



County of Newaygo Newsletter

Summer 2015

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Help for Families Facing Foreclosure!

At the Newaygo County Treasurer's Office we are committed to helping homeowners find the best financial solutions to stay in their homes. That is why we have partnered with the State of Michigan's Hardest Hit Fund® program called, *Step Forward Michigan*.

Step Forward Michigan is a federally-funded, statewide program and is currently accepting applications for a no interest, no payment, forgivable loan that will use Hardest Hit Funds® to help eligible homeowners pay their mortgage, **property taxes**, or condominium association dues. They can even help provide funding that will help modify the existing terms of your current mortgage, making your monthly mortgage payments more affordable.

Step Forward Michigan has already assisted thousands of Michigan homeowners like you!

For more information, visit www.StepForwardMichigan.org or call **866-946-7432** to apply or learn more about this important program.

Newaygo County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority

Over eight years ago, in an effort to spur the redevelopment and clean-up of environmentally contaminated and underutilized properties, the County created the Newaygo County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.

A Brownfield is an abandoned, idle, or under-used industrial and/or commercial property where expansion or redevelopment is problematic because of real or perceived environmental contamination. These types of properties can include empty gas stations, dry cleaners, vacated industrial sites, or landfills.

The Authority is one of several tools available to aid officials in facilitating economic development. The concept is to work with developers and other interested stakeholders to reuse land and existing buildings (Brownfields)—rather than build on vacant land (Greenfields).

The reuse helps prevent urban sprawl, protects our open spaces, and is vital to the County's leading industries of agriculture and tourism.

The County Brownfield Authority's first project was the building that houses the Stream in downtown Newaygo. The commercial storefronts and remote work site involved the reuse of a contaminated, vacant property that at one point had housed a hotel. Environmental testing and remediation of the contaminants involved over \$250,000 in costs and the excavation and removal of several thousands of tons of contaminated sand and soil.

Another recent Brownfield project is the redevelopment of the old Fremont High School, now called The Gateway Senior Apartments. The Authority provided the developers with a grant to assist with the cost of the contamination assessment of the property. The \$13 million project is now nearing completion, yielding 32 low-income apartments, six market-rate apartments, and a community room for resident use.



For more information, visit the County's website: www.countyofnewaygo.com/Brownfield.aspx

Road Commission Gearing up for Summer Construction

The Newaygo County Road Commission has been working hard to prepare their budget and roads for the summer/fall construction season.

There is simply not enough funding for the Road Commission or their townships to repair and resurface all the deteriorating roads that are a part of their county's infrastructure. The source of funding for road commissions has mainly come from the federal and state gas taxes, which has not been increased since 1997.

Road Commissions are receiving less funding from these taxes while expenses continue to increase. Some areas have seen the cost of a ton of salt increase by 111%, a gallon of diesel fuel by 315% and the cost of a ton of asphalt by 253%. The prices of these materials have risen tremendously, but the income generated hasn't.

Another source of funding for road commissions is a township road millage. A road millage is additional money levied by the townships for the use on their local road system for improvements and dust control. Newaygo County has 24 townships and 16 of them currently have road millages in place ranging from 0.5 – 3.0 mills. Annually over the years, townships in Newaygo County have contributed anywhere between \$1 to \$2 million and in the recent past have funded almost \$4 million towards local road improvements in our county.

The Newaygo County Road Commission applauds the efforts by our townships and residents to continue to support their township road millage. Without the voters support, our local road system would be in worse shape.

Currently, the Road Commission has the following township projects scheduled for this 2015 construction season. This list has projects being added weekly.

