



the township *Scribe*



Washington Township . . . Your Community, Your Future

Grateful for Community Support

Chief Allan Woo

This is the first opportunity since November to express our gratitude for the overwhelming support shown the Fire Department during the most recent election. While any majority decision is welcomed, a three to one majority is extraordinary.

One of the most frequently asked questions during the levy campaign revolved around whether the revenue that the levy provided would meet the increased demands of the growing community. This growth, while certainly a challenge, was indeed a consideration. We are confident that the levy will supply the funding needed to provide the high quality services residents expect and appreciate.

These services include fire fighting, emergency medical treatment and transport, fire prevention, and life safety education. Our main goals

have been and will continue to be to maintain lower than average response times, provide the highest quality medical care possible, and offer educational opportunities and programs that will enhance the safety of our residents.

One such educational safety program, The Citizen's Fire Academy (CFA), will begin this year. The CFA is an eight-week course designed for residents who are interested to know about and experience the many aspects of the fire service business. Through classroom presentations, demonstrations, and first-hand experience, participants will get behind-the-scenes exposure to firefighting tactics, special purpose teams and their tools, and gain an understanding of the fire service business. The CFA will be one of the many programs we offer to residents to increase awareness of fire and life safety

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risks and how to be better prepared to react in the event of a fire or other emergency (See page 5 for more information).

The levy has also provided us the ability to plan a modification of our fleet and adapt it to the patterns of growth in the community. This has included

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What is NPDES?

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) is a permit program, mandated by Congress under the Clean Water Act, to address the non-agricultural sources of stormwater discharges that adversely affect the quality of our nation's waters.

The program requires the implementation of controls designed to prevent harmful pollutants from being

washed by stormwater runoff into local water bodies.

Some of the strategies developed to reduce or prevent the discharge of pollutants into receiving waters require local governments like Washington Township to implement a stormwater pollution prevention plan. One component of this plan is educating residents about how stormwater can become contaminated, and what they can do to help prevent it.

When it rains, the water that reaches land is either absorbed into the ground or runs over surfaces like concrete sidewalks and asphalt roofs that do not absorb it, on its way to a nearby waterway. If the surfaces over which the water travels have contaminants on them, they can be carried by the water to the waterway. Unfortunately, these substances can alter the aquatic habitats, some severely enough to be

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FIRE DEPARTMENT

EMS Celebration May 20

May 14-20 is National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week. EMS Week brings together local communities and medical personnel to publicize safety and honor the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services of the medical “front line.”

This year’s celebration will be held at the Dublin Recreation Center on Saturday May 20. Fire Department personnel will host the following activities from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Adult and Child CPR with AED Certification

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

Choose which session fits your schedule. Participants must be at least 12 years old and register by Monday May 8. Topics that will be addressed in this class include performing infant and adult CPR, recognizing and relieving a choking victim, recognizing the signs of a heart attack, and using an AED. This is the only time this year this course will be offered free of charge.

Youth Bicycle Helmets

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



Lt. Marcine Frank fits a helmet at the 2005 celebration.

Sparky’s Safety House Tours

Learn how to stop, drop and roll to escape safety from a “smoke-filled” room. This specially-equipped mobile classroom helps prepare all ages for the unexpected occurrence of fire through the use of several real-life simulations. Inspector Bob Westbrook will also present a puppet show at 10:30 a.m., noon, and 1 p.m. with his friends Jimmy and Hector the Smoke Detector. Balloons, popcorn, and printed materials will be available.

Fire Truck and Medic Sneak Peek

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

Blood Pressure, EKG, Glucose Checks

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

Derma Scan

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

NPDES *continued from page 1*

very harmful to the wildlife that live in or eat from the water, and also to humans who may recreate, eat or drink from this water source.

What can you do to keep stormwater runoff clean to reduce the amount of contaminants reaching our waterways?

- Dispose of household chemicals properly. Never dump them in a storm drain or on the ground. Take them to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on April 22, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Ashland, Inc. (5200 Blazer Parkway). For more

collection locations and dates, consult www.swaco.org.

- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean paved areas.
- Sweep up dry concrete, cement, mortar, grout, and aggregate mixes rather than washing them “away.” These mixes often contain chemicals that can poison aquatic systems.
- Pave less, landscape more.
- Pick up pet waste and dispose of it in the trash, bagged.

- Don’t dump motor oil, grease, cleaners, or anything but water into a storm drain.
- Don’t sweep leaves and yard waste into the street where they clog storm drains and rob waterways of oxygen (as it decomposes) required by fish and other aquatic animals.
- If possible, wash your car over gravel or grass to avoid soapy runoff from entering the storm drain.

