

Presque Isle Township News



From the Office of your Supervisor *(really...he now has an office!)*

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

As July and the end of our fiscal year approaches, I am pleased to say that even with the shrinking income and smaller financial resources to rely on, our township is in good fiscal shape. However, after reflecting upon the expenditures over the past two years, it becomes evident that much of the monies spent (and that will be spent in the next few years) have been directed toward the restoration and repair of our assets rather than on the maintenance of them. The goal for our township properties is to reach a state of preservation sustained through maintenance; enabling us to improve our assets and provide a greater service to our community.

OUR LIGHTHOUSES: The Old Lighthouse will be receiving the much needed repair of its shell and a new coat of paint; restoring it once again to the gem that it is.

As you visit our Old Lighthouse Park, you will soon notice picturesque results created through our "Adopt a Plot" program. Individuals, families, and groups have the opportunity to adopt a section of the Old Lighthouse Park for beautification using plants and materials indigenous to the region and homesteads established by the Lighthouse Keepers and their families. If you are interested in being a part of this endeavor, please call the Township Hall Office for more information.

The Presque Isle Lighthouse Museum Society is now managing our Lighthouses and Gift Shops. This enterprise is more in line with the intent of our agreement with the U.S. Department of Interior and Bureau of Land Management; by engaging a "not-for-profit" entity (such as the Museum Society), rather than a private "for-profit" organization. It is the Museum Society's intent to utilize profits from the lighthouse climbs and gift shops, to make improvements at the lighthouses and to expand the artifacts in their collection as a means to enhance our lighthouses and visitor experiences at our Lighthouse Parks.

WEBSITE: Presqueisletp.org will be getting a new look soon. We are in the process of reinventing our website making it more user friendly and capable of providing more information about our community.

UPDATING: If you received this newsletter and your name or address information is incorrect, or if you know of any resident of Presque Isle Township who didn't receive it, please call the Township Hall Office at (989) 595-2752 with that information.

Our township has many plans and projects "on the table" to move Presque Isle Township forward, and if you feel you would like to be a part of it, please contact me at home 595.6695 or the Township Hall 595.2752. As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, questions and concerns and encourage you to come to our Township Board of Trustees Meetings which are held the second Monday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Presque Isle Township Hall. This is your Township and it is you we are here to serve.

With Warm Regards, Patrick Pokorski

Summer 2011

Upcoming events in our Township

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| July 2 | Independence Day
Parade, Picnic &
Fireworks |
| July 9 | GL Chapel Ice Cream
Social |
| July 9-10 | GL Fishing Derby |
| July 30 | Annual Garage Sale
Day |
| Aug 6 | Long Lake Fishing
Derby |
| Aug 10 | Fancy Nancy tea
party @ GL Branch
Library |
| Aug 13 | GL Assoc. Arts & Crafts
Show |
| Aug 18 | LLIA Annual Meeting |
| Sept 3 | Labor Day Picnic |
| Sept 9-11 | Posen Potato Festival |
| Oct 7-9 | 16 th Annual Great
Lakes Lighthouse Fest. |
| Dec 3-4 | Olde Fashioned |

Clerk – Township Budget

On June 23rd, 2011 the Presque Isle Township Board of Trustees approved the budget for the 2011-12 fiscal year. The operating budget for this coming year was approved at \$297,700.00. Before final audit and year end figures, as of June 1st, total expenditures for 2010-11 were \$237,193.52, and total revenues were \$296,193.34. The Capital Improvement, Rec. Long Range and Enterprise funds are not budgeted nor are they required to be, however, total expenditures for 2010-11 as of June 1st were \$30,964.45, \$4,690.45, and \$49,089.22 respectively. We are proud to say that the Township has a much more detailed and defined budget this year. Each committee or department will be responsible for operating within their own budgets, and budget reports will be handed out on a monthly basis. From here forward, residents inquiring about budget figures will be able to review the information much easier, and more accurately than in the past. We thank everyone for their continued patience throughout this transition process.

