



# the township *Scribe*



Washington Township . . . Your Community, Your Future

## Obsolete tax levies eliminated *Trustee Denise Franz King*

In June 2010, the Washington Township Trustees voted to permanently eliminate two real estate tax levies that are no longer needed to support police services in the unincorporated portion of the township. The levies, enacted in 1976 and 1991, added 5.5 mils to the tax bills of affected residences and businesses.

When the levies were originally adopted by the voters, there was a need for funds to contract for additional hours of service from the Franklin County Sheriff's Department. As more land was annexed into the cities of Dublin and Columbus, the need diminished as did the revenues the levies produced because they applied to fewer parcels. By 2005, the levies produced considerably less than the cost of the contract.

With or without the levies, the Sheriff's Department has an obligation to patrol the unincorporated Township and respond to calls, providing the same level of service offered to other less developed areas of the county.

After a public discussion, the trustees voted in April 2006 not to collect the levies during 2007. Following annual reviews, resolutions were passed in each of the succeeding years, suspending the collection of the tax levies in 2008 and 2009.

With no public complaints about the new system after four years, I proposed and the board adopted a resolution this year to permanently stop collecting the obsolete levies, effective for the tax year 2010.

It's unusual, but eliminating a tax does happen. It was the right thing to do.

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## Fire levy request to be 8.25 mils

The current fire levy, which was approved five years ago, expires at the end of 2010.

On November 2, the residents of Washington Township and Dublin will be asked to replace this levy with one of the same duration, five years, but with a one mil increase.

According to the Franklin County Auditor's projections, this 8.25 mil levy will generate approximately \$17.6 million. This, combined with the

permanent millage already in place, will provide about \$21.1 million per year, which is used exclusively to fund fire and emergency services. The estimated annual cost of this levy for a homeowner would be \$253 per \$100,000 in property value, an increase of \$66/year.

Approval of this levy would enable the Fire Department to (1) maintain emergency response times under eight minutes; 2) keep current

with technological advances in equipment to ensure the most efficient, effective fire and EMS operations and services including the replacement of all cardiac monitoring equipment; (3) replace firefighter safety and response gear; (4) maintain all trucks, equipment and facilities (four stations and administration and training facility); (5) update emergency preparedness plans and partnerships with adjacent communities; and (6) offer safety

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## SWACO grant helps improve parks and environment

Washington Township will soon receive a \$5000 grant from the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO). As one of six organizations to receive a grant from SWACO, Washington Township will be able to improve its parks and services with eleven new picnic tables while helping to promote the use of recycled content materials.

“By purchasing picnic tables made from recycled plastic, we are helping to create a demand for the recycled plastic,” said Parks Director Janell Thomas. “Recycling isn’t just about collection. That’s where it begins. But once recyclables are collected from curbside bins, there has to be a market for something that uses these materials,

or there won’t be a business reason to keep collecting.”

Products made from recycled materials are becoming more readily available in the marketplace. Decking, compost bins, flower pots, bird feeders, picnic tables and benches are just a few of the items being manufactured with recycled plastic.

When you visit Homestead or Kaltenbach Park this fall, take a look at the recycled plastic picnic tables. They are sturdy, rot-proof, don’t require painting, and hold up to outdoor weather conditions and heavy use. Each 6’ table uses the equivalent weight of 1504 one gallon milk jug containers (235 lbs.) to manufacture.

This is the fourth grant in five years the Parks & Recreation Department received from SWACO to purchase recycled content products for in the parks. Previously, the Township purchased refuse collection containers for collecting bottles and cans, park benches, and picnic tables, all made from recycled plastic lumber.

Grants totaling over \$46,000 have been awarded by SWACO’s Board of Trustees to spur green projects across Franklin County. SWACO’s “Green Grants” are designed to encourage recycling and waste reduction on the part of non-profits, schools, and communities within the SWACO district.

## Rate hike in landfill fees may affect Township residents

The Board of Trustees of the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) will consider a rate increase in late September/early October for trash delivered to the Franklin County sanitary landfill. A \$3 per ton increase is proposed for 2011 and an additional \$3 per ton for 2012. This rate increase is necessary for SWACO to continue to provide essential waste disposal services to residents and business.

SWACO has identified three uses for the increased funds: (1) rebuilding the Morse Road transfer station, a facility that is critical to the northern and eastern communities for transfer of waste to the landfill; (2) Begin cash financing the purchase of landfill equipment and vehicles rather than borrowing for, or debt financing, the purchases. This

will reduce SWACO’s future debt to a more sustainable level; (3) Make necessary improvements to the landfill, such as the construction of a new entrance road and preparation of new areas within the landfill for receiving trash.

