

Laketon Township

2008
Winter Newsletter

2735 W. Giles Rd, Muskegon, MI 49445
Phone: 231-744-2454 Fax: 231-744-2506

Website
www.laketon.org

A Few Words from Departing Supervisor Roland W. Crummel

To the Residents of Laketon Township:

The last 16 years have been a great ride! Thank you for the opportunity to serve this wonderful community.

I have enjoyed the challenges of job, meeting the fine people of Laketon Township, and representing everyone in our greater community of Muskegon County.

My inspiration came from the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson in his definition of success.

We have always had a great staff at the town hall, and they will still be there to serve you. I wish Kim Arter the very best.

Thank You Again and God Bless,

Rol Crummel

Selling your home?

Are you selling your home? Have you already purchased another home? Under normal circumstances, you would lose the Principal Residence Exemption on the home you are trying to sell because you are normally only permitted one exemption, on the home you occupy. The State of Michigan has recognized that the economic times we are currently facing are unusual. The State now has a policy to allow a Conditional Rescission of Principal Residence Exemption. The Conditional Rescission of Principal Residence Exemption would permit a homeowner to keep the exemption on the home they are trying to sell and the new home they are currently living in—under a set specific conditions for a maximum period of three (3) years.

For details on this you can visit the Michigan Department of Treasury Website at www.michigan.gov/treasury, or call them at 1-517-373-1950. Information will also be posted on the Laketon Township Website on the page for the Assessing Department. Please also feel free to contact the Laketon Township Hall and ask to speak with one of the assessors. Robert Frain is available on Wednesday afternoons and Wanda Budnik is available on Friday mornings.

SUCCESS

To laugh often and much,

To win the respect of intelligent
people

And the affection of children,

To earn the appreciation of honest
critics

And endure the betrayal of false
friends,

To appreciate beauty,

To find the best in others,

To leave the world a little better,

Whether by a healthy child,

A garden patch,

Or a redeemed social condition,

To know even one life has
breathed easier

Because you have lived.

This is the meaning of Success.

~RALPH WALDO EMERSON

BURNING

MUSKEGON COUNTY RULES & REGULATIONS

Laketon Township receives many complaints related to burning every year. This article is to give everyone an overview of the Muskegon County rules and regulations related to burning, which apply to Laketon Township and all other municipalities within Muskegon County. You must first get a burning permit from the Muskegon County Health Department. **Please be aware that the burning of leaves and garbage is prohibited.** Please also be aware that burning permits will not be issued if wind speeds will be 15 miles per hour or more.

To get a burning permit (small recreational/campfires are not required to obtain a burn permit) call 231-724-6237 and you will hear the following recording: "You have reached the Muskegon County Health Dept. burning permit rules and regulations. Applicants must listen to this recording each time they request a burning permit. The applicant will be held legally responsible if any of the permit conditions are violated. You may not burn in or within 1400 feet of an incorporated city or village. You may not burn within 300 feet of another occupied dwelling. You may not burn in any subdivision that contains 20 or more dwellings. The permit to burn covers only clean brush and small branches under 4 inches in diameter. You must attend the fire at all times, and the fire must be out before dark. If anyone complains about the smoke or ashes you must put out the fire. You must call the fire department and give them your burning permit number every time before you start your fire. You may want to obtain a complete copy of the rules before you begin. If you can comply with these burning conditions and if you will be burning within the next 3 days, please press zero now."

The Muskegon Charter Township Fire Department is the fire department all Laketon Township residents should call with their burning permit number. 231-744-4365.

Additional information regarding burning can be found on the Laketon Township Website on the "Informational Documents/Articles" page.

2008 Election Statistics

Voter turnout estimates were in the news headlines for many weeks leading up to the election. Long lines at the polls were heavily anticipated, but the Laketon Township Clerk and her department answered the call and voters moved through the polls quite quickly and without incident, a job very well done.

Below are some facts and figures relating to voter turn out in Laketon Township. These figures are preliminary. A preliminary report with more details of voter turn-out is available on the Township website on the Clerk's Department page.

76% of Laketon Township Registered Voters cast ballots in the November 4th General Election

78% of registered women and 75% of registered men voted

Voters over 60 had the highest turn-out at 88%

Voters between 22-30 had the lowest turn-out at just 60%

The youngest voters—those 18 to 21 had 72% voter turn-out.

Laketon Township is divided into 4 voting precincts. Precinct #1 had the largest turn out at 80%. The largest precinct in the Township by number of registered voters is precinct #3, which had the lowest percentage of voter turn out at 73%.

Township Newsletters

A Fall 2008 Newsletter was mailed in mid-October, but some newsletters were returned by the post office. If you missed the fall 2008 issue, or any issue of the newsletter, they are posted on the website for you to reference.

http://www.laketon.org/pages/township_newsletters/

TIDBITS

- **2009 Muskegon County Dog Tags/ Licenses**— can be purchased at Laketon Township Hall from Dec. 1, 2008 thru March 1, 2009. Please bring your renewal postcard and any required paperwork with you. We cannot issue licenses without the proper information.
- **2009 Assessment Notices**—will be arriving in your mailbox at the end of February 2009— Board of Review & appointment information is included in this notice if you wish to protest the State Equalized Value (SEV) of your property.
- **Mail Slot/Night Drop Box**—located in the door on the west side of the building for dropping off payments or other information after regular office hours.
- **Township Hall—HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:** Christmas Eve 12-24-08, Christmas Day 12-25-08, New Year's Eve 12-31-08, New Year's Day 01-01-09—see the website for complete list of holiday closings.

Mailing Address Changes are Important

Laketon Township recognizes that mailing addresses are often different from home/property addresses. However, with every mailing we send out for taxes, assessment notices, newsletters etc we are faced with numerous pieces of mail returned from the post office due to an incorrect address. This causes wasteful spending of postage, paper supplies and staff time. It can also cost property owners if they end up paying late fees on bills they didn't receive because we did not have the proper address for mailing purposes.

Let's save everyone money and time: If you move, or if you have your mail sent to an address other than your home here in Laketon Township and are not receiving tax bills or other mail, please either call the township hall (744-2454) or fill in the lines below with the correct information and mail it to the township hall. Temporary address changes (for things like being away for the winter) are best handled through a forwarding order filed with the Post Office.

Property Owner Name: _____

Property Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Mailing City, State & Zip Code: _____