



Washington T O W N S H I P

www.washington-twp.com

Fall 2016

Issue Number 40

From the Washington Township Police Department: No doubt you have noticed some commotion in the early morning hours, then.....QUIET. That can only mean one thing: the kids are back in school! A mixture of delight and sadness abounds as academia is now in full swing.

Take a moment to review school safety practices with your youngsters (as well as yourself). As a driver, we ask you to slow down on residential streets in the morning and mid afternoon when the yellow school busses are running. Remember: **WHEN REDS FLASH, TRAFFIC STOPS!** During restricted hours in and around school buildings or when children are present, the speed limit drops to 20 MPH.

Setting a good example for our students is always important! May we suggest the following?

- PLEASE do not park in a location where you must "J-Walk" to get to or from the school building. 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.
- Take time to LISTEN about your child's day at school! These moments are precious; 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!



Township Calendar

October 20	Trustee Meeting
November 6	Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 8	Election Day
November 17	Trustee Meeting
November 18	WTFD Feather Party
November 19	WTFD Feather Party
December 15	Trustee Meeting
January 19	Trustee Meeting
February 16	Trustee Meeting
March 16	Trustee Meeting
April 20	Trustee Meeting

Trustee Meetings begin at 7 pm and are held at Township Hall; 5714 Blessing Drive.

Please join us.

TRUSTEE NEWS

2016 has been an exceptionally busy year for the Washington Township trustees. Much of the activity has been successfully addressed/reconciled, while other issues are more complicated and are taking longer to resolve. Our goal is always to improve the overall health of the Township to ensure its residents' safety and satisfaction.

A number of our residents' homes were being affected by Shoreland Elementary School dismissal and activities over the last number of years. Their yards were used for temporary parking, creating ruts and destroying turf. The streets became unsafe for students who walk to and from school and too narrow for emergency vehicle passage. The township has now utilized the Road Right of Way in front of these homes and has had proper parking berm installed. **Note to anyone who picks up students at the school:** please respect the property of those home owners who have had parking berm installed. We understand that everyone wants to avoid traffic congestion, but for the safety of our children, please be patient! FYI; Trustees continue to work on improving traffic flow at the end of the school day.

Fall 2016

PARK DEPARTMENT

As a new school year begins, Shoreland Park's Supervised Activities came to an end on August 15th. Although Miss Tina was not able to return, Miss Tori came back along a new Activity Coordinator, Ms. Patty. The two of them supervised many outdoor games with the children including team building games, scavenger hunts, capture the flag and lava tag. Children created many crafts throughout the summer. They painted, beaded and shaped a variety of materials into new creations. Many of the projects were inspired by the children's interests. The summer culminated in a performance of "Mystery at Tie-Dye Pizza." This was a play created by the children, for the children. Ms. Patty did the final script work but it was built upon the children's input, and they brought it to life. The play debuted July 29th in front an audience of family and friends. A lot of fun was had during the final weeks after the play, including exploding a watermelon with rubber bands! The summer went fast and we can't wait for the program to begin again next year. Thank you, Washington Township, for providing the children in the community the opportunity to make wonderful summer memories.

Leaf pick up will begin sometime in October. Residents are reminded that branches/limbs should not be left in leaf piles for pick up as they ruin the shredder. Piles should be near the street.

POLICE REPORT

IF YOU SEE OR HEAR SOMETHING...SAY SOMETHING!

You are driving along and you think you saw a flash of light in a dark house or business.

You suddenly wake up during the night thinking you heard a door slam, or some glass breaking.

Trust your instincts, and take no chances. Call 9-1-1 and report what you think you saw or what you think you heard. We would rather chase shadows and find that a hungry raccoon knocked over a yard table than get a report the next day that a garage or house has been burglarized. Unfortunately, police officers are often told that someone 'heard or saw something' while taking a burglary report...after the fact.

Any time you believe or think an intruder may be inside your home, DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL 9-1-1. The Operator will stay on the line with you until the police arrive. If need be, the Operator will advise you on how to conceal yourself until help arrives. If you arrive home and it appears that someone has been or is inside your home DO NOT ENTER THE HOME. CALL 9-1-1 AND WAIT FOR THE POLICE TO ARRIVE!

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

The Washington Township Police Department is offering these Crime Prevention Tips in the hope that together we can count on you helping us to help you.

- Lock your vehicle at night and remove all valuables from the vehicle.
- When you purchase large ticket items such as electronics, never leave the box intact at the curb when you put out the garbage. Tear the box apart and only leave the "blank" portion of the box visible from the street. Or, consider recycling the box and placing it in the recycle can or recycle dumpster.
- When working in your yard, be sure to lock your doors, especially the front doors if you will be working in your back yard.
- Close and lock your garage door(s) at night, or any time you leave your house.
- Consider yard lights with motion detectors.
- Consider purchasing outside video cameras with night time view capability. These systems are really becoming affordable and this may lower your homeowners insurance.

Additional Crime Prevention tips available at the Police Station.



Fall 2016

ZONING DEPARTMENT

Thank you to residents who cooperate and comply with zoning regulation requests!

