

**Mission Statement:**

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

May 2010

Volume 4, Issue 1

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Harris Township  
C/O Michele Smith, Clerk  
30037 Harris Town Road  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

# Harris Township Newsletter

## Paul Bunyan is coming to Harris Township!

*By Michele Smith, Clerk*

At their April 14, 2010 Regular Meeting, the Harris Town Board unanimously approved the adoption the "Town of Harris Line Extension Permit" with Paul Bunyan Rural Telephone Cooperative. This is an extension of the Paul Bunyan facilities and services currently offered in the city of Grand Rapids, including broadband internet and digital television.

Township Attorney Andy Shaw reviewed the line extension permit and found all to be in order. The permit is identical to the line extension permits that have been adopted by several other cities and townships that border Grand Rapids, who are also served by multiple providers. Because this is an extension of the current Grand Rapids franchise, the document avoids the need for a completely new cable franchise with Paul Bunyan

**Paul Bunyan representatives stated that it is their goal serve 100% of Harris Township**, though the pace and order of the build-out will be flexible. As this is a large, multi-million dollar project, Paul Bunyan's ability to finance and construct a fiber-optic facility in Harris Township is at the mercy of many external factors such as the economy, availability of financing, technology and equipment availability, construction costs, and ever-changing state and federal regulations. Paul Bunyan has applied for a broadband stimulus grant to help fund the Harris Township expansion project. If successful, Paul Bunyan anticipated a 2-3 year window to implement services (2011 – 2013). If no stimulus monies are received, Paul Bunyan's goal is still the same – to make services available to every Harris Township resident - but the time frame would be slower based on their available operating funds.

The Harris Town Board was pleased to work with Paul Bunyan to develop workable document agreeable to both parties, which will bring cable and internet services to Harris Township and its residents



**For more information  
on Paul Bunyan  
Telephone, visit:  
<http://www.paulbunyan.net/index.html>**

## MEMORIAL DAY

*By Gary Rosato, Supervisor*

Memorial Day is upon us once again. This is one of those holidays that we recognize as a day of remembrance to our veterans and past family members, as well as the beginning of summer. It's the first three-day weekend for most of us, to be enjoyed at our leisure.

While searching the internet, I found some ideas I'd like to share with you for making Memorial Day fun, enjoyable, and meaningful:

*Continued on page 3*

## From a Township Supervisor's Desk

By Larry Key, Supervisor

This is a continuation of the history of the Harris Cemetery, as recorded in the 1928 – 1973 original minutes .



At the March 13, 1928 annual town meeting, the management of the Harris Cemetery was given to the Harris Town Board by the appointed committee of directors.

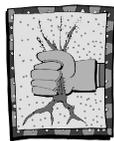
In 1927, April 30<sup>th</sup>, a motion was made and carried that the use of the Harris Cemetery be offered to anyone, both residents and non residents alike.

In 1938, March 1, a motion was made and carried that any person unable to pay for either a half or full lot in the cemetery shall use that part set aside for single graves. *(Although there must have been a section of the cemetery designated for this purpose, I have not found any records of this.)*

For the next 35 years, it was quiet and uneventful at the cemetery with regards to large projects and history.

In 1973, five acres west of sections 1 and 2 (the original cemetery) was purchased from Norman and Mary Cronk. This would become section 3 of Harris Cemetery. 3.5 acres of this was clear cut and stumps were removed. It was surveyed and sites were laid out by John M. Klenotich. Section 3 had 4x10 foot sites instead of 4x8 foot sites like Section 1& 2. This was done for easier headstone placement

I will continue the history of the Harris Township Cemetery in the next newsletter. ----



## WEEDS

By Dennis Kortekaas, Supervisor

It's that time of year again when them pesky weeds start springing up. A little bit more information on being weed inspector:

Mn Statues 1992, section 18.79 lists the duties of the Commissioner of Agriculture, regarding the Minnesota noxious weed law. Specific authority is granted to local weed inspectors in subdivisions 3 and 5, and states that they may enter land without consent of the owner and without being subject to an action for trespasses or any damages (sub. 3). In addition, the order for control or eradication of noxious weeks is for any land within the state (sub. 5.).

