

Garden Township Newsletter

Issue 24

Spring 2017

Garden Township
6316 State Street
PO Box 224
Garden, MI 49835

Phone 644-7602
E-mail Address:
gardentownshipclerk@yahoo.com

Website: go to
Deltacountymi.org
Click on "townships":
Go to the map and click on
"Garden"

Township Board Meetings are
the second Tuesday of every
month at 7:00PM at the
Township Community Building

Board Members: -
Supervisor: -
Morgan Tatrow
906-644-2127
Clerk: -
Brenda Lester
450-5185
Treasurer: -
Mary Ann LeBresh
906-644-2897
Trustees: -
Lisa Pichette
644-2049
Tyler Lucas
450-0531

Assessor: Joe Maki
Asst. Coleen Maki
906-428-1579
906-280-4372
jmaki4215@sbcglobal.net
with text messaging and voice
mail

Transfer Station: 644-7139
Hours: 9AM to 5PM
Mon. Wed. Sat.

Fire Chief: Keith Farley
906-450-7036

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Heritage Wind Turbines:

Future Wind Development: Heritage is continuing to evaluate the possibility of a second phase of wind turbines. This phase would be located almost entirely in Fairbanks Township and perhaps a small portion in Garden Township. There will be a free Wind and Solar Tour offered on Thursday, May 25, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. The bus will leave from the Heritage office at 6364 State Street, Garden, MI 49835. You can call for reservations at 231-947-4546 (office) or 231-620-4450 (Cell) or email: tckoscoenergy@aol.com.

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Solar Array:

Heritage completed the installation of a 1 MW (megawatt) solar array in the fall of 2016. There were several unexpected delays with the interconnection process. The solar array became fully operational on April 27, 2017.

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Transfer Station:

- No Tires or Construction Material.
- Everything possible is recycled – 1-2 plastics, tin cans, newspapers, and magazines, cardboard.
- Metal collected to help with the Garden 4th of July celebration.
- GTS residents pay for the TS with their taxes, all others pay per bag or item.
- Mattresses, TV's, microwaves, computers accepted for a fee for a non-residents.
- Syringes are accepted for recycle, however, they must be placed in a clear plastic container with the lid duct taped and the word "SHARPS" written on the side for protection of all workers that will handle this item.
- Acceptable items – Enamel paints, oil based paints, and paint thinners. Oil in clear containers, antifreeze. Latex paint cans that are dried out, Insecticides, batteries, propane tanks can be dropped off for disposal. NO oil water mixtures. If you have something to dispose of or recycle, please call Bill as the list is endless!

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Township Hall - Events Scheduled:

American Legion:

- **May 14** - Buffet Breakfast - 9 - 12 noon
- **May 29** - After the American Legion goes to the cemeteries they will have a small lunch at the Township Hall following the Garden cemetery.
- **June 11** - Last Buffet Breakfast until November - 9 - 12 noon
- **November 19** - Hunters Special Breakfast and Raffle - 9 - 12 noon
Tri-Star EMS Free Will Offering Spaghetti Dinner - to raise money for education for our EMS volunteers:
- **May 25th** from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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Cemetery:

Garden Township has had some issues come up with the cemeteries. Therefore, we'd like to remind everyone of the following:

1. When you purchase a cemetery plat or gravesite, you are only purchasing the burial rights. You do not own the land and may not sell any part of your plat to anyone. If you want to transfer gravesites, this can be done through the township clerk.
2. All grave markers (stones) must be of stone or other equally durable composition unless the marker was there before the Cemetery Ordinance became effective in 2002.
3. The maintenance, repair, and upkeep of a cemetery memorial, marker, urn, or similar item is the responsibility of the heirs or family of the person buried. The township has no responsibility or liability regarding the repair, maintenance, or liability of any markers.
4. Snow plowing is not permitted.
5. No burial spaces will be opened and closed except as authorized by the township clerk.
6. No grading, leveling, or excavating within the cemetery is allowed without permission or direction of the township clerk.
7. No flowers, shrubs, trees or vegetation of any type shall be planted outside of any urn, without the prior approval of the township clerk. In the event any of these items are planted without the approval of the township clerk, said items will be removed by the township.
8. The township board reserves the right to remove or trim any tree, plant or shrub located within the cemetery.
9. Mounds, bricks, blocks and any borders that hinders the free use of a lawn mower or other gardening apparatus are prohibited.
10. Surfaces other than earth or sod are prohibited. This includes artificial turf, mulch, etc.
11. The township clerk has the authority to direct the removal and disposal of any and all growth, emblems, displays or containers that through decay, deterioration, damage or otherwise have become unsightly.
12. If you would like a copy of cemetery ordinance, please contact the township clerk.

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Parks and Recreation: The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 22, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the Furnace Lodge (if vacant).

Recreation Plan: The grant for the Recreation Plan is now closed. We will received our final payment of \$3,948.88 soon.

Garden Boat Launch- County has admitted to ownership of area of the road where the DNR wants to expand parking. They have abandoned the road and now Randy can contact landowners adjoining the area to get permission for expanded parking area.

Non-Motorized Paths – Working to get homeowner’s concurrence to use the trails by their homes.

