



Lake Township Newsletter

Edition No. 66

October 2006

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Board of Trustees
Sue Ruley
Ellis Erb
Galen Stoll

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Ben Sommers
Administrator
Carolyn Casey

Uniontown Residents Approve New Levy

Uniontown residents showed an overwhelming support for their police department by approving a 2.8 Mill Continuous Levy on August 8. The levy passed by a

66.6% margin. Uniontown Police Department was returned to full staff on August 26. The Department had operated since May 12 with no secretarial staff and one Police

Officer per shift, after the failure of a 2.8 Mill Levy in the May Primary election. The Uniontown Police Department has just celebrated its 40th anniversary.

Storm Water Management Plan

Lake Township was one of many political subdivisions in the State of Ohio that was required to obtain a permit from the Ohio EPA for storm water discharges, and to maintain a storm water management plan with the goal of protecting the quality of our streams and lakes.

In compliance with our permit, Lake Township has undertaken numerous tasks to help insure compliance with

Phase II of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).

One of the six measures Lake Township must provide under our permit is the Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination minimum control measure.

Recognizing the adverse effects illicit discharges can have on receiving

waters, Phase II NPDES rules require that the Township **develop, implement and enforce** an illicit discharge detection and elimination program. The program must include: A storm sewer system map showing the location of all outfalls and the names and location of all waters of the United States that receive discharges from those outfalls. Prohibition of non-storm water discharges into the MS4, and **appropriate enforcement procedures**. A plan to detect and address non-storm water discharges, including

Continued on pg. 2



LAKE TOWNSHIP, IN COOPERATION WITH THE REST OF STARK COUNTY, WILL OBSERVE TRICK OR TREAT ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, FROM 3:00 TO 5:00 PM. IF YOU ARE WELCOMING TRICK OR TREATERS, BE SURE TO LEAVE YOUR PORCH LIGHT ON.

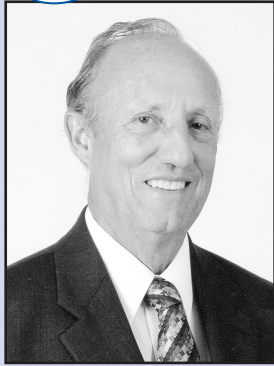


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President's Corner



by Ellis Erb

Many thanks to everyone in Uniontown who voted in the August 8 special election. We appreciate your passing the 2.8-mill levy to provide additional money for the Uniontown Police Department: \$546,582 annually. By the time you read this newsletter, we hope to have your police force back to full strength.

The new Hartville Fire Department Station No. 2 is in operation now. They'll soon announce plans for an open house so everyone can see the new facility on Nimishillen Church Street near Middlebranch Avenue. Thanks to the Hartville

Fire Department and their Board of Trustees for taking the initiative to set up this new station to improve fire protection and emergency services for residents of the southeastern part of the township. I've said many times that we have the finest fire service in Stark County. Now it will be even better.

Stark County Commissioners have taken the first step to the Market Avenue/Lake Center Street improvement project. In late July, they approved the initial design work on the project. Congressman Ralph Regula secured \$1.5 million in federal funds for the design work and purchase of property along the right-of-way. This \$3.7 million project is a joint effort of Lake Township, the Village of Hartville, and Stark County. Market Avenue will be widened from Lake Center Street north to State Route 619, and turn lanes and traffic signals will be installed on Market at Lake Center Street, Market at Woodland Street, and at the intersection of Lake Center and King Church Avenue. This will improve traffic flow near the school complex. The design work will take a year or more. Then the preliminary work of moving poles and other utilities could take another year before the actual construction begins.

STORM WATER MANAGEMENT Continued from pg. 1

illegal dumping, into the MS4. The education of public employees, businesses, and the general public about the hazards associated with illegal discharges and improper disposal of waste.

