

Lake Township News

On the Sandy Shores of Lake Huron from Gagetown Road to Oak Beach County Park

Summer

June 2007

Sewer Study Update

Wade Trim is finalizing their sewer feasibility study for Lake Township. They are currently obtaining the septic records from the Huron County Health Department for properties in Lake Township to establish the current conditions of the area.

The topography of the township is requiring additional study. A number of the septic systems in the community are located below the grade of the road, resulting in conditions that may require pumping stations as opposed to a gravity fed system. Look for an update in the December newsletter as the study progresses.

The septic committee has been meeting with a representative from Wade Trim and has offered input and information for the sewer study. The committee is also researching possible solutions to improve the existing septic systems the community has in place.

Please remember the importance of having your septic tank pumped out on a regular basis. Keeping the tank portion pumped out prevents the septic field from overflow conditions and thereby protects the groundwater.



PIGEON DISTRICT LIBRARY

The Pigeon District Library sent out postcards in May to library patrons in the area notifying them of upcoming changes.

“Dear Library Patron(s)

It is with much regret that the Pigeon District Library Board of Trustees sends this notice to you and to all of our valued patrons in Lake Township. As stated in the January 2006 letter you received in the Thumb Blanket, contractual townships “must either 1) support a local millage to pay their share of the cost of operating the library or 2) become a part of the legal district and assume the 1 mil tax that is currently levied by the legal township”. Your township officials have twice placed a millage proposal on the ballot and though the proposal has failed twice, we are hopeful that adequate funding will be secured before the end of this calendar year. However, if this does not happen, library services to the residents and property owners of Lake Township will be terminated December 31, 2007. “

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Quote—The smallest good deed is better than the grandest good intention.—Duguet

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PRIVATE ROADS

Living on a private road has its advantages but also results in additional responsibility for the homeowners. Property owners on private roads are responsible for maintaining the road and for snow removal in the winter.

One very important maintenance issue is accessibility for emergency vehicles. In those times when a fire truck or ambulance needs to get to a resident's home, minutes count. The road needs to be maintained so that there are no delays.

If you live on a private road please consider having your homeowners association contact the fire department and local ambulance service providers to get the standards for roads and assure yours is being maintained properly. Keep the roadway smooth and free of large potholes. Have tree branches trimmed and clean up any fallen branches. Schedule spring and fall cleanups to remove any trash and garbage that accumulates along the road and in the winter make sure to have the snow removed in a timely fashion so an emergency does not turn into tragedy.

MUCK ON THE BEACH

What is causing the muck on the beach? Where is it coming from? What is in the muck? All very good questions that need to be answered.....

The Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative has completed a number of studies and held meetings in Bay City to inform the residents in the area about their findings. They are continuing to research the conditions and are trying to come to a conclusion as to the origin of the problem.

The Huron Daily Tribune reported on the last meeting held in Bay City. The group recommended that residents be cautious when cleaning up the beach area, avoid contact with the actual muck and to wash well after contact.

We will continue to attend the meetings and monitor the studies in an effort to find a resolution to this continuing problem. And we encourage community members to attend the meetings and offer their input to help resolve the problem. For updates check out www.michigan.gov/deq. Follow the link to "Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative, under "Issues to Watch"

ILLEGAL BURN BARRELS

We have had complaints from some property owners that residents are burning trash in barrels. Please be considerate of your neighbors and abide by the ordinance.

GENERAL ORDINANCE NO: 2005-01
LAKE TOWNSHIP BURNING ORDINANCE
Section 11. Foul Odors. No person shall burn garbage, animal carcasses, refuse, trash, rubbish, or a like material giving off foul odors at any time.

VARIANCES

It is the Zoning Board of Appeals responsibility to look at the facts, assess the variance request and decide on the best solution to the zoning ordinance issue.

Zoning Board of Appeals meetings always raise a lot of questions from residents in attendance. One question that comes up a lot is "What are the criteria for granting a variance?"

A variance may be granted when any ONE (1) of the following special conditions can be demonstrated clearly:

1. There are PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES or unnecessary hardships which prevent carrying out the strict letter of the Ordinance. These hardships or difficulties shall not be deemed economic, but shall be evaluated in terms of the use of a particular parcel of land.
2. There are exceptional CIRCUMSTANCES or physical conditions such as narrowness, shallowness, shape, or topography of property involved. Circumstances resulting from an act of the applicant, after the adoption of this Ordinance, shall not be allowed a variance.
3. Variation is necessary for the preservation of a SUBSTANTIAL PROPERTY RIGHT possessed by other properties in the same zoning district. When a variance is being considered to overcome unique circumstances or physical conditions regarding the configuration of the property involved, these circumstances or conditions must not have resulted from any act of the applicant or property owner subsequent to the adoption of this Ordinance.

ELECTION NEWS

On Tuesday May 8, 2007 North Huron Schools held their election and James Goreski ran for and won a seat on the school board. Congratulations!

The operating millage proposal on the ballot was defeated by a vote of 112 to 104.

**Thank you to the election inspectors.
Great job!**

The next North Huron School election will be held on **Tuesday, August 7, 2007**. The school board will be asking the voters to approve the operating mileage proposal. The election will be held at the North Huron High School, 21 E. Main Street, Kinde. The polls are open from 7AM to 8PM on Election Day. Absentee voter ballots may be obtained by contacting the township clerk.