Motorized Paths (Snow mobiles, ORV, Mini-bikes) – Randy was able to get all the home owners to sell an easement to the DNR to open the trails that go by their homes to motorized recreational vehicles. DNR already owns 90 percent of the trails, but the southern part of the trail is owned by 4 different land owners. DNR offers landowners \$3.60 a foot for the easement. There are also funds available for repair work.

Water Trails: - In process. We are working on a list of stopping points that are already in place as our starting point. A good reference website is: Miwaterrails.org.

Garden Township Recreation Plan: - In process. The plan was not submitted by the 1 March 2017 deadline due to administrative changes at CUPPAD. The goal is to have the plan submitted NLT May 15, 2017.

Park Upkeep –There is money set aside in the Garden Township budget to ensure that the park is kept groomed and general maintenance is done to keep the park clean and trimmed.

Portage Bay Campgrounds: In process - In Harry Lund’s book Michigan Wildflowers in color (1998), eight MI wildflower trails are featured, and Portage Bay Campgrounds is the ONLY one listed in the Upper Peninsula. A group has been formed – Friends of Portage Bay –(they will be under the umbrella of Friends of Fayette) to work to preserve and maintain the Campground, preserve and maintain the nature trails, as well as to preserve and maintain access to Portage Bay Campgrounds. DNR will also be providing three re-purposed Outhouses to replace five of the old Outhouses.

CUPPAD Grant – This is a Place-Making Grant. Submission deadline is June 1, 2017 for projects occurring between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018. Discussion included buying playground equipment, creating a sand Volleyball Pit & net, Beach Clean-up, and grooming for the Garden Township Park. Janet and Irma will write the grant.

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Garden Welcome Center News

Have you ever visited a new area and wanted the inside scoop on all the things you and your family could do together? We are looking for people who will help us staff the Welcome Center in downtown Garden. Last summer we had people stop by who had no idea about The Dock, or Portage Bay Campground, or even Fayette State Park.

This summer season is getting closer. Help us show off our wonderful peninsula and bring dollars into our community by helping people find what we often take for granted. Not only are you serving our community, you also get to meet fascinating people from just about anywhere in the world. You never know who might walk through the door of the Welcome Center.

The Welcome Center will be open Monday through Friday 10am to 5pm, if we have volunteers. Would you consider volunteering for a few hours, an afternoon or a whole shift? Volunteers working 15 hours or more this summer will receive a free Garden Peninsula T-shirt. For more information contact Irma at 286-3397 or gonzalezhider@yahoo.com

Memorial Day Weekend Yard Sale

Imagine a 25 mile yard sale on Memorial Day weekend. Upspring (formerly the Garden Peninsula Economic Task Force) is organizing this event to bring attention to our wonderful peninsula and put money in your pocket. The first step is to assess the level of interest in such an event so that we can advertise it everywhere. Would your family like to be involved in this? If you are interested please contact Gary or Katy Sporer at 644-2930.

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Portage Bay Campground Wildflower Trail Tour led by Botanist Will MacKinnon at the Portage Bay State Forest Campground Saturday June 10th, 2017. Register by sending in \$5.00 to the Village Artisans, P.O. 81, Garden, MI 49835. The tour is limited to 25 participants. Call Janet Daasch at 644-2175 for further information.

Participants will meet at the Village Artisans/Garden Gallery at noon on June 10th. Bring a brown bag lunch and view a wildflower slide show featuring pictures taken over last 10 years at Portage

Bay Campgrounds. Coffee and dessert will be served. At 1pm we will car pool to the park and begin the wildflower tour. Some of the terrain is wet and rough so hiking boots are recommended. After the tour, participants are invited to an ice cream social at Janet Daasch's home, located very near the park.

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Scareware or Ransomware:

Recently two Garden Township (GTS) residents had their computers infected with Scareware or Ransomware. It cost one of our residents \$400 to get their laptop back to working order.

Internet security writers use the term "**scareware**" to describe software products that produce frivolous and alarming warnings or threat notices, most typically for fictitious or useless commercial firewall and registry cleaner software. This class of program tries to increase its perceived value by bombarding the user with constant warning messages that do not increase its effectiveness in any way. Software is packaged with a look and feel that mimics legitimate security software in order to deceive consumers. Some websites display pop-up advertisement windows or banners with text such as: "Your computer may be infected with harmful spyware programs. Immediate removal may be required. To scan, click 'Yes' below." These websites can go as far as saying that a user's job, career, or marriage would be at risk. Products using advertisements such as these are often considered scareware. Serious scareware applications qualify as rogue software.

Ransomware is computer malware that installs covertly on a victim's device (e.g., computer, smartphone, wearable device) and that either mounts an extortion attack that holds the victim's data hostage, or mounts a leakware attack that threatens to publish the victim's data, until a ransom is paid. Simple ransomware may lock the system in a way that is not difficult for a knowledgeable person to reverse, and display a message requesting payment to unlock it or, as in the case of the GTS residents, call a certain number and give them the computer number that was included on the Ransomware message.

The best way to handle these pop-ups is to contact a local computer expert. In the case above, the only thing that had to be done was to change the homepage. Even going to a local computer expert would NOT have cost \$400.

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If you have anything you would like included in the next issue of the Garden Township Newsletter, please call Lisa Pichette.