

2015 Leroy Township Summer Newsletter

Office: 8156 4 Mile Road, East Leroy Phone: 269 979-9421

Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Website: www.leroytownship.org

Dear Resident:

The renovation to the Community Room is almost complete. The improvements include new sidewalks, updated drainage, outside lighting, and new glass entry doors that can be opened with electric push button openers. This project has been paid for in part by a Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Grant that was awarded to Leroy Township and the federal monies are administered by the State of Michigan.

As the 2016 election year approaches, our Clerk's office is looking for people to work as Election Inspectors. You must be available for a one day training session, a half day of equipment/room set-up in addition to the day of the election. This is a paid position – inspectors are not volunteers and they are vital to the election process. Applications for inspectors can be found on our website and in the office. Please consider serving your community and supporting our democratic form of government which allows us to vote!

The Community Room is available for rent. Reservations can be made by

contacting our Clerk, Larine Walstead, at (269) 979-9421. A

signed contract, rental fee, and surety deposit are required.

Just a reminder that a Building Permit is required for construction, enlargement, alteration or moving of any home or structure including accessory buildings larger than 200 square feet. Applications for permits are available on-line on our website or in the office. Payment is required prior to a permit being issued. Please check with the office prior to starting construction or demolition to verify if a permit is needed.

Burn Permits applications are available in the office or on-line. They are free of charge and are issued for a 3 day period.

Some surrounding townships have addressed local road funding issues. Residents in Pennfield Township approved an 11-year, 2.8-mill proposal to fund the repair of nearly 60 miles of local roads. Bedford Township property owners will be paying special assessments of \$150 for a developed parcel of land and \$75 for an undeveloped parcel for the next 7 years to fund their local road repairs. State statute does not allow a special assessment option to be put on a ballot for vote so the Bedford Township Board voted to approve the creation of the district.

What does the future of road funding look like in Leroy Township? There are 66.25 miles of roadway that the Calhoun County Road Department is responsible to maintain in Leroy. 30.57 miles are primary roadways. The County Road Department is 100% responsible for those 30.57 miles. That leaves 35.68 miles of local roads that the Calhoun County Road Department requires a 70% contribution from the township in order to pay for repairs/construction. Until the CCRD has the matching 70% funding, they will only fill potholes to maintain 'safe' travel. As a Township Board, we are beginning the process of collecting numbers and looking at potential funding options and wording for a ballot proposal to allow our voters to decide if they are willing to pay – by the collection of property taxes – for road repairs in Leroy Township. This in no way suggests that board members are in favor of this type of taxation – but we do have a responsibility to allow you, the resident, to decide through your vote, a willingness or unwillingness to fix local roads by paying a millage to Leroy Township. A proposal could be as early as 2016 or as late as 2018. Public information meetings will be held prior to any language being placed on a ballot.

Please continue to report your road repair concerns to the Calhoun County Road Department at (269)

781- 9841 or by going to their website and reporting on-line. It is important that every pothole is reported so please take the time to make the call.

For several years, an attempt has been made to have advance notification signs placed along M-66 for D Drive South. In April of this year, Michigan Department of Transportation finally approved the request. The letter indicated that the manufacturing and placing of the signs will take some time; haven't seen them yet but we are hopeful!

Lastly, thank you to Judy Shearer and Nicole Hardish for helping to place U.S. flags on the graves of over 225 veterans buried in our four cemeteries prior to Memorial Day. I had the honor of assisting them – what history exists in these cemeteries. There are soldiers buried here from the Civil War through more recent conflicts. A heartfelt thank you to all of our veterans for your service.

Laveta Hardish, Supervisor

Larine Walstead, Clerk
Mark Christoff, Treasurer
Doug Chapman, Trustee
Dan McHugh, Trustee

