

Bruce Township Newsletter

Bruce Township, Chippewa County, Michigan

3156 E. 12 Mile Road
Dafter, Michigan

September 2007

(906) 635-3058
www.brucestownship.net



Township Supervisor's Report

"ARE YOU READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL??" I think that is what the weather is saying to us now. It is also letting us know it is time for gardens, county fairs and school shopping. Most asked question today is, "Where did the summer go??"

This is also the time for you to mark your calendar for the annual **Senior Citizen Dinner, Oct. 6th, 2007**. This is one of the best dinners and get-togethers with entertainment that the Bruce Township Homemakers put on every year. If you haven't been to one of these meals, you are missing a great evening. Remember October 6th.

Two weeks after the Senior Citizen Dinner, the volunteer fire department puts on their **Annual Pig Roast, Oct. 20th**. Here is another good meal to mark on your calendar. There will be lots of food and

lots of door prizes to give away. So make sure you plan your weekends to attend these worthwhile events.

The proposed legislation to strip the townships of elections, assessing and tax collection is in limbo at this time. All the townships and counties are fighting this legislation proposal. We will have to wait and see what happens later on this fall.

The **Nine Mile Boat Launch** is dead in the water. Due to the way the grants are structured, the township has to own the property in order to apply for the grant. With the cutback in grants, there is no guarantee that we will get the grant and if we don't, we will be stuck with the property that we can't sell. There is another avenue we are taking to see if the state will pick up the parcel and then we might be able to move ahead and see if we can get a boat launch located at this site.

911 Reflective Markers... We

keep on reminding everyone that you need to get these markers out in front of your house. We have 281 markers out at this time. I think we have more homes than that

in the township. Please call the hall and sign up for these markers. \$5.00 will get you the reflective marker, a 6-foot steel post and the locking nuts and bolts to mount it with. If you ask, we will even install it for you at no extra charge. How can you go wrong???

DID YOU KNOW!!!! The Township Hall is an emergency shelter. For whatever reason, any of the residents of the township can use the hall if you should run out of heat or need air conditioning or have no power. We have an emergency generator at the hall that will automatically come on in



Township Meetings are the second Thursday of every month at 7 p.m.

Township hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Closed Holidays

Special Meetings and Board of Review are posted on the Township Hall bulletin board.

Planning Commission Meeting is on the Tuesday before the Regular Township Meeting at 7 p.m.

Dan Gallagher, Township Supervisor 632-0437 (home)

case of a power failure. This will keep the hall operating with all the necessities including cooking.

If you need to use the hall, all you have to do is contact any one of the board members. We will let you in and help you get settled. We do not have any shower facilities other than at the Fire Hall, which you can use, and we do not have any beds/bedding. So if you have an emergency, you can count on having the Township Hall for shelter.

Treasurer's Report

Ruth LaJoie

Where did the summer go? Summer taxes are due by September 14, after that date you still pay them to Bruce Township, at the office or by mail, until February 28, 2008. You will need to add 1% interest starting with Sept. If you think there is a mistake on your tax statement, such as an address, homestead or assessment, let me know so if we need to make a change we can do that before the winter bill is printed. The winter statements will arrive the first week in December. Have a great fall.

Clerk's Report

Wanda Sawyer

The office has had a busy summer. There has been a lot of hall rentals along with the regular duties of the office. We have just completed the audit for the year.

I have been notified that there will be an election for the Intermediate School District on November 7, 2007.

Assessor's Report

Ken Brown

During the summer the assessor has been looking at properties around the township for any changes in conditions or new building additions.

There are a number of last years' permits for new buildings that were not started or finished during 2006 that we have been checking.

There seems to be a slowdown in sales the past year around the township and the whole county.

New building permits are still

coming in and will be checked on in the fall as the tax day of December 31, 2007 approaches.

The assessor can be reached at 632-6584 for any questions property owners may have.

Planning Commission

Lou MacDonald

The Planning Commission did not meet in July and August and will not meet in September. Regular monthly meetings will resume on October 9th. The principal item of business during the fall and winter months will be a continuation of

Chippewa County Shooting Association

Fall Schedule

Saturday	Sunday
Sept 8 - Rimfire 200 Yard	Sept 9 - Rimfire - 25 & 50 Yard.
Sept 15 - Cowboy Action	Sept 16 - Cowboy Action
Sept 22 - Open Practice	Sept 23 - Open Practice
Sept 29 - Open Practice	Sept 30 - Tactical Match
Oct. 6 - CPL Class	Oct 7 - Rimfire-25 & 50 yd.
Oct 13 - Open Practice	Oct 14 - Sault Area Sportsmen
Oct 20 - CPL Range Day	Oct 21 - Open Practice
Thursday October 25 - - Friends Of NRA Dinner - - Brimley Casino	
Oct 27- Open Practice	Oct 28- Open Practice
Nov 3 - - - Sight-In-Days - - - Every Day - - - to Nov. 14th	
Weekdays & Weekends - Through September	
Sundays all Day	Rifle/Pistol "Open Practice" where listed.
Sunday Afternoons	Trap - Noon to 4 pm.
Monday Evenings	Centerfire Rifle & Pistol - 5 pm.
Tuesday Evenings	NRA Bullseye Pistol - 5:pm & Trap - 6 pm.
Wednesday Evening	Cowboy Action Shooting - 5 pm.
Thursday Evenings	Work Bee - Rimfire Rifle - Trap Practice 5 pm.
Friday All Day	Open all day for practice.
Every Day	Field Archery - Every Day - 8 am to Dusk.

