



Lincoln Charter Township Communicator

April 2009 Issue 60

Township Supervisor: Dick Stauffer - Ext. 14

Road Projects for 2009

Sometimes you have to spend money now to save more in the future. Our current plans are to reseal the following Township roads this summer to extend their life. N. Roosevelt (Glenlord to end), S. Roosevelt (John Beers to Marquette Woods), Roosevelt (Marquette Woods to end), Joshua, W. Alice, Charles, E. Alice, Carol, N. Cedar, Oaklawn, Southfield, Venus, Wilson, Victoria, Anna, Fruitwood, Woodland, Glenwood Dr, Glenorchard, Arcadia, Edison, Fulton, Knox, Blenheim, Windermere. Residents will be notified before the resealing begins to minimize any inconvenience. At the same time, the Road Commission will need your cooperation in doing some high shoulder removal where water is trapped on the pavement. Where this work is done, the area will be reseeded.

Beat Up Mail Boxes In Our Township

It's been a tough winter for mailboxes on our main roads. Here's what the Berrien County Road Commission advises about mailboxes. First, they reminded me that mailboxes are owned and maintained by the property owner. They also added that it's apparent to them that the plastic mailboxes are not designed for our tough Michigan winters. This is because the plastic material tends to crack from the force of the plowed snow when the temperature is below 15 degrees. They recommend using a standard aluminum mailbox mounted on a single 4" by 4" wood post. The post-to-mailbox connection should be of sufficient strength to prevent the box from separating from the top of the post due to the force of the impact of thrown snow from the plow truck. Think spring!



New Water Towers Will Provide Many Benefits: The two new million gallon water towers located along Jericho Road in our township and Miners Road in Royalton Township are expected to be filled this spring. Along with the booster station and water main construction projects completed in 2007 and early 2008, the towers are part of the multimillion dollar infrastructure improvement program designed to increase water pressures in the Village of Stevensville, Royalton and other highly elevated areas within the Authority service area. In addition, these improvements will provide crucial water storage for peak demands and for fire fighting purposes throughout the entire Authority service area. The result is a safe and reliable water system that will further safeguard the health, safety and welfare needs of our community for many years to come. Thank you Southwest Michigan Regional Sanitary Sewer and Water Authority for a job well done.



Michigan's Storm Water Program Overview

The goal of Michigan's Storm Water Program is to protect and preserve Michigan's water resources. The DEQ strives to accomplish this goal through a two step process. First of all, they have been delegated by the EPA to be the regulatory authority to implement a storm water discharge permit program for the state. Secondly, they have developed and implemented an educational component of our permitting process. The educational information can be obtained by going to the Township website at www.lctberrien.org and clicking on **Stormwater Public Education Plan**, then click on **SWMPC- Watersheds, Water Quality and Wetlands** which will take you to their website. The Township is required to report annually to the DEQ and our 2008 report was fully approved.



Spring Clean-up Passes: For the month of April there are Reliable Disposal dump passes available for Lincoln Charter Township residents, 2 passes per address. Passes are only good for the following Saturdays: April 4th, 11th, 18th, & 25th, 2009. Refuse will be accepted during the hours of 7 AM to Noon. You will be responsible for charges if taken to Reliable other than dates noted on the pass. Passes may be picked up at the Township Hall between the hours of 9 AM. to 5 PM, Monday thru Friday.

PET PARTICULARS: The Township office receives many calls regarding loose animals (both dogs and cats). This is a reminder that **all dogs must be either confined or restrained**. You are asked to pick up after your pet, especially if you take your dog for walks in our parks, sidewalks, or anywhere in our beautiful Township. Always carry a pooper scooper or plastic bag with you to pick up your pet's waste. The parks are for the enjoyment of all residents and messy feet do not make for fuzzy feelings. Also, few gardeners enjoy digging into their gardens only to discover that a neighbor's cat has been using it for a litter box. Please be considerate of your neighbors—they probably don't love your pet as much as you do. **Please pick up after your pets.**



Noise Pollution: Now that spring is around the corner and we'll be enjoying open windows, please respect your fellow residents and keep the volume level where everyone's rights are observed.

