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## Summer 2014 Newsletter

**Brining:** *To Brine or Not to Brine, that is the Question.* Brining is the process of spraying unpaved roads in hopes of keeping the seasonal dust down. You may remember that there were problems with the substance the Benzie Road Commission's subcontractor used last year on some Lake Ann-area roads; the official report from that incident is posted on the website if you'd like more details about the subject. This year, to reduce the chance of a repeat episode, the BCRC went to a *mineral* well brine. It costs more. And although the higher cost of the better brine would not make or break CLT coffers, the Board decided to skip at least the first of two possible brining runs for the summer of 2014. We're experimenting to see if there is a noticeable difference in dust control between brining and not brining. Our qualifying roads are East Cox (.40 mi), Esplanade (.25 mi), Graves (.86 mi), Maple Arch (.25 mi), Marquette Court (.25) and Onkeonwe (.50). Residents of and travelers on these roads are asked to communicate with the township. Those opinions of the dust levels without brining will effect whether we brine later in the summer. Please let us know.

**Blight:** We recently updated our existing blight ordinance in response to an increasing number of complaints about unsightly and/or dangerous messes on township properties. The amending was in response to situations that endanger CLT's health or safety, or detract from our highly valued natural aesthetics. (The ordinance is available online or available at the hall.) We've hired a Blight Officer, Mark Ketz, who happens to also be a CLT resident, as well as a BC Sheriff's deputy and the county's K-9 officer. He is already on the job. His contract specifically requires for him to first and foremost work *with* the property owners who are in violation; citations are the result if and when no progress is made in clearing our beautiful community of contaminants and junk. Learn more about reporting and solving these issues by contacting the CLT supervisor.

**Cemeteries:** We hope you've noticed our progress in these areas. Although we still have a long way to go, much has already been accomplished towards both improving the grounds and organizing the volumes of records. We are in the process of updating the ordinance that would govern all cemetery operations. Soon a little booklet will be available for all burial right owners and their heirs spelling out rules and regulations. It will dispense all sorts of answers to oft-asked questions, such as "Can't we just dig a hole and bury our loved one's ashes ourselves?" (Answer: NO!) or "Dad was a veteran and we don't know what services he's entitled to," or "May we plant a memorial tree in Mom's memory?" The township supervisor is in charge of the cemeteries and is here to help with planning ahead, or with days that are often emotionally charged and logistically confusing. Call for assistance and to procure copies of this ordinance (appearing soon on the website, with hard copies will be available at the township hall.) Last but not least, special thanks goes to Super Volunteers Brad Heywood, and Carol & Bob Beidler who have devoted countless hours of their labor. Do you, too, wish to share suggestions or volunteer on behalf of the cemeteries? We welcome your assistance.

**Dates:** Here are some important events coming up, so mark your calendars. Our annual CLT-sponsored **Clean Up Day** (or, Junk Day as some refer to it) is July 19<sup>th</sup>, 8-Noon, located behind the Tri-Gas company in Benzonia. Full instructions are available at the township office or online. The next county-hosted **Hazardous Waste Day** is Saturday August 9<sup>th</sup>, 9-Noon at the Road Commission in Honor, with an appointment necessary. On this day, they take a variety of things, including pesticides and medical waste. Remember that for all your recycling questions we suggest you go to the county website for instructions on how to deal with recycling everything from cardboard to unused pharmaceuticals. Lastly, *any* day is **Garlic Mustard Collection** (and other invasive botanical species) **Day** since there is a specifically dedicated dumpster at the Frankfort Industrial Park recycling location, 404 Parkview Lane, ready to receive your pickin's.