Sources of illicit discharges include:

- Sanitary wastewater
- Effluent from septic tanks
- Car wash wastewaters
- Improper oil disposal
- Radiator flushing disposal
- Laundry wastewaters
- Spills from roadway accidents
- Improper disposal of auto and household toxics

WHAT YOU CAN DO!

- NEVER put ANYTHING into a storm drain
- ALWAYS clean up after your pet
- Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly
- Dispose of leaves, grass clippings and other yard waste properly
- If you wash your vehicle at home, wash it on the grass
- Recycle motor oil, antifreeze and other auto fluids
- Properly dispose of household hazardous chemicals, like paint and pesticides
- Check your vehicle for leaks and repair them

Lake Township Web Site

A web site for Lake Township is almost ready to be published. The web site will provide a continuing source of information to township residents regarding the operation of the local government office. The Administration, Zoning, Road and Police Departments will each have a dedicated page. There will be a link to each of the three private fire companies.

Lake Township will be accessed via the World Wide Web at:

www.laketwpstarkco.com

The new web site should be up and running by the end of the year.

Congratulations!



To our Fiscal Officer, Ben Sommers, for a perfect audit!

A Letter From Your Stark County Engineer

Many people have asked why the Stark County Engineer's Office made changes to the traffic patterns at the intersection of Cleveland Avenue and Mt. Pleasant Avenue in Lake Township. I'd like to take a moment to address the issues.

According to statistics compiled by the Stark County Area Transportation Study, or SCATS, the hazard rating for this intersection ranks fourth out of 210 County roadway intersections in Stark County. We have already addressed, or are planning to address in the near future, the top three highest-ranked intersections. Therefore, safety at the Cleveland Avenue and Mt. Pleasant intersection is our number one priority.

Based on the results of a recently conducted safety engineering study, we found that a large volume of left-turn crashes were occurring on Cleveland Avenue, especially in the northbound direction. The largest factor that contributed to the accident problem was due to the inside lanes, which are used to turn left, not being directly opposite each other. This caused oncoming traffic to obstruct the view needed for left-turning vehicles to make the turn safely. In addition, since the inside lane shared the left turns and through-movements, left-turning traffic would block the progress of the traffic going straight.

The engineering study recommended two short-term solutions and one medium-term solution to address the accident problem. The first short-term solution was to allow the Cleveland Avenue left-turn and through movements to happen at the same time in the northbound direction, then change to allow the opposite direction to do the same. Although this solution would provide the safest environment for left turns, it severely degraded the efficiency of the entire intersection because it created much higher delays on Cleveland Avenue. It also meant reconstructing the existing traffic signal to handle the new phasing.

The second solution was to convert the existing southbound inside left/through lane to an exclusive left-turn lane, and convert the southbound inside left/through receiving lane into a northbound exclusive left-turn lane while preserving the two existing northbound lanes. This solution meant that southbound traffic must merge into the curb lane to proceed straight through the intersection. However, the left turn lanes created with this solution were directly opposite each other, and the delays were only slightly higher than the existing conditions. Although the southbound merge would be unique to any portion of Cleveland Avenue, we could reuse the existing signal controller and cabinet.

We chose to implement the second solution because it is the most economical, provides a high degree of safety for left turns, and has the least impact to the intersection's efficiency.

The medium-term solution involves reconstructing and widening Cleveland Avenue to provide left-turn lanes in both directions. A new traffic signal is required, and would be designed to allow drivers to turn left under a green arrow instead of a green ball.

We are pleased to announce that this office has received a federal grant for the design and construction to perform the widening of the Cleveland Avenue/Mt. Pleasant intersection, which is scheduled to be under construction in early 2010.

Motorists need to realize that the changes we made to the traffic patterns at this intersection were to promote safety, and are only temporary until the intersection widening project is complete.

My number one goal, as your Stark County Engineer, is to provide the safest means of transportation for motorists.

