



Voter Registration Deadline

Tuesday, October 9, 2012

You must register to vote at least 30 (thirty) days prior to an election. Therefore, it is required you be registered to vote by Tuesday, October 9, 2012, to be eligible to vote on Tuesday, November 6, 2012, in the General Election.

General Election

Tuesday, November 6, 2012

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

Absentee Ballots

If you will be absent from your community (or for any other qualified reason), you can request an absentee ballot. Absentee ballots are available by contacting Clerk Christina Achterhoff at: 231-744-2454.



Special Notes

- ◆ **Summer Tax Bills**—Summer taxes are due by Friday September 14, 2012. The office will be open until 5:00 pm that day only!!
- ◆ **Fall Yard Waste Site Hours**—Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays 10:00 am to 7:00 pm (October 14 thru November 18, 2012, Sundays from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm are added for fall leaf clean up)

U.S. Passports

Will you be traveling outside of the U. S. for the holidays? Spring break? Or some other occasion?

Laketon Township is a passport processing location. We have applications here in the office for new passport applications as well as renewals. For more information or an appointment, please call

Clerk
Christina
Achterhoff
at 231-
744-2454



Another FREE Electronics Recycling Event



The past 3 electronics recycling events have gone so well,

a 4th event has been scheduled for **Saturday October 6, 2012 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.**

The event will take place, as it has before, at Mullally Park. Signs will direct you into the driveway that passes directly by the tennis courts where you will drop things off and

then continue around the loop and back out onto Horton Rd. Accepted materials include:

TV's & DVD Players, CRT & LCD Monitors, Computers (including laptops, keyboards, mice & other misc. parts & cables), VCR's & VCR Tapes/cassettes, Telephone & cell phones, Microwaves, Stereos & speakers, Game consoles (Xbox, Playstation, Nintendo, etc), Handheld electronics

(ipods, cd players etc), Household batteries and holiday lights. Unfortunately, large appliances (stove, dishwasher etc) and air conditioners are not acceptable for drop off at this event.

This event is **OPEN** to anyone, regardless of residency. Any person, club, church, business or other organization is welcome to bring accepted items to this **FREE Electronics Recycling Event!**



PUBLIC SAFETY MILLAGE RENEWAL REQUEST TO MAINTAIN POLICE & FIRE SERVICES

Laketon Township will be asking voters to approve a public safety millage renewal at the election being held on November 6, 2012. This public safety millage was originally approved by voters in 2004 (for 2 mills) and renewed in 2009 (for 1.9570 mills) and is scheduled to expire in 2013, which is why the voters are being asked to approve a millage renewal request. Laketon Township is asking for a renewal of 1.9570 mills for the years of 2014 through and including 2018. The funds collected through this millage pay for police and fire services and fire hydrant rental fees, which are vitally important to this community.

Police Services: Laketon Township participates in the Muskegon County Partnership in Neighborhood Safety, also known as the PINS program. Participation in this program gives Laketon Township one (1) deputy dedicated specifically to patrol Laketon Township. This extra deputy is on patrol for 12 hours per shift and works a rotating schedule. By having this extra patrol car dedicated specifically to Laketon Township, there is a police presence close by and able to respond quickly to all types of calls, including traffic accidents, burglaries, vandalism etc. The deputy watches area roads for speeding traffic including the school zone on West Giles Rd in front of Reeths Puffer Middle School and Central Elementary. In addition, the deputy can perform "Property Checks". If you are planning to be out of town, you can fill out a brief form at the Laketon Township Hall and the deputy will periodically check on your home and watch for, report or investigate any suspicious activity.

Fire Services: Laketon Township contracts with Muskegon Charter Township Fire Department for fire services. This is the most cost effective way to provide the services of a fire department to the property owners and residents of Laketon Township. Muskegon Charter Township Fire Department currently holds an excellent Insurance Services Organization rating. Their rating is a Class 5, which covers anything within 5 road miles of a fire station, which includes the majority of Laketon Township. The ISO class rating is important to homeowners as it is one of the factors insurance companies use in determining homeowner's insurance rates. Generally speaking, the better the ISO rating, the lower the homeowner's insurance premiums should be. In addition to structure/home fires, the Muskegon Charter Township Fire Department responds to wild-fires (such as the ones that occurred in the Muskegon State Park in the summers of 2012 & 2011), traffic accidents and medical emergencies.

Fire Hydrant Rental Fees: There are 178 fire hydrants within Laketon Township where there are municipal water lines. The water system does not belong Laketon Township, but to Muskegon County. Muskegon County charges Laketon Township annual rental fees for these fire hydrants. The fire hydrants are important for quick access to water in the event of fire. This benefits not only the homes immediately adjacent to the fire hydrants, but to all Laketon Township homes as the fire trucks then have various water sources to draw from when the need to fight a fire arises.

Everyone hopes to never have the need for emergency services, but emergency situations can happen, and usually when they are least expected. In those emergency situations, police and fire personnel are there to provide critical and essential services needed for the safety and security of our families, our friends and our neighbors, as well as our homes and property.

Public Safety Millage RENEWAL Request
Please, remember to VOTE on Tuesday November 6, 2012

Carbon Monoxide: A Silent Killer

High levels of carbon monoxide can kill a person in just minutes! You can't see or smell carbon monoxide.

