



# Life & Times of Ford Township

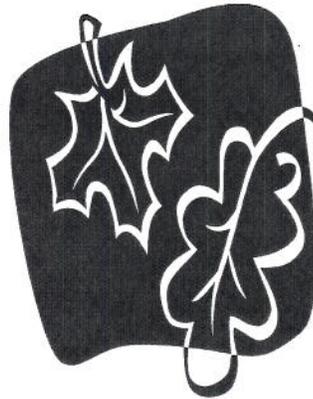
February 2009

## Annual Meeting Tuesday, March 10th, 2009 @ 7:00 p.m.

The Town of Ford Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at 7 p.m. at the Ford Town Hall. This is the “people’s” meeting so mark your calendars now so you don’t miss this important opportunity to participate in your local government. While the Township elections are no longer held in March, there are still many reasons to be involved. This meeting is when citizens can bring up problems and concerns for discussion as well as

make motions for possible solutions. One of those discussions will likely be whether or not to authorize the Town Board to proceed with vacating the old and unused roads within the Township. What things do you want to talk about? Without a doubt, however, the most important issue at this meeting is the authorization by the citizens of the tax levy for 2010. The Town Board proposes a budget but the actual levy must be set by the people. Join your friends and neighbors

in this decision-making process which is township government. See you there!



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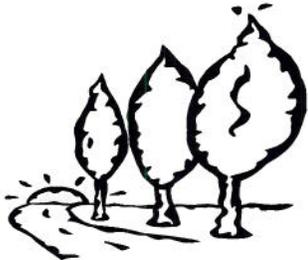
## A Year of Change

The 2009 year saw the departure of one Town Board member and one Planning Commission member, the moving of some individuals to other positions and three new Planning Commission members! Ken Von Bank was elected to the open position on

the Town Board left when Katie Kerr did not re-file. Ken’s move to the Town Board created a vacancy on the Planning Commission. Frank Kriz’s hiring as Zoning Administrator created another and since Bob Jagusch’s

new employment made meeting attendance so difficult, there was a third opening. Three new members were appointed to the Planning Commission on January 9. They are Carl “Jim” Swaningson, Kathy Von Bank and Wayne Anderson.

Thanks to all for being willing to take on these responsibilities of Township government.





**Ford Township  
Contact Information**

**Chair:**

Doug Bassett  
(320) 679 5780  
Email: dcbassett@ncis.com  
Road Supervisor  
Town Hall Supervisor

**Vice Chair:**

Kim Johnson  
(320) 679 0512  
Email: snakerivermn@yahoo.com  
Planning Commission Rep.

**Supervisor:**

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

**Clerk:**

Sarah Berry  
(320) 679 4580  
Email: fordtpw.clerk@northlc.com

**Treasurer:**

Edna Cole  
(320) 679 3137  
Email: fordtpw.treas@northlc.com

**Zoning Administrator:**

Frank Kriz  
(320) 515 0205  
Email: fordtpw.za@northlc.com

**Thanks Katie and Bob!**

The Town of Ford wishes to again express their appreciation to Katie Kerr for her service on the Board since her election as a Supervisor in 2005. In Resolution #2008-12-01, adopted on December 9, 2008, Katie was recognized for her outstanding leadership in

the development of the Comprehensive Plan and a Land Use Ordinance thus achieving many of the goals set forth by the Town Board in 2005. She was presented with a gift certificate thanking her for a job well done. Ford Township also

wishes to acknowledge the contributions of Bob Jagusch who has served on the Planning Commission for the past two years. Much of the Land Use Ordinance preliminary work is credited to Bob's time and talents. Many thanks!

**2009 Road Work**

This year's construction will be a catch up from 2008, with approximately 1400 yards of Class 5 gravel being delivered and spread on 360<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Olympic Street, 340<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and 330<sup>th</sup>

Avenue. There will be no brushing done this year.



