



LAKETON TOWNSHIP



Spring 2012

REMINDER:

Laketon Township has a rental policy, including fees for use of the Picnic Shelters at Mullally Park and Lange Complex.

The fee is \$50 for half a day (8 am to 2 pm or 3pm to dusk) or \$100 for the full day.

Please stop in to the Township Hall to reserve the Picnic Shelters!

COMMUNICATION!!

Good communication is important to any organization and perhaps even more so to local government, as we exist only to serve the residents of our local community.

Laketon Township strives to communicate as effectively as possible. In our efforts to accomplish our communication goals—cost became a consideration. So, in 2007 we began publishing one page newsletters, which are mailed with your tax bills and assessment notices to avoid additional postage costs. All Township Officials and select staff have e-mail addresses and a few years ago we re-launched the township website that is man-

aged and updated by existing staff (which saves costs) on a regular basis. On the website you can find information such as: a calendar with meeting dates, a news & information page as well as pages for the Treasurer's Dept., the Clerk's Dept., the Building Dept. and the Planning & Zoning Dept. and a variety of other topics are covered as well. To add to that, just about a year ago we launched a Facebook page (which is free) as a way to post important updates & notices quickly. We hope you find these methods of communication helpful—feel free to send us your feedback! We are here to serve and assist you!

NOTICES!

- **2011 Property Taxes:** were due Feb. 14th, if you have not paid yet, you can still pay by Feb. 29th and avoid them being turned over to the County Treasurer for delinquent collection! The office will be open Feb. 29th until 6:00 pm for the collection of property taxes.
- **Electronic Recycling Day:** Open to Everyone — Residents, Non-residents. Businesses, Organizations etc. —Scheduled for June 2, 2012 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at Mullally Park on Horton Rd in Laketon Township.
- **Dog Licenses:** Dog licensing procedures were changed by the County and are now being renewed based on the **month** of rabies vaccination shot —information & licenses are available at Laketon Township Hall **all year round!** Call or stop in for assistance!
- **2012 Yard Waste Site—HOURS OF OPERATION** starting April 3rd thru November 18th, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm. From October 14th thru November 18th, the site will also be open on Sundays from 1:00pm to 5:00 pm
- **Elections:** there will be a primary election on 08/07/12 and a general election on 11/06/2012 this year. If you will be out of town and/or need to vote absentee for any other qualified reason, you can call the Clerk's office to request an absentee ballot application. They are available about a month before the election date. 231-744-2454

2012 YARD WASTE CARDS—AVAILABLE!

Even though we've had an unusually mild winter, spring weather and warmer temperatures will be here before you know it! And with the warmer weather comes the inevitable yard clean up of leftover fall leaves and branches etc.

As you know, Laketon Township offers a yard waste site for homeowners/residents to dispose of grass clippings, brush (no larger than 3 inches in di-

ameter), leaves and other garden waste. NO stumps or root balls.

In order to use this site, residents/homeowners must purchase a yard waste disposal card at a cost of \$10.00 per calendar year.

This card, in addition to helping to offset some of the cost of running the site also helps us identify authorized users and

helps prevent unauthorized users & non-residents from using the site.

You can purchase your card in the office now or at the site when it opens for spring hours.

Or....use the "coupon" below and mail it to Laketon Township with a \$10.00 check and a stamped return envelope and get your card by mail.

For Purchase of 2012 Calendar Year Laketon Township Resident Yard Waste Disposal Card:

Name of Property Owner(s): _____

Property Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

Mail to Laketon Township, 2735 W. Giles Road, Muskegon, MI 49445—Don't forget to include the \$10.00 fee in the form of a check or money order (do not mail cash) and a postage paid return envelope!

Upcoming 2012 Election Dates You Need to Know

02/28/2012—On February 28, 2012, there will be an election for the Presidential Primary. Polls are open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. As this is a primary, you will be asked at the polls to chose whether you'd like a Republican ballot or a Democratic ballot. You may only vote for one or the other.

08/07/2012—On August 7, 2012, the Primary Election will be held for a variety of offices up for election this year such as; local township officials, U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, State Representative, Michigan Supreme Court Justice, State Board of Education & various other positions

with colleges/universities. You will be given a ballot at the polls, and you will have to chose to vote on either the Republican side or the Democratic side. You MAY NOT cross over in a primary election.

11/06/2012-On November 6, 2012, is the General Election in which you will be voting for President of the United States and the other offices that were on the Primary Ballot in August. You will be given a ballot at the polls containing all candidates for office. You MAY cross over and vote for candidates of different political parties on

this ballot or you may elect to vote "straight party" - the choice is yours and is secret. No records will show what candidates you what party you voted for.

If you have ever been interested in how the process works at the polls, now may be your chance. We are looking for people to work the polls on election days. If interested, please contact Clerk Christina Achterhoff or Deputy Clerk Molly Joslyn by phone or stop in to the township hall for more information.



Important Dates to Know:

07/09/2012—this is the last day to register to vote if you wish to vote in the August Primary Election

10/09/2012—this is the last day to register to vote if you wish to vote in the November General Election.

March Board of Review Dates 03/12/12 & 03/14/12

This newsletter is mailed to you along with your 2012 Assessment Notice. This notice is to inform property owners of the proposed values for their properties for the 2012 year.

All property owners should review this notice carefully. This notice contains the 2011 values, the proposed 2012 values and the amount of change in the values from 2011 to 2012. It also contains information on the Principal Residence Exemption and transfers of ownership, if any occurred.

The March Board of Review is held to hear the appeals of property owners regarding their State Equalized Value (SEV). If you wish to appeal this value, you should follow the instructions on the assessment notice to make an appointment with the Board of Review. The Board of Review will hear property owners appeals on 03/12/12 between 3pm and 9pm and 03/14/12 between 9am and 3pm. REMEMBER, please bring any documentation to support your arguments! If you are unable to attend in person, you may appoint someone to represent you

or you may also appeal in writing by sending a letter and any documentation to support your appeal to:

Laketon Township Board of Review, 2735 W. Giles Rd, Muskegon, MI 49445

Letter appeals must be received before the Board of Review concludes on 03/14/2012.

If you ever have any questions, the Assessor Wanda Budnik is available on Mondays and Fridays from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Sometimes a

To calculate your own increase or decrease for the 2012 tax year, use the formula below for a property with a 100% PRE (line 6 on your 2012 change notice)

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Taxable Value Increase or Decrease (change from line 1)} \quad \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \\ \times \quad \quad \quad .0306740 \\ \hline = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ this is the amount of increase or decrease from 2011} \end{array}$$

To calculate your own annual increase or decrease for the 2012 tax year, use the formula below for a property with a 0% PRE (line 6 on your 2012 change notice)

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Taxable Value Increase or Decrease (change from line 1)} \quad \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \\ \times \quad \quad \quad .0486740 \\ \hline = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ this is the amount of increase or decrease from 2011} \end{array}$$