Laketown News

Terry Hofmeyer, Laketown Township Supervisor

A Colonoscopy - A Budget

In addition to the usual "death and taxes" response when asked what are certainties in life, I’d like to add two of my own: a colonoscopy and a budget. Two weeks ago, my wife and I returned from a far west vacation
- just in time for my scheduled "prep-work" for a long-scheduled colonoscopy. Now you may be asking yourself why is he writing about a medical procedure in a township newsletter? The answer is: it will save your life!

Beginning at about age 50, you should be talking to your primary care physician about the procedure. I have known persons who have opted for the procedure and found, unknown to them, polyps, precancerous polyps and advanced cancerous lesions. I encourage you to take this life saving procedure, particularly if there is a family history of colon related diseases. By the way, the procedure may be slightly uncomfortable, but not painful. Yes, I came through the procedure with the loss of a few polyps! Do your family a favor, if you're over 50 years old, schedule a visit!

Oh yes, a budget! As the township board approaches the end of the calendar year we begin thinking seriously about the development of a new budget for the coming fiscal year. Budgeting and fiscal formats are laid out for us by the State of Michigan and every municipality (township, village, city and county) follows that format. We need to estimate both our revenues and expenses and make provision to provide mandated services which are required by law and set aside sufficient funds to carry us over those periods of time when no tax monies are coming in and expenses continue to accrue and must be paid.

Laketown Township is a diverse community and I would anticipate that we will never be in full agreement on when and where to expend funds or how much we should be holding in our fund balance or rainy-day accounts. At some point, the Board of Trustees must finalize a proposed budget, bring it before township residents for review and comment and pass it as a working document. If you have ideas or suggestions that you believe should be considered during our budget preparations prior to a public hearing, feel free to forward them to any board member.

In my opinion, we do a lot with the revenues we have available to us, but we do not have unlimited funds. If you suggest a new service or project, please remember that our general fund levy is approximately one-half of one mil. I believe that most cities in our area are levying approximately twelve to sixteen mils for general fund operations and several charter townships in our area are able to levy up to five mils for general fund operations. The rest of us tend to fall in the one mil or less levy for our general fund. We do well, but we can’t do everything!

Thanks for listening to me and I look forward to our annual meeting in March 2018!
Election Day – November 7, 2017

Voters in the Saugatuck Public Schools District will be voting on two proposals: 1) Operating Millage Proposal; and 2) Proposal to provide funds to operate a system of public recreation and playgrounds.

Reminder, this election is only for voters in Precinct 3 (Saugatuck Public Schools District).

Your polling location is at the Laketown Township Hall. Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. Absentee ballot applications can be obtained on our website at www.laketowntwp.org or by contacting the Township office at 616-335-3050.

Gibson Cemetery
Before the arrival of cold weather and snow, we ask that all flower baskets and mementoes be removed from the gravesides in the cemetery.

Treasurer’s Trove
Laketown Township Treasurer, Gary Dewey

We love Laketown for all the nature we observe and hear. Deer have been abundant and chewing up everything, hawks are going through fall migration along the dunes, bald eagles have been observed in quite a few areas, and we have had many reports of fox and coyote. I am always interested in what you observe.

Our development projects are progressing nicely and will provide needed housing in the area. I will miss those fields and natural beauty, but we have an area we can share with others and the developments fit into our well-designed masterplan.

Summer taxes have been collected and distributed to schools, the library, intermediate school district, pool, county, and the state. We only get a small percent for operating our township. If you did not pay your taxes by September 14th, a late fee of 1% was added to the base tax amount. A 1% increase will occur on the first of each month until paid in full. Please call the township office at (616) 335-3050 for payoff amounts.

Winter tax bills will be mailed the first week of December and are due on Wednesday, February 14, 2018. Prompt payment always helps our township budget. Postmarks are not honored, so please mail your payment well before February 14 to ensure a timely payment. Interest and penalty will be added to any unpaid balance on February 15, 2018. Remember, the last day to pay taxes at the township office is February 28, 2018 and any unpaid balance will be sent to Allegan County Treasurers office on March 1, 2018 for collection. Additional interest and penalties will be added at that time. The last business day for payments in this calendar year is December 29, 2017.

