



Washington Township News

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www.washington-twp.com

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Trustee News



Township Roster

We have received many compliments and suggestions from residents on our newsletter, and sincerely appreciate the feedback. Recently, we were asked to run a roster with phone numbers and email addresses for all Township elected officials and departments. For your convenience, we have added a clip-and-save roster for you in this issue to the left of this article.

Street Lighting

At an open public meeting on September 12, 2005, the trustees by resolution voted not to collect street lighting fees on your 2006 real estate tax bills. There is adequate funding to support the expenses for street lighting in the Township for at least one year. Therefore, you should see a decrease in your property taxes in 2006.

Shoreland Park Update

The old tennis court has been removed and replaced since our last issue of the newsletter. Along with the tennis court, we found that it was cost-effective to also resurface the old basketball court. This court provides a safe alternative to the streets for residents who wish to rollerblade or play hockey and other sports in a protected environment.

We have received many questions on rates changes for the Shoreland Park Shelter House. Although the rental rates have not changed at this time, we cannot project a change in rates. As of this newsletter, the Auditor of State has not arrived to perform a routine audit of Township records and a close-out of the previous park board's records. All records for the previous park board were turned over directly to the Washington Township Police Department and are being securely held in the Police Department's property room awaiting audit. Since these records have not been accessed by the Township, we do not have any indication of what expenses are associated with the operation of the Shelter House. After the audit is complete, we can reevaluate rental fees. If any changes are made, they will be advertised in the Point-Shoreland Journal immediately, and will also be brought to your attention through our newsletter.

Trustee News Continued on Next Page...

Trustee News Continued:

National Incident Management Systems Requirements

(Article below reprinted with permission from the September 2005 edition of Grassroots Clippings.)

In order to receive 2006 preparedness funding from the Department of Homeland Security or any other federal department, all local governments must certify that they have met the following National Incident Management System (NIMS) requirements before the end of fiscal year 2005 (September 30, 2005).

First, an independent study course (IS 700), which explains the basic format and purpose of NIMS, must be completed. Local governments must also formally recognize and adopt the NIMS through establishment of legislation, executive orders, resolutions, or ordinances. A NIMS Baseline must be established using the web-based NIMS Capability Assessment Tool (NIMCAST). All governments must institutionalize the Incident Command System (ICS) for emergency management, consistent with the standards set forth by the Department of Homeland Security.

Beginning October 1, 2007, all federal preparedness assistance will be contingent upon NIMS compliance. To ensure that local governments receive this assistance, they must establish a strategic plan and time frame that will ensure full NIMS compliance by the September 30, 2006 deadline.

Your Township elected officials – Barb Shaheen, Denise Rex, Camille Hammer and Becky Bodette are NIMS certified. All Township employees, Fire, Police, Roads and Administrative Secretaries are NIMS certified in the “IS 700.” Also, the trustees voted unanimously by resolution to adopt NIMS in August 2005.

Proposed spending limitation amendment to Ohio Constitution is wrong for Ohio

(Article below reprinted with permission from the September 2005 edition of Grassroots Clippings.)

The devil is in the details. How often have we heard that phrase? Once Ohioans know more about the proposed “TABOR” or “Taxpayers Bill of Rights” they too, will realize that the details of this complex proposal are far more harmful than helpful to our state.

The TABOR is a proposed amendment to the Ohio Constitution designed to severely limit expenditures, through an unworkable budget formula, at both the state and local government level. Some Ohioans may have heard this referred to as “TEL” the Tax and Expenditure Limitation amendment. It will likely be on the statewide ballot November 2006.

Townships should be concerned especially with TABOR’s impact on local government. The budget formula proposed by TABOR would severely limit the ability of state and local government to adequately fund essential services including public safety, transportation needs, education and healthcare.

Fortunately, we can look to Colorado for guidance on this issue. The Ohio TABOR proposal is nearly identical to the Colorado TABOR that has been in place for 12 years and it is a proven failure. In fact, Colorado has experienced so many setbacks in essential services such as education, healthcare, road construction and maintenance, economic development and more, the Governor and other lawmakers are asking voters to approve referenda that would place a five-year moratorium on TABOR.

Secretary of State Ken Blackwell is leading the campaign to place the TABOR on the November 2006 ballot. On August 10 the Secretary’s campaign committee filed 497,000 signatures with the Secretary of State’s office for counting before being sent to county boards of elections for validation. Should the necessary 44 county boards of elections validate the required Constitutional percentage and all county boards validate a total of 335,000 signatures, the TABOR will be voted on by Ohioans in November of 2006.

Visit www.ohiosfuture.org to learn more about why this proposed amendment is a bad idea for Ohio. The above website provides more details as well as information about the important work that is going on to defeat this issue.