SHERMAN

Overlay McClelland at Echo and going North
Wedge and reseal 12th between Crosswell and Baldwin

EVERETT

Overlay Post Ave between 8th and Echo
Grub, grade, gravel & pave Sylvan Drive S. of 40th

CROTON

Grub, grade, gravel 52nd W. of Chestnut
Grub, grade, gravel 48th @ Locust and going East
Grub, grade, gravel 72nd at 7683 E. 72nd
Overlay Pine Street

BROOKS

Grub, grade, gravel Pettit Lake Drive
Pave Pettit Lake Drive
Grade, gravel and pave Gardner Ave
Overlay Greenwood South of M-82
Overlay Edgewood & Evergreen b/w M-37 & M-82
Overlay Basswood b/w 76th & M-82

SHERIDAN

Overlay Mathew, Lester, and Western
Overlay 60th West of Green
Overlay Lordon Lane
Wedge on Orchard Circle and Country Lane

BRIDGETON

Grub, grade, gravel Green b/w 108th & 112th

ASHLAND

Grub, grade, gravel 104th between Wisner and Bagley
Grub, grade, gravel & sand lift Moore b/w Behler & Wisner
Wedge McClelland at 120th and going North
Wedge McClelland at Crockery Creek
Wedge Wisner between 104th and 112th
Wedge & reseal McClelland at 120th
Reseal Wisner between 136th & Moore Road

GRANT

Pulverize, cut hill, gravel and repave 128th
Wedge and reseal 112th between Peach & E. Township line
Wedge and reseal 112th between Centerline & Sycamore
Wedge and reseal 108th between Walnut & Spruce
Wedge and reseal 136th between Spruce & Poplar
Wedge and reseal Willow between 96th & 104th
Reseal 100th between Spruce and Thornapple
Reseal Oak between 100th and 120th
Reseal Oak between 120th and 128th
Reseal 128th between Walnut and Willow

ENSLEY

Repair Elm South of 104th
Wedge and reseal 136th b/w Beech and Newcosta
Wedge and reseal 104th b/w Elm and Locust
Wedge and reseal 112th b/w Locust & Hemlock
Wedge and reseal 136th b/w Juniper and Locust
Reseal 136th between Elm and Cypress

A current list of road projects is also kept on their website at www.newaygoroads.org and updated periodically as new contracts with townships are approved.

Foreclosed Property Auction

Date/Time: August 6th, 2015 at 1:00 PM

Registration begins at Noon.

Location: Newaygo County Board Room in the Administration Building.

Check out the Property Auction List & Property Catalog with photos & maps at:

www.countyofnewaygo.com/countytreasurer.aspx

Then, choose "Properties for Auction"

If you have any questions, please call or email the County Treasurer's Office:

(231) 689-7230 or julia@co.newaygo.mi.us



Director's Corner

If you would have told me a year ago that I would be working as the Newwaygo County Commission on Aging (COA) Director a year later, I probably would have at first wondered, what does a COA Director do? And then, I would have smiled and gone about the business of applying for other positions. It goes without saying that I have had a crash course, over the last five months, in learning what a COA Director does, even more in learning what WE do at Newwaygo County COA. The reason I say WE is because there is so much that goes on at the COA. Here is a list of WE statements to give you a taste of the work of COA (numbers 3 – 8 below are based upon fiscal year 2014 numbers):

- 1) WE serve approximately 11,405 seniors (age 60 and older) of our 48,123 residents. That's 23.7% of the people currently living in Newwaygo County.
- 2) WE have a mission ***"to address critical needs of the Newwaygo County elderly and to make their lives more comfortable, more meaningful, and to make every attempt to assist them in remaining in their homes as long as possible."***
- 3) WE served over 44,000 home delivered meals/meals on wheels and over 15,000 congregate/community meals.
- 4) WE provided over 382,000 miles worth of bus trips, medical van trips, and volunteer medical trips throughout the county and to nearby specialists and hospitals in other counties.
- 5) WE made healthy nutritional and exercise options available through Senior Project Fresh, Enhance Fitness, A Matter of Balance, and Healthy Eating programs.
- 6) WE provided Adult Day Program and Alzheimer's Services to people living with disabilities, Alzheimer's, and their caregivers.

Homemaker Program

Homemaker aides are available for basic housekeeping, laundry, and limited other non-nursing chores. Services are limited to those with physical disabilities, and priority is given to those with the greatest need. Contact our office at (231) 689-2100 and ask to speak with a case manager to see if homemaking services would be appropriate for you.



