

TRUSTEES

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The Board of Trustees passed a Resolution for an additional tax for Police Expenses. You will have an opportunity to vote on this issue on November 3, 2009. With your support the Township Police Department can continue to operate and provide the exceptional services that our residents deserve.

DISPATCHING FEES

The County Commissioners and Sheriff's Department have announced starting January 2010 they will be charging dispatching fees to all townships which can go up to an expense of \$100,000.00. This is something we have never had to pay before and it is an unexpected expense in our budget for 2010. The trustees are in communication with the Sheriff's office and scheduling a meeting to get confirmation of the amount charged for dispatching. The trustees then will review all options and make the best decision for the township.

VOTING POLL LOCATIONS

Precinct Three no longer will be voting at Township Hall. The new location is Raintree Village Club House, 950 E Alexis Road. The back gate will be opened during voting hours for residents.

Precinct One, Two, and Four will continue voting at the Washington Township Fire Station located 2469 Shoreland Ave.

If you have any questions feel free to call township hall at 419.726.6621 or the Board of Elections.

CONITNUE EDUCATION

Trustees Denise Rex and Karen Dutkiewicz attended the Ohio Township Associations final Summer Conference located in Marietta, Ohio. Starting in 2010 for Summer Conference they will have four one day conferences that will be hosted around the state. This will help townships cut back travel and lodging expenses, and the classes will be tailored more to our region of the state.

ZONING COMMISSION AND APPEALS BOARD

Anyone interested in serving on the Zoning Board of Appeals, Zoning Commission or zoning alternate; please stop in the office at Township Hall and fill out an application. The alternate position is a one year term, whereas the Zoning Board of Appeals and Zoning Commission is a four year term. Application deadline is December 1, 2009.

THANK YOU FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

We would like to thank Fire Chief Matt Hart for his 30 years of dedicated service to our community. We appreciate all that you have done and look forward to your continued leadership and service.

OHIO TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIPS IN 2010 DATES TO REMEMBER

*September 1, 2009 Scholarship applications made available on the website www.ohiotownships.org

*January 29, 2010 scholarship deadline

*March 30, 2010 Scholarship finalists notified and asked to participate in interview.

*May 1, 2010 Scholarship winners announced. They are asked to speak at the annual winter conference and are published in the July/August issue of the magazine.



PARK/ROAD DEPARTMENT



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 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.
- Remember that the sewers are for rain water only; if you have a sewer in front of your house, you can adopt it and keep it clear of leaves, snow, or debris.

It is preferable to have several low piles than a single pile. Snow and 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.

The Road Department asked the county for assistance cleaning out the sewers on Shoreland Ave. We also hired Alternative Plumbing to clean out the sewers in Shoreland. Just some of the items that were recovered from the sewers are: car parts, car jacks, leaves, grass clippings, tree roots, cans, yard darts, beach balls, softballs, news papers, and a crock pot. All these items prevent the proper flow of water. During a normal rain the water passes around these items, but on a downpour it clogs up the system, which causes flooding and sewer backups. After discussing the flooding problem with the county, a higher volume and efficient pump will be installed at the Summit Street pump station. Also the storm sewer bulkhead at Shoreland and Summit will be replaced, and the one on Rounding River will be repaired.

We will continue to clean and maintain the storm sewers on a regular basis. We need your cooperation by not putting leaves, grass clippings, or other debris in the sewer system.

SALT AND SAFETY

Street safety is a primary concern for the Township during winter months. The Road Department provides snow removal and deicing of Township streets whenever road 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 supply us with salt as needed.

Our primary 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 \$85.00 per ton. This year the cost of salt has gone up starting at \$125.00 per ton. It is predicted that by the end of the plowing season salt may rise in price to almost \$170.00 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. Regretfully, 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'd like to minimize the problem, there is no way to plow your street so that your driveway remains completely "snow free"

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 practicable areas.

PARK

All the trees from the park that were infested with the ash borer insect have been removed.

The Summer Program was a huge success at the park; we would like to thank Debbie Ketcham and Laura Mayfield, the parents and children for their time and dedication with this program.

Quite a few residents asked us if the swings will be put up. The large swing set is back up with an improved landing zone of mulch.

The park now has five functional security cameras. The cameras have helped the Washington Township Police Department in solving thefts and vandalism that have occurred in the park.

We noticed that quite a few residents are using the dog poo stations. Thank you for using these stations. It helps keep the area more sanitary for everyone in the park.



POLICE DEPARTMENT



SCHOOL IS OPEN- PLEASE SLOW DOWN!

It is 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 buses and the kids that may be running in the area. As you approach school buildings please slow down and look for kids 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 redundant, BUT we are committed to keeping our children, YOUR children SAFE!!!

