

the township *Scribe*



Washington Township . . . Your Community, Your Future

Choke prevention program

Now Dublin restaurants can provide a new service to their customers which may help save a life. The Fire Department is kicking off a new program, *Serving Up Safety*, to train restaurant employees on the life-saving technique, the Heimlich maneuver. As part of the free training, Safety Technician Lauri Spring discusses signs of choking and ways to help a choking victim.

“Because choking often occurs when people are eating, it is not unusual for restaurant managers and staff to encounter a choking incident. We want to make sure they know what to do if the need arises,” said Ms. Spring. Because choking interrupts a person’s ability to get air, it is critical that the help they receive is immediate. While EMS crews are quick to the scene, sometimes victims don’t have the few

minutes it takes for them to arrive. And because the procedure is rather simple to perform, citizens can have a great deal of success performing the maneuver after just an hour of training. Restaurant managers can request a class for their staff by calling 614-652-3940.



Instructor Spring (right) demonstrates the Heimlich maneuver.

<i>In This Issue</i>	
Radon test results	2
Free diagnostic screenings	2
Be part of the Chain of Survival	3
Recommended for accreditation	4
Emergency preparedness resources	4
Free radon test kits	4
Citizens’ Fire Academy is fun & flames	5
Free CPR certification	6
New traffic signal preemption system	6
Request a program online	7
ParkSCAPES photo contest	8
Emerald Ash Borer	8
Pet waste can pollute water	9
The trickster	9
Car seat checks offered at new location	10
Exchange your mercury thermometer	10
Dave’s Dirt: a healthy lawn	11
Household hazardous waste collected	11

Buy Recycled! benefits the environment and parks Janell Thomas, Parks Director

More than 250,000 people visited the Washington Township Parks last year. With hundreds of birthday party celebrations, family reunions, special interest group meetings, and day care outings each year, the Parks Department does their share of collecting trash that ultimately ends up in a landfill.

To help minimize the amount of trash that is landfilled, the Parks and

Recreation Department has started a program to collect aluminum cans and #1 and #2 plastic bottles for recycling. Eight collection containers are now at The Homestead Park and the Kaltenbach Park & Community Center.

The containers were purchased in part with funds from a grant, given by the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO). Labeled with plaques depicting the *Buy Recycled!* logo, the

green and black receptacles, which are made from 95% post consumer waste, will be easy for visitors to locate and use.

“We are pleased to work with Washington Township and provide these funds to promote recycling,” says SWACO Executive Director Mike Long. “It is our goal to reach people where they work, live and play and help them understand that recycling takes very little effort and yet provides so

Continued on page 7

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Radon test results

For the past year, the Township has served as a distribution point for radon testing kits. The kits are supplied by the Franklin County Board of Health, who receives a grant from the State for the program.

The State and County Boards of Health instituted the radon test kit program to gather which will help them characterize in greater detail the radon levels in places known to be “radon hot spots.”

Among these Central Ohio hot spots are Dublin, Worthington, Upper Arlington, Grandview and Hilliard.

“While a map of radon readings from these regions currently exists, we need more data points on the map so we have reference points within one-block area rather than a one-mile area,” says Paul Wenning, Special Projects Manager for the Franklin County Board of Health. “Eventually, we will be able to make this map available

electronically so that anyone who is curious about a location can access the information.”

During the past year, Washington Township has disseminated 534 radon test kits to residents who have requested them.

So far, the Franklin County Board of Health has had a 50% return rate on the kits requested from the Dublin area.

The lowest radon reading they have received from the Dublin area was 0.7 pico curies per liter (pCi/L). The highest was 30 pCi/L which is about 7.5 times the acceptable rate of 4 pCi/L set by the U.S Environmental Protection Agency. The highest reading on record at the Board of Health for a location in the Dublin/Worthington area is 60 pCi/L or 15 times the acceptable rate.

If you have an unused radon kit, conduct the test and send it in for the results. Once you receive your reading, you can determine if you need to mitigate the radon in your home. Your decision should be based on both your reading and how the space is used. If radon levels are slightly high but your lower level is used only for storage, mitigation may not be as critical as if you use the space for living area, sleeping area or hobbies. In certain instances, the Department of Health may recommend that you perform a second and longer term test, especially if you are considering mitigation.

