



# LINCOLN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

*Communicator*  
[www.lctberrien.org](http://www.lctberrien.org)

**Township Supervisor: Dick Stauffer- Ext. 104#**  
**Admin: Lanie Gage— Ext. 109#**



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**  
 November 24 & 25.....Thanksgiving  
 December 23.....Christmas Eve  
 December 26.....Christmas Day  
 December 30.....Closed at Noon  
 January 2.....New Years Day

**Road Projects Completed for 2022**

Our subdivision and local road maintenance program continued again this year with the resealing of Mohican Dr, E. Hiawatha Ln, W. Hiawatha Ln, Minnie Ha-Ha Dr, Shiawasee Ln, Pawnee Path, N. Alpine Ridge, Alpine Ridge, Sioux Ct, Gitchegumee Dr, Whispering Pines, Golden Crest, Caribou Tr, Alpine Ct, and Bonnie Dr.

In addition, we will be sharing equally with the Berrien County Road Department the cost of repaving Rockey Weed Rd. from Totzke Rd. to the Stevensville-Baroda Rd.

**Major Exit 23 Traffic Control Upgrades Beginning this Year**

The upgrades are expected to begin construction Oct. 1 and to be completed by May 1, 2023. The upgrades replace the overhead cables supporting the traffic signals at the intersection with mast arms extending over the intersection and also includes replacing the current street signs with LED signs. Both of these upgrades will significantly enhance driver safety at that busy intersection.

New traffic cameras to improve flow are also part of the modernization project and will improve movement for all travelers at the intersection.

We're excited about these safety and aesthetic upgrades and think you will be too.

**Noise Abatement Walls along I-94 in Lincoln Township**

We mentioned last year that reconstruction of I-94 from Puetz Rd. to Britain Ave. in Benton Township will begin with in 2023 and 2024. Westbound construction is scheduled to begin first.

There are a variety of roadway improvements which have triggered a noise analysis in accordance with Federal Highway and MDOT policy. The policy requires that affected property owners along the roadway vote to approve construction of the sound abatement walls near their property.

The final report with the final vote results will be complete by the end of October.

Construction questions can be answered by contacting Sarah Fedders PE, MDOT Project Manager at: email <fedderss@michigan.gov> or by phone at 269-249-6627.

**Township Treasurer:**  
**Terrie Smith- Ex. 112#**

Summer tax bills went out on July 1<sup>st</sup> and the due date was September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The summer taxes are now late, but not delinquent. We will continue to collect them until February 28, 2023. Please call our office before making your late payment to make sure you have the correct amount owed due to the additional interest that has to be collected.

Winter tax bills will be coming out in just over two months. It is becoming quite a challenge to get the winter bills to the "snowbirds." **We need help from each taxpayer who will be out of the area by December 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.** Tax bills are mailed out December 1<sup>st</sup>. If you have your mail forwarded, TAX BILLS WILL NOT FORWARD. Please contact the Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer at the Township office **by November 1<sup>st</sup> of each year** to let us know where to mail your tax bill. (269)-429-1589, ext. 112# or 101#.

Finally, valuable information concerning due dates, ways to make tax payments, office hours, and dates the office will be closed are always posted on the back of your tax bill. **Please take the time to turn the bill over upon its arrival.**

**FALL TRASH PASS**

The Township will make available to Lincoln Charter Township residents, per address/household (excluding vacant parcels) 1 trash pass for the FALL. **The dates are: October 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>-November 5<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>.** THE PASSES CAN BE PICKED UP BEGINNING **October 12** at the Township Hall. Additional loads will be charged at the standard gate rate without a trash pass. Refuse will be accepted from 8:00 am to noon.

