

# TOWNSHIP TALK

[www.lawrencetownship.org](http://www.lawrencetownship.org)

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER  
FALL 2022

## TRUSTEES

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

## FISCAL OFFICER

Ann Ackerman

## ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Martina Mann

## ROAD SUPERINTENDENT

Chuck McNutt

## CEMETERY SEXTON

Todd Reynolds

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Glenn Myers - Chairman  
Frank Bachman  
Joe Hafer  
Partick Kline  
Mark Scott  
Roxanne Kane - Alternate  
Sally Storad - Alternate

## ZONING APPEALS BOARD

Andy Mark - Chairman  
David Besse  
Ron Gauding  
Bruce Neighbor  
Aaron Salapack  
Robert Eddy - Alternate  
William Woodward - Alternate

## ZONING INSPECTOR

Ron Weekley

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## From the Desk of Chairman Matt Ritterbeck



The real estate market is still hot in the community. New construction and building permits on empty lots has continued at a feverish pace, the interest rate increases by the Federal Bank, higher material cost and labor shortages have just recently seemed to slightly slow the feverish demand in the Township. Homes continue to sell above asking price, attributable to the beauty, tranquility, and safe environment. The Number one catch phrase we have all heard in real estate.... "Location, Location, Location." A testament to the pride we each have for family, our homes, school system, servant work to the various volunteer organizations and each other.

Please take time to welcome your new neighbors, and embrace those departing; whether due to retirement, downsizing, or to be closer to loved ones. We thank you for helping to make our little hometown a desired place to live, visit, work and play.

Key Township notables, within the Newsletter;

- Yard waste collection/recycling at the Township building. 14 years in operation, this service continues to be extremely appreciated. Annual grants fund operation, as well as three

separate concrete grant stipends to improve accessibility.

- Cemetery lot purchases and burials have unfortunately been up. We've lost many beloved members, whom will be missed greatly. Our township-maintained cemetery offers a safe peaceful place to visit, remember and pay respects.

- Continued maintenance on 40+ miles of township roadways; budget averages are paving 150-200K, chip/seal 100K, concrete curb strip repair 20-40K. Map enclosed to highlight all the township roads, along with state and county roadways.

- Few small grants were obtained to assist with cost replacement of our cemetery/green space NEW zero turn mowers. A huge thank you to the Reeves and Rosenberry Foundations for your continued support.

- New fire ladder/engine truck purchased (1.1 million dollars), new EMT squad ambulance (310K) - Township contributed 130K of CARES ACT funding.

- Mash Factory complex constructed on re-zoned agricultural property.

- Wilkshire Golf Course successful retention, maintaining private ownership/operation.



- Increased usage at Lawrence Township River Community Park, thank you to community members and patrons for helping to keep clean.

- Our Township Five-year (2-mill) Road Levy on the fall ballot, details inside newsletter. Support will ensure the same continued paving and chip & seal budget currently seen by the residents. Our Board appropriates nearly 300k annually to resurfacing programs on our 40+ miles of roadways. The 2 mill levy on the ballot will maintain this program and our safe Township roadways.

Have a Spooktacular Halloween, Blessed Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas!

**And, GO TROJANS! ♦**

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44612

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## WELCOME MARTINA MANN, New Part-time Administrative Assistant

*By Trustee Matt Ritterbeck*

We welcomed Martina Mann late 2021 as our new Township Board of Trustees Administrative Assistant. Martina and her husband, Adam, have two young children. Martina had large shoes to fill when Ann Ackerman transitioned from Administrative Assistant to Township Fiscal Officer. As the result of our Board, Mike Haueter and I, appointing her the position vacated by our LONG-serving Fiscal Officer, John McClellan upon retirement.

John and I worked closely together for the past 15 years. We challenged each other often, as he had slightly more conservative approaches while I was aggressive with grant endeavors which always need small amounts of our contributions. Nevertheless, we explored grants regularly and came up

with creative ways to secure local “in kind” dollars to implement innovative programs for the community, without raising taxes. Ann and John worked closely on these large projects, which required detailed “checks & balances” for the State Auditors, as well as the organizations who provide the largest percentage of funding.

