

Laketon Township



2014 Spring Newsletter

Local Government—Neighbors Serving Neighbors

TIDBITS:

- **Township Mailing Address:** 4 yrs ago Laketon Township cancelled it’s Post Office Box—ALL township mail MUST be mailed to: 2735 W. Giles Rd, Muskegon, MI 49445 YOU will be responsible for late fees for mail that does not reach us.
- **2014 Yard Waste Hours:**
Spring/Summer:
04/01/2014— 10/11/2014
Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays 10:00 am to 7:00 pm.
Fall: 10/12/2014—
11/30/2014 Tuesdays,
Thursdays & Saturdays
10:00 am to 7:00 pm &
Sundays 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Don’t forget to purchase your yard waste card—still just \$10.00 per calendar year!
- **Home Improvement Projects:** If you’re planning a home improvement project such as a deck, fence, shed etc, be sure you know all the rules & regulations that apply to your property & your planned project. Make sure you apply for and obtain any necessary permits from the Township (or state if necessary) before starting your project. Here are some basic questions to consider before getting started: Where are your property lines? How is your property zoned? What are the required setbacks for your project? What is the building code for your project? What are the wetland or shoreline setbacks, if applicable?

2014 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW—FOR CITIZEN PROTESTS

This newsletter is mailed with the 2014 Notice of Assessment. This notice is mailed to property owners annually to inform them of the proposed changes to property value. If the property owner does not agree with the proposed values for the upcoming year (in this case 2014), there is an appeal or protest process.

For a property owner to appeal or protest the value, the first step is the March Board of Review. Call Laketon Township at 231-744-2454 to schedule your appointment. Appointments for 2014 are available on Monday March 10th, 2014 from 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm and on Wednesday March 12th, 2014 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. If you or your designated representative are unable to attend in person, you are able to protest in writing. If you wish to protest in writing, please go online to

www.michigan.gov/treasury

where you will need to obtain the Petition to

Board of Review form (form# L-4035). Complete this form and mail it to Laketon Township along with your letter of protest. The form & letter MUST reach Laketon Township BEFORE the close of the March Board of Review, which is Wednesday March 12th, 2014 at 3:00 pm. Any written protests, mailed or hand delivered that do not arrive by the close of the March Board of Review CANNOT be heard by the Board of Review.

Filing a protest at the Board of Review is necessary to protect your right to further appeal valuation and exemption disputes to the Michigan Tax Tribunal and classification appeals to the State Tax Commission.

More information is included on the Notice of Assessment. Please be sure to read the notice in it’s entirety. If you have any questions, please call Laketon Township Monday—Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. The assessor is only available on Tuesdays & Fridays.

Township Ordinances—Things Every Property Owner Needs to Know!

Laketon Township has a number of ordinances to regulate, permit or prohibit a variety of activities and conditions. There are two types of ordinances; Zoning Ordinances and General Ordinances. Ordinances promote the safety, health and welfare of the residents.

Zoning Ordinances generally regulate land use and land use activities. For example:

- The Zoning Ordinance PROHIBITS recreational vehicles, trailers, boats, campers etc. from being parked/stored within any front yard, with the exception of 48 hours for loading/unloading & cleaning.
- The Zoning Ordinance PROHIBITS residential home rentals that are less than 30 days with the exception of some sea-

sonal cottages that can continue to rent for less than 30 day IF they were existing legal uses at the time the ordinance was enacted.

The Zoning Ordinance also contains regulations for the filling, clearing and excavating of land.

General Ordinances regulate other activities and issues such as:

- The Grass & Leaf Ordinance requires grass to be kept mowed and dead brush & leaves to be removed from a maintained yard. There are some exclusions.
- The Anti-Blight Ordinance regulates the keeping of unlicensed vehicles & RV’s, accumulation of junk items, garbage, yard waste, building

materials, etc. or other conditions regarded as blighting factors.

- The Animal Ordinance requires a minimum property size in order to keep horses or other livestock/fowl. In addition dogs may not be chained, tied or tethered to stationary objects, except temporarily and then only when attended.

The Laketon Township Zoning Ordinance is available on our website under the Planning & Zoning page. The General Ordinances are on their own page, listed alphabetically.

