



Lake Township Newsletter

Edition No. 72

October 2009

Township Offices

12360 Market Avenue
Hartville, Ohio
(330) 877-9479 • Fax (330) 877-4179
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Board of Trustees

John Arnold
Ellis Erb
Galen Stoll

Township Fiscal Officer

Ben Sommers

From Your Zoning Administrator



As many people are aware, we are continuing to see foreclosures in this weak economy. If you are aware of a home that appears abandoned or has tall grass or weeds growing on the property,

please contact the Lake Township Offices (330.877.9479) so that we may initiate contact with the bank or lienholder. Early notification helps to ensure that the banks will maintain these properties and also helps to prevent possible damage to the structures if they are not winterized or are unsecured.

Also, if you believe someone is at the property who should not be there, please contact the Uniontown Police Department (330.699.6444), or Stark County Sheriff (330.430.3800), depending on your district.

Steve Lacey

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 Saturday, October 31, 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.



TRUSTEES AND FISCAL OFFICER DONATE VAN TO TOWNSHIP

(From left) Lake Township Fiscal Officer Ben Sommers, together with Township Trustees Galen Stoll, Ellis Erb, and John Arnold, and Uniontown Police Chief Jack Coontz, are shown with the fully-equipped van that your elected officials have donated to the township. The vehicle will be used by the Police Department's Special Response Team as a command center in case of an emergency. The Special Response Team is available for emergency situations anywhere in the township, such as school buildings.



GENERAL ELECTION IS NOV. 3



All Lake Township voters will vote on two Township Trustees in the General Election on Tuesday, November 3.

Township voters outside the Village of Hartville will see Issue 30, a 1.25-mill, five-year, renewal levy for emergency medical services on the ballot.

Renewal means no increase in the tax.

Voters in Precinct 3 only will consider Issues 38 and 39, local option for the sale of alcoholic beverages at Seven Hills Country Club.

Voters in the Village of Hartville will vote on four Council positions.

Three seats on the Lake Local Board of Education will be on the ballot, but no levy this time.

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

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

On the ballot county-wide are Issue 4, renewal of a 1.4-mill levy for support of children's services, and Issue 5, repeal of the county permissive sales tax of 0.5 percent.

Three state-wide issues are on the ballot. Issue 1 is a constitutional amendment authorizing the State of Ohio to issue bonds to provide compensation to veterans of the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts.

Issue 2 is a constitutional amendment to create an Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board to establish and implement standards and care for livestock and poultry.

Issue 3 is a constitutional amendment to allow casinos in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus and Toledo.



Check Out Our Web Site:

www.laketwpstarkco.com

It has lots of information about Lake Township!

From the Uniontown Police Chief



A new school year is underway. Motorists should watch for school buses stopping, and be aware of school zones and children running around.

Reminder to residents: our records show that 99 percent of vehicle break-ins are to unlocked vehicles. It's a good idea to lock your vehicle even when it's parked in your own driveway.

Our officers will conduct the "Shop with a Cop" program again this year, where at Christmas time they will collect donations from businesses and the public. The monies received then go to children whose names are obtained from elementary schools, not only in Uniontown, but also from Hartville and Greentown.

Starting this year, our officers will participate in the "Fill a Cruiser" project. This involves collecting food at Thanksgiving, which will then be given to residents of Lake Township who are in need. All these programs are done on the officers' own time.

Chief Jack Coontz

President's Corner:



Your Board of Trustees has placed a renewal of our current EMS levy on the November 3 general election ballot. Renewal means we are not asking for an increase in your taxes. We want to continue our very fine emergency medical service for another five years at the same rate.

This summer, Lake Township re-paved 12.05 miles of township roads. We rebuilt or replaced 37 catch basins and installed more than 1,043 feet of curb and gutter.

We are prepared for whatever winter brings. We've already arranged to purchase 4,500 tons of road salt through the Stark County Cooperative Purchasing Program, so we should have plenty of salt. Let's hope we don't need it!

Galen Stoll

APPLICATIONS FOR ZONING COMMISSION

Lake Township is accepting applications for a position on the Township Zoning Commission for a five-year term beginning January 24, 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 Zoning Commission is to hear requests or applications for zone changes, amendments or supplements to the Zoning Resolution, and to make recommendations on approval or denial of those requests to the Board of Lake Township Trustees.

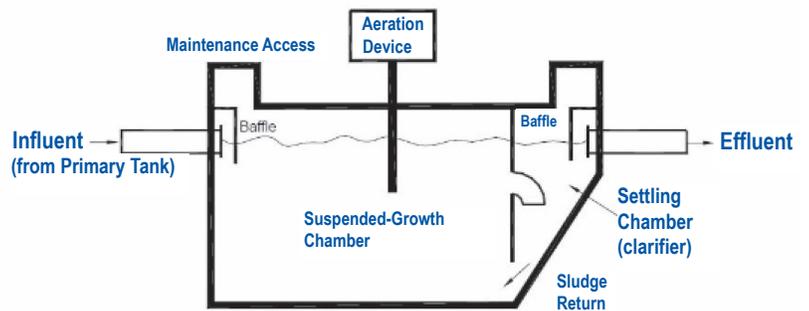
Members are paid \$35.00 per meeting.

For more information, call the Township Zoning Department: 330.877.9479.

STORMWATER PROTECTION NEWS

From the Stark County Health Department

Many homes throughout Stark County have a type of septic system that requires the use of an aerator. There are many types of aerators in use, but all follow the same basic principles.



