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**TRUSTEE NEWS**



**Street Lighting**

We are pleased to announce that for the second year in a row, the Township will not be collecting street lighting fees. At an open public meeting on August 29, 2006, the trustees by resolution voted not to collect these fees on your 2007 real estate tax bills. There is adequate funding to support the expenses for street lighting in the Township for at least one year.

**Alexis Place Sewer Project Update**

In a letter to Roads Superintendent Bryon McIntosh dated 08/30/06, James Shaw, Lucas County Sanitary Engineer, writes:

“Lucas County has completed the surveying, drafting layout and preliminary design. One of the challenges associated with the design of the system is related to the bore under the railroad tracks on Stickney Avenue. We have established agreements with CSX Railroad and Toledo Edison to access the right-of-way to determine the depth of the existing utilities. Lucas County plans to complete this task in September. This will allow the Sanitary Engineer to proceed with preparation of the estimated costs and tentative assessments. Upon approval by the Board of County Commissioners, the property owners will be notified that a public hearing will occur three to four weeks after the notice is sent. The public hearing allows the affected property owners to review the details of the project and provide their input on the matter. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this project, please feel free to call the Lucas County Sanitary Engineer’s office at 419-213-2926.”

**Zoning Department Change**

In August, the Board of Trustees accepted the resignation of Zoning Inspector Howard Rudes. We would like to express our appreciation of the work he has done over the years and wish him our best. *Thank you, Howard.*

It is with pleasure that we introduce Bill Ducey as our new Zoning Inspector. Bill has been a member of the Washington Township Zoning Boards for a number of years and held the position of Chair until the Board of Trustees appointed him to this new position. We are confident that his experience will help him meet the needs of the Township as Zoning Inspector. *Welcome, Bill, and good luck!*





# FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS



## ***From Chief Matt Hart:***

Since our last newsletter, I am pleased to report that your fire department has been very busy. Not because of emergency response calls, but behind the scenes, working on our equipment and fire laws that help ensure your safety.

## **NEW APPARATUS**

As Chief of the department, I am constantly reviewing our current status and looking for ways to improve. Part of this evaluation has centered on our Heavy Rescue Unit 733. This unit has served our community well but is at the end of its reliable life as an emergency response squad. Also, our 2<sup>nd</sup> out engine 722 is nearing its Class-A certification limit of 30 years. Although this engine is in excellent shape and still continues to function flawlessly, it needs to be replaced. The reasons for replacing these apparatus are simple. First – your safety. Second – ISO requirements. The Insurance Services Office (ISO) regularly evaluates our department for equipment, training and much more. This evaluation directly relates to the Low Fire insurance rates that apply to your property.

Keeping all of this in mind, and while operating within budget, we have been fortunate to find an excellent solution. With the support and cooperation of the Trustees, we have purchased a new Freightliner E-One Engine to replace our old engine. The old engine has been rolled over into support vehicle unit 725, which will still have firefighting capacity. These units are now officially In Service and available for emergency response. We encourage everyone to stop by and see the new truck.

## **FIRE LAW CHANGE**

As I mentioned earlier, there have also been changes to the fire laws, especially those concerning Open Burning within Washington Township. These new requirements have been carefully studied and put into place for your safety. Certain types of open burning are allowed within the township. These regulations are reprinted for you to reference. To highlight a few points, clean burning *seasoned firewood* is permissible as long as all of the guidelines are followed. Our open burning does *not* allow for the burning of agricultural yard wastes or residential wastes. The burning of leaves and small branches is strictly prohibited. Please remember that the presence of any open burning fire requires your constant attendance.

## **FIRE PREVENTION WEEK**

Fire Prevention Week is just around the corner, and from October 8-14 the Washington Township Fire Department is joining forces with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to remind local residents to Prevent Cooking Fires: Watch What You Heat. During this year's fire safety campaign, firefighters and safety advocates will be spreading the word about the dangers of cooking fires – most of which result from unattended cooking – and teaching local residents how to prevent cooking fires from starting in the first place.

