

# Washington

## T O W N S H I P

www.washington-twp.com

Spring 2013

Issue Number 32

## TRUSTEE NEWS

### Spring...

Once again our thoughts turn to the prospect of getting outside, cleaning up our yards, and putting away our snow shovels, snow blowers, and salt buckets. Our minds begin to plan flower beds, garden plots, and this year's yard projects.

But as I sit here looking out my sliding glass door I am abruptly reminded of the reality we live in the closing days of winter in Washington Township. Snow flurries are on the agenda for today. As most of you know the weather in Toledo can be somewhat fickle, flurries this morning, maybe rain or freezing rain by this afternoon, or a balmy breeze reminiscent of last March when we enjoyed a few weeks of 70 degree weather. Where would we be without dreams?

It is our (the Trustees) hope that you, the residents of Washington Township, have weathered the winter well and look forward, as we do, to the refreshment that spring always brings to our proud little community.

## FISCAL OFFICER

2012 FUNDS	1-1-12 BALANCE	2012 +	2012 -	12-31-12 BALANCE
GENERAL	\$310,226.60	\$177,615.47	\$158,419.89	\$329,422.18
MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE TAX	\$8,662.11	\$3,143.36	\$9,390.30	\$2,415.17
GASOLINE TAX	\$70,682.35	\$81,704.99	\$80,806.17	\$71,581.17
ROAD AND BRIDGE	\$33,409.32	\$76,922.32	\$87,890.91	\$22,440.73
SPECIAL LEVY POLICE	\$183,085.55	\$591,528.85	\$512,960.31	\$261,654.09
SPECIAL LEVY FIRE	\$90,510.47	\$237,224.60	\$283,299.64	\$44,435.43
SPECIAL LEVY PARK	\$89,109.89	\$65,065.02	\$62,902.42	\$91,272.49
PERMISSIVE MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE TAX	\$18,227.77	\$6,919.89	\$20,350.95	\$4,796.71
LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST	\$33,727.89	\$19,028.03	\$25,188.00	\$27,567.92
ENFORCEMENT AND EDUCATION	\$5,178.32	\$450.00	\$280.00	\$5,348.32
SPECIAL REVENUE LIGHTING	\$14,806.30	\$22,456.74	\$26,718.06	\$10,544.98
TOTAL	\$857,626.57	\$1,282,059.27	\$1,268,206.65	\$871,479.19

Thank you to everyone that helped with contributions for the "Help for Holidays Program." We look forward to doing it again this year. Please look for more information in this fall's newsletter.



# POLICE DEPARTMENT



## **The Door To Door Salesperson...**

The sound at the door may not be opportunity knocking! Township residents have been inundated by men and women offering everything from savings on utility bills to vacuum cleaners to yard cleanup. While we encourage entrepreneurship, we also advise everyone to be cautious as to whom you allow inside your homes. Door to door sales persons MUST register with the Township office prior to enticing you to stimulate the economy.

While we must stress that we have had no fraudulent activity to date with any sales people, we have received reports of what some may consider "high pressure sales" folks that do not want to take no for an answer. That in itself does not constitute a crime. We offer these tips in handling sales people. For starters, just do not answer the door. Generally after 2 knocks and 30 seconds of being ignored they go away. If you get an aggressive sales person tell them you are not interested and close the door. If you do let them in and they outstay their welcome tell them to leave or make up an excuse that you need to be somewhere within the next couple of minutes. Be suspicious of giving out any type of information that you feel is personal in nature or pertains to your day to day activity. We would also encourage you to investigate any potential home improvement company or utility savings company by contacting the Toledo Area Better Business Bureau via the internet or telephone. Finally, if you feel that a potential problem exists or this person may be suspicious in nature contact 9-1-1.

