



Lake Township Newsletter

Edition No. 73

April 2010

Township Offices

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Board of Trustees

John Arnold
Ellis Erb
Galen Stoll

Township Fiscal Officer

Ben Sommers

Electric Aggregation Issue on May Primary Ballot

Lake Township officials have placed a ballot issue on the May 2010 Primary Election ballot, seeking voter approval to pursue an opt-out electric aggregation program. The voluntary program would help residents and businesses manage their energy costs and could result in discounts on electric bills. More than 200 similar ballot initiatives have passed in communities across Ohio in the past nine years, most by a wide margin.



The ballot initiative, if approved, would give our Trustees the authority, but not the obligation, to pursue an electric program. The Township, working through its consultant, Independent Energy Consultants, would first become certified as a Governmental Aggregator with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and then seek electric supply offers. Prior to certification, the Township would hold two public hearings to explain the Plan of Operations and Governance that would be used to administer the program.

With “opt-out” aggregation programs, all eligible residential and small commercial customers are included in the program unless they decide to opt-out. The participation rate for opt-out programs tends to be very high, and because of this, suppliers are able to pass on lower rates.

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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.



Ellis Erb



John Arnold



Galen Stoll

Meet Our New Road Superintendent



Daniel R. Kamerer was appointed post of Road Superintendent in November 2009. He did a great job directing our Road Department crews as they cleared snow from our 136 miles of township roadways this past winter.

Community Events

- Hartville Memorial Day..... May 29
Memorial Park
- Uniontown Memorial Day May 31
Uniontown Community Park
- Relay for Life June 12
Lake Youth Football Stadium
- Hartville Festival June 18-19
- Uniontown Lions Festival..... August 11-14
Uniontown Elementary School grounds

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



(continued from front page)

The ballot initiative and this program are being conducted without using any taxpayer money. The ballot issue must pass before any further steps can be pursued with an opt-out program. If it is approved, you will be hearing more details about the program as we move forward in the coming months. Participation in the program is purely voluntary. The Township, like others before it, is attempting to leverage the bargaining power of a large buying group to obtain a favorable alternative to the local utility's electric supply rates. Ohio Edison (electric utility) would continue to deliver your electricity, maintain their distribution system, read your meter, issue your bill, etc.

We are optimistic that our program may be able to guarantee savings versus the Ohio Edison rates. Our program will present another valuable option for our residents and small businesses in their attempts to manage their energy costs. State legislators deregulated Ohio's natural gas and electric markets in 2001, thereby enabling residents to choose their gas and/or electric suppliers. Most of the customer switching and savings have come through Governmental Aggregation programs similar to what Lake Township is pursuing. To learn more about aggregation programs please visit the Ohio Consumers' Counsel Web site: www.pickocc.org or the PUCO Web site: www.puco.ohio.gov.

YEAR-ROUND YARD WASTE COLLECTION!

Yard waste is accepted daily at a drop-off site behind the Recycle Center at 1505 Midway St., next to the Township Service Garage. It's open from dawn to dusk, seven days a week. This is a year-round collection program. Lake Township Trustees, in recognition of the environmental benefit of recycling and yard-waste collection programs, have provided this site as a convenience for township residents' use.

Residents may drop off grass clippings, leaves, shrubs, tree limbs, and stumps. We cannot accept business waste, plastic bags, or treated lumber. If you bring your leaves in plastic bags, please be prepared to empty the bags and take them away with you.

Lake Township Trustees recently added the Midway St. Service Complex to the jurisdiction of the Uniontown Police Department. Police officers regularly patrol the property.

More information about the Yard Waste Program and the Recycle Program is available at the Township Office 330.877.9479.

A Message from your Fiscal Officer



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

On April 1, 2010, I begin my seventh year as Lake Township's Fiscal Officer. What an exciting time to be in politics! I've been given an opportunity that only a few will ever have the good fortune to know: I'm serving the community I love as its chief financial officer during one of the most volatile and challenging fiscal periods in our history.

Every day I wake to hear about governmental shortfalls, growing foreclosure lists, escalating unemployment rates, and economic "doom and gloom" with every newspaper I read. And yet, as an elected official, each day I face the challenge, as do most of our township residents, to work a little harder, to be a little more creative, so I can do a little more with a little less. Some days it's easier than others, but every day is worth the effort!

