



Life & Times of Ford Township

Issue 1

June 2006

Ford Township Newsletter

The Ford Township Board has many responsibilities, among them are the duties to maintain the safety, health and welfare of the township. In order to fulfill these responsibilities a newsletter will be sent out to residents and landowners as information becomes available. We hope that this newsletter will be of interest to you and keep you informed.

Brushing of Right of Ways

By: Doug Bassett

In the year 2008 Ford Township will begin clearing all right of ways .

This is being done to promote safety and open up the roads for better air movement.

All trees and brush within a right of way will be cleared away. Land owners own trees that are six inches in diameter, measured at a point two feet above the ground. Land owners can remove all trees from the right of way or with written permission, the township will remove them and leave them on the land owners property. Letters permitting Ford Township to remove trees can be mailed to:

Doug Bassett
2138 330th Ave.
Mora MN 55051

I look forward to working with you. If you have questions or concerns please call.

The 2nd Annual Ford Township Get-Together Saturday, August 12th

Thank you for making last year's Ford Township Get-Together such a success. There was so much positive feedback we have decided to make this an annual event. Please mark your calendars and join us for the 2nd Annual Ford Township Get-Together on Saturday, August 12th at the Ford Town Hall. The event will begin at noon. Please bring a dish to share. Beverages will be provided.



Noxious Weeds

Another responsibility of the Board is the identification and elimination of noxious weeds. You will be notified soon if it is determined that you have noxious weeds on your property. This includes Tall Buttercup.

Ford Township Board Members and Contact Information

Doug Bassett, Chair
320-679-5780
dcbassett@ncis.com

Katie Kerr, Supervisor
320-679-5184
kerr@northlc.com

Kim Johnson, Supervisor
320-679-0512
snakerivermn@yahoo.com

Penny Simonsen, Clerk
320-679-8374 or 8375
tinshack@ncis.com

Edna Cole, Treasurer
320-679-3137
n40cole@ncis.com

Township Board Meetings

Ford Township board meetings are open to the public. The regular board meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Ford Town Hall. Other scheduled meetings are posted at the Town Hall and in the Advertiser & Times newspapers.

The Ford Township board members encourage you to attend these meetings. Your input is valued and assists the board in making decisions. If you would like an item added to the agenda please get it to Penny Simonsen by the 1st of each month.

If you have questions regarding upcoming meetings please contact Penny Simonsen.



Pictures Needed

The Comprehensive Plan is coming together nicely. In an effort to record the history and current state of Ford Township we would like to place some pictures in the final document. If you have historical and/or current pictures of people and places within Ford Township we would like to see them. If you are willing to share them, please document the date of the picture and the story behind the picture. You can send pictures to: Katie Kerr, 2164 330th Ave. , Mora MN 55051

Please have pictures to Katie by July 31st. All pictures will be returned to you via mail once the comprehensive plan has been assembled.

Election Judges Needed

Fall elections are "just around the corner", and the township always has a need for a trained pool of election judges to select from. Training will occur through the county auditor's office, though dates have yet to be announced. Typically training takes place in August or September (both day and evening/weekend hour options are available) in anticipation of the September and November elections. Training is approximately 3 hours in length, with training pay and mileage to the training paid by the township once the training is completed. They are also paid \$12.50 an hour for time spent as an election judge the day of the election.

The township also encourages youth election judges to participate. Being an election judge offers students over age 16 the opportunity for a real-life civics lesson. Interested individuals should contact Penny Simonsen, Ford Township Clerk.

Avian Bird Flu

By Kim Johnson

On April 11th, I represented Ford Township as the Kanabec County Township Association meeting in Mora. One of the speakers was Wendy Thompson, the County's Public Health Nurse. Her presentation was Kanabec County's Pandemic Influenza Update. As we have learned from Katrina and Rita, preparedness is essential to minimizing the impact of any disaster—hurricanes or diseases like Avian Flu.

The World Health Organization has identified six phases of Influenza Pandemics. We are now in Phase 3 or the Pandemic Alert Period in which the disease is being closely monitored and plans are being developed. If the Avian Flu reaches Pandemic status, Phase 6, the estimates are that 1.5 million Minnesotans will be infected, 15,000-175,000 will require hospitalization, and 3,600-33,000 will die. This translates to 4,500 cases in Kanabec County.

To combat the Pandemic, Federal, State and local governments are creating plans to communicate with the public about Avian Influenza, monitor for any signs of the spread of the disease, and develop health care plans for prevention and control. As part of the County's plan for Avian Influenza, Ford Township is seeking 10 volunteers should the need arise. These volunteers would assist in coordination of local efforts to deal with the Pandemic. Duties may include communication with residents, transportation of medication and supplies, or assisting in transporting those who need medical attention. Training will be provided. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact me at 679-0512 or any of your Township representatives.



Comprehensive Plan Update

The Board is drafting the Comprehensive Plan. We will be forming a Planning Commission in the near future. There will also be public hearings on the Comprehensive Plan once the document is in a final draft. Please watch for future mailings and information about the Ford Township Comprehensive Plan.

First Responders

A Kanabec county wide First Responder unit is forming. They are looking for five interested individuals. Training and equipment will be provided. Anyone interested in becoming a First Responder or is interested in supporting the First Responder program financially can contact any of your township representatives.

Neighborhood Watch

The Board was recently made aware of a break-in and there may have been others that were not brought to our attention. We would like to ask that you all keep a watchful eye out.

In the Comprehensive Plan meetings this past winter it was made apparent that the residents and land owners in Ford Township would like to form a Neighborhood Watch program. If anyone is interested in coordinating this effort please contact any of your township representatives.

Future Newsletters

If you have any information, comments or ideas for future newsletters please contact Katie Kerr.

