



FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER



Published by Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio

January 2016

Are you Engaged?

Prior to 2015, if you would have told anyone associated with local government funding, that we would be in the boat we are today, they would have called you nuts. But, beginning with the passage of House Bill 66 in 2005, a gigantic tax shift occurred over the next 10 years that put us where we are today. Townships and other local government entities are struggling against a 50 percent cut in Local Government Funds, the total elimination of the Estate Tax, and the phase out of the Tangible Personal Property Tax. If you say that really fast it doesn't sound like much, but in reality it squeezed billions of dollars from these local governments over the past 10 years, and redistributed it to allow the State of Ohio to balance its budget and enjoy the \$2 billion Rainy Day Fund it brags about today.

I have been a trustee for 17 years and this tax shift angers me and I know it would all Ohioans, if they only understood how it silently took place. As citizens of the community, we all see services declining and as taxpayers, we are all being asked to pay more in real estate tax to cover the loss legislated upon us in Columbus.

Townships are as diverse in size and population as the cities and villages are in Ohio. West Chester Township in Butler County touts a population of 60,958, while Jefferson Township in Guernsey County is home to 86 township residents. Bath Township in Allen County, where I serve as trustee, has a population of 9,725, ranking us at number 125 out of the 1,308 townships in Ohio.

Bath Township has been "blessed" over the last half century by being home to several large manufacturers. Ford Motor Co., Proctor & Gamble, Dana Corp., and others all have large manufacturing facilities in Bath Township and, prior to the tax restructuring that I have previously mentioned, supported Bath Township's growth and services with personal property tax payments. In fact, at one time, Bath Township received more revenue from personal property tax settlements than we did in real estate! With that said, it is all a moot point with Ohio's tax restructuring that leaves Ohio townships, like Bath, to fend for themselves to find ways to replace this significant loss of a longstanding tax base.

I mentioned that I am angry, but who am I angry with? At first I was angry with some of our governors and then I was angry with some of our legislators, but as time passes I guess I am angry with "us" for letting this all happen. I try to work closely with the Ohio Township Association and I ask myself, do I do enough, am I engaged, or are any of us really engaged enough to make a difference?

Do you know your state representative like you know your fellow trustee? Or, do you know your state senator well enough to chat if you should pass on the street? Do you read the OTA's weekly Legislative Alerts and respond when asked to contact our representatives in Columbus for support or opposition to a piece of legislation? I shamefully admit that I am not as engaged as I should be and of the 5,232 trustees and fiscal officers in Ohio, I doubt if many really are.

If your township hall was filled with people at your next meeting to discuss a pending resolution, would you sit up and pay attention? If you received 50 letters from township residents voicing their opinion on a zoning change, would you pay heed to their concerns if we engaged them in a similar manner, with over 5,000 voices, to get their attention.

I doubt that this one magazine article will change the way many folks are engaged, but there is strength in numbers and we do have the numbers to make a difference if we only make our voices heard. I will ask you to think about one last question....would Ohio's tax structure and local government funding be different today if 5,000 voices had been heard in 2005?

Reprinted with permission from Trustee Roy Hollenbacher; Bath Township/ Allen County Ohio.

In this Edition:

- Are You Engaged.....Page 1
- Road Dept.....Page 2
- Police Dept.....Page 2
- Fire Dept.....Page 3
- New Trustee.....Page 3
- SWACO.....Page 4
- Township Directory.....Page 4

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Police Department News

We will be enforcing “No Parking” zones around the township. Please be aware of where you are parking and the signs posted.



You can avoid many dangerous weather problems by planning ahead. Plan long trips carefully, listening to the radio or television for the latest weather forecasts and road conditions. Listen for snow emergencies.

