



Laketon Township



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2010 Spring Newsletter
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NEW POLICIES REGARDING USE OF PICNIC PAVILIONS AT TOWNSHIP PARKS

Use of the picnic pavilions has historically been on a first come, first serve basis. Groups planning larger events such as graduation parties and family reunions were asked to notify the Township of the date & time they planned on using the facilities as a courtesy.

This policy has worked for many years, but the facilities have seen increased activity with each passing year. This past season there were a couple of minor conflicts due to the lack of a formal reservation policy. Therefore, rather than waiting for serious issues to arise the Laketon Township Board has taken a proactive approach and researched the issue. At the regular monthly

board meeting held on January 20, 2011 the Laketon Township Board approved a formal reservation policy, including a small fee for the use of park pavilions.

Effective immediately, if you wish to use a pavilion for a group party or event, the pavilion must be reserved in advance. A responsible adult (at least age 21) must come in to the township hall and sign the rental agreement and pay the appropriate fee. Laketon Township reserves the right to deny rentals for activities or events it deems inappropriate.

Pavilions can be rented for either a morning block of time (8:00 am to 2:00 pm) or an afternoon block of time (3:00 pm to dusk) or both. Each time block will be charged a \$50.00 rental fee, or \$100.00 for

both time blocks.

A few other rules to be aware of:

- There is no alcohol permitted anywhere in the park.
- No grills are permitted under the pavilion roof.
- No refunds will be made.
- All decorations & trash must be cleaned up and the pavilion left in ready to use condition. Damages are the responsibility of the person listed on the rental agreement.

The full policy is available at the township hall or on our website. Please call the township hall with any questions.

DEADLINE FOR DOG TAGS FAST APPROACHING

March 1st is the last day to purchase dog tags at Laketon Township Hall. After March 1st they must be purchased at the County Health Department and significant late fees will be applied.

Tidbits

Recycling - don't forget you can drop off household batteries, cell phones and CFL light bulbs at the township hall for recycling.

Sewer Connections— a friendly reminder to those that are located along the sewer lines, connection is required by October 31, 2011. Call if you have questions.

March Board of Review— meetings are scheduled to be held on 03/14/11 and 03/16/11 by appointment only. Call 231-744-2454 if you need to schedule an appointment.

Township Hall—Upcoming Holiday closings: Good Friday—April 22, 2011, Memorial Day—May 30, 2011 and Independence Day—July 4, 2011

Yard Waste Cards— Reminder: don't forget to purchase your annual \$10 resident card to access the yard waste disposal site.



ASSESSING TERMS YOU SHOULD KNOW

It's that time of year again. The time you receive your annual Notice of Assessment on property you own. Here is a list of terms and definitions you should know.

State Equalized Value (SEV) or Assessed Value (AV): this value represents 50% of it's estimated fair market value.

Taxable Value (TV): is the value of key interest to property owners as it is the value multiplied by the millage rate to calculate the actual tax bill. The TV generally may not increase by more than 5% unless there is a transfer of ownership or addition or

loss to the property.

Millage Rate: A mill equals \$1.00 for every \$1000 of taxable value. The total millage rate is multiplied by the TV to determine the actual tax bill.

PRE or Principal Residence Exemption: This was formerly known as the Homestead Exemption. This exemption reduces the tax bill by the school operating millage which is 18 mills for Reeths Puffer School District. You must own and occupy a home as your principal residence to qualify. Rental homes, second or vacation homes and businesses do not qualify.

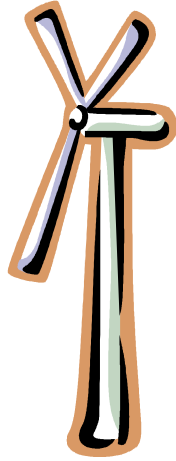
Board of Review: is a 3 member board consisting of knowledgeable residents of the community appointed by the elected township board. The Board of Review hears appeals of SEV, poverty exemption requests and acts upon clerical errors & omissions. The Board of Review is required to meet in March, July and December each year.

