



Lake Township Newsletter

Edition No. 70

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Township Offices

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Board of Trustees

John Arnold
Ellis Erb
Galen Stoll

Township Fiscal Officer

Ben Sommers

From Your Road Superintendent



We'd like residents to know that 57 of our street name signs have been vandalized or stolen so far this year. Replacement of these signs costs approximately \$100.00 per sign. That is your tax money.

Fall has arrived. Soon the leaves will turn, and then they will be falling. Please remember to remove your leaves and yard debris from your ditches to avoid winter drainage problems. Snow is coming soon. Here are some things to keep in mind when the snow falls:

- Never park your vehicle on the road during a snowstorm. This can create a traffic hazard for the snowplow operators. It could result in that section of the roadway not being plowed. Please move your vehicles into your driveway during a snowfall.
- Check your mailbox to make sure it's not extending over the road surface.
- Please take your trash cans in from the street as soon as possible after your trash has been picked up, so streets can be cleared of snow.
- Never push snow from your driveway into the street, especially after the roads have been plowed and salted.
- Please be considerate and give the snowplow trucks plenty of room.
- When bad weather hits, plan your trip to allow for extra time.

Thanks for your cooperation! As always, I'm available to answer your questions, address your concerns, or give you a tour of our Service Garage at 1499 Midway St.

Rick Criss

Township Road Levy on General Election Ballot

Lake Township Trustees have placed a 1.25-mill, five-year replacement road levy on the November 4 General Election ballot. How does Lake Township use the funds from the road levy?



The Township maintains 135.53 miles of roadway. We use road levy funds for materials and equipment for road maintenance and for our aggressive road improvement program.

Continued inside

HALLOWEEN!



It's October, time for Halloween fun!

Lake Township Trustees have designated Sunday, October 26, 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.

Bring Us Your Yard Waste (but no trash, please!)

Fall has arrived, and that means those colorful leaves will be falling soon. You can bring your leaves to the yard waste drop off site located behind the Recycle Center at 1505 Midway St., next to the Lake Township Service Garage. It's open from dawn to dusk, seven days a week. If you bring your leaves in plastic bags, please be prepared to empty the bags and take them away with you. Lake Township residents may drop off grass clippings, leaves, shrubs, tree limbs, and stumps. We cannot accept business waste, plastic bags, or treated lumber. No household trash or discards, please! More information about the Yard Waste Program and the Recycle Program is available at the Township Office (330-877-9479).

Continued From Front Page

Since the 1.25-mill road levy was originally approved in 1994, the price of asphalt has more than doubled. The current price is \$58.00 per ton. In 2008, Lake Township contracted for 11.34 miles of asphalt overlay. The paving cycle is approximately 10 to 12 years on a rotational basis. In 2009, we will need to include road grinding in our paving contract.

Winter is coming. The price of road salt has increased by an average of \$1.50 per ton per year over the past 16 years. This year, we rebuilt 27 catch basins and repaired 918 feet of curbs and gutters. This year, approximately 3,000 feet of pipe was installed on roads throughout the Township. The cost of plastic pipe has increased by 19.5 percent since this spring. And, as we all know, fuel costs continue to increase.

This levy, which will replace the current levy at the same millage at current valuation, will cost the owner of a typical \$100,000 home an additional \$20.17 per year, or about \$1.68 per month more than they pay now. To see the cost of the levy for your property, visit the Stark County Auditor's Web site (www.auditor.co.stark.oh.us). Click on 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!

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.

