

Sharon Township

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—Township Trustees—

Chair Lori A. Gerald

Vice-Chair Phillip W. Smith

Trustee John H. Oberle

John S. O’Keeffe, Fiscal Officer

Recycling Survey Results

SHARON TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES Lori A. Gerald and Phillip W. Smith recently completed a Recycling Survey in the Tremont Gardens neighborhood (Kanawha, Rosslyn, Westview). The purpose of the survey was to determine if 75% or more of households wished to add Local Waste recycling services at a rate of \$5.00 per quarter. The 75% or greater participation rate was required by Local Waste for the addition of recycling services.

The survey results for the 374 addresses was: 46% - yes; 54% - no. Responses were obtained via multiple household visits and a survey response post card mailed to the township hall. The overwhelming response was NO to recycling in the Tremont Gardens neighborhood.

The next recycling survey will be in the Worthington Hills/Mount Air area. The survey is expected to take place in June 2015.

From Your Police Department...

It seems that all we read in the newspaper and hear on the local news channels is that Columbus and other communities in Franklin County are high-crime neighborhoods. Though there are “bad” areas throughout Franklin County, the vast majority of residential neighborhoods are safe. This includes all of Sharon Township. Though all of our neighborhoods are safe, they are not immune from crime. Our law enforcement officers stay busy in your neighborhood, doing their best to protect and serve you and your family. But, we need your help; the Police Department cannot do this alone. If you see anything that appears to be suspicious or out of place, please call. Much of the criminal activity that has taken place in our community over the last few years could have been prevented if only the neighbor who saw something that just didn’t seem right had called the Dispatch Center immediately. Waiting until later to call is usually too late. The number to call is 614-885-3777; if it is a true emergency call 911.

We are always looking for ways to assist in keeping our residents safe. More and more people are using such On-line sites as Craigslist to conduct much of their business; this

includes making purchases and responding to employment opportunities. As we have seen in the news, responding to advertisements listed through On-line sites can be dangerous. Many people have become victims of crime when they arrange to meet in response to the on-line ads; it does not matter if you are the person responding to the ad, or if you are the person placing the ad on-line. The Sharon Township Police Department and the Board of Trustees would like to help our residents who are utilizing Craigslist type of On-line services. If you need to have a safe place to meet with other parties involved in the transaction, please consider using the parking lot of the Sharon Township Police Department and Administrative Offices. Though it is not necessary to do so, we are asking that you notify us when you do plan to use the premises. All you need to do is call 614-885-5115; if no one answers, please leave a voice-mail. Keep in mind though, if the activity you are taking part in is illegal, such as purchasing or selling stolen property and/or drugs, and we find out that the activity is illegal, criminal charges will be filed and arrests made.

Many Township residents are divorced and have court ordered “shared parenting.” Unfortunately, in a lot of these cases it is a contentious and stressful situation when the divorced or separated parents meet to exchange the children. This also applies to those parents who were never married but had children together. Many parents meet in parking lots or other public locations to exchange the kids; often times at least one of the parents do not feel comfortable or safe meeting in such locations. We would like to offer our parking lot for such events. If you choose to use our parking lot, please let us know in advance even if it is just a one-time event. If the decision is made to use the parking lot on a regular scheduled basis to exchange your children, we ask that you provide a written document listing the adults involved in the exchange as well as the dates and times that the exchanges will take place. Unfortunately, we cannot offer our building for such events; but we do want to offer our parking lot if it makes everyone feel more safe and comfortable. We cannot promise that there will be a law enforcement officer present; most likely they will be on patrol or attending to a call for service.

As the Police Chief, I promise you that we do our best to be fiscally responsible with your tax dollars. The Police Department is funded strictly through property tax. No one likes to pay taxes; that includes me. I live in a township and

have done so most of my life; this fact alone probably makes me more consciously aware of being fiscally responsible with your money than police chiefs of other communities. Why do I bring this up? Regardless of the type of profession or business; the largest portion of a budget is spent on personnel expenses; usually in the neighborhood of 70% or more. You, our resident, and I want the same thing; the most effective and efficient police department we can have for the money you spend. The supervisors and I work diligently to explain this concept to our personnel and we believe that they are doing their best to provide you the service you deserve.

Another expense for the Police Department is paying for dispatching services. Prior to 2011 we did not pay for this service even though the Worthington Division of Police dispatched for us since the City of Worthington purchased the Sharon Township Fire Department. Unfortunately we had to start paying for the service in 2012; the cost has increased consistently every year. Without getting into all of the technicalities of the limited number of dispatching agencies, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) is offering the best dispatching service at a much lower cost than Worthington. Though we will not experience much of a savings to our budget this year; starting in 2016 there will be a significant savings that will build up over the years. A lot of transition work has to be done yet; FCSO is scheduled to begin dispatching for us on Monday, August 3rd. Our residents should not experience any change or delay in services; in fact, we are expecting that our residents will realize a more pleasant atmosphere when they do call and speak with a dispatcher. We will keep residents posted as the process progresses.

