



TOWNSHIP TALK

www.lawrencetownship.org

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER
FALL 2015

From the Desk of Chairman Matt Ritterbeck

TRUSTEES

Matthew S. Ritterbeck, Chairman
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Michael Haueter

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CEMETERY SEXTON

Todd Reynolds

ZONING INSPECTOR

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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

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ZONING COMMISSION

Stan Koehlinger, Chairman
John Walsh
George Downes
Eric McGovern
Frank Bachman
Mark Scott – Alternate
Tedd Finlayson – Alternate

ZONING APPEALS BOARD

Andy Mark – Chairman
Scott Edwards
David Besse
Aaron Salapack
Ron Gauding
Mary K. Smith – Alternate

Lawrence Township Administrative and Zoning Office

10867 Industrial Parkway N.W.
Bolivar, OH 44612
Phone: 330-874-2731
Fax: 330-874-2992
Office Hours: M-W-F 9-2

E-mail Addresses

To contact Chairman Ritterbeck
matt@lawrencetownship.org

To contact Trustee Ackerman
tusctwp@cs.com

To contact Trustee Haueter
mike.haueter@lawrencetownship.org

To contact Fiscal Officer
fiscalofficer@lawrencetownship.org

To contact Road Superintendent
chuck@lawrencetownship.org

To contact Cemetery Sexton
todd.reynolds@lawrencetownship.org

To contact Zoning Inspector
ron.weekley@lawrencetownship.org

To contact Administrative Assistant
ann.ackerman@lawrencetownship.org

First, let me start by saying how honored I am to be one of the three elected Trustees' serving our community! It has been an amazing eight years since taking office. Our Board continues to provide excellent financial stewardship. We maintain 40 miles of township roadway infrastructure, the Fort Laurens Township Cemetery, enforce Zoning rules/regulations & offer community green space at Fort Laurens Historical Park, CMA baseball/softball fields, Nilodor soccer fields, Jack Sundheimer baseball field and River Community Park.

We will highlight several items of interest within this newsletter to update you on key projects. Our Board and employees work hard to provide all the existing services mandated in the Ohio Revised Code, while growing progressively through collaboration and grant funding. We have also extended an invitation for Lawrence Township Joint Recreation Commons Pool and the Bolivar Fire Department to educate township residents regarding their upcoming levies on the November 3, 2015 ballot. Both of these entities provide services to our community but are managed by their respective boards and not the Lawrence Town-

ship Trustees.

Our popular yard waste drop off site implemented seven years ago secured grant funding this past spring from the Joint Solid Waste Management District, which allowed our Board to keep the popular service OPEN for 2015 and 2016. I serve as policy committee member and will attest that many discussions took place throughout 2014 into early this year with the Board Members and Policy Committee members on how to keep both Stark County and Tuscarawas County yard waste sites funded with grant dollars. A more detailed article within this newsletter will highlight this victory for our residents from JSWMD Director David Held!! www.timetorecycle.org

One year ago township residents adopted our Electric/Gas Aggregation Plan measure on the ballot. Contracts were awarded for electric/gas this past spring. The intent of this initiative was to pool our collective negotiating/buying power together with as many households as possible, who choose to remain in the township aggregate pool, to secure cheaper rates for these utilities. More information will be found within this letter on all the specifics, along with contact infor-

mation more additional clarification or issues arise.

Our Community Development Block Grant submitted to the County Commissioners was selected for funding/approval in May this year. The Township will receive \$55,500 to resurface Kathryn Square and improve drainage at the intersection of Hess Mill Road. Project work to be done 2016/2017

The River Community Park / Wilshire Boulevard trail will become a reality in 2016/2017 thanks to funding approval from the Ohio Department of Transportation – Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) at 95% of eligible costs. We are still awaiting word from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources if the remaining 5% will be awarded. If not, the 5% will be funded with dollars leftover from our Community Benefit Fund fine. NO GENERAL FUND tax dollars will be utilized to construct this 11,380 foot (10' wide) asphalt concrete trail.

Again, I can not think our dedicated employees enough for all their enthusiasm to provide the GREAT road maintenance, cemetery care, zoning regulation enforcement, greenspace maintenance and wonderful customer service we have come to both expect, as well as deserve!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Township Trustee over the past eight years!

