



the township *Scribe*



Washington Township . . . Your Community, Your Future

New Home for the Township

It began in 2004 with the purchase of the property and building at 6200 Eiterman Road and culminated in the dedication of the remodeled building on June 13, 2006.

This new facility is home to the Fiscal Officer's office, Human Resources Department, and Fire Administration offices.

The 19,200 square feet provides more meeting rooms and classroom space than the previous location, and has a new fire training tower adjacent to it. Washington Township secured bonds in the amount of \$2.5 million for the project.

If you will be taking advantage of the free child car seat check program or our monthly CPR certification classes, or wish to attend a Board of Trustees meeting, visit our web site (www.wtwp.com) for dates and directions.



Left to right: Trustees Charles Kranstuber, Gene Bostic, and Denise Franz King with State Representative Jim Hughes cut the ribbon.

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Training Tower Offers Diverse Opportunities

The recent opening of the new Washington Township Administration and Training Center will offer diverse opportunities for Washington Township and other local agencies. In addition to offering more classroom and meeting space than the previous location, the new facility offers a special training resource called the fire training tower.

The fire training tower is a masonry, four-story structure with an attached

single-story room with equipment and structural features that enable staff to train on many fire fighting and rescue scenarios they encounter on the job.

One of the greatest assets of the training tower is its self-contained "burn room" which is fueled by propane to simulate a structure fire. This room is currently configured as a kitchen, an area in which many home fires originate. The burn room allows firefighters to operate in

Allan Woo, Fire Chief

an environment that is hostile, yet controlled for their safety.

Probably the most prominent feature of the facility is the 45-foot tower which is equipped with interior stairs, rappelling anchors, windows and an artificial smoke generator. Physical fitness training and testing, rope and rappelling evolutions, search and rescue and aerial ladder training are some of the ways the tower is used.

Continued on page 3

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Station Open House Has Something for Everyone

October 8-14 is National Fire Prevention Week.

To celebrate this important week and help promote fire safety, Washington Township Fire Department will host an open house at all four of its stations on Sunday October 8th from 1-4 p.m. There's lots to see and do so visit one or all of them.

Every station 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 available trucks and medics will also be open for curious climbers and future firefighters.



Firefighter Angela Packard shows a Station 95 visitor the power of the water stream. Station 95 is located in a water tower at 5750 Blazer Parkway.

Station 91, 6255 Shier Rings Road

Learn how to stop, drop and roll to escape safely from a "smoke-filled" room. Sparky's Safety House, a specially-equipped mobile classroom helps prepare all ages for the unexpected occurrence of fire through the use of several real-life simulations.

- Sparky's Safety House tours every half hour
- Repelling demo from aerial ladder 1:00-1:30 p.m.
- 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

This station is actually inside a water tower!

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

Free "Ready Kit" at Emergency Preparedness Workshop

Don't miss this valuable opportunity to learn how you can prepare for an emergency and get some of the tools you'll need to assist your family, should the need arise.

This one-day workshop will be led by Joseph T. Bobot, CEO for *Rapid Assistance to Community Emergencies, Inc.* Mr. Bobot will discuss the advantages of being prepared with the knowledge and resources to cope with the probable inconveniences and potential health and safety risks that can arise during an emergency. Participants who attend the entire workshop will receive a "Ready Kit" containing an assortment of supplies they will find valuable to assist their family during an emergency. This workshop will be offered

at no cost. Every participant who attends the full day will receive a "Ready Kit." Participants must be 18 years old.

Cost: FREE. Lunch, snacks and emergency preparedness kit will be provided.

Date: Saturday October 21, 2006

Time: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Place: Washington Township Training Facility
6200 Eiterman Road, Dublin

To register, call 652-3928 by September 28, 2006. We will need your name, mailing address, phone number, and email address. Space is limited so register today!

Cold Water Emergencies & Hypothermia John Nichols, Firefighter/Paramedic

There are a number of small lakes and ponds in and around Dublin and the unincorporated Township. In winter, depending on weather conditions, these bodies of water can form ice on their surfaces. These ice-covered surfaces pose a danger to residents and sometimes their pets when they venture onto them.

