



Washington Township News

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TRUSTEE UPDATE



Staffing Changes

Debra Kolasinski has resigned from her position as editor of our newsletter. Thank you, Debbie, for all your help over the years. We have entered into a contract with Holly Dombkowski to edit the newsletter, and also to manage and maintain our website.

Public Auction

Watch for our public auction to be held this year. Confiscated property such as bikes and radios will be available, as well as surplus items from the Police, Fire and Road departments. We are hoping to find an auctioneer willing to donate their services – please contact Township Hall at 419.726.6621 if you're interested.

Shoreland Park Update

The Board of Trustees recently researched the history of Shoreland Park and the Park Commission. Our inquiries revealed that the earliest designation of control of Shoreland Park was February 2, 1976 for a 10-year agreement. The next agreement located was dated 1987, and was also for 10 years. To the best of our knowledge, there has not been any binding agreement regarding the control of Shoreland Park since that agreement expired in April 1997. The Board of Trustees sought the guidance of Lucas County Prosecutor John Borell on how to properly resolve this issue, and was advised to legally resume responsibility for the Park in accordance with Ohio Revised Code. According to Jean Atkins, Administrator of the Lucas County Common Pleas Court, we were the only township in Lucas County where the Board of Trustees was not responsible for a park located within their township. Resolutions were prepared by the Lucas County Prosecutors Office which rescinded the authority of the Lucas County Common Pleas Court to appoint the Board of Park Commissioners, converted the authority back to the Board of Trustees, and dissolved the Board of Park Commissioners. At an open public meeting held on June 1, 2005, these resolutions were read and passed unanimously by the Board of Trustees. Mr. Borell was present at this meeting to answer any questions that arose, and to ensure that proper procedure was followed.

With the approval of the Auditor of State's Office, a Special Levy Park Fund was created to track all park revenue and expenditures. The Lucas County Auditor amended our certificate and the Trustees appropriated funds. Park income may only be spent on park expenses. The Board of Trustees requested a close-out audit of the Park Commission's finances by the Auditor of State. This audit will be completed when the Township's routine audit is performed. The Board of Trustees is pleased to inform you that it has already lowered insurance costs for the park by nearly \$3,000.00, while increasing liability coverage. Additionally, one employee position was eliminated, saving an additional \$3,000.00.

The Board of Trustees will strive to maintain and govern Shoreland Park in the same efficient, caring and professional manner as the Park Commissions of the past. The rental rates for the Shelter House will remain the same as the Park Commission had set for 2005 until researched. Since June 1, 2005, the pavilions and garage have been painted, and dead trees have been removed. The bleachers have been bolted down and fire inspections of the park buildings have been completed as recommended by risk management. The Board of Trustees also composed and approved specifications to replace the tennis court. Bids were opened Monday, July 18, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.

Shoreland Park Update, cont'd.

The Board of Trustees is happy to announce that the following individuals will continue their service at Shoreland Park as employees of Washington Township. Dave and Barb Keller maintain the excellent park grounds that they have created. This is their third season keeping the park cleaned and groomed for our residents. Debbie Ketcham is our Youth Activities Supervisor, a position she has held for 15 years. She will also continue to assist with rentals of the Shelter House.

The Board of Trustees would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to all of the Park Commissioners and Clerk Treasurers who have served our community in the past.



Training, meetings and continuing education

In order to serve the community to the best of our abilities, members of the administration of Washington Township are always seeking ways to increase our knowledge and effectiveness as leaders. Below, you will find updates on some of the recent training we have received.

The Ohio Township Association conducted their annual Summer Conference in Perrysburg, Ohio this year. The Board of Trustees (Barb Shaheen, President; Camille Hammer, Vice President; Denise Rex) attended educational workshops on intergovernmental and federal updates, conflict management, dispute resolution, effective decision-making, and the effects of House Bill 66. Many of the classes they attended qualify for Leadership Academy education credits.

I attended the Auditors of State updates on the Uniform Accounting Network computer program and system, and legal courses pertaining to finances, record keeping and audit changes. These workshops contributed toward meeting the continuing education requirements set by the Treasurers of the State of Ohio. Additionally, the Ohio Department of Taxation presented information on tax levy revenue and reduction factors.

Fire Chief Matt Hart was updated on HB255 and SB109. Road Superintendent Bryon McIntosh reviewed roadway maintenance and drainage and was updated on HB231. Administrative and Zoning Secretary Janet Dombkowski attended workshops on new zoning legislation, HB148, SB18 and new PERS programs and requirements. Attorneys presented information on how the law classifies nuisances and how to legally eliminate them in townships.

While no workshops were offered for law enforcement agencies at the OTA conference, Police Chief Christopher Kaiser continues to attend various training sessions and meetings each month on emergency management, legal updates, homeland security and effective police policies.