GENERAL ELECTION IS NOV. 4

Remember to vote on November 4. In addition to choosing the President, our next representative for the 16th Congressional District, two Stark County Commissioners, the Stark County Sheriff, and a number of judges, Lake Township residents will vote on three local issues and two county-wide issues:



- ✓ Issue 35: Lake Township Road District replacement road levy, 1.25 mills, 5 years, beginning 2009.
- ✓ Issue 43: Local Option Precinct 16 sale of beer, wine, mixed beverages, and spirituous liquor at 1 East Drive (Congress Lake Club), this site only. (Only voters in Precinct 16 will vote on this issue.)
- ✓ Issue 44: Local Option Precinct 16 sale of beer, wine, mixed beverages, and spirituous liquor at 1 East Drive (Congress Lake Club) Sunday only, this site only. (Only voters in Precinct 16 will vote on this issue.)
- ✓ Issue 53: Stark County Library District replacement one-mill levy, 5 years, for current expenses, beginning 2008.
- ✓ Issue 65: Stark County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board additional one-mill, 10 years, for alcohol, drug addiction and mental health services, beginning 2009.

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 10. 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.



Ellis Erb



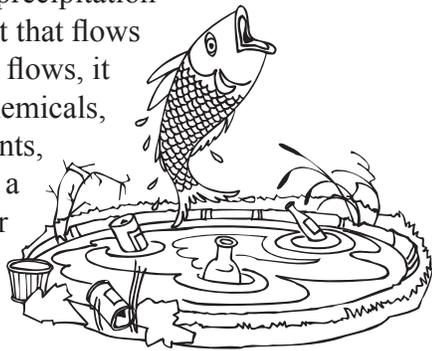
John Arnold



Galen Stoll

ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN!

Stormwater runoff is precipitation from rain or snowmelt that flows over the ground. As it flows, it can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants, and deposit them into a storm sewer system or waterbody. Anything that enters a storm sewer is discharged



untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water.

We cannot afford to pollute and contaminate it.

- Use pesticides sparingly. Fertilize only as needed, using natural, organic, or other slow-release fertilizers.
- Reduce stormwater runoff by directing downspouts and gutters to drain onto the lawn, plant beds, etc. Use mulch, bricks, gravel, or other porous surfaces on driveways and walkways to decrease erosion.
- Go to a carwash or wash your car in the grass. Don't wash dirt and cleaners down the driveway into the storm drain.
- Recycle used motor oil. AutoZone and Valvoline accept used oil. Never dump oil or antifreeze down storm drains which flow into creeks and rivers.
- Dispose of any hazardous home chemicals at approved household hazardous waste collections. Use the least toxic products available in your home and garden.
- Properly dispose of leaves and grass clippings. Start a compost pile. Never use streams, creeks, or gutters to dispose of yard waste. Keep leaves out of ditches and storm sewers. You can dispose of your leaves at the yard waste drop off site located behind the Lake Township Recycle Center at 1505 Midway St., next to the Township Service Garage.
- Sweep the dirt and debris from your driveway and walkways back into the yard. Pick up pet waste and dispose of it in the toilet or trash. Hosing dirt and pet waste into storm drains sends it directly to the creeks and rivers.
- Choose water-based paints like latex. Paint thinner can be reused and recycled. Do not pour any paint or toxic material down the drain.
- Maintain your septic system. Have it pumped at least

every three years. Repair or replace malfunctioning septic systems. Do not flush grease and personal hygiene products down the toilet or drain.

- Recycle all acceptable materials and use your garbage can for all other trash. Don't litter. It will eventually be washed to our creeks and rivers and pollute them.

Keep Stark County's water clean!
Stark County Commissioners

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



DID YOU KNOW?

Lake Township now operates two cemeteries: Woods Cemetery on Edison St. (State Rt. 619) and Greenlawn Cemetery at the north end of Church Ave. in Uniontown. The Board of Directors of Greenlawn Cemetery asked the Township to assume responsibility for that property earlier this year. For more information about either cemetery, call the Township office at (330) 877-9479.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR ZONING ADMINISTRATOR



Everyone's heard about problems with foreclosures. We've had some here in Lake Township. If you or someone you know is having a problem, stop in to see us at the Township office. We have information that might help you. The Stark County Save Our Homes Coalition works to provide foreclosure assistance initiatives, consumer-based financial education and a support system for homeowners who seek to refinance, and future home purchasers who seek to buy homes.

