



Washington Township News

October 2007

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TRUSTEE NEWS



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Ottawa River Update

Tens of millions of dollars have been spent to stop industrial pollution and clean up contaminants in the Ottawa River. Beyond removal of pollutants, however, real restoration of the Ottawa River depends on restoration of environmental habitat and riparian wetlands. With funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, TMACOG has commissioned a study to identify areas along the river that have good habitat restoration potential.

Mannik-Smith Group and the Project Management Team have completed a preliminary survey to identify ten Areas of Interest along the river which may have restoration potential as wetlands or riparian habitat. These ten areas will be evaluated more closely, subject to approval of property owners, to select three sites for more detailed study. Conceptual habitat restoration plans will be developed for these three sites. In the late summer and fall 2007, we will contact property owners and conduct site evaluations. Property owners and stakeholders who can suggest additional areas for habitat restoration are encouraged to contact TMACOG. For more information, call Kurt Erichsen at 419-241-9155 ext. 126. Full project information and maps are available at: [http://www.tmacog.org/Environment/Ottawa River habitat.htm](http://www.tmacog.org/Environment/Ottawa%20River%20habitat.htm)

Call for Poll Workers

The Lucas County Board of Elections needs registered Democrats and Republicans to work as Poll Workers for the November 6, 2007 General Election. A two-hour training class is mandatory. Classes will begin October 9.

Poll Worker applications may be obtained by calling the Lucas County Board of Elections at 419-213-2640 (Democrats) or 419-213-2630 (Republicans) or by visiting our website at www.lucascountyvotes.org.

The base pay for the day is \$95.00, plus \$10 for attending the training class.

To qualify, you must:

Be at least 18 years of age*

Be able to lift 40 lbs.

Have a working telephone

Be a registered voter in Lucas County

Have never been convicted of a felony

Have your own transportation

*17 year-old high school seniors may work also

Farewell

Trustee Camille Hammer has announced that she will not be seeking reelection this year. She has served the Township for the past eight years and we would like to thank her for all her hard work and dedication. Best of luck to you, Camille!

ZONING NEWS



ROADS



Washington Township has had an increase in unmaintained properties and property foreclosures. Home sales have been slow, and problems associated with sub-prime lending and the changes in available local employment due to the U.S. auto industry slump have affected our Township and much of the region.

The Township is addressing the problem of unmaintained properties. The Township Road Department is mowing and trimming these properties, and the cost is being placed on the owners' property taxes.

The owners are provided with notification prior to this action, and given every opportunity to address the issue before the Township takes over. The legal notification process is lengthy, which explains why several weeks elapse between the time the problem surfaces and the mowing takes place.

Complaints about zoning infractions need to include a specific address and a specific problem. Complaints should be accompanied by the caller's name and phone number so that clarification can be made if needed. Many complaints are justified, but may not be enforceable because the matter is not addressed in the Zoning Resolution. Callers may feel that they were ignored when no corrective action takes place, but without contact information, no explanation can be provided. All calls are recorded on the Zoning report, including action taken, and are available for inspection at the Township office. Serious blight issues requiring immediate correction such as garbage accumulation should be referred to the Lucas County Health Department. The Health Department can take corrective action much faster than Township Zoning!

Changes to the Zoning Resolution have been recorded at the Lucas County Recorder's office. The Zoning Resolution as recorded is available on our website at www.washington-twp.com

Please call the Township office, (419-726-6621) or the Zoning Inspector, (419-392-0395) *before* making final plans for new construction, fences, pools, sheds, etc. There is no charge to discuss your project and to make sure that it complies with the Zoning Resolution *before* contracts are issued and materials are purchased. Zoning Applications are available at the Township Office, (5714 Blessing Dr.) and online.

It's hard to believe how fast the summer went by. Still, we were able to successfully complete several roads projects. We rebuilt sewer catch basins; kept the Township clean and mowed; and crack-sealed streets, applying over two tons of material due to the effects of the harsh winter last year. To date, our street sweeper has collected over 12 tons of debris that would have gone down the sewers and out into the streams.

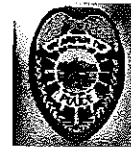
The sanitary sewer project that will be coming up this fall is the Alexis Place sewer installation. The tentative schedule per Lucas County Sanitary is:
Sept. 11 – Public hearing at 2 PM at One Government Center, First Floor, Commissioners' hearing room
Oct. 2007 – Advertise for bids
Oct./Nov. 2007 – Construction begins
Spring/Summer 2008 – Substantial completion and restoration

Soon the leaves will be falling, and our annual leaf collection begins. As in the past, we ask that you put the leaves next to the curb and not in the street. If you put the leaves in the street, cars run over and compact them, making it very difficult to pick them up. This also creates a hazard in the roadway; leaves become very slippery when wet. Also, please do not mix tree trimmings in with your pile of leaves. This damages our equipment, leading to downtime to repair the machine. We will attempt to make four passes of the entire Township. If you have a large pile of leaves in your yard and you call us, we will advise you when we plan to be there to pick them up.

