



# the township *Scribe*



Washington Township . . . Your Community, Your Future

## A New Fire Station

As Dublin grows, so will the need for another fire station. Where and when will it be built? Gathering the information needed to guide these decisions takes time and requires the analysis of many factors including emergency response time, land availability and cost, and anticipated residential and business growth, to name a few.

### *Response Time*

Two agencies, the Insurance Services Office (ISO), and the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE), set standards of excellence in fire department emergency response

time. ISO uses the distance an Engine company is stationed from a potential incident as one of the criteria for evaluating a department. They ask that this distance not exceed 1.5 miles.

The CPSE requires participating departments to set and meet a response time goal that meets or exceeds the national standard in order to receive accreditation. Washington Township has identified a performance goal of responding to 90% of the community's incidents in eight minutes or less, inclusive of dispatch and call taking times.

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## Celebrate Fire Prevention Week October 7

October 7-13 is National Fire Prevention Week. To celebrate this important week and help promote fire safety, Washington Township Fire Department will host an open house at all four of its stations on Sunday October 7th from 1-4 p.m.

Every station will offer a fire hose water target, balloons, popcorn, and fire safety information. Our available trucks and medics will also be open. All activities will be offered from 1-4 p.m. except for the auto extrication, which will be offered at 2 p.m.

### Station 91, 6255 Shier Rings Road

Fire extinguisher demonstrations & photos with Sparky

### Station 92, 4497 Hard Road

Auto extrication with the jaws of life

### Station 93, 5825 Brand Road

Sparky's Safety House tours

### Station 95, 5750 Blazer Parkway

Station tours



The fire hose target, a perennial favorite of all ages, will be offered at all stations on October 7.

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Why are escape plans important?

**M**ost fatal residential fires occur between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. Deaths from residential fires occur in greater numbers when most people are asleep. More than 3,000 people die each year from fire - more than half of them children and senior citizens. The majority of these deaths are in home fires.



Regardless of the cause of the fire, a home may be filled with smoke. Family members may be unable to see clearly. The smoke and toxic gases may cause dizziness and disorientation. In the confusion, one can easily become lost or trapped in the home.

Family members must understand that their safety depends upon quickly leaving the home. It has been proven that exit drills reduce chances of panic and injury in fires and that trained and informed people have a much better chance to survive fires in their home.

**Plan ahead.** Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.

### **Make a plan.**

Escape planning is easy and requires only a few minutes to do. Make a diagram of your home's layout including doors and windows. Ask each member of your family to find their bedroom on the map and identify two ways they could get out of the house from their bedroom. Then, ask them to demonstrate how they would escape using the routes they have drawn on their map.

**Realize the danger of smoke.** If a person is ever caught in a building filled with smoke, they should drop on hands and knees and crawl to the nearest exit, testing all closed doors before opening them. Feel the back of

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## Rid Your Home of Fire Hazards this Fall

Many of us do spring cleaning in anticipation of opening our houses to the outdoors after months of keeping them closed during cold weather.

Fall is another good time to do seasonal checks and preparations for the months ahead when space heaters, furnaces, fire places, wood stoves, turkey fryers, clothes dryers and candles can pose a hazard if not properly maintained and used.

Check your **space heaters** for the UL-listed symbol which stands for Underwriters Laboratories and indicates that it meets a stringent set of safety standards.

Clean the **clothes dryer exhaust duct**, damper and space under the dryer.

Poor maintenance allows lint to build up in the exhaust duct and may cause a fire.

Clean the **kitchen exhaust hood** and air filter. Keeping this clean of grease will help keep a stovetop fire from spreading.

If you will be burning wood, make sure you have a metal container in which to dispose of the **ashes** you generate.

Store **firewood** away from your home and off the ground. Bring in only as much fire wood as you need for one evening or day. This will reduce your home's fire load and the chance of attracting termites.

Have your **chimney** inspected and cleaned if you plan to use it.

Insulate **pipes** in your home's crawl spaces and attic. These exposed pipes are most susceptible to freezing. Remember: the more insulation you use, the better protected your pipes will be.

Make sure you and your family members know how to shut off the **water supply** in the event that you have a pipe freeze, burst and thaw.

Clean out **gutters and downspouts**. Cleaning debris and fallen leaves reduces the chances of an ice dam forming.

If you have **outside spigots**, remove any hoses that are attached, drain the hose, and store them under cover.

### 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 kits, which are made possible through a grant to the Franklin County Board of Health from the Ohio Department of Health.

