
Bruce Township Newsletter



Who's Your Daddy?
Senior Citizens Dinner October 2005

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

BASIC TOWNSHIP INFO

I think the summer and fall weather has been the topic of conversation this year. What a year for a garden even though it kept us busy watering. How lucky we are to live in the beautiful U.P. We can't help but feel sorry for all those people in the south who were affected by the hurricanes

The **Senior Citizen Dinner** was held on Oct.1st and as usual was a great success and the meal was the best in the U.P. The Bruce Township Homemakers outdid themselves with their excellent food and great entertainment. There were **161 meals served** including the takeouts which were delivered by Alex Bazinau, one of our volunteer Firemen.

The **Annual Bruce Township Fire Department Pig Roast** was also a great success despite the inclement weather. We'll have more to report on that later in this newsletter.

I'm sure by now we all realize that Bruce Township School is closed. We miss our children attending there.

The setting at the Township Hall this fall is rather quiet without the happy voices and laughter coming from the school ground.

As of this newsletter the Township Office has no information as to what is going to happen to the building and property. We will keep you posted. **We did get all the leftover playground equipment which we will be moving to the Township property by next spring.**

.We also **got the memorial flag pole and stone in memory of Allen Andrews and Don Hillock.** These will be moved over to the Fire Hall or to the park when that is finished.

AMBULANCE SERVICE: The Township received a notice from The City of Sault Ste. Marie Fire Department that the ambulance service fee will increase from \$625 per run to \$675. This is the amount the township pays just to have their service in our township. The resident also is charged for this service by the City Fire Department. If these increases continue, the township may have to ask for some millage to support the cost.

WEBSITE

Please keep in mind that **the Township's website at www.bruce township.net** is an available **information resource**. The website contains 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.

PLANNING COMMISSION

The Planning Commission is **making slow but steady progress** on zoning and master plan update issues that present interesting challenges. On the **zoning front**, we are **nearing completion on a package of ordinance amendments** that add flexibility to issues such as setback requirements, seasonal cottages, and number of dwellings permitted on lots. We have also added language that assures opportunities for public input on issues that have the potential for adverse impacts on neighboring properties and the township in general. The final language that will be incorporate in the body of the ordinance will also reflect input received at the public hearing on the proposed amendment.

On the **master plan update front**, we have **completed the drafting of a township vision statement of goals and policies** that, in their final form, will guide future township development decision making. Our hope of having a first draft of the update available around the first of the year is best described as wishful thinking. It now appears that the spring of 2006 is a more realistic target.

In both of these significant efforts, our **biggest challenge is getting timely public input** as our work progresses. For example, our public information session on master plan update activities was attended by only 8 or ten people. We welcome public participation in the discussions of these issues at our monthly meetings and we need and strongly **encourage attendance at our information sessions and the public hearings.**

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

With winter coming upon us shortly, we have seen a recent decline in the zoning permit applications in the Township. We have had an increase in our permit activity this year with **65 permits to date compared to 54 for the same period last year.**

We wish to remind residents that permits should be obtained when building plans are finalized, not at the last minute when construction is ready to begin. This allows us ample time to review your plans and inspect the site to insure that all requirements have been met. It is also important to remember when considering building a deck or storage shed that the same setback requirements apply as a home or garage.

As winter approaches its time to think of winter activities and the sunny south. I hope to see you all in the spring.

PARKS AND RECREATION

As mentioned earlier the **play ground equipment at Bruce Township School will be moved over here to the township property or the Dunbar Park.**

We hope to get the **Park and Recreation Committee** together this winter so we can have a final plan to present to the Board for next spring start-up. **Any one interested in being part of this group should call the hall please.**

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department had its 6th Annual Pig Roast on October 15th. They roasted 4 pigs this year and had all of the homemade fixings to finish out the meal. Delicious!! **Jim and Marge Mitchell's' girls and their husbands worked hard to prepare such a good meal.** Their volunteering and the Fire Departments dedication to this annual event are the key to having such a **successful turnout. Thank you all!!** There were 305 meals served this year! We'd like to thank all the good people and businesses who donated the excellent door prizes. Thanks so much for your contributions!!

