



# WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP SURVEY

## OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BOARD OF WASHINGTON TWP TRUSTEES

April 2013

### FROM THE DESK OF THE FISCAL OFFICER

Dear Residents,

Township government provides service daily, but is often not noticed except in extreme conditions. During a snow emergency, our Road & Bridge Crew work diligently to keep our roads passable. If a fire occurs or an accident happens, we know our professional Fire & EMS staff will respond and do all that is possible. As township residents and taxpayers, we pay for these services but still appreciate when the services are done well.

What most residents do not see is the behind the scenes work that occurs to ensure services are provided at the least cost possible. A balancing must occur that recognizes that the quality of service provided is constrained by the money available. To this end, Township elected officials and Department leaders met in January 2013 for their bi-annual Manager's Meeting. Our Township was significantly affected by the deregulation of Ohio's electric industry. When the bill is fully implemented, Washington Township will lose in excess of \$1,000,000 across all funds. The day that this happens is fast approaching. The dialogue your elected officials and Department Leaders had was centered on policy. How do we best position the Township for impending adversity?

All is not bleak. There will certainly be substantial changes. However, fiscal restraint over the past 21 years has yielded a \$6,010,082.15 surplus which will cushion our transition to the new fiscal reality. Your elected officials challenged the Department Leaders to start living **today** within the revenue stream anticipated **after** deregulation is fully implemented.

Local government is where the rubber hits the road. I can assure you that your Trustees, Fiscal Officer, and Department Leaders are not asleep at the wheel.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve you. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Alan C. Motta  
Fiscal Officer  
(513) 553-2072

### FINANCIAL STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP

Finance - unfortunately it's a part of life everyone must deal with. Current budgeting, meeting your expenses, and planning for your future are a challenge we all face.

Fortunately, the Township's current financial status is excellent. We ended the 2012 Fiscal Year with \$6,010,082.15 in the bank & invested. Breakdown of funds as follows:

General Fund	\$ 823,490.07
Motor Vehicle License Tax	\$ 21,456.29
Gasoline Tax	\$ 302,562.04
Road/Bridge Fund	\$ 800,303.03
Cemetery Fund	\$ 2,634.88
Fire District Fund	\$ 3,402,246.16
Permissive Motor Vehicle	\$ 85,847.51
Law Enforcement Trust Fund	\$ 2,054.54
Ambulance Fund	\$ 380,255.63
Special Revenue Fund	\$ 189,232.00

The General Fund is the only fund that is not restricted for specific use. All other funds have restrictions on their use. Major expenses, not including salaries and operational expenses, made in 2012 were:

#### General Fund:

Sheriff's Contract	\$ 45,528.99
Tornado Recovery/Repairs—Park	\$ 16,635.10
Township Recovery—Old Twp Hall	\$ 13,315.35
Roof Replacement—Twp. Hall	\$ 93,358.00*

#### Gas/Motor Vehicle/Road & Bridge Funds:

Road Repair Materials	\$ 20,063.94
Tornado Recovery—R&B Bay Roof	\$ 92,727.00*
JD Tractor w/Side Arm Mower	\$ 63,953.33

#### Fire/Ambulance Fund:

Tornado Recovery Station 66	\$ 114,741.00*
Education	\$ 16,348.07

\* Repairs are still in progress not all monies were expended in 2012, some payment will be made in 2013.

We anticipate receiving \$2,412,654.00 in tax dollars and other revenue sources this year.

Major expenses budgeted for Fiscal Year 2013, not including salaries and operations expenses, are:

#### General Fund:

Sheriff's Contract	\$ 49,000.00
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#### Special Revenue Fund (FEMA):

Big Indian (Off S.R. 222)s	\$ 18,000.00 (estimate)
FEMA Projects:	\$ 400,000.00 (estimate)

#### Road & Bridge Fund:

Paving, Moscow Cemetery Rd.	\$ 29,824.00 (estimate)
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#### Fire Fund:

Staff Vehicle	\$ 50,319.88
Gator/Rescue Package	\$ 11,396.34

## **DARN THOSE SIRENS!....**

Winter may still be nipping at our heels, but spring is already here and some of our most severe weather occurs between March & July. The F-3 tornado which the township experienced on July 2, 1997 left some in our community paralyzed for weeks and the community is still recovering from yet another F-3 tornado on March 2, 2012.

