

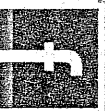


LINCOLN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Communicator

www.lctberrien.org

Township Supervisor: Dick Stauffer - Ext. 104#



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Road Projects for 2022

Our subdivision and local road maintenance program will continue again this year. This year we will be resealing the following subdivision roads: Mohican Dr, E. Hiawatha Ln, W. Hiawatha Ln, Minnie Ha-Ha Dr, Shawasee Ln, Pawnee Path, N. Alpine Ridge, Alpine Ridge, Sioux Ct, Gitchegumee Dr, Whispering Pines, Golden Crest, Caribou Trl, Alpine Ct, and Bonnie Dr. In addition, we will be sharing equally, with the Berrien County Road Department, the cost of repaving Marquette Woods Rd. from pavement joint to Notre Dame Ave. and W. Rockey Weed Rd. from Totzke Rd. to Stevensville-Baroda Rd.

For those of you who would like to contact the Road Department it's very easy. They can be contacted through their website (bcroad.org/1365/Road-Department) where requests for service can be submitted OR if you cannot get the online service request system to work on your computer or device, you can call 269-925-1196 and press "1" to leave a message detailing the nature and location of your request for service.

Major I-94 Reconstruction work from Puetz Rd. to Napier Ave. to begin mid 2022

The project will start in mid-summer of 2022 with work to begin preparing for traffic crossovers. West bound work on I-94 is expected to begin spring of 2023 and the east bound work will begin spring of 2024.

SPRING TRASH PASS

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

APRIL 2ND, 9TH, 16TH & 23RD

THE PASSES CAN BE PICKED UP BEGINNING MARCH 21 at the Township Hall. Refuse will be accepted from 8 AM to Noon only. Additional loads will be charged at the standard gate rate.



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

Accounting Clerk: Jen Koeppe Ext. 111#

Deputy Clerk: Candace Rybolt - Ext. 102#

Voter Registration: Julie Amicarella - Ext. 100#



2022 Election Information: State Primary Election: Tuesday, August 2, 2022. Polls are open 7:00 am-8:00 pm. The August State Primary will require voters to vote within the Republican Party or Democratic Party on the Partisan Section of the ballot. **State General Election:** Tuesday, November 8, 2022. Polls are open 7:00 am-8:00 pm.

State Redistricting: District lines are redrawn every 10 years following completion of the United States census. In 2018 Michigan voters voted yes to State Proposal 18-2 which changed the redistricting process from the legislators drawing the lines to the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Committee (MICRC). On January 26, 2022 the MICRC posted the adopted final plans. The final maps can be viewed here: <https://www.michigan.gov/micrc/mapping-process/final-maps>. The changes for Lincoln Charter Township residents are as follows:

Representative in Congress:

- *Before redistricting- entire Township was in District 6
- *After redistricting- a small portion of the Northwest corner of the Township is in District 4, the remainder of the Township is in District 5
- State Senate:**
- *Before redistricting- entire Township was District 21
- *After redistricting- entire Township is District 20

State House:

- *Before redistricting- entire Township was District 79
- *After redistricting- entire Township is District 38
- Berrien County Commissioner:**
- *Before redistricting- Precinct 5 was in District 5
- *After redistricting- Precinct 5 is in District 6
- *Precincts 1,2,3,4,6 remain in District 7

All registered voters in Lincoln Charter Township will be receiving a new Voter ID card indicating all changes. These cards will be mailed out when the State of Michigan Bureau of Elections has completed the changes in the Qualified Voter File (QVF) and our Township elections staff has verified all changes.

We are required by law to mail voter cards out to all voters who are listed as active, verify and challenged in the Qualified Voter File. Please reference: MCL 168.499(3)

This may mean that you receive a voter id card for someone that was at one time registered to vote at the address, but no longer resides at said address. The most common reason this happens is because voters either moved and did not change their address on their MI driver's license or they have moved out of state and not informed the SOS or their local clerk. While we understand this appears redundant in nature, please remember we are required by law. A Clerk by law is only authorized to cancel a voter's registration under the following circumstances:

- * The voter directs the cancellation of his or her registration record in a written, signed communication.
- * The clerk receives or obtains information that the voter has died. Sources: QVF inbox notification; county clerk; death notices published in newspaper; personal firsthand knowledge.
- * The clerk receives notice that the voter has registered to vote in another jurisdiction through another election official or through a QVF inbox notification.
- * The voter verifies his or her residency in a different jurisdiction for voting purposes on a confirmation notice sent to the voter on "reliable information" that the voter has moved to a different jurisdiction.
- * The voter's registration is challenged and it is revealed through questions directed to the voter in the polls on Election Day that he or she is not qualified to vote in the jurisdiction.

