



Washington T O W N S H I P

www.washington-twp.com

Fall 2012

Issue Number 31

TRUSTEE NEWS

After a very unusual spring followed by a hot dry summer, it is refreshing to look forward to the fall months that follow.

Summer seems always to pass so quickly and before you know it, school shopping, and football season and in rapid succession Halloween, Election Day, Thanksgiving and the Christmas season is upon us.

As a community, the pace seems to quicken along with each event that claims another day, week and month of our calendar.

As you will see as you read further in this newsletter, each of our Department Heads have to shift gears to keep up with the ever changing tempo of our community.

A word from:

Becky Bodette, Zoning Inspector

Bryon McIntosh, Roads and Park Superintendent

Chief Kaiser, Police Chief

Chief Hart, Fire Chief

Will give you a brief overview of each of their concerns for our community at this time of year.

Be good neighbors keep an eye out for each other, whenever possible, support community activities and tell someone about your township, roads, police and fire departments.

It takes every resident to do their part in keeping Washington Township the great community it is.

Just a reminder to vote on November 6, 2012. You will see on the ballot a levy for the Fire Department. This is a renewal, not a new or additional tax. The money generated by this renewal levy allows our Fire Department to continue operating at its current high level of service.

Your vote is very important to our community, so remember to vote on November 6th.

Also you can always pick up a copy of The Point & Shoreland Journal at Township Hall.



POLICE DEPARTMENT



WHAT'S GOING ON? WHAT ARE THE POLICE DOING?

For some time now the Police Department with the cooperation of The Point and Shoreland Journal has been posting the Daily Log each week. While we do not publish the exact address of each incident, we do give the block that the incident took place and the nature of the call. We would like to thank the Journal for their cooperation in keeping you informed.

SO CRIME DOES NOT PAY?

The Township Police Department will be adding a new patrol vehicle to the fleet sometime in September thanks to criminals that gambled and LOST! The new Police Car will be a 2013 Ford Taurus and will cost the Township NOTHING!! The car and its equipment will be paid for from the Drug Forfeiture Fund. The money comes from confiscated money or property that is seized in the commission of drug offenses. This is the fourth police car that we have obtained that has cost you the taxpayer absolutely nothing!!

Police Continue on back page. . .



ROAD DEPARTMENT



We have purchased a Bandit 250 wood chipper from Monclova Twp. This chipper will assist us in removing dead trees that are located in the road right of way and to help clean up after a storm goes thru the area. It will also help us clean up after our annual tree trimming project. This project includes removing low hanging tree limbs that would damage our trucks during the winter snow removal season.

CO-OP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Mike Hampton the Public Safety Director of Springfield Township Called the Road Department for help after the high wind storm that downed numerous trees in the area. The Road Department responded. Road Superintendent Bryon McIntosh, Rick Phillips, Bob Worth and Trustee Denise Rex went to Springfield Township. That day we were also assisted with approximately 30 volunteers from various Lowe's Home Improvement Stores. We removed approximately 25 dump truck loads of chipped wood limbs. This only scratched the surface of what had to be done. Words cannot describe the damage that was done by the winds. We estimate that Springfield Township Personnel will be on the scene for weeks ahead. Monclova Township also assisted. The reason that we assisted is the majority of the townships in Lucas County have a co-op agreement with one another. That means that if one township is overloaded with work due to a natural disaster, all they have to do is ask for help. The other townships will respond with manpower, equipment or both.

GRASS CLIPPINGS

When cutting your grass please do not allow your grass clippings to go out into the street. By not allowing the clippings to go out into the street this helps the storm sewers from plugging up. Remember that the street sewers are for water only; they all flow into the local streams.

FALL LEAF PICK UP

We plan to start the leaf pick up the last week of October. In order to protect our operators and equipment, please follow these basic rules:

- Put leaves next to the curb not in street
- NO sticks or twigs
- NO parking next to or over the top of leaf piles

Your cooperation will make this process run much smoother and safer.



