



the township *Scribe*



Washington Township . . . Your Community, Your Future

Hybrid Vehicles Pose Challenges for Fire Department

Last year, motor vehicles were involved in 381 of the emergency calls that Washington Township firefighters answered. Working in and around motor vehicles poses many risks. To reduce these risks, first responders are trained to mitigate as many vehicle-related or environmental dangers as possible before and during rescue operations.

One way that first responders do this is by utilizing their knowledge of a vehicle's structural configuration and fuel, electrical, air bag and other systems. This helps them identify the quickest approach to forcing entry while minimizing the risk of injury to victims and first responders.

Changing technologies in the vehicle industry necessitates regular training for firefighters on the latest features and functions, which can impact the procedures they follow during rescue operations. Hybrid technology is an example of a recent engineering advancement.

In addition to the 12-volt battery under the hood, hybrid vehicles are equipped with a bank of several batteries that, together, can generate from 144 volts (DC) to 650 volts (AC). The power generated by these batteries assists the gasoline engine and other energy-demanding functions, thereby increasing the vehicles overall fuel economy.

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Fire Prevention Week Celebrated October 5

In honor of National Fire Prevention Week, the Fire Department will host its annual open house on Saturday October 5th from 1-4 p.m.

Because Stations 91 (Shier-Rings Road) and 93 (Brand Road) will be undergoing remodeling during this time, activities at these two stations will be moved to the Township's Fire Training facility at 6200 Eiterman Road. Activities at Stations 92 and 95 will not be affected.

Each of the three open house locations will offer popcorn, balloons, and a water hose target activity.



In addition, each location will also feature its own unique activity.

Station 92 (4497 Hard Road), 1 p.m.

- Auto extrication demonstration with a variety of cutting/prying tools
- Fire extinguisher practice on a real fire

Station 95 (inside a water tower at 5750 Blazer Parkway), 1-4 p.m.

- Pictures with Sparky the fire dog

Fire Training Facility (6200 Eiterman Road), 2:15 p.m.

- Rescue demonstration using Ladder 91
- Tours of Sparky's Safety House to Search for home fire hazards

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Child car seat fitting a snap with new online videos

Washington Township has added another feature to its child car seat fitting program --- online instructional videos.

Three video segments that can be found at www.wtwp.com now provide step-by-step instructions on how to place and secure a child's car seat. The videos were developed to serve as a reference for parents, grandparents, and other caregivers who are required by Ohio Law to use a car seat for the children they transport who weigh less than 40 pounds and/or are younger than four years old.

The idea for the videos was born out of comments the Fire Department received from residents who have had their car seat fitted through the Fire Department's free car seat fitting program. Certified Car Seat Safety Technician and Washington Township firefighter Jeremy Ross has fitted hundreds of seats.

"Part of our car seat fitting process is explaining to our customers what we are doing as we fit the seat so they will feel comfortable making any necessary adjustments or installing the seat in another car if the need arises," said

Ross. "I often hear from the people that they wished they had brought a notebook to their appointment so they could have taken notes on what I told and showed them."

The online videos are available 24/7 on the Washington Township web site and can serve as a reference to those who have had their car seat fitted by the Fire Department. The videos can also help guide those who prefer to install their car seat without the Fire Department's help.

With so many different car seat designs and so many car seat configurations, placing a seat and securing it properly can seem overwhelming to someone who is not as familiar with the process as a trained technician. Washington Township's Car Seat Technicians attend a five-day course and pass an exam in order to be certified by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Washington Township offers free child car seat fittings by appointment at 6200 Eiterman Road on Tuesdays from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Call 614-652-3920 to request an appointment.

Fire Stations become *Safe Places* for youth in crisis

In June, the Township's four fire stations became *Safe Place* sites where teens in crisis can get help. *National Safe Place* is a national youth outreach program aimed at helping youth who are thinking of running away or are looking for support they can't get at home. *Safe Place* creates a network of public places in local communities that make it easier for youth to access immediate help wherever they are.

Huckleberry House Inc., a non-profit organization serving young people, 12-18, and their families who are in crisis, is the local *Safe Place* agency in Franklin County.

Before the Township's fire stations could be designated as *Safe Places*, all station staff were required to attend training about the program and their role in helping teens who walk through

their door and ask for help.

As the program administrator, Huckleberry House provided this training and is the first point of contact for all *Safe Place* locations. On call 24/7, Huckleberry House staff are ready to go to any *Safe Place* site when called to assess how they can help the youth resolve the problem or transport them to Huckleberry House for more extended service.

