



Lake Township News

A publication provided for the citizens of Lake Township

FALL 2012 • EDITION NO. 78

Got Leaves?

Bring your leaves to our drop-off site behind the Midway St. Recycle Center, next to the Township Service Garage. It's open from dawn to dusk, seven days a week. Yard waste is accepted daily at this year-round collection program. Residents may drop off grass clippings, leaves, shrubs, tree limbs, and stumps.

REMINDER: Please place your yard debris as far back into the pit area as possible in order to allow room for others to leave their yard waste. If you bring your leaves in plastic bags, please be prepared to empty the bags and take them away with you.

The Midway St. Service Complex is in the jurisdiction of the Uniontown Police Department. More information about the Yard Waste and Recycle Programs is available at the Township Office (330.877.9479) and on the Township Web site (www.laketwpstarkco.com).

Halloween!

It's October, time for Halloween fun! Lake Township Trustees have designated Sunday, October 28, from 3:00 to 5:00 PM, as trick or treat time for children in the township. This is the recommendation of the Stark County Commissioners for all of Stark County. Many allotments in the Township set their own dates and times for trick or treat, so please check with your own neighborhood for its schedule of these events.



Lake Township in 2 Congressional Districts

Do you know who your Congressman is? Lake Township now has two because the Ohio General Assembly recently approved the new redistricting map. The western half of the township, between the Summit County line on the west and Market Ave. on the east, and between Pontius Rd. on the north and Mount Pleasant St. on the south, is in the 16th Congressional District, currently represented by Republican Jim Renacci. The eastern half of the township is now part of the new "C" shaped 7th District, currently represented by Republican Bob Gibbs, who was the 18th District Representative before the redistricting.

Lake Township Trustees

Lake Township Trustees meet every second and fourth Monday of each month at 6:30 P.M. All meetings are held at the Lake Township Hall, 12360 Market Avenue North, Hartville. All meetings are open to the public. The meeting hall is handicapped-accessible.

Lake Township office hours:

Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM



John Arnold



Ellis Erb



Galen Stoll

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Township Fiscal Officer: BEN SOMMERS

Board of Trustees: JOHN ARNOLD, ELLIS ERB, GALEN STOLL

Township Offices: 12360 MARKET AVE., HARTVILLE, OH • P. 330.877.9479 F. 330.877.4179 E. LAKETWPSTARKCO@NEO.RR.COM

— President's Corner

One of my favorite activities as a Lake Township Trustee is speaking about local government to the third-grade class at Uniontown Elementary School. In September, I was invited to do this for the fifth consecutive year. This year, I explained the process of seeking grants to replace the swing sets in the Lake Township Community Park, and invited them to help select the new ones. I always feel honored and privileged to work with the youth in our community. The teachers in our grade schools do an excellent job of teaching our children to be good citizens in school. As I observed the excellent behavior of these third-graders, I recalled that as adults, we all need to remember the life lessons of respect and citizenship that we learned in our formative years. I hope to see next year's third-grade class at Uniontown Elementary.

As in all other local governments, finance is a big issue for Lake Township. We are experiencing unprecedented cuts in the portion of our budget that comes from the State of Ohio. Your Trustees and our Fiscal Officer continue to focus much of our attention on this area.

Now that fall is here, we know that winter is just around the corner. We are prepared for whatever the winter season will bring. We've already arranged to purchase 4,500 tons of road salt through the Stark County Cooperative Purchasing Program. Let's hope we don't need it!

I am truly blessed to serve as a Trustee in Lake Township. I have always been proud of our community. Along with our other Trustees, Fiscal Officer, and employees, I'm looking forward to doing all we can to make Lake Township an even better place to live and work in the coming year. Best wishes for a happy holiday season to all!



