



Washington Township News

April 2005

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Editor: Debra Kolasinski

Trustee News



Trustees

Camille Hammer
726-6621

Denise Rex
726-6621

Barb Shaheen
726-6621

Clerk

Becky Bodette
726-6621

Secretaries

Judy Guerrero
Diana McIntosh
Janet Dombkowski
Darlene Thoman

Fire Chief

Matt Hart
726-2453

Police Chief

Chris Kaiser
726-0478

Road Superintendent

Bryon McIntosh
726-6908

Zoning Inspector

Howard Rudes
726-6621



In previous Newsletters, we have expressed the need for community involvement with helping save and protect our Local Government Fund (LGF). Please keep in mind the LGF funds contribute to approximately 23% of our general fund. We would like to share the following information with you and again urge you to contact your state senator or representative on the impact these proposed cuts would have on our Township.

*As you know, the Local Government Funds (LGF) are vital to our jurisdictions, parks, and libraries. The Governor's proposed funding cuts could be devastating to many areas. Reductions in services like road and bridge repairs, recycling, snow removal, garbage pickups, and other municipal services will impact all residents. Drastic cuts to police, fire, EMS, and sheriffs' departments could be life-threatening. Communities are relying on these funds and, by law, are entitled to them. **The time to take action is NOW! Help Protect Ohio Communities!***

A new website, www.protectohiocommunities.com, has been developed to help spread the word about this important issue. It includes information about the impact the proposed cuts could have and a "forum" page where you can make comments. Additionally, under the "take action" tab, you can draft a letter to your representative or use the stock letter to make your thoughts known. Finally, if you need more informational pieces, just click on the "order LGF printed materials" link at the bottom of the home page and the pieces will be sent to you.

Thank you for your interest and please help spread the word!

*Sincerely
P. Michael Robinette
Executive Director
Maumee Valley Regional Planning Commission*

Why Cutting the State's Share of Government Funds Hurts Ohio's People: Big State Cuts Will Force...

- Drastic local cuts to police, fire, EMS, and sheriffs' departments
- Major gaps in funding for parks and libraries.
- Reductions in basic services like road and bridge repairs, recycling, snow removal, garbage pickups, and other municipal services.
- Endless votes for property, income, and sales tax increases.

It will mean less local service and higher local taxes – although counties, communities, park districts, and libraries are cooperating to save money.

Contact your township trustee or county commissioner or contact your state senator or representative by calling (800) 282-0253 or going to www.legislature.state.oh.us.



The Road Department would like to extend a grateful thank you to the residents for passing our renewal levy this past November. Your support enables us to continue to fund the major repairs and maintenance necessary to preserve our roadways. Thanks again!

Winter was not kind to us this past year. We experienced the worst January in 27 years and the second worst in 100 years. Within the first few months of this year our annual budget for part time road labor alone has been depleted by 38%. Our department received many calls of appreciation for keeping all of our roads clean and safe. We value the calls, we want you to know that we could not have serviced you as effectively had you not moved your cars off the streets. Thanks!

In April, we will resume street sweeping services. The "pelican" donated to us by Captain Jon Parker of the fire department will come out of storage and hit the road. The "pelican" is a one-man operated, industrial machine and should cut man-hours tremendously. Our tow-behind sweeper will still be used for smaller isolated jobs. We would like to remind you, please do not sweep your grass clippings into the streets. Not only does this plug up our storm sewers putting you at risk for flooding, the grass makes its way to the Ottawa River creating a pollution hazard.

Shortly after the first spring street sweep we will begin our annual crack sealing program. Sealing the stress cracks in our roads prevents water from getting under the street surface and lifting it. Not only is this program labor intensive, taking approximately three weeks to complete, we also have to rent the sealer machine and purchase the sealant products. This is an expensive project, but will help control costs in replacing roads. Wonder why we do not have potholes? We crack seal EVERY spring.

Our big road project this year will concentrate on Fullers Creekside subdivision. Rosemar, Bahiamar, and Windamar are the targeted streets this summer. The project consists of grinding and resurfacing the streets. Along with replacing some driveway approaches and curbs. Temporary "no parking" will be posted in various locations during the construction process. We apologize for the inconvenience, but please refrain from parking in restricted areas as this will hinder or stop construction.

Construction on the Summit Street bridge is coming along a little slower due to inclement weather. The good news is the completion date, the end of October 2005 has not changed.



FIRE and RESCUE NEWS



2005 has started off blazing for us at the Washington Township Fire Department. We have responded to multiple fire alarms, injury accidents on I-75, medical calls, and have gone through several internal changes involving the structure of our commanding officers. The new ranks are as follows:

- Matt Hart – Chief, 700
- Jim Binienda – Assistant Chief, 710
- Ron Kay – Assistant Chief, 720
- Bill Dawn – Assistant Chief, 730
- Rick Phillips – Captain, 740
- Jon Parker – Captain, 750
- Tracy Stanford – Captain 760
- Doug Danyko – Captain 770
- Howard Rudes – Captain 780
- Jason Samsel – Captain 790

As of March 1, 2005 we have responded to a total of 66 runs. In conjunction with our normal Wednesday night drills and runs, many of our members have put in extra time training on topics including ice rescue, reading smoke, search and rescues, and defensive driving tactics. Our EMS training is being provided by Alisa Roberts, D.O., a second year resident at St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center. Her expertise and knowledge is beneficial to our continuing education. This additional training is done to enhance the services we provide to you the township resident.