The Coalition has set up a Web site with information about preventing foreclosure. [www.co.stark.oh.us/internet/HOME.DisplayPage?v_page=SaveOurHomes]. If you suspect a house in your neighborhood is in foreclosure, please call the Township office (330) 877-9479. It's important for township government to be aware of these situations.

Steve Lacey

A NOTE FROM THE STARK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The EPA's Stormwater Phase II program is a stormwater management program that is intended to improve the Nation's waterways by reducing the quantity of pollutants that enter the waterways mainly via storm sewer systems. The EPA has recently mandated additions to the Phase II program, requiring all home sewage treatment systems (HSTS's) in the urbanized area receive an inspection by the local health department. The purpose of this inspection program will be to determine if HSTS's are operating as designed and intended and not discharging improperly treated sewage. HSTS's that are not operating as designed and intended will be required to be repaired or replaced, and will be required to obtain a permit from the Stark County Health Department prior to any repairs taking place. The Stark County Health Department will NOT be requiring homeowners with a properly functioning HSTS to upgrade their system to meet today's standards.

The Stark County Health Department's Phase II Stormwater Specialists have begun conducting HSTS inspections. This inspection comes at no charge to the homeowner and does not require the homeowner be present. Typically, records of most of the HSTS's installed are on file at the Stark County Health Department. The exception would be older HSTS's or HSTS's installed without a permit. These records are copied and taken to each inspection which allows the health department to know precisely what is in the ground and the location of each of the septic system's components. The inspection typically consists of walking the area of the HSTS and looking for any signs of system failure. Septic tanks with exposed lids are sometimes opened to determine if the tank is operating at an acceptable level. Additionally, homes that utilize aeration units are checked to ensure that the aerator is on (aerators must be allowed to run continually), the filters are checked, and the effluent is examined to ensure that the aerator is functioning properly.

Upon completion of the inspection, a copy of the record (if available) of the HSTS will be left for the homeowner along with an informative brochure. If any problems with the HSTS are found the homeowner will be contacted by the Stark County Health Department and given information on what needs to be corrected. Any questions regarding this new program can be directed to the Stark County Health Department at (330) 493-9904.

President's Corner



With power outages and fallen branches, many township residents experienced the aftermath of Hurricane Ike. The road crews have been busy clearing debris from township roads and right-of-ways. Road crews are not allowed to remove debris from private property.

Many residents have been using the solid waste recycling station at the road garage on Midway Street to dispose of grass clippings and branches. All township residents are welcome to use this facility, which is open from daylight to dusk. Items which cannot be disposed of at this site include hazardous materials, railroad ties, and lumber.

This fall, we are continuing work with the Stark County Engineer to schedule ditching projects for this year and next. As winter approaches, we would like to remind residents to avoid parking on the street if at all possible when snowfalls exceed two inches. Keeping the streets clear will permit the road crews to get the streets plowed and salted faster.

As always, if you have any comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to call the township office at 330-877-9479. Messages can be left with the administrative staff during the day or on voice mail in the evening.

Galen Stoll

A word from your Fiscal Officer...



With the recent turmoil in the financial markets, I'd like to assure Lake Township residents that our township funds are kept in secure investments. Your tax dollars are safe. By the end of the year, we should have our GIS (Geographic Information System) street lighting audit completed. If everything goes as planned, we will be able to finish all of our street light pole locations, and have our maps ready by the first quarter of 2009. This will help us to provide accurate and accountable assessments.

Lake Township recently took over responsibility of operating Greenlawn Cemetery, at the request of the cemetery's Board of Trustees. We are looking into software programs to computerize all of the records of Greenlawn Cemetery and Woods Cemetery. Many of these handwritten records are very old and hard to read. Placing them on computer programs will improve the efficiency of the operation of both cemeteries.

