



Washington Township News

June 2003

Issue Number Ten

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Trustee News



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726-0478

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726-6908

Zoning Inspector

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The Trustees have approved the road maintenance plans prepared by the Lucas County Engineers office for the 2004, five-year capital improvement project. This project will involve pavement improvements to Point Pleasant Way, Coveview, and Bridgeview in the Raintree Subdivision. At this time, an application for partial funding from the Ohio Public Works Commission is pending on this project.

In March, Washington Township entered into a final storm water management plan (SWMP) with Lucas County. Our notice of intent (NOI) was filed on March 6, 2003. This agreement is to satisfy the appropriate requirements of the Clean Water Act (CWA) in accordance with the Ohio EPA Phase II Program. The final plan was prepared by the Lucas County Engineers' office in cooperation with Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG), Lucas County Sanitary Engineers' Office, Lucas County Solid Waste Department, Health Department, and the Lucas County Commissioners. Washington Township is also receiving assistance from a storm water specialist delegated by the Lucas Soil and Water Conservation District (Lucas SWCD). In recognition of our storm water plan, we will be adding educational information to our Newsletter.

What is a Watershed? A watershed is an area of land that drains into a lake or river. As rainwater and melting snow run downhill, they gather sediment and other materials and may carry them into our streams, lakes, wetlands, and groundwater.

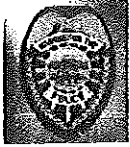
Did you know you're in a watershed right now? We all live in a watershed. Homes, farms, ranches, forests, small towns, big cities and more make up watersheds. Watersheds cross county, state, and even international borders. In some areas, watersheds are also called drainage basins. Other countries use other names, e.g. Australians call them catchments.

Why is your watershed important? Watersheds are the place we call home, where we work and where we play. Everyone relies on water and other natural resources to exist. What you and others do on the land within your watershed impacts the quality and quantity of water and our other natural resources.

Please take care of your watershed, and your watershed will take care of you. Because, as the saying goes, "We all live downstream."

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POLICE DEPARTMENT



Summer is upon us

The Police Department welcomes the warmer weather but with the warmer weather, children will be playing outdoors more. We are asking motorists to be more alert while driving in residential neighborhoods. Motorists are asked to drive slower at the sight of children playing, people on bicycles, persons jogging, walking their dogs, or pushing baby strollers. Just a reminder to all that the speed limit on most residential streets is 25 mph. The Police Department will be visible in the residential neighborhoods and proactive in issuing citations to motorists who operate their vehicles in a reckless manner. Lastly, we are asking residents to notify the police if they observe any vehicles operating in such manner. If at all possible, report the vehicles license plate number, description of vehicle, and the last known direction to your 9 1 1 call taker.

Spring and Summer Brings Scams

Each year police agencies respond to calls where people report that they have been scammed by some fast talking con artist who claims to be working in the neighborhood. These people will tell you that they are the "jack of all trades" and that "you need a new roof, new driveway sealer" or "your gutters need cleaned". We strongly advise all residents to have these people checked out first. **DON'T HESITATE TO CALL 9 1 1.** Remember the old sayings, "better safe than sorry" and "when in doubt, don't!"

Child Safety Seat Inspections

On June 7, 2003 from 10 am to 2 pm at the Home Depot store located at Lewis and Alexis there will be a public safety fair involving many area police and fire departments. Our own Sgt. Kenneth Bowman, who is a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician, will be on hand to properly inspect and install child car seats. In addition to his help, other police agencies will offer other services such as child fingerprinting and safety related programs.

Police Bicycle Patrol

The Police Department presently has two officers, Patrolman Jeffrey Bodeman and Patrolman Paul Brady going through a 40 hour International Police Mountain Bike course certifying and properly

training the officers to conduct safe and effective bike patrol. This training includes a firearms course and night riding. After completion, these officers will be a visible asset to patrol operations.

Homeowners Beware

During the warmer climate people are outside more often doing yard work and other chores around the home. Most people like to leave their front and back doors open to get fresh air. The Police Department advises that you lock any door that you cannot keep your eye on while you are outside doing your daily chores. There have been reports in Toledo of people leaving their front doors opened/unlocked while they are working in their back yards, only to have criminals enter the home through the front or garage and make off with property of the homeowner.

The Police Department has several tips to help safeguard you, your home and property:

Remember to keep your garage door closed whenever possible and check it before you retire for the evening.

Always notify the police department when going on vacation.

Use motion lights at night or porch light. A well lit home is unattractive to a criminal. Usually a thief will prefer darkness to avoid being detected.

Place a piece of wood or pole in the track on sliding patio doors. These types of doors are notoriously easy to open when locked.

Trim your landscaping below windows to avoid concealment areas.

Make sure your address is visible from the street so emergency personnel can quickly respond with ease.