If you have not yet tested your home for radon levels and would like a radon test kit, you can pick one up at the Township Administration Building at 6200 Eiterman Road weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Free diagnostic screenings and burn safety tips at *Dublin Celebrates...Senior Citizens' Day*

The Fire Department will offer blood pressure, EKG and CO₂ screenings to Seniors at the City of Dublin's annual event, *Dublin Celebrates...Senior Citizens' Day*.

The event is scheduled for Tuesday May 15, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Dublin Recreation Center.

During these hours, paramedics will be available to answer questions and provide information about burn prevention and treatment.

Free potted *Aloe vera* plants will be available on a first-come, first-served basis to those in attendance.

“Because aloe is reported to help heal a burn, we thought it would be helpful to provide a living source of aloe gel for those occasions when our residents need it. Aloe is fairly simple

to grow provided that you have a good source of light,” said avid aloe grower and user EMS Manager Jack McCoy.



Be part of the *Chain of Survival* John Nichols, Firefighter/Paramedic

Are you part of the Chain of Survival?
Can you help if the need arises?

Sudden cardiac arrest is a major cause of death in the United States, claiming approximately 200,000 lives each year.

Sudden cardiac arrest is the sudden absence of blood flow from the heart. It can be caused by several things including an abnormal heart rhythm, a heart attack, electrical shock, and near drowning to name a few.

If you are part of the Chain of Survival, you will be able to help a victim of cardiac arrest when they need it most.

To a victim of cardiac arrest, each of the four links of the Chain of Survival is important. But, when joined together, these links become a system that provides the strongest and most effective means possible of ensuring their survival. In fact, if all four links were present every time a cardiac arrest occurred, it is estimated that nearly 40,000 fewer people would die each year.

Be part of the chain by committing to learning about at least one of its links. The four links are:

Early access. Understand and recognize the signs and symptoms of a heart attack, or stroke. Not all heart attacks are like the ones we see depicted on television. Often the symptoms are more subtle such as chest pain or discomfort, chest pressure, difficulty in breathing, pain radiating into the shoulders, neck or jaw. The signs of stroke include slurred speech, a staggered walk, drooping of the mouth on one side, and/or paralysis. Immediately accessing the 911 system is crucial.

Our 911 system has trained emergency dispatchers that can give lifesaving instructions.

Early CPR. Learn CPR! When a sudden cardiac arrest takes place, the heart stops beating and the person stops breathing. This interruption in blood flow is catastrophic. Blood flow ceases to the brain and other tissues. Brain damage can occur in less than four minutes. With each subsequent minute, the chances of survival decrease. Learn to act while waiting for EMS to arrive.



Early defibrillation is often considered the most critical link in our chain. This is preformed with a device known as an automatic external defibrillator (AED). These devices are user friendly and offer computerized voice prompts through a step-by-step process. A layperson trained in CPR and the use of an AED can deliver a lifesaving electrical shock within minutes. Time is critical if a cardiac arrest victim is to survive. The

American Heart Association advocates public access defibrillator (PAD) programs. There are several PADs in Dublin at the Dublin Recreation Center, Dublin Schools, and area restaurants, among others.

Early advanced care means having qualified trained paramedics arrive as soon as possible. In Washington Township, our goal is to arrive on the scene in eight minutes or less 90% of the time. We meet and exceed this goal, delivering advanced cardiac life support within minutes by securing

advanced airways devices and administering life saving medications to help restore the heart beat. Our paramedics continue this same care from the scene all the way into the receiving emergency department.

Become part of your community's Chain of Survival by learning the signs and symptoms of cardiac arrest. Know how to perform CPR and how to use an AED.

Washington Township Fire Department

offers CPR with AED certification classes on the second Saturday of each month. Participants must be at least 12 years old. The cost is \$10 per person for those who work or reside in Washington Township and \$25 for those who do not. To register, call 652-3920 or complete the registration form on our web site, www.wtwp.com

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Recommended for accreditation

On December 14, the Washington Township Fire Department received a recommendation by a four-member site assessment team for full accreditation by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI).

