

December 1, 2007
Volume 1, Issue 3



Happy Holidays!

Township Board:

Supervisor:
Jeff Randall 667-0423
E-mail:
btsuper@charterinternet.com

Clerk:
Debbie Janczak 667-0019
E-mail:
btclerk@charterinternet.com

Treasurer/Water Dept. Clerk:
Jerry Grenfell 667-0484
E-mail:
bttreas@charterinternet.com

Trustee:
John McLean

Trustee:
Hope Tarnaski

DPW/Water Department:
Jean Verbos 667-0465

Assessor:
Brad Hendrickson 364-0687

Special points of interest:

- Anvil & Grand View Projects
- Road work pending
- Utility Bill information/relief
- New Fire Department Members
- Garbage pick-up routes



It's been a while!

We've missed a summer newsletter so here are some updates we feel you should be aware of in this edition. As always our doors are open to your comments and suggestions.

If you ever have an issue(s) that you'd like the board to consider or review, please send your concerns addressed to the Supervisor. They will be brought up at the next available meeting for discussion or be moved upon for action. Remember we are here *for YOU!*

REMINDER of Officers & Hours:

Jeff Randall, Supervisor:

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:

Monday	2nd & 4th @ 4:15 p.m.
Wednesday	4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Jerry Grenfell, Treasurer:

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

Reminder: Board meetings are the 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month. **NOTE:** The December 24th meeting is canceled.



Keeping you Informed

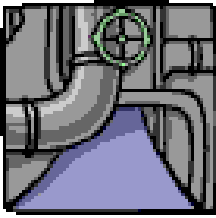
Isn't time to get an updated Community Information Guide?! Or what about the updated Voter Information flyer? These are available for your convenience at the township hall. Also available are these helpful informational pieces:



- Township Meeting Minutes
- Current and last issue of the *Newsletter*
- Township Official Office Hours
- Area Attraction Map/Information Guide

Upcoming Projects: Anvil Location & Grand View

The Gogebic Range Water Authority (GRWA) will be constructing a new water distribution system in the Anvil Location of Bessemer Township. This project will replace the water system built in the 1950s by the mining company. The old system is plagued with constant main breaks, leaks, low system pressure and undersized mains. Construction on the new water distribution system is proposed for the summer of 2008 and will take about 10 months to complete. The project is funded by a \$1,600,000 loan from USDA Rural Development. Upgrades to the Sanders Road and Mikado Road pressure control stations will also be done



during this project. The Gogebic Range Water Authority will also be constructing a 250,000 gallon water storage tank on the hill behind Grand View Hospital in the summer of 2008. This project will cost \$782,000. The funding consists of a \$652,000 loan and a \$100,000 grant from USDA Rural Development and a \$30,000 contribution from Grand View Hospital. Grand View Hospital also donated the land needed for the tank site. This tank will provide for water storage and pressure controls as required by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

The Bessemer Township Volunteer Fire Department grew in the last six months from eleven members to the current 19 member department. New members include: Paul CREDIT, Bill Baer, Alexandra Kuchinski, Mathew Syreini, Stuart Hautala, Kyle Leemon, Pearce Graham, and Richard Kinnunen. They are still in need of one fire fighter to fill the rooster. Able bodied persons interested in becoming a member can fill out an application available at the Township Supervisor's Office during normal business hours.

Fire Department News

In early August the fire department purchased a 1987 International 2300 gallon water tanker for \$25,000.00 The new tanker replaced the 1969 Chevy tanker that had a tank with no baffles, making it dangerous to drive in emergency situations. The old tanker went out to the highest bid for \$951.00 at the November 12, 2007 board meeting.

The board is in the planning stages for the following road projects this winter



Pending Winter Road Projects for 2007



Working towards improvement

- Harding-from Johnson Road east to Elder Road
- Prospect Road only certain sections in need
- Harding Road from Blueberry Road west to Geneva
- Stone Hill (on top)

Work done on these roads will consist of a gravel list to be followed up by paving come spring time. The board strives to use road work money as prudently as possible. Winter road lifts will be a cost saving and will still provide the township with a foundation for the continuing up keep of the roads for all our residents.

Paying for Water bills and Taxes

We all get em! We all have to pay em! Please remember to pay for your water and taxes **separately**. This ensures that your bills are accurately credited to the appropriate funds.

Don't forget you can always do the payment method with your utility bills. Simply:

- Take a look at your past bills and get an "estimated" average for a monthly charge to help in budgeting (perhaps putting aside a month at a time)
- Stop in at the township and pay a portion of your bill *before* you actually receive it. This money will be posted to your account, thus making the quarterly bill not so burdensome.



