

SUMMER 2015

Laketon Township

2735 W. Giles Rd, Muskegon, MI 49445 P. 231-744-2454 web: www.laketon.org

TIDBITS:

- **Historical Information:** If you have any old documents/photos/signs etc, we'd love to borrow them and put them on display here in the Township Hall in recognition of this year's sesquicentennial celebration!
- **2015 Yard Waste Cards:** the cost is \$15.00 per calendar year!
- **2015 Summer Tax Bills** are due on Monday Sept. 14, 2015. Keep all tax receipts for income tax filing! Partial payments are accepted. Summer deferments are available for those that qualify. If you have any questions, please free feel to call the township hall.
- **Upcoming Election Dates:** Aug. 4, 2015. Keep watching the township website and facebook page for future election dates and other election information.

Ditch Maintenance: Road Commission or Homeowner—Who's Responsible?

Water from the spring snow melt and rains can result in ditches full of water, flow issues and even flooding, when ditches/culverts are clogged. Laketon Township receives calls from concerned homeowners regarding ditches and water issues, most often in the spring, but anytime there is a lot of rain. Many homeowners are confused as to what they are or are not responsible for with regard to the roadside ditches.

Laketon Township asked the Muskegon County Road Commission Managing Director Kenneth Hulka where the responsibility for the ditches lies. He informed us, it is the road commission's responsibility to maintain the ditches. He further advised, "We try and keep the ditches functioning as well

as possible, but given our funding situation we are limited in how much we can do in any given year. When we find plugged up areas that are causing flooding issues, those areas do get priority." He added that most ditches function properly but sometimes they find tree branches or other debris clogging a culvert, or homeowners have placed yard waste (grass, leaves etc) or even snow and ice in the culvert under their driveway or in the ditch, which impedes the flow of water leading to flooding. Sometimes culverts can collapse due to age, which also causes ditches to cease working properly.

According to Mr. Hulka, driveway culverts are the responsibility of the homeowner to maintain and keep clear of any type of

debris. Homeowners should not place yard waste, grass clippings, leaves or any other type of debris in ANY ditch, doing so can cause water flow issues and flooding, not just on their property, but even many miles away. If you see issues with any roadside ditch, you can report it to the Muskegon County Road Commission by calling 231-788-2381 or online at:

www.muskegoncountyroads.org

There may also be some instances where roadside ditches run into County Drains. These county drains are under the authority of the Muskegon County Drain Commission. If you have questions about County Drains, you can call the Drain Commission at 231-724-6219 or visit their website at:

www.co.muskegon.mi.us/drain

Laketon Township Cemetery—Rules & Regulations Reminders

You may or may not be aware of the rules regulating the cemetery & gravesite decorations, markers, plants etc. Each grave/plot is permitted to have the following:

- One (1) marker/stone—excepting military markers and family markers for adjacent graves.
- One (1) urn for flowers/plants.

The following is a synopsis of the rules on markers:

- They need to be made of stone or durable material.

- They need an appropriate foundation, which will be constructed by the township at the owners expense.
- Maintenance/repair/upkeep of markers, urns etc are the responsibility of the family/heirs of the person buried at that location.
- The township will correct/repair/remove any markers/monuments that are broken, leaning or a safety hazard—at the owners expense.

For cemetery grounds maintenance purposes the following applies to

gravesite decorations and plants:

- **NO** flowers, decorations, shrubs, trees or vegetation of **ANY TYPE** shall be planted outside of a permitted urn without prior written permission of the Township. **ANY** of the foregoing items planted or placed without Township approval **WILL BE** removed by the Township.

Maintenance staff are currently working on removing any such items. The full ordinance is online at: www.laketon.org under the Cemetery Information tab.

"It doesn't matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop."
~Confucius, 551—479 BC, Chinese teacher, editor, politician & philosopher

“Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.”
~ Arthur Ashe, American Professional Tennis Player, b. 1943—d. 1936

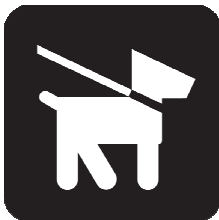
Laketon Township Animal Ordinance

One of the most common complaints the Township receives pertains to barking dogs &/or loose dogs roaming neighborhoods.