If this rate increase is approved, waste haulers who use the SWACO landfill may increase their rates to their residential customers to offset this increase. Residents in the unincorporated Washington Township can expect to receive notification from Rumpke directly regarding any future changes in their waste hauling rates. This rate increase will not affect City of Dublin residents whose waste collection and hauling services are paid through property taxes.

# Local support helps establish first Township community garden

*Parks Director Janell Thomas*

Our dream came true, thanks to help from many generous donations of time and materials. The first growing season for the Township's community gardens has been fun and rewarding for the 20 families who have been toiling in the soil, tending to weeds and watering, and taking their bounty home to share with their family and friends.

Now that the gardens are in full production, it is easy to forget all that had to happen to make the community garden a reality.

But, we couldn't have done it without a borrowed Rototiller from the City of Dublin, leaf compost from Kurtz Brothers Compost, a 1,000 gallon water tank from Heritage Cooperative,

plants from Strader's Garden Center (Shawnee Hills store) and some very enthusiastic people to give their energy and hours.

Several of the gardeners serve on the Garden Committee, a volunteer group whose mission is to help the garden project prosper. Members oversee the garden, enforce gardener etiquette, and organize work days. This year, they also helped plant a few unclaimed plots with vegetables they are harvesting for the Dublin Food Pantry.

If you are interested in having a plot next year in the Amlin Park Community Gardens, call the Parks Department at 614-652-3922 or send an email to [parks@wtwp.com](mailto:parks@wtwp.com) and request information and an application.



"I love picking tomatoes right off the vine, warmed by the sun – add a little mayo – wonderful!"  
Sharon Hague

Garden plots will be assigned in the spring on a first-come, first-served basis. Gardeners must be residents of Dublin or the unincorporated Washington Township.



Community gardener Karen Kluve-Beisler

## Give and get

*Parks Maintenance Supervisor Dave Gibson*

Mutualism is any relationship between two species of organisms that benefits both species.

That is precisely the kind of relationship that has developed between the Homestead Park and a nearby resident group, the "Estates at Hoffman Farms Mom's Group."

The group, comprised of 17 families, approached the Township this past fall about maintaining the Park's demonstration vegetable garden. Several of the members had experience with gardening and were eager to give back to the community by managing a living educational display and by donating what they grew to the local food pantry.

As of August third, over 380 pounds of produce have been donated.

The gardeners are all ages, making each work session an opportunity for the young members to experience what



The demonstration vegetable garden is near the accessible playground, (in the background) at Homestead Park.

is difficult and great about gardening (the tangible and intangible rewards)—fresh, nutritious food, sunshine, and

feelings of accomplishment and self-reliance.

The gardeners recently weeded their way into the Homestead herb garden and the flower bed around our flag pole, planting and nurturing even more beauty for others to enjoy.

As the growing season draws to a close, there is already talk of next year's garden. I speak for all the staff when I say that we are proud of and grateful for the relationships we have with our community members. Many thanks to all those involved that have contributed to the garden project.

# TEEN DRIVING ROADEO



## Teens learn life-saving driving skills

Give your teen a chance to hone and test their skills behind the wheel, but in a safe, controlled environment, at the Teen Driving ROADeo, presented by The Kiwanis Club of Greater Dublin. The event will be held on September 26th on the grounds of Ashland, Inc.

This interactive, hands-on learning experience offers:

- maneuverability driving skills course
- drive cam skill instruction
- defensive driving with a skid car
- auto extrication demonstration
- fatal vision goggles
- car accident behavior & first aid
- vehicle maintenance
- tire changing
- driving awareness tips
- food, prizes and a t-shirt

**Motor vehicle crashes are the number one killer of teens in the United States.**

Participants are required to have a valid driver's license or permit, and proof of insurance.

There is no charge to participate. However, registration is required at [www.teendrivingroadeo.com](http://www.teendrivingroadeo.com)

Supporting sponsors of this program are Washington Township Fire Department, Dublin Police Department, The Motorists Insurance Group, Nationwide Children's Hospital, Key Bank, Dublin Methodist Hospital, MedFlight, and Ashland, Inc.

## Fire levy *continued from page 1*

education programs for the Dublin City Schools, businesses, adults, seniors and special needs populations which promote life safety and fire prevention.

For more information, contact Fire Chief Al Woo at [awoo@wtwp.com](mailto:awoo@wtwp.com) or (614) 652-3920 or one of the Township Trustees:

Chuck Kranstuber, Chair  
Denise Franz King  
Gene Bostic

[CWKrans@yahoo.com](mailto:CWKrans@yahoo.com)  
[dking@wtwp.com](mailto:dking@wtwp.com)  
[Gbostic@wtwp.com](mailto:Gbostic@wtwp.com)

## Feel the heat citizen firefighter experience

Get to know the Fire Department staff and the wide variety of fire prevention, fire suppression and rescue services they provide. This four-session class beginning in September features demonstrations and hands-on experience with tools of the trade. See page 8 of the attached program guide for details and registration information.

