



# Washington Township News

October 2004

Issue Number Fourteen

Editor: Debra Kolasinski

## 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

## Interim Fire Chief

Matt Hart  
726-2453

## Police Chief

Chris Kaiser  
726-0478

## Road Superintendent

Bryon McIntosh  
726-6908

## Zoning Inspector

Howard Rudes  
726-6621



## Trustee News



All of us at Washington Township are deeply saddened by the death of our Fire Chief, George Green, Sr. Chief Green was a true community leader and a wise, warm-hearted friend who served as an example to all of us. No one who knew him will ever forget him. May his love and compassion keep us brave in our sorrow, as he would have wanted. Mrs. Green, our thoughts are with you and we extend our deepest sympathy to you and your family.

The Trustees regretfully accepted Trustee Ken Kay's resignation in September. We wish you well in your retirement. No one can replace you, but we did find someone to carry on the work. We would like to extend a warm welcome to Mrs. Denise Rex, our newly appointed Trustee. Denise has been a resident of the Township for 15 years. She is employed as a Classified Sub for Washington Local Schools and as Office Manager for JGR Consulting, LLP. Good luck and best wishes to Ken and Denise.

A big sanitary sewer project is in the works for the Alexis Place Subdivision (off Stickney). The Lucas County Engineers and the Lucas County Sanitary Engineers have teamed up to help us get this project underway. We are filing a grant application with the Ohio Public Works Commission this October to help fund the majority of the expenses. What's really exciting is that this grant will also include the construction of a new bicycle lane on Suder, running from Vistamar to East Harbor. More to come in the next issue about the grant.....Let's keep our fingers crossed!!

The Township is looking for persons interested in serving as an alternate on our zoning boards. For further information, please call the Township office at 419-726-6621. Thank you!

## ZONING

This past summer, we have dealt with many questions and issues concerning construction and landscaping within the road right of way on our Township and county roads. Back in June of 2001 the Trustees passed a resolution approving guidelines for construction in our road right of ways as recommended by the Lucas County Engineer's office. With consent from the Lucas County Engineer's office, we would like to pass on to you an article regarding this concern from The Early Edition, a newsletter provided to us from the Engineer's office. (see page 3)



## POLICE DEPARTMENT



### Scooters, Mopeds, Mini-Motorcycles, Dirt Bikes, ATV's, Go-Carts and the like...

Motor scooters and mini-motorcycles have become a "hot" item for just about everyone. Parents, grandparents, and other family members are spending hard earned money on these vehicles. The problem is THEY ARE ILLEGAL TO RIDE ON THE STREETS, SIDEWALKS, AND PARKS! In Ohio, these vehicles cannot be legally operated on roadways unless they have been titled, registered, and covered by the proper insurance. Just as important is the age of the rider, 16 years of age is the minimum age to operate any of these vehicles, additionally the rider, regardless of age, MUST HAVE A MOTORCYCLE LICENSE OR A MOTORCYCLE ENDORSEMENT ON THE DRIVER'S LICENSE. The small electric and gas powered motor scooters, which are sold in sporting good stores, department stores and just about every street corner, are not road worthy, and therefore cannot be ridden on the streets or even titled and licensed.

What constitutes which of these items can be titled and licensed? First the scooter or mini-motorcycle must contain a seat, not more than three wheels in contact with the ground, contain proper brake lights, turn signals, horn, rearview mirrors, and headlights. A good rule of thumb for this is, if the vehicle in question is not equipped by the factory with the above items, then it is not considered road worthy and will not be allowed to operate on Ohio's roadways and streets. This also includes parks and other public areas. These vehicles can be legally operated on PRIVATE PROPERTY with the land owner's consent.

Washington Township Officers have reported a large volume of these types of vehicles being operated throughout the Township, including ATV's and go-carts. These vehicles are not permitted on any street or park and can only be operated on private property or a designated area. We do not want to spoil anyone's fun, but for safety reasons as well as an increased volume of citizen complaints, we have no choice but to start enforcing this law. Enforcement includes a warning, up to and including impoundment of the vehicle, and being cited into court. Please check out the vehicle prior to purchasing as to the legal status for being licensed, and operated. This means checking with the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles at (614) 752-7800 or by clicking on [www.bmv.ohio.gov](http://www.bmv.ohio.gov) and click on "motor scooters". You may also call us at the Police Station at (419) 726-0478. Do not rely on your sales person to convey the proper

information on the legalities involving legal operation of these vehicles.

