



Lake Township News

A publication provided for the citizens of Lake Township

SPRING 2013 • EDITION No. 79

It's Spring Cleanup Time!

Lake Township will sponsor a Spring Clean-up for Township residents, from Tuesday, June 4, through Saturday, June 8, from 8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. every day. Containers will be located near the Lake Township Service Garage complex at 1499 Midway Street. Residents will be expected to unload their own vehicles.

This service is for Lake Township residents only. Identification may be checked. Township businesses will be allowed to dispose of no more than one truckload during the program. For more information, call 330.877.9479.

In addition to all of the items accepted at the year-round programs, the following will be accepted during Spring Cleanup: household debris and tires (*no rims, limit of 12 per household or business*). No garbage, no railroad or landscaping ties, no hazardous waste, and no paint can be accepted.



One Renewal Issue On Primary Ballot, No Additional Tax

Lake Township Trustees have placed one issue on the May 7 Primary Election ballot: a one-mill, five-year, renewal fire levy. This levy would continue the tax at the same amount, with no additional tax.

How does Lake Township use the funds from the fire levy? Lake Township enjoys professional fire and emergency protection from three private fire companies: Hartville, Uniontown and Greentown. They have the township divided into service areas. 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. 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 the fire levy.

Only voters in the unincorporated area of the township, outside the Village of Hartville, will vote on this levy. The village has its own fire and EMS levy for its contract with the Hartville Volunteer Fire Department.

Thank you for your support!

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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



John Arnold



Ellis Erb



Galen Stoll

Township Fiscal Officer: BEN SOMMERS

Board of Trustees: JOHN ARNOLD, ELLIS ERB, GALEN STOLL

Township Offices: 12360 MARKET AVE., HARTVILLE, OH • P. 330.877.9479 F. 330.877.4179 E. LAKETWPSTARKCO@NEO.RR.COM

President's Corner

Spring has arrived in Lake Township, according to the calendar. I once heard that the difference between the first day of spring and the first spring day could be a month. Let's hope that is not true in our township this year.

One of the current projects in Lake Township is to move the Recycle and Yard Waste facility from its current location on Midway to two-tenths of a mile farther east. Township residents who use the recycling center will appreciate the larger area and the paved lot. The facility will be open sometime in April. The hours of operation will be 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. weekdays, and 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on weekends.

Also in April, if the weather cooperates, the new playground equipment will be installed at the Lake Township Community Park behind the high school stadium. Third-grade classes at Uniontown Elementary School helped select the swing sets and other equipment.

Another project that could see some activity is the improvement of Edison Street (State Route 619) from Uniontown to Hartville, which is greatly needed if the township is going to grow and attract businesses to help our tax base. The Trustees have met with ODOT, Stark County officials, and State Representative Kirk Schuring for the past four years to study options. Drawings and right-of-way procurements should be completed in 2013 with construction to begin in 2014.

As a lifelong resident of Lake Township, I feel honored to serve as a trustee, as do the other elected officials. The four of us, along with the employees of Lake Township, will strive to make Lake an even better place to live, work, and raise our families.

Galen Stoll



Galen Stoll

Primary Election - May 7

Remember to vote on May 7.

The polls will be open from 6:30 A.M. to 7:30 P.M. Lake Township Trustees have placed one renewal issue on the ballot.

Lake Township:

Issue 6: Renewal of 1 mill fire levy for 5 years, commencing 2013. (*Only voters in the unincorporated area of Lake Township will vote on this issue.*)

North Canton City School District:

Issue 18: Additional 2.4 mills for general permanent improvements, continuing period, commencing 2013. (*In Lake Township, only voters in the North Canton school district will vote on this issue.*)

County-wide:

Issue 1: Stark Board of Developmental Disabilities. Renewal of 1.9 mills and increase of 1.4 mills to constitute 3.3 mills, for 10 years, commencing 2013, for maintenance and operation of schools; acquiring, constructing or improving facilities for programs and services.

Issue 2: Stark County 9-1-1. Renewal of 0.1 mill for 5 years, commencing 2013, for continuing operation.

From The Uniontown Police Chief



Harold Britt

It's the time of year when we start opening up our homes for fresh air. But it's also the time of year when thieves take advantage of easy entry into your home. Offenders use this time as an opportunity to commit confidence crimes and burglaries for financial gain.

About These Crimes:

Offenders attempt to gain entry into residences using scams such as offering to check water, or offering to clean gutters, rooftops or yards.

Upon gaining entry, the offenders may rummage through the residence, take cash and other valuables, and then flee.

Many con artists are professionals in that they are well-dressed, polite and courteous smooth-talkers who say the right things to gain the trust of their intended victims. They are usually overly friendly and complimentary, and often try to distract their targets so they can get inside the residence. They may also wear official-looking uniforms to give the appearance that they work for cable, electric or gas companies. They may even have a fake company ID badge.

