

Leroy Township

Fall 2014 Newsletter

8156 4 Mile Rd., East Leroy, MI Telephone: 269 979-9421 Website: leroytownship.org
Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Dear Resident:

The more often I write these newsletters, the more I feel that I am writing to friends – some new, some old; sitting in this office allows me to meet so many of you, and I continue to enjoy helping and trying to meet your needs.

Our office is again in the process of change. Vicki Toll who was appointed as Treasurer in early 2013 has decided to retire and did not seek re-election this year. Our Board would like to thank Vicki for stepping in at a critical time and serving our community very well. She has been instrumental in moving us forward with technology; tax payments can now be made with a debit or credit card in the office (with a convenience fee charged to the user). Electronic payments can also be made on our website – from the home page highlight Property Taxes and then click under the Pay Taxes On-line (click [here](#)) – remember again, that convenience fees will be applied. Best wishes to Vicki and her husband, Tim, on their future adventures!

Mark Christoff, who had been serving as a Trustee, was elected in November to fill the Treasurer's vacancy. Mark has been busy training with Treasurer Toll since his retirement last month from Kellogg Company. Anne Meredith will stay on serving as the Deputy

Treasurer. These are the two faces who usually greet you at the window. Please remember that we do not keep cash on the premises so if you must pay your taxes by cash, be sure to bring in the exact amount.

Please take time to read over the Tax Detail portion of your Winter 2014 tax bill. Specifically, I would ask you to pay attention to the amount levied by the Township for our operations. Our current millage rate is 0.7635 – about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mill. On my personal tax bill, my husband and I are paying \$37.93 to the Township. All other funds are disbursed outside of the township to schools, library, county, etc. In 1978 Michigan voters approved the Headlee Rollback, a constitutional amendment which started to rollback the amount of money collected by local governments. The one full mill that was levied by the township has now been rolled back by almost 25%. We try to be very careful with our expenditures but it becomes more challenging as our revenue continues to drop.

Our clerk, Larine Walstead, and her deputy, Nicole Hardish, along with all of our election inspectors did a terrific job this year running our two voting precincts. Work was completed and results sent to the county in record time! If you are 60 years or older, or disabled, you can

be placed on a permanent Absentee Ballot list with our clerk; each election an application for a ballot will be sent directly to you to complete and return, and a ballot will then be mailed for you to vote in the privacy of your home. Contact Larine at 979-9421 if you would like to be placed on this list. 2016, a busy election year, is right around the corner!

A heartfelt thank you to Tim VanWormer who has retired from the Fire Department after 19 years serving as both a FireFighter and an Officer. Thank you for your service, Tim, and we wish you well. Fire Chief Jim Thompson is always accepting applications for those interested in serving on our On-Call Fire Department. The men and women on our department are dedicated to serving their community – they attend drill once a month at the station, complete Fire Fighter and medical training programs and answer dispatch calls throughout our area 24 hours a day, 7 days week. Their service is so appreciated. Burning permits are available free of charge in the office or can be printed off the website and submitted to the office.

The building department is coordinated through Nicole. Please check with her before starting any building or demolition project to make sure that you meet all regulations and requirements. Zoning Administrator, Rob Behnke, is in the office on Thursdays from 10 – 1. Many of you have met Rob who administers and enforces the Leroy Township Zoning Ordinance

that was put together by the Planning Commission and adopted by our Board. A copy of the current Leroy Township Zoning Ordinance can be found in the office or viewed on-line on the website: leroytownship.org

Our assessor, Joyce Foondle, is in the office on Wednesdays from 9 – 4:30. Her years of service and knowledge are very beneficial to both the township and its residents.

The Community Room can now be reserved by calling the office. And information regarding the four township cemeteries can also be obtained by calling Clerk Larine Walstead.

During the upcoming Christmas season, the office will be **closed December 24 and 25**. We will be in the office from **9 a.m. – 1 p.m. on December 31**. A drop box is located in front of the office near the stairs where payments or permit applications can be dropped after hours. In addition, the **Treasurer's office will also be open on Monday, February 16 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. for tax payments**.

In case of inclement weather, please watch WWMT Channel 3, listen to WBCK Radio or call the office to check on possible office closing prior to setting out on bad roads.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy 2015 New Year!

Supervisor Laveta Hardish, Trustee Doug Chapman, Treasurer Mark Christoff, and Clerk Larine Walstead