



TOWNSHIP TALK

www.lawrencetownship.org

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER
SUMMER 2017

TRUSTEES

Donald J. Ackerman, Chairman
Matthew S. Ritterbeck
Michael Haueter

FISCAL OFFICER

John McClellan

ROAD SUPERINTENDENT

Chuck McNutt

CEMETERY SEXTON

Todd Reynolds

ZONING INSPECTOR

Ron Weekley

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Ann Ackerman

ZONING COMMISSION

John Walsh, Chairman
George Downes, Jr.
Eric McGovern
Frank Bachman
Tedd Finlayson
Mark Scott

ZONING APPEALS BOARD

Andy Mark, Chairman
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Scott Edwards
David Besse
Ron Gauding
Bruce Neighbor

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From the Desk of Chairman Don Ackerman

As we get started into the summer of 2017, there's a lot going on in our Township. One of our biggest concerns is the construction of the pipelines through the area. Our road resurfacing and maintenance projects have been altered to accommodate these pipeline projects. Be extra careful and courteous while driving and keep safety in mind.



Lawrence Township contin-

ues to seek grant funding for some of our extra projects, two are in the works. We are in the final stages of a storm water project in the industrial park, with construction to start this summer. Also, the trail system extension along the Boulevard is going through the preliminary paper work. Work has also been completed on structural repairs to the mausoleum in the cemetery.

Activities abound, this summer in the Township. Starting with activities scheduled in

Zoar to celebrate the villages Bicentennial. Hiking, biking and dog walking on the Tow-path Trail has become popular events, as well. Take in a youth ball game, with soccer, softball and baseball games being played regularly. Visit and promote our local restaurants, breweries and pool. Reconnect with your family and friends, acquaint with your neighbors, don't forget to visit the elderly and with no less than eight Churches in our Township, include them in your schedule. Have a fun and safe summer! ♦

SCRAP TIRE REMOVAL

Did you know that all residents of Tuscarawas County can bring 12 tires per household to Gales Recycle-IT at 354 Florence Avenue Dover, Ohio?

Scrap tires can be a prime breeding source for mosquitoes, including the Culex mosquito, which can carry West Nile Virus. When discarded, tires can accumulate small pools of water where adult mosquitoes will lay eggs. Over the course of one breeding season, thousands of mosquitoes can be generated from just one tire. If tires infested with eggs, larvae or pupae are transported, the potential to spread mosquitoes carrying the virus increases. Breeding takes place in water-filled tires where the egg is laid and the larva and pupa can grow. The adult mosquito emerges from the water in as little as seven days after hatching.

If you have any questions re-

garding the scrap tires or mosquito control efforts in Tuscarawas County please feel free to contact the Tuscarawas County General Health District at 330-343-5555 or by email at environmental-healthtchd@gmail.com. ♦

THANK YOU FROM TRUSTEES:

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

ROAD DEPARTMENT

By Chuck McNutt
Road Superintendent

We are getting ready to begin our asphalt program and sealing roads for the summer.

We have been mowing the cemeteries, parks and along the roads, and we appreciate the businesses and residents who help maintain their property. Big thank you to Wilkshire Golf Course.

Please call the Lawrence Township Building at 330-874-2731 if you see any Stop and Street signs that have been knocked down.

We have contracted with O.D.O.T. for salt for next year.

Have a Safe Summer on the roads. ♦



YARD WASTE DROP OFF

By Trustee Matt Ritterbeck

Our yard waste drop off collection site is an extremely popular program. I've received a lot of compliments over the years from many of you in the evenings/weekends, while transferring yard waste from our drop off bays into the containers. The Township did a trial start-up nine years ago and hasn't looked back since. This article is meant to educate our residents on how the Township has received funding to make this program possible for the community.

- Each year we send approximately 85 (thirty or forty yard open-top roll off containers) to be composted at one of only TWO facilities which have processed our Township collected yard waste since program inception. Originally Earth-N-Wood, in North Canton received this material. However, the past few years our contract has been with Bull Country Compost in Dundee, OH.

www.bullcountrycompost.com

- Over 6,000 tons of yard waste materials have been diverted from landfills!

