

Elected Officials:

Kim Arter—Supervisor

Christina Achterhoff—
Clerk

Lori Archer—Treasurer

Tom Kane—Trustee

Cindy Zaagman—Trustee

NOVEMBER 2, 2010 GENERAL ELECTION

It will be election time again soon. You **MUST** be registered to vote at least 30 days in advance of the election in order to vote. If you are not sure, please call Clerk Christina Achterhoff or Deputy Clerk Molly Jos-

lyn.

If you need an absentee ballot, contact the Clerk's Department at the Laketon Township Hall. Be sure to allow ample mailing time when you request and/or return

your ballot. All absentee ballots **MUST** be received by the close of the polls on election day.

Polls are open 7:00 am to 8:00 pm on election day.



Grant Award for the Bear Creek/Bear Lake Implementation 2 Project

Bear Lake is currently on Michigan's list of impaired water bodies due to excess algal growths and elevated nutrients, including phosphorus.

The Muskegon River Watershed Assembly (MRWA) was recently informed of being awarded a grant by the Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources Environment (MDNRE) for the Bear Creek/Lake Implementation 2 Project.

This \$278,845 pro-

ject is funded through grant funds of \$195,123 and matching funds from multiple sources—



including MRWA, West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission, area land owners as well as in-kind

match funds provided by Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Annis Water Resources Institute, Muskegon Conservation District, Muskegon Lake Watershed Partnership, Muskegon County Drain

Commission and Road Commission, the City of North Muskegon and the Townships of Cedar Creek, Dalton, Muskegon and Laketon.

Tasks to be completed will include: 1. Update Bear Creek/Lake Watershed Management Plan. 2. Address external nutrient loading through field investigations. And 3. Study internal phosphorus loading.



Laketon Township

2010 FALL NEWSLETTER

Assessor, Robert (Bob) Frain retiring after 31 years of service to Laketon Township

Please join the officials and staff of Laketon Township in recognizing the wonderful job Assessor Bob Frain has done. He has honorably served the residents of Laketon Township for 31 years.

Bob has been a

"fixture" at the Township Hall and will be dearly missed. We wish him much happiness in his retirement and upcoming relocation to Florida.

His longtime associate, Wanda Budnik, has been assisting him here in Laketon

Township for over 5 years. Wanda will now become the lead assessor. Wanda comes to Laketon Township with over 25 years of assessing experience.

Please join us in welcoming Wanda to the Laketon Township staff.

It's Back to School Time—Motorists, please remember the school zone!

It's that time of year again—the kids are back to school. That means a whole new morning schedule—and not just for parents of school age children. For many of us, we must now remember the buses are out during our morning commute or we must drive through the school zone on Giles Road.

A couple of common questions & answers regarding traffic laws and school buses are listed below.

Question: When do I have to stop for a school bus with red flashing lights?

Answer: A motorist meeting a school bus which has stopped and



is displaying 2 flashing red lights shall stop not less than 20 feet from the bus and shall not proceed until the red lights are turned off.

Question: Do I have to stop when I see a bus that has yellow overhead lights on?

Answer: When seeing yellow overhead lights a motorists should slow down and be prepared to stop.

For more details on the State law regarding traffic laws related to school buses, visit the Michigan State Police Website at: <http://www.michigan.gov/msp>

There is also an informative

document on school bus traffic laws on the Laketon Township Website. Also remember the school zone on Giles Road between Horton Rd and Buys Road. The speed limit during posted school times is 25 MPH.

School zone times can vary from school to school, but the posted times for the school zone here in Laketon Township are shown in the photograph at right.



Northside Lions Provide Volunteer Labor at Township Park

The Northside Lions are providing volunteer labor to install sidewalks for handicap/wheelchair access to the 4-plex of baseball/softball fields at Laketon Township's Mullally/Lange Park. Laketon Township is provided the materials being used to create the paved sidewalks. Once complete, all 4 fields will have sidewalk access and seating areas for wheelchairs.

Some of the Lions providing the labor are pictured at right: Ron Hansen, Windy Bradfield, Dennis Cobler, Ed Mouw, Dave Olsen, Harry Selleck and Fox Garabedian. Not pictured, but also working on the project: Jim Zook, Dennis Bates and



Dave Scouten and a host of others.