If members of the CFAI accept the recommendation of the assessment team, Washington Township will be the fourth fire department in Ohio to achieve this distinction.

The CFAI members will meet in March 2007 in Orlando Florida to make their decision. Currently, there are only 116 of approximately 40,000 U.S. fire departments that are accredited.

Site assessment was the final step in the accreditation application process which began with an internal audit to identify strengths and address deficiencies in all aspects of the fire service including operations, training, equipment, disaster response planning, human

resources, inspections, investigations, public education and finance.

A list of performance indicators which are based on a nationally accepted set of criteria for level and quality of fire, EMS and other services, served as the benchmark for the Department's internal analysis and process of documentation.

The assessment team, which was comprised of current and former command officers from Florida, Hawaii, Arizona, and Vancouver British Columbia, interviewed staff members, reviewed documentation, and determined that the Department met all core competencies identified by the Commission.

"The public served by this Township should feel proud and protected because they have a great fire department looking over them and providing them with great service, said

assessment team member Jerry Spencer, Battalion Chief for the Honolulu Fire Department. "From our interviews with the staff, we were impressed with their enthusiasm, dedication and passion for their work. They are serious about what they do."

The accreditation system was developed to help fire departments improve their ability to assess their resources and emergency service delivery systems, so they can better meet the needs of those they serve.

"Ultimately, accreditation will help drive continuous improvement in our organization and help us maintain a level of service our residents and businesses expect and appreciate. We want to do everything we can to contribute to the high quality of life for which Dublin is known," said Washington Township Fire Chief Allan Woo.

Emergency preparedness resources online

In the event of a large scale emergency, emergency responders and municipal services can be overextended, making it necessary for you to be self-sufficient until help is available. If you are prepared, you will be better able to cope with the probable inconveniences and potential health and safety risks you may face during this time. Refer to our 65-page *Community Disaster Preparedness Manual* for information about what to do in a variety of emergency situations, the supplies, documents, and tools you'll need. To access these resources, go to www.wtwp.com, select *Information and News*, then *Preparedness*.



EMS Manager Jack McCoy introduced his class to the supplies in the free "Ready Kit" they received at the emergency preparedness workshop offered in October.

Free Radon Test Kits

Radon test kits are available (while supplies last) for residents in Dublin and the unincorporated Washington Township. Kits can be picked up at the Township Administration Building (6200 Eiterman Road) Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. One per household, please. Instructions are provided in the kit, which are made possible through a grant to the Franklin County Board of Health from the Ohio Department of Health.

Citizen's Fire Academy Is Fun and Flames

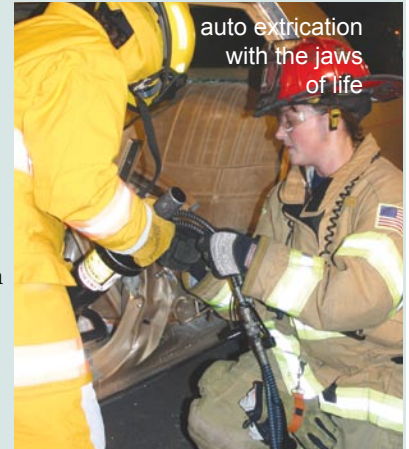
The Washington Township Fire Department is accepting applications for participation in the Department's second annual Citizen's Fire Academy (CFA). The ten-week program, which will begin August 1st, is a fun and safe program for citizens who want to learn about the Fire Department's day-to-day operations, emergency response procedures and specialized equipment.



rappelling!

The program is designed to help participants become familiar with the wide scope of training and experience required to be a first responder. The program will also help participants gain a better understanding of the impact of their actions in an emergency and how they can be supportive of the Fire Department's emergency response efforts.