THANK YOU FROM TRUSTEES:

Lawrence Township Trustees would like to thank the Zoning Commission Members: Chairman Stan Koehlinger, John Walsh, George Downes, Eric McGovern, Frank Bachman, Mark Scott, Tedd Finlayson and Board of Zoning Appeals Members: Chairman Andy Mark, Scott Edwards, David Besse, Aaron Salapack, Ron Gauding and Mary K. Smith for serving on their respective boards. These dedicated township residents volunteer their time to help make our township a great place to live.



Trustee Chairman
Matt Ritterbeck

Issue # 10

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP POLICE LEVY

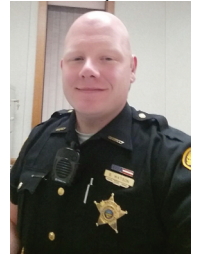
On November 3, 2015 Lawrence Township voters will be asked to vote on Issue #10, a levy, that if approved, will increase the funding of the Lawrence Township Police Budget. Lawrence Township contracts with the Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Department to provide extra police protection for the residents of Lawrence Township excluding Village of Bolivar and Village of Zoar.

Lawrence Township owns and maintains two (2) police cruisers and related equipment essential for service to our residents. Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Department provides trained officers and support, to cover township matters.

The original levy was passed in 1993 and, since that time, Lawrence Township has been operating annually on the funds generated by this levy, with NO tax increases. As everyone is well aware, all costs involved with maintaining the police coverage, in Lawrence Township, has steadily increased over the last 22 years. Trustees have utilized grants, programs and creative ideas in order to support and prolong the inevitable. We have recently furloughed our part-time deputy and are down to relying on one (1) full time (40 hours per week) deputy to patrol our township.

Lawrence Township Trustees are well aware of the burdens and financial constraints that additional tax levies place on the residents' household budgets and we will continue to try to seek grants and other programs that might be available to help. However, we feel the residents realize the needs and benefits of added police protection in the Township and understand we can no longer continue offering the same protection with funding supplied with a 22 year old tax levy. The proposed Issue #10 levy will provide the Township with two (2) full time deputies at 40 hours per week each, including training and support, equipment, replacement and maintenance of vehicles and other associated costs necessary for police coverage in Lawrence Township.

Township.
Market Value of Home:
\$100,000, \$150,000, \$200,000
Net Annual Increase:
\$58.02, \$87.03, \$116.05
Anyone wishing to review the costs and figures that are expected, or to ask questions regarding providing this coverage, are encouraged to contact a Trustee or attend a regular Township meeting which is held the second and last Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Charles E. Lundenberger Lawrence Township Hall at 10867 Industrial Parkway N.W. Bolivar.



Issue # 8

COMMONS POOL

The Lawrence Township Joint Recreation District is seeking a 0.5 mil Replacement Levy, to succeed the previous levy set in 1988. The Commons Pool has operated on a tight budget that meant only the repairs necessary to stay open have been made. The only major improvements that have been done were made possible by utilizing funds received from the fines levied against Countywide Landfill in 2009. One major equipment failure could result in the pool not being able to open for at least one season. In the 25 plus years since the original levy passed the cost of running the pool has increased with inflation; however we have not had any increase in funding.

A 0.5 mil levy will cost the owner of a \$100,000 home an increase less than \$10 a year. An owner of a \$200,000 home will have an increase of less than \$20 a year. For the price of a couple cups of coffee, you can help keep our community "in the swim"!

Your support is needed to help pass this replacement levy on the November ballot. Please help us keep our community pool available to the residents of Lawrence Township and surrounding areas. Please vote for this levy on Election Day. Please feel free to visit our Commons Pool Facebook page.

FROM THE BOLIVAR FIRE CHIEF:

The Bolivar Fire Department has seen many improvements to our performance over the past year. Improvements have been made to our operations that have allowed us to meet the increased demand for our services. The most important of these is the enhancement to our career and part-time/off-duty staffing. The staffing of the department gained a huge boost with the addition of grant funded positions. Our response to all emergencies has been improved as evidenced by our statistical performance measures. In 2015 and the first half of 2016 we will continue to receive the benefit of the additional staffing and the improvements to service delivery that comes in and through their service. Recently the fire department presented a plan to the Lawrence Township Trustees to formally ask to have an additional property tax levy placed on the November ballot. If approved this initiative will codify years of involvement and continue to meet the demands for fire and EMS protection for all of Lawrence Township. This is a very important issue for not only the fire department, but more importantly for the residents, businesses and visitors of Lawrence Township. This levy enables the department to formally steer the community's risk from fire and life safety in a more positive direction. This is an

additional 4 mil that will increase the taxes \$17.50 per month on a \$150,000 home.