No matter what the situation, venturing out onto ice is risky for many reasons. In Ohio, winter weather conditions are quite variable and changes in temperature and precipitation result in changes in the ice thickness. In addition, water depth, presence of roadway runoff, speed of the water (in the case of a river), and many other factors can affect the integrity (stability) of surface ice.

The presence of snow further complicates the matter as snow acts as an insulator. If it snows on partially thawed ice, the snow can help keep the ice “soft” for some time, even after air temperatures turn cold enough to freeze it without the snow cover.

One of the biggest risks of falling in icy water is hypothermia. Hypothermia is the sudden lowering of the body’s core temperature. A human’s normal body temperature is 98.6°F. Even a slight fluctuation in this temperature can result in severe injury or metabolic changes. Hypothermia can occur in water temperatures of 70°F and below.

In a hypothermic state, the heart rate and respiratory rate slows. Mental function also decreases. Muscles become unable to move and the ability to think clearly or rationally decreases. These physical limitations can greatly decrease a victim’s ability to call for help or get out of the water.

If you ever fall into cold water, take action immediately. Use anything you have on your person (pen, pocket knife, keys) that will help you grab the ice so you can pull yourself out of the water. Once out of the water, roll away from the hole and crawl to safety. Don’t stand up. Crawling will keep your weight distributed over as much surface area as possible, lessening the chances

of you breaking the ice.

If you see someone out on the ice, do not go out on the ice to rescue them. Call 911. Encourage them to self-rescue and talk them through it. If they are not able, try these three strategies: Reach, Throw, Row. First, try to reach out to them with a pole or a ladder, and pull them back in. If this doesn’t work, throw something to them, any type of floatation device. If neither of these attempts work or are not available to you, then row-- take a boat out to them. If the victim goes underwater, mark the location where the victim was last seen and let the professional rescuers know where you last saw them.

If the victim gets out of the water and rescuers haven’t yet arrived, get them to a warm environment. Do not handle them roughly as this may cause sudden cardiac death. Remove all wet clothing and begin drying. Do not rub the extremities. Cover their head. The majority of heat loss occurs at the head and chest area along the ribs. Be prepared to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Training Tower *continued from page 1*



The fire training tower is filled with simulated smoke during a training drill requiring firefighters to locate and extract a victim.

The building’s construction and features also make it a good fit for training by other agencies such as the Police and Sheriff’s Departments. For example, the steel and concrete construction offer law enforcement personnel the perfect setting to safely practice S.W.A.T. and tear gas training without fear of damaging the structure.

Local community colleges and vocational schools that offer coursework leading to firefighter and EMT certification have expressed an interest in using the building for their training programs. While a plan has not yet been formally developed for such, the combination of nearby

classroom space with the tower building enhances this site’s potential to become a regional training facility.

If you haven’t seen the tower and would like to experience, first-hand, some of the ways the Department utilizes it, consider enrolling in the Citizen’s Fire Academy. This free, annual 10-week program is a non-certified course designed to introduce the public to the business of the Fire Department. The first class began in August and will conclude in October. Participants must be 18 years old. To request an application, call Training Manager Jamie Ross at 652-3935.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Seniors Susceptible to Falls

Jack McCoy, EMS Manager

Every year, the Fire Department receives an increasing number of calls to assist citizens who have fallen. This year alone, the Washington Township Fire Department has responded to over 208 (10.53% of calls to date) incidents where falls caused injuries, 85 of which have involved adults over the age of 65.

According to the American Geriatrics Society, more than one third of people over the age of 65 have at least one fall each year. Even falls without injury can have negative effects on older adults. Often we find that elderly patients voluntarily restrict their activity because they fear falling. A vicious cycle of less exercise and activity results in further weakness that in turn may result in another fall. While falls resulting in injuries tend to occur more frequently in the elderly population, they are not isolated to that group. Everyone is at risk for falls. This article address fall prevention measures for all age groups.

Begin a regular exercise program.

Exercise is one of the most important ways to reduce your chances of falling.