The commitment of our firefighters is appreciated and recognized by the department. This year's awards were presented at the Christmas Party. The awards included: Harry Thoman, Firefighter of the Year for Outstanding Performance, Bob Green, Attendance Award for most calls and drills, 25 Year Service Award was presented to Chief Matt Hart, 15 Year Service Award was presented to Chief Bill Dawn and Captain Doug Danyko, 10 Year Service Award was presented to Captain Howard Rudes, and the 3 Year Service Award was presented to Ray Wolfe and Dawn McLennan. A special thanks to all of the award winners for their overwhelming commitment and service.



Due to the progressive nature of the firefighting/emergency service field, we found our department in need of technological advancement. Through a combination of donations, grants, and departmental funds, we have obtained a digital video camcorder for recording training operations, a firehouse software program to centralize the fire department's emergency run documentation, training, personnel records, maintenance of vehicles and equipment, inventory and payroll, and a radiological monitoring device.

The fire department has collaborated with several of the teachers at Shoreland Elementary to teach CPR and Automated External Defibrillation (AED). The teachers will now be able to take this knowledge back to the school and implement the training in emergency situations. The teachers included Jeremie Forche, Susan Schneider, Linda D. Culp, Sue Krecioch, and Julie Buehrer.



If you are interested in committing to your community, we are interested in you! Become a part of our fire family and serve your community. It is a fun and rewarding opportunity to make a difference in someone's life. For more information, contact Chief Matt Hart at (419) 726-2453 or visit our website at www.wtfd.net.

Crack, bang, boom Summerfest is coming soon! Summerfest 2005 has been set for Friday and Saturday, June 24th and 25th - same location as last year, Shoreland Park. Watch our web site and marquee in front of the fire station for times and events. Hope to see you there.

It's time to spring ahead. Are your batteries dead in your smoke detector? Better check! It is recommended to change your batteries in smoke detectors twice a year. Doing so could save your life!!



POLICE DEPARTMENT



E-mail Scams

It seems that every time you open up an e-mail, a bank or mortgage company is giving you some type of fraud alert and pleading with you to “update” your account to protect yourself against fraud. Do not be fooled, this type of e-mail is a fraud! Financial institutions that you have an account with will NEVER contact you by e-mail for any type of account update. Typically the institution will have an appointment set up for you to visit a branch office to update any type of business necessary. This is also true when it comes to credit cards, debit cards, or any other business that requires personal information. An excellent example of this type of fraud is Ebay’s Pay Pal system. For some time this has been the subject of fraudulent activity, requesting “updating” for accounting purposes or that someone has compromised your account. Basically, when you open these e-mails you are requested to basically fill out a credit card application. This also includes giving information about a Mastercard or Visa card account number and your social security number. This is identity theft in the making. The best course of action, DELETE these e-mails you receive. If you feel that there may be some validity to the request or you are concerned, simply call the company or financial institution directly. Many times when you open up an e-mail of this nature, the site that you are then re-directed to inserts “spy ware”, in some cases a virus into your computer. DON’T BE A VIRTUAL VICTIM!!

Check Writers Beware

When you write a check or allow someone to use your account number to cash a check, be very cautious. Over the past several months, the Police Department has investigated several scams that involved purchases paid by check. One scam involved bogus checks being cashed using a third party’s account number. In the first scam, the victim’s account number, taken from checks, was given by an individual to order or pay for something over the telephone. The victim did not even know about the scam until the canceled checks were sent back to her in the mail. The other scam happened when an individual went to her grandmother and asked that she cash some checks at her bank. The Grandmother then endorsed the checks, wrote her checking account number on them, and allowed her granddaughter to go to the bank and cash the checks, thinking that the money would be deposited into the checking account. Some time later, the Grandmother got a notice that none of the checks were valid, in fact, the names and accounts belonged to deceased people. She is now out nearly \$10,000!!

Taser Use

Our officers used Tasers to subdue a man that resides in the Raintree Village Mobile Home Park several weeks ago. The use of the Taser is credited with saving the life of the suspect who charged the officer with a butcher knife after stabbing two other people in the trailer. Controversy has surrounded the use of Tasers nationwide, and more recently here in the

area after an individual died while in custody at the Lucas County Jail. Chief Kaiser, after debating the issue with the Township Trustees and other area police chiefs, has decided to keep the Tasers available for use by the officers. Because of this incident, Chief Kaiser was totally convinced that the Township police officers should continue to carry the Tasers. Chief Kaiser further stated that had the officers not had the Tasers, “a horrific tragedy would have been the outcome for this incident”.

Scooters, Mini Motorcycles, Go-Carts, Etc.

