



Lake Township Newsletter

Edition No. 76

October 2011

Township Offices

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Board of Trustees

John Arnold
Ellis Erb
Galen Stoll

Township Fiscal Officer

Ben Sommers

TOWNSHIP-WIDE POLICE ISSUE ON GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT

Because many Lake Township residents have asked for better police protection, Township Trustees have placed an issue on the November 8 General Election ballot, giving Township residents the opportunity to vote on township-wide police service, financed by a continuing levy of 4.5 mills. The current police levies for the Uniontown Police District total 10.8 mills. Should this ballot issue pass, the 10.8 mills would no longer be collected. Instead, the entire unincorporated area of the township (excluding the Village of Hartville) would become one police district, and all the residents would share in the funding for the district with the proposed 4.5 mill levy.

The revenue generated from the 4.5 mill levy would provide the funding to employ 30 officers, with a minimum of four (4) officers on patrol in the township at all times, 24 hours per day, seven days per week. This would give the township a community-based, locally operated police agency that would be named the Lake Township Police Department.

With the passage of the 4.5 mill levy, the special services and programs provided by the current

Uniontown Police Department would be expanded to include the entire township-wide police district. For about 40 cents per day for every \$100,000 of valuation of property owned by a taxpayer in the Lake Township Police District, the proposed levy would provide the following programs and services:

- Immediate Police Response 24/7
- A Full-time Detective Bureau
- An SRT Unit (Special Response Team)
- In-house Accident, Criminal, and Crime Scene Investigations
- A Juvenile Diversion Program
- A Senior Citizen Watch Program
- A Bike Patrol Unit
- A Community Policing / Neighborhood Watch Program
- A Vacation-Check Program
- A School Safety Program
- A number of other Special Service Programs

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

HALLOWEEN!

It's October, time for Halloween fun! Lake Township Trustees have designated Sunday, **October 30, 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.



GENERAL ELECTION IS NOV. 8



All Lake Township voters will vote on one Township Trustee and the Fiscal Officer in the General Election on Tuesday, November 8.

Township voters outside the Village of Hartville will see Issue 6, expansion of the Uniontown Police District to the entire unincorporated territory of the township, replacing the tax in the existing police district to 4.5 mills.

Voters in Precinct A only (Hartville) will consider Issues 7 and 8, to allow sale of alcoholic beverages at the Circle K, 260 South Prospect Ave., Hartville.

Voters in Precinct 9 only will consider Issue 12 to allow Sunday sales of alcoholic beverages at the VFW Greentown Post 9904, 8695 Cleveland Ave.

Voters in the Village of Hartville will elect a mayor, two Council members and two members of the Board of Public Affairs.

Voters in the Lake Local Schools District will consider Issue 29, a 2.3-mill issue that combines a bond issue for improving school facilities and a continuing permanent improvements levy. Two seats on the Lake Local Board of Education will be on the ballot.

Voters in the North Canton City Schools district will vote on two Board of Education positions, but no levy.

In the Plain Local Schools district, there will be two Board of Education positions on the ballot, but no levy.

On the ballot county-wide is Issue 29, a county sales tax of 0.5 percent to support the criminal justice system.

Three state-wide issues are on the ballot. Issue 1 is a constitutional amendment to increase the maximum ages for judges from 70 to 75, to eliminate the General Assembly's authority to establish a court of conciliation, and to eliminate the Governor's authority to appoint members to a Supreme Court commission. Issue 2 is a referendum on Senate Bill 5, a new law relative to government union contracts and other government employment contracts and policies. Issue 3 is a constitutional amendment to prohibit any law to compel or prohibit the purchase of health care insurance.



From the Uniontown Police Chief

I would like to thank the residents for their support during my transition to Chief of the Uniontown Police Department. It is a privilege to work for the community in which I grew up. My family and I still reside in Lake Township. Being part of the community helps me better understand the needs of our neighborhoods. The concerns you and your families have in reference to public safety are my family's concerns, too. As fall and winter approach and we spend time away from home with family and friends, we would like to remind you to keep your doors and windows locked. And, when you go shopping, take a friend

with you for safety. Refuse to be a victim.