Thank you so much to the Northside Lions for volunteering their time and labor to help us provide handicap accessibility to the ball fields!



Are you planning a trip out of the Country? Passports can be processed at Laketon Township

Laketon Township Clerk Christina Achterhoff is authorized by the US State Department to process passports.

Passport books or passport cards are now required for nearly all travel outside of the United States.

Blank forms for new (first time) passport applications as well as renewal forms are available at Laketon Township Hall.

When you are ready to have your application processed call Clerk Christina Achterhoff (231-744-2454) to schedule an appointment.



State Department passport fees must be paid by check or money order made payable to the State Dept. and process-

ing fees must be paid separately by cash, check, money order or payable to Laketon Township.

If you have any questions regarding passports, required documentation, forms or fees, please feel free to call Laketon Township Hall or visit the State Department's website at:

http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html

CFL (Compact Florescent Lights) - How to clean up a broken CFL Bulb



Typical CFL

CFL's contain a little bit of mercury, which is a toxic heavy metal, and needs to be disposed of in a safe manner. Below are some suggestions from the West Michigan Environmental Action Council on properly cleaning up and removing materials from a broken CFL bulb.

1. Open a window & leave the room for at least 15 minutes. Placing a fan in the windows to blow the air out of the room is also a good idea.
2. Remove all materials you can without using a vacuum cleaner. Wear disposable rubber gloves if available—DO NOT use your bare hands! Carefully scoop up the fragments with a stiff piece of paper or cardboard. Wipe the area clean with a

damp paper towel or disposable wet wipe. Sticky tape, such as duct tape, can be used to pick up very small pieces.

3. Put all cleanup materials in a plastic bag and seal it. If no recycling options are available, private residents may dispose of the CFL in residential garbage, but be sure to seal the CFL inside of two plastic bags & put in the outside trash—DO NOT store inside! Wash your hands after disposing of the bag.
4. After vacuuming the area for the first time, be sure to remove the vacuum bag, seal inside two plastic bags and dispose of in outdoor trash. Empty and wipe out vacuums without bags and dispose of cleaning materials in two plastic bags placed in outdoor trash.

Recycling of CFL bulbs is available at the following locations:

Home Depot, 2699 Henry St, Muskegon call 231-755-0440

Muskegon County Health Department call 231-724-6246 or visit their website www.muskegonhealth.net/programs/environmental/recycling.htm

Muskegon County Public Works call 231-724-6001 or visit their website <http://co.muskegon.mi.us/solidwaste>

Michigan DEQ—Waste & Hazardous Materials Division—Call 1-800-662-9278

For additional information, visit West Michigan Environmental Action Council's website www.wmeac.org

Or, the EPA has guidelines on their website:

www.epa.gov/mercury/spills/index.htm

Printed newsletters with the above information are available at the Laketon Township Hall as well.

Preserve Water Quality—Plant a Tree

An abundance of pavement & lack of natural tree cover significantly increases the amount of water that flows into storm drains after a rainfall. Storm drains do not flow into the wastewater treatment plant, but typically to the nearest wetland, stream, river or lake. On this journey, the water flows over hot pavement which warms the water and it also picks up nutrients, excess sediment, oils, trash and other pollutants. These items are detrimental to Muskegon's most valuable resource—our natural waterways!

This pollution load quickly upsets the delicate balance of aquatic communities—causing decreases in water quality, harming fish and other wildlife and creating an abundance of slime and grime in our lakes.

So how can you help? Plant a tree! Trees provide more than just shade and aesthetic beauty. They provide oxygen, they absorb

rain and cool what they can't absorb.

They contribute to cooler air temperatures in urban hot spots, their root systems can actually filter contaminants by transforming pollutants into less harmful substances. In addition to all this, trees can also

provide better air quality, reduced heating & cooling costs and improved wildlife habitat.

"A typical medium sized tree can intercept as much as 2,380 gallons of rainfall per year!"