### Digital Thermometers

Exchange your mercury thermometer for a new digital one. Just bring your thermometer, in a sealed plastic bag, to 6200 Eiterman Road (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.). The program is sponsored by the Franklin County Board of Health.

## Family and Friends CPR Offered

The Fire Department is offering a new type of CPR class called *Family and Friends* CPR.

Unlike the monthly CPR certification classes the Department offers, *Family and Friends* has no formal age requirement, as long as participants can understand and perform the steps of CPR (age 10 is recommended). The course can be completed in two hours, compared to the three hours required for the certification course.

Another important distinction between the two classes is *Family and Friends* participants do not receive certification. They do, however, learn the same skills, practice on manikins, and learn from American Heart Association certified instructors.

Parents, grandparents, babysitters, scout leaders, families, large groups--- anyone can learn CPR.

During the month of February, we will offer *Family and Friends* CPR classes at no charge to residents of and those employed in the City of Dublin and Washington Township. Pre-registration

is required. To register, call 614-652-3920 and specify which class you would like to attend. Space is limited so call today.



Class dates:

February 11, 6-8 p.m.

February 12, 5-7 p.m.

February 13, 3-5 p.m.

February 14, 2-4 p.m.

February 15, 9-11 a.m.

All classes will be held at 6200 Eiterman Road, Dublin.

### New Station *continued from page 1*

By monitoring and analyzing response times, the Department can determine when they are no longer meeting their goal. Strategies to address this situation, when it arises, include adding or changing truck and/or staff locations, building a new station, or some combination of these.

#### *Land Availability & Cost*

Identifying potential sites for future stations is an ongoing process. The Fire Department and the City of Dublin work together to determine sites that support the City's master plan. The

sooner the land can be identified, the sooner it can be acquired, thus helping to keep the purchase price to a minimum and ensure that station services are available when residents and businesses need them.

#### *Anticipated Growth*

Eight years ago, the Township purchased the land at the corner of Cosgray and Rings Road as a possible future fire station site. Other sites that the Township and City have discussed as potential fire station sites are in northwest Dublin, in the vicinity

of Tartan West and Tartan Ridge subdivisions. This site, once selected, will not only service these new areas but also provide an increased level of service to the existing residents in the northern areas of Muirfield.

## September Lawn Care

### Seeding

Ideally, any seeding, overseeding or other renovation should be done by Sept. 15th for best fall establishment.

Core aerate to manage thatch (to ½” or less) and reduce soil compaction. Soil should be moist to pull good cores; cores should be 2-3” in length.

### Fertilization

Apply 1 lb. actual nitrogen per 1000 square feet if none was applied in August. Best applied early in the month. If only one fertilizer application is to be made in the fall, make it in late September or early October.

If two applications are applied, the second one should be in late October.

Apply 1-2 lb. actual nitrogen per 1000 square feet. This is the most important fertilization of the year for turfgrass. **Note: Research has shown that the early fall application of fertilizer is critical to attaining the full benefit of the late fall fertilization.**



### Irrigation

Apply 1” of water per week. Check soil at 6” depth with a knife or trowel for moisture content. Water in the morning. If the grass is allowed to go dormant, and rainfall is low, a light irrigation of ½” every 3-4 weeks is recommended to keep roots and crowns alive, but will not regreen the lawn. If dormancy is lengthy and temperatures excessively high, some loss of lawn is probable.

### Insect Control

White grubs may be present in September and October. These late season, older grubs are voracious feeders and chemical control may be difficult. Use Dylox or Poxol and be sure to irrigate well after application, or have a commercial lawn care firm treat for these grubs.

### Broadleaf Weed Control

Broadleaf weeds will resume growth with cooler temperatures and moisture. Fall is often the best time to control weeds since the grass fills in as the weeds die, and there is less chance of injury to flower and vegetable gardens compared to spring applications.

*Reprinted from OSU Extension Franklin County Horticulture Lawn Calendar by Jane Martin, Horticulturist.*

## Escape Plans *continued from page 2*

the door. If it is hot, don't open it. If you are trapped, close doors between you and the smoke, stuff clothing or other fabric in any cracks to prevent smoke from entering.

**Decide on a meeting place** outside the home where all members will gather such as a light post, mailbox, or neighbor's house)

**Provide for those requiring additional help.** Infants, young children, disabled, and the elderly may need additional help when escaping. Provisions for their safe escape should be included in the home fire escape plan and discussed with family members.

