



SPECIAL NOTICE

Starting in mid-June 2012, Laketon Township will be conducting routine maintenance on the sewer manholes located in the township. This will continue through the month of July and possibly into August.

Laketon Township

2735 W. GILES RD, MUSKEGON, MI 49445
P-231-744-2454 F-231-744-2506
WWW.LAKETON.ORG LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

TIDBITS:

- **Yard Waste Site:** Hours of Operation—Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm Don't forget to purchase your 2012 \$10.00 yard waste card if you haven't already.
- **Burn Permits:** If you wish to burn clean brush, you will need to go to www.laketon.org and click on the "burn permit" link which will take you to the Michigan DNR website where you can find out if burning is allowed that day in your area or call the hotline at 1-866-922-2876. Paper "permits" are no longer issued. **"Burn permits are not required for small "recreational campfires"**.
- **Tax Collection:** For payments made in person, township hall hours are Monday—Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. On Friday September 14th, 2012—the office will be open until **5:00 pm** for tax payments. There is also an after hours drop box available. OR...you can pay your taxes at any Community Shores Bank!

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK ELECTION & VOTING INFORMATION

Dates to remember:

July 9, 2012—if you are not registered to vote, this is the last day to register to vote if you wish to vote in the August primary election.

August 7, 2012—this is the date of the Primary Election. Polls are open 7:00 am to 8:00 pm

October 9, 2012—if you are not registered to vote, this is the last day to register to vote if you wish to vote in the November general election.

November 6, 2012—this is the date of the General Election (included on this ballot is the Presidential race along with other Federal, State & Local offices) Polls are open 7:00 am to 8:00 pm.

General Information:

Precinct Voting Locations (Polls): In Laketon

Township there are now 3 voting precincts. There have been some changes to these precincts and anyone affected by these changes has been sent a new voter id card noting your voting location. If you do not have this information and need to know your precinct voting location, please call the Township Hall 231-744-2454. All precinct voting locations (polls) are open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm.

Absentee Voting: If you want or need to vote by absentee ballot you must first request and complete an absent voter application (many voters over age 60 get an application mailed to them by being on the absent voter list—anyone can request to be on this list). Once you complete the application you can be mailed an absent voter ballot. Once a ballot has been issued to you, it is



imperative that you return the ballot to the Clerk by the close of the voting polls on election day. If the ballot is not received by the close of the polls on election day, it WILL NOT count!

For any election/voting questions or to obtain an absent voter application, please contact Clerk Christina Achterhoff or Deputy Clerk Molly Joslyn at 231-744-2454.

Identification: Don't forget—photo identification (a driver's license in most cases) is required to be shown when you vote at the polls! You will not be permitted to vote without it!



Report streetlight outages

STREETLIGHTS—REPORT OUTAGES

Streetlights can be essential to the safety and security of a neighborhood. They provide visibility for pedestrians, children at play and the motoring public. They can also help to deter crime. If you notice a streetlight that is burned out, flickering off and on or malfunctioning in any way, you

can call the township offices to report the outage. We will need to know the address of the home nearest to the light and the nearest cross roads. We will also need to know the condition of the light—if it is completely out, if it is flickering or otherwise damaged.

Volunteers Deserve Big Thanks!

The annual Memorial Day Service at Laketon Township Cemetery is put on by the Don Rea Post VFW. Township residents Terri Bond, Deb Kane and Tom Schalk generously volunteered to help out. Terri & Deb donated & planted flowers while Tom provided & operated the sound system. On behalf of all Township residents, the Laketon Township elected officials say Thank You to these 3 wonderful people. Their time, energy and support was greatly appreciated.



PARTNERSHIP BRINGS SR2S GRANT FUNDS

Safe Routes to School (SR2S) is brought to you as a partnership between Laketon Township, Central Elementary, MDOT and The Michigan Fitness Foundation. On December 13, 2011 MDOT awarded a grant for \$265,664 to Central Elementary School & Laketon Township. Construction is tentatively scheduled for summer of 2012.