Planning Commission

Your Planning Commission has been hard at work this past winter:

-The Zoning Ordinance has been amended to incorporate a new Medical Marijuana Ordinance. As you hear of other cities and townships struggling with this incorporation into their Zoning Ordinances, rest assured, YOUR Township has it already!

-The old library building (recently sold) and old Lions Club building have been rezoned to C-1 (Neighborhood Commercial) to allow for better use of the properties by entrepreneurial businesspeople.

-Various other properties throughout the Township are also under review to determine whether or not their uses best fit the Zoning Districts.

-An amendment to revise wording in the section of the ordinance that pertains to fences has been proposed with a public hearing scheduled for June 6th at 7:00 pm.

-There are several items forthcoming this coming year, including an update to the Township's Comprehensive Plan (a survey is forthcoming that you will find interesting and exciting to respond!).

You are cordially invited to attend the Planning Commission meetings held every first Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Township Hall.

Parks & Recreation

Changes and new developments will greet Presque Isle residents and visitors to our parks this summer. We have had a busy winter and we're all happy to see the sunny days!

Visitors to the Range Light Park will find new toilet facilities and signs, pointing out a buoyed swimming area where all can swim at their own risk. Personal watercraft will no longer be able to land on the beach there, and the park will be safer for children and adults. The launch area on Lake Esau has been surveyed and the corner posts reset, so public access will be clear to those who use it. A committee has been investigating the construction of a break wall on Grand Lake at the DNR launch site on Metzlar (check spelling) Bay. The DNR has approved the permit, and we are seeking funding and finalizing the details of who will construct it and when it will happen.

Parks and Rec is cooperating with citizens who want to replant trees and shrubs at the 1840 Lighthouse Park in our "Adopt-a-Plot" project. See Erika at the township office to sign up for a plot. The 1840 cottage was painted and cleaned extensively inside with new landscaping outside. Plans are underway to repaint the 1840 tower this summer.

The Coast Guard is involved in a study of the feasibility of returning the Fresnel lens to the 1870 tower and will be communicating their decision by October 15, 2011.

Clayton Peters and his volunteers have constructed new picnic tables and worked hard on the area between the 1905 House and Lake Huron, as well as constructing many new signs for the parks. Look for the new township logo on the signs.

Remember that the parks are available for rental for special occasions such as family reunions, weddings and graduations. Contact Erika at the township office for details.

We appreciate the citizen support and interest in our parks and recreation facilities, and we're excited to welcome everyone for another summer at Presque Isle. Please help us keep our parks clean and safe.

Friends of Thompson Harbor State Park

A new "friends" group has been established for the Thompson Harbor State Park. They will be holding their first organizational meeting on May 25th at 7:00 pm at the Presque Isle Township Hall. For those of you who may not be familiar with the NRTH (Negwegon, Rockport, and Thompson Harbor) Committee and its associated friends groups, in 2007, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) embarked on a planning process for three sites in northeast Michigan. The PRD's strategy was to develop General Management Plans for Negwegon State Park, the Rockport Property and Thompson's Harbor State Park in an effort to eventually determine the potential for marketing and managing the three sites as a unit. During this development phase, park Friends Groups have come together to help ensure that the integrity of the parks is maintained, and to assist in supporting needed park programs and projects that have been beyond the reach of appropriated dollars. It is no secret that the Parks Division of the DNR has not exactly had abundant funding over the past few years. With that lack of funding, many areas have fallen victim to the closure of their beautiful parks despite intended development plans. The work of our local parks friends groups is vital in ensuring that our parks do not become one of those up for closure, or that the integrity of these locations is not compromised. If you would like more information about the Friends of Thompson Harbor State Park Group, please attend a meeting or contact Mike at 989-595-6295 or masonmike@speednetllc.com.