What may seem like a very small act on your part can, combined with the actions of thousands of others, make significant improvement in the health of our waterways.

Radon Kits Available to Residents

The Fire Department has a limited number of short-term radon testing kits available for residents in Dublin and the unincorporated Washington Township. Test kits are available upon request (while supplies last) at the Fire Administration Building at 6279 Shier Rings Road Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (one per household).

Instructions for conducting the test, which takes seven days to complete, are provided in the kit. The test kit should be placed in an area of the home that is partially or completely underground, such as a basement or crawlspace, since these locations can exhibit higher radon levels than aboveground rooms.

To obtain accurate results, the kit must be placed where there will be the least amount of air movement. Winter is a good time to test because the doors and windows are closed, and the radon isn't being vented from the home.

Once the test is completed, the kit

must be mailed to a lab in the postage-paid, pre-addressed mailer that is provided. The test results are available online in about four to five days and will be mailed to the homeowner in approximately two weeks.

Radon gas is a naturally occurring radioactive gas generated by the decay of trace amounts of uranium found in the earth's crust throughout the world. It is colorless, odorless, and not detectable by any means other than tests designed to detect it. In tightly insulated houses that are built in areas where the parent rock contains uranium, radon can accumulate to concentrations that pose a health threat.

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, indoor radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States and the leading cause among non-smokers.

Radon is measured in units called Pico curies per liter (pCi/L). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established 4 pCi/L as the standard for indoor air; 20 pCi/L represents the maximum amount of exposure to radium that is now allowed by U.S. regulations.

The radon testing kit program is made possible through a grant to the Franklin County Board of Health from the Ohio Department of Health. The information collected through the test results will be used by the Ohio Department of Health to target their education efforts in regions with high radon levels.

For more information about this radon testing program, consult the Franklin County Board of Health web site at http://www.co.franklin.oh.us/board_of_health

Household Uglies

The Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) will sponsor a household hazardous waste (HHW) collection at Ashland Inc. on Saturday April 22 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Lighter fluid, rat poison, antifreeze, insecticides, herbicides, paint, pool chemicals, batteries and other flammable, reactive, corrosive, and toxic items will be collected at this special event.

Household hazardous waste cannot be disposed of in a landfill like other household waste as it can cause soil and water pollution. SWACO contracts with an environmental service company to collect and dispose of the materials collected.

This is one of eleven HHW collections scheduled for 2006 and the only one located in Dublin. This collection is



for residents only. Business waste will not be accepted. For more information, consult www.swaco.org

Township Offices Moving

Remodeling of the building at 6200 Eiterman Road is nearly complete.

If all goes as planned, both the Fire Administration offices and the Township offices will move there in May 2006.

All phone and fax numbers will remain the same.

Visit our web site at www.wtwp.com for updates.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Cycling Safety Tips

John Nichols, Paramedic/Firefighter/IPMBA EMS cycling instructor

Spring is just around the corner. In central Ohio, that usually means that warmer weather is on the way—temperatures that are perfect for cycling.

With the extensive bike path system in and around Dublin, why not take advantage of this great recreational feature on a bike?

Whether your journey is leisurely or faster paced, cycling is a great way to enjoy the outdoors while exercising your legs, heart and lungs. The many different kinds of bikes make it easy to find one that fits your riding goals, lifestyle, and budget.

No matter what kind of bike you ride, length of trip you take, or how experienced a rider you are, before you begin your ride, always check your equipment so your safety is not compromised.

1. Make sure the bike fits the rider.

Don't purchase one your child can grow into. This isn't a safe practice. If a bike is too large for the rider, they can have difficulty balancing the bike and thus controlling it. Signaling for turns is also difficult for them when their balance isn't secure.



2. Wear a properly fitted helmet.

Helmets are your last line of defense against injury and are proven to reduce serious head injuries by up to 85%. A helmet, however, will not protect your head if it is not properly fitted.

- Make sure the bottom of the helmet is parallel to the ground, not be tipped back on the head.
- Find the smallest helmet size that fits over your head.
- Helmet pads should not be used to make a helmet that is too big fit your head.

- Leave a two-finger width between the eyebrows and the front of the helmet.
- The straps should be joined just under each ear at the jawbone.
- The buckle should be snug.

To encourage regular helmet use, find one that fits the rider's personality. There are many colors and patterns from which to choose.

If you are ever in a crash with your helmet, replace it, even if you cannot see visible damage to the helmet.