"The Fire Department is honored to be part of this very important program and want youth to be aware of this option if they are ever in need," said Chief Allan Woo.

Sometimes youth make decisions that are clouded by strong emotions. They may run away, putting themselves

in unsafe situations. *Safe Places* provide somewhere for them to go for immediate help and safety. If youth are aware of *Safe Places* and go to one, the trained *Safe Place* staff and professionals at Huckleberry House can help them.

All *Safe Place* sites are identified with a sign bearing the program's yellow and black logo.

Other *Safe Place* sites in Columbus are 24-hour Kroger stores, White Castle restaurants, and Columbus fire stations.

For more information about *National Safe Place*, visit www.nationalsafeplace.org. For more information about Huckleberry House and their programs visit www.huck-house.org, or for immediate help in a crisis situation, call 614-294-5553.



Residents encouraged to have a Vial of Life

If the Fire Department was called to your home on a medical emergency, would you be able to quickly provide the information they need so you or one of your family members could be treated?

For most people, emergencies are very stressful. It can be difficult to recall details about health history, medications, allergies, doctor's name or phone number, etc. That's why the Fire Department distributes and encourages the use of a handy tool called the Vial of Life.

The Vial of Life is not a real vial, but a figurative one, comprised of a short health history form printed on bright yellow paper with a magnetic clip for securing the form to your refrigerator.

If the Fire Department is ever called



Captain Steve Andrix interviews a Dublin Retirement Village resident about her health history.

to your home on a medical emergency, paramedics will look for and use the information provided on the Vial of Life form to determine the best course of care.

With a health history at their fingertips, paramedics can act faster than if they first have to gather the information from a family member

or the patient. The information is especially critical when treating someone who is unconscious or unable to speak.

Should your condition require you to be transported to the emergency room, the Vial of Life will travel with you, expediting emergency medical treatment and/or transition to a physician's care.

The success of this program is documented in the many comments the Fire Department has received from residents who, in an emergency situation, were not able to provide information they thought they would remember. They were grateful to have the Vial of Life form handy.

Because the Fire Department believes this program is important, forms are made available on the Township's web site and through a variety of outlets including special events and programs.

One such program took place this past summer when a team of firefighters from Station 93 (Brand Road) arranged for visits to four residential facilities in Dublin that specialize in older adults: The Convallarium at Indian Run, Dublin Retirement Village, Emerald Crossing Health Care and Stoneridge Apartments.

At each site, firefighters worked with agency staff to set up dates when residents could bring their medications and meet with firefighters to get assistance completing their Vial of Life form.

Firefighters conducted a total of 351 personal interviews at the four facilities.

Another Vial of Life outreach effort began in August, led by Township volunteer and Eagle Scout candidate Colin McDonald. With the help of members from his Scout troop, Colin is conducting a neighborhood campaign to educate residents about and distribute the Vial of Life. Colin wants to encourage the use of the Vial of Life at home and in vehicles. So he has devised a sticker for automobiles to notify first responders that the Vial of Life form is in the glove box.

To get a Vial of Life form for every



Firefighter Brian Skipworth helps Dublin Retirement Village resident Netta Bennett complete her Vial of Life form.

member of your household, go to the Township's web site, www.wtwp.com. Forms with with magnetic clips are also available at the Township's Administration Office (6200 Eiterman Road), Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Partners in making roadways accessible to first responders

Dublin Police Department and the Washington Township Fire Department are partners in providing for the safety and security of all who reside and work in the City of Dublin.

When a first responder is needed, getting to the scene quickly and safely is a high priority. The City's roads and paved paths provide the network that is most commonly used by first responders to reach someone in need.

That's why the City and Fire Department work cooperatively to ensure that all routes are accessible by all emergency responder vehicles.

Ladder 91 and Quint 93 are the largest vehicles in the Fire Department's fleet. Because of their size, roads must be engineered to accommodate a wide turning radius and outriggers which stabilize the vehicle when aerial ladders are in use.

Before roads are constructed, the City and Fire Department review the plans for their development and, if necessary, make changes which allow access by the Fire Department's largest vehicles. Sometimes, this involves widening corners, adding alleyways which allow rear or

alternative access to structures, off-street common area parking, and restricted on-street parking.

As no two locations are alike, site-specific plan changes are the rule rather than the exception. By remedying



Quint 93 is parked on Winemack Lane in the Tartan development. Stabilizing outriggers which are extended when the 75-foot ladder is in use, increase the space needed for the vehicle.

accessibility issues on a case-by-case basis, the City can utilize development strategies that help improve environmental quality and promote a pedestrian-friendly community.

