

# Leroy Township

## Fall 2015 Newsletter

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

Dear Township Resident:

Please take time to look at your attached Winter Tax Bill; especially the portion under Tax Detail that shows you exactly where collected tax dollars will be distributed. Township government was set up for three expressed purposes: to collect taxes, provide assessing functions, and administer elections. Our treasurer and his deputy are collecting Winter Taxes for several entities and they will be disbursed to:

- **Calhoun County Medical Care Facility**
- **Intermediate School District**
- **Leroy Township**
- **Community Colleges (KCC or KVCC)**
- **Willard Library (Harper District only)**
- **Calhoun County Veteran Services**
- **Athens and Climax Scotts School Districts (Harper collects in the summer)**

Approximately 8% of the winter tax monies collected will remain in Leroy Township with the rest being disbursed to county government, school districts and the library. To date, Leroy Township collects no additional money for fire services or road funding. The majority of our funding comes from State Revenue Sharing which is a portion of the sales tax being distributed to the township based on our last census (3,712 residents in 2010) numbers.

Your tax bill may also include a special assessment for either street lighting in your neighborhood or a drainage district that you might live in. Street lighting is paid in advance by the township and put on the winter tax bill for reimbursement. All drain assessments are calculated by and disbursed to the Calhoun County Water Resources Department.

You might note that dog licenses can be purchased at our office from December 1 thru February 29. An up-to-date rabies vaccination certificate is required. The Treasurer's office will be open Monday, February 16 from 9 a.m. to 5

p.m. for the last day to pay taxes without a late fee. Beginning March 1, delinquent taxes are only payable at the Calhoun County Treasurer's Office. Please do not pay in cash.

Have you noticed the piles of dirt and crushed asphalt on the west side of Congregational Cemetery on H Drive South? That is material that was removed from the repaving of the parking lot at the office and fire department. As the cemetery expansion project is completed in the Spring of 2016, those materials will be used in the new driveways and as fill for the low areas of the newly created southern portion of Congregational.

Did you also know that residents receive a discount on burial rights for lots located in one of our four cemeteries? Our Clerk can provide you with specific lot availability and pricing. Mather-Voyce Cemetery located on 5 Mile Road is a beautiful country location with its first burial dating 1838. West Leroy Cemetery on C Drive South is small and quaint and was laid out in 1840. Morgan Cemetery on Capital Avenue S.W. was known for many years as Robinson Cemetery where headstones date back to 1839. And the earliest burial record for Congregational Cemetery located on H Drive South is from 1844.

All winter artificial wreaths and sprays will be removed from our cemeteries by May 1<sup>st</sup>. And all summer artificial wreaths and sprays will be removed by October 1. These dates coincide with the Township's Dumpster days which are held in early May and again in early October. Our Cemetery Sexton uses these clean-up events as an opportunity to dispose of the decorations. Please watch the Battle Creek Shopper and our website at [www.leroytownship.org](http://www.leroytownship.org) for actual dates and times of Dumpster Day. Residents can bring multiple loads at no charge.

Just a reminder that the Community Room on 4 Mile Road is available for rent. Call the office at (269) 979-9421 for rental details and available dates.

In January 2017, Michigan's funding plan to fix crumbling roads will begin to impact drivers with increased taxes at the gas pump and higher vehicle registration fees. Currently, Michigan drivers pay a tax of 19 cents per gallon for gasoline and 15 cents a gallon for diesel fuel. Beginning January 2017, both fuels will have a flat gas tax of 26.3 cents per gallon. A driver with a 15 gallon tank will spend about \$1.09 more to fill up; filling up once a week, will result in paying \$57 more a year. The plan also increases vehicle registration fees by 20 percent. The state estimates the average driver will pay \$20 more to renew their state registration fees. The higher annual fuel taxes and registration fees should raise \$452 million that is proposed to grow to \$608 million in 2018. The plan gradually earmarks an additional \$600 million of existing income tax revenue in 2019, 2020 and 2021.

Keep in mind that township governments do not receive road funding now or in the future unless a local road millage has been passed by voters. Calhoun County Road Department requires a 70% match from townships for the repaving of local roads. What does the term local road mean? Leroy Township has a state trunkline (M-66) – the State by way of the County is responsible for its upkeep. We have 30 miles of primary roads – the Calhoun County Road Department is responsible for all costs involved in the repair and maintenance on primary roads. And then we have 35 miles of local roads – State statute allows the County to contribute up to 50% of their maintenance cost but the additional money must come from another source, that source is typically local townships. In the case of Calhoun County, they will only contribute 30% of the cost leaving 70% of the cost to the local unit. Again, Leroy Township does not receive funding for roads, nor do townships have responsibility for the roads.

The County Road Department is putting together cost estimates for the repaving of our local roads.

After careful review by our Board of Trustees, we will let our residents know the options available. Please keep in mind, that even after the gas sales tax increase and higher vehicle registration fees go into effect, Leroy Township will not receive any funding for the 70% required match for the repaving of 35 miles of local roads. The funds may have to come through a local millage.

The upcoming year will bring 3 elections – March 8, August 2, and November 1. If you are 60 years or older, our Clerk's office can put you on a permanent Absentee Ballot list. The application for a ballot will be sent to your address, after the application is returned and processed, the ballot will be mailed to you so that you can vote in the privacy of your home. Ballots are then returned to the township office prior to the close of precincts on Election Day.

Applications are also available in the office and on the website for anyone wishing to serve as an election inspector. This is a paid position that will require training from both the Calhoun County Clerk and our local clerk's office. Contact Larine or Nicole at (269) 979-9421 for information on inspector responsibilities or the Permanent Absentee Ballot list.

Our Board of Trustees meets on the third Tuesday of every month at 5:00 p.m. in the Community Room. All meetings are open to the public.

If you would like to discuss township issues with me, the office is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

As always wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Supervisor Laveta Hardish

Board Members:

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