How to prevent these types of crimes:

- Remember anyone can be a victim
- Stay informed about current scams in your area.
- Beware of anyone who makes an offer that is "too good to be true." He'll have an answer to every concern you have.
- Beware of "high-pressure sales" or the salesman who says "today" or "right now" is the only time you can get the offer.
- If someone wants money "RIGHT NOW," it has the makings of a con.
- Call the cable, electric or gas company before letting an unscheduled worker into your home.
- Trust your instincts. If it feels wrong, it probably is.

A Message from your Fiscal Officer:



Ben Sommers

Dear Township Friends and Neighbors,

As I prepared to write this message in the newsletter about the financial state of the township, I happened upon a quote written by a Greek poet who lived during 480-406 B.C., "Long-range planning works best in the short term." - Euripides. I laughed to myself as I read the quote because Euripides' point of sarcasm rang so true to home. Who would have guessed an old Greek poet would become my point of inspiration?

When I first took office as Lake Township Fiscal Officer, and began to familiarize myself with the township's operations, I noticed something that struck me a little odd: the township had no money set aside for an emergency backup, or any long-range plans for equipment purchases, capital improvements, and so on. Looking further, I learned that most smaller governments, primarily because of their limited budgets, tend to follow the financial practice of "What comes in must go out."

While that philosophy certainly would appear on the surface to be an appropriate way to provide taxpayers with the most bang for their buck, it does, however, lack foresight for long-term township goal-setting, or heaven forbid, the sudden onset of a financial shortfall. It was then that I spoke with the township Trustees about setting up some capital project funds and reserve funds, often referred to as a "Rainy Day Fund."

Simply put, a few years ago the state legislature determined that townships, like some larger local governments, needed the means to protect their citizens from having to go into debt to cover the costs of needed equipment and/or short-term budget cuts. These funds allow the township officials to set aside small amounts of cash from their budget to plan ahead for necessary large purchases and emergencies. Little did we know how soon these changes would pay off.

The funds were established and the rest is history. Because of this long-term planning, Lake Township rode through the economic storm, and today is still financially strong and steady. Euripides was right. Long-range planning really does work best in the short term!

Ben Sommers

New Playground Equipment at Lake Township Park

Lake Township children will be enjoying new playground equipment at the Lake Township Community Park by this summer. Third-grade students from Uniontown Elementary School helped to select it.

In September, when Trustee John Arnold made his fifth annual visit to the third-grade classes at the school, he explained to the children the process of seeking grants to replace the old equipment that had been removed in 2010 because it was in such a state of disrepair that it was not safe. He invited the students to help pick out the new equipment. On December 21, he left pictures of several different sets of equipment at the school and asked students to vote for their favorites. That afternoon, before the Christmas party, he visited Mrs. Hoopes' class to tell them the results of the vote.

At the regular meeting of Lake Township Trustees on December 24, Mr. Arnold reported that 120 students voted, with 97 in favor of the final selection. Trustees agreed to purchase the equipment and were able to take advantage of a discount by ordering the equipment then. Lake Township obtained a matching grant for the playground equipment through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources NatureWorks program.

The park is located behind the Lake High School Stadium. It has a half-mile walking trail, for use by walkers and joggers only. (No bicycles or skaters, please!) The park also has picnic tables and restrooms. The Uniontown Police Department patrols our park, which closes every day at dusk.



Lake Twp. Trustee John Arnold with Mrs. Hoopes' third-grade class at Uniontown Elementary School. (Photo courtesy of The Hartville News)



Lake Township Offers E-Waste Recycling

Lake Township has an E-waste recycling program for residents and small business owners. Items that can be accepted 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.

The local recycling company that collects the items recently advised the township that disassembled television sets cannot be accepted. Because of the nature of the components, disassembled sets are considered hazardous waste.

The E-waste recycling program is primarily intended for household recycling, but also supports smaller local businesses that have small quantities of these items to recycle.

Acceptable E-waste items may be taken to the Township Hall, 12360 Market Ave. North, Mondays through Fridays, from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Residents will be expected to unload their own vehicles. More information is available at the Township office (330.877.9479) and on the Township Web site (www.laketwpstarkco.com).

From Your Zoning Administrator



Steve Lacey

Dear Neighbors,

Throughout the year, the Zoning Department investigates and processes many complaints, and while we do our best to alleviate and correct these issues, zoning does not apply to every situation.

An alternative that I want to share is Coleman Mediation Services of Stark County. The Mediation process provides a low-cost alternative (a sliding fee according to the ability to pay) to hiring an attorney. The center mediates the following types of conflicts: Family conflicts, Neighborhood conflicts, Landlord/tenant disputes, Customer/merchant disputes, Juvenile cases, Small claim matters, and Workplace disputes. Information is available at Coleman Mediation Services, 400 W. Tuscarawas St., Suite 200, Canton, Ohio 44702. Telephone: 330.430.9502. E-mail: teresa.cusma@coleman-mediation.com. Office Hours: Monday to Friday 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Mediations can be scheduled outside of the normal business hours.

Stephen Lacey

New Recycle Center Opens in April

The new Lake Township Recycle Center opens this month. It's on Midway St., on the east side of the Township Service Garage. It is fenced and gated. Hours are 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. weekdays, and 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on weekends.

There's a second Recycle Center location in the southeast corner of the flea market parking lot at the Hartville Market Place, 1289 Edison St. This location can also be accessed from the entrance on Market Ave. North.

The Recycle Program accepts newspapers, magazines and junk mail, as well as corrugated cardboard and food boxes, glass bottles, plastics (#1 through #7), and steel or aluminum cans (please rinse and remove lids). You can leave your yard waste, including brush, grass clippings, leaves, branches, and stumps. We DO NOT accept business waste, plastic bags, treated lumber, railroad ties, or anything with nails.

Lake Township Trustees, in recognition of the environmental benefit of recycling and yard-waste collection programs, have provided these sites as a convenience for township residents' use. Both the Midway St. Service Complex and the Hartville Market Place are in the jurisdiction of the Uniontown Police Department. More information about the Yard Waste and Recycle Programs is available at the Township Office (330.877.9479), on the Township Web site (www.laketwpstarkco.com), and on the Stark-Wayne-Tuscarawas Joint Solid Waste District Web site (www.timetorecycle.org).



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 are 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 indicates the proper area. More information is available at the Township office (330.877.9479).

A Note From The Road Superintendent

Lake Township was awarded a grant through the Ohio Workers Compensation Division of Safety and Hygiene in 2012 in the amount of \$37,113.60 to purchase a pothole patching system. The design of the machine helps reduce or eliminate the ergonomic risk factors, such as strains/sprains, associated with manual material handling while repairing streets. It's a great asset to the Township, as it not only helps reduce such injuries, but also reduces the exposure to vehicular traffic. Potholes show up suddenly, so we would appreciate your help in reporting potholes to the township office (330.877.9479). In doing so, we can quickly remedy the situation and continue to ensure safe roads.

Paving season is just around the corner. We have begun the process of inspecting our roads to determine the amount of damage that has occurred due to frost and heaving. Once our list has been generated and reviewed, the Board of Trustees will make the final decision as to which roads will be resurfaced.

By the time you receive this Newsletter, winter will be officially over. We would like to thank all Lake Township

residents for their patience during this winter season. Our road crew worked long hours battling the ice and snow to keep our township roads open. We sincerely appreciate your thank-you notes and encouraging phone calls.

I would personally like to thank Lake Township residents who adhered to our request to keep their trash cans behind the mailboxes to insure that they would not be damaged as our snow plows came down the roads.

We thank you for your continued support. Should you have any questions, please feel free to call me.

Daniel R. Kamerer



Daniel Kamerer



What is an Illicit Discharge?

Any discharge to a storm sewer that is not composed entirely of storm water is an illicit discharge. Storm sewers are not designed to accept, process, or discharge non-storm water wastes such as fertilizers, pesticides, pet waste, yard debris, oil or grease from a car, etc.

Storm sewers collect water from outside our homes and businesses and carry it, untreated, directly to streams and rivers. Sanitary sewers collect water from inside homes and businesses and carry it to treatment plants, where it is cleaned before it reaches streams and rivers.

Illicit discharges enter the storm sewer system through either direct or indirect connections (e.g., infiltration into the system from cracked sanitary systems, improperly maintained septic systems, spills collected by drain outlets, or paint or used oil dumped directly into a drain). The result is untreated discharges that contribute high levels of pollutants, including heavy metals, toxics, oil and grease, solvents, nutrients, viruses, and bacteria to receiving water bodies. Pollutant levels from these illicit discharges have been shown in many studies to be high enough to significantly degrade water quality and threaten aquatic, wildlife and human health.

Mud & Debris on Road Policy

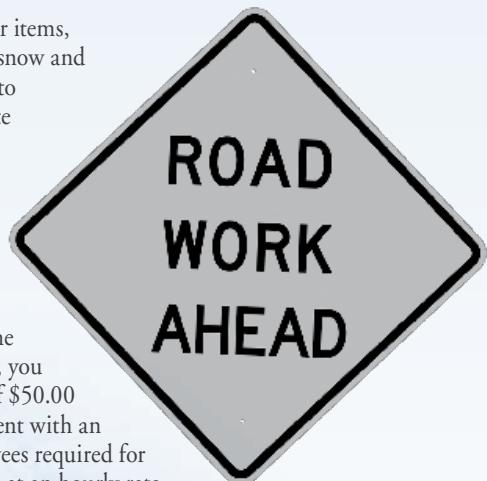
Reminder to Contractors and Township Residents:

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 our Fire Service



Spring is here! If you didn't replace the batteries in your smoke detectors last fall when we changed from Daylight Savings Time, please do so now. Fire alarm systems with hard-wired power usually also have battery backup. These batteries must also be replaced.

Carbon monoxide detectors come in both battery-operated and plug-in power plants. If you have battery-operated carbon monoxide detectors in your home, remember to replace the batteries. Plug-in carbon monoxide detectors also have battery backup, and that battery also must be replaced. A note about carbon monoxide detectors: carbon monoxide will mix evenly in air, which means if vapors 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.

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

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

Please 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.

Have a safe and happy summer!



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)

