

TRUSTEE NEWS

TRUSTEES

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The Board of Trustees passed a Resolution to renew the Park and Road Levy this November. This is a renewal, which means there is NO INCREASE on your real estate taxes. With your support the Township Parks and Road Department can continue to operate and provide the exceptional services that our residents deserve.

NEW MAPS

FEMA'S NEW FLOODPLAIN MAPS ARE AVAILABLE The Lucas County Engineer has released FEMA's Preliminary Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM). This map will show the flood hazard area displayed over the aerial photo, allowing for ease in determining if your home is in or out of the floodplain. This is a preliminary map and can not be used for enforcement, regulation or insurance rating purposes. This map only displays the preliminary map, if you want to see the current map contact your communities' Floodplain Administrator. FEMA will hold a public hearing to hear comments about the preliminary map soon. This meeting has not been scheduled yet. The hearing will be advertised in the **Toledo Blade** and local TV stations; we will also post a notice on this website.

www.co.lucas.oh.us/Engineer/FloodNews.asp

Once FEMA has released their date for the public informational meeting for the county, we will schedule a separate informational meeting for township residents with the Lucas County Engineers. We will advertise the meeting announcement in the **SHORELAND JOURNAL**, **THE TOLEDO BLADE** and post a notice at Township Hall.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE CHANGE

Diana McIntosh and Darlene Thoman have retired due to scheduling conflicts. We would like to thank Diana and Darlene for their years of service and all they have done for the township. They will be greatly missed.

WELCOME

We would like to welcome Kelly Whitenburg and Dorine Lyczkowski. Kelly and Dorine have been hired to fill our backup positions for Elected Officials Assistant.

SPECIAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Board of Trustees may schedule Special Meetings to handle business that becomes necessary between the Regular Meeting dates. Decisions of the Board of Trustees must be made at a Public Special or Regular Meeting. Notice is given at least 24 hours in advance. We post the notice on the Township Hall door, fax it to **The Blade**, and if time allows put the notification in **The Shoreland Journal**. Any resident that would like to be notified by email, fax or telephone message of any Special Meetings scheduled please contact our office at 419.726.6621 and we will put you on the list.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

October 5th – 11th Fire Prevention Week

October 5th 8:00a.m. – 1:00p.m. @ Washington Township Fire Station – Pancake Breakfast

November 4th – Election Day

November 21st & 22nd Feather Party @ Washington Township Fire Station

December – Watch for Santa on the Polar Express

TREES PLEASE

The benefits of trees are truly amazing. The environmental services of street trees, landscape and park trees, and forests are well known. Trees can cool our homes in the summer, and give extra protection during the winter months. Their canopy can provide much needed shade on a hot summer day. They can produce food, and be a habitat for birds and other wildlife. Their flowers, fruits, bark, and fall color can aesthetically be very pleasing and be enjoyed by many. Their roots can assist with storm water run-off, or hold the soil in place, reducing soil erosion.

TRUSTEES cont.

If that wasn't enough, researchers are exploring the impact trees have in a walkable community with consequences for weight reduction and improved health of millions of urban dwellers. While trees are an investment, and can increase the value of your property, sometimes pest issues need to be addressed. If you own an ash tree, the pest you are dealing with is the emerald ash borer (EAB). This specific insect has the potential of killing all North American ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.). Residents should already be planning - determining the number of ash trees, having arborists give estimates for the cost of removal and/or treatment options, exploring the management options including harvesting or insecticides, and if they remove a tree, hopefully planning to put another tree(s) in its place. Questions on the EAB, replacement trees, or other horticultural topics can be answered by contacting the Ohio State University Extension's Horticulture Hotline. The hotline hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm, although messages can be left on voice mail 24 hours a day or email messages sent at anytime. Residents can also bring samples to the office for identification. You may also want to check out the OSU EAB website at <http://ashalert.osu.edu>. The following is contact information for the local Ohio State University Extension office in Lucas County at Toledo Botanical Garden - the mailing address, 5403 Elmer Drive, Toledo, Ohio 43615; and the physical address, 5526 West Bancroft, Toledo, Ohio 43615. The telephone number - 419.578.6783. The fax number - 419.578.5367. And the email address - mghotline@cfaes.osu.edu.

