

LAKETON TOWNSHIP

SUMMER 2018 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE DESK OF THE BUILDING INSPECTOR

Do I need a permit for my project?

Check with the Laketon Township Building Dept. before beginning any home-improvement project. Permits are required for many kinds of projects; including electrical, mechanical (for heating & cooling), plumbing and building work.

As a result of getting a permit, an inspector will check the work. Inspections provide a measure of safety to protect your life and your property.

A few examples of projects that typically require permits:

- ◆ Roofing/re-roofing
- ◆ Replacing windows/doors
- ◆ Installing electrical outlets/fixtures
- ◆ Replacing/installing siding
- ◆ Installing a pool/spa or

hot tub

- ◆ Remodeling kitchens/bathrooms & basement finishing
- ◆ Installing/replacing appliances such as furnaces, boilers, water heaters, air conditioning, fireplaces or space heaters, etc.
- ◆ Building a garage or an addition; including 3 season rooms and decks/porches.
- ◆ Boundary fences & sheds, require zoning compliance permits

If you are planning projects contact Laketon Township to find out if you need a permit and what building codes or zoning regulation you must follow.

Laketon Township has state licensed inspectors to inspect building, electrical, mechanical and plumbing work done under permits issued by Laketon

Township.

Tips for Hiring Contractors

- ◆ Get several bids/quotes
- ◆ Get proof of licensing & insurance
- ◆ Get references and ask to see a job they've done
- ◆ Get a contract in writing; BEFORE you sign, make sure you completely understand the contract
- ◆ Have the contractor apply for all required permits for all work he/she will be performing
- ◆ DO NOT make final payment until all FINAL inspections have passed (and on a new home you have a Certificate of Occupancy).



For more information on permits and other home renovations, maintenance & building topics, please visit the Laketon Township website's Building Department page at:

<http://www.laketon.org/departments/building>

New information is added as it becomes available so check back from time to time.

Please also feel free to call the Building Inspector with your questions/concerns; due to the nature of the building inspector's job duties he is not always at his desk, so leave your name & number and he will return your call.



PRIMARY ELECTION—TUESDAY AUGUST 7, 2018

It's important to understand that the purpose of a primary election is for **each political party** to narrow down the candidates within their party to run for each office title. Then the winning primary candidates go on to run in the General Election against candidates from each of the other political parties. Therefore, voters may **ONLY** vote for candidates of one political party in a primary election! For example: Voters **MAY NOT** vote for a democratic candidate in one race and a republican candidate in another race. While this is important for all voters, it is especially important for absent voters. Voters in the polls feed their ballot into the tabulator and if the ballot is rejected for improper marking or

other mistakes, they will have the opportunity to get a new ballot & correct any mistakes. Absent voters mail in their ballots and they are fed into the tabulator on election day by the precinct workers. If an absent voter ballot is rejected due to errors such as "crossing over" by voting for candidates of different political parties—there is no opportunity for the absent voter to get a new ballot and the votes in the partisan section of the ballot **WILL NOT BE COUNTED**. Please call the Township Clerk if you ever have any questions about voting.

Instructions for marking the ballot are on the ballot sleeve, but they are printed here as well.



Ballot Marking Instructions For a PRIMARY ELECTION

Completely fill in the box next to the candidate choice with **blue** or **black** ink **ONLY**—do not use any other color ink

PARTISAN SECTION: There are 3 party sections—Republican, Democratic and Libertarian. Select the party of your choice—**YOU MAY VOTE IN ONE PARTY SECTION ONLY—you cannot split your ticket**—DOING SO WILL CAUSE THE PARTISAN SECTION TO BE REJECTED.

- DO NOT vote for more candidates than indicated under each office title
- To vote for a WRITE IN candidate—write the name on the line indicated AND darken the box next to it
- Check both sides of the ballot as it may have 2 sides
- If you make a mistake, return your ballot to an election official to obtain a new ballot.
- When you have finished voting, put the ballot in the secrecy sleeve so votes cannot be seen with the numbered stub visible & see an election official to get instructions for placing it in the tabulator.
- **For Absent voters: follow instructions on the envelope to return the ballot to the Township Clerk**



2735 W Giles Rd
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website: www.laketon.org

and on Facebook at: Laketon Township Community Info

Primary Election—Tuesday August 7, 2018

Polls are open from 7:00 am—8:00 pm

To find out if you are registered to vote, and where to go to vote, visit:

www.michigan.gov/vote

Or call Laketon Township at 231-744-2454



LAKETON TOWNSHIP—PUBLIC SAFETY MILLAGE RENEWAL REQUEST

In order to maintain police & fire services. Laketon Township will be asking voters to approve a **renewal** of the public safety millage at the election being held on August 7, 2018. This public safety millage was originally approved by voters in 2004 and renewed in 2009 & 2012. The approval from 2012 is scheduled to expire after the 2018 collection. Voters are being asked to approve a **renewal** request for 1.9298 mills (\$1.9298 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for the years of 2019 through and including 2023. The funds collected through this millage pay for police and fire services and fire hydrant rental fees, which are vitally important to this community. The average taxable value of a home in Laketon Township is approximately \$68,000, and this millage renewal would cost \$131.22 annually on a home of this value.

Everyone hopes to never have the need for emergency services, but emergency situations can happen, and usually when they are least expected. In those emergency situations, police and fire personnel are there to provide critical and essential services needed for the safety and security of our families, our friends and our neighbors as well as our homes and property. Read on for more details on police & fires services.

Police Services: Laketon Township participates in the Muskegon County Partnership in Neighborhood Safety, also known as the PINS program. Participation in this program gives Laketon Township one (1) deputy dedicated specifically to patrol Laketon Township. This extra deputy is on patrol for 12 hours per shift and works a rotating schedule. By having this extra patrol car dedicated specifically to Laketon Township it ensures a police presence is close by to respond quickly to any need of police services. The deputy also watches area roads for traffic issues, including speeding in the school zone. In addition, the deputy can perform “Property Checks”. If you are planning to be out of town, you can fill out a brief form at the Laketon Township Hall and the deputy will periodically check on your home and watch for, report and investigate any suspicious activity.

Fire Services: Laketon Township contracts with Muskegon Charter Township Fire Department for fires services. This is the most cost effective way to provide the services of a fire department to the property owners and residents of Laketon Township. Muskegon Charter Township Fire Department currently holds an excellent Insurance Services Organization rating. Their rating is a Class 5, which covers anything within 5 road miles of a fire station, which includes the majority of Laketon Township. The ISO class rating is important to homeowners as it is one of the factors insurance companies use in determining homeowner’s insurance rates. Generally speaking, the better the ISO rating, the lower the homeowner’s insurance premiums should be. In addition to structure/home fires, the Muskegon Charter Township Fire Department responds to wildfires (such as the ones that occurred in the Muskegon State Park in the summers of 2011 & 2012) as well as traffic accidents and medical emergencies.