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

Ben Sommers

LAKE TOWNSHIP WILL RECYCLE YOUR OLD CELL PHONES

DON'T THROW AWAY THAT OLD CELL PHONE. RECYCLE IT! As part of Lake Township's effort to **REDUCE, REUSE, AND RECYCLE**, Lake Township officials encourage township residents and local businesses to **RECYCLE** their old cell phones at the Township Hall (12360 Market Ave. N., Hartville), or at the Uniontown Police Department (2930 Edison St. NW, Uniontown). Unwanted cell phones (working or not) can be dropped off at these locations to be **RECYCLED**.

Whenever possible, please consider **REDUCING** the amount of waste leaving your home for the landfill by purchasing fewer disposable products, **REUSING** or selling items that are in good condition, and **RECYCLING** as much as you can through our local recycling drop-off site (located at 1505 Midway St., Lake Township Road Dept.). Contact Christy Bresson at the Lake Township Office (330-877-9479) for more information about your local recycling programs.



From The Uniontown Police Chief:



I would like to encourage residents to report suspicious activity in their neighborhoods to the police. Residents should increase awareness of their surroundings and report suspicious activity to local law enforcement when it is happening. Don't wait until the next day. We are here 24/7 to serve you.

A quick accurate description of events, vehicles, and persons can make all the difference in apprehending a potential criminal. Suspicious activity includes any type of activity or circumstance that seems unusual.

Some examples include:

- A stranger loitering in your neighborhood.
- An unfamiliar car repeatedly cruising the streets.
- Someone looking into cars or windows of a house.
- A high volume of traffic to and from a home on a daily basis.
- Someone loitering around schools, parks, or secluded areas.
- Strange odors coming from a house or building.
- Open or broken doors/windows at a closed business or vacant residence.

School Bus Safety

School has resumed and the sight of yellow buses on Lake Township roadways has returned. Motorists have the responsibility to know the meaning of the flashing lights on school buses. The yellow and red lights are designed to help ensure the safety of both motorists and children.

- Yellow flashing lights indicate the bus is preparing to stop. Motorists should slow down and prepare to stop.
- Red flashing lights and extended stop arm extended from the left side of the bus indicate the bus has stopped for children to get on or off the bus.

Motorists approaching from either direction are required to stop at least 10 feet from a stopped school bus, and remain stopped until the bus resumes motion. If a school bus is stopped on a road divided into 4 or more lanes; e.g., Cleveland Ave., only traffic driving in the same direction as the bus must stop. School bus drivers who witness a motorist unlawfully pass a stopped school bus will report the license plate number to law enforcement of the appropriate jurisdiction to investigate resulting in possible citation of the motorist.

**Chief Donald Hensley
Uniontown Police Department**

Greetings From Your Fire Prevention Officer



Greetings Lake Township residents,

With Fire Prevention Week just behind us, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize two major contributors to the safety and well-being of Lake Township. The first contributor I want to recognize are you the residents of Lake Township. In my seven years as Fire Prevention Officer, I have witnessed the financial commitment you have made through your continued support of fire and emergency medical services levies.

I applaud and appreciate your support for the fire and emergency medical services provided by the Greentown, Hartville and Uniontown fire departments. I assure you that your investment in these organizations has been well placed.

The second contributor I want to recognize are the organizations which provide fire and emergency medical services to Lake Township, namely the Greentown, Hartville and Uniontown fire departments. Each of these organizations have used the financial support from the township residents to transform themselves into service providers with 24 hour in-station manning, capable of responding immediately to any emergency presented. Each has wisely spent taxpayer funding to purchase state-of-the-art fire truck and ambulance units and equipment. Finally, these organizations are headed by Boards of Trustees, managed by Chief officers, and staffed by dedicated employees/members who keep the needs of the community first.

Thank you,
Danille Kemp

Editor's Note: Each of the three fire companies (Greentown, Hartville, and Uniontown) 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.



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)

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Lake Township Trustees
12360 Market Avenue North
Hartville, Ohio 44632