



Lake Township Newsletter

Edition No. 75

April 2011

Township Offices

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Board of Trustees

John Arnold
Ellis Erb
Galen Stoll

Township Fiscal Officer

Ben Sommers

Lake Twp. Fire Levy is Renewal, No Additional Tax

Lake Township Trustees have placed a 3-mill, five-year, renewal fire levy on the May 3 Primary Election ballot. 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. First-response EMS 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.

Visit the Stark County Auditor's Web site: www.auditor.co.stark.oh.us to see that this levy will not add to your property tax bill. 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 fire and EMS levy for its contract with the Hartville Volunteer Fire Department.

Thank you for your support!

Meet Your Stark County Commissioners

The Stark County Commissioners are meeting with citizens interested in discussing county government. As part of a series of community meetings throughout the county, they will visit Lake Township on Wednesday, June 1, at 6:00 P.M. at the Township Hall.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Hartville Memorial Day..... May 28
Memorial Park
- Uniontown Memorial Day May 30
Uniontown Community Park
- Relay for Life June 11-12
Lake Youth Football Stadium
- Uniontown Lions Festival August 10-13
Uniontown Elementary School grounds

IN MEMORIAM



UNIONTOWN POLICE CAPTAIN
DANIEL P. STILES
Killed in the Line of Duty
February 15, 2011

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

PRIMARY ELECTION IS MAY 3



Remember to vote on May 3. All voters will see Issue 13, the county-wide SARTA levy. All voters in the unincorporated area of Lake Township will see Issue 1, the renewal fire levy.

Residents of the Lake Local Schools district will see Issue 7, the bond issue request.

Issue 1: Lake Twp. Renewal fire levy, 3.0 mills, 5 years.

Issue 7: Lake Local Schools Bond Issue (1.8 mills bond issue and 0.5-mill continuing improvements levy).

Issue 13: Stark Area Regional Transit Authority (SARTA), renewal, one quarter of one percent.



President's Corner

Another Lake Township Trustee has said many times, "We have the finest fire service in Stark County." 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. 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. 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."

John Arnold



From Your Zoning Administrator

Dear Neighbors,

After a long winter, it will soon be time to get the swimming pools up and running. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), roughly 280 drowning deaths of children younger than five (5) years old occur each year in swimming pools. Inflatable pools have become more and more popular, and often fall outside of code requirements.

Please be conscious of this and provide a barrier or remove the ladder to deter access to these pools. In Lake Township, all in-ground pools require a permit, and all above-ground pools exceeding forty-eight (48) inches in depth and one hundred (100) square feet of surface area require a permit. Permit applications are available on-line at our website: www.laketwpstarkco.com or at the offices, 12360 Market Ave. North, Hartville, OH 44632. Have a safe summer!

Stephen Lacey

Check Out Our Web Site: www.laketwpstarkco.com

It has lots of information about Lake Township!



From Your Fire Prevention Officer



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.”

On Wednesday, February 16, 2011, this quotation played out in real life when Greentown and Uniontown firefighters entered the burning residence at 9760 Cleveland Ave. to search for occupant Mrs. Nelda Kinsley, who called 911 to report a fire in her home from which she could not escape. Hartville firefighters covered the entry teams with hose lines and performed RIT (rapid intervention team) activities. The coordinated efforts of Greentown, Hartville, and Uniontown firefighters resulted in the successful rescue of Mrs. Kinsley. Mrs. Kinsley has recovered from her injuries and is doing well.

A ceremony was performed during the March 14, 2011 Lake Township Trustees meeting where Greentown Fire Chief Vince Harris presented commendations to firefighters from the three fire companies. Also, the Lake Township Board of Trustees passed a resolution in recognition of the dedication and professionalism exemplified by the firefighters.

So it is my great honor to present the nine firefighters from Greentown, Hartville and Uniontown who saved the life of Mrs. Nelda Kinsley.

Danille Kemp



(From left) Uniontown Fire Department Lt. Nicholas Hoffman, Firefighter/Paramedic Ryan Falck, Greentown Department Firefighter/Paramedics Christopher Snyder and Paul Weigand. Not pictured: Lt. Doug Stevens (Greentown).



From the Hartville Volunteer Fire Department (from left) Firefighter/Paramedic John Ellwood, Captain Mike Lorentz, and Firefighter/EMT-A Kristopher Woodward. Not pictured: Firefighter/Paramedic Brandon Smith.



From the Uniontown Police Chief

Spring is here, bringing us warmer weather, but with that, criminals also tend to be more active. I would like to encourage everyone to be observant in their neighborhoods for any suspicious vehicles or persons. This includes vehicles driving slowly (possibly casing homes), unknown people walking the streets late at night, or noises such as people running through yards or dogs barking.

I routinely hear comments from residents such as, “I heard a noise last night but I did not want to bother the police on something that small.” I encourage you to report any suspicious activity in your neighborhood. I assure you, no call is too small. Our officers would rather receive a call and possibly catch offenders than not be called at all.

The Uniontown Police Department is committed to making our community a safe place to reside. I believe that by working together, we can make Uniontown a better community.

I would like to thank each and every one in our community who sent letters, donated time, prepared food, and offered your prayers when our Captain Dan Stiles was killed in the line of duty in February. The outpouring of your generosity, not only to the Stiles family, but also to Captain Stiles’ brothers and sisters in law enforcement, has been overwhelming. We will never forget it. On behalf of the Uniontown Police Department, I sincerely thank you.

