

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS

APRIL 2019

CEMETERY ...

NorthCoast Landscaping did a clean-up of the Cemetery plus Cemetery Beach the week of April 8th. There were huge piles of leaves plus sticks and limbs that they cleaned up and the place is already looking great. John Zerka will be back for the third year to do mowing, trimming and hauling debris to the transfer station and John does a really nice job keeping the cemetery properties and grave sites looking nice. On Monday, May 13th at 6 p.m., we will plan on putting out the new flags for our Veterans and everyone that can, is encouraged to come out and help. The Cub Scouts will place flags in a section at the south end of the Cemetery. Should the weather not be good, we will place flags on the 14th. Tell your friends and family, we've got plenty of burial plots available. As a side note, purchasing a plot in advance relieves families of having to deal with yet another responsibility at a time when there are so many other matters that must be taken care of. Last year, Judy sold more plots than usual, and many were to out-of-town individuals.

WEBSITE UPDATE & ONLINE PAYMENTS FOR WATER BILLS AND TAXES ...

I have contacted a web designer from Bay City who will be updating our site over the next few weeks. The new Ordinance Book, along with approved Board Meeting Minutes, Planning Commission Minutes, Monthly Event Calendar, Supervisor Comments, Mosquito Opt Out Form, Land Use Permit Sample only and eventually – no later than mid-summer – the ability to pay water bills and property taxes on line will be part of the new design. The rates we are hoping to achieve for payments is a debit fee of no more than \$2.55 for both water or taxes and a credit card fee of no more than 1.96% for water or taxes. And where did these rates come from you ask? Glad you asked. Those are the exact rates the IRS charges to pay federal taxes online, as I just paid our taxes with a debit card! Typically, I would get a Cashier's Check and then buy a .58 cent stamp and go to the Post Office. No more, as that on-line process is ultra-convenient. In addition, we've had several residents inquire about paying on-line and they're disappointed when they are told that service is not available. In the next few weeks – or less –

we will take one giant step out of the dark ages and make that service available to our residents.

ROAD REPAIR 2019 AND 2% TRIBAL DISTRIBUTION ...

There are two projects slated for this year. One is re-surfacing Ann-Nancy Court and the other is the eventual paving of Mclean Rd. The latter has required the removal of trees in the ditches on both sides of the road. It will also require the removal of the stumps and 'ditching.' The tree cutting is \$10K. The price for stumps-ditching is \$46K. I did submit a grant request to the Saganing Tribe for their bi-annual 2% distribution for a cost sharing of \$23K and will not know until the end of May if that will be approved. The Road Commission will install an additional 4 culverts under the roadway to drain the swamp on the north side to the County Drain on the south side. We doubt paving can be accomplished this year due to the non-typical costs for tree and stump removal plus ditching. As it stands, that road will end up with a new gravel surface that should be allowed to settle-in for a year, prior to being paved. Ann and Nancy are a mess and the Road Commission needs to get in and clean out the ditches as the junk & gunk level is half-way up the culverts. We continue to wait on a quote from the RC. We may not be able to afford a full re-surfacing and will opt for chip-and-seal to try to prevent the road surface from degrading further.

MDEQ ...

Last month we pontificated on our foibles with the DEQ. Finally, after three months and 71 emails, we reached a settlement with the DEQ and an Assistant Attorney General. The DEQ re-visited previous water sample data and made some changes to the data profile. As you may recall, we previously mailed pre-approved DEQ material to our residents and the DEQ later determined there were "errors and omissions" within that material. They created a new and improved version which we mailed April 8th and hopefully, their new version will not contain "errors and omissions."

FINAL COMMENT ... *There is no glory in star or blossom till looked upon by a loving eye; There is no fragrance in April breezes till breathed with joy as they wander by.* William Cullen Bryant