The Ohio Township Association is working with other local government organizations to educate Ohioans about the financial problems a TABOR would cause schools and local governments. Not only are we helping to defeat the TABOR should it get on the 2006 November ballot, but we are also working to stop the proposal from even making it to the ballot. Please look for more information in future issues of the Ohio Township News or in the Grassroots Newsletter.



Road Projects

We are pleased to announce that our major road project for the year has been completed. All of the curbs and pavement in the Fullers Northpointe neighborhood have been replaced, and the streets are looking great. We would like to thank all of the residents for their patience and cooperation during this project.

On a related note, the Summit Street bridge project is on target to be completed by November 1, 2005.

Tree Trimming

You may have noticed that we have started our tree trimming project. Our goal is to remove the low-hanging limbs in the street that could cause damage to vehicles, and to remove sight obstructions from around corners. This project is not connected with the trimming that is being done by Penn-Line. They are under contract with Toledo Edison and are trimming trees that are obstructing power lines.

Leaf Pick-Up

Fall is here, and it will soon be time for leaf pick-up! Last year, we collected almost triple the number of loads from previous years, and expect to see an increase again this season. We would greatly appreciate it if you kept the following guidelines in mind if you wish to take advantage of this service:

- Please rake your leaves to the curb, but not out into the street itself. Piles of leaves in the road can create a hazard for drivers.
- If you have a loose stone driveway, please put the leaves in a pile to the side of it, as the stones can damage the equipment we use. Grass and tree clippings can also cause damage, so please do not include them in your leaf piles.

Friendly Reminders

Just a couple of ways you can contribute to keeping your township clean and safe!

Sewers

- Remember that the sewer grates along the streets are to collect rain water only! These sewers lead directly to our waterways, and it is important that we do whatever we can to protect these valuable natural resources.
- Also, debris in these sewer lines can cause back-ups during heavy rains, and this leads to basement flooding and other unpleasant consequences.

Snow – (It hardly seems like something we want to think about now, but it's coming!)

- Please remember not to park your cars in the street when snowfall is expected to accumulate more than 2". We work hard to keep the township streets clear in the winter, and this will allow us to plow more safely and efficiently.
- Please do not shovel or blow into the streets, as this creates a hazard for drivers. Ice tends to develop under the weight of large piles of snow, creating slippery spots on the road that take a long time to disappear.
- A helpful tip: When shoveling, place your snow pile to the left side of your driveway (looking at your house from the street). This way, the plow will push any excess snow into your yard – not into the middle of your freshly cleaned driveway.



FIRE and RESCUE NEWS



Candle Safety

Candles may lift our spirits, but they can easily result in disaster.

All too often, fatal fires caused by candles make headlines. Recently in Massachusetts, two children died after a candle ignited a plastic bathtub. During Hurricane Floyd, two Maryland boys died when a child dropped a lit candle on his bed. In Pennsylvania, unlawful tenants using a candle started a fire that killed four people.

According to the most recent National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) data, home candle fires killed 190 people and caused more than a quarter million dollars in property damage in 2001. Candles started more home fires that year than at any point since 1980, the first year that data on this subject was made available. Why are we seeing so many candle fires? The biggest reason is that the popularity of candles is soaring. Americans are spending \$2 billion on candles every year, and you can now find candles in 7 out of 10 homes across the country. To meet consumer demands, a typical candle manufacturer produces 1,000 – 2,000 specific varieties of candles!

The loss of life and property from candle fires is staggering, but there is much you can do to protect yourself and your loved ones. Used safely, candles can fill our homes with fragrance and create a calming and welcoming atmosphere. They add a glow to the holidays and are often an important part of religious observances. When using candles in your home, please follow this safety advice:

- Never leave a burning candle unattended
- Place candles on stable furniture and in sturdy holders that will catch dripping wax
- If the power goes out, use flashlights for illumination instead of candles. (Keep fresh batteries on hand for such emergencies.)
- Keep candles away from anything that can catch fire
- Never place lit candles in windows, where they could easily ignite blinds or curtains
- Place candles where they won't be knocked over by children or pets
- Don't allow children or teens to have candles in their bedrooms
- Ask questions about the candles and candle holders you buy. There are new standards that major suppliers follow to make sure that these items will not break, tip over or otherwise malfunction during use.
- Extinguish candles carefully, using a long-handled candle snuffer or a soft, directed breath. Be careful not to splatter wax when extinguishing.

This year, our department is joining forces with the NFPA during Fire Prevention Week ("Use Candles with Care – When You Go Out, Blow Out!" – October 9-15, 2005) to raise awareness of the causes of home fires and the steps people can take to avoid them. As an added bonus, our Fire Prevention Officer will be providing a special Home Fire Safety Program for all children at Shoreland School. Be sure to ask your children what they have learned, and get them involved in your family's fire safety planning.

Candle safety is one of our top priorities here in Washington Township, during Fire Prevention Week and all year long. Please remember that if you use candles in your home, "candle with care."

