

# TOWNSHIP TALK

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LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER  
FALL 2019



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**ZONING INSPECTOR**  
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## From the Desk of Chairman Matthew Ritterbeck

As our community enjoys the cool fall evenings rooting on our Trojan athletes or our Saturday afternoons chanting "O-H... "I-O"!! and to go along with the crazed Sundays rooting for Cleveland's fan faved Baker, we're communicating some highlights and activities that our township team have been tackling.



The real estate market in the Township and Villages is hot. New construction on empty lots has kept Ron Weekley, our Zoning Inspector busy. Each of us should feel a great deal of personal pride for this. The Number one catch phase, we have all heard in real estate.... **"Location, Location, Location"**. A direct reflection, testament to the pride we have in the family, our homes, the schools and servant leadership, to the many non-profit organizations that "pay-it-for-

ward" right here in our hometown.

Please take time to welcome your new neighbors, and for those whom have chosen to retire/relocate/downsize, to be closer to loved ones. We thank you and wish you the best, in your new adventures.

Key Township notables, within the Newsletter;

- Stormwater retention/detention basin project in our Township Industrial park.

- Newly constructed trail at our River Community Park.

- Yard waste collection/recycling at the Township building.

- News and information about the upcoming 2020 Census data compilation.

- Grant for new Hustler zero turn mower (Reeves/Rosenberry Foundations).

- Grant for new Steiner mower (Ohio Erie Canalway Coalition & Rosenberry Foundation).

- Worked with Village of Bolivar and Tuscarawas County Library Director to secure

grant from Reeves/Rosenberry for NEW Furnace/AC at Bolivar Library. 25k

- 3 year phase completion of deteriorated concrete curb, and road way resurfacing on Lawnridge is complete. Northwood completed this year.

- Continued maintenance on 40 miles of Township roadways, zoning enforcement and cemetery care.

- New Township Sheriff Deputy and Fire/EMS contract of services with Bolivar Fire.

**Have a Spooktacular Halloween, Blessed Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas!**

**And, GO TROJANS! ♦**

## FROM THE ROAD DEPARTMENT

By Chuck McNutt  
Road Superintendent



We had another productive year. The Trustees authorized paving Northwood, Norris, Bimeler, Hess Mill and Fieldstone. We then had 1100 feet of new curbs and catch basin repairs. Trustees also authorized chip and seal for Eberhart, Sandstone, Kendall and Kerns. We then had all roads swept.

We are now preparing for winter and just a reminder: When it snows, please slow down.

Have a safe winter. ♦

## THANK YOU FROM TRUSTEES:

Lawrence Township Trustees would like to thank the Zoning Commission Members: George Downes, Frank Bachman and Mark Scott and the Board of Zoning Appeals Members: Andy Mark, Scott Edwards, Dave 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. We are in need of additional volunteers to complete our board. If you live in the unincorporated area of Lawrence Township and have an interest in zoning, please contact our office at 330-874-2731. ♦

## YARD WASTE UPDATE

By Trustee Matt Ritterbeck

Residential yard waste collection bays remain open for the community, marking our 11th year of offering this program for our residents.

**COMMERICAL DUMPING PROHIBITED.** This new policy was implemented, to reduce volume/cost since grant funding from Joint Solid Waste District was reduced. The Waste District reduced funding to ALL yard waste collection sites in Stark & Tuscarawas Counties from 1 million dollars to 400k annually.

All limbs and/or branches **MUST NOT BE LONGER THAN 4 FEET IN LENGTH.** This helps our team handle and compress more product into the hoppers.

Our current yearly yard waste funding grant is \$8,500. Thank you to the Village of Zoar for their generous \$500 donation as well. This money is used to contract with Bull Compost who hauls the yard waste hauled out.

In 2018:

There were a total of 80 dumpsters (400 tons) of yard waste hauled.

