

LAKE TOWNSHIP Newsletter



EDITION NO. 100 — OCTOBER 2023

A Service of the Board of Lake Township Trustees

TRICK OR TREAT!

October's coming, time for Halloween fun! Lake Township Trustees have designated Sunday, October 29, from 3:00 to 5:00 P.M., as trick or treat time for children in the township. 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 TRUSTEES' MEETINGS

Lake Township Trustees meet every second and fourth Monday of each month at 5:00 P.M. You can view the live meetings on Facebook Live at www.facebook.com/LakeTownshipStarkCountyOhio or watch later if you can't tune in to watch us live!

Lake Township office hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM. Telephone: 330.877.9479

EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 7

Voters in Lake Township, the Lake Local Schools district and the Village of Hartville will see issues on the November 7 general election ballot:

Issue 3: LAKE TOWNSHIP ROAD DISTRICT: Renewal, 1.25 mills, 5 years, commencing in 2024.

Issue 33: LAKE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT: Additional, 9.9 mills, current expenses, 5 years, commencing in 2023.

Issue 44: VILLAGE OF HARTVILLE: Increase of 0.5 percent, income tax, roads, 10 years, effective January 1, 2024.

Lake Township voters will vote for a Trustee and the Fiscal Officer. Lake Local Schools District voters will vote for two candidates for the Board of Education. Village of Hartville voters will vote for a candidate for Mayor and two candidates for Village Council.



Jeremy Yoder



John Arnold



Steve Miller

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LAKE TOWNSHIP YARD WASTE FACILITY

The Yard Waste Facility is now for Lake Township and Village of Hartville residents ONLY. The cost is \$25.00 for a one-year subscription and one (1) key card is permitted per household. More information about this change is on our website (www.laketwpstarkco.com), Facebook page and from our office staff (330.877.9479).



**Check Out
Our Web Site:**
www.laketwpstarkco.com

It has lots of information about Lake Township!
CHECK OUT COMMUNITY EVENTS at www.lakechamber.com



Steve Miller

President's Corner

In 1997, the Board of Trustees formally adopted a mission statement which reads "The mission of Lake Township is to provide quality service to our citizens/customers in order to lead, support and facilitate the efficient operation of township government". A goal of theirs, under this mission statement, was to "Strive to meet our mission statement throughout each of our day to day township business activities". Although this was adopted well over two decades ago, I would say that this mission statement and goal still holds true with myself and my fellow trustees. It was explained by Trustee Norman "Marty" Martin, in a previous newsletter, that the mission statement focused on the citizen and the customer, and they were joined together purposely. He went on to explain that "a private sector approach that only treats people as customers will result in a one-way street with the customers focusing on their own desires and wishes. They will focus on only "what's best for me" or they may revert to having NIMBY attitudes (not in my backyard)". He further explained part of the reason they chose this mission statement was that "people can be more than just customers by fulfilling their roles as citizens. A citizen will have commitment to issues that go beyond short-term interest, and they will assume a personal responsibility for what happens in their neighborhoods and their community. They will become informed about issues and support their community service organizations and civic groups".

This still holds true today, and citizen involvement is one of the best ways to gain understanding of the processes of township government. One of the best citizen involvement exercises will come on November 7th, when those registered voters can make informed decisions on issues which affect their lives. One of the issues on the November ballot is a 1.25-mill renewal levy for our Road Department. Passage of this renewal means no new taxes and will allow us to stay on track with our road improvements, purchase of equipment and our asphalt overlay program. This 1.25-mill levy was originally approved as an additional levy in 1994 and was approved as a renewal in November 1998 (effective 1999), and continued as a renewal until a replacement of this levy was approved in November of 2008 (effective 2009). Since that time, it has successfully continued as a renewal levy at the 2009 tax evaluation level. As this is a renewal on the November 7th ballot, there will be no new taxes, meaning no increase in your taxes.