It makes you stronger and helps you feel better. Exercises that improve balance and coordination are the most helpful. Lack of exercise leads to weakness and increases your chances of falling. Ask your doctor or health care worker about the best type of exercise program for you.

Make your home safer.

About half of all falls happen at home. To make your home safer:

- Remove things you can trip over (such as papers, books, clothes, and shoes) from stairs and places where you walk.
- Remove small throw rugs or use double-sided tape to keep the rugs from slipping.
- Keep items you use often in cabinets you can reach easily without using a step stool.
- Install grab bars next to your toilet and in the tub or shower.
- Use non-slip mats in the bathtub and on shower floors.
- Improve the lighting in your home.

As you get older, you need brighter lights to see well. Lamp shades or frosted bulbs can reduce glare.

- Have handrails and lights put in on all staircases.

Wear shoes that give good support and have thin, non-slip soles.

Avoid wearing slippers and athletic shoes with deep treads.

Have your health care provider review your medicines.

Have your doctor or pharmacist review all the medicines you take (including ones that don't need such as cold medicines). As you get older, the way some medicines work in your body can change. Some medicines, or combinations of medicines, can make you drowsy or light-headed which can lead to a fall.

Have your vision checked.

Have your eyes checked by an eye doctor. You may be wearing the wrong glasses or have a condition such as glaucoma or cataracts that limits your vision. Poor vision can increase your chances of falling.

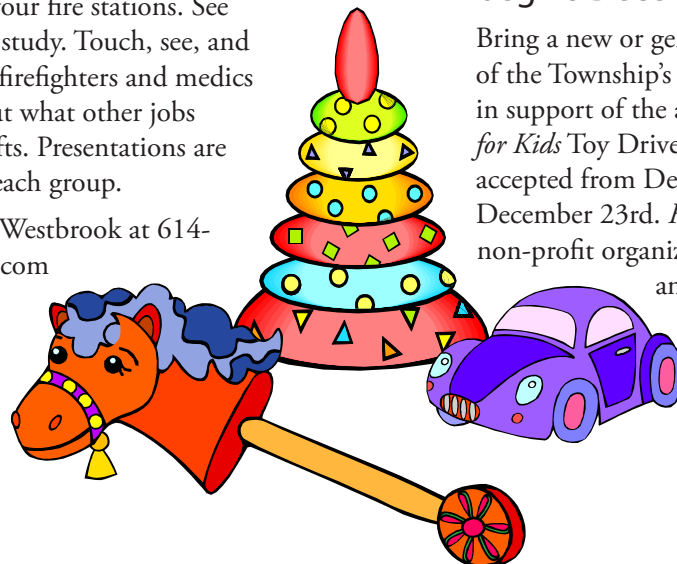
Fire Station Tours for Youth Groups

Take a behind-the-scenes tour of one of our four fire stations. See where the firefighters sleep, eat, exercise, and study. Touch, see, and learn about some of the equipment and gear firefighters and medics use when answering emergency calls. Find out what other jobs the firefighters have during their 24-hour shifts. Presentations are customized to the age, interest, and goals of each group.

To schedule a group tour, call Inspector Bob Westbrook at 614-652-3933 or visit our web site at www.wtwp.com to download a program request form.

Firefighters for Kids Toy Drive begins December 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 Mullins, with help from volunteers.



Pandemic Flu Planning

You can prepare for an influenza pandemic now. You should know both the magnitude of what can happen during a pandemic outbreak and what actions you can take to help lessen the impact of an influenza pandemic on you and your family.

1. To plan for a pandemic:

- ☑ Store a two week supply of water and food. During a pandemic, if you cannot get to a store, or if stores are out of supplies, it will be important for you to have extra supplies on hand.
- ☑ Ask your doctor if you can get an extra supply of your regular prescription drugs.
- ☑ Have nonprescription drugs and other health supplies on hand, including pain relievers, stomach remedies, cough and cold medicines, fluids with electrolytes, and vitamins.
- ☑ Talk with family members and loved ones about how they would be cared for if they got sick, or what will be needed to care for them in your home.
- ☑ Volunteer with local groups to prepare and assist with emergency response.
- ☑ Get involved in your community as it works to prepare for an influenza pandemic.