Pam Greinke faithfully served at Newwaygo County COA for almost 20 years. Her ready smile, advocacy for seniors and the disenfranchised among us, and creativity are hallmarks of her time here. Pam retired from the COA at the end of March 2015. She compassionately served with love and respect

as she counseled seniors, their families, and other low-income citizens of Newwaygo County. Pam also developed multiple programs, such as Adult Day Program, Alzheimer's and Older Adult Respite. Pam let us know that she will not be a stranger and that she will continue to volunteer and participate at the COA. Many thanks go out to Pam for her years of loyalty and long-term service!



Many older adults experience concerns about falling, which restricts their activities. **A Matter of Balance** is a program that emphasizes practical strategies to view falls as controllable, to recognize and identify potential fall risks, to increase strength and balance, and to set goals for increasing activity. Each course consists of eight two-hour classes; snacks are provided. There is a suggested donation of \$5 per person for the entire course. Registration is currently being accepted for the following course:

Dates: September 1st-24th

Time: 10:00am—Noon

Location: MSU Extension
817 S Stewart Avenue
Fremont, MI

Call Commission on Aging at 689-2100 for more

Newaygo County 4-H Special Riding Program Teaches Confidence

For almost 25 years, the Newaygo County 4-H Special Riding Program has offered horseback riding, training, and experience to disabled riders. It is a community effort involving both adult and teen volunteers working together to provide a unique experience the riders would not normally receive.

Therapeutic horseback riding fosters physical, mental, emotional, and social growth and development. The Newaygo County 4-H Special Riding Program also helps the participant develop self-esteem through improved balance, coordination and confidence. Two six-week sessions are held annually, one each spring and fall, at the Fremont Riding & Training Center on Stone Road. The program is fully accredited by the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.) The instructor is certified by PATH Intl and also attends annual instructor update workshops.

The Newaygo County 4-H Special Riding Program Advisory Board is a group of dedicated volunteers who give their time and talents to support this important program. The Advisory Board is always in need of additional support for this program. Teens (14 & older) and adult volunteers are needed for the fall session of the Newaygo County 4-H Special Riding Program which will begin in September. No experience is needed, an orientation is provided on the first day of classes. "Horse experience" is not necessary as long as a volunteer has no fear of horses.

Primary funding for this program comes from concerned individuals, as well as local foundations and businesses. The Newaygo County 4-H Special Riding Program Advisory Board strives to keep the cost to the riders as low as possible. Financial contributions are also always appreciated! Anyone interested in helping out by volunteering or donating should call the Newaygo County MSU Extension Office at 924-0500 for more information. If you know of a special needs youth that would benefit from participation in this program, please contact the office for class availability and further information.



Visitors are Vital to Newaygo County's Economy

To the casual observer, the close relationship between the Newaygo County Economic Development Office (NCEDO) and the Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) might seem like an unusual partnership, until one looks at how important visitors are to the area. With this in mind, meet the Tripp family – two parents and three children ages 6, 9, and 14 – from south Michigan. They have heard about all the great things to do in the county and decided to see for themselves just what Newaygo County has to offer.

While the Tripps do not consider themselves “avid adventurers,” they do have access to a camper and camping equipment and have decided to try Sandy Beach County Park on the shores of Hardy Pond. The sandy swimming and playground equipment seemed like a good way to occupy their younger children. They arrive well-equipped with most of their food and supplies with them; however, they will need to purchase campfire wood and ice from the campground. And as with many travelers, there are always some forgotten things which will necessitate a trip to the grocery store before the weekend is over.

In order to experience as much of the county as possible, the Tripps used the Newaygo CVB website (<http://www.newaygocountytourism.com>) for ideas, and came up with a plan.

Friday, after setting up camp and making their shopping list, the Tripps opt to explore downtown Newaygo. First, is dinner at the new Newaygo Brewing Company where they sample custom brewed beers, root beer floats for the kids and specialty pizzas. From there they wander, browse and shop downtown where they pick up some used books, a new bottle of wine to try at home, and some knitting supplies. The entire night, including tips for the servers, costs the Tripps about \$80.

Saturday morning, the weather is perfect, and after breakfast at camp and a quick trip to the Hilltop Shopping Center for the forgotten supplies, the kids are turned loose to explore the beach and the park. At the playground they meet a family that is planning an excursion down the river, so they make arrangements to rent a three-person raft and two personal inner tubes and enjoy a leisurely float down the Muskegon River. Between shopping and rafting, the Tripps have spent nearly \$150 in Newaygo County today. And they aren't finished.

