



# LINCOLN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

## Communicator

**Township Supervisor:**  
**Dick Stauffer- Ext. 104#**

Find us on  
 Facebook!



2055 West John Beers Road  
 P.O. Box 279  
 Stevensville, MI 49127-0279  
 Phone: 429-1589  
 Fax: 429-0880  
[www.lctberrien.org](http://www.lctberrien.org)  
**OFFICE HOURS**  
 9AM to 5PM  
 Monday thru Friday

You can obtain the minutes for meetings, public notices, building permit applications and other helpful materials on our website.

**HOLIDAY CLOSED DATES**

- April 2 - Good Friday
- May 31 - Memorial Day
- July 5 - Independence Day
- September 6 - Labor Day
- November 25 & 26 - Thanksgiving
- December 23, 24, & 27 - Christmas

**Board of Trustees:** Meet the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM in regular session. Special meetings are held as posted.

**Spring 2021 Cemetery Clean-up Dates:**

- Remove all decorations: March 26th, 2021
- Maintenance clean-up: March 29th thru April 2nd
- New floral decorations: April 5th

**Cemetery Reminder:** Just a friendly reminder that as items wither or fade at the cemetery please remove them from the headstone.

**Sewer Backups:** Make us your first call if you have a sewer backup. We will check the main line, which may save you from having to call a plumber. If available, we can print you a copy of your sewer line & clean outs. After hours call 983-7141 and dial "1" for the operator. *Please call at anytime if you notice the red light on at any of our lift stations.*

**For the Veterans:** The Berrien County Veteran's Service Office is located in the County Administration Building at 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, MI. Phone 269-983-7111 ext. 8224. Hours are 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM Monday thru Friday. It's best to call first to make sure the Service Officer is in. Check out their website at: [www.berriencounty.org/veterans](http://www.berriencounty.org/veterans)

**Street Light Outages:** To report a street light out or not working properly, copy down the *pole number*, which is located on a metal tag on the pole, record the location address and call the Township Office at 429-1589

**Peddlers/Solicitors:** You must have a permit to go door to door in our Township. Residents should ask to see a permit, if they do not have one, call our Township Hall or Police Department.

**Worn Flags:** Can be dropped off at the Township Hall. They will be destroyed in a dignified way by the American Legion or local Boy Scouts.

**Burn Permits:** You can now go to the Township website, click on the pink tree and fill out the burn permit application. It will automatically be sent to Chief Chiarello.

**Drop Boxes:** The Township now has 2 drop boxes. A drive up white drop box next to our flag pole and a brown drop box outside our front entrance. Any Township related materials can be put in either drop box, **PLEASE NO LIBRARY BOOKS.**

**Railroad Crossings:** We have had many residents stop by or call us with concern about the Railroad Crossings in Lincoln Township. We have put in requests with CSX and we are encouraging our residents to call as well. The phone number is 1-800-232-0144, you will also need to provide them with the crossing number which are listed below.

- **Marquette Woods Rd. Crossing - #234833W**
- **Genlord Rd. Crossing - #234831H**
- **Maiden Lane - #234830B**

**Cleveland Avenue Residents:** Cleveland is one of the gateways to our community. A big thank you to those who keep the grass mowed and trimmed and who plant beautiful flowers between the sidewalk and the curb along this busy corridor. We all recognize and sincerely appreciate the abundant work and effort you extend for the benefit of us all.

**K-9 Echo**



**Road Projects for 2021:**

Our subdivision and local road maintenance program continues again this year. This year we're resealing the following subdivision roads: Sanctuary Dr, Tosi Circle, Stewart Way, Preserve Pl, Briarwood Dr, Hedgewood Dr, Redwood Dr, Williamsburg Dr, Jamestown Dr, Norfolk Dr, Charlestown Dr, Greg Dr, Small Ct, and Edward Dr. In addition, we will be equally sharing, with the Berrien County Road Department, the cost of repaving Ridge Road, Notre Dame Ave, Paulmar Ave, and Lake Pines Dr, applying HMA (a leveling course of asphalt) and seal coating on Linco Rd. from Totzke Rd. to Stevensville-Baroda Rd. In addition, the Berrien County Road Department is planning to repave John Beers from Demorrow to Cleveland Ave. and seal coat Jericho Rd. from Linco Rd. to Johnson Rd.

