



Kelly Lake
Laketown Township

Terry Hofmeyer, Laketown Township Supervisor

1906 – That Was A Great Year (for me)

Back in 1906 a couple of announcements were made regarding two new businesses coming to the Holland area: the Holland Furnace Company and the Dunn Manufacturing Company. Each of these companies had an impact on me and my family. My father, following service in the U.S. Navy in World War II, worked as a tool and die maker at Dunn Manufacturing until his retirement. I also worked there a couple of summers during high school. I also worked for the Holland Hotel Company (Warm Friend Tavern) a subsidiary of the Holland Furnace Company during my high school and college years. I served as Bell Captain the year around and worked summer jobs to pay tuition and college expenses.

Now this is probably of little interest to you but is a good way to introduce you to one of the early “movers and shakers” in the Holland community, Mr. A.H. Landwehr. Mr. Landwehr was one of the founders of the Holland Furnace Company. For those of you interested in knowing more about the Holland Furnace Company or Mr. Landwehr, I would recommend a visit to the Herrick District Library to read a very fine history of the Holland Furnace Company authored by local historians Donald L. Van Reken and Randall P. VandeWater. In the book, the authors quote from a speech Mr. Landwehr gave in 1925, shortly after he was elected President of the Holland Chamber of Commerce in which he said, “I believe in giving and everyone should give. There are two kinds of giving. First, giving until it feels good and second, giving until it hurts. The second is done in sacrifice to causes that need the help of us all, first

in the church, second to the needy, third to the community. There is a class of citizens who hurt to think of giving, and then he never gives. I pity such a man for his life must be a miserable life. I think a man’s greatest work is to do something for his fellow man.”

What was true some ninety-some years ago remains true even today and we should thank those who, over the years, have supported all our local institutions. If you’re supporting your church – I applaud you! If you’re supporting the needy (United Way – Center for Women in Transition – O.A.R. or other similar organizations) I applaud you! If you’re supporting your community by volunteering, supporting local millages that benefit the overall good and promote its overall health, safety and welfare – I applaud you and encourage others to follow your example!

Laketown Township is a great community and one that each of us must continue to love and support if we wish to see it serve each and every resident and taxpayer.

A great way to learn about the details of our many boards and commissions would be to attend the township’s Annual Meeting scheduled for March 14th at 7:00 P.M. at the township hall. It just might encourage you to give a little of yourself to volunteer and serve your fellow residents! I hope to see you there!



Laketown Meeting Calendar

February

- 7 - Board Workshop, 4:00 p.m.
- 7 - Planning Commission
- 14 - Township Board
- 14 - Winter Taxes Due
- 21 - Parks and Recreation
- 28 - ZBA

March

- 7 - Board Workshop, 4:00 p.m.
- 7 - Planning Commission
- 14 - Annual Meeting
- 14 - Township Board
- 28 - ZBA

April

- 4 - Board Workshop, 4:00 p.m.
- 4 - Planning Commission
- 11 - Township Board
- 18 - Parks and Recreation
- 25 - ZBA

All meetings at 7:00 p.m. at the township hall unless otherwise noted

Felt Estate Receives CEB Grant

The Community Enhancement Board, facilitated by the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, approved a \$5,000 grant awarded to the Friends of the Felt Estate for the creation of a Historic Homes of West Michigan brochure, website, and mobile app.

Patty Meyer, director of the Friends of the Felt Estate, applied for the grant in November 2017 and received word of the award in mid-December.

“Creating a website that lists all of the historic homes and sites in our area is something I’ve always wanted to do, but didn’t have the funds to support the time needed to invest in such a project,” said Meyer. “Now, with this grant money, we will be able to create a brochure, web, and app where residents and visitors can find all of those sites in one place.”

Directors of five area historic homes – the Cappon House, the Settler’s House, the Hackley House, the Hume House, and the Jenison House Museum – all wrote letters of support for the grant, along with a letter of support from the Holland Area Convention and Visitors’ Center.