Each of them managing all the financials for yard waste reporting, retention basin OMEGA/ODOT grant, Tuscarawas County community block grant, ODOT LTAP & ODNR River Park grant. Thus, our Board felt Ann was the appropriate successor in John’s previously held role, with his mid-term retirement resignation.

Ann has transitioned flawlessly into this role over the past year. She assisted

our Board with the CARES ACT revenue disbursements, to highlight was a 130K allocation to the Bolivar Fire Department for their new EMT/Medic truck, all remaining funds disbursed to local businesses negatively impacted by the forced federal/state closures.

I would like to thank Ann for accepting our Board’s appointment to Township Fiscal Officer. I would also like to thank Martina for hitting the ground running- helping keep us on task and attempting to answer resident’s questions or directing them to the appropriate department representative.

Martina’s (Twp. office) schedule 9am to 2pm (Monday-Wednesday-Friday).

## LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP 2 MILL LEVY (SCENIC HILLS ROAD DISTRICT)

This fall our 5 year road levy will be up for renewal and residents will likely see it on the ballot. The Trustees are seeking 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, winter snow and ice removal as well as the distribution of road salt.

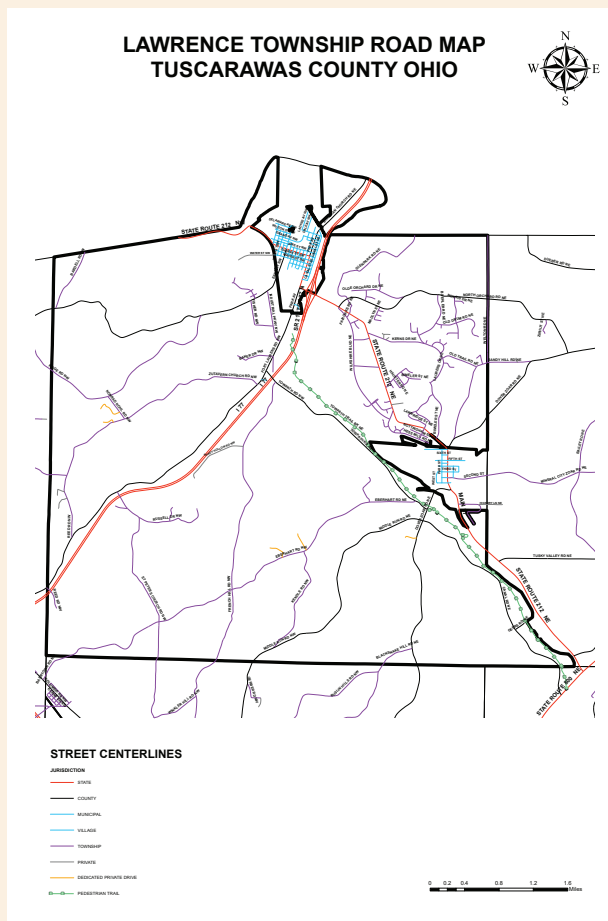
We maintain 40.053 miles of Lawrence Township roads. We continue to resurface, upgrade, repair and maintain these roads using materials and procedures to prolong the life of the roads. Although the costs of these materials fluctuate from year to year, they generally have been increasing over the years while our overall budget continues to decline. These factors prove the extreme importance of this levy for the continuing care of our roads.

The 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 provides a location for regular maintenance of all equipment as well as safe storage of our trucks, road equipment, and bulk purchases of road materials such as 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 as minimal as 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!



## CONGRATULATIONS!

*By Trustee Matt Ritterbeck*

Congratulations John McClellan, RETIRED Township Fiscal Officer Sept. 30th, 2021!

For the record, I did shed some tears and got emotional when I read John's submitted resignation. We worked closely over the years, he offered professional tutelage, objective views, while affording me latitude for my energized and passionate debates. The give and take on many programs over the past 15 years... priceless!!

