

Life & Times of Ford Township

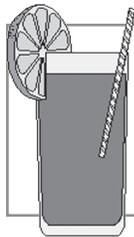
~ February 2010 ~

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Annual Meeting - Tuesday, March 9, 7 p.m.

Minnesota Township Annual Meetings are all held on the second Tuesday in March. This meeting gives township citizens the opportunity to really have a voice in their local government. This is your meeting – when you can bring up questions and concerns, discuss them with your friends and neighbors and then possibly vote on a solution.



*Want to bring some treats to share?
The Town Board will provide beverages.*

The elected Board members are in attendance at this meeting not as the official Board, but simply as citizens of the Town – the same as

each of you. The Clerk presides over the meeting until the citizens elect a moderator and then takes minutes of the proceedings for the official record. Only registered voters in the Township may vote on any matter brought before them but all are invited to participate in the discussions. And as a side note, the Clerk and the Moderator do not give up their right to vote on any of the issues forthcoming at the meeting.

As always, the most important issue will be the authorization of the tax levy for 2011. The Board will present their recommendation for a budget but the actual levy is set by the people. Come March 9th and join in the decision making process.

Township officer elections this November, three positions open

At the Annual Meeting in March, 2007, the electors voted to move the election of township officers to occur in even years of the November General Election.

Term of office for all members of

the Board – Supervisors, Clerk & Treasurer – is a four year position.

On Tuesday, November 2, Ford Township will be voting to fill three positions - two for the office of Supervisor and one for the office

of Treasurer.

Is this your time to serve as an elected official? The opening for candidacy filing is late August and will be published in the Kanabec County Times.

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The Vision of the Town of Ford is to proactively preserve, develop and maintain a safe, thriving, and respectful community that sustains its historic integrity, rural character and natural and recreational amenities.

-from the Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Ford, adopted March 18, 2008

Ford Township needs election judges

Have you ever thought of serving as an election judge? Election judges are essential to our democracy and provide an excellent opportunity to learn more about the election process.

To qualify as an election judge you must be at least 18 years of age; a U.S. citizen; a Minnesota resident; read, write and speak English; not have had your voting rights revoked; and attend a two-hour training session. You also cannot be

the spouse, parent, child, or sibling of any election judge serving at the same time in the same precinct or candidate on the ballot in that precinct.

By law your employer must give you paid time off to serve as an election judge provided you give at least 20 days written notice.

Training will be provided just prior to the primary and general elections.

Compensation is \$15.00 per hour for training and time served at the elections as well as a mileage reimbursement for the training, which is held in Mora. This year the deadline for written notice of serving voluntarily without pay is October 23. Occasionally election judges are also needed for service in other townships within the county. For more information, contact Sarah Berry, Ford Town Clerk.

Ford's Comprehensive Plan at work for you

When Ford Township residents accepted their new Comprehensive Plan in 2008 they approved a goal of promoting a "quiet and safe environment" for their Town.

This was further clarified by specific actions which included uniformly posting all 911 numbers and promoting and supporting the Kanabec County Sheriff's Reserve and the Kanabec County First Responders program.

No doubt because of this commitment Ford Township has the distinction of being the first township in the county to get their 911 signs installed.

Every residence in the Town should have their sign and, if requested, nonresidents may also receive one. If you have not received your sign or have questions about the program, please contact County Commissioner, Kim Smith,

at 320-679 4590.

At the annual meeting on March 9 electors will once again be considering donations to service organizations such as those specifically named in the Comprehensive Plan and others. Plan now to attend this important meeting so you have a voice in these decisions.

Service organizations seek volunteers

The Kanabec County Sheriff's Reserve and the Kanabec County First Responders Team are actively looking to expand their numbers with men and women willing to commit to the training necessary to volunteer in these capacities.

Sheriff's Reserve members are also trained as First Responders and work with the Kanabec County First Responder Team.

Those interested in joining the Reserves are invited to contact, Leonard Mattson, Reserve Captain, cell 320-515-0028..

Any Ford Township residents who might be interested in just the First Responders are asked to contact Town Board Chair, Doug Bassett, for information on assistance with training and equipment expense.

REMEMBER To

VOTE!

- Primary Election -
September 14, 2010

- General Election -
November 2, 2010

Seeking equipment for Ford Town Hall

To better conduct township business, make meetings more comfortable for attendees, and have equipment for events, the Town Hall could use the following:

- A small microwave
- A fireproof file cabinet
- Folding chairs
- A large spigot water cooler
- Large metal or heavy plastic serving spoons

If you can help, please call Doug Bassett, Chair at 320-679-5780.