The Uniontown Police Department is a full-service Police Department providing professional crime prevention, crime detection, and investigative services. The Department's philosophy is to provide timely, community-oriented policing responses to all calls for service in an attempt to provide every citizen with a resolution to all issues. We place a strong emphasis on community partnerships and service, with our main focus on quality of life issues within the district. We take great pride in our ability to provide professional, effective public safety service to residents, business owners and visitors to Uniontown and Lake Township.

The staff of the Uniontown Police Department and I are here to assist you with any concerns you may have. Thank you for your support

Chief Harold Britt



President's Corner

In Lake Township, there are several issues that we consider "big issues." As in all other townships, finance is a big issue. 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.

We're working diligently to continue improving the safety of our roads and intersections. We believe in the dedicated people who are working in our Road Department, and will strive to provide them with the proper training, equipment and technology to provide continually improving service to our community.

We'll also continue to work with Stark County, the Ohio Department of Transportation, and other elected officials in search of opportunities to improve the safety of our roads and intersections.

With regard to safety forces, we have an opportunity here in Lake Township to address an issue that has been a significant problem for many of our residents. That issue is police protection. Because the Stark County Sheriff's Office has experienced a dramatic reduction in funding, they are not able to provide the police presence in Lake Township that they used to. This has created a dangerous situation in Lake Township outside of the Uniontown Police District. After addressing this issue with many residents, your Lake Township Trustees have placed a levy on the November 8 general election ballot that will establish a Lake Township Police Department. The foundation of this new department will be the Uniontown Police Department. We are confident that the leadership and quality officers now in place at the Uniontown Police Department, along with additional officers, will be able to establish the new Lake Township Police Department to provide a safer and more secure community. All residents of Lake Township will then be able to rest, knowing that if we need help, it will be there in minutes, not hours.

John Arnold



A Message From Your Fiscal Officer

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

With people out of work, and record-breaking home foreclosures, putting food on the table is by far more important to most people than paying taxes so our government can operate. With that in mind, government officials struggle to find more creative ways to provide the same basic services needed to keep their communities thriving with less revenue.

As I've mentioned in past newsletters, Lake Township is certainly more fortunate than most local governments, because of foresight and planning. Early in my first term of office, the Township Trustees and I implemented a budget stabilization plan, which included the use of Reserve Funds to allow for future budgetary shortfalls. With these tools, we've been successful in avoiding the more serious fiscal challenges facing many other local governments today. We've be able to utilize these tools for future planning and development. For example, with grants and private donations, Lake Township will someday enjoy a Recreation Complex planned for our Midway St. property.

As we move forward into 2012 in a climate of unprecedented funding cuts from our State Legislature, our spirits are high and we believe we're up to the challenge! With continued teamwork and planning, we hope to find innovative ways to stretch our tax dollars, and continue to make Lake Township a shining example of what township government can do for a community.

Ben Sommers



From Your Zoning Administrator

The objectives of the Zoning Department are to serve the community as a whole by promoting public health, safety, and welfare through orderly, comprehensive development of the community. Zoning provides a legal means of carrying out a responsible plan for physical growth and development by designating districts which provide for the orderly use of residential, commercial, and industrial areas. By encouraging the most appropriate use of lands, zoning helps to protect property value and maintain the highest and best use for all properties.

Stephen Lacey

NEW UNIONTOWN POLICE SERGEANTS

(From left) Uniontown Police Chief Harold Britt congratulates the department's two new sergeants, Michael Batchik and Nathan Weidman, who were promoted effective August 26.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Hollow-een Fest..... October 22
Quail Hollow State Park
- Community Thanksgiving Dinner... November 19
Hartville Fire Station No. 1
- Christmas Festival.....December 4
Historic Downtown Hartville
- Christmas at the HollowDecember 8, 9, 10
Quail Hollow State Park

Check Out Our Web Site:

www.laketwpstarkco.com

**It has lots of information
about Lake Township!**



Proper Discharge of Swimming Pool Water

Drain Your Pool in an Approved Manner

When swimming season is over, pool owners need to be careful of how and where they discharge swimming pool water when they lower the level of their pool. The discharge of chlorinated swimming pool water directly into a waterway or into a storm sewer is prohibited.