Please ask your children not to leave their bicycles unlocked or unattended.

Ban together with your neighbors! We can use all the help we can get. If you watch your neighbor's house and he watches yours, it becomes contagious and soon you have your own neighborhood watch.

Please don't be one of the people that say, "I don't want to bother the police". Call us and let us check it out.

New address: police@washington-twp.com



FIRE and RESCUE NEWS



Fire/Rescue Equipment

The Washington Township Fire Department has purchased a new paging alert system to better allow us to serve our Township and respond to calls. We are also happy to announce the purchase of the Argus 3 Thermal Imaging Camera. The Argus 3 gives us the ability to detect difference levels of heat and objects within a smoke-filled environment. This state of the art piece of equipment is a great asset to the community. The camera was purchased with monies from the Association and monies from generous community support during Fire Department/Auxiliary fundraisers. Thank you for your support!

Run Totals for 2003 (as of May 9, 2003)

Fire: 19
Rescue: 133



Fire Auxiliary

The Washington Township Fire Department/Auxiliary members held a pancake breakfast on May 4th. The breakfast was a huge success with more than 500 breakfasts served. Thank you to all who supported this event. The next breakfast will be September 7th from 8 am to 1 pm. See you then! Come join us on August 9th, we will be having a garage sale. Rent a table for \$10. Contact us on the website and we will reserve a table for you.

Anyone interested in joining the Washington Township Fire Department Auxiliary, contact Andrea Green at 419-726-6566.

Summerfest 2003

Get ready to put summer into full swing. Summerfest will be Friday, June 27 and Saturday, June 28 at the Shoreland Park. There will be fireworks on Saturday, June 28 at dusk. We will also feature live music Friday and Saturday night. Friday night's music will be performed by Skoobie Snaks and Saturday night's music will be performed by Uncle Sandwich. Strap on your dancing shoes!! As always, we will have great food, cold beverages, kids' rides and games both days. Mark your calendar!

Emergency Medical Technician School

We would like to congratulate fellow members James Francis and Heather Green on passing the Ohio Department of Safety EMT-B certification. They will now join the other 18 members of the department with the same Firefighter/EMT-B status. Also, Assistant Chief Jim Binienda and Captain Howard Rudes have completed a training and certification class held by the State of Ohio for fire incident safety officers.

New Member

Welcome Bob Becker!

For more information

For more information and current events on the Washington Township Fire Department, please visit our website at www.wtfd.net. There are great links to other safety and rescue sites.

****NOTICE****

Lucas County Auditors will be at the Washington Township Fire Department on July 31, August 1, and August 2 to review any questions you may have on your property taxes.

ZONING

Finally winter is gone and spring is here which will inevitably bring about various home improvement projects. Eight zoning permits have already been approved for assorted projects throughout Washington Township. There are a few things I would like to share with you that may help expedite obtaining a zoning permit. You will need to complete a zoning application at Washington Township Hall, 5714 Blessing Drive, you will need to submit a site plan (a site plan does not have to be elaborate, although you need to include dimensions and placement of the objects to be constructed), and you will be asked to pay a fee for your zoning permit. The fees will vary depending on what type of construction you are requesting to do. After this part of the process is complete, I will review your application, visit your site and issue your permit if your plans are in compliance with our zoning resolution. Once you have obtained your permit, we ask that you display it in clear view from the street so we know that you have complied with the necessary process. Any information you may need for your plans can be found in our Zoning Resolution. We will be happy to copy any page or pages from our text for five cents per copy.

Washington Township's Zoning Resolution has devoted a section of the text addressing "blight". This section reads:

Section 711 Causes of Blight or Blighting Factors

It is hereby determined that the following uses, structures and activities are causes of blight or blighting factors which, if allowed to exist, will tend to result in blighted and undesirable neighborhoods. No person, firm or corporation of any kind shall maintain or permit to be maintained any of these causes of blight or blighting factors upon any premises in Washington Township owned, leased, rented or occupied by such person, firm or corporation.

a) The storage upon any premises of any inoperable vehicle for a period of more than two (2) weeks, except in a completely enclosed building.

b) The outdoor storage upon any premises of building materials unless a zoning permit has been issued by the Township and a building permit issued by the Lucas County Department of Building Regulations not more than one (1) year previously for construction upon said premises, and said materials are intended for use in connection with such construction. Building materials shall include, but shall not be limited to, lumber, bricks, concrete or cinder blocks, plumbing materials, electrical wiring or equipment, heating ducts or equipment, shingles, mortar, concrete or cement, nails, screws, or any other materials used in constructing any structure. Provided, that outdoor storage of building materials which is not in violation of applicable zoning or safety regulations is permitted if said materials are kept out of view of the public and abutting premises. Provided further that all construction debris shall be removed from any premises within 30 days after occupancy thereof.

