



# the township *Scribe*



Washington Township . . . Your Community, Your Future

## Fire Department Saves Big on New Aerial Truck

The Washington Township Fire Department recently took delivery of a refurbished aerial truck. The truck, built and delivered by Sutphen Fire Apparatus, is one in a series of vehicles the Department has had refurbished over the past five years. Refurbishment has offered the Department a way of keeping its apparatus fleet up to date and compliant with all the newest technical requirements at a significant savings over purchasing new. The savings realized in this refurbishment was more than \$350,000.

The refurbishment involved removing the 100-foot aerial ladder from the “old” truck and placing it onto a new, 2005 truck chassis. By utilizing a new chassis, the department was able to re-title the vehicle as new, reduce its costs, and

extend the life of the aerial ladder for at least another 10-15 years.

In addition to an aerial ladder, the truck is equipped with a pump, 300 gallons of water, ground ladders, ventilation equipment and other firefighting tools, making it one of the most versatile pieces of equipment the Department owns.

Over the past five years, the department has also refurbished a



pumper truck and three ambulances. The Department recently added an additional pumper and a combination

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rescue-pumper to its fleet, making it one of the most modern and up-to-date in central Ohio. The combined savings from refurbishments has totaled approximately \$600,000.

Stop by Station 91(6255 Shier Rings Road) and see the new ladder.

## Fire Levy Request to be 7.25 mills

The current fire levy, which was approved five years ago, expires at the end of 2005. On November 8th, the residents of Washington Township will be asked to replace this levy with one of the same duration and amount as the last, 7.25 mills for five years. According to the Franklin County Auditor’s projections, this 7.25 mill replacement levy will generate approximately \$12 million. This,

combined with the permanent millage already in place, will provide about \$15.5 million per year. The estimated annual cost of this levy for a home owner would be \$250 per \$100,000 in property value. Approval of this levy would (1) enable the Fire Department to expand current levels of fire prevention and emergency services to meet the needs of our growing community, (2) keep current with

technological advances in equipment to ensure the most efficient, effective fire and EMS operations and services; (3) offer educational programs for youth, businesses, adults, seniors and special needs populations which promote life safety and fire prevention, and (4) partner with the City of Dublin and Dublin Schools to provide training, special event services, and educational programs.

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Burn Candles with Care

Fire Marshal Alan Perkins

Candles have become very popular over the last few years. The large variety of shapes, sizes, colors, containers, and fragrances offered have contributed to their popularity and wide use in nearly every room of the house.

Seven out of ten homes in the U.S. use candles throughout the year to decorate, create a desired mood, celebrate, add fragrance, mask odors and generate light. Burning candles, however, like a lit cigarette or a pan on a stove, can create a disaster without adult supervision.

In 2001, home candle fires killed 190 people and caused more than a



quarter million dollars in property damage according to the latest data from the National Fire Protection Association. That data also shows that candles started more reported home fires in 2001 than at any point since 1980, the first year of available data.

If you use candles in your home, follow these steps:

- Extinguish candles before you leave the room or go to bed.
- Don't allow children or teens to have candles in their bedrooms.
- Keep candles away from anything that can catch fire such as flammable decorations, curtains, carpets, books, papers and Christmas trees.
- Burn candles on a heat-resistant surface in a stable, non-flammable container that grips or holds the candle securely, can catch any drips or melted wax, and is not subject to

cracking or breaking when heated (tempered).

- Avoid candles that have combustible materials embedded in them.
- Keep wicks trimmed to half an inch.
- Extinguish taper and pillar candles when they burn to within two inches of the holder and votive and container candles before the last half inch of wax begins to melt.
- Keep candles away from flammable liquids and never use one to check a pilot light or when fueling equipment such as a kerosene heater or lantern. The flame could ignite the fumes.
- Keep candles away from drafts, vents and air currents to help prevent rapid, uneven burning, smoking, and excessive dripping. Drafts can also blow lightweight curtains or papers into the flame where they could catch fire.

## Fire Station Open House October 9

Fire Marshal Alan Perkins

October 9-15 is National Fire Prevention Week. This year's theme is "Use Candles with Care: When you go out, blow out!" Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the tragic Chicago fire that lasted for two days, burning more than 2000 acres, killing more than 250 people, and destroying more than 17,400 structures. In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation, and since 1922, Fire Prevention Week has been observed on the Sunday through Saturday period in which October 9 falls.