Our entire community was blessed to have John serving as the Lawrence Township Fiscal Officer for over 20 years. It was hard to say, "Good Luck & God Speed in retirement, John." Your work will live on in the projects our team accomplished with your fiscal stewardship. Enjoy retirement and thanks for keeping me in check, somewhat.

## THANK YOU FROM TRUSTEES

Lawrence Township Trustees would like to thank the Zoning Commission members: Chairman Glenn Myers, Frank Bachman, Joe Hafer, Patrick Kline, Mark Scott, Sally Storad and Roxanne Kane. We would also like to thank the Board of Zoning Appeals members: Chairman Andy Mark, David Besse, Ron Gauding, Bruce Neighbor, Aaron Salapack, William Woodward and Robert Eddy. These dedicated township residents volunteer their time and truly help make our township a great place to live. ♦



## OUTDOOR OPPORTUNITIES



*By Trustee Don Ackerman*

With the high cost of fuel and travel these days, why not consider some activities and destinations closer to home? Northern Tuscarawas County has much to offer with two great walking and biking trails in Lawrence Township. The Towpath Trail and the River Park trail would be good choices to get out and exercise and take in some sights of nature this fall. Another great option, try floating, paddling or fishing on the Tuscarawas River Water Trail for a change of pace. Our township is also fortunate to have two top-notch golf courses, Wilkshire Golf Course and Zoar Village Golf Course. There are still events to attend and so much to see at the Historic Zoar Village and Fort Laurens State Park for those history-minded individuals. Don't forget to visit the beautiful Zoar Wetlands for fishing and wildlife viewing! Maybe you would even like to attend some sporting events this fall to support our youth at Tuscarawas Valley Schools. Whatever you choose to pursue this fall, please keep these areas clean and pick up after yourselves and your pets. Consider donating or volunteering time to your favorite organization, any help is always very much appreciated! ♦

## AGGREGATE PROGRAM

Unfortunately, the electric and gas markets are still much inflated. Pricing is above that of the utilities price. Our third-party administrator, Trebel llc, is watching daily and waiting for a price that would be worth locking into. The unknown is exactly when. We know everyone has been asking, but we are doing all we can with the resources available. Trebel will present any good option to the Township the minute it becomes available. We appreciate everyone's patience. ♦

## ROAD DEPARTMENT



*By Chuck McNutt,  
Road Superintendent*

We had a productive year with \$220,000 spent on paving projects and \$100,000 on chip and seal.

Our crew has been very busy this summer mowing the parks, trails, cemetery, recreation fields and roads.

We appreciate the businesses and residents that maintain mowing along the roads along with those individuals who have been cleaning up litter that has drifted onto the River Community Park.

We have contracted with ODOT for salt for the upcoming winter. Please remember to slow down when road conditions include rain, ice and snow.

Please call the Lawrence Township Building at 330-874-2731 if you see any stop signs or street signs that have been knocked down.

Have safe fall and winter seasons on the roads. ♦

## BROADBAND

*A message from Tuscarawas Economic  
Development Corporation*

Businesses, Residents, and Farmers- we need your help!

We understand the growing need for reliable internet access. Whether remote learning, virtual doctor visits, or work-from-home opportunities, every home, business and farm should have reliable internet access that can handle the demands of multiple devices. Due to previous surveys and resident input, it is evident that not every Tuscarawas County resident, business and farmer has reliable broadband internet accessibility. We are currently partnering with BroadbandOhio to create a comprehensive strategy to bring better internet speeds to areas of Tuscarawas County that need it the most. However, we cannot do that without your help!

Please take five minutes and assist us in gathering this important data by visiting this link: [tuscedc.com/connectusc](https://tuscedc.com/connectusc) ♦

## CAUTION!

***Slow Down, Stay Alert, and Move Over when you are able.***

As the state, county, townships and villages are finishing up paving, resurfacing, mowing and other general road upkeep, please be aware of workers and equipment on or near the roadways. Pay attention to signage and the flag person directing traffic, as there have already been several serious incidents as a result of distracted drivers. School is open and buses are making their pickups of students- another reason for cautious driving practices. Watch for joggers, bicyclists and motorcyclists as well as deer and other wildlife crossing roadways! Winter snow plowing will soon be here and all are required to move vehicles off the roadways in order for workers to remove snow and ice completely for a safe winter season.