We will be set up at the Tusky Valley Intermediate School during trick-or-treat on October 31st to answer any questions you might have. We had an open house on October 5th which was very well attended, thank you.

I remain confident in the effort the members of the department put into their profession. The hours of training and preparation continue to show through on the scenes of the emergencies we handle on a daily basis. The members of the fire department continue to face the challenges of emergency service delivery with great energy and enthusiasm. The fire department continues to focus on our mission statement "The Mission of the Bolivar Fire Department is to provide a selfless organization of people who hold devotion to duty above personal risk, who count sincerity of service above personal comfort and convenience, and who strive unceasingly to find better ways of protecting the lives, homes and property of their fellow citizens."

At times when moments of reflection take place, I am truly amazed at all we have accomplished. Certainly, the residents of Lawrence Township and members of the Bolivar Fire Department deserve all of the credit for our achievements and

successes. In closing, the men and women of the Bolivar Fire Department are proud to provide a tradition of excellent public safety service to the residents of the Lawrence Township Fire District. Thank you for your continued support and please know that your vote is valued and much appreciated. As we look forward to another great year, we will continue to remain focused on the mission, core values, and vision for our department. I look forward, with great confidence that we will ultimately be a truly integrated combination fire service that provides the very best in public safety. Please visit our website www.bolivarfiredept.com or our Facebook page for additional information.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ROAD DEPARTMENT:

As a summer of productive roadwork projects comes to an end, we would like to share with our residents some of our accomplishments. Roadside mowing, storm water management and road maintenance accounts for the majority of our time spent on the roadways. In addition, we have used approximately \$300,000.00 on road upgrades this year. Also, we have on order a replacement truck that we hope to have in service this winter.

ZONING NEWSLETTER

The Zoning Commission has been diligently working towards completing a rewrite of our Zoning Regulations. They have nearly completed the rewrite and will be passing it on to the Trustees for review within the next couple of months. The trustees will then publish the changes for public inspection.

After that inspection, the Trustees will hold a public meeting to hear concerns and opinions from the public concerning these changes, and decide on whether to accept the changes. Building is picking up in the Township, so the number of permits filed for is increasing as well. Remember that a permit is required for any structure to be built within the Township. A fee schedule, if the permit you are applying for requires one, is published in the Township Office and will be available on the Township Website once it has been brought up to date.

Permits are also required for signs that are to be placed within Township limits. The only exceptions would be political signs, which can be placed 30 days prior to and must be removed within 5 days

after, an election. The other exception is signs placed within the boundaries of one's own property. One sign may be placed in the yard along each road frontage. Real estate signs can include an open house sign on the day of the open house only. Any other signs, including Real Estate signs not on the property for sale, placed within the Township will require a 30 Day Temporary Sign Permit. The fee for each sign is \$10.00, and the 30 day period will be clearly written on the permit and the permit number will be placed on the sign. If you are a 501.C(3) Entity, you will not be charged the fee, but you must still obtain a Temporary Sign Permit. No persons are authorized to remove any signs within the Township unless it is on your property. Any sign placed in the Township without the proper permit will be removed by the Zoning Inspector and held at the Township for a period of 30 days, where it can be retrieved by the owner. If not retrieved within 30 days, the sign will be properly disposed of. Should a permitted sign require a period in excess of 30 days, the

permit can be renewed for an additional \$10.00 fee per sign. No sign is allowed to be attached to a roadway sign or roadway safety device, nor can it be placed in the right of way of a roadway. Permits applications are available at the Township office, or online. A permit application needs to be filed 2 weeks or more prior to the actual start date of the permit use. This allows ample time for the research to be done to insure compliance with Zoning Regulations. If no permit is filed for and work begins, a Stop Work Order will be issued and the price of the permit will be doubled as allowed under Zoning Regulations.