Old Glory... Do you have a flag of the United States of America that is old and frayed and you no longer want it? And you do not know how to properly dispose of the flag? Proper etiquette is to destroy the flag in a dignified way, preferably by burning. If you do not want to properly dispose of the flag yourself, please bring it to the Sharon Township Police Department and Administration Offices, or call for a Sharon Township Constable to come to your home and give them the flag. We will ensure that it is properly disposed of with all the dignity the flag so richly deserves.

Thank you!

Paul Insley of Insley Printing provided his assistance, once again, to getting the Township newsletter out to residents. A Big Thank You to Paul Insley!

**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

Vacation Time is Near... This is the beginning of the prime vacation time for many of our residents. Please take advantage of our Vacation House Watch Program; it is available to all residents of the unincorporated area of Sharon Township. Please call the Police Dispatcher at 614-885-3777 prior to leaving and the Dispatcher will write down the information and provide it to our constables on patrol, as well as to maintain a copy in the radio room. Some of the information we would like for you to provide is:

- Date & time leaving and returning
- Vehicles left parked at the property
- Lights that will remain on 24 hours, or will be on a timer; please tell us the time the lights will be going on and off
- Persons who may be staying at the house or have access to it
- Animals (pets) maintained at the residence

Our constables will physically check your residence at least once per shift, sometimes more often if the workload permits.

Summer Safety.... Summer is finally here after what seemed like a winter that would never end. With the warm weather comes enjoyable times outdoors. It also means school will soon be out for a few months and our children are outside playing. Most of the roadways in Sharon Township are residential streets; that means the speed limit is 25 miles per hour. Please slow down for the safety of everyone, we are increasing our patrol time in the residential areas; this also means we are keeping a close lookout for traffic violators, and not just speeders. All traffic laws need to be obeyed; this includes STOP signs; please come to a FULL stop, look around for pedestrian and vehicular traffic, then proceed with caution once it is safe to do so.

Home Safety.... As mentioned, summer is finally here. That means we are leaving our doors and windows open to get fresh air into our homes. Please, if you are leaving your home for any period of time, close and lock all windows and doors to prevent any unwanted guests from entering. Same with your garage doors; unless you are working in your

garage we suggest that you keep it closed. Though we have not experienced this too much in Sharon Township, many neighborhoods throughout the County are experiencing thefts and burglaries where the criminal is entering the garage and or home and stealing items because of an open overhead garage door.

Transient Vendors.... On May 16, 2011, *Resolution No. 02162011B Establishing the Regulation and Registration of Transient Vendors* became law in Sharon Township. If any person or group is in your neighborhood trying to sell something and/or solicit money please call 614-885-3777 and ask that a cruiser be dispatched. Our personnel will speak with the individual or group and advise them of the Resolution and what they must do to be within the law. The Resolution has been posted on the Township Website for your perusal.

“No Solicitors or Peddlers” stickers are available for Township residents. You can obtain a sticker from any of the Trustees, a Sharon Township Constable, or at the Sharon Township Police Department and Administration Offices.

Neighborhood Safety Precautions.... Warm weather is finally here. Although it is great to feel warm again, this weather can also present some problems for our community. Warm weather always brings into our neighborhoods many companies seeking to work on your homes, seal driveways, trim trees, etc. Before signing a contract please do everything you can to ensure that it is a reputable company that you are willing to have work done on your home. One way is to call the Better Business Bureau. I realize this may take a little time, but it could save you a lot of money and/or trouble with faulty work. If you believe that a crime has been committed against you, please call 885-3777 for a constable to come out and we will discuss the situation with you. Sometimes there is a fine line between what are criminal violations and civil violations.

Anytime you believe there is anything suspicious occurring in your neighborhood please call 885-3777 and we will respond as quickly as possible.

The Sharon Township Police Department employs ten fulltime and two part-time constables when at full staffing. As mentioned in the last newsletter, three of the fulltime constables are Jennifer Hastings, Micheal Moyer, and Brooke Dendiu. This means that 30% of the fulltime personnel are female. We believe there are very few, if any, other police departments in the country that can make that claim. Just to set the record straight, we did not set out to do this on purpose; it just so happened that Jennifer, Micheal, and Brooke were the best qualified of the candidates that had applied when the three were hired. As the Chief of Police, I honestly do not look at any of our personnel as to whether they are female, male, or any other demographic definition. To me, they are law enforcement officers and we do our best to treat all of our employees the same. With that being said, a photograph was taken recently that many people here believe should be shared with Township

residents. For the first time ever in the Police Department's history all three female officers were on-duty, in uniform, conversing with the Chief of Police. So here is the photo:



Left to right: Chief Schwind, Micheal Moyer, Jennifer Hastings, and Brooke Dendiu

Sergeant Carl R. Booth, Jr. retired April 29th. He had a long and distinguished 30-year career with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office and has served Sharon Township since 2009. We wish Carl and his wife Ramona the best.