“The purpose of the Community Enhancement Board is to fund projects that will foster cooperating between entities in the area,” said Meyer, “and this project will do just that. I’m looking forward to future collaborations with other historic homes and sites as a result of this project. We, as the board of Friends of the Felt Estate want to thank the CEB for this opportunity and honor.”

See You in The Parks

Michelle Sall, Chair, Parks Commission



A partnership with the Outdoor Discovery Center Macatawa Greenway has been renewed for 2018 offering free nature programs in Laketown parks led by members of the ODC staff. You will find everything from bird watching, hiking, identifying plant and animal life and more. Please see the insert in this newsletter for the days and times of these family-oriented events.

The Parks Commission has discussed for many years the upkeep, security and maintenance of the homestead located on the Huyser Farm Park, gifted by the late Manual and Lila Huyser. This past fall a request for proposals was issued and three were received which varied greatly in scope. One proposal focused on a family residing in the house and returning the land to a working farm, another outlined the applicant's trade skills, while the third supported maintaining the rustic nature of the property. After a debate on the intent of the Land Conservancy which governs the use of the land, the proposal submitted by Mark and Sherry Rubino was selected. The Rubino's noted they are able to actively monitor the park on a weekly basis and work with volunteers on the grounds with a focus on preserving the property in a natural state. If you have a group from your employer, school, or club interested in helping out please contact the township hall.

We are expecting news of the approval of a grant submitted last year to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for expansion of the township beach. The acquisition grant is to purchase the section of land that is privately owned and sits in the center of the dune between the parking lot and beach (this is the reason for the boardwalk to turn south and go up and over the dune rather than through it), as well as lots near the road and parking area. Receiving this grant would aid in future programming and development such as creating picnic areas, future restrooms, and improved accessibility.

We welcome your attendance and feedback. The Parks Commission meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 7 pm at the township hall.



Treasurer's Trove

Laketown Township Treasurer, Gary Dewey

I looked at an old newsletter and wonder what is in a name? I do not know the history of how Laketown was named but It must have something to do with the fact that we are along the lake. Will historians please help me out? We do not have a town but we continue to develop areas in our master plan as Holland and West Michigan continue to be a destination for growth and development. I am so thankful for how our planning, zoning, and park commissions thoughtfully protect and maintain the natural character of our wonderful township.

We always send the winter tax bills out in early December and I'm sure you've received your bill by now. Many 2017 payments have already been received, but be reminded that winter taxes are due by February 14, 2018 and postmarks are not honored in determining prompt payment. Interest will be added to payments received after this date.



Payment can be made by cash, check or credit card at the township office. Credit card and electronic check payment can also be made online. Additional fees are applied by the servicing agent on all electronic payments. Please visit our township website at www.laketowntwp.org for additional information on electronic payments and follow the "online payment" link.

The last date to pay 2017 taxes in the township office is February 28, 2018. All delinquent taxes as of March 1, 2018 will be sent to the Allegan County Treasurer for collection. Additional interest and penalty will be added at that time. Please contact the Allegan County Treasurer at (269) 673-0260 after March 1, 2018 for a payoff amount.

Hamilton School District continues to maintain the policy of only collecting on the winter tax bill so residents in that district will see a larger winter tax bill.

Hardship exemption requests must be filed annually, tax deferments must also be filed annually as well for each season. Forms are available at the township office or at our website.

Please feel free to contact me at my township email or my personal email at deweygary@gmail.com with any questions, concerns, or other input. I am your public servant and really enjoy positive problem solving. I also enjoy receiving pictures or stories of nature and wildlife observations in the township.

Thank you for allowing me to be your servant advocate.

2018 Laketown Township Sponsored ODCMC Programs

Conducted by staff of the Outdoor Discovery Center Macatawa Greenway

Please contact ODCMG office to register: 616-393-9453 / odc@outdoordiscovery.org

All programs require registration / No charge for programs

February 2, 2018 - 5:30-6:30PM - Superb Owl Prowl - Sanctuary Woods

Hike the dune of Laketown Township's Sanctuary Woods in search of resident and migratory owls. The group will try to call in Eastern Screech, Barred and Great Horned Owls as they hike. Flashlights are welcome. Dress for the weather!