Celebrate Fire Prevention Week with the Washington Township Fire Department on Sunday October 9 from 1-4 p.m.. Stop by one of our four fire stations to experience all there is to see and do!

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

We will offer balloons, popcorn, photos with Sparky the fire safety dog, 9-volt smoke alarm batteries (one per family, please), fire safety information, and a chance for youngsters to try on firefighting gear. Our trucks and medics will also be open for curious climbers and future firefighters.

### SPECIAL FEATURE ACTIVITIES:

#### Station 91, 6255 Shier Rings Road

Sparky's Safety House tours	every half hour
Repelling demo from aerial ladder	1:00-1:30
Fire hose water target	1:00-4:00 p.m.
Photos with Sparky	1:15-1:45 p.m.

#### Station 92, 4497 Hard Road

Auto extrication demo with the jaws of life	2:00-2:30 p.m.
Photos with Sparky	2:45-3:15 p.m.

#### Station 93, 5825 Brand Road

Hands-on fire extinguisher practice with a real fire	1:00-4:00 p.m.
Free youth bicycle helmets & fittings (while supplies last)	1:00-4:00 p.m.
Photos with Sparky	2:00-2:30 p.m.

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

Fire hose water target	1:00-4:00 p.m.
Photos with Sparky	3:30-4:00 p.m.

## Free Home Fire Safety Kits Available

Request your free home fire safety kit today. In it you will find a check list of potential fire safety issues common to many homes. Also included in the kit is a list of the many programs and services the Fire Department offers residents and businesses such as CPR certification classes, fire extinguisher training, station tours, and group presentations.

The kit is designed as a pocket folder with a labeled tab, making it convenient to store



records and receipts you collect for the maintenance and service of your furnace, chimney cleaning and other fire prevention-related services. Don't forget to take a look at our selection of Fireline fact sheets (right). Request as many as you need and we will send them with your kit.

## Tips for Selecting a Child Car Seat

Anna Worman

If you are getting ready to purchase a child's car seat for a new or growing child, make sure you pay close attention to the features of the one you select to ensure that it will be the best one for the size of your child and the kind of car you have.

Consult your vehicle owner's manual to see where the manufacturer recommends car seats to be placed. Select a location that does not permit the front seat backs to touch the child's car seat. This is most often an issue when the child seat is placed in the middle or on the driver's side of the back seat.

Look at the depth of your car's rear seat and match it as closely as possible to the depth of the child's seat. This will make the seat easier to install.

Match the overall size of the child seat with that of your car. Installing a large child seat in a compact car is difficult and will make removing and

reinstalling the seat cumbersome and time consuming.

Refer to the car seat manual to ensure that your child's height and weight match the recommended size and height requirements for the seat.

If you are purchasing a used car seat, make sure you know the seat's history. Most importantly, find out if the seat was ever in a car that was in an accident. The car seat may look just fine but its structural integrity may be compromised.

Once you have selected the seat that will meet your needs, schedule an appointment at the Washington Township Fire Department to have your seat installed. National Child Passenger Safety Board certified personnel will make sure it is properly placed, secured, supported and fitted. Appointments are offered on Tuesdays, usually last about 30 minutes, and are free of charge. To make an appointment, call 652-3920 M-F.

## Fireline Fact Sheets

Fact sheets are free. Call 614-652-3920 to request the titles you need. You can also find our fact sheets at [www.wtwp.com](http://www.wtwp.com) (after October 1st).

9-1-1: Be Prepared When You Call  
Appliance Safety  
Arson Is a Serious Crime  
Babysitters' Fire Prevention Tips  
Burns: First Aid For  
Candles  
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning  
Cigarette Safety  
Clothes Dryer Fires  
Crawl Low and Go Under Smoke  
Decorate Safely: Trees and Lights  
Disabled: Fire Prevention and Escape  
Emergency Exits  
Escape Plans For Your Home  
Exit Drills: Home  
Extension Cords  
Fire Extinguishers  
Fireplaces: Keep them Clean  
Fireworks  
Gasoline at Home  
Good Housekeeping  
Grease Fires in the Kitchen  
Halloween Fire Safety  
Heat-related Illnesses  
Home Fire Hazards  
House Numbers Should be Visible  
Inventory Your Home for Insurance  
Kitchen Fire Safety  
Lightning  
Mower Safety  
Mulch Fires  
Outdoor Cooking Safety  
Poisonings in Your Home  
Portable Heaters  
Safe Toys and Gifts  
Scalds  
School Exit Drills  
Seniors: Fire Prevention Tips For  
Smoke Alarms  
Sprinkler Systems: Residential  
Water Pipes: Prepare for Winter  
Yield to Emergency Vehicles