SNOW REMOVAL

If the forecast calls for snow in excess of 2", we ask that you refrain from parking in the street. This provides the snow plows the clearance they need to clean the streets and eliminates cars from being "plowed in". The following tips help expedite snow removal:

- Stay back at least 50' from the rear of the plow truck so the driver can see you. (If you can't see the driver in his mirror, he cannot see you)
- Park your vehicles in the driveway and don't allow any vehicles to hang out in the roadway.
- Children are attracted to snow plows, teach your children to stay behind the sidewalks when they see trucks coming.
- Avoid passing or driving besides these trucks.
- When removing snow from your driveway, avoid placing the snow from your driveway back into the street.

During heavy snow there is a possibility that you may experience more plowed snow at the end of your driveway. This cannot be helped. It is not done to cause aggravation or to anger anyone. The main objective is to clear the roadways and make them safe for necessary travel. When clearing snow at the end of your driveway, look at your house with your back to the street, please shovel the snow to the left side of the driveway and not back into the street. We thank you for your continued understanding and cooperation.



PARK DEPARTMENT



SUMMER STRUCTURED ACTIVITIES

Kathy Mayfield

For those who attended the children's summer activity program at Shoreland Park's Shelter House, summer has come and gone in the blink of an eye. As the program's new activities director, my goal was to provide children with opportunities to unleash their energy and creativity during these warm months. And while they may not have realized it, learning actually took place, too!

Children were able to spend their summer days making crafts, playing outdoor games, and competing in contests that definitely got the gears turning. The children worked together on contest days to create hilarious newspaper costumes, miniature boats from natural materials, and sandcastles complete with interactive landscaping. These were the days that children went home with awards, strengthened friendships, and a boost of self-confidence.

My favorite aspect of directing this program was simply getting to know so many great children in the community. As a new teacher and former camp counselor, I have worked with many children, but what will make this group stand apart in my mind is their eagerness to help one another. It is because of their amazing attitudes that I can't wait to be a part of the summer activity program next year.

PET/PARK SAFETY

There are two dog poop stations located at Shoreland Park. One is located next to the maintenance garage and the other one is located next to baseball diamond 2 (Rounding River and Belpre). Please utilize these bags when needed to clean up after your pet. Remember to comply with State Law; you must have your dog restrained by a leash or tether. For more information, you can obtain a pamphlet at the township office.

PARK SHELTER HOUSE RENTALS

The shelter house can be rented for many occasions. It has a capacity of 140 people. Contact Bryon McIntosh at the Township office for further details.

ZONING DEPARTMENT

ADDRESS NUMBERS

All main buildings need to display a visible address. Address numbers on the curb are not considered visible. Emergency responders need to identify your house address.

FIREWOOD

Firewood and other solid heating fuels need to be stacked or piled in a reasonably compact and orderly fashion in the rear yard. Woodpiles must be elevated six inches, located six feet off the lot lines, and cannot exceed six feet high. Woodpiles may not harbor rodents or be covered with tarps. Storage is subject to all applicable fire regulations.

POOL

Pools over two feet need to be fenced with at least a 42" high fence and secured with a locked gate.

ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY

Landscaping, rocks, railroad ties, concrete/masonry blocks, spikes etc. including sight distance obstructions are not permitted in the clear zone within the road right-of-way. They will be removed by County or Township personnel.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR OBTAINING ZONING PERMITS FOR ALL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, AND FOR ALL YOUR HELP WITH BLIGHT CONTROL.



WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Matthew J. Hart

New Recruits - Applications are now being accepted

Last year we started a formal Training Academy for our new recruit firefighters. To date this new Academy is progressing well, and it has allowed us to very efficiently utilize our training resources.

Right now we are looking for recruits to fill the openings for our Winter Academy that will begin in January. Applications are required and must

be picked up in person at the fire station on any Wednesday evening.

We need your help. If you are interested in becoming a firefighter with the WTFD, stop in and talk to us. I guarantee that by being involved with the fire department, you will find that volunteering for our community is a truly rewarding experience.

Our Facility Improvements

You may have noticed that we have taken a proactive approach to the maintenance of the station and its grounds. We have painted the doors, improved some lighting, and have just recently replaced the fence along the rear parking area.

We strive to take special care of our facility and all of the equipment entrusted to us.

Vote on November 6th

Later this fall you will see a levy on the ballot for the fire department. It is important to know that this is *Not a new levy* - It is only a Renewal.

The funds generated by this levy are what your fire department relies on for its operational expenditures. We trust that you will make the right decision with your vote.