Grand Lake Sportsman's Club

This spring we again held the Adopt-A-Highway clean-up program to help keep our area clean and beautiful. We had a successful Ice Fishing derby in February and are preparing for the summer fishing derby held in July. The improvements to the Fletcher-Gilchrist Park (north end) will continue with work to be done on the grounds and bathrooms.

Our club will help to support the Youth Sailing classes to be held on Grand Lake this summer. Last years classes were successful and will be expanded to a 2 week program this year.

Our meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Presque Isle Township hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Long Lake Improvement Association

Long Lake, Alpena, MI...a great place to be! Many people would love to vacation or live here. We are truly blessed! Your association urges everyone to talk to your neighbors, friends, and acquaintances to become members. We would love to be 100% strong to continue the work on this beautiful, all-sports lake. We have been granted a permit from the DNR to plant walleye, but in order to do this project, we need to raise funds of about \$15,000 (a large task!). We need support from everyone! If you can, please make a donation to augment our project. Thank you!

The Association has meetings on the first Wednesday of the month at Hinks Elementary School on US 23 at 7:00 pm. The annual meeting is scheduled for Aug. 18th at 7:00 pm. The Family Fishing Derby is at Dodge Marine on Aug. 6th. This is a GREAT family function...please plan to enter or attend the festivities.

Adopt-a-Plot Project

Progress is being made on the Adopt-a-Plot Beautification Project near the Old Lighthouse. For those of you who have signed up for a plot, PLEASE be sure to have your plantings or projects approved by a member of the committee before proceeding! There is a list of approved plantings available for reference, and if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call any of the following committee members;

Norma Crouch 989-595-2218

Kathy Dean 989-595-6303

Debbie Trelfa 989-595-3149

Presque Isle District Library – Summer Reading Program

Presque Isle District Library invites your children to participate in our annual Summer Reading Program, starting July 5th thru July 29th. This year's theme, "One World, Many Stories" offers a unique way to keep your children interested in reading by using water as the focus. While your child enjoys books and other library materials all summer long, they can build valuable lifelong interests! This program offers a series of activities, books and special events for children 3 yrs. to 13 year olds. As an incentive, prizes will be distributed to all who read and participate in the program.

Prizes will be awarded to the top reader of each branch along with reading rewards granted to participants who read a certain amount of minutes per week. The top reader at each location each week will receive a book of their choice from a collection of books.

Special Programs to be offered are as follows:

Marimbamania David Hall enjoys sharing his passion for the marimba with audiences both young and old! He performs on four unique mallet instruments. Musical selection from South America, Mexico, Africa, Japan, Germany, and the USA are performed on authentic marimbas and vintage xylophones. Marimbamania will be held on Friday, July 8th at the Grambau Center in Rogers City and starts at 11:00 am.

The Storytellers will feature stories\folktales and music from Northern Australia, Western Africa, Japan, North America, the Caribbean and other lands. Their humorous stories are told with Ms Audrey's uncanny multi-voiced, animated style. Live accompaniment will be music and sounds for each folktale, like the didgeridoo for the Australian Folktale, steel drums accompanying Caribbean Folktales, balafone with West African stories, etc. The performances will include lots of hands-on participation. The Storytellers program will be held on Friday, July 15th at the Grand Lake Library, Starting time is 11:00 am.

Dave Herzog Marionettes Dave Herzog has been involved in the art of puppetry since receiving a toy marionette from his father when he was four years old. The program is set in merry Olde England as the royal court of King Percy the Pompous celebrates his majesty's birthday. Dave has been delighting audiences around the country for thirty seven years with his musical marionette variety shows, and is a regular guest in over one hundred Chicago area libraries. Dave Herzog Marionettes program will be held on Friday, July 22nd at the Onaway Court House in Onaway. Starting time is 10:30am.