Each of the program's 11 meetings will include a combination of classroom instruction and hands-on experience offered by department fire fighters, officers, and managers. Program activities include a behind-the-scenes tour of the Dublin Police Department radio room, rappelling, aerial ladder climb, live fire exercise, CPR and first aid certification, personal protective equipment exercises, hazardous material exercises, vehicle extrication, and fire extinguisher training.



auto extrication with the jaws of life



fitting a self-contained breathing apparatus

The 2007 CFA meeting times are Wednesdays, August 1st through September 26th from 7-10 p.m. and Saturday September 29 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. A graduation ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday October 3rd at 7 p.m.



nozzle control techniques are needed for high pressure lines



It's 100 feet to the top. That's about nine stories!

Participants must be at least 21 years old. Priority will be given to those who reside or work in Washington Township or the City of Dublin. However, all are encouraged to apply.

All classes are held at the Washington Township Administration and Training Facility, 6200 Eiterman Road.

For more information and to apply, visit www.wtwp.com or call the Training Manager, James Ross, at (614) 652-3935.



hazardous materials protection makes a simple task difficult

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Free CPR certification classes offered at part of EMS celebration

May 20-26 is National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week. Celebrate with your friends and loved ones at the EMS Celebration. These and other activities will be offered at the Dublin Recreation Center on Saturday May 26 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. (unless otherwise noted). Don't miss it!

Adult & Child CPR with AED Certification

8:30 a.m.- noon or 12:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Choose which session fits your schedule. Participants must be at least 12 years old and register by Monday May 7. This is the only time this year this course will be offered free of charge.

Youth Bicycle Helmets

Helmets can protect your child if they fit and are worn properly. Members of the EMS Bike Patrol will fit your child with a free bicycle helmet and show you how it should be worn to get the most protection possible.



Firefighter and EMS Bike Patrol member Jim Fish fits a bicycle helmet.

Sparky's Safety House Tours

Learn how to stop, drop and roll to escape from a "smoke-filled" room. This specially-equipped mobile classroom helps prepare all ages for the unexpected occurrence of fire through the use of several real-life simulations. Inspector Bob

Westbrook will also present a puppet show at 10:30 a.m., noon, and 1 p.m. with his friends Jimmy and Hector the Smoke Detector. Balloons, popcorn, and printed materials will be available.

Fire Truck and Medic Sneak Peek

Climb in and we'll show you around. Ask us questions about the equipment we use to fight fires, perform rescues and stabilize and treat our patients.

Blood Pressure, EKG, Glucose Checks

Paramedics will check your blood pressure, EKG and glucose, free of charge.

Derma Scan

After you look into this machine and see the damage that sun exposure has caused to your skin, you'll be a believer in sun screen. This is a great tool for convincing young people of the importance of limiting sun exposure.

Child Car Seat Checks

In many cases, children are either not properly buckled into their seats or parents don't realize that a booster seat is vital to ensuring children fit safely in their vehicle's seat belt. Have your child's safety seat professionally inspected by our great staff! Reservations are required. It is helpful if the child who uses the seat can be at the check. Call 652-3920 for an appointment.

New traffic signal preemption system

The Fire Department installed traffic signal preemption equipment which will update five intersections and add five new ones to the list of locations where emergency responders will be ensured a green light in the direction they are headed while cross traffic is held by a red light.

The new system is an improvement over the previous system because it uses global positioning system (GPS) and radio-based technology rather than line-of-sight. Using GPS, the system can track precisely the location, direction, speed and turn signal of an approaching emergency vehicle and calculate its estimated time of arrival to the intersection.

As a result, the system provides efficient green-time in the intersection, with traffic flow control adjusted according to emergency vehicle type, speed and turning intention.

"The new GPS and radio-based system improves emergency



vehicle response time with minimum traffic flow disruption," said Chief Allan Woo. "It's the safest solution for both the emergency responders and the drivers at the intersection."

The cost to install the system at 10 intersections and in 11 vehicles was \$60,000. The City of Dublin assisted with the project by installing the equipment at the intersections.

"As Dublin's traffic volume increases and intersections become busier with more complex traffic patterns, signal preemption will help Fire, EMS and the Police Department to respond to calls rapidly and safely, said Woo."