**Elections:** Voting days are August 5 (last day to register for is July 7) and November 4 (last day to register for is October 6.) Sample ballots, so you know on what/who you'll be asked to vote, are available at the township hall or online. We also recommend the League of Women Voters-sponsored website, [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org) as a good source of objective information. For example, there is a state-wide referendum on personal property tax this summer. Next fall, important offices up for new votes include 35<sup>th</sup> District State Senator, 101<sup>st</sup> District State House Representative, and one of our U.S. Senators and our U.S. House 1<sup>st</sup> District Representative. At the township level, offices for treasurer, clerk and one trustee are also on the ballot. Due to a recent court ruling, every Michigan voter who offers to vote in the polls must show a photo identification or sign an affidavit that (s)he is not in possession of picture identification. If you haven't already received a Voter Identification Card recently, a new one may be in the mail for you soon. If you have any questions, please call the township clerk. The office will be closed for regular business on both the primary and general election days.

**Fireworks:** By the time this letter is in your hands, we will have a new ordinance to regulate the use of fireworks in our township. The state now mandates that, regardless of any local legislation, consumer fireworks are legal to ignite, discharge and use on the day before, the day of and the day after a national holiday. If there are 10 official holidays in a year, that means there are 30 days when fireworks are "legal." But because of significant input from the CLT community, and the expressed general sentiment of the surrounding communities, CLT has chosen to severely limit fireworks use when and where it can. That means even on those 30 "allowed" days, there are stipulations. For example, fireworks will be prohibited if discharged between certain late night/early morning hours. Or if a fire ban is in effect. Or if they cause excessive disruption to neighbors. Or if they pollute land or bodies of water. But, you ask, can fireworks be used the other 335 days? Answer: Nope, not so much. In fact, there are few-to-no occasions where consumer fireworks would be allowed most of the year, unless a special permit is issued. For a full reading of the ordinance, call for a copy or go online. Note: Property owners are asked to make their renters fully aware of these regulations.

**Logo:** Did you notice our new logo on the other side of this newsletter? We hope you like it, and appreciate it even more when you see it in color. We thought long and hard about designing something that would accurately reflect our township. And what do we have here in CLT that is of the utmost importance? That brings us the most joy? That is the basis of our tourist economy? That we just wouldn't be who we are without? Water, water and more WATER! Thus, we are the land of three waters, the Betsie listed first because it is the most shallow, then Crystal Lake, then Lake Michigan, each represented by a deeper blue as the waves extend out from the beloved land on which we live, work and play.

**Planning & Zoning:** Our new Master Plan has been approved! We are grateful to the Planning Commission members, advised by the Lakes-to-Land regional organization and consultants at Beckett & Rader, our Zoning Administrator, Tamara Buswinka, and all the citizens who contributed their ideas. Our website hosts the final result if you are not already familiar with it. It is on the basis of the Master Plan's non-binding cornerstones that the dedicated and hardworking PC members are now starting to review the township zoning ordinances. They already recommended one major amendment and the Board passed it, namely the inclusion of an enforcement section that was discovered to be missing when the previous administration adopted the county's ordinance. The PC will, no doubt, be recommending further proposed amendments in the near future and we'll keep you updated on all their progress.

**(New) Staff:** At last, we publically acknowledge our new Zoning Administrator, Tamara Buswinka, who was hired almost a year ago now. Her much appreciated knowledge, professionalism and energy brought to the job is second to none. In addition, we welcome a new tax assessing team, Dave & Jill Brown. Some of their immediate projects are to acquaint themselves with CLT, to update records and to put all our tax assessing "cards" on line so that you can access them for yourselves 24/7. We also have new and very talented deputies, Mike Perrault assisting our treasurer and Darlyne Leete assisting our clerk. A very special and grateful nod goes to Tom Kucera who currently wears two hats: he sits on the Board of Review and temporarily assists our Zoning Administrator. All-in-all, we have a dynamic, knowledgeable and friendly staff. Stop in --even if you don't have business-- and introduce yourself. Remember: *We're here to serve you.*

**Remodeling:** The CLT hall is a hopping with business. Plans are being considered to remodel for better efficiency when conducting that business, most importantly --but certainly not limited to-- elections, zoning administration and record keeping. We've decided we need more space, and we need better use of existing space. We are hoping things will start getting re-arranged this fall.