Kevin Kammeraad: Poetry, Puppetry, and Music are what Kevin likes to do. Join this innovative family performer in high energy, all ages, interactive celebration of great music, facts, and fun from around the planet. Kevin will entertain us all with feature songs and poems. This program will be held on Friday, July 22nd at the Millersburg library. Starting time is 1:30 pm.

Project Lakewell: Lynn Johnson will take us on a journey into the French Fur Trade time period with " Mukwa La Femme, the Bear Woman" This interpretive presentation offers the opportunity to experience the life, ways, and traditional skills of Michigan's first inhabitants, the Anishinabeg. The Project Lakewell program will be held on Friday, July 29th at St. Casimir Gym in Posen. Starting time is 11:00 am

Registration will start in May. Programs will be held at Presque Isle District Library at each Location.

- Grand Lake – Tuesday from 10:00am to 11:00am
- Posen – Tuesday from 12:30pm to 1:30pm
- Rogers City – Wednesday from 11:00am to 12:00pm
- Millersburg – Thursday from 10:30am to 11:30am
- Onaway – Thursday from 1:00pm to 2:00pm

If you have any questions, please call Don Dimick at 734-2477, Teen and Children Services, or check out our website at www.pidl.org.

Presque Isle District Library – Grand Lake Branch

Further landscaping has been postponed until sprinkling system can be installed this year. We are still looking for someone in the area to care for our plants and keep the brush cut between the Library and Grand Lake Highway. If you are interested in contracting with the library for this service, or know someone who may be interested, please let Jan know at the contact number below.

How exciting it has been to watch everyone having such an awesome time at our LEGECI classes this year where they are discovering and learning the old traditional arts like Jewelry beading, making their own traditional snowshoes, and crafting a traditional willow baker's rack/potting bench. On May 13 and 14, they will be creating an authentic Black Ash pack basket. There's still time to sign up and learn this technique of working with Black Ash and Spruce roots to make a durable and useful pack basket. We will publish new programming in the near future but if you have any questions, please call our Program Director, Anne Belanger, at 734-2477. Also remember all current programming and special events can be found on our website at www.pidl.org. Be sure to go under your individual Branch to find events specific to your location.

If you have questions, need information, or just have a great idea or suggestion for the Grand Lake location or the District in general, please feel free to contact Jan at 734-2477, extension 222 or call Liz at 595-5051 in Grand Lake.

Presque Isle Township Museum Society

As many of you may have heard by now, this year is going to be a very exciting and challenging one for the Museum Society for not only are we going to be running the 1905 House but we are adding the 1840 and 1870 Lighthouses to our responsibility. As you might imagine making this decision took a lot of thought and analysis but in the end we came to the conclusion that it made perfect sense from both a museum society and community perspective. As a non profit organization our single goal will be to return any earnings from the lighthouse operations back into the lighthouses and 1905 House. Of course this new challenge brings with it a number of responsibilities that we have to prepare for. Things like hiring paid staff to run the two gift shops and tower climb activities, setting up payroll systems, bank accounts and insurance as well as reworking the lighthouse interiors and purchasing inventory just to name a few. Both lighthouse interiors are being repaired and repainted to their original colors and then refurnished. We are hoping to do as much as possible by using community donations of furniture that is suitable for the lighthouses and can also be used to display gift shop sale items. If you have furniture or display cases you would like us to consider please let us know. You can either donate or place the items on loan and since we are a 501c3 any donation is tax deductible. We are planning to open the lighthouses for business in early May but we will have an "open house" for our members and volunteers prior to that time.