**2010 Road Work & Brushing**

Road upgrading will take place on 340<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Sections 28 and 33 and part of Sections 27 and 34. This road work will

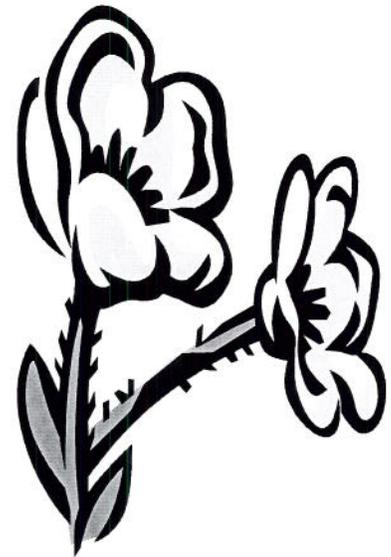
consist of raising the road bed through low lying areas, spreading of Class 5 gravel and installing culverts. Due to budget shortfalls,

brushing was not done in 2008 and will be put off until year 2011.



## Don't Let Tall Buttercup Win!

Last year's late spring might have helped with the fight against this noxious weed, but we need to stay vigilant if we are to stop the spread of Tall Buttercup across our meadows and fields. Mowing before the plant sets seeds is perhaps the best control measure but spraying or pulling also produces good results. The eradication of this weed is far from over – but thanks to the action of many Town residents there has been significant reduction.



## First Zoning Administrator

Frank Kriz was hired in November, 2008, as Ford's first Zoning Administrator. Frank and his wife, Barbara, have been residents of Ford Township since 1990 when they moved here from the metropolitan area. He was one of the original members of the Ford Planning Commission responsible for

creation of the Land Use Ordinances.

Well known by township residents and familiar with zoning ordinances and policies through his work as a Registered Land Surveyor and Planner, Frank is very qualified to fill this part-time position for the Town.

You may contact Frank on his cell phone at (320) 515 0205 or via email at [fordtwp.za@northlc.com](mailto:fordtwp.za@northlc.com). with any questions you might have regarding land use issues. Frank is also a notary public and offers his services in that capacity free to all Ford Township residents.

## Stay Informed!

The Ford Township website [www.fordtownship.org](http://www.fordtownship.org) is updated regularly with everything from photographs from the 2008 Get-Together to the latest Zoning Ordinances and applications. Changes to the regularly scheduled monthly Town Board and Planning Commission meetings are posted at this site. If you have ideas of what might be added or expanded to make this site useful to you, please contact Edna Cole at (320) 679 3137 or [fordtwp.treas@northlc.com](mailto:fordtwp.treas@northlc.com).

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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](mailto:fordtwp.clerk@northlc.com) or mail a copy of your mailing label (with corrections if appropriate) to Sarah Berry, P.O. Box 75, Mora, MN. 55051  
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## Meet the Town Board:

### **Doug Bassett**

Doug has served as Ford Township Supervisor since 1995 and was elected to another term in March, 2007. He is a lifelong resident of the area either in Ford or neighboring Peace Township. Doug is self employed in his cabinet shop located adjacent to his home. While Doug was elected as Chair of the Town Board for 2009, he also is the Road and Town Hall Supervisor. Doug and his wife, Clarise, have two children and two grandchildren.

### **Kim Johnson**

Kim was appointed to the Town Board in 2005 and elected to his first full term in 2006. Kim serves as the Town Board representative on the Ford Township Planning Commission. Kim's first introduction to the area was canoeing the Snake River in the mid-1960s. Later his parents and grandparents bought land in the township and in 1999, Kim and his wife, Sally, built their home on the river property. The river continues to be an important part of the whole family's life. Their son, Sam, and wife Heidi, and daughter, Erin and husband Eric, are all avid canoeists/kayakers and family gatherings often include something to do with water. Kim is one of the founders and treasurer of the Friends of the Snake River and serves as DNR river level monitor at the Snake River township bridge. Kim's primary focus as a Ford Town official is to make sure that the Snake River and the natural environment are protected so that generations can find the same enjoyment his family has found for the last 40 years.