### Second Annual Healthy Dublin Community Health Festival

Sunday, October 3, 2010, 12-4pm  
Dublin Community Recreation Center  
Giveaways - Vendors - Wellness information - Free Health Screenings

## Is it sustainable?

As the world's natural resources become more limited, the choices we make about the way we live become increasingly important, especially if we want our children to enjoy the plentiful lives we live today. Most of us are fortunate enough to have the food, clothing and shelter we need to survive, plus an abundance of things we want... thanks to one or more natural resources.

Although the amount of natural resources each person consumes each day may not seem significant, when combined with what everyone in the United States or the world uses, the amount is immense. Slowing the rate at which natural resources are consumed is the basis for the sustainability movement that is driving many businesses, organizations, agencies and individuals to look at their consumption habits and make a few changes.

Washington Township got started down this path when we began the Station 91 and 93 remodeling projects. Every aspect of these Station's design, construction and subsequent operations was evaluated for sustainability. When possible, construction materials and building systems were used that help conserve natural resources.

For example, sensors in the electrical switches activate room lights only when people are in the room. New appliances



are Energy Star certified. "Green" cleaning products are used to maintain the building.

You don't need to have a remodeling project underway to start conserving resources and saving money. Simple changes in the way we clean, heat and cool our homes, prepare food, wash laundry, light a room, and drive, can reduce the amount of natural resources we use and often reduce costs.

Here are a few ways you can make your life more sustainable:

**Use "green" labeled cleaning products.** Green Seal, an independent, non-profit organization, can help you

find retailers that sell Green Seal products. [www.greenseal.org](http://www.greenseal.org)

**Purchase Energy Star labeled appliances.**

Energy Star is an international standard for energy efficient consumer products. Devices carrying the Energy Star logo generally use 20%-30% less energy than required by federal standards.

**Match the pot size to your cook top's burner size.** Heat is

lost and energy is wasted if burner size is larger than pot size.

**Install a low-flow showerhead or reduce your time in the shower.**

**Turn off the water after you wet your toothbrush.** The average person brushes their teeth for approximately 90 seconds. On average, faucets deliver two gallons per minute of water. You could save three gallons by not running the water.

**Combine errands you need to make in your car into one trip.**

## Permanent Household Hazardous Waste Collection Location

(operated by the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio)

1249 Essex Avenue, Columbus, Ohio (corner of E. 8th and Essex Avenue)

Phone-614-294-1300

Businesses should contact EEI to inquire about the disposal of hazardous materials at a commercially licensed facility. Please call 614-294-1300

Franklin County residents can bring their old lawn chemicals, paints strippers, acids, insecticides, etc. for environmentally safe disposal.

### PLEASE NOTE:

Latex paint will not be accepted. Latex paint, once dried, is not considered hazardous and can be disposed of in the trash.

Facility Hours (closed holidays)

Wednesdays	12pm-6pm
Thursdays	9am-5pm
Friday	12pm-6pm

**Replace furnace filters with ones that have a MERV (minimum efficiency reporting value) of 8 or above (16 is the highest).** The higher the MERV, the more efficient the filter will be in trapping airborne particles, which can reduce airflow and reduce the efficiency of your furnace.

Small changes add up. Once you see how much money you save, your resource-saving actions will become habit.

# Enjoy your patio fire pit...carefully

*Fire Marshal Alan Perkins*

Fire pits and outdoor fireplaces are becoming an important feature of many residential back yards. They are relatively inexpensive and provide ambiance and relaxation during a cool evening. Available in a variety of shapes and sizes, they can be as simple as a metal bowl with a protective screen, the popular chimineas or more elaborate and expensive outdoor fireplaces. Both the Ohio Fire Code and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency permit these types of open burning with restrictions.

1. Recreational “small” fires must be confined to an approved outdoor container if the open burn is within 50 feet of a structure.
2. The container keeps the size of the fire to less than three feet in width and no higher than two feet as required by the fire code and EPA.
3. The small fire is controlled by the burn container, which reduces the fire exposure risk to nearby structures.

When it comes time to use your fire pit etc., here are some important tips to keep in mind.

- The fire pit or approved container must be at least 15 feet away from any structure or combustible surface that can catch fire. This minimal distance is per national, state and

local fire code requirements for open burning in approved containers.

