

# WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP SURVEY



## OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BOARD OF WASHINGTON TWP TRUSTEES

April 2014



### TOWNSHIP WELCOMES NEW TRUSTEE

Washington Township would like to officially welcome their newest elected Trustee, Mr. Dennis Cooper. As a former elected official, Dennis is a veteran when it comes to dealing with Township matters. Dennis held the office of Trustee from 1984 - 1992 and 1998 -2002 for a total of 12 years of prior experience.

Dennis and his family are life-long residents of Washington Township. He and his lovely wife, Melissa, have raised two boys, and Dennis has been involved in a variety of local organizations, including serving on the Felicity School Board from 1980 - 1983 and on the Grant Vocational School Board in 1982. He also served in the U.S. Air Force from 1971 - 1974. Dennis currently works for Turner Construction Co. and plans on retiring from the construction business in the Fall of 2015.

One thing is for certain, Dennis is dedicated to preserving, promoting, and supporting the services and residents of Washington Township with great devotion and dedication. We are looking forward to working with Dennis and we thank him for serving the community.



### *A WELL EARNED FAREWELL!*

The Board of Washington Township Trustees would like to thank Beth Nevel for serving as a Trustee of Washington Township for the past four years (2010 - 2013). Beth held the unique perspective of being an elected official and a former Fire Chief of Washington Township Fire & Rescue. Her experience in the emergency services field, natural disasters operations (she was here for the 1997 Flood and the 1997, 2012 Tornadoes), knowledge about grant funding and contacts at the county level are unparalleled. But, it's mostly her smile that we will miss on a daily basis.

We would like to express our deepest appreciation for a job well done and we thank you for taking the time to serve our community. You will be missed and we wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

Board and Staff Members of Washington Township

### TOWNSHIP WELCOMES OFFICER PIAK!

Washington Township is proud to announce that there's a new Sheriff in town... Deputy Piak (pronounced Pike). Piak is Washington Township's new canine (dog) police officer and, in the eyes of the Board of Trustees, an invaluable resource for law enforcement.

In the State of Ohio, police dogs are considered full-fledged police officers. As such, most laws find assaulting a police dog to be equal to assaulting a human officer. Washington Township's contracted Deputy, James Kirker, is Piak's handler and partner. They work together as a Canine Team and their duties include their law enforcement details as any other deputy, conducting building searches for hidden offenders, locating missing persons, tracking suspects who have fled the scene of a crime, and detecting drugs.

Both Deputy Kirker and Piak underwent extensive training and will continue to do so for the duration of their employment with the Clermont County Sheriff's Office. The Board of Trustees have spent \$18,000 to date and are committed to spend up to \$21,000 on the Canine Unit. The initial \$18,000 was used to purchase Piak and all the necessary equipment to employ a canine officer. This cost includes, but is not limited to, training, purchasing a canine bullet proof vest, vehicle modifications for the installation of a canine cage and a "Hot Dog" emergency vehicle access system.

Although Deputy Kirker and Piak are assigned to work in Washington Township they are on call 24/7 and available to our neighboring communities at the discretion of the Clermont County Sheriff's Office.



Photo by Kristin Rover/The Clermont Sun

## 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. Residents are reminded that along with the much anticipated beautiful spring weather come 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 of supply of food and water for each person in your family, don't forget your pets
- a 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.)

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.



## MOSCOW MONARCHS VINTAGE BASE BALL HERE!



Want to see what it was like to play base ball in 1865? Then come and watch the first Vintage Team to be established in Clermont County...the **Moscow Monarchs!** What's vintage base ball you ask? (Yes, it was spelled with two words prior to the 1880's). Vintage Base Ball is played by the rules and customs of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Players wear period reproduction uniforms, either with long trousers or knickers and shield shirts. They recreate the game based on rules established in the mid-to-late nineteenth century. It is played on open grass fields and some clubs play without gloves or with buckskin gloves. Until 1865, fair or foul balls caught on one bound were outs. However, the more skilled players always attempted to catch it "on the fly" which eventually made the bound rule unnecessary. Balls are also considered fair by where the ball first touches the ground. That is, a ball hit in front of home plate that then spins into foul territory is still a fair ball. There are numerous other differences in the amateur game, but it's still great base ball and great fun!