The Board of Trustees also continues to attend meetings of the Lucas County Improvement Corporation, the Storm Water Coalition, and the Lucas County Township Association, as well as various meetings regarding concerns about Lake Erie and the Ottawa River.

House Bill 66

Thanks to everyone for their diligence, concern and consideration in helping the Township preserve our Local Government Funding from the State of Ohio. The Senate passed House Bill 66, which should stop the reduction of local government revenue to our Township.

Tax Update

We will be subject to the phasing out of Tangible Personal Property Taxes. Bottom-line figures should be available by the time the next newsletter is issued. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that our Township does not have a payroll tax. If you live and work in Washington Township, your employer should not withhold the 2.25% Toledo tax from your earnings.

Ethics

The need for positive character and workplace behavior to promote confidence in government is increasingly apparent. The Ohio Ethics Law has been required reading for all township officials and employees since June 2000. Everyone also receives Sunshine Law information on meeting regulations, public records and open personnel files. The Township Policies and Procedures Manual continues to be revised to comply with legal updates.

Preserving our Township

The Trustees, Clerk and the rest of our administration will continue to fight against annexation attempts, federal and local funding cuts and the ever-present threat of dissolving townships into a "regional" or "uniform" type of governing system by Lucas County and the City of Toledo.



POLICE DEPARTMENT



New Police Bikes

Our police department recently purchased two new Trek mountain bikes for bike patrol to replace the older bikes that were at least 10 years old. The police department has five officers who are certified by the State of Ohio in police bike patrol operations. Each certified officer goes through a 40-hour course to learn how to effectively patrol. They are taught maneuvering techniques, bike safety, and how to approach certain situations. They even go to the firing range to practice firing their weapons at targets after dismounting the bikes.

New Police Car

The police department is proud to display its new 2005 Ford Police Interceptor patrol car. The new car was ordered shortly after the first of the year and delivered on July 12, 2005. It will take several weeks to outfit the car with the equipment necessary to put it into service. Some of the equipment needed in a new police car are a radar unit, an in-car video camera, a mobile data terminal (MDT) which allows officers to communicate with other police agencies and run records checks on persons or vehicles, a shotgun rack, a light bar, a prisoner shield which separates the front and back seats, and many radios and electronic components which connect to a main control panel inside of the car for the officers to use. This new patrol car was purchased through the State of Ohio contract pricing, at a cost of \$21,260.00.

Drug Seizures

The police department is proactively attacking the drug trade in our community. In the past several months, our officers have seized several thousands of dollars in cash from drug dealers, made seizures of several pounds of marijuana, crack cocaine, over 3 ounces of powder cocaine, 120 tablets of methadone and many other types of illicit pills, tablets and drug paraphernalia. In cases where money or vehicles are seized, the department will seek forfeiture through the Lucas County Common Pleas Court to have the proceeds of these seizures put into the police law enforcement drug fund. After these cases are finalized in court, the drugs will be ordered destroyed.

Thefts and Burglaries

Since the start of the warmer spring weather, the township has experienced several thefts and burglaries. Many times, home or business owners can minimize their vulnerability to becoming victims by taking small steps such as locking their doors, checking or locking their screens, closing their garage door both day and night, and leaving porch lights on at night (most criminals like to work where they can't be seen). The Washington Township Police Department highly recommends "motion lights" that come on when someone comes near the home – and remember, place them up high enough so the bulbs cannot be unscrewed by the perpetrators. Parents, please advise your children to not leave their bicycles laying in the front yard even in the daytime – it only takes a few seconds to have a bike disappear. Purchase a bike lock, and remind them to lock up their bike when not in use. For homeowners who are out doing yard work, remember to lock your front door if you're in the back yard, and if you're in the front yard, lock your back door. Always remember to lock your car doors at night and never leave anything valuable laying in your car where it can be seen (most people leave their garage door openers in their car in plain view – what an easy way to access your garage, and possibly your home!). Remember to call our office if you are planning to leave on vacation – we will be happy to put an extra patrol on your house.

Juveniles Out Late at Night

We have been receiving complaints from residents that juveniles are roaming the streets at night and sometimes into the early morning hours, and that houses are being egged and toilet-papered. Officers have found several groups of juveniles out late at night and have taken some of them home or have had their parents pick them up at the police station. Most of the time the parents don't even know their child is out that late, or the parents are out themselves. Any juvenile (age 17 or younger) caught outside of their home after midnight will be stopped, questioned and/or taken home by the police. If they are caught committing criminal acts or mischief they may be taken home or taken to the Lucas County Juvenile Detention Center and charged. The police department encourages all residents that if they see any groups of juveniles out late at night to please call **9-1-1** and *not* the police office. Always remember that you may remain anonymous if you wish, and please try to provide a good description of the people you observe. It is helpful to give the dispatcher the last known direction of the person or persons you're calling about.



