

Sharon Township

A Publication of Sharon Township
Volume 12 No. 2

Second Quarter, 2016

—Township Trustees—

Chair John H. Oberle

Phillip W. Smith

Lindsay S. Duffey

John S. O’Keeffe, Fiscal Officer

News from your Police Department

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN almost every Newsletter. Please read it carefully because we still have residents calling the Administrative Office to speak with a Police Officer.

NEED POLICE ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CALL THE PROPER NUMBER....

The Township Administrative Office often receives phone calls from residents wanting to speak with a police officer to come to their location. The Administrative Assistant does not have the capability to dispatch an officer. If you need the assistance of an officer, call the **Dispatch Center at 614-525-2125**; this is the non-emergency number. If it is an emergency, please call 911.

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 areas of Sharon Township. Please call the Township Administrative Assistant at 614-885-5115 prior to leaving. The information will be written up and provided to the Police Department. Some of the information we would like for you to provide is:

- Date and time leaving and returning
- Vehicles that will be 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 operating
- Persons who may be staying at the house or have access to it
- Animals (pets) maintained at the residence

If you want to contact us about a Vacation House Watch and it is after normal office hours or on the weekend or holiday, please call the Dispatch Center at 614-525-2125 and ask that a cruiser be dispatched to your home, or that they call you, and one of our on-duty constables will respond and record the information.

Constables will physically check your residence at least once per shift, sometimes more often if the

workload permits. Please call us if you plan to be away whether it is two days or several months.

SEE SOMETHING; SAY SOMETHING.... We are all responsible to each other and our communities to keep everyone safe. Many people believe that it is the responsibility of only the police department to keep them and their family safe. In reality it takes all of us working together to provide and maintain a safe environment; the police department and its employees cannot do it alone, no matter how hard we try.



The reason this is brought up is because it has come to the attention of the Police Department that many of our residents are hesitant to call when they see or hear something that may be suspicious. Many of our residents are concerned or embarrassed that they may be ‘putting us out.’ Nothing could be further from the truth; it is our duty, responsibility, and desire to respond to the needs and concerns of our residents and businesses as quickly, efficiently and effectively as possible.

Though we try to be in the neighborhoods as much as possible, it is impossible for us to see everything. We rely upon our residents to tell us immediately when they see or hear something that sounds or looks different or suspicious. Please, do not wait until the next day, next week, or the next time you are outside and see one of our constables. We need to know immediately; please call the Police Dispatcher at 614-525-2125 any time of the day or night.



Partnering with CERP to restore our parkland

The Columbus Ecological Restoration Program's (CERP) mission is to restore native ecosystems in Columbus' parklands; mainly by removing invasive plant species. Our main invasive plant is the Amur bush honeysuckle, which was once planted to control erosion and has spread rapidly, especially near water. It leafs out before other plants and remains green longer, crowding out spring flowers and native trees. Its shiny red berries are attractive to birds but do not provide enough nutrients for cold weather survival.

CERP depends on volunteers – it is a HUGE project. Volunteers are needed both for the scheduled workdays and for continued removal of regrowth (honeysuckle is really hard to kill).

CERP has been working with RKW Blockwatch and FLOW (Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed) for several years to clean up Islandview Park at the end of Westview. After an intense removal of invasive regrowth last summer and fall, we planted about 600 native shrubs and flowers, which are marked with bright colored flags. You will see other areas of progress where native flowers have returned on their own after honeysuckle removal.

For 2016 we have two work days scheduled: Saturday, May 14 and Saturday, September 10. Volunteers can join in any time between 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Karl Hoessle, the city coordinator, will be on hand with gloves, tools and instructions. Volunteers cut honeysuckle and take it to the street where it is chipped up for compost. All ages can help and it is a wonderful project for youth groups that need public service hours, and the results will benefit and improve the area. Please contact Ellie Nowels 614-395-2196 or ellenowels@gmail.com if you have any questions.



MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE AND PARADE

THIS MEMORIAL DAY WILL MARK THE **96TH** YEAR that Leasure-Blackston Post 239 of the American Legion has sponsored the Worthington Memorial Day Service and Parade. The Memorial Day Service is held in Walnut Grove Cemetery located at 5561 Milton Avenue Worthington, Ohio 43085. The Service begins directly following the parade, usually around 11:30 a.m. The Service and Parade information can be found on the Leasure-Blackston Post 239 website at <http://alohio239.org>.

This event has become a premier event in Ohio for honoring the veterans and serving members of the United States armed forces. If you have never attended the Memorial Service at Walnut Grove Cemetery you are missing out on the purpose of the parade. When you enter the Cemetery for the service, make sure you take a good look around, every veteran in Walnut Grove Cemetery has their grave marked with an American Flag, it makes for quite a heartfelt sight. The service lasts for 30 to 45 minutes the Worthington Memorial Day Service and Parade has always been about recognizing all the Men and Women that have served or are serving this great country in the United States Armed Forces. Please join us in honoring all those who have and will continue to provide us with the freedom and rights of this great country.

**Insuring Sharon Township
residents since 1946**

Call Insurance

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

**Call or Email Leanne Daggett or
Sue Willing**

**for a free auto and home
insurance review**

614-846-4120

leanne@callinsurance.com

sue@callinsurance.com

Around the Home - Conservation Ideas

Decrease Water Pollutants Coming from Your Property with these Easy Tips!

The next time it rains, imagine what happens *after* the water hits the ground. Where does it go? Water flowing along streets and parking lots collects dirt, trash, oil, grease, bits of rubber from tires, animal waste, and other pollutants left behind by motor vehicles, people and animals. Water, and the pollutants it carries, makes its way to storm drains along our streets, eventually emptying into our rivers without ever filtering through a water treatment plant. Stormwater pollution can affect both aquatic and land-dwelling wildlife, as well as contaminate our drinking water supplies.

Everyone, in one way or another, contributes to stormwater pollution. You can be part of the solution! **It's up to us!**

Think of these simple tips and tricks that you can use around your home to keep our waterways clean and healthy:

- **Pick up your trash** (this includes your pet and yard waste)
- **Dispose of hazardous waste properly.** Oil, paint, yard chemicals, and other hazardous materials need to follow a protocol to ensure they don't pollute water sources. For more information visit: www.swaco.org/residents/householdhazardwaste.aspx.
- **Wash vehicles in the right place.** You can wash your vehicle at a car wash or on pervious pavement, such as gravel or grass, instead of hard surfaces, like driveways and streets. Soap, along with the residue from your vehicle, contributes to pollution in our waterways.
- **Consider Going Green in Your Yard.** Plant native plants, or install a rain barrel or rain garden to help soak up and infiltrate rain water, decreasing the amount that enters our rivers and streams. For more information visit: www.franklinswcd.org



- **Maintain your HSTS** (home sewage treatment system) if you are not on public sewer. www.myfcph.org/wqs