SAMPLE BALLOT
Precinct 3 - Nov. 7, 2017

PROPOSAL SECTION
LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SAUGATUCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OPERATING MILLAGE PROPOSAL

This proposal will allow the school district to levy the statutory rate of not to exceed 18 mills on all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, and its authorized millage rate on all principal residences, qualified agricultural property, qualified forest property, industrial personal property, commercial personal property, and all other taxable property as defined by law, required for the school district to receive its revenue per pupil foundation allowance.

Shall the total limitation on the amount of taxes for operating purposes which may be assessed against all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, in Saugatuck Public Schools, Allegan County, Michigan, be increased by 20 mills ($20.00 on each $1,000 of taxable valuation), and against all principal residences, qualified agricultural property, qualified forest property, industrial personal property, commercial personal property, and all other taxable property as defined by law by 1.50 mills ($1.50 on each $1,000 of taxable valuation), both millages to be for a period of 3 years, 2017, 2018 and 2019; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect from the combined property taxes authorized herein if the millage is approved and levied in 2017 is approximately $3,737,075?

YES ☐ NO ☐

SAUGATUCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MILLAGE PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE FUNDS TO OPERATE A SYSTEM OF PUBLIC RECREATION AND PLAYGROUNDS

This proposal will allow the school district to continue to levy public recreation millage previously approved by the electors.

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property in Saugatuck Public Schools, Allegan County, Michigan, be increased by and the board of education be authorized to levy not to exceed .25 mill ($0.25 on each $1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 2 years, 2018 and 2019, to continue to provide funds for operating a system of public recreation and playgrounds ($2,452 mill of the above is a renewal of millage which will expire with the 2017 tax levy, and .0048 mill is a restoration of millage lost as a result of the reduction required by the Michigan Constitution of 1963); the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect for such public recreation program if the millage is approved and levied in 2018 is approximately $143,823?

YES ☐ NO ☐
Day of Caring a success in the parks

Despite temperatures hitting near the 90-degree mark, volunteers held strong and tackled a tremendous amount of work in the parks for the annual Greater Ottawa County United Way Day of Caring held Thursday, Sept. 21, 2017. A total of 45 volunteers spent the day with shovels, rakes, handsaws and wheelbarrows making improvements at multiple locations in our township parks. Projects included: weeding the gazebo at Huyser Farm, improving access to the blueberry rows by removing trees at Huyser Farm; spreading trail material at Sanctuary Woods to improve accessibility, along with other trail improvements at Wolters Woods. Special thanks to the following groups who provided volunteers: Greater Ottawa County United Way Account Managers, Hope College Business Club, Huntington Bank, Tyson Foods, and Davenport University.

We are currently exploring collaborative recreational opportunities with the City of Holland Parks and Recreation Department for a park located at the corner of 32nd and Lugers Road which is on the northern border of our township. Containing nine acres, the property was formerly owned by Holland Public Schools and was obtained by the City after the closing of Lakeview Elementary School. Representatives from the City attended the September Parks meeting to obtain input on possible activities for that location. Ideas discussed included pickle ball courts, a walking trail, picnic tables, and improved parking.

The ordinance allowing dogs on leashes has been changed to allow two additional park locations – Wolters Woods and the Township Hall Recreation Complex. Approved at the September 13, 2017 Township Board Meeting, the ordinance is as follows: “Dogs which are maintained and controlled on a leash at all times, which leash is not longer than six feet, are allowed in the following public parks (as such term is defined in Ordinance No. 76, as amended): Farview Park, Sanctuary Woods, Shore Acres, Huyser Farm, Wolters Woods Park (not allowed in playground area), and Township Hall Recreation Complex.

Treatment and eradication of invasive plant and insect species in our parks has been a continual topic for the Parks Commission Board and efforts have been put in place to manage problem areas. Laketown parks were included on a grant obtained by the Outdoor Discovery Center this summer to treat Japanese Knotweed. In addition, we are working with a local company to survey and develop a treatment program for the Woolly adelgid infestation at Sanctuary Woods. Last, we have approved treatment for Oriental Bittersweet Vine at Wolters Woods.