### **Ken Von Bank**

Ken was just elected to the Town Board in November after spending the last 2 years as a member of the Ford Township Planning Commission. He was born and raised in Scott County, primarily in the City of Shakopee where he witnessed that city grow in size through the annexation of adjoining townships as the population increased from 2,500 to more than 26,000. Ken originally joined the planning commission to work toward the goal of assuring any change would be in the best interests of both current and future residents and landowners. He hopes to continue that work now as a Board member. Ken and his wife, Kathy, moved to Ford Township in 2003 when they purchased a local business, Bassett's Greenery. The Von Banks have 1 son, 2 daughters and 4 grandchildren.

### **Sarah Berry**

Sarah was appointed as Ford Town Clerk on May 15, 2007 and was just elected to her first full term in November, 2008. A resident of the township since October 2005, Sarah grew up in Arthur Township. Sarah is a kindergarten teacher at Fairview Elementary in Mora. She and her husband John have three children, Nicole, Kailey and Nolan. In her free time Sarah enjoys scrapbooking, watching her children's school activities, and spending time with her husband and children.

### **Edna Cole**

Edna has served as the Treasurer for Ford Township since she was appointed to complete a term in 2002 and was elected to her third full term in 2007. Edna grew up in Ford Township and she and her husband, Jim, returned to the family farm in 1974. Edna was Executive Director of the Kanabec History Center in Mora before retiring in 1999. In addition to her duties as Treasurer, Edna writes for the newsletter and the website. The Coles have two daughters and three grandchildren. Edna enjoys all those cross country meets, soccer and basketball games that the grandkids are participating in, scrapbooking, their daylily gardens, reading and time with family and friends.



## Meet the Planning Commission:

### **Carl “Jim” Swaningson**

Jim was appointed to a one year term on the Planning Commission in 2009. He is a retired over-the-road truck driver. Jim and his wife, Karen, moved to Ford Township in August 2006. They chose Ford Township (Snake River Valley) as a retirement home because of its natural beauty and Jim has a strong desire to keep it as pristine as possible for themselves and future generations. He hopes to make a contribution as a Planning Commission Member.

### **Jim Cole**

Jim has resided in Ford Township since 1974 and has lived in rural Kanabec County all of his life. Actively involved with Kanabec County Sheriff’s Reserve, Kanabec County First Responders, the McGrath Area First Responders and other area services, Jim has a deep commitment to this community. One of the original members of the Planning Commission, he was recently appointed to a two year term and believes that the work on zoning ordinances needs to be completed as soon as possible. Jim and his wife, Edna, have two daughters and three grandchildren. His other interests include weather monitoring for Soil & Water Conservation and the Minnesota Climatology Working Group, his daylily gardens, and helping Santa with some seasonal personal appearances.

### **Kathy Von Bank**

Kathy moved to Mora 6 years ago with her husband, Ken. They decided to try a new adventure in their lives and bought Bassett’s Greenery. She says it has been a good journey and feels she has made a lot of new friends. Kathy has 3 children and 4 grandchildren all living in the metro area. Hunting is one of her passions and she is currently on the Steering Committee for BOW (Becoming an Outdoor Woman). This group is sponsored through the Minnesota DNR. It is a program for women who need direction in learning outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing, canoeing and biking. There are also dog sledding classes and the programs are open to women of all ages. She also likes to read, sew and quilt and has a long arm quilting machine. People bring their quilts to her and she sews all the layers together. Kathy decided to be on the Planning Commission because she knows the importance of having some basic laws in place. She moved here from Shakopee and experienced the growing pains they went through and hopefully will have some ideas to put in place for Ford Township. She believes it is very important for the township to have some structure for future growth. Kathy was appointed to a two year term.