April 4, 2018 - 10:00-11:00AM - Walk in the Woods - Sanctuary Woods

Visit Sanctuary Woods to explore the sights and sounds of spring. This time of year brings migrating birds, beautiful wildflowers, and active mammals. We will hike the lower loop and upper loop of this amazing dune ecosystem to see what animals and plants are ready for spring.

May 11, 2018 - 7:00-8:00PM - Knee-deep in a Wetland - Farview Park

Families are invited to meet a naturalist at Farview Park in search of amphibians, insects and other aquatic life. All collection tubs and dip nets will be provided. Old shoes or boots that can go into the water are recommended. No sandals or bare feet please.

June 20, 2018 - 10:00-11:00AM - Little Explorers - Wolters Woods

Explore the nature trail as only a preschooler could do. Find colors, shapes, and textures on the easily accessible trails of Wolters Woods. All materials will be provided. At the conclusion of the program, feel free to make time to play on the playground.

July 19, 2018 - 11:00-12:00PM - Blueberry Fields Forever - Huyser Farm

Learn about blueberries and how they have become a West Michigan industry. Bring collection buckets to take home some free blueberries from the u-pick, organic blueberry patch! Sturdy shoes and insect repellent are encouraged.

August 24, 2018 - 10:00-11:30AM - Knee-deep in a Wetland - Farview Park

Families are invited to meet a naturalist at Farview Park in search of amphibians, insects and other aquatic life. All collection tubs and dip nets will be provided. Old shoes or boots that can go into the water are recommended. No sandals or bare feet please.

September 22, 2018 - 9:00-10:00AM - Fall Migration - Laketown Beach

Hike to the top of the steps leading to the beach to watch for migrating birds, especially raptors. Once at the top of the boardwalk steps, the group will be stationary as they watch for migrants riding the thermal air currents along the dune ridge. Some binoculars will be available for lending.

October 5, 2018 - 7:30-8:30PM - Night Hike - Huyser Farm

Take a walk through the woods at night. Use your senses along the walk to find out how much you can feel, touch, hear, and see at night. Learn how nocturnal animals use their other senses to survive in the evening.



Felt Estate Announces 2018 Concert Series Line-up

Many thanks to the residents of Laketown Township for their support of the Felt Estate. The Felt continues to be a thriving historic home, event center, and concert venue. If you are interested in renting the Felt Estate for a private event this year contact staci@feltmansion.org or call the office at 616-335-3050.

In 2018, we look forward to our summer concert series, *Thursdays at the Felt*. Here is the list of dates and performers:

Delilah DeWylde (June 21): (rockabilly) Delilah DeWylde got her start in 2005. Just like rockabilly originators Johnny Cash, Bill Haley and Carl Perkins, this Michigander cut her teeth on steel-guitar driven country in the style popularized by Hank Williams, Ernest



Tubb and Webb Pierce. But the draw of the big beat was irresistible, and over time the band's approach has become sharper and tighter. Not self-consciously retro, Delilah remains committed to hand

-crafted American music that stands at the crossroads of creativity and craftsmanship, liberally drawing from honky-tonk country, rockabilly and surf music.

May Erlewine (June 28): (folk, soul) Some people might call May Erlewine "Michigan's darling songbird", but her songs have traveled far beyond her home state. One of the most prolific and passionate songwriters of her generation, May's music has touched the hearts of people all over the world. Her words have held solace for weary hearts, offered a light in the darkness and held a lot of space for the pain and joy of being alive in these times. When she starts to sing, there's no way around it. Welcome to the moment, everyone. May pulls from a wide variety of sounds and influences to create her unique musical landscape. You'll hear traditional folk roots, old time country swing, soul and rock and roll but mostly she's inspired by the hearts of the people and the one in her chest. This music is about feeling and it's about telling life's stories.

