

Laketon

2735 W. Giles Rd., Muskegon, MI 49445



Township

PH. 231-744-2454 Fax. 231-744-2506

Farewell to Clerk, Edward J. Weessies

Mr. Weessies, who was elected to the office of Laketon Township Clerk in 1996, has decided to retire. Mr. Weessies has been of great value to the township these past 11 years. He has been involved in many projects, including the PINS Program (Partners in Neighborhood Safety) which resulted in an extra deputy dedicated to patrolling Laketon Township 7 days a week. Mr. Weessies has acted as the township's liaison with the Muskegon County Road Commission and advocated for many of the road improvements that have occurred during his tenure, including the traffic signal that was installed at the corner of Horton and Giles Roads. He has also been involved in the Clerk's Association as part of the legislative committee that meets every month in Lansing to relay local concerns to our State level Representatives and Senators.

Congratulations on the many accomplishments you have achieved which have benefited Laketon Township. Thank you for your years of self-less public service. Congratulations again Ed and good luck in your future endeavors. You will be missed!

TIDBITS

- Board Meetings are the 3rd Monday each month at 6:00 PM & Planning Commission Meetings are the 2nd Wednesday each month at 6:00 PM
- Visit our website at www.laketon.org A variety of basic/general information is available which may be of use to you.
- Watch for your 2008 assessment notice to arrive in your mailbox at the end of February 2009—Board of Review information is included in this notice.
- 2008 Dog Licenses can be purchased at the Township Hall from Dec. 1, 2007 to March 1, 2008. After March 1st, dog licenses can no longer be purchased at the Township Hall. Dog License fees are set by the County. For more information call 231-724-1246
- The Yard Waste Site is officially closed for the winter season. A key can be signed out in the office during regular business hours to dispose of any leftover leaves, natural Christmas Trees & storm debris under 3" in diameter during the winter. This site is for township resident use only. No contractors or commercial disposal companies are permitted to use the site.

Township Officials & Staff Directory

Name	Title	Phone or E-mail Address
Roland Crummel	Supervisor	744-2454
	Clerk	744-2454
Nancy Zeller	Treasurer	744-2454
Cindy Zaagman	Trustee	744-2454
Tom Kane	Trustee	744-2454
Rod Siegel	Building Inspector	231-206-3424
Tim Chorny	Electrical Inspector	231-557-3097
Jim Shereda	Plumbing Inspector	231-206-0755
Jim Shereda	Mechanical Inspector	231-206-0755
Wanda Budnik	Assessor	Friday mornings only 744-2454
Bob Frain	Assessor	Wednesday afternoons only 744-2454
Dick Grenell	Zoning Administrator	744-2454
Veronica West	Deputy Treasurer	744-2454
Molly Zaagman	Deputy Clerk	744-2454
Diane Sowa	Cemetery & Water/Sewer Depts.	744-2454

Property Taxes—8 facts you need to know

1. Property Taxes are billed twice per year—July 1st & December 1st.
2. Basic repairs to your home (such as roofing, siding or windows) do not increase your taxes.
3. Once you have received your tax bill the township will accept partial payments, just remember the tax bill must be paid in full by the due date to avoid interest/penalties.
4. Homes that are owner occupied qualify for the Principal Residence Exemption (formerly called Homestead Exemption). This exemption reduces your tax bill by 18 mills of school taxes—Rental homes, second homes, vacation homes and commercial property do not qualify for this exemption.
5. If your income is less than \$40,000 per year and you are at least 62 years old, you may qualify for a summer tax deferral. For more information contact the Township at 231-744-2454.
6. Assessment payments & delinquent water or sewer usage bills that are placed on the property tax bill cannot be deducted on your income taxes as property taxes paid—amounts for these items should be deducted from the total bill on your income tax forms.
7. On March 1st every year unpaid taxes are turned over to the County Treasurer for collection and can no longer be paid at the Township Hall.
8. Delinquent taxes are subject to the foreclosure and forfeiture process. A property and home can be seized by the State of Michigan and sold after just 2 (two) years of delinquency.