Retirement Announcement:

All the Elected Officials and Township staff would like to say 'Thank you Sharon Geisler for your 15 years of service as our Township Clerk'. Your knowledge and counsel will be missed, not to mention your brother Ron's Chicken Lasagna!

Township Clerk Stacy Loar-Porter- Ext. 20
Tammie Simpson, Deputy Clerk - Ext. 12
Ann Duensing, Clerk's Office- Ext. 24

2009 ELECTION INFORMATION

Next Election Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2009
Polls open 7 AM close at 8 PM

Close of Registration: Monday, April 6, 2009

The Ballot will include:

Candidate for Lakeshore School Board Office:
Kevin Bushu

ZONING DISTRICT AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

Shall the zoning district of certain property formerly known as the "Snowflake Motel" site consisting of approximately 32.59 acres located on the west side of the Red Arrow Highway between Glenlord Road and Maiden Lane within Lincoln Charter Township comprised of three separate parcels as follows:

Parcel Number	Current Zoning District
11-12-0009-0022-00-6	HD High Density Residential
11-12-0009-0022-02-2	CMU Commercial Mixed Use
11-12-0009-0022-01-4	CMU Commercial Mixed Use

be rezoned to the PUD Planned Unit Development District to allow a mixed use development proposed to include single-family and multi-unit dwellings and commercial uses, as previously approved by the Township?

Yes No

Census 2010 "Be Counted"

Getting a complete and accurate count impacts our community. The head count determines the amount of revenue (allocated by the state from sales and income tax paid by residents). Grants to educational agencies, head start programs, road rehab and construction, programs for the elderly, where jobs and job programs are needed, it also determines the number of liquor licenses allowed per municipality. Address canvassing will start soon with field activities to follow, be sure to complete all information and return quickly. If you don't mail back your questionnaires a census worker may come to your home. It's very important that everyone is counted.

Cemetery Lots: Lots are available at Lincoln Twp. & Hickory Bluff Cemeteries. Lots in Section I in Hickory Bluff are will be available June 1st. Questions concerning either cemetery, call the Twp. Hall, 429-1589.

As A Reminder, we are asking our residents to please follow our ordinance which does not allow dogs to run at large in the township cemeteries

WELCOME! We welcome Rebecca Cincoski and GJ Gaunder to the Lincoln Charter Township staff. Rebecca joined our staff in December 2008 as our Accounting Clerk. GJ joined our staff in our Maintenance Department in February 2009. We are glad to have them both on board!

Lincoln Charter Township

2055 West John Beers Road
P.O. Box 279
Stevensville, MI 49127-0279
Phone: 429-1589
Fax: 429-0880
www.lctberrien.org

Office Hours 2009

The twp. office hours are
9 AM to 5 PM Monday thru Friday
Holiday Closed Dates

April 10.....Good Friday
May 25.....Memorial Day
July 3.....4th of July
July 6.....4th of July
Sept. 7.....Labor Day
Nov. 26 & 27.....Thanksgiving
Dec. 24.....Christmas Eve
Dec. 25.....Christmas Day
Dec. 31... (9-Noon).....New Year's Eve

Visit our website at www.lctberrien.org. You can obtain the minutes for meetings, public notices, building permit applications and other helpful material.

Board of Trustees: Meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM in regular session. Special meetings are held as posted. The fourth Tuesday is reserved for possible special meetings.

Street Light Outages: To report a street light out or not working properly, **copy down the pole number**, which is located on a metal tag on the pole and call the Twp. Office at **429-1589 Ext 24**.

Garage Sale Permits & Signs: Permits are required for garage sales and may be picked up at the Township Hall between the hours of 9 AM to 5 PM, Mon. thru Fri. **NO signs are allowed on public property such as street signs, utility poles, or ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY.** (The road right-of-way is 33 feet from the center of the road.) **Any signs found on public property will be removed, including property along the cemetery on St. Joseph Ave., 2 permits per household. (Residents of the Village of Stevensville need to pick up permits at the Stevensville Village Hall.)**

Michigan Leash Law: Michigan law requires that all dogs must be held by a leash, with exception of working dogs.