If no response is received, the voter does not participate in an election, and the voter does not engage in another voting or voter registration transaction by the second November General election following the notice, the voter's registration is canceled without further notice. Until the time the registration is canceled by one of the means above, we are by law required to send any notice of voting location/district changes to all active, verify and challenged voters.

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! With daylight savings, we would like to remind everyone to change your batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Smoke detectors do not last forever, they should be replaced every 10 years. Lincoln Twp. Firefighters are still performing free smoke detector and battery replacement. Contact the station to schedule: 269-428-2385

When you start doing your spring cleanup, please remember that only naturally 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 on the Lincoln Township website.

As the weather begins to warm up 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. A special thank you to everyone who donated towards our firefighter memorial. We hope to unveil the memorial this summer. The Lincoln Township Firefighters would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy spring.

2055 West John Beers Road

P.O. Box 279

Stevensville, MI 49127-0279

Phone: 429-1589

Fax: 429-0880

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 15.....Good Friday
- May 30.....Memorial Day
- July 1.....Designated Holiday
- July 4.....Independence day
- September 5.....Labor Day

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

Spring 2022 Cemetery Clean-up Dates:

Remove all decorations: March 25, 2022

Maintenance clean-up: March 28-31, 2022

New floral decorations: April 1, 2022

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

Sewer System: No wipes in the pipes:

Convenience wipes such as baby, hygienic, cleaning and disinfectant, as well as toilet bowl scrubbers and even paper towels might be labeled as "disposable or flushable" but these items should NOT go down the drain.

While they may be flushable, they are definitely NOT biodegradable and do not disintegrate or break down in the sewer system. These items cause plugs in sewer pipes and expensive repairs to the pumps at our sewage lift stations and can result in high rate increases for all of us. Remember, no wipes, shop rags, baby diapers in the pipes.

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/874/Veterans-Services.

Address Signs: Green reflective address signs are available at the township hall or fire station. Our Firefighters make the signs which are being sold for \$20 each. (Make checks payable to Lincoln Firefighters). Call or stop in for more details.

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 Township Office at 429-1589 Ext. 102.

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.

2022 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Dates: Go to

www.berriencounty.org/564/Berrien-County-Community-Recycling-Event for collection dates and other recycle information or call

direct to 269-983-7111, Ext. 8232 for information.

2022 Exit 23 clean ups: Clean up for exit 23 is scheduled for Saturdays on April 23rd, July 16th and October 1st. Those interested in helping can call Glenn Youngstedt at 269-861-0596 or the township at 269-429-1589 Ext. 100#. Meet at the township at 8:30am for safety briefing.

For all residents: Interested in maintaining our water quality? You can find out more about this by going to our Township website; 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". You'll find a great wealth of information there ie: numerous simple tips to reduce polluted runoff from our homes and gardens, or reminding us never dump anything down storm drains, and always take unwanted chemicals and paint to a hazardous waste collection site operated throughout the year in our County.

Township Treasurer: Terrie Smith- Ex. 112#

Mark your calendars today! 2022 property taxes will be here before you know it. September 14, 2022 and February 14, 2023 by 5:00 p.m. are important tax dates in the tax department to avoid all interest and penalties!

Here are a few things to remember when it comes to paying your next tax bill. There is important information on the BACK of your tax bill every season. Please review it every tax season for new things that have been added or changes that took place.

When MAILING in your tax payment, please INCLUDE the bottom portion of you tax bill along with your payment. On checks we ask you to PLEASE PUT A CONTACT NUMBER in case your payment needs to be corrected. It is very difficult to contact people now for corrections due to cell phones, no phone books and very few land lines. If you would like a receipt, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope along with the ENTIRE TAX bill.

Paying online is simple. Simply go to allpaid.com, type in the pay location code printed on the back of you tax bill and follow the steps. If you have questions or need someone to walk you through it, please call the township. Feel free to come into the township to make your tax payment! All we ask is that you bring the top portion of your tax bill with you for us to stamp for your records.

As of February 28, 2022 all 2021 taxes were due. If you own a mobile home or have personal property due for your business. Please make you payment at the township hall. Please call the township before making your payment because your account now has interest/penalties due.

If you have any other tax bill, other than a mobile home or business personal property, you will need to make you payment to the Berrien County Treasurer's office. We can not tell you the new amount due, you will have to call the county office at (269)983-7111. Ext. 8569.

If you have not yet purchased your dog license for 2022, you will need to either purchase it from Berrien County Animal Control or the Berrien County Treasurer's Office.