### **Wayne Anderson**

Wayne moved to Ford Twp in 1974 as a child with his parents. Growing up on the family beef farm and coming to elections to meet Charlie Scott, Max Sherman, Hjalmar Elfstrum, Ellzy Moore, and Art Christian made a big impact on his life. After high school, Wayne was asked to “fill in” for Art Christian on the Town Board when Art moved to town. Charlie Scott informed Wayne that he had been asked to fill in on the town board 50 years ago and was still there! Wayne saw that and found that town board was truly a life sentence but, following in Art’s footsteps, moved to the McGrath area for a few years (to find himself elected to the Williams Town Board) returning to Ford Township in 2003. Now, with the new Comprehensive Plan and big work to be done on the Zoning Ordinance, Wayne has decided to again be active with local government and help implement a functional and workable Zoning Ordinance.



## Ford Township Want List:

- A small microwave
- A laptop computer
- A compatible printer for the laptop
- A fireproof file cabinet
- Folding chairs
- Office chairs
- Office Supplies – copy paper, hanging file folders, manila file folders, labels, etc.
- Paper products including: large plates, cups (hot and cold), napkins & plastic silverware
- Large metal or heavy plastic serving spoons
- A 30 cup coffee maker
- A large spigot cooler

If you are able to donate any of these items, please contact any of the Town Board members for more information.

## Volunteers Needed!

The 911 addressing signs have arrived at Kanabec County offices and will be installed as soon as the posts can be put in the ground by the County Highway Department at the driveway of each home. Ford Township has been a strong advocate for this sign program believing that the signs will assist emer-

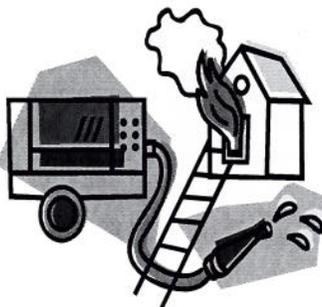
gency workers (fire, ambulance and First Responders) in finding the correct address in the minimum amount of time. In an effort to get this project accomplished as soon as possible, Ford Township has offered to place the signs on the posts within their boundaries thus joining the Kanabec County Sheriff's

Reserve and Seven County Senior Federation in this volunteer effort. If you are interested in helping with this spring project, please contact Town Board Chair, Doug Bassett. Volunteers will be notified as more details are available and a definite schedule developed.



## Fire Contract Talks Continue

The Townships and Towns served by the Isle Fire Department met with the new Co-Chiefs, David Miller and Tim Schug, on Tuesday, January 6, at the Fire Hall. Ford Supervisor, Doug Bassett, and Treasurer, Edna Cole, were in attendance to receive a report that the 2009 Fire Contract amounts should be reduced to approximately what the 2007 figures had been. If correct, this would mean nearly a \$1000 annual reduction for Ford Township. There was also indication that numbers would be available prior to March 1, 2009, regarding the contract figures for 2010. These numbers are essential for the Townships to be able to set their 2010 levy. Ken Von Bank will be serving as Town Board Liaison with the Isle Fire Department.





### Ford Weather Trivia

**You were right! 2008 was colder!**

Days with a sub-zero high:	2008	5
	2007	0
	2006	1
	2005	4
	2004	6

Days with a sub-zero low:	2008	44
	2007	22
	2006	14
	2005	30
	2004	33

**And yes, we got more rain & snow!**

Total rain & melted snow:	2008	31.35"
	2007	28.57"
	2006	19.47"
	2005	32.47"
	2004	31.71"
Growing Season rainfall (April – August)	2008	21.32"
	2007	11.32"
	2006	12.18"
	2005	14.90"
	2004	18.43"
	2003	21.52"

Information documented for Soil & Water Conservation and the Minnesota Climatology Working Group by Jim Cole.