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Look For Sparky at Spooktacular

Firefighters will be greeting families and passing out candy to trick or treaters at Dublin's Spooktacular event on Thursday October 20. Sparky the fire safety mascot dog will also be there to say hello. The Fire Prevention Inspectors will staff a booth in Dublin's Recreation Center featuring free brochures, fact sheets and fire safety kits. Stop by for some and get a free 9-volt battery for one of your home's smoke alarms.

Each year, when you "spring ahead" or "fall back" by changing your clocks by one hour, take a moment to also change the battery in each of your home's smoke alarms. The few extra seconds of warning they provide in the event of a fire can be just the few seconds you or someone in your home needs to escape safely. This year, daylight savings time ends on Sunday, October 30. Mark your calendars.



## Pop Tab Collection for Ronald McDonald House Charity

The Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) serves the families of critically ill children being treated at local hospitals.

A non-profit organization, RMHC relies on donations (monetary and in-kind) from corporations, agencies, individuals and proceeds from fund raising campaigns to support the operation of the house.

Help raise awareness and funding to support their services by collecting aluminum pop can tabs. Collect as many as you can with help from your friends, family, scout or 4-H group members, church congregation

or school class mates and bring them to any of the township's six collection locations.

Washington Township firefighter Tim Erickson will make periodic trips to the RMHC to deliver the tabs. When they have collected approximately 1000 pounds of tabs, RMHC will take them to a local recycler who pays them the current market value for the aluminum (usually 25-50¢ per pound).

The money they receive helps cover the cost of operating the house. In 2003, the program raised \$8,100 which helped to pay about half of the annual electric bill for the house.

If you would like to know more about the RMHC, consult their web site at [www.colrmhc.org](http://www.colrmhc.org). There you will find a wealth of information about their services and the many ways you can volunteer your time to do everything from donating household items to baking cookies for the families who stay there.

The Township's pop tab collection sites are Station 91, 6255 Shier Rings Road; Station 92, 4497 Hard Road; Station 93, 5825 Brand Road; Station 95, 5750 Blazer Parkway; and Fire Administration, 6279 Shier Rings Road.

## New Web Site Goes Live in October

Washington Township's web site will be updated with a new look, new format, and a lot more information.

The site is in its final testing phase and will be able to be accessed by the public in early October. The site will feature information about the Township's many programs and services, Fire Department, Parks and Recreation Department, and Zoning Department.

New to the site are photo tours of the Township's four fire stations and three parks, several downloadable forms, copies of press releases, trustees' meeting minutes, and an interactive calendar that lists all the township's upcoming events, classes, and meetings. If you would like to access the *Scribe* newsletter electronically, you will also be able to request notification by email. Don't forget to visit [www.wtwp.com](http://www.wtwp.com)

## *Firefighters for Kids*

### Toy Drive begins Dec. 1

Bring a new or gently used toy to one of the township's four fire stations in support of the annual *Firefighters for Kids* Toy Drive. Donations will be accepted from December 1st through December 23rd. *Firefighters for Kids* is a non-profit organization that was started and is still run by retired Columbus firefighter Mike Mullens, with help from volunteers.

# PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

## Drawn to Water

Kevin Swanson, Parks Manager

When Ray Kinsella was inspired to create a relic baseball diamond among his Iowa corn fields, witnesses claimed that he had lost all sanity. Only the voices in his head could explain why he must carry out such an endeavor ... "If you build it, they will come." Believe it or not, that historic ball field from the 1989 Academy Award nominated film, *Field of Dreams*, still exists and you can play a game of catch there year-round at the Lansing family farm in Dyersville, Iowa. The proprietors estimate having approximately 65,000 visitors annually, with people from all 50 states and 52 countries around the world arriving in 2004 ... and would you believe that a visit to the field is actually free of charge!

You may be wondering what this baseball diamond has to do with Washington Township. Like Iowa, Washington Township has it's own big attraction. It's a free water play area at The Homestead Park, which was installed as part of the original park plan in 1992.

### We Built It...And They Come

One of the first water parks constructed in central Ohio, The Homestead water park's immediate popularity led to significant enlargement of the original structure and the addition of a toddler water play area a year after it was completed.