"We must have strong minds, ready to accept facts as they are." - Harry S. Truman

Laketon Township Permit Statistics

As of November 8, 2007, building department statistics for building/construction permits issued in Laketon Township are as follows:

2007 New Home Permits: 15

2006 New Home Permits: 33

2007 Addition/Alteration Permits: 30

2006 Addition/Alteration Permits: 33

2007 Accessory Bldg. Permits: 10

2006 Accessory Bldg. Permits: 13

2007 Garage Permits: 5

2006 Garage Permits: 9

2007 Roof/Siding Permits: 20

2006 Roof/Siding Permits: 52

2007 Pool Permits: 6

2006 Pool Permits: 2

2007 All Commercial Permits: 5

2006 All Commercial Permits: 23

Green Ridge/Bay Shore Subdivisions Water/Sewer Project—Update

Some time ago, the State of Michigan pledged funding in the amount of \$2.5 million dollars for the purpose of getting municipal water supplies to Green Ridge and Bay Shore Subdivisions. These subdivisions are located at the south end of Green Creek Road and on Memorial Drive between Green Creek and Weber Roads. This area has very poor quality drinking water due to ground water contamination caused by oil wells in the 1980's. The process of getting this project under way has been long and complicated.

At this time, it is anticipated that construction of the water & sewer project will start late this winter. Construction will begin with new pump stations required by the system. Once the pump stations are complete, construction of the actual pipelines should begin in the spring of 2008 and be completed sometime in the late summer or early fall of 2008.

The area roadways affected by the water and sewer line construction are as follows:

- Dykstra Road from Witham Rd west

to Horton Road.

- Horton Road south of Dykstra
- Fenner Road from Horton Road west to Bear Lake Road.
- Bear Lake Road south to Pennsylvania Avenue
- Pennsylvania Avenue west to Memorial Drive
- Memorial Drive between Weber & Buys Road
- Green Creek Road from Memorial Drive north to Cranbrook Avenue
- All of Green Ridge Subdivision
- All of Bay Shore Subdivision

This construction process will be inconvenient for drivers in the area, however the project will be conducted in phases and one lane will be kept open for local traffic and emergency vehicles most of the time.

Thank you for your patience while we work to improve services to our residents.

PHOTO ID REQUIRED AT VOTING PRECINCTS

Earlier this year, the Michigan Supreme Court ruled that requiring a voter to show photo identification prior to voting is constitutional. PA 71 of 2005 requires a voter to show a driver's license, state issued ID or other form of acceptable identification to vote. So far, this photo ID requirement only applies to those voting in person. The court decision will not impact those voting by absentee ballot. We will need to comply with this

requirement in all future elections, beginning in 2008.

We will be receiving more detailed information from the Bureau of Elections in the coming weeks and months. We will make information available to the public as soon as we can.

Your patience and cooperation with this issue would be much appreciated by the Clerk's office and all who work at the election polls.

Thank you.

LAKETON TOWNSHIP CEMETERY

Laketon Township owns and operates the cemetery located at the south end of Horton Road at the intersection of Fenner and Horton Roads. The Township sells grave sites, completes the opening and closing of graves at the time of burial and constructs foundations for grave markers. Please call the Township Hall for more detailed information on the costs associated with the above mentioned services.

NOTICE

The Township Hall will be **CLOSED** on the following days in observance of the Holiday Season.

Monday 12-24-2007 and Tuesday 12-25-2007
Monday 12-31-2007 and Tuesday 01-01-2008



Photo at left: A south west view of the Block House. This historic landmark is located in Muskegon State Park on Scenic Drive. The location provides great sunset views over Lake Michigan.

"Only our individual faith in freedom can keep us free." - Dwight D. Eisenhower