**For all residents:**

Interested in maintaining our quality of life? You can find out more about this by going to our Twp. Website at [www.lctberrien.org](http://www.lctberrien.org) click on "Community" and drop down to "Protect Our Water", then click on "What can I do to protect water quality" or "How citizens should report polluters". There you will find a great wealth of information such as simple tips to reduce polluted runoff from our homes and gardens. A great tip, never dump anything down storm drains; instead, take unwanted chemicals and paint to a hazardous waste collection site operated throughout the year in our County. Take a look at the site, I think you'll like the "green" ideas and why they can help us protect the quality of our water. The prementioned water is just an example, there are other very useful "green" information there as well.

**2021 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Dates:**

Visit to [www.berriencounty.org/564/Berrien-County-Community-Recycling-Event](http://www.berriencounty.org/564/Berrien-County-Community-Recycling-Event) for collection dates and other recycle information or call direct to 269-983-7111, Ext. 8234 for more information. The site is easy to navigate and very helpful and well worth the time to see where things can be safely and responsibly thrown away. The nearest collection site for Lincoln Charter Township residents this year will be on:

April 14, Wednesday, 3 p.m. - 7 p.m. Reduce Reuse Recycle Day at Lake Michigan College. 2755 E. Napier Ave., Benton Harbor, enter at Napier Ave. entrance.

ACCEPTED ITEMS: Household Chemicals, Electronics (fees apply on some items), Foam/Polystyrene, and Personal Documents for On-Site Shredding.



The Township will make available to Lincoln Charter Township residents, per address/ household (excluding vacant parcel), 1 trash pass for the SPRING. The dates are:

**APRIL 3RD, 10TH, 17TH & 24TH**

**THE PASSES CAN BE PICKED UP BEGINNING MARCH 22 at the Township Hall.**

Additional loads will be charged at the standard gate rate without a trash pass. Refuse will be accepted from 8AM to Noon only.

**Township Clerk: Stacy Loar-Porter- Ext. 108#**

**Accounting Clerk: Jen Koeppel Ext. 111#**

**Deputy Clerk: Kalla Langston- Ext. 102#**

**Voter Registration: Julie Amicarelli - Ext. 100#**

**Cemetery History**

Our department is currently seeking historical information on some of our earliest burials at Lincoln Charter Township Cemetery. We also have family lots that were purchased in the 1800's that were never used. We would like to try and connect these lots to living relatives if possible. Below is a list of family names that have open lots in the cemetery. If you or someone you know is related to anyone on this list and have any historical information please contact us.

|          |         |          |           |           |           |
|----------|---------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Carlson  | Dunham  | Hotchkin | Myers     | Roeder    | VanDuesen |
| Clark    | Grams   | Jasper   | Raguse    | Ruby      | Wallworth |
| Decker   | Habel   | Keen     | Rein      | Schroeder | Wedde     |
| DeMorrow | Hall    | Lamunion | Reinhardt | Stock     | Woodburn  |
| Desonia  | Hemming | Loescher | Rochau    | Tait      |           |

We are always looking for Election Workers for upcoming Elections. Being an Election Worker is a great way to serve your community and experience the election on the other side. Anyone that is registered to vote in the State of Michigan is eligible to be an election worker. If you would like to learn more please stop by Lincoln Charter Township Hall or give us a call 269-429-1589 ext. 102.

