

Washington

T O W N S H I P

www.washington-twp.com

Fall 2014

Issue Number 34

TRUSTEE NEWS

By the time this issue of the semiannual newsletter is published, Spring will have sprung and none too soon. After a grueling winter of record low temperatures as well as a record breaking snowfall accumulation, we believe it would be safe to say a resounding "Let Spring begin."

It will be nice to see the mounds of snow disappear as temperatures rise and the crocus begin to push their way skyward. We always find the forsythias a refreshing first sign of Spring, their bright yellow blossoms a much needed visual cue of things to come in contrast to the long dreary days of an endless winter just past.

Just as sure as the first robins will appear on your lawn, so too will the understanding of just how much work needs to be done to clean up the mess left by the ravages of winter.

It's never too early to begin the process of keeping our neighborhood neat and tidy. We all have a part to play in this effort. As you begin to discard unneeded and unwanted yard waste, broken and unused toys, worn and tired lawn furniture, the light at the end of the "proverbial tunnel" will begin to emerge and once again our proud little community will begin to shine.

We have a lot to be proud of in Washington Township and it is our desire that you, as residents, will also take pride in our community by doing your part to keep out neighborhoods safe and clean.

We would also like to encourage each of you to attend our monthly Trustees meeting that is held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm. Please take the time to stop in, have a coffee and ask any questions you might have concerning zoning, police, roads, parks, or the fire department. The department heads are always present as are the trustees.

You have a right to know what is going on in your township and how decisions are made. So consider this your invitation to our next meeting. Enjoy the up and coming Spring and Summer months ahead and see you at our next Trustee Meeting.

Ken Kay, Denise Rex, and John Henry
Trustee's

FISCAL OFFICER NEWS

SECOND ANNUAL HELP FOR THE HOLIDAYS A SUCCESS

We were able to help five Washington Township families for the holidays thanks to generous donations from:

Dennis Huguelet, Safeguard Security Service, Meijer, Rudys, Elizabeth Swisher, Sandra and Gerald Beale, and Dorothy Grochowski.

Washington Township Officials and Employees; Bryon McIntosh, Sue Spino, Becky Bodette, Ken Kay, John Henry, Denise Rex, Jessica Smith, Matt Hart, Mike Bailey, Jim Binienda, Moe Collins, Doug Danyko, Brent Draeger, Jason Ford, Steve Franklin, George Green, Mark Huss, Bill Long, Josh Miranda, Rick Phillips, Jeff Snyder, Tom Yunker, Jacob Cook, Harry Thoman, John VanHersett, Terry Wozniak, and Bob Worth.

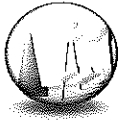
A special thank you to the Firefighters that delivered the Holiday Joy.

Farwell Winter

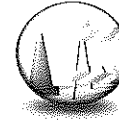
This winter was hard on everyone and everything. A special thank you to our Fire, Police and Road Departments that were out performing at their best for all our residents. Thank you to all our residents for helping their neighbors with the snow and transportation when needed. Bryon McIntosh was prepared and made sure we did not run out of salt.

Financial

Our Annual Financial Report is available at the Township Hall. Our revenue has drastically decreased due to residents abandoning their homes resulting in the value of our Township going down. This means we do not receive the real estate tax amount we did in the past. We are reviewing our Budget to see what steps will be necessary.



ROADS DEPARTMENT



FINALLY SPRING HAS ARRIVED!!!

Due to the harsh winter we will be removing some asphalt and replacing it with new.

The crack sealing will start soon. The reason that we do this is, sealing the cracks in the roadway helps extend the life of our roads and preventing pot holes. We will be concentrating in Shoreland Heights & Fullers this year, but in your travels if you see a pot hole or large crack in the road please report it to the road department. When you see us doing the crack sealing we ask you that you do not drive on the hot tar.

This year, as time permits, we will be out sweeping the streets, every 3 to 4 weeks. Another item that we have noticed a lot of is the blue advertising bags in the streets and driveways. These bags, when it is raining, float down to the sewers and plug them up. Some of the items that have been removed out of the storm sewers are: blue and yellow advertising bags, phone books, magazines, golf balls, tennis balls, miscellaneous car parts, and concrete also a lot of **grass clippings**. When cutting your grass please do not allow your grass clippings to go out into the street if so just blow the street off. Remember that the street sewers are for water only, they all flow into the local streams.

Last year during the annual leaf pickup we collected over 770 cubic yards. Thanks to all that kept the branches and tree twigs out of the piles. In doing this we had no breakdown of equipment.