What is SR2S? It is a federally funded grant program to promote health & safety by encouraging children to walk &/or bike to school.

What does the grant provide? It provides for sidewalks to be installed from Central Elementary on W. Giles Rd, to Horton Rd, then south down Horton Rd to Dykstra Rd.

What does this mean? Students will have the opportunity to safely walk or ride a bike to & from school with a parent or as part of an organized group.

What else is part of the SR2S program? Education for all students on pedestrian safety along with encouragement and incentives to promote walking to school.

For more information, visit the following websites:

http://www.reeths-puffer.org/Elementary_Schools/Central_Elementary/saferoutes2school/

<http://www.saferoutesmichigan.org>

Tire Recycling Event—Thanks to the Volunteers

Thanks to a DEQ Grant and the partnering of Laketon, Fruitland and Dalton Townships, a tire recycling event was held on June 9th, 2012 at Mullally Park.

It was quite a successful event thanks to the help of several local volunteers. Volunteers from Laketon Township included residents Merritt Archer, Allison Arter, Victor Brenning, Denny Dykstra and Josh Fox as well as elected officials Treasurer Lori Archer, Supervisor Kim Arter and Trustee Cindy Zaagman. A sincere thank you to all that helped out. The event could not have been done without you.

GO GREEN—RECYCLE AT THE TOWNSHIP HALL

With the price of gas and the value of your time, don't spend your time or money driving too far to drop off items for recycling. You can do it right here at the Township Hall, which is centrally located in the middle of the township.

We take in CFL's (compact fluorescent light bulbs), household batteries, including cell phone batteries and batteries for cordless power tools (sorry no auto-

motive batteries).

Also, there is a Lions Club bin in the front entryway for the collection of used eyeglasses.

We will also take used cell phones. However, you may want to do an online search for companies that will PAY YOU for certain models of used cell phones.



RV'S, BOATS, TRAILERS ETC— ORDINANCE ON PARKING/STORAGE

Each year, Laketon Township receives complaints regarding the parking/storage of accessory vehicles; things like travel trailers, boats, motor homes, utility trailers, snowmobiles/trailers etc. The Laketon Township Zoning Ordinance regulates where such items are required to be stored. This ordinance has been in place for decades, going back as far as the 1970's. Zoning Ordinance Section 3.17 Accessory Vehicular Storage, is below in it's entirety.

- A. Unless associated with an approved home-based business, outdoor storage or use of house trailers, utility trailers, campers, trucks over 1.5 tons, buses, boats or any commercial or recreational vehicles shall not be permitted in a Residential District except as provided in this Section.**
- B. The outdoor storage of utility trailers, recreational vehicles with attendant trailers is prohibited within the front yard except that recreational equipment may be parked within any yard for cleaning, loading or unloading for not more than forty-eight (48) hours within a seven (7) day period.**
- C. Recreational equipment may be used for living or housekeeping purposes for a period not exceeding fourteen (14) days in any calendar year.**
- D. Where the configuration of physical characteristics of the lot does not make storage in the side or rear yard feasible, the Zoning Administrator may allow front yard storage after considering the effects on the surrounding property and the community. Inadequate area in the side or rear yard for the needs of the applicant shall not be a reason for permitting storage in the front yard. The Zoning Administrator may require screening as a condition for granting the front yard storage.**

At a public hearing held on 1/11/2012, language was proposed and discussed with the public to allow some flexibility on where these items can be parked. The proposed language would have permitted some parking of these types of items in front of homes, specifically, in "established driveways". The residents in attendance were overwhelmingly against any front yard/driveway parking, particularly in subdivisions. There were some that thought it unfair to regulate larger pieces of property in the same manner as subdivision lots. However, the language proposed at the public hearing was voted down by the Planning Commission and at this time, **the rules remain as printed above.**