One of the more frustrating financial issues we're facing today is finding a way to convince our State Legislators to cut their own budget and leave the local government funding alone. With every stroke of the pen, our state legislators search for recovery of a looming state budget deficit. Attempts to resolve the state's funding problems have presented the local governments (townships, villages, cities, libraries, and schools) with even more fiscal restraints. With that in mind, your Lake Township officials have taken steps to contact our state legislative colleagues and asked them to reconsider some of the State's proposed local government funding cuts that would seriously impede local entities' ability to provide basic needs and services to our citizens across the state.

Over the last six years, your Board of Trustees and I have spent countless hours working together, planning and budgeting for the future of the township. As I've mentioned in previous newsletters, we have taken intuitive measures to cut our health insurance costs and benefits, reduced our staff size when needed, and set up budget stabilization funds to sustain the township during hard times. Due to the foresight of your Township officials, Lake Township finds itself in a good place at this point in time. And as we continue to work with our State and local government officials, we hope to maintain that level of stability throughout this economic crisis. Our hope is that our township residents can do the same.

If you have any questions about our township operations or budgets, please feel free to call me.

Ben Sommers

TRUSTEES WATCHING WETLANDS

Your Lake Township Trustees are keeping a close eye on the progress of a proposal to develop a wetlands area in the township on property currently used as farmland. While the idea of a natural area seems attractive on its face, there are concerns about the effect that this project might have on adjacent property owners and farmers because of its location. The 122-acre property, located south of Wales Dr., east of South Prospect Ave., north of Smith-Kramer St. NE, and west of William Penn Ave., lies immediately south of the Village of Hartville wastewater treatment plant, the Stan Balliett baseball fields, and the village's Industrial Park, between the Wheeling and Lake Erie railroad line and the Guiley Ditch, an extension of the Swartz Ditch, which takes the outflow from the sewer plant and drains hundreds of acres in the village and nearby farms.

Located on private property, the project is being requested by the property owner as a mitigation bank that would allow wetlands-creation credits to be sold to developers who want to fill wetlands anywhere else in the area's entire watershed. Current prices range from \$10,000 to \$40,000 an acre for about 65 acres of mitigation credit on this property.

The proposal would re-establish about 65 acres of wetlands in the agricultural part of the site by searching for and destroying any drainage tiles found in the area. Measures would be taken to prevent subsurface drainage from leaving the area. The long-term goal is to achieve forested and scrub-shrub components. The project area would be put into a conservation easement or environmental covenant to be held by the Stark County Park District for long-term management as open space. The park district director recently advised Lake Township Trustees that a walking trail is planned through the site.

Soils in this area are mucklands, known to be 30 to 40 feet deep. Plans for the wetlands development call for a 10-foot-deep plastic liner around the project. Your Trustees are concerned that the weight of the water in the project could push the liner toward the Guiley Ditch, possibly closing it off. If that happens, flooding could devastate much of the farming economy of Lake Township, not to mention the village-owned properties. The development plans show no provision for cleaning the ditch, which tends to fill with silt periodically. Although the ditch is a Stark County responsibility, ditch cleaning in the past has been postponed, sometimes for years, in times of economic difficulties. In fact, in 2005, Lake Township contributed funds toward a \$177,500 project to clean this same ditch. The Village of Hartville had spent almost \$150,000 in 2001 to clean it in order to alleviate drainage problems at the baseball fields, the southern end of the Industrial Park, and the lower end of East Jefferson St., a residential area.

Your Lake Township Trustees are businessmen who respect private property rights, but they also have a responsibility to look out for the rights of all residents and property owners in the township. For this reason, they are working actively with county and state officials to be sure that if this proposal does go forward, it will be accomplished in a manner that serves the best interests of all of Lake Township.

From the Uniontown Police Chief



Greetings:

I hope this finds you and your families in good spirits and that Old Man Winter has not been too rough on you.

Spring is here, bringing us warmer weather, but with that, criminals also tend to be more active. I would like to encourage everyone to be observant in their neighborhoods for any suspicious vehicles or persons. This includes vehicles driving slowly (possibly casing homes), unknown people walking the streets late at night, or noises such as people running through yards or dogs barking.

Last fall, our department arrested several people for car break-ins and burglaries. One arrestee is currently serving time in prison; others are spending time at the Multi-County Juvenile Attention Center in Stark County. However, we still need your help. I routinely hear comments from residents such as, "I heard a noise last night but I did not want to bother the police on something that small." I again encourage you to report any suspicious activity in your neighborhood. I assure you, no call is too small. Our officers would rather receive a call and possibly catch offenders than not be called at all.