Request a program online

Request one of our programs anytime by utilizing our new online request form. Go to wtwp.com. Select *Fire & EMS, Safety Programs, Request a Program*. With just a click of your mouse, you can submit your request. When we receive it, we will call you to discuss the details and agree on a date. A few of the programs we offer are:

Fire Station Tour/Visit- See equipment demonstrations, fire fighters' living quarters, and the equipment bay.

Mobile Fire Safety House- Tour our mobile laboratory which prepares all ages for the unexpected occurrence of fire through several real-life simulations.

Fire Safety with Jimmy & Hector the Detector- Inspector Westbrook and his crazy puppets impress upon youth the importance of three main messages: (1) Stop, drop and roll; (2) Get out and stay out; (3) Crawl low under smoke.

Home Safety Safari- We will review potential fire and safety hazards from around the house and discuss how to remedy them. Participants will receive a checklist they can use in their own home hazards search.

Fire Extinguisher Training *◇ (16 years & up)- Following a short lecture and video presentation, participants will get hands-on experience using a charged fire extinguisher to put out a fire which is generated by our fire extinguisher trainer.

CPR with AED Certification * (12 years & up)- This American Heart Association program covers recognizing and relieving a choking victim, recognizing the signs of a heart attack, and using an AED.

First Aid Certification * (12 years & up)- This American Heart Association program includes injury assessment, splinting, bandages and dressings, treatment of shock, and much more.

Buy Recycled! continued from page 1

many benefits to Washington Township and its residents."

"We want to set a good example by showing we are a leader in environmental protection," said Parks and Recreation Director Janell Thomas. "Products like these receptacles are not only sturdy and attractive but also last longer than typical wood products and require less maintenance. We are

always looking for ways to reduce maintenance costs."

The purpose of the *Buy Recycled!* Grant Program is to provide supplemental funding for the purchase of recycled content products, materials and/or equipment.

Success of the recycling industry depends on demand for the products

that are made from recycled materials. When recycled products are purchased, a demand is created for the waste materials needed to make the item. It is the demand for the recyclables that provides waste haulers with incentive to collect and then sell these materials for profit. If no one purchases recycled-content products, there is little reason to collect the materials needed to manufacture the products.

First Aid Awareness- Youth who do not meet the age requirement for the certification class can learn basic splinting, bleeding control, and recognition of medical emergencies such as a heart attack or stroke. This class can be customized for scout or 4-H project.



Inspector Bob Westbrook uses a kitchen facility at the Stoneridge Court Apartments to demonstrate kitchen fire hazards and extinguisher use for their residents.

All About Your Local EMS- Find out when, why, and from what phone should you call 9-1-1, how you can help medics get to you faster, and what you can do to help them should they be called to your home to help you or a family member.

Why Do Firefighters Wear Red Suspenders?- One of our firefighters will show you the specialized turnout gear they wear and some of the tools they use on fire calls. An especially critical part of this presentation is familiarizing students with the sounds that the firefighters' breathing equipment makes and the important role every feature of their gear (pockets, special fabric, reflective tape, boots, helmet, face mask etc.) has in protecting them and helping them do their job.

**participant fee required ◇minimum class of ten required*

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

ParkSCAPES Photo Contest



The Parks Department invites you to share your talent in the "Parkscapes Photo Contest." Submit a photograph that depicts your experiences, enjoyment or

reflection of Washington Township parks or special events. All entries will be displayed and judged in The Homestead Park office. The winning photographs in each age and subject category will be published in a future Parks Program Guide.

Contest Rules:

1. The contest is open to amateur photographers in two age categories: youth (17 yrs. old and under) and adult (18 years and older).
2. Photos must be taken at Washington Township Park locations: The Homestead Park; Ted Kaltenbach Park or Amlin Crossing.