Respectfully,
Michael J. Rehfus, P.E., P.S.
Stark County Engineer

Year-Round Yard Waste Drop Off

The yard waste drop off site is located behind the Recycle Center at 1505 Midway, next to the Township Service Garage. The site is open from dawn to dusk seven days a week. You may drop off grass clippings, leaves, shrubs, tree limbs and stumps. No business waste, plastic bags or treated lumber are permitted. If you bring in your leaves or grass in plastic bags, you must be prepared to empty the plastic bags and take them with you. The material is hauled to Earth 'n Wood of North Canton, where it is recycled into mulch or compost.





A Message from the Zoning Administrator



Steve Lacey

Dear Neighbors,

Throughout the year the Zoning Department investigates and processes many com-

plaints, and while we do our best to alleviate and correct these issues, zoning does not apply to every situation. An alternative that I wanted to share is The Community Mediation Center of Stark County (CMC). The Mediation Center provides a low cost alternative (a

sliding fee according to the ability to pay) to hiring an attorney. The Center mediates the following types of conflicts: family conflicts, neighborhood conflicts, landlord/tenant disputes, customer/merchant disputes, juvenile cases, small claim matters and workplace disputes. Flyers are available at the Lake Township Administrative Offices, and information is available on-line at www.mediatestarkcounty.org.

In other news, the new zoning map for the Township is nearly complete and will initially be available in paper form only. The Township is working to develop a web-site which will

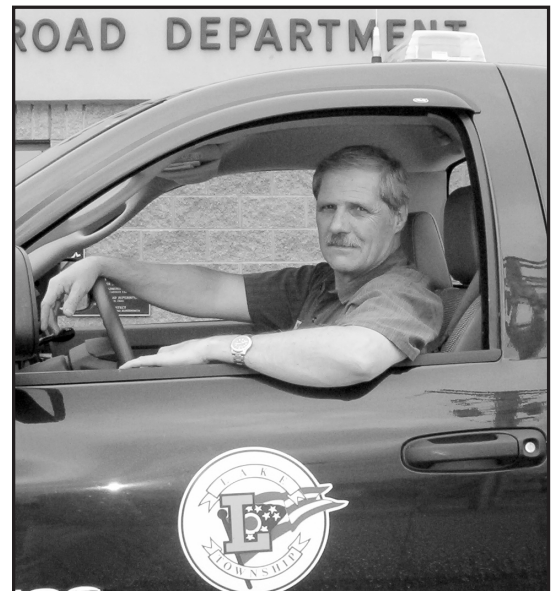
contain the zoning map, permit applications, complaint forms, and the zoning resolution. The Zoning Commission is working to create two new zoning districts in the township; a Planned Residential Condominium District (PRC) and a Planned Mixed Use District (PMU). These new districts will be similar to our current Planned Residential District (PRD) in that they will require the developer to apply for rezoning of the property, and all plans must meet the approval of the Zoning Commission and the Board of Trustees. Please contact the township offices if you would like information about the proposed new districts.

Getting to Know Your Road Superintendent

Rick Criss was hired as the Lake Township Road Superintendent in the fall of 1992. Rick was a graduate of Timken High School. While in the Air Force, from 1970 to 1990, Rick acquired a degree in Applied Science Construction Supervision. He was the Superintendent of Pavement/Construction activities for the Air Force from 1987 through 1990. Rick retired as a Senior Master Sergeant.

Rick is responsible for the daily operations of the Road Department. He manages the budget for the Road Department, supervises all construction and road maintenance projects, compiles specifications and bid packages for all projects that must be bid, over-

sees the township's yard waste program, prepares an annual paving plan, responds to drainage and flooding problems throughout the township, oversees the maintenance of traffic and street signs on 130 miles of township roads, sees to the mowing of right-of-ways two times each year, oversees ice control and snow removal on 130 miles of township roadway, and supervises nine full time employees and thirteen seasonal employees. Rick was actively involved in creating a Safety Plan for Lake Township employees, as well as a Transitional Work Plan and a Storm Water Management Plan



in compliance with NPDES Phase II requirements.

