



**Sherman Township Board of Trustees:**

Supervisor:  
Rob Middlemis-Brown

Township Clerk:  
Addy Schmidt

Township Treasurer:  
Marilyn Kastelic

Trustee:  
Bob Strykowski

Trustee:  
Deneen Connell

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**Above the Fold: What has the township done now!**

The township has accomplished much over the past year, and seemingly, residents have approved of the progress. The Board of Trustees has looked at a wide range of issues, so let's see what has been done over the past twelve months with the help of many volunteers and funding from the Women's Auxiliary.

Capital Improvements

(repairs, alterations, and replacement):

- Old fire hall (pump house next door to the current fire hall). Volunteers removed debris to make space for summer storage of the tractor and winter storage of the wildfire tanker.
- Roadside improvement. Funds from the State were used to replace the collapsing fence along Lake Street, to install a township sign near the office, and to

put up a Gay history interpretative sign at the park site.

- Township Office. Upgrades included a new computer for the Clerk, replacement laser fax/printer, and Internet cabling. A volunteer repainted the entrance doors and front porch.
- Community Hall. A contractor replaced windows on the main floor. A local workman replaced a basement door, improved drainage around that door, and installed hardwood flooring over a floor vent. Volunteers installed smoke alarms to comply with insurance requirements, re-routed a basement light switch to the entrance door, and repainted benches.
- Water Supply Plant. Five supply-line valves between the main and houses were replaced. The old treatment

plant was sold by auction with money (\$22,551) going to the water plant account. Volunteers installed a fence to protect the water storage tank. They also made improvement in plant room, adding a dehumidifier, stainless steel lab counters, chlorination system, phone and Internet lines, computer and printer for electronic record keeping, smoke alarm, and floor repainting.

Township Policy Updates  
(the governing issues and requirements):

- State law and regulations required the township to adopt many procedural improvements, including a credit card usage policy, township bylaws, a township policies manual, and Freedom of Information Act polices.

*(Continued on page 4)*

**Straight from the Board: Trustees 2012-2016**

Well the elections are finally over and the re-elected board members are ready to meet the challenges of the next four years. If you need reminding of who is on your board, just look on the left side column of this news-

letter or go to the web! For a full introduction, see the Township Tattler, Fall 2011, available on the township web page, <http://keweenawcountyonline.org/township-sherman.php>. Board of Trustees members

took the oath of office at the December 13, 2012 board meeting with their first official act as the new board being the initial development of the 2013-2014 budgets and selection of the 2013-2014 Board of Review members.

## 911 Emergency Call Box installed at Fire Hall!



The Keweenaw County 911 Commission funded the purchase of 911 emergency call boxes for selected locations in the County, where cell phone coverage is limited or unavailable. Gay was selected as one of these locations. An emergency call box would provide a way to contact emergency services, using a phone line directly connected to the regional 911 call center.

Emergency call boxes have the advantage that their location is immediately

known by the 911 call center. Mobile phone users in trouble do not necessarily know where they are, which can cause delays in getting emergency services.

The emergency call box, installed by the Fire Chief, is located on the front of the Fire Hall in plain sight of traffic passing by the township buildings on Second Street in Gay. The emergency call box will provide 911 emergency services for local residents or those traveling in the area, including motor-

ists, bicyclists, ATVs, and snowmobiles.



## DNR awards Sherman Township a \$24,600 grant!

Congratulations to all who helped work on the grant application and subsequent revisions. The township's Recreation Board members were responsible for overseeing the application process, and they worked many hours in making this a success.

Sherman Township was one of only 19 applicants to be approved for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Passport Grant funding for 2013. More than 80 applications were submitted from townships, villages, cities and counties all across the state. Although the grant was less than the \$29,500 requested in the application, the funding should meet the goals of the project.

The township started the grant application process a year ago for developing a new park in Gay. After many revisions and comple-



tion of the numerous documents required in the application package, the grant application was approved by the Board of Trustees and submitted before the April 2, 2012 submission deadline.

The grant and required local match, \$10,000, will finance the facilities improvement project next to the historic Gay school. The project entails the construction of designated parking areas, a pavilion with tables, grills, and a water fountain, and a screened area for portable toilets, available in the summer. The park has been designed for universal accessibility.

### MI DNR Recreation Passport Grants

Public Act 32 of 2010 created the Local Public Recreation Facilities Fund for the development of public recreation facilities by local units of government.

This money comes from sale of the Recreation Passport, which replaces the resident Motor Vehicle Permit - or window sticker - for state park entrance. The passport is required for entry to state parks, recreation areas and boating access sites.

The first \$12,730,000 of the fund replaces lost revenue from the elimination of the motor vehicle permit and boating access site permits, as well as to pay for administration by the Secretary of State. Ten percent of remaining revenue is used to fund the Recreation Passport local grant program. The program focuses on renovating and improving existing parks, but new park development is also eligible. For more on the Passport: [http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-58225\\_58701---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-58225_58701---,00.html)



The site of the soon-to-be School House Park.

## Township Event Calendar for Winter 2013

### January

- Board of Trustees monthly meeting.  
When: Thursday, January 10, at 6:30 PM.  
Where: Township Office in Gay.  
What: Primary topics are the general, water, & sewer operations budgets for 2013-2014.
- Fire Department monthly meeting.  
When: Friday, January 11, at 6:30 PM.  
Where: Fire Hall in Gay.  
What: Routine equipment & vehicle checks and winter fire hazards.
- Recreation Board public meeting.  
When: Thursday, January 17, at 6:30 PM.  
Where: Township Office in Gay.  
What: Presentation of preliminary plan for developing School House park.