The Township was awarded a Community Development Block Grant in 2011 to replace two (2) outdoor emergency warning sirens. One (1) in the Village of Neville at the Park and one (1) in the non-incorporated Village of Pt. Isabel. The current sirens were installed in the 1970's and have outdated radio frequencies. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is requiring all "high banded" frequencies become "narrow banded".

The sirens have been examined and they cannot be reprogrammed, thus they will not meet the FCC requirements. Replacement parts for repairs are getting harder to find, and when the new FCC regulations go into effect the sirens will become obsolete, jeopardizing the safety of our citizens. The Township has requested \$31,968.80 for the replacement of these two sirens. The new sirens should be installed by mid-April. The total cost for the sirens is \$35,969.00 The Township is responsible for paying \$4,000.00 and the Grant covers the remaining cost of \$31,969.00.

The township currently has four emergency weather sirens located within the Township: 1-in the Village of Moscow, 1-in the Village of Pt. Isabel, 1-in the Village of Neville, and 1-located at the Washington Township Park. These noisy fellows are tested on the first Wednesday of each month. Residents should know, however, that the Township has nothing to do with the sounding of the sirens. The testing is done by the Clermont County Communication Center, located in Batavia, Ohio, which is responsible for making sure that the sirens are in good working order. Remember, we may be DARN happy that we have them and hear them should severe weather or a tornado threaten our area.

Residents are reminded that along with the much anticipated beautiful spring weather comes violent storms. A **tornado watch** means that the conditions are present which could cause a tornado to form. A **tornado warning** means that a tornado has been sighted in the area & you need to take cover immediately. The sirens are **not used** to warn residents of watches. The sirens are **activated** for severe weather warnings and/or tornado sightings.

**TAKE COVER, TUNE IN, TAKE ACTION...** When you hear the siren, turn on your TV or radio for the latest update. Take the required action recommended. If you are instructed to take shelter immediately, go to the lowest part of your home, preferably a basement area. If this is not an option, go into a closet or a small interior room. Residents in mobile homes or doublewides need to leave their homes immediately and seek a structurally sound shelter.

**BE PREPARED.....**develop a family emergency plan and put together a 3-day emergency supply kit which should include:

- an adequate supply of food and water for each person in your family, don't forget your pets
- first-aid kit, including necessary prescription medications, along with a flashlight, battery operated radio, cellular phone, clothing, bedding & special items (baby formula, diapers, bottles, etc.)

## **LONG TERM RECOVERY COMMITTEE HELP REBUILD AFTER DISASTER**

The Ohio Valley Long-Term Recovery Committee soon will be looking for volunteers to help build a house for a Franklin Township resident whose home was destroyed in the tornado that hit last March.

The committee, which covers Hamilton, Clermont, Brown, Scioto, Adams, Pike, and Highland counties, originally formed in 1997 to assist with recovery efforts when the Ohio River flooded. It is made up of representative from faith-based, non-profit, government, business and other organizations. The purpose is to meet needs left unmet in the aftermath of disasters. While insurance and government funding help people with repairs, the financial assistance often reaches its limits, leaving people with unfinished repairs. The committee tries to make up the difference, and you can make a difference too by volunteering to help with the rebuilding of this home.

Local businesses and organization have already been selected for foundation work, framing, plumbing and electricity, but volunteers are needed for drywall and laminate floor installation and painting. The goal of the committee is to have the house completed within two months of the beginning of construction.

If you would like to become a part of this team effort, please contact Jim Dinkel, Committee Chairman and Pastor of the All Saints Lutheran Church in Eastgate at (513) 528-0412.

# Fire Lines

OFFICAL NEWS FROM WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP FIRE & RESCUE

## WHEN EVERY SECOND COUNTS... CALL 9-1-1

### What is 9-1-1?

9-1-1 is the three digit telephone number to call 24 hours a day for police, fire, or medical help.

**How 9-1-1 works....**When you call 9-1-1, a dispatcher will need information about the emergency. The dispatcher will ask, "What is the location?" and, "What is happening?" Also, expect to answer more questions about the emergency. Answer the best you can. Quick response depends upon the vital information you provide. Stay calm and speak clearly. If you have a medical need that requires first aid or CPR, dispatchers will give you step-by-step instructions over the telephone until help arrives.

### When to call 9-1-1....

- \* When police, fire or medical response is needed.
- \* When you see fire or smoke.
- \* When life and/or property are in danger.
- \* When a crime is being committed or something looks suspicious.
- \* When an ambulance is necessary.

