

Coldsprings Township News

Issue #7

January 2008

Township Hall – 6515 County Road 571 (231) 587-8633 FAX: (231) 587-8656
Email: ctownship8633@charterinternet.com

Supervisor: Mike Neubecker
7860 Twin Lake Road NE
Mancelona, MI 49659 587-5032
Email: neubie@torchlake.com

Clerk: Mary Hodges
7216 Little Twin Lake Road NE
Mancelona, MI 49659 587-8460

Treasurer: Brenda Lambert
8353 Covert Road NE
Mancelona, MI 49659 (231) 620-5644

Trustee: Dee Bondy
8054 Ford Road NE
Kalkaska, MI 49646 258-5640

Trustee: Denny Corrado
P.O. Box 1441
Kalkaska, MI 49646 258-2519

Assessor: David Grimm
5893 Way Road NW
Rapid City, MI 49676 331-6370

Dist 2
Commissioner: Lou Nemeth
416 Plum Valley Road NW
Alden, MI 49612 331-6365
Email: lnemeth@peoplepc.com

△ ▽ △ ▽ △ ▽ △ ▽ △ ▽ △ ▽ △ ▽

This is the 7th newsletter that I have prepared and distributed since I was elected as Township Supervisor, and includes the 2008 Trash Labels. As I have mentioned in past newsletters, this newsletter may not be totally inclusive of things past and things to come, but it will at least give you an idea of what your elected officials are accomplishing or considering. As usual, all feedback is most certainly welcome and desired.

Mike Neubecker

TAX ASSESSOR

Our tax assessor, Dave Grimm is available the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 1:00pm to 3:00pm at the township hall. If you would like to call him during those times, please use the number for the hall noted at the top of this page. Further, on days that he is not at the Township Hall, he can be reached via his home phone number or address which are listed above. Normally, if you call his home phone number, you will receive a recorded message. Please leave your name and phone number, and he will return your call as soon as possible. If you are having trouble trying to reach him after a reasonable amount of time, do not hesitate to contact the Township Supervisor or any other member of the Board.

From your Treasurer:

Office hours at the Township Hall for collection of taxes will be Mondays and Thursdays from 9:00am until 12:00 noon. Tax payments can be made at the Township Hall Office or checks can be made out to "Coldsprings Township" and mailed to:

8353 Covert Road NE
Mancelona, MI 49659

2008 Township Board Meeting Schedule

(All meetings start at 7:00pm at the Township Hall)

Monday, January 7th
Monday, February 11th
Monday, March 10th
Monday, April 14th
Monday, May 12th
Monday, June 9th
Monday, July 14th
Monday, August 11th
Monday, September 8th
Monday, October 13th
Monday, November 10th
Monday, December 8th

Please try to attend at least one meeting each quarter. Your input regarding Township operations is very important to us!

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

During this past year, we have had 2 new Board members.

Margo Casto resigned as Treasurer, and the board appointed **BRENDA LAMBERT** to fill her position until the next general election.

Dino Paladino resigned as Trustee, and the board appointed **DENNY CORRADO** to fill his position until the next general election.

TRASH REMOVAL

Again this year we have contracted to have 4 large-item pickups along with our regular trash removal days (Mondays). We have provided 4 labels (numbered 1-4) to each taxpayer with this newsletter. Please remember that **PRIOR** to placing an item out for pickup, it is requested that you contact **AMERICAN WASTE** at the number on the label to advise them of what you are placing out for pickup and where the pickup is located. In some instances, large items may not necessarily be picked up on normal trash day. However, if called prior to our normal pickup day of Monday, large items will be removed within a day or two of our normal pickup day.

If you have more than 4 large items that you need to dispose of, or are "cleaning up" and need to dispose of items in quantity, Kalkaska County operates a trash recycling facility located at the Island Lake Road facility. You can contact the Island Lake Road facility at 258-3369 to find out their operating hours (it varies by season), and what items they will or will not accept.

AMERICAN WASTE DOES NOT pick up trash on any private roads. Residents/property owners on private roads are required to leave their trash for pick-up **no earlier than Sunday afternoon** at the intersection of their private road and the county-maintained road intersecting it. Each township property owner is allowed five 30 gallon bags for pickup each week. On weeks that have a holiday on the regular Monday pick-up day, trash will be picked up on Tuesday instead. Questions concerning missed pickups should first be directed to **AMERICAN WASTE AT 258-9030**. If they are unable to provide you with a satisfactory response, do not hesitate to call one of your township board members at the numbers listed on the first page of this newsletter.