## **WE NEED YOUR HELP**

Sometimes a person feels the need to do something more than they are already doing. Perhaps they feel a need to contribute to their community. Maybe they want to make a difference that they can't make in their current career. Or maybe they hope to be part of a greater cause. How can you help? The Washington Township Fire Department and its Auxiliary are looking for volunteers. Stop by the fire station at 2469 Shoreland Ave. any Wednesday between 9:00 AM and 12:00 PM or 7:00 PM and 10:00 PM to receive an application and learn more about becoming a member of our team. If you have any questions please call us at 419-726-2453 or send an e-mail to [firefighters@wtfd.net](mailto:firefighters@wtfd.net).

## **NOVEMBER ELECTION**

The Washington Township Fire Department will be placing a renewal levy on November's ballot. Be aware that this is not a new tax. Please remember to vote!

## **UP TO DATE**

The dedicated members of your Fire Department enjoy serving this community and encourage your continued support. Stay current on all of the latest updates by visiting our website at [www.wtfd.net](http://www.wtfd.net).

## **REMINDER**

Winter is fast approaching and now is the time to check your furnaces and chimneys to ensure they are in proper working order before the cold weather hits.

## ***REMEMBER FIRE SAFETY FIRST***

# WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP OPEN BURNING REGULATIONS

**Notice is hereby given that the following amended Open Burning Regulations adopted by the Washington Township Trustees are effective August 03, 2006**

- Bonfires, campfires and outdoor fireplace equipment, whether for cooking food for human consumption, pleasure, religious, ceremonial, warmth, recreational, or similar purposes, if they are fueled with clean seasoned firewood, natural gas or equivalent, or any clean burning fuel with emissions that are equivalent or lower than these; that are not used for waste disposal purposes; and have a total fuel area of less than three (3) feet in diameter and two (2) feet in height are permitted only when the following conditions are met.
  1. Fires are conducted in a commercially prepared burning device such as an outdoor fireplace, chimenea, barbecue grill, etc.  
OR – fires conducted in an open fire pit, that is surrounded by a 12” non-combustible fire stop of stone, brick or block.
  2. Fires are to be placed a minimum of ten (10) feet from any structure or decking and a minimum of twenty-five (25) feet from any roadway.
  3. All fires shall be attended at all times during burning until completely extinguished.
  4. Adequate firefighting equipment shall be on-site for extinguishing purposes.
  5. If at any time a fire creates a threat to public health, a nuisance, or a fire hazard; the burning shall be extinguished.
- Open Burning within Washington Township shall be prohibited at all times during the declaration of an Ozone action day by the Toledo Division of Environmental Services.
- The burning of residential or agricultural waste shall be strictly prohibited.
- The Fire Chief of Washington Township shall have the authority to prohibit any and/or all open burning, if the Fire Chief or the designee of the Fire Chief determines that conditions are such that outdoor open burning cannot be accomplished safely, or if the terms and conditions of the ordinance, law, rule or regulation governing outdoor open burning in Washington Township, are being violated.
- Any person or entity, as a condition of conducting open burning, shall be deemed to have assumed all responsibility and obligation to take all necessary precautions to control any fire and prevent any escape, and shall be fully liable for all damage to property and injury to person as a result of any outdoor burning, and is liable for all expenses incurred by Washington Township in the suppression of such fire.
- Any person, firm or corporation who negligently allows a fire to escape or who is unable to control any open burning fire, which results in the Washington Township Fire Department attending to, containing, or extinguishing the fire, shall be charged at the rate of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per hour, for each vehicle dispatched, to attend to, contain, or extinguish the fire.