GARAGE SALES

A permit is required when you're holding a garage sale, and a small fee of \$5 is charged. Permit applications can be printed off the website (laketownship.net) and sent in, or you can call or stop by the office to obtain an application. The township limits the number of sales to three per year at any one address. This deters your neighbor from turning his yard into a weekly flea market.



BIKE PATH COMMITTEE

Are you interested in seeing more recreational opportunities in the area? Would you like the option of walking or riding your bike on a designated path away from automobile traffic?

Lake Township is forming an ad hoc committee to study the feasibility of a bike/hike path in the area. The committee will look at possible locations for the actual path, cost associated with the development and maintenance of the path, possible linkage to proposed and existing pathways and sites of interest that could be destinations.

If you are interested in sitting on the committee please contact the township office. Be a part of making the township a better place!

TRANSFER STATION NEWS

Dave Ferris started on Sunday, January 21st as the new attendant at the transfer station. He is doing a great job and the transfer station has never looked better!

On January 1, 2007 we had to increase fees to help offset some of the cost of the transfer station. Current fees are: Up to 21 gallon-\$1.50, Up to 33 gallon-\$2.00 and Commercial-\$3.00

In an effort to better serve the community we have made some changes at the station. We brought in a roll-off for scrap metal items. The fee for stoves, washers, dryers, etc. is \$5.00. Refrigerators with Freon are \$20.00, if tagged certifying Freon removal \$5.00 charge. Fees for miscellaneous metal items are at the discretion of the attendant.

We no longer take couches, chairs, mattresses, box springs, lumber, concrete, etc. Residents can dispose of these items at the Richfield Landfill in Bad Axe. For prices and times, contact the landfill at 989.658.2594.

Latex paint can be disposed of in regular trash as long as it is open and dried out. Miscellaneous items, such as small amounts of shingles, building materials, etc. need to be in a container or bundled and the fee for disposal will be at the discretion of the attendant. Pick-up truck loads of items will be charged \$20.00 for half a load and \$40.00 for a full load.

Hazardous waste items will need to be disposed of on one of the countywide disposal days. Contact the Huron County Conservation District at 989.269.9540 ext. 3 for disposal dates, and the necessary application.

Our recycle program will continue and we encourage everyone to participate. It's a win-win program- it will decrease the amount of garbage you have (saves you money) and will help the environment! Recycling is from 10AM-2PM. **Upcoming recycle dates 7/15, 8/19, 9/16, 10/21, and 11/18.** Please check the website www.laketownship.net or call the office 856.4867 for more details.

Thanks again to our volunteers for donating their Sunday afternoon to help out on recycling days. We couldn't offer this service without your support.

TOWNSHIP SCHEDULE

OFFICE HOURS

THE TOWNSHIP HALL OFFICES ARE OPEN
MONDAY – FRIDAY FROM 10:00 AM UNTIL 2:00 PM.
OFFICIALS' OFFICE HOURS VARY. IT IS BEST TO CALL
AHEAD OR MAKE AN APPOINTMENT IF YOU NEED TO
SPEAK TO A TOWNSHIP OFFICIAL.

TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS – TOWNSHIP HALL

TIME – 7:30 PM (6:30 PM DECEMBER – FEBRUARY)
DAY – THIRD MONDAY OF THE MONTH – LAST MONDAY IN
MARCH

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS – TOWNSHIP HALL

TIME – 7:00 PM
DAY – FOURTH WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH EXCEPT
NOVEMBER & DECEMBER
WORKSHOP MEETINGS MAY BE SCHEDULED AT OTHER TIMES
AND POSTED.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – TOWNSHIP HALL

TIME - 7:30 PM ON WEDNESDAYS UPON APPEAL APPLICATION

FIRE BOARD (CAFFA) MEETS EVERY FIRST & THIRD
WEDNESDAY AT 7:00 PM AT THE FIRE HALL IN CASEVILLE.

TOWNSHIP BOARD

SUPERVISOR/ASSESSOR – CLAY KELTERBORN

CLERK - VALERIE MCCALLUM

TREASURER – DOROTHY FISCHER

TRUSTEES – ROBERT HYZER
ROSE ANN REMER

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR – ARNOLD RUSSELL

BUILDING INSPECTOR – TORY GEILHART

SECRETARY/DEPUTY CLERK – KATHLEEN BOLTON

LAKE TOWNSHIP HALL

PHONE: (989) 856-4867

FAX: (989) 856-9710

WEBSITE: www.laketownship.net

LOCATION ADDRESS: 4988 W. KINDE ROAD
CASEVILLE, MICHIGAN 48725

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 429
CASEVILLE, MI 48725-0429

TRANSFER STATION HOURS

DAVE FERRIS, ATTENDANT

MAY – OCTOBER SATURDAY & SUNDAY 9 AM TO 4 PM

NOVEMBER – APRIL SUNDAY 9 AM TO 4 PM

(EXCEPT CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS' DAY)

Burning permit - Call 856-9198

2007 Recycling Schedule

The following dates are on Sundays from 10:00
A.M. until 2:00 P.M.

Please make sure that all recyclables are clean.
**CLEAR GLASS ONLY – BROWN OR GREEN GLASS
NO LONGER ACCEPTED.** A list of acceptable items
is available upon request at the Transfer Station or
on our website at www.laketownship.net.

Please **DO NOT** drop off recyclables at the
Transfer Station on any dates other than the
following:

July 15

August 19

September 16

October 21

November 18

Leaves, grass and tree trimmings are accepted
at the Transfer Station during regular hours at
no charge.