### February

- Board of Trustees monthly meeting.  
When: Thursday, February 14, at 6:30 PM.  
Where: Township Office in Gay.  
What: Primary topic is discussion of proposed plan options for School House park.
- Fire Department monthly meeting.  
When: Friday, February 8, at 6:30 PM.  
Where: Fire Hall in Gay.  
What: Routine equipment & vehicle checks and Copper Dog 150 assistance.
- Recreation Board public meeting  
When: Thursday, February 28, at 6:30 PM.  
Where: Township Office in Gay.  
What: Presentation of final plan for developing School House park.

### March

- Board of Trustees special budget presentation meeting.  
When: Thursday, March 14, at 6:00 PM.  
Where: Township Office in Gay.  
What: Presentation, discussion, and approval of 2013 budgets.
- Board of Trustees monthly meeting.  
When: Thursday, March 14, at 6:30 PM.  
Where: Township Office in Gay.

What: Primary topic is water and sewer operations funding now and in the future

- Fire Department monthly meeting  
When: Friday, March 8, at 6:30 PM  
Where: Fire Hall in Gay  
What: Routine equipment & vehicle checks and July 4<sup>th</sup> fundraising
- Recreation Board public meeting  
When: Thursday, March 28, at 6:30 PM  
Where: Township Office in Gay  
What: Status and updates construction for developing School House park
- Board of Review meetings (two meeting dates)  
When: Monday, March 11, from 9 AM to 3 PM and Tuesday, March 12, from 3 PM to 9 PM  
Where: Township Office in Gay  
What: Review landowners concerns regarding property appraisals and tax exemptions.

### April

- Board of Trustees monthly meeting.  
When: Thursday, April 11, at 6:30 PM.  
Where: Township Office in Gay.  
What: Primary topic is discussion of proposed plan options for School House park.
- Fire Department monthly meeting.  
When: Friday, April 12, at 6:30 PM.  
Where: Fire Hall in Gay.  
What: Routine equipment & vehicle checks and July 4<sup>th</sup> fundraising.
- Recreation Board public meeting  
When: Thursday, April 25, at 6:30 PM.  
Where: Township Office in Gay.  
What: Status and updates construction for developing School House park.
- Township 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spring Roadside Litter Cleanup.  
When: Earth Day week of April 21 through April 27.  
Where: Gay-Lake Linden, Gay-Mohawk, and Gay-Lac LaBelle Roads in the township.  
What: Pickup litter along roadside ditches and turn in trash bags to Township Office.



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





## Sherman Township -- a great place to live.

Nestled on the east shore of the Keweenaw Peninsula, Sherman Township provides a lovely spot for a permanent or a vacation home. The area has one of the lowest populations in the state, but the township offers the amenities associated with a community. The Gay smokestack, seen for miles, is a navigational aid. The Gay Schoolhouse reminds us of an important heritage. The Community Hall provides handicap accessible meeting space and houses the Auxiliary's Sale and Bazaar. Visit the memorabilia on the stage of the Community Hall to learn more about our community's history. The Township Office houses the Sherman Township government offices .

### Have you seen the township web page?

Did you know that you can find all of the meeting minutes, treasurer's reports and meeting agendas since November 2011 in one spot?

How about news items? Yes, the new Land Division Ordinance is there along with a download for the application. All the "Township Tattler" editions are there along with information on recycling, refuge services, development of the park, Board of Review, and so much more.

There is contact information for the Board of Trustees, your assessor, and

Gay's water supply superintendent. On the same page you can link to Keweenaw County's offices and the other four townships as well.

Check out the ever-expanding web page, because it is the main source for township's news!

We are on the web at  
<http://keweenawcountyonline.org/township-sherman.php>

Sherman Township Board of Trustees meetings are open to the public on the 2nd Thursday of each month, 6:30 PM at Township Office. Agendas are available and posted at the Township Office.

Newsletter editor:  
 Sherry Middlemis-Brown,  
 Sherman Township resident

**Sherman Township,  
 located in**



### What has the township done now!

(Continued from page 1)

- Lacking standard operating procedures for several township responsibilities, the Board of Trustees also adopted water use billing policies, a Capital Improvement Plan, and a Land Division Ordinance.
- The board established a Recreation Board, Freedom of Information Act Coordinator, Receiving Board for elections, and Grounds Maintenance position for mowing and snow removal.

Financial Progress (looking for ways to save money):

- The Board of Trustees bid a contract to ensure the lowest cost for insurance, reducing the cost by over \$3,000 per year.
- The township treasurer worked with a local bank to reduce or eliminate bank fees on accounts.
- The township stopped supporting dumpsters in Gay and coordinated local residential refuse pickup, eliminating the escalating costs of dumpsters and

reducing per capita costs to residents.

- The township sold the abandoned water treatment plant, reducing property and liability insurance costs.

We hope that you agree that this has been a productive year. We are always looking for input from residents, seasonal and permanent, and invite you to the Board of Trustees meetings, the second Thursday of each month at the Township Office.

Rob Middlemis-Brown