**Township Clerk: Stacy Loar-Porter- Ext. 108#**  
**Accounting Clerk: Jen Koeppe Ext. 111#**  
**Deputy Clerk: Alisa Beilman- Ext. 102#**  
**Voter Registration: Julie Amicarelli - Ext. 100#**

**2022 General Election Information**

**Next Election:** Tuesday, November 8, 2022 Polls are open 7:00 am-8:00 pm

**Monday, 10/24/22** Last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the local clerk

**Saturday 11/5/22 7:00 am -3:00 pm** - Special Election office hours

**Friday 11/5/22 by 4:00 pm**- Last day a voter may obtain an absent voter ballot via the mail

**Monday 11/7/22 by 4:00 pm**- Last day a voter may obtain an absent voter ballot in person

**The Ballot will include:** Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, US Representative in Congress, State Senator, Representative in State Legislature, Member of the State Board of Education, Regent of the University of Michigan, Trustee of Michigan State University, Governor of Wayne State University, Justice of Supreme Court, Circuit Judges, Judge of Probate Court, Village President, Village Council, local School Board Members, State & County proposals.

**College Students:**

Students may begin requesting an absent voter application at this time. A member of your immediate family or household may pick up and deliver an absent voter **application**. You can receive an absent voter ballot at your registered address or may request the ballot be sent to your college address. **An un-voted ballot may not be given to anyone other than the voter that requested the ballot;** however, a family member may return the voted and sealed ballot to the Township.

Samples of the November 8, 2022 General ballot can be viewed on the Township website; [www.lctberrien.org](http://www.lctberrien.org) under Departments > Elections.

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

**Fall 2022 Cemetery Clean-up Dates:**  
 Remove all decorations: 10/17-10/23  
 Maintenance clean-up: 10/24-10/30  
 New floral decorations: 11/1/22

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

**Sewer System:**  
**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](http://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](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. 8232 for information.

**Protect our Water:** Help protect Michigan's waters and wildlife by reporting any type of water pollution to the Pollution Emergency Alerting System PEAS HOTLINE: 1-800-292-4706 (except for immediate and obvious threats to public safety call 911). Examples of pollutants to report that need to be cleaned up: Suspicious discharges from pipes, soil from construction sites entering waterways or drains, paint or oil poured down a drain, leaky septic systems.

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

Electrical Inspector: Ken Simpson  
Mechanical Inspector: Rod Wilder  
Plumbing Inspector: John Maier  
Ordinance Officer: Ralph Bansen  
Rental Inspector: Josh Quandt  
Rental Inspector: Wes Springer-Grounds

To schedule rental inspections, call Julie Amicarelli Ext 100#.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION PLEASE READ**

The following is a list of frequently referenced Lincoln Charter Township Ordinances. These ordinances, if not followed, could result in a fine.

1. Grass and weeds shall be maintained and cannot exceed **six (6) inches**.
2. Litter and Debris is not allowed and must be removed from your yard.
3. 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).
4. **Boats, motorhomes, camping trailers, box/flatbed trailers and unlicensed/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 backyard and must be sorted or parked on an improved surface (concrete/asphalt). Trucks exceeding one and one half (1 ½) tons, are not allowed to be parked or stored in residential districts.**
5. Sale of vehicles are 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 yard.

For questions regarding Ordinances or Codes, please call the Department of Building Safety, James Pheifer at (269) 429-1589 ext. 105#.

For more information please visit [www.lctberrien.org](http://www.lctberrien.org).

For downloadable permit applications: Department of Building Safety/  
Building safety submenu/ Building forms.

**Zoning Ordinances go to: Planning/Lincoln Charter Township Zoning Ordinance/Final Zoning Ordinance effective August 2010 or the latest version.**

**General or Police Ordinances go to the website homepage and click on the Forms and Ordinances button and go to <http://library.municode.com/index.aspx?clientId=14781>**

**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.

We hope everyone enjoyed the summer season. As we transition to fall and cooler weather, now is the time to have your home heating system and fireplaces professionally cleaned and serviced. Remember to keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from heating equipment like fireplaces, furnaces, and space heaters. It is also the time of year when you change your clock. When doing so please remember to change the batteries in your carbon monoxide detectors and smoke detectors. If you need assistance with switching out batteries, don't hesitate to call the Fire Department and schedule a time for our firefighters to assist you with replacing them.

When doing your fall clean up 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 to at all times, and always be courteous to your neighbors. Burn Permits are available on the township website.

Thank you for your continued support, and check out our Facebook page for updates and other useful information. Hope everyone has a happy and healthy fall.

