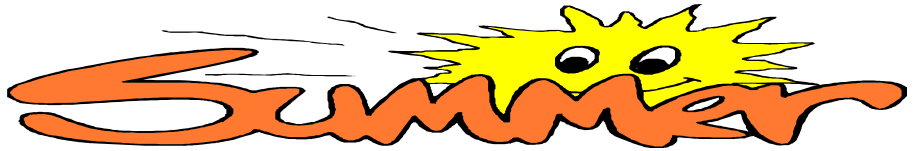


# Laketon Township

2014 Summer Newsletter



## TIDBITS:

- **Common Dog Problems**—The Dog Law of 1919—also known as the “Leash Law” is the law that requires owners to prevent dogs from running loose outside of their own yards & requires owners to license them. For more information on this law go to the State Legislatures Website at: <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-Act-339-of-1919>  
In addition to dogs running loose, the Township also gets complaints regarding folks walking their dogs along the roads & allowing their dogs to “answer the call of nature” yet not picking up the mess. Please remember, someone owns the property alongside the road ....please be courteous of others yards/property, clean up after your dog! Thank you!!

- **2014 WINTER TAXES**—just a friendly reminder, ballot proposals in Nov. 2013 for MCC & Feb. 2014 for MAISD for millage items were **approved by voters**, and will result in an increase in the millage rate and therefore an increase in your winter tax bill. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Laketon Township Hall, and ask for the Treasurer’s Dept. 231-744-2454

## Laketon Township Non-motorized Paths—Upcoming Construction & Map

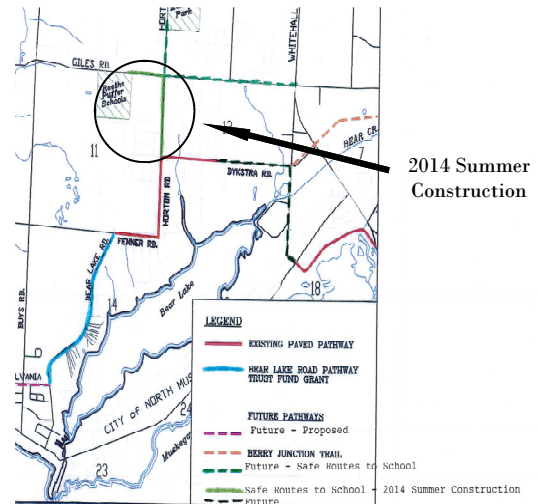
Phase 1 of the Safe Routes to School Path (both sides of Horton Rd between W. Giles Rd and Dykstra Rd and then west on W. Giles Rd from Horton Rd to Reeths Puffer Schools) construction will be starting sometime this summer, actual dates are still unknown as we are waiting on the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT).

This project is made possible due to the receipt of federal grant funding, which was the result of a joint application made by Reeths Puffer Central Elementary, Laketon Township, Muskegon County Road Commission, MDOT and The Michigan Fitness Foundation. The funds were approved some time ago and construction time is finally upon us.

Laketon Township, on behalf of the group, is asking for your patience during the construction of the path. Construction may cause some minor traffic inconveniences, which will hopefully be lessened with school being out for the summer. We believe the path will be well worth it when area children have a safe way to walk or bike to school and the rest of the community has a safe and beautiful place to walk, run or bike for health and recreation.

Once construction of this phase 1 portion of the Safe Routes to School Path is complete, there will be an approximate total of 3.25 miles of non-motorized pathway within Laketon Township for the entire community to use and enjoy.

A map of existing & proposed future paths within Laketon Township is available on our website: [www.laketon.org](http://www.laketon.org) and click on the Parks & Recreation Page



## Credit Cards are now Accepted at the Laketon Township Hall

Over the last few years, the requests from residents for credit card acceptance has grown. Treasurer, Lori Archer has been working on just this issue. She has investigated several different options for credit card processing to find the best option for residents. In the end, the company Point & Pay was chosen.

With Point & Pay as our credit card processor, Laketon Township is now able to accept credit card payments in the office for a variety of things; property taxes, permits, dog licenses, sewer utility bills, sewer assessments and cemetery purchases, almost any payment that is payable to

Laketon Township can be made by credit card (or debit card with a Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express logo on it), if paid IN THE OFFICE. The only exception would be water bills. If you wish to pay your water bill with a credit card you would need to contact the Muskegon County DPW at 231-744-4721.

Current law prohibits Laketon Township from paying credit card fees, therefore the credit card processing fees must be paid by the credit card user. These fees are charged by Point & Pay and are paid directly to them when the charge is made.

Laketon Township receives ONLY the amount of the bill being paid! The fee schedule for using your credit card is posted at the front desk in the office as well as online.

Speaking of online....Online bill pay for property taxes and sewer bills ONLY will soon be available. The final set-up steps are in process and are expected to be completed by the time this newsletter (and summer property tax bill) reach your mailbox; which is typically the first week of July! If you have any questions or concerns regarding credit card payments, please feel free to call. 231-744-2454



## Did You Know?.... From the desk of the Zoning Administrator

Did you know, or are you aware that the outdoor storage of unlicensed or inoperable vehicles (junk vehicles) is a violation of Laketon Township regulations?

The Laketon Township Anti-Blight Ordinance Section 3, Paragraph A, states vehicles that are unlicensed/inoperable for a period in excess of 30 days may not be stored outdoors. If you have a vehicle that is not licensed or is inoperable for more than 30 days, it must be stored "in a completely enclosed building or within Township approved screened areas".

The Anti-Blight Ordinance is available on the Laketon Township Website ([www.laketon.org](http://www.laketon.org) on the General Ordinances Page) if you wish to read the ordinance in its entirety.

If you have any questions regarding the ordinance or any of its requirements, please don't hesitate to contact Laketon Township. Office hours are M—F 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. The Ordinance Enforcement Officer works on Tuesdays & Wednesdays.

## NEW ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Laketon Township would like to introduce and welcome a new part-time staff person, Mr. Joe Stapel. Mr. Stapel was hired by the Laketon Township Board of Trustees to fill the vacant position of Ordinance Enforcement Officer. He comes to Laketon Township with 42 years of safety, security, fire protection and law enforcement experience. Joe will be responding

to complaints and violations of township ordinances—most often these complaints are related to a lack of yard mowing/raking, blight/junk cars, noise and barking dogs. If you have questions don't hesitate to call Joe directly at 744-2454. Summer hours for Joe will be Tuesdays & Wednesdays from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Please welcome Joe Stapel to Laketon Township.

1. Fences: fences that are to be erected along or near property lines are required to have a zoning compliance permit. Decorative fences for landscaping or around gardens that are inside the property boundaries are not required to have a zoning compliance permit—it's always better to ask in advance if you are unsure.
2. Sheds: sheds that are less than 200 square feet in area are required to have a zoning compliance permit. Sheds that are more than 200 square feet in area are required to have a building permit.
3. Pools: pools must have fencing as required by code, and a permit to install/construct the pool.
4. Ponds: before a pond can be excavated/dug on a property, a zoning compliance permit must be obtained for specific plans for the pond.

If you have any questions about these requirements or any requirements of the Laketon Township Zoning Ordinance, please call Zoning Administrator David Sheehy. He is in the office part time on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Office hours are M—F 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

## Free Clean Up Day & Scrap Tire Collection Events—STATS

### 05/10/2014— Free Clean Up Day Stats.

**Collected:** 13 dumpsters, totaling 66,340 pounds (or 33.17 tons) of household junk/trash/debris.

**Collected:** 8,160 pounds of scrap metals were collected and turned in for recycling. The funds received for the recycled metal offset the cost of hauling the dumpsters to the landfill by approximately 40%.

These cast off materials have been hauled out of our community for proper disposal &/ or recycling. Thanks to all—these events keep our community clean and beautiful!

### 05/31/2014—Scrap Tire Collection Event Stats.

#### Totals by Township:

Blue Lake: 330 Tires

Laketon: 771 Tires

Muskegon Twp: 818 Tires

Fruitland: 907 Tires

Dalton: 1,058 Tires

#### GRAND TOTAL: 3,884 Tires

Tires contribute to mosquito breeding, create a fire hazard & are a blight factor in our community. These tires have now been hauled away for proper recycling!

Thanks so much to all the volunteers that helped make these events possible & successful; township & county elected officials and staff.



Muskegon County  
4-H Youth Fair  
FREE to the Public!  
July 21—26, 2014 at  
the Muskegon  
County Fairgrounds  
Animal shows daily,  
petting zoo & fair  
games. For more  
information go to:  
[www.muskegonfairgrounds.com](http://www.muskegonfairgrounds.com)