Teen Tripp is a budding astronomer, and has been promised a visit to the Wessling Observatory. First, the entire family enjoys Mexican food at Loco Burrito in Fremont while they wait for the stars to come out. After the observatory, a trip to the Koffee Cup Café for coffee, trinkets and ice cream is certainly called for. The evening in Fremont costs just over \$100.

Everyone knows the best fish are caught early in the morning, so Sunday morning the Tripps head for the water before breakfast. After a camp breakfast and more swimming, it is time to pack up and head south again. On their way out of the county, they stop by The Depot in Grant for a late lunch, and top off their gas tank. On their way out of town they will spend about \$85 on food and gas.

As they head down M-37 toward home, the family is already planning their next trip to Newaygo County. They plan to wait until snow falls when they can snowmobile, cross country ski and stay in a warm, cozy hotel.

So the Tripps have spent barely 48 hours and nearly \$500 in Newaygo County; however, the impact of their trip is far greater than it first appears. The EFFECT of that \$500 translates into \$850 when one considers how many times those dollars are used and reused in the county. The restaurant servers will spend their tips, the business owners will pay salaries and expenses, and it will continue to be recycled throughout the area.

While it is easy to see the impact that larger employers have on the economy, it is important not to overlook the effects of tourism on the health of Newaygo County. Everything works together to continue to make Newaygo County a great place to live, work and play.

A weekend exploring Newaygo County:

Camping Fees	75.00
Friday Dinner & Shopping	80.00
Groceries & Misc.	50.00
River Trip – Raft & Tubes	94.00
Saturday Dinner & Observatory	106.00
Sunday Lunch	50.00
Gas	37.00
TOTAL Spent in Newaygo County	\$492.00



For more information about tourism in Newaygo County, contact Colleen Buckley, CVB Executive Director, at 231-652-9298 x 104 or newaygocvb@gmail.com

CAMPING CABINS

Newaygo County Parks, in partnership with NCRESA's Building Trades Program, will be installing two new camping cabins in Diamond Lake County Park this summer. The cabins, with views of Diamond Lake, will be sure to elicit comments like these listed below, from visitors who've experienced camping cabins already in use at Henning, Sandy Beach, and White Cloud County Parks.

"The cabin was perfect for our occasion and we will be back."

-The Kruzengas

"Great cabin, nice cozy place. The view is fabulous, can't be beat and can't wait to come back."

-The Hellmans

"Fall camping is great. The cabin was awesome and thankfully it's heated, but Newaygo County in the fall is awesome."

-The Robinsons

"Fabulous time, the cabins are beautiful." -Tom and Pam

"We happened on this beautiful place on the recommendation of a stranger. What a find! Wonderful cabin."

-The New Mexico and Arizona Crew



"Awesome cabin! Great weekend! We will definitely come again."

-Barbie & Scott

"What a beautiful cabin. We spent the weekend and will be back again next year. My kids loved the bunk beds and my husband the chair on the deck."

-The Thomas Family

"We are very happy to have found this cabin. It's much nicer than sleeping on the ground in a tent. Hope others enjoy their stay as much as we did."

-Elisha

"Wow, we are blessed. I was expecting nothing as nice as this cabin. It's our first time camping and our three year old and five year old daughters love this place."

-The Wrobelski Family

"We had to give up our fifth wheel because it was getting difficult to haul it around. We missed camping, but found this little cabin to be ideal for us."

-The Nowatzkes

NEWAYGO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

District 1

Philip Deur (231) 924-5487

District 2

Steve Johnson (231) 349-6979

District 3

D. Charles Trapp (231) 689-6260

District 4

James Maike, Jr. (231) 335-8272

District 5

Larry Lethorn (231) 652-7004

District 6

Christian Ortwein (231) 652-3062

District 7

Patrick Gardner (231) 834-7368



To reserve a camping cabin, please call the county park you would like to visit.

Henning (231) 652-1202

Sandy Beach (231) 689-1229

White Cloud (231) 689-2021

Experience Our Good Nature!