This past winter we seen a lot of residents throwing their snow into the street, we ask you please stop doing this. When you do this you are creating a road hazard which could result in an accident. Also this causes us to use extra road salt and more man hours.

ZONING DEPARTMENT

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
HEARINGS	2	2	4	3		2
PERMITS	36	40	33	27	43	32
STOP WORK	2	1	0	1	0	0
VIOLATIONS & WARNINGS	212	146	134	135	126	149
TRUSTEES RESOLUTIONS TO REMOVE BLIGHT	32	30	15	38	82	80

APPLICATIONS		VIOLATIONS AND WARNINGS	
ADDITION	8	BLIGHT	93
BUILDING	4	NO PERMIT	16
DECK	1	PARKING	5
FENCE	6	POOL	2
GARAGE	4	SET BACK	2
PATIO		SIGN	1
POND		STORAGE	29
POOL	8	VISABILITY	1
RAMP	1		
SHED	8		
SIGN	1		

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WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Matthew J. Hart



Spring is here. - Finally!!!

Time to get ready for the warmer weather. I know that you always check your smoke detectors and replace the batteries when the time changes, but if you have not gotten around to it this spring, do it now before something happens. If you don't have current smoke detectors in your home, just stop in to our fire station on any Wednesday evening and we would be happy to provide them to you free of charge. Your safety is our number one concern.

Budget -

The past few years we have mentioned that each year we receive less and less, but are expected to provide the same services. This year we have been hit much harder with a lowered income from tax revenue. While we will be providing the same services you have become accustomed to, we will be focused on some planning and budget changes for next year. We'll need your support. There are many things our firefighters do behind the scenes to help with conserving resources in these tight budgets. But our level of service to you remains our number one priority.

Our organization is in place to provide our residents with excellent safety services. Some of those services include extinguishing fires, providing emergency medical first response, rescue services, educating the community on fire prevention and safety issues, disaster preparedness and hazard mitigation. In addition to the traditional service, our department believes the prevention of any emergency or loss is one of our responsibilities and strives for this through our community involvement, codes, and ordinances pertaining to safety. This has been evident by the last few years fire reports that have shown that everyone has been diligent in their fire safety throughout the Township. Please keep up the good work.

Our crews train hard to ensure that we will be able to perform to the best of our abilities. Because of the enthusiasm and integrity of my crew, we work well as a team to safely accomplish our tasks. The men and women of the Washington Township Fire Department are dedicated to keeping you and your family safe.

Congratulations on your Promotion !

Moe Collins - Promoted to Assistant Chief

Tom Yunker & Mike Bailey - Promoted to Captain

New Recruits -

Please join me in welcoming our latest class of new recruits. The following members of our community have stepped up to the task of becoming firefighters. They started on January 1st with lots of energy and are now showing some proficiency in what they have learned so far. Please join me in welcoming - JJ Hathaway, Anthony LaRocca, Andres Perez, and Andrew Sobota.

Fire Code -

This time of year most of you will be cleaning your yards as the weather breaks. I would like to remind you to take frequent breaks, and to not extend beyond your physical limitations. Your health and well being is our prime concern. Exercise is great but remember - moderation is key.

And just what do you do with the yard waste that has accumulated over the past winter? Proper disposal is the only option. The Washington Twp Fire Code prohibits the burning of yard wastes. Many times I have reminded you of our Fire Code. So once again - in an effort to ensure your safety - Please read, understand, and follow all of the Washington Township Open Burning Regulations. Copies are available at the fire station, our Township Office, or on our website at www.wtfd.net

Summerfest - June 21st - 4:00pm - 12:00 Midnight

The Washington Twp Firefighters Summerfest is just around the corner. This year the celebration will be held on Saturday June 21st from 4:00pm - 12midnight. Featuring live bands, beer, plenty of food, and lots of entertaining rides for the kids, and don't miss our fantastic fireworks display at 10pm. Sponsored and conducted by the Washington Twp. Firefighters at Shoreland Park, Summerfest is Family Friendly. The main focus of the Summerfest celebration is to facilitate an event that supports the Fire Department while providing a venue that brings the residents of our community together. This event is the largest fundraiser of the year for the firefighters. Please support us by coming to the park and participating in the fun. The funds we generate, will help our firefighters receive additional training and equipment that we utilize to defend and protect the residents of the township. We take pride in our department and our services, and your help is greatly appreciated. You are invited! Come on down to Shoreland Park and enjoy this festive event.

VOLUNTEER - We need your help.

