



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, yard waste or other debris clogging a culvert. Sometimes culverts can collapse due to age, which also causes ditches to cease working properly. **Driveway culverts are the responsibility of the homeowner to maintain and keep clear of any type of debris.** Also, homeowners should not place any yard waste, grass clippings, leaves or any other type of debris in any ditch, nor should anyone pump or discharge any water into any ditch; doing so can cause water flow issues and flooding, not just on their own property, but on other properties—even many miles away.

If you see issues with any roadside ditch, you should report it to the Muskegon County Road Commission by calling 231-788-2381 or online at:

www.muskegoncountyroads.org

County Drains are different than roadside ditches and 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 .

Sanitary Sewers ARE NOT Storm Water Drains

Residents are reminded that manholes are part of the sanitary sewer system and ARE NOT storm drains. Sanitary sewers are not designed to handle stormwater, and large volumes of stormwater entering the system can cause sewer backups into any/all homes connected to sanitary sewer, not just those threatened by stormwater. The financial loss of a sewer backup is potentially far more devastating than that of stormwater damage. It is a VIOLATION of township ordinance to open manhole covers and/or pump ANY stormwater into ANY sanitary sewer lines. Prohibited connections of stormwater put a substantial financial liability on ALL USERS of the sanitary sewer system. **Anyone found discharging stormwater into the sanitary sewer system is subject to citation—including fines.**

TIDBITS:

- **2020 Election Dates:**
Presidential Primary: 3/10/2020
Special (if necessary): 5/5/2020
Primary Election: 8/4/2020
General Election: 11/3/2020
If you have any election questions, or need an absent voter ballot—please contact Clerk Christina Achterhoff (cachterhoff@laketon.org) or Deputy Clerk Molly Joslyn (mjoslyn@laketon.org) or call 231-744-2454
- **Park Pavilion Reservations:**
Cost per time slot: \$75.00 for the Mullally Park Pavilion and \$50.00 for the Lions Pavilion on the Lange side of the park. Call for more information.
- **Yard Waste Disposal Site**—is available to Laketon Township residents only (no commercial entities are permitted to use the site). Residents must purchase a \$15.00 annual card at the Township Hall during regular business hours or at the yard waste site when it is open. The site is scheduled to open for seasonal hours starting 3/31/2020. Seasonal hours will be the same as in the past and are available online at www.laketon.org/general-township-info/yard-waste-household-waste-disposal-information
- **Building Permits:** if you are planning home renovations, repairs, additions, sheds, accessory buildings, fences etc—make sure you obtain any required permits before starting the project. Don't forget this may include permits for zoning, electrical, plumbing or heating/cooling work as well. Call with any questions 231-744-2454.

RECYCLING and/or DISPOSAL OPPORTUNITIES

- **FREE Clean Up Day**— Laketon Township again plans to host a FREE event where residents can dispose of household trash, junk, debris etc. The event is tentatively scheduled for Saturday 5/2/2020 — 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Please call for more information.
- **FREE Muskegon County Recycling Events**— Each year, the County hosts 2 events to accept the following materials for proper disposal/recycling: **household hazardous waste, scrap tires and electronics. They also accept up to 100 pounds of paper for shredding.** The events will be held on Saturday 4/25/2020 and Saturday 10/17/2020. Visit their website for more info:
www.co.muskegon.mi.us/777/Saturday-Hazardous-Waste-Events
- **FREE Medication Disposal:** prescription/non-prescription, controlled and non-controlled medications can be recycled—visit www.mamdp.org for a list of locations and dates/times available. A flyer is also available at Laketon Township Hall with this information.
- **FREE Scrap Tire Recycling Events:** Laketon Township Mullally Park Location: Sat. 5/2/2020 from 8:00 am to Noon. There will also be several other events around the county in various locations. More information will be posted as it becomes available—flyers will be available online or in the Twp Hall soon.
- **Local Recycling Guide:** visit the Muskegon County Sustainability Website for a complete guide:
www.co.muskegon.mi.us/1338/Recycling-Guide

March Board of Review

If you wish to appeal your 2020 assessed value, please call Laketon Township at 231-744-2454 to make an appointment. If you are unable to appear before the Board of Review in person, **you may appeal by mail.** You must complete form L-4035 and mail it to Laketon Township with your letter and any documentation of the facts to support your appeal, this mailing **MUST** be received by Laketon Township **BEFORE** the close of the March Board of Review at 9:00 PM on Thursday March 12, 2020. Please see your 2020 Notice of Assessment for more details on the March Board of Review, or call Laketon Township with any questions you may have.

Recreational Vehicle Outdoor Storage Regulations



Laketon Township has rules & regulations regarding the proper storage of RV's, which includes; motor homes, travel trailers, utility trailers, boats, snowmobiles, 4-wheelers and other similar items. These rules require that in order to be stored outdoors, these items must be operable, properly licensed and parked in the side or rear yard—long term parking in the driveway or on the side of the road is not allowed. RV's can be parked, temporarily, in front yards for no more than 48 hours (2 days) in a 7 day period for the purpose of cleaning, loading or unloading.

Water front properties are an exception; the waterfront side is the front yard and the road side is the rear yard—therefore, storage/parking of RV's is appropriate in the driveway or yard facing the road and should not be in the yard facing the waterfront.

The applicable ordinances are Section 3.17 Accessory Vehicular Storage of the Zoning Ordinance and Section 3.B of the Anti-Blight Ordinance. Both ordinances are available in their entirety online at www.laketon.org

If you have any questions about proper outdoor RV storage, please don't hesitate to call Laketon Township.

Corner lots are different in that they have 2 front yards—any yard that has frontage on a road, is considered a front yard.



Call MISS DIG 811—A FREE SERVICE

Whenever you plan a project that involves digging the law requires you to contact MISS DIG to have public utilities marked to avoid potential damages or serious injuries. **MISS DIG 811 is FREE**—so call or visit their website at:

elocate.missdig811.org to request these public utilities to be marked anytime you plan a project that involves digging. This includes: decks, patios, landscaping, fences, mailboxes, swing/play sets, home construction, additions, pools or garages etc. A MISS DIG information sheet is available at:
www.laketon.org/departments/building