The Parks Commission Board extends a thank you to Jan Lozon, whom has recently retired from the commission. We appreciate her work over the years educating the township on issues of invasive species, tick bite prevention, and the caretaking of Wolters Woods among other things. The Township Board is in the process of an appointment to fill the remaining term.

Thank you to the many residents who have attended meetings and events, completed the 2017 survey, and provided input throughout the year regarding programming and development. A public hearing for the renewal of a Five year Master Plan for Parks and Recreation (2018-2022) was held on September 20 and approved for submission to the Township Board for final approval. This document is required in order to apply for grant funding.

Parks Commission meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month at 7 pm at the Township Hall and we welcome your attendance and input.

THANK YOU DAY OF CARING VOLUNTEERS!!!!
**Household Hazardous Waste Program UPDATE**

Chef Container hosted two events this year on Aug 26th and Sept 30. 60 coupons were issued to Laketown residents and 39 showed up for drop-off. The average weight was around 85 pounds per vehicle and the response was very positive from the residents. “We are glad to start this program for our customers and hope to see continued success as the program grows,” said a Chef Container representative.

The next House Hold Hazardous event day is Oct 28, 2017 at Chef Container 4376 60th St 8:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m. Please sign up for a coupon by calling Chef Container directly at (616) 494-0561.

In order to control the flow of people and quantities disposed at the collection site we will be issuing coupons for these scheduled dates. You must contact Chef to request a coupon. Either call 616-494-0561 or email sales@chefcontainer.com. Don’t wait to the last minute to get your coupon, they will be limited!

The coupons will have an expiration date on them. You may use them only as dated. Accounts must be in good standing at Chef before a coupon can be issued. Proof of residency and account will be required at time of disposal. Because of the legal chain of custody required on hazardous waste you will be required to sign a disposal form.

These lists show the types of waste that will and will not be accepted. As this program evolves the lists may change. Westshore Recycling and Transfer Station reserves the right to reject any items deemed not acceptable to this program for whatever reason.

**ACCEPTED ITEMS**
- Aerosol cans
- Antifreeze
- Batteries
- Battery acids
- Detergents
- Degreasers
- Drain cleaners
- Fertilizers
- Gasoline
- Grease
- Inks
- Light bulbs
- Mercury
- Oil
- Oil base Paint
- Paint thinner
- Pesticides
- Propane
- Solvents
- Thermometers

**ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED**
- Compost
- Asbestos items
- Lead paint items
- General waste cleaners
- Electronics
- Freon Products
- Latex Paint
- Tires

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**From the Fire Department**

Happy Fall! We are excited to announce the arrival of our new Fire Engine - Engine 712! This new piece of apparatus will respond primarily as a Pumper which carries 750 gallons of water on a four-wheel drive chassis for easier access in the winter months as well as to areas that are hard to access with a two-wheel drive vehicle. Along with its primary function, it will also carry a set of Extrication Tools or the “Jaws of Life” which are used to remove subjects trapped in motor vehicle accidents, farm machinery, building collapses and other various emergencies.

We are also excited to announce our new 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.

Our smoke and carbon monoxide alarm program is 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.

With the Holidays quickly approaching we would like to offer a few safety tips!

**Halloween Tips** - Plan your Trick or Treating route in advance, be visible & stay well illuminated, look both ways when crossing driveways and roadways. Be sure to check your candy before eating it!

**Thanksgiving Tips** - Never leave the stove or oven unattended while in use, avoid wearing loose clothing while cooking, remember stand-alone fryers should never be used inside of a structure and should be used as recommended by the manufacturer!

**Christmas Tips** - Keep live Christmas trees watered, keep trees away from any source of heat (fire place, wood stove, heaters, candles, etc.) and remember to unplug your Christmas lights before going to bed or leaving the house!

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.

Have a safe and enjoyable Holiday Season!
Go Wild! At the Felt this Holiday Season

The holidays seem a long way off – considering we’ve just entered autumn. But, now is the perfect time to add a visit to The Felt Estate to your holiday calendar. This year’s theme is GO WILD! at the Felt— in honor of Dorr Felt’s zoo present at the estate in the 1920s.