### Bicycle Helmets available

The Police Department has a limited number of bicycle helmets available for Township residents at the Police Station. These helmets are for children up to eight years of age. These helmets are free for Township residents and were obtained through a grant from the Ohio Department of Public Safety. If interested, please contact Chief Kaiser or Sgt. Bowman at the Police Station (419) 726-0478.

### Dial 9-1-1

When you need a Police Officer, for whatever reason, dial 9-1-1, not the Police Station. 9-1-1 will categorize the level of emergency that the call pertains to or will redirect the call. The number at the Police Station is unmanned after 4pm on weekdays and not at all on the weekends. During the past several months, Officers checking the answering machine at the Police Station found several messages that pertained to criminal activity and were several hours old. Had 9-1-1 been contacted we could have had immediate police intervention. You should only call the Police Station for information, or to leave a message for an Officer to return your call at a later time, or something that does not require immediate police attention. When in doubt..... dial 9-1-1!

### A Sad Note

The Washington Township Police Department sadly recognizes the loss of Fire Chief George Green, Sr. who passed away on Wednesday, September 15, 2004. George had been a member of the Police Department for the past 55 years. George served as the Department's Arson Investigator. Our prayers are with Joan and her family during this time of great loss.

### Police Department to purchase additional Tasers

The Police Department has ordered two additional Tasers from Vance's Shooter Supply, Columbus, Ohio at a cost of \$800 per Taser. The Tasers are being paid for out of the Drug Forfeiture fund and will cost the residents of Washington Township absolutely nothing!! The drug fund is specifically set up to fund equipment purchases that can be used with drug enforcement and is completely funded by drug related arrests and forfeitures from drug related arrests!



## FIRE and RESCUE NEWS



In memory of Chief George W. Green, Sr. (09-11-21 to 09-15-04)

The name George Green, Sr. and the Washington Township Fire Department were almost synonymous. Rarely was one spoken without the other, and that is as it should be. He was an amazing man who dedicated most of his life not only to serving as a member of the fire station, but by leading the members of the fire station in positive practices and proactive teaching. The memory of Chief Green is felt in every wall, from every piece of equipment to every member of the fire department. His knowledge, guidance, and sense of duty are passed on to many and his life will be missed by all. We the members of the Washington Township Fire Department pay tribute to an amazing man and hero.

General Election on November 2, 2004

While most Americans will be coming out to vote for President on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, there is another important issue on the ballot - a replacement levy for the purpose of fire department expenses. The levy is a replacement of a tax of 1.5 mills and a tax of 1 mill. This levy will amount to \$.25 for each one hundred dollars of tax valuation for a continuing period of time, beginning in 2004, first due in calendar year of 2005. Everyone is urged to come out and vote on November 2<sup>nd</sup>!

Fall is here and Halloween is quickly approaching. Fall is a season for many potential fire issues. Burning leaves is not only an illegal practice in the Township, leaf burning is also a dangerous one. There have been many incidences where burning leaf piles have gotten out of control or the embers from the pile have caught adjacent property on fire causing extreme damage. Please take the law seriously, DO NOT burn leaf piles. Be patient and wait for leaf pick-up. While leaf burning is illegal using your indoor fireplace is not. However, chimney fires are also a common cause of fire damage in the fall and winter season. Before you start that first fire in your fireplace this fall, we encourage you to have your chimney cleaned. The leftover soot and ash that is stuck in your chimney can easily ignite causing sever damage to your home.

The annual Halloween Candy Check will continue this year during the designated trick or treating time and will continue for an hour after. We encourage you to bring your child's candy to the fire station where it can be inspected with a metal detector.

The Washington Township Fire Department is a volunteer department made up of men and women of the Point Place area who like to help and serve their community. If you live in the community and are interested in learning about becoming a volunteer at the fire station you are encouraged to stop in on Wednesday evenings between 6:45 pm and 9:00 pm to speak with the Officers or visit our website [www.wtfd.net](http://www.wtfd.net) for more information.