— General Election Nov. 6

Remember to vote on November 6. In addition to choosing the President, a U.S. Senator, Representatives for the 7th and 16th Congressional Districts, the State Representative for the 50th District, two Stark County Commissioners, Stark County Treasurer, Stark County Recorder, Stark County Prosecutor, Stark County Sheriff, Stark County Coroner, Stark County Court of Common Pleas Clerk, and a number of judges, Lake Township residents will vote on two local issues, two county-wide issues, and two state issues:

State Issue 1: Shall There Be a Convention to Revise, Alter, or Amend the Ohio Constitution?

State Issue 2: Proposed Constitutional Amendment to Create a State-Funded Commission to Draw Legislative and Congressional Districts.

Issue 39: Local Option Precinct 15, sale of beer, wine, and mixed beverages at Giant Eagle 1618, 907 W. Maple St., Hartville.
(Only voters in Precinct 15 will vote on this issue.)

Issue 40: Local Option Precinct 15, Sunday sales of wine and mixed beverages at Giant Eagle 1618, 907 W. Maple S St., Hartville, between 11:00 A.M. and midnight. (Only voters in Precinct 15 will vote on this issue.)

Issue 42: Stark County District Library, renewal of 1.0 mill and an increase of 0.7 mill to constitute a 1.7 mills tax, current expenses, eight (8) years, commencing in 2012.

Issue 55: Stark County Park District, replacement of 0.5 mill and an increase of 0.5 mill to constitute a 1.00 mill tax, continued acquisition, planning, development, operation, maintenance, and protection, 8 years, commencing in 2012.

— Two Recycle Program Locations For Your Convenience

Lake Township now has two locations for the Recycle Program: at the Recycle Center at 1505 Midway St., next to the Township Service Garage, and in the southeast corner of the flea market parking lot at the Hartville Market Place, 1289 Edison St. This location can also be accessed from the entrance on Market Ave. North.

The Recycle Program accepts newspapers, magazines and junk mail, as well as corrugated cardboard and food boxes, glass bottles, plastics (#1 through #7), and steel or aluminum cans (please rinse and remove lids). We DO NOT accept business waste, plastic bags, treated lumber, railroad ties, or anything with nails.

Lake Township Trustees, in recognition of the environmental benefit of recycling and yard-waste collection programs, have provided these sites as a convenience for township residents' use. Both the Midway St. Service Complex and the Hartville Market Place are in the jurisdiction of the Uniontown Police Department. More information about the Yard Waste and Recycle Programs is available at the Township Office (330.877.9479), on the Township Web site (www.laketwpstarkco.com), and on the Stark-Wayne-Tuscarawas Joint Solid Waste District Web site (www.timetorecycle.org).



A Message from your Fiscal Officer:



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

By now, I'm sure anyone who owns property in Stark County has received the new property reappraisal notices that were sent out by the Stark County Auditor's Office. These new property values will have a significant effect on the amount of property tax revenue collected by all of the local governments in Stark County. I would guess many of you are questioning, "How are the new county property appraisals going to affect my next property tax bill?" Should you have any questions

regarding your new property value or the taxes you will be paying, you'll need to call the Stark County Auditor's office at (330) 451-7357 or visit the "Tax Calculator" on their Web site: www.auditor.co.stark.oh.us

To answer questions about how these changes will affect Lake Township, the Stark County Auditor's office recently sent to all the townships estimates on what we can reasonably expect to collect from these reappraisals. According to the County Auditor, Lake Township should expect a "loss of revenue" of nearly \$175,000.00. A significant loss for sure, but Township residents can be assured that Lake Township will continue to provide the highest level of services within the parameters we are given, and that includes finding creative avenues to produce the "biggest bang for your buck."

Let me just say, this isn't the first time Lake Township has faced financial shortfalls and cutbacks in revenue. In the last eight years of my term in office as Fiscal Officer, Lake Township has taken some really hard hits from funding cuts. The challenges facing most fiscal officers are ongoing, and I don't foresee an end coming anytime soon. Some of the most critical reductions occurred as a result of state legislative actions; namely, several reductions in Local Government Funding (money given back to the local governments from the state's income tax and sales tax), the permanent elimination of Personal Property Taxes collected from businesses in our community, and legislative changes on how Estate Taxes are calculated and distributed to local governments. Other losses came from plummeting interest rates, reducing the revenue collected on interest-bearing accounts. The losses have amounted to hundreds of thousands of dollars that could have benefited the township residents. All of these losses place a greater burden on the taxpayers of each community to fund the services they desire from their local governments.