3. Photos may be entered in two subject categories, People and Nature. Each person may submit a maximum of two entries per category.
4. The contest will be held twice throughout the year to capture the Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter seasons. Photos for the spring/summer season must be received by 5 p.m. July 31st, 2007.
5. A \$2 entry fee will be required for each entry submitted.
6. Color and black & white photos will be judged in the same category.
7. Photos may be submitted as digital files or as prints. Digital files should be in .jpeg format and sized to 8 x 10-12" at 300 dpi. Prints should be unframed and sized to 8 x 10-12".
8. Photos must be accompanied by the photographer's name, age category, subject category, address, phone number and a brief description of the photo's subject matter.
9. Digital entries may be emailed to parksinfo@wtwp.com. Print entries may be dropped off Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. in the Parks Office located at The Homestead Park, 4675 Cosgray Road.
10. Washington Township reserves the right to use entries for promotional use.

Questions? Call (614) 652-3922

Emerald Ash Borer

Kevin Swanson, Park Manager

Central Ohio's ash trees have come under pressure from a devastating invader. First identified in Ohio in 2003, the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an invasive ash-killing insect from Asia. Adults are dark metallic green in color and ½" in length. Larvae are creamy white in color and are found just beneath the bark where they feed on the tree's live tissue. EAB kills ash trees within three to five years of infestation. Usually their presence goes undetected until the trees show symptoms. Typically, the upper third of a tree will die back first, followed by the rest of the tree in the next year. This is followed by a large number of shoots or sprouts arising below the dead portion of the trunk. Adults make a distinct D-shaped exit hole when they emerge, while the larvae create S-shaped tunnels under the bark.

The Ohio Departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources, U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Forest Service and other state and federal agencies are actively

working to stop the spread of EAB through Ohio's more than 3.8 billion ash trees. The movement of hardwood (non-coniferous) firewood has proven to be the source of



many infestations throughout the state. Local counties recently quarantined due to EAB infestation include Logan, Marion, Delaware and portions of Franklin. It is illegal to transport ash trees, parts of ash trees and all hardwood firewood out of

any quarantined area. Due to our close proximity to these quarantined areas, Washington Township asks residents and park-users to be responsible when transporting firewood. Do not move wood from outer areas or unfamiliar sources and avoid bringing questionable firewood into park properties or campgrounds. For more information, call 1-888-OHIO-EAB or visit <http://www.ohioagriculture.gov/eab> and <http://ashalert.osu.edu>

Pet waste can pollute water

Pet waste, if not disposed of properly, can pose a health risk to pets, people, and other living things (i.e. aquatic life) that are directly or indirectly exposed to it. Pet waste contains bacteria and parasites that can contaminate water as it is “washed” into storm drains or into the ground and eventually into waterways, a source of drinking water for many of us.

Pet waste may not seem like a problem large enough to worry about but there are 87,000 licensed dogs in Franklin County.

The best ways to dispose of your pet’s waste are by either sealing it in a plastic bag and including it with your other household garbage or flushing it down a toilet. Both of these methods help preserve water quality, which

is important for the health of our community and the environment upon which we rely.

To encourage proper disposal of pet waste in Washington Township, the Parks Department provides pet waste bags along the walking trails at The Homestead and Kaltenbach Parks.

The “trickster”

Kevin Swanson, Park Manager

Folklore and myths about coyotes have existed for hundreds of years. The coyote is one of the most popular characters among Native Americans who often referred to them as “the trickster” because it could often outsmart them and was difficult to keep away from their villages.

Although usually portrayed as sneaky and a thief, the coyote also represented a cultural hero to Native Americans. Even today, the coyote is either revered for its intelligence and problem solving or disliked for being cunning. Whatever the opinion, coyotes are extremely opportunistic and have the ability to survive almost every condition.

The coyote (*Canis latrans*, meaning “barking dog”) is a close relative of the domestic dog. It is relatively slender in stature with a black-tipped, bushy tail and grey coat with rusty variations. They stand about one and a half to two feet tall and weigh between 20 and 50 pounds. Coyotes are primarily nocturnal. However, when less threatened by humans, they will move more during the day. They may occasionally assemble in small packs, but normally hunt alone or in pairs.

Coyotes are omnivores and learn to adapt their diet to the food sources available. They typically eat small mammals but will also eat fruits, grasses or food disposed of by humans. They can feed on livestock, cats and small dogs. Coyotes are monogamous, pairing for life with one mate, and live between six to ten years.