2009 Cemetery Clean-up Dates:

SPRING
Remove floral decorations: **March 18-24**
Maintenance Clean-up: **March 25-31**
Put new floral decorations out: **April 1**
FALL
Remove floral decorations: **Oct. 16-23**
Maintenance Clean-up: **Oct. 26 - 30**
Put new floral decorations out: **Nov. 1**

Swimming Pools: Lincoln Firefighters can fill swimming pools for our residents. If you want to schedule a fill, please call the station at **428-2385, Ext 17**.

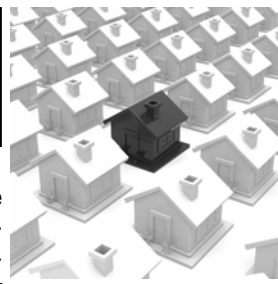
2009 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Dates, Locations & other Recycling Questions: Go to www.berriencounty.org/recycle for collection dates and other recycle information, or call direct to **269-983-7111, Ext. 8234** for information by phone.

Earth Day: Wed., April 22, 2009, from 8 AM to 5 PM Boelcke Heating Co. will be accepting compressor-bearing appliances. This would include refrigerators, window air conditioners, freezers, water coolers and ice makers. They will remove the refrigerant and dispose of the appliance at no cost to our Township and Village residents. For questions and more details, please call Boelcke Heating at **429-9261**.

Sewer Backups: Make us your first call if you have a sewer backup. We will check the main line, which may save you from having to call a plumber. If available we can print you a copy of your sewer line & clean outs. Call Mon. - Fri. **9 AM to 5 PM 429-1589 after hours call 983-7141**.

Also, please call at anytime if you notice the red light on at any of our lift stations.

Assessing Department
Barb Cheek / Assessor - Ext. 13
Linda Copeland - Ext. 22 / Lisa Baker - Ext. 19



Assessment Change Notices were mailed in February. These notices are sent to inform property owners of the new current year (2009) Assessed Value (AV), State Equalized Value (SEV) and Taxable Value (TV). They also indicate any changes that may have occurred to the property due to transfers, PRE (principal residence exemption) changes, and new and loss values. It is important that you as a property owner review these notices to make sure that they correctly reflect this information as well as your mailing address.

Please pay close attention to the PRE %. Your summer tax bill will be incorrect if the PRE is incorrect.

Visit the **Lincoln Charter Township Website** at <http://lctberrien.org/> and click on the Assessing department link for more information on Assessing forms, How to Read Assessment Notices, and other related links.

In the spring you may see assessing staff in your neighborhood taking **digital photos** of properties. This is because we are updating property record card photographs and doing property appraisal reviews. The staff will be traveling in a marked Lincoln Charter Township vehicle and will be wearing ID tags.

There are property record cards for every parcel in the Township. You are always welcome and encouraged to come in and review your **property's record card(s)** on file in the Assessing Department.

Department of Building Safety
James L. Pheifer / Building Official & Zoning Administrator - Ext.15
Judy Dunlap / Planning & Zoning - Ext. 16
Debbie Killebrew / Permits & Scheduling Inspections: - Ext. 25
Call 24 hours in advance for inspections between 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM

Many of our residents will be repairing, remodeling or adding on to their homes this year. Please Note: ask your contractors for a copy of their license. It is a State Law that as of June 1st, 2008 the following list of trades need a license to do business: **Carpentry, Siding, Roofing, Window Installs, Excavation, Hardwood Floors, Gutters Insulation, Painting, Demolition, Swimming Pools, Concrete Masonry, Tile, Marble and Waterproofing.**

Some of the trades doing business do not need a permit, if you are unsure if a permit is required please call Debbie at 429-1589 Ext. 25, she will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Please remember to have your contractors display the permit issued (if required) in a prominent place fronting the residence or structure that they will be performing the work on. It is also important to make sure your house numbers are displayed on your residence and are readable from the street.

