

Lake Township News

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

Winter

December 2007

SEWER STUDY UPDATE

At the August 28, 2006 Township Board meeting Dorothy Fischer offered **Resolution 2006-23 Approving Sewer Study** and Board Members Rose Ann Remer, Bob Hyzer, Dorothy Fischer, Val McCallum and Clay Kelterborn voted to have Wade Trim do a preliminary engineering report for a sewer system along the M-25 corridor in Lake Township. A preliminary engineering study is required in order to apply for any federal grant and/or assistance funds for future infrastructure needs. USDA Rural Development provided \$11,000.00 in funding for the study while \$5,650.00 of Townships funds were used. Thus began the infamous sewer study that has been the talk of the town.

Wade Trim delivered the final draft of the Lake Township Sanitary Sewer study on Thursday, October 18th, 2007, and Rural Development will also receive a copy. The Lake Township Septic Committee, headed up by Trustee Rose Ann Remer, will review the document and make a recommendation to the Board. Rural Development will also review the final report and will make a recommendation as to the type of system they feel is most appropriate and inform the township of any funding they may be able to provide for the project.

NEW PAGES ON

www.laketownship.net

Our webmaster has been busy adding information to the website. There is now a monthly calendar that can be printed and used by residents to keep track of upcoming meetings, recycling days, holidays, etc. Visit the website and click on Calendar for the current month. For information about the development of the Wind Turbine Facility Ordinance, check out the newly developed WIND page! We are also developing a Government 101 page that we hope will answer the many questions people have about terms of office, committees, elected and appointed officials and more.

As another alternative, the septic committee has been looking at a possible Septic System Inspection Ordinance. Residents would be required to have their systems inspected and if the system is failing, it would need to be repaired or replaced. The idea behind the ordinance is those property owners with no system or failing systems would be required to bring their property up to code and thereby do their part to protect the natural resources, ground water systems and help improve Lake Huron water quality.

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Quote-Whenever ideas are shared, the result is always greater than the sum of the parts.—Rich Willis

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ENERGY SAVED BY RECYCLING

Tuscola Recycling Center has determined that Lake Township recycles approximately 25,000 pounds of potential trash in just a year's time. In addition, starting this year we have

begun offering to our residents the opportunity to recycle large metal materials which has resulted in an even larger amount of potential trash being recycled and reused. Many people don't associate recycling with the amount of energy that is saved by such a practice. Here are some interesting facts:

The energy saved from recycling one glass bottle could power a 100-watt incandescent light bulb for four hours, and causes 20% less air pollution and 50% less water pollution than producing a new bottle from raw materials.

Every ton of newspaper recycled saves enough energy to power a TV for 31 hours.

Recycling corrugated cardboard cuts the emissions of sulfur dioxide in half and uses about 25% less energy than making cardboard from virgin pulp.

Enough energy is saved by recycling one aluminum can to run a TV set for three hours or to light one 100-watt bulb for 20 hours.

Making cans from recycled aluminum saves 95% of the energy required to produce cans from virgin material.

Recycling a soda can saves 96% of the energy used to make a can from ore and produces 95% less air pollution and 97% less water pollution.

Making glass from recycled material uses 50% less energy than making virgin glass.

Recycling all of your home's waste newsprint, cardboard, glass, and metal can reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 850 pounds year.

Recycling one ton of aluminum saves the equivalent in energy of 8896 liters of gasoline. This is equivalent to the amount of fuel needed to provide a typical home with electricity for a period of 10 years.

A 60-watt light bulb can be run for over a day on the amount of energy saved by recycling 453.5924 grams of steel. In one year in the United States, the recycling of steel saves enough energy to heat and light 18,000,000 homes.

The energy saving from recycling one bottle will:

- Power a 100-watt light bulb for almost an hour
- Power a computer for 25 minutes
- Power a color TV for 20 minutes
- Power a washing machine for 10 minutes

Producing steel from recycled material saves 75% of the energy needed for steel made from virgin material.

The Lake Township community should be very proud of the energy they have saved by their practices and like all Americans should strive to conserve, reuse, and recycle whenever possible. Steps like these help protect our environment and our natural resources by lessening the demand for more energy.

Residents interested in shredding large amounts of personal papers can visit the Tuscola Recycling Center. For a small charge of .10 per pound and you can stand and watch all the papers being shredded. Tuscola Recycling can be reached at 989.672.1673.

Residents can bring large metal items like stoves, washers, dryers, metal shelving, etc. to the transfer station during normal business hours. Items are placed in a separate roll off for recycling. There is a nominal charge for appliances.

