

Laketon Township

Laketon Township 2735 W. Giles Rd, Muskegon, MI 49445 PH: 231-744-2454 website: www.laketon.org

New Playground at Lange Complex/Mullally Park—Phase 1

In September, Laketon Township organized phase 1 of a community build project to replace badly aging playground equipment located on the Lange Complex side of Mullally Park (to the east of the 4 plex of baseball fields). The old equipment was not compliant with current regulations and due to it being primarily made of wood it was rotting and becoming dangerous. Laketon Township maintenance staff first removed the old equipment and prepared the site for the new equipment.

Due to the forecast for heavy rains on day 2, work needed to be done quickly. Volunteers and staff were able to get all equipment assembled, installed and cemented into place on day 1 and all the weed barrier

and bark chip base down by lunchtime on day 2; before the rain started!

Volunteers from the Muskegon Northside Lions Club, the Knights of Columbus and individuals from the community as well as staff and elected officials worked hard to bring about a successful completion of the first phase of this project.

Laketon Township would like to sincerely thank everyone involved in this project. It will benefit the kids of our community and visiting children as well. Phase 2 is already in the planning stage!

More photos are available on Facebook—check out the *Laketon Township Community Info* page on Facebook!



DID YOU KNOW?

- ◆ You can check your voter registration/voting location and sample ballot online at www.michigan.gov/vote
- ◆ Anyone can vote by absentee ballot—no reason needed. To be put on the absent voter mailing list, email the deputy clerk mjoslyn@laketon.org
- ◆ You can have water &/or sewer utility bills paid by automatic draft from your bank account—email mjoslyn@laketon.org



- ◆ stop in to the township hall for a form.
- ◆ Anyone can report a streetlight outage online at Consumer's Energy website: <https://old.consumersenergy.com/content.aspx?id=6400> or call the township and staff can do it for you.
- ◆ If you no longer want or need your cemetery lots, Laketon Township MAY, at their discretion, opt to buy

them back at the original purchase price. Call for more information

- ◆ Anyone can report local road issues online at: www.muskegoncountyroads.org and click on "Service Requests"
- ◆ Open brush burning must be allowed by the DNR: this allowable status changes with the weather conditions, sometimes daily. For more info visit www.laketon.org and click the link provided under the "Brush Burning" heading.

Tidbits:

* **Inclement Weather Policy:** During the winter season, Laketon Township has a long-standing policy to delay opening of the township hall for 2 (two) hours when Reeths-Puffer Schools close or delay due to dangerous weather or driving conditions.

(The hall may completely close if weather conditions warrant) These types of delays or closures will be posted online at www.laketon.org, on the *Laketon Township Community Info* Facebook page and on WZZM TV 13, WWMT TV3.

(whenever possible WOOD TV8/WOTV 4)

* **Upcoming Holiday Closings - Twp Hall will be CLOSED on:**

- Christmas Eve 12/24/19
- Christmas Day 12/25/19
- New Year's Eve 12/31/19
- New Year's Day 1/1/2020
- MLK Jr Day 1/20/2020
- President's Day 2/17/2020

From the Zoning Administrator—Topic: **SHORT-TERM RENTALS**

Laketon Township has been receiving complaints from residents regarding neighboring homes being rented out short-term; with the ever increasing popularity of vacation rental websites like VRBO (Vacation Rental By Owner), Air B&B and others, there is concern that property owners just aren't aware of the regulations.

The Laketon Township Zoning Ordinance PROHIBITS short-term rentals as a residential use; which means renting out a dwelling or room(s) for less than 31 days or one calendar month (whichever is less) are NOT a permitted residential use. Districts zoned R-1 and R-2 allow for bed & breakfast establishments as a special land use. This means a bed & breakfast establishment MAY be permitted IF a Special Land Use approval is obtained from the Laketon Township Planning Commission. All Special Land Uses must meet a specific & strict set of

rules, go through an application process (including a fee and a public hearing) and go through site plan review to obtain the necessary approvals from the Planning Commission to build &/or conduct the operation of any Special Land Use applied for; depending on the type of Special Land Use, there may even be approvals from the Fire Department, the Muskegon County Road Commission and the Muskegon County Drain Commission required.

Special Note: renting residential space in this manner may also have an affect on a property owner's Principal Residence Exemption and may increase the property tax bill.

Requirements for bed & breakfast establishments outside of residential districts are different. Please Contact Zoning Administrator Theresa Maner with any and all questions relating to short-term rentals or bed & breakfast establishments in Laketon Township.

From Treasurer Lori Archer

Winter Property Taxes are due by Friday 2/14/20. By law, a 3% penalty is added to all unpaid 2019 property taxes on 02/15/20. Interest accrues monthly at 1% and on 3/1/2020 all unpaid tax bills are turned over to the County Treasurer.

Tax payments can be made by mail or in person at the township hall or any Community Shores Bank. **Partial payments ARE accepted.** Credit/debit card payments are accepted at the Twp Hall or online and incur a 3% convenience fee charged by the payment processing company. Online payments can be made at: www.laketon.org just click on the link on the home page. Call with any questions or concerns 231-744-2454

SNOW PLOWING, SNOW REMOVAL & OTHER WINTER REMINDERS

- Per the Sidewalk and Pedestrian Path Ordinance, **SNOWMOBILES ARE PROHIBITED on ALL "bike paths" &/or sidewalks in Laketon Township, including the wooden bridges.** Starting this year, metal bollards will be placed at entrances of the bridges on the Bear Lake Rd portion of the path which will prevent snowmobiles from accessing them, but will still allow pedestrian traffic to enter/exit the bridges for year-round enjoyment.
 - Laketon Township staff removes snow from the sidewalk & bike path so children can walk or bike to school all year round, PLEASE DO NOT plow or pile snow, ice or other debris on the sidewalk/bike path as it can damage snow removal equipment, injure workers & delay snow removal.
 - Fire hydrants: PLEASE DO NOT block fire hydrants in any way; with vehicles, yard ornaments/landscaping, or by plowing/blowing snow on them etc, doing so prohibits maintenance staff from being able to keep them accessible, clear and available in the event of a fire emergency.
- Thank you for your cooperation!

A Thank You to Eagle Scout—John Turner

The Laketon Township Cemetery stage area that hosts the VFW Veteran's Day program each Memorial Day was in need of maintenance. John power washed the stage & railing, scrapped off all the loose paint and completely repainted it all. He also performed cleaning work at the entrance of the cemetery.



The Board of Trustees presented a Certificate of Appreciation to John for all his hard work—it turned out very nice. Thank you and congratulations to John Turner on earning his Eagle Scout badge.

From the Assessor: A thank you to residents

The Laketon Township Assessor would like to thank all the residents that have been so cooperative and helpful when she has been out doing assessing "field work". If you received a letter indicating the assessor would be visiting your home and she did not make it, it is due to inclement weather preventing her from getting to all the homes she had planned. When the winter weather breaks in the spring, she will be back out working "in the field" again.

"Thank you everyone for all your help and cooperation!"

~ Wanda Budnik, Assessor