2. To limit the spread of germs and prevent infection:

- ☑ Teach your children to wash hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and water, and model the behavior.
- ☑ Teach your children to cover coughs and sneezes with tissues, and be sure to model the behavior.
- ☑ Teach your children to stay away from others as much as possible if they are sick. Stay home from work and school if you are sick.

3. Items to have on hand for an extended stay at home.

Examples of food and non-perishables:

- ◆ ready-to-eat canned meats, fish, fruits, vegetables, beans, and soups
- ◆ protein or fruit bars
- ◆ dry cereal or granola
- ◆ peanut butter or nuts
- ◆ dried fruit
- ◆ crackers
- ◆ canned juices
- ◆ bottled water
- ◆ canned or jarred baby food & formula
- ◆ pet food

Examples of medical, health, and emergency supplies:

- ◆ prescribed medical supplies such as glucose and blood-pressure monitoring equipment
- ◆ soap and water, or alcohol-based (60-95% alcohol) hand wash
- ◆ medicines for fever, such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen
- ◆ thermometer
- ◆ anti-diarreal medication
- ◆ vitamins
- ◆ fluids with electrolytes
- ◆ cleansing agent/soap
- ◆ flashlight
- ◆ batteries
- ◆ portable radio
- ◆ manual can opener
- ◆ garbage bags
- ◆ tissues, toilet paper, disposable diapers

For more information, consult:
www.pandemicflu.gov
www.avianflu.gov

Community Events

Dublin Arts and Music Festival

Firefighters will sell beverages and staff the first aid station at the Dublin Arts and Music Festival on Sunday Sept. 24 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Proceeds from the sale of the beverages will benefit the Dublin Arts Council, the event sponsor. For more information, contact the Dublin Arts Council at 614-889-7444 or consult their web site at www.dublinarts.org

Dublin Halloween Spooktacular

See Sparky and the firefighters at Dublin's *Spooktacular* on Thursday October 19 at the Dublin Recreation Center from 3:30 - 8:30 p.m. More information will be posted at www.dublin.oh.us/events/spooktacular/

Homestead Harvest

See page 6 for full description.

Free Radon Test Kits

Radon test kits are available (while supplies last) for residents in Dublin and the unincorporated Washington Township. Kits can be picked up at the Township Administration Building (6200 Eiterman Road) Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. One per household, please. Instructions are provided in the kit, which are made possible through a grant to the Franklin County Board of Health from the Ohio Department of Health.

Change Your Clocks, Change Your Batteries

This year, Daylight Savings Time ends on October 29. Use this annual event as a reminder to install fresh batteries in all the smoke alarms in your home.

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Indian Run Falls

Denise Franz King, Trustee

Indian Run Falls Park officially opened on May 15, 2006. It is a spectacular oasis that fringes the west and north sides of Sells Middle School, Indian Run Elementary, and the Library in downtown Dublin. A new packed stone path parts the shrubs and mature trees that line the ravine. It's a great spot to watch for warblers. Further down the path, a series of overlooks invite the visitor to find water gliding over boulders sixty feet below. The highlights of the park are three falls, with the last plunging off a ledge and into a pool. The dark grey gorge walls are dotted with pink columbine, and if you know where to look, a tiny white-flowered endangered rock cress. Picnic shelters and benches invite families to rest and take in the scenery. It's hard to believe you are really only a few steps from SR 161.

The area was almost developed. In the 1990s a proposal was submitted to build an office building there,

overlooking the falls. It would have been a spectacular view, but seen by only a few. Instead there was an outpouring of support from the community led by the Historic Dublin Association, to preserve the falls and open the area to all as a park. Along with many others, I led hikes along the gorge to show anyone who was interested, what a gem was hidden in our midst.

The would-be building owner cooperated, the City of Dublin partnered with Washington Township, and the property was purchased. The Township contributed \$400,000 for land acquisition, with the city contributing the balance as well as the design, build and operating costs.

A management agreement allowed the trail to be constructed on school property next to the library. We often hear that governments do not work together, but as you visit this inspiring site, celebrate that in this community we have many effective public partnerships. And in this case, you can walk around on the results.



