

Washington T O W N S H I P

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Spring 2010
Issue Number 26

TRUSTEE NEWS

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP CHIEFS YEARS OF SERVICE

Congratulations to Police Chief Chris Kaiser for 25 years of service and Fire Chief Matt Hart for serving 30 years to our community. Thanks for all your dedication to the residents of Washington Township.



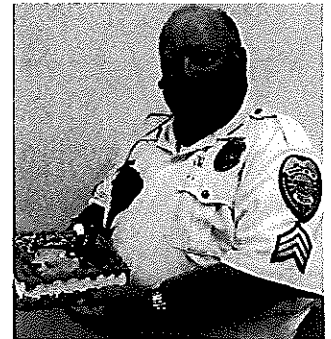
Congratulations!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Washington Township Trustee Karen Dutkiewicz has graduated from the Ohio Township Association Leadership Academy. The Ohio Township Association Leadership Academy is joint effort between the Ohio Township Association, the Center for Public Management and Regional Affairs (CPMRA) at Miami University and OSU Extension: Office of Community Development. It is designed for elected officials from township governments, professional administrative staff, and for appointed individuals who serve on township communities, commissions, board or task forces. The purpose of the Academy is to provide useful programs that will enhance the leadership and decision making skills of the township leadership team. Congratulations Karen!

RETIREMENT

Washington Township Police Sergeant William "Bill" Estok officially retired May 1, 2010 after serving with the police department for 25 years. Bill started his law enforcement career in 1976 joining the Lucas County Sheriff's Office serving 8 years. In 1984, Bill joined the township police force and was promoted to Sergeant in 1999. As a Sergeant, he was in charge of the police property room, handled all towed and junk vehicles, was the terminal agency coordinator (TAC) officer for the Law Enforcement Automated Data System (LEADS), the department's firearms weapons repair and inspector, was involved in many police projects and was a fine community resource/ public information officer. We wish Bill the best in his retirement and thank him for his service.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

LUCAS COUNTY RESIDENTIAL WATER AND SANITARY SEWER

CUSTOMERS DISCOUNT PROGRAM

The Board of Lucas County Commissioners is working with the Department of Public Utilities to re-program the billing software that would give Lucas County the ability to offer Water/Sanitary Sewer Discounts to senior citizens & totally and permanently disabled persons within the Lucas County service area who are enrolled in the Lucas County Homestead Exemption Program and meet Low-to-Moderate income limits as noted in Section 175.01 of the Ohio Revised Code. **The deadline for applying for the Homestead Exemption is June 7, 2010.** Residents are encouraged to apply for the Homestead Exemption even if you are not eligible to receive the County water and sewer discounts.

WATER DISTRIBUTION & SANITARY SEWER COLLECTION DISCOUNT

This discount provides a 25% reduction in the Lucas County water distribution & sanitary sewer collection rates for the first 2,000 cubic feet of consumption to homeowners who qualify for the Lucas County Homestead Exemption Program and meet state established Low-to-Moderate income limits. To be eligible: (1) the consumer must receive service from a single meter at a single housing unit used solely for residential purposes, (2) the consumer or spouse must be personally responsible for payment of the bill as the head of household, and (3) the consumer must be certified by the Lucas County Homestead Exemption Program as being 65 years of age or older or totally and permanently disabled at any age.