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

The Lincoln Township Police Department once again would like to express our thanks to the citizens of Lincoln Township and the Village of Stevensville for their continued support.

The Lincoln Township Police Department would like to take this opportunity to remind commuters to allow extra time in their daily travels as school activities are resuming. Please use extra caution around pedestrians, school bus stops, and school zones.

The Lincoln Township Police Department would like to announce the recent partnership with Lakeshore Public School for the newly created position of School Resource Officer. Officer Michael Dorr has accepted the position and will be starting in the fall of the 2022 school year.

Officer Dorr is a 25 year veteran of law enforcement and has prior experience as a school liaison officer. Officer Dorr has worked in the past for the cities of Wheaton, IL and Aurora, IL, before coming to the Lincoln Township Police Department. Officer Dorr originally comes from the Dewitt, MI area.

Once again, the Lincoln Township Police Department would like to express our appreciation for all the support from citizens of Lincoln Township and the Village of Stevensville.

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

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

The splash pad was a great hit this summer after all the problems were resolved. It was nice to see so many families enjoying time with their children and friends. The pad will continue to be open through the end of September. The shut down date in October is still to be determined. If the weather stays too cool, we will have the lines blown out and shut down until the weather warms up again in the spring. We will place a post on Facebook when it has been closed for the winter.

The maintenance crew is still working on assembling and installing the playground equipment at the baseball park. Upon completion mulch will be placed under the equipment instead of the stones.

A special thank you goes out to the Lakeshore Rotary for the addition of a bike rack and new trash cans at the North Lake Park. They have also purchase two additional picnic tables that are still on back order. Please be sure to tell the Rotary thank you for their continued contributions and dedication that they give to the North Lake Park.

Our engineer has been given the task of working with MIWaters and EGLE to find ways to help us make the Lincoln Township Beach area more usable for our residents. Hopefully, by next year we will have some solutions to present to have better use and access to the waters of Lake Michigan.

Finally, it has been brought to our attention the need for more pickleball courts. Our engineers are trying to help us with a solution. However, we have had complaints from residents of people monopolizing the courts and telling them they have to load an app to have access time. Lincoln Township DOES NOT have an app to sign up. The pickle ball courts are open for everyone to enjoy. We would appreciate people sharing the courts and working together for the good of all. We are working on additional courts but it is an expensive project and our parks do not have a millage. So, it is funded through our general account. It will need to be added to the budget for 2023.

**Assessing Department**  
Assessor: John Baumann Ext. 103#

**Personal Property (PP)** - Many small businesses were eligible for an exemption of Personal Property taxes for 2022 but did not file the exemption. These affidavits are mailed in December along with the Personal Property statements. New for the 2023 tax year the Small Business Taxpayer Exemption has been **increased** to \$180,000 in true cash value. Business owners who qualified and filed the small business taxpayer exemption in prior years will **NOT** have to file the form again in 2023. **It is very important that those business owners who did NOT file the small business taxpayer exemption in prior years and qualify for the exemption, file it in 2023 in order to be exempted from 2023 personal property taxes.**

**Tax Day** - December 31<sup>st</sup> is designated as Tax Day in the State of Michigan. Your property's assessment is based on how it stands on that day. For example, your 2022 assessment and tax bills were calculated based on how your property appeared on December 31, 2021. Currently we are working on the 2023 assessments and will base those assessments on the condition of your property as of December 31, 2022. This fall the assessing department will be out reviewing residential properties and visiting properties that pulled permits throughout the year. These inspections are necessary in order to maintain accurate property data.

The next meeting of the **Board of Review** will be on December 13, 2022 for the correction of clerical errors or mutual mistakes of fact pertaining to property assessments. This is also the time when a property owner may appeal to the board for a qualified agricultural exemption, 100% disabled veteran exemption or poverty exemption - if they meet the necessary requirements.

The Assessing Department has 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 records can also be viewed online at the following websites:

**On-Line property Information available at - <https://is.bsasoftware.com/bsa.is/SelectUnit.aspx>**

**GIS Property Information available at - <https://beacon.schneidercorp.com/>**