Road Right of Way is referred to in the trustee report. For your information, if your road right of way is 60 foot then you would measure 30 feet from the center of the road into your yard. The entire 30 feet is all road right-of-way and needs to be a clear zone. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY MEASUREMENTS ARE AVAILABLE BY CALLING 419.392.5381.

Lucas County and Washington Township regulations do not allow anything to be placed in the road right-of-way. Obstructions to a clear zone include address posts, rocks, wood, concrete/masonry blocks, spikes, bushes and plants. Please remove anything that is located in the right-of-way, and keep any vegetation trimmed back to insure a clear view of pedestrians and two, three and four wheeled traffic. Also:

- Unauthorized obstructions (including sight distance obstructions) in the right-of-way will be removed by County or Township personnel.
- Corner lots have a required triangle of visibility which extends 50' from the intersection of the right-of-way lines.

Other zoning information to remember:

- Your home address needs to be visible from the road.
- Parking in your front yard is not permitted unless it is on your driveway or a stoned area. Boats, trailers, snow mobiles, etc. need to be stored three feet back from the front of your house, in a side or back yard, at least three feet off the side and six feet off the back lot lines. Remember: If you have a corner lot you have two front yards.
- Fire wood must be stored in a side or back yard, six foot off the lot lines, six inches off the ground and can not exceed six foot high.

All of our regulations are available on our web site. Please feel free to call your zoning inspector with any questions or concerns at 419.392.5381.

WTFD Feather Party
 November 18 & 19
 7:00 pm

ROAD DEPARTMENT

The Township Road Department has had a busy year. We hope our residents notice that we have worked hard to trim trees for better visibility, especially around STOP signs and No Parking signs. We also have been keeping the public walkways free of low hanging limbs.

During the annual crack sealing program, we concentrated in the Fullers Creek area of the township. In this one area alone, we applied twice the amount of hot tar than we usually do. We also applied hot spray tar and stone in various parts of the township due to severity of the road conditions.

Currently we are working on a few storm sewer cave-in projects. These are areas that are scattered throughout the township. Repairs will be made by both our crew and County crews. All will be paid for from the Water Utility Fund at no cost to Washington Township.

As always, residents are asked to NOT blow grass clippings into the streets. Grass, along with many other items, block our storm sewers. Debris that collects in the road is a number one contributor to flooding, especially when we have sustained winds from the north east. We are working with Lucas County and others to keep the sewers flowing at their best potential to help with local water issues.

FISCAL

2016	9.26.16
FUNDS	BALANCE
General	\$ 146,143.55
Motor Vehicle License Tax	\$ 6,399.22
Gasoline Tax	\$22,167.50
Road and Bridge	\$ 45,632.21
Special Levy Police	\$ 193,519.99
Special Levy Fire	\$ 89,119.47
Special Levy Park	\$ 69,271.36
Permissive Motor Vehicle License Tax	\$ 18,759.84
Law Enforcement Trust	\$ 46,066.28
Enforcement and Education	\$ 6,793.17
Special Revenue Lighting	\$ 2,108.90
	\$ 645,981.49

Township Department Contact Info

Trustees - 419.726.6621

Ken Kay – Chairperson

Denise Rex – Vice Chairperson

Joanne Vail-Nixon

trustees@washington-twp.com

Fiscal Officer - 419.726.6621

Becky Bodette

clerk@washington-twp.com

Fire Chief - 419.726.2453

Jim Binienda

Ron Kay

chief@wtfd.net

Park Department - 419.726.6908

Bryon McIntosh

park@washington-twp.com

Police Department - 419.726.0478

Chris Kaiser

police@washington-twp.com

Road Department - 419.726.6908

Bryon McIntosh

roads@washington-twp.com

Zoning Department – 419.726.6621

Becky Bodette

zoning@washington-twp.com

FIRE DEPARTMENT

There has been an administration change at Washington Township Fire Department due to the recent resignation of Matt Hart. Jim Binienda, a 31 year veteran of WTFD, is now Chief of EMS Operations and Ron Kay, a 30 year veteran of WTFD, is Chief of Fire Operations.

If you haven't already noticed, be sure to drive by the fire station and see the long overdue improvements. The exterior of the building has undergone some repairs and has been freshly painted with featured "fire engine red" doors. Additionally, the Veterans' Memorial has had masonry repairs and fresh paint.

The Fire Department will be in attendance at all home games for the Shoreland Firebirds and Whitmer Panthers football teams to ensure the best care for all fans and players in the event of any mishaps. Stop by to say hello and meet your local firefighters/EMTs!

The Shoreland Fireman's Association thanks you for your support of Summerfest and invites you to the Feather Party on Friday Nov.18 and Saturday Nov.19 beginning at 7 p.m. Please come out and support your firefighters! All monies made go to purchase equipment and training for the fire department members.

WTFD has been very busy with calls for service: 36 calls in June, 38 calls in July and 48 calls in August. We set a new daily record: 7 calls in one 24 hour period!

Remember to change your smoke detectors batteries when we "fall back" an hour on Sunday, November 6. Finally, with the holidays approaching, remember **safety first** with holiday decorations and look for the Polar Express in a neighborhood near you!