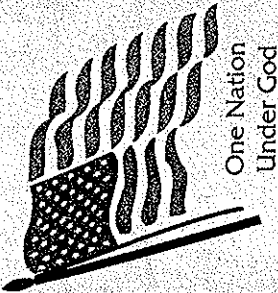


Wednesday, November 12, 2014

# The Mail-Journal

www.the-papers.com



## Local sewer district given green light

By JARRETT VAN METER  
Ink Free News and  
MARTHA STOELTING  
Staff Writer

Approval has been received from the state of Indiana for the Lakeland Regional Sewer District's plans and specifications for their project in the areas surrounding the Barbee lakes in Tippecanoe Township, Kosciusko County.

The lakes in the district include Big Barbee, Little Barbee, Banning, Kuhn, Sechrist, Irish, Sawmill and Shoe. The district also takes in Grassy Creek north to E. 500N, better known as Armstrong Road. It does not include Lake Tippecanoe.

The district has made plans to advertise for potential bidders Nov. 14 and 21. Bids will open in December and contractors are expected to be selected in February and March. Board President Jim Haney expressed relief to finally be moving forward. He noted, "We submitted plans on May 1 and had originally hoped for approval after 60 days. We didn't get it until five months later but we are ready to move forward." The project funding loan must be finalized by March 11 and it is expected to be completed by late 2016.

The project will be split up into four sections: northern, middle, and southern and wastewater treatment plant, for the purposes of bidding. The entire project of building a wastewater treatment plant and installing sewer lines, lifts and other necessary equipment is estimated to cost \$24.5 million and is being completely funded by a 40-year loan from the USDA Department of Rural Development.

The loan and ongoing operating and maintenance expenses of the utility will be paid for by the collection of monthly fees from all the users of the system, according to the LRSD website. The estimated monthly fee after service is available will be about \$67 based on a 2010 study by the board's rate consultant, Umbaugh and Associates. Many things could impact the rates including inflation, changes to Indiana law and the fact some property owners have refused to sign easements.

It is mandatory to connect to the system even with a functioning septic system if the property is within the district and is not applicable for a limited exemption and if the building foundation is within 300 feet of a public sewer or if the property is on a body of

water and the property line is within 300 feet of a public sewer. This is required by USDA funding guidelines and by Indiana Code of Law.

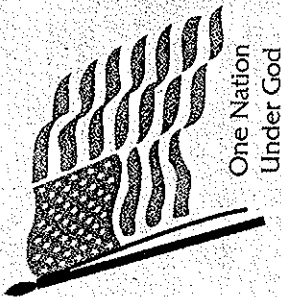
Property owners will be notified by mail when the sewer main and wastewater treatment plant are completed. Instructions will be given then on how to proceed and by what time. Applications and guidelines will be available from the district then.

The sewer district maintains an office inside the North Webster Community Center, 301 N. Main St. Hours are currently 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays; and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. For more information, call (574) 529-2383 or visit the website, [www.lakelandrsd.com](http://www.lakelandrsd.com).

Covering Milford, Syracuse & North Webster, Indiana

Wednesday, December 24, 2014

# The Mail-Journal



www.the-papers.com

## Scams on the rise in local counties

By JARRETT VANMETER  
INK FREE NEWS  
Staff Writer

Several recent Internet scams mean there is a need for increased awareness. Kosciusko County Sheriff's Department and the Better Business Bureau of Indiana are teaming up to inform county residents about a series of scam calls that have been made by someone pretending to be the Internal Revenue Service.

One InkFreeNews reader stated she got a call from such a number, but the telephone number traced back to Saint Thomas in the Virgin Islands. The area code for the number she said the call came from was 721. According to the BBB: "consumers are receiving very menacing calls from individuals, who state that they are with the IRS.

"The reason stated for their call is that they're collecting on taxes owed since 2002. Threats of arrest and jail time are made, if immediate payment isn't given." Individuals are reminded this is not the manner in which the IRS operates. There are laws that have been created by the Federal Trade Commission that prohibit such malicious threats.

