



Leighton Township Links

Check out our website: Leightontownship.org

Volume 22
Issue 2

A Note from our Supervisor—Kevin De Kam

As some of you may have heard by now, I will be leaving my position as Leighton Township Supervisor sooner than originally expected. In fact, I will not be able to complete my first term of office in its entirety.

For those of you who may not know, my wife and I, along with our three children, have accepted a call to enter the mission field by serving as School Administrators for The Esther School, a servant leadership academy being built by the GEMS organization near Chongwe, Zambia in southern central Africa. We have made a 2 year commitment to this endeavor and are planning to leave for Zambia in the summer of 2012. I had originally hoped that timing would allow me to complete my four year term; however, the goal of starting the school by the fall of 2012 makes this impossible.

While very excited about this call to serve elsewhere in the world, I regret that I will need to vacate my office prematurely. I and the rest of the Township Board have been working diligently to prepare a plan that we hope will create a seamless transition.

Specifically, we are hoping to identify a candidate that could be appointed as Deputy Supervisor early in 2012 and be trained in the duties of Supervisor through the busy and important beginning of the year. By Spring, we would hope to be in a position that the Board could accept my resignation and appoint that candidate as Township Supervisor for the remainder of the current term, which ends in November of 2012. Any person interested in consideration for the interim appointment should notify the Township office immediately as we hope to begin the selection process early in the New Year.

With 2012 being an election year, this and any other potential candidate for Supervisor will also have the opportunity to run in the August primary and November general election for the following term. Any person interested in running for Supervisor at that time should have their information completed and submitted by May 15.

I am humbled by and grateful for the opportunity to have served this township for the past 3+ years. The experience has been both challenging and rewarding, and I have been blessed by the many people I have had the chance to meet, come to know better and work with. Our community has been blessed with great resources and great people.

We are very well served by our elected officials, appointed representatives, staff, firefighters and police deputies. We have been blessed with very active and healthy boards – Township Board, Planning, Zoning Appeals and Board of Review – with committed and talented members. We are also very well served in our community by the men and women who keep us safe. I personally thank our brave firefighters and deputies.

I am also proud of the work that this Board has done and believe that, despite challenging circumstances around us, Leighton Township runs as efficiently and securely as perhaps it ever has. We have been able to significantly improve the already-healthy financial situation of the township while making some important decisions and necessary expenditures.

Specifically, we have seen a 61% increase in Total Net Assets in the past five years by diligently managing our costs. During the same time period, we have been able to grow the balance in our General Fund by 184%, an important matter of financial security for the Township in an era of shrinking revenues. Despite making some major necessary expenditures like the resurfacing of roadways around the lakes, a brush truck for the Fire Department, and two police vehicles, we were able to improve our Road Fund (190%) and Public Safety Fund (8%) during this time as well. Finally, we were able to save for future capitol expenditures by increasing our Capitol Improvement Fund by 78% in the past 4 years.

We have also built or solidified many strong and beneficial partnerships with other municipalities and private enterprises, enacted some important zoning changes, and dealt with several other issues regarding the well-being of our citizens. I will always consider Leighton Township to be my home, and a great place to live, work, worship and play! Thank you for the honor and privilege of allowing me to serve.

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2012 Elections



2012 will be a busy election year starting with the Presidential Primary on February 28. There will be another election on May 1 which typically is a school election but can include local issues. The Primary election is scheduled for August 7 and the General election will be November 6. A resident must be registered 30 days prior to the election in order to participate in any of the voting procedures. Contact the clerk at 891-8238 with any questions you may have, including how to obtain an absentee ballot if you know that you will be away.

Help

Periodically Leighton Township looks for people who are interested in contributing to their community by serving on various boards and commissions. Additionally there are opportunities to volunteer your time and talent. If this is something that interests you, please call and let us know how you would like to help.

Fire Facts

NEVER leave a burning candle unattended.

NEVER burn a candle on or near anything that might catch fire.

ALWAYS keep candles out of reach of children & pets.