Hybrid Cars continued from page 1

One of the most important considerations in emergency situations involving hybrid cars is de-energizing the battery bank, or interrupting the source of electricity from the batteries to the engine and drive train. Knowing the location of the batteries and how to access them is imperative.

That's why a team of firefighters at Station 95 (5750 Blazer Parkway) developed a full-day training class for the Department's 150 full- and part-time firefighters to learn about hybrid vehicles. "Our training involved both classroom and hands-on investigation of several hybrid models," said firefighter Jasper. "We wanted to provide as many examples of makes and models as possible because each is unique in its battery location and accessibility, shut off mechanism, and overall operations."

Several local car dealerships helped make this important training possible by loaning hybrid models from a variety of manufacturers to the Fire Department for three days. They

were Tansky Sawmill Toyota, Germain Lexus of Dublin, Byers Dublin Chevrolet, and Honda of Marysville.

The firefighters of Washington Township would like to thank these dealerships for their generosity and assistance in helping to promote public safety and the safety of first responders.

**Daylight Savings Time ends
on November 2.**

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

CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS



Change Your Batteries



The Fire Department offers CPR classes on the second Saturday of every month and First Aid classes quarterly. Consult wtwp.com for more information about these and other programs.

Free RADON TEST KITS

Radon test kits are available (while supplies last) for residents in Dublin and 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. 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. One per household, please.

Prevent home fires

A pot holder too close to a lighted burner or a space heater left on overnight could be all it takes to start a home fire. In fact, cooking and heating are among the leading causes of home fires in the United States, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

The Washington Township Fire Department is teaming up with NFPA from October 5-11 to urge Township residents to “Prevent Home Fires” during Fire Prevention Week. This year’s campaign focuses on education about all the leading causes of home fires, such as cooking, heating and electrical equipment, and smoking materials. According to the latest research from NFPA, more than 2,500 people died in home fires in the U.S. in 2006, and 12,500 were injured. Fire departments responded to 396,000 home fires, which accounted for 80% of civilian deaths and 76% of injuries last year.

While the number of home fires is daunting, the good news is that many are easily preventable when residents take simple steps to increase their safety from fire. Do you know how to keep your home safe from fire hazards? Reviewing the following information and taking action can help you “Prevent Home Fires” during Fire Prevention Week and year-round:

- **Cooking:** Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- **Heating:** Keep all things that can burn, such as paper, bedding or furniture, at least three feet away from heating equipment.
- **Electrical:** Replace cracked and damaged electrical cords; use extension cords for temporary wiring only. Consider having additional circuits or receptacles added by a qualified electrician.
- **Smoking:** If you smoke, smoke outside; wherever you smoke, use deep, sturdy ashtrays.

Hydrant flushing to begin September 15th

Washington Township Fire Department will be conducting the annual fall flushing and pumping of the City’s 2700+ hydrants (with green bases) from September 15, 2008 through September 28, 2008.

Flushing and pumping will take place daily, 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. throughout the City of Dublin. Residents may experience brief periods of low water pressure or discoloration of water. These conditions will be temporary.

If discoloration occurs, residents are advised to run cold water for several minutes until it clears. This should also be done prior to washing laundry to avoid stains on clothing.

Hydrants with white bases are privately-owned. Owners of these hydrants are responsible for their flushing and pumping. Flushing removes rust and any debris that may collect in the hydrant and pumping prevents freezing, which can damage the hydrant, leaving it inoperable.

Scarecrow contest and more at Homestead Harvest

Homestead Harvest is our Parks and Recreation Department's annual fall festival. This year, the event will be held from noon to 5 p.m. on October 11th and 12th at Homestead Park (4675 Cosgray Road).

Enter the scarecrow-making contest on Saturday. Bring old clothes and

your creativity and we'll supply the stake, straw, and some decorations. A prize will be awarded for the most unique entry. Other activities include hay wagon rides, petting zoo, moon bounce, candle dipping, games, pony rides (\$4), mini train rides (\$1), pumpkins (\$2), and pumpkin



decorating. Come for the excitement; come for the fun; come to enjoy a day outdoors with your family.

Admission, parking, and most activities are free. Co-sponsored by Giant Eagle and the Hilliard Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Mercury-containing compact fluorescent lamps require special disposal

More and more people in the U.S. are replacing their regular light bulbs with compact fluorescent lamps, or CFLs. CFLs are highly energy efficient and can reduce household energy consumption considerably. However, the bulbs contain a small amount of elemental mercury, which is highly toxic and, if released into the air, can be hazardous.