FISCAL OFFICER REPORT

2009 FUNDS	1/1/2009 BALANCE	2009 +	2009 -	12/31/2009 BALANCE
GENERAL	\$180,016.13	\$162,792.72	\$171,330.82	\$171,478.0
MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE TAX	\$1,966.89	\$3,759.99	\$421.16	\$5,305.7
GASOLINE TAX	\$102,310.04	\$91,943.31	\$89,440.67	\$104,812.6
ROAD AND BRIDGE	\$36,923.16	\$85,339.42	\$98,932.51	\$23,330.0
SPECIAL LEVY POLICE	\$18,413.30	\$519,378.96	\$504,621.49	\$33,170.7
SPECIAL LEVY FIRE	\$113,370.62	\$266,067.41	\$232,750.47	\$146,687.5
SPECIAL LEVY ROADS	\$14,851.67	\$59,207.48	\$16,668.49	\$57,390.6
SPECIAL LEVY PARK	\$32,037.53	\$67,835.17	\$36,289.56	\$63,583.1
PERMISSIVE MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE TAX	\$67,746.49	\$8,850.98	\$60,740.08	\$15,857.3
LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST	\$53,778.20	\$13,554.97	\$49,052.83	\$18,280.3
ENFORCEMENT AND EDUCATION	\$7,620.82	\$325.00	\$-	\$7,945.8
SPECIAL REVENUE LIGHTING	\$18,567.48	\$21,779.92	\$23,497.04	\$16,850.3
PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT	\$16,846.95	\$-	\$16,318.02	\$528.9
TOTAL	\$664,449.28	\$1,300,835.33	\$1,300,063.14	\$665,221.4

Some of you have inquired about street lights. The street lights in your neighborhood are there because residents in the past petitioned the board of trustees to have them installed. The board of trustees contracts with Toledo Edison for lighting and the Lucas County Auditor collects the funds from you at a rate determined by the board of trustees.

Our 2007 and 2008 audit was conducted by the auditor of state's office. There were no findings for recovery.

ZONING INSPECTOR

	2008	2009
HEARINGS	2	2
PERMITS	36	40
STOP WORK NOTICE	2	1
VIOLATIONS	100	118
WARNING LETTERS	112	28

TRUSTEE NEWS CONTINUE

CENSUS

In an effort to make sure that everyone in Ohio is counted, census enumerators will begin visiting households that did not return forms in the mail by May 1. During the visit, the census taker will help you complete the questionnaire by recording your answers on the census form. If you are not home when a census taker comes they will attempt to visit and reach you by phone up to three times. If a census taker comes to your door be sure to verify their identity. All census workers carry official government identification badges with their name. They may also be carrying a U.S. Census Bureau bag. If you are in doubt about their identity, call the Regional Census Center to confirm their employment at 313.396.5200.

Reprinted from the Ohio Treasurer of State Newsletter.



POLICE DEPARTMENT



SPRING IS HERE

The police department welcomes the warmer weather and with the warmer weather brings more children outdoors playing. We are asking motorists to be more alert while driving in residential neighborhoods. Motorists are asked to drive slower at the sight of children playing, people on bicycles, persons jogging, walking their dogs, or pushing baby strollers. Just a reminder to all that the speed limit on most residential streets is **25 mph**. The police department will be visible in the residential neighborhoods and proactive in issuing citations to motorists who operate their vehicles in a reckless manner. Lastly, we are asking residents to notify the police if they observe any vehicles operating in such manner. If at all possible report the vehicles license plate number, description of vehicle, and the last known direction to your **9-1-1**-call taker.

SPRING AND SUMMER BRINGS SCAMS

Each year police agencies respond to calls where people report that they have been scammed by some fast talking con artist who claims to be working in the neighborhood. These people will tell you that they are the "jack of all trades" He or she will say, "that you need a new roof, driveway sealed or will clean your gutters." The Washington Township Police Department advises any resident to have them checked out first. **DON'T HESITATE TO CALL** the police office at **419.726.0478** if you get the answering machine call **9-1-1**. Remember the old sayings "better safe, then sorry" and "When in doubt, don't!"

HOMEOWNERS BEWARE

During the warmer climate people are outside more often doing yard work and other chores around the home. Most people like to leave their front and back doors open to get fresh air. The police department advises that you lock any door that you cannot keep your eye on while you are outside doing your daily chores. There have been reports in Toledo of people leaving their front doors opened/unlocked while they are working in their back yards, only to have criminals enter the home through the front or garage and make off with property of the homeowner.

