



Spring 2013 Newsletter

TIDBITS:

- **Dog Licenses** can be purchased or renewed at Laketon Township Hall—questions? Call 231-744-2454
- **Dog Laws**—it is against County and State laws for dogs to run loose—they must be on your property or properly leashed. Violations are punishable by fines up to \$500
- **U.S. Passport Applications** can be processed at Laketon Township Hall—Call Clerk Christina Achterhoff 231-744-2454 for an appointment
- **Yard Waste Site**—Scheduled to open April 2nd, 2013—don't forget to purchase your 2013 yard waste card, cost is still only \$10.00
- **2012 Property Taxes**—any unpaid 2012 property taxes can be paid at the Laketon Township Hall until February 28th, 2013. Beginning on March 1, 2013 all unpaid 2012 taxes must be paid to the Muskegon County Treasurer's Dept. located at 173 E. Apple Ave, Muskegon 49442
- **Reeths Puffer Youth Softball League:** is looking for volunteers to work the concession stand and line the fields: email Mr. Vos at vosjerry@frontier.com or call Laketon Township

Laketon Township

Assessment Notices & March Board of Review

This newsletter is being mailed out with annual property assessment notices.

These notices are very important and are sent out for every property that has a change in value from the previous year. Please review this notice carefully. The notice contains the prior years values (2012) and the new values proposed for the current year (2013) and the change between these values. The notice will also contain information if there has or has not been a change in ownership from the prior year and whether or not the property has a principal residence exemption and what percentage the exemption is for.

If you do not understand or have questions about anything contained in the assessment notice, please do not hesitate to contact Laketon Township. Many times office staff can answer your basic questions, but if you have a more in depth question or complicated situation you will need to speak with the Assessor, Wanda Budnik. Wanda is in the Laketon Township offices on Monday's and Friday's from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Please call before stopping in because her work does sometimes take her out in the field to view a property.

If you do not agree with the values on the assessment notice, it is your right to appeal the values to the March Board of Review. The March Board of Review is the ONLY time each year that you are able to appeal these values. If you do not make an appeal to the March Board of Review you are not able to appeal to the State Tax Tribunal for that year, you will have to wait until the following March Board of Review to begin the appeal process.

If you wish to appeal the value of your property as contained in your 2013 Annual Assessment Notice, please call the Laketon Township Hall (231-744-2454) to make an appointment with the March Board of Review. The March Board of Review meetings are scheduled, in accordance with State Law, to be held on Monday March 11, 2013 from 3pm to 9pm and Wednesday March 13, 2013 from 9am to 3pm.

Spring 2013 Electronics Recycling Event—FREE FREE FREE

Once again, in partnership with Vintage Tech Recyclers, Laketon Township is hosting a FREE electronics recycling event at Mullally Park (1850 Horton Rd) on SATURDAY JUNE 1, 2013 FROM 9:00 AM TO 2:00 PM

This event is open to any person, business, school, church, club or other organization that wishes to responsibly dispose of electronics for recycling. The list of acceptable items is quite extensive and includes: TV's, DVD players and VCR's, video game consoles, computers, computer parts & monitors, printers, copiers, fax machines & scanners, phones, cell phones, typewriters, satellite dishes, small kitchen appliances (mixers, coffee makers, fryers, electric knives, microwaves, toaster ovens etc) holiday lights, irons, hair dryers, clocks, radios, heaters, fans, cameras, hand tools such as drills, screwdrivers, small saws, sanders etc. Materials NOT accepted include: refrigerators, dishwashers or stoves, liquids or liquid containing items, light bulbs, VHS tapes, mercury switches, thermostats, household batteries or Freon containing items. If you have questions about acceptable or unacceptable items, please call or stop in to Laketon Township for a flyer with a complete list. Or, visit our website.

[Www.laketon.org](http://www.laketon.org)

More Tidbits...