## ROADS NEWS



### **A Friendly Reminder**

You may have noticed new signs stenciled near the sewers in the Township. To comply with a request by the Lucas County Storm Water Coalition, we are adding a reminder that “Drains Are For Rain, Flows Into Waterway” to all Township sewers. Based on what we found during a recent sewer clean-up project, it is a reminder that will be helpful. We have removed grass clippings, dishes, newspapers, silverware, beverage containers, oil, anti-freeze and even concrete from our sewers. Please remember that many of these sewers drain directly into our waterways and they should never be used for trash disposal. They are there to collect rainwater, and as many of you know from the flooding we experienced over the summer, there are serious consequences when the sewers are blocked. Sewage can back up into your home and flood your basement, roads can become impassable, and significant property damage can occur. So *please* refrain from putting anything into our sewers.

### **More Sewer Issues**

We are working with Lucas County to repair storm sewers on Shoreland Ave. There are a couple of sewers that need to be rebuilt before winter sets in.

### **Leaf Pick-Up**

It's hard to believe, but leaf pick-up season is rapidly approaching! Please remember to rake your leaves up to the edge of the road and not *into* the road. Putting leaves in the street can cause the sewers to become blocked, and can also be a hazard to residents who park their cars in the street. The heat from a car engine can easily ignite a pile of leaves and result in the loss of a vehicle. Also, please remember that leaves are the only thing we can safely pick up in our leaf vac. Any other items can damage our equipment.

### **Snow!**

It may still feel too early to think about it, but snow will be flying soon and we will be out salting and plowing the streets. Please avoid parking on the streets whenever snowfall is expected to exceed 2" so that we can clear your roadways as safely and efficiently as possible. We work hard to keep the Township streets clear for you, and appreciate your cooperation.

### **Slurry-Seal**

This year we are trying a new method of preserving our roadways. We sub-contracted a company called Slurry-Seal to seal our streets and keep new cracks from forming. We are also continuing to crack seal the streets where necessary. These processes will add five to ten years of life to the road surface.

### **Emerald Ash Borer News**

Roads Superintendent Bryon McIntosh and Trustee Denise Rex attended a workshop on how to identify trees infected with the Emerald Ash Borer. There are several infected trees in the Township, including nine trees in Shoreland Park. If you think you have an infected tree, please call us and we will come inspect it for you.

### **Give Water a Hand/Clean Your Streams**

The Give Water a Hand / Clean Your Streams program was held on September 16<sup>th</sup>. We would like to thank all the volunteers who came out to help clean up our waterways.

## ZONING NEWS

### **Help Wanted**

We need to fill the Zoning Commission vacancy created when Bill Ducey was appointed Zoning Inspector. Also, we are always looking for residents who are willing to serve as an alternate on either the Zoning Board of Appeals or the Zoning Commission. Five members are required for each board, and it is important that we have individuals who can readily step in if a regular member's absence affects the functioning of the board. These boards do not have regular meetings – they only convene when they have issues at hand. Board members are paid \$35 per meeting and meetings are typically held at 7:00 p.m. The Zoning Board of Appeals generally addresses issues that fall outside the confines of our Zoning Resolution. The Zoning Commission is responsible for drafting the contents of our Zoning Resolution. Please contact us if you are interested in joining either of the boards.



## POLICE NEWS



### **BURGLARS, THIEVES, AND THE POLICE**

We have had our hands full over the summer dealing with burglars and petty thieves going through parked motor vehicles. In many cases, this has only resulted in inconvenience and annoyance for the owners of the vehicles. In other cases, however, items were taken. On Thursday, August 24th, just after 4:00 a.m., Officer Jeff Bodeman saw three males bolt from a parked car on Hammond Drive. He pursued them as they ran through Shoreland Park, but lost them when they scattered in different directions. Officer Bodeman returned to the abandoned automobile and discovered a fourth suspect hiding nearby who then took off on foot. Officer Bodeman gave chase again and caught the young man. A huge cache of stolen items ranging from tools to a laptop computer was discovered inside the vehicle, along with several baseball bats. The suspect soon revealed the names of his accomplices and, at press time, several warrants have been issued for their arrests. With the cooperation of the Northwood Police Department, all suspects should be wearing orange jumpsuits soon!

