

PRESQUE ISLE TOWNSHIP NEWS

From your Supervisor

Dear Friends, Neighbors and fellow Residents of Presque Isle Township,

Limited by space in this mailing, you may read my entire newsletter on our website www.presqueisletwp.org

As I begin this message, I would like to ask everyone to take a few moments to remember all of the men and women serving in our armed forces around the world. May they know how sincerely grateful we are to them, and may that gratitude surround them and keep them safe until they return from service to our country. It is because of their service that we are blessed to enjoy the comforts and democracy of not only these United States, but the luxury of such a fine community as we have here in Presque Isle Township.

Looking back on 2011, it's amazing how quickly this year has passed by! We were fortunate to have had a spectacular summer, weather-wise, which transformed into a splendid autumn. The Lighthouse Festival left us with fond memories and many "new friends", and the Old Fashioned Christmas festivities and community spirit were wonderful, as always.

We will be beginning a new year soon. A time filled with fresh opportunities and challenges, and an excellent time to reflect upon the accomplishments and progress our community has made in 2011. Continuing the energy and momentum of 2010, this year has proved to be a busy year in Presque Isle Township; hopefully this newsletter will give you a brief glance into some of those highlights.

Several projects are completed and underway;

- Rayburn Road** - corridor to LaFarge-Stoneport has been completed
- Security** - Stanley Alarm Systems for fire and intrusion have been installed at all Township buildings (both Lighthouse Parks and the Township Hall)
- Township Webpage** dons a new look. Check it out at www.presqueisletwp.org to see for yourself
- Range Light Park**: construction of a portable bathroom structure has been completed, and plans are in the works to construct a handicapped accessible pathway and pavilion there as well.
- DNR launch sites**: Improvements made at the Mar-Ral Launch site (on west Long Lake) through cooperation with the DNR, the Presque Isle County Road Commission, and our Township, the Mar-Ral Launch site were done with no cost to our Township. Grants for the Grand Lake Road launch site in the southeast portion of Grand Lake are moving along and hopefully our next newsletter will reflect progress toward those efforts
- A resource Library** is being developed at the Township Hall with information regarding our Township government. Most materials will be available for citizen use.

(cont'd on page 2)

Lighthouse Parks: An agreement with the Museum Society to manage the Lighthouse Gift Shops and climbs is being drafted, the adopt-a-plot sections are being planted and developed, rentals of the parks (weddings and other events) continue to increase, volunteers are continuing their efforts to clean-up and improve the grounds and facilities, visitors are commenting on the park improvements noting the look as “fresh, pristine, and accessible”, and the Old Lighthouse will receive a “face-lift” in 2012 improving its lifespan an appearance.

A team is going to be formed with the initiative of inventorying and reviewing all boat launches at Long Lake, Grand Lake, and Lake Esau. They will recommend improvements and seek grant funding for those improvements. If you wish to become a member of this team, or any other team under the direction of the Township Board, please contact me at ppokorski@presqueisletp.org or 595.6695

Park Bench Donation Program: If you are interested in ordering a commemorative bench to be placed along our Bike Path or at one of the Lighthouse Parks, please call the Township Hall Office at 595.2752

Fire Departments: East Grand Lake Fire Department and the Presque Isle Fire Department are actively serving our community each and every day. We are fortunate to have such talented and well-trained volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel providing fire and rescue protection to our community. Volunteer departments are always looking for individuals interested in serving on the departments as well. For more information on how you can serve your community in this manner, call East Grand Lake Fire Dept. at 595.6605 or Presque Isle Fire Department at 595.2521.

This is just a sampling of what has been going on in our community during 2011. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or have a concern that you would like to discuss; I am your Supervisor, I am here to serve. To quote Michigan Townships Association; *Township officials represent the level of government closest and most responsive to the wishes of the people.*

Our Township government's primary purpose is to serve residents while meeting the needs of our community, for the betterment of the *whole* community.

