

## YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU!

Have you thought about getting more involved in your community? If so, this year offers you a great chance to get involved with the Village. Not only do we have committee appointments every year, but this year nine different positions will be elected in November.

Four seats on the Village Council are up for election this year. All are 4-year terms that run from 2019-2023. Additionally, five individuals need to be elected for the Charter Commission.

The Charter Commission is tasked with reviewing the existing Charter and drafting either amendments to that Charter, or creating a new Charter which would be presented to the electorate at an upcoming election. State law requires that this work initially be done within 60 days of being elected. The deadline to file for both elected boards is July 24th, for more information please contact the Village Hall.

We will also be providing additional updates on our website and Facebook page as the deadline to file approaches.

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The Village Council meets  
on the 3rd Tuesday of the  
month at 7 PM.

The Planning Commission  
meets on the 2nd Tuesday  
of the month at 7 PM.

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# Village of Lake Isabella

## March 2018 Community Newsletter



### Agreement Reached on Lake Isabella South & Lake Isabella Golf Estates 2 Building & Use Restrictions

The Village of Lake Isabella has reached an agreement with the Isabella County Board of Public Works (BPW), Central Michigan District Health Department (CMDHD), and the Michigan Department of Environment Quality (MDEQ) to lift the long-standing restrictions on the development of on-site well and wastewater systems in the southern Lake Isabella plats of Lake Isabella South and Lake Isabella Golf Estates #2.

Restrictions which limited on-site development of well and wastewater systems in five plats of the Village had existed since the areas were originally platted in the 1970s. Working together since 2008 the Village was previously able to have the restrictions lifted in 3 of these 5 plats. The remaining two plats, both located in southern Lake Isabella, are covered by the new Agreement approved by these stakeholders.

The Agreement lifts the restrictions, which will now allow individual property owners the ability to seek permits for on-site systems with the approval based on the site-specific conditions of that property. The Agreement is also unique in that the Village was able to work with the CMDHD and MDEQ to establish additional criteria which create a framework for the development of septic systems using modern filtration and pre-treatment methods that may allow additional sites to be developed where a conventional septic system may not have been approvable.

To further assist property owners in one specific part of this area where abnormally smaller lots exist, the Village adopted an Overlay Zoning District in 2017 which modifies the site development requirements for new homes in an area of roughly 55 lots. It is hoped that the changes allowed via the Overlay District will be of assistance to property owners with small lots by giving them greater flexibility in where to locate their home, garage, and on-site septic system. These requirements can be found in Chapter 1258 of the Village's zoning code.

This Agreement caps nearly a decade of strong collaboration and partnership between the Village, CMDHD, DEQ, and BPW. Credit is due to these partners on their willingness to collaborate and also to embrace creative and non-traditional solutions that were presented by the Village. A complete copy of the agreement and criteria now in place to oversee the development of non-traditional septic systems in this part of the community can be found on the Village's website on the "Unbuildable Lots" page. The Agreement does not automatically mean that all lots will be buildable, simply that they are able to seek permits based on the site-specific conditions of that parcel.

## MASTER PLAN SURVEY

Can you believe it has been five years since the Village last updated its Master Plan? In Michigan, local units of government are required to review and consider updating their Master Plans at least once every five years.

A good Master Plan should reflect the values and desires of the community, and one of the best ways to gather that information is through a community survey. During the month of March a link will be on the homepage to our website inviting you to take a survey. The survey should take about 15 minutes and covers a wide range of topics.

The information from this survey will then be reviewed by the Planning Commission as they work on drafting an update to our Master Plan.

There's one more thing. As a "Thank You" for taking the time to share your views, anyone who completes the survey and leaves their email address will be entered into a drawing for several gift cards to be used at local businesses. It's our way of saying thank you, and supporting our local businesses.

**Please visit our website to take the survey: [www.lakeisabellami.org](http://www.lakeisabellami.org)**

## NEW VILLAGE WEBSITE

In 2017 the Village of Lake Isabella launched a new website. The new site is adaptive for mobile devices, and is easier to navigate than our old site. One new feature on the site is a "Request for Service" link. You can use this link to notify us of any service issue in the community such as a pothole, tree down, blighted property, or street sign that needs replacement. It is our goal to provide you with a quality online experience that allows you to educate and interact with your local government as you need. Check out the new site at:

**[www.lakeisabellami.org](http://www.lakeisabellami.org)**

## FIRE DEPARTMENT ISO RATING

In 2017 the Nottawa-Sherman Township Fire Department underwent a review of their operations, training, staff, and equipment by the Insurance Service Office (ISO). The result, was that the Public Protection Classification rating was lowered (improved) from 7 to 6. This could result in savings in your home's insurance policy. The Village's website has a copy of the ISO letter that you can download and send to your agent to see if you are eligible for a savings. The Village would like to thank the men and woman, and their families, of the Fire Department for the time and sacrifice they make for our community.



## YOUR GENEROSITY AT WORK

Through the incredible support of our community, the LIPOA and Village have been able to make a huge impact in the lives of our neighbors in need during the holiday season. Over the past 12 years, the community has donated just over \$23,500 to what originally began as the Adopt-a-Family program with United Way.

During the past 12 years we have been able to directly help at least 24 families. Typically, organizers have connected us to families with the highest number of members in need of assistance. It is not uncommon for the family size to be 6 or greater, often with young children who likely would not get to enjoy the holidays without the support you have provided.

Beyond just helping those families, we have been able to expand our impact in recent years. Once we have our family or families covered, any funds left over have been used to help the following local organizations; St. Jude, Salvation Army, Toys for Tots, Weidman Food Pantry, Christmas Outreach, Isabella County Woman's Shelter, and the Foster Closet.

On behalf of literally the hundreds of people that YOU have helped, we sincerely thank you!

## FIREWORKS HAPPEN BECAUSE OF YOU!



Not only has the community been very supportive of the Adopt-a-Family program, the support offered during the summer to support our the Independence Day Fireworks is just as impressive. Over the past 12 years, the community has donated just over \$81,000 which have significantly helped off-set the cost of \$91,000 during that same time span.

## ISABELLA COUNTY TIME OF TRANSFER PROGRAM

Beginning in January of 2018 all homes in Isabella County that have an on-site well and/or an on-site septic system will be required to have those systems inspected and their condition reviewed by the Central Michigan District Health Department for compliance with the local Sanitary Code.

The Health Department maintains a list of individuals and companies which have been certified to conduct the inspection and submit the results to the Department for review. For more information, please visit the Health Department's website at:

**<https://www.cmdhd.org/existing-land-evaluation>**