A huge **Thank you** must be extended to the Joint Solid Waste Management District - Board of Directors, their dedicated staff, and Executive Director, Mr. David Held. I've become friends with David over the years while *sitting* on the JSWMD Policy Committee Board and working on grant initiatives for the Township and Tuscarawas County. The Policy Committees primary role is ensuring programs are included in the Districts Solid Waste Recycling plan. The plan is typically submitted and approved by the Ohio EPA every five years.

The vision and goals are to ensure our District residents Recycling/Refuse needs are addressed across the three counties which comprise the entire District; including each City, Township and Village. I've maintained a strong lobbying voice for each **Yard Waste Collection Site across the District** while sitting on the JSWMD Pol-

icy Committee as Tuscarawas County's Township Trustee representative. These programs keep this recyclable commodity out of our landfills, from being illegally dumped, and illegally burned. The **Yard Waste Drop off Collection Site** at our Township building would NOT be financially possible for us without the grant dollars we get from the Stark - Tuscarawas - Wayne Recycling District's.



Why is that you may ask?

- Each container that's loaded at the Township, out of our drop off bays & transferred to compost processing facility (Bull Country Compost), via truck costs **\$200** per EXCHANGE. **That alone is \$17,000 a year** at our annual average of 85 exchanges! This cost is paid directly by the JSWMD via grant funding to recycle the product into compost.

- We also receive around **\$2,500 annually** via a quarterly grant to help off-set the hourly rate for our seasonal/part time employee Randy Burkhart to transfer yard waste from our drop off bays to the roll offoppers during business hours (7am-3pm).

- In **2013**, we were awarded **\$11,433** by the JSWMD to collect all of the trees, limbs, and brush at the OVERFLOW collection/staging site of storm debris at our River Park area below the basketball courts. The debris was from a small tornado that tore through the Township. The same storm path also ripped down the Mineral City Fire Station.

- Just last year our Township was awarded **\$25,000** in grant funding from the JSWMD to offset the cost of equipment

upgrades on a new backhoe to help process yard waste and relieve the depreciation incurred on our equipment from processing this material.

- When dropping off limbs please keep limb length to a **FOUR** feet minimum. This allows our grapple bucket the ability to grab/compress the material as well as load each roll off container to maximum capacity.

Where do the grant dollars come from at the JSWMD?

Grant dollars come from landfill tipping fees (aka small tax) collected from the landfills in Stark/Tuscarawas Counties. Each TON of refuse taken to these facilities incurs a surcharge or better known as a small tipping fee. These resources are collected and managed by the JSWMD for education and recycling programs. The primary directive of our State Legislative body is to ensure we maintain adequate landfill space in our respective community; which includes recycling ALL that we can to preserve valuable landfill space for future usage. I will continue to diligently represent our community's desire to keep our YARD WASTE program OPEN via the funding mechanisms I've previously mentioned. But, your e-mails, letters of support & appreciation directed to the Stark-Tuscarawas-Wayne Recycling District would certainly help our Board of Trustees' efforts. www.timeto-recycle.org

In closing, I would like to graciously thank the JSWMD for acknowledging our Board's repeated grant requests over the past 9 years. Frankly, without our relentless perseverance and their funding mechanisms, this valued program would **NOT** exist. It would be fiscally unwise and we would be irresponsible stewards of your tax dollars if our Board chose to spend your road tax levy money on a supplementary program. Our Board will continue lobbying on your behalf in hopes of keeping this program operating for years to come. ♦

ZONING NEWSLETTER

By Ron Weekley - Zoning Inspector

The Zoning Commission has completed a rewrite of our Zoning Regulations. The new Zoning Regulations became effective the 30th day of January, 2017.

The Zoning Commission also approved two new District changes this year. The area along SR212, starting at the



Intersection of SR212, Wilkshire Blvd and CR103, until you reach JeanAnne Lane, to include the 4 parcels on the East side of JeanAnne Lane, has been updated from a C-1 district to a C-2 District. Also, the C-2 District to the North side of SR212 at the Zoar line was expanded across the road to the South side of SR212 to incorporate the Zoar Market. Permits are also required for signs that are to be placed within Township limits. The only exceptions would be political signs, and 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 Per-

mit. 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. 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.

