

Lake Township News

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

Winter

December 2005

Township Residents Voice Concerns

Lake Township resident, Ursula Nitzko, died suddenly this fall after a tragic accident involving a golf cart. Mrs. Nitzko will be remembered by many of us as a warm and friendly lady who was known for her beautiful flower gardens around her home.

Following Mrs. Nitzko's untimely death, many Lake Township residents attended the October 17th Township Board meeting seeking answers to questions regarding police protection within the township.

We have had several articles in previous newsletters regarding ORV use in Lake Township, specifically the fact that the use of ORV's in Huron County is limited to private property, only. Huron County **does not** have any designated ORV trails. In addition, there are specific state regulations and laws that apply to the operation of off-road vehicles. Copies of these regulations are available at the Township Hall or through the Michigan DNR.

If you have problems in your neighborhood with off-road vehicles, please call Huron County Central Dispatch at 989-269-6421. □

Survey Results

Good response to Lake Township Survey...

The Lake Township Planning Commission mailed over 1500 surveys to township residents this past May. Approximately 884 surveys were returned and the responses were tabulated by Michigan Sea Grant, a cooperative program of the University of Michigan and Michigan State. The complete report prepared by Sea Grant is available on the Lake Township website, www.laketownship.net. It is difficult to summarize the results in this newsletter, but here are the highlights:

- Support for enforcing the Property Maintenance Code.
- Support for restricting building sizes along the shoreline to preserve the view of Lake Huron.
- 55% of township residents do not want a water or sewer system while 31% would support this. 14% are undecided or need more information.

Lake Township received a grant from the Michigan Coastal Zone Management Program to assist the Planning Commission in a shoreline protection project. The scope of this project is to address the issue of protection through land use planning and zoning. Such shoreline issues might be development site limitations and land use preservation. The Planning Commission is using the results of this survey to continue working on the Lake Township Interim Zoning Ordinance which has been in effect since July of this year. □

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From our Zoning & Building Department...

Surveys may be required when submitting site plans for building improvements. If you are having a survey done of your property, make sure it includes all existing improvements and distances between improvements and lot lines. Surveys for waterfront properties must also include the Ordinary High Water Mark which for Lake Township zoning purposes is the Federal Regulatory line of **581.5'** above sea level.

Building permits are required for re-roofing of all structures. If you have any questions regarding building permits, Tory Geilhart is at the Township Hall on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 10 AM until noon.

Election Department Update...

2006 will be a busy election year. Please remember that you must register to vote 30 days prior to an election. The first election date for 2006 is February 28th. Contact the township hall if you have any questions on elections.

Fire Department News...

Lake Township adopted a Burning Ordinance, General Ordinance No: 2005-01, effective as of October 30, 2005. The purpose of this ordinance is to ensure that open burning will be conducted in a safe manner and at times and locations that will not interfere with public safety. A full copy of the ordinance is available on the township website www.laketownship.net or at the Township Hall.

Address changes ...

In order to receive township mailings, please notify the township of an address change in writing signed by all property owners. Forms are available on the township website for your use.

Website ...www.laketownship.net

Check out our website for coming events and updates, including our annual summer picnic!

Congratulations!

Trustee Robert Hyzer ...

With the close of 2005 Trustee Robert Hyzer marks 55 years of service to Lake Township. Bob began serving Lake Township in 1950, serving in various capacities, from Township Constable, Zoning Board member and finally elected as Trustee in 1974.

Bob has enjoyed a notable tenure with the Township, seeing many changes over the past 55 years. We would like to thank Bob for his many years of dedicated service to our community. □

Neighborly Advice

Getting along ...

Those of us working at the Township Hall have noticed an increase in complaints over the past several years. Although we are here to serve our residents and assist with problems that may arise in our community, we would like to emphasize the importance of communication with your neighbors prior to asking the Township to get involved. Many situations can be amicably resolved if the parties involved discuss the issue among themselves. If you need your neighbor's primary address in order to make contact, this is available at the Township Hall.

If all else fails, please feel free to contact our offices and request our assistance. Please remember, though, that we cannot assist residents in civil disputes. □

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Our recycling program is run by volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, please call the Township Hall at 989-856-4867.

Water Quality

Pinnebog River receives grant ...

Over the past several summers, area beaches have been closed due to high *E.coli* levels. In 2004, the United States Geological Survey did a study of the Pinnebog and Pigeon Rivers. This study found not only high levels of *E.coli* bacteria, but also “fragrances and solvents along with antibiotics from both human and animal uses.” (See Newsweekly article of June 1, 2005).

Lake Township officials are concerned that existing land use patterns are affecting water quality in our rivers and along our beaches. The Pinnebog River grant of \$141,380 is to assist the Huron Conversation District and local officials and business persons in developing a watershed management plan that will help Huron County address potential areas of concern.

In addition, an ad hoc committee headed by Trustee Rose Ann Remer has been created in order to study septic systems and their impact along the shoreline. This committee is comprised of three Lake Township residents and one Hume Township resident who are volunteering their time to study the impact of septic systems along the shoreline as well as maintenance issues related to septic systems.

If you are concerned about water quality, we need to hear from you.

Our water is our most precious resource and our greatest asset. It is up to all of us to see that it is protected for future generations. □

Quarantine Notice Emerald Ash Borer

Lake Township and Caseville Township are now part of the Emerald Ash Borer quarantine boundaries. Individuals or businesses found violating the state’s EAB quarantine are subject to fines ranging from \$1,000 to \$250,000 and jail time of up to five years for moving regulated ash materials, including firewood.

Further information is available online at www.michigan.gov/eab. □

Interim Zoning Ordinance

Lake Township adopted an Interim Zoning Ordinance July 18, 2005. This interim zoning ordinance replaces the 1992 Zoning Ordinances. As an interim zoning ordinance, it allows the planning commission to continue its work on the zoning ordinance while putting into effect some of the changes that they recommended. During this time, the planning commission welcomes any suggestions from township residents on existing regulations or new ideas. The complete text of the Interim Zoning Ordinance is available on the township website, www.laketownship.net. If you cannot attend monthly planning commission meetings, please send your comments to the attention of the planning commission at PO Box 429, Caseville, MI 48725 or at info@laketownship.net. □

Pigeon District Library

In the January 1, 2006 edition of the Thumb Blanket, the Pigeon District Library will be publishing a letter regarding their financial situation. Due to the outcome of the 2004 ballot proposal being a tie vote, the Lake Township Board of Trustees has approved placing another proposal on the ballot in 2006. □

Township Cemetery

Township Trustee, Rose Ann Remer, has been an advocate for a township cemetery for several years because she believes there is a need for such a service. The rate of growth in our community has exceeded that of most communities in the county as many people are choosing Lake Township as a full-time home. Although many of us may not plan ahead for our permanent resting place, inevitably it catches up with all of us. We have been told that it is sometimes difficult to find available cemetery space for loved ones in close proximity to their home in Lake Township.

If you have any opinion on this, your township officials want to hear from you. Please call the Township offices, talk to your officials, mail us your thoughts or email the township at info@laketownship.net. □

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 – KAREN SIENKIEWICZ

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 KING, ATTENDANT

MAY – OCTOBER SATURDAY & SUNDAY 9 AM TO 4 PM

NOVEMBER – APRIL SUNDAY 9 AM TO 4 PM

Burning permit - Call 856-9198

2006 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:

January 15th

February 19th

March 19th

April 16th

May 21st

June 25th - Due to Father's Day

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