



TOWNSHIP TATTLER

Volume 2, num 3

August 2012

Sherman Township Board of Trustees:

Rob Middlemis-Brown, interim Supervisor

Addy Schmidt, Township Clerk

Marilyn Kastelic, Township Treasurer

Bob Strykowski, Trustee

Deneen Connell, Trustee

Sherman Township Constable:

Frank Kastelic

Inside this issue:

Above the Fold: Capital improvements **1**

Straight from the Board: SOLD! **1**

VFD news — What's hot? **2**

Land Division Ordinance **2**

School House Park **3**

Address corrections **3**

Water report **4**

Township makes needed capital improvements

by Rob Middlemis-Brown



The Board has adopted a Capital Improvement Plan, which identifies and prioritizes repair, remodeling, and replacement needs for township buildings and property. We will continually revise the plan to reflect changes in both needs and priorities of the Township over time.

Volunteers contributed much of the labor for improvements this year, and without their help the Township could not have afforded to make critical repairs needed to keep township property

from further deterioration. The Township also contracted some jobs to local professionals. The capital improvements identified for completion in 2012 include

WINDOWS: all 20 windows on the main floor of the Township Community Hall were replaced. Installed over 50 years ago, the windows lacked the energy saving features of modern windows, and they had become difficult to open and close. Windows needed replacing before residing the building, which we hope to accomplish next year. The low-E, thermopane, single sash, vinyl-clad replacement windows

provide both insulation from the cold in winter and reflection of solar heat in summer. Jay Reed Construction won the job with a bid of \$8,300. The Township and the Auxiliary split the cost, 80% - 20%. Thank you Auxiliary for your continued support of the Community Hall! **BASEMENT DOOR:** the Community Hall front basement door and frame had deteriorated badly, no longer keeping weather or vermin outside. Local craftsman-for-hire, Bob Buzzo, installed a pre-hung steel door with a new lockset. The Township funded the door and installa-

(Continued on page 4)

Old Water Plant — Sale Pending !

The Township sold its abandoned water supply plant with accompanying 0.46-acre parcel, located near the Tobacco River. We verified bids August 1, and finalized the sealed-bid auction with bid selection at the Board meeting on August 9, 2012. A Quit Deed will complete the property transfer after receiving payment for the full purchase price.

The Township originally obtained the parcel in 1981 from the Copper Range Mining Company to continue operation of an existing water supply system for the community of Gay. In 1983, the Township used a USDA loan to upgrade the mining-era water treatment plant with sedi-

mentation and chlorination operations. However, when the water supply source was changed from Lake Superior to ground water in 2006, a new water treatment plant in the basement of the Township Community Hall replaced the treatment plant near the Tobacco River.

Sale of the abandoned facility and property had to be delayed until the original USDA construction loan for the upgrade was paid in full. Proceeds of the sale will be put into the Water Department fund for future capital needs of the current water treatment facility.



What's hot in the VFD?

by Bob Strykowski



We are happy to report that there were no fire callouts this month! You might think this is normal, but looking at other areas of the country, you can see that we are very fortunate. The UP has a very high potential for devastating forest fire. The VFD thanks the residents of Sherman Township and visitors to our community for their care and common sense during these summer months, ensuring that we remain safe and fire free.

The VFD heartily thanks one of our devoted firefighters, Mick Jarvi, for 21 years of service to his community. He began his stint with the VFD in 1976 and served as Fire Chief during part of that time before moving to Florida in 1988. Mick and his wife Sue returned to Gay in 2003, and Mick stepped up again to serve as a firefighter. Mick decided to retire in July of this year. His service will be missed, but we hope that he enjoys retirement.

Firefighters: please mark your calendars for our meeting's on every **second Friday of the month at 6:30 PM**. As always we are looking for volunteers, who are committed to community service, and wish to bolster our ranks on the VFD. Contact Chief Dudley Martin or any township Board member for more information.



The State encourages townships to review and object to parcel subdivision that does not comply with the Michigan Land Division Act. Township review works together with zoning to ensure the quality of new developments. Townships may add regulations to restrict land division, and should develop procedures for dividing and recording parcels in their jurisdiction.

The recently adopted Sherman Township ordinance on land division essentially follows recommended procedures set by the State and County. Sherman Township was the last township in Keweenaw

County to implement an ordinance requiring review of land divisions, since the state act passed in 1967. The full text of the ordinance was published in the Daily Mining Gazette on June 28, 2012 and can be found on the township's web page at <http://keweenawcountyonline.org/township-sherman.php>.

Basically, the Sherman Township ordinance takes a light hand in preventing creation of parcels which do not meet the state minimum standards. The Township acts as the review board for the Michigan Land Division Act. The ordinance for Sherman Township does not add any restrictions to land division that do not already exist. It merely establishes the required review of any proposal to subdivide land. There will be a fee attached to the review process. This brings us into compliance with state law.