When a CFL is burned out, take special care to keep it from being broken, place it in a sealed plastic bag and take it to one of three places for recycling: Home Depot, one of The Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio's (SWACO) mobile collections, or SWACO's permanent household hazardous waste (HHW) collection facility at 1249 Essex Avenue. CFLs and other HHW can be dropped off at

this permanent site every Wednesday from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m., and every Thursday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

If you encounter a broken CFL, follow these procedures to clean up the mercury:

Open a window in the room where the bulb broke and leave the room for 15 minutes to allow the vapors to escape.

Do NOT use a vacuum cleaner or shop vac to clean up the debris! This will contaminate the vacuum and spread the mercury. Wear disposable gloves to clean up the glass and residue.

Carefully scoop up the fragments and powder with a couple of pieces of thin cardboard or very stiff paper, and place the residue in a sealed heavy plastic bag.

Use painter's tape, duct tape or masking tape to pick up the slivers of glass and as much of the powder as possible.

Darken the room and shine a flashlight across the surface where the bulb broke. Look for silvery blobs. These are mercury metal. Use cardboard and sticky tape to pick them up.

Place all of the cleaning materials and the bulb fragments in the tightly sealed plastic bag.

Wash your hands.

Take the bag containing the material to SWACO's mobile or permanent HHW collection site.



Issue 2 in November continues *Clean Ohio* program

Whether it is jogging through Glacier Ridge Metropark or taking a family bike ride along Indian Run Stream, one of the characteristics we enjoy as residents of Dublin and Washington Township are the many public parks.

For the last seven years, Clean Ohio Fund grant moneys have been available to communities across the State to purchase land for public use. More than 200 miles of recreational trails have been constructed, 26,000 acres of natural areas have been preserved, and 20,000 acres of farmland permanently protected.

Voters will have an opportunity to decide this November whether to continue the Clean Ohio program which is on the statewide ballot as Issue 2. The Clean Ohio Fund relies on proceeds from existing state revenues and does not raise taxes.

If Issue 2 is approved, bonds will be sold to investors to fund a two part competitive grant program: \$200 million for parks, trails and farmland preservation and \$200

million to clean up abandoned and polluted industrial sites. Nearby examples of the results of the clean up fund include the restoration of the Seneca Hotel and the Lazarus Warehouse property in downtown Columbus. Collectively



the restoration projects have cleaned up 173 abandoned sites, resulting in 15,000 new jobs and \$2.6 billion in public and private investment.

To find out more about Issue 2, visit www.CleanOhio.org. For any public recreation, fire and EMS or Township issue, contact Township Trustee Denise Franz King at dking@wtwp.com

Sculpture installed at Kaltenbach Park

On August 19th, a sculpture titled "One Step at a Time" was installed at Kaltenbach Park. The sculpture is 5'10" tall, 22" in width and 22" in depth, and includes two vertical columns sculpted from Texas pink granite, supported by rungs of African black granite, depicting a strong ladder reaching toward the sky.

The artist, Candyce J. Garrett of Galisteo New Mexico, is a noted stone carver with artworks in private collections and galleries throughout the U.S.

The sculpture was part of an on-loan outdoor sculpture exhibition that was on view through July 2008 in Dublin's Coffman Park, 5200 Emerald Parkway. The exhibition was a pilot project representing a new method of acquisition for Dublin Art Council's Art in Public Places.

The Township Trustees purchased the sculpture at the close of the exhibition and staff at the Arts Council helped



One Step In Time on display in Coffman Park, where it was part of a public exhibit.

the Township determine where it would best fit into the Kaltenbach Park landscape. Its new home is near the prairie and gazebo. Landscaping in the vicinity will be completed this Fall.

This is the first installation of public art in a Washington Township facility.

"We are very excited to have such a fantastic addition to Kaltenbach," said Township Trustee Denise Franz King. "While the sculpture's form does resemble a ladder, everyone who sees it will interpret it differently. That's one of the wonderful things about art."

Kaltenbach Park is a 12-acre park at 5985 Cara Road in Dublin. Facilities include a picnic shelter, 2/3-mile paved trail, playground, sand volleyball courts, basketball, horseshoe pits and shuffleboard courts, reservable shelter with barbecue grills, and prairie.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

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gbostic@wtwp.com
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dking@wtwp.com
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Administration

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

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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