Laketon Township

2009
Spring Newsletter

2735 W. Giles Rd, Muskegon, MI 49445 Phone: 231-744-2454
Office Hours—Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Website
www. laketon.org

Personnel Directory

Elected Officials

Township Supervisor—Kim Arter

Township Clerk—Christina Achterhoff

Township Treasurer—Nancy Zeller

Township Trustees—Tom Kane and Cindy Zaagman

Township Staff

Office Personnel

Deputy Clerk—Molly Joslyn

Deputy Treasurer—Veronica West

Water/Sewer payments & Cemetery Dept.—Diane Sowa

Zoning Administrator—Dick Grenell

Assessor—Bob Frain

Assessor—Wanda Budnik

Building Department

Building Inspector—Rod Siegel

Electrical Inspector—Tim Chorny

Plumbing/Mechanical Inspector—Jim Shereda

Maintenance Department

Parks & Building Maintenance—Tim Duba and Lee Marine

Cemetery Sexton—John Bialek

Yard Waste Attendant—LTJ Udell

When You Call Laketon Township…

You may be aware that some townships have started using automated telephone systems. Rest assured that Laketon Township is committed to maintaining as much personal contact as possible with the residents we serve.

When you call Laketon Township a "real person" will answer the phone unless the office is closed or all lines are in use with other callers. You will then be directed by the answering machine to leave a message and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

PUBLIC SAFETY MILLAGE RENEWAL REQUEST TO MAINTAIN POLICE & FIRE SERVICES

In 2004 Laketon Township voters approved a millage for public safety in the amount of 2 mills ($2.00 for every thousand dollars of taxable value). The millage request was approved for a period of five years, which covered 2004 thru 2008. The public safety millage covers the following public safety expenses: the cost of one(1) Muskegon County Sheriff's Deputy to patrol Laketon Township 5 days per week, the cost of a contract with Muskegon Charter Township Fire Department for fire coverage in Laketon Township and the cost of fire hydrant fees for fire hydrants located in Laketon Township.

Laketon Township will again be asking voters to approve this public safety funding as a **millage renewal** at the election to be held on May 5, 2009. This is a request to renew the previously approved millage, **not an increase** in millage. This funding is needed in order for Laketon Township to pay for police and fire services.

Laketon Township currently pays for one(1) deputy from the Muskegon County Sheriff's Department to be dedicated to patrolling within Laketon Township boundaries only. The deputy is available to quickly respond to all types calls from burglaries to traffic accidents. The deputy also watches for speeding traffic in school zones and other areas. Property Checks are another service provided. If you are away from home on vacation or for any other reason the deputy will periodically check on the home. You only need to fill out a brief request form at Laketon Township Hall before you leave town. Statistics and reports showing the calls responded to within Laketon Township are available on the Muskegon County Sheriff's website at www.muskegonsheriff.com

With Muskegon Charter Township Fire Department services, Laketon Township currently enjoys an excellent fire rating from Insurance Services Organization (ISO Class 5). This number is very important to every homeowner because the better the rating, the lower your homeowner's insurance rates. For example: insurance on a Laketon Township home with a replacement cost of $150,000 at ISO Class 10 would be $1079 per year but with an ISO Class 5 it would be $858 per year: a $221 savings—estimates provided by Sheldon Parrish of Farm Bureau Insurance. If this example home had a $75,000 taxable value this 2 mills for public safety would cost $150 per year. In this example, a homeowner would see a monetary savings of $71 per year. A homeowner would also have the peace of mind that their home (which is often a family's single largest investment) is protected by the services of an excellent fire department. In addition to fires, the fire department responds to other emergencies such as traffic accidents with trained medical personnel.

We all hope we will never have need of these services, but when an emergency situation occurs police and fire services are essential to the safety and security of ourselves and our loved ones as well as our homes and property. Please remember to vote on Tuesday May 5, 2009.

Public Safety Millage RENEWAL Request
Vote on Tuesday May 5, 2009.

Laketon Township Parks and Recreation Committee

It has been some time since Laketon Township has had an active Parks and Recreation Committee. Several years ago the past committee worked on writing and adopting a Recreational Master Plan. Little work has been done since that time. Mullally Park, Lange baseball fields, fields for football and soccer, tennis courts, basketball courts and Green Creek Park are in need of a variety of repairs and updates, including new playground equipment, parking area repair etc. Laketon Township would like to get a committee in place to do the work needed to qualify and apply for any grant funding that may be available for making repairs and improvements to the park facilities.