Chief Jack Coontz



A Message From Your Fiscal Officer

As I settle into my eighth year as Lake Township’s Fiscal Officer, I’m taking a moment to reflect and recall something someone once told me when I first took office at the township, “The only thing you can count on in government is change.” Little did I know how often that statement would come back to me. Every process and procedure is constantly evolving, most often because of ever-changing state legislation and mandates.

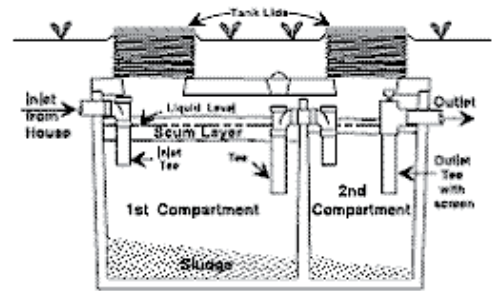
You may have read recently in the newspapers of the Governor’s latest state budget proposal. This proposal contains a number of issues that may greatly affect the amount of funding the local governments receive, which helps us, as local government officials, to maintain services to our constituents. We have met with our local legislators, who have assured us they are working diligently to help us retain as much of the state funding as possible, but it’s inevitable that there will be cuts.

As we face the challenges that our Governor and our legislature have thrown our way, the Board of Trustees and I will continue to work arduously to maintain the level of services that we provide to our residents. We’ve taken a proactive approach to our budgeting process, and hopefully we will be able to avoid any major cuts to services that we are so proud to be able to provide to you.

Ben Sommers

Septic Tank Pumping is Vitally Important

The typical septic tank is a large buried container made of concrete, fiberglass or polyethylene. Wastewater from your home flows into the tank. Heavy solids settle to the bottom where bacterial action partially decomposes them. Most of the lighter solids, such as grease and oils, rise to the top and form a scum layer. The wastewater leaving the septic tank is a liquid called effluent. It has been partially treated but still contains disease causing bacteria and other pollutants. From the tank, the effluent typically flows by gravity to the leach field. Failing to routinely pump the septic tank causes more solids to exit in the effluent resulting in costly damage to the leach field.



Proper Care Includes:

1. Inspecting your septic tank once every year and pumping it when needed. If the tank is not pumped periodically, solids escaping from the septic tank will clog the leach field. Using a garbage disposal will increase the amount of solids entering the tank and require more frequent pumping.
2. Avoiding the flushing of harmful materials into the septic tank. Never put materials such as grease, newspapers, paper towels, cigarette butts, coffee grounds, diapers, sanitary napkins, solvents, oils, paint, or pesticides into the tank.
3. Avoiding the use of any type of chemical or biological septic tank additive. Such products are not necessary for the proper functioning of a septic tank, nor do they reduce the need for routine tank pumping. Some additives can actually cause harm to the system.
4. On average, a tank must be pumped every 3-5 years.

If you have any questions regarding your septic tank, please contact the Stark County Health Department at (330) 493-9904.

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

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.

IT'S SPRING CLEANUP TIME!

Lake Township will sponsor a Spring Clean-up for Township residents, from Tuesday, June 7, through Saturday, June 11, 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. 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). Scrap metal will be accepted during this period. No garbage, no railroad or landscaping ties, no hazardous waste, and no paint can be accepted.



We Are Number One!

Lake Township collected more material in recyclables and compost material in 2010 than any other drop-off site in the Stark-Wayne-Tuscarawas Joint Solid Waste Management District.

We thank local members of the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Make-A-Wish Foundation, and the Greentown United Methodist Church Youth Group, who have volunteered to assist with the program on Saturday mornings. A grant from the district provides compensation to these organizations for their work. Other organizations who would like to help may call Christy Bresson at the Township office (330.877.9479).

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 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.

The Recycle Program accepts newspapers, magazines, and junk mail, as well as corrugated cardboard and food boxes, as well as glass bottles, plastics, and steel or aluminum cans (please rinse and remove lids). Lake Township Trustees recently added the Midway St. Service Complex to the jurisdiction of the Uniontown Police Department. Police officers regularly patrol the property.

More information about the Yard Waste Program and the Recycle Program 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, and other small electronic items. 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

Lake Township Trustees recently expanded the Township's Recycle program to accept appliances and scrap metal. 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 Community Park. More information is available at the Township office (330.877.9479).

A Note from the Road Superintendent




By the time you receive this Newsletter, winter will be officially over and we will be looking forward to beginning our paving program. The 2010/2011 winter season was exceptionally hard on township roads. The frequency of freeze/thaw cycles created numerous potholes and caused road edges to break up. We will be unable to make a final determination on exactly which roads will be included in the 2011 Paving Project until we can make our final analysis of the winter damage. Once a list of roads has been generated and reviewed, the Board of Trustees will make the final decision as to which roads will be resurfaced.

I would personally like to thank Lake Township residents who have adhered to our request to keep their trash cans behind the mail boxes, to insure that they would not be damaged as our snowplows came down the roads. We regret that some mailboxes and trash cans were damaged during plowing.

Our proposed project overview includes changing the existing road surfaces and repairing road edges and areas in the road that have failed. Manhole and water caps will be raised. New asphalt will abut the existing asphalt or concrete driveways and will be carried into gravel driveways a minimum of three feet. Tasks that will be done by outside contractors include re-stripping and crack sealing of certain streets.

Thank you for your continued support. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me (330.877.9479).

Daniel R. Kamerer



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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