



COVID-19/CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

SAFETY PROTOCOLS IN PLACE AT THE TWP HALL

When visiting the Laketon Township Hall in person, you will notice some changes in the way the building looks and operates. These may change over time as necessary. As of the writing of this newsletter:

1. It is still required by an Executive Order of Governor Whitmer for a mask (a face covering of the nose & mouth) to be worn when inside a building serving the public.
2. Laketon Township WILL follow CDC guidelines for social distancing, personal protective equipment and cleaning protocols for the safety of the public and employees.
3. Non-contact service continues to be available and encouraged. You may contact us by phone, email, postal mail or drop off payments (NO CASH) and other correspondence via the after hours mail slot/drop box currently located on the service door on the North West corner of the Township Hall building. This service will allow us to serve you in the safest way possible for everyone.
4. Curb-side service will also be available, as needed, for anyone uncomfortable wearing a mask (face covering) or entering the building at this time. Please call the office in advance (231-744-2454) to make an appointment for this service.
5. For meetings with elected officials or other staff (front desk services excluded) please make an appointment (by phone or email) with them.

Laketon Township Directory

Elected Officials	Name	Contact Info
Clerk	Christina Achterhoff	cachterhoff@laketon.org
Supervisor	Kim Arter	karter@laketon.org
Treasurer	Lori Archer	larcher@laketon.org
Trustee	Cindy Zaagman	zaagmanci@aol.com
Trustee	Tom Kane	debkane52@yahoo.com

Staff	Contact Info	Department(s)
Wanda Budnik	wbudnik@laketon.org	Assessing/Land Division
Chris Hall	buildinginspector@laketon.org	Building Official/Inspector & Water & Sewer Superintendent
Jim Hoppus	231-780-7414	Plumbing/Mechanical Inspector
Jeff Johnson	231-329-4465	Electrical Inspector
Molly Joslyn	mjoslyn@laketon.org	Deputy Clerk/Elections & Cemetery Dept.
Theresa Maner	zoningadmin@laketon.org	Planning & Zoning
Lee Marine	maintenance@laketon.org	Maintenance
Jeff Ream	enforcement@laketon.org	Ordinance Enforcement
Diane Sowa	231-744-2454	Front Desk
Amy Vos	frontdesk@laketon.org	Front Desk
Veronica West	vwest@laketon.org	Deputy Treasurer/Taxes & Permits

TIDBITS:

- **2020 Election Dates:**
 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
- **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 yard waste site when it is open. 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.
- **MISS DIG 811 is FREE**—so call or visit their website at: elocate.missdig811.org - whenever you plan a project that involves digging **it is required by law** you must contact MISS DIG to have public utilities marked to avoid potential damages or serious injuries. This includes: decks, patios, landscaping, fences, mailboxes, swing/play sets, home construction, additions, pools or garages etc.



RECYCLING and/or DISPOSAL OPPORTUNITIES

- **FREE Clean Up Day**— Laketon Township again hosted the FREE event where residents disposed of household trash, junk, debris etc. The event did have to be re-scheduled to a date later than normal due to the Coronavirus pandemic but was well attended.
- **FREE Muskegon County Recycling Events**— Each year, the County hosts two (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 fall event is currently scheduled for 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:** There is still one (1) tire disposal event scheduled for October 10, 2020 in Ravenna. Visit www.co.muskegon.mi.us/787/solid-waste or call them at 231-724-6001 for more information .
- **Local Recycling Guide:** visit the Muskegon County Sustainability Website for a complete guide: www.co.muskegon.mi.us/1338/Recycling-Guide

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 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, driveway culverts and private yards.

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.**