Carbon monoxide is called the silent killer because it is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas that is created by the incomplete burning of fuels like wood, coal, natural gas, propane, gasoline etc.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) hundreds of people die accidentally every year from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning as a result of improperly used, improperly installed or malfunctioning appliances, like household furnaces, water heaters, space heaters,

stoves, ovens etc. The EPA notes that even more people die from CO poisoning as a result of CO produced by idling automobiles. Prevention is the key—protect yourself and your family by following the EPA tips that follow

- Have all fuel burning appliances, like oil & gas burning furnaces or water heaters, gas or kerosene heaters, fireplaces and wood stoves inspected by a trained professional prior to the heating season every year.
- Install audible CO detectors; in homes & place them outside of each sleeping area.
- Never use a charcoal grill, hi-

bachis or generator in an enclosed area, like a garage. Even if the door is open, the CO may not be properly ventilated.

- Do not idle a car inside a garage.
- Before using a fireplace, make sure the flue is open for proper ventilation.

For more information on Carbon Monoxide and Indoor Air Quality, go to the EPA's website:

<http://www.epa.gov/iaq/co.html>

If you suspect or experience a carbon monoxide poisoning emergency, call 911 for emergency assistance immediately.

911

Halloween—Safety Tips

Halloween will be here before we know it. Here in Laketon Township, Halloween Trick-or-Treat activities have always taken place on the calendar day Halloween falls on, unless, the Muskegon County Sheriff's Department determines it should be held at some other designated time. Therefore, this year, Trick-or-Treat will be on Wednesday Oct. 31, 2012 from 6–8 pm.

Here are a few safety tips to remember:

- Be sure a child's mask allows full visibility & breathing or consider face paint instead of a mask.
- Have children carry or wear something lit (flashlight, glow stick, etc).
- Avoid costumes that drag on the ground.
- Adults should plan the trick or treat route in advance & stick to it.
- Only trick or treat at homes that have the lights on.



Home Security—What to do when you are out of town

According to the Michigan State Police, millions of dollars are lost each year due to a variety of crimes, including home invasion. The use of instinct, knowledge, common sense and awareness can make you and your home a tough target.

The State Police recommend the following steps to safeguard your home when you are away for any length of time.

1. Make your home appear occupied when you go out.
2. Leave lights on and the radio playing.
3. Keep your garage door closed and locked.
4. Use timing devices to turn inside lights on and off.
5. If you will be gone several days, arrange to have the mail and papers stopped or picked up.

The State Police also recommend the following with regard to “Key Sense”.

1. Do not hide house keys in mail boxes, planters or under doormats.
2. Do not put personal identification on key rings.
3. Leave only your ignition key with mechanics or parking attendants.
4. If you lose the keys to your home or move into a new home, change the locks immediately.

Check out their website for additional safety tips:

<http://www.michigan.gov/msp>

Also, don't forget, Muskegon County Sheriff Deputies will check on your home when you are away — just stop in to Laketon Township Hall and fill out a brief form and leave it for the Deputy.

“Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they could do this is by not voting.” ~Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1882—1945, 32nd President of the United States, 44th Governor of New York, Asst. Secretary of the Navy and Senator of New York.

Laketon Township—Mission Statement

WE'RE ON FACEBOOK!

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.

June Recycling Events for Electronics & Tires—Very Successful!!

On Saturday June 2nd, our 3rd (semi-annual) FREE electronics recycling event was held at Mullally Park. At this event, the following items were collected and recycled by Vintage Tech Recyclers.

Computers lbs	1,241
Monitors lbs	1,095
Printers lbs	441
TV's 2,509 lbs	
Misc 3,191 lbs	

For a total weight collection of 8,477 pounds of electronics, which were recycled & materials re-used, rather than dumped in a landfill as waste. Read the article below for information on the next FREE electronics recycling event scheduled for later this fall.

On Saturday June 9th, a scrap tire recycling/ collection event was

held at Mullally Park thanks to a MDEQ Grant an a partnership of Laketon, Fruitland and Dalton Townships. Each of the 3 townships staffed the collection event with **volunteers** comprised of township residents, township employees and township elected officials. Residents of each of the townships were able to drop off standard size tires (with or without rims) FREE of charge, but large/oversize tires were also accepted at a cost of \$3.00 each.

Initially the tire recycling company, C & M Rubber Recyclers, provided 2 full size semi-trailers to be filled with the collected tires. These 2 semi-trailers were completely filled with quite a few left over. While awaiting the delivery of the 3rd semi-trailer, additional tires were accepted and that trailer was completely filled as well. Collection totals for the 3 townships combined

are as follows:

- 3, 405 car tires
- 367 car tires on rims
- 78 truck tires
- 6 oversize tractor tires

The grand total collected was 3,856 tires.

Please let us know if you still have tires to dispose of so that we may determine if the need is there to apply for the grant again next year.



Laketon Township Treasurer Lori Archer, Trustee Cindy Zaagman & Supervisor Kim Arter shown here, were just some of the volunteers that pitched in to help at the tire recycling event.



Volunteers unload a truck and stack the tires in a large semi-trailer. Two semi-trailers were completely filled with tires!

Township Elected Officials, Boards and Commissions

Board of Trustees (Elected)

Supervisor: Kim Arter
Clerk: Christina Achterhoff
Treasurer: Lori Archer
Trustee: Cindy Zaagman
Trustee: Tom Kane

Zoning Board of Appeals (Appointed)

Brian Boersma—Chair
John McDonnell—Vice Chair
Gary Charles
Kim Arter—Secretary
Bob Neis
Roland Falkowski—alternate

Planning Commission (Appointed)

John McDonnell—Chair
Mary Marcil
DJ Hilson
Cindy Ackerman—Secretary
Tom Kane
Eric Anderson
Bob Schalow—Vice Chair

Board of Review (Appointed)

Bob Neis
Larry Loch
Rod Siegel
Mary Marcil—alternate