

# Sharon Township

A Publication of Sharon Township  
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First Quarter, 2015

—Township Trustees—

Chair Lori A. Gerald

Vice-Chair Phillip W. Smith

Trustee John H. Oberle

## Township Parking Regulation in effect until March 15<sup>th</sup> for Kanawha, Rosslyn and Westview

*See Sharontwp.us website for Resolution*

### Bike Trail / Township Presentation on 3/4/15 at 6:30 PM

CENTRAL OHIO IS FORTUNATE TO have exceptional bike / walking trails. Most of our residents have quick access to the Olentangy Trail which runs along the Olentangy river. The North end of the trail dead ends near Worthington Hills where Route 315 becomes one lane. Metro Park officials are considering extending the trail North to connect to the Highbanks Metro Park. No decisions have been made, but Township officials have reached out to the Metro Parks to stay briefed on this project so we can determine the best course of action for our residents. The Mt. Air portion of the Township will be the most directly impacted. No exact route has been selected, but several routes have been outlined in the picture below. Nothing is likely to happen on construction anytime soon and if the Metro Parks moves forward, it will take several years to complete. Metro Park officials will provide the Township an update at our March 4 meeting at 6:30 pm.

—John H. Oberle, Trustee



### Four Season Fire Hydrants

This article is to inform every one of the Ohio Fire Codes for Fire Protection of Water Supplies. In order to ensure everyone's safety, it is important that we abide by these codes at all times. **Ohio Fire Code 507.5.4** Obstruction states, "Unobstructed access to fire hydrants shall be maintained at all times. The fire department shall not be deterred or hindered from gaining immediate access to fire protection equipment or fire hydrants."

Furthermore, **507.5.5 Clear space around hydrants** states: "A three foot clear space shall be maintained around the circumference of fire hydrants except as otherwise required or approved." In addition to abiding by these codes, I think it is important as a community to work together to keep the area around the fire hydrants clear of snow. While clearing your driveways and walkways, please consider taking an extra five minutes to clear the area around a fire hydrant, if you live close to one. This will help out the fire department to maintain everyone's safety in the event they need to access the hydrant.

—Phillip W. Smith

### Police Department News...

*For Police Assistance, please call the proper number*—The Township Administrative Office often receives phone calls from residents wanting to speak with a police constable. The Administrative Assistant does not have the capability to dispatch a cruiser to the caller's location. If you need to speak with a law enforcement officer, please call the Dispatch Center at 614-885-3777; this is the non-emergency number. If you are calling for a true emergency, please call 911.

**SCAM ARTISTS** are a problem for many of us. Recently two Township residents have called to report that they have been contacted by persons whom they believe to be scam artists. The first incident will be of importance to our residents who have their own home remodeling, construction, or a similar business— it is a reverse of the usual scam—this time the suspect wanted our resident to do work for the suspect. The scam involved using a credit card to charge money; our resident would provide the bulk of the money to the suspect and keep a smaller portion for a deposit. The suspect stated that they were in the hospital for surgery due to lung cancer and wanted our resident to handle everything. Our resident, realizing this did not sound legitimate, called us instead.

The second incident was a scam telephone solicitation; this one has been around for years and usually comes this time of year. The

suspect called stating that they were a representative from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS); they threatened a lawsuit against our resident for back taxes owed and left a phone number to call. Our resident knows that the IRS does not make such phone calls and did not return the call. Though this scam has been around for a very long time; nationwide, many people still lose money to it. The victim ends up sending the caller a check for a much smaller amount than the original dollar value stated just to keep from being "sued."

There are all types of scam out there; new ones are always coming to the attention of law enforcement agencies. Unfortunately it is always after many people have lost money, sometimes their entire life savings. As is usually the case; if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. If you feel that you are about to be a victim of a scam, or are currently a victim of a scam and cannot seem to stop the person who is taking your money, please call the Police Department immediately.

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT SWORN PERSONNEL**

*You have some new constables working for you.* The Police Department has employed several new constables in 2014; Constables Micheal Moyer, Adam Meadows, Jacob Matejko, and Brooke Dendiu; all are full time personnel. Lieutenant Jeffrey Tuchfarber (1993), Sergeants Carl Booth, Jr. (2009), and Gordon White (2005), and Constable Jennifer Hastings (2011) are still here as fulltime personnel; Dale Thomas and Andrew Rowland continue to serve as part-time constables. This is the first time in the history of the Sharon Township Police Department that we have three fulltime female police officers.

This is the first law enforcement job for Jennifer, Micheal, Adam, Jacob, and Brooke and each one is still learning about the Township, and who our residents are. At the same time they are learning how to be law enforcement officers and what the Police Department expects from them. We wholeheartedly endorse

the concept of "Community Oriented Policing." Please, when you see one of our constables driving by and you are outside, do not hesitate to wave; and if they stop, talk with them for a few minutes. They will not be able to stay long because of other responsibilities, but at the very least you will get to meet them.