The Laketon Township ordinance states in part that: “No person shall keep any animal in the Township of Laketon in such a manner as to permit such animal to become a nuisance.” Excessive barking is considered a nuisance. The full animal ordinance language is available at www.laketon.org

In addition, the State Dog Law of 1919 Section 287.262 states in part it is unlawful “for any owner to allow any dog to stray unless held properly in leash”. There are exceptions for “working dogs such as leader dogs, guard dogs, farm dogs, hunting dogs, and other such dogs, when accompanied by their owner or his authorized agent, while actively engaged in activities for which such dogs are trained”.

Please, be courteous to your neighbors and keep all pets reasonably quiet, properly contained on your own property & properly leashed when off your property. Thank you.



Muskegon Central Dispatch has added a new public safety service to help provide important information to first responders when an emergency occurs. Smart 911 is available to the public, FREE OF CHARGE. This national safety service allows citizens to create a Safety Profile online that includes information about themselves and their household that they want 911 to have in an emergency. Things like how many people live in the household & location of bedrooms, pertinent medical information like diseases, handicaps, medications and allergies, if there are pets etc. Response

teams would have access to this information and can arrive at the emergency with a better overall awareness. Photos can even be uploaded to the profile and police would have access to them (in case of a missing person) in seconds rather than minutes or hours. Each household has the ability to customize their safety profile, adding whatever details they feel are important to them that 911 would need to know in an emergency. Smart911 is FREE, private and secure. The only time a safety profile can be seen is when the citizen calls 911.

In addition, Smart911 is a national service, and a safety profile travels with the user. If a citizen calls 911 in any location across the US that utilizes Smart911, their safety profile will be available to the 911 dispatcher.

For more information, you can call Muskegon Central Dispatch Executive Director Shawn Grabinski at 231-722-3524 ext. 222

or go to www.smart911.com for more information or to create your safety profile.

 **Smart911™**
Be Smart About Safety.

Sewer/Septic Tips to Avoid Problems

Whether you have a septic system or municipal sanitary sewer, problems can occur. Avoid some potential problems by observing the following:

1. Do not flush baby wipes or any other wet wipes—even if the product is marketed as a “flushable” wipe, they do not break down very well and cause clogs in the sewer and septic systems.
2. Do not flush sanitary feminine hygiene items—once
3. Do not flush medications of any kind, the Muskegon Area Medication Disposal Program has pharmacies & police departments that will take in controlled/non-controlled medications for

again, even if they are marketed as a “flushable” item, they do not break down very well and cause clogs in a septic system and get in municipal sewer pumps and cause problems.

proper disposal FREE of charge! Visit www.mamdp.com for a list of locations around town. Flushed medications end up in our ground water, lakes and streams causing a variety of contamination issues.

Call Laketon Township if you have a municipal sewer problem 231-744-2454.

For after hours sewer emergencies ONLY call: Chris Hall at 231-578-1646.

Invasive Plant Removal/Early Detection in Muskegon Lake/Bear Lake Coastal Wetlands

West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission (WMSRDC), with support from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, will address non-native, invasive plants around Muskegon Lake and Bear Lake shoreline areas. The program includes education, landowner training, volunteer training, monitoring and professional treatment of high priority areas on both public & private prop-

erties. Shoreline land owners, council members, and anyone else who may wish to be trained or volunteer is invited to get involved.

The program, by WMSRDC staff, conservation professionals, and ecological restoration consultants with GEI, will present an overview of the project, answer questions, distribute information on available resources, and provide oppor-

tunities for landowners and volunteers to sign up for trainings on control methods, demonstration events and volunteer opportunities for training exercises on Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR). Additional local resources will be presented as well. Please contact Gale Nobes at: gnobes@wmsrdc.org or 231-722-7878 ext. 22 for more information or to sign up.