- **Report water pollution.** For emergency spills call Ohio EPA at [614-224-0946](tel:614-224-0946), for sewage pollution call Franklin County Public Health at 614-525-3965 or online at www.itsacrime.org For all other pollution concerns, including agriculture pollution-related questions, call Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District at 614-486-9613.
- Franklin Soil and Water, along with area partners, continues to promote stormwater education, focusing on rainwater harvesting and infiltration. Keeping rain where it falls and using it as a resource keeps watersheds healthy and safe. The Community Backyards program promotes the use of rain barrels and rain gardens, while introducing residents to backyard conservation practices, including composting, using native plants and trees in landscapes, along with maintaining lawns responsibly.
- The GreenSpot Community Backyards program is available to City of Columbus residents, participating municipalities, and Franklin County residents who register to be a City of Columbus GreenSpot member. Continuing with the \$50 rebate program that began last year being offered on native trees for [eligible residents](#)* as well. The rebate program does re-start each year; residents who participated and received a rebate in 2015 can participate again in 2016 to receive another rebate. For the month of April, unused 2015 vouchers can be mailed in to receive a rebate. After April 30th, only 2016 rebate vouchers will be viable.
- New this year, Franklin Soil and Water has partnered with Scioto Gardens, Rain Brothers, LLC. and City Folk Farm Shop to offer immediate discounts on eligible items purchased at their store. Residents can find native plants at Scioto Gardens, rain barrels at Rain Brothers, and compost bins and native plants at City Folk.
- For questions, please call 614-486-9613 or email Kristin Hilson, Program Coordinator, at khilson@franklinswcd.org. Visit www.greenspotbackyards.org for complete details, including upcoming workshops and the online course and quiz.
**Not all participants will qualify for each rebate. Some restrictions apply. Available rebates are based on residents' tax districts. Be aware that a tax district is not the same as a postal address.*

Worthington Hills Extension of the Olentangy Trail

The City of Columbus Parks and Recreation with assistance from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is working to provide a connection from the current trailhead behind the Olentangy Valley Center with Clubview Boulevard and possibly Highview Drive as well. Benefits would include a safer crossing for residents of Worthington Hills, in addition to providing more bicycle and walking traffic to our businesses in the Olentangy Valley Center.

A stakeholder meeting was held in March to gather information from a variety of users. The comments were used to help create materials and ideas that were presented at a public open house on April 6th. Many township residents were able to attend the open house, view the maps and pictures, and leave comments. The schedule calls for a preferred alternative to be announced in June or July 2016.

We are hopeful to have a link to materials presented at the open house, but it has not been posted yet. We will add the link to our website when the open house materials are online.

.....

Sharon Township Governance Update

The Trustees thought it important to update you on a question that arose during the last Trustee election. It was rumored that some of the leadership of the Township wanted to merge our Township with another township. We wanted to be 100% clear that this is not planned and is not the case. The Township has explored efficiencies and discussed possible opportunities for shared services. What we found is that the Township already does a great job working with other communities on shared services to create cost savings and efficiencies. For example, we work with Worthington jointly on our two cemeteries as well as obtaining fire service from Worthington. Our Road Department shares equipment with other communities such as Perry Township when the need arises. Finally, our Police Department uses the County for police dispatching which has saved costs for the Township. We are proud of these efforts and it is important that the integrity of the Township is maintained to protect the level of service our residents expect.

.....

Flint Road / Lazelle Road Construction

The City of Columbus and the Ohio Department of Transportation (“ODOT”) are working on improvements to Lazelle Road which is part of a very large construction project. This project includes widening and upgrading Lazelle Rd., constructing a roundabout at Lazelle, as well as upgrading accommodations for pedestrians and bicyclists. Most of this construction is not in Sharon Township. However, there is a plan for storm water lines to run along the east side of Flint Road, and then it will cross Flint Road by the Flint Road Cemetery. These Sharon Township improvements may cause issues for our residents and for our cemetery. We are working with the City Columbus and ODOT on this to protect the Township. **We are inviting them to a Township meeting on May 18th at 6:00pm. Please check the Township webpage as we will confirm a public meeting on this at that time.** Please let us know if you have any questions.

.....

Gypsy Moth Spraying Sharon Township South

Once again Sharon Township will be sprayed for Gypsy Moth by the Ohio Department of Agriculture. The following areas: Rosslyn, West Kanawha, Westview, Riverside, Milton, Emerson, and Olentangy Boulevard, in the South part of Sharon Township, will be affected by the spraying that occurs mid-June by air.

There will be only one spraying. Postcards are to be mailed to affected residents about one week prior to the spraying. Signs are to be posted the day of the spraying at the tops of the three streets running East and West at High Street. They will not be spraying with BTK; they