### **STAR Board**

The STAR Board is a committee of residents from the Township who look at ways to help our Township. The committee will be working with the Road Department on NPDES requirements as well as looking at the parking restrictions and the recycling. Phil Smith will be the liaison to the STAR committee. If you have ideas that you would like the committee to look at please contact Mr. Smith at the office – 614-885-5115, ext. 402.

### **Recycling**

The Township continues to look into recycling with Local Waste Trash Collection. The Township is entered in a Consortium which helps the Township receive trash collection at a lower cost. Through the Consortium we are able to enter into a recycling contract as well. This would enable the Township residents to participate in weekly curbside recycling. The recycling would increase your trash collection bill approximately \$2.04 per billing. We would have separate trucks for recycling and there would be recycling containers provided for recycling. We have had several requests for recycling and also have heard from residents who do not want to pay for recycling in the Township; therefore, we are asking to hear from our residents. We are going to be surveying the Township neighborhoods to see how many residents we have who are interested in recycling. We will be surveying one section of the Township at a time beginning with Tremont Gardens.

Please email the trustees at [trustees@sharontwp.us](mailto:trustees@sharontwp.us) or call us at 614-885-5115 with any questions or comments. When contacting us via email or phone, please remember we need your street name so we

know what part of the Township you are a resident. We received about 50 emails from our previous newsletter in response to recycling but most did not give their street or neighborhood.

– Lori A. Gerald & John S. O'Keefe

**Insuring Sharon Township residents since 1946**

### ***Call Insurance***

***95 East Wilson Bridge Road  
Worthington, OH 43085-2301***

**Call or Email Leanne  
Daggett for a free auto and  
home insurance review**

**614-846-4120**

**[leanne@callinsurance.com](mailto:leanne@callinsurance.com)**

### **What is Storm Water Runoff?**

IN OPEN FIELDS, FORESTS AND wetlands, most rain is absorbed by the soil or taken up by plants and trees. In developed areas, rain or snow that falls on impermeable roofs, parking lots, streets and lawns is not absorbed. This precipitation (called storm water or storm water runoff) enters local water bodies through storm sewer systems.

### **What is Storm Water Pollution?**

According to the U.S. EPA's National Water Quality Inventory, polluted storm water runoff is a leading cause of impairment to U.S. water bodies which include water quality standards of nearly 40 percent of those surveyed. This discharge can destroy fish, wildlife and aquatic life habitats; lessen aesthetic value; and threaten public health with contaminated food, drinking water supplies and recreational waterways. Unlike pollution from sewage treatment plants, storm water pollution comes from many different sources. Storm water runoff can dissolve, pick up and transport many types of household products that cause this pollution. Automotive waste, lawn chemicals, paints and eroded soil are all pollutants. Many types of litter can create storm water pollution as well.

## Storm Water Pollution

### Prevention Tips

#### What Can You Do?

##### General Information:

□ Never allow any chemicals, yard wastes or any other materials to be washed down or put into storm drains. These drains may bypass the wastewater treatment plant and go directly to lakes or rivers.

□ If you must buy an item that is potentially hazardous, be sure to buy only as much as you need, and follow the instructions on the label for proper use, storage and disposal. Save unused materials for a local household hazardous waste collection event. For more information, contact your local solid waste management district. For district contact information, visit Ohio EPA's Division of Materials and Waste Management at [www.epa.ohio.gov/dsiwm/pages/recypro.aspx](http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dsiwm/pages/recypro.aspx) or call (614) 644-2621.

□ Use a garbage can for trash and recycle reusable materials. Improperly discarded trash may be carried by runoff into the storm sewer.

□ Never allow roof gutters to drain directly to the street or storm sewer. Allow drainage from the roof to flow over your lawn instead.

##### Auto maintenance:

□ Automobile fluids from leaks or maintenance changes are another source of water pollution. Each year Americans dump enough used oil in landfills to equal approximately 13 spills the size of the Exxon Valdez spill! Even more oil is disposed of illegally. Much of this oil eventually finds its way into our water. Never put used oil or other chemicals down storm drains or in drainage ditches. One quart of oil can contaminate up to two million gallons of drinking water!

• Clean up spilled brake fluid, oil, grease and antifreeze with kitty litter or other absorbent material. Do not hose them into the street where they can eventually reach local streams and lakes.

• If you change your own oil or antifreeze, be sure to carefully collect all of the used oil or

antifreeze in a proper container with a tight-fitting cap, and deliver it to a service or recycling center with the oil filter. Most auto parts stores will recycle oil for you at no charge. Contact your local solid waste management district, call the Ohio Environment Hotline at **800-CLEANUP** or visit [www.earth911.com](http://www.earth911.com) to find the nearest collection center for your used automotive fluids.

• Wash your car only when necessary; use a bucket to save water. Wash your car on a grassy area so the ground can filter the water. Or, go to a commercial car wash that uses water efficiently and disposes of runoff properly.