Don't Leave Lawn Care 'til Spring—Fall Tips for lawn care & leaf recycling

Fall is the best time of year to fertilize your lawn if needed and control weeds. Healthy lawns help area lakes and streams by preventing soil erosion & absorbing rainwater. When lawns soak up rainwater they decrease the amount of stormwater runoff funneling pollutants into lakes and streams. Below are a few tips to keep your lawn healthy in the fall.

- * Mow—to a height of 2 1/2 to 3 inches.
- * Water—as needed until the ground begins to freeze.
- * Fertilize (if needed) - mid to late October is the best time to fertilize your lawn. Use zero phosphorus lawn fertilizer and water

for 1 to 2 hours after fertilizer application.

* Control Weeds—September is the best time of year to treat for weeds like dandelions and clover.

Leaves are another fall issue to deal with—tips for recycling leaves are listed below.

* Compost—composting leaves recycles the nutrients

* Mulch—you can use leaves (whole or shredded) as winter or spring mulch.

* Mow—if you have less than 2 inches of leaves covering your lawn, you can leave

them in place and make several passes with a lawn mower. Shredding them thin will provide your lawn with valuable nutrients. Gradually reduce mowing height to 2 inches to prevent winter damage.

Reminder: The Township Yard Waste site is available for grass & leaf disposal. Residents are required to purchase an annual card for \$10.00 to use the yard waste site. The site is open Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm. Starting 10/17/10 it will also be open on Sundays 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.



2010 FALL NEWSLETTER

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www.laketon.org

*A premier Lake Michigan residential
and recreational community.*



Laketon Township Mission Statement

It is the mission of the officials and staff of Laketon Township to serve its citizens with courtesy, integrity, and efficiency, and to provide the best possible municipal services that will help to maintain and improve the overall manner in which our citizens live, work, and play.

HALLOWEEN

The Muskegon County Sheriff's Department makes the determination as to the day and time for Trick or Treat hours. This year, Halloween falls on a Sunday. Call the Sheriff's Dept. (231-724-6351) or check the Laketon Township website calendar about two weeks prior to the holiday for the scheduled day and time for Trick or Treat.



Also, here are a few guidelines to remember when sending the kids out for an evening of Trick or Treat fun.

1. Be sure a child's mask allows full visibility and breathing.
2. Have each child carry or wear something lit (flashlight or some type of glow stick or other illuminated device)
3. Avoid costumes that drag on the ground.
4. Adults should plan out a route in advance and stick to it.
5. Only trick or treat at houses that are lit.

Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources & Environment (DNRE) Recreation Passport to replace Michigan State Park Sticker

The Recreation Passport is Michigan's solution for funding your favorite recreation destinations, and it begins October 1, 2010.

Instead of spending \$24 for an annual motor vehicle permit or boating access permit, you will now be asked to support the Recreation Passport with a \$10 fee when renewing your vehicle registration with the Secretary of State.

When you Opt-In, your \$10 will do so much more than get you into the state parks:

- 80% will be used to rebuild & maintain your state parks & recreation areas
- 10% will be directed to your county, city & township parks through grant funding
- 7% will go toward your state forest campgrounds, pathways & non-motorized trails
- 2.75% will support your state park cultural & historic resources
- 0.25% will be used to educate & update you on the value of the Recreation Passport
- When registering a motorcycle, the fee is just \$5.
- There will be a designation on your normal license plate registration sticker to indicate you have paid the fee.
- Entering a park without opting-in will result in paying a Recreation Passport fee of up to \$20 or could result in a \$100 fine.
- Out of state visitors will still pay the \$8 daily or \$29 annual fee for park &/or boating access site entrance.
- Supporting the Recreation Passport gives you access to all 98 state parks & recreation areas, 133 state forest campgrounds, 879 miles of trails & every state-administered boating access site in Michigan.
- Camping fees will remain in effect.

Since 2004, Michigan State Parks & Recreation Areas have received no state tax support and are primarily funded through user fees.

The Recreation Passport legislation was created to prevent drastic cuts to park & forest programs—and it will take the support of outdoor enthusiasts to make the idea a reality.

For more information visit the Michigan Department of Natural Resources & Environments website at:

www.michigan.gov/dnre

Or Laketon Township's website at:

www.laketon.org