**Practice your escape plan** by positioning each family member in his or her bed, turning all the lights off, and activating the smoke alarm by depressing the test switch. Each family member should help “awaken” the others by yelling the alert. Family members should exit their rooms according to the plan, crawl low under smoke, practice feeling doors for heat, and going to the designated meeting place outside the home.

Make sure children can operate the windows, descend a ladder, or lower themselves to the ground through a window.

### **Remind children not to hide.**

When afraid, children commonly seek sheltered places such as a closet or under the bed. Encourage them to exit outside and never to hide. If you or your family members are not able to get out of your home:

- Stay together in one room.
- Close the door and cover the bottom with bedding or other fabric.
- Don't hide. Firefighters will have a difficult time finding you.
- Open the window at the top and bottom so fresh air can get in.
- Shout for help. Wave a flashlight or light colored article of clothing at the window.

## Get Ready Now!

September is National Preparedness Month. Preparedness in this context refers to being ready for emergencies such as a flood, extreme cold, biological threat or tornado; any incident during which you may need to be self-sufficient for hours or days.

First responders are often overwhelmed with calls so it may be up to you to provide for yourself or your family until they arrive.

Preparedness is knowing what you should have on-hand and what to do if you and your family members are without basic services such as water, gas, electricity, or telephones.

That is why the Fire Department has developed a Community Disaster Preparedness Manual. This manual describes many kinds of disasters that can occur and what to do to address their special circumstances. In addition, there are checklists you can use to make your own preparedness kit. The manual is available online at [www.wtwp.com](http://www.wtwp.com) or at the Fire Administration Building at 6200 Eiterman Road (M-F, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.).

One of the topics addressed in this manual is sheltering in place. Understanding terms like this one can help you take action faster when needed.

### Shelter-in-Place

Coined by the American Red Cross, Shelter-in-Place means to select a small, interior room, with no or few windows, to use as refuge during the release of any hazardous material.

Don't panic, you won't need to seal off your entire home or office building, just follow the steps outlined below.

Chemical, biological, or radiological contaminants may be released accidentally or intentionally into the environment. Should this occur, information will be provided by local authorities on television and radio stations on how to protect you and your family.

The important thing is for you to follow instructions of local authorities and know what to do if they advise you to Shelter-in-Place.

If you receive instructions to Shelter-in-Place while at home, close and lock all windows and exterior doors. Turn off all fans, heating and air conditioning systems and close the fireplace damper.

Get your family disaster supplies kit and make sure the radio is working.

Go to an interior room without windows that's above ground level. Bring your pets with you, and be sure to bring additional food and water supplies for them.

It is ideal to have a hard-wired telephone in the room you select. Cellular telephone equipment may be overwhelmed or damaged during an emergency. Call your emergency contact and have the phone available if you need to report a life-threatening condition.

Use duct tape and plastic sheeting (heavier than food wrap) to seal all cracks around the door and any vents into the room.

Keep listening to your radio or television until you are told all is safe or you are told to evacuate. Local officials may call for evacuation in specific areas at greatest risk in your community.

If you are driving a vehicle and hear advice to "shelter-in-place" on the radio, take these steps:

If you are very close to home, your office, or a public building, go there immediately and go inside and follow the shelter-in-place recommendations.

If you are unable to get to a home or building quickly and safely, then pull over to the side of the road.

Stop your vehicle in the safest place possible. If it is sunny outside, it is preferable to stop under a bridge or in a shady spot, to avoid being overheated.

Turn off the engine. Close windows and vents. If possible, seal the heating/air conditioning vents with duct tape.

Listen to the radio regularly for updated advice and instructions.

Stay where you are until you are told it is safe to get back on the road. Be aware that some roads may be closed or traffic detoured. Follow the directions of law enforcement officials.

Remember that instructions to shelter-in-place are usually provided for durations of a few hours, not days or weeks.

There is little danger that the room in which you are taking shelter will run out of oxygen and you will suffocate.

This is a precaution aimed to keep you safe while remaining indoors but should not be confused with the type of shelter needed during a severe storm. Don't Delay, Get Ready Now!

# PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

## Park Has New Educational Display

Thanks to Eagle Scout Nick Stanton of Dublin Troop 185, Homestead Park has a new educational display on native Ohio trees. The display features descriptions and silhouettes of 16 native Ohio tree species, samples of the fruits they bear, and wall-mounted wood panels representing all 16 featured tree species. Nick also secured a cross section of a large oak tree which he mounted so viewers could easily see the growth rings. Using the rings as a timeline, Nick labeled some with dates and corresponding historical events. The piece of oak trunk is estimated to have been about 220 years old and came from a tree that was removed from the American Legion Park in Marysville.