3. Every time you ride:

- Air pressure in the tires should be close to the pressure rating indicated on the tires.
- You should have at least 1/8" tread, depending on the type of tire.
- Make sure the tires spin freely and stop quickly when applying the brakes.
- Check the crank. It should move smoothly without any grinding sounds. If you have a multi-gear bike, be sure the chain moves smoothly while changing gears.

4. Have your bike inspected at the beginning of the season by a certified cycling mechanic.

Look for the EMS Bike Patrol this summer. We'll be riding through your neighborhoods and at many of Dublin's special events. Our teams are equipped with communications and medical equipment and supplies so we can respond quickly in the event of an emergency.

We will also be at our annual EMS Week celebration on May 20th with free bicycle helmets and fittings. Stop by and say hello.

Grateful *continued from page 1*

developing a more versatile fleet with the recent addition of a multi-functioning apparatus. By altering the fleet to include multi-functional apparatus, we are able to reduce the overall number of vehicles we staff and maintain (reducing costs) without

compromising the level of service we provide. The most recent examples of this are the refurbishment of our ladder truck and the addition of a small utility vehicle that will provide additional staffing and support in place of the larger, more expensive vehicles.

If the start of 2006 is any indication of how the year will proceed, it is going to be exciting for both the community and the Fire Department. We hope you'll take advantage of all we offer.

Booster Seats Boost Safety Barb Teter, Car Seat Technician

The Ohio child restraint law requires that any infant or child who is either or both under four years of age and weighs less than 40 pounds must be in an approved, properly used child safety seat while being transported in vehicles registered in Ohio.

Ohio's law applies to vehicle owners, parents, guardians, friends, neighbors, relatives, schools and day care centers while transporting a child.

Law enforcement officers can stop motorists as a primary offense for not having children buckled up properly.

Children under 20 lbs. should ride in an infant or convertible safety seat, rear-facing. Children weighing 20-40 lbs. should ride in a convertible safety or booster seat with a harness. Children over 40 lbs. and under age four should ride in a belt-positioning booster seat.

National statistics show that 98% of infants and toddlers use a safety seat while riding in a vehicle. The frequency of booster seat use is only 10-20%.

This is especially troubling as a child placed prematurely in an adult safety belt system is at grave risk for abdominal, spinal, head, facial, neck, and other injuries. A booster seat offers optimal protection for children until they are large enough to use the vehicle safety belts properly.

Traffic accidents are the leading cause of death in children from age 3-19, due in part to the non-use or improper use of child safety seats and seat belts. Make sure your child is properly restrained, even after they have grown out of the car seat they used as an infant.

The frequency of booster seat use is only 10-20%.

Safe Child Seminar

Saturday May 20, 2006

9 a.m. - noon

Washington Township Fire Administration

- Find out how you can help ensure your child's safety in your home and car. Learn from the pros----a certified passenger safety technician and a child home safety inspector.
- Enter a raffle to win a car booster seat.
- Enjoy demonstrations, door prizes, and refreshments.

To register, call 614-652-3925 by May 12, 2006

It's Free!



Citizen's Fire Academy

Jamie Ross

The Citizen's Fire Academy is a new ten-week program designed for citizens who are interested to learn about the fire service from veteran fire fighters and fire safety professionals and participate in hands-on activities that will demonstrate a variety of fire and life safety principles. Topics of the academy will include 9-1-1 system, fire fighter protective equipment, search and rescue, fire streams and water movement, emergency medical services, hazardous materials, specialized rescue, vehicle rescue/extrication, CPR certification, basic first aid concepts, fire prevention practices, and fire extinguishers.

Most classes will be held at the Washington Township Fire Training Center on Eiterman Road. To participate, you must be at least 21 years of age and live or work in Washington Township or Dublin. There is no cost for the program but attendance at all classes is required for graduation.

Classes will be held one night a week for 10 weeks from 7-10 p.m. and on one Saturday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. If you are interested, call 614-652-3920 to request an application. Applications are due July 1. Classes begin in August.

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Parks Offer Opportunities to be Active

Regular physical activity not only helps you live longer, have a healthier life, it can be a lot of fun too!

Today, about 16 percent of children and teens are overweight and an estimated 65 percent of adult Americans are overweight or obese.

You and your family members may have an easier time maintaining a healthy weight if you eat a sufficient amount of fruits and vegetables each day, substitute sweetened beverages with water, fat-free, or low-fat milk, limit screen time to no more than two hours per day, and engage in at least 60 minutes of moderate physical activity a day.