Yours in Fire Safety,
Chief Matthew J. Hart
Washington Township Fire Department



POLICE DEPARTMENT



Theft from Automobiles

On Wednesday, September 14th, the Police Department investigated over 25 reports of theft from parked vehicles. These incidents occurred in the Andover, Gibson, Strotz, David, Susan Lane and Lemon Creek area. The rash continued the following weekend with more vehicles broken into on Shoreland, Randon and Capri, as well as Pine Ridge and Cypress Lane. In most cases, CD's, CD players and loose change were taken. Several vehicles were damaged by having their windows smashed or pried open.

WE ARE ASKING ANYONE WITH INFORMATION REGARDING THESE THEFTS TO CONTACT THE WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT. YOU MAY REMAIN ANONYMOUS, AND MAY QUALIFY FOR A CASH REWARD.

Tips for Protecting Your Vehicle

While no plan is 100% foolproof, there are steps you can take to protect yourself and your valuables.

- Park in a well-lit location. Consider installing lights with motion-detectors to illuminate your driveway at night.
- Don't leave valuables in your car – things like CD's, laptop computers and loose change left in plain sight are like an open invitation to would-be thieves.
- When you go shopping, we recommend that you wait to place your packages in your vehicle until you are ready to leave the shopping center. Try to avoid making multiple trips to your vehicle.

AGAIN, IF YOU SEE SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY, CALL 9-1-1 IMMEDIATELY!

Curfews and Kids

While the Township does not have a curfew like the City of Toledo does, the Ohio Revised Code provides time limits as to what is defined as "reasonable" when it comes to minors being out late at night. Because of this, the Township mirrors the City of Toledo's curfew guidelines. If you see kids in the streets late at night, we encourage you to call 911 and let us know. We will determine whether or not they need to be taken home, and provide them with transportation if necessary.

Halloween Time

As of this printing, Halloween Trick-or-Treat will take place in Washington Township on Monday, October 31st from 6:00PM to 8:00PM. Free candy inspections will be available at the Washington Township Fire Station (2469 Shoreland Avenue) from 6:00PM until approximately 8:30PM. The Police Department will be out in force on bicycles and in marked cars during the "witching hours." Please be EXTRA careful while driving in and around the neighborhoods during this time. We strongly urge parents to review safety guidelines and "stranger danger" points with their children before trick-or-treating.

ZONING

Reminder to Residents

Reprinted from the Washington Township Zoning Resolution, Section 1320:

PARKING AND STORING OF BOATS, RECREATIONAL VEHICLES, UTILITY EQUIPMENT AND MOBILE HOMES

Parking or Storing of boats, Recreational vehicles and Utility Equipment: Any owner of boats, recreational vehicles and utility equipment may park or store such equipment in an “R” Residential District subject to the following conditions:

- a) Boats, recreational vehicles and utility equipment, shall not have fixed connections to electricity, water, gas or sanitary sewer facilities, and at no time shall this equipment be used for living or housekeeping purposes or any business conducted in connection therewith while such equipment is stored or parked.
- b) No boats, recreational vehicles or utility equipment shall be parked or stored in a front yard
- c) Boats, recreational vehicles and utility equipment may be parked or stored in a side yard or rear yard but shall not be located nearer than three (3') feet from the front line of the main building, a minimum of three (3') feet from any side lot line and a minimum of six (6') feet from a rear lot line. This requirement shall apply to both frontages on a corner lot.
- d) A total of two (2) boats, recreational vehicles or utility equipment, single or in combination, per dwelling shall be parked or stored on a lot.
- e) All boats, recreational vehicles and utility equipment shall be kept in good repair and operating order and have a current state license and registration, in the name of the resident of the lot on which the recreational equipment is located.
- f) Boats, recreational vehicles and utility equipment may be parked anywhere on the premises for loading and unloading purposes for a period of not more than 72 hours. The Zoning Inspector may grant an extension of time.

Parking of Storing of Mobile Homes, Manufactured Homes (Not Permanently Sited), or House

Trailers: Parking of a mobile home, manufactured home (Not permanently sited), or house trailer outside a Manufactured Home Park on any residential district for 72 hours or a longer period of time shall be prohibited. Such vehicles may be stored in an enclosed garage or other accessory building, provided that in all cases no living quarters shall be maintained or any business conducted in connection therewith while such vehicle is stored or parked. The parking of the aforementioned vehicles for less than 72 hours outside of an enclosed garage or other accessory building shall be permissible only after the Zoning Inspector has been notified of such intention.

AUCTION! AUCTION! AUCTION!

**TOWNSHIP HALL
5714 BLESSING DRIVE**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2005

**8:00 A.M. DOORS OPEN
10:00 A.M AUCTION TIME**

ART SCHROEDER, AUCTIONEER

This will be our third Township auction since I became Clerk in 1988, so we have accumulated a wide variety of items from all the departments. Visit our website at www.washington-twp.com for more information.

If anyone has historical documents on our Township, we would like to make copies for our files.