To counteract the effects of these losses, Lake Township personnel took proactive steps to stabilize the township's budget. The township's staff re-structured and re-evaluated every program in every department, making cuts wherever and whenever possible, to minimize costs and maximize services. We're all very proud to say that these actions have enabled us to maintain the services we currently offer and, hopefully, plan to continue to provide for our residents.



Fiscal Officer Ben Sommers, with his grandson Kyle, appeared in the Uniontown Lions Festival parade on August 11. They were riding in a 1976 Cadillac Eldorado convertible owned and driven by Hartville Lions Club member Morris Dingman.

NEW Recycle Program

Lake Township Trustees have expanded the Township's Recycle program to accept appliances and all scrap metals. These items will be accepted inside the gate at the Service Garage complex on Midway St., Mondays through Fridays from 8:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. A sign will indicate the proper area. The revenue generated by this program will be allocated for new playground equipment at the Lake Township Recreation Complex. More information is available at the Township office (330.877.9479).

From The Uniontown Police Chief



As the holiday season approaches, we will spend more time on the roadway. Whether you're traveling across town or across the country, help ensure your trip is safe.

Always use a child safety seat, booster seat, or seat belt when traveling with your child, according to his or her height, weight and age. Ohio's revised child restraint law requires the following: children less than four years old or weighing less than 40 pounds must use a child safety seat; children

less than eight years old, unless they are at least four feet, nine inches tall, must use a booster seat; children ages eight to fifteen must use a child safety seat or a safety belt.

Don't drink and drive, and don't let someone else drink and drive. Wear a seat belt every time you drive or ride in a motor vehicle. Prepare your car for the winter by checking items such as brakes, spark plugs, battery, and tires. A safety kit will be helpful during an emergency. Together we can make this a safe and happy holiday season.

Lake Township Offers E-Waste Recycling

Lake Township has an E-waste recycling program for residents and small business owners. Items that can be accepted include fluorescent bulbs and ballasts, batteries (not car batteries), computers and monitors, cell phones, telephones, game consoles, MP3 players, circuit boards, computer parts and cables, compact disks, DVD's, floppy disks, small television sets (19-inch or smaller), video equipment, microwave ovens, radio and audio equipment, other small electronic items, and small appliances.

The local recycling company that collects the items recently advised the township that disassembled television sets cannot be accepted. Because of the nature of the components, disassembled sets are considered hazardous waste.

The E-waste recycling program is primarily intended for household recycling, but also supports smaller local businesses that have small quantities of these items to recycle.

Acceptable E-waste items may be taken to:
Township Hall
12360 Market Ave. North
Mondays through Fridays,
from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Residents will be expected to unload their own vehicles. More information is available at the Township office (330.877.9479) and on the Township Web site (www.laketwpstarkco.com).

— From Your Zoning Administrator

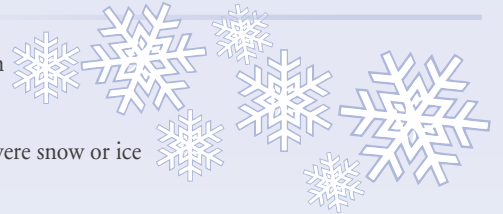


Steve Lacey

The Zoning Resolution for Lake Township became effective on November 14, 1958. The Zoning Resolution establishes districts, permitted uses and types of buildings, minimum lot sizes, setbacks, and heights. It also regulates accessory structures, signs, and parking. Rules and procedures are provided for administering, enforcing, interpreting, and amending the Resolution. Since the original adoption, various amendments have been made. These amendments have adjusted the boundaries of zoning districts, provided for new types of development, adopted new zoning tools available to Ohio townships, maintained consistency with changes in the Ohio Revised Code, and responded to changing state and federal laws and court decisions. The Resolution was enacted for the general purposes of promoting the public health, safety, and welfare; to protect the property rights of all individuals by assuring the compatibility of uses and practices within districts. By encouraging the most appropriate use of lands, zoning helps to protect property value and maintain the highest and best use for all properties.