- Avoid windy conditions that can blow hot embers onto combustible surfaces. It’s possible that conditions



in Ohio could prompt burn bans depending on dry weather conditions.

- Remove leaves and other combustible materials around the pit to ensure the fire doesn’t accidentally spread.
- Always have a container of water nearby and a garden hose on standby before starting the fire.
- Do not use lighter fluid, kerosene or gasoline to start a fire because of the risks of severe burn injuries. Instead, place a crumpled piece of paper or cardboard or a store-bought fire starter and cover with kindling. As the wood catches fire, add larger pieces until you’re able to add a dry seasoned log or two.

- Keep children and pets a minimum of three feet from the open burn.
- Extinguish a fire by spreading the ashes over a large surface area to cool. Then, pour water over them to make sure they are completely extinguished. Ashes can re-ignite.
- If you have a fire that escapes your fire pit and moves into a nearby pile of kindling or a combustible surface, call 9-1-1 immediately.
- Check your home insurance policy to ensure that you’re properly covered when using an approved outdoor fire container.
- Permanent outdoor fireplaces can present zoning issues if there are existing deed restrictions and/or property set back requirements which restrict any type of structure constructed.
- Keep in mind that outdoor fire containers can produce smoke pollutants, which can be a health hazard to you and your neighbors. They can also produce smoke scares during night-time hours, if the source of the smoke is not readily apparent. These calls are treated as potential fires, committing firefighters and equipment until the source of the smoke is identified.

## Sea crustaceans help medics stop bleeding

The Washington Township Fire Department recently started using a product, HemCon, that hasn’t been widely used in pre-hospital care. The product contains a natural linear polysaccharide found within the exoskeletons of sea crustaceans (crab, shrimp etc.) called Chitosan (kite-o-san). When applied to sterile bandages and used for wound care, it is very effective at controlling bleeding. Currently, this product is widely used in hospital settings and by the United States and European militaries.

With help from Washington Township Fire Department, the manufacturers hope to gather medic’s feedback on its ease of use, packaging, and effectiveness in the civilian market.

So far, this product has been very effective at helping our patients who have had bleeding that was difficult to control by traditional methods.

## Fire station open house October 3

Are there smoke alarms in all the bedrooms in your home? Do you know what type of smoke alarms are installed throughout your home? Do you know how old they are? If you don't know the answer to one or more of these questions, you need to attend the Township's annual National Fire Prevention Week open house, October 3 from 1-4 p.m.



Smoke alarm requirements and options have increased over the past decade and this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign theme, "Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With," will test residents' smoke alarm smarts.

The Fire Department's open house at all four fire stations will feature different types of smoke alarms on the market, including combination alarms, which offer a broader level of fire detection. Information about smoke alarm installation, maintenance and testing will also be available. There's lots to see and do so visit one or visit them all.

### AT ALL STATIONS FROM 1:00-4:00 P.M.

Balloons, hot dogs, juice, popcorn, water target with a fire hose, fire safety information, and safety videos; Our available trucks and medics will also be open for curious climbers and future firefighters.

### SPECIAL FEATURE ACTIVITIES:

#### Station 91, 6255 Shier Rings Road

Hands-on fire extinguisher practice with a real fire	1:00-4:00 p.m.
Fire extinguisher raffle	1:00-4:00 p.m.

#### Station 92, 4497 Hard Road

Truck pull (move our station truck using pulleys and levers)	1:00-4:00 p.m.
Photos with Sparky	1:00-4:00 p.m.
Smoke alarm demonstration	1:30 & 2:30 p.m.

#### Station 93, 5825 Brand Road

Sparky's Safety House tours	every half hour
Photos with Sparky	1:00-4:00 p.m.
Puppet Show with Twitter	1:15, 2:15, 3:15 p.m.

#### Station 95, 5750 Blazer Parkway (water tower)

Hunt for hidden home hazards	1:00-4:00 p.m.
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## September 11 remembrance ceremony

The Fire Department will hold a brief ceremony on Saturday September 11th in honor of those whose lives were lost as a result of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States.

Firefighters, members of the Honor Guard and Pipes and Drums Corp. will take part in the ceremony, which will be held at Station 93 (5825 Brand Road) and begin at 9:45 a.m. Please arrive by 9:30 a.m.

If you aren't able to attend the ceremony, feel free to stop by anytime to see our 9-11 memorial at the entrance to the station, which incorporates one of the I-beams of the Twin Towers.



# WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

## Board of Trustees

Gene Bostic  
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Denise Franz King  
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## Fiscal Officer

Joyce Robinson  
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## Administration

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

Allan Woo, Chief  
Leslie Dybiec, Communications Manager  
Catherine Grossman, HR Manager  
Bob Weisenberger, Zoning Officer

## *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