**Treasurer: Terrie Smith- Ext. 112#**

**Deputy Treasurer: Brittney Young 101#**

**Welcome Brittney!**

Brittney Young is the new Deputy Treasurer at Lincoln Charter Township. She joined our team in October of 2020. She grew up and graduated from a small historical town where she also gained 8+ years of experience in administrative duties and customer service. She loves the small-town atmosphere and worked for her own hometown at the city hall for the past 3 years. After helping with tax collection over the past five months Brittney says, "I love getting to know and building relationships with those who come in to pay a bill or just to chat. I look forward to meeting all the township taxpayers and greeting them with a smiling face".

**Happy Spring!**

Another tax year is behind us and I'm hoping that 2021 brings a better year for everyone and hoping you can get out and enjoy your family and friends again. Are you aware that you can access your taxes and property information at any time for FREE! You can access valuable information about your property 24/7. If you need copies for your income tax preparation or want to check your assessment, as long as you are only viewing your own property, it is free through the BS&A system, which is the same system we use to process your taxes. Go to the township website at [lctberrien.org](http://lctberrien.org) and go to the Treasurer's department. Scroll down the treasurer's page till you see in red "Access Current or Past Property Taxes." Click on the words, "CLICK HERE." It will take you right to the BS&A app on the Berrien County website. In the upper right-hand corner click sign in and set up an account. You will need to verify the account through your email and then you will be able to access your records at any time. I know this sounds confusing, but if you need help the Deputy Treasurer or Treasurer can walk you through it. I think you will find it is an easy way to access your property information.

If you own a mobile home or personal property and you received a tax bill from the township, your taxes are past due and need to be paid. Your taxes continue to be paid at the Township Hall. If you have any other type of property taxes, you also are late and your taxes will need to be paid at the Berrien County Treasurer's Office. If you are not sure where to pay your outstanding taxes, please call the township office and we will give you the amount due or let you know that you need to call the county. The Township Treasurer's numbers are (269) 429-1589 ext. 101# and 112#. Finally, always look on the back of your tax bill. There is always information on the back about due dates, payment options, phone numbers, dog licenses, snowbirds, etc.

## Lincoln Township Recreational Parks & Beaches

Terrie Smith- Ext. 112#

Today, just take time to smell the roses, enjoy those little things about your life, your family, spouse, friends, job. Forget about the thorns, the pains, and problems they cause you and enjoy life."

— Bernard Kelvin Clive

Excited to be able to celebrate your child's graduation, family reunion, baby showers, wedding showers, etc. and need a facility to hold it in? Lincoln Charter Township still has dates available to reserve the Community Center or North Lake Park for your 2021 family festivities. Keeping our fingers crossed that this year there will be no restrictions to alter your celebrations. Please call the township for your reservations today, 269-429-1589. The rental fees are \$100 for residents and \$150 for non-residents.

I know many of you have been asking about the spray park at the Community Center. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, the plans are to begin the process by mid-May. It should be up and running by mid-June. Were hoping for a healthy and safe year with no restrictions that may stop us from being able to have it up and running. This has been a long time coming and we cannot wait to share it with all our township families.

As of now all sports activities are planning on moving forward at the 80-acre park off of Cleveland Ave. If you are interested in having your child play in any of the leagues, information on the local sports associations can be found on our website under the service tab then click on parks scroll down to Youth Sports Associations.