## **Things That Go Bump In The Night & Day...**

Warmer weather brings out everybody. The fact that we are nearing the conclusion to another school year also brings out kids for longer periods of time. Unfortunately this also provides opportunity for some unpleasant activity. Should you hear or see suspicious activity call 9-1-1 immediately. DO NOT APPROACH SUSPICIOUS PERSONS OR SITUATIONS!!! What we need from you as a citizen is a good physical description of the suspect(s) (i.e. clothing, hair style, facial hair, etc.) and if a vehicle is involved (color, style, and make). Bonus points for a license plate number. We must also stress the importance of calling 9-1-1. DO NOT CALL THE POLICE STATION. 9-1-1 operators have direct and immediate communications with the crews and getting this information as quickly as possible is paramount to apprehension and damage control. If you are not sure if the information you have is considered an emergency call 9-1-1 anyway!!

## **Carrying A. Concealed Weapon (CCW) and the Police...**

CCW permits have been around for some time and opinions are mixed. But if you have a permit and you "carry" please be aware that any time you have contact with the police YOU MUST INFORM THE OFFICER THAT YOU HAVE A CCW PERMIT AND WHETHER OR NOT YOU HAVE IT ON YOUR PERSON. We cannot stress enough the importance of safely securing your weapon at all times, especially with small children in the house. We have gun locks available for free. As stated above, we do not want you to place yourself in harm's way by approaching any suspicious situations simply because you have the CCW permit. You are not the police and you will not be of any assistance if you become a victim and the suspect obtains your weapon.

## **Park Closed At Dark...**

Shoreland Park is closed to the public after dark unless you are participating in a sponsored activity. This includes shortcuts after dark and walking the dog. While this may appear restrictive, this is a safety concern for the Police and Fire Departments. Persons found inside the park after dark and before sunrise could be subject to criminal charges or criminal trespass.

## **Play Ball...**

Baseball season is nearly upon us and that means the ball diamonds at Shoreland Park will be crowded with young athletes. While we should not have to mention this, we are reminding everyone that alcoholic beverages are not allowed inside the park area. Again, we ask that anyone attending the ball games be respectful of the immediate neighborhoods around the park when parking your vehicle. We all know that parking is at a premium around the park. "No Parking" zones will be enforced. If necessary, vehicles will be towed. While we do not want to interfere with anyone's family time by having the embarrassment of the police ticketing or towing a vehicle, we must enforce these zones due to fire regulations and potential traffic hazards. We would also ask that everyone give a "friendly reminder" to those folks that may not be familiar with the parking situation around the park.

# WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Matthew J. Hart



Spring is here. Our department has finalized the budget and we have realized that we are expected to provide the same services with less revenue and resources. Due to the current political and economic environment, for us it will require much effort to "keep what we've got". There are many things our firefighters do behind the scenes to help with conserving resources in these tight budgets. But our level of service to you remains our number one priority.

Our organization is in place to provide our customers with excellent safety services. Some of those services include extinguishing fires, providing emergency medical first response, rescue services, educating the community on fire prevention and safety issues, disaster preparedness and hazard mitigation. In addition to the traditional service, the department believes the prevention of any emergency or loss is one of our responsibilities and strives for this through our community involvement, codes, and ordinances pertaining to safety.

As the Fire Chief it is a great privilege to lead the men and women of this department. The staff is made up of 34 volunteer firefighters, 1 dispatcher, and 1 Chaplain. Our department is constantly improving and evolving. We are always on the ready, every hour of everyday - just for you!

Our firefighters are aggressive when attacking a fire and rescuing the entrapped. They find a balance between safety and the danger of the job, carefully considering the safety of our residents and themselves. That is risk management in action. Medically, they are technically able, some of the best in the region, but our firefighters are also caring and compassionate. They are active members in the community, teaching children, parents, and seniors about fire and injury prevention. They are masters in their craft and always project their considerate attitude toward others.

The Washington Twp Fire Department is a unique organization that sets its own path by applying current science and reflecting on historical events. By doing this we are creating an organization respectful of the fire service traditions without being hampered by the fear of change.