We are currently taking applications for the next Fire Academy Class that will begin in June. Become a firefighter for one of the most Progressive departments in the Region. Join our family and make a difference for everyone. Applications are due by end of April.

**WE care about YOUR
safety!**





POLICE DEPARTMENT



SNOW EMERGENCY LEVEL 3

We are taking our hats off to you and sincerely thanking everyone for your cooperation during this past winter. We know that when Sheriff Tharp issues a Level 3 Snow Emergency this inconveniences everyone, but your continued cooperation by staying off the roads has really assisted us as a Police Department in several ways. Your cooperation has also assisted Road crews to more effectively clear snow off the streets and maintain the roadways. So again.....THANK YOU!!

FACEBOOK PAGE

You can now find us on Facebook. To find us look up **Washington Township Police Department Lucas County Ohio**.

The Door to Door Salesperson

The sound at the door may not be opportunity knocking! Township residents have been inundated by men and women offering everything from savings on utility bills to vacuum cleaners to yard cleanup. While we encourage entrepreneurship, we also advise everyone to be cautious as to whom you allow inside your homes. Door to door sales persons **MUST** register with the Township office prior to enticing you to stimulate the economy.

While we must stress that we have had no fraudulent activity to date with any sales people, we have received reports of what some may consider "high pressure sales" folks that do not want to take no for an answer. That in and of itself does not constitute a crime, we offer these tips in handling sales people; for starters, just don't answer the door; generally after 2 knocks and 30 seconds of being ignored they go away. If you get an aggressive sales person, tell them you are not interested and close the door. When the sales person has overstayed their welcome once inside your home, tell them to leave, or make up an excuse that you need to be some where within the next couple of minutes.

Be suspicious of giving out any type of information that you feel is personal in nature, or deals with your day to day activity. We would also encourage you to investigate any potential home improvement company, or utility savings company by contacting the Toledo Area Better Business Bureau via the internet or by telephone.

Finally, if you feel that a potential problem exists, or this person may be suspicious in nature, contact 9-1-1 and talk to an Officer.

Things That Go Bump in the Night & Day

Warmer weather brings out everybody; the fact that we are nearing the conclusion of another school year also brings out kids for longer periods of time. Unfortunately, this also provides opportunity for some unpleasant activity. Should you hear or see suspicious activity we need you to call 9-1-1 immediately. We can not stress this enough: **DO NOT APPROACH SUSPICIOUS PERSONS!!!**

DO NOT APPROACH SUSPICIOUS SITUATIONS!!! What we need from you as a citizen is a good physical description of the suspect(s) (Clothing, hair style, facial hair etc) if a vehicle is involved, color, style and make. Bonus points for a license plate number.

We must also stress the importance of calling 9-1-1 and **NOT THE POLICE STATION**. 9-1-1 Operators have direct and immediate communications with the crews, and getting this information quickly as possible is paramount to apprehension and damage control. Not sure if the information you have is considered an Emergency? Just call 9-1-1 anyway!!

C.C.W AND THE POLICE

C.C.W has been around for some time now; opinions are mixed about this Law. If you have a C.C.W permit, and you "carry" please be aware that any time you have contact with the Police **YOU MUST INFORM THE OFFICER THAT YOU HAVE A C.C.W PERMIT, AND THAT YOU HAVE YOUR WEAPON OR NOT ON YOUR PERSON**. We can not stress again the importance of safely securing your weapon at all times, especially with small children in the house.

As in the article above, we do not want you to place yourself in harms way by approaching any suspicious situations simply because you have the C.C.W permit; you are not the Police and you will not be of any assistance if you become a victim and the suspect obtains your weapon.

The Washington Township Police Department feels very strongly on this subject!

PARK CLOSED AT DARK

Shoreland Park is closed to the Public after dark unless you are participating in a sponsored activity. This includes shortcuts after dark and walking the dog. While this may appear restrictive this is a safety concern for the Parks Board, the Police Department, and the Fire Department. Persons found inside the Park after dark and before sunrise could face criminal charges of Trespass.

IF THE PHONE RINGS AND THE CALLER SAYS HE REPRESENTS THE IRS, BE SUSPICIOUS.