## Assessing Department

Assessor: John Baumann -Ext. 103#

**Assessment Change Notices** were mailed in February. These notices are sent to inform property owners of the new current year (2021) Assessed Value (AV), State Equalized Value (SEV) and Taxable Value (TV). They also indicate any changes that may have occurred to the property due to transfers of ownership, PRE (principal residence exemption) changes. It is important that you review these notices to make sure that they correctly reflect this information as well as your mailing address. **Please pay close attention to the PRE %.** Your summer tax bill will be incorrect if the PRE is incorrect. On the notice you should also see that the inflation rate modifier used for calculating the Taxable Value for 2021 is 1.014. This figure is mandated by the State Tax Commission to be applied to all properties in the State not just Lincoln Township. Visit the [Lincoln Township Website](http://lctberrien.org/) at <http://lctberrien.org/> and click on the Assessing department link for more information on the assessment process and related assessing forms. The State Tax Commission requires assessors to **annually inspect** a percentage of properties in each class. This summer and fall you may see me in your neighborhood reviewing properties and updating photos of property improvements. I am looking for changes to the property and verifying that all of my information is updated and accurate. I will be traveling in a marked Lincoln Township vehicle and will be wearing an ID tag. If I stop at your house I will knock on the front door and/or leave a tag so that you know I was there. These inspections are necessary in order to maintain accurate property data. It is this data, combined with the sales studies that are used to develop fair and accurate assessed values. In the Assessing Department there are property record cards on file for every parcel in the Township. You are always welcome, and encouraged, to come in and review your **property record card(s)**. These record cards can also be viewed on the Lincoln Township Website at <http://lctberrien.org/>. If you review your record card and find any discrepancies please contact me at 269-429-1589 x103 or [jbaumann@lctberrien.org](mailto:jbaumann@lctberrien.org).

## Lincoln Charter Township Police Department

Chief of Police: Gary Soper <http://ltpd.org> 429-2444

The Lincoln Township Police Department would like to thank the citizens of Lincoln Township and Village of Stevensville for their continued support. We would like to announce the recent hiring of Officer Joseph Mastalanski. Officer Mastalanski comes to our department with six years of law enforcement experience. We would like to welcome Officer Joseph Mastalanski to our department. The LTPD would also like to announce that two additional officers will be hired starting April of 2021. This will bring the total of sworn officers to 15. The LTPD also received a donation from a non-profit organization, Vested Interest in K9s Inc. The donation is body armor for our K-9, Echo. The body armor was sponsored by Leah A. Beale of Oklahoma City, OK and embroidered with the sentiment "In memory of K-9 Kye, Oklahoma City". You may visit our Facebook page for additional information regarding that donation.

Lastly, we would like to take this time to remind our citizens of the numerous tax fraud and identity theft scams that go on during tax season. The LTPD would like to remind you that the police department, the sheriff's office or the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will never solicit your personal bank or social security information over the phone or by email. Also, they will not request that you obtain money by gift cards or wire transfer to take care of any outstanding debts or warrants. If you are contacted and you are not sure the information is legitimate, please contact the Lincoln Township Police Department at 269-429-2444. Once again we would like to express our appreciation to all our residents and we look forward to continued service to our community.

Lincoln Charter Township  
2055 W John Beers  
PO Box 279  
Stevensville, MI 49127

PRSRD STD  
US POSTAGEPAID  
STEVENSVILLE,MI  
PERMIT NO. 279

ECRWSS  
POSTAL CUSTOMER

## Department of Building Safety Building Official & Zoning Administrator

James L. Pheifer Ext. 105#

Administrative Assistant- Judy Dunlap Ext. 107#

Julie Amicarelli- Ext. 100# Business License Questions & Schedule Rental Inspections  
Rod Wilder- Mechanical Inspector registered with the State of MI.  
John Maier- Plumbing Inspector registered with the State of MI.  
Ken Simpson- Electrical Inspector ICC Certified registered with the State of MI.  
Sgt. Ralph Bansen Ordinance enforcement.  
Officer Josh Quandt Ordinance enforcement.

The following is a list of Lincoln Charter Township Ordinances that seem to be a problem every year. These ordinances, if not followed could result in a fine.