If you have any question regarding any of the ordinances, please feel free to call Laketon Township Hall at 231-744-2454 for more information.

In 2013, Where Did My Property Tax Dollars Go?

At some point you have probably wondered where your property tax dollars go after you pay your bill. Here is a list of all the millage items collected in 2013, how many mills for each item and to whom these dollars are distributed: the State, County, Township or School and it is noted if these are items that have been approved by a vote of the public.

Item Description	Millage Rate (2013)	To Whom these dollars go to
MI State Education Tax	6.0000 mills	State of Michigan
Muskegon County Operating	5.6984 mills	County of Muskegon
Laketon Twp Operating	0.9406 mills	Laketon Township
Reeths-Puffer Debt	8.3700 mills	RP Schools (voted)
Reeths-Puffer Operating <i>by those with a Principal Residence Exemption.</i>	18.000 mills	RP Schools (voted) <i>This item is not paid</i>
Muskegon Community College	2.2037 mills	College (voted)
County Museum	.3221 mills	Muskegon County (voted)
Veterans	.0752 mills	Muskegon County (voted)
Quality of Life	.3000 mills	Muskegon County (voted)
911 Central Dispatch	.3000 mills	Muskegon County (voted)
MAISD 3.258 mills voted)	3.7580 mills	Intermediate School (.5 mills allocated)
Library	.7490 mills	Muskegon County (voted)
Public Safety	1.9570 mills	Laketon Township (voted)

TOTAL MILLAGE: 48.6740 mills for NON-PRE properties (rentals, businesses, 2nd homes, etc.) or 30.6740 mills for PRE properties (owner occupied principal residences)

For owner occupied principal residences (those with a PRE exemption), 17.5350 mills or 57.16% of the bill is for millage items that were approved by public vote.

For owner occupied principal residences the items collected are broken down in percentages as follows:

7.2% to the Muskegon Community College, 9.4% to Laketon Township, 12.3% to the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District, 19.6% to the State of Michigan, 24.3% to the County of Muskegon and 27.2% to Reeths Puffer Schools. Combined, the 2 school districts account for 39.5% of the millage collected.

Upcoming Recycling & Disposal Events

Laketon Township is in the process of planning and scheduling several disposal and/or recycling events for 2014.

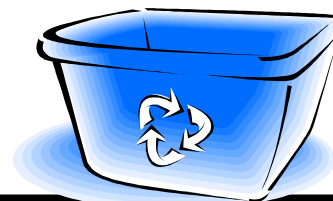
In recent years, we have held FREE electronic recycling events, FREE tire disposal/recycling events and last year for the first time we even offered a FREE clean up day where residents were able to dispose of household junk/garbage/debris etc (with no limit) completely free of charge.

Currently, we are working hard to coordinate with the various entities necessary to schedule these

events again this year. We do not have definite dates set yet, but please, keep your eye on the township website and Facebook page for more information or call the Laketon Township Hall for more information. We hope to have these events scheduled for sometime in April &/or May 2014.

These events are also dependent upon getting volunteer workers to help unload/load items from vehicles. If you are interested in helping out as a volunteer at one of the events, please contact Laketon Township. 231-744-2454.

Don't forget, you can always drop off, household batteries, old cell phones, printer ink cartridges, CFL light-bulbs & eyeglasses at Laketon Township Hall for recycling!



LAKETON TWP OFFICIALS

Board of Trustees

Supervisor: Kim Arter

E-mail: karter@laketon.org

Treasurer: Lori Archer

E-mail: larcher@laketon.org

Clerk: Christina Achterhoff

E-mail: cachterhoff@laketon.org

Trustee: Cindy Zaagman

Trustee: Tom Kane

Contact: Trustees can be contacted by leaving your name & phone number with the office staff at Laketon Township Hall.

Planning Commission

Robert Schalow

Cindy Ackerman

Paul Prentice

Paul Hoppa

DJ Hilson

Don Nellis

Cindy Zaagman

Zoning Board of Appeals

Gary Charles

Bob Neis

Cindy Ackerman

Kim Arter

Alternates: Roland Falkowski & Eric Anderson

Board of Review

Rod Siegel

Bob Neis

Alternate: Larry Loch

*There is a proposed appointee awaiting Board approval to fill one open seat on the Board of Review.