That's the warning from federal authorities, who on Thursday said a nationwide phone scam has stolen \$1 million from thousands of unsuspecting people. The impostor claims to be an Internal Revenue Service representative and tells "intended victims they owe taxes and must pay using a pre-paid debit card or wire transfer," an IRS inspector general office said. "The scammers threaten those who refuse to pay with arrest, deportation or loss of a business or driver's license." The IRS has received more than 20,000 reports about the scam. J. Russell George, the Treasury inspector general for tax administration, called it "the largest scam of its kind that we have ever seen." According to the inspector general, IRS officials typically first reach out by mail rather than phone, and don't demand immediate payment by debit card, credit card or wire transfer. The IRS said people who receive such calls or other suspicious requests should contact the IRS. Tax-related phone scams are among the "dirty dozen" fraud techniques the IRS warned about earlier this tax season. It also warned of phishing emails, preparer fraud and claims a preparer can offer "free money."

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PARK DEPARTMENT



SHORELAND PARK SUPERVISED ACTIVITIES TO BEGIN IN JUNE 9th 2014

Due to the bad winter which caused make up days the activities will start the same week school lets out for the summer break any questions call the Park and Road Dept.

Shoreland Park's Supervised Activities will begin in June and run through August. Supervised activities will include games, crafts, bingo and much more. 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 which is handed out at the beginning of the summer activities. This summer's hours will be Monday through Friday from 10:00a.m.-2:00p.m.

A special thank you to shron Cook for donating musical instruments and sports equipment for the summer activities.

POLICE DEPARTMENT continues...

LEASH LAW & DOGS

Man's best friend may not have the same affection for strangers or others that they encounter as you do. Ohio Revised code 955.221 requires all dogs to be on leashes and under the owner's control at all times. Dogs must by Law also be licensed and have the license on a collar at all times. 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, it may also lead to Civil Litigation should your dog bite, nip, or attack someone.

We have had a rash of reported dogs that are roaming around the neighborhoods, in some cases chasing people or displaying aggressive behavior. The leash law is also for the dog's safety as well, as not everyone may be familiar with your dog and his/her behavior and may end up taking a protective response against the dog.

We are also asking that for health and safety reasons that you "clean up" after your dog when exercising with them throughout the Neighborhoods and Parks. Contact the Lucas County Dog Warden at 419.213.2800 for additional information.

We also have (2) dog bags located at both ends of the park so if your dog does his or her business please pick it up this is becoming a real health issue. I have been getting many complaints of dogs not being on a leash or cleaned up after.

PLAY BALL!

Baseball season is nearly upon us and that means the ball diamonds at Shoreland Park will be crowded with young athletes. While we should not have to mention this, we are reminding everyone that alcoholic beverages are not allowed inside the Park area. Again, we ask that anyone attending the ball games to be respectful of the immediate neighborhood around the Park when parking your vehicle. We all know that parking is at a premium if not scarce in and around the Park. "No Parking" zones will be enforced, if necessary vehicles may be towed. While we do not want to interfere with anyone's family time by having the embarrassment of the Police ticketing or towing a vehicle, we must enforce the "No Parking Zones" due to Fire regulations and potential traffic hazards.

We would also ask that everyone gives a "friendly reminder" to those folks that may not be familiar with the parking situation around Shoreland Park.

PROMS AND GRADUATION PARTIES

We are fast approaching the end of the school year, and that means Proms and Graduation parties. Unfortunately, as Police Officers, we begin to become increasingly more concerned about underage alcohol possession and consumption. The Washington Township Police Department in cooperation with the Ohio State Highway Patrol, and other Law Enforcement Agencies will be "Pro Active" with alcohol enforcement during the Spring and Summer months. Those hosting parties that serve alcohol or allow consumption underage of alcohol are subject to arrest and Civil Liability should the unthinkable occur. We are asking those of you who will be hosting parties over the next several months to be vigilant in assisting us in keeping everyone safe, by monitoring who is in attendance and specifically who is of age to consume alcohol.

ZONING DEPARTMENT continues...

CONCERNS

Clear visibility at intersections and driveways. Please keep your vegetation trimmed down and back. Most setbacks are 25 to 30 feet from the center of the road. Lawns that are not mowed and trimmed. Grass height must not exceed five inches including fence lines.

Rubbish and refuse on property.

The accumulation of junk, trash, rubbish and refuse of any kind is prohibited in the township.

Domestic refuse shall be stored in cans with lids and shall not be placed or located in the front yard. If you have a corner lot you have two front yards.

Lets be discrete, no one wants refuse to be so visible from the street.

Feel free to call me with any questions or concerns and our Zoning Resolution is on line. Thanks to all the residents that have been so cooperative with zoning rules.

Washington Township

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TOWNSHIP HALL ADDRESS

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OFFICE HOURS - POLICE

Monday through Friday
8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

OFFICE HOURS - ELECTED OFFICIALS ASSISTANT

Monday through Friday
8:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon