



# TOWNSHIP TATTLER

Volume 1, Issue 1

Fall 2011

## Sherman Township Board of Trustees:

- Rob Middlemis-Brown, interim Supervisor
- Addy Schmidt, Township Clerk
- Marilyn Kastelic, Township Treasurer
- Bob Strykowski, Trustee
- Deneen Connell, Trustee

## Sherman Township Constable:

Frank Kastelic

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## Above the fold: a new leaf this autumn

Residents and visitors find Sherman Township to be lovely, secure and comfortable. We tend to take our community for granted until tax time comes. So exactly what do your township taxes support?

That will be one of the answers you will find in the Township Tattler. The Board of Trustees, Auxiliary, Constable, Volunteer Fire Department, and other residents that generously give of their time and talents want to tell you what they do. We all hope that you will find your own niche and contribute to this community, whether here full time or seasonally.

Let's start with introducing you to your Board of Trustees:

**Rob Middlemis-Brown.** Rob's previous life as a scientist dealing with water issues and as an office administrator ended with retirement

in late 2010. He and his wife, Sherry, started building their home outside of Gay in 1997 and moved there after retirement. Rob was asked to fill an interim position on the Board in 2011. He also serves on the Volunteer Fire Department (VFD).

**Addy Schmidt.** Addy fell in love with Keweenaw on her first visit in 1989. She finally moved here after retiring from the state of Michigan in 1998. Addy agreed to fill the term as interim township clerk in 2001. She joined the VFD in 2002 and more recently joined the Auxiliary.

**Marilyn Kastelic.** Marilyn and her husband, John have lived in Sherman Township since 2002. Marilyn was a bank service manager, which made her an attractive candidate for township treasurer in 2004 and 2008. She is a member of the Auxiliary,

where she also serves as treasurer.

**Bob Strykowski.** Bob has a varied background in public service, starting with the US Air Force and culminating as a detective with the Indianapolis Police Department. He and his wife, Anna, retired and moved to Gay in 2007. Bob is on the VFD and was elected as a trustee in 2008. He also was certified as a waterworks system operator and serves in that capacity for the village water system.

**Deneen Connell.** Originally from the Keweenaw, Deneen returned to Michigan with her husband, William, buying a home in Gay in 2007. She served as a social worker with the State of Florida prior to moving to Gay. Deneen became a trustee in 2008 and also serves as a member of the Auxiliary.

## Straight from the Board:

Hello from the Township Board! Five residents serve on the Board, dealing with township governance issues and with developing opportunities to further interests of the township. The primary responsibilities are to manage

township properties, team up with the volunteer fire department to protect property, operate the water supply and wastewater treatment plants in the village, and coordinate township government with the county and state levels.

Decision making occurs at public meetings, the second Thursday of each month. Much of the real work happens between meetings. The township treasurer spends time at the township office,

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Where there is smoke . . . a fireside chat



**Sherman Township has a high rate of volunteerism. Are you one of the volunteers?**

If you own a home, you know that your homeowners' insurance cost is predicated in part on the fire department that services your area. We rely on the Sherman Township Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) for our peace of mind and low rate of homeowner's insurance.

We have several fire fighters certified through a 227 hour, Fire Fighter I & II training. Our VFD has trucks and equipment that also contributes to your

safety and security.

Our VFD firefighters:

Warren Brown

Mick Jarvi

Mike Jarvi

Frank Kastelic

Dudley Marten, chief

Rob Middlemis-Brown

Art Niebzidoski

Greg Saxton

Addy Schmidt

Bob Strykowski

John Wilhelm

The VFD supports its equipment costs and training from state grants, donations, July 4th celebration and a raffle. **NONE OF YOUR TAX DOLLARS** go to supporting the VFD.

What a deal: reduced insurance costs because of a quality VFD at no direct cost to you. Of course, the VFD always looks for contributions of time or money by Sherman Township residents. Contact one of the firefighters to learn how you can help.

## Sherman Township Auxiliary — a bazaar summer

Another summer of sales and Bazaars has concluded and the Auxiliary earned \$8373 in proceeds and donations. At the fall meeting, members voted to present \$5000 to Community Hall fund and \$1000 to the VFD.

Much of the Bazaar's success comes from the generous donations of residents and friends of the Auxiliary. Both residents and visitors shopped for bargains at seven sales held on five Saturdays, July 4, and Labor Day. Many shoppers met

with friends and neighbors over coffee, a sandwich, or other treats during the sales.

Very dedicated workers helped with sales, provided food, organized tables and racks, and picked up items for the sales. The Auxiliary wishes to thank all those who worked at the sales and behind the scenes, those who donated items and money, and those who made purchases.

The season culminated with a potluck for Auxiliary members and firefighters on

September 14. The officers from 2011 will return to serve again in 2012:

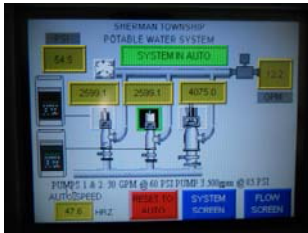
Sue Jarvi, president

Genie Mintken, vice president

Eunice Kowalski, secretary  
Marilyn Kastelic, treasurer

We all look forward to another year of activities starting with the spring meeting at 6:00 PM on June 11, 2012. Mark your calendar, and

See you next year!



The water supply system is housed in the basement of the Community Building. Bob Strykowski manages the system, taking daily readings and periodic samples for testing. He also turns on water to residences, flushes the system as needed and generally takes care of all the water supply needs.