One of the ways the township provides a service to our customers/citizens is by aggregating the retail electrical loads located in our respective jurisdiction and by entering into service agreements to facilitate for those loads the purchase and sale of electricity. The Trustees, earlier this year, entered into an agreement with Energy Harbor LLC to bring an electrical rate of 6.5 cents per kWh for Ohio Edison customers and 6.41 cents per kWh for AEP Ohio Customers. Residents and small businesses who were part of the township's existing aggregation program should have received their opt-out letters. If you have any questions regarding the electric aggregation program, you may contact Energy Harbor directly at 1-866-636-3749, Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The term for this price ends May 2025.

As you enjoy this autumn season with festivities, family and friends, be assured that the trustees, along with our entire staff, will continue to uphold our previous boards' commitment to offering quality service and efficient operation, and keep Lake Township a place everyone wants to call home.

Steve Miller



Matthew Erb

A Message from your Fiscal Officer

Thanks for your continued support and pride in your Township. As your Fiscal Officer, I am pleased to share with you some insights into our current financial status and the path ahead.

1. Budget Adherence: We've successfully adhered to our budgetary commitments, ensuring that we allocate resources efficiently and effectively across all departments
2. Revenue Growth: I'm pleased to report that our revenue streams have shown healthy growth over the past quarter. This is primarily the result of the rising interest rates and our ability to invest in CD's
3. Cost Management: We continue to manage costs diligently, identifying opportunities for savings without compromising the quality of our services and products.
4. Reserve Fund: Our reserve fund remains strong, providing us with a safety net for unforeseen challenges and opportunities for strategic investments.
5. While we are grateful for our financial successes, we will continue to navigate and learn thru the ever-changing economic situations, ensuring a prosperous future for Lake Township.

I encourage you to all watch our meetings live on Facebook. Our meetings are every second and fourth Monday at 5:00 P.M.

All of our financial records are read into our meeting minutes, and information can also be found at www.OhioCheckbook.com

Matthew Erb



Dan Kamerer

A Note From The Road Superintendent:

Keep in mind that winter and its unpredictable, messy weather will be here soon. Please follow some of the tips listed below when preparing for winter. Doing so will save you time and effort, while also helping the Lake Township Road Department keep the roads clear and safe.

- Move vehicles out of the street and into private driveways (this also reduces the amount of snow you have to shovel). During a snow emergency, all vehicles must be removed from roadways. Any cars left in roadways during a snow emergency can prevent full clearance of the roads.
- Wait to shovel your driveway until you see that the plows have completed their final pass along the curb line or edge of the pavement. A pass or two through the neighborhood is meant to keep traffic moving; it does not mean that the Township is finished with snow removal. Your effort to clear your driveway entrance could be for nothing.
- Shovel to the right-hand side of your driveway (when looking towards the street from your house) to reduce the amount of snow that plows push back into your driveways.
- DO NOT throw snow, by any means, from any sidewalk or driveway into the roadway before or after plowing. Doing so is illegal, and you could be cited. Also, keep the roads as clear as possible by placing all receptacles (such as trash and recycling) on the sidewalk or in your driveway instead of in the street.
- Extra steps to take after a snowstorm for maximum benefit:
 - ♦ Snow should be plowed or shoveled to the side of the driveway away from the flow of traffic.
 - ♦ Clear some snow about a car’s length before the driveway to allow plows to unload before reaching your driveway entrance.
 - ♦ Eliminate snow piles at driveway entrances; they may obstruct views on both the main road and when exiting the driveway.
 - ♦ If you have municipal water, don’t forget to shovel a path to the fire hydrants while shoveling a path to your mailbox. Precious time is lost when firefighters have to search for fire hydrants buried in snow. Help yourself and our firefighters by keeping your nearest fire hydrant free of snow.
- Above all, PLEASE BE PATIENT. We are getting to the roads as quickly and as safely as possible.

As the summer months end, the Road Department is busy getting ready for the winter months by prepping equipment for snow and ice control, along with winterizing the equipment not used during the winter season. Additionally, the crews will be evaluating the roadways for the 2024 construction season.