### The local weed inspector shall:

1.) Examine all lands, including highways, roads and public ground in the territory over which their jurisdiction extends to ascertain if section 18.78 and related rules have been complied with;

2.) See that the control or eradication of noxious weeds is carried out in accordance with section 18.83 and related rules.

3.) Weed inspectors should make two tours of their municipality each year. The first one should be made the third week in June. The second inspection should be made late August or early September.

Any questions, feel free to contact Dennis Kortekaas, Twp Weed Inspector, at 326-1882

## Election Updates



### Primary Election Date Changed

On March 3, Governor Pawlenty signed a bill into law (Chapter 184) that moves the State Primary to the second Tuesday in **August** (rather than September). This law was developed to allow more time for the absentee balloting process from overseas.

As a result, **both the MN State and Itasca County primary elections** will be held on **Tuesday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010**.

The General Election date will not be affected; it will continue to be the first Tuesday of November, or Nov 2, 2010



## Community Cooperation

By Julie Kennedy, Township Engineer

The Harris Town Board recently began a working relationship with the Itasca Community College (ICC) Engineering Department on two Township projects.

In October 2009, the Township began the Adopt-A-Town-Road program. The 3-mile stretch of Wendigo Park Road was the first road selected for the program. Twice a year, ICC Engineering students perform a community service project by bagging the trash and debris from the ditches. The Township maintenance crew then gathers the bags and disposes of the trash.

In March 2010, the Township contracted with ICC to hire two engineering students as interns to begin developing a concept plan for a new Township Community Center. Some of the facility ideas for the Center include a cemetery expansion, a new Town Hall, a centralized Township Maintenance facility, a pavilion, and a recreation area. The site for the new Center will be on the Township property, on Wendigo Park Road. ----

# Neighbors, Shores and More

By John Jokela, Treasurer

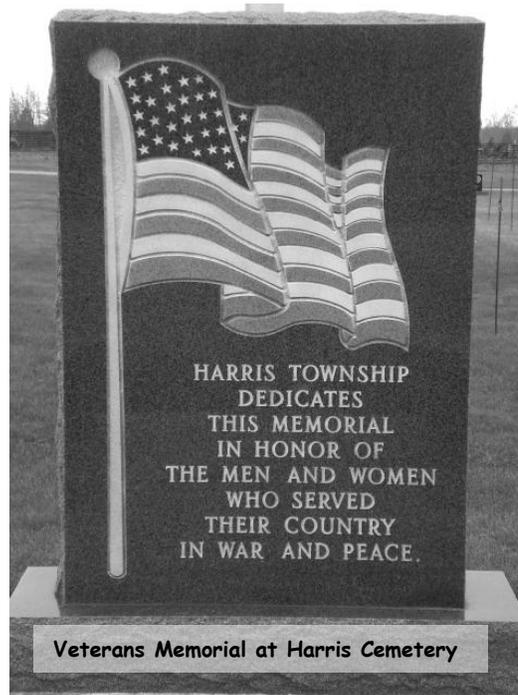
One of our Harris Township neighbors, Carson Berglund, of the Minnesota Interagency Fire Center in Grand Rapids, spoke to me recently about the CL-215 water bomber airplanes. In April, on Danson road, in the township, a grass fire turned a Saturday afternoon into an air show of sorts for our neighborhood on the eastern end of Wendigo Arm. In addition to the CL-215 plane dropping water, there was a helicopter that assisted, and several other planes circled above. It was a rubber necking spectacle for a couple hours. Mr. Berglund told me the CL-215 picks up water by skimming for 10-12 seconds, 1400 gallons. Pilots will start with one low level pass of the lake, ensuring no obstacles are in the way, using the deepest part of the lake while figuring about one mile for the approach, skim and departure from the lake.

Skimming is done into the wind, in the center of the lake, and departure is typically pointed at unpopulated points on the lake. However, I can tell you that my children sure got some wide-eyed thrills the couple times the bomber came right over our home. One tidbit of advice for you is this: Should you be in your boat this time of year, and see that big belly, yellow CL-215 come by, it's probably time to reel the line in and motor over to shore.