The water play area was a relatively inexpensive addition to the park in comparison to pools or the newer rubberized surface fountain parks. The main play area has stationary spray guns and water sources for filling hand-

held water weapons. The toddler water park contains wooden farm animals, a water trough with hand pumps, and other water sources. Several attributes of the water park have been altered over the years to assist with maintenance issues.

The one constant has been the incredible number of visitors. The water park has continuously been the biggest motivator for seasonal attendance.



From a park manager's perspective, this is both good and troublesome. Having people enjoying the park is our primary goal at Washington Township Parks and Recreation. However, high attendance (overcrowding) can also cause concern if it creates safety or maintenance issues.

In 2004, estimated attendance at The Homestead Park was over 220,000 between March and November with attendance of over 5,000 on peak summer weekends.

The residents of Washington Township alone do not contribute to the high visitor numbers. Many of the water

park patrons are school groups and daycare facilities. Day care providers from as far away as Pickerington, east Columbus, Grove City, Croton, and Marysville come to the water park. Some travel almost an hour (one way) to take advantage of our free water playground.

### Policy Changes

The numerous organized field trips to the water park have created the need for large group policy changes. Historically, we have required large groups to make a reservation by obtaining a group pass to ensure there is ample parking and control overcrowding in the park. However, overcrowding of the water park continues each summer season. So, in an attempt to ensure that smaller groups, families and other casual visitors can safely enjoy the Park, Tuesdays and Thursdays are family days at The Homestead and no large groups are scheduled for the water play area on these days.

For the time being, the large group policy seems to be addressing some of the overcrowding issues. Yet, within a few miles of The Homestead are several housing developments under construction with hundreds of new homes. The inevitable population increase will pose new challenges for the future as the Park's visitation frequently exceeds that for which it was designed.

It's satisfying to know that The Homestead meets a need in the community as a fun place to visit during the summer months. However, the Parks and Recreation Department has been given the task of balancing the demands for use from outside groups while ensuring the Park is accessible to local residents and their families.

# PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

## Caboose Opens After Restoration

Janell Thomas, Parks Director

The Homestead's *Fun Friday* event on July 29th marked opening day for the Homestead Caboose. It has been years in the making, and many hours of volunteer time to restore the caboose. Park staff member Sam McKenzie, who once worked for Conrail on a caboose just like the one displayed at the park, gave tours and talked with visitors about the purpose of a caboose on a train and why they are no longer used today. Visitors also had the opportunity to make a craft and enter the coloring contest. Congratulations to our contest winners Leah Amarosa, Andrew Howes, and Jeremy Koebel.

The caboose is part of a group of train-themed features at The Homestead. The vision for The Homestead Park's development was to capture elements of the time period when the land the park now occupies was farmed and trains traveled a nearby track. The track has since been removed and converted to the Heritage Rail Trail, a seven-mile paved trail which runs from historic downtown Hilliard to Plain City. A waiting platform and a train station,

used for concessions and restroom facility, are two other train-related features of the park.

Besides the enthusiastic work of the park staff, many volunteers helped make the caboose restoration project happen. The caboose was donated by Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail) in 1999 and moved to The Homestead by R. J. Corman Company. Consolidated Rail Corporation donated the rails and track for the caboose to rest on. Special thanks to Conrail employees Len Whitehead, Carl Zerges, Jerry Carver, Janet Sherman, George Zebin, and John Wackenhuth. Bob and Greg Graber of Bob Graber Excavating donated time and equipment to prepare the pad for the rail. Sherwin Williams employees Ken Joshep and Steve Ackerman donated the paint for the project. Donating their time to paint the exterior of the

caboose were R.A.W. Painting owners, Rollon and Sabra Waddell. Railroad enthusiasts Stan Haas, Dan Selvey, Gil Richter, Mike Male, and Jack Johnson helped pull the project all together.

The caboose is scheduled to be open for touring at The Homestead special events. Plan to visit the caboose during the Homestead Harvest on October 8th & 9th from noon to 5:00 p.m. Special tours can also be arranged by calling the Washington Township Parks & Recreation Department at 614-652-3922.



The newly restored caboose will be open for tours during special events and by group appointment.

## Homestead Harvest and Mid Ohio Food Bank

Janell Thomas, Parks Director



Join the fun at Washington Township Parks & Recreation Department's annual fall festival, *Homestead Harvest* on October 8th and 9th from noon to 5:00 p.m. at The Homestead, 4675 Cosgray Road. This year's activities include hayrides, face painting, pumpkin decorating, a scarecrow making contest, food and entertainment. The newly-restored Homestead caboose will be open for tours. Pony rides are new this year!