Trash will NOT be collected on Memorial Day (May 26th) or Labor Day (September 1st), but will be collected the day following. Please note on your calendar.

ROAD ENDINGS/ACCESS

We ask that those of you who use the road ending at the foot of Ford Road to take care not to block access to the water hydrant. It is imperative that our fire department have clear access to the hydrant in order to replenish the pumper truck with water when fighting fires in the area. We have placed "No Parking Zone" signs around the hydrant, and will enforce them by having any vehicles blocking them towed to the county impound lot.

As always, those of you who use the road endings in the summer or winter are asked to be courteous to the property owners on either side of the road endings - do not trespass on their property, and do not use their docks. Please respect their property as you would your own!

CEVFR

The Coldsprings/Excelsior Volunteer Fire Department Board of Directors meet the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm at the Fire Hall located at 6617 Country Road 612 East. The public is invited and encouraged to attend these meetings.

CEVFR is always looking for individuals interested in becoming an active part of Fire and/or Rescue within the joint townships. If you are interested, or know of someone that may be interested in joining the Department, please let us know.

The Board and membership of CEVFR strongly urge the citizens of Coldsprings Township to favorably act on the renewal of the operating and equipment millage that is due for renewal during this year's elections. Your continued support is greatly appreciated!

MANISTEE LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD

After completion of the public hearing process, the Manistee Lake Improvement Board voted to move forward and establish a special assessment district to address the concerns expressed by the citizens on Manistee Lake.

Introduction of 10,000 milfoil weevils has already occurred, and this spring there will be more planted. Surveys are still being conducted by Progressive AE Engineering, and we expect some noticeable improvements in the lake later this year.

Concerns have been raised about establishing a set lake level on Manistee Lake, but the Manistee Lake Improvement Board does not have the authority to accomplish this. However, we are planning on addressing this issue with the County Board of Commissioners, the DNR and DEQ to see about establishing a permanent level.

The MLIB has not set up a schedule of meeting dates for 2008, as they meet when necessary to move forward with new information. If you would like further information regarding meetings you can contact me (Mike Neubecker), at the phone number or email address listed on the front page of this newsletter.

TOWNSHIP ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

Denny Corrado has been appointed as the Township's representative to the Kalkaska County Road Commission meetings. We are STILL trying to ensure that our voice is heard at the Road Commission to address the concerns we have long had with Starvation Lake Road, along with the grading and plowing of secondary roads throughout the township.

The Township Board elected to move forward this past year with paying for the improvements on Starvation Lake out of the Township Improvement Fund. However, the quote of \$186,000 given to us the previous year had jumped to more than \$375,000 (without a really coherent reason), and we have yet to hear back from the Road Commissioner regarding that project. We WILL NOT accept that kind of increase!

We hope that you, as taxpayers, would make your interests and concerns known to the County Road Commission. Their phone number is (231) 258-2242.

The Board is also greatly concerned about the condition of County Road 571 after the US-131 construction

was completed. The road is now heaved and cracked, and the money allocated to the Road Commission from the State of Michigan only allows for a micro-coat of finish, which will not in the least address the problem. We have also addressed this concern to the Road Commission, and are still awaiting their reply.

COLDSPRINGS TOWNSHIP WEBSITE

The township has a very active Website which can be found at www.coldspringsexcelsior.org. We are placing the approved minutes of each board meeting on this Website, along with minutes of the Board of Review. This Website can also access Excelsior Township information (under construction), the Coldsprings Excelsior Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department (CEVFR); and the Coldsprings Excelsior Taxpayers Association (CETA).

This Website is packed with lots of information, and if you are someone that has online capability, it would be worth your while to log onto it and discover some of the things that have been happening in your community.

Items of interest also include a calendar of events and copies of recently enacted township ordinances.

If you log into the Fire Department, a tremendous amount information can be obtained regarding equipment, procedures, run information, the Fire Explorers Post, and much, much more.

As always, suggestions for improvement of this Website are welcome, and can be addressed to the Webmaster through the Website, or to the Township Supervisor at the email address noted on page 1 of this newsletter.

CELLULAR TOWER

We are STILL trying to elicit some interest in a cellular tower in the township. Now that CR 571 is no longer the bypass route for the US-131 construction, the volume of traffic has decreased, and the cell companies are not getting as many "dropped call" complaints as they were last summer when they expressed interest in erecting a tower. We ask you to continue to make it known to your cell provider that we want service available in our township (it's not enough for just the Township Board to tell them). Stay tuned....

TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

The schedule for regular township board meetings is printed on Page 1 of this newsletter. Please take a little of your time and plan on attending a few of our meetings this year. You are an important part of this community, whether you are eligible to vote here or not, and we would really appreciate the chance to meet you and hear your views!

CEMETERY

Last year, through a unanimous vote, the Board made a change to the Sexton's Manual that limits items placed on individual graves (other than new burials) to a maximum of two.

In the ongoing attempt to keep our township cemetery clean and serene, it requires that each headstone be weed-whacked regularly, and the time involved in moving numerous grave-site items is very costly. The township maintains the cemetery out of respect to those buried there, and their relatives and friends who come to pay their respects. We would appreciate it if the plot owners abide by the rules.

ELECTIONS

The primary election will be held on August 5, 2008.

The General Presidential Election will be held on November 4, 2008.

Anyone that would like an absentee ballot for either election can contact Mary Hodges, Township Clerk, at 587-8460 or 587-8633.

PROPOSED POWER PLANT IN RAPID RIVER TOWNSHIP

Please consider attending the March Rapid River Township meeting the third Tuesday of March (the 18th) at 8:00pm.

The township has invited Rock Management to address the township regarding the power plant they plan to build on the Alexander farm property. The property is 270 acres located South of Plum Valley and East of 131. The power plant would use renewable energy, wood chips, and be similar to the plants in Grayling, McBain and Cadillac. The township has planned that the presentation will be at 8:00 for only one hour and that there will be time for questions.

This will not be the only public meeting on this subject. There will be additional public meetings when the County Planning Commission considers the application.

The developer, Rock management is partnered with Jordan Exploration, a local company and also has a lien on an additional 150 acres North of Plum Valley Road and east of 131.

Kalkaska County does not have an ordinance allowing power plants as an allowed or special use so the developer has hired a planning company to present a model ordinance to the County Planning Commission. They have also agreed to place money in escrow for the County to hire a planner and legal staff so that an ordinance suitable to the County can be developed for consideration.

It is not uncommon for unusual uses to be excluded from county and municipal ordinances. Some common usages like welding were only recently considered as a use in Kalkaska County.

The developers have stated that it is their intention to construct and operate a wood fired power plant but also to solicit other businesses that can use their power, waste steam and heat to co-locate on the site.

For further information, contact Lou Nemeth, District 2 Commissioner, at (231) 331-6365 or you can email him at lnemeth@peoplepc.com.

|

Coldsprings Township
Mike Neubecker, Supervisor
7860 Twin Lake Road NE
Mancelona, MI 49659-8831

-First Class Mail-

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

If you will note on the front page, the Township has a new email address. We now have high-speed service through Charter Communications.

We have tried to no avail over the past couple of years to have Chain O' Lakes Internet install a tower for wireless internet. We still aren't considered "populated" enough for the service. We WILL keep trying, though, seeing that Charter only has high-speed service available on the main corridor through the township. I don't know about you, but where I live on Twin Lake Road, I can't even get DSL through AT&T, let alone high-speed anything....

SEPTIC ORDINANCE

On January 24th, the County water/septic inspection committee met in the Commission Chambers.

The Coldsprings Township Board and the Manistee Lake Improvement Board have requested a local ordinance in response to high bacterial counts and excessive weed growth in the lake. Septic tank seepage is suspected to be a factor in both.

The meeting addressed a suggested procedure for inspection of water front septic tanks at time of sale or transfer of the property in Coldsprings Township, Kalkaska County. The resulting ordinance

would be local to Coldsprings Township, and the township would have to both enact it and enforce it.

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions regarding this issue please contact your County Commissioner, Lou Nemeth at (231) 331 6365 or email him at lnemeth@peoplepc.com

***DNR Offers New Web Site,
Toll-Free Number for Public to
Obtain Burn Permits***

Michigan citizens can now access burn permits online for rakings and vegetation burning while doing spring or fall cleanup work on their property. The Department of Natural Resources recently received a federal grant to make burn permits more easily obtainable for property owners in the northern Lower Peninsula and the Upper Peninsula.

By going to www.michigan.gov/burnpermit, citizens can obtain a burn permit online. Citizens also can call a toll-free number at 866-922-2876 to obtain a burn permit as well. Persons who call the toll-free line will have their permit recorded and they will get a confirmation number. The permit is FREE of charge.