c) The storage or accumulation of junk, trash, rubbish or refuse of any kind, except domestic refuse stored in such a manner as not to create a nuisance for a period not to exceed 30 days. The term "junk" shall include parts of machinery or motor vehicles, unused stoves or other appliances stored in the open, remnants of wood, metal or any other materials or other castoff materials of any kind whether or not same could be put to any reasonable use.

d) The existence of any vacant dwelling, garage, or other out-building unless the same is kept securely locked, windows kept glassed or neatly boarded up, and otherwise protected to prevent entrance thereto by vandals.

e) In any area the existence of any structure or part of structure which because of fire, wind or other natural disaster, or physical deterioration is no longer habitable as a dwelling, nor useful for any other purpose for which it may have been intended.

f) In any area the existence of any partially completed structure, unless such structure is in the course of construction in accordance with a valid and subsisting zoning permit issued by the Township and a building permit issued by the Lucas County Department of Building Regulation and unless exterior construction is completed within one (1) year after issuance thereof.

g) Areas which contain weeds, grass, groundcover plantings, shrubs, trees that are not kept in a healthy condition or woodpile, skids or other burnable materials that harbor rodents, or other animal or insect infestation, and thereby causing a public health nuisance as determined by the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department.

h) Woodpiles, skids or other building materials must be kept neat and orderly as to not harbor pests or rodents.



ROAD DEPARTMENT



The Road Department would like to thank you all for the patience and consideration that was extended to us this past winter. As far as the weather goes, this past season was one of the top ten for snowfall. With more than sixty-two inches of snow, we realize how frustrating it is when you finally get your driveways shoveled and then here we come, covering the drive again. Unfortunately, there is little we can do to prevent this from happening. We do want you to know how much we appreciate it when you do not shovel the snow back into the street. THANK YOU!

Swinging into spring, have you seen your new street sweeper yet? We have made one complete run of the entire Township and plan to be back around monthly or sooner if needed. Our sign replacement and painting project is on this list for the Township this summer too. We will be painting and replacing signs on an as needed basis.

In compliance with the Storm Water Coalition, the Lucas County Sanitary Engineers cleaned the sewers in the Shoreland Heights area. The Road Department is in the process of setting up a regular maintenance program with the County to clean all the sewers in the Township. As you are probably aware, we could use your help in keeping our sewers clean. Grass clippings that get washed into the systems can clog the sewers and eventually lead to more serious problems such as flooding basements and streets. Illicit dumping of hazardous materials and waste into our sewers can also have grave environmental side effects. So please give us a hand to help keep our Township a safe and healthy place to live.

The 2003 road-resurfacing project for Shoreland Heights is also on the agenda for later this season. The affected streets are Holiday, Northshore, Capshore, Randon, and Jasik.

Always, if you have any questions or concerns, you can call the Road Department at 419-726-6908 or visit on-line.

Proposed rehabilitation of Summit Street bridge over the Ottawa River

Lucas County and the City of Toledo have entered into a Joint Cooperation Agreement and the Office of Lucas County is preparing construction plans to rehabilitate the Summit Street Bridge by replacing the entire deck and the end supports (abutments), repairing the intermediate supports (piers) and reconstructing the approach roadway. Two-way traffic will be maintained during construction. We anticipate construction will begin in Spring 2004 and be completed by late Fall 2004. Money for the project will come from the Federal Highway Administration, the Ohio Public Works Administration, the City of Toledo, and the Lucas County Road and Bridge Fund. Real estate will not be assessed for the project.

The purpose of this project is to provide a bridge that has the capacity to handle future traffic estimated at 17,200 vehicles per day, a space along the outside traffic lane for bicyclists, an adequate waterway area to handle anticipated future storm water, two (2) additional feet of vertical clearance for river traffic, navigation lighting for boaters and an improved approach roadway consistent with current standards.

The length of Summit Street affected by traffic control for this project extends from 131st Street to Shoreland Avenue. The portion of Summit Street that will be improved extends from 180 feet south to 560 feet north of the existing bridge abutments, a length of about 1.197 feet. The width of the improvement will be within the existing right-of-way.

The work consists of repairing the piers, rebuilding the top portion of the piers, construction of new abutments with spill-through-slopes, construction of a new deck, walks, railings, reconstruction of the roadway embankment, including slope protection, pavement and approach guardrail. The preliminary construction cost estimate is \$4.1M.

Keep these important email addresses in a safe place:

Trustees: trustees@washington-twp.com
Clerk: clerk@washington-twp.com
Office or Secretaries: office@washington-twp.com
Police: police@washington-twp.com
Roads: roads@washington-twp.com
Zoning: zoning@washington-twp.com
Fire: firefighters@wtfd.net

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