Our current recycling program will continue and we encourage everyone to participate. It's a win-win program. It will decrease the amount of garbage you have, saving you money, and will help the environment! Recycling is from 10AM-2PM. **Upcoming recycle dates are 1/20, 2/17, 3/16, 4/20, 5/18 and 6/15.** 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.



WIND TURBINE FACILITY ORDINANCE

The planning commission is continuing to research and develop an ordinance addressing wind turbine facilities.

On November 2, 2007 the Township received a report from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) that read in part,

“We particularly encourage placement of turbines away from any large wetland, stream corridor, or wooded areas, including the areas mentioned previously, and avoid placing turbines between nearby habitat blocks. Lake Township has two significant river systems that course through the Township. The Service recommends that no turbines be located within three miles of a Great Lake’s shoreline, within five miles of bald eagle nests or between the refuges and known feeding areas of migratory waterbirds and waterfowl, Lake Township has six miles of Great Lake shoreline, two bald eagle nests and is within the pathway of migratory birds including tundra swans and sandhill cranes. In addition, we strongly recommend that turbines be located as far away from any national/state wildlife refuge as possible. Lake Township includes the Rush Lake State Game Area centrally located within the Township.”

Long time residents as well as new residents to the area are well aware of the many migratory birds that frequent the area in spring and fall. It is not unusual in the spring to see a farm field with hundreds of tundra swans resting as they pass through the Township. In addition, many residents have excitedly reported a number of sightings of bald eagles throughout the year as they nest and raise young in our community. Local hunters that have visited Rush Lake over the years have concerns about the impacts to waterfowl that visit the game area.

The National Audubon Society has raised concerns about the number of birds killed each year by turbines and also the affects the turbine facilities have on migration patterns.

As a preliminary step in the siting process DTE has signed leases with Lake Township residents that encompass 4,320 acres. The planning commission recognizes the benefits to local landowners but also must take into consideration supporters’ concerns about proper siting. The environmental page on DTE’s website states that the company has a very strong environmental policy and they strive to meet and surpass state and federal environmental guidelines. Given their commitment to the environment, DTE may abide by the USFWS recommendations and not pursue a permit to build a facility in Lake Township but other companies with not so admirable environmental policies may approach the Township in the future. Our tax dollars support the USFWS and the planning commission relies on their expertise so they may better understand the impacts of turbine facilities on wildlife. A Wind Turbine Facility Ordinance will need to address all the possible impacts that such a facility creates and the planning commission will be taking the USFWS recommendations into consideration as they continue to formulate an ordinance for the Township. We do not know whether other shoreline communities drafting wind turbine ordinances will take USFWS guidelines into account, we can only make an educated decision for Lake Township based on the facts presented to us. The planning commission must also take into account Lake Township’s Master Plan that was adopted in 1999. Section 6.8, Natural Environment Goal and Objectives, addresses environmental issues and reads in part “...to preserve and enhance the natural and environmental resources of Lake Township for all current and future Township residents.” While all the planning commissioners support and encourage the development of wind turbine facilities, they fully understand the importance of proper siting.

Residents not able to attend planning commission meetings can follow the formation of the ordinance on the Township website at www.laketownship.net. Be sure to check out our newly created “WIND” page for all the latest information. The page will include the minutes from planning commission meetings that pertain to the ordinance, newspaper articles, reference materials, maps and the report from the USFWS.

TAKING THE LEAD ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Lake Township has shown its leadership and commitment to environmental stewardship on behalf of our community. Over the past several years the Lake Township Board has been concerned with water quality and beach muck and was involved in the early stages of looking for answers to the possible causes.

- In 2003 Lake Township was responsible for Huron County receiving a \$49,400 DEQ grant matched with \$49,400 by USGS to conduct a study of selected pesticides, chemicals and bacteria in the Pinnebog and Pigeon Rivers. Results of this study are available at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2005/1380/pdf/OFR2005-1380.pdf>
- In 2005 Lake Township initiated the Pinnebog River Watershed Management Project subsequently administered by the Huron Conservation District funded by a 140,000 DEQ grant. For information on this program visit the Huron Conservation District website at <http://huroncd.org/Pinnebog%20River%20Watershed%20Project.doc>

Lake Township continues to follow the Huron Conservation District and Huron County efforts to find solutions to our water quality issues. Some of our other accomplishments worth mentioning are as follows:

- In 2004 Lake Township began a recycling program for its residents, the only township in Huron County to offer recycling. We have a team of approximately 20 committed volunteers and a steadily increasing number of recyclers. We have helped to keep over 25,000 pounds of trash out of our land fill every year and increasing annually.
- In 2005 the Township created an ad hoc sewer committee headed by Trustee Rose Ann Remer to review and analyze the need for septic system maintenance requirements in order to protect water quality.