All too often, a resident will call the emergency services provider (Fire Department, Ambulance, Police) directly and ask for personnel to stop by because there is something unusual going on in the home....the CO detector has gone off, or.... I smell smoke, or .....the smoke detector is beeping, but I do not see any smoke.

Your emergency service personnel are dispatched from the 9-1-1 Communications Center in Batavia, Ohio. All emergency agencies are activated by a 9-1-1 call. When you by-pass the 9-1-1 system and call the emergency service provider directly you are slowing down the response to your emergency situation.

Emergency Services work on a "first emergency first" response system; or, whoever calls 9-1-1 first, gets the responder. So, while you're talking on the line with the emergency services agency about your situation, they may be dispatched by the Communications Center and have to leave you to deal with an official 9-1-1 call. By calling 9-1-1, you guarantee a timely response.

Many people think that they are "bothering" the emergency responder when they call about "something that is not quite right." But this kind of thinking could not be further from the truth. Your emergency services providers are dedicated to providing you with excellent services. The only thing that we ask is that you call 9-1-1 to ensure your safety and that of your family There is no such thing as a "silly" call. If you're concerned...then we're concerned.

**Anyone can call 9-1-1.** Teach your children and grandchildren. The sight impaired can learn the digit locations on the telephone or use a preprogrammed speed dial button. Whatever method you decide on, please remember for:

***POLICE \* FIRE \* MEDICAL***  
***DIAL 9-1-1***

### REFLECTIVE ADDRESS SIGNS AVAILABLE

Washington Township Fire & Rescue, in their continuing efforts to provide for a safer community, offer free green reflective address signs to all residents within Washington Township. These signs are installed by our personnel on mail box posts, porch posts, or any other location which provides the best visual site for your location. Not only do police, fire and EMS personnel benefit from them in an emergency, but delivery persons, friends, relatives unfamiliar with the area, utility service agencies, and others utilize them to find your home easily. If you would like to have a green reflective address sign installed, please call (513) 876-FIRE (3473), Station 67 (in Pt. Isabel and speak to the Shift Officer on duty.

### NEVILLE BOAT CLEAN UP

The Neville Boat Ramp has provided a very much-needed resource to our community and we take great pride in offering this amenity for the enjoyment of all. With that being said, we also have the safety of the boaters, citizens, personnel, and equipment first and foremost. Traditionally, the Ohio River will flood the Boat Ramp and the parking area up to three times per year. When this happens it leaves behind a real mess. There is trash, wood debris, and sometimes even hazardous materials (oil drums, propane tanks, etc.) that need to be dealt with, not to mention the 4–6 inches of mud and silt left behind. The longer the water crests, the more silt builds up. Our Road & Bridge staff work diligently to clear the area as soon as they can. We have found that it is best to allow the site to dry out prior to making an attempt to remove the mud/silt. This may result in a delay in opening after a flooding event. If we are sliding around while cleaning the site... you may very well slide as well. We ask for your patience during these types of situations.

## CLERMONT COUNTY COMMUNITY SHRED DAY

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) estimates as many as 10 million Americans have their identities stolen each year. Many thieves rummage through your trash to get personal information, such as your Social Security number, and bank account information. A great way to deter thieves is to shred your personal identifying information before you put it in the trash. A free **Clermont County Community Shred Day** will be held on Saturday, May 18, 2013, from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. at the Clermont County Department of Job and Family Services parking lot, located at 2400 Clermont Center Drive in Batavia.

Identity theft happens when someone uses your personal information, without your permission to commit fraud or other crimes. In many cases, people don't realize they have become a victim, until bill collector's start calling about unpaid debts. In some cases, people are turned down for loans or even jobs, because of bad credit. Unfortunately, many victims have their personal information stolen by someone they know.

Awareness is the number one weapon citizens have to combat thieves. Shred all financial paperwork and documents before you toss them in the trash. This includes all those credit card offers that come in the mail and don't give out personal information on the phone, through the mail, or over the Internet, unless you have initiated the contact and know who you are dealing with.

Clermont businesses and citizens are invited to bring old documents (cancelled checks, tax returns, bank statements, etc) to the **Community Shred Day** to be disposed of properly. It is recommended that tax returns be kept for seven years, and bank statements be kept for three years. Along with paper, the shredding machines can handle rubber bands, staples, and paperclips, however it will not shred three ring binders, so please do not bring them.