ROADS/PARKS

FALL LEAF COLLECTION

The Township's fall leaf collection provides residents with a convenient way to dispose of leaves. The long standing success of the leaf collection program can be credited to resident support and cooperation. The effectiveness of the program, with a few simple procedures, allows the service to continue.

- Rake your leaves 1-2 feet, from the curb line, (please not into the street).
- Keep all tree twigs, trimmings, logs, twine, rocks and stones out of the leaf pile.
- Don't park in front of the leaf pile.
- Rake leaves away from storm drains to prevent flooding.

It is preferable to have several low piles than a single high pile. Snow or rain can delay the leaf pick up program. Remember that the leaf collection program will leave some debris in the street. We will attempt to sweep the street when we are done in your area.

SALT AND SAFETY

Street safety is a primary concern for the Township during winter months. The Road Department provides snow removal and ice control for Township streets whenever weather conditions call for these services.

Last winter the salt supply was at an all-time low. This year we have contacted numerous salt suppliers. They informed us that they are not accepting any new contracts, however we have a good relationship with Lucas County and they will continue to help supply us with salt.

Our major roadways will be plowed and salted first and continually maintained. In order to conserve salt, we will plow and lightly salt the secondary streets. The cost of the salt last winter was approximately \$35.00 per ton. This year the cost of salt has gone up starting at \$65.00 per ton. It is predicted that by the end of the plowing season salt may rise in price to almost \$100.00 per ton.

SNOW REMOVAL TIPS

Place the snow to the right of your driveway; (with your back facing your house) If placed in this area, the amount of snow plowed back onto the driveway is less. Do not park on the street when the snow accumulates two inches or more. Parked cars make plowing difficult and sometimes impossible. Remove snow from around fire hydrants, this helps the fire department, if the need arises. Help prevent street flooding and icing by clearing snow from sewer openings.

Do not shovel or blow snow into the street. Again, this not only defeats the purpose of our snow plowing, but causes unsafe conditions for all drivers. Your Township Road Department has received noise complaints from residents regarding snow plow operations. Regrettably, there is no way to avoid this problem road clearing operations are undertaken day and night in order to provide a safe roadway for the motorists.

We know it is frustrating to shovel your driveway and then have the plow come by and push snow back into your driveway. Although we would like to minimize the problem, there is no way to plow your street so that your driveway remains completely "snow free".

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ZONING

To the residents that have cooperated and complied with zoning regulation requests THANK YOU.

November 2, 2008 is the sixty year anniversary of our Zoning Resolution. Zoning regulations are in place to; maintain our property values, protect our residents from disputes and promote public safety and welfare.

Clear visibility across road right-of-ways is very important. Pedestrians use the right-of-way, your neighbors need a clear view when they enter and exit their driveways, and the snow plows will be out soon, all reasons to clear your road right-of-way of everything.

SUBDIVISIONS ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAYS

FULLERS, RAINTREE, SHORELAND HEIGHTS – 60 FEET

FULLERS CUL-DE-SACS, ALEXIS PLACE AND SHORELAND PROPER – 50 FEET

MAJOR ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAYS

SHORELAND – 60 FEET (WITH EXCEPTIONS)

SUDER – 50 FEET (WITH EXCEPTIONS)

STICKNEY AND SUMMIT - AVAILABLE BY CALLING 419.392.5381

If your road right of way is 60 foot then you would measure 30 feet from the center of the road into your yard, that entire 30 feet is all road right-of-way and needs to be a clear zone.

Fences, plant material, earth mounds and similar screening devices between the principal building and a street, are permitted provided that the height of such device does not exceed forty-two (42") in height as measured at the adjacent road grade and provided the material is not located within the public right-of-way. Please keep your lot line plantings trimmed down to 42 inches high or less, and do not let them project into the road right of way or grow over your neighbor's property.

Address numbers need to be visible from the road.

Vacant properties are becoming a concern in the township. My first step is to take an inventory. Then I will search for a contact person for that vacant dwelling. This information will keep zoning, police and fire aware of areas that may require extra attention and a contact person in case there are any issues with the property. Please inform me of any vacant homes you are aware of.

Please feel free to call your zoning inspector with any questions or concerns at 419.392.5381.

Thank you for your time and consideration with our township zoning.





Washington Twp. FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Matthew Hart



24 hours/day – 7 days/week – 365 days/year

Our volunteers are always there when you need them most.