Department of Building Safety - James L. Pheifer
Building Official & Zoning Administrator Ext 105#
Administrative Assistant: Judy Lang Ext 107#

Rod Wilder is the Mechanical Inspector registered with the State of MI. **John Maier** is the Plumbing Inspector registered with the State of MI.

Ralph Bansen is the Electrical Inspector registered with the State of MI.

Josh Quandt is the part-time Rental Inspector as well as being an enforcement officer.

To schedule rental inspections call Julie Amicarella Ext 100#.

Important Information Please Read

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 are 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, they are however allowed to be parked in one 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. Questions you may have, regarding Ordinances or Codes, please call the Department of Building Safety. James Pheifer at (269)429-1589 ext. 105#.

Zoning Board of Appeals: In 2021, the ZBA held three meetings. One meeting to elect officers and two meetings to approve minutes. An interpretation (or variance) request may only be presented 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 2021, the Planning Commission held 9 regular meetings, 1 public hearing, 0 joint meetings, 0 special meetings, and 3 cancelled meeting. The PC normally meets the first Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

2021 Permit Report
In 2021, the Department of Building Safety (DBS) issued permits for the following projects:

26 Single family residences; 20 Condos (single family attached); Average size 2,041 square feet; Average construction value \$309,789; 1 Agricultural, add/alter/repair; 2 Agricultural Utility building; 13 commercial add/alter/repair; 1 commercial utility building; 4 commercial, new building; 4 demolition permits; 186 electrical permits; 86 fence permits; 1 attached garage; 2 detached garages; 2 Industrial repairs; 339 mechanical permits; 5 new mobile home installations; 123 plumbing permits; 4 pole barns; 145 residential additions, alterations, repairs; 2 Mobile home carports; 9 residential decks; 1 residential utility building; 166 roof permits; 6 commercial sign permits; 2 above ground swimming pool; 5 in-ground pool permits; 56 water/sewer permits

Lincoln Charter Township Police Department
Chief of Police: Gary Soper 429-2444

The Lincoln Township Police Department would like to thank the citizens of Lincoln Township and the Village of Stevensville for their continued support. The Lincoln Township Police Department would like to inform our citizens referencing the increased activity involving the removing of catalytic converter exhaust emission systems from parked or stored motor vehicles. The systems are being physically cut off motor vehicles and removed. A recent surge has been observed across the country involving this type of activity. We ask that you park or store your motor vehicle in a highly lit and secure area and report any suspicious activity immediately.

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 Lincoln Township Police Department 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, the Lincoln Township Police department would like to express our appreciation to all our residents and we look forward to continuing our service to our community.

Lincoln Charter Township
2065 W John Beers
PO Box 279
Stevensville, MI 49127

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Lincoln Township Recreational Parks & Beaches
Terrie Smith Ext. 112#

As the weather begins to warm, so do our desires to begin enjoying the outdoors again. WEATHER PERMITTING, our maintenance crew will start opening up the Lincoln Charter Township Parks April 1st. We are asking for your patience as they begin opening the restrooms, turning on the water, and making the parks presentable after the winter months.

Splash Pad - The long wait is over! The splash pad company will be coming to test the system in early spring and make sure everything is working properly and if all is good, let the fun begin! The pad is for young and old to both enjoy. We would appreciate parents attending to their children while they are using the splash pad. We want this to be a safe and fun place where children can play.

Baseball Park - There will be new equipment installed at the playground this year for more children to enjoy. The maintenance department will be installing a monorail section, loopy whoop, stationary buttons, curved balance beam and summit climber. We ask that you instruct your children while playing on the playground to refrain from throwing the rocks.
North Lake Park - North Lake also has new toys to enjoy this summer as well. There is a new toddler swing set and a loopy whoop.

Lincoln Beach - Unfortunately, we are still working on plans for Lincoln Beach and trying to figure out plans for being able to safely access the beach area. At the present time it will again be open to enjoy the beach area, but there will not be vehicle access to the waters edge. People will again have to park at the bottom of the entrance and walk to the beach. The engineers are working on new plans that are EGLE (DNR) approved.

Park Rental - Are you celebrating a graduation, family reunion, birthday, baby shower or bridal shower? We still have dates available to reserve the Community Center and North Lake Park for 2022! All reservations must be made at the township hall. The cost are as follows: \$100.00 for a resident \$150.00 for a nonresident Please remember we only accept CASH or CHECK for park reservations. Sorry, no credit cards.

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 (2022) 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 to 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 2022 is 1.033 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** 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 ID tags. 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. If you review your record card and find any discrepancies please contact me at 269-429-1589 x103 or jbaumann@lctberrien.org.