Zoning Administrator resigns

The Ford Town Board officially accepted the resignation of Frank Kriz, Zoning Administrator, at their regular meeting on January 12, 2010. Kriz, who was also one of the original members of the Ford Planning Commission responsible for creation of the Land Use Ordinances, had served as the Ford ZA since November, 2008.

Kriz had made it known from the beginning of his service that this would only be a short-term position for him but he did want to see the Ordinances “up and working” and wanted to assist in that endeavor. We are grateful to him for his service above and beyond what should have been expected of that office and wish he and his wife, Barb, the best of everything in their “semi-retirement”.

As this newsletter went to publishing, the Town Board was planning on holding interviews for a new Zoning Administrator at a special meeting on February 16. Watch for an announcement of the new ZA on the website and in the local papers. The ZA telephone number will remain the same, however, and will be answered in the interim by a Town Board member. The Zoning Administrator cellphone number is 320 515 0205.



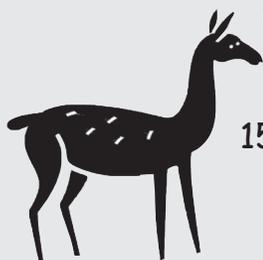
Did you know...

Ford Township has 13 1/8 miles of town roads?

Ford was organized as a Township in 1916?

There were 3,451 deer taken during last year's hunting season

in Deer Permit Area 157?



Clip & Save!

Ford Township Meetings and Events!

Tuesday, March 2	.....	Planning Commission Meeting, 6 p.m.
Monday, March 8	.....	Town Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, March 9	.....	Annual Meeting, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, April 6	.....	Planning Commission Meeting, 6 p.m.
Tuesday, April 13	.....	Town Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, May 4	.....	Planning Commission Meeting, 6 p.m.
Tuesday, May 11	.....	Town Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Saturday, May 29	.....	Road Review Tour, 8 a.m.
Tuesday, June 1	.....	Planning Commission Meeting, 6 p.m.
Tuesday, June 8	.....	Town Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, July 6	.....	Planning Commission Meeting, 6 p.m.
Tuesday, July 13	.....	Town Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, August 3	.....	Planning Commission Meeting, 6 p.m.
Tuesday, August 10	.....	Town Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Saturday, August 14	.....	Ford Township Get Together, noon.

All meetings are open to the public. Meeting cancellations or change of date and/or time will be posted at the Town Hall and at www.fordtownship.org. Town Board or Planning Commission members may be in attendance at the other group's meetings to assist in the process.

Good life and wildlife in Ford Township

We all know that wildlife abounds in Ford – even the most disgruntled of gardeners have to admit they still enjoy watching the deer.

Who doesn't get a thrill when an eagle flies over or a Whippoorwill calls on a spring evening? Moose, wolf and cougar sightings this past year add to the excitement.

This moose photo was taken last November on the Wayne Anderson property in Ford.



Ford DNR Walking Trails update

All the designated Hunter Walking Trails are signed and posted 'Open to Foot Traffic'.

The Parking Lots on 360th (Section 16) are likely to be expanded to accommodate more users.

The lots on Olympic at the "oxbow" and north of 340th are in place and received a lot of use this past fall hunting season.

The portion of the forest south of 370th (Chelsey Brook Road) and Section 16 are off limits to all motorized traffic year-round. These portions of the forest have

been signed at the points where motorized traffic was occurring. The trail which leaves the gravel pit near Chelsey Brook and traverses forest into Aitkin is the only trail segment in Ford Township open for motorized traffic.

If you have unusual wildlife sightings or comments on Hunter Walking Trails, you are encouraged to contact:
David Pauly
Area Wildlife Supervisor
david.pauly@state.mn.us
763.689.7108 (Office)
or 320.279.1777 (Cell)

David Pauly, Area Wildlife Supervisor, reported "amazing compliance" with these new regulations and many compliments were received regarding the Hunter Walking Trails.

A map of these trails will be published on the DNR Hunter Walking Trail webpage in the spring.

Hunting/Trapping (& Sighting) Opportunities in Ford Township

Big Game

White-tailed Deer, Black Bear

Small Game

Rabbit (Cottontail, Jack, Snowshoe Hare)
Squirrels (Grey & Fox)

Upland Birds

Eastern Wild Turkey, Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Woodcock, Mourning Dove

Waterfowl

Ducks, Geese, Rail, Snipe

Furbearers

Raccoon, Mink, Fox (Red & Gray), Coyote, Beaver, Otter, Bobcat, Fisher

Fire contract renewed with Isle Fire Dept.