With the snow that we had this past winter many of you noticed large icicles hanging from your eaves, this is caused by heat loss through your attic. Your eaves should be vented into your attic and your roof should have vents on the ridge or close to the ridge, if these vents are covered up or the air flow is blocked it can cause your attic not to vent properly. If your attic is not properly insulated that too can cause heat loss. This causes the snow to melt and freeze at the eaves causing ice dams and icicles, the ice builds up and continues to freeze up the roof, the water under the ice will backflow under your shingles and leak into your attic and cause damage to your roof deck and shingles. If you're planning a new roof, please have your contractor check ventilation calculations for you, to ensure proper ventilation in your attic.

All outdoor swimming pools, including in-ground, above-ground or on-ground pools, hot tubs or spas shall be provided with a barrier at least 48" (inches) in height. A permit is not required for any pool that is less than 24" (inches) deep.

Please check all your smoke detectors, and don't forget to change the batteries this spring, if hard wired and the power goes off they will not work if the batteries are dead or not installed. Thank you and have a safe spring and summer.

Treasurer Department: Terrie Smith - Ext. 17

Personal and leasehold trailer taxes for years 2008 and earlier need to be paid at Lincoln Charter Township. If you have outstanding taxes in any of those years you will soon be contacted to submit a payment or be set up on a payment plan. Those refusing to cooperate will be subject to other severe alternatives.

The most asked question during tax season is, "Don't I get a receipt?" As a reminder **the top half of your tax bill IS YOUR RECEIPT.** If you would like to have it marked paid, please bring in the entire tax bill when making your payment in person or mail in the entire tax bill when paying by mail. We will gladly stamp your portion and return it to you. **THE RECEIPT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT WHEN FILING YOUR FEDERAL AND STATE INCOME TAXES.** We are extremely busy the first two weeks in February collecting the final tax payments. Often we have to place your accountant on hold or return a call at a more convenient time to give them your tax information to avoid holding up our residents making tax payments. Please place your receipts in a safe place so they will be available at tax time. If you lose them and need an additional copy there will be an extra charge.

The township had numerous requests in the past to have a drop box installed for after hour payments. For your convenience that box was installed to the right of the entrance door. Please use the box to avoid late payments or concerns about dropping it in the mail. Again if you want a receipt of payment when using the drop box, include the whole bill and the receipt will be stamped and returned to you.

Online tax payments are still an option. **However**, please begin contacting our office now prior to June 1, 2009, to make arrangements. You will need to set up the payment with your bank and an actual check would be mailed from your institution to the township. **This may take an additional 5 days for them to process and mail. PLEASE do not wait until the deadline to request the payment.** This will cause your payment to be delayed, and late. We currently do not accept direct deposits.

For those of you new to the community, Lincoln Charter Township's summer tax bills are mailed July 1st and are due by September 14th. The winter tax bills are mailed December 1st and are due by February 14th. The summer tax bill usually represents three-fourths of your annual homestead tax bill.

Finally, if you have set up a mortgage company to pay your taxes or have refinanced and switched mortgage companies, please contact our office prior to June 1, 2009, to arrange your payment through your mortgage institution. The treasurer's department can be reached at (269) 429-1589, ext 17.

Lincoln Charter Township
2055 W. John Beers
PO Box 279
Stevensville, MI 49127

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE PAID
STEVENSVILLE MI
PERMIT NO. 279

ECRWSS

POSTAL CUSTOMER

Lincoln Charter Township Police Dept.
Dan Sullivan, Chief of Police Lincoln Charter Twp. PD
<http://ltpd.org> 429-2444

The Lincoln Charter Township Police Department would like to thank the citizens for their continued support. We continue to strive to provide professional police services to Lincoln Charter Township and the Village of Stevensville.

I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate Ralph Bansen for being selected LTPD's Officer of the Year. Ralph has taken a lead role in organizing our Business Watch Program, which aids in communication between businesses and our agency. Any business person can join, please contact Officer Bansen at (269) 429-2444.

As the weather improves complaints about traffic problems increase, please contact our office and we will try to increase enforcement or utilize the departments speed trailer. Please keep in mind that we cannot be everywhere at one time and your patience is appreciated.