There were three of our men whose excellence was honored, with an award and should be mentioned so the township is made aware. **Steve Sawyers and Shawn Joabar were awarded Firefighters of the Year.** Alex Bazinau, received the **Fire Chief Award.** These awards go to the men or women who go beyond their line of duty to make things happen. **We thank these men and all the rest of the volunteers for a job well done!!**

COUNTY AND TOWNSHIP ROADS

As of this writing, **9 Mile Road from M-129 to Riverside Drive is being resurfaced.** This is being funded through a federal aid project at a total cost of \$360,000. Our portion of it is \$60,000. This is a worthwhile project for us since it usually costs us around \$50,000 per mile to pave a road in the township. This doesn't include the cost of preparation for paving. In **2007 Scenic Drive from 15 Mile to Dunbar will be funded under this same grant.** Hopefully we will be able to get 13 Mile Rd. from Scenic Dr. to Riverside on this program, since it is classified as a federal road.

We know we have other roads in the township that need work and we will be looking at some of these projects this winter.

We are working with the County Road Commission, and looking into the possibility of installing guardrails at the bridge on 12 Mile Road west of M-129.

TOWNSHIP HALL

As you all know we **rent the township hall to residents of the township for parties, meetings or other uses.** You must come in and sign a lease agreement and pay the rent fee that is required. In the agreement you sign, it states that you are responsible for any damage to the hall or property. We are getting reports from our maintenance man that the chairs and tables are being walked on or used as step stools and getting bent and banged up. The walls are being scuffed up and holes and dents have been made in them. This sort of treatment can no longer be tolerated. After each rental we will be assessing damage costs to the renters after we get a report from our custodian. **When we rent out the hall we have always hoped that the renter would be responsible and treat the hall as they would their own home.**

So far this year the hall has been rented out 75 times and it is scheduled for 6 more activities. **If you plan on renting the hall this coming year, sign up early.**

The Bruce Township Historical Research Group needs your help in gathering history of this area. Photos, stories and memorabilia are all part of our growing collection of Township lore and your contributions would be greatly appreciated.

Saw mills, corner stores, churches, gas stations, hockey rinks-Do you know of any of these places that were located in Bruce Township? Cutting ice for ice houses, life in the logging camps or farming in the days of horses and thrashing machines, are all part of the history of the Township.

We are able to reproduce any photos or paper items and would return the originals to the owner. All material will be housed in the Township Office and would be available to anyone during regular business hours.

Help record and preserve Bruce Township history. Call the Bruce Township Office at 635-3058 or Carolyn Person at 632-4146 with your comments and memories.

THE ASSESSORS' REPORT

Summer has come and gone and fall season brings us to checking on new construction for this year and any permits left from last year that were not completed or started. Tax day for the year is Dec.31st. Anything on the property at that time is taxable for the 2006 tax year. Anyone moving into homes in 2006 should be aware that principal residence applications have to be in by May 1, 2006 to be eligible for homestead exemption for the year.

Anyone with tax or homestead questions should feel free to call Ken Brown, the assessor, at 632-6584.

CLERKS' REPORT

There is no scheduled election for November, 2005. The next scheduled election is February 7, 2006 this is for renewal of the Chippewa County Road Millage.

If anyone would like an application for an absent voter ballot, please contact me at the office. Our audit has been done for 2004.

TREASURERS' REPORT

We are getting ready for the winter tax collection; the tax bill will be arriving at your homes the first week in December. They are due by February 28, 2006. The winter tax amount will be a little less, because the County collected one third of their allocated millage with the summer collection. The delinquent summer taxes are payable at the township office until February 28, 2006, with one percent interest added to the base amount, starting with Sept. 2005.

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Dan Gallagher
Bruce Township Supervisor

