

Big Prairie Township

OCTOBER, 2011

Message From The Supervisor ...

*I have been treading on leaves all day until I am autumn-tired.
God knows all the color and form of leaves I have trodden on and mired.
Perhaps I have put forth too much strength and been too fierce from fear.
I have safely trodden underfoot the leaves of another year.*

This line from a poem by Robert Frost "**A Leaf Treader**" was in my mind on a bright, warm October day while I walked my dogs through our wood lot and watched the maple leaves spinning down to the forest floor. This was part of the same wood lot I have always tapped for Maple Syrup in the spring and now the fall was heavy and the need to finish cutting our winter wood was causing me to trod and mire a lot of leaves.

In this part of the wood lot the forest rolls down to a pond, and the reflection of the trees in the water often keep me from concentrating on the work at hand, but if I have had the pleasure of getting to know you personally then you know I am easily led away from concentration. Spring was here just yesterday and I wallowed through the snow with the tractor to get to the sugar bush, then the hot days of summer and I found the cool shade of the forest so comforting. Now I have the fire wood to cut and soon, at last, the tractor roads to go sledding on.

"We," Big Prairie People, We are northern peoples and our world follows this same closed loop of seasons. Some of you may go south for the winter, I hear Ann Arbor is very pleasant in January, but most stay and fight the good fight so we can have something to talk about in July, "do you remember what it was like on February 16th? Oh boy, don't get me started!"

I hope that your seasons were as good as mine and my families and I have used this space not to tell you more detail of the mundane working of Township Government but to just wish all of you well and a prayer for our collective futures. For at this time of year we have truly "trodden underfoot the leaves of another year."



Gods Peace to you,
Dave Wright, Supervisor

TOWNSHIP BOARD

Dave Wright, Supervisor
964 Cypress Ave.
White Cloud, MI 49349
231-689-1250

Judy Baker, Clerk
4492 Croton Hardy Dr.
Newaygo, MI 49337
231-652-7390

Janet Westfield, Treasurer
P.O. Box 127
White Cloud, MI 49349
231-689-1385

Mary Anderson, Trustee
3298 S. Locust Ave.
White Cloud, MI 49349
231-689-6255

Charles Wimmer, Trustee
8142 East Baseline Road
White Cloud, MI 49349
231-689-6074

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Zoning Enforcement Officer
Dedra Maka
231-689-1385

**Building Inspector/
Zoning Permits**
Mike Crowe
231-856-7005

Electrical Inspector
Mike Califf
231-924-1992

Mechanical Inspector
Newaygo Co. Building Dept.
231-689-7216

Burn Permits
DNR Hotline
231-745-3111

***Township meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m.
Planning Commission meetings are held on the third Wednesday of every
month at 6:30 p.m.***

BIG PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME WATCH PROGRAM

The Crime Watch Program for 2011 went very well. We had residents attend the meetings and they went away with much information. Trustee Mary Anderson and Treasurer Janet Westfield have high expectations for the program for 2012.

A recap for the meetings held this year: April 13, Newaygo County Road Commission Manager Kelly Smith was our first guest speaker. He gave a presentation on how the road commission operates, its budget, where their funds come from and other information. May 17 there was a potluck with Big Prairie, Ensley and Grant City Watch groups at the Grant Fine Arts Center where a PRIDE presentation was given. All who were in attendance has an enjoyable evening. On June 8, the Central Michigan Enforcement Team (Drug Team) gave their presentation. We had one of our largest resident attendances at this meeting. This was a very informative meeting with a large question and answer session afterward. Another informative meeting was held on August 10 when Det. Steve Heiss from the Fremont Police Department gave a presentation on Fraud and Scams. Again, more residents were in attendance.

All of us keep an eye out for our neighbors, but these meetings are intended to give us information on how to better protect ourselves and our community. In June when the Drug Team gave their presentation we learned what to look for if we suspect that we may have a drug problem in our neighborhood and what we can do. In August we learned so much about the unbelievable scams that are out there and how they can be directed at older adults. Those that were in attendance were just amazed.

Again, this program has more to offer than just watching out for our neighbors. Each meeting has a different guest speaker and a question and answer session, and there is so much information to gain. In March of 2012, please check the Big Prairie Township website to check the 2012 Crime Watch Schedule. Mary and Janet look forward to seeing you in 2012.



Janet Westfield 689-1385 or 689-6375
Mary Anderson 689-6255

2011 WINTER TAX PERIOD TREASURER'S HOURS

Treasurer's Hours will be:

Monday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Wednesday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
December 28th: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. & February 14th, 2012: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Please note: These hours will take effect on December 15th.