Residents are allowed to hold 4 garage sales a year, one per quarter. The only exception would be if you are a part of a community garage sale. You will still be permitted to hold 4 garage sales other than the community sale. You will be required to apply for Temporary Sign permits for any signs you wish to place anywhere but on your own property. You must have these permits or your signs will be removed. Community garage sales require sign permits as well. Trash cans should be removed

from the curb by the end of the day of pick up. You may place your trash can at the curb the night prior to your pick up day. Trash cans should be stored inside your garage or behind a fence structure or in the rear yard of a residence, so as to obscure them from view by neighbors or guests to the neighborhood when not out for pick up. As a friendly reminder, the snow removal season is soon upon us. Please be courteous to our plow drivers and move all basketball hoops and things of the sort back further into your property and away from the roadway right of way so as to prevent inadvertent contact with these items. Also, please refrain from parking on the street when snow is imminent unless it is absolutely necessary. Your cooperation will greatly enhance the ability of our snow removal team to do the best job possible for your neighborhood.

We hope to update the website with some general information and new links soon. Should you have questions or concerns, please contact us at the Township phone number of 330-874-2731 or email at zoning@lawrencetownship.org.



ELECTRIC AGGREGATION PROGRAM

Lawrence Township Trustees negotiated a fixed electric rate of 6.99 cents/kWh for residential customers and commercial customers who use under 700,000 kWh. Effective with the July 2015 period, your rate from IGS Energy dropped to 6.168 cents/kWh (See Below).

Lawrence Township is providing you with the opportunity to join with other residents to save money on the electric you use. Savings are possible through a concept called government aggregation, where Township officials bring together citizens to gain group-buying power for the purchase of electric from a retail supplier certified by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio. Township voters approved this program in May 2014. Under this arrangement, Interstate Gas Supply "IGS Energy" has been selected as your Townships preferred electricity provider. IGS Energy is an Ohio-based company. Through your Township Electric Aggregation Program eligible residents will pay 6.99 cents per

kWh through the February 2017 billing cycle. However, AEP is currently in the process (June 2015) of changing how it collects its Network Integration Transmission Service (NITS) charges. This charge was previously included in the suppliers rate (and is included in the 6.99 rate) but will now be excluded from the supplier's rate and instead billed directly by AEP. Therefore, effective with the July 2015 period, your rate from IGS Energy dropped to 6.168 cents per kWh. There is no cost for the enrollment and you will not be charged a switching fee. One important new feature is that budget billing of the entire bill will be available to anyone who chooses budget certainty. As with the utility, you will still be required to request the service.

For billing, reporting electric outages, or to have level billing for the AEP Ohio portion of the bill please call AEP Ohio direct at 1-800-672-2231.

Questions regarding the aggregation program, how to join the program or any questions regarding your specific existing energy

services can be directed toward the Townships consultant Scott Belcastro of Trebel, LLC at 1-877-861-2772 or you can reach IGS Energy at 1-877-353-0162.

NATURAL GAS AGGREGATION PROGRAM

VESI has offered to provide natural gas to Aggregation Members at a monthly variable rate equal to \$0.103 per Ccf plus the monthly NYMEX Price for the delivery month.

The Township has chosen Volunteer Energy Services, Inc. (VESI), an Ohio based corporation, to provide you with natural gas through the January 2017 billing cycle. In addition there are no early termination penalties if you decide to leave this offer.

For billing, reporting natural gas outages, or to have budgeted billing please call Columbia Gas at 1-800-344-4077.

To join the aggregation program you can reach Volunteer Energy at 1-800-977-8374.

Questions regarding the aggregation program, how to join the program or any questions regarding your specific existing energy services can be directed toward the Townships consultant Scott Belcastro of Trebel, LLC at 1-877-861-2772.



TC United Soccer continues to thrive on the fields in our Lawrence Township Industrial Park!

TC (Tuscarawas County) United Soccer was founded by Chuck & Karla Neal over six years ago. At that time, they wanted to form a new recreational soccer league in the area, but needed a place to play. After trying several other options with no success, they approached Lawrence Township to see if they had any green space available. We (the Township) spoke with a receptive and generous Les Mitson (proprietor) of Nilodor here in our Township Industrial Park and the rest is history. *continued on pg. 4*

Return
Address

POSTAGE
INFO

“TC United Soccer...” continued

After a lease agreement was created (for only \$1/ year), the property directly behind Nilodor was leased to the township for use, care and maintenance. The field was seeded and developed in to what is now a series of soccer fields.