— Winter's Coming!

Lake Township Trustees have passed a resolution to declare a snow emergency parking ban on all streets maintained by the township in the event of a snowfall of more than two inches, or any severe snow or ice conditions.



— What is an Illicit Discharge?

Any discharge to a storm sewer that is not composed entirely of storm water is considered an illicit discharge. Storm sewers are not designed to accept, process, or discharge non-storm water wastes such as fertilizers, pesticides, pet waste, yard debris, oil or grease from a car, etc.

Storm sewers collect water from outside our homes and businesses and carry it, untreated, directly to streams and rivers. Sanitary sewers collect water from inside homes and businesses and carry it to treatment plants, where it is cleaned before it reaches streams and rivers.

Illicit discharges enter the storm sewer system through either direct or indirect connections (e.g., infiltration into the system from cracked sanitary systems, improperly maintained septic systems, spills collected by drain outlets, or paint or used oil dumped directly into a drain).

The result is untreated discharges that contribute high levels of pollutants, including heavy metals, toxics, oil and grease, solvents, nutrients, viruses, and bacteria to receiving water bodies. Pollutant levels from these illicit discharges have been shown in many studies to be high enough to significantly degrade water quality and threaten aquatic, wildlife, and human health.



Check out our Web Site:
www.laketwpstarkco.com
It has lots of information about Lake Township!

A Note From The Road Superintendent

By the time you receive this newsletter, the 2012 paving project will be almost complete.

Winter will be here soon. Lake Township Trustees have passed a resolution to declare a snow emergency parking ban on all streets maintained by the township in the event of a snowfall of more than two inches, or any severe snow or ice conditions. Violators are subject to fines. Please park your vehicles in your driveway during any ice or snow storm. You may wish to plan on parking in your driveway, not on the street, during the winter months to allow for timely snow and ice removal.

When shoveling your driveway, it's a good idea to wait until the plow has gone by to shovel the apron so that you don't have to shovel it a second time because the snow from the plow has ended up at the end of your driveway. Also, when shoveling your driveway apron, pile the snow to the right of your driveway. Never throw, plow or blow snow into the street after it has been plowed.

For your own safety, never drive close to the rear of the salt trucks.

Please place your trash cans behind the mailbox line, especially when snow is falling or is in the weather forecast, to avoid damage by the snow coming off the plow face. The Township cannot assume responsibility for trash cans left in the roadway.

Keep in mind that Postal Service regulations require customers to keep the approach to their mailboxes cleared of snow, allowing the carrier to drive up to the mailbox and deposit mail without leaving the vehicle.

If you have municipal water, when you shovel a path to your mailbox, don't forget the fire hydrants. Precious time is lost when firefighters have to search for hydrants buried in snow. Help yourself and our firefighters by keeping your nearest fire hydrant free of snow.

I'm always available to answer your questions, address your concerns or give you a tour of our Service Garage at 1499 Midway Street. Please feel free to call me at 330.877.9479. Have a pleasant Fall and a safe Winter!



Who's Responsible for the Roads?

When reporting a problem involving a roadway, including removal of dead animals, it is important to know which governmental entity is responsible for the maintenance and repair of that road.

To report problems on State Routes 43 and 619 in Lake Township, call the Canton office of the Ohio Department of Transportation (330.452.0365).

The Stark County Engineer (330.477.6781) maintains Cleveland Ave., State St., Market Ave. south of State Rt. 619, Smith-Kramer St., Middlebranch Ave., Congress Lake Ave., Swamp St., Duquette Ave., and the east leg of Pontius St. north of Quail Hollow State Park.