The Laketon Township Board of Trustees is interested in reforming the Parks & Recreation Committee. This committee will be comprised of resident volunteers and should consist of people of all ages and backgrounds with a variety of interests. We envision meeting in the evening hours on at least a monthly basis, possibly more if necessary.

If you are interested in volunteering your time to your community by serving on the Parks & Recreation Committee, please submit a letter and/or resume to Supervisor, Kim Arter. You can mail this letter to the Laketon Township Hall, or e-mail it to karter@laketon.org

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Township Offices are closed on the following holidays:

Good Friday— Friday April 10, 2009

Memorial Day—Monday May 25, 2009

Independence Day—Friday July 3, 2009

Labor Day—Monday September 7, 2009

Columbus Day—Monday October 12, 2009

A complete list of holiday closings is available on our website: www.laketon.org

Snow Plowing Reminders

Laketon Township receives many calls regarding snow plowing questions and complaints every year. While we are hopeful that spring is around the corner and our snowplowing season is almost over we would like to issue a few friendly reminders about snowplowing do's and don'ts.

- **Do Not**—plow snow across or into public roadways in any way, this is against State Law & police can issue tickets.
- **Do Not**—blow snow into public roadways in any way, this is also against State Law.
- **Do**— try keep snow banks as low as possible near driveway entrances in order to keep site lines clear for safe entrance onto public roads.
- **Do**—for safety purposes be observant of traffic traveling the road when plowing or blowing snow.
- **Do**—try to remember to shovel out your mailbox so mail carriers can deliver you mail in a timely manner. Thank you for your consideration.

Spring Water/Sewer Construction

Construction on the water and sewer lines will be starting again in the spring. Our best estimate at this time is sometime after March 1st, 2009. Of course this is dependent upon the weather and the weight restrictions on the roads being lifted so that heavy trucks and equipment can again be transported on the roads. More updates will be posted on our website as they become available.

From the Supervisor—Kim Arter

I would first like to say it has been a very busy few months. I was officially sworn into office on Thursday November 20, 2008. Since then I have been very busy in my new roll as Township Supervisor. I have been working on transitioning into many committees and organizations and working with the supervisors of our neighboring townships and with many different Muskegon County officials.

I would also like to let everyone know that I have an "open door" policy. I would like every resident to feel free to contact me with their questions or concerns; by phone, e-mail or in person at the Laketon Township Hall. I will work hard to find answers and solutions to the questions and concerns of the residents of Laketon Township.

Sincerely,

Kim Arter

New Ordinance on Outdoor Furnaces

A few months ago, Laketon Township adopted an ordinance to regulate the construction and operation of outdoor furnaces. The Laketon Township Planning Commission worked for many months to create an ordinance that would promote and secure the "public health, comfort, convenience, safety, welfare and prosperity" for our residents.

These outdoor furnaces, which burn wood and other solid fuels, are increasing in popularity as an alternative to traditional heating sources such as natural gas, propane, fuel oil and electricity as these fuels increase in price. However, it is generally recognized that these devices can cause smoke, soot, fumes, odors, air pollution etc, that can be detrimental to citizens health and can deprive neighboring citizens of the enjoyment of their property.

The ordinance determines the areas where outdoor furnaces can be installed, requires permits and inspections, establishes setbacks from property lines and all structures/ buildings among other requirements and regulations. As for existing outdoor furnaces that were installed prior to the ordinance: the ordinance requires that all existing outdoor furnaces be brought into "compliance with the requirements hereof as near as is practically possible". Also, permit fees will be waived for existing outdoor furnaces until September 29, 2009. However, if a permit is not obtained by that date, all permit fees will be "re-instated in full".

If you currently have an outdoor furnace, are considering getting one installed or have any other questions or concerns, please call Laketon Township for more information. A copy of the complete ordinance can be obtained at the Laketon Township Hall or you can print a copy from our website at www.laketon.org and click on General Ordinances on the left side of the page.

"Patience and perseverance have a magical affect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish." ~John Quincy Adams, 6th President of the United States from 1825 to 1829