

“Every summer has it’s own story.” ~unknown



2735 W. Giles Rd, Muskegon, MI 49445 P-231-744-2454 F-231-744-2506 website: www.laketon.org and also on Facebook

# Laketon Township

## 2016 Summer Newsletter

### Tibits:

- **Summer Taxes:** are due by 09/14/16—after this date interest will begin to accrue—at a rate of 1% per month.
- **Summer Tax Deferment:** If you are at least 62 years old (OR totally & permanently disabled) AND your annual income is below \$40,000, you may defer your summer taxes, this changes the due date (without interest) to 02/14/17. To defer your summer taxes you must complete & turn in an application (available at the Twp Hall) by no later than 09/14/2016. Please call for more information 231-744-2454
- **From the Assessor:** To those of you that have received an assessing questionnaire: Thank you if you have returned it—the job of assessing is much easier with up to date information. If you still have your questionnaire—there is still time to turn it in! Thank you!!
- **Dog Regulations:** All pets must be kept reasonably quiet & cannot run loose. When walking your dog, keep it properly leashed and pick up any droppings your dog may leave. Thank you for being a responsible and courteous pet owner.



## Upcoming Elections—Info you need to know:



### Primary Election Day — Tuesday August 2, 2016

**Primary Ballot Marking Instructions—Partisan Section:** There are two (2) party sections on the ballot: Republican Party and Democratic Party. Select the party section of your choice. **YOU MAY VOTE IN ONE (1) PARTY SECTION ONLY! YOU CANNOT “SPLIT YOUR TICKET”.** IF you vote in more than one party section, your partisan ballot **WILL BE REJECTED!**

**DO NOT** vote for more candidates than indicated under each office title.

### General Election Day— Tuesday November 8, 2016

**General Ballot Marking Instructions—Partisan Section:** No “Straight Party” option—A recent change to state law has removed the option to color in one (1) oval that votes for all candidates in ONE PARTY. You can still vote for all candidates in ONE PARTY but **you will have to color in the oval for each and every individual candidate you wish to cast a vote for.** This is called a mixed ticket—where a voter votes for the individual candidates of their choice in each office.

**Instructions that apply to BOTH ballots:** Check **BOTH** sides of a ballot—the ballot

may have two sides!

**Write-in Candidates:** to vote for a valid write-in candidate whose name is not on the ballot—write the name on the blank space provided **AND** color in the oval next to it.

**IF** you make a mistake—return your ballot to an election official and obtain a new ballot! **DO NOT** attempt to erase or correct **ANY** marks made in error.

READ ALL instructions on the ballot sleeve!

**If you ever have any election questions—please call Laketon Township Clerk Christina Achterhoff or Deputy Clerk Molly Joslyn. M —F 8:30 am to 4:30 pm**

## Can Emergency First Responders Find You?

Does your home display the address so as to be seen from the roadway? If not, emergency services may have difficulty finding you. In addition, display of the address so it is visible from the road is required by Laketon Township Ordinance #11081802. The numbers should be at least 4 inches high with a minimum width of 1/2 inch and be a contrasting color from the background. If your home cannot be seen from the road, an alternative is to place a sign at the end of the driveway or private road

where it meets the public road. The Muskegon County Citizen Corps Council has, available for purchase, highly reflective green & white address signs, commonly called “911 signs”. Order forms are available at Laketon Township Hall. More information on these signs is available by contacting Rhona Colbert at 231-724-6597 or by email at: colberttrjc@gmail.com

Ms. Colbert wanted to inform do it yourself installers that they need to install the sign at a height of four (4)

feet so that first responders can see it when seated in their vehicles—this is especially important in the winter when snow banks often get high enough to obscure them when they are installed lower.



*Improper installation shown above.*



*Correct installation shown here.*

“Listen more than you talk. Nobody learned anything by hearing themselves speak.” ~Sir Richard Branson: English business magnate, entrepreneur, investor and philanthropist—best known for founding Virgin Group, which includes Virgin Atlantic and Virgin Records.