Your Local Government

Leighton Township Directory
4475 Kalamazoo Dr., Caledonia, MI 49316
Phone: 891-8238 Fax: 891-2143
Office Hours are: Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday: 9:00 AM -4:00 PM

Leighton Township Board

Board meetings are held on the second
Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM

Supervisor—Kevin DeKam, Cell 890-8634

E-mail: Supervisor@Leightontownship.org

Clerk— Mary Lou Nieuwenhuis, Home 877-4340

E-mail: clerk@Leightontownship.org

Treasurer — Char Troost, Home 877-4019

E-mail: Treasurer@Leightontownship.org

Trustee — Brian Martin, Home 877-4514

Trustee — John Hooker, Home (269)792-2525

Assessor—Laura Stob—891-8238

Zoning Permits & Building Inspector

For all zoning & building questions call:
PCI - 616-877-2000

Planning Commission

Scheduled the second Wednesday of each
month at 7:30 PM, but occasionally cancels.
Al Zuidema, Chairman

Zoning Board of Appeals meets as needed

David Wright, Chairman

Township Deputies

John Paul Damveld Randy Beute

Fire Chief

Dave Van Putten

Deputy Chief

Tony Banas

Sexton—Johnny and Jill Hooker (269)792-2525

Green Lake Sewer -Char Troost 616 891-8238.

Door/Leighton Sewer—Janice Saunders
616 681-9874

Leighton Township Library — 877-4143

Joanne Campbell-President

Allegan County Offices

Road Commission —269-673-2184

County Clerk — 269-673-0450

County Treasurer — 269-673-0260

Drain Commissioner — 269-673-0440

Health Department — 269-673-5411

Resource Recovery — 269-673-5411

Sheriff Department — Emergency —911

General Information —269-673-0500

Animal Control — 269-673-0519

Allegan County Commissioner

Mark De Young - 269-681-9413

Burn Permits

Can be obtained by calling the Allegan
County Burn Permit Line at (269) 686-5222. Permits to burn brush must be
obtained on the day the material is to be
burned. Be prepared with your name,
address, and phone number.

State Legislative Officials

88th District Rep. — Bob Genetski—

Phone: 866-743-3659 Fax: 517-373-8728

24th District Sen. Rick Jones -

SPECIAL THANKS to Steve Deer and friends for volunteering to take care of the buoys at the park this summer. Your service is greatly appreciated. Thanks also to **Randy and Betty Heyboer** for their contribution of a lawn fertilizer program at the cemetery.

Vital Care Partners

Leighton Township is a part of the Wayland Area Ambulance Service along with 9 other local municipalities. The Ambulance service provides excellent emergency service to our residents. One item that many of you may not be familiar with is VITAL CARE PARTNERS. For an annual fee of \$37.00, a family membership provides emergency medical services and ambulance transportation at no additional out-of-pocket cost to the member. Additionally you can get the 4th year free when you sign up for 3 years service. The Vital Care Partners program covers spouse and minor children (or eligible dependents) living at the same address. Considering how expensive ambulance service can be, this provides great value to the consumer. For more information, you can contact the Wayland Area Ambulance Service. Forms are also available at the township hall.



Congratulations to Leighton resident Doc Tilma, who was the 6th place winner at ArtPrize in September. We are proud of the other residents that participated also.



Winter 2011 Tax Payments

Payment must be received in our office on or before February 14, 2011. We cannot accept postmarks!

- Payment Options: Payments may be made at 4475 Kalamazoo Dr. on Tues.-Thurs. from 9:00—4:00.
- Include the bottom portion with your payment. The top portion of your bill can be your receipt for your records.
- A mail slot is available for payments 24 hours a day in the inside door at the township hall.
- We strongly encourage payment by check or money order in lieu of cash.
- You can now sign up for ACH payments—check at our website or at the township hall for information.
- We are NOT accepting credit cards at this time.
- Change in ownership/ mailing address: If you receive a bill for a property that you no longer own, kindly pass it on to the new owner, if possible, or return it to us so that we may redirect it.
- **I will be in the office on: December 29, February 14 and February 29 from 9-5 to collect your taxes.**
- Escrow account holders— please note that you will NOT receive a receipt. Call the office (616-891-8238) or check Allegan-county.org if you want to know if your bill was paid.
- For a receipt by mail, enclose both the top and bottom portions of the bill with a self-addressed, stamped envelope.



Leighton Township Library News

Fall 2011

Find Us on Facebook!

www.leightonlibrary.org

Greetings from the Library!

We are having tons of fun at the library! Please come and join us!