Franklin County Storm Water Management Program

About 1 million households in Ohio are located beyond the reach of city sewers and must treat and dispose of the wastewater that they generate on the lot. Like all of the appliances and structures in your home, sewage treatment systems require care and will eventually have to be upgraded or even replaced. Cities hire professional operators to take care of their sewage treatment systems. For homes with individual sewage treatment systems, the homeowner is responsible for providing care and maintenance.

Septic systems consist of two parts. The first is the septic tank, which collects the untreated sewage from the house. The purpose of the tank is to allow the solid materials in the wastewater to settle out of the water and to be broken down by bacterial action. The remaining water and the suspended particles that it contains then flow into the second part of the system, the soil absorption field, or leaching field. Here, the water flows through a series of pipes that lay in the ground. The water trickles out of the pipes and it is absorbed into the soil. Bacteria in the soil break down the sewage and cleans the water.

Septic systems are simple to operate and when they are properly designed, constructed, and maintained, they do an excellent job of removing pollutants from wastewater to protect Ohio's water resources. Property owners must do a few important things to keep their system operating for 20 to 30 years.

Conserve Water

Since the soil must absorb all of the water that is used in your home, the best thing that a resident can do to maintain their septic system is use less water. Water conservation includes:

- Repair water leaks, such as toilet valves that don't seal and dripping faucets.
- Space out water use throughout the day and week. For example, avoid washing all of your laundry on one day.
- Install water conserving fixtures like low flow shower heads, low flow toilets, and even purchase a frontloading washing machine.

Careful Landscaping

The soil absorption system (or leach field) is the most important part of a septic system, so it is important to protect the area where it was installed by:

- Diverting downspouts and other rainwater drainage away from the soil absorption system area. The extra rainwater can overwhelm the leach field.
- Parking cars, boats, other vehicles, or heavy equipment away from the soil absorption system area. If the soil is compacted, the leach field has difficulty accepting wastewater, causing it to surface in the yard or back-up into the house.
- Keeping pavement, decks, above ground pools, and out buildings off of and away from the soil absorption system area. Construction activity can compact the soil and the structures limit access to the leach field for maintenance.
- Not putting additional soil fill over the soil absorption system area. Increasing the depth of soil over the leach field limits the infiltration of air into the soil needed by the microorganisms to renovate wastewater.

Pump the Septic Tank

Septic tanks allow solids to settle out of sewage and break them down. Over time the accumulated solids take up too much room in the tank which reduces reducing the space in the tank that is available for settling. When this happens, solids start to escape from the tank and which clogs the soil in the soil absorption field. Before this happens, the septic tank should be pumped to remove the solids.

- Don't wait for the system to back-up before you pump your septic tank. Back-ups can be caused by clogging of the soil from sewage solids carried out of an unmaintained septic tank. Once the sewage backs-up, the damage to the leaching field is already done.
- Do not use biological or chemical additive in place of septic tank pumping.
- Pump the tank based on the size of the tank and the number of people using it. The table is a guide for routine septic tank pumping.
- When the tank is pumped, have the baffles inspected. If they are missing or broken, the tank will short circuit and not work properly. Have the baffles replaced with sanitary tees.

Visit the Franklin County Board of Health WWW site at www.franklincountyohio.gov/health

Information in this document was provided by the Ohio State University Extension and written by Karen Mancl, Professor and Water Quality Specialist, Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering and Brian Slater, Assistant Professor and Extension Soil Scientist, School of Natural Resources. Please visit www.online.osu.edu for more info.

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From The Code Enforcement Director

Permit required for sump discharge onto streets

During April, a number of houses known or suspected of sump pump discharge onto township streets received informational flyers from Code Enforcement. This article explains why.

Periods of sub-freezing weather this past winter brought back ice spreads at certain locations where sump effluent flows across the pavement and freezes. These ice spreads are hazardous to motorists and pedestrians and cause damage to the roadways.

For those reasons, the Exterior Property Maintenance Code (EPMC) of Sharon Township prohibits the discharge of sump effluent onto township roadways unless the property owner has procured a permit at the discretion of the township's Road Superintendent.

Clearly, not all sump discharges onto the pavement result in the acute problems caused by a handful. For example, many of the discharges through curb holes appear to be slight overflow that does not go straight down into the storm drain via an underground "tee" near the curb. However, there are a few cases where all sump effluent is apparently discharged directly onto the street through or near the curb.

