

Lake Township Newsletter

Edition No. 69

May 2008

Township Offices

12360 Market Avenue
Hartville, Ohio
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Board of Trustees

John Arnold
Ellis Erb
Galen Stoll

Township Fiscal Officer

Ben Sommers

From the Uniontown Police Chief:



Now that spring is here and the weather is nicer, people tend to start driving too fast. Please be aware of speed limits.

Parents of teenagers, did you know? Lake Township has a curfew, enacted in 1999. Persons under the age of 18 are not allowed to roam the streets between the hours of midnight and 5:00 A.M. Do you know where your children are?

Try to remember to keep your vehicles locked and remove any valuables, even in your own driveway. During the summer, we take a lot of reports of thefts from motor vehicles. Many of them involve unlocked vehicles.

The Uniontown Police Department provides vacation house checks. If you live in the police district, call us at (330) 699-6444, and we'll keep an eye on your house while you're out of town.

Chief Don Hensley



It's Spring Clean-Up Time!

Lake Township will sponsor a Spring Clean-up for Lake Township residents, from Tuesday, June 10, through Saturday, June 14, from 8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. every day. Containers will be located at the Lake Township Service Garage complex at 1499 Midway Street, next to the Recycle Center. Residents will be expected to unload their own vehicles.

This service is for Lake Township residents only. Identification may be checked. Lake Township businesses will be allowed to dispose of no more than one truckload during the week-long program. For more information, call (330) 877-9479.

The following will be accepted:
Household waste (NO GARBAGE)
Appliances
Tires
NO HAZARDOUS WASTE, DRUMS, LIQUIDS OR
NON-CONFORMING WASTE WILL BE ACCEPTED.

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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.



Ellis Erb



John Arnold



Galen Stoll



Help Protect Our Local Water

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 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. (Please contact the Stark County Health Department for the proper method of disposal and composting.)

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.

President's Corner



Since our last newsletter, a general election was held. John Arnold was elected Trustee and Ben Sommers was re-elected Fiscal Officer. Mr. Arnold is serving as Vice President of the Board of Trustees and is the Township's representative to Stark County Council of Governments.

In addition to the duties of Fiscal Officer, Mr. Sommers also oversees the day-to-day operations of the township office.

This winter was a difficult one. The Township used over 5,500 tons of salt; in an average winter, 4,000 to 4,500 tons are used. Thankfully, we did not run out of salt as many municipalities and townships did.

As summer approaches, the Township and the Stark County Engineer will be working together on several drainage issues. The Road Department will be cleaning ditches, repairing roads and catch basins, and paving several township roads. A spring clean-up will be provided for township residents June 10-14 at the Road Department garage on Midway Street.

Galen Stoll



A Word from Your Fiscal Officer...



As I enter into my second term of office, I'm pleased to say the township's finances are in excellent condition. Despite the recent slump in our economy and cut backs in funding, we are still able to operate within a balanced budget.

Investing public funds in today's market has created an interesting challenge for government officials, but the township residents can be assured, we are very attentive to the rising and falling of rates. In 2007, we were able to do exceptionally well in a fluctuating market with an average annual return of 5%.

But, uncertain economic times have prompted township officials to evaluate and examine options that could maximize the value of our tax dollars without affecting the level of services our taxpayers expect. With the support of our dedicated staff, the township officials implemented some creative ways to cut costs and stabilize our township's budget. Some of the more significant changes included:

- Cuts made in the cost of our health and property insurances; saving Lake Twp. taxpayers approximately \$120,000 per year.
- Early debt payoffs; which produced a savings of more than \$20,000 in interest payments.
- Early retirement buyouts and reduction of staffing; created a substantial cost savings in both the road and administrative departments.
- "Budget Stabilization Funds"; set up to protect the township budget against unexpected change.
- The audit and GIS mapping of our township's street lighting districts; providing accurate and accountable assessments.
- Capital Improvement Fund; set up to reduce the need for future debt.
- A Vehicle / Equipment Replacement Program; to reduce excessive maintenance and repair costs on old equipment.
- Cut backs in legal expenditures and services; produced a cost saving of \$70,000 per year.

These changes are the results of a team-collaboration from professionally-minded and motivated township officials who utilized the skills of a supportive staff ready to bring their plans into fruition. With the mindset of this team, these changes would have been explored regardless of the economic environment, because we "live" where we "serve" and we all want our dollars to count.