## Tibits Continued:

# How the Property Tax Process Works

- **Facebook Page:** The page has been updated & re-launched. (the page name changed slightly to "Laketon Township Community Info".) The new page can be accessed using a link on the township website homepage ([www.laketon.org](http://www.laketon.org)) The old page still exists, but cannot be updated - so please "like" and use the new page!
- **Permits:** If you are planning a home improvement project; be sure to check and see if you need a permit for your project. Many don't realize if or when permits are required—especially when it comes to things like fences, siding, windows, roof replacement etc. Chris Hall is the Building Official and David Sheehy is the Zoning Administrator—both can be reached at various times at the Laketon Township Hall—231-744-2454.
- **Sports n Shorts—FREE summer program—**Mullally Park is again a park location for the sports n shorts program for kids age 5—12. One change this summer is all locations qualify for FREE lunch (even for kids up to age 17)! Space is limited—Registration is REQUIRED! Call White Lake Area Community Education at 231-766-3001 or 231-893-0515 or go online to [www.wlace.com](http://www.wlace.com) The program starts July 11th and runs M—Th until August 18th.
- **Summer Youth Swim Program—**Laketon Township Residents ONLY! - This program will be held again—For specific dates and to sign up visit [www.wlace.com](http://www.wlace.com) There is a small fee for this program.

## Tax Roll Timeline

### 1. December 31—Amounts Established.

The Assessor establishes: Property class, assessed value, taxable value and PRE%.

### 2. Late February—Annual Notice of Assessment mailed out.

### 3. March Board of Review -

Adjustments allowed by law:

Value changes, poverty & veterans exemptions, property class changes, assessment discrepancies, qualified agricultural exemptions, but NO PRE.

### 4. Assessor Changes—as permitted by law.

### 5. Summer PRE Affidavits turned in by June 1st

### 6. Original Roll at Summer Billing

### 7. July Board of Review—

Adjustments allowed by law:

Clerical Errors or mutual mistakes of fact, PRE Additions—current year and 3 prior years (unless previously denied, then no authority), qualified agricultural changes—current year only and only if not denied by MBOR, Veteran's exemptions—current

year only, immediate recappings—current year and 3 prior years, can only deny new PRE applications, not existing PRE's.

### 8. Winter PRE Affidavits turned in by November 1st

### 9. Adjusted Roll at Winter Billing

### 10. December Board of Review Adjustments—

Adjustments allowed by law: Clerical Errors or mutual mistakes of fact, PRE additions—current year and 3 prior (unless previously denied, then no authority), qualified agricultural changes—current year and 1 prior, poverty exemptions—current year only and only if not denied by MBOR, veteran's exemptions—current year only, immediate recappings—current year and 3 prior years, can only deny new PRE applications, not existing PRE's.

### 11. Adjusted Roll at Settlement.

## Statutory Due Dates, Interest & Penalty

### SUMMER BILLS

- July 1st, summer taxes become a lien against the

property

- September 14th, summer tax bill due date
- September 15th, 1% interest per month is added on unpaid summer taxes.
- February 15th, 3% penalty is added on unpaid summer tax bills. (tax only not admin fee)

### WINTER BILLS

- December 1st, winter taxes become a lien against the property
- February 14th, winter tax bill due date
- February 15th, 3% penalty is added to unpaid winter tax bills. (tax only not admin fee)

**Last day in February—**last day for the local unit to collect current year real property taxes.

**March 1st—**Settlement between local municipality and County. Unpaid real property taxes are turned over to the Muskegon County Treasurer for delinquent collection.

*Special Note: Dates "roll" forward to the next business day if it falls on a weekend or holiday.*

## Cemetery—Reminder of Rules & Regulations

Reminders: There are rules regulating the cemetery & gravesite decorations, markers, plants etc. Each grave/plot is permitted to have: **One (1) marker/stone**—excepting military markers and family markers for adjacent graves and **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 can 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, shrubs, trees, vegetation or decorations of **ANY TYPE** shall be placed **outside of a permitted urn.**

**ANY** of the foregoing items planted or placed in violation of the ordinance **WILL BE** removed. Maintenance staff are currently working on removing decorations, plants & any other items in violation of the ordinance.

The ordinance is online at: <http://www.laketon.org/Departments/CemeteryInformation> Please call if you have any questions: 744-2454