Please note that, from November 15 through April 15, no direct sump discharge will be permitted onto township streets and alleys. If a permitted discharge causes a problem in the future, the Road Superintendent may revoke the permit. Non-permitted sump discharges may eventually result in a contact from Code Enforcement Staff.

Township residents who know or suspect that their sumps are discharging onto the roadways and who have no permit are encouraged to contact the Road Superintendent 614-885-5933. Because this code requirement may be unfamiliar to many, inquiring residents will be given reasonable time to voluntarily bring their sump discharge systems into code compliance, where deemed necessary.



Public safety and preservation of our roadways are beneficial to all township residents and businesses. The

Township Trustees appreciate all inquiries and cooperation in this matter.

Warm weather code issues

Far and away, the most common (though not the only) warm weather issue is grass and vegetation overgrowth. New Franklin County Public Health (FCPH) regulations no longer apply a “yardstick” limit to grass height. However, adverse effects on the public health from too-long grass may still be considered in code enforcement. In addition, the EPMC looks at grass and vegetation overgrowth as having a blighting effect on the vicinity.

Residents concerned about overgrowth are asked to use a “reasonable person” mind-set, whether approaching an “offending” neighbor or lodging a complaint with Township Code Enforcement. Oftentimes, friendly neighbor-to-neighbor persuasion gets results more quickly and effectively than a call to the Township.

Please note: Properties that end at an alley are responsible for the management of grass and vegetation all the way up to the alley. Thus, anything growing between a property’s rear fence and the pavement must be cut when needed, and the area maintained free of rubbish and debris.

Residents are always welcome to contact the Code Enforcement Director with their questions, concerns and complaints via:

- 614-885-5115 ext. 402
- 614-787-5644 (cell)
- codeenforcement@sharontwp.us (be sure to type the “double-e” in the middle).

The Township Exterior Property Maintenance Code may be read or downloaded online at:

http://www.sharontwp.us/images/pdfs/code_enforcement_final_2-11-2013.pdf

TOWNSHIP MEETING DATES

- June 3, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m.
- June 17, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m.
- July 8, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m.
- No 2nd 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.



Memorial Day Service Invitation

Each year the Worthington American Legion Post 239 hosts one of the largest Memorial Day parades in Ohio. The parade begins at the American Legion Post 239 on Morning Street and ends at Walnut Grove Cemetery. The parade was originally started by the Daughters of the American Revolution and since 1919 has continued to be hosted by the American Legion Post 239. After the parade, everyone is invited to a service that is held in the Cemetery on the Ceremonial Mound in the section of the Cemetery which is called the Circle of Honor.

Each Memorial Day the Cemetery Staff places a flag at each of the 1,334 Veterans graves and is a sight to behold. The Veterans also have a flag holder that is provided by the Veterans Association that denotes the war in which they served or if they served during peace time. There are Veterans from the War of 1812 through the Persian Gulf War represented.

Post 239 organizes a wonderful ceremony each year which includes special music, one of the Worthington High School Band plays, an honor guard performs a 21 gun salute, and bagpipers will end the service with a song.

Major General Mark E. Bartman will be the featured speaker for the Cemetery service this year and is the Adjutant General, Ohio National Guard. He is a member of the Governor’s cabinet and is responsible for the command of the Ohio National Guard and the military readiness of the Ohio Militia.

The Cemetery Trustees and Staff invite you to attend this yearly event to honor all who have served their country and put themselves in harm’s way so that everyone can continue to enjoy their freedom.



SHARON TOWNSHIP
95 E WILSON BRIDGE ROAD
WORTHINGTON OH 43085-2301

From the Fiscal Office

On May 5th, the Sharon Township Hall was a voting location again though there were no township issues on the ballot; one Columbus precinct was hosted. Under Ohio law, any public building that was purchased or built with public money must be a voting location if asked by the County Board of Elections.

Recently, the Board of Trustees approved the Fiscal Office's new Checking Investment System (CIS) with Huntington Bank. Under CIS, money not designated for use will be invested in 6-month certificate of deposits in any U.S. bank on a revolving basis. All investments will have full FDIC protection.

The Fiscal Officer recently attended a meeting at the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWCAO) on the development of the new trash contract between Local Waste and Consortium 2. Sharon Township is a member of Consortium 2, a group of townships, villages and cities that came together to obtain the lowest waste removal costs. The contract will be put out for bid in July 2015.

You'll note a new advertiser in this newsletter is the Ohio Traffic Safety Office (OTSO). OTSO promotes traffic safety throughout Ohio and Chief Schwind recently posted two banners on the outside of the township hall that he received from OTSO.

***We are Proud that you call
Sharon Township, Ohio your
home.
Let's Keep It that way!
Please....***



Stay Alive
don't text & drive

From your friends at Sharon Township and the Ohio