

LAKETON TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

**SUMMER
2011**

TID BITS

- **FINAL NOTICE:** Laketon Township has discontinued the P.O. Box mailing address! **ALL MAIL** should now be addressed to Laketon Township at 2735 W. Giles Rd, Muskegon, MI 49445—if you have automatic payments set up through your online banking—please remember to change the mailing address!!!
- **Summer Tax Bills:** due by Wednesday Sept. 14, 2011. The office will be open that day until 6:00 pm for the acceptance of tax payments. Interest of 1% per month begins to accrue on unpaid taxes on Sept. 15, 2011
- **After-Hours Drop Slot:** There is a mail slot on the door on the west side of the Township Hall where mail, tax payments, sewer/water payments or other paperwork can be dropped off after normal business hours.
- **Muskegon County Recycling Guide:** An 8-page guide to the recycling services available in the Muskegon County Area is available at the Laketon Township Hall.
- **New Pages on our Website:** Check out our environmental, recycling and conservation pages—one page is specifically for kids with links full of educational activities & games.
- **Township Picnic Pavilions—** New this year reservations and a rental fee are required to use the picnic pavilions. Please call for more information.
- **Township Assessor—**Please be aware, the Township Assessor Wanda Budnik & her assistant will be out in the township doing field work so don't be surprised if you see her. She will have ID.

Summer Yard Chores Are Upon Us

Summer weather is upon us and with it come the summer yard chores; mowing grass, weeding gardens, planting and trimming various plants and bushes etc, all in an effort to keep our homes and neighborhoods looking their best.

Laketon Township has a yard waste disposal site for it's residents to dispose of grass clippings, leaves, small brush (under 3" in diameter) and garden waste. We cannot however accept any large root balls or large logs. This service is offered to residents at a cost of \$10.00 per calendar year. You can purchase your yard waste card in the office or at the yard waste disposal site.

You can bring acceptable items to the

yard waste site loose or in paper bags and drop it in the appropriate location (grass/leaves in the front pile and brush in the rear pile). If you bring items in plastic bags, you must empty them out and take the plastic bags home with you.

Laketon Township appreciates the hard work that many homeowners do to keep their property in tip top shape. However, some yards still go with little or no maintenance. An ordinance was adopted in 2004 to address the issue of lack of property maintenance with regards to grass, leaves, weeds and brush for the purpose of protecting the health, safety and well being of the residents of this township. The ordinance requires grass to be mowed, leaves picked up and "noxious weeds"

removed. Lack of compliance with the requirements of this ordinance can result in a civil infraction ticket being issued to the home owner or an order to have the yard mowed/raked and the home owner billed for said service. The full ordinance is available at the township hall and on our website (www.laketon.org), just click on the tab "General Ordinances" on the left side of the home page.

Thank you to all those that keep their yards maintained, neat & tidy. It shows how much pride we have in our homes and community.

Happy Summer!



Environmental Protection - It's Everyone's Responsibility

It has come to the attention of Laketon Township Officials and Staff, that there are some practices occurring in the township that are detrimental to the environment in various ways.

One issue is the dumping of grass, leaves etc. into "Fenner's Ditch". This waterway, leads directly into Bear Lake and dumping yard waste into the water adds chemicals, fertilizers and other nutrients into a water way that is already overloaded with them, which can cause the overgrowth of weeds and algae.

Another issue is the dumping of grass, leaves etc. into

roadside ditches. Roadside ditches are for drainage of water off area roads. When grass & leaves are dumped into the ditches water cannot flow as designed and can back up and cause flooding of roads and even homes in some cases, as happened in the spring of 2009. Flood damage is not usually covered by homeowner's insurance (unless you have specific flood insurance).

And lastly, another issue that has come to our attention is the dumping of grass, leaves etc into adjacent woods, wetlands or other undeveloped land not belonging to the person dumping the items. This is trespassing. In addition,

yard waste dumped into wetland areas is detrimental to the wetlands and disturbs their natural functions, such as filtering ground water.

Please dispose of yard waste responsibly—the Yard Waste site is available for just \$10.00 per year. For more ideas on what to do with grass clippings and leaves—such as composting & mulching, see our newsletter from Fall 2009—available on our website: (www.laketon.org) click on the Newsletter tab on the left side of the home page. Thank You for helping keep our world HEALTHY & GREEN!