Mary and the Rad Pack (July 5): (swing, jazz, blues) Mary Rademacher brings an expressive warmth to her singing, as well as a skilled ability to communicate the emotional content of a lyric. Her unique abilities as a performer are a culmination of her natural talent, as well as her experience and training as an actress and vocalist. Awarded West Michigan Jazz Society's Jazz Musician of the Year 2006, Mary was invited by Mike Vax (Stan Kenton alum) and The Great American Jazz Band to sing in Sun Valley, ID and Sacramento, CA, performing at two of the most prestigious jazz festivals in the country. She has been featured with The Grand Rapids Jazz Orchestra, Paul Keller Orchestra, Don Shelton, Richie Cole, Jamie Hadad, Dave Bennett's Benny Goodman show, Broadway & Beyond, the tribute Big Bands of Stan Kenton and Benny Goodman, opened for Bob Newhart and Shirley Jones and performed for Presidents George Bush, Sr, and Ronald Reagan.

Brena (July 12): (classic rock) Back by popular demand! Brena appeared on the Carriage House Stage for the first time in 2017 and they were a crowd favorite! Every survey said, "have this band back next year!" – so we listened! Brena covers every rock legend – from Stevie Wonder to Led Zeppelin to Pharrell Williams. Brena features horns, violin, keyboard (read: keytar!), electric and acoustic guitar and vocal harmony. Every member is a seasoned musician with over 15 years of experience each.

Schlitz Creek (July 19): (bluegrass) Hailing from Kalamazoo, Michigan, Schlitz Creek features what has become known as "Bluegrass with Some Bite." The group performs a unique variety of blue-



grass music that cannot be classified as strictly traditional or progressive. Their repertoire includes standard bluegrass tunes as well as a collection of refreshing and unusual choices for a bluegrass band. Performing material from such bluegrass legends as the Dillards and Flatt & Scruggs, they also surprise and delight audiences with selections from the Monkees, Bob Seger, the Beatles, Kenny Rogers, the Bee Gees, and Cheap Trick. Using the classic single-microphone technique, their high-energy stage show has transformed Schlitz Creek into a crowd favorite on the regional bluegrass festival circuit. Don't miss the hot pickin' and smooth vocal harmonization of the Schlitz Creek Bluegrass Band.

Zion Lion Reggae Band (July 26): (reggae): Always a crowd favorite, Zion Lion Reggae Band finishes our concert series on a high note. Zion Lion is the baddest band to hit the West Michigan music scene. The members are a combination of several bands from the Kalamazoo area that crossed paths along the way and decided to form what we believe to be the right mix of reggae: African zouk, mucosa, zoukous, and some Afro-latin influences. Some of the members have had the honor of opening and sharing the stage with local, national, and international reggae artists such as Freddie McGregor, Pato Batun, Winston Jarrett, Culture, Beenie Man, Lucky Dube, Mikey Dread and the Meditations.



Join us this summer for these great community events! All concerts are free admission and begin at 7:00 p.m. with food and drink available from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. All proceeds of the beverage sales benefit the Friends of the Felt Estate. Save the dates and plan to attend for great music, great food, and great fun at the Felt. Thank you again for your continued support.

From the Assessor

Paul Smith

The State Treasury has issued the inflation rate to be used to calculate your 2018 Taxable Value. Your taxable value (excluding any new construction) may increase by 2.1%. Just to compare; last year the inflation rate was 0.9%. Remember that taxes are based on Taxable Value, not the State Equalized Value (SEV).

As far as assessments (SEV) for 2018 go, sale prices show that our property values are increasing faster than the rate of inflation. Interest rates have inched up but are still very low at about 4% or a little below for a 30-year mortgage.

In late February, you will be receiving your 2018, "Valuation Change Notice". Check the numbers and if you have any questions, please call and we can go over them.

Disabled Veteran's Exemption

These exemption requests need to be applied for each year. Affidavits with the proper documentation will be processed at the March, July and December Boards of Review for that year. Applying in March allows us to start the year

on the right foot and avoid mid-year changes so is preferable if possible.

This exemption will eliminate property taxes but does not eliminate special assessments.

We have the forms and requirements here at the office or you can search the internet for: "Michigan form 5107".

Eligible Personal Property Tax Exemption

If you are a business owner and the total value of all personal property in the township has a True Cash Value of less than \$80,000 and you file the form 5076 each year by the filing deadline, your personal property will be exempt from taxation.

We included the form along with the annual Personal Property Statements that we mailed out in early December. If you qualify and file the 5076 form then you do not need to file the Personal Property Statement.

Principal Residence Exemptions

If you have purchased a home or built a new home in our township over the last year and will be using it as your principal

residence, please be sure that you have filed the affidavit to receive the Principal Residence Exemption and, since you can only have one "Principal Residence", that you've also rescinded any similar exemptions on previous homes.

Where Your Tax Dollars Go

Township Operating	2%
Holland Pool	2%
Herrick Library	4%
Local Schools	32%
Ottawa ISD	16%
State Ed Tax	17%
Allegan County	18%
Fire, Roads & Drains	9%

From the Fire Department

Fire Chief Doug Den Bleyker & Deputy Chief Sarah Bushee

The Graafschap Fire Department had its busiest year to-date in 2017! We ran a total of 605 calls last year, a 29.8% increase in call volume over 2016.

Throughout this 2017 in addition to running calls, our members spent a lot of time training, doing fire safety surveys, learning team building and teaching fire prevention among many other things.

With winter in full swing we would like to offer a few winter driving tips! Hazards such as black ice, fog, high winds and white out conditions can lead to traffic accidents. Please slow down, turn on your headlights, don't brake while



turning, check your wiper blades and ensure that all your lights are working.

We ask that everyone that has a fire hydrant in front of your home to please try to keep it clear of snow build up so in an emergency we will have quick access to it.

Our smoke and carbon monoxide alarm program are still available, if you are interested in having our members come to your home and install alarms for FREE please call the fire station at 616-396-4060. We are also still offering our Home Safety Survey program; this program was set up to give our residents the opportunity to have a member or

members from our Department come in to your homes and give professional recommendations on how to reduce or eliminate hazards throughout your home. We would love the opportunity to come and help to eliminate these hazards before they become emergencies. To request a visit from your local Firefighters and Fire Officers please call the Fire Department directly at 616-396-4060.

Please remember that any burning in the Township requires a burn permit. To request a burn permit you can call the Fire Department at 616-396-4060 or the Township Hall at 616-335-3050

We wish everyone a safe and warm winter season!

Laketown Township
4338 Beeline Road
Holland, Michigan 49423
Phone: (616) 335-3050
Fax: (616) 335-5459
www.laketowntwp.org

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Laketown Township Board

Township Office - (616) 335-3050

Supervisor - Terry Hofmeyer

Treasurer - Gary Dewey

Clerk - Wendy Van Huis

Trustee - Linda Howell

Trustee - Ed Stielstra

Planning Commission Chair - Bob Slikkers

Zoning Board of Appeals Chair - David Weishaar

Parks and Recreation Chair - Michelle Sall

Township Staff

Manager - Al Meshkin

Assessor - Paul Smith

Administrative Assistants: Kathy Stoike, Charlene Fields, Jenifer French, Diane Ybarra, Staci Veldt

Facilities Operations - Dan Williams

Graafschap Fire Department - (616) 396-4060

Building Inspector - Al Ellingsen - (269) 214-2382

Mechanical Inspector & Plumbing Inspector - Bob Modreske (616) 477-4940

Electrical Inspector - Gordon Bosch - (616) 396-1448

Allegan County Directory

County Commissioner -

Dean Kapenga - (616) 218-2599

Animal Control - (269) 673-0519

Central Dispatch - (269) 673-3899

County Clerk - (269) 673-0450

Drain Commissioner - (269) 673-0440

Health Department - (269) 673-5411

Register of Deeds - (269) 673-0390

Road Commission - (269) 673-2184

Senior & Veterans Services - 877-673-5333

County Treasurer - (269) 673-0260

Streets Lights - contact Consumers Energy 800- 477-5050 or email at customer@consumers.engery.com

State Representative - Mary Whiteford (517) 373-0836

State Senator Tonya - Schuitmaker (517) 373-0793

U.S. Congressman - Fred Upton - (269) 982-1986