We continue to work hard to make our community safer in the most cost effective manner. We have been affected by the same economical downturn as the rest of the country. During the past few years we have held our budget level steady and continue to hold to that same budget for 2013. This is not an easy task with the ever increasing costs, but we are committed to provide the best emergency services we can. We are always working to export influence, and import information, integrate new concepts, techniques, and technology. We are constantly improving ourselves through collaborative training and care of our equipment. Because of the enthusiasm and integrity of my crew, we work well as a team to safely accomplish our tasks. The men and women of the Washington Township Fire Department are dedicated to keeping you and your family safe.

## Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives

**HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR BATTERY THIS YEAR?**

### Fire Code -

This time of year most of you will be cleaning your yards as the weather breaks. I would like to remind you to take frequent breaks, and to not extend beyond your physical limitations. Your health and well being is our prime concern. Exercise is great but remember - moderation is key.

And just what do you do with the yard waste that has accumulated over the past winter? Proper disposal is the only option. The Washington Twp Fire Code prohibits the burning of yard wastes. Many times I have reminded you of our Fire Code. So once again - in an effort to ensure your safety - Please read, understand, and follow all of the Washington Township Open Burning Regulations. Copies are available at the fire station, our Township Office, or on our website at [www.wtfd.net](http://www.wtfd.net)

### Summerfest - June 22nd - 2:00pm - 12:00 Midnight

The Washington Twp Firefighters Summerfest is just around the corner. This year the celebration will be held on Saturday June 22nd from 2:00pm - 12midnight. We feature live bands, beer, plenty of food, and lots of entertaining rides for the kids, and don't miss our fantastic fireworks display at 10pm. Sponsored and conducted by the Washington Twp. Firefighters at Shoreland Park, Summerfest is Family Friendly. The main focus of the Summerfest celebration is to facilitate an event that supports the Fire Department while providing a venue that brings the residents of our community together. This event is the largest fundraiser of the year for the firefighters. Please support us by coming to the park and participating in the fun. The funds we generate, will help our firefighters receive additional training and equipment that we utilize to defend and protect the residents of the township. We take pride in our department and our services, and your help is greatly appreciated. You are invited! Come on down to Shoreland Park and enjoy this festive event.

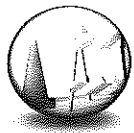
### VOLUNTEER - We need your help.

We are currently taking applications for the next Fire Academy Class that will begin in June. Become a firefighter for one of the most Progressive departments in the Region. Join our family and make a difference for everyone.

*Oh you're a firefighter. That's cool.  
I wanted to do that when I was a kid.  
What do you make?*

#### WHAT DO I MAKE?

I make holding your hand seem like the biggest thing in the world when I'm cutting you out of a car. I can make 5 minutes seem like a lifetime when I go in a burning house to save your family. I make those annoying sirens seem like angels when you need them. I can make your children breath when they stop. I can help you survive a heart attack. I make myself get out of bed at 3am to risk my life to save people I've never met. Today I might make the ultimate sacrifice to save your life. I make a difference, what do you make?



# ROAD DEPARTMENT



## Finally Spring Has Arrived!!!

This year we are asking for a levy renewal. To maintain the quality of our services we are asking for your support to pass this. This is NOT a new tax.

Our annual road crack sealing will start soon. This is done to extend the life of our roads. In your travels if you see a pothole or large crack in the road please report it to the road department. When you see us doing the crack sealing we ask that you do not drive on the hot tar.

This year, as time permits, we will be out sweeping the streets. Something that we have noticed a lot of is the blue advertising bags in the streets and driveways. When it rains they may float down into the sewers and plug them up. We are constantly having to clean them out. Some other items that have been removed include phone books, magazines, golf balls, tennis balls, miscellaneous car parts, concrete, and grass clippings. When cutting your grass please do not allow your clippings to go out into the street. Remember that the street sewers are for storm waters only. They all flow in the local streams.

Last year during the annual leaf pickup we collected over 570 cubic yards. Thanks to all who kept branches and tree limbs out of the leaf piles. By doing this we had no breakdown of equipment.