SEVERAL TIPS TO HELP SAFEGUARD YOU, YOUR HOME AND PROPERTY

- Remember to keep your garage door closed whenever possible and check it before you retire for the evening.
- Always notify the police department when going on vacation.
- Use motion or porch lights at night. A well lit home is unattractive to a criminal. Usually a thief will prefer darkness to avoid being detected.
- Place a piece of wood or pole in the track on sliding patio doors. These types of doors are notoriously easy to open even when locked.
- Ban together with your neighbors! We can use all the help we can get. If you watch your neighbor's house and he watches yours, it becomes contagious and soon you have your own neighborhood watch.
- Trim your landscaping below windows to avoid concealment areas.
- Make sure your address is visible from the street so emergency personnel can quickly respond with ease.
- Please ask your children not to leave their bicycles unlocked or unattended.
- Lock your car doors and don't leave any valuable property inside the car in plain view.
- Report any suspicious activity to police (9-1-1). Please don't be one of the persons that say, "Well I didn't want to bother the police" We encourage all calls. Call us and let us check it out. If you wish to remain anonymous, tell the 9-1-1-call taker.

VACATION / HOUSE CHECKS:

If residents are going on vacation, please feel free to contact the police office and let us know. We will conduct "house checks" while you are away. Also make sure you stop your mail and newspaper. Lastly we advise to find a trusting person who can be a key holder to your home in the event of an emergency.

DRUG OR CRIMINAL ACTIVITY:

If you suspect someone is using or selling drugs in your neighborhood or have information about any criminal activity (past or present) please feel free to contact our police office at any time. If you wish to remain anonymous, we will protect your identity and you may be eligible for a reward through the "crime stopper program"

STAY INSTANTLY INFORMED:

The Washington Township Police Department is launching a new Community Information Service designed to deliver important and timely information to residents in our area using the latest technology. This service created by Nixle LLC delivers trustworthy and important neighborhood-level public safety and community event notification by web, e-mail, and cell phones. Nixle is completely simple, trustworthy and available at no cost. Residents of Washington Township can now take advantage of Nixle. Sign up at www.nixle.com to register. Please call our police office if you have any questions regarding this free service.



From the desk of
CHIEF MATTHEW J. HART
Washington Township Fire Department

We have made it through another winter and spring is finally here. Along with that, comes warm weather activities like the delicious Bar-b-que meals. But before you fire up the BBQ for the first time, please be sure to properly inspect that all fittings are tight, and make sure that the gas orifices are clear.

Each spring I also like to address safe burning practices. I know you have heard it before, so this time I'll be brief, but please be sure to read, understand, and follow all of the open burning regulations. A copy can be obtained at the Fire Station, Township hall, or on our website at www.wtfd.net

Fire Department Receives Grant

Early last year we had applied for the Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant. The primary goal of the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) is to meet the firefighting and emergency response needs of fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical service organizations. Since 2001, AFG has helped firefighters and other first responders to obtain critically needed equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training, and other resources needed to protect the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards.

After waiting almost a year, We are proud to announce that we have been awarded this grant in the amount of \$76,160. This grant will be utilized to purchase protective firefighting gear for each firefighter. This will include new Fire Coats, Pants, Helmets, Boots, Gloves and Nomex hoods. We anticipate having all of this new equipment by late summer to early fall.

Summerfest 2010

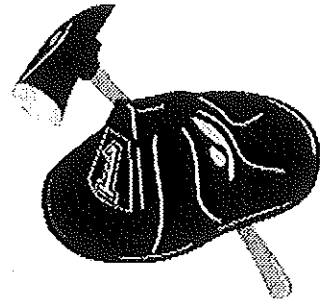
June 26th is the date that has been set aside for the Annual Washington Township Firefighters Summerfest Celebration. Watch for information updates in the Point & Shoreland Journal.



Help Wanted

What you do with your free time is obviously your choice. But what if you could truly make a difference? What if you could significantly affect the lives of others by learning skills that can help someone or keep them safe?

You have the chance! We need the help of men and women that are interested in the well being of our township. The training is intense, but the rewards are immeasurable. Stop in to meet our firefighters and ask how you can join.



New Digs

I'm sure by now you have noticed some changes at the fire station. As many of you are aware, we have owned the property on Shoreland Ave. between the fire station and the Chiropractor for about 5 years. We had purchased this property with the intent to renovate and update the facility for Fire Department use. With this plan in mind, we have been carefully controlling our budget so that we may be able to afford the project without any additional financial impact to our residents.

