



What's Happening in Bessemer Township?

Something New

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The Bessemer Township Board has decided to begin the publication of a newsletter. We hope to provide you with any interesting facts, happenings, and plans going on at the township level. Outside input is always welcomed and you can either stop by the Township Hall or attend one of the Township meetings.

Our goal is to inform the public of all worthwhile news happening in the township. After all, this is your town!

Officers & Hours of the Township are as follows:

Jeff Randall, Supervisor: 667-0423

Tuesday 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Wednesday 8:00 a.m.-12:00noon

Thursday 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Friday 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Debbie Janczak, Clerk: 667-0019

Monday 12:00noon-4:00 p.m.

Tuesday-Wednesday 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Jerry Grenfell, Treasurer: 667-0484

Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

John McLean, Trustee

Hope Tarnaski, Trustee



The beauty of summer is here!

Just a reminder that township meetings are held on the second and fourth Monday of the Month

Special points of interest:

- How did the Millage turn out?
- What's going on in town for the 4th of July?
- Any new members on the fire department?
- Information that's good to know.
- Common questions.

Annual Meeting of Electors & Budget

The Township held it's annual meeting of electors followed by the Budget Meeting on March 28, 2005. There were over 30 people in attendance. The most important issues covered were the approval of the budget and the salaries for the township officials.

Salaries were set as follows:

Supervisor: \$15,000 (plus assessor)

Treasurer: \$20,000 (plus water dept)

Clerk: \$19,673 (plus water dept & person. admin.)

There were no objections to the new salary rates, nor to the proposed budget. All passed with roll call vote to be moved on to the Budget Meeting of the Board.



Township Millage Passes

The Bessemer Township's Millage rate was up for renewal, which is just a continuation at the existing rate, at the May 3, 2005 election. The Millage renewal for 8.00 mills (\$8.00 per \$1,000 of taxable value) goes towards the running of the township through its General Fund Budget.

The election was held at the town hall and saw 96 voters turn out for the election. The Millage passed by a vote of 76-YES and 19-NO. Other items on the ballot were regarding the school appointments to the Board of Education.

The current fiscal year's budget has been set at \$444,982, with a fund balance of \$85,461 and a

transfer of Park Funds of \$61,900 for a total of \$592,343. This money is set aside to help run the township in all aspects. The money goes towards public works, streets and roads, park maintenance, public safety (volunteer fire department), officer's salary's, various committee board members, and the overall maintenance and running of the township hall.

Any and all expenses pertaining to the expenditures is approved by the board at each of its meetings.

4th of July in Ramsay



Celebrate in Ramsay!

Here's a look at the festivities happening for weekend of July 4th:

July 2 - Street dance behind the Town Hall in Ramsay from 6:30-9:30 p.m. 50/50 Raffle tickets will be on sale. Food & Beverages available.

Fire works at dusk over Ramsay Memorial Park.

July 4 - 10:00 a.m. parade in Ramsay. Line up @ 9:00 a.m. Gift bags for all children in the parade. Costumes will be judged in 5 categories & prizes awarded. Food & beverages will be avail-

able. Free ice cream bars for all kids while supplies last after parade. **50/50 Raffle drawing.**

Sponsored by: The Bessemer Township 4th of July Committee.

Phone: 667-0465 or 667-0423

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! There is always a need for anyone who would like to be a part of this on-going tradition.



Working towards improvement

Road Work Projects for 2005

Road projects in process are:

- Placement of black top on Prospect Road.
- The Mill Street Project continues to be assessed regarding costs and benefits. The project entails curb & gutter work, sidewalk & street lighting, as well as repaving the road. Issues that need to be examined involve sewer and water work to be done

that would effect Main Street. An engineering study has been done by Wilcox Professional Services and a preliminary estimate was given. The proposal is for work in 2006 and will continue to be an item for the board to review.

- Johnson Road & Center Street resurfacing under Phase II of the GRWA Project.
- Other projects are currently being reviewed and will be a subject of future.

Volunteer Fire Department

Thanks for a relatively safe year! During this past year there were only 3 structure fires, 3 vehicle fires, 2 grass fires, 3 mutual aid fires, and 4 false alarms. That's 110 square miles that are covered in the township!

FYI: Burn barrels are legal in the township, but there are a few regulations. The barrel must be a good solid container and must be off the ground on non-flammable materials such as bricks or concrete blocks. There must be some type of cover screen on top of barrel with holes no bigger than three quarters of an inch. Remember, these are meant to burn mostly for paper products. Please burn wisely. Burning permits are required for brush or leaves and can be obtained through the local DNR or Forestry Office. If a fire does get out of control, call **911** immedi-

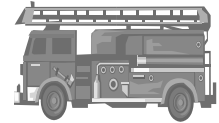
ately and *get out & stay out*. There is no charge for responding to fires, this comes out of your taxes.

FYI: The department does chimney cleaning and practice burns to raise money for equipment.

Welcome to new member *Andrew Knaack*! Applications are available by contacting Richard Kinnunen, Fire Chief, BTVFD.

The list of Bessemer Township Volunteer Fire Department officers is:

- Chief: Rich Kinnunen
- Assistant Chief: Brian Kuchinski
- Captain: Bob Sailer
- Lieutenant: Dave Hegbloom
- Secretary: Kevin Moon
- Treasurer: Jeff Randall



We're thankful for the time and talents of our volunteers!!

Pavilion Available

Don't know where to have the kids birthday party or just looking for that perfect spot to hold an outside party? Try the new pavilion located in Ramsay park. It has kitchen and bathroom facilities and is available for a minimal rental fee. There is also new playground equipment in the park for the kids.

Great surroundings for a great time!

Call the Clerk's Office at 667-0019 for more information.



This 'n That

Did you know?

- If you want to do any kind of building improvements, you need to apply for a BUILDING PERMIT, which can be picked up at the Township Hall. The Building Inspector for Bessemer Township is Roman Tauer and can be reached at 932-2226.
- Bessemer Township Blue bags must be

used for township garbage pick-up. Bags cannot weigh more than 30 lbs. Please have your bags out by 7:00 a.m. on pick-up day.

- Summer time brings extreme foliage and grass/weed growth. The blight ordinance will be enforced and fines assessed to those not in compliance. For a copy of the ordinance, stop at the Township Hall.

WANTED: Any extra books (that are not Romance novels) can be donated to the Township's Paperback Exchange.

Have a question you can't find an answer to? Stop in or call one of the township offices for help!



News you can use!

Bessemer Township

N10338 Mill Street
PO Box 304
Ramsay, MI 49959

Supervisor/ Assessor: 906-667-0423
Treasurer: 906-667-0484
Clerk: 906-667-0019
DPW: 906-667-0465
Fax: 906-667-0436

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Some Common Questions



Here are some common questions we receive at the township:

- Who do I contact with a problem with my water:
Jerry Grenfell 667-0484 or
Jean Verbos 667-0465
- Am I registered to vote?
Contact the Clerk at either the Township Hall (667-0019) or Gogebic County Courthouse or (663-4518)
- What do I do about a blight concern?
Contact the Supervisor, Jeff Randall, 667-0423
- How often do water bills come out?
Every quarter and are mailed in March, June, September, and

December.

- When do taxes come out?
Taxes for Summer are mailed in June & Winter taxes are mailed in December.
- Where can I get garbage bags?
Township Hall, Big Dollar or Stem pihar's Gas Station (cost is \$10 for 8 bags)

POLL QUESTION: *What would you like to see done differently in the township? Are there any pending issues that should be considered?*

Please let us know your opinion by writing your response to the address above.