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TRUSTEE NEWS



Ohio Township Day

The following text is from a Proclamation issued by the Lucas County Commissioners at a recent Board of Commissioners meeting:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The Pilgrims brought the township form of government to America in 1620. This unit of local government eventually spread as far west as the Rocky Mountains. It is found today in twenty-two states; and

WHEREAS, In Ohio, the township predates our state government. As the Ohio Territory became populated, it was only natural that the surveyed townships should become the basic unit of local government; and

WHEREAS The Ohio Township Association, founded in 1928, is a statewide organization dedicated to promoting township government, helping township officials better understand their duties and responsibilities, and keeping the state and federal lawmakers aware of the needs of township government; and

WHEREAS, There are 1,308 townships in Ohio and 5,232 elected township officials. The Ohio Township Association has over 10,000 active and associate members statewide, including trustees, fiscal officers, township road superintendents, police/fire chiefs, administrators, other township staff, and county elected officials; and

WHEREAS, Today, township officials are providing an increasingly broad range of services in response to the needs of their local communities; **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

RESOLVED, That the Board of County Commissioners, Lucas County, Ohio does hereby declare **FEBRUARY 1, 2006 as TOWNSHIP DAY in Lucas County**. Since Townships are the form of government that is closest to its residents, we encourage residents to attend township meetings and get to know your township trustees.

Signed: Tina Skeldon-Wozniak, Maggie Thurber and Pete Gerkin

NEW LOGO

We are pleased to announce that the Township has adopted an official logo, designed by Fire Chief Matt Hart.

TRUSTEE NEWS, CONT'D

Help the Lucas County Board of Elections

Lucas County Board of Elections is looking for 245 qualified individuals to work as Trouble Shooters during the May 2, 2006 Partisan Primary Election. Workers will be assigned to a single polling location for the entire election, and will be responsible for assisting poll workers with setting up the voting machines and trouble shooting minor machine issues throughout Election Day.

Trouble Shooters must be registered voters in the State of Ohio, able to lift up to 50 pounds, and have their own cell phone, transportation and insurance.

The position pays \$7.00 per hour plus \$10.00 for each training session attended, as well as reimbursement for Election-related cell phone use and mileage.

Washington Township Partners in Regional Project

Article compliments of Cherie Blair

The importance of our waterways cannot be overstated. Healthy waterways are needed for economic growth, they provide us with recreational opportunities, supply us with drinking water, and enhance our overall quality of life. Throughout the region many communities, businesses, and individuals are making great strides toward cleaner streams, rivers and lakes.

Washington Township is helping to achieve this goal by participating in the *Give Water a Hand: You Can Make a Difference Campaign*. They partnered with 15 communities and 6 organizations to bring the educational *Give Water a Hand Residential Campaign* to its residents. This regional community education campaign was to educate residents of Northwest Ohio about storm water and other environmental issues, their impact on water quality, and how the average citizen can help make a difference.

From July 2003 through July 2005 project partners worked to development and implement this program. From January 2004 to April 2005 over 226,000 tip cards were mailed to residents throughout the 16 communities and another 18,000 were distributed at presentations and events. Additional promotions were also used to deliver these important messages with 29 print ads place in 5 newspapers, cinema ads on every showing of 18 screens for a total of 20 weeks, and 2100 paid 15 sec. television ads on CNN, Headline News, Weather Channel, Discovery Channel, Learning Channel, USA Network.

With the great success of the Residential Campaign, local communities have launched two new *Give Water a Hand* (GWAH) programs: 1) Business Campaign, and 2) Watershed Awareness Campaign. The GWAH Business Campaign is to inform local business owners, managers, and employees of the proper methods of storage, use, and disposal of a wide variety of materials. As proactive participants, business owners play a vitally important role in protecting our water supply and promoting economic growth in our region. Guidebooks are available from Washington Township for four business sectors including 1) Food Service, 2) Vehicle Service, 3) Home Repair & Maintenance, and 4) General Business. This campaign just began in January 2006 is the first water quality education program in our region to focus entirely on helping businesses save money, time and resources while protecting our area's rivers and streams.

The GWAH Watershed Awareness Campaign informs residents and visitors alike of what watershed they are in. Signs are being posted at bridge crossings and/or other locations where high public awareness and impact is needed, such as illegal dumping areas. Signs were posted last summer and more are expected this spring.

For more information about the *Give Water a Hand* program, please call 419-726-6621 or visit www.MaumeeRAP.org.

SHORELAND PARK NEWS



Summer Recreation Program

The Summer Recreation Program begins on June 19th and ends on August 11th. There will be no program June 22nd and 23rd due to Summerfest. Program hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

A special conservation educational program will be presented on July 14th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Parents are encouraged to attend. Also, the sand castle contest will be held on July 14th.