The storm sewer system (which includes ditches and pipes) was designed to handle runoff from rain and snow only. The water is not treated before it is discharged into area creeks and rivers. If the water contains chlorine, it can be very toxic to fish and other aquatic plants and animals.

Therefore, residential swimming pool water must be de-chlorinated before being discharged.

Do not allow pool water to discharge to a septic system.

De-chlorinate Pool Water Before Discharging

Reduce the chlorine in the pool water to undetectable levels before draining it. The simplest method is to stop adding chlorine to your uncovered pool and wait. Sunlight will naturally dissipate the chlorine within a few days. It can also be reduced by adding a chemical called sodium thiosulfate, which is available at pool stores. (Always follow the directions). Monitor the chlorine level with a swimming pool chlorine test kit. When there is no longer any detectable chlorine in your swimming pool it is safe to discharge the water. When discharging the water, allow it to flow over a grassy area at a slow rate to allow for some filtration of the water.

Saltwater Swimming Pools

The recent increase in popularity of saltwater swimming pools has caused many to examine the best method for discharging this type of water. At this time, it is still undecided. The bottom line is that some smaller water bodies can be more severely affected due to the higher salinity of the discharge water. Please exercise caution.

Lastly, in any circumstance the Township may prohibit any discharge if there is abuse.

YEAR-ROUND YARD WASTE COLLECTION & RECYCLE PROGRAM

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 DO NOT 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.

The Recycle Program accepts newspapers, magazines, and junk mail, as well as corrugated cardboard and food boxes, and glass bottles, plastics, and steel or aluminum cans (please rinse and remove lids.).

The Midway St. Service Complex is in the jurisdiction of the Uniontown Police Department. Police officers regularly patrol the property. 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.

E-WASTE RECYCLING

Lake Township has a program for residents and small business owners: electronic waste recycling. Items accepted at the Township Hall (12360 Market Ave. North) Mondays through Fridays from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. 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. More information is available at the Township office (330.877.9479) and on the Township Web site: www.laketwpstarkco.com.



RECYCLE PROGRAM WILL TAKE YOUR OLD APPLIANCES & SCRAP METAL

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).

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.



A Note from the Road Superintendent

Looking ahead to winter, I'd like to remind everyone to remove your vehicles from the roadway at the first sign of snowfall. Cars parked in the road hamper the snowplows and may result in a portion of the road not being plowed.

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 place your trash cans behind the mailbox line. The Township cannot assume responsibility for trash cans left in the roadway.

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

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. Please help yourself and our firefighters by keeping your nearest fire hydrant free of snow.

As always, if you have any concerns, please feel free to call me at 330.877.9479.

Daniel R. Kamerer

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 AND 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



From Your Fire Prevention Officer

Daylight Savings Time will end on Sunday, November 6, at 2:00 A.M. Please remember to replace the batteries in all smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detector when you change your clocks.

I want to thank all residents of Lake Township for their use of the Yard-Waste drop-off site at the Lake Township Service Garage. Reports of unauthorized open burning, particularly for waste disposal, decreased significantly during 2011. I appreciate everyone's cooperation.

National Fire Prevention Week 2011 begins Sunday, October 9, through Saturday, October 15. This is an excellent time to discuss fire safety in the home, practice exit drills in the home (EDITH), replace smoke detectors that are more than 10 years old, and purchase a fire extinguisher if you do not have one.

Finally, if you are planning a bonfire, please remember to call the Township office first, to find out what the regulations are (330.877.9479).

Danille Kemp



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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(ECRWSS)

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Lake Township Trustees
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