planning studies for the areas not addressed in Phase 1 of the Township's master plan that was completed in February 2007. Phase 1 addressed the M-129 and Riverside Drive corridors and the areas fronting the St. Marys River. Phase 2 will address the principal east-west roadways and the Shunk Road corridor and complete the

review and update required on a five year cycle by state law.

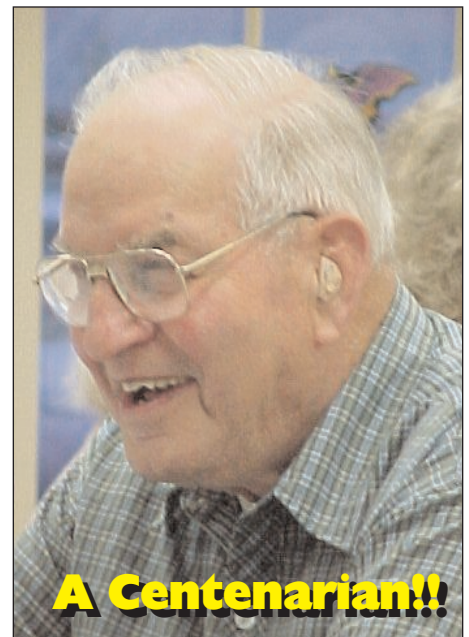
Necessary zoning ordinance adjustments reflecting master plan Phase 1 were adopted in June and are currently in use. The modifications place limitations on the types of development permitted in certain areas to assure that incompati-

ble types of development do not adversely affect property values and other types of uses in these areas.

The work completed to date required several months of intense effort and reflects the strong preferences expressed by Township residents in the 2005 community survey. Public participation in master plan Phase 2 efforts and in all Planning Commission activities is always welcomed.

September and October Library Events

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Sept. 15, 1:30 p.m. | Family Movies @ Bayliss, "Charlotte's Web" |
| Sept. 17, 10 & 11:30 a.m. | Leslie Helakoski, author of Big Chickens, Michigan Reads! Tour |
| Sept. 18, 6:30-8:30 p.m. | Cabin Fever Writers' Group |
| Sept. 19, 7 p.m. | CCGS, meeting with speaker |
| Oct. 2, 6:30-8:30 p.m. | Cabin Fever Writers' Group |
| Oct. 3, 7 p.m. | Author Larry Chabot, The U.P. Goes to War: Upper Michigan and Its Heroes in World War II (sponsored by Chippewa County Historical Society) |
| Oct. 4, 7 p.m. | The Superior Poetry Café with poet A. Van Jordan & Open Mike |
| Oct. 8, 7 p.m. | Film @ Bayliss, "Dreams of Dust" |
| Oct. 16, 6:30-8:30 p.m. | Cabin Fever Writers' Group |
| Oct. 17, 7 p.m. | CCGS, research session |
| Oct. 20, 1:30 p.m. | Family Movies @ Bayliss, "Clifford's Really Big Movie" |
| Oct. 24, 7 p.m. | "A Crude Awakening" film, Three Lakes Group Sierra Club |



Look who will be "100" years old this coming November 8th. **Clifford Allen!!!** He has been a resident of Bruce Township all of his life and he was also township supervisor back when we had two year terms (1977 & 1978). He was also the township assessor for Bruce Township for nine years and other townships in the county and still has his current certificate as a certified assessor. There will be an **Open House** for Clifford, **Oct. 6th**, at the **Soo Township Hall** from **2 to 4 p.m.** He will also be at the Senior Citizen Dinner at our township hall that evening.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
CLIFFORD!!!**

Fire Department

Tim Andrews, Fire Chief

Bruce Township Fire Department had a lucky summer and drought season with just a few fires. The volunteers were able to get a quick jump on them to keep them small. Thanks to the people of Bruce Township for being diligent and careful this season.

Six members of the Fire Department spent two days at the Sleeper Lake Fire in Newberry with two of our trucks. They helped with one of the biggest fires in Michigan history. They represented us well.

October 20th is the Fire Department's annual **Pig Roast** where there will be lot of good food and prizes. The Pig Roast runs from **2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**, so please come and support the fire fighters. Donations are always welcome. This year we have a surprise announcement to share with everyone.

Anyone interested in contributing or joining the department can contact me, Tim Andrews, through the township office.