A reminder, in reference to Chapter 4519 of the O.R.C., that you must be a licensed driver to operate a motor vehicle on public roads. This means all-purpose vehicles including ATV's, UTV's, and golf carts. Also according to this section, the vehicle must be registered for road use. ♦

## THANK YOU GEORGE DOWNES!

After many years of service of both the Zoning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals, George decided it was time to retire to spend more time at home with his wife, Beth. Most recently, George served as chairman of the Zoning Commission and always came prepared and ready for work. The township trustees and other Zoning Commission members leaned on George for his leadership, knowledge and advice! Thank you George for your township and community involvement and good luck in the future! ♦

## ZONING DEPARTMENT



*By Ron Weekley - Zoning Inspector*

First and foremost, I would like to recognize the loss of our dear friend and colleague, Mr. Scott Edwards. Scott was a long-standing member of our Board of Zoning Appeals and served his fellow township residents in an exemplary manner, always showing respect and dignity. His presence will be greatly missed.

Secondly, I would like to recognize the efforts of our Zoning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals members, all volunteers who selflessly give to the betterment of our township. Thank you for your services and caring. We would also like to welcome new members since our last newsletter, Mr. Joe Hafer, Mr. Patrick Kline and Mrs. Roxanne Kane to our Zoning Commission; and Mr. Bill Woodward and Mr. Robert Eddy to our Board of Zoning Appeals.

### ***LTZR SECTION 201.3 Jurisdiction***

***The provisions of the Zoning resolution shall apply to all land, land development, use of all structures, and uses of land within the unincorporated areas of Lawrence Township, Tuscarawas County, Ohio.***

Thirdly, I would like to take this opportunity to remind our residents that Ohio, along with the other 49 states in this great nation, has adopted a "Move Over Law." The law, in simple terms, states that a driver must move over (or slow down if move over is not feasible) when any vehicle with flashing lights is in view along a roadway. To date, over 100 Ohio Department of Transportation vehicles have been struck in 2022 by drivers not obeying

this law. Please move over or slow down to save a life.

Any structure being erected or replaced in Lawrence Township requires a Zoning Permit. Interior remodeling, exterior remodeling, roof repairs and things of that nature that 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 into it.

We are currently in the process of another update to our Zoning Regulations that should be out some time next year. We are constantly trying to improve our Zoning Code, whether by enhancing sections or removing them in part or entirely. Look for the announcement for the public meeting on those changes soon.

Campers and boats are permitted to be parked on driveways for no more than 3 days in a 10-day period. Should you need more time, a 30-day temporary permit for use as living quarters for family or friends visiting is available for no cost. You must ask the township for the permit and give the specific dates.

Remember, it is best to check with the Township (not your neighbor or buddy) if you question whether a Zoning Permit is needed or not. Failure to obtain a permit before starting your project will result in a doubled fee. It could also result in substantial monetary loss for you if you build something improperly and are forced to remove it. Please check with us first.

Regards. Contact us at the Township phone number of 330-874-2731 or email at [zoning@lawrencetownship.org](mailto:zoning@lawrencetownship.org)

## TOWNSHIP SYMPATHY

This past February, Lawrence Township lost a valuable member of our Board of Zoning Appeals- Scott Edwards. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his wife, Jessie, and their family and friends. Scott donated his time, knowledge and experience to the Board of Zoning Appeals. His leadership and ability to make decisions were often "called upon" to decide difficult issues. He will greatly be missed! ♦

### FROM THE BOLIVAR FIRE CHIEF:

*By Shawn Lynch, Fire Chief*

The Bolivar Fire Department serves the entirety of Lawrence Township, which includes the Villages of Bolivar and Zoar. We have not only been busy responding to the needs of our community during emergencies, but with your support we have been able to complete two major projects.