There is no admission fee. However you can help us as we support the Mid Ohio Food Bank and the efforts to feed hungry children, needy families and senior citizens all over central Ohio. Just bring eight cans of food or \$5 to The Homestead Harvest and place your name in the raffle drawing for over \$1000 worth of prizes donated by local businesses. Bring your whole family and enjoy all the fantastic activities.



Small and tall can participate in the Scarecrow making contest on Saturday. Contestants should bring clothes and accessories.

# Grants Available to Replace or Repair Failing Septic Systems or Wells

The Franklin County Commissioners have earmarked funds for which Washington Township residents can apply for the repair or replacement of their failing wells or septic systems. The grant program is managed by the Franklin County Board of Health.

If you have a failing or faulty septic system or well, you may be eligible to qualify for assistance from the Sewage Repair Fund. You must own and live in the home for which you are applying to have work performed. Your household income must not exceed 80% of the average median income for the County. Sharon Pennington at the Franklin County Board of Health (462-4261) can help you determine if you meet the income guidelines and can send you the form you need. If you meet the eligibility requirements, the steps for getting your system repaired are as follows:

1. Request a Sewage Repair Fund application by calling Tom Stratford (614-462-3920) at the Franklin County Board of Health. Complete the application and send it back to the address listed on the application.
2. Once your eligibility is confirmed, request an appointment with Wastewater Specialist Gary Young at 614-462-3909 who will assess your system and make recommendations for any necessary repairs or replacement.
3. If work is warranted, Gary Young will write specifications for a replacement system or well that will comply with state law.
4. Arrange for a contractor to submit a plan for the work. Repairs must be completed by a licensed contractor who has a permit through the Franklin County Board of Health. Make sure the contractor you select meets this requirement before you invite them to submit a plan.
5. Submit the contractor's plan to the Franklin County Board of Health at 280 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215.
6. If the plans are approved, the contractor or homeowner must get a permit from the Franklin County Board of Health. Once the permit is received, your designated contractor can begin construction.
7. When the work is completed, call Gary Young at 614-462-3909 to schedule a time when he can inspect the system to confirm that it was installed properly. If it was, he will approve it.
8. Once the system has been inspected and approved, the Franklin County Board of Health will pay the contractor directly.

## New Fall Recreation Programs

Several new recreation programs will be offered this fall and winter. For a complete listing, take a look at the enclosed Parks and Recreation program guide. There are classes and activities for all ages.

### Vinyasa Yoga

Adults of all ages and abilities can enjoy yoga. Yoga can help you relax, improve your range of motion, improve balance and get stronger. Instructor, Heidi Huiss, uses a gentle approach to help participants at all levels. and will help you get the workout that is best for you.

### Classical Kids

Peggy Kriha Dye, mother of two and professional international opera singer, will offer a fun class for children about the performing arts. Creative expression will be the focus of the time the class spends together learning what goes into a performance including, make-up, costumes, and music. The class will culminate in a performance!

### Mommy and Me

Deborah Merendo, mother of five, has experience with the homeschool environment and a degree in fine arts. She is excited to share her talents and joy of being a parent with her participants. Her program will give parents ideas about ways to spend quality time with their children. She will also cover how art and famous artists have influenced our culture. The variety of class projects will encourage budding artists to express their creative talents.

### ABRACADABRA

One of our own Washington Township firefighters, Phil Morris, has been mastering the art of magic for many years. He enjoys teaching his tricks to others and will offer a class for children this fall.

# WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

## Administration

5965 Wilcox Place, Suite B  
Dublin, Ohio 43016  
(614) 652-3921

Hours: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Larry Boyce, Human Resources Director  
Leslie Dybiec, Public Information Officer  
Bob Weisenberger, Zoning Officer

## Board of Trustees

Denise King  
dking@wtwp.com  
Gene Bostic, Chair  
gbostic@wtwp.com  
Kurt Proegler  
kproegler@wtwp.com

## Clerk

Joyce Robinson  
jrobinson@wtwp.com

## Our Mission

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

## Fire Administration

6279 Shier Rings Road  
Dublin, Ohio 43016  
(614) 652-3920

Hours: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Allan Woo, Chief  
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 43026

## 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