After the leaves comes the snow. If we are going to get an accumulation of 2 inches or more, we ask that you do not park in the street. This will make the snow removal process more efficient and a lot safer. At times, we receive complaints about how our plows push snow back into people's freshly cleared driveways. We have no real control where the snow goes when plowing, but there is a very simple way to reduce this problem. As you look at your house from the street, put your piles of snow on the left side of the driveway. This way when the plow goes by, most of the snow will not go into your driveway. Also, please do not throw or blow your snow into the street, as this creates a road hazard for your fellow residents. If you have any question or comments, please send me an email at roads@washington-twp.com or call (419-726-6908).



THE POLICE GAZETTE



School's Open!

Well, it's hard to believe that another summer has come and gone but...it has! And that means it's back-to-school time. We are reminding motorists to please be aware of the reduced speed limits during certain hours around the schools. Also, please remember to watch for school buses. When the red lights start to flash, traffic must stop while the bus is loading or unloading the kids. On residential streets and two-lane streets like Shoreland, traffic must stop in both directions. On four-lane divided highways like Alexis Road, traffic that is traveling in the same direction as the bus must stop. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Transportation Department of Washington Local Schools or the Washington Township Police Department.

Eyes and Ears of the Police Department

When you have an emergency, time counts in every conceivable way. This is why we cannot stress enough how important it is to dial 9-1-1, and not the Police Department office, the Roads Superintendent or a Township Trustee! Many times, officers have checked the answering machine and found important messages that are several hours old. Any incident from a barking dog to a home invasion should go directly to 9-1-1. When you call 9-1-1, your call is prioritized and evaluated for officer response. Calling 9-1-1 also gives you the option of remaining anonymous or choosing to talk to the responding officer. Additionally, during a serious life threatening incident such as a home invasion or a serious accident, the operator will stay on the phone line with you and simultaneously provide emergency personnel with updates.

Halloween Ghouls and Ghosts

Halloween is less than a month away, so we would like to remind everyone that we will be working with the Washington Township Fire Department to inspect candy and other goodies at the Fire Station on Shoreland Avenue from approximately 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM that night. This is free and open to everyone, so we encourage parents and grandparents to take some time after the trick-or-treating and visit us at the Fire Station. Extra police officers will be patrolling the streets along with members of our Fire Department. In the unlikely event of a problem or incident, just flag down a police officer or fire fighter for assistance.

Spring Forward... Fall Back

For some of us, "falling back" means an extra hour of sleep. For many though, it's just another reminder that Ole Man Winter is just around the corner. Whatever your feelings, we "fall back" on Sunday, November 4th at 2:00 AM this year because President Bush signed the energy bill giving us an extra week of Daylight Savings Time. So remember to set your clock back one hour on Sunday, November 4th!

New Radio System

Washington Township Police and Fire will soon be using a new 800MHz. radio system that will link up every Police and Fire Department within Lucas County. The cost is partially subsidized by a grant from Homeland Security and the Lucas County 9-1-1 safety levy that was passed several years ago. Once on line, this radio system will allow for direct communication between all Lucas County safety forces and the Ohio State Highway Patrol.



FIRE & RESCUE NEWS



This past summer has been hot and mostly without rain. However, we have experienced a few storms that have created life threatening situations: **wires down**. When power lines come down, they are very dangerous and must be handled by emergency crews only. Our best advice is to call 911, report the location, and *stay away*. Wires can energize the surrounding ground areas and send a lethal dose of energy throughout your body without notice. Remember – *stay away from downed wires*.

This recent situation was dangerous, but firefighters are also required to handle many other types of emergencies. Your firefighters are constantly training to utilize the latest standards of firefighting. And recently, many have completed their Firefighter 1 status, which means that they have been trained in an advanced level of firefighting. The Command Officers of the department have also received advanced leadership training in addition to our weekly in-house training. Together, each member of the fire department will utilize this training to act as a team and handle the multitude of situations we are presented with.

This past summer, we have added a few new firefighters to our roster. These new recruits will undergo training as well. Minimum training levels include Firefighting and EMT certifications, Incident Command, Apparatus Driver training, Search & Rescue, and much more during our weekly drills. We train regularly to ensure that when we are called upon, we will have the expertise necessary to handle your emergency.

We are still very much in need of men and women in our area that would like to contribute to our community by becoming a Firefighter/EMT. This job requires a lot of work and commitment, but to those willing to make the sacrifice, the rewards far outweigh the work. If you are interested in joining our team, I invite you to visit the fire station on any Wednesday evening between 7:00pm and 9:00pm. Let us know that you are interested, and we will be more than happy to explain all of the details. Become a part of our team and help protect the lives and properties of our residents. Our community depends on us.

Washington Township News
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