## Village vicissitudes - village water supply

Where does village water come from? And, where does it go? Sherman Township supplies water to Gay residences, Gay Bar, and the Township buildings. The current water comes from wells installed in 2005/2006 and the control system resides in the basement of the Community Hall. Bob

Strykowski manages the water system.

Gay also has a sewage treatment facility, run by Sherman Township. Of the two systems, the sewage treatment plant has proved most costly to maintain. Those residents connected to the systems pay a monthly fee for each. Currently, fees

for sewer do not cover costs. The trustees have been trying to keep water and sewer fees low, but as energy costs rise and operational needs continue, this becomes increasingly difficult.

The Board will address fees this winter in public meetings.

## Tell us what you think

Sherman Township has not produced a newsletter on a set schedule for many years. Yet, the Board feels that residents should receive notification of issues that affect them. The cost of printing and mailing a newsletter exceeds the township's discretionary funds.

Therefore, we will offer you access to a regularly

published color version of the newsletter through email and our website. If you wish to receive the newsletter by email, please send **your email address to [shermantwp@pasty.net](mailto:shermantwp@pasty.net)**.

Otherwise, you can either **download the latest newsletter** from our official website, <http://keweenawcounty>

[online.org/township-sherman.php](http://online.org/township-sherman.php) or pick up a black and white hard copy from the township offices. **Subsequent editions will not be mailed, because of the high cost of printing and mailing.**

Please let us know what you think of the newsletter and our arrangements for distribution.



Gay Schoolhouse — this icon of the village will undergo changes in the next few years. The grounds are shared by the Historical Society and the village. The school will become a museum, but the schoolyard may also feature a pavilion in 2012.

## What's up?

### Status of schoolhouse

Work continues on Keweenaw County Historical Society's restoration of the 1927 Gay Schoolhouse. The third annual MusicFest, proceeds of which go to the restoration project, was a resounding success this year.

Donations towards restoration are welcome. For more information on or to contribute to the historic preservation, go to <http://www.keweenawhistory.org/Sites/Gayschool.html>.

### Trash troubles

The issue of how to handle trash has come before the Board. Costs once again exceed revenue. The Board will address changing the fees for trash service at the regular Board of Trustees' meeting, November 10, 2011. Sherman Township trash fees are currently less than in surrounding townships.

### Welcome brochure

A welcome brochure will be developed for new residents and those wanting to know more about community services. Look for more about it in our next issue of Township Tattler.

### Picnic anyone?

Township residents would like a pavilion at the Gay Schoolyard, but we need dedicated volunteers to help make it happen!

The township hopes to build a pavilion for picnicking and outdoor events. The pavilion will be an attractive, but simple shelter that could be expanded in the future. The rustic design will tentatively include donated timbers and materials purchased with dedicated funds. Township volunteers must work through details, but we will need more volunteers once building commences..



**"Sherman Township — a great place to live.**

## What's tax free, a lot of fun and very rewarding?

Did you know that of Michigan's nearly 10 million residents, 2,156 live in Keweenaw County? Only 66 permanent residences are in Sherman Township.

More than 30 people volunteer in some capacity for the township. That says quite a lot about volunteerism in this community. Unfortunately, our seasonal

residents are not as well represented as are our permanent residents. Although that seems natural, it does result in poor representation of the seasonal residents' interests.

Some of the ways that residents and seasonal residents volunteer are to join the VFD, help the Auxiliary at the biweekly Sale and

Bazaar, give generously to the sales, donate time and materials needed to maintain township buildings, and a host of other ways.

How can you get involved? Just contact one of the officers of a township organization or Board of Trustees mentioned in this newsletter and ask how you can help.



Some shores are rocky and some sandy, but all the picturesque views of the lake are extraordinary.



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month at 6:30 PM, Township Hall.

Newsletter editor:  
Sherry Middlemis-Brown,  
township resident

We are on the web at  
[http://  
keweenawcountyonline  
.org/township-  
sherman.php](http://keweenawcountyonline.org/township-sherman.php)

**A township of**



Michigan's Scenic, Historic  
and Recreation Wonderland

## **Sherman Township -- a great place to live.**

Nestled on the east shore of the Keweenaw Peninsula, Sherman Township provides a lovely spot for a permanent or a vacation home. The area has one of the lowest populations in the state, but the township offers the amenities associated with a community. Gay, the township's only village, provides a central focus for Sherman Township activities and contains the icons familiar to township residents. The Gay smokestack, seen for miles, is a navigational aid. The Gay Schoolhouse reminds us of an important heritage. The Community Hall provides handicap accessible meeting space and houses the Auxiliary's Sale and Bazaar. Visit the memorabilia on the stage of the Community Hall to learn more about our community's history. The Township Hall houses the Sherman Township government offices .

### **Straight from the Board (continued)**

*(Continued from page 1)*

balancing accounts and overseeing purchases. The township clerk maintains the official records and stays current with regulations and ordinances. All of the trustees undertake various special projects.

The Board consists of only five residents who represent the rest of the populace in operating the township. Five people cannot do it all. We need the participa-

tion of every resident in helping with developing ideas, improving services, maintaining township properties and structures, and contributing to fund raising activities throughout the year.

I have been supervisor for only a few months, filling the remaining term of the previous supervisor, Dudley Martin. I have already realized the large number of volunteers in-

involved in township activities, from the fire department to the Auxiliary to the Community Hall fund raising.

Please consider coming out to a Board meeting and getting to know your township officials. See how you can get involved and make a difference!

*Submitted by Rob Middlemis-  
Brown, interim township  
supervisor*