Prior to the 1900s, coyotes were only found west of the Mississippi River. As Ohio’s forests were cleared for agriculture, the coyote began to make its way into Ohio.

Today they can be found in all of Ohio’s 88 counties and even some cities. Their versatility has given them the ability to make a home almost anywhere. They have the ability to adapt to various habitats and share space with humans, although they are rarely seen. Coyotes sometimes will find shelter in drainpipes, standing piles of debris or even old buildings. Most of the time, coyotes go out of their way to avoid humans, but they are discovering that humans can supply a good source of food. As they lose their fear of people, they may put themselves in hazardous situations they would normally avoid. Although typically



shy creatures, coyotes are smart, learn quickly and can be dangerous if threatened.

Avoid encouraging them to visit your neighborhood. Close trash can lids tightly. Do not leave pet food outside and do not leave small pets outside unaccompanied.

These elusive creatures are not that far from home for Washington Township. A pack of three has been repeatedly sighted around the new Township Administration Building at 6200 Eiterman Road. It is believed that these coyotes have been benefiting from some vacant properties and remnant open farmlands in the area.

After increasing during the 1990’s, Ohio’s coyote population appears to be leveling off, according to the Ohio Division of Wildlife.

Whether we dislike them for their cleverness or admire them for their resourcefulness, the coyote is here to stay ... a true opportunist.

Car seat checks offered at new location

The Fire Department and Dublin *Children's Close to Home* (5675 Venture Drive) are partners in offering a new location for free child car seat checks.

Appointments are offered at this location on Tuesdays from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

The Fire Department also offers appointments for checks on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. at the Township Administration Building, 6200 Eiterman Road.

To make an appointment for a car seat check at either location, call the Fire Department at 614-652-3920.

The National Highway Safety Administration certifies the safety technicians who check the seats. During each check, technicians determine if the seat is on a

manufacturer's recall list and ensure it is in good working order, properly positioned, fitted, and stable within the car. "Because there are so many different car seat and vehicle manufacturers and models, seats should be fitted to the passenger that will be using it and the vehicle in which it will be used," said Julie Frim, one of



Washington Township's car seat safety technicians.

Educating parents is another important aspect of the program. "We always share the how and why of the car seat fitting so parents feel comfortable doing it themselves, should they need to install another seat or fit the seat in another vehicle," said Frim.

Seat placement and adjustment greatly affects whether or not the car seat does its job to protect the child in it.

Ohio law requires that children must ride in an approved safety seat until they are both 40 pounds and four years old. Anyone who violates this law is subject to a fine of \$100 for a first offense and \$250 plus a potential jail term for a second offense.

Exchange your mercury thermometer for a new digital one

The Franklin County Department of Health is sponsoring a mercury thermometer exchange program. As one of the partners in this program, Washington Township will serve as an exchange location.

To exchange your mercury thermometer, bring it in a sealed plastic bag to the Township Administration Building at 6200 Eiterman Road, Monday-Friday, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

By ridding your home of mercury thermometers, you are helping to reduce the risk of the mercury they contain creating a serious environmental or health issue.

Very small amounts of mercury can do significant harm to people, wildlife and other living things. If a mercury thermometer is disposed of improperly, the mercury can end up in rivers and lakes. One gram of mercury per year is enough to contaminate all the fish in a 20-acre lake.

For more information about how mercury can affect human health and how to avoid mercury exposure, visit www.co.franklin.oh.us/board_of_health/

Select *Mercury thermometer exchange* in the *What's New* section.

Important Events

Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 11. Use this annual event as a reminder to install fresh batteries in all the smoke alarms in your home.

CPR with AED Certification Class

Offered on the second Saturday of every month from 9 a.m.- noon. To register, call 652-3920.

First Aid Certification Class

Offered quarterly on second Saturday of March, June, September and December from 1- 3:30 p.m. To register, call 652-3920.



A healthy lawn is often characterized as lush and green. But did you know that a healthy lawn can also better sustain stress from drought, diseases, insects, and traffic and reduce weed infestations?