Be assured these calls are not legitimate. The IRS would not operate in this manner and laws created by the Federal Trade Commission prohibit these kinds of threats. The IRS sends out notifications to those who owe money through the mail rather than over the phone. For concerns regarding these calls, the IRS can be reached at (800) 829-1049.

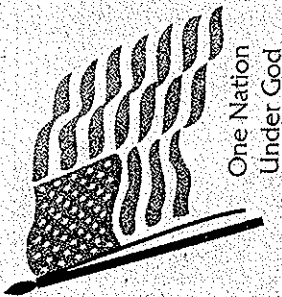
Facebook scams are also on the rise. The Elkhart County Sheriff's department sent out a release issuing the following warning: "The Elkhart County Sheriff's Department has seen an increase in Facebook related scams. There have been two fairly recent incidents in which users reported receiving a Facebook messenger text from a linked friend telling them about having won a random Facebook drawing.

"Because the text comes from a known friend of the user telling them about the money they won, the user falls prey. The scams then solicit the user to Facebook 'friend' a particular person who oversees the unsolicited contest winnings. From that point specific instructions are provided detailing how the funds will become secured by the 'winner.'"

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

# The Mail-Journal

www.the-papers.com



## County council examines the possibility of altering wheel tax

By JARRETT VAN METER  
Reporter  
Ink Free News

Much of the discussion during Thursday night's Kosciusko County Council meeting centered around the possibility of lowering the \$40 county wide wheel tax on trailers that went into effect in January. Council President Robert Sanders explained how he would like to see that price dropped from \$40 to \$15 for small trailer, to \$20 for medium trailers and to \$30 for large trailers.

Sanders said an ordinance would be ready to be proposed at next month's meeting in order to get the ball rolling in time to see the reduced taxes go into effect by January 2016.

Sanders issued a statement for residents of Kosciusko County urging them to not take their frustrations from the tax out on the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, due to the fact they are simply acting on the council's ruling. "The Kosciusko County Council would like to remind the public that the surtax and Wheel Tax Ordinance that was passed in 2014, and took ef-

fect as of Jan. 1, will be collected by the BMV upon the renewal of their license plates. This collected tax will go to the Kosciusko County Highway Department, and the cities and towns in Kosciusko County, for use in repairing and improving streets and roads. The council and the commissioners both agreed this tax was needed to offset the continuing expense of maintaining or streets and roads."

Kosciusko County Sheriff Aaron Rovenstine presented information comparing the sheriff department's

Continued on page 2

The Mail-Journal

**Inside** **Milford Scouts Win Spirit Award**  
See Page 8



See Public Notices On Page 11

## County council

Continued from page 1

activity in 2014 versus 2013. He expressed it may be a good idea in the future to know how the department is going to move forward as the demand for its services continues to rise.

Included in the numbers that saw an increase from 2013 to 2014 were calls to service (29,662 versus 22,655), total crash reports (1,318 versus 1,217), number of jail bookings (3,678 versus 3,396), citations (1,825 versus 1,692) and warrants (2,189 versus 1,892). He stated the jail's maximum capacity is 302 occupants and recently there had been as many as 288 individuals detained in the confines.

The council approved the transfer of \$20,000 in unused funds by the Statewide 911 in Kosciusko County to pay for a part-time position in order to alleviate some of the overtime hours being performed by current employees.

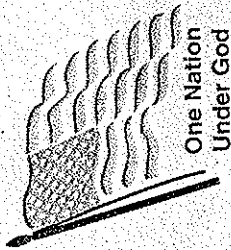
The council also approved the transfer of \$28,985 from a part-time case manager position in the Kosciusko County Alcohol and Drug Programs department to a full-time position of the same name.

The next council meeting will be at 7 p.m. March 12, at the Kosciusko County Courthouse in Warsaw.

Wednesday, February 25, 2015  
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## County council examines possibility of altering wheel tax

By JARRETT VAN METER  
Reporter  
Ink Free News

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