Purposes of the Land Division Ordinances:

- Meet Michigan Land Division Act standards.
- Ensure accurate legal descriptions of properties.
- Offset assessment costs to the township.
- Address health and safety issues, such as emergency access for 911 calls.
- Promote development consistent with the comprehensive plan.
- Protect community interests.

Your Township has a very small revenue source that is often stretched well beyond what is needed for the upkeep of the Township properties. Volunteer efforts give a real gift to the community, doing necessary painting, cleaning, and repairs that historical buildings need to stay in shape.

The Board keeps a list of tasks that could be complet-

ed by volunteers. If you can help and share a little of your time, then please contact a board member or leave a message at the township office (296-1211).

Thank you!

A big thank you to all those who have worked hard to keep our Township a great place to live, including, but not limited to:

- The VFD
- The Auxiliary
- Litter pick-up volunteers along our roads.
- The Park Board for hours of work on School House Park.
- Board members, giving extra time beyond official duties.
- Workers doing improvements and maintenance.
- Community members loaning equipment.



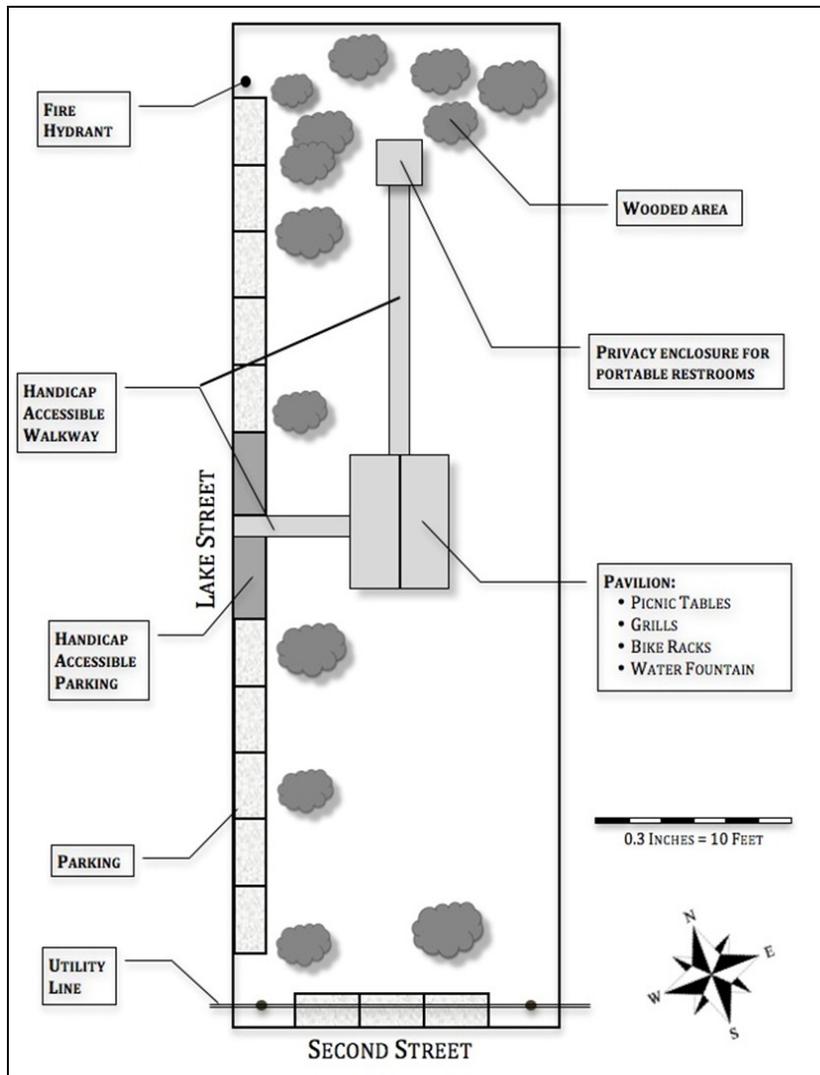
School House Park grant application moves forward!

The Township's 2012 grant application for development of the School House Park moved forward in July with a site visit from the DNR (Department of Natural Resources) Recreation Grant Coordinator. Recreation Board members discussed the project on site with the DNR representative.

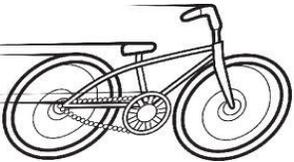
The meeting included feedback on grant status, as well as possible additions to strengthen the proposal. The DNR will re-release preliminary scoring in late August, and award the grants in November.

The site layout is designed to be universally accessible, low maintenance, and environmentally friendly construction. The facility, providing picnic facilities, shelter, and water, would attract visitors, particularly bicyclists, motorists, ATVs and snowmobiles using the Lake Superior shoreline tour. The Township and the Keweenaw Historical Society are working to make the park and neighboring historical school complementary of each other, providing a full array of site facilities.

