

# News from Grayling MI.

Published Every Other Month By **Curt Jansen**

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IF YOU RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER THEN YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN THE AREA EVEN IF YOU DO NOT CURRENTLY OWN PROPERTY HERE. THE ONGOING BATTLE OVER THE GRAYLING CITY/TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE OF GREAT CONCERN TO YOU. HERE ARE SOME FACTS AND OBSERVATIONS THAT MAY BRING SOME FOCUS TO THE SITUATION FOR YOU. PLEASE DON'T FORGET WHO KEEPS TRACK OF THINGS FOR YOU WHEN YOU, OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW NEEDS REAL ESTATE SERVICES. PLEASE GIVE ME A CALL AND

**“ EXPECT SERVICE AS USUAL” .**

**THANK YOU, CURT JANSEN**

## Fire in the Hole!

Caution: Contains Editorial Comment

I have this past week reviewed the contract proposal from the City; the lawsuit filed by the Township; and several State Statutes. I have also spoken with the City Manager; Township Supervisor and a member of the ad-hoc committee to find a resolution to the problem. **The City** has maintained (until just this week) that the previous Joint Operating Agreements between it and the Township were not authorized by State law and thus were not legal. They now at least recognize that Public Act 33, 1951 allows for adjacent municipalities to form a Joint Administrative Board for the purpose of operating a Police or Fire Department. Nevertheless, the City does not wish to “Subsidize the growth of the Township” by entering a joint Agreement for the Fire Dept. or anything else. The only option in their opinion is a Contract for Services. This stance by the City is probably well founded as the potential growth of the Township far exceeds that of the City. The City is essentially “Built Out” and most growth would require razing something. This added expense as well as a 35% higher millage rate and the City’s inability to

compete with the Township’s user friendly building department and other people services, makes the Township much more attractive to development.

**The Township** wants the previous working relationship to continue. This is not likely considering the related events of the last 20 months. The proposed “Fire Service Agreement” from the City is a good deal for the Twp. at the moment for a multitude of reasons. 1. The fixed fee for 2009 (\$140,315) is more than palatable. 2. Despite the 10 year contract, either party can terminate the contract with 1 year notice. So it’s really only a 2 year commitment. 3. If the Twp really needs/wants its own Fire Dept., this gives them time to plan for it. 4. This contract presets the disposition of joint owned assets, the City keeps them and the Twp. gets paid for their half. 5. If this happens, the Twp is rid of several assets that are not appropriate for the Twp’s Fire fighting needs (\$400,000 ladder truck for multi-story buildings) and will have some cash for equipment more suited to their needs. (4WD)



### Crawford County Sales for January thru October 2007/2008

Excludes Non-MLS	Sales 2007/2008	Volume 2007/2008	Avg. Price 2007/2008	New listings 2007/2008
Residential	156 / 114	\$18,028,492/ \$12,690,752	\$115,567 / \$111,322	373/303
Vacant	42 / 33	\$1,572,850/ \$921,800	\$37,448/ \$27,933	110/ 119
Commercial	8 / 8	\$1,411,500 / \$968,900	\$176,437/ \$121,112	24 / 26

## Helpful Hints From Curt Jansen

Licensed Builder, Heating Contractor,  
Master Plumber, Boiler Installer,

### Real Estate Agent

Question: My kitchen sink drain gets plugged fairly often from using the garbage disposer. It seems that it would be simple to clear it with a plunger but it never works.

Answer: It takes two plungers to clear a kitchen sink. (use a sink plunger without the protruding boot) If the sink is draining slowly, fill the drain pipes and sinks with about an inch of water. If there is air in the drain, the plungers will not be effective. If you have a dishwasher connected to the drain or disposer, it needs to be clamped off or disconnected. Flatten one of the plungers on one side of the sink, dispel the air out of the cup of the plunger and press it down tight. Repeat on the other side getting as much of the air out of the plunger as possible. While holding one plunger down and steady, PULL on the other one hard but try not to break the seal. Push it back gently and slowly until it is flat, then PULL it again. The work is done on the pull, if you push hard on the plunger, it just packs the clog tighter in the pipe. This method will clear most blockages that occur in the drain pipes. Plan on get-

## Crawford County Trivia

Send the correct answer back on the form below and I'll send you an indoor/outdoor thermometer, like the one you used to have from Jansen's.

**More on Hanson Hills:** In the 1970's, almost exactly where the NEW playground is located near the pond, there was another structure. What was it? Bonus: Whose was it?

**Answer for last issue:** I can't believe no one got this. Circle D riding stable; House of Flavors Ice Cream; Polyhedron Hotel; Little Smoky Railroad/ Paddle Wheel Boat; Pine Knoll Campground; Fred Bear Museum; Grayling Mercantile Ski Shop; Kentucky Fried Chicken. The Ski hill operation itself was a private enterprise at the time.

Featured Listing: 10 acres of nicely wooded land with a secluded building site nearly centered on the property. Improved road and underground power at the property line. Priced under the market at \$24,500 #5966



For a look at this or any other listing call  
**Curt Jansen** and "Expect Service as  
Usual"

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**Century 21 River Country Real Estate Inc.**



Mail or Fax this form to **Curt Jansen** PO Box 624 Grayling, MI 49738 / Fax 989-348-6598

My entry for Crawford County Trivia \_\_\_\_\_

Add this person to the mailing list Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Take me off the mailing list City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_