Joint Solid Waste District awarded us a capital infrastructure grant for:

25k for New concrete pad where roll offs are loaded, staged and exchanged;

6K for New cameras to monitor and enforce illegal dumping practices enforced by the Tuscarawas County Sheriff Litter Deputy;

2K for New gate.

85 dumpsters (425 tons) of yard waste has been hauled through September 2019.

Our Board will continue to lobby the Waste District to fund this good stewardship program.

We anticipate SEASONAL winter closing of collection bays after the leaves have fallen. This allows our staff to focus their attention to snow/ice removal on our 40 miles of roads. ♦

## THANK YOU REEVES FOUNDATION

Thank you to The Reeves Foundation and the Harold C. and Marjorie Q. Rosenberry Foundation for their generous grants to support Lawrence Township in the purchase of a Hustler Commercial 60” mower. This mower will improve the mowing capability not only for the Township but also for Ft. Laurens that we voluntarily mow each year. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



## THANK YOU OHIO & ERIE CANALWAY

Thank you to the Ohio & Erie Canalway and the Reeves Foundation for their generous grants to support Lawrence Township in the purchase of a Steiner Mower to be used in the cemetery and maintenance of the new Wilkshire Walking Trail.



## SHOUT OUT

Special thanks to township resident Andy Donaldson of Andy Donaldson Photography for donating his talents and providing us pictures of the Storm Water Detention Basin, Ft. Laurens and Ft. Laurens Cemetery.





# ZONING DEPARTMENT

By Ron Weekley - Zoning Inspector

Recently, our Zoning Commission lost two very good volunteers for reasons that are directed by the Ohio Revised Code. Therefore, we are currently in

need of two new Zoning Commission members. Members must live in the unincorporated area of Lawrence Township, per the O.R.C. We have two vacant member spots and two alternate member spots. Alternate members attend the monthly first Monday meetings as well, and serve as a board member in the absence of a board member. We also have a vacancy in an alternate member position on our Board of Zoning Appeals. Our BZA only meets when necessary. An alternate member would attend these meetings and act on behalf of any board member not in attendance. Should you wish to be considered for any of these positions, please stop by the Township and we will gladly give you an



application for consideration. If you can't stop by, let us know and we can mail an application to you.

We are currently in the process of another Zoning Regulations change that should be out sometime next year. We are constantly trying to improve our Zoning code, whether by enhancing sections, or removing them in part or entirety. Look for the announcement for the public meeting on those changes.

Signs are not permitted to be placed in Lawrence Township without prior authorization through applying for and receiving a 30 day temporary sign permit. This includes all signs except for election signs. Election signs may be placed in the 30 day period prior to an election and must be removed within 5 days after an election. No sign is permitted to be attached to any roadway sign. All signs illegally posted will be removed and retained at the Township for a period of 30 days, after which they will be discarded. Any permitted sign will be removed

if attached to a roadway sign or in the street right-of-way. Please keep all legal signs back from the roadway 10 feet or more. Do not place signs on private property without the property owners permission or they have the right to remove the sign and dispose of immediately.

Any structure being erected or replaced in Lawrence Township requires a Zoning permit. Interior remodeling, exterior remodeling, roof repairs and things of the like do not require a permit unless the size and/or exterior layout of the structure is being altered. If in doubt, please call first. Should you see any structure that you question, please feel free to drop us a note or voicemail and we will check in to it for you.

That's it for now. Please check with us should you have any questions or doubts as to whether you require a permit for any task or undertaking. Regards. Contact us at the Township phone number of 330-874-2731 or email at [zoning@lawrencetownship.org](mailto:zoning@lawrencetownship.org). ♦

## STORM WATER DETENTION BASIN PROJECT

Several businesses in the Lawrence Township Industrial Park began experiencing flooding in the Industrial Park during heavy rain events. The owners came to our Board of Trustees asking for help. Lawrence Township contracted with W.E. Quicksall and Associates of New Philadelphia to design a storm water detention basin to aid in controlling storm water runoff and prevent further damage to area businesses. A one-acre parcel was obtained from an existing landowner,

By Trustee Matt Ritterbeck, Chairman



dedicated for the construction of a basin in the Industrial Park.