### **HELP US HELP YOU!**

We are asking for everyone to be our eyes and ears. If you see something out of place or are suspicious CALL 9-1-1!! We would rather chase shadows than have to take a burglary or theft report because someone was afraid to call 911. Calling 911 does not mean that you have to talk to the Police; you may choose to remain anonymous. When reporting suspicious activity, please give the operator as much information as possible. It is helpful to include details about the subject's clothing, hair color and skin color. If a vehicle is involved, please also provide information about the color, make and model, as well as the direction of the vehicle if it is moving. License plate numbers are enormously helpful if you can get them. Remember that accurate, detailed, descriptive information can make all the difference when it comes to solving crimes.

### **CRIME ALERT!**

With the holidays coming up fast, we would like to offer several tips on protecting you and your property. First, it is our recommendation that all homeowners install outdoor motion lights. They are fairly inexpensive and simple to install. Set the lights up high so that others cannot tamper with them. Close your garage doors whenever possible, especially at night. Would-be thieves and burglars are always looking for easy access to your home and your belongings – don't make it convenient for them to steal from you. Also, don't advertise the desirable items you have in your home. When you discard boxes from electronics and other high value items, take a couple of extra seconds to tear the box apart so that you can place the cardboard in a garbage bag or otherwise conceal information about the original contents. If you would like other suggestions on how to protect yourself, please feel free to call us at 419.726.0478.

### **KIDS OUT AFTER HOURS**

Parents, please be aware of what your children are doing at night and who they are with. Over the summer, we had an enormous number of complaints concerning kids being out and roaming neighborhoods after 11:00 p.m. In some cases we have been dealing with fights late at night involving youths. 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.

### **SCHOOL DAYS**

The school year has started, and that means yellow buses, school zone speed limits and kids walking to and from school. Please remember to be extra careful when driving down residential streets – especially around the schools. When the yellow speed limit signs are flashing, the speed limit in the marked school zone is **20 mph!** Washington Township Police will be proactively enforcing this reduced speed limit. A traffic citation for this offense is very expensive (\$120.00+) and involves a mandatory court appearance! If you decide to drop off your child or pick up your child after school you **MUST** slow down within the area of the school and be aware of the parking area.

### **PLEASE REMEMBER**

If you need the Police or any other help, **DIAL 9-1-1**, *not* the police station! The number for the police station is for informational purposes only, not to report crime or call for help. The 911 system was designed for this purpose, but if you call the police station it may take several hours before your message is heard. Also please make sure that your house number is visible from the street so that we can find you easily if you ever need our assistance.

## **POLICE NEWS, con'td**

### **OTHER POLICE ACTIVITY**

Officers from Washington Township participated in one of the largest drug cases in the city of Toledo's history. Officer Jason Picking (WTPD) has been assigned to the Toledo Metro Drug Task Force and has been working with this unit for a number of months. The task force includes officers from the Toledo Police Department, the Lucas County Sheriff's Office, the FBI and the Washington Township Police Department. On September 13, 2006, approximately 100 officers fanned out in teams of five to serve federal and state search warrants at the homes of reputed drug dealers. In all, eight suspects were taken into custody. Several vehicles and handguns were seized, as well as thousands of dollars in cash. This roundup stemmed from a two-year federal drug investigation involving these suspects, who are allegedly responsible for bringing millions of dollars worth of cocaine into the city and surrounding areas from Chicago through Mexico.

The police department has also made an arrest for the reported aggravated robbery of a Bambino's Pizza driver who was making a delivery to a home on Patriot Drive on August 30, 2006. The suspect was arrested on September 8<sup>th</sup> and charged with aggravated robbery as well as the unrelated theft of several thousand dollars worth of items from a home on Shoreland Avenue. Other suspects named in this crime are likely to be arrested and charged in the future.

The investigation of a reported rape in Raintree Village is nearly complete as well. The police have identified a suspect and criminal charges are pending at this time.