So thanks to Mr. Berglund, the entire DNR fire center staff and the Grand Rapids Fire Department, who were all on hand for the Danson Road fire. Their services were paid for by your tax dollars, which funded the \$73,000 annual fire contract that the township has with the city for times such as this. ----



Photo by DNR, Apr 2010



MEMORIAL DAY at Harris Cemetery

A Memorial Day celebration at the Harris Township Cemetery will once again be hosted by the Harris Town Board, volunteers, and local Veterans groups. Refreshments will be served and ceremonies will be performed to honor all persons being remembered .

The color guard will perform at Apx 10:00am on Monday, May 31

## ....MEMORIAL DAY, cont. from page 1

To make Memorial Day special, you could: Take at least 30 minutes to reflect on the significance of the holiday. Display flags, ideally at half mast until noon. Maybe learn or teach someone how to properly fold the flag. And/or share proper etiquette on honoring the flag. Remember, the red, white, and blue American flag is the symbol of our freedom. I'll never forget when I was overseas during the Vietnam conflict, how comforting it was to see the flag and how it gave me that warm fuzzy feeling one gets and needs when so far away from home. That comfort is still with me.

Other ideas for Memorial Day: Attend holiday events like visiting the cemetery, watching a parade (my favorite) or visiting loved ones with a picnic. A simple "thank you" to a service man/woman, peace core volunteer, or someone you know who helped on the home front, means so much. Most importantly, honor those still living; a quick visit says so much. And, another important thing to remember about Memorial Day is to have some fun! Play games, go fishing, plant the garden, etc. but enjoy the freedoms we Americans sometimes take for granted.

In my search on the internet, I had hoped to identify the reasons for the 21 gun salute. While "Snopes.com" (a popular web site) has many fact and myths indentified, I learned that the 21 gun salute has nothing to do with the year 1776 as some sources believe. You see, 1776 equals 21, and popular folklore claims that significance led to the 21 gun salute. However, it's a myth just like the M-16 rifles used by American soldiers in Vietnam were manufactured by the Mattel toy company. Have you heard about the aircraft carrier ordering the lighthouse to change course? Have a great summer. -----

May 2010

Harris Township  
c/o Michele Smith, Clerk  
30037 Harris Town Road  
Grand Rapid, MN 55744

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## HARRIS TOWNSHIP 2010 MEETING SCHEDULE

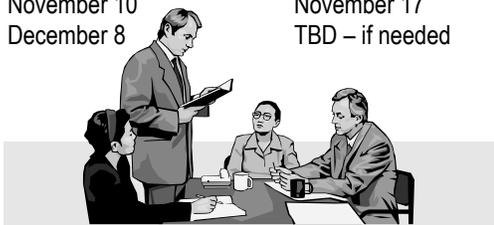
The Harris Town Board will meet on the following dates in 2010, with the meetings starting at 7:30 p.m., and held at the Harris Town Hall, 21998 Airport Road.

**Regular Meetings:**  
(Second Wed. of the month)

June 9  
July 14  
August 11  
September 8  
October 13  
November 10  
December 8

**Planning & Development Meetings:**  
(Fourth Wed. of the month)

June 23  
July 28  
August 25  
September 22  
October 27  
November 17  
TBD – if needed



For Cemetery Information, contact Clerk Michele Smith at 327-9930 or MicheleSmithClerk@msn.com



History Books still available for \$14.95



You can find the books at the Village Book Store (Central Square mall) or the Itasca County Historical Society (Old Central School – second floor), both in downtown Grand Rapids

### DID YOU KNOW?

You can view/print previous township newsletters on our website:  
[www.harristownshipmn.org](http://www.harristownshipmn.org)

**Town Hall Rental  
BONNIE KEY – 327-0435**

## BOARD DIRECTORY

**Supervisors:**

- > Larry Key..... 244-5248
- > Gary Rosato ..... 326-4704
- > Dennis Kortekaas... 326-1882

**Clerk and Cemetery Sexton:**

- > Michele Smith .....327-9930  
[michelesmithclerk@msn.com](mailto:michelesmithclerk@msn.com)

**Treasurer:**

- > John Jokela .....327-8759

**WEBSITE:**  
[www.harristownshipmn.org](http://www.harristownshipmn.org)