Ford Township contracts with the Isle Volunteer Fire Department for fire protection services. Supervisor Ken Von Bank attended an informational meeting held by Co-Chiefs, David Miller and Tim Schug on January 27.

The Fire Department budget for 2010 was reviewed and preliminary figures for 2011 revealed. While plans are still in place for the future construction of a new Fire Hall, the department has once again held the budget.

The annual fee for fire protection for Ford in 2009 was \$6,586.24 which was a decrease from preceding years. In addition, residents and property owners of the township are charged a flat fee of \$300.00 per fire call.

Burn permits available online or from local warden

Annual burn permits are available online for a \$5 fee. The address is www.dnr.mn.us/burning/permits.

Free three-day permits are still available in Ford from your local Fire Wardens:

Bob & Alice Aanestad
3356 Olympic Street
Jim & Edna Cole
2016 Highway 27

For more information, contact the DNR offices in Mora, Sandstone or McGrath.

Town road review – Saturday, May 29

Each year the Town Board is required to do a review of all of the Town Roads. The Board will be meeting at the Town Hall on Saturday, May 29, and leaving promptly at 8 a.m.

The purpose of the review is to identify issues with the roads including signage, culverts, road

condition, and any obstructions which might be present.

The road tour normally lasts about 2 hours. Interested parties are welcome to attend and/or contact Doug Bassett, Road Supervisor, to bring specific issues to the Board's attention prior to the Tour.

Road Work Plans:

- Road work for 2010 will include Class 5 gravel delivered and spread on 330th (Line Road shared with Peace Township), 340th and 360th Avenues.
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- Dependent on budget constraints, it is hoped that the brushing project, originally scheduled for a few years ago, can finally be completed.
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- The upgrade project for 340th Avenue will be dependent on the 2011 tax levy.

Land stewardship in the weed patch

Possibly the only things flourishing in our “new economy” are the lowly noxious weeds. They, because of the budget cuts, are thriving with little or no right-of-way control by the State of Minnesota or our county government. With the townships also financially unable to address the problem, it puts the responsibility back onto the landowners themselves.



Canadian Thistle and Tall Buttercup continue to be the most

challenging noxious weeds for Ford residents. As many locals can attest, one of the simplest measures landowners can take to help eradicate these weeds is mowing before the plant sets seeds.

Orange Hawkweed is becoming more and more of a concern as it spreads unchecked through our area. These perennial herbaceous plants spread primarily through runners and rhizomes so the most effective control is unfortunately not early mowing but spraying.

 **Ford Township**
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**Newsletter designed by
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 *If you have a change of address, or if you would prefer not to receive this newsletter, please send an email to: fordtwp.clerk@northlc.com, or mail a copy of your mailing label (with corrections if needed) to Sarah Berry, P.O. Box 75, Mora, MN 55051.*

**Ford Township
Contact Information**

Chair: Doug Bassett
Planning Comm. Board Rep
Road Supervisor
(320) 679-5780
dcbassett@ncis.com

Vice Chair: Kim Johnson
(320) 679-0512
snakerivermn@yahoo.com

Supervisor: Ken Von Bank
Fire Contract Liaison
(320) 679-2436
kvonbank1@msn.com

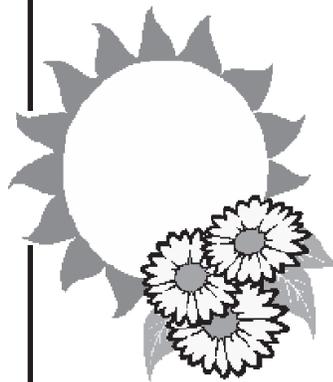
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fordtwp.clerk@northlc.com

Treasurer: Edna Cole
Newsletter & Website
Coordinator
(320) 679-3137
fordtwp.treas@northlc.com

Mark your calendars now!

6th Annual Ford Township Get-Together
Saturday, August 14, 2010 at Noon

This annual gathering of current and past residents and landowners of the Town of Ford has grown to be a much-anticipated opportunity to meet and greet old and new friends.



We eat promptly at noon so come early and bring a dish to share. Beverage, plates and utensils are all provided.

The afternoon is reserved for visiting and perhaps checking out the dessert table more than once! Food, fun and conversation – that is what it is all about!

**Check out photographs of the 2009 event online at:
www.fordtownship.org**