Please remember to Vote on November 6th .



A word we all enjoy.

You can sleep because you trust in your firefighters to be ever ready to respond to your call for help. You can sleep because you know they train hard. You can sleep because you know they are a committed crew with your best interests at heart. You can sleep because you can always trust your firefighters.

As of the beginning of August you can now sleep for another reason. After careful review of

our response records we have found that it is no longer necessary to sound the outdoor warning siren for all of our emergency responses.

Therefore we have silenced the outdoor warning siren at the fire station through our dispatch consoles, and it will not automatically sound for each and every call for help we receive. While tradition is prominent in the fire service, we are always adapting what we do to better our service to you. And so the tradition of sounding the big siren, especially at night, has been put to sleep. Our hope for this change is to offer a bit of peace and quiet for our neighbors and the surrounding area.

It is important to remember that the siren will sound with a straight long tone for severe weather as many of you are accustomed to hearing in the spring for tornado season. And it will sound briefly every Wednesday evening at 6:45pm for weekly test.

POLICE DEPARTMENT continue...

SCHOOL TIME

No doubt you have noticed some commotion in the early morning hours, and then...QUIET. That can only mean one thing; A New School Year Is Upon Us!! A mixture of delight and sadness abounds as academia is now in full swing. Taking a moment to review School Safety Practices with your youngsters as well as yourself is quite important. As a driver we ask you to slow down on residential streets in the morning and mid afternoon. The big yellow School Buses play a huge part of your child's school experience. *Remember!* When the REDS FLASH the Traffic STOPS! During restricted hours in and around the school buildings or children present, the speed limits DROP to 20 MPH.

Again, this year we ask parents and grandparents to set a good example for the children, and for reasons of safety; we ask that you do not park in a location where you must "J-Walk" to get to or from the School Building. Please have an ongoing discussion with your children on the importance of crossing the street at crosswalks using the traffic lights. Explain to your child never to accept a ride with a Stranger, and what to do should they be approached. A good rule of thumb would be to develop a "secret code" that would be used, should someone unfamiliar to your child be sent to pick him or her from School.

Last and certainly not the end, take time to talk and LISTEN about your child's day at school, these are precious and time flying days; something as seemingly unimportant about who spilled their milk at lunch, or who has the coolest back pack makes a huge impact on your child. We sincerely hope that EVERYONE has a great School Year!

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

This past summer was HOT! The Washington Township Police Department was extremely busy. During the 3 official months of summer we experienced a tremendous increase in calls for service, physical arrests, and in general an upswing in violent behavior. Additionally, we have been receiving increased requests for assistance from both Toledo Police and Erie Township. We have also had an increase in the need to request Mutual Aid from Toledo Police over the summer due to the types of criminal activity. While we must stress that at no time was the Township ever in danger of not having Police Services. Make no mistake, Washington Township is still a safe and family oriented Community, YOUR Police Department will continue to serve and protect all Citizens. We truly appreciate your support, understanding, and cooperation in helping us do our job.

OH GREAT PUMPKIN WHERE ARE YOU!!?

To coin a phrase, but Halloween is just around the corner. This year as in years past the Washington Township Police will be out in force to make sure that there are no unpleasant tricks. We also ask that parents be aware of whom your youngsters are out with, and that they do not sample any of the treats until you or someone responsible inspects the packaging. Again, this year we will be working with the Township Fire Department on candy inspections. The inspections will take place at the Township Fire Station 2469 Shoreland Ave. from 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM. This is open to everyone in and around Washington Township, the price is FREE!!

A RECURRING PROBLEM

Over the past several weeks the Shoreland Park area of the Township and the Suder/Mayport area of the City have been experiencing a rash of parked vehicles being ransacked. In many instances items such as loose change, GPS units and other electronics have been taken. Suspect appears to be teen agers between the ages of 15-19. Both WTPD and TPD Officers feel that the suspects are residents living in the area. We are asking that everyone lock your vehicles up at night, remove all valuables from your vehicles, and call 9-1-1 if you see suspicious activity. Several arrests have been made over the summer, however, these incidents continue. Any information can be made anonymously by calling Crime Stopper or contact the Washington Township Police Department at 419.726.0478.

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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