I would like to remind everyone that the fraud schemes are widespread, from telephone solicitations to email messages. Most often these will inform the recipient that he/she has won a lottery or has inherited a large amount of money. Please remember that the old saying "if it appears to be too good to be true, it probably is" and be suspicious of any of these contacts, many of our citizens have fallen victim to these predators and prosecution is often times impossible. Please don't send money to receive money. Remember to always wear your seatbelt and drive carefully.

Fire Department
Ron Burkett/Fire Chief 428-2385 Ext. 12

All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast: Let our Firefighters cook breakfast for you on Sunday, May 17, 2009 from 8 AM to 1 PM at the Fire Station, 2130 W John Beers Rd., cost for adults \$5.00, children \$3.00 and children 5 and under free.

Burning Permits: If you are planning to burn brush make sure you get a permit from the Township Hall! Any damages caused by fires are your financial responsibility. Be considerate of your neighbors when burning. Any fires without permits or that are a nuisance will be extinguished by the Fire Department and fines can be costly.

Fire Extinguishers: Are available at the Township Hall which are sold for \$40 each. Depending on the type of extinguisher you have it may also be refillable at our Fire Station (**make checks payable to Lincoln Firefighters**). Call Township for more details.

Address Signs: Green reflective address signs are available at the Township. Our Firefighters make up the signs which are being sold for \$15 each (**make checks payable to Lincoln Firefighters**). The high visibility signs are a tremendous help to the emergency responders.

Acknowledgments: We would like to thank our retirees for their dedicated services to the township and the residents. Thank you Firefighters, Kevin Green for 28 years, Kevin Gebhard for 26 years, Steve Wolter for 15 years. A special thank you to their families, behind every great man is his loved ones. Welcome new Firefighters Cory Teeds, Richard Wing and new Firefighter trainee Joe Carpenter.

Volunteer's Needed: The Fire Department is accepting applications for Volunteer Firefighters. Applications can be picked up at and returned to the Township Hall.

Parks

The Lincoln Charter Township Board has numerous projects planned for the township parks this season. After the approval of the township budget in March some large projects that we will be undertaking are extending the pavilions at the Community Center and North Lake Park as well as adding doors that may be pulled down during strong winds or rainy weather so that we do not disrupt enjoyable family and friend gatherings, putting up two more new dugouts at the baseball park and a well for irrigating the fields, building the new restroom at the soccer facility and working on the irrigation system, placing sod by the soccer fields for the use of rocket football, and restructuring the restroom facilities at Lincoln Township Beach.

We will also be asking our residents to assist us as we update our parks' five year plan that will expire on December 31, 2009. It is essential that we have a park's plan in place. Without the plan we are not eligible to submit any grant applications. Our engineers from Williams & Works will be spearheading the plan and hold public input meetings to obtain information from residents and businesses in our community to discuss ways to improve our park system and target goals we hope to achieve.

A new item that you will see placed at the Community Center and North Lake Park is dog waste stations. Taking your dog for a walk is great exercise for both you and the dog, however, when walking your dog in Lincoln Charter Township, picking up after your dog is mandatory. Please be kind to those that come to walk after you.

Any time you have concerns or comments about our parks you may either call the township hall or email tsmith@lctberrien.org.

THANK YOU!!! Lincoln Charter Township wants to thank **Derrick Smith** and **Adam Harshbarger** for their contributions to the community. Both Derrick and Adam are working hard to achieve their Eagle Scout awards. Derrick gave the storage shed and the concession stand at the soccer field a new face lift by scraping and repainting the buildings and applying a new roof to the storage shed. Adam built six, 6 foot picnic tables to be placed at the soccer fields and is working on trash receptacles as well. Please enjoy the new items this summer, and respect the hard work that went into them. A special thank you also goes out to **Ace Hardware** and **Glenlord Lumber** who donated and reduced cost for items used to repair and construct these items. We continue to thank the Lakeshore Rotary for their ongoing work and repeated support at North Lake Park.