Why are they called the Monarchs? The team is named after King Louis Philippe, born to the Royal House of Orleans in France, who lived in Moscow for several years around 1815. Louis Philippe stayed in town, seeking asylum from France as Napoleon took power – being an heir to the throne, Napoleon called for his death. He lived in Moscow and also spent some time in Neville, where he was a school teacher. Louis Philippe returned to France, where he was placed upon the throne by the French People in 1830. The following is an excerpt from [www.clermont-county-history.org](http://www.clermont-county-history.org):

"The early 1800's found Louis Philippe poling his way down the Ohio River in a flat boat that contained his worldly possessions and served also as his home. Somewhere along its shores in Clermont, he landed, picked up his meager belongings, and trudged off into the wilderness, coming eventually to a cabin farm house where dwelt a farm couple, to whom he stated simply, "My name is Philippe, I am a school teacher. I seek rest and food. Will you honor me?"

Let's honor, support, and show our team pride by cheering on the Moscow Monarchs. The Monarchs will host four (4) at home games (April 13<sup>th</sup>, May 4<sup>th</sup>, July 27<sup>th</sup> & September 21<sup>st</sup>), and will travel to eight (8) away games and will be attending the Coney Island Base Ball Tournament on July 13<sup>th</sup>. All home games will be played at 1:00 pm on Prospect Field – located behind the Community Center, 30 Wells Street, Moscow, Ohio 45153. A complete schedule and additional information can be found on the team's Facebook page ([Facebook.com/moscowmonarchs](https://www.facebook.com/moscowmonarchs)).

***PLAY BALL!***

# 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***



## WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP TO HOST 5K RUN FOR THE OHIO POLICE & FIRE GAMES JUNE 8 - 13, 2014

The Board of Directors of The Ohio Police & Fire Games, the Clermont County Sheriff's Office and the Board of Washington Township Trustees invite you to join them for the 2014 Ohio Police & Fire Games which are being hosted by the Clermont County Sheriff's Office the week of June 8-13, 2014. The purpose of these Games is to support the physical and mental fitness of Ohio's active and retired first responder community by promoting the concept of physical fitness and sport through participation in various sporting events. The Games are open to ALL first responders (law enforcement, firefighters, or military). Numerous events will be held throughout the County and Washington Township has the privilege of hosting the 5K Cross Country Run at the Washington Township Park on June 9, 2014 at 7:30 am.

A complete list of scheduled events is available at [www.TheOhioPoliceandFireGames.org](http://www.TheOhioPoliceandFireGames.org). A portion of the proceeds generated by the Games will be donated to the host agency to support Clermont County area charities!

## 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 31, 2014, 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. 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.

### ***Rabies Shot Clinic Saturday, May 17, 2014***

The Clermont County General Health District, in partnership with ***Family Animal Hospital*** in Batavia, will be holding a low cost "***Rabies Vaccination Clinic***" at the Clermont County Fair Grounds, 1000 Locust Street, in Owensville, Ohio. The clinic will be held on May 17, 2014 between 2:00 pm and 5:00 pm (rain or shine). The fee for vaccination will be \$5.00 per animal, payable in cash only. **All animals must be in good health and must be leashed or contained in a carrier.** A three year vaccination can be administered to all animals with proper documentation of current vaccination status (rabies tag will not be sufficient). All other animals 12 weeks or older will receive a one year vaccination. For questions, please contact Linda Walsh, R.S. or Rob Perry, R.S. at (513) 732-7499. Protect your pets...protect your family.



**DON'T BE A WEINER  
GET YOUR PET VACCINATED**

## VETERANS 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 8, 2014, 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 8<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*

## 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 challenges we all face. Fortunately, the Township's current financial status is excellent. We ended the 2013 Fiscal Year with \$5,793,091.63 in the bank & invested. Breakdown of funds as follows:

General Fund	\$ 630,270.46
Motor Vehicle License Tax	\$ 27,884.92
Gasoline Tax	\$ 217,785.36
Road/Bridge Fund	\$ 968,325.33
Cemetery Fund	\$ 2,134.88
Fire District Fund	\$ 3,150,117.77
Permissive Motor Vehicle	\$ 92,826.43
Law Enforcement Trust Fund	\$ 2,054.54
Ambulance Fund	\$ 511,459.94
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 budgeted for Fiscal year 2014, not including salaries and operational expenses, are:

### General Fund:

Sheriff's Contract -	\$50,000
Sheriff Canine (Piak) -	\$18,000

### Gas/Motor Vehicle/R&B Fund:

Backhoe -	\$67,495
Road Paving -	\$75,000
Exmark Mower -	\$7,918

### Fire Fund:

Portable Generator -	\$32,440
Fit Test Machine -	\$9,160
Ice Rescue Equipment -	\$2,586
Handheld Radios -	\$15,491
Fire Hose/Couplings -	\$5,380
Bay Floor Repairs -	\$7,700

In order to create additional interest revenue the Board, upon the recommendation of Alan Motta, Fiscal Officer, transferred \$3 million dollars into the StarPlus Program which is earning interest at a rate of 0.20%. A vast improvement over the 0.01% interest rate invested money is earning in the old Star Ohio Program.

We appreciate the opportunity to serve you. Should you have any questions or want additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us at (513) 553-2072.

## CEMETERY UPDATES

### MOSCOW & PT. ISABEL CEMETERIES

We are happy to announce that the expansion of Moscow and Pt. Isabel cemeteries are nearly completed. We are currently waiting on the Clermont County Engineer's Office to assist us with gridding the sites. Cemetery Guidelines are also in the process of being developed. Prices have been set as follows:

Full Lot, Resident (8 graves) -	\$1,800.00
Full Lot, Non-Resident (8 graves) -	\$3,600.00
Half Lot, Resident (4 graves) -	\$1,000.00
Half Lot, Non-Resident (4 graves) -	\$2,000.00
Quarter Lot, Resident (2 graves) -	\$600.00
Quarter Lot, Non Resident (2 graves) -	\$1,200.00

Our desire is to be able to sell lots by the beginning of June.

### CALVARY (MT. OLIVET) CEMETERY

Calvary Cemetery, located on State Route 756, is in the process of being acquired by the Board of Washington Township Trustees. The cemetery is currently owned and maintained by the Mt. Olivet Cemetery Board. The Cemetery Board consists of volunteers, many who are our friends and neighbors, who have been dedicated to the preservation of the cemetery for many years.

It is the hope of the Board of Washington Twp. Trustees that this matter will be resolved very quickly so the Township can begin mowing and caring for the facility. We ask that everyone be very patient with us while we are going through the procurement process. If you would like a progress update, feel free to contact the Township Administration Office at 553-2072.

## TOWNSHIP AND VILLAGE WORK TOGETHER TO SECURE FIREWORKS

In March of this year, the Board of Washington Township Trustees and Moscow Village decided that during these tough economic times it makes sense that they work together, when permitted, to establish events that support the community at large. With this in mind, Washington Township and the Village of Moscow have worked out a contract with American Fireworks for Moscow's Annual July 3<sup>rd</sup> Fireworks and the Township's Annual Autumn Bash Fireworks. American Fireworks offered a percentage discount for providing both shows for the next three years. The full percentage discount will be applied to the Village of Moscow's contract and the Township will also donate \$1,800, for the next three years, towards the Moscow Fireworks, which will result in the Moscow contract being funded 50% from discounts & donations for the next 3 years.

The July 3<sup>rd</sup> and Autumn Bash Fireworks have become traditions that define this community, and these contracts will guarantee that these fireworks continue through 2016 at a set cost. A special thanks to all of the Village of Moscow Council Members, the Finance Committee, & Administrative Staff for working with us!

## DIRECTORY

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

Washington Twp. Fire & Rescue, St. #66  
410 Market Street, Neville, Ohio 45157  
(513) 876-3740 Fax: (513) 876-3713

Washington Twp. Fire & Rescue, St #67  
2817 Mill Street, Moscow, OH 45153  
(513) 876-3740 Fax: (513) 876-4791

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

Ron Rudd..... Chairman  
Dave Peters ..... Vice Chairman  
Dennis Cooper..... 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: Can be obtained from Southwest Ohio Air EPA at 1-800-889-0474.

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 keeps our roads open, clean, and safe. The winter of 2013-2014 was an exceptional year for snow falls. 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 500+ hours and used approximately 350 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 loose 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.