- **Laketon Township Cemetery**— Full burial spaces and cremated remains spaces available for purchase. There are resident and non-resident rates. Call for more information 231-744-2454 or visit our website: www.laketon.org and click on the Cemetery tab
- **911 Emergency Address Signs**— these green reflective address signs are available from The Volunteer Center of West Michigan, their phone number is 231-722-6600
- **Mullally Park/Lange Complex Picnic Pavilions**— If you wish to **rent** the picnic pavilions for a party, open house or other event, please contact Laketon Township. Rental fees are currently \$50.00 for 1/2 day (morning or afternoon time slots available) or \$100 for the whole day.
- **Township Hall Recycling**— You can drop off household batteries, cell phones, printer ink cartridges & CFL light bulbs for recycling at Laketon Township Hall during normal business hours.
- **Other Recycling**—check the recycling page on the Laketon Township website (www.laketon.org). There are numerous links to other recycling opportunities, click on the Muskegon County Sustainability website link—they have a county-wide recycling guide.



Spring Cleaning - Disposal & Recycling Options

Spring is traditionally the time of year we clean out our houses and garages to get rid of items we no longer want or need. When you tackle your spring cleaning this year, please think about looking around outdoors as well. Is there junk or scrap items laying around that may be in violation of Laketon Township's Anti-Blight Ordinance? Blight is something that spoils the look of a property and if left unchecked can damage property values. Blight can include unlicensed or inoperable vehicles, recreational equipment, mowers, tractors, auto parts, tires, scrap lumber, stockpiled yard waste, concrete, cinder blocks and other cast off items stored out in the open.

Laketon Township offers a discount dump card to residents, which will save you 1/2 of the minimum dump fee, up to 4 times per calendar year. The minimum dump fee is \$18.00 & covers up to 800 pounds, with the discount card from Laketon Township, your cost would then be \$9.00. The Muskegon County Landfill is located at 9366 Apple Avenue. Ph. 231-724-6001

Home Improvements—decks, fences, sheds or other projects

If you are planning a home improvement project, such as a deck, fence, shed or some other type of construction, be sure to know all the rules and regulations that apply to your property and project. Make sure you apply for and obtain any necessary permits BEFORE you begin your project.

Following are a few basic questions you may want to

The township offers a yard waste site (for resident use only). It opens April 2nd, 2013. Operating hours are Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm. In the fall, starting October 15th, 2013 the site will also be open on Sundays from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Yard waste site cards are \$10.00 per calendar year.

Sometimes your "junk" is worth money! Scrap metal and junk vehicles are purchased by salvage yards and lately, rates have been good for scrap metal. Following are some contacts that may be helpful:

Shoreline Recycling, 259 Ottawa St, 231-722-6081

West Michigan Recycling, 40 Harvey St, 231-773-7582

Sprague Auto Parts, 81 S. Getty, 231-726-2988

England Auto Parts, 2417 Whitehall Rd, 231-766-2469

Fodrocy Auto Parts, 3640 Central Rd, 231-766-3642

If you have other items to recycle:

Laketon Township is hosting a FREE electronics recycling event on Sat. June 1,

2013 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at Mullally Park (1850 Horton Rd) a second event is likely to be held in the fall, stay tuned & watch our website for more information.

Laketon Township has applied for another scrap tire recycling grant. If the grant is approved, the tire collection will take place in early June—**call for more information 231-744-2454.**

Muskegon County Solid Waste accepts household hazardous waste—call 231-724-6003 for dates /times or visit www.co.muskegon.mi.us/hhw Accepted materials include: mercury/mercury containing devices, anti-freeze, aerosol cans, oils, fuels, petroleum products, pesticides, insecticides, herbicides, acids and bases.

Note: paint can be donated to the Habitat for Humanity Restore on Ottawa Avenue or turned in at Port City Paints (located on 9th St 231-729-5911) for recycling where you'll get a coupon for a discount towards the purchase of paint at their store or old paint can be dried and disposed of with your regular garbage.

consider before getting started.

- Do I know where my property lines are?
- Do I know how my property is zoned?
- Do I know what the required setbacks are for my project?
- Do I know the building requirements for my

particular project?

- Do I need any permits from the township or any other governmental entity?

To avoid any potential time consuming or costly issues, please call Zoning Administrator David Sheehy or Building Official Rod Siegel to get the answers to these questions & more BEFORE you begin any project.