

Leroy Township

Summer 2018 Newsletter

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ROADS

Thank you to residents who responded to our road funding survey. We had an excellent response with the majority of the cards that were returned directing us to put a road millage proposal back on a ballot for your vote. Unfortunately, since that letter was mailed, the Calhoun County Road Department has had quite a personnel upset leaving our board with a lack of confidence in moving forward with a road millage in the very near future. There is still no Managing Director at the Road Department. In addition, they have lost their Operations Manager, Lead Engineer, Office Manager and have eliminated the Project Manager position. Without stability and, ultimately, accountability, we are not comfortable entering into a contract agreement for road funding with the Calhoun County Road Department at this time. Please trust that when the time is right, we will move forward but only with the assurance that the right, experienced personnel are in place and that our dollars, yours and mine, will be used on a well-engineered and executed plan.

I appreciate your patience during this waiting period and remind you, again, that the township has NO responsibility for roads. We can choose to fund road construction on our local roads but have no responsibility to do so. Also, township governments receive no funding

whatsoever for road projects outside of individual local millages. No state or federal dollars are disbursed to townships for road upkeep. Funds are distributed to cities, villages and county road commissions or departments for road maintenance. The county road department must use matching dollars for local road construction and that match can be from a county-wide road millage, outside benefactor, or from individual township government participation. Calhoun County requires a 70% township match for local road projects that cost under 3 mills levied by a township and a 50% match on projects requiring a township to levy more than 3 mills.

Our board will continue to monitor the staffing situation at the Calhoun County Road Department and will move forward when we are confident that the proposal we bring to you, our resident, is in all of our best interest. Let me also remind you that the Local Road Millage Proposal that was on the November 2016 ballot was turned down by Leroy Township voters by a narrow margin of 22 votes out of a total 2007 votes cast.

On a more positive note, the Road Department has proposed the following Leroy Township primary road projects for the 2018 construction season (all at 100% cost to the Calhoun County Road Department):

- Skip Paving on B Dr. So. between 2 Mile Rd. and 3 ½ Mile Rd.
- Chip Seal on 3 Mile Rd. between B Drive So. and D Dr. So.
- Chip Seal on Capital Ave. S.W. between B Dr. So. and D Dr. So.
- Skip Paving on ½ Mile Rd. from H Dr. So. to K Dr. So.
- Skip Paving on K Dr. So. from ½ Mile Rd. to 2 Mile Rd.

CEMETERIES

This past year, we have had a very special resident volunteer working in our township cemeteries. Ron VanHouten noticed the deterioration and crumbling condition of aging headstones throughout our four cemeteries. Many of the markers are from the mid to late 1800's and, of course, families of the deceased have passed on long ago. Mr. VanHouten made a proposal to the board to start volunteering to fix as many of the markers as he could. To date, he has completed work on over 80 headstones! The majority of the work has been done in the small, often unnoticed, West Leroy Cemetery on C Drive. Stones that were themselves broken and buried, have been uncovered. Markers that were in jigsaw puzzle piece condition, have been mortared back together and are upright once again. Weathered stones have been cleaned and the wording is now legible. Ron VanHouten, on behalf of our board of trustees and Leroy Township residents, "thank you", for respecting the past and once again restoring honor to those who are buried here. By your efforts and handiwork, they are not forgotten.

MISCELLANEOUS

For your convenience, a new drive-up drop box has been placed in the office parking area. The red box will allow you to drop off permit applications, tax payments, election absentee ballots, etc., without getting out of your vehicle and into inclement weather. Stay safe and dry!

Our Clerk's office is taking applications for election inspectors for the upcoming August and November elections. There is an extreme need for workers who identify and will declare themselves as a Democrat. It is important that we have a

balance between the two major parties. If you are interested, please stop in and see Clerk Brenda Schuetz. Election workers are required to take training and are compensated for their hours worked.

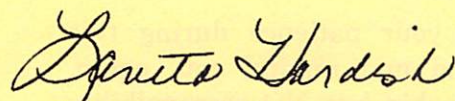
Our on-call fire department is also accepting applications for residents interested in serving on the department. If interested, you may stop in the office for an application and we will put you in touch with Fire Chief Jim Thompson.

Building department permit applications, burn permit applications, and the township's zoning ordinances are all available to you on our website: leroytownship.org.

The Community Room is available for rent. It can accommodate 103 people. For more information and to check the schedule, contact Clerk Brenda Schuetz.

Go ahead and mark your calendars for the Fall Clean-up/Dumpster Day scheduled for Saturday, October 6, from 9 a.m. until 12 Noon behind the Community Room, 8146 4 Mile Road. This service is provided free of charge to our residents and is great way to get rid of unwanted items and junk without making a costly trip to the landfill. You may bring multiple loads!

Please feel free to contact the office with any other questions you may have. And we hope you have a safe and enjoyable summer!



Laveta Hardish, Supervisor

Board Members: Trustee Jon Bolton,
Trustee Doug Chapman, Treasurer Mark
Christoff, Clerk Brenda Schuetz