##### Landscaping & Gardening:

• Minimize the need for pesticides by choosing plant species that are resistant to insects and disease. Landscaping with native plant species works best. Provide habitats for birds, bats, toads, etc. that prey on insect pests. Introduce praying mantises, lacewings, ladybugs and other pest-eaters to your garden.

• Do not over apply pesticides and fertilizers. Follow directions and use judiciously. Pull weeds by hand when possible.

• Try xeriscaping your home with low-water-consumption plants. Save yourself time, money and water! Find more information on xeriscaping and native planting at:

• Colorado Springs Utilities, Xeriscape information - [www.csu.org/residential/water/Pages/xeriscape.aspx](http://www.csu.org/residential/water/Pages/xeriscape.aspx)

• *PlantNative* is dedicated to moving native plants and naturoscaping into mainstream landscaping practices - [www.plantnative.org](http://www.plantnative.org)

• Try using a rain barrel or rain garden to catch and reduce storm water runoff. Rain barrels also save money by not using drinking water for watering vegetables, flowers and trees. Contact your



local soil and water conservation district for more information.

• *Rain Gardens for Homeowners* - <http://water.unl.edu/web/landscapes/rain-gardens>

• Do not over water the lawn or garden. Over watering may increase leaching of fertilizers to ground and surface water. When your lawn or garden needs watering, use slow watering techniques such as trickle irrigation or soaker hoses. Such devices reduce runoff and are more effective than sprinklers.

• When you mow, set the blades to cut the grass two or three inches high. Most grasses are healthiest at this height and this also helps control weeds. Mow often and leave the clippings on the ground. They will help keep moisture in and provide nutrients to the soil as they decompose.

• Compost your leaves, grass clippings and garden waste. Composting is easy and can be very inexpensive – no sophisticated equipment is needed. Control soil erosion on your property by planting ground cover and stabilizing erosion-prone areas.

##### Painting:

• Do not allow liquid paint products and wastes to drain into the gutter, street or storm drains.

• Choose water-based paints (such as latex) instead of oil based.

• Save unused paint materials for a local household hazardous waste collection event, or reuse leftover paints when possible. Also, many local theater/performance groups and school art departments will take unused and leftover paint.

## A Note of Thanks

SHARON TOWNSHIP wants to thank former Sharon Township Trustee Paul Insley of Insley Printing for his assistance in getting the newsletter out to residents.

## **Newsletter Delivery via Email**

As a way to reduce future postage costs, Sharon Township is asking its residents whether they wish to receive the quarterly newsletter electronically via their email. The newsletter is currently delivered via the U.S. Postal Service.

If you wish to receive the Sharon Township newsletter via your email account, then email the Fiscal Officer your name, home address and email address. He will send you a confirmation email then add your email address to the newsletter distribution list.

There are two important issues to remember: 1) Once added to the newsletter distribution list, your email address is considered a “public record” and could be disclosed via an Ohio Public Records Act request, 2) You can request your email address be deleted from the newsletter distribution list anytime.

If you have any questions, call or email the Fiscal Officer at [fiscalofficer@sharontwp.us](mailto:fiscalofficer@sharontwp.us) or 614-885-5115 extension 403.



## **Exterior Property Code Enforcement**

January 1, 2015, begins the second year of enforcement of Sharon Township’s Exterior Property Maintenance Code. As Code Enforcement Director Mark Higdon moves forward in the new year, he also looks back on the old one.

“Although enforcement procedures were initiated over a number of violations, 2014 turned out to be the ‘year of the tree’ for the Code Enforcement Department,” Higdon remarked. Indeed, three cases opened and closed by Code Enforcement involved large trees—two dead and one heavily damaged—that posed fall hazards to nearby dwellings. One sat on land owned by the City of Columbus. In all three cases, the owners of the properties on which the trees were located were fully cooperative and had the trees removed. Sharon Township and the adjacent property owners are all grateful for the outcome of these cases and appreciative of the neighbors who did the right thing.

The January thaw has given Higdon opportunities to get back into the field early in the year, and the lack of leaves on trees and bushes help in spotting potential code violations early. Township

residents with code-related complaints or inquiries, or who would like to schedule a field interview at their location, are encouraged to contact Code Enforcement Director Higdon at 614-885-5115, ext. 402. Email may be sent to

[codeenforcement@sharontwp.us](mailto:codeenforcement@sharontwp.us) (be sure to type the double-e). The code itself is available online at <http://www.sharontwp.us> and click on tab titled Township Resolutions.

### **TOWNSHIP MEETING DATES**

February 18, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m.  
March 4, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m.  
March 18, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m.  
April 1, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m.  
April 15, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m.  
May 6, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m.  
May 20, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m.  
June 3, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m.  
June 17, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m.  
July 8, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m.  
*No 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting in July*  
August 5, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m.  
August 19, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m.  
September 2, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m.  
September 23, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m.  
October 7, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m.  
October 21, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m.  
November 4, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m.  
November 18, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m.  
December 2, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m.  
December 16, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m.