The Uniontown Police Department is committed to making our community a safe place to reside. I believe that by working together, we can make Uniontown a better community.

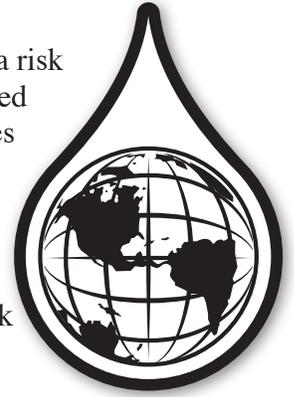
If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at 330.699.6444 or e-mail to uniontownpd@neo.rr.com. I am looking forward to working with you and to a great year to come.

Respectfully,
Chief Jack Coontz

GRAY WATER

Any wastewater (whether it comes from the shower, toilet, or from the laundry) poses a risk to public health as well as the environment. One particular type of wastewater generated from the home is called “gray water”. Gray water is the wastewater produced by activities in the home such as dish washing, laundry, and bathing. Gray water does not include water from toilets, which is called black water.

Gray water is water that has been used; it has bacteria, disease causing organisms, and/or chemicals that make it unsafe to be discharged untreated. Accordingly, gray water is considered sewage, and is bound by the same regulatory requirements as black water. Therefore, it is required to be tied into the septic system.



Two questions are regularly asked about gray water:

1. Can I run my washing machine water out to the ditch and bypass my sewage system? Answer: No. All domestic sewage must be directed into the sewage system including all gray water discharges such as washing machines, dishwashers, sinks, showers, etc. Only clear water basement sumps (that do not receive waste or gray water) can be discharged.

2. I live in an older home that was designed to have the gray water discharge to the storm sewer. Is my plumbing grandfathered in, or am I required to tie my gray water into my septic system? Answer: No. It is not grandfathered in. Regardless of the regulations at the time of construction, you cannot discharge any gray water or black water to the storm sewer system, onto the surface of the ground, or anywhere else besides a septic system or sanitary sewer. Gray water can be a hazard to public health and also the environment if allowed to be discharged untreated.

If you have any questions about gray water, please contact the Stark County Health Department at 330.493.9904.

DID YOU KNOW?

Lake Township now operates three cemeteries: Woods Cemetery on Edison St. (State Rt. 619, Greenlawn Cemetery at the north end of Church Ave. in Uniontown, and Mount Peace Cemetery on Kent Ave. (State Rt. 43) north of Hartville. The Board of Directors of Mount Peace Cemetery recently asked the Township to assume responsibility for that property. For more information about any of our cemeteries, call the Township office at (330) 877-9479.

President's Corner:



Spring! What a wonderful sound following record-setting snow in February. I appreciate all the comments regarding the hard and tireless work the Road Department put in this past winter. Many comments were positive and some indicated areas for improvement. We continually review our procedures and always strive to exceed expectations regarding this important service. This was the first winter with the GPS units installed in all the trucks. With these units, we were able to monitor where and when our trucks were in your neighborhood, and were able to have a significant reduction in the amount of salt used.

The recycle facility on Midway Street will undergo major renovation this year. The result will be a much more efficient and safe facility that will be more esthetically pleasing. The development of this property into much-needed baseball, soccer and lacrosse fields will begin this year, too. We have consulted professional designers who specialize in maximizing the use of land for sports fields and providing the required parking. Our vision also includes a walking trail, playground, restroom facilities and concession stands.

For several years, Lake Township has been operating Woods Cemetery. In 2009 we assumed responsibility for Uniontown Green Lawn Cemetery, and in January of 2010 we became responsible for Mount Peace Cemetery. In order to maintain and try to improve the high standards set by the previous boards that ran these cemeteries, we have hired Samuel Miller to be the working grounds supervisor (a part-time, seasonal position) to care for these sacred properties.

I am truly blessed to be serving as a Trustee in Lake Township. I have always been proud of this community, and with some of the exciting changes coming this year, I believe everyone will have additional reasons to want to stay here, or come and join us!

John Arnold

APPLICATIONS FOR BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

Lake Township is accepting applications for a position on the Board of Zoning Appeals for a five-year term beginning November, 2010. Residents of the unincorporated area of Lake Township who are interested in service on this Board may pick up an application at the Township office during business hours (Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM).

Candidates must be able to attend at least one meeting per month.

The purpose of the Board of Zoning Appeals is to hear appeals of decisions of the Zoning Administrator, requests for variances, and requests for conditional use permits. Members are paid \$35.00 per meeting. For more information, call the Township Zoning Department: 330.877.9479.