1. An aerator requires the use of a motor to bring air into the system and create good bacteria known as aerobic bacteria. These bacteria break down sewage, producing a clean effluent. If you have an aerator, check often to ensure that the motor is running properly. You should be able to hear your aerator when standing beside it, and you can also feel vibrations if you put your hand on it.
2. An aerator cannot do its job unless it is turned on. With little exception, aerators are designed to run continuously and should not be turned off or allowed to run off of a timer. An aerator that is not permitted to run is most likely discharging raw sewage and is a hazard to public health. Accordingly, this would also be a violation of state and local laws.
3. A properly functioning aerator also requires regular maintenance. Service contracts are available from the aerator's registered service provider(s). A list of registered service providers is available at <http://www.starkhealth.org>. Remember that even with the motor running, lack of maintenance will cause the system to discharge poorly treated effluent.
4. Never bury your aerator lids. The lids are necessary to access your aerator to perform maintenance, and also important to bring air into the aerator which sustains the good aerobic bacteria.

Within the Stark County Health Department's Phase II Stormwater Program, septic systems (including aerators) are being checked to ensure that they are functioning properly. This includes confirming that the motor is running, the effluent quality is acceptable, and the system is operating as designed. If you have any questions regarding your aerator or septic system in general, please contact the Stark County Health Department and ask to speak to a Phase II Stormwater Specialist.

RECYCLING AND YARD WASTE PROGRAM

Lake Township Trustees, in recognition of the environmental benefit of recycling and yard-waste collection programs, have provided a site as a convenience for township residents' use all year round. The Recycle Center is located on Midway St. near the Township Service Building. The Township pays employees at least thirty hours per week just to keep up with the yard waste.

Some people have been abusing the program, leaving such items as fencing, railroad ties, a drafting table, and even a swing set right beside the sign that lists acceptable items. The additional costs resulting from this dumping of unacceptable items has created a financial burden for labor and disposal. An ongoing investigation is being conducted to find out who has been dumping these materials. Trustees have asked the Stark-Wayne-Tuscarawas Joint Solid Waste District and the Ohio EPA for assistance.

Lake Township Trustees recently added the Midway St. Service Complex to the jurisdiction of the Uniontown Police Department. Police officers regularly patrol the property. Surveillance cameras will soon be installed.

The Township provides an annual Spring Clean-up program in June for residents to dispose of items such as appliances and tires.

Thank you for your cooperation in the proper use of our Recycle Center and Yard Waste Collection site.

DID YOU KNOW?

Lake Township has six ZIP codes, five telephone exchanges, three school districts (Lake Local, North Canton City, and Plain Local Schools), three police protection agencies, three volunteer fire companies, two local government entities, and only one incorporated municipality (the Village of Hartville).

It is a curiosity of Ohio law that all residents of the township, including those living in the Village of Hartville, vote for the township trustees. Only those outside the incorporated area, however, vote on township tax issues such as road levies and fire levies. The village has its own tax for fire and emergency services.

(Excerpt from the series "Living Here Can Be Confusing!", reprinted with permission from The Hartville News)

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 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.

Contact Christy Bresson at the Lake Township Office (330.877.9479) for more information about your local recycling programs.



A Word from Your Fiscal Officer:



Dear Lake Township Residents, I certainly don't need to give any of you a report on the "State of the Economy". Just pick up a paper, turn on the radio, or the TV, and something is there about local government revenues are down following the loss of jobs and the lack of return from investments. Lake Township, like many other neighboring communities, has seen its share of foreclosures, delinquent taxes, and a decrease in property values, all of which have contributed to a significant decrease in revenue. But, unlike many communities, the Trustees and I took some steps a few years back to sustain our Township's budget, should there ever be a shortfall. For this reason, your Lake Township officials have been able to stabilize the budgets in each of the departments, make cuts where necessary, and still provide the same level of services to the community. As always, we will continue to shop for the best prices and keep our belts tight. We'll be able to wait this thing out.

Ben Sommers



MEET OUR FIRE & EMS



A Lake Township Trustee has said many times, “We have the finest fire service in Stark County.” Lake Township enjoys professional fire and emergency service from three private fire companies: Hartville, Uniontown and Greentown. They have the township divided into service areas, covered by four stations. Residents don’t have to worry about which one to call, though. A call to “911” will bring the right one. All of the fire companies have mutual-aid agreements with one another, and with neighboring communities. That’s why equipment from more than one fire company is sometimes seen at some emergency scenes.

First-response EMS service is provided by each of the fire companies. All three have fully-trained EMT’s and paramedics on duty around the clock.

It’s important to remember that the firefighters and paramedics are not employees of local government. They are our neighbors, and many of them are volunteers. All three fire companies have paid staff to man the stations when the volunteers are working at their career jobs.

Each of the fire companies 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.

The Hartville Volunteer Fire Department, formally incorporated in 1935, has served the Hartville area since 1900. They serve the eastern half of Lake Township with two stations. The Uniontown Volunteer Fire Department was organized in 1947, and the Greentown Volunteer Fire Department in 1949. Together, our three fire companies have served this community for a combined total of more than 200 years. Some years ago, Lake Township Trustees said of the fire departments, “The fire-fighting companies...have saved countless lives, protected property and saved taxpayers substantial dollars...These hundreds of fine men and women have...literally put their lives and well-being on the line for all residents of Lake Township.”

A REMINDER FROM THE ROAD DEPARTMENT

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 already 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.
- Listen to WHBC (94.1 FM or 1480 AM) for messages on township parking bans.



Reminder From Your Fire Prevention Officer



Daylight Savings Time will end on November 1. Please remember to replace the batteries in all of the smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors in your home when you change your clocks.

Don't burn your leaves! Please take them to our Yard Waste drop off site, located behind the Recycle Center at 1505 Midway Street, next to the Lake Township Service Garage.

If you're planning a bonfire, remember to call the Township office first, to find out what the regulations are! (330.877.9479)

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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(ECRWSS)

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Lake Township Trustees
12360 Market Avenue North
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