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Harris Township

SINCE 1909



NEIGHBORS, SHORES & MORE

Mission Statement:

The Harris Town Board strives to enhance the quality of life, protect the environment, and maintain economic stability for the residents of their community.

www.harristownshipmn.org

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Winter Greetings From The Chair.....

Harris Township has a new Caretaker/Sexton, Terri Friesen, who started in November 2020. Even though we are not renting out the hall as of this publication, Terri has kept herself busy learning the "ropes"! The Board also hired a new Clerk, Roxanne Christie, who began in January 2021. Roxanne is also busy learning the vast array of Clerk duties.

The Annual Township Meeting will be held on March 9, 2021 at 7:00 pm (also known as Township Tuesday). Our Annual Township Meeting will be held in the *Itasca County Boardroom* this year, instead of in our Town Hall. Due to the social distancing guidelines, our town hall does not have enough space to seat/accommodate! The Annual Township Meeting brings in 30+ township residents. We want to be able to accommodate everyone, and still be live on ICTV, and the Itasca County Boardroom can offer what we need!

If concerns, questions, and/or issues arise within the township, I am only a phone call away (218-259-1551), so please reach out at any time. Thank you for your continued support to the Harris Town Board and our beautiful township!

Be safe....Stay healthy!

Chair Peggy Clayton

Hall Rental:
Call Terri at 218-398-5033
We have you covered in Harris Township!



Southwest Bean Soup

Ingredients

- 2 Cans Chili Ready Diced Tomatoes
- 10 cans beans
- 3 T cumin
- 1T Garlic
- 1/2 Cup Diced Onions

Directions

Fill largest kettle with beans. 1 can should be chili, the remaining can be a variety of garbanzo, white, black, kidney, cannellini, great northern or chick. Add spices and tomatoes and simmer for 2 hours. This is vegetarian and gluten free. Enjoy! ~Barb Schack~

Harris Township Board Meeting Schedule

Harris Town Board is scheduled to meet twice a month, at 7:30pm at the Harris Town Hall:

The Regular Meeting is held the 2nd Wednesday of every month.

The Planning and Development Meeting (aka P&D Mtg) is held the 4th Wednesday of every month.

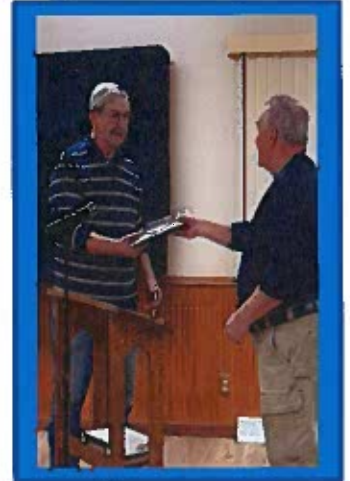
Both meetings are broadcast live on ICTV public access cable television, and can also be viewed online via their website: www.watchictv.org.

Supervisor Dennis Kortekaas

Dennis Kortekaas, Harris Township Supervisor B, has retired from the Harris Township Board of Supervisors after 20 + years of serving the Township. Dennis served in various capacities while on the Board including Board Chair. Those of us that were relatively new to the Board appreciated his knowledge of Township history. Dennis's duties in his final years of service were as weed inspector and coordinated the latrine contracts. The Board thanked Dennis for his service at his last meeting this December and awarded him a plaque commemorating his service to the Township.

We all wish Dennis good health in the future, fun times with grand kids, and great fun with his many projects.

Thanks Dennis!!



Maintenance...Rain..Snow

2020 may be gone, but not forgotten. From COVID-19 to downpour snow! Summer started out nice, we were able to paint the skating rinks, clean the parks....it's an ongoing effort! The ditches were mowed, all work issues were looking great, and then August 14 arrived. 9+ inches of rain in a matter of hours, not good!

We had major damage on KeyView and Norberg Road. Several culverts failed, also we had water standing in the east Harris area. Sunny Beach road lost approximately 200 feet of shoulder with water over the road. Bear Creek Road had standing water and some damage as well. After a late Friday night and all-day Saturday, we finally felt we were starting to look pretty good!

