



Laketon Township

Fall 2013

Tidbits

5 Year Master Plan Review—Community Input Needed

Laketon Township has begun the exciting process of reviewing the Master Plan. State law requires this document be reviewed every 5 years. This document is very important to the community as it sets forth a vision for the future of the township.

Laketon Township's Master Plan received a complete rewrite in 2002 and much of it was based on community input from a survey done in the summer of 2001. A five year review was done in 2008 and now that it is 2013, it is time again for another review. The Laketon Township Planning

Commission, an advisory body appointed by the Board of Trustees, is charged with this review. As more than 10 years have passed since the last survey, they feel it is time to gather the input from the public again and find out how they feel about various Master Plan topics such as community amenities, recreation, land use, natural resources, etc.

The Planning Commission & township staff are putting the finishing touches on a community survey. They finalizing their distribution plan and are excited to get it into the hands of the public,

have it returned and tabulate the results! Input from the community is essential to guide the future planning of Laketon Township—**YOUR opinions are vital.**

At this point, the Planning Commission anticipates holding a public town hall meeting once the results have been tabulated to announce and discuss the results.

Stay tuned for dates and times and watch for that survey to arrive in your mailbox!

YOUR opinions are important!

Results of the 5 Township Joint Tire Recycling Event

On Saturday June 8, 2013 at Mullally Park, Laketon Township hosted a 5 Township Joint Tire Recycling Event. The event was made possible by grant funding provided by the Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality. The 5 participating townships were Laketon, Dalton, Fruitland, Muskegon and Blue Lake. The grant funding made it possible to offer this event to residents of the 5 townships to recycle regular size passenger vehicle tires at no cost and oversized tires were accepted at a cost of just \$3.00 each.

Elected officials, employees and volunteers from each participating township were on hand at the event to unload the tires from resident vehicles. County Commissioner Terry

Sabo was on hand and provided a lunch for those working the event. There are a few photos of the event on the Laketon Township Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Laketon-Township>

The results by the numbers are:

- 4,340 passenger tires
- 506 passenger tires w/rims
- 44 semi-truck tires
- 18 semi-truck tires w/rims
- 1 tractor tire
- 12 misc. oversized tires

4,921 total tires were collected for proper recycling and are no longer blighting our com-

munities, or providing breeding grounds for disease spreading mosquitoes!

The results by Township are as follows:

- Dalton Twp: 1,152
- Fruitland Twp: 1,075
- Laketon Twp: 1,061
- Muskegon Twp: 987
- Blue Lake Twp: 646

A huge thanks to everyone that helped make this event successful!



- **FREE SHRED EVENT**—Saturday 9/21/13 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Michael E. Kobza Hall of Justice Parking Lot, 990 Terrace St. Get up to 100 pounds of your sensitive paper documents shredded for FREE! For more information call the Muskegon County Clerk's office at 231-724-6221

- **FREE Household Hazardous & Electronics Recycling Event**—Saturday 10/12/2013 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the City of Muskegon DPW, 1350 E. Keating, MI 49445 Call 231-724-6004 (option 4) for more detailed information.

- **Dog Tags**—available at Laketon Twp. Hall during office hours!

- **U.S. Passports:** Planning a trip out of the country? Clerk Christina Achterhoff can process your application for a U.S. Passport. **Please call for an appointment: 231-744-2454**

Ordinance Updates

Laketon Township has been working on updating some of its ordinances, some of which are nearly 4 decades old and contain obsolete language and rules.

On June 20, 2013, the Laketon Township Board of Trustees approved the adoption of two (2) new ordinances, one for the Cemetery and one for the parks. These ordinances replace the old outdated ordinances.

A few highlights from the Cemetery Ordinance, with regards to grounds maintenance and decorations follow:

- One (1) urn is permitted for each plot
- Urn liners can be placed starting April 1st each year and must be removed by November 1st each year. Holiday decorations outside of these dates may be placed 1 month prior to and 1 month following the holiday.
- No fences, shepherd hooks or glass items are allowed.
- All refuse of any kind or nature including, but not limited to, dried flowers, wreaths, papers and plastic flower containers must be removed from the cemetery within 10 days after a burial.
- After 10 days written notice to remove items from the cemetery, the Township shall have the right to remove and dispose of any and all growth, emblems, displays, containers or other items that have become unsightly, a source of litter or a maintenance problem.
- NO plantings of any kind shall be planted or placed outside of the permitted urn without written permission of the Township—items planted without said permission will be removed by the Township.
- Winter burials shall not occur without prior consent of the Township, may cost extra and could be prevented by inclement weather. If a winter burial cannot occur winter storage will take place with permission of the next of kin. Storage fees are the responsibility of the deceased's estate or next of kin.

Both ordinances are available on the Township Website (http://www.laketon.org/pages/general_ordinances/) or at the Township Hall.

Recycling Reminders

Several items can be dropped off at the Laketon Township Hall during regular office hours (M-F 8:30 am to 4:30 pm) for recycling.

- Regular household batteries (AA, AAA, C, D, button batteries, hearing aid batteries etc—NO AUTOMOTIVE batteries can be accepted)
- Cell phones—any variety, type or age accepted.
- Ink cartridges—various types of computer printer ink cartridges or toner cartridges
- CFL (compact fluorescent lightbulbs) - we DO NOT accept regular incandescent lightbulbs.
- Eyeglasses—The Muskegon Northside Lions Club has a bin in the entry to collect used prescription eyeglasses.

Be green and earth friendly—RECYCLE! The Laketon Township website also contains pages dedicated to recycling information and links to other organizations dedicated to recycling.

The Muskegon County Sustainability Office's website is a host of information including a County Recycling Directory, you can visit them at:

<http://www.co.muskegon.mi.us/sustainability/>

Election Reminder

The next election day is:

Tuesday November 5, 2013

As far as we are aware at this time, the ballot will include a bond request from Muskegon Community College.

As always, if you will not be able to vote on election day, please contact Laketon Township Clerk's Dept. 231-744-2454 for an absentee ballot.