Spring is just around the corner (we hope!) and as a reminder, we will be enforcing the motor vehicle codes regarding mini bikes, mini motorcycles, go-carts, motorized scooters, and all of the spiffy motorized gadgets that are not street legal vehicles. Additionally, officers will be looking for underage operators! Last Summer and Fall, we received dozens of calls and complaints regarding these vehicles. The last printing of the “Washington Township News” we ran a rather lengthy article on this subject, most folks were simply unaware of the state laws covering these vehicles, or the minimum age requirements for the operator. If you have any questions, doubts, or concerns, call the Ohio B.M.V. at (614) 752-7800 or check out the web site at www.bmv.ohio.gov and click on “motor scooters”. You may also call us at (419) 726-0478 or the Ohio Highway Patrol (419) 865-5544 or (419) 666-1323. Township police officers are going to begin issuing traffic citations and impounding these vehicles as necessary when complaints are received.

Proms

Area high schools will be holding annual proms in the next few weeks. We are asking parents to have a serious talk with your high school student about the legal drinking age and the consequences of underage drinking. Most importantly are the health and safety issues regarding the use of alcohol. The police department has a ZERO tolerance stance on underage drinking. Township officers will be aggressively looking for underage drinking, as well as individuals that supply alcohol to minors.

Spring Cleaning

When you begin your spring-cleaning, be careful that you are not inviting a burglar to visit. Try to fold or tear up boxes that held expensive electronic items such as computers, stereos, DVD players, etc. even if you no longer have those items at home. When cleaning up the rear yard be sure that the front door is locked and the same when you start the front yard clean up. For safety sake never leave power tools or sharp tools and cutters accessible to curious small children. Use good ventilation when using any type of chemical agents for cleaning. When getting ready for the season, PLEASE be sure that small children cannot gain entry to the pool area, especially when you decide to start filling the pool with water. (Our community has been extremely fortunate in the past that we have not had any water/pool related accidents. Let’s keep up the great work!) Finally, any vehicles that are parked outside should be locked up at night with valuables removed when possible, and garage doors closed and locked.

Trustee News continued ..



The following is provided by Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG)

Ottawa River Sediment and Hydrological Investigation Closes in on Remediation Targets

In an intensive study of the Ottawa River more than a decade ago, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) tested the sediment in a grid of one-tenth of a mile. That generated a lot of data. As the scope of pollution in the river became clearer, and work to clean the river has gone on, the testing and mapping has gotten ever more detailed. This spring and summer, one reach of the river (between Lagrange and Stickney Avenues) will be tested in a grid pattern of 50 to 100 feet. This very detailed work is necessary to make the way for actual dredging or capping of PCBs and other contaminants.

The PCBs tend to migrate together, to form oily globs in the river's sediments. Since they are found in globs, sometimes amid relatively uncontaminated samples, only very fine sampling will provide the information needed by the teams that will remove or cap the contaminated sediment.

Just downstream of Stickney Avenue, consultants will map and sample an adjacent section of the Ottawa River. This work is for the same reason, to hone in on and map areas of contamination to prepare for remediation. Sampling will tell us if the contaminants in the sediment are staying put or drifting in the water. Work in this area will include sampling of a backwater mud flat area that has not yet been investigated. This second stretch of the river would then move into the pipeline for eventual dredging or other remediation.

TMACOG anticipates that funds will be available for cleanup from the Great Lakes Legacy Act of 2002 – a project of the EPA specifically to remove contaminated sediment from the Great Lakes and its immediate tributaries. The Ottawa River remediation is one of fourteen projects that have met the requirements of the Great Lakes Legacy Act. The level at which the Act is funded will determine the timing of the cleanup. The Act was authorized for \$270 million over five years. About \$35 million has actually been allocated in the first two years. For an idea of the cost of these projects, note that remediation of an initial five hot spots in the Ottawa River is estimated to cost \$6.5 million. The total cost of remediating contaminated sediment in areas of the U.S. Great Lakes designated as “Areas of Concern” is estimated to be between \$1.8 billion and \$5.7 billion.

For details of recent studies see the Ottawa River Priorities Report (2004) on the Ottawa River section of www.tmacog.org.

For more information on the Great Lakes Legacy Act, go to www.epa.gov/glnpo/sediment/legacy/.

ZONING



With warm weather approaching, we would like to remind everyone, permits are required for fences, pools, sheds, and any other buildings or additions. If you are not sure or have any questions, please call Howard Rudes at (419) 726-6621.

RV's, boats, trailers, and campers are not permitted in front yards. They can be parked in back or along the side of your home. You can clean, load, unload, or service your equipment in the front, but only for a 72 hour period. Again, if you need more information, contact Howard.

Coming soon, the new zoning resolution will be added to our web site where you will also be able to retrieve a zoning application and zoning information.



The new zoning resolution has addressed yard/garage sale regulations that we will be implementing this year. Section 1314 reads:

Any individual or family may conduct no more than three (3) yard or garage sales within any consecutive twelve (12) month period not to exceed three (3) consecutive days. Items displayed for sale shall not encroach into the right-of-way at any time.

We are also asking you to promptly remove your signs after the sale is complete. Thank you!