It is important to read your annual Notice of Assessment carefully. If there is anything you do not understand, you should call Laketon Township as soon as possible. Assessor Wanda Budnik is available on Mondays & Fridays 8:30 am—4:30 pm.

WIND ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEMS — ORDINANCES ADOPTED

The technology relating to wind energy is moving at a rapid pace and smaller units for individual use may be economically feasible in the near future if they aren't already. In addition larger units for commercial applications are a hot topic being discussed at all levels of government.

Laketon Township Officials, staff and consultants have been studying, discussing, and researching the topic for quite



some time.

This subject was discussed at numerous Planning Commission meetings and language was written and proposed to address both small and large wind turbine uses. In accordance with the law a public hearing was held by the Planning Commission to obtain public input and comments. The Planning Commission then recommended adoption of the wind energy conversion system ordinances to the Laketon Township Board

of Trustees. At the regular monthly board meeting held on Thursday December 16, 2010, the Board of Trustees approved adoption of the wind energy conversion system ordinances. Notice of adoption was then published in the Muskegon Chronicle a few days later, as required by law.

If you are interested in reading the regulations on wind energy conversion systems, the Laketon Township Zoning Ordinance is posted on our website. http://www.laketon.org/pages/planning_zoning_department

Laketon Township Adopts Amendments to the Zoning Ordinance regarding Medical Marihuana



The Laketon Township Board adopted amendments to the Laketon Township Zoning Ordinance to address the very complicated issue of medical marihuana.

The Zoning Ordinance is available online http://www.laketon.org/pages/planning_zoning_department

The intention of the ordinance is to prohibit commercial marihuana dispensaries in all areas of Laketon Township. Use of medical marihuana in accordance with state and federal laws would not be affected by the prohibition of commercial dispensaries. If you have questions pertaining to this topic, you should call Laketon Township Hall 231-744-2454 for more information.

Zoning Administrator Dick Grenell Retires After 31 Years of Service

After many years Laketon Township Zoning Administrator Dick Grenell has retired. Mr. Grenell served the Township in a variety of ways over his 31 years of association with Laketon Township.

It all began back in 1979 with an appointment to serve as a member of the Laketon Township Planning Commission, later he also served as the Chairperson of the Planning Commission. He ran, unsuccessfully, for Township Supervisor in 1994 and

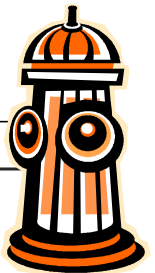
shortly after that accepted the position of Zoning Administrator where he has very successfully performed his duties for the last 16 years. Mr. Grenell was an integral part of many projects relating to planning & zoning.

He has served Laketon Township and it's citizens with the utmost integrity and professionalism. He will be greatly missed by all here in the office. Please join us in wishing him a wonderful retirement and

much health and happiness in this new chapter of his life.

After posting the Zoning Administrator position and interviewing several candidates, Mr. David Sheehy has been selected by the Board to fill the vacancy left by Mr. Grenell's retirement.

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to our newest employee.



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Quarterly Sewer Usage Rates Increased

After extensive study, the Board has reluctantly approved an increased rate for quarterly sewer usage. Costs have continued to increase, yet the last time a rate increase was approved was nearly 8 years ago in April 2003.

The rate will now be \$63.00 per quarter per residential equivalent, up from \$49.60 per quarter. Business rates will also increase accordingly. The new rate is effective for usage starting April 1, 2011. You will see this on your July 1st billing.

KEEP FIRE HYDRANTS CLEAR

With many new hydrants in the area, it is important to remind everyone to maintain clear access to fire hydrants at all times.

Please do not to block fire hydrants with vehicles or any other items. A hydrant blocked in by vehicles or covered in snow may not be accessible quickly enough in the event of a fire. We ask all homeowners with a hydrant in or near their property to help keep them clear of snow in the winter months. **A big thanks to all those that do shovel around hydrants, you are helping keep our community safe!**