

December 1, 2005  
Volume 2, Issue 1



**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

*Did You Know?*

The Bessemer Township officials: Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer and Trustees are elected to a four-year term. These will expire November of 2008.

The Supervisor, Clerk, and Treasurer are *part-time* in the sense that they are in their offices approximately 20 hours per week. Hours are scattered so that someone is in the office during normal business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) Monday through Friday.

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 12:00 noon-4:00 p.m.  
Tuesday & Thursday 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Jerry Grenfell, Treasurer:

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



Seated from Left to Right:

Debbie Janczak-Clerk, Jeff Randall-Supervisor,  
Jerry Grenfell-Treasurer; Standing: John McLean  
& Hope Tarnaski, Trustees

*Reminder:* Board meetings are the 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month. NOTE: The December 26th meeting is canceled.

Special points of interest:

- New Website
- Remember When?
- 2006 4th of July & Cookie Sale
- Water Leaks? Some helpful tips
- Winter Considerations
- Township Logo
- FYI

*Come and Visit*

It is with much excitement and anticipation that we introduce you to the official Bessemer Township Website. In the works since late summer, this website is a result of efforts and design of students from Northern Michigan University with the guidance of Debbie Janczak.



You will find this site a wealth of information and service to

the community. The history of the township is noted, job descriptions for officials, a list of board meetings, as well as a page to go to for printing many of the township forms for your convenience. Several links are provided to help you find other interesting and noteworthy sites.

Please visit us at: [www.bessemertownship.org](http://www.bessemertownship.org) and let us know what you think!

## Remember When?

Remember the days when the overpass on the Keystone Bridge was used for actual railroad car transport? And Mill Street was home to a theater, drug store, barber, and two taverns? If you have any interesting and unique stories from days of yore, please send them to us. We'd be happy to reproduce any old photos you would be willing to share. These are the stories that need to be passed on from generation to generation and will only do so, through people like you.

*Keystone Bridge in Memorial Park*

Do you know what the word **Township** means? It's a subdivision of a county in most northeast and Midwest U.S. states, having the status of a unit of local government with varying governmental powers. There are 1242 townships in Michigan and are compiled of general law and charter types. Bessemer is a general law township.

## 4th of July to Continue???



Now is the time to think of donating your time and talents to the continuation of the 4th of July celebration in Ramsay. Your help is truly needed!! The only way to continue this wonderful tradition is through volunteers. If you are able and are interested, please contact the:

4th of July Committee  
Phone: 667-0465 or 667-0423

### HOLIDAY COOKIE FUND-RAISER

After a 1 year hiatus, the 4th of July Committee will again be doing a Holiday Cookie Fundraiser. Cookies can be pre-packaged or pick yourself. Cost is \$2.00 per dozen. Cookies must be pre-ordered by December 12th for December 17th pick-up. Make sure to get your orders in early! Call 667-0465 or 667-0019 to place an order or to be a baker.



## Road Work Projects Completed during 2005



*Working towards improvement*

You might have noticed the following:

- Placement of black top on Prospect Road.
- Harding Road pulverized and re-paved.
- Johnson & Center Streets re-paved under Phase II of GRWA Project.

Don't forget to reserve the Pavilion in Ramsay Memorial Park for your special get together or party! Check your calendar now for next year's important dates.



## What to do if you Suspect a Water Leak?

Ever get a water bill that you thought just didn't seem right? The first place to start is to contact Jerry Grenfell at 667-0484 to review your past bills to see if the billing is in fact excessive. Since the DPW personnel are not allowed to work on water lines within residences, here are some helpful hints to perform at home if you suspect a leak in your line:

- Go to the site of the water meter and take a reading.
- Don't use any water in the house for at least 2-3 hours.
- Return to the site of the meter and read the water meter again. If the meter reading has increased, this means there is a leak somewhere *inside* your house.



### To troubleshoot for water leaks:

The toilet is the number one suspect for water leaks, so try the following:

- Take off the top of the toilet tank and put a little food coloring in the tank. Don't use the toilet for a couple of hours.
- If after a couple hours you see that the water in the bowl of the toilet is colored, you have found your leak. Have the toilet repaired.
- If the toilet checks out and there is no colored water, put an empty bowl under each faucet spout and a dry piece of paper towel in the bowl. After some time has passed, check the bowls. If you see any of the towels are wet, that faucet has a leak. Have it repaired.

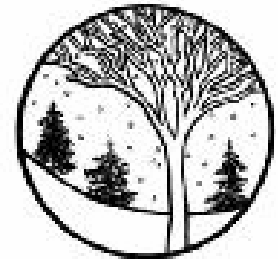
## Special Winter Considerations

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 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 your convenience)



## Township Logo?

The Township Board is asking for your input on the two drawings to the side. These logos were provided by Trustee Hope Tarnaski. Please let us know which you think would best represent the township. They may be used in various publications and advertisements for the township.

Either call 906-667-0019 or e-mail one of the officials at the e-mail addresses listed on the front of the newsletter.



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

N10338 Mill Street  
PO Box 304  
Ramsay, MI 49959

PRESRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
BESSEMER, MI 49911  
PERMIT NO. 29

Current Occupant-RR1  
Bessemer, MI 49911



*Happy Holidays!*



## For Your Information

### FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE:

**TAXES:** Tax bills are mailed on:

December 1<sup>st</sup>

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

July 1<sup>st</sup>

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

**WATER UTILITY BILLS:** Water billings are mailed on:

January 1<sup>st</sup> (period ending 12/31)

July 1<sup>st</sup> (period ending 6/30)

April 1<sup>st</sup> (period ending 3/31)

October 1<sup>st</sup> (period ending 9/30)

[Have 20 days after billing day 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 March 1<sup>st</sup> for summer tax credit and have to be a resident of Michigan. Contact Jeff Randall @ 667-0423 for more information.

**NEW TAX BILL LOOK:** By this time, you've noticed that your property tax bill has a new look. These are what your bills will look like from now into the future. Please note that you keep the upper portion of the bill and only return the bottom portion below the perforation marks.

### **TOWNSHIP HOLIDAY CLOSURES:**

**Thanksgiving** - Thursday, November 24 & Friday, November 25

**Christmas** - Friday, December 23 & Monday, December 26

**New Year's Day** - Monday, January 2, 2006



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