Ultimately, Residents are responsible for inquiring about and obtaining the necessary permits within Lawrence Township. The permit can be filed for by the resident or their contractor. Remember, if something is being constructed on your property within Lawrence Township without the proper permit, then a stop work order will be issued, you will need to apply for a permit and have the application granted, and a double permit fee will be imposed in accordance with Zoning Reg-

ulations, before any construction can resume. A fee schedule is published in the Township Office and is available on the Township Website.

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. No balloons, flag or things of the sort may be attached to the signs. You must have these permits or your signs will be removed. Community garage sales organizers should contact the Zoning Office two weeks prior to the sale being held to discuss sign placements and requirements.

The Township GIS mapping has been updated, and the new inputs from updated parcels and pictures should be received from the County soon. Print-outs of your are available for a fee.

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. ♦

FORT LAURENS CEMETERY

By Todd Reynolds - Cemetery Sexton

With summer approaching and the desire to show respect to loved ones buried at Fort Laurens Cemetery, it is our desire to maintain the natural beauty of the cemetery and please remember



that the cemetery is a sacred memorial to the burial of the dead. The following are set forth for the cemetery: No lights, lighted trees, bushes or shrubs shall be permitted at any time. No fences, curbing, coping, borders, edging or struc-

tures of any kind or material shall be permitted. No hedges, shrubbery, trees, bushes and the like shall be planted or potted. All trees and shrubs existing are planned and shall be maintained by the Sexton. No glass containers or decorations of any kind are permitted. No perennial plants or vines shall be planted. No rocks, stone, or concrete shall be used within the cemetery. Please remove all refuse and take to the wire baskets provided by the Cemetery. No markers are allowed to identify the lot.

Flowers must be planted in a bed in the front of the foundation. No chemicals, herbicide, fertilizer or lawn or animal control shall be applied. Fort Laurens is open during daylight hours only. Vehicles are not to exceed 15 m.p.h. Just a reminder that all decorations must be removed by March 15. Benjamin Franklin is credited with saying "I only need to visit the graveyard of a community to know the character of its people." ♦

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND

By Trustee Matt Ritterbeck

The Township has approximately 30 acres of green space and playing fields to mow for our community's enjoyment. Some of the recreation fields listed below are utilized by various non-profit local youth organizations to encourage personal growth, teach life skills, exercise and enjoy the great outdoors.



- CMA baseball/softball fields in the Lawrence Township Industrial Park, behind CMA. Land owned by CMA and generously leased/maintained by the township. www.cmacable.com

Utilized by Bolivar Baseball-Softball Association (BBSA)

www.leaguelineup.com/bolivar

- NILodor soccer fields, adjacent to CMA ball fields. Land owned by NILodor and generously leased/maintained by the township. www.nilodor.com

Utilized by TC United Soccer Club
www.tcunitedsoccer.net

- Jack Sundheimer Memorial baseball field, adjacent to the Township garage. Land owned by Premere Enterprises and generously leased/maintained by Township for BBSA.

- Fort Laurens is a key Trail Head to access the beautiful Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail. It links the Villages of Bolivar/Zoar through Lawrence Township to the Zoar Canal Lands Park trail head.

- Fort Laurens Historical Park is still owned by Ohio History Connection, previously known as the Ohio Historical Society. This property is managed by the Zoar Community Association. **Currently, our Board of Trustees reviews a verbal care agreement annually for consideration/Board approval to keep the park area maintained. We do this at NO cost/fee to ZCA, Ohio History Connection or the Friends of Fort Laurens Foundation for the communities benefit. The Township hopes to keep maintaining the grassy**

commons area at the Fort, which we began maintaining in 2008 as long as resources are available to hire seasonal employees and we continue having success securing grant dollars from local foundations to purchase mowers. Budget cutbacks in Columbus, Ohio at Ohio History Connection threaten closure at the time.

