

# Wakefield Township

414 N. County 519

PO Box 164

Wakefield, MI 49968

Fax 906 229-5278

*Volume 9 Issue 4*

*December 2009*



Manabezho Falls on the Presque Isle River

**Supervisor:**

John Cox  
906 224-3721  
PO Box 164

**Clerk:**

Patricia Pikka  
906 229-5558  
906 364-5558  
PO Box 164

**Treasurer:**

Joan Dalman  
906 224-8201  
PO Box 191

**Trustees:**

Delmar Smith  
906 229-5347  
Jim Spencer  
906 224-6649

**Custodian:**

Robert Drier  
906 224-2751

## Wakefield Township board meetings: Dates and Times

April 7, 2009, 5:30pm

May 5, 2009, 5:30pm

June 2, 2009, 5:30pm

July 7, 2009, 5:30pm

August 4, 2009, 5:30pm

September 1, 2009, 5:30pm

October 6, 2009, 5:30pm

November 2, 2009, 5:30pm

December 1, 2009, 5:30pm

January 5, 2010, 5:30pm

February 2, 2010, 5:30pm

March 2, 2010, 5:30pm



## Garbage Collection

At our December meeting the board will consider awarding the garbage collection bid to the lowest bidder, Waste Management, for \$18,252 per year. There were 4 bidders with the next lowest being \$35,585. This contract will take effect on **April 1, 2010** and run for three years with inflationary increases each year. This is great news for our residents! We will be able to hold the quarterly cost at \$24.00. It will cost the township \$35.10 quarterly and the difference will be paid from the general fund. We will be sending detailed information about service schedules to our regular customers via special mailing or in the next newsletter.

## Internet Service

We now have high speed internet service in many parts of our township. There are some areas that need tweaking and in some areas there are hills or trees blocking the reception. Blackbear Computer is working on these problems. They may have to put up additional repeater towers or equipment. Those who have the service are very pleased with the result. This public-private venture was the result of the generosity of Orvana Resources, (copper mine) who donated funds toward the construction of the tower, and Indianhead Mountain Corporation, who donated land to the township for the tower. If you are interested in internet service anywhere in our township or have questions or problems with your service please contact Brandon at his email [brandon@gogebicrange.net](mailto:brandon@gogebicrange.net) or call Blackbear Appliance and Computer at 906-842-3394.

## Website

Since we now have expanded availability of the internet, you are reminded that there are many pieces of information available for you on our website at [www.wakefieldtownship.com](http://www.wakefieldtownship.com). The most popular items are the building permit and related forms, phone numbers, zoning ordinances, and the Renaissance Zone. There are also links to businesses in Wakefield

## What's Inside

1 Garbage Collection,  
Internet Service, Web-  
site

2 Indianhead, Orva-  
na, Blight, Audit, Bud-  
get, Street Lighting,  
TAX COLLECTION

Township, a calendar of events, meeting minutes, and township demographics. Our Treasurer, Joan Dalman, updates the site often, makes corrections, and sees to it that the information is current and relevant.

### **Indianhead Mountain**

Indianhead Mountain has been a successful business for 50 years in our township. They have been consistently one of the top ten taxpayers and have provided jobs for our area residents for the last few generations. Best of all, they have provided our area residents with a great facility that has offered not only skiing, but many other recreational opportunities.

*The board will be recognizing Indianhead at our December meeting.*

### **Orvana Mine**

An engineering study of the condition of north County Road 519 was done by the Gogebic County Road Commission. It was paid for through the generosity of Orvana Resources. This will enable the road commission to apply for the needed federal funds to rebuild the road to an all season status.

The township board is very concerned about the MI Water Ballot Initiative. It is an anti-mining bill, and if approved, it will be voted on next November. The results would be devastating for the entire U.P. and our potential new mine here. We are asking voters to look closely at this proposal before making any decision on the validity of it.

### **Blighted Properties and Building permits**

We are continuing to work on enforcing our blight ordinances, including the prosecution of violators. We also would like to remind those who are building or adding on to their existing homes to call the clerk or visit our website for a permit application. Our permits are the most reasonably priced in the state and we are asking for your compliance in this matter.

### **Audit**

We were pleased to learn that the township auditor and Wakefield Township resident, Gus Ahonen, was named as a partner in the Joki, Makela, Pollack firm.

### **Budget-**

The board will begin working on our 2010-11 budget in January with adoption coming in March. With the potential savings from the garbage contract, we hope to continue with the same level of services as in the past, despite experiencing a loss of state revenue. If you have any needs or have any ideas of potential savings, let us know. A complete copy of our audit from last year is on the State of Michigan Treasury website under local audits, and has a detailed breakdown of our revenues and expenditures.

### **Street Lighting**

As the daylight becomes shorter you may discover that your street light is out. The township pays a flat rate for each light, so it is to your advantage and the township's to see that they are working properly. If you are experiencing problems with a township/Xcel Energy street light, you can call the Supervisor at 224-3721.

#### **WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP TAXPAYER:**

Schedule for collecting 2009 winter taxes:

**Monday, December 28, 2009** from 9:00am—12:00pm at the Twp Hall and 1:00pm—5:00pm at my home office

**Tuesday, February 16, 2010** from 3:30pm—6:30pm at the Twp Hall (**last day before penalties are added**)

**Saturday, February 27, 2010** from 9:00am—12:00pm at the Twp Hall and from 1:00pm—5:00pm at my home office (last working day before taxes are turned over to the county.)

I am usually available at my home office after 4:00pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday.

I am also available on most Saturdays. Call first. 224-8201

Joan Dalman, Treasurer