Maintenance of Pontius St. from Cleveland Ave. to Mogadore Ave. is shared between Springfield Township (330.733.3213) and Lake Township (330.877.9479). Maintenance of Pontius St. from Mogadore Ave. to Market Ave. is shared between Portage County (1.330.296.6411) and Lake Township.

Plain Township (330.492.3423) maintains Mt. Pleasant St. from Market Ave. to Middlebranch Ave.

Maintenance of Aultman Avenue is shared between the City of Green (330.896.6607) and Lake Township.

Lake Township maintains the 137 miles of all remaining dedicated streets in the township.

Mud & Debris on Road Policy

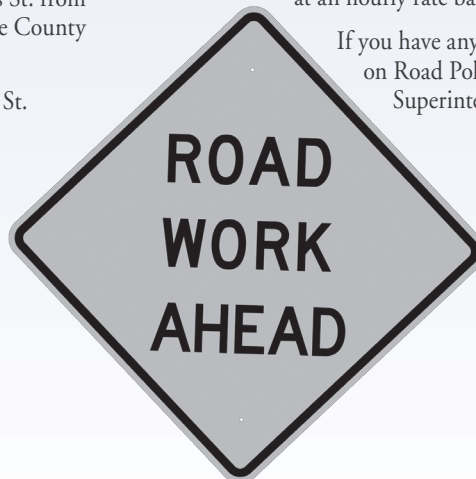
Reminder to Contractors and Township Residents:

The Board of Lake Township Trustees requests that you maintain construction sites and other properties in a proper manner so that you do not track mud and other debris onto the public streets. If mud and debris is tracked onto the street, please clean the street promptly.

Debris includes, among other items, unnatural accumulations of snow and ice (such as being pushed onto the public streets from private parking lots, driveways, and roads). Contractors will need either to pile the snow on private property or load it and haul it away.

If it becomes necessary for the Township to clean the street, you will be invoiced at the rate of \$50.00 an hour per piece of equipment with an operator. Additional employees required for the clean-up will be invoiced at an hourly rate based on current salary plus fringe benefits.

If you have any questions about the Mud and Debris on Road Policy, please call the Lake Township Road Superintendent at 330.877.9479



— Meet Our Fire & EMS

A Lake Township Trustee has said many times, “We have the finest fire service in Stark County.” Lake Township enjoys professional fire and emergency service from three private fire companies: Hartville, Uniontown and Greentown. They have the township divided into service areas, covered by four stations. Residents don’t have to worry about which one to call, though. A call to “911” will bring the right one. All of the fire companies have mutual-aid agreements with one another, and with neighboring communities. That’s why equipment from more than one fire company is sometimes seen at some emergency scenes.

First-response EMS service is provided by each of the fire companies. All three have fully-trained EMT’s and paramedics on duty around the clock.

It’s important to remember that the firefighters and paramedics are not employees of local government. They are our neighbors, and many of them are volunteers. All three fire companies have paid staff to man the stations when the volunteers are working at their career jobs.

Each of the fire companies is a separate, licensed, private, non-profit Ohio corporation which provides service under contracts with Lake Township, financed by revenues from tax levies. The fire companies do some fund-raising of their own, as well as applying for grants for training and similar purposes. All three companies own and maintain their own buildings and equipment.

The Hartville Volunteer Fire Department, formally incorporated in 1935, has served the Hartville area since 1900. They serve the eastern half of Lake Township with two stations. The Uniontown Volunteer Fire Department was organized in 1947, and the Greentown Volunteer Fire Department in 1949. Together, our three fire companies have served this community for a combined total of more than 200 years. Some years ago, Lake Township Trustees said of the fire departments, “The fire-fighting companies...have saved countless lives, protected property and saved taxpayers substantial dollars...These hundreds of fine men and women have...literally put their lives and well-being on the line for all residents of Lake Township.”

Our fire companies would like to remind you to change the batteries in your smoke detectors when Daylight Savings Time ends this year.



Lake Township

Mission Statement

The mission of Lake Township is to provide quality service to our citizens/customers in order to lead, support and facilitate the efficient and effective operation of township government.

Local Postal Customer
(ECRWSS)