FIRE & RESCUE NEWS



"The Desire to Serve, The Courage to Act, The Ability to Perform"

WTFD 2005 Commitment to Service

The Washington Township Fire Department once again has continued our commitment to serve the residents of Washington Township and its surrounding area, meeting the needs of the community in fire prevention, fire suppression and emergency medical care. Last year we answered 265 calls for help, 54 of those for fires. Visit our website at www.wtfd.net for a full breakdown. Utilizing the dedication and skills of our members, our well-trained professionals provide this service at all times of the day and night, rain or shine, because we care. In 2005, our firefighters have generously contributed over 11,400 man hours.

WTFD Award Winners for 2005

At the Annual WTFD Christmas Party, several members were presented with awards by Chief Matt Hart. Ryan Alek, who recently finished his Probationary Period, received the Boot of the Year Award for his outstanding performance during his probation. Firefighter Bob Green received the Top Responder Award for the third straight year for attending the most calls and drills. The Firefighter of the Year Award was presented to Captain Howard Rudes. Howard dedicates many hours to the department not only with his administrative duties as an office, but as Chairman of the Maintenance Committee. Congratulations to all of the award winners for an outstanding year.

Moving Up In The Ranks

We would like to congratulate Moe Collins and Ryan Alek. Moe has been promoted to Captain. Moe has served over five years on the department and is an asset to the department with certification as a firefighter II and EMT-B. Ryan Alek has completed his necessary firefighting and EMS training and has been promoted to rank of firefighter.

Terrorism Response Training

After the events of September 11th, 2001, Terrorism Response training has become an increasingly important part of fire service across the country and Washington Township is no exception. Recently, the Lucas County Emergency Management Agency received funding to supply radiation detection equipment to all fire departments in Lucas County. Members of the Toledo Department of Fire & Rescue's Special Operations Bureau conducted a training class in Radiological Monitoring and incident response for members of WTFD. Our thanks to Lt. Victor Ellis, Lt. Greg Tillman and Capt. Tom Jaksetic for this informative training.

Putting Your Donations To Good Use

With the help of additional money raised at the January 8th pancake breakfast, we have been able to purchase some new and much needed equipment. The new equipment includes a K-12 saw, firefighter safety alarms, and a hovercraft radio communication system. A K-12 saw is a saw specifically designed for the fire service. The K-12 allows a firefighter to cut through metal, roofing, and other building materials with ease. Four new firefighter safety alarms will be placed on air packs that have been generously donated by St. Charles Hospital's fire brigade. An updated radio communication system was an essential equipment upgrade for the Washington Township hovercrafts. Our hovercrafts are used regionally for ice and water rescues and the new system will allow us to safely and accurately communicate between the hovercrafts and the command officers on shore. This radio communication system is similar to the communication systems that are used in NASCAR which deaden motor noise and are mounted inside of helmets.

Can you help with the Summerfest fireworks display? Yes you can. How? Drop off your aluminum cans behind the fire station. The cans are recycled and the money raised from the recycling is used for the fireworks display. If you would like to see a bigger and better show in 2006, bring your cans to us!

For more WTFD news, current events, and information on becoming a WTFD member, visit our website at www.wtfd.net or call (419) 726-2453.



ROADS NEWS



Thank you

The Roads Department would like to thank all the residents who helped us out this winter by moving their cars off the roads during our snow and ice removal operations. This allowed us to plow and salt the Township streets much more efficiently and safely, and we appreciate your cooperation. Now let's hope that spring is here and we won't need to worry about winter weather for many more months!

Keep our Township clean!

Let's talk about litter for a moment. In December and January, we engaged in a project to pick up trash from the roadsides. To our surprise and disappointment, we collected enough garbage fill our truck twice! Please do what you can to keep our community clean by disposing of your trash in a proper way. In addition to the fact that garbage-lined streets are an eyesore, they are a hazard to pedestrians and contribute to storm sewer back-ups that can result in basement flooding and other unpleasant consequences.

Stop signs

You may notice a new addition to the stop signs in your neighborhood. To increase the visibility of signs at our busiest intersections, we have installed high-intensity pole covers on all stop signs facing Shoreland, Stickney, Suder and Summit Streets. We hope that these will prevent accidents by making it easier for drivers to see that they are approaching a major road.

Fuller's Creek Update

We are currently working on improvements in the Fullers Creek area (Brendamar, Terramar, Villamar, Viramar and Vistamar Streets). Right now, we are investigating pricing options for applying slurry seal to the Fuller's Creek area. Slurry seal repairs existing wear-and-tear on the roads and protects them from future damage by re-bonding the aggregates in the road surface. It is an extremely effective form of preventative maintenance and we can expect an application to last 10 years or more with normal weather and traffic conditions.