"So here's to all those summer nights when my feet hit the sand and the waves break my fall and all my friends around me out number the stars." ~ Unknown



Memorial Day Program—Thank You

Laketon Township Officials would like to express their sincerest thanks to Debra Kane and Terry Bond. These two ladies donated and planted the red, white and blue flowers at the cemetery for the Memorial Day Program put on by the VFW. Thanks Ladies, your hard work was much appreciated and the cemetery looked wonderful for the event.



Free Summer Fun at the Library

Walker Memorial Library, branch location of Muskegon Area District Libraries is offering a variety of free summer activities for kids. From book clubs, toddler storytime, Monday movies, crafts for kids, manga magic classes & magical summer shows. Visit their website for more information: www.friendsofwalker.org or pick up a flyer/calendar at Laketon Township Hall

ALERT—INVASIVE PLANT —GARLIC MUSTARD

Garlic Mustard is a non-native, invasive plant species. It was brought to the United States from Europe as an herb in gardens. However, today, it is a prolific and invasive plant that is out competing our native plant species and changing our forests. Garlic Mustard out competes native plants and trees by controlling light, water and nutrient resources. The seeds of this invasive plant can remain viable in the soil for ten years or more and is spread by animals carrying the seeds in their fur and by people via their shoes and clothes. In addition, Garlic Mustard releases chemicals from their roots that hinder the growth of other plant species.

Garlic Mustard has been found in Laketon Township along Scenic Drive, which means it is probably all over the township. If you find Garlic Mustard pull it out by the roots, making sure to get the whole root as it can re-grow from a broken root. In small patches, you can also cut off the flower stalks before they set seeds. Visit the following websites for more information on Garlic Mustard and other invasive plants that threaten our native plants species:

<http://vimeo.com/2855779> This website has a short (about 10 minutes) video explaining the impacts of this plant and what to do when you find it.

www.naturenearby.org This is the website for the Land Conservancy of West Michigan and it contains boundless information on a variety of environmental topics, including garlic mustard.



Bear Lake Weed Treatment

The second treatment for weeds in Bear Lake is scheduled for the week of July 11, 2011—watch for brightly colored signs along the lakeshore. Please observe a 7 day ban from irrigation with lake water after treatment. An informational flyer is available at the Laketon Township Hall. If you have questions or concerns, you should contact Bear Lake Property Owner's Association at 231-744-4302. Thank You.

Summer Swim Program

Laketon Township Resident Children Only. The swim program is scheduled for July 18—July 28, 2011. The program is limited to children ages 6-12 and the cost is \$16.00 which includes transportation to & from the Muskegon YMCA. The program is space limited so register your child early. Call 766-3001 or visit their website: www.wlace.com for more information.

FREE— Sports-n-Shorts Program

Mullally Park in Laketon Township is one of the locations for the annual program. A fun mix of learning & activities for kids ages 5-12. A certified adult will lead kids in a variety of activities—sports, arts & crafts and games. Select sites will serve lunch—call to register your child for free summer fun 766-3001 or visit their website: www.wlace.com



Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

Special Collection Event: Saturday October 15th 9:00am to 1:00 pm—flyers available at the Twp Hall at the Michael E. Kobza Hall of Justice Employee Parking Lot

Go to www.co.muskegon.mi.us/HHW or call 231-724-6001 (select option #4) for more information

Regular Collections are on the 2nd & 4th Friday's of the month, May—October from 1—3pm at 1300 Keating Ave

Muskegon Area Medication Disposal Program—FREE

The next collection event is scheduled for 10/08/2011 at Norton Shores Fire Dept. from 10:00 am to 2:00pm. Items accepted: prescription drugs, over the counter meds, medication samples, medicated ointments & lotions, antibiotics, inhalers, steroids, cold & flu meds, pet medications, vitamins and now accepting Sharps in sealed/safe containers.

In addition, the following area pharmacies will collect medication in need of disposal during their regular business hours: Benson's Drug SavMor#17, Glenside Pharmacy, Hackley Professional Pharmacy, Lakes Campus Pharmacy, Westshore Professional Pharmacy and Wolf Lake Pharmacy. Please ask your pharmacist for more information on items they will accept.

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world."

~ Mahatma Gandhi (b. 1869 — d. 1948), political & ideological leader of India