The display is located in Bradley Station, a small building modeled after a railroad crossing switch house, located near the back of Homestead Park. Just outside this building is the living part of

Nick's project, numerous tree seedlings representing a variety of native species.

NBC Channel 4 filmed their show, *4 Your Garden* with Tom McNutt, at The Homestead Park on June 30th, as part of The Homestead's 15th Anniversary.



Above: Tom McNutt (standing center) interviewed Dublin resident Nick Stanton (left) about his Eagle Scout project, a educational display on Ohio's native trees. Wall-mounted wood samples (right) show differences between 16 native Ohio tree species. Park Maintenance Supervisor Dave Gibson (right) worked with Nick to coordinate the installation of the display.



## Community Center Gets Roof

The Community Center at Kaltenbach Park was recently updated with a new roof, siding, and exterior doors. Built in 1979, the Center hosts many of the Parks and Recreation classes offered through the Township. The facility's meeting space and kitchen also make it an ideal place for group meetings, senior citizen gatherings, family reunions and youth group meetings. The park surrounding the Community Center has a playground, sand volleyball court, shelter with grill, paved multipurpose trail, prairie and gazebo.

To reserve a room at the Community Center or the shelter for a memorable gathering, call the Parks and Recreation Department at 652-3922.

## 15 Years Strong

The Homestead, a township park, was built with the vision to provide a family recreation facility, which paid tribute to the rural heritage of the community. The Washington Township Trustees at that time, Mike Keenan, Kurt Proegler, and the late Larry Eberhart, wanted to preserve green space in the fast-growing community.

Not long after the park opened, an overwhelming response from the community drove the expansion of several park features and facilities. These included a larger water play area and toddler water play area, amphitheatre, maintenance facility, restroom/concession building, caboose, and accessible play area.



The park has become a destination park for many school and community

recreation groups from all over Central Ohio. School groups often take advantage of the park for educational field trips, playgrounds, and cross country practices and meets. The park is also very popular for family reunions, business gatherings, scout and ball team family picnics, and birthday parties. Attendance has grown every year since opening in 1992 and has now surpassed 220,000 annually.

Another feature which has helped contribute to the Park's popularity is its accessibility to the Heritage Rail Trail, a seven-mile multipurpose paved path which stretches from Hilliard to Plain City, with entrances from the trail to The Homestead Park. The combination of the park facilities and trail has attracted many fund raising events such as 5K and fun runs to benefit the Capital Area Humane Society, Patches of Light, Heinzerling Foundation, and the Central Ohio Chapter of the Autism Society to name a few.

Timely maintenance, repairs, and facility changes have kept the park as inviting and as beautiful as the day it opened. One of these projects will occur this fall with the replacement of playground equipment in the largest of the playground areas.

So grab your athletic shoes and take a short drive or bicycle ride to The Homestead. Run, walk, roller blade, fish, or play.

Find out more about the park and all it has to offer you and your family at [www.wtwp.com](http://www.wtwp.com).



# WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

## Board of Trustees

Gene Bostic  
Denise Franz King  
Charles W. Kranstuber

## Fiscal Officer

Joyce Robinson

## Administration

6200 Eiterman Rd.  
Dublin, OH 43016  
(614) 652-3920  
Hours: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Allan Woo, Fire Chief  
Larry Boyce, Human Resources Director  
Leslie Dybiec, Communications Manager  
Bob Weisenberger, Zoning Officer

## Fire Stations

Station 91: 6255 Shier Rings Rd.  
Station 92: 4497 Hard Rd.  
Station 93: 5825 Brand Rd.  
Station 95: 5750 Blazer Pkwy.

## *Our Mission*

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

## Parks and Recreation

4675 Cosgray Rd.  
Hilliard, OH 43026  
(614) 652-3922  
Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m M-F

Janell Thomas, Director

The Homestead Park  
4675 Cosgray Rd., Hilliard, OH 43026

Community Center & Kaltenbach Park  
5985 Cara Rd., Dublin, OH 43016

Amlin Crossing Park  
5468 Cosgray Rd., Dublin, OH 43016

## Road and Bridge

4675 Cosgray Rd.  
Hilliard, OH 43026  
(614) 652-3921  
Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

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