We will kick off our GO WILD! holiday season on Saturday, December 9, 2017, noon – 2:00 p.m., with our annual Winterfest – a free family-fun day at the Felt Estate. With face-painting, horse-drawn wagon rides, self-guided tours of the mansion, and a free lunch -- this is a wonderful event for the whole family. No admission charge. As an added bonus: This year we are partnering with the Outdoor Discovery Center. At the carriage house, a naturalist from ODC will give a talk and demonstration about wildlife in our area. Kids will love to see and touch the animals! (All other events will be at the mansion).

On Thursday evening, December 14, there is an intimate concert featuring Brian VanderArk (from Verve Pipe fame) along with our annual Taste and Tour event. We are calling this event “Wine and Dine with Brian.” This is one of our most popular events at the Felt Estate! Join us for this fun wine-tasting evening. This will be a ticketed event and tickets will go on sale online November 1, 2017. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. A guided tour of the mansion with director Patty Meyer begins at 6:00 p.m. $40.00 per person includes a free wine glass, wine, concert, and light hors d’oeuvres. Concert begins at 7:00. Event ends at 9:00 p.m.

Another exciting evening is planned for Saturday, December 23 -- “Brews with the Bloomquists.” This is a beer-and-cider-tasting event with a folk music concert by Ruth and Max Bloomquist. This will be a ticketed event and tickets will go on sale online November 1, 2017. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. A guided tour of the mansion with director Patty Meyer begins at 6:00 p.m. Cost is $30.00 per person. It includes beer and cider, concert, and light hors d’oeuvres. Concert begins at 7:00. Event ends at 9:00 p.m.

And, of course, throughout December we have both guided and self-guided tours. Self-guided tours are Mondays through Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. beginning December 11. Self-guided tours are $15 for adults; $12 for seniors 62 and older, and students. Children 12 and under are always free. Daytime guided tours are Sunday afternoons, December 10 and 17, at 2:00; and Evening guided tours are December 15, 16, 21, 22, 28, 29, and 30 at 6:00 p.m. and on New Year’s Day at 2:00 p.m. Evening tour begins at 6:05 p.m. Holiday guided tour pricing: Guided tours are $20 for Adults; $15 for students and seniors; Children 12 and under are free. ALWAYS consult the online calendar on the tour page of the website. If tours are cancelled due to inclement weather, you will find the notice on the web page - http://www.feltmansion.org/go-wild-felt-holiday-season-2017/

Free passes are good for regular self-guided and guided tours (not for special events).

We are closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Eve.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Laketown Township Board</th>
<th>Township Staff</th>
<th>Allegan County Directory</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Township Office - (616) 335-3050</td>
<td>Manager - Al Meshkin</td>
<td>County Commissioner -</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supervisor - Terry Hofmeyer</td>
<td>Assessor - Paul Smith</td>
<td>Dean Kapenga - (616) 218-2599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer - Gary Dewey</td>
<td>Administrative Assistants: Kathy Stoike, Charlene Fields, Jenifer French, Diane Ybarra, Staci Veldt</td>
<td>Animal Control – (269) 673-0519</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clerk - Wendy Van Huis</td>
<td>Facilities Operations - Dan Williams</td>
<td>Central Dispatch – (269) 673-3899</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trustee - Linda Howell</td>
<td>Graafschap Fire Department - (616) 396-4060</td>
<td>County Clerk – (269) 673-0450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trustee - Ed Stielstra</td>
<td>Building Inspector - Al Ellingsen - (269) 214-2582</td>
<td>Drain Commissioner – (269) 673-0440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning Commission Chair - Bob Slikkers</td>
<td>Mechanical Inspector &amp; Plumbing Inspector - Bob Modreske (616) 477-4040</td>
<td>Health Department – (269) 673-5411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning Board of Appeals Chair - David Weishaar</td>
<td>Electrical Inspector - Gordon Bosch - (616) 396-4448</td>
<td>Register of Deeds – (269) 673-0390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks and Recreation Chair - Michelle Sall</td>
<td>Streets Lights – contact Consumers Energy 800-477-5050 or email at <a href="mailto:customer@consumers.energ.com">customer@consumers.energ.com</a></td>
<td>Road Commission – (269) 673-2184</td>
</tr>
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State Representative - Mary Whiteford (517) 373-0836
State Senator Tonya - Schuitmaker (517) 373-0793
U.S. Congressman - Fred Upton – (269) 982-1986