In the Fall of 2009, the league kicked off its inaugural season on the Industrial Park fields at that time serving approximately 50 area youth across a limited number of age groups. Today, the league continues to grow and serves more than 200 players per season from all across the county with ages ranging from 3 to 18 years old. Along with the recreational

league that still practices and plays their games in the Industrial Park, the organization has expanded to also include more competitive travel league teams across the three primary age groups (U10, U12 and U14) as well as an adult league, all served in both the spring and fall seasons.

The original mission of the club was to provide additional opportunities for youth across the entire county to experience the game of soccer where they may not have previously existed and the organization is still fulfilling those goals today. Additionally, they are providing an opportunity for

middle school aged kids to play where school teams do not exist and acting as a feeder program for area high school programs and competitive teams.

Although the program is designed to serve the entire county, practice and games fields are right here in the Industrial park commissioned fields, off Fisher & Gibler Rd’s behind Nilodor. TC United also has a wonderful relationship with TV schools, which allows the usage of their soccer facilities when needed for their expanded programs. TC United holds their Board meetings here monthly at the Lawrence Township Hall (Charles E. Lun-

denburger Hall). They also host a series of fundraisers throughout the year, so watch for them out and about in the community. For questions or more information, you can contact league organizers by e-mail at: tcunited-soccer@yahoo.com or by phone at: (330) 526-1901. Please check them out online at www.tcunited-soccer.net.



STARK – TUSCARAWAS – WAYNE JOINT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

WWW.TIMETORECYCLE.ORG - By David Held/Executive Director

The success of any program can be measured by the commitment of its participants. By that standard, the commitment of Lawrence Township residents to recycle has produced programs that continue to grow and succeed. In 2014, Lawrence Township and other area residents brought more than 537 tons of yard waste material to the yard waste drop-off site located at the Township Office (10867 Industrial Pkwy NW). In 2015, residents have already nearly met that amount and the leaves haven’t even fallen from the trees! If you would like to recycle your leaves, branches, and other yard waste this fall, please stop by any time from dawn to dusk. Residents also filled the recycling bins at the District drop-off site at the Bolivar Giant Eagle (11031

State Route 212, NE). In 2014, more than 235 tons of paper, cardboard, plastics #1-#7, glass, and aluminum cans were dropped off, processed and transformed into new items. Remember, not all items are accepted at the drop-off site, and if non-recyclable items are left in or outside the bins, the load can become contaminated. If you are unsure whether or not something can be placed in the bins, please call our office or check out the acceptable item list in our Reuse and Recycle Guide at timetorecycle.org (a new guide will be coming out soon and will be delivered to every household in the area). While there are several locations in Tuscarawas County and throughout the entire District that will accept pharmaceutical waste and e-waste (computers,

computer accessories, and other electronics including cathode ray tube televisions and monitors), we wanted to bring an opportunity to recycle these items closer to home. We partnered with Tusky Valley Local Schools and the Rotary Club of Bolivar-Zoar for “TV Community Day” on April 18. At this event, residents dropped off 18 pounds of pharmaceutical waste, 5,934 pounds of e-waste, and 4,838 pounds of televisions. The District would like to thank TV Schools, the Rotary Club and the many other area organizations and individuals who helped make the event a success. If you were unable to attend, please check out our guide or website for a list of locations that can accept these items year-round. Lastly, the District wants to help financially support communities that show a commitment to recycling. 2015 District grant recipients from the area include Lawrence Township Trustees (granted the

Host Community Cleanup Grant for the Yard Waste Drop-off Site), the Village of Bolivar (granted the Recycling Makes Sense Grant for their curbside program), the Tuscarawas County Health Department (granted the Health Department Grant for residential well testing and inspection of monitoring wells around solid waste landfills, inspection of solid waste entering solid facilities, and investigating open dump/scrap tire dump problems), and the Tuscarawas County Sheriff Department (granted the Sheriff Department Grant for the funding of a Litter Deputy for solid waste enforcement and landfill patrols). Congratulations to all grant recipients, and thank you for participating in the District’s grant programs.

By recycling, we can all make a difference.