Check or have a mechanic check the following items on your car:



- *Antifreeze levels - ensure they are sufficient to avoid freezing.
- *Battery and ignition system - should be in top condition and battery terminals should be clean.
- *Brakes - check for wear and fluid levels.
- *Exhaust system - check for leaks and crimped pipes and repair or replace as necessary. Carbon monoxide is deadly and usually gives no warning.
- *Heater and defroster - ensure they work properly.
- *Lights and flashing hazard lights - check for serviceability.
- *Oil - check for level and weight. Heavier oils congeal more at low temperatures and do not lubricate as well.
- *Thermostat - ensure it works properly.
- *Windshield wiper equipment - repair any problems and maintain proper washer fluid level.
- *Install good winter tires - Make sure the tires have adequate tread. All-weather radials are usually adequate for most winter conditions.
- *Keep extra blankets, hats and gloves in your car in case you should breakdown.



*Stay in your car and wait for help if you break down, your car can keep you safe from the elements.

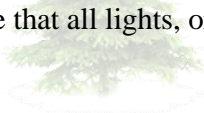
Road Department News

When there is a chance of an accumulation of Snow expected please help the Road Dept. by paying attention to the areas where there are “No Parking when 2” inches or more of Snow” are posted. These “No Parking” areas will be strictly enforced by the Franklin Township Police Dept. and citations will be issued for non-compliance. And by parking off the roadway will help us be more efficient in cleaning the roadway.



Christmas Tree Pickup

After the Christmas season is over, please place your live cut Christmas tree out on your normal trash collection day and it will be picked up by **Local Waste**. To assure that there is no damage done to the equipment, please make sure that all lights, ornaments, and tinsel are removed.



Tire Drive

Franklin Township Road Department will be hosting a Tire Drive on Saturday April 30th, 2016 from 8:00am to 12:00 noon. **Township Residents only** can drop off up to 4 tires at the Township Road Dept. garage at 2193 Frank Rd.



End of the year totals:

2014 – 2015 Winter (Used 246 Tons of Salt)

2015 Brush Collection

324 Loads of Brush totaling 220 Tons of Brush

2015 Leaf Collection

43 Loads of Leaves totaling 39 Tons of Leaves

2015 House Bill 50

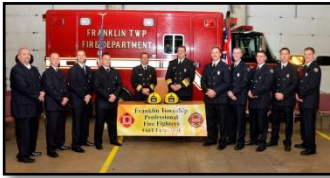
198 Notices sent out for High Grass
100 Properties Mowed



Fire Department News – Chief James Welch

Thanks to the FEMA SAFER Grant awarded to the Franklin Township Fire Department, the department swore in 10 new firefighters. The township had been publicly plagued with several failed levy attempts and was unable to keep enough firefighters and medics on staff to answer all the needs of the township and surrounding communities. With the lack of funds for more firefighters, Franklin Township had been forced to close station 192 twice in 2015 and also had left trucks out of service daily, leaving residents worried about response times and their safety.

The award of the FEMA SAFER Grant gave Franklin Township enough funds to hire 10 new firefighters for the duration of at least 2 years. Both Station 192 and Station 193 are now running at full capacity, staffing both a medic and a fire engine 24 hours a day. This will give residents peace of mind and 10 new firefighters a strong start to their careers.



New Franklin Township Trustee

I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself and thank the residents for showing your confidence in me and electing me as your new Trustee.

I am very humbled by the support I received and will work toward the betterment of the Township. There are many issues that need to be resolved and with your continued support, we can work together to address the problems.

Anyone who has an issue is welcome to contact me at 614-279-6833 and I will make every effort to deal with your problems, or if you just want to meet me and get acquainted, I would welcome your call.

Again thank you and I look forward to serving you for the next four years.

~ *Ralph Horn*



Carbon monoxide is a silent killer because it is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that is formed when carbon-based fuels, such as kerosene, gasoline, propane, natural gas, oil, charcoal or wood are burned with inadequate amounts of oxygen, creating a condition known as “incomplete combustion.” In the case of home gas appliances, this can be caused by improper installation, poor maintenance, or appliance misuse or failure. The early stages of carbon monoxide poisoning produce unexplained flu-like symptoms; its gradual displacement of oxygen in the blood and prolonged exposure can lead to death.

To keep your family safe, install a certified, battery-operated Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarm or plug-in CO alarm with battery back-up in your home in the hallway near the bedrooms in each sleeping area. Make sure your appliances are installed according to the manufacturer’s instruction and the local codes. Have your heating system (including chimneys and vents) inspected and serviced annually.