May 2012 bring you peace, good health, and success in all you do.

With warmest regards,

Patrick Pokorski
Presque Isle Township Supervisor



A Note from your Treasurer

Winter 2011 tax bills have been mailed and are due on or before February 14th at 5:00 pm. In addition to my home office hours, I will be at the hall to collect tax payments from 8:00 am – 11:00 am on the following dates;

December 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30

January 13 and 27

February 3 and 10

*Tax payments received at my home after 5:00 pm will be credited the next business day

Budget Report

This was the first year that the Township was able to fully utilize the capabilities of its new accounting software program. With the new program, the budget is able to be much more detailed than before by allowing it to be broken down not only by account but also by individual line item. Being that this was the first year the Township had to assign budget figures on such a detailed basis, it was sometimes a bit of a guessing game when it came to certain expenses, and is still a work in progress, however, we are glad to report that, with the exception of the maintenance budget (which was somewhat anticipated due to this being the first year that "maintenance" was ever budgeted), the Township is on track and keeping within budget.

Parks & Recreation *by Nancy Kinney, Chair*

There were Parks and Recreation events and facility changes for everyone to notice during the summer of 2011. It was all a "work in progress" and we're making more changes as citizens read this newsletter.

A big Thank-You to any and all who supported the effort to make our Fourth of July Fireworks self-sustaining. That celebration draws many people from the surrounding area to join our own residents in creating a great experience for everyone, and we are grateful that it can continue with citizen support.

Having the Museum Society and its employees as hosts and vendors at the lighthouses, as well as the 1905 House, vastly improved the variety and quality of items available and the happy faces in the Lighthouse Parks this summer. Their success was a welcome change for all of us. The Wednesday evening summer programs at the 1870 park provided educational input and additional fun for young and old alike. Summer intern Jessica Matuszak worked with the Museum Society to catalog artifacts and re-design the former Lighthouse Service Office. The Adopt-a-Plot effort began to add color and vegetation to the 1840 grounds, where the 1840 cottage was brighter and more appealing with cleaning and new paint. The 1970 cottage and part of the tower were also painted and re-conditioned prior to the start of the season. Photographers' evening tower climbs, participation in the Alpena Lighthouse Festival and December festivities at the Olde-Fashioned Christmas continued recreation opportunities as the year progresses.

At the Range Light Park, swimming buoys kept the kids safe and new picnic tables were well-used by happy vacationers. The portable toilet was a convenient addition, and its enclosure will be transformed over the fall and winter seasons.

We have plans for additional new and repainted signs to draw attention to our parks and to help users to know what facilities are available. All residents should keep their eyes and ears open for more improvements and news about the final resting place of the 1870 Fresnel lens.



Our deepest thanks to all for their support and their efforts to keep our parks clean and safe.

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission would like to welcome their new member, Howard Welsh, who replaces the vacancy created by the resignation of Michelle Styma. Howard will fill the remainder of Michelle's term which will expire in 2013. As always, the Commission has been extremely busy, most recently with a multitude of Site Plan Reviews and Special Use Permits. Due to the ever changing needs and evolvement of the Township, members are performing thorough reviews of the Zoning Ordinance to ensure that its language and intent are still in line with the Townships objectives and mission. There will be public hearings scheduled throughout the winter to review any amendments and/or additions to the Ordinance.

Zoning Board of Appeals

Due to Jerry Broad's recent relocation to Alpena, the Presque Isle Township Zoning Board of Appeals was forced to say good-bye to a long time member and chairperson. His knowledge, passion, and leadership skills will be greatly missed, and we sincerely appreciate his years of dedication and service to the Township and the ZBA. Jerry attended his last meeting as member and chair on October 4th, 2011. Upon acceptance of his resignation, Bill Fay was promoted from alternate member to permanent member, which has left a vacancy for the alternate's position. The Township Board is taking applications for individuals interested in serving on this committee. In addition to changes in membership, the Board will be assisting an ad-hoc committee of the Planning Commission with a review of the accessory building portion of the Presque Isle Township Zoning Ordinance.