If you like the idea of the park, help us get noticed by the DNR. Send us a letter stating that you think the park will serve the many tourists and the local population in Sherman Township. Send your letters to Recreation Board, Sherman Township, 8872 Second Street, Lake Linden, MI 49945. We will include your letter in a follow up package to the DNR.



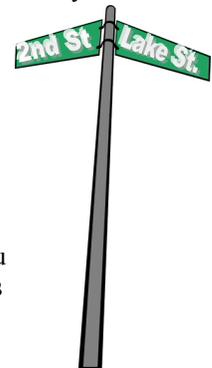
Share the Road



Watch out for walkers and bicyclists on the roads! When passing, slow down and move over — way over. Vehicles throw loose rocks from our asphalt roads. A rock hitting a walker at 60 MPH will do a lot of damage. Remember that cyclists are vehicles too and are entitled to a piece of the road. When passing a cyclist, you must cross the yellow line and give the cyclist space. If you can't safely cross the yellow line to pass, then slow down and wait behind the cyclist until the way is clear. Squeezing past a cyclist is a deadly mistake.

Is your address correct? How accurate is 911 information?

Do you have trouble with UPS or FEDEX finding your house? Does your mail get delivered to the wrong address? Do you wonder if your 911 location information is correct? Are you listed incorrectly in the phone book? If the answer to any of these questions is "Yes", then get these issues resolved quickly with one phone call. The Keweenaw County 911 Master Street Addressing Guide (MSAG) Coordinator can resolve issues with the shipping and postal addresses, 911 location, and even phone book errors. You can call the 911 MSAG Coordinator at (906) 337-3471 or email kewbldg@pasty.net with your concerns regarding your address.





Sherman Township
8872 Second Street
Lake Linden, MI 49945

Phone: 906-296-1211
Fax: 906-296-1211
(call first to arrange fax)

E-mail: shermantwp@pasty.net

Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM, Township Hall.

Newsletter editor:
Sherry Middlemis-Brown,
township resident

We are on the web at
[http://
keweenawcountyonline
.org/township-
sherman.php](http://keweenawcountyonline.org/township-sherman.php)

**Sherman
Township —
a great place
to live.**

A township of



Sherman Township -- a great place to live.

Water, water, everywhere . . . about the drops we drink.

Our water system had tested positive for coliform bacteria in 2011. This strain of coliform is not harmful to humans; however, government guidelines on drinking-water safety prohibit coliform bacteria in a water supply. The Michigan DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) determined that chlorine injection was necessary for our system. In April, we installed an injection unit, worked with DEQ assistance to determine the lowest, adequate level of chlorine to be injected. Since then, routine water samples indicated no detectable levels of coliform bacteria.

Between January and April our monthly water use was 4,700 to 11,900 gallons per day. May through July has shown a marked increase in water consumption with daily rates varying from 9,200 to 22,400 gallons per day. Some of the increase is obviously related to summer residents returning and watering of gardens and lawns. The increase in consumption is taxing the system, potentially causing severe water-level drawdown.

We will continue to monitor the water system with routine monthly sampling to ensure water quality and with daily attention to water use.



(Continued from page 1)

tion cost (\$490). Volunteer labor painted the new door and frame.

TOWNSHIP SIGN: volunteer labor installed a “Welcome to Sherman Township” sign next to the township office on Second Street. The \$400 cost of the sign was paid out of the *Public Act 48 of 2002* funds, designated for improvements on road right-of-ways; township revenue was not used.

BORDER FENCE: volunteers replaced the deteriorating pole fence along Lake Street near the township office with a split-rail and post cedar fence. The fence blends with the surroundings and discourages motorized traffic from crossing the open yard. *Public Act 48 of 2002* supplied the \$600 material costs; no township taxes were used.

PROTECTION FENCE: volunteers installed split-rail cedar fence around three sides of the water supply tank to discourage access to

the sloped berm and the cover of the tank. Snowmobiles, ATVs, and bicycles use the berm and tank cover as a playground, which can cause damage to the tank and contamination of the water supply. The fence blends into the scene, matching the fence along Lake Street, and protects the area, while allowing access for tank maintenance.

OLD FIRE HALL: volunteers took a day to clean out old materials stored in the deteriorating building. Volunteers will cart much of the debris for scrap, proceeds returning to the Township. The building roof support beams rotted, leaving items stored in the building vulnerable to damage if the roof collapses. The Board continues discussions about options for restoring or replacing the building.

BENCHES: The Community Hall benches, used annually for the July 4th celebration and the Music Fest, have needed painting for

many years. The exposed wood resulted in several that had deteriorated badly, requiring repair. Volunteers power washed the benches, repaired broken and weak parts, and then used nearly 8 gallons of semi-gloss paint to give the old benches a fresh coat of needed protection.



VOLUNTEER PAINTERS: numerous painting projects have been completed, but we still need brushwielding volunteers to paint the office side door, the Community Hall main-floor side door, and the entire length of soffit/fascia on the fire hall. If you can help, please contact a Board member or leave your contact information on the office answering machine.