

# Bruce Township Newsletter

July 2005



Do you remember this?

- Township Meetings are the second Thursday of every month at 7:30 P.M.
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- Township hours are Mon., Wed., and Fri., from 10:00A.M. to 4:00P.M.
- Closed holidays.
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- Special meetings and Board of Review are all posted on the Hall bulletin board.
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- Planning Commission Meeting on the Tuesday before regular Township meeting at 7:00 P.M.
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- Dan Gallagher, Township supervisor can be reached any time:  
632-0437 (Home)  
635-3058 (Township Hall)

Web site: [www.bruce township.net](http://www.bruce township.net)

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## BASIC TOWNSHIP INFO

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The picture above is now the residence of Mr. And Mrs. John Kelsey on Twelve Mi. Rd. The Kelseys have taken it upon themselves to restore the old East McCarron School to look more like the schools of yesteryear. It has given the building a refreshing lift as it does the people who drive by and look at it.

### COMING EVENTS:

**SENIOR CITIZENS DINNER**

**OCTOBER 1, 2005**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT PIG ROAST**

**OCTOBER 15, 2005**

We had the nicest spring we've had in many years, and now that we've had some rain, this summer has been beautiful too.

The "**Spring Clean-up**" was a **big success** this year. The folks at the landfill told us that we had the biggest turnout of residents making their deposits of their trash and whatnot.

I'm sure everyone knows by now that **Bruce Township School will not be opening in the fall**. The closing of this school is no doubt a great loss to our residents and just may be a loss of expansion and growth in the township. We have had a lot of families move into our township because of the high quality of the Bruce Township School. We can only hope that some way we might see it open again. As of now, the township is waiting to see what the school board is planning on doing with the property and the structure. We will keep you informed as we hear any information.

We had a short lapse in our service from the prison crew in June due to the reorganization of crew leaders. **We would like to thank our past crew leaders and their crews who worked for us on the township property for jobs well done and welcome the new crew leaders who have taken the responsibility in stride**. Using these crews is a big cost savings to the township and they provide a noticeable service. Again, a big thank you to the past crew leaders and the prison workers for a job well done.

At the township office we have a new phone system, same phone number. When you call, if you would like to speak to the supervisor or zoning administrator, press 0 then the # key, the clerk or general information press 1 then the # key, for the treasurer press 2, then # key.

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## WEBSITE

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Please keep in mind that **the Township's website at [www.bruce township.net](http://www.bruce township.net)** is an available information resource. The website contain the complete texts of our Zoning, Nuisance, and Junk Car Ordinances plus permit information and information on Township Hall rental. Minutes of Township Board and Planning Commission meeting are also available on the website.

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## PLANNING COMMISSION

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**The Planning Commission is continuing its work on the required update of the Township's Master Plan.** Responses to the information gathering questionnaire were tabulated in April and provided some valuable insights into the Township development preferences of our residents. Questionnaires were mailed to all Township addresses and we had a 41% response. We were hoping for 60-70% response but we understand that a 15-20% response is typical for this type of questionnaire. We would like to **thank those of you that took the time to respond.**

Since April, **we have completed preparation of a draft Township Vision statement and a draft of a statement of Goals and Policies that will serve as a basis for future work.** We believe that we have now reached the point where the survey results and the draft Vision and Goals and Policies statements should be reviewed by our residents. We are **planning a meeting for September to provide this opportunity for public review and comment.** A meeting notice will be published in The Evening News and posted at the Township Hall when the meeting date is decided. We encourage all interested residents to attend.

**We are hoping to have a draft Master Plan available for public review and comment by the end to the year but this schedule may be overly ambitious.**

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## ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

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Well, we are having **another busy year with construction in the township.** To date we have issued 42 zoning permits as compared to 30 permits for the same time last year. The majority of these permits are for garages and additions to existing homes. However, requests for new homes are also on the rise reflecting an increase in new families in the township.

**I would like to remind residents that if there is some question as to whether a person is in compliance with zoning regulations, give me a call and I would be happy to answer your questions prior to beginning your construction activity.**

I also wish to remind residents that **junk or dismantled vehicles as well as old trailers, must be removed from your property.** Let's all do our part to insure that our township remains a nice place to live.

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## PARKS AND RECREATION

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The results of **our township survey** this spring showed **strong support for park/recreational development adjacent to the township hall**. We had 71% that said yes which is good to see. We also had 69% that wanted to see improvement of the **Dunbar Park**. We also had a strong 70% that wanted to **see improved boat launching facilities** in the township.

If all goes as planned with the State of Michigan and the DNR, in the fall of 2006 or the spring of 2007 there will be a **deep water boat launch at the old Connley Church Camp** property which is now state owned. This will be a State/DNR operated facility. More information will be provided as it develops.

