

Washington Township News

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726-0478

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726-6908

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Tony Cochenour
726-6621

A year in the life of a firefighter.....

The Washington Township Volunteer Fire Department completed the year 2000 with 298 calls for service, this was the department's second busiest year in its 63 years of service. 1998 was the busiest with 300 calls. According to Fire Chief George Green, Sr., the department has had an increase of about 15 calls per year over the last ten years. Listed below is a breakdown of the type of calls the fire department responded to for the year 2000:

Emergency Medical:	222
Non-structure Fires:	32
Mutual Aid Assists:	31
Structure Fires:	5
Alarm System Calls:	5
Weather Alerts:	3

The Fire Department is always seeking highly motivated men and women who would like to serve the community as volunteer firefighter/EMT's. If you feel you have what it takes to be a member of our team, please feel free to call or stop by the fire station on any Wednesday evening for more details.

If you would like to learn more about the Fire Department, please visit our web site at: www.fire-ems.net/firedept/view/Toledo2OH.



Washington Township

WTPD Police Department

The Washington Township Police Department has been involved in several drug busts over the past month. This activity netted nearly \$30,000 in confiscated money, and a large amount of crack cocaine. After all was divided, the Township's share of the money has been put into the 'drug fund'. This money may be used for further drug enforcement activities. Just a friendly reminder to drug dealers.... "We ARE watching you!"

Over the past several weeks, we have had the unhappy experience of confronting juveniles that have been "huffing" aerosol from pressurized spray cans (air freshener, redi-whip cans, etc.). This poses a potentially dangerous health hazard. This action affects the rhythm of the heart and in some cases can coat the lining of the lungs. This is also illegal! Please take a moment and talk to your children about this and the potential consequences. This activity has been taking place on the 'bunny trails', the wooded area off of Summit between Shoreland and Coveview. One of the signs that could indicate "huffing" is an overwhelming odor of the contents of the can (air freshener, whip cream, etc.).

Our winters are unpredictable, we are certainly experiencing this! When the weather turns bad, keep a safe distance from the vehicle ahead. If you are on the expressway, keep in mind that "black ice" can be anywhere, not just on bridges. When the snow falls and the roads turn slick, only travel if absolutely necessary. It is a good idea to keep a blanket, flashlight, and some light snacks in the car if you are going to travel.

If you need us, we are here 24 hours a day; 7 days a week... just dial 911! Do not call the police station, as you may get a recording and it may be several hours before we get back to you. Anytime you need a police response, dial 911. If you need information on a report or other non-emergency related information, then call the station and leave a message. Please do not think that you are bothering us by call 911. Even if it is only for a barking dog complaint, we can't help you if you don't call the right number.

In an emergency, time counts! If your address is not visible from the street, we may not be able to find your house number, and the outcome may not be pleasant. Please take a moment and ensure that your house or apartment numbers are visible from the street. This may also help one of your neighbors. With some responses, we need to park several houses away from the actual address.

The members of the Washington Township Police Department would like to thank the community for the festive decorations and lights that were displayed during the holidays. This was great to look at, especially for those of us that work the night and midnight shifts!! We all hope your holidays were healthy, happy, and safe!! Enjoy your NEW YEAR!

Z O N I N G

The new zoning book is in place and we have a new resolution on blight. So far there have been seven properties that were cleaned up due to this resolution. The new zoning text is now in effect and you can pick one up at the Township Hall for a cost of \$12.00 each.

There were 41 permits issued in 2000.

With winter being upon us now, you will want to keep landscaping timbers and rocks, etc. off of the road right of way due to the snowplows clearing the streets.

A reminder if you are storing boats, campers, etc., these need to be three feet behind the front of your house.

Winter Home Heating Advice

from: Washington Township Fire/Rescue

December, January, and February are the leading months for U.S. home fires and home fire deaths. On average, more than one-third of home fire deaths in the United States occur during the winter months.

Portable and space heaters can be either electric-powered or fueled by gas, liquid fuel (usually kerosene), or solid fuel (usually wood). All types must be kept at least 36" from anything that can burn, including furniture, bedding, clothing, pets, and people. Space heaters must not be left operating when you are not in the room or when you go to sleep. Children and pets should be supervised at all times. If you have an electric space heater, check each season for fraying or splitting wires or overheating. Have all problems repaired by a professional before operating the space heater. If you have a liquid-fueled space heater, use only the fuel recommended by the manufacturer. Never use gasoline or any other substitute fuel, because the wrong fuel could burn hotter than the equipment's design limits and cause a serious fire. When refueling, always turn off the heater and let it cool down completely before adding fuel. Wipe up any spills promptly. Store kerosene away from heat or open flame in a container approved by the local fire department.

Have your chimney inspected by a professional prior to the start of every heating season and cleaned if necessary. Creosote, a chemical substance that forms when wood burns, builds up in chimneys and can cause a chimney fire if not removed through cleaning. Always protect your home and your family by using a sturdy fireplace screen when burning fires. Remember to burn only wood – never paper or pine boughs, which can float out the chimney and ignite your roof or a neighboring home. Do not use flammable liquids in a fireplace.

Be sure your wood stove bears the mark of an independent testing laboratory and meets local fire codes. Chimney connections and chimney flues should be inspected at the beginning of each heating season and cleaned when necessary. Follow the same safety rules for wood stoves as you would for space heaters. Burn only wood, and be sure the wood stove is placed on an approved stove board to protect the floor from heat and hot coals. Portable LP Gas (propane) heaters with self-contained fuel supplies (cabinet heaters) are prohibited for home use by NFPA fire safety standards.

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In 2000, we completed some major projects: producing a Policies and Procedures Manual, the Leaf Pick-Up Program, and the publication of the Newsletter. In reviewing the Newsletter, we have decided to issue three Newsletters per year vs. four. This will prove more cost effective while still keeping you informed. The new Policy and Procedures Manual was somewhat time consuming as the Trustees met the second and fourth Mondays from January to June. We believe this to be the first time the Township has had one manual that covers every department. The Township manual and the new Police Dept. manual are being reviewed by the Lucas County Prosecutors' Office. When the review is complete, we will hold a special meeting to finalize the manuals. At this meeting, we will incorporate the Township's manual into each department's manual.

In 2001, we will be focusing on some major issues. We will be actively involved in the navigational dredging of the Ottawa River, with the help of Mr. Chuck Conners, resident and Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals. We will also be remodeling the exterior of Township Hall sometime in the spring. The building will receive a needed facelift to fit the residential area around it and to make it energy efficient. The five-year road plan will also be in review, as we are waiting news on funding.

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On November 27, 2000, a special meeting was held with Mr. Jeff Loshe, Lucas County Engineers Dept. to discuss our five-year road plan. The discussion also included funds that are available and history of grant applications. As a result of this meeting, the Township is now in the process of applying for a grant for extra funding. We are hoping to have a decision by sometime this spring.

Our 2001 road's project scheduled for Shoreland Heights (Holiday, Capri, and Jasik area) is in the works for this summer. We plan to install new curbs, sidewalks (to include disability accessible approaches), and new catch basin casting in driveways will also be replaced where needed. More to come in the spring.

Our first leaf pick-up program was completed successfully for the past year. We are pleased to tell you the Township purchased the leaf vac machine for \$3,500 and will be able to offer a leaf pick-up program each year. By this fall, we will have an improved schedule to you for your convenience.

The Road Department would like to ask the residents to help keep our streets safe during the winter season. Two ways to do this include keeping vehicles off the streets during snow removal, and also, by not shoveling or blowing snow back into the street. Your cooperation will help us keep our community a safe one.

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