



AVON TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Vol. 13 No. 1

<http://www.avontownship.org>

Summer 2013

Welcome from the Board of Supervisors

You may remember that until a few years ago the Township jointly published a newsletter with the City. Attendees at the Annual Meeting in March decided that the Township should restore the newsletter. We plan to publish the newsletter at least once a year in the spring. Residents are encouraged to submit items for publication to the Clerk.

Snow Removal

The Township has saved a considerable amount of money since purchasing our own snow plowing equipment. It has allowed us to hold the line on tax increases for the last two years. The Township tries very hard to get the snow off the roads as quickly as possible in a cost-effective manner.

Township residents are reminded that it is a misdemeanor to plow snow onto or across public roads. Piles of snow left on or near a road can freeze into a solid mass creating hazardous situations for vehicles and snowplows. When snow is pushed across the road it leaves ridges which freeze and when hit by a plow or vehicle can throw the vehicle across the road. Please do not push snow across the road or leave piles near roadways.

Township residents are also reminded to remove parked vehicles from Township roads to assist in snow removal.

If your mailbox is in need of repair or replacement, the Township recommends replacing it with a break-away style post. Our website (<http://avontownship.org/roads/>) lists some vendors. These posts will not be damaged if hit by a plow because they will swing out of the way and then spring back into place.

Wanted: Snow Plow Driver. Must have Class A license and Health Card. Contact the Clerk for an application.

Road Inspection

Road inspection took place in April and various areas of need were identified. These will be addressed this summer. Some

roads will have brush cutting done in the ditches, or be overlaid with new pavement. We appreciate your caution while these repairs are in progress. We depend on Township residents to alert the Supervisors about unsafe road conditions you may observe throughout the year. A summary of upcoming roadwork can be found on our website at <http://avontownship.org/roads/>.

Brush in Road Ditches

At the Township Annual meeting in March, residents discussed brush removal from ditches and right-of-ways. The Township road right-of-way (road easement) is 66 feet wide on most Township roads. Typically, it extends 33 feet from the center of the road outward both ways. The right-of-way is the area the Township is required by law to maintain free from brush and other safety hazards as best we can. During the Annual Meeting residents requested use of the most cost effective methods to control brush. In an effort to control the cost of brush removal, the Township has developed the following plan:



1. Larger brush will be cut with a chain saw and removed.
2. Smaller brush and grasses will be cut using a ditch mower.
3. Herbicide may be applied to control brush and noxious weeds in some of the more heavily vegetated, rural areas. Brush in residential areas around the lakes and small lot subdivisions will not be sprayed.
4. We are in the process of developing a "NO SPRAY" list of residents who would prefer to remove the brush from their own road right-of-ways. If you live along a road that is scheduled to have the brush in the road right-of-way sprayed, you will have the option of requesting that the Township not spray the ditches along your property. If you choose this option, you will be required to control the brush at your own expense. If you wish to be placed on the NO SPRAY list contact the Clerk.

Avon City Compost Site

At the Annual Meeting, Township residents requested that the Township enter an agreement with the City of Avon for the use of the City of Avon Compost Site. The Township will annually pay \$1000.00 to the City to allow Township residents to use the compost site for brush and grass clippings only. Contact Avon City Hall at 356 – 7922 for dates and hours of operation.

Land for Sale

The Township is selling a five-acre parcel of land adjacent to Budde Trucking. This parcel of land has one small building that is used for storing the salt/sand mix applied to Township roads in the winter. Since the construction of the Avon Town Hall and Maintenance building at a more central location in the Township, this land is no longer needed. Therefore, the decision was made to sell the property. Once the property is sold, a new salt/sand shed will be built at the Town Hall site. Anyone interested in purchasing the property should contact the Township Clerk.

Legacy Grant

The Township was recently awarded a Legacy Grant to seed native plants and prairie grasses and construct a rain garden around the Township Hall. The project was designed by the Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District and will provide storm water treatment and minimize grounds maintenance costs. The plantings will take several years to mature.

Township Information

The Township website, <http://avontownship.org>, is designed to provide a portal to information about the Township. Visit the site to find copies of minutes, agendas, forms, news and links to other sites of interest. If you have comments or suggestions about the website, please contact the Clerk. Legal notices are published in the *Avon/Albany Enterprise* and posted on the bulletin board outside the Town Hall, at Dahlin's in Avon and The Store in St. Anna.

AVON TOWNSHIP AT A GLANCE

Town Hall: located at 16881 Queens Road; Avon, MN 56310 **Web Site:** <http://avontownship.org>

Board of Supervisors: *(meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM)*

Richard Bresnahan (320) 356 – 7919
LeRoy Gondringer, Chair (320) 845 - 4580
John Merdan (320) 356 – 7668

Treasurer: Kelly Martini (320) 356 – 9134

Clerk: Stephen Saupe (320) 248 – 8036

Planning Commission: *(meets the last Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM)*

Will Huston Gerry Kremers Ken Mergen, Chair Roger Nelson Stephen Saupe

Avon Township
c/o Stephen Saupe, Clerk
14493 325th St.
St. Joseph, MN 56374