, ext.13.

Sincerely,

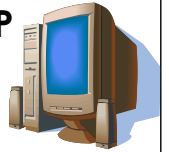
Christina Haynor  
Brooks Township Treasurer

## FOOD DRIVE

With the success of last years food drive we are doing it again this year. During the week of December 9-13 residents may drop off non-perishable food items or paper products at the Township office between 9 am and noon. Last year there were over 15 bags of food collected and donated to the St. Bart's food pantry. They were then distributed to residents in the Grant and Newaygo area. Let's all work to make this holiday season a little brighter for everyone.



## BROOKS TOWNSHIP ONLINE



[CHECK US OUT ON OUR WEBSITE](http://www.brookstownship.org)

[www.brookstownship.org](http://www.brookstownship.org)

Have you been to the township website lately? You can find zoning ordinances, the township Master Plan, "Natural Newaygo", newsletters, news of the township, plus lots, lots more. Check it out today.

## ADOPT - A - HIGHWAY

Volunteers picked up over 40 bags of trash along a 2-mile area of M-82 during the 3 pick-ups this past spring and summer. We are still looking for volunteers for next year to help with cleaning up the highway section that was adopted by Brooks Township residents. If you would like to help with the clean-ups next year please call the township. "Thank you" to all who volunteered to help this past year.



## LANDOWNERS GUIDE

The *Landowners Guide* is one tool that you can use to learn about steps you can take to participate in the conservation and improvement of healthy functioning ecosystems on your property. This guide has been designed to be locally-specific, summarizing management methods that directly apply to the natural areas we find in and around Brooks Township. It also lists local sources of information and assistance to help you meet management goals for your property. They are available to pick up at the Township office.

## COOLBOUGH NATURAL AREAS

The parking lot is now finished. It is located at the corner of 58th. St. and Hazelwood. There is a bulletin board located in the parking lot where maps are available. The bridges will be completed by December 15. Come and enjoy this beautiful area. If you would like more information you may call 652-6763, ext. 13.

## MUSKEGON RIVER ASSOCIATION?

There has been some interest expressed in starting a Muskegon River Association. If you would like to participate please call the township office at 652-6763 and let us know. This would be a great way for residents along the river to come together and share their ideas about the future of the Muskegon River and what they can do to protect it.

Township Board meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission meetings are held on the 4th Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Meetings are open to the public.

# REMEMBER TO RECYCLE!