The **Clermont County Community Shred Day** is sponsored by the Clermont Records Center and Cintas Document Management. Previous events have been quite popular; Cintas reports that over 11,000 pounds of documents were shredded on site in the county during the last shred day. All county citizens and businesses are invited to take part in this free event. For more information, contact the Clermont County Records Center at 735-8660.

## CEMETERY EXPANSION PROJECTS

In the spring of 2006, the Board of Washington Township Trustees discontinued selling cemetery plots in both the Pt. Isabel and Moscow cemeteries because there were no spaces available for purchase. Many residents expressed their disappointment that they would not be able to purchase a plot in the community where they were born and raised.

After careful consideration and negotiations, the Board determined that expansion at the Moscow Cemetery did have the potential to be expanded. On February 23, 2009, the Board of Washington Township Trustees purchased .9303 acres of property for \$5,200.00 that was directly adjacent to the Moscow Cemetery. The clearing and seeding of the property has been completed and the next phase is to fence in the area. The Township will know how many plots we have available after the Clermont County Engineer Office has assisted us with gridding the site.

The Board is also in the process of acquiring donated land adjacent to the Pt. Isabel Cemetery which will allow for its expansion as well.

The actual cost and sizes of the plots, along with a policy regarding Cemetery Rules and Regulations/Guidelines are currently under development. Additional information will be forth coming in the fall newsletter and on the township web site.

## VETERAN'S ACCEPTING WORN FLAGS

The Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Chapter 649 are currently collecting worn and faded American flags which will be burned during their annual "Flag Retirement Ceremony" being held on Sunday, June 9, 2013, 1pm at the Union Township Civic Center, located at 4350 Aicholtz Road. The VVA disposed of American flags that were too worn and tattered to be displayed. The ceremony involves cutting the flags into strips, burning the pieces, and then burying the ashes in an air tight container. While all flags will not be burned at the ceremony on June 9<sup>th</sup>, they will all be handled with proper dignity and respect.

There are a number of collection sites that have been set-up across Clermont County to accept the flags. The collection sites are as follows:

*Campbell's Barn Restaurant, 1852 S.R. 125, Amelia  
All Union Township – Government Buildings  
Lebanon Citizen's National Bank, Goshen, OH  
Union Saving Bank, Loveland, OH*

*Union Township Civic Center, 4350 Aicholtz Rd.  
Ohio State Highway Patrol – Batavia Post (Lobby)  
Yellow Ribbon Support Center, Eastgate  
Joe Kidd Auto, Beechmont & Boy Scout Troop 742*

## TOWNSHIP PETITIONS COUNTY TO MAKE MOSCOW CEMETERY ROAD A PUBLIC ROADWAY

On March 2, 2012, a tornado ripped through Washington Township. Major damage and loss of life was sustained throughout the area. The Township and its residents are still recovering. Part of our recovery process is to be proactive and examine where improvements are needed and respond appropriately.

Moscow Cemetery Road, located along U.S. 52, is considered a private road. Per Ohio Revised Code Law the Township cannot provide road maintenance efforts to private roads. However, Moscow Cemetery Road is unique due to the fact that it is the only access point to the Moscow Cemetery and the Township is required, by law, to maintain the ingress/egress to the cemetery. Consequently, the Board treats this roadway just as if it is a public road. Limbs are cut back, snow removal/salting efforts are provided, roadsides are mowed, slips are repaired, blacktopping is applied, etc. These maintenance operations and improvements are continual.

The March 2<sup>nd</sup> tornado, along with torrential rains, has weakened the bridge located on the roadway. The Board of Trustees approached the Clermont County Engineers for assistance in designing and repairing this bridge. Upon conclusion of our meetings the Clermont County Engineers Office recommended that the Township petition the Clermont County Commissioners to have the road reclassified from private to public. The reclassification will not change how the roadway is maintained by the Board of Trustees, but will make all bridge repairs the responsibility of the Clermont County Engineers Office, the entity best suited to handle the repair efforts.

The first step in the process was to obtain signatures, in the form of a petition, which has been completed and submitted to the Clermont County Commissioners along with a resolution from the Board of Trustees. The Commissioners will send the request to the Prosecutor's Office, which if approved, goes back to the Commissioners to be voted upon. Upon a vote of approval the road would then be added to the Township mileage certificate and the appropriate tax base applied.