Trustee Denise Franz King talks about the Township's involvement in the Indian Run Falls project at the May 15 Dedication of Indian Run.

Homestead Harvest

Join the fun at the Parks & Recreation Department's annual *Homestead Harvest*, on October 7th and 8th from noon to 5:00 p.m. at Homestead Park (4675 Cosgray Road). This year's event will include haywagon rides, a straw bale maze, kids' tattoos, games, pumpkin patch (\$2), pony rides (\$4), pumpkin decorating, a scarecrow making contest, food and entertainment. The Homestead caboose will be open for tours. Admission and parking are free.

However, if you donate eight cans of food or \$5 at the event, you can enter your name in the raffle drawing for many prizes donated by local businesses. Food donations will benefit



Santa is In Town December 16

Santa and Mrs. Clause invite your family to visit them at the Township Administration and Training Building for a festive holiday morning on December 16.

There will be cookies, crafts to make, and pictures to take! Photos with Santa on an antique fire truck will be available for purchase for \$5 or your cameras are welcome.

Admission is \$1.00
10 a.m.- noon

Water Quality Improvement Projects at the Parks Kevin Swanson, Parks Manager

Water quality is becoming an increasingly important issue for public entities and citizens alike. To address some of the factors that contribute to the degradation of water quality, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) and the Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District (FCSWCD) are partners in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). As part of this federally-mandated program, public entities like Washington Township are responsible for instituting good housekeeping and prevention practices. These include preserving water quality and educating their residents about what they can do to reduce or eliminate sources of water pollution.

The Parks and Recreation Department has two initiatives underway to address the preservation of water quality: shoreline plantings and a rain garden.

Shoreline Plantings

The Homestead's pond shorelines had become eroded due to years of wind, nuisance wildlife and foot traffic. Controlling this erosion was the primary motivation for the shoreline plantings project.

Erosion occurs when water, wind, ice or some other force moves topsoil and organic material and deposits it elsewhere. When erosion occurs at a pond edge, the material washed into the pond can eventually fill it in, a process known as sedimentation.

Sedimentation is the most significant source of stream and river degradation

because it reduces the capacity of the body of water to store water, which can contribute to more frequent and severe flooding. It can also impact aquatic habitats by reducing plant growth, hindering oxygen circulation and affecting food supplies.

To control erosion at our pond's shoreline, native trees and shrubs such as willows and dogwoods were planted and aquatic plants were placed in the shoreline.

In addition to controlling erosion, properly maintained vegetation buffers can also help stabilize banks, filter sediments from runoff, control nuisance animals such as Canada Geese and muskrats, attract desirable native wildlife and provide recreational access for fishing.

These plantings will continuously be evaluated and expanded until sufficient erosion control is established.



Shoreline plantings help control erosion of the Homestead's pond edge.

Rain Garden

Stormwater runoff is another factor that can adversely affect water quality. Runoff occurs when water from rain or snowmelt rushes across a landscape and impervious surfaces such as paved streets, rooftops and parking lots. As water travels over these surfaces,

it can pick up pollutants such as household products, lawn chemicals, and automotive fluids, which are then carried into the storm sewer and released into streams and rivers.

Pollution can also originate from commercial facilities, construction sites and agricultural fields.

In an area adjacent to a paved parking lot at Homestead Park, a rain garden was established to provide an area where the water that flows over the pavement can be slowed and naturally filtered before entering the water shed.



A rain garden is planted near a parking lot to help capture, slow, and filter runoff.

The native plants used in these gardens are water-tolerant, able to absorb large amounts of water and have deep root systems which facilitate the downward flow of water. This landscaping project will provide a relatively inexpensive and attractive means to treat stormwater, recharge groundwater supplies, improve water quality and provide habitat for wildlife.

These projects support the Township's commitment to responsibly manage natural resources. For more information about water quality issues contact the FCSWCD at www.franklinswcd.org or the OEPA at www.epa.state.oh.us

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

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Dublin, Ohio 43016
(614) 652-3920

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

Allan Woo, Chief
Larry Boyce, Human Resources Director
Leslie Dybiec, Public Information Officer
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