

LAKETON TOWNSHIP

2735 W. Giles Road, Muskegon, MI 49445

PH. 231-744-2454 ~ Fax 231-744-2506 ~ Website: www.laketon.org

Summer 2008

WATER & SEWER PROJECT - UPDATE

The contracts for the water and sewer project have been awarded by the Muskegon County of Public Works. Contract No. 1 for \$2,097,957 was awarded to Schippers Excavating of West Olive. Contract No. 2 was awarded to C & D Hughes Construction of Charlotte, MI for \$6,779,006.

Construction should start sometime in late July or early August. For those in and around the construction areas, we are going to put forth our absolute best effort to keep everyone informed on a weekly basis. We are planning on using direct mailings, e-mail, our newly updated website and possibly even "POD"-casts (if feasible) to keep everyone up to date.

If you would like to be on an e-mail list for construction updates, please send your e-mail address to either Veronica West (vwest@laketon.org) or Molly Zaagman (mzaagman@laketon.org).

VANDALISM AT TOWNSHIP PARKS

Unfortunately, there have been several incidents of vandalism at Laketon Township parks already this year. There were newly installed soap dispensers ripped off the walls in the men's restrooms and a toilet was smashed. There is an almost constant battle with graffiti to be cleaned off walls, playground equipment, picnic tables etc. Most recently, a fire was set in a port-a-jon which completely destroyed the unit and left a burned area nearly 20 feet wide.

Incidents of vandalism result in the expenditure of township funds (your tax dollars) for the repair or replacement of destroyed items. Maintenance personnel spend many hours cleaning and repairing the mess and destruction left behind by these vandals. Please help us keep our parks safe and beautiful for everyone's enjoyment and keep unnecessary expenses down—please report any suspicious activity to the police.

AFTER HOURS DROP BOX

Laketon Township has a mail slot on the door on the west side of the building (facing Green Creek Rd). Please use this mail slot to drop off after hours payments, such as taxes, water bills and sewer bills. If you use the after hours mail slot/drop box, please put the payment and other information in a sealed envelope. Also, DO NOT leave cash! Laketon Township will not be responsible for cash payments left in this drop box.

Insert mail/payment here

WWW.LAKETON.ORG

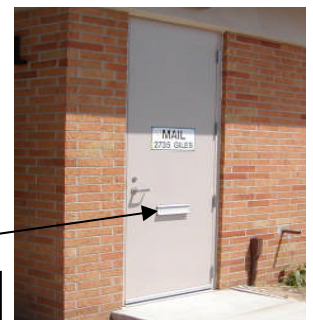
RE-DESIGNED & RE-LAUNCHED

The Laketon Township Website has recently been re-designed and re-launched. The site has new features, including; a photo gallery, frequently asked questions & answers (FAQ's), a calendar of events, links to other community organizations and links to your elected officials e-mail addresses. The Calendar of Events includes meeting dates, times and agendas.

Some of the old features have been upgraded and carried over to the new site, including; general information, cemetery information, township history, park information, links to youth sports groups and links to police and emergency service organizations.

More features will continue to be added as it becomes available—such as building dept information, planning & zoning information, election information and meeting minutes.

We welcome any suggestions you may have to keep our website informative and useful to our residents.



NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTMENT CORPORATION— (NIC)

What is Neighborhood Investment Corporation or "NIC" ? NIC is an organization that administers funding obtained from Michigan State Housing Development Authority to help low to moderate income homeowners (50% to 80% of median income) in Muskegon County rehabilitate their primary residence. The program offers emergency repairs to qualifying applicants for things such as replacement/repair of furnaces, wells, septic systems. The program also offers non-emergency repairs to bring the home up to HUD's Housing Quality Standards, repairs can include (but are not limited to) roofs, plumbing, electrical, heating, siding, wells, septic systems, handicap upgrades, windows, doors, energy efficiency etc. All repairs must be done by licensed contractors. This program is a loan program for low to moderate income homeowners. Interest rates and payment plans are based on income levels.

Neighborhood Investment Corporation also offers classes and programs relating to a variety of homeowner issues, such as financial literacy, credit repair, homeowner basics part 1 & part 2. Foreclosure prevention assistance programs are offered as well. Many of the classes are open to anyone regardless of income. Call Neighborhood Investment Corporation for details 231-727-0809 or TTY 800-649-3777. You can also pick up informational pamphlets at the Township Hall.

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Special Assessment Deferment for Senior Citizens or those persons that are Totally and Permanently Disabled

If you owe a special assessment over \$300.00, (such as a water or sewer hook up or road paving) and you meet the qualifications of the program, the State of Michigan could be of assistance to you. Household income is one of the criteria used to determine eligibility for the program.

A deferment, if granted, is a loan to the homeowner from the State. It does not release the homeowner from their obligation to pay the special assessment, but it does delay payment of the special assessment. Also, if the deferment of the special assessment is granted, it becomes a lien on the property in favor of the State of Michigan and interest accrues at a rate 1/2 of 1% per month until repaid to the State. Repayment is required when the home is sold or transferred to a new owner or within 12 months of the death of the owner. Application forms with instructions and program qualifications are available at the Laketon Township Hall.

Upcoming Elections

- August 5, 2008—Primary Election
- November 4, 2008—General Election

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

You must be registered to vote at least 30 days prior to the election date in order to be able to vote in that election.

You can register to vote at the Township Hall or at any Secretary of State office.

Federal Housing

Administration

Do you need help with mortgage issues or re-financing an adjustable rate mortgage? Do you fear possible foreclosure or are you already facing foreclosure?

The Federal Housing Administration may be able to help through a program called FHA Secure. There are informational flyers available at the Township Hall that have information on the FHA Secure program. Information on this and other FHA programs can be found online at: www.fha.gov or www.fha.gov/fhasecure or you can call FHA at 1-800-225-5342 for

Laketon Township

Maintenance Personnel

Laketon Township employs a small, but excellent staff responsible for maintenance of the township buildings, grounds & equipment, including the township parks & cemetery. The maintenance/cemetery staff members are Tim Duba, Lee Marine, John Bialek and L.T.J. Udell. To contact maintenance personnel, please call 744-2454, ext 29. For cemetery personnel, call 744-9083 or 744-2454.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Laketon Township offices will be closed on the following holidays:

Independence Day—Friday 7-4-2008

Labor Day—Monday 9-1-2008

Columbus Day—Monday 10-13-2008

Veteran's Day—Tuesday 11-11-2008

Thanksgiving—Thursday 11-27-2008 & Friday 11-28-2008

TIDBITS

- Laketon Township Cemetery—burial space can be purchased at the Township Hall.
- Yard Waste Disposal Site: Open Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays 10 AM to 8 PM—accepting grass, leaves, small brush & garden waste—no stumps or root balls accepted. There is no charge for the use of this site. This site is for resident use only, no contractors are permitted.

MEETING INFORMATION

- Township Board Meetings: are held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 6:00 PM at the Township Hall.
- Planning Commission Meetings: are held on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 6:00 PM at the Township Hall.
- Special Meetings: When a special meeting is scheduled, notice of the meeting is posted at the Township Hall at least 18 hours in advance, as required by law.
- Public Hearings: When a public hearing is necessary, it is noticed by publication in a newspaper of general circulation (The Muskegon Chronicle) as required by law. Notice is also posted at the Township Hall.

Every effort will be made to have meeting agendas posted on the Township's website, in the Calendar of Events 2 to 3 days prior to the meeting.

In the near future, we will also begin posting meeting minutes to the website as well. Meeting minutes will be posted once they are approved.

Visit our website at:
www.laketon.org