



Laketon Township - 2011 Winter Newsletter

Special points of interest:

2735 W. Giles Rd, Muskegon, MI 49445 Ph. 231-744-2454 Fax. 231-744-2506 www.laketon.org

- Office Hours** are Monday—Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. The office will be closed for the following holidays:
 Christmas Eve—12/23/2011
 Christmas Day—12/26/2011
 New Year's Eve—12/30/2011
 New Year's Day—01/02/2012
 Martin Luther King Day—1/16/12
 President's Day—2/20/2012
- Tax Collection**—Laketon Township Offices will be open until 6:00 pm, for the collection of property taxes on: 2-14-2011 & 2-29-2011 payments can also be made by mail or dropped in the after hours mail slot on the west side of the building—DO NOT place cash payments in the after hours mail slot.
- Next Election Date for 2012: Presidential Primary—February 28, 2012**— If you go away for the winter and wish to vote in this or any election while you are away, please call the Clerk's Office (231-744-2454) if you want to get an absentee ballot.
- Voting Precincts to be combined:** Precinct 4 (Christ Community Church) will be **permanently** combined with Precinct 2 and will be voting at the Laketon Township Hall location. New Voter ID cards will be sent to all affected voters.
 Precinct 1: Laketon Bethel Church
 Precinct 2: Laketon Township Hall
 Precinct 3: Central Elementary
- "Like" us on FACEBOOK!!** - Our goal is to deliver community information in order to make local government more accessible and interactive! We are neighbors serving neighbors!

2011 Fall E- Recycling Results, Better than Anticipated!!

Laketon Township is ecstatic to report the results of the 2011 Fall Electronics Recycling Event. The one day event was held on October 1, 2011 at Mullally Park in partnership with Vintage Tech Recyclers, Inc. The event was completely FREE. There was no cost to anyone dropping off items for recycling or to the township for hosting the event.

Upon removal, Vintage Tech Recyclers, Inc assumes all title and control of the materials which are

recycled in compliance with all Federal, State and local environmental laws. Also, all hard drives are wiped or shredded to ensure all data is permanently removed.

The collection event went even better than expected. What an amazing accomplishment—keep your eyes open for more recycling events and we can all help keep our planet GREEN!

Here is the breakdown of items collected:

UNIT	WEIGHT
Computers	3,212 lbs
Monitors	6,413 lbs
Printers	2,490 lbs
Televisions	6,190 lbs
EED's	5,376 lbs
Non-CED/EED	194 lbs
TOTAL	23,875 lbs



Speeding Traffic—A Safety Issue

School has been back in session for 3 months and winter driving conditions are upon us, yet traffic speeds are reportedly well above posted limits. Laketon Township receives a number of calls each week from area residents reporting speeding vehicles, especially in the subdivisions and neighborhoods and on W Giles Road near Central Elementary and Reeths Puffer Middle School, including traffic passing during school zone times. These reports are concerning because speeding traffic could lead to accidents, serious injury or even death. Please be aware of the following speed laws:

MCL 257.627, Section 1 reads as follows: "A person operating a vehicle on a highway shall operate that vehicle at a careful and prudent speed not greater than nor less than is reasonable and

proper, having due regard to the traffic, surface, and width of the highway and of any other condition then existing. A person shall not operate a vehicle upon a highway at a speed greater than that which will permit a stop within the assured, clear distance ahead."

Paraphrased below are some other sections of the above noted MCL 257.627

- 25 MPH in: public parks or neighborhoods/residential areas, unless otherwise posted
- 15 MPH in a mobile home park, as defined
- 25 MPH in a SCHOOL ZONE, school zones extend 1000 feet past the property lines of the school property in either direction.

Also, per MCL 257.628 the maximum speed limit on unmarked highways is 55 MPH, except as provided in MCL 257.627.

Please be aware of your speed, the posted speed limit and all traffic laws.

They are for your safety as well as the safety of others, including pedestrians.

For full language on the above noted Michigan Compiled Laws (MCL's) go to: www.legislature.mi.gov and click on Basic MCL Search and type in the MCL number you are looking for or stop in to Laketon Township for printed information.



This photo is of the actual school zone sign on W Giles Road near the elementary and middle schools.



Turn the page for important information on dog licenses!!!

"Thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared." ~ Buddha

Muskegon County Dog Licenses—Due Date Changes

As of 10/1/2011, the due date for purchasing your Muskegon County Dog License is now linked to the MONTH of your dog's rabies vaccination. Your 2011 Muskegon County dog license will automatically be extended to expire in 2012 in the same MONTH of the dog's rabies vaccination. If your dog's rabies vaccination expires in January or February 2012, the license will expire March 1, 2012. If you do not purchase/renew your dog license in the MONTH of the rabies vaccination it will be considered late and a late fee will be added to the price of the license. In addition, a 3 year dog license will

now be available. If your dog's rabies vaccination expires in 2012 or 2013, you are only eligible to purchase the one year license. If your dog's rabies vaccination expires in 2014, then you may be eligible to purchase either a one year or a three year license. A valid proof of rabies vaccination is required. Due to these changes, township & city treasurer's have been working closely with the County. We are pleased to announce that it has been determined that YES, you will still be able to purchase dog licenses at the Laketon Township Hall, & other township & city halls. You can also purchase them at

the Muskegon County Health Department or by mail at Public Health, Muskegon County, Attn: Vector Control, 209 E. Apple Ave, Muskegon, MI 49442—if purchasing by mail you MUST include a self addressed stamped envelope (postage is 64 cents for one dog tag & 20 cents for each additional tag) For more information please visit the Public Health Website: www.muskegonhealth.net or call Laketon Township Offices 744-2454 with any questions.

Dog tags will be available for purchase at Laketon Township Hall on a year round basis beginning Dec 1st, 2011

Property Taxes & Your Budget—Partial Payments Accepted



Is your budget feeling the pinch? Are you wondering how you are going to pay the tax bill in one lump sum? Well, you don't have to. If it is easier on your budget, you may choose to pay the bill in installments.

Laketon Township will accept partial payments on your tax bill, in any amount and in any frequency you choose during the collection period—which is from the time the tax bill has been

issued to you until delinquencies are turned over to the Muskegon County Treasurer on March 1st each year.

Methods of payment accepted are: cash, check, or money order. Unfortunately, credit cards CANNOT be accepted, however if you have paper checks from your credit card company that access your credit line, these checks can be accepted for tax payments at Laketon Township.

Please note: If there is any amount remaining due after the due date, penalty & interest will begin to accrue on the unpaid balance, as required by law. Just remember, if you can't pay the bill in full, any payments you can make will reduce the late penalties and interest.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call Treasurer Lori Archer or Deputy Treasurer Veronica West at 231-724-2454.

Snow Plowing Reminders—Keep things clear & safe

When thinking of snow removal, two main concerns come to mind—piling snow at the ends of driveways affecting visibility and snow/ice preventing access to fire hydrants. The Michigan Vehicle Code (Act 300 of 1949) Section 257.677a(3) states "A person shall not deposit, or cause to be deposited, snow, ice, or slush onto or across a

roadway or the shoulder of the roadway in a manner which obstructs the safety vision of the driver of a motor vehicle." Please be sure to push back snow from the road as much as possible, this is to keep you and the rest of the motoring public as safe as possible.

With regard to fire hydrants:

while township maintenance workers do shovel out fire hydrants, it is extremely helpful if the homeowners help out by keeping fire hydrants clear of vehicles, yard ornaments as well as snow and ice. Your help is greatly appreciated and is crucial in keeping our community safe in the event of a fire. Thank You!



IMPORTANT Tips on Voting by Absentee Ballot



- A voter wishing to vote by absentee ballot must complete an absentee voter application in order to request a ballot prior to every election in order to receive a ballot for that election.
- Any voter wishing to request to be placed on the permanent absent voter list—please contact the Clerk's Dept. 231-744-2454.
- Absentee voter applications can be completed and returned to the Clerk by mail or in person.
- If returning the absentee voter application in person at the Township Hall, THE VOTER **MUST BE PRESENT** in order to receive the ballot, if the voter is not present the ballot will be mailed to the voter. State Law does not allow the ballot to be given to any other person.
- When returning absentee voter ballots, make sure the VOTER signs in the appropriate location. No one other than the VOTER can sign—there are specific instructions for those voters that need the assistance of another person, and these instructions **MUST** be followed.
- Please call the Clerk's Dept. if you have any questions regarding voting: 231-744-2454

"If you want to be happy, set a goal that commands your thoughts, liberates your energy and inspires your hopes." ~ Andrew Carnegie, 1835—1919 He was a Scottish-American industrialist, businessman and philanthropist.