In addition to the new mission we also have a lot of other plans for this year. We have an intern coming to work with us this summer who is a Historic Preservation Major at the Harrington College of Design in Chicago. She will be working to help us catalog our artifacts on "Past Perfect" which is a software system used by many museums across the country. We recently installed a new computer to help accomplish this. Our intern will also be working to pull together the "old" plans and redesign and draw up new plans for the Coast Guard Building that used to reside on the property between the 1905 House and 1870 Light. The goal will be to get projects like this to the point where we can start to seek Grant money to turn them from a dream into a reality. On the topic of Grants, the Museum Society was recently awarded a \$1,000 Grant from the IBM Corporation to help with the design and construction of maritime displays that can be used in the lighthouses or the new informational Kiosk that the Museum Society is having constructed this summer. Last but not least we were able to acquire a "Sitz" bathtub which has been on the "wanted" list for many years and which is now on display in the kitchen of the 1905 House.

As usual we are planning two picnics, one on the 2nd of July and one on September 3rd so help is needed at those. The need for greeters in the 1905 House is greater then ever so if you can help please contact please let us know. Last year we had visitors from 44 States and a multitude of Countries come through the 1905 House so being a "greeter" is a fun and fulfilling way to help.

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, August 6th at 2pm in Garraty Hall. We will be electing three Board Members so if you are interested in serving on the Board please let us know. If you don't wish to serve on the Board but would like to get involved on one of our committees, please don't hesitate to let us know what you are interested in and we will get you involved. As usual, we are looking for new members to join the Society.

As we embark on the adventure of taking on the lighthouse responsibility we are confident that the entire community of Presque Isle will band together in support. Together we have the opportunity to do so much to preserve and improve our wonderful lighthouses for generations to come. Thank you for your support in the past and we look forward to your continued support as together we make this new endeavor a success.

We look forward to seeing you this summer!

Township Website

It's taken a little more time than expected, but it will be well worth it!! The Township is in the process of developing a new website. The web address will be the same, and the new site should be active within the next few months. It will be a much more interactive site that allows visitors to complete and send forms directly from our site (eliminates the need to print and mail), submit information about upcoming events, and many, many other things. It will also contain much more information about our township than just government. We are working diligently to make sure it's as user-friendly and accommodating as possible, and look forward to your feedback once it's live.

Presque Isle Township
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Presque Isle, MI 49777

Ph: 989-595-2752
Fx: 989-595-3522

www.presqueisletp.org

pitownship@speednetllc.com

OUR MISSION:

To protect and enhance Presque Isle Township's cultural, ecological, and recreational amenities for residents and visitors, and to balance the protection and enjoyment of the natural beauty of our township while expanding opportunities for our community. We work together for the common good of the Township and to promote it as a destination of choice for tourists, an attractive locale for homes, and for environmentally friendly businesses.

Township Recycling

As I'm sure some residents have noticed, the recycling trailer always seems to be full! That's because we are having more and more residents take advantage of this wonderful opportunity, and we have officially come upon the need for a weekly dump (rather than biweekly). THANK YOU! ☺ And thanks to Robert Carr and Tony Velat, we will now be dumping our trailer weekly on Wed. of each week. The trailer will be gone for a couple hours during the early part of Wed. each week, so please plan accordingly. Until recently, we have had NO problems with the unit. Please remember that this is not a dumpster, and that only certain items are able to be recycled. Currently, we DO NOT accept glass, **and only #1 and #2 plastics** and tin are accepted in the tin & plastic bin. **NOT ALL PLASTIC IS RECYCLABLE.** If you're not sure if your

Items accepted for recycling:

Cardboard - any & all as long as it does not have a waxy coating

Newspaper - just remove the glossy inserts...those go in the bin on the other

side **Tin & Plastic** - all tin including aluminum foil. Only #1 & #2 plastic)

Office Paper - all other paper including magazines, glossy paper, junk mail, etc.

plastic is recyclable, flip the container over and look for the number inside of the triangle. If there is no triangle, or a number other than 1 or 2, it cannot be recycled here. You can also check our website for more details on what can and cannot be recycled, or simply call the Hall. We have had excellent cooperation and hope that it can continue. Please don't let the bad acts of few ruin the good acts of many. Again, thank you for doing your part!

Presque Isle Township
12653 E. Grand Lake Rd.
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