Well, thanks to very generous donations to the Firefighters Association, the firefighters are able to supplement the costs, and teamed together with the township's fire department, we are able to complete the construction all within budget.

So far you have noticed that the building has been demolished and the lot has been leveled. The next project which is already underway, will include the construction of a 42' x 60' building that will eventually house our Boat, both Hovercrafts, our Special Operations Emergency Response Trailer, and our Incident Command Vehicle. This change will allow our firefighters to operate in a much more efficient and safe work environment. We hope to have everything completed the end of summer.

Watch for an open house this fall during fire prevention week, to view the new facility, and to come and learn more about your fire department, and the 'Firefighting Family' of men and women that volunteer to put it all on the line... just for you.



ROAD DEPARTMENT



The annual crack sealing project will be starting soon. Sealing the cracks in the road helps extend the life of the roadway. That is one of the reasons that we don't have potholes in the township. Please don't drive on the hot tar, doing so will not only lift the material off the road but it can also be tracked onto your driveway leaving tar residue.

This year as time permits, we will try to sweep all streets every 3 to 4 weeks. We ask that when cutting grass don't allow the clippings to go into the street. This will plug up the sewers and cause flooding.

Shoreland Avenue from Summit to the state line is scheduled to be resurfaced this summer with assistance of Lucas County. They will also be upgrading the traffic signals to include pedestrian crosswalk indicators.

Due to the new sign regulations that are now in effect the 3 way stop sign at Torgler and President and Angel at Belpre will be removed. Stop signs will remain on Angel at Belpre and on Torgler at President.

The township and Lucas County will be replacing signs within the township that need to comply with new retro-reflectivity regulations set by the Ohio Department of Transportation. Washington Township will be the first township to have the new signs because they received an 80/20 grant.

We collected over 600 cubic yards of leaves last year during leaf pickup season. Thanks to our residents for keeping tree trimmings and sticks out of the leaf piles this went with no break downs.

During the past winter we used approximately 400 tons of road salt. We still have residents plowing or shoveling snow from driveways out to the streets. This causes road hazards as cars drive over these areas the snow packs down and ice forms. For safety issues we must again ask that snow not be put back into the streets.

Early this year a new Dodge 5500 small dump truck with snow plow was placed in service for the township. This truck features a certified clean idle technology which means it produces less exhaust particles. This size dump truck has proven to be more practical for township jobs and we are looking at means to replace our existing aging fleet of full size dump trucks.



PARK DEPARTMENT



SHORELAND PARK SUPERVISED ACTIVITIES TO BEGIN JUNE 7, 2010

Shoreland Park's Supervised Activities will begin on Monday, June 7th and run until Friday, July 30th. Supervised activities will include games, crafts, and bingo. Children must be 7 years old and be able to work on crafts independently or an adult must stay and help them. A permission slip is required and will be given to each child that attends. This summer's hours will be Monday thru Friday from 10:00a.m.-2:00p.m. There will be **NO** Supervised Activities June 24th and June 25th. We are looking forward to seeing all the children again this summer. The sand castle contest date will be announced at a later date, we will send a slip home with the children announcing when it's going to be held.

SHORELAND PARK

We have been working with the University of Michigan and Partners To Clean Your Streams to have a rain garden and walkway installed at Shoreland Park. The rain water is diverted into a cistern and then the water is used later for watering plants. New drainage systems are being installed for the Jungle Jim areas. These areas constantly flood after a heavy rain which prohibits the children from being able to play there. This drainage system may be connected to the rain garden system which we hope will eliminate the flooding issues.

CONFINING YOUR DOG

At all times dogs must be physically restrained by the owner, or keeper by a leash or tether. Where you ask, anywhere in the state of Ohio. This also means in Shoreland Park. You are liable for any damage your dog may do to property or people. The penalty for failure to properly confine your dog could be up to \$250.00 in fines or up to 30 days in jail so please keep your dogs on a leash and in control.

PARK SHELTER HOUSE

If anyone is having a Birthday Party, Graduation Party, Baby Shower or Family Reunion and would like to rent the hall please give me a call and I will go over all the details with you.

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