Later in the season, we will be installing rubber base mats at public walkways in the neighborhood to keep the Township in compliance with the American Disability Act (ADA).

ZONING NEWS

The following individuals are the Zoning Boards' members for 2006.

ZONING COMMISSION

William Ducey – Chair
Raymond Barron – Vice Chair
Jim Binienda
Gary Miller
Robert Oswald

ZONING APPEALS

Matt Hart – Chair
Charles Conner, Jr. – Vice Chair
Shirley Gregory
Rick Stacy
Harry Thoman

ALTERNATES

Jerry Mayfield
Kathy Gorski



POLICE NEWS



NEW FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The police department would like to announce the arrival of new computer technology and tools provided by the Ohio Attorney Generals Office and the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police to help officers investigate and share data to prevent and solve crime. The first item is the Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway (OHLEG), a secure web-based platform that increases and strengthens law enforcement efforts by promoting open communication and cooperation among criminal justice agencies. Through a variety of electronic databases containing a vast array of information, OHLEG allows agencies around the State of Ohio to share their information.

The second item is the Ohio Law Enforcement Information Sharing Network (OLEISN), which will allow our police department to enter, manage and store all of our records through a records management system (RMS). This RMS is being provided free of charge through the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, along with a new computer containing all necessary hardware and software, as well as on-site training and support to our agency.

This new technology is essential for helping the Washington Township Police Department do its part for Homeland Security and keeping our residents safe.

SPRING IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER

The police department would like to remind all motorists that with the warmer weather approaching, people will be spending more time outdoors. This means children on bicycles, people jogging, or even parents pushing baby strollers. We ask you to please be more vigilant when you are driving in residential areas, and to watch for children playing and riding bikes. The police department advises that motorists slow down, obey all traffic signals and watch their speed. Just a reminder – the speed limit for all residential side streets is **25 MPH**. The police department will be proactive in its traffic enforcement efforts to ensure the safety of all.

DRUG ACTIVITY

If you suspect or have knowledge of illegal drug activity, we encourage you to call our office at 419.726.0478. If you wish, you may remain anonymous. If you do not feel comfortable speaking on the telephone, please mail your tips to the Washington Township Police Department at 5714 Blessing Dr. Toledo, Ohio 43612. Try to include as much information as possible (addresses; vehicle descriptions; license plate numbers; and if possible, names of individuals involved). All information will be forwarded to our drug investigation officer.

MOVE OVER AND SLOW DOWN

Just a reminder that state law requires motorists to move over or slow down when approaching emergency vehicles with their lights activated. There have been numerous occasions when vehicles have struck the rear of emergency vehicles causing excessive damage and in some cases even injuring or killing emergency personnel.

JUVENILES OUT LATE AT NIGHT

We encourage residents to call the police if they see juveniles roaming the streets late at night, or if they see large groups loitering around the neighborhood. Please call 9-1-1 and let an officer determine whether or not they are engaged in a legitimate activity. Warmer weather usually leads to an increase in theft and vandalism complaints, and we would like to be proactive in preventing such occurrences. Often, we are called to a home regarding a theft or criminal damage report in which juveniles were seen roaming the streets the night of the incident, but no one bothered to call the police. Please be advised that the Township does not have a formal curfew, but our policies mirror those of the City of Toledo. If we are aware of juveniles who are out past a reasonable hour, we will determine whether or not they need to be taken home and provide them with transportation if necessary.

POLICE NEWS, CONT'D

NEIGHBORS WATCHING OUT FOR NEIGHBORS

If you are planning a vacation, please let your neighbors know when you will be away and for how long. Also call our station and we will include you on our house check list.

If you're out doing yard work, keep your eyes open for anyone who does not appear to belong in the neighborhood. Many times, criminals will observe you in the front yard working and sneak into your back yard to enter the unlocked back door to your home.

BEWARE OF THE FIX-UP MAN

Usually in the spring while people are outside doing yard work, the so called "fix-up man" will approach and ask to fix their home, repair a roof leak, clean gutters, or even blacktop their driveway. The police department says, "BEWARE." While we know that there are legitimate contractors who go door-to-door looking for work, this is a favorite scam of con artists. We encourage residents to ask for identification and recommend that you do not let strangers into your home. Do not rush to get the work done or sign anything until the contractor has been checked out by the Better Business Bureau (BBB) or your police department – even if (especially if!) they say they are giving you a deal that won't be available tomorrow. If possible, get the license plate number of the vehicle that they were driving and again: **WHEN IN DOUBT, CALL 9-1-1.**

Another reminder to Washington Township residents: if anyone is going door-to-door trying to sell something, they must first stop at Township Hall to register and obtain a permit. If these contractors don't have a permit, call 9-1-1.