One project was the purchase of a new 2021 Ford F-450 Lifeline Ambulance. The total cost of this project was \$310,000. The ambulance was completely paid for using funds from the Fire Department's Capital Improvement Fund and assistance from the Federal Government with grants received for EMS equipment.

The other project completed, in conjunction with the local governments, was the purchase of a new multi-use fire truck. This vehicle replaced both our 1993 ladder truck and our 1998 fire engine with a new 2021 Pierce 107-foot quint. The quint was paid for with funds from the Fire Department's Capital Improvement Fund, residual levy funds and future levy funds.

We would like to thank you for your continued support in making Lawrence Township a great place to live and raise a family. ♦

## ZOAR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

*By Jon Elsasser, President*

The Zoar Community Association, founded in 1976, manages Historic Zoar Village and Ft Laurens State Memorial for the State of Ohio and the Ohio History Connection. Major projects over the years have included restoring Zoar's 1868 Schoolhouse, preserving the 1887 Town Hall, and improving the village's south parking lot.

While 2020 and the Covid Pandemic presented serious challenges for us, 2021 and 2022 have been good years for the organization and the sites in terms of visitation and activities at both Zoar and Ft Laurens. In 2022 we introduced "Rockin the Revolution" at the Fort and re-introduced "Apfelfest" in Zoar. Other events in 2022 in Zoar include Maifest, Zoar Antiques Show

and Sale and Christmas in Zoar and Revolutionary War Re-enactment at Fort Laurens. Additionally, we provide many school and home-school programs at both sites during the year.

We anticipate offering all these events again in 2023 as well as the bi-annual Zoar Civil War Re-enactment in September. The association recently purchased the Cowherd/Number 3 House at auction with the intention of restoring the exterior and re-offering the structure for sale as a residence and is in the planning phase of a project to beautify and re-purpose a 1970's structure located behind the Zoar Hotel.

If you haven't visited the Zoar Store recently, please stop by. In addition to being the "entry point" for tours of

Zoar, the Store is an excellent gift shop for locally and regionally made merchandise. Come see us when you need a unique gift or just want to shop.

An important element of our non-profit is an active volunteer base who help by selling tickets at events, serving as tour guides, and helping to maintain the garden and grounds – just to name a few of the activities done by our volunteers. If you are already a volunteer at either Zoar or Ft. Laurens, we thank you! If you aren't but would like to learn more about how you could help, please call us at 330-874-3011. You can also learn more about us at [www.historiczoarvillage.com](http://www.historiczoarvillage.com). ♦

## YARD WASTE UPDATE

*By Trustee Matt Ritterbeck*

Residential yard waste collection bays remain open for the community, marking our 14th year offering this program for our residents.

**COMMERCIAL DUMPING PROHIBITED.** This policy was implemented to reduce volume/cost since grant funding from Joint Solid Waste District was decreased. The Waste District reduced funding to ALL yard waste collection sites and eliminated funding to many sites in Stark and Tuscarawas Counties. Funding from the district went from 1 million dollars to 300K 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 \$15,305. A thank you to the Village of Zoar for their generous \$500 yearly donation as well as \$1,250 donated yearly by the Village of Bolivar. This money is used to contract with Bull Country Compost who hauls the yard waste out to their facility in Dundee, Ohio.

In recent years:

There was a total of 122 dumpsters (610 tons) of yard waste hauled in 2021.

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

- 11K for new grapple bucket to transfer yard waste from the compost to the box rental, donating old grapple to the Village of Strasburg;
- \$6,950 for additional concrete pad.

69 dumpsters (345 tons) of yard waste has been hauled through September 2022.

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

As in 2020 and 2021, the collection bays will remain OPEN this winter. A reminder to all to be sure there is NO trash, NO stumps- violators will be prosecuted. Please don't hesitate to remove any trash you may see that has made its way into the bays. Any help in these regards would be appreciated. ♦