Museum Society *by Drew Matuszak, President*

As many of you know, in 2011 the Museum Society significantly expanded its role to include not only the 1905 House but also the two lighthouses located in our Township parks. Along with this expansion, came a number of challenges which took the Museum Society beyond its normal boundaries. Things like hiring employees, purchasing gift shop inventory, managing tower climbs in two lighthouses and running a full fledged business became the goal of the 2011 season. Although the challenges were many, since the Museum Society is a 401c3 organization, all of the profits would now go back into making our lighthouses better for our residents, visitors, children and grandchildren. With the help of the Township, the grounds and lighthouses were given a fresh look as the interiors of both lighthouse buildings were repaired, repainted and redecorated. The season officially opened on Memorial Day weekend and things were off to a fast start that kept our volunteers and staff busy and it never slowed down. During the summer months we hosted two picnics, one on the 4th of July and the other over the Labor Day weekend. We also launched a new website which we hope you have a chance to visit. It can be found at presqueislelighthouses.org and contains information relating to the Museum Society, the history of the lighthouses as well as other information relative to the Presque Isle community. As we look back on 2011 one of the things that stands out is the tremendous support we received from both the community and the Township itself. We could not have accomplished what we did without the hundreds of hours of volunteer effort as well as the support of our Township officials. I think most of you will agree that this is an excellent example of teamwork and what can be accomplished when our community is focused on a common goal. For this help and support, a heart felt thank you from the Museum Society goes out to the Presque Isle community. With 2012 upon us we are excited about the progress we have made and know that with the support of the community and our Township we can overcome whatever faces us. We look forward more then ever to the Museum Society having another successful year and to working with our community to help keep Presque Isle the wonderful place it is to live and share with our family and friends. Thank you for your continued support.

Presque Isle District Library *by Jan Stevenson, Director*

Presque Isle District Library had an exciting summer. A total of 15 children started the Summer Reading Program at Grand Lake and 8 children finished the entire program. They did an awesome job of reading a total of 13,164 minutes in just four weeks. This year there was a special performance done by "The Storytellers." They did a great job of entertaining us with music from around the world. All the children that came to the performance got to play an instrument and they even performed a song for everyone in attendance. A new sprinkling system has been installed at the Grand Lake Location and we expect it will help to maintain the lawn next year. Special thanks to the Grand Lake Friends for donating \$1000 toward that project. Fall programming will include an author visit from Christine Johnson a local author who will talk about her latest Christian Historical Romance, "The Matrimony Plan," which is a sequel to her first novel. On December 3rd the Grand Lake Friends sponsored "Frosty's Birthday Party" by performer Rick Morse. There were two performances that day, one at 11:00 a.m. and the other at 2:00 p.m.

Friends of the Library

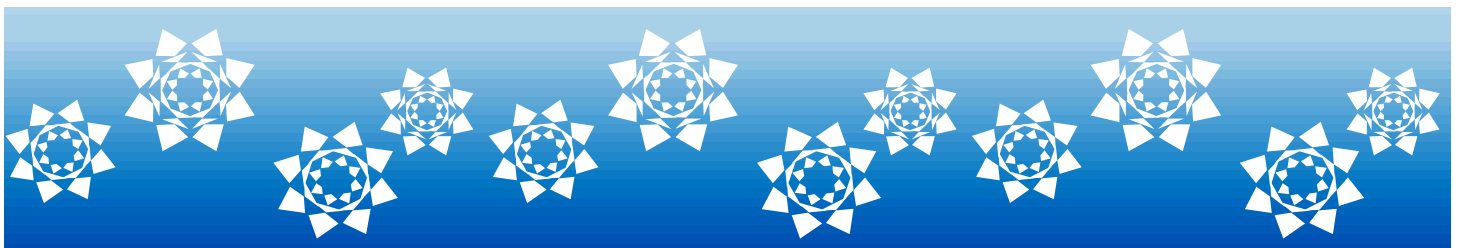
Highlights of this year included our 6th Annual Geranium Sale, a Fancy Nancy Tea Party and the celebration of our 25th Anniversary. We participated in the Old Fashioned Christmas celebration with a program for the children at the library on Saturday, December 3rd. Our December meeting and cookie exchange will be held on December 12th and we are already working on the 2012 Geranium Sale, scheduled for May 25th and 26th. Thanks to all who so generously support our activities.