- Grass and weeds shall be maintained and cannot exceed six (6) inches in height.
- Litter and Debris is not allowed and must be removed from your yard.
- Parking on lawns or road right of ways is prohibited; all motor vehicles in residential districts are to be parked in a driveway with an improved surface. (Concrete/Asphalt)
- Boats, motorhomes, camping trailers, box/flatbed trailers and unlicensed or unregistered vehicles are not allowed to be parked in front yards or driveways, they are however allowed to be parked in a side yard or in a back yard and must be stored or parked on an improved surface, (concrete/asphalt). Trucks exceeding one and one half (1-1/2) tons, are not allowed to be parked or stored in residential districts.
- Sale of vehicles is permitted but limited to twenty-one (21) days for two (2) such displays in a twelve (12) month period. The vehicle must be parked in a driveway and not displayed in the road right of way or in a yard.

Please call the Department of Building Safety if you have any questions regarding Ordinances or Codes, James Pheifer at (269)429-1589 ext. 105 or Judy Dunlap (269)429-1589 ext. 107.

### 2020 Permit Report

In 2020, the Department of Building Safety (DBS) issued permits for the following projects:

|   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 27 Single family residences             | 2 Industrial add/alter/repair         |
| 14 Condos (single family attached)      | 240 Mechanical permits                |
| 2 Modular homes                         | 8 New mobile home installations       |
| Average size 1,969 square feet          | 99 Plumbing permits                   |
| Average Construction value \$317,910.00 | 5 Pole barns                          |
| 1 Agricultural, add/alter/repair        | 98 Residential additions/alter/repair |
| 1 Agricultural Utility building         | 18 Residential decks                  |
| 8 Commercial add/alter/repair           | 7 Residential utility buildings       |
| 3 Commercial, new building              | 118 Roof permits                      |
| 6 Demolition permits                    | 6 Commercial sign permits             |
| 159 Electrical permits                  | 1 Industrial sign                     |
| 47 Fence permits                        | 2 Above ground swimming pools         |
| 3 Attached garages                      | 6 In-ground pool permits              |
| 3 Detached garages                      | 51 Water/Sewer permits                |

### Zoning Board of Appeals

In 2020, the ZBA heard 1 petition for Variance. An interpretation (or variance) request may only go to the ZBA after the project has been denied by the Department of Building Safety due to conflicts with the Zoning Ordinance. A petitioner must file the request three weeks before a scheduled ZBA meeting. The ZBA normally meets the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

### Planning Commission

In 2020, the Planning Commission held 5 regular meetings, 1 public hearing, 0 joint meetings, 0 special meetings, and there were 7 cancelled meetings. The PC normally meets the first Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

## Lincoln Charter Township Fire Department

Chief: Brandon Chiarello - 428-2385 Ext. 116#

The Lincoln Township Fire Department would like to thank the citizens of Lincoln Township and the Village of Stevensville for their continued support in our efforts to provide the best service possible to our community. It's that time of year again where we recommend changing batteries in your smoke detectors. An easy way to remember to do this is to change the batteries when you change your clocks to adjust for daylight savings time. Also smoke detectors do not last forever; they should be replaced every 10 years. We are still performing free smoke detector and battery replacement. Due to Covid-19 our supply is limited so it will be offered on a first come first serve basis, however if you are out of detectors, we will install detectors that you purchase. Contact the station to schedule: 269-428-2385.

Spring is coming fast please remember that only natural occurring vegetation on your property may be burned, no man made, or construction materials are allowed to be burned. All fires must be attended at all times, and always be courteous to your neighbors. Burn permits are required and can be obtained thru the township website, if you do not have internet access please call the Township Hall at (269)429-1589 Press 0 for general.

Our department is presently made up of two fulltime firefighters and 15 paid on-call firefighters and we are always looking to add to our roster. If you are a certified firefighter and live in Stevensville or Lincoln Township please stop by and pick up an application. Applications are available at the Township Hall or you may stop in and see us at the Fire Station during normal business hours. With the warm weather our firefighters will once again be out inspecting and servicing fire hydrants.

Thank you again for your continued support and please check our Facebook page for updates and other useful information. The Lincoln Township Firefighters would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy spring.