- In 2006 we received 65 % of the cost in US Rural Development funding to conduct a preliminary sewer feasibility study to determine whether sewers would be cost-beneficial to water quality concerns.
- And, in 2005 at the request of our Caseville Area Fire Protection Association in conjunction with Caseville Township we adopted an ordinance prohibiting the burning of rubbish in our township.

The Lake Township Board, Planning Commission and staff are committed to continuing to preserve and enhance the natural and environmental resources of our community for all current and future Township residents.

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BIKE PATH COMMITTEE

Representatives of the bike path committee attended a trail seminar in Frankenmuth on Thursday, November 1st. The first order of business for the committee will be updating the Township Recreational Plan. All grant opportunities require that a township has a current plan in place. Once the plan has been updated the committee will begin the work of planning the path. Possible location, destinations, sites of interest, businesses, parks and linkage of towns will all be considered in the planning stages. If you are interested in helping and would like to sit on the committee, please contact Clerk Valerie McCallum.



As a reminder, the Pigeon District Library is terminating its agreement with Lake Township due to the inability to acquire an operating mileage. In an effort to continue to offer residents the use of a local library the Township Board has voted to support the Port Austin Library. As of January 1st, 2008 Lake Township residents can frequent the Port Austin Library. In the past, monies generated through penal fines were given to the Pigeon Library to help offset the cost of Lake Township residents frequenting it the fees will now go to the Port Austin Library. For more information about the Port Austin Library call 989.738.7212. Residents still wishing to frequent the Pigeon Library may contact them to inquire about the possibility of purchasing a library card.

HOURS CHANGING FOR BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Effective January 1, 2008, Lake Township Building Inspector Tory Geilhart will be in the office on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10AM to Noon. Residents and contractors may come in during his business hours to obtain building permits. Requests for inspections need to be called in to the office 24 hours prior to the requested time of inspection. Also starting in January the inspector will leave a sticker at the job site, indicating either **Approved or Not Approved**. If you receive a Not Approved Stop Work sticker, you will need to call the office and speak with Tory prior to commencing work.

We often hear from residents that they were not aware they needed a permit for a project. If you are planning any building project, you should call the office Monday thru Friday between 10AM and 2PM to inquire if a permit is required. There is an additional inspection fee for projects started without a permit.

ACCESSORY STRUCTURES

On May 21, 2007 the Township Board placed a one year moratorium on canvas and aluminum carports and storage structures. The planning commission will be developing a zoning ordinance to address such structures. At this time they are not allowed in the township.

ADDRESS SIGNS

All residents are required to have an address sign visible from the road. In case of emergency, having an address sign may make all the difference. If you don't currently have your address posted, please do so as soon as possible.



ELECTION NEWS

At the time of printing this newsletter, the Michigan Presidential Primary is scheduled for Tuesday, January 15, 2008. Voters can visit the polls from 7AM to 8PM on Election Day. If you need an absentee voter application, please contact the Township office.

BOAT HOISTS

In 2003 Lake Township, following up on complaints from area residents, identified and tagged numerous abandoned boat hoists on area beaches which were then removed by either the property owner or the township in an effort to clean up our community. The following year, the Township adopted General Ordinance No: 2004-01, Watercraft Hoists and Dock Ordinance, for the purpose of identification of hoists and docks in order to ensure that owners of hoists left on area beaches could be readily identified and contacted to remove their hoist. To date, the Township has 183 registered hoists and docks, but there are many hoists still not registered.

Our office had several complaints this past summer regarding untagged hoists in the waters at area easements which were also not complying with our zoning ordinance requiring hoists to be positioned in a direct line perpendicular to the beach area, one beyond the next. The reasoning behind this is to allow for visibility of children playing in the water by parents on the beach. With the low water levels, swimmers and children playing are apt to be out beyond the hoists. If the hoists are positioned across an easement area, it can become a hazardous obstacle.

Starting in the 2008 boating season, we will be tagging hoists that are not registered for removal, pursuant to Section 7 of Ordinance 2004-01, which states:

"Any structures placed in the waters of Saginaw Bay within Lake Township not having been duly registered with Lake Township shall be removed and stored for a period of sixty (60) days during which time the owner of said structure may claim said property upon payment of the costs incurred for removal and storage, not to exceed \$200.00 and proper registration. Any hoists docks not claimed within the sixty (60) day time period will be disposed of by the Township."

Ordinance 2004-01 also states:

"no ... hoists...and/or docks shall be allowed on the beach [upland easement area] between the Memorial Day Weekend and Labor Day Weekend."

This is to keep our easements open and safe for the enjoyment of all. For complete information on hoist requirements, please visit our website or contact the Township Offices.

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

2008 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 20th

February 17th

March 16th

April 20th

May 18th

June 15th

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