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Zoning continued...

The Lucas County Engineer's Obstruction Program was developed in 1999 after a roadway inspection found many impediments within the right of way. These impediments or obstructions included special interest signs and advertisements. However the main concern was the improper placement of landscape rocks and non-standard mailboxes. In an effort to provide the safest possible highway system for the traveling public of Lucas County, the Obstruction Program was launched with Monclova Road as the pilot roadway.

The focus of the program was not only to remove dangerous obstacles within the clear zone, but also to inform property owners of the rules and regulations that govern roadside mailboxes. Many people may be unaware that mailboxes must be constructed entirely of plastic or lightweight galvanized steel attached to a support unit which would not separate upon impact. The support unit must be a wooden post no longer than a 4x4 or a metal post no greater than two inches in diameter, and the mailbox support cannot be set in concrete.

This year all County roads in Jerusalem Township and all County roads south of Airport Highway (SR 2) have been surveyed for roadway obstructions. To date, 208 letters detailing removal of unauthorized items in the right of way have been sent out, along with a pamphlet outlining the regulations for mailbox construction and installation. Once the Obstruction Program is complete, homeowners will be responsible for correction or elimination of obstructions they have created. Road Maintenance crews will have the ongoing task of identifying obstructions, the elimination of which will make the roads much safer.



**ROAD  
DEPARTMENT**



The Road Department has had many inquiries as to what's up with the Summit Street bridge. Courtesy of the Lucas County Engineer's article for The Early Edition, we pass this information along to you:

Lucas County and the City of Toledo entered into a Joint Cooperation Agreement to improve the Summit Street Bridge over the Ottawa River. Funding for this project will come from the Federal Highway Administration, the Ohio Public Works Commission, the City of Toledo, and the Lucas County Road and Bridge Fund. The low bid was \$3,031,234.47 by Miller Brothers Construction of Archbold, Ohio. The project involves the removal of the existing superstructure and abutments, modification of the existing piers, and significant roadway improvements. Upon completion, the bridge will accommodate future estimated vehicular traffic of 17,200 vehicles per day, space for bicyclists, sidewalks, additional vertical clearance, and will include navigational lighting for boaters, decorative highway lighting, and an improved roadway approach. Decorative pedestrian railing and lighting, which have a nautical motif, has been selected to enhance the appearance of the bridge.

The rehabilitated Summit Street Bridge will have a length of 418 feet. The new high performance concrete deck will be on steel beams made from weathering steel which will have a rustic appearance after a few years. The decorative pedestrian rails, abutments, piers, and deck fascia will be painted to match the rustic appearance of the steel beams. The Contractor began construction on June 14, 2004 and completion is scheduled for the late fall of 2005. The long construction schedule is due to poor soil conditions and the desire to maintain traffic on the bridge.

The project will utilize part width construction and one lane of traffic will be maintained in each direction for the duration of the project. The completed bridge will have two lanes of traffic for each direction.

Our clean road program has kept us busy this past season. So far this year we have swept up over 17,000 pounds of debris from our streets and we are still sweeping. This fall, if you hear us outside.....take a look. We have a new street sweeper!! It is a Pelican, a BIG Pelican! She was donated to the Township by C & W Tank via Captain Jon Parker from our fire department. Thank you C&W Tank!! You too Jon!!!

Our leaf pick-up program will be resuming soon. Again, we need to ask you to please refrain from putting leaves in the streets. Not only can leaves clog our storm sewers, they can spark a serious fire from a car's hot exhaust. If you rake leaves to the curb, it is most convenient for us to pick up and safer for all of us.

During the summer, we had both dump trucks refurbished. The dump trucks were used when we purchased them some years ago so we keep them on a strict maintenance program. A new truck would cost the Township \$90,000 plus - money we do not want to spend. Snow will be upon us before we know it and we're ready. All equipment is up and running in good condition!!

Lastly, the Road Department has a levy on the ballot this November. This is NOT A NEW levy, it is a five year renewal for what we already have in place.

PRESORTED STANDARD  
US POSTAGE  
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(TOLEDO, OH)  
PERMIT #  
577

Washington Township News  
5714 Blessing  
Toledo, OH 43612