Whatever your emergency – we're only a phone call away, dial 911.

How many times have you left the house in the morning and wondered, "Did I turn off the stove?" With our busy lives, the safety of our homes and families are sometimes relegated to the back of our minds – an afterthought as we hop in the car to start the day.

As Chief of the Washington Twp. Fire Department, I want you to make sure that the stove burner is turned off, or the damaged electrical cord you've been meaning to fix is your top priority during Fire Prevention Week, October 5-11. The theme of this year's campaign, "Prevent Home Fires," focuses on preventing the leading causes of home fires – cooking, heating, electrical equipment, and smoking materials. Home fires cause 80% of civilian deaths and 76% of burn injuries. While the statistics are daunting, most home fires are easily preventable when we narrow our focus and take personal steps to increase our safety. One way to do this is by proactively combing through each room in your home to find signs of danger and fix them. All of us at the WTFD are encouraging our residents and their families to put their safety first by performing a home hazards inspection during Fire Prevention Week. You can pick up a checklist at the Fire Station or you can download one from www.firepreventionweek.org.

There are also a number of simple steps that you can put into action to keep your home safe from fire: **Cooking:** Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period time, turn off the stove. **Heating:** Keep all things that can burn, such as paper, bedding or furniture, at least 3 feet away from heating equipment. **Electrical:** Replace cracked and damaged electrical cords; use extension cords for temporary wiring only. Consider having additional circuits or receptacles added by a qualified electrician. **Smoking:** If you smoke, smoke outside; but wherever you smoke, use deep, sturdy ashtrays.

As firefighters and fire safety educators, fire prevention is always on our mind. We hope that you use the checklist and home fire prevention tips to put your safety first during Fire Prevention Week, and year-round.

In our last newsletter we mentioned that we were receiving an EMS response unit from Lucas County EMS that will be utilized as another Emergency Medical Squad to assist in the response of our EMS calls. Well, now I'm proud to announce that after many hours of work, this new unit is In Service. You may have seen it in your neighborhood on one of the many calls it has already responded to. But if you would like to see it up close, stop by and check it. In our last newsletter we mentioned that we were receiving an EMS response unit from Lucas County EMS that will be utilized as another Emergency Medical Squad to assist in the response of our EMS calls. Well, now I'm proud to announce that after many hours of work, this new unit is In Service. You may have seen it in your neighborhood on one of the many calls it has already responded to. But if you would like to see it up close, stop by and check it out.

And I also have some very good news! We have finally received a very large Federal Assistance To Firefighters Grant through the Department of Homeland Security. This grant will enable us to purchase all new self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA's). These SCBA's are worn by firefighters, which provide clean compressed air to protect our firefighters from toxic gases and smoke during fires and other incidents. The package includes 17 - 4500psi SCBA Packs, spare cylinders for each pack, facepieces with state of the art Heads Up Display, and special fit testing for each firefighter.

Help Wanted: *Washington Township Fire & Rescue is seeking dedicated men and women who are willing to serve their community as a Firefighter/EMT. No experience is necessary, we provide all training. Help us to Protect your dreams ... VOLUNTEER!*

You can learn more about your fire department by visiting our website, www.wtfd.net or by stopping by the station.



POLICE DEPARTMENT



SCHOOL'S OPEN - SLOW DOWN!

It's hard to believe but September means school, and school means that we need to be VERY aware of our surroundings. In the mornings as you gulp that last bit of coffee and grab your keys while running out the door and motor off to face the challenges of the day please take some extra time and look for the yellow school bus and the children that may be running in the area. As you approach school buildings please slow down and look for children crossing the street, REMEMBER the speed limits in and around school buildings during selected times is 20 mph! We have been very lucky in the past as most motorists are observant and slow down in and around the schools. We know this is repetitive, BUT we are committed to keeping our children, YOUR children SAFE!!!

25 ALIVE! KEEPS KIDS SAFE

As long as we are talking about keeping children safe, we would like to remind everyone that unless otherwise posted the speed limits in residential neighborhoods is 25 MPH. After a long exhausting day of the educational process children are not always going to be looking for you. As you motor down your street or any other side street always be aware of the children playing and expect the ball or the skate board or the bicycle to roll out in front you followed by an excited child. As a motor vehicle operator you must always expect the unexpected. The Washington Township Police department has purchased an automated speed detector; you may have seen the display. We will be setting this up in different parts of the Township throughout the year to remind motorists to slow down.

