

# Leroy Township

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## Summer 2022 Newsletter

Dear Township Resident,

As your Township Supervisor, I am anxious to share the news associated with our local road projects for 2022. The first is 3 ½ Mile Road from Division Drive to B Drive South. This stretch of roadway will receive a complete crush and shape along with a widening for paved shoulders. The cost of \$625,000 is being shared on a 50/50 basis with the Calhoun County Road Department.

The second project involves 4 Mile Road from B Drive South to the City of Battle Creek limits which will see a combination of improvements. Skip paving will be completed to large areas of deteriorated roadway and then the entire length (1.010 miles) will be overlaid with 3" of new asphalt. Lastly, 4 Mile Road from D Drive South to B Drive South will be receive skip paving along with a chip seal and fog improvement. This total cost of \$367,000 is also a shared cost between our Township and the CCRD.

The money for these local road projects is coming directly from our General Fund Budget and our savings investments. Much of our investments were set aside for fire department equipment which can now be replaced due to the support our community showed in voting in the 2020 (1.5) mill increase for Public Safety Services and Public Works. By having an additional revenue source, the Township has been able to commit funds for the local road improvements. Currently, we have over 45 miles of local roads. Most of these local roads are in poor condition. This is why our board remains committed to improving our roadways.

With that in mind, I must share with you some rather disappointing news regarding 6 Mile Road from B Drive South to K Drive South. This portion of 6 Mile Road is classified as a local road which requires matching funds. 6 Mile Road is also a border road between Leroy Township and Newton Township. As we know, it's extremely difficult for small townships, such as Leroy and Newton, to fund local road projects without dedicated voter approved millage. But, local governments in the State of Michigan became eligible to receive federal funding through the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund and under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). This funding is providing Leroy Township with \$394,000 and Newton Township with \$268,000. While limited in its use, the federal rules do allow for road repairs and road projects.

Late last year, I reached out to Newton Township in hopes that we could combine our ARPA funding, along with a 50% match from the CCRD, to crush, shape and repave 6 Mile Road. With everyone committed, there would be approximately \$1.3 million available to pay for the work. Unfortunately, Newton Township decided it would not commit any of its \$268,000 towards local road repairs. As such, and with guidance from the CCRD, the Township Board has turned its focus to improving 1 ½ Mile Road next year. The exact scope of work to be done has yet to be determined as is the overall cost.

On a positive note, I am pleased to share that after lengthy discussions with the Harper Creek Schools Superintendent, Mr. Rob Ridgeway and representatives from the Calhoun County Road Department about the dangerous traffic congestion caused by student drop-off and pick-

up along B Drive South at Sonoma Elementary School, Harper Creek has agreed to invest \$86,000 in the extending of the current parking lot area. This extension will decrease the number of vehicles lined up along the side of the road on B Drive South thus creating a safer environment for everyone involved. The school has also agreed to contribute an additional \$5,400 for the installation of LED perimeter flashing school zone signs which will alert motorist that a lower speed limit is in effect. We salute Mr. Ridgeway and the Harper Creek School Board for taking the safety of their students, their families and our residents to heart!

### **JUST IN CASE YOU DID NOT KNOW...**

This year we have seen a large increase in the number of complaints associated with "junk vehicles". Many of our property owners who have received a letter about "junk vehicle(s)" violations were unaware of Section 14-21 of the Blight Ordinance which prohibits the storage of "junk vehicles" outside of "a wholly enclosed garage or similar wholly enclosed structure". Further, the Blight Ordinance also defines a "junk vehicle" as an inoperable motor vehicle that because of "dismantling, disrepair or other cause, is not immediately capable of being propelled under its own power, or absence of a current valid license plate or registration tabs displayed on the motor vehicle".

**If you have a motor vehicle that is inoperable, or a motor vehicle that either lacks a valid license plate or the proper registration tab, that vehicle must be stored inside an enclosed garage or structure.**

Another issue that has come to light is the outside storage (parking) of recreational vehicles, campers and trailers. **If your property is currently zoned residential (Medium Density Residential, Low Density Residential, High Density Residential or Rural Residential) your outside parking is limited to "passenger vehicles, one recreational vehicle and not more than one commercial vehicle of the light delivery type, not to exceed ¾ ton". Also, the use of a recreational vehicle as a dwelling on any street, lot, tract or parcel of land for a period greater than 30 days within a six-month period is prohibited.**

Also, please note that the Leroy Township Zoning Ordinance **prohibits the use of semi-trailers or metal storage containers as accessory buildings or structures for the purposes of storage on any parcel located within the Township.**

My hope is that you have found this newsletter encouraging as you see that your Township Board is working hard to improve travel for all residents. And our hope is to inform you of ordinances that keep our community one to be proud to live in. I am available and in the office Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to discuss any concerns you may have. Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

*Laveta Hardish, Supervisor*

Board Members: Treasurer Mark Christoff, Clerk Nicole Hardish, Trustee Jonathon Bolton, Trustee Michael VanHouten