Following are some guidelines from Jane Martin, Franklin County Extension Horticulturist, for what you can do in April and May to begin establishing a healthy lawn. For a copy of Jane's complete lawn care calendar, visit <http://franklin.osu.edu/hort/hort.htm>

Fertilization

If late fall fertilizer was applied last October or November, make only one fertilizer application this spring, preferably in late April or early May, using $\frac{3}{4}$ # actual nitrogen per 1000 square feet.

If no late fall fertilizer was applied, make two applications this spring; one about April 1 and the other in late May, using $\frac{3}{4}$ # actual nitrogen per 1000 square feet, each time.

Mowing

Bluegrass, perennial ryegrass and fine

fescues should be mowed at a height of 2" to 2 ½"; tall fescue is mowed at 2 ½"- 3". Since the blade contains the food factory for the grass, more blade area allows the plant to make more food. Longer blade length also helps reduce the amount of sunlight at the ground level where weed seeds need it to germinate.

Mow often so that no more than one third of the grass blade is removed at any one cutting. Make sure your mower blade is sharp for clean cuts.

Irrigation

It may be necessary to water the lawn if spring is dry. Water deeply once a week; apply 1" of water to wet the soil 6"- 8" deep, if rainfall is insufficient. Check soil with a trowel to see if soil is wet to 6" depth. Early morning watering is best.

Lawn Insect Control

White grubs resume their activity as the soil warms. These grubs, however, are large and fairly resistant to insecticidal treatment, and they do not feed heavily in the spring. Should a spring treatment be necessary, it is best to have a commercial lawn company apply an insecticide.

Pre-emergent Crabgrass Control

Pre-emergent herbicides can be applied

in spring for control of crabgrass, barnyardgrass, foxtail and other annual grassy weeds. In most seasons, treatment deadline is mid-April for central Ohio. A few annual broadleaf weeds can also be controlled with this application. Five to seven moist nights with 50 degrees F soil temperatures are required for crabgrass to germinate.

Pre-emergent herbicides available to homeowners include: Balan, Dactah, Betasan, Chipco, Ronstar G and Pendimethalin. An organic product is corn gluten meal. If you are seeding the lawn in spring, **do not** apply a pre-emergent herbicide.

Broadleaf Weed Control

Weeds must be actively growing for herbicides to be effective and temperatures above 50 degrees F; May is generally a good month for broadleaf weed control. Selective post-emergent herbicides available to homeowners include: 2,4-D, MCPP, and dicamba. Some of these products occur in combination with fertilizer and both tasks may be done at the same time.

Granular weed control products for broadleaf weeds are generally not as effective as liquid applications.



Household hazardous waste collected April 21

Most households have hazardous waste materials that cannot legally be disposed with regular trash because they pose an environmental risk in sanitary landfills. Items such as non-latex paint, lighter fluid, gasoline, paint thinner, kerosene, adhesives, pool chemicals, acids, drain cleaner, paint stripper, antifreeze, insecticides, rat poison, mercury/Ni-cad and lithium batteries should be taken to a hazardous waste collection.

The Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio will sponsor a collection at Ashland Inc. in Dublin on April 21 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. If your business has hazardous waste materials to dispose, call the Ohio EPA (614) 728-3778. For alternative ways to dispose of latex paint and a complete list of all 2007 collection dates and locations, visit www.swaco.org.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

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Our Mission

Orchestrate a safe,
healthy, and exhilarating
living experience for our
community.

Fire Stations

Station 91: 6255 Shier Rings Road

Station 92: 4497 Hard Road

Station 93: 5825 Brand Road

Station 95: 5750 Blazer Parkway

Parks and Recreation

4675 Cosgray Road

Hilliard, Ohio 43026

(614) 652-3922

Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m M-F

Janell Thomas, Director

The Homestead Park

4675 Cosgray Road, Hilliard, Ohio 43026

Community Center & Kaltenbach Park

5985 Cara Road, Dublin, Ohio 43016

Amlin Crossing Park

5468 Cosgray Road, Dublin, Ohio 43016

Road and Bridge

4675 Cosgray Road

Hilliard, Ohio 43026

(614) 652-3921

Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Janell Thomas, Superintendent

Dave Gibson, Assistant Superintendent