What to do if someone suspects carbon monoxide is present in their home:

- If safe to do so, immediately turn off the suspected gas appliance.
- Evacuate the premises and call 911.
- Seek medical attention if anyone in the home experiences possible carbon monoxide poisoning symptoms.
- Contact the gas company or a licensed, qualified professional immediately to have the appliance inspected.
- Don't use the suspected appliance until it has been inspected, serviced and determined to be safe by the gas company or a licensed, qualified professional.

Stay safe this winter -- don't even think of using your stove or oven to heat your home. It's just not worth the risk.

Franklin Township Web Page

We are proud to share our new web page with you; www.franklin-township.com . Please visit our page for township news and updates. We are also on Facebook and Twitter to keep you updated even faster. Look for winter weather updates, fun facts, and other township news.

<https://www.facebook.com/FranklinTownshipOhio>
Twitter: @Franklin_Twp



2016 Franklin Township Business Meeting Schedule

The first meeting of 2016 will be held Thursday,
January 14, 2016 at 2193 Frank Rd.

SWAC Meeting Dates for 2016

SWAC is the abbreviation for the Columbus City Area Commission that covers portions of the southern end of our Township, SWAC stands for Southwest Area Commission. Its boundaries are the railroad tracks just west of 3C highway on the west, Mound Street on the north, Interstate 71 South on the east, and I-270 on the south. This area encompasses land that lays 50% in Columbus, 40% in Franklin Township, and 10% in Jackson Township.

The meetings are held at 1665 Harrisburg Pike the first Tuesday of the month starting at 2:30P.M., but are subject to change. For the latest information on dates and times for the meetings view their web site at:

<http://www.columbuswac.org/home.html>

THE SWACO 2016 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Dates and Times:

- 2016 dates are yet to be determined please check our April newsletter for updates and SWACO.org for additional information.



Franklin Township Directory

Fire Department Emergency.....911

Fire Chief James Welch.....279-1537

4100 Sullivant Ave., Columbus, 43228

Houses; Engine 192, Medic 192

Foam Truck 199, Total of 32 Full-time

Firefighting Personnel in both houses.

Station 193.....279-1441

2193 Frank Rd, Columbus, 43223

Houses: Engine 193, Medic 193

Fire/EMS Inspector/Investigator

Contact Number..... 279-9411

Fire Prevention Bureau

Lt. Todd Broecker.....279-9411

Road Department

Supervisor, Jim Stevens

Four Person crew279-9411

2193 Frank Road, Columbus 43223

Road garage houses 3 dump trucks, jet-vacuum,
brush chipper, leaf vacuum, asphalt roller

Police Department Emergency 911

Non-emergency Dispatch 525-3333

Police Chief Smith 279-9411

Headquarters

2193 Frank Road, Columbus, 43223

Total of 6 full-time Police Officers

Local Waste..... 409-9375

Franklin County Offices

Public Health 525-3160

Trash..... 525-4539

Tall grass/weeds 279-9411

Environmental Control Task Force (Nail a

Dumper)..... 871-5322

Zoning..... 525-5627

150 South Front Street, Suite 10

Engineers 525-3072

970 E. Broad Street

Board of Trustees:

Don Cook, Trustee: 272-2094

Serving term 01/01/14 – 12/31/17

John Fleshman, Trustee 272-8595

Serving Term 01/01/14 – 12/31/17

Ralph Horn, Trustee: 276-6946

Serving term 01/01/16 – 12/31/19

Lisa Morris, Fiscal Officer: 279-9411

Serving term 04/1/16 – 03/31/19

Melissa Schopp, 279-9411

Business Office Secretary

Board of Elections: 525-3100

Animal Control: 525-3400

Prosecutors Office: 525-3520

Juvenile Bureau: 525-3355

Reflective House Number Signs

Reflective house number signs (18" x 6") can be purchased at the Township Business Office. The signs are aluminum with a green reflective background and white reflective numbers. Signs can be mounted either horizontally or vertically and with numbers on both sides. The cost is \$6.00 per sign, \$0.70 per number.