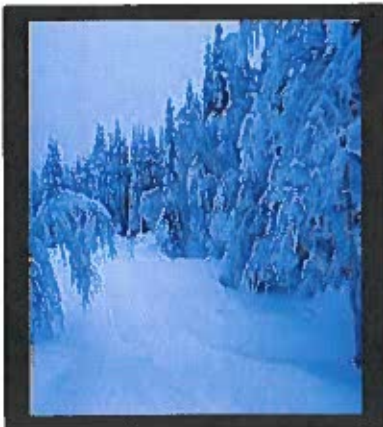
October.... snow. Harris got approximately 11 inches of snowfall in a few hours. It was literally white knuckle driving through it! Thank goodness for our maintenance man Derrick, who worked tirelessly throughout our weather disasters.

In closing, a big thank you to all who helped us get through the bizarre events.

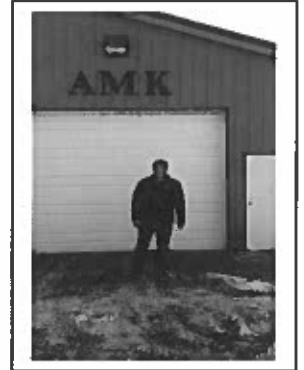
Thank you!

Mike Schack

Always available at 218-340-8852 or supervisorEHTP@gmail.com



Support Local Harris Business! AMK



**Check out
AMK's website
here:**
<https://www.amkmagnetics.com/index.html>

AMK is a local Harris Township business that was started in 2000 when Tony Kotula moved into our township. They design, manufacture and assemble a large selection of magnets. Their selection runs from little keychain styles to hand held, forklift mounted, and pull behind sweepers and wheeled and non-wheeled. There are 5 employees including Tony that keep busy with internet and catalog sales, with most sales being to dealers. Anyone who has looked through a tool catalog has probably seen his products.

Tony comes from a business-oriented family and other family members have owned and operated their businesses for several years.

Tony was raised in Hibbing and spent many hours working in his dad's junk yard as a youngster. He decided he wasn't cut out for that type of business and wanted something different for his career. He got into hydraulics for a while in 1983, but the downturn of the mining industry in the 80's recession brought about another change in direction. In 1986 he designed a magnetic sweeper and was working out of a 24X24 garage in Hibbing. Sales started improving, so he moved to a place north of Grand Rapids in 1992 and expanded. In 2000 he moved to Harris Township to be closer to town. His business is now about 12,000 square feet, much bigger than he started with.

Tony and his wife Ruth are good neighbors and have brought another asset to our township by locating here.

By Dan Butterfield

Meet Your New Supervisor, Dan Gilbert

Hello Harris Township Residents!

Thank you for your support, I believe it is an honor to be elected to this board, in the very township where I grew up.

Harris Township has been my home for almost 40 years. I moved away for 6 years when I put myself through college in AZ, receiving a degree as a heavy equipment operator. My career as an Operator began in AZ, and I stayed there until my first child was born. I decided that I wanted my children raised in MN, and my family moved back here.

I have been operating equipment in the union for 17 years, and have worked my way up to be a business agent. I'm self-motivated, and I believe that's how I've accomplished what I have so far. The fact that I am approachable and open minded will help with problem solving for the township.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can answer any questions! 218-259-4967.

Dan Gilbert

Harris Township
c/o Peg Clayton
20876 Wendigo Park Road
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Rinks and Roads

Supervisor Jim Kelley

Due to the mild fall and start to winter, the rinks were not open until the middle of December. Once we were able to open the rinks, we had to deal with the restrictions due to COVID and the warming houses could not be opened. Even with that, the ice has been used more this year than any other. Last year, we had residents near Wendigo Park volunteer to take care of the flooding of the rink. This year the Wendigo volunteers have returned, and we also have volunteers taking care of Crystal Rink. The resident volunteers are doing an excellent job and the ice conditions have been great. THANKS TO YOU ALL!

The 2020 road projects included Norberg Drive, Sunny Lane and the sub-base work on Tolerick Road to correct the frost heaves and enlarge the turnaround. The plan is to let Tolerick Road set for a year or two to make sure the issues are corrected.

The 2021 season will find us back on Sunny Beach Road. The Board is currently working on a Local Road Improvement Grant through MNDOT to help fund the project. If successful, we will be able to complete Sunny Beach Road. This would be a \$1.5 million project that would include correcting the frost heave areas and the low area that floods during times of high water. The entire road would be reclaimed (grinding up all the tar) and new pavement installed. We should know by the end of May if we get the funding. We also plan on re-graveling a road or two with locations to be determined.

If you have questions, feel free to call Jim Kelley 259-0317