Grand Lake Youth Sailing Camp *by Gary Hagen*

The Grand Lake Youth Sailing Camp will be held on the following tentative dates. July 23–27 and July 30–August 3. This has really turned out to be a great event for the kids and our area. Last year we had 42 kids attend the Grand Lake event. When you combine Alpena we had about 96 total kids. The camp has a morning and afternoon session and is held at the Presque Isle Harbor Beach Club. All the equipment, boats, and certified instructors are provided by the Alpena Youth Sailing Club. The ages are from around 8–18 years old. This will be our third year and all the feed back I receive is positive as the kids have a blast learning sailing and meeting new friends.

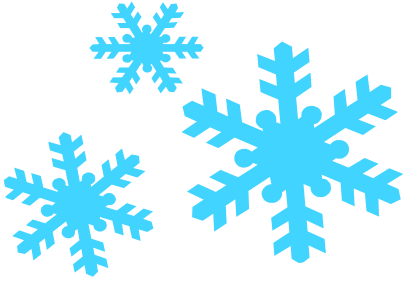
Registration will begin after the first of the year and we are hoping for 50 kids this summer. If this could be sent to all the property owners in and around the township this would be wonderful. The Lodges may want to send this information to their booked clients.

If anyone is interested in registering or needs more information please have them contact me at sailingyouth@hotmail.com or call my cell at 989–884–2919.



Calendar of Events

- * Jan 21st - Long Lake Fishing Derby
(ice conditions permitting)
- * Jan 28th - back up date for LL Derby
- * Feb 18th - DNR Free Fishing Weekend
 - Reel Fun Ice Fishing Tournament
 - GLSC Grand Lake Ice Fishing Derby
- * The third Saturday in Feb - April - the Grand Lake Chapel will be hosting their Soup Supper



Township Recycling

Thanks to the dedication of Bob Carr, Tony Velat, Evergreen Recycling and our Township residents, our recycling efforts continue to be a success. The additional use throughout the summer months required weekly dumping, and lots of positive comments were received. As fall approached and the summer-timers left, we have gone back to emptying every two weeks (typically Wednesday mornings). Thanks to the willingness of Evergreen Recycling Employees to take on extra work, **we were able to create an additional bin for plastic and tin** (which always seemed to fill the fastest) by now having all of the paper products in one bin. The new bin is located in the middle on the forest side of the trailer. We are also asking everyone to please crush any containers. If everyone crushed their milk jugs and so forth, we'd likely be able to double the capacity of the bins. Thanks again to everyone who is respectfully utilizing the system.

New Website!!

Well, it was a long time coming and I'm pretty sure that we hit every bump imaginable, but it's here and it's live! The new site was designed to serve a dual purpose; to be both a source of information and communication for residents/visitors and the Township's government, and a marketing tool to help promote the Township. The site is much more interactive with forms that can be completed and emailed directly from the site, as well as spots for community feedback, and an interactive calendar of events where residents/groups can submit events on their own. Updates and additions will continue to be a work in progress. Feedback on content, ease of use, and navigation, as well as any other comments would be greatly appreciated, so let us know what you think (email office@presqueisletp.org or just call the hall 595.2752) !

Presque Isle Township
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