- River Community Park is owned and maintained by Lawrence Township. The Basketball courts are currently the center piece. Brian Dessicker, hosts an annual 3on3 tourney each August and donates ½ the proceeds to the Tusky Valley Athletic Booster Club. Much thanks to the Canal Tavern of Zoar for sponsoring this event and the TV Athletic Boosters for assisting with the event flyers. For information on this event, send an email to:

bolivar3on3@gmail.com. ♦

Lawrence Township (Scenic Hills Road District) 2 Mill Levy

This fall our 5 year road levy will be up for renewal and residents will likely see it on the ballot. Although the exact rate is still under discussion, Trustees are considering a replacement at the current 2 Mill rate. Resident comments and suggestions will be considered in these regards.

The funds from this levy are used for annual summer road repairs (road paving, patching, chip & seal), culvert replacement, ditch cleaning, roadside mowing, street sweeping, crack sealing, signage, tree removal and winter snow-ice removal as well as road salt.

We maintain nearly 40 miles of Lawrence Township roads. We continue to resurface, upgrade, repair and

maintain these roads using materials and procedures to prolong the life of the roads. Although the cost of these materials fluctuate from year to year, they generally have been increasing over the years, yet our overall budget continues to decline, which makes this levy so important for the continuing care of our roads.

Lawrence Township Road Department is located in the Township Building at 10867 Industrial Parkway N.W. At this location, an equipment and repair garage, a five bay salt bin and road material stockyard is maintained. This facility allows for safe storage and repair of our trucks and road equipment and storage and bulk

purchases of road materials and salt.

The Lawrence Township Road Department and the Board of Trustees are committed to providing the taxpayers of Lawrence Township the best quality service while keeping operating costs to the minimum possible. The passage of this levy is crucial to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Lawrence Township.

Your continued support will help to maintain the high level of service you both deserve and expect! We have already tightened our budget due to funding cuts from the state government via local government funding and elimination of the "estate tax". ♦

BICENTENNIAL YEAR IN ZOAR

By Jon Elsasser, President - Zoar Community Association

Each summer, Historic Zoar Village welcomes thousands of locals and visitors for tours, demonstrations and events. This year is special, with Zoar celebrating its 200th anniversary. Here's a look at how Zoar has evolved from a 19th century utopian community to a nationally-recognized historic landmark that appeals equally to history buffs, families and anyone who just wants to stop and smell the roses.

Zoar's story starts in 1817 when over 200 German Separatists from southern Germany arrived in Tuscarawas County after fleeing their homeland due to religious persecution. The group built a settlement out of the surrounding wilderness and, two years later, created a society in which all members contributed to benefit the greater good of the community. Growing from the initial purchase of 4,500 acres, the Society ultimately owned over 7,500 acres in Lawrence, Sandy, and Fairfield townships. In Lawrence Township, Zoar boundaries extended to the NAPA store on SR 212, the intersection of Fort Laurens and Towpath Roads, and the township line on Middle Run, Blacksnake and Dover-Zoar roads.

Zoar built a thriving economy based on agriculture and manufactured goods. It also became a popular vacation spot for Ohioans, including President William McKinley and Cleveland industrialist Alexander Gunn. Painters of the day were attracted here, with the Cleveland School of Artists gaining inspiration for their works as early as the 1870s. One of our current township trustees, Don Ackerman, is descended from several of the original Zoar founding families, including Joseph Bimeler, first leader of the society, and Jacob Ackerman, Zoar's highly-regarded cabinetmaker.

By the 1890s, younger residents had no memory of their German ancestors' hardships, and many were drawn to modern American ideas shared by outsiders passing through Zoar. In 1898, the remaining members dissolved the society.

Despite its end, Zoar became one of the most successful utopian settlements in American history, lasting nearly 80 years. Preservation efforts began in 1936 when the Number One House, home to the Society's first leader, and the community garden opened as a museum. Major restoration work began village-wide in the 1970s with residents and the Ohio History Connection collaborating on formal efforts.

Today, Historic Zoar Village is on the National Register of Historic Places and was recently named a National Historic Landmark by the U.S. Department of the Interior. Out of about 2,500 historic places with this designation, just 73 are in Ohio. Attaining this recognition will help visitors understand the significance of what a small group of German immigrants created here.