Stop in and talk with the Treasurer to see how we can help

Homeowner Winterizing Tips

GRWA wishes to remind water customers to cover all outside vents to prevent winter winds from entering to freeze pipes; disconnect all garden hoses and other outside hose connections; insulate pipes that are exposed or in unheated areas; test heat tape being used to protect pipes to make sure it is working; do not remove the snow cover from your water service pipe or sewer lateral. When leaving town for any length of time during the cold months be sure your furnace is in good working condition and have relative or neighbor check your house often insure the temperature is warm enough as not to freeze and break the water pipes.

NOTE: There are special parking regulations during the winter months.

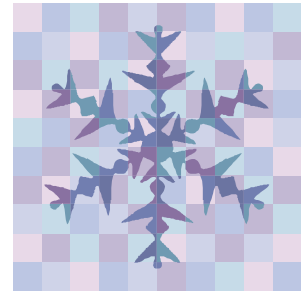
Special Winter Considerations-Reminder

Not only does winter in the UP bring plenty of snow, but also some special considerations during the holiday and cold weather season.

Please be considerate when placing your blue township garbage bags out for collection. Bags cannot weigh more than 30 pounds and should only contain household garbage. They must be tied closed in order for the DPW workers to be able to handle the bags

without the contents being scattered or blown around. Bags should be visible from the road and cleared of any snow or they will not be picked up. Please have them at the roadside by 7:00 a.m. Your cooperation is appreciated!

Please remember to check the *Happenings* section of the "Daily Globe" for holiday closures of the township offices. (You will also find a list on the back page of this newsletter for



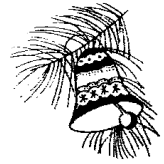
Keystone Bridge in Memorial Park

What a difference a year makes!

Who can believe that this is what the Keystone Bridge looked like one year ago? Where's the snow now? Well, we can all probably agree (except for maybe some hunters) that the snow can wait until December when the trails and ski hills open!

Bessemer Township . . . respecting
the past, envisioning the future

N10338 Mill Street
PO Box 304
Ramsay, MI 49959



Garbage Pick-up Routes

Wednesdays - South of 4th Street in Ramsay-Blackjack Road-US2 East of Blackjack Road to Division Lane-Division Lane-Bluebird Lane-Prospect Drive-Runway Lane-Stone Hill Road-Stone Road-North Moore Street-Black River Road-Powderhorn-US 2 East to Gheller Drive-US 2 East to Oak Lane-Wood Lane-US 2 East to the hospital-Cedar Lane-Bluff View Road-Look Out Lane-Pine Lane. East of Wakefield (Korpela Road-Koskela Road-Ulvila Road-Lina Road-Chaney Lake Road).

Thursdays - Sanders Road-Ramsay-Anvil-Sartoris Road-Puritan-Harding-Barber-Johnson.

(Please place bags out by 7:00 a.m./30 lb limit/household garbage only)

Charges for garbage pick-up are paid for through the purchase of Bessemer Township *Blue Bags*. These can be purchased either at the Township Hall or Stempihar's gas station. Current cost is \$10 for 8 blue bags.

NOTE: If a holiday falls on either a Wednesday or a Thursday, garbage pick-up will be noted in the *Daily Globe* newspaper with date or call the township hall.

Happy Holidays to all!

For Your Information

FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE:

TAXES: Tax bills are mailed on:

December 1st

Due by: February 15th, 3% penalty added beginning February 16th. After March 1st taxes must be paid at Gogebic County Courthouse.

July 1st

Due by: September 15th, taxes become delinquent after September 16th with an additional 1% penalty per month or portion of month through February 14th. After February 28th taxes must be paid at Gogebic County Courthouse.

NOTE: If you are paying a tax bill after the due date, please call for an updated total before sending in your payment.

WATER UTILITY BILLS: Water billings are mailed on:

January 1st (period ending 12/31)

April 1st (period ending 3/31)

July 1st (period ending 6/30)

October 1st (period ending 9/30)

[You have 20 days after billing date to pay. 10% penalty will be incurred when past due date.]

OTHER INFORMATION:

How do I file for homestead credit?

- You must file a *Homeowner's Principal Residence Exemption Affidavit* form by May 1st for summer tax credit and have to be a resident of Michigan. Contact Jeff Randall @ 667-0423 for more information.

TOWNSHIP HOLIDAY CLOSURES:

Thanksgiving - Thursday, November 22 & Friday, November 23

Christmas - Monday, December 24 & Tuesday, December 25

New Year's Day - Tuesday, January 1, 2007



If you see any street lights out throughout the township, please contact the Town Hall at 667-0019 with the location and nearest address.

Thank you.