

# BROOKS TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

## TRASH DAY 2015

Brooks Township's annual trash day will be held on June 6, 2015. There will be more information regarding this event in the spring newsletter. At the 2014 trash day 10 - 30 yd dumpsters were filled, 4 scrap metal dumpsters, 178 tires and 5826 lbs. of electronics were collected. Thank you to all the volunteers that make this day go smoothly.

### TOWNSHIP CALENDER

Dec.	9	Township Board Mtg.
	15	Planning Comm. Mtg.
Jan.	20	Township Board Mtg.
	26	Planning Comm. Mtg.
Feb.	17	Township Board Mtg.
	23	Planning Comm. Mtg.
	27	2015 Property Assessments are mailed
Mar.	2	Property Taxes are due
	17	Township Board Mtg.
	23	Planning Comm. Mtg.
Apr.	21	Township Board Mtg.
	27	Planning Comm. Mtg.

Meetings are at the township hall and begin at 7:00 p.m.

### COOLBOUGH NATURAL AREAS

Just a few reminders when you are visiting the Coolbough Natural Areas. Please remember there is no camping and no motor vehicles allowed. Hunting and fishing are allowed so please take precautions during all seasons.

Also please be careful around areas of protected species. There are signs posted in these areas and should not be disturbed. There have been some issues around the Wood Turtle area. Please be respectful of all areas.

### MUSKEGON RIVER ASSOCIATION

The formation of the Muskegon River Association has been a wonderful asset in helping local law enforcement officials to protect the Muskegon River. This past summer saw a decrease in trespassing, lewd behavior and littering due to volunteers helping out in keeping an eye on the River. Newaygo County officials, the Sheriff's department, DNR officials, local townships and the City of Newaygo Police department have worked together along with the volunteers to try and regain control of the issues that have plagued the river in the past. This effort will continue in the future to continue to make the Muskegon River a wonderful place for residents and visitors.

### WINTER TAX BILLS

Please look over your winter tax bill when you receive it for any corrections that need to be made. Your bill will state that the "P.R.E. Exemption Has Reduced This Bill By: 0." This is because the P.R.E. Exemption is factored into the summer tax bills. Taxes are due on March 2, 2015. They are normally due on February 28 but that date falls on a weekend. If you have any questions please call Christina Haynor at 231-652-6763, ext. 130.

## FROM THE ZONING DEPARTMENT

In the past year there has been a great deal of construction being done without proper permits. There seems to be a lot of confusion whether or not certain construction needs a permit or not. Before going ahead with any building project please contact Joe Selzer, Zoning Administrator, at 231-652-6763, to find out what is needed. This will ensure that all permits are obtained either from the township or the County building department. Please remember that the township allows for **STORAGE** of camping units (fifth-wheels, motor homes, pop-ups, travel trailers) on your property. If the camping unit is **used** for more than 4 consecutive days a no-fee camping permit is required to avoid a violation.

## FROM THE ASSESSOR

At the end of February 2015 you will be receiving an assessment notice from Brooks Township. This notice will have the assessed value and the taxable value from 2014 and the proposed values for 2015. It will also include an approximate amount that your taxes will go up. All property owners are allowed to protest the proposed values at the Brooks Township Board of Review. The dates and times will be included in the notice. Property owners may protest the values either in person or by mail. If you have any questions about the information included in the assessment notice you may call Brooks Township at 231-652-6763.

### NEW SUPERVISOR AT BROOKS TOWNSHIP

Cory Nelson was elected as supervisor for Brooks Township at the November election. Mr. Nelson has served as a Trustee at the township since November of 2012. He is filling out the remainder of the current term which ends in 2016.

### THANK YOU!

The Brooks Township Board would like to say "Thank You" to Kurt Giberson for his work as Township Supervisor for that past 21 months. His work for the board and residents is certainly appreciated.



### Newaygo Conservation District Forestry Assistance Program

Are you a landowner with a forested property? The Forestry Assistance Program is designed to help non-industrial private landowners better manage their forest through on-site consultations, educational events, and connections to the timber industry, all at no cost to the landowner. We are also happy to guide you through the registration process for the existing **Commercial Forest Program**, and the new **Qualified Forest Program** - a tax relief program offered to landowners with 20 or more acres.

If you are interested in speaking to a District Forester about a site visit, tax program, or anything else, please contact **AJ Smith** at **(231) 861-5600 X 105** or email [aj.smith@macd.org](mailto:aj.smith@macd.org)