

# 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 the economic stability for the residents of their community.

May 2012

Volume 7, Issue 1

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

## Public Meeting to Review Updated Harris Township Comprehensive Plan

*By John Powers- Applied Insights North  
(planning consultant)*

On Wednesday, June 13 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m., the Town Board will conduct a public meeting to receive community commentary on the proposed update to the Harris Township Comprehensive Plan. The plan updates the one adopted in 2006 and provides guidance regarding land use, transportation, community facilities, and coordination with other units of government. Earlier community meetings were held to discuss possible changes to community facilities (town hall, cemetery, maintenance buildings) and development in the Highway 169 corridor. Ideas and commentary generated at those sessions are reflected in the draft plan.

Copies of the draft updated plan are available from the Town Clerk. Digital copies can be downloaded from the town's website (<http://www.harristownshipmn.org>).

If you cannot attend the meeting, feel free to submit comments by mail (30037 Harris Town Road Grand Rapids, MN 55744) or email ([michelesmithclerk@msn.com](mailto:michelesmithclerk@msn.com)).

## 2012 Township Road Projects

*By Julie Kennedy – Engineer*

In accordance with the Township's Gravel Road Management Plan, the following roads will receive a new 4" lift of Class 5 aggregate in 2012: **Bay View Place, Metzenhuber Rd, Norway Rd, Schmidt Rd, Wendigo Heights Rd, and the Sunny Beach Addition turnaround.**

Construction will take place in June.

The 2012 Road & Bridge Improvement Project consists of a pavement rehabilitation project for **Mishawaka Road from TH 169 west to the landing, Wendigo Park Road from Underwood Road south to Wendigo Road, and Keyview Drive.** The proposed project consists of new pavement surfacing and aggregate shouldering. Construction is expected to begin after July 4 and is likely to last approximately 1 month.

## From a Supervisor's Desk

By Larry Key- Supervisor

With summer and Memorial Day coming up, I thought this would be a good time to review our cemetery policy which was adopted on August 13, 2003.



These policies are available at the cemetery at different locations and there is also a sign by the Veterans Memorial.

Harris Township maintains the cemetery for its residents and others. The location is attractive to many people and therefore new additions to the cemetery have been purchased. The importance of uniformity and efficiency in maintaining a cemetery requires certain rules and regulations.

The rule we seem to have the most problems with is trees and shrubs. They were being planted on adjoining sites and walkways, and are a real problem for grave openings. On August 13, 2003 the town board adopted a policy, "No planting of shrubs and trees", and existing trees or shrubs that are already on sites, should they die, "Shall not be replaced." An existing tree or shrub may have to be removed to allow for excavation of an adjoining grave; the township will not guarantee that it will be replanted or of its survival if it is replanted. Flowers are permitted next to the headstone on a grave site. They must be maintained within the grave site and kept clean and free of weeds.

If there are any questions you have on the cemetery policy or any other township concerns, feel free to call Larry Key at 218-244-5248. Have a great and safe summer!

**NEW!!**

## TOWN HALL

Rummage sales will be ALLOWED at

# HARRIS TOWN HALL & Garage

\$100 rental, \$100 deposit, and large items to be displayed in the garage

## Paul Bunyan Communications Update

By Michele Smith- Township Clerk

The availability of Paul Bunyan (PB) services is growing in Harris Township – but not as fast as hoped. Unfortunately, this past November, the FCC adopted new rules/regulations concerning rural telecommunication providers. These regulations greatly reduced the universal services and funding PB was to receive in the future for serving low density rural areas. The FCC's action, and the resulting regulatory uncertainty, dramatically affects PB's ability to expand, and thus has forced them to pause their expansion in Harris Township for 2012. They hope that over the year, the FCC will provide some clarity without further cuts, so that PB can assess what their future ability to expand may be.

PB acknowledged that they know this is not the news Harris Township residents want to hear, nor is it the update what they wanted to share, but it is the reality of the situation as it is known currently. This not only affects Harris Township but rural Americans across the country.

To see an updated map of the areas in Harris Township where PB currently offers services, please visit our website at [www.harristownshipmn.org](http://www.harristownshipmn.org), and click on the link on the home page. All the areas that PB is constructed through are highlighted in pink. Residents who live within the pink areas can simply stop by or call the Paul Bunyan offices, and sign up for services.

### Harris Township will soon be “on the map”...

*By Michele Smith – Township Clerk*

Google maps, that is....thanks to a grant received by Itasca Area Community Education (IACE) for a fun Community Assets Mapping Project. The mission of the project is to showcase the many wonderful public community facilities in Grand Rapids and surrounding communities -including Harris Township - by verifying these locations correctly within the “Internet Map” using the Google Map Maker.

At this time, when an internet search is done for public places in and near Grand Rapids (such as parks, cemeteries, town halls, boat landings, beaches, fairgrounds, raceway, sports complexes, arenas, libraries, museums, etc.), very few sites come up, and many times the ones that do come up are inaccurate. The goal of IACE is to get the public places verified on Google Maps, and enhance them with photos, accurate addresses, website information, descriptions and hours of operation. The easier it is to access internet information for public places, the more people will want to visit, which benefits our community by bringing in more tourist and visitor dollars. Community residents will also benefit by being able to access this information as well.

IACE has hired and trained 2 Grand Rapids High School seniors to verify Google map sites of Grand Rapids area public places, including those in Harris Township. Karen Walker is the Community Education coordinator for this project and has worked with Visit Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids Park and Recreation, City of Cohasset, City of Coleraine, City of Bovey and Harris Township to generate the data on the public places for this project. When the students verify the sites through Google Map Maker, they will upload the correct address, phone number, details of amenities, website, and photo associated with the public place. IACE has funds to verify approximately 120 public sites. The University of Minnesota Extension-Center for Community Vitality has assisted in the training of the students for this project.

The hope is to have the Community Assets Mapping Project completed by the end of June 2012. So, after that, be sure to “Google” our township public places to see the results. If you have any questions on this project, please feel free to contact Karen Walker, Grand Rapids Area MIRC Coordinator at 218-327-5799 | [kwalker@isd318.org](mailto:kwalker@isd318.org).

### Memorial Day Celebration at Harris Cemetery

*By Michele Smith- Township Clerk*

On Memorial Day, Monday, May 28th, 2012, Harris Township will again have their annual celebration at Harris Cemetery.

The color-guard will perform around 10:30 a.m. (watch the Herald Review newspaper for the exact time), and the Harris Town Board and Officers will serve cookies, coffee, and lemonade from the maintenance garage at the cemetery grounds.



The Harris Township Maintenance Crew will place memorial flags on the grave sites of all known veterans. If someone has been missed, please feel free to use one of the extra flags that will be located by the Veterans Memorial, near the flag pole.

You may also leave a message for the maintenance crew at [harris-shop@hotmail.com](mailto:harris-shop@hotmail.com) or 218-326-6190.



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## HARRIS TOWNSHIP 2012 MEETING SCHEDULE

The Harris Town Board will meet on the following dates in 2012, with the meetings starting at 7:30 p.m., and held at the Harris Town Hall, 21998 Airport Road.

<b>Regular Meetings:</b> (Second Wed. of the month)	<b>Planning &amp; Development Meetings:</b> (Fourth Wed. of the month)
June 13	June 27
July 11	July 25
August 8	August 22
September 12	September 26
October 10	October 24
November 14	November 28
December 12	TBD – if needed

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



History Books still available for \$14.95

### Harris Township CENTENNIAL 1909-2009



NEIGHBORS, SHORES & MORE

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:**

- > Becky Adams .....259-1192

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