The historic district – covering part of Zoar and parts of Lawrence Township – also features more than 40 structures built between 1817 and 1898 – with several housing restaurants and retail activities specializing in gifts, antiques and artisanal crafts. Adjacent to Zoar is the Ohio and Erie Canalway Towpath Trail which is increasingly enjoyed by locals and visitors for its blend of recreation and history.

Zoar's events for the remainder of 2017 include the Zoar Harvest Festival on July 29 and 30 (note the event has moved one week earlier to avoid the conflict with the Pro Football Hall of Fame weekend!), the Zoar Civil War Reenactment on September 9 and 10, a special bicentennial week from October 3 to 8 and Christmas in Zoar on December 2 and 3.

Visitors can take in Zoar's history during their summers hours: June through September, on Wednesdays through Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays, noon to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$4 for kids five to 17 and free for children four and under. Zoar's Visitor Center is located at 198 Main St., Zoar, Ohio 44397. Call 330-874-

FROM THE BOLIVAR FIRE CHIEF:

Now that we are into the summer months of the year, there are several things to consider to having a safe and fun summer.

As the temperature and humidity raises so does the stress it places on our bodies, the best way to combat heat related problems is to stay hydrated, drink plenty of water. Signs of heat stress are; tiredness, irritability, inattention and muscle cramps. Once you progress into muscle cramps you are in the early stages of heat stroke, which is a life threatening medical condition. The signs of heat stroke are; you will no longer be sweating, your skin will be hot and dry, your heart rate will be very fast, you may become dizzy and confused. If you reach this point you need to call 911 ASAP. As soon as possible move into a cool or shaded area and take small sips of water, drinking large amount of water will cause vomiting leading to further dehydration.

This year the Tuscarawas County Health Department is expecting issues related to both mosquitoes and ticks. There are several products that will repel these insects from bothering you while outside this summer. Best thing to do is talk with your family physician and see what they recommend, what may be best for an adult may not be what is best for a child. As far as tick removal is considered there is a great website that has a lot of information: www.tickinfo.com

- Let's have a fun summer
- With everything, moderation is best
- Avoid stinging insects
- Keep waste containers closed
- Wear proper sunscreen while outside, even on cloudy days
- Drink lots of water to stay hydrated
- Seek air-conditioned rooms or fans to cool down
- Wear light colored clothing
- And if at any point you need help, please call 911. ♦

2646 or visit www.historiczovillage.com for more information. ♦

PO Box 190
Bolivar, OH
44612

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COMMONS POOL NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP JOINT RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The Commons Pool has been operating on a budget that is based off of a levy passed over THIRTY years ago. Hard work by an excellent staff and a long list of volunteers has helped keep the pool operating. We only fix the most necessary items to keep the pool open. One unexpected repair could have ended swimming seasons. Over the years the Commons Pool has provided a place for hundreds of local teens to get their first job experience. There have been teen nights, movie nights, family nights, and many birthday parties at the pool. Many local youth have played baseball and softball on the field. Don't let this come to an end. ♦

Even running at least cost situations, we will not have funds to keep the Commons Pool and Park open next season without passing a replacement levy. This .5 mil levy would cost the average household \$20-\$40 dollars a year. That is about the cost of one meal out or a movie without going to the snack bar.



POOL HOURS

Monday – Saturday 12 noon till 7:00 p.m.
Sunday 12 noon till 8:00 p.m.

RATES

Daily Rate: \$5.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children
– ½ price after 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Rate: \$3.00 per person all day.

RENTAL

Pool may be rented after regular business hours for \$70 per hour
(Up to 50 people) – third hour is ½ price.
Picnic Shelter can be rented for \$50, in addition ½ price for all guests utilizing the pool during regular business hours.

SEASONAL PASS

	Lawrence Township Resident	Non-Resident
Family*	\$165.00	\$215.00
Couple**	110.00	135.00
Single	85.00	85.00
Student***	85.00	85.00
Senior	60.00	60.00

*Family refers to two adults and children 18 or under with the address on the application as their permanent legal residence and includes college students on summer break with college identification card.

**Couple refers to two adults over 18 residing at the same address.

***Student refers to those who are under 24 and a full time student (current College ID card required).

Please call the pool at 330-874-4662 for any questions or to schedule your next private party! Be sure to check out our Facebook Page "Commons Pool".