## Mark Your Calendars!!

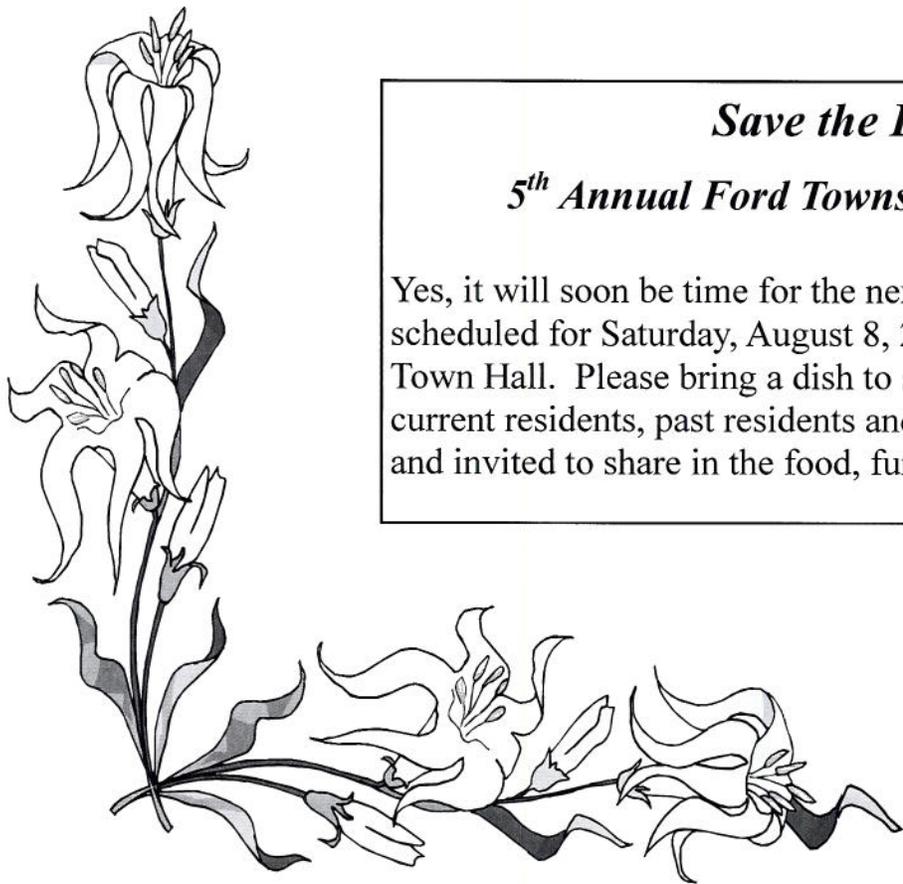
- Tuesday, March 3 Planning Commission Meeting 7 p.m.
- Monday, March 9 Town Board Meeting 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 10 Annual Meeting 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 7 Planning Commission Meeting 7 p.m.
- Monday, April 13 Town Board Meeting 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 5 Planning Commission Meeting 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 12 Town Board Meeting 7 p.m.
- Saturday, May 23 Town Road Tour 8 a.m.
- Tuesday, June 2 Planning Commission Meeting 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 9 Town Board Meeting 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 7 Planning Commission Meeting 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 14 Town Board Meeting 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 4 Planning Commission Meeting 7 p.m.
- Saturday, August 8 Annual Get-Together 12 noon
- Tuesday, August 11 Town Board Meeting 7 p.m.

**Changes to this  
schedule will be posted  
at the Town Hall and on  
the website at  
[www.fordtownship.org](http://www.fordtownship.org).**

Ford Township

P.O. Box 75

Mora MN 55051



***Save the Date!***

***5<sup>th</sup> Annual Ford Township Get-Together***

Yes, it will soon be time for the next Get-Together which is scheduled for Saturday, August 8, 2009, at 12 noon at the Town Hall. Please bring a dish to share. Remember that all current residents, past residents and landowners are welcome and invited to share in the food, fun and conversation.