We are happy to report that we have the support and signature of every resident that currently owns property on Moscow Cemetery Road, along with any other residents that feel strongly that this is the best solution to ensure that this roadway remains safely accessible and the appropriate governmental agencies are taking care of the roadway. The only change to the residents on the roadway would be that they would have to provide a 30' easement (15' from the center of the road on both sides) through their section of property that the road runs through.

The reclassification of the roadway is a win-win situation in the eyes of the Board of Trustees. Maintenance and repair efforts by the Township will not change and the County will take care of the bridge.

### TOWNSHIP APPLIES FOR BOAT RAMP GRANT

The Township has submitted a grant for repairs to the Neville Boat Ramp, which was significantly damaged by river barge traffic during high water events, making the docks un-installable due to bent pilings and/or missing pilings. The ramp is still available for launching. The Trustees have requested \$90,500 for the necessary repairs, which will include two (2) new pilings with a floating navigational buoy. The ramp will be modified for only one set of docks. The results of our request will be known within a couple of months. This is the Board third request for funding for these repairs. Out past requests have been denied due to lack of available State funding.

### 2013 ROAD PAVING PROJECTS

Washington Township is in the process of accepting sealed bids for the following small road paving projects:

Township Hall: 10' x 22' section; 10' x 29' section; 6' x 40 section on the park road; 35' x 120' new rear parking lot; 18' x 18' section in front of the fuel tanks.  
 Coombs Road: 100' x 11' section  
 Sargent Road: 60' x 15' section (damage from loggers)  
 Collier Road: Culvert Patch 3' x 40'  
 Collier Road: 100' x 15' section (beginning at house # 1259)  
 Ginn Road: 380' x 15' section (from house # 2213 - 2120)  
 Ireton Trees Road: 3' x 12' patch  
 Bear Creek: Two (2) 3' x 12' patches  
 Moscow Cemetery Road: 12' x 50' section

The Board is coordinating with the County Engineers for the repaving of Moscow Cemetery Road, estimated cost for repaving of this roadway is \$29,824.00.

**DIRECTORY**

Washington Township  
2238 S.R. 756, Moscow, Ohio 45153  
(513) 553-2072 Fax: (513) 553-2975  
e-mail: www.washingtontownshipclermont.org

Washington Twp. Fire & Rescue, St. #66  
410 Market Street, Neville, Ohio 45157  
(513) 876-2970 Fax: (513) 876-3713

Washington Twp. Fire & Rescue, St #67  
2817 Mill Street, Moscow, OH 45153  
(513) 876-3740 Fax: (513) 876-3658

**Board of Washington Twp. Trustees & Staff**

- Ron Rudd..... Chairman
- Dave Peters ..... Vice Chairman
- Beth Nevel..... Trustee
- Alan Motta..... Fiscal Officer
- Arthur Owens..... Fire Chief
- Dana Kellenberger Asst. Fire Chief
- Alan Dodson..... Road Department
- Robin Brewer..... Administrative Support

New Home Addresses: Call (513) 876-3740 and speak to Lt. Paul Brewer or Chief Arthur Owens.

Burn Permits: Call (513) 876-3740 and speak to the Shift Officer on duty.

Picnic Shelter Rentals, Fishing Permits, Station #2  
Rentals: Call Robin Brewer (513) 553-2072

**ROAD & MAINTENANCE UPDATE**

**Snow Removal**

Winters come & winters go, but our Township R&B Crew always keep our roads open, clean, and safe. The winter of 2012-2013 was no exception. Snow removal is a difficult time consuming task, when taking in the factors of erratic weather, road surface/air temperatures, drifting snow, etc. Kudos go out to Alan Dodson, and Elbert Preston. Our snow removal crew worked 94 hours and used approximately 200.00 tons of salt to keep our roadways clear. Thanks guys for another job well done.

**Ditch lines & Culvert Tiles**

Following the winds of March come April showers. We have already seen several "gully washers" come through the area. Although we know April showers bring May flowers, and we all appreciate the changing of the season, we also know that these torrential rains can move a lot of lose debris that has settled along the roadways and in ditch lines over the long winter. We would like to remind residents that while they are out cleaning up their yard debris this spring, they check their ditch lines and driveway culvert tiles for blockages. Backed up driveway culvert tiles, especially those located along township roads, can become very hazardous to motorists. When these culvert tiles become blocked with debris, they create road flooding or the pooling of water on the roadway surface. This, in turn, can lead to cars hydroplaning, causing injury and loss of property. Please protect yourself and others by clearing your culverts and ditch lines.