# ZONING DEPARTMENT

## Residents Concerns...

- Clear visibility at intersections and driveways. Please keep your vegetation trimmed down and back. Most setbacks are 25 to 30 feet from the center of the road.
- Lawns that are not mowed and trimmed. Grass height must not exceed five inches including fence lines.
- Rubbish and refuse on property. The accumulation of junk, trash, rubbish and refuse of any kind is prohibited in the township. Domestic refuse shall be stored in cans with lids and shall not be placed or located in the front yard. If you have a corner lot you have two front yards. So let's be discrete, no one wants refuse to be so visible from the street.

Feel free to call me with any questions or concerns and our Zoning Resolution is on line. Thanks to all the residents that have been so cooperative with zoning rules.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Hearing	2	2	4	3	1
Permits	36	40	33	27	43
Stop Work Notice	2	1	0	1	0
Violations & Warnings	212	146	134	135	126

Applications		Violations & Warnings	
Addition	3	Blight	72
Building	1	No Permit	9
Deck	2	Parking	3
Fence	19	Pool	4
Garage	2	Set Back	7
Patio	1	Storage	31
Pond	1		
Pool	7		
Ramp	1		
Shed	5		
Sign	1		



# PARK DEPARTMENT



## **Gazebo Update...**

In the spring of 2012 we met with Whitmer High Schools carpentry class to discuss building a gazebo in Shoreland Park. Mr. Kraus, the instructor, will be bringing his classroom out to the park to help with layout and a quote. It will then be presented to the trustees for a vote.

## **Shoreland Park Supervised Activities to begin June 10th 2013**

Shoreland Park's summer activities program will begin on June 10<sup>th</sup> and run through August 16<sup>th</sup>. Activities will include games, crafts, bingo, and much more. Children must be 7 years old and able to work on crafts independently or an adult must stay to help them. A permission slip is required. The hours will be Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. There will be no supervised activities June 21<sup>st</sup> due to Summerfest. We look forward to seeing all the children again this summer.

## **Confining Your Dog...**

Dogs must be physically restrained by a leash or tether at all times. Where you ask? Anywhere in the state of Ohio. This also means in Shoreland Park. You are liable for any damage your dog may do to property or people. The penalty for failure to properly confine your dog could be up to \$250.00 and or up to 30 days in jail. Please keep your dogs on a leash and in control. We also have dog bags located at both ends of the park so if your dog does his or her business please pick it up. This is becoming a real health issue. We have been getting many complaints of dogs not being on a leash or cleaned up after.

## **Park Shelter house...**

If anyone is have a birthday party, graduation party, baby shower, or family reunion and would like to rent the hall please call or e-mail the park superintendent.

# **POLICE DEPARTMENT continues...**

## **Got Drugs? National Take-Back Initiative...**

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Washington Township Police Department have scheduled another National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day to take place on Saturday, April 27, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Township fire station located at 2469 Shoreland Road. This is a great opportunity for those who missed the previous events and accumulated unwanted or unused prescription drugs to safely dispose of them. In the previous events, the DEA in conjunction with our state, local and tribal law enforcement partners have collected more than 2 million pounds (1,018 tons) of prescription medications. The National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposal, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of these medications.

## **Tired Of Those Unwanted Blue and Yellow Newspaper Plastic Bags...**

If you are tired of the unwanted delivery of the Toledo Blade adds in the blue plastic bags or the Toledo Free Press in the yellow colored bags, we ask that you call and ask that they do not deliver them to your house. We see some houses that will have four or five bags lying in the driveway, on the lawn or along the curb line. Some of these bags end up in the street and eventually in the sewers, which can create problems. We also ask that people pick up these bags as it makes the neighborhood look unsightly. The phone numbers to cancel these unwanted deliveries are:  
The Toledo Blade (Blue Bag) (419) 724-6300 Ext # 0. Toledo Free Press (Yellow Bag) (419) 241-1700 Ext #234.

**Washington Township**  
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**TRUSTEES**

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**POLICE CHIEF**

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Becky Bodette  
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zoning@washington-twp.com

**TOWNSHIP HALL ADDRESS:**

5714 Blessing Dr.  
Toledo, Ohio 43612

**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