Rick is always available to answer your questions, address your concerns, or just give you a tour of the service garage at 1499 Midway.

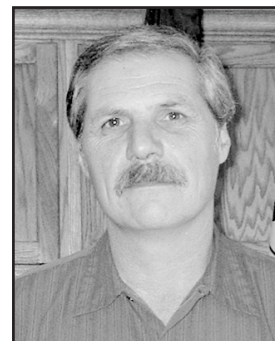
A Message From Your Road Superintendent

I want to thank our residents for their patience during our 2006 construction season. This year we contracted for the paving of approximately eight miles of township roadway and replacement of 725 feet of curb & gutter. In addition, the Township Road Department rebuilt or totally replaced over 40 catch basins, installed over 1600 feet of pipe, and maintained our 130 miles of roadway and road right-of-way with routine ditching, patching, mowing and sign repair. Speaking of sign repair, this year alone we've had over \$10,000.00 in sign theft and vandalism. If you see anyone tampering with your street signs please contact your Police Department.

Lake Township has an excellent yard waste program. Some people are abusing this program by dropping off items like railroad ties, treated lumber, old mattresses and household waste. There are signs posted at our site stating what items will be accepted. I don't want our program to be dropped due to some who won't follow the rules. If you see someone abusing the Yard Waste Drop-Off Program, please get a license number and report them to the township office. Violators are subject to a \$500 fine.

Snow will be falling before we know it. Please keep trash cans back off the road when snow is falling or when snow is in the

forecast so our plows, or the weight of the snow coming off of the plows, won't hit and damage them. Listen to WHBC, 94.1 FM or 1600 AM for messages on township parking bans. And, if possible, please park in your driveway, not on the street during the winter months. It makes our job much easier.



by Rick Criss
Road Superintendent

Once again I want to thank you for your support. As always, if you have a problem and you think we can help, please call.

Want to Serve on Your Township Board of Zoning Appeals?

Lake Township residents who are interested in serving a five year term on the Lake Township Board of Zoning Appeals beginning November 10, 2006, may pick up an application at the

Lake Township Administrative Office, 12360 Market Avenue North. Members of the BZA are paid \$35.00 per meeting. Candidates must reside in the unincorporated area of Lake

Township and must be able to attend at least one meeting per month. Applications will be accepted until Monday, October 23. For further information call 330-877-9479.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK – OCTOBER 8-14

Contact your local Lake Township Fire Station for activities during Fire Prevention Week.

Greentown Fire Department – 330-494-3002
Hartville Fire Department – 330-877-2478
Uniontown Fire Department – 330-699-3239



LAKE TOWNSHIP Meeting Times

Board of Trustees:

2nd & 4th Monday of each month
at 6:30 p.m.

All township meetings are held at the Lake Township Hall, 12360 Market Avenue North, Hartville, Ohio. The meeting hall is handicap accessible. Arrangements may be made for an interpreter for the deaf.

Township Office Hours:

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday

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.

Know When to Stop for School Buses

Following are some laws to remember regarding school buses:

- Yellow flashing lights indicate that the bus is preparing to stop. Motorists should slow down and prepare to stop their vehicles.
- Flashing red lights and a “stop” arm extended from the left side of the bus means that the bus is stopped to pick up or drop off students.
- On streets with three lanes or less, all motorists must stop for a school bus displaying flashing red lights.
- On streets and highways of four lanes or more, only those motorists traveling in the same direction as a school bus must stop when it is displaying its flashing red lights.
- Motorists must remain stopped until the bus begins to move or the bus driver signals motorists to proceed.

School bus drivers who see a motorist unlawfully pass the stopped bus will report the license plate number to law enforcement officials of that jurisdiction. A citation may be issued.



Local Postal Patron
(ECRWSS)

LAKE TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
12360 Market Avenue North
Hartville, Ohio 44632