Through generous contributions of several **INDUSTRIAL PARK BUSINESSES (\$55,000)**, and funding

secured from **Governor's Office of Appalachia (\$177,000 grant)** and **Ohio Department of Transportation Jobs and Commerce (\$111,000 grant)** the project came to reality.

### Highlights:

- Eliminate flooding of impacted businesses
- Eliminated flooding of Industrial Parkway
- Allowed for expansion at Eleet Cryogenics, PPI and Ragon House
- Allows for future expansion of other existing businesses. ♦

## RESURFACING KERNS DRIVE

*By Trustee Matt Ritterbeck, Chairman*

First of all we wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge receipt of a number of complaints concerning the chip and seal of Kerns Drive.

We believe it may be instructive at this point to discuss the rationale for using the chip and seal method for road resurfacing rather than asphalt. Chip and Seal is one of the oldest and most successful road surfacing methods. Instead of paving a road with asphalt, which is amazingly expensive, Lawrence Township often chips and seals. It's much, much cheaper, and has many of the advantages of asphalt. The following list highlights the advantages of chip and seal.

### Why Use Chip and Seal?

- Chip and seal provides Lawrence Township with the opportunity to maintain the roads for very low cost resulting in a big savings to tax payers.
- Chip and seal is about one fourth to one fifth the cost of a conventional asphalt overlay.
- By extending the time between asphalt overlays, chip seals result in lower costs over the long term.
- By placing a chip seal sooner than an asphalt overlay would be placed, the traveling public benefits from roads maintained in better condition.
- Chip and seal eliminates the need to crack seal.
- Chip and seal enhances safety

by providing good skid resistance.

- Chip and seal provides an effective moisture barrier for the underlying pavement against water intrusion by sealing cracks in the pavement.
- Chip and seal prevents deterioration of the asphalt surface from the effects of aging and oxidation due to water and sun.
- Lawrence Township has successfully used chip and seal for many years to maintain Township roads.
- Chip and seal virtually eliminates black ice.
- In hot weather, chip and seal re-seal cracks by flowing back together. ♦

## THE UNITED STATES 2020 CENSUS

*By Trustee Don Ackerman*

Next spring, the 2020 census will begin. The census starts with early online and phone in reporting starting in March. April 1 (Census Day) questionnaires will be mailed out, and in May the beginning of the door to door reporting campaign will begin. If you do not want face to face contact be sure to report early.

Why is the census so important? Approximately \$1,800 in federal funding is received for

each person. This is why it is so important that Tuscarawas County gets a complete and accurate count. Federal funding is used for numerous projects including schools, health, roads and infrastructure etc.

Those who are traditionally undercounted are children under the age of 5 and non-English speaking residents. It is in your best interest to encourage your family, friends and neighbors to respond.

- Census is required every 10 years
- Personal information is absolutely confidential, by Law
- Information cannot be shared or used against you, by Law
- Results are used for statistical purposes only
- Only 9 questions
- Job opportunities with the Census in our area: <https://2020census.gov/en/jobs.html> ♦

## NEW ASPHALT TRAIL FOR RIVER COMMUNITY PARK

A 10' wide and 2.155 mile long multi-use asphalt trail has just been completed. The trail circulates the raised perimeter lip around River Park, adjacent to the Tuscarawas River, off State Route 212. The trail traverses under St. Rt. 212 along the river bed and travels south along the golf course, parallel to Wilshire Blvd. to Hess Mill.

New parking lots were constructed just north of our existing basketball courts along the river bank to accommodate all the water enthusiasts, whom enjoy our public egress point for canoeing, kayaking and tubing. A large aggregate parking lot was also built off Wilshire Blvd. just south of Arrowhead Road.