Leaf Collection

The Washington Township Road Department has purchased a new 25 cubic yard self-contained leaf collector. Our leaf collection program began in 2000, and more residents are taking advantage of this service every year. Last year, 57 loads were collected, compared to an average of 15-20 loads in previous seasons. In order to address the growth of our program and the maintenance issues with our smaller machine, we made the decision to upgrade to a larger and more efficient unit. We look forward to continuing to provide this service to you in the fall!

Road Project

Our major road project for the Township this summer will target the Fuller's Creekside Glen Plat II off Suder Avenue. The project will consist of grinding and resurfacing Rosemar, Bahiamar and Windamar. Some driveway approaches and curbs will be replaced as well. This project has a life-expectancy of 26 years and will cost \$390,559.85. Washington Township has received an Ohio Public Works Commission grant for \$237,000.00, leaving the Township responsible for the remaining balance of \$153,559.85. We expect this project to be complete by October 8, 2005.

Crack Sealing

The spring crack sealing program went somewhat slower than we hoped due to an excessive amount of rain this season. Severe winter weather had left a significant amount of cracked pavement behind, and our crews poured over 3,800 pounds of liquid crack sealant. Just to give you an idea of how much pavement needed to be repaired, it only takes about five pounds of sealant to fill the cracks in a normal residential driveway.

Summit Street Bridge Update

The Summit Street Bridge construction is coming along as projected. The completion date is still set for November 2005.

Zoning Resolution Revisions

The Washington Township Board of Trustees has passed a motion to send the current Zoning Resolution back to the Zoning Commission for revisions. A new Zoning Resolution became effective in September 2004, but subsequent reviews of the document revealed areas which would benefit from additional clarification. The current Resolution was based on the one used by Lucas County, and does not fully address the unique needs of the Washington Township community. Over the years, past Zoning Commissions worked hard to create declarations that were designed to address these needs, and our Trustees have asked the current Zoning Commission to incorporate distinctive considerations from these retired Resolutions into the new Resolution. This will be a major undertaking for the members of our Zoning Commission, who hope to have their work completed this fall.

A Friendly Reminder

Garage sale season is here again, and we kindly ask that you adhere to provision in Section 1314 of our Zoning Resolution, which reads as follows:

Yard/Garage Sale

Any individual or family member may conduct no more than three (3) yard or garage sales within any consecutive twelve (12) month period not to exceed three (3) consecutive days. Items displayed for sale shall not encroach into the right-of-way at any time.

Should you have any questions pertaining to zoning issues, please feel free to call Township Hall at 419.726.6621 and ask for Howard.



FIRE and RESCUE NEWS



Welcome to this edition of the Washington Township Fire Department's activity update. This update will keep you informed of your Fire Department's progress throughout the year.

First and foremost, all members of our department were saddened by the unfortunate and unexpected loss of former Washington Township Firefighter Mike Ignatowski. Mike has served this department well as a firefighter and paramedic. Mike was also a member of the Sylvania Fire Department and the Toledo Fire Department. Our department participated in the Last Call Ceremony on June 8, 2005, and provided assistance to the Toledo Fire Department by supplying an engine crew for a few hours to help with the manpower shortage during the funeral. Mike was a friend to many of us and we continue to hold his family in our hearts and prayers.

Our department has been a very busy one so far this year. As of mid-July, our volunteers had responded to over 180 emergency calls. While these calls require a great deal of our time, we continue to train weekly and do even more to serve the community. Our station has hosted a multi-jurisdictional CPR Instructor certification program and five of our firefighters are now Certified CPR Instructors. Also, all of the command officers have completed their training on our data collection software system. While changing over to this new system will take a while, our record-keeping will be more efficiently managed with all of the information in one place.

As our duties are ever increasing, we are fortunate that there are special members of our community who are willing to join our cause and volunteer their time. Within the past few months, we have welcomed back Firefighter/Paramedic James Kish and Firefighter Eric Ferrell. To our benefit, both bring back skills that we have been able to utilize immediately. In addition, I would like to introduce our two newest members, Mel Russell and Brandon McCree. Mel and Brandon have begun their journey to complete the 16-month probationary period, during which they will receive their EMT Certification, as well as their Firefighter Certification. Their talents will be a valuable asset to the department and the community as they continue to develop new skills throughout their training.

Congratulations!

Service Awards have been presented to the following individuals:

- **20 years** – Assistant Chief James Binienda is proudly celebrating two decades of dedicated service on our department.
- **5 Years** – Moe Collins, Bill Long
- **3 Years** – Robert Bodi , Tracy Coleman, Janine Day, Andrew Socie, Jason Stacy, and Kathleen Stanford

Summerfest 2005

Summerfest 2005 was held at Shoreland Park on June 24-25. The event went well, despite the intense heat we experienced that weekend. Thanks to all who contributed to make this year a success!