



Laketon Township 2014 Winter

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Website: www.laketon.org Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Laketon-Township-Community-Information>



Increased Millage: MCC, MAISD & RP Schools on 2014 Winter Taxes

You may notice your 2014 winter tax bill includes an increase in the overall millage rate and therefore an increase in the total amount billed. There are a couple of reasons for this. First, there were 2 elections held, in which voters approved the following two millages:

On Nov. 5, 2013, the Muskegon Community College (MCC) put a proposal on the ballot asking the public to approve a bond issue for the purpose of “constructing, furnishing, and equipping the science wing additions including new science labs, the health education facilities additions and a new creative arts building; remodeling, refurbishing and re-equipping buildings and facilities; acquiring, developing and improving sites and supporting infrastructure”. The bond issue was approved by voters, therefore there is an additional .34 mills being collected for MCC this year (2014). The maximum length of time these bonds may be outstanding is 25 years.

On Feb. 25, 2014, the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District (MAISD) put a proposal on the ballot asking the public to approve a Regional Enhancement Millage. The question asked for voters to approve a 1 mill increase for a period of 10 years to “provide operating funds to enhance other state and local funding for local school district oper-

ating and capital acquisition purposes related to security and technology”. The voters approved this ballot question and starting with this 2014 winter tax bill an additional 1 mill is being collected for the MAISD. This 1 mill will be collected each year from this year (2014) through 2023.

Election results for these and all other elections can be found on the Muskegon County Clerk’s website:

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

Second, State Law required Reeths Puffer Schools to recalculate their debt millage. Public Act 437 of 2012, approved by the Governor on December 22, 2012, requires a school district to recalculate the computed millage necessary to generate sufficient annual levy proceeds to pay principal and interest on all of the school district’s qualified bonds and all qualified loans related to those qualified bonds. 2014 is the first collection year of said recalculation. In the previous 5 years, the RP debt millage levied has been 8.37 mills. This year (2014) the RP debt millage being levied is 9.37 mills. If you have any questions regarding this law and how it affects the millage rate levied on property taxes, please either call Reeths Puffer Schools at 231-744-4736 or visit their website at: www.reeths-puffer.org Once there, in the center of the page, under “announcements”, you will see several links for more information.

2015 Laketon Township Yard Waste Site Card—Order Form

There has been a \$10.00 annual fee to use yard waste site since 2009, and for the first time in 5 years, the fee is increasing. **THE NEW ANNUAL FEE IS \$15.00 FOR THE 2015 CALENDAR YEAR.** Remember, you must be a Laketon Township Resident to purchase a card and use the yard waste site. Also, we will issue up to 2 cards per household. Complete and tear off this remittance and mail to Laketon Township with the \$15.00 annual fee. **Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope with your payment and we will mail your 2015 yard waste site card back to you.** The card WILL NOT be mailed to you if you do not include the self-addressed stamped envelope.

Name(s): _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____ Circle Number of cards requested: **1 or 2**



MARC—Muskegon Area Regional Connections:

An Initiative of MATS (Muskegon Area Transit System)

Have you noticed MATS bus stop signs in new locations? Have you thought it would be nice to have bus service in the outlying areas of the county? Well, bus service is here and serving several areas outside the City of Muskegon.

Muskegon Area Regional Connections (MARC) is an initiative of Muskegon Area Transit System (MATS) to provide public transportation route services throughout Muskegon

County. New routes in Montague, Holton, Ravenna and the White Lake area started November 3, 2014!

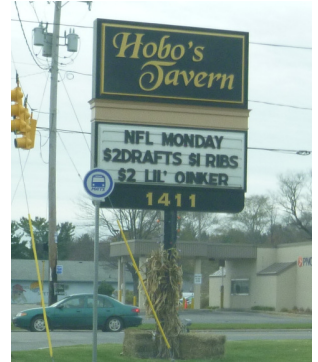
For residents in Laketon Township there are 3 stops in particular along Whitehall Road that may be beneficial. These 3 stops are located as noted below:

- W Giles Rd/Whitehall Rd intersection, in front of Hobo's Tavern
- Dykstra Rd/Whitehall Rd intersection in front of Huntington Bank
- W River Rd/Whitehall Rd intersection, on the northwest corner

Maps with stops/times for the new MARC service are available at www.matsbus.com (printed maps will be available at the Laketon Township Hall in limited quantities). Three (3) of the new MARC routes (Montague, Holton & Ravenna) also connect to the existing MATS routes around Muskegon.

Fares for the MARC routes are as follows: Standard Cash Fare \$2.50, Standard 10-ride Ticket \$25.00. Discount Fares for Senior & Disabled riders: \$1.25 Cash Fare and \$12.50 for a 10-ride Ticket. Existing MATS fares are available online. Cash fares can only be paid with exact change and children through age 5 may ride FREE when accompanied by an adult.

MATS even offers FREE workshops for anyone (seniors, students, churches, school groups, social services/case workers) and includes all the information you need to successfully use and navigate the bus system. Call Jason Tubergen for more information and class availability at 231-724-6420. All this information and more is available on the MATS website: www.matsbus.com or by calling the MATS Office at 231-724-6420.



Delinquent Sewer Usage Bills

Transferred to Tax Bills

Please be advised any property with a sewer usage bill that had an outstanding balance as of November 10, 2014: said outstanding balance plus a 15% penalty has been transferred to the 2014 Winter Tax bill for said property. This procedure is the same that has been followed for many years and is outlined in the Sewer Usage, Rate & Connection Ordinance, see below:

"Section 708. Lien. The Sewer Rates and Charges shall be a lien on the respective premises served by the System. Whenever any Sewer Rates and Charges shall remain unpaid on November 1, they shall be considered delinquent. The Township shall certify all delinquent Sewer Rates and Charges and penalties thereon each year as of November 10, to the tax assessing officer of the Township, who shall enter the delinquent Sewer Rates and Charges, interest and penalties, together with an additional penalty equal to 15% of the total, upon the next tax roll as a charge against the premises affected and such charge shall be collected and the lien thereof enforced in the same manner as ad valorem property taxes levied against such premises."

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Laketon Township Monday—Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. 231-744-2454

Online Bill Pay Now Available for Tax Bills & Sewer Bills

July 2014 saw the roll-out of online bill pay availability. Property owners and residents can now go to the Laketon Township website (www.laketon.org), click on the "Online Bill Pay" option and pay their property taxes and/or sewer usage bills online, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from anywhere in the world where they have an internet connection!

The online bill pay option takes payment via an e-check or credit/debit card. Four major cards are accepted: Visa, Mastercard, Discover Card and American Express. **There are fees associated with online bill payment. These fees are fully explained on the website, please read them carefully.** If you have any questions, feel free to call the township hall and staff will be happy to help you in any way they can.

TIDBITS

- **2014 Winter Taxes/Due Date: 02/17/2015**
Payment methods are cash, check, money order or credit card (additional fees apply to credit card payments). Payments can be made online at www.laketon.org. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Treasurer Lori Archer or Deputy Treasurer Veronica West 231-744-2454.
- **The Yard Waste Disposal Site:** the site will shut down for the winter season and will re-open in the spring. During the winter season a key is available for self service during regular office hours, until snow/ice prevent entry.
- **Township Hall—Upcoming Holiday Closing Dates:** Christmas Eve 12/24/14, Christmas Day 12/25/14, New Year's Eve 12/31/14, New Year's Day 1/1/2015, Martin Luther King Day 1/19/15 and President's Day 2/16/15
- **Transparency—**In Sept. 2014, Gov. Rick Snyder signed into law Public Act 252. In order to receive additional revenue, local municipalities must create a "dashboard" where residents can see the municipalities financial information. The Dashboard for Laketon Township is on the township website: www.laketon.org then click on the link provided in the right hand column. Questions can be directed to Treasurer Lori Archer.