Try spending those 60 minutes at one of the Township parks. The Homestead Park, at 4675 Cosgray Road, has two playgrounds, sand volleyball courts, roller blading course, basketball courts, tether ball, and a water play area. There



is a ¾-mile paved trail that is great for biking, rollerblading, walking, or running. The trail meanders through the park and connects to the seven-

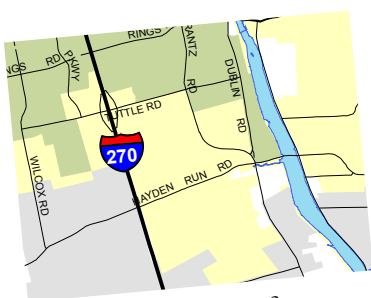
Kori Hurley, Program Manager

mile Heritage Rail Trail, which runs from historic downtown Hilliard to Plain City. Learn more about the Heritage Rail Trail by visiting www.heritagetrail.org. The Homestead is open 9 am –sunset daily.

Ted Kaltenbach Park is located off Avery Road on 5985 Cara Rd., just around the corner from Ballantrae. This park has a new playground, sand volleyball courts, basketball courts, and a ¾-mile paved walking path, which passes by a demonstration prairie.

The Parks and Recreation Program Guide attached to this newsletter lists all the upcoming programs and events. For more information about Washington Township Parks and Recreation programs and facilities, visit www.wtwp.com. To learn more ways to enhance your child's activity level and nutrition, visit the following web site: <http://wecan.nhlbi.nih.gov>

Region's First Green Map is Now Available



The Greenways Program of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) and its community partners announce the availability of the region's first-ever Green Map at www.greatercolumbusgreenmap.org.

There are over 1500 "green" sites identified on the map, including a wealth of information about the sites, such as address, contact

information and hours of operation. The most detailed information is available in the *Parkland and Recreation Sites* section where park features are listed for each facility.

The Green Map is a tool that was developed to strengthen the community's awareness of and connection to our local urban ecology, to enable sustainable lifestyle choices and to easily locate community services.

The Greater Columbus Green Map is coordinated by MORPC's Greenways Program with local funding support from the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio and the cities of Columbus, Dublin, Grove City, Hilliard, Reynoldsburg, Upper Arlington, Westerville, and the Village of New Albany.



FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING

The Fire Department offers fire extinguisher training to businesses and community groups in Dublin and Washington Township. Participants must be at least 18 years old. Call Inspector Bob Westbrook at 652-3933 to schedule your group.

Getting Connected

This past year, the staff at the Parks & Recreation Department focused their attention on identifying how they could make the parks and programs more accessible to residents. These strategies were developed in response to the comments and suggestions we received from our park visitors.

In October of 2005, the township website at www.wtwp.com was updated to include detailed information about all the amenities, programs, and events the parks and recreation department has to offer. Residents now have information at their fingertips, whenever they need it.

Secondly, new facility use policies were created to encourage family and other small groups to visit The Homestead. Tuesdays and Thursdays were designated "Family Days" so families could enjoy the park facilities when they are less crowded.

Survey cards were placed at The Homestead to collect feedback from park visitors about facilities and programs.

Our volunteer program was expanded to offer teens, adults, scouts, school groups and non-profit organizations the opportunity to give back through community service.

The program promotes the importance of community involvement and emphasizes the benefits of parks and recreation. Whether you are helping to care for flower beds or assisting with special events, our volunteers are

Janell Thomas, Parks Director

important to the successful operations of the parks.

The *Friends of the Parks* donation program was created to provide an opportunity for interested citizens to support the parks through a financial contribution. Donation cards were made available at the park and on the web site.

Several environmental initiatives also made their mark in 2005. Kaltenbach Park prairie was established to provide a natural area for educational and

Washington Township has also undertaken a Bluebird nesting program. This program is designed to provide safe nesting places for the Eastern Bluebird and other native species whose natural open grassland habitat is quickly being replaced by homes and roadways.

All these projects support the Parks & Recreation department's commitment to managing green space that provides habitat upon which wildlife depend.



recreational purposes. The prairie has provided a means to increase awareness of native Ohio habitats and to educate residents about Ohio's natural history. By maintaining this productive and unique ecosystem, many native wildlife species are afforded the food and cover they need to survive. Interpretive signs give visitors information about the prairie habitat, trees and prairie perennials planted there.

Throughout 2006, the Parks and Recreation Department will continue to reach out to the community by providing outstanding facilities, programs, events and recreational opportunities. We invite your comments by completing our park survey

cards and sending your e-mails to parks@wtwp.com. We will continue to offer services, provide volunteer opportunities, and expand environmental education. We want to promote the good health of our residents and of our environment. Take advantage of and enjoy your local parks!

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

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dking@wtwp.com
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Fiscal Officer

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 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