Lake Township provides maintenance, including snow and ice removal, on all township-maintained streets. Please understand that the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the Stark County Engineer also have roadways in the township that they maintain. ODOT maintains Kent Avenue (SR 43) and Edison Street (SR 619), while the Stark County Engineer’s office maintains Cleveland Avenue, Middlebranch Avenue, Smith-Kramer Street, State Street, and Market Avenue North (south of SR 619 only and outside the Village of Hartville limits).

The Lake Township Road Department would like to thank you for the support you show your Road Department. Your positive comments, thoughtful acts, and thank-yous mean more than you can imagine.

Finally, it’s time to give some well-deserved appreciation to all of the Road Department employees, whether fulltime, part-time, or auxiliary, for being dedicated to serving this community so well. They work outside on hot, humid days; cold, snowy ones and everything in between. Not only do they work their regularly scheduled 40 hours per week, but they often give up their family time and holidays to come in during emergencies and storms. In the past few challenging years, they haven’t gotten enough credit for all they do, so if you see someone out and about, please give them a quick thank-you or a kind word of appreciation. They are truly an asset to the township!

Daniel R. Kamerer

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. We ask for your cooperation in removing any vehicles parked in the roadway; by doing so, it allows for timely snow and ice removal.



DO'S AND DON'TS DURING A DROUGHT

Rome Marinelli , Drainage Specialist
Stark Soil & Water Conservation Distric

Believe it or not, rain following a drought can carry negative impacts. When droughts occur, the soil dries up where it becomes as hard and impervious as pavement. Consequently, when rain finally arrives, instead of soaking into the ground, the water rushes off the land. Here we highlight how to prepare for rainfall following a drought to maximize its benefits and minimize potential issues such as runoff and flooding.

Adjust Sprinkler Systems: Check your sprinkler system regularly to ensure it is in good working condition. Adjust the sprinkler heads to avoid watering non-landscaped areas like driveways and sidewalks. Lawns typically require only one inch of water per week.

Avoid Mowing: Droughts cause plants stress. Avoid mowing when possible .If necessary, mow with a raised deck so that the grass can be maintained at three inches high. Additionally, if you choose to mow during a drought, you may be creating an additional water demand for your grass, which is unnecessary water usage.

Capture Rainwater: Install rain barrels or cisterns to harvest and store rainfall for later use. These water collection systems are beneficial during droughts and can provide a valuable water source for your plants and garden during dry periods.

Cover Bare Ground: Use mulch, straw or stones to create a protective layer over the soil. This will minimize erosion and muddy water runoff, preserving the soil. The same concept should be applied to any exposed soil piles; cover them with tarps.

Plant Drought-Tolerant Species: Choose native plants adapted to your region's climate. These plants require less water and can withstand dry periods, reducing the need for irrigation.

Utilize Drip Irrigation: Consider installing drip irrigation systems for targeted watering. Drip irrigation delivers water directly to the plant's root zone, minimizing water loss through evaporation and runoff.

Water Early in the Day: Water your plants and lawn in the early morning when temperatures are cooler. This allows for better water absorption and reduces evaporation.

Water Prior to Rainfall: If possible, water your lawn and plants at least one day before the anticipated rain event. This helps soften the hard, dry soil, enabling it to absorb the incoming rainfall more efficiently.

AND... Watch the Weather Reports: Stay informed by regularly monitoring weather reports and forecasts in your area. By keeping a close eye on upcoming rain events, you can prepare your property and make the most of the rainfall when it arrives.

LEAVES WILL FALL SOON

Bring your leaves to the Yard Waste Facility near the Recycle Center on Midway St., just east of the Township Service Garage. It's open from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. on Mondays and Fridays, and on Saturdays and Sundays from 9:00A.M. to 5:00 P.M. The Facility is closed Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. To access the site, you must obtain a Lake Township Yard Waste key card issued by the Township. See the Township's web site (www.laketwpstarkco.com) for more information.

Residents may drop off grass clippings, leaves, brush and tree limbs. We cannot accept commercial waste, railroad ties, furniture or wood products, lumber of any kind, plastic, trash, household waste, or rocks, blocks, building materials and dirt.

REMINDER: 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. Police officers regularly patrol the property. The Recycle Center has 24-hour camera surveillance. More information about the Yard Waste and Recycle Programs is available at the Township Office (330.877.9479) and on the Township Web site.