- * **CHILDREN:** Join Miss Karen for Mother Goose Storytimes on Monday mornings at 10:30 A.M or Babytimes on Friday mornings at 10:30 A.M. Come play in our brand new play house in the kid's room.
- * **SCHOOL AGE:** Join us for Family Movie Nights, Kids Book Clubs, Kids Connections, and Tween Parties. Call or stop in for details.
- * **TEENS:** Looking for community service opportunities or experience to add to your college and job applications? Come join our Teen Advisory Board. It is a lot of fun! Also check out our Teen Parties.
- * **ADULTS:** We are now offering a Writer's Group, Needler's Knitting Group, Community Potluck and Bingo. Please join us for these fun programs! Call or stop in for details. Also be on the look out for this year's Adult Winter Reading Club.

DID YOU KNOW?

- * We have a selection of over 1,000 free, popular titles of ebooks and e-audiobooks available for you to check out in our catalog? Go to our website and click on the "Overdrive" link.
- * We now have Wii Games!
- * We serve free coffee! And we have free Wifi!
- * We send faxes for free! We also offer these services at a low cost: Laminating, Copying, and Printing.
- * We have a community display case that you can display your arts, crafts, or cool collections in. This is a great opportunity for homeschoolers or local artists!

Sincerely,

Andrea Estelle

Director, Leighton Township Library
4451 12th St, Moline, MI 49335
(616) 877-4143
molae@lcoop.org

We
Hope To
See You
Soon!

Merry Christmas



Leighton Township - Your One Stop Passport Application Center

Passports are now required to enter Mexico and Canada. Leighton Township can process your applications quickly and easily and without the worry of traffic or parking problems. Currently, it is taking 4-6 weeks from the date of application to fully process your passport, so don't wait too long if you are making travel plans. Along with processing Passport Applications, Leighton Township now offers Passport pictures for \$10. Call us at 616-891-8238 if you have any questions.



We also offer CCW pictures for \$10.

Farmers Market

Our first attempt at hosting a **FARMERS MARKET** appeared to be a big success, both with the local farmers and customers. A good variety of produce, hand crafted items, baked goods and yard ornaments was represented each week. If you didn't have an opportunity to come this year, we invite you to include it in your plans for next year. We will continue to hold the market on Thursdays from 9am to 1pm beginning on May 17 and going through October. We are looking into ways to enhance the market next year and encourage any interested people to join in on the fun. It has been suggested that we expand and offer some evening hours. Please let us know if you this is something that interests you as a vendor or as a customer.



Recycle

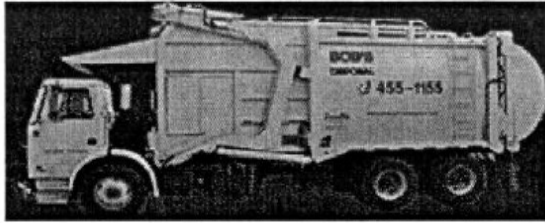
Other than a glitch with posting the wrong pick up dates, which was not the fault of Bob's Disposal, our new recycling program is working extremely well. It's EASY and has the potential to save you money. You can become a part of this very worthwhile program by calling or stopping in at the township hall. We have everything you need to get you started. Information about the program is also available at www.allegancounty.org.

Note Curbside Recycle Dates - Mark your calendar

Jan. 2*, 16, 30	July 2, 16, 30
Feb. 13, 27	August 13, 27
March 12, 26	Sept. 10, 24
April 9, 23	Oct. 8, 22
May 7, 21	Nov. 5, 19
June 4, 18	Dec. 3, 17, 31

* Due to the Holiday

Bob's Disposal, Inc.
7748 S. Division
Grand Rapids, MI 49548
www.bobsdisposalinc.com
phone: 616-455-1155



**TRASH AND RECYCLING
SERVICE**

Your Leighton Township Recycler
would like to be your refuse company!

Please call to set up service

Maria's

Pizza & Italian Restaurant

PH 616-891-9571 * FAX 616-891-9573

586 145th Ave Caledonia, MI 49316

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Milling & Hardware Co.

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616-877-4631

Mon.-Fri. 8-5; Sat. 8-12



HEYBOER

Landscape Maintenance, Inc.

4735 - 8th Street - Caledonia, MI 49316

heyboerlandscape@yahoo.com

Phone: 616-877-4077 Fax: 616-877-0269

- Landscape & Lawn Maintenance
- Landscape Design & Renovation
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- Mole & Grub Control
- Snow Removal / Salting

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