We are also looking at **the possibility of putting in a boat launch at the east end of 9 Mile Road**. This project is also getting strong support from other townships, and county and state units of government. We'll also update you on this as it progresses.

We have **contacted Sault Area Schools** in reference to the **playground equipment at Bruce Township School** which was closed. We expressed concern saying it could be moved to the township property or the Dunbar Park. As of this writing we have not yet received an answer

All of these **projects will hopefully be supported by grant monies** that we'll be writing for during the coming winter. These projects get funded during July and August of each year. The deadline for filling these grants is April/May.

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## FIRE DEPARTMENT

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**The new fire truck earns its keep!** In June, **Gerald Rogers of 12 Mile Rd. lost his old farm house** in an evening fire. The Bruce Township Fire Dept. with the help of Dafter Fire Department responded to the fire. If you are familiar with Mr. Rogers' farm you know his mobile home was right next to the old farm house. Well, **thanks to the new fire truck with the foam applicator, his mobile home is still there in tact**. We believe without this new truck and its capabilities, Gerald's mobile home would have been lost. Do you remember the old saying, "the right tools for the right job"? **Thanks to the Bruce and Dafter volunteer firemen for a good job.**

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## COUNTY AND TOWNSHIP ROADS

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**12 Mile Road east to the river from Lower Hay Lake** is finally a **nice road** now the gravel lift and ditching is completed. Hopefully in a year or two we will be able to pave it and then there will be one more road finished in the township.

We got the **brine on the roads** this year just in time. The weather got hot and dry and the brine helped out tremendously in holding down the road dust.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, **9 Mile Rd. from M-129 to Riverside Drive will also be resurfaced late this summer.** The other projects that were mentioned will also take place except for 6 Mile Rd. from Riverside to Nicolet. That will be put off until next year.

**Road repair and construction, like the cost of everything else, is always going up.** We in the township have always approved and had road mileage approved. This year we will be **seeking a renewal of that mileage.** It brings in approximately \$47,000 a year. **For the past 5 years we have been paying approx. \$35,000 per mile** for blacktopping a road. This doesn't include the build-up to get it ready for the new surface. **This year we are paying \$50,000 a mile. Maybe it is time we start thinking about adding another mill or two to the road mileage** to keep up with these raising costs. The state is not as generous as it has been in the past with aid or contributions to these projects. It's something to think about.

Does everyone know what a **seasonal road** is? It means that it **is not required to be open for public travel from Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> thru April 30<sup>th</sup>.** If you own or purchase property on a seasonal road and plan to build on that property, you had better check with the township and the road commission prior to doing so. **It could cost you some money.** The road commission and the township aren't going to be putting a lot of monies into these roads because of the lack of funding and maintenance costs. **Plan ahead and contact the township.**

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## TOWNSHIP HALL

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Earlier we expressed our "thank you" to the prison crew leaders and crews for the nice work around the township properties. I think **we should also give a big thank you to our own maintenance man, Bill Hillock, for the work he does around here.** Bill not only keeps this place clean and stocked with supplies, but also will jump on a lawnmower when needed, as well as water flowers or whatever else needs to be done. He also provides the prison crews with supplies and maintains all of their equipment. **Thank you for all you do behind the scenes, things we don't realize that you do.**

This summer the hall has been booked for over 40 events. A lot of people are making good use of this building. **Call the Clerk to book your event for this year or next .**

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## THE ASSESSORS' REPORT

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We are in the middle of summer now and the **Assessor is checking residential properties** for additions or subtractions to buildings or property and taking pictures of buildings.

**We are also doing sales studies and land value studies with a good number of sales.** These studies determine the economic conditioning factors on properties and new land values.

**Vacant land value sales have shown an increase in value on all sorts of property.** We will continue to visit properties and soon will start with the new construction inspections and with last years construction that wasn't started or completed.

As usual if anyone has questions on assessments or any tax questions feel free to call the assessor for any tax question. **Feel free to call the assessor at 632-6584**

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## CLERKS' REPORT

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At this time there are no scheduled elections this year. I am always updating the registered voter list, as people are always moving in and out of the township.

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## TREASURERS' REPORT

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As you all know by now the summer taxes are out, they are due by Sept. 14, 2005 after that date there is a 1% per month interest charged, starting in Sept. The summer taxes are payable at the township office until February 28, 2006. If you have a new address please inform me, so I can keep our records current. This year the summer taxes reflect 1/3 of the county allocated, the remaining 2/3 will be included on the winter tax bill. The U P is having great summer weather this year, so enjoy.

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Dan Gallagher  
Bruce Township Supervisor