FROM THE UNIONTOWN POLICE CHIEF:

The holiday season is always special, and we want everyone in the community to stay safe and enjoy this time of year. We can never be too careful, too prepared, or too aware. Keep the following tips in mind for a peaceful holiday season.

If you're out shopping:

- Park in a well-lit area and be sure to locate your keys before going to your vehicle so you're not distracted in the parking lot.
- Always lock your vehicle and keep your valuables out of view or in the trunk.
- Stay alert and be aware of your surroundings; avoid being distracted by electronic devices.
- If you carry a wallet, keep it in your front pocket. If it is in a purse, carry the purse in front of you.
- If you take your young children shopping, teach them to go to a police officer, a store security guard, or a store employee if they get separated or lost.

If you're traveling:

- Put a hold on your mail or have a trusted friend or neighbor collect it for you daily.
- Ask a neighbor to keep an eye out on your home and possibly park their vehicle in your driveway from time to time.
- Call Uniontown PD and request a vacation check while you are gone, and officers will do perimeter checks while you are gone.
- Wait until you return home to post any vacation pictures to your social media accounts.
- Put indoor and outdoor lights on automatic timers.

If you're at home:

- Always keep your doors and windows locked.
- Tear down gift boxes before putting them in the recycle and trash; you don't want to advertise what is available inside your home.
- Criminals may use this time of year to pose as solicitors to get a look at the inside of your home or to take advantage of your generosity and ask for donations.
- There are some exceptions; however, most solicitors must register with Lake Township prior to going door to door. Ask for their permit, and if they cannot produce a Lake Township permit, contact the police department.
- Do not leave your gift packages or valuables visible through windows.

If you're having packages delivered:

- Avoid doorstep package theft by having packages delivered to your place of work or use the ship to store option.
- Sign up for delivery alerts so you know when your delivery is scheduled and when the package is delivered.
- Keep the delivery area visible and have some home security measures in clear view.

Chief Michael P. Batchik



From Your Zoning Administrator:

For many Lake Township residents, the Fall season change means it is time to squeeze in those last-minute projects that just didn't make the "to-do" list during the busy summer! Remember: before starting on these projects, a zoning permit is needed. The application for a zoning certificate can be found at our website, www.laketwpstarkco.com. If you need any assistance, simply call or email me. I will help you navigate through the paperwork. Once you have submitted all the necessary documents to our office, your permit generally takes three to five days for processing. After approval is granted, we will call with the fee total and notify you that the permit is ready for pick-up. The follow-up inspection to verify all zoning regulations have been met will be conducted roughly 45 days later. Your project will not be complete, or maybe even started, in 45 days? No problem, you have one year to start, and two years to finish your project from permit issuance.

Nicole Wilkinson



LAKE TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

12360 Market Avenue North
Hartville, Ohio 44632

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CANTON OH
PERMIT NO. 82

LAKE TWP. ROAD LEVY – RENEWAL, NO ADDITIONAL TAX

Lake Township Trustees have placed a 1.25-mill, five-year, renewal road levy on the November 7th General Election ballot. This levy would continue the tax at the same amount, with no additional tax.

How does Lake Township use the funds from the road levy? The Township maintains over 141.00 miles of roadway. We use road levy funds for materials and equipment for maintenance of our roads and for our road improvement program.

Visit the Stark County Auditor's website (www.starkcountyohio.gov/auditor) to see that this levy will not add to your property tax bill. Click on the Tax Estimator and follow the prompts.

Only voters in the unincorporated area of the township, outside the Village of Hartville, will vote on this levy. The Village has its own street department to maintain the streets in the village. Thank you for your support!

FIRE DEPARTMENTS' OPEN HOUSES

- Greentown Volunteer Fire Department – Open House is October 15, 2023 (noon – 4:00 PM)
- Hartville Volunteer Fire Department -- Open House and Pancake Breakfast is October 21, 2023 (7:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.)
- Uniontown Fire Department -- Open House is October 22, 2023 (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.)



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.