SUMMER AND THE POLICE

The Washington Township Police Department has been very busy over the summer. Theft has been a problem as have juveniles. Happily though, many of the theft cases have been cleared through cooperation of neighbors looking out for neighbors and extensive police work. Juveniles being out after hours and some related situations continue to be a problem. Parents or guardians can be charged criminally for failure to supervise or child endangerment if a juvenile has been involved in situations involving alcohol or other criminal activity repeatedly. The Ohio Revised Code states children who are wayward from home at an unreasonable hour can be charged with being an unruly child.

LITTLE FRIENDS FOR LITTLE FOLKS

The Washington Township Police Department has started a new program. Thanks to a generous donation of stuffed animals from the University of Michigan Campus Bus System, all Washington Township Police vehicles will have a compliment of these animals to give to small children; who have either witnessed a stressful situation or have become victims of a crime. We will of course continue to accept donations when ever these become available. To date we have given out approximately 10 Little Friends to Little Folks. A BIG thank you to the University of Michigan!!

HALLOWEEN HAUNTINGS

With Halloween just around the corner, please take some time to put a "Trick or Treat" plan in place with your youngsters. We are recommending that candy and other goodies not be eaten until a parent or other adult inspects what has been collected. Younger children should not be permitted to go out alone, and it is a good idea for children to be accompanied by responsible adults. Costumes should be bright and reflective, and masks should allow for good eye sight and be well ventilated. If make up or paints are used, be sure that it is intended for costume use. Finally; stress the importance of safety in the streets looking for traffic and being aware of surroundings. We have had no problems in the past, and we do not anticipate any this year, but we all need to maintain safety. As of this printing; we do not know if Trick or Treat will be on Friday October 31st or Saturday November 1st. We are also anticipating again working with the Fire department in having the candy inspection area. This service is open TO EVERYONE IN AND AROUND WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP.

IDENTITY THEFT

Identity theft occurs when someone uses your personal information like your name, social security number or credit card number without your permission to commit fraud, purchase merchandise and services and to open new accounts in your name. The federal trade commission estimates that as many as nine Million Americans have their identity stolen each year costing victims over nine billion dollars. Identity theft is the fastest growing crime in America; don't let yourself become a victim. Information is available from the Washington Township Police office on how to protect yourself against Identity theft and what to do if you become a victim. Police office hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dial 9-1-1 with any suspicious or criminal activity you observe. Please do not wait until the next day to report these things to the police. Remember to get a good description of subjects or vehicles you observe and report the last direction of flight to the operators.

ROADS/PARKS cont.

A special reminder for residents who live on Cul-de-sacs; these areas are particularly difficult to plow. Please park in your driveway. We place snow accumulation in the most feasible areas.

ALEXIS PLACE SEWER PROJECT

The sewer project is just about complete. All that is left to be done is to test the system and to re-pave the streets. At this time we wish to thank the residents of Alexis Place for all their understanding during this summer long project.

PARKS

So far we had three trees removed from the park that were infested with the ash borer insect. Four more trees will be removed soon.

The Shoreland Park summer program which ran Monday through Friday 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. was a huge success. The children had the opportunity to construct all kinds of items which they took home to play with. They played Bingo on Fridays for the chance to win a few prizes. Information on Park programs is available by contacting me at 419.726.6908 or E-Mail park@washington-twp.com.

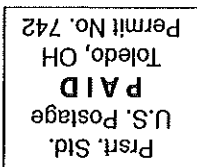
New additions at Shoreland Park this summer where a sand box, bike racks, and placing safe landing zone material under the jungle gym and swing sets.

Future projects at Shoreland Park include a walking path, planting trees, and improving the parking area.

Shoreland Park now has five security cameras. Cameras have insured public safety and helped the Washington Township Police Department solve thefts and vandalism that have occurred.

So far we have had 36 rentals of the shelter house this year. The Trilby Softball League used the ball diamonds during the summer months and currently the St. John the Baptist Track Team is using the area for their practice and training.

The Washington Township Park and Road Department would like to thank you for your continued support.



Washington Township News
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