Funding from the trail came from these sources:

- \$615,000 Ohio Department of Transportation T.A.P. Grant Program
- \$150,000 Ohio Department of Natural Resources R.T. P. Grant Program
- \$25,000 Ohio Department of Natural Resources Nature Works Grant Program
- \$50,460 Community Benefit Fund Grant Dollars (from Ohio EPA fine on Countywide)
- \$10,300 Township Funding (Monies from Lodging Tax Recreation Fund)

This project was in the planning for several years. W.E. Quicksall & Associates from New Philadelphia assisted us with securing the grant funding. The entire project was overseen and managed by the Ohio Depart-

ment of Transportation. Enjoy!!

Thank you Ohio Department of Transportation for sharing your pictures.

Please watch our web site [www.lawrencetownship.org](http://www.lawrencetownship.org) for information on "Adopt a Trail" program to help with the maintenance of our trail. ♦



## FROM THE BOLIVAR FIRE CHIEF:

Now that summer is officially over and soon we'll start to see more homeowners dealing with their fall yard debris. While many may be tempted to burn these materials, there are several laws that must be followed. Ohio DNR Forestry prohibits outdoor open burning and prescribed fires in the months of March, April, May, October, and November between 6am and 6pm. This ban includes burning of yard waste, trash, and debris, even in a proper burn barrel. This is also enforced by the Ohio EPA. Notification is required for many types of open burns in Ohio.

Even outside the time and date restrictions, any person conducting a burn must obtain landowner permission, remain with the fire while it is burning, and take all reasonable precautions to prevent the fire from escaping. In the event someone calls 911 the fire department will respond and investigate.

The Lawrence Township Board of Trustees has provided a compost drop off bin at the Lawrence Township Building for the past several years. This is a better alternative to burning your yard debris. Contact the Bolivar Fire Department at 330-874-3115 or the Ohio Division of Forestry at 877-247-8733 if you have any questions or concerns.

### **NEVER to be burned at any time or any place in Ohio:**

- Food waste
- Dead animals
- Materials containing rubber, grease, asphalt, or made from petroleum
- Other Restrictions:
- Fires must be more than 1000 feet from neighbor's inhabited building
- No burning when air pollution alert, warning, or emergency is in effect
- Fire/smoke cannot obscure visibility on roadway, railways, or airfields
- No waste generated off the premises may be burned
- No burning within village or city limits or restricted areas ♦



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# COMMONS POOL UPDATE

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP JOINT RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The Commons Pool had a great season this year! June started out very slow due to the rainy weather, but business quickly picked up. July was our busiest month of the summer.



The look of the pool has improved this year with the addition of many shade umbrellas added to the lawn and tables. The staff pulled more tables from the pavilion and placed around the pool to accommodate the growing number of visitors. Planters of flowers were added to brighten the look of the grounds. New ropes in the pool were also installed sectioning off the deep end.

The Myers Lake YMCA visited the pool

a few times bringing over 100 new young swimmers and Through the Years daycare in Bolivar continued making twice weekly visits.

We had a wonderful group of volunteers from the Authentic Church in New Philadelphia do a community service project at the pool. Volunteers' power washed the pool house to remove old paint and then repaint the entire building and pulled weeds around the property. We are so thankful for their service and the property looks fantastic.

Private parties took place almost every Friday and Saturday night of the summer and even some Sunday nights as well. The pavilion was also rented most Saturdays and Sundays.

The most exciting announcement is that the pool was entirely resurfaced in September. This is a welcome change to the pool. A special thank you goes out to the Reeves Foundation for their donation of \$44,648 along with the township residents for the passage of the 2018 levy. These contributions made this improvement possible.

The Lawrence Township Joint Recreation

District is looking for a few new board members. This is a volunteer position and the members meet on a monthly basis. If you are interested, please visit our web site [www.commonspool.com](http://www.commonspool.com) and click on the contact link to send your information.

Commons Pool passes make an excellent gift. You can download the application from our website. Passes are available for singles, couples and families.

The staff has already begun planning for next summer with some special activities. Visit our website and follow us on FACEBOOK to stay up to date. We hope you look forward to visiting us for the 2020 season. ♦