25 ALIVE! KEEPS KIDS SAFE

As long as we are talking about keeping kids 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 kids 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 kids 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.

IT'S WHAT WE DO

Ever wonder what goes on inside the Washington Township Police Department? Starting this month we will be posting in the **POINT AND SHORELAND JOURNAL** a "Daily Log" of the Washington Township Police Department. The "Daily Log" will list all of the Police calls that we respond to. We will however not include names or the exact address of the incident. We are also working on being able to place "Crime Alerts" on our web page to keep everyone informed regarding any type of serious crime trends that affect our Township.

HOUSE CHECKS

The police department provides "house checks" for those residents who call into the police station and let the police department know that they will be out of town for a few days or are on vacation. The police department will keep an eye on your home and contact a key holder or owner if something should go wrong while they are away. Officers will check the doors and windows and will investigate if there is a car in the driveway that does not belong. The basic information given to police by the resident is when they are leaving, when returning, a key holder if available, any visitors or pets in the home and if there will be leaving any vehicles in their driveway.

Please call 419.726.0478 if you would like to have the police watch your home while you are away.

OVER THE SUMMER

This summer has been especially busy for the Police Department, we have had several serious assault cases that have resulted in injury; some serious, and jail time for the perpetrators. The number of domestic violence calls have, unfortunately set an all time department record high in just one month. We have had an extraordinary number of thefts from vehicles and crimes involving juveniles. Our detective bureau has been able to resolve several crimes resulting in arrests convictions. As always we are dedicated to keeping Washington Township safe for everyone.

A FAMILY THAT CARES.....THANK YOU

With all the bad news that is reported everyday; it is refreshing to take a moment and just make mention about a family that cares about others. The Murphy family that resides on Belpre Drive made a generously huge donation of stuffed animals to the Police Department's "Little Friends for Little Folks" program. The "Little Friends" program was started last year and provides stuffed animals, for kids that have either witnessed a crime or have themselves been victimized. To date the department has given out approximately 50 "Little Friends" to "Little Folks". Again; a BIG "thank you" to the Murphy family for caring.

COSTS ARE RISING

With the cost of doing business on the rise, the police department has been experiencing rising costs as well, on everything from gasoline, maintaining a police fleet, training, and equipment. To make matters worse, The Lucas County Commissioners and Sheriff's Department recently announced that they would start charging any jurisdiction that use the Sheriff for police services; such as dispatching and road patrols. Washington Township was informed that it could be charged up to \$100,000 per year for their dispatch services. Both Washington Township Police and Fire services utilize the Sheriff's Department for dispatch services. Police Chief Kaiser, Fire Chief Hart, and the Township Trustees are monitoring this situation, and have begun talking to colleagues from other Townships in Lucas County for some type of resolution to this situation.

UPDATE ON FELONIOUS ASSAULT ON FORTUNE

On 5-31-2009 at 1:00am police and fire responded to a report of a man being beaten in the street by three male suspects. Quick responding officers were able to arrest 2 adult suspects at the scene and a 17 year old juvenile was arrested later. The victim was taken to the hospital for his injuries which included a broken nose, broken ribs and a head concussion. The felony assault case was turned over to Detective Van Hersett who put together a solid case against the three suspects, which subsequently led to court convictions and jail time for all three.

ZONING INFORMATION

VISIBILITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Lucas County and Washington Township regulations do not allow anything to be placed in the road right-of-way. Examples of such obstructions are as follows:

Address posts, rocks, wood, concrete/masonry blocks, spikes, bushes and plants.

Unauthorized obstructions (including sight distance obstructions) in the right-of-way will be removed by County or Township personnel.

Corner lots have a required triangle of visibility which extends 50' from the intersection of the right-of-way lines.

Please remove anything that is located in the right-of-way, and keep any vegetation trimmed back to insure a clear view of pedestrians and two, three and four wheeled traffic.

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, SUDER-50 FEET
SUDER 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.

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

Thank you to the residents that have cooperated and complied with zoning regulation requests.

Just a reminder building permits are required for: pools, fences, decks, sheds, room additions, etc. If in doubt call and see if you need a permit. It can save you problems later!

FISCAL OFFICER REPORT

All the departments at the Township have made budget cuts to survive this fiscally troubling time. Next year will be even worse for our General Fund.

Township Government is one of the most efficient forms of government because we have to live within our budget. No Funds can have negative figures.

Interest from our investment is at an all time low. Funding cuts are being implemented from every direction. Lucas County is initiating charging us for services we thought were their responsibility to provide.

Serving our citizens and providing essential services is our first priority.

The Ohio Commission on Local Government Reform and Collaboration will present their recommendations to the State of Ohio next year in July. Please visit their website and read some of the testimony presented to them.

Thank you for your continued concern and support in preserving our Township.

