

Laketon Township

2010 Spring Newsletter

Yard Waste Disposal Site—Important changes you need to know!

As most people are aware, Michigan's economy is struggling. The news reports regularly on the struggles in the legislature with the State's budget and cuts they must make. One of the cuts the State has made is to the revenue sharing funds distributed to townships and cities. Laketon Township is realizing a significant reduction in the revenue sharing funds it receives from the State and will also be having to make cuts in it's budget this year. One large expense is the yard waste disposal site. In the past this site has been offered to residents free of charge. Costs of operating this site have been increasing. Costs to remove the grass, leaves & brush were up 30% from fiscal year 07/08 to fiscal year 08/09. Supervisor Kim Arter was able to negotiate a reduction in the costs to remove the brush that was

taken in, but the overall costs to remove all the yard waste taken in still rose by 19% this past fiscal year.

With reduced revenues and increased costs, the Laketon Township Board felt they had to come up with a solution to reduce costs while still providing a service to the residents. If the township did not offer this service it would cost residents approximately \$80.00 per year to have yard waste hauled away by a trash service. On February 18, 2010, the Board approved a new policy for operating the yard waste site.

Every Laketon Township household wishing to use the site must now purchase a Yard Waste Card at the cost of \$10.00 per year. This card can be purchased at the Laketon Township Hall during normal business hours. The card must be presented to the at-

tendant at the site each time the resident visits the yard waste site.

The Township recognizes this is quite a change, but it is one the Board felt was necessary. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding while we implement this change.

The Yard Waste Disposal Site hours have been determined for upcoming 2010 season and are as follows:

Spring/Summer 2010 to start Thursday April 1, 2010 (weather permitting). Open on Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays 10:00am—7:00pm

Fall 2010 (weather permitting) Sunday October 17, 2010 through Sunday November 14, 2010. Open on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays 10:00am through 7:00pm and Sundays 1:00pm through 5:00pm.

TidBits:

- **Burning regulations prohibit** the burning of leaves and garbage at all times. Burning permits are issued by Muskegon County for the burning of **clean brush only**. Call 724-6237 for more information on burning regulations & permits.

- **Delinquent Taxes:** All 2009 tax bills that remain unpaid as of March 1, 2010 are turned over to the Muskegon County Treasurer for collection and must be paid to the Muskegon County Treasurer's Office. Call 231-724-6261 for more information on delinquent taxes.

- **Need Home Improvements?** There are programs to assist low to moderate income households with needed home repairs, such as roofs, wells, insulation, electrical or plumbing repairs, heating issues etc. Call Neighborhood Investment Corp (NIC) at 231-727-0809 for detailed program information.

- **Are you in danger of foreclosure?** MSHDA, Michigan State Housing Development Authority has a variety of programs to assist homeowners in danger of foreclosure. If you are having difficulty making your mortgage payment, don't delay, call MSHDA's hotline at 1-866-946-7432. Make the call today!

- **Attention Senior Citizens (age 65 or older) and Totally & Permanently Disabled Person's:** Do you have a special assessment that you are having trouble paying? (like sewer or water connection fees) the State of Michigan has a deferment program that may help, if you meet income and other qualifications. Call the Township Hall (231-744-2454) for an application and instructions.

2010 YARD WASTE DISPOSAL SITE

Purchase your 2010 \$10.00 annual yard waste site card at the Laketon Township Hall prior to using the disposal site.

Spring and Summer Hours: April 1 thru October 16, 2010

Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays 10:00 am to 7:00 pm

Fall Hours: October 17 thru November 14, 2010

Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays 10:00 am to 7:00 pm

Sundays 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Above dates and hours are "weather permitting". Please call ahead during times of inclement weather. Thank you.

"Happiness depends more on the inward disposition of mind than on outward circumstances."

~Benjamin Franklin, United States Founding Father 1706—1790

UPCOMING ELECTION DATES FOR LAKETON TOWNSHIP

The following are the upcoming elections scheduled for 2010 in Laketon Township.

May 4, 2010—Reeths Puffer School Board Election (2 board seats up for election)

August 3, 2010 —Primary Election (various state offices, including the Governor)

November 2, 2010 —General Election (various state offices including the Governor and any proposals that are approved for election)

Participate in democracy and have your voice heard—remember to vote!

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.

Be an American Red Cross HERO

The 7th Annual "HEROES" for the American Red Cross Campaign is underway. There are a variety of ways individuals can participate.

There will be a "Heroes" Kickoff Breakfast at the Red Cross on Tuesday March 2, 2010 7:30 am to 9:00 pm.

For more information, contact Heroes Campaign Coordinator Anne M. Wheeler at the American Red Cross (231) 720-4234 or (231) 726-3555

Township Hall— Upcoming Holiday Closings

Good Friday— office closed on Friday
04/02/2010

Memorial Day— office closed on Monday
05/31/2010

4th of July—office closed on Monday 07/05/2010

If you need to drop off any bill payments, don't forget there is a mail slot on the west side of the building where you can drop off payments when the office is closed.

Laketon Township — Fee Changes for 2010

On February 18, 2010, the Laketon Township Board approved changes to many miscellaneous fees for services such as copies, Freedom of Information requests, notary services and returned checks to name a few. These new fees replace fees that have not changed since 1997. A complete list of these fees will be available from the office and on the website (www.laketon.org). Several of the most common services are listed below:

Miscellaneous copies— 8 1/2 x 11 paper \$.25 each for residents, \$.50 each for non-residents. Copies on larger paper sizes are more.

Notary Fees—\$2.00 per request.

Returned Check Fees—\$20.00 per check returned.

Freedom of Information Act Requests—labor costs for research & copy time plus per sheet copy fees (as established for the documents requested) and postage if mailed.

Property owners will not be charged for copies of information relating to property they own, unless requested under the Freedom of information Act.