Bruce Township Historical Society

**Dusty Walsh King,
Shirley Patrick,
Carolyn Person**

Township history has always been part of the lore of the families that settled here, cleared the fields, established the government and schools, gathered in the churches

and were part of a growing area. For the most part it was oral history handed down from generation to generation, some forgotten, some added to, some just repeated as life in the good ole days.

In 1980 Janice Kessler and Carolyn Person began inquiring about the early schools in the Township and Jeanne Freeborn came up with notes from the 1968 8th grade class. Students had begun gathering information from family members and "old timers" about area history. Over several years, Kessler and Person interviewed residents and compiled the beginnings of a written history.

Senior Citizens Dinner

Saturday October 6, 2007

5:30 p.m.

Bruce Township Hall

12 Mile Road

**All Bruce Township
Seniors WELCOME**

**Program honoring
Bruce Township
Residents
Over 90 years old**

**Special highlight
recognition of
Clifford Allen
representing 100 years in
the Township**

**Homemakers are
providing entertainment**

Around the year 2000 another group formed and gathered more information to the growing files. Kathleen Butler Lawrence completed a one-room school survey, Pat McNamara filled in names and dates of early homesteads, Carol Storey helped connect us with the Pickford area, Isabelle Sibbald wrote of Rosedale. Ramona Siewierski, Jeanne Freeborn, Ruby Lundy, Mary Lechner and of course, Clifford Allen, wrote memories, added photographs and provided contacts for more interviews. All of this information would not be possible without the willing cooperation of the families of the Township.

Dusty Walsh King, Shirley Patrick and Carolyn Person are proceeding with the gathering of Township history. The call is again issued to join with us, share with us, help us record the beginnings of the Township, share the family stories and lore so that future generations can connect with the accomplishments of the past.

Thanks to all who have contributed to this project.

Imagine Bruce Township covered in white pine and cedar swamps, the only roads deer trails, the only settlements in St. Ignace and Sault Ste. Marie. Around 1865 a few adventurous people scouted the area, but it wasn't until the early 1870s that people began arriving to clear land for farming. The majority of settlers came from Canada whose previous generations had migrated from Scotland and Ireland. The earliest transportation route was by water so the first families came by way of the St. Marys River and then up the

Charlotte River and established farms in the Hay Lake area. Donaldson and Rosedale grew into community centers by the mid-1880s. By this time Shunk Road was a main thoroughfare. Many times the families along the trails worked together to build sections of the road past their homes. It was a good days travel to go to the Sault from the Township.

The 1880s and 1890s saw a thriving Township with stores, Post Offices, sawmills, blacksmith shops, churches and schools sprouting up all over the countryside.

As the Society collects and catalogs information, we are creating a research area at the Township Hall that will be available to people compiling family history. We can copy donated material for our files and return the originals to the family. We value family histories that people have shared with us as well as the mementos of schools and social organizations. Anything and everything contributes to building the history of our commu-

nity and families.

**Bruce Township Historical Society
Every Monday 2-4 p.m.
Township Hall**

ANYONE with history to share or with an interest in our history is WELCOME to join us - It's a big project!

**Nature In Bruce Township
Karen Allard**

Bears, bears, bears - this has been the summer for bears here on M-129 between 13 and 14 Mile Roads. Possibly due to the extremely dry conditions this year, the bears have been visiting bird feeders and backyards at all hours of the day and night. Here there are at least three, a very large male, a

smaller female and one cub.

There are also large numbers of turkeys so apparently the flocks are growing rapidly. It would be nice if they would break up into smaller flocks as feeding anywhere from 40 to 90 turkeys can get pretty expensive.

This week there was a doe, a fawn and an 8-point buck in the backyard eating the apples off a volunteer apple tree in the backyard. There are several does around and a set of twin fawns and a single fawn. The dry weather has been driving them out into the open in search of food and water this summer too.

The blackbirds continue to flock to the feeders and there have been quite a few purple finches and gold finches recently.

The hummingbirds have been having battles over the feeders so please don't take your feeders down until there have been no hummingbirds visiting for at least a week. We will have an influx of them coming down from Canada and they need to refuel for their long flight south.

There was a Least Bittern at the farm pond a few days ago. When we approached the pond it started to squawk and we could not figure out what it was until we saw it. This is only the second time I have seen one.

Question of last week:

Where were Post Offices located and who were the post masters?

Question of this week: Who was the McKnight of McKnight Road?

Question of next week:

Does anyone have a photograph of the Half Way House or the Store at 12 Mile?



Bruce Township
3156 E. 12 Mile Road
Dafter, MI 49724



From the Chippewa County Shooting Association by Lorna Doone

Have you given any thought to getting your hunting gear in order for the upcoming seasons?

Bow season opens in less than a

month, and then it is rifle season. Have you checked your scope mounts, cleaned your equipment, taken inventory, etc., etc., etc.?

Procrastination is not a good option in wanting a well-prepared-for hunting season.

Also, assuming you fill those tags, how and where will you have your

meat processed? No, it is NOT too early to be thinking about those things!

Also, when the only time you shoot your weapon is to sight it in, something is wrong somewhere!