With each township newsletter I feel it is very important to review our Open Burning Fire Code. It is imperative that each resident knows, understands, and follows the rules set forth in this code. Our intent is to ensure the safety of our residents and to prevent any unfortunate instances that can occur from illegal burning. Many residents have noticed that while they were enjoying their evening recreational fire, a representative has visited them from the Fire Department. This is in an effort to verify that all residents are in compliance and are burning safely. Normally, if the fires we inspect are not compliant, the fire shall be extinguished. Further non-compliant issues shall result in citations.

Remember, it is important to check the fire code for what, where, and when you can burn. All Open Burning including barbecues and burning pits are governed by limitations set forth in the fire code. The full text of the fire code for open burning in Washington Township can be viewed at the Fire Department's website at www.wtfd.net. Some of the important points to remember are that fires can only be conducted in a commercially prepared burning device such as an outdoor fireplace, chimenea, barbecue grill, etc. OR – the fires may be in an open fire pit that is surrounded by a 12" non-combustible fire stop of stone, brick or block. Fires are to be placed a minimum of ten (10) feet from any structure or decking and a minimum of twenty-five (25) feet from any roadway. All fires shall be attended at all times during burning until completely extinguished. Adequate firefighting equipment shall be on-site for extinguishing purposes. If at any time a fire creates a threat to public health, a nuisance, or a fire hazard as determined by the Fire Department; the burning shall be extinguished. Remember - the burning of residential or agricultural waste is strictly prohibited.

Once again we will host our popular "Feather Party" fundraising event at the fire station. This year's event will be held on Friday and Saturday November 20th & 21st. There will be lots of fun, prizes, and a great time to be had by all. Don't forget to mark your calendar. Come on down and be tickled at the Washington Twp Firefighters Feather Party.

Also most of you have heard through the news media, there are issues with the Sheriff's road patrol units. But this is only the start. The Lucas County Sheriff will be invoicing for all services they provide that they are not required by law to provide. This for us at the Fire Department, because we are dispatched by the Sheriff's office, means that we will be forced to pay for the dispatching of our emergency response fire and rescue calls in 2010. However, as your Fire Chief, I have been aware of this for some time, and I want you to rest assured that we are on top of the situation. As one of the Lucas County Fire Chiefs, we have been pursuing the dispatching of our own calls. At this point it is still a work in progress, but I anticipate that this will be complete and in place by the end of this year. There will be no interruption in our services. For our residents, they should see no difference in our timely response. But internally, we will be more efficient in our radio transmissions and dispatch operations.

Everyone is concerned about budgets these days, and your Fire Department is as well. Many other jurisdictions have reported cuts in manpower and services just to operate within their budget. We are fortunate because at the WTFD we are constantly reviewing and revising our operations, which often results in improved services. While keeping a watchful eye on the numbers, there is always an effort to reduce costs without affecting our services. I believe that we have been doing a very good job and we will continue to provide the quick and efficient services to each of our residents – While operating within budget.

The WTFD is a 100% Volunteer department. Our authorized roster strength is 42 personnel. This includes the Fire Chief, 3 Assistant Chiefs, 6 Captains, 2 Dispatchers and 30 Firefighters. All Firefighters are trained to be an Ohio Firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician. Many members have extensive additional training and certifications in advanced firefighting, hazardous materials, rescue operations and EMS. Our Firefighter/ EMT's are required to attend weekly training sessions to keep skills and information up to date with the latest advances in firefighting tactics and EMS protocols. The WTFD prides itself on being a progressive department that also holds true to the greatest traditions of the fire service.



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 !

Remember 911 - It's not just the number to call for help - It's also a day for remembrance - Lest we not forget!

TRUSTEE NEWS cont.

CENSUS 2010

The census is a count of everyone residing in the United States: in all 50 states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa. The first census took place in 1790 to determine the number of seats each state would have in the U.S. House of Representatives. It was also created to gain a better understanding of where people lived and to establish patterns of settlement as the nation grew.

The Census Bureau was established in 1902. The U.S. Constitution requires a national census every 10 years. All U.S. residents must be counted – both citizens and non citizens. The census defines who we are as a nation. It affects political representation and directs the allocation of billions of dollars in government funding.

With only 10 questions, the 2010 Census questionnaire take approximately 10 minutes to complete. Households are asked to provide key demographic information, including: whether a housing unit is rented or owned; the address of the residence; and the names, genders, age and races of the others living in the household. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's response with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities. Households should complete and mail back their questionnaires upon receipt.

Census questionnaires will be mailed or delivered to households February – March 2010. In May, census takers will visit households that did not return a questionnaire by mail.

HALLOWEEN

The Board of Trustees have approved that trick or treating will be on October 31, 2009 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m