A Note from the Road Superintendent

It's been four months now since I was appointed Road Superintendent, and I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize and appreciate the manner in which our Road Department employees have helped during this transition period. They have presented numerous suggestions and have worked closely as a team to help this department operate more efficiently.

During our winter snow season, we worked closely with all Township employees and with Uniontown Police to develop a strategy for each snowstorm. We discussed multiple tactics to decide the best route, and we followed through with teamwork and constant monitoring of each storm.

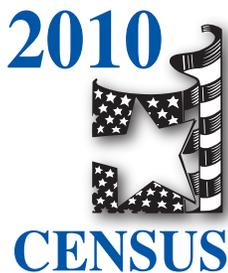
With a population of more than 25,000 and more than 13,500 households, Lake Township maintains 136.37 miles of roadways. During the snow season though, that translates to approximately 300 lane miles, because some roads require multiple passes when plowing. Those miles include 220 cul-de-sacs and about 30 stub streets.

We recently installed computerized Bosch Rexroth salt spreaders which allow us to program the output of salt, therefore controlling our salt usage. In addition, and working in conjunction with the salt spreaders, we installed GPS units in all of our vehicles, which helped us to minimize backtracking, so that we were more productive with our equipment. We've updated the Road Department garage with radar technology and monitoring of local law enforcement and emergency services for quick service to any area that needs attention. We're also maintaining and stocking inventory in the garage to minimize downtime.

Throughout this season, I've worked very closely with all of the Trustees and the office staff during and after each storm to handle any issues with snow and ice removal. This gave our residents a faster response to any concerns.

Lastly, I would like to thank each of you for your patience during this heavy snow season, and I assure you that we will continue to look for ways to streamline our winter operations. As always, if you have any concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Daniel R. Kamerer



Residents are encouraged to promptly fill out the forms recently sent out from the U.S. Census Bureau and mail them back in the postage-paid envelopes. Census information affects the numbers of seats your state occupies in the U.S. House of Representatives. The information is used to distribute more than \$400 billion in federal funds to tribal, state, and local governments each year, and to make decisions about what community services to provide. The 2010 Census form will be one of the shortest in U.S. history, consisting of 10 questions, taking about 10 minutes to complete. (Information from United States Census Bureau: <http://2010.census.gov>)

From Your Zoning Administrator



A reminder to residents: please check out the Lake Township Web site: www.laketwpstarkco.com. The Web site contains resources that should save your time and help to answer your questions about zoning. The site contains the Zoning Resolution, maps showing zoning and streets, and also forms and procedures. The forms can be printed for submission, and the procedures for application are outlined to help answer any questions. As always, we are available by phone at 330.877.9479 during business hours to answer any questions you may have.

In other news, we are in the process of updating our zoning and street maps. We have had some zone changes and some new streets added in the Township. The new maps should be completed by early summer.

Respectfully,
Steve Lacey

FIRE SAFETY IN THE HOME

Greetings Lake Township residents,

With the arrival of spring weather to our area, I want to remind everyone of some household safety issues addressable this time of year. All of these issues are inexpensive to address, and will hopefully give you a little peace of mind.

1. If you did not replace the batteries in your smoke detectors during Daylight Savings time, please do so immediately! Fire alarm systems with hardwired power usually also have battery backup. These batteries must also be replaced.

2. Carbon monoxide detectors come in both battery-operated and plug-in power plants. Those of you who have battery-operated carbon monoxide detectors in the home must remember to replace the batteries. Plug-in carbon monoxide detectors also have battery backup. This battery also must be replaced. One note concerning carbon monoxide detectors: carbon monoxide will mix evenly in air, which means were vapors to occur, they will accumulate evenly throughout a space. Therefore, locating detectors high and/or low in a space will detect the presence of vapors and sound the alarm.

3. When applying new mulch, be careful of where you might discard smoking materials. Also, new mulch may have heavy moisture content, which when applied and decomposition begins, can generate heat. Watch how closely mulch is applied near wooden structures.

4. As we begin another season of mowing, trimming, and cutting around the house, remember to handle gasoline and flammable sprays carefully. Also, store these items in locations where the vapors or spills cannot cause a fire.

5. Finally, remember that open burning for waste disposal is illegal in Lake Township. Please bring your grass clippings and trimmings to the Recycle Center for disposal.

Thank you,
Danille Kemp
Lake Township Fire Prevention Officer



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.

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