Ben Sommers

Community Events

May 24	Hartville Memorial Day Service
May 26	Uniontown Memorial Day Service
June 10-14	Spring Clean-up
June 20-21	Relay for Life
July 17	Downtown Summer Nights (Hartville)
August 6-9	Uniontown Lions Festival



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., next to the Lake Township Road Department). Contact Christy Bresson at the Lake Township Office (330-877-9479) for more information about your local recycling programs.

From Your Road Superintendent



When reporting a problem involving a roadway, including snowplowing, pot holes and 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 maintains Cleveland Avenue, State Street, Market Avenue south of State Route 619, Smith-Kramer Street, Middlebranch Avenue, Congress Lake Avenue, Swamp Street, Duquette Avenue, and the east leg of Pontius Street north of Quail Hollow State Park. (330) 477-6781.

Maintenance of Pontius Street from Cleveland Avenue to Mogadore Avenue is shared between Springfield Township and Lake Township. Maintenance of Pontius Street from Mogadore Avenue to Market Avenue is shared between Portage County and Lake Township.

Springfield Township telephone: (330) 733-3213.

Portage County telephone: (1-330) 296-6411.

Maintenance of Mt. Pleasant Street from Market Avenue to Middlebranch Avenue is the responsibility of Plain Township. (330) 492-3423.

Maintenance of Aultman Avenue is shared between the City of Green and Lake Township. City of Green telephone: (330) 896-6607.

Lake Township maintains the 137 miles of all remaining dedicated streets in the township. (330) 877-9479.

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

Rick Criss

Police Service In Lake Township

Residents of the unincorporated area of Lake Township live in one of two police jurisdictions.

The Uniontown Police Department, an agency of the Board of Lake Township Trustees headed by Chief Don Hensley, serves nine square miles in the Uniontown area in Stark County. This does not include Uniontown addresses in Summit County, though. The Uniontown ZIP code extends across the county line, beyond the boundaries of the police district. Part of the Uniontown police district is actually in the Hartville ZIP code. Taxpayers in the police district pay a special tax to support the police department.

All of the remainder of the unincorporated area of Lake Township is patrolled by Stark County Sheriff's deputies as part of their coverage of the entire county, more than five hundred square miles.

The Village of Hartville has its own police department, serving the 2,174 residents who live within the corporation limits of the Village. The Hartville Police Chief is George Dragovich. Many new residents who have a Hartville address try to call Hartville Police in an emergency, only to find they are actually served by some other police department. The Hartville ZIP code extends far beyond the Village limits, almost to Uniontown to the west, as far as State Route 44 (Marlboro Township) to the east, and into Portage County to the north. Village taxpayers support the Hartville Police Department.

Any resident who needs police assistance may dial 911. The dispatch service will send help from the correct department.

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A Message from Your Zoning Administrator

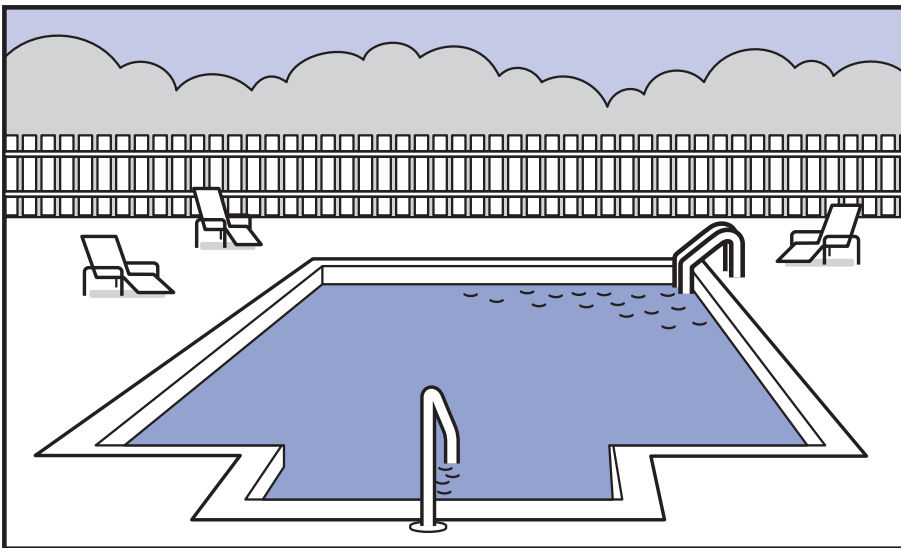
Now that summer is almost here, residents who have swimming pools should be aware of our zoning regulations concerning pools:



1. All swimming pools and accesses to swimming pools shall be constructed to deter unsafe access by children.

All swimming pools shall:

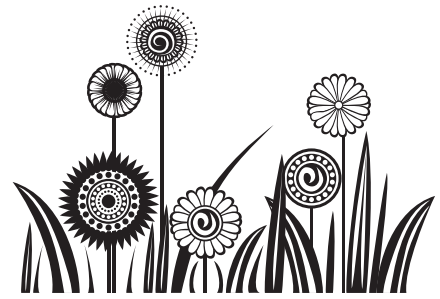
- A. Be entirely surrounded by a wall or fence with a minimum height of forty-eight inches (48"); or
- B. Have vertical pool walls at least forty-eight inches (48") in height above finished grade; which shall be equipped with a removable ladder (which shall be removed when the pool is not in use) or a platform with steps secured with a self-latching gate or door; or
- C. Have a combination of walls, fences, or pool walls as provided in A and B above.



Access to pools shall be restricted by self-closing, self-latching gates or doors.

2. All in-ground swimming pools shall require a zoning certificate. All above-ground pools with a water depth exceeding 48" and having one hundred (100) square feet of surface area shall require a zoning certificate.
3. No pool shall be filled with water until a permanent fence and gate are completed, unless, for a period not more than sixty (60) days, a temporary fence complying with the requirements of this Subsection is constructed and maintained. (Eff. 12/24/04)
4. Provision shall be made for the disposal of chlorinated water in a manner complying with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) regulations in effect in the Township.

If you have any questions about swimming pool regulations, or any other zoning matter, please feel free to call Zoning Administrator **Steve Lacey** at (330) 877-9479.



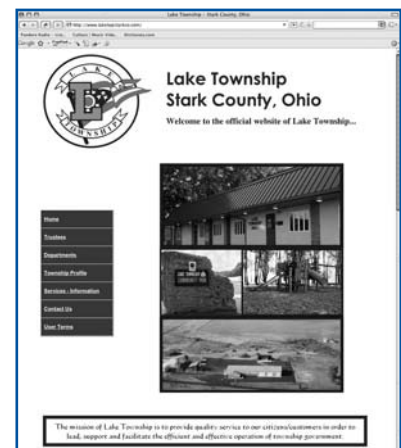
It's Spring Clean-Up Time! (continued from front cover)

NOTE: 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.

Residents may drop off grass clippings, leaves, shrubs, tree limbs, and stumps. We cannot 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.

More information about the Yard Waste Program and the Recycle Program is available at the Township Office (330) 877-9479.

Check Out Our Web Site!



www.laketwpstark.com
It has lots of information about Lake Township!

Fire Safety In the Home



In this newsletter I will talk briefly about fire safety in the home. The three areas that this article will touch upon are smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in the home, fire extinguishers in the home, and **Exit Drills In The Home (EDITH)**.

Your home should have working smoke detectors on every level. Carbon monoxide detectors should be installed in utility rooms containing gas-fired appliances, and in hallways leading to bedrooms. Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors will alert your family to the presence of these two killers well before they reach deadly levels. This early warning will give your family time to exit the home.

Every home should have at least one fire extinguisher. Generally, speaking, a fire extinguisher with a rating of 2-A:10-B:C will be sufficient for home use. Access to a fire extinguisher, along with familiarity with its operation, will give your family the opportunity to extinguish a fire in your home before it gets out of control.

Finally, please develop and practice **Exit Drills (EDITH)** for your family. Practicing **EDITH** drills with your family will give everyone the knowledge of what to do in the event of a detector activation or fire in your home.

Please contact me if you would like information concerning any of the above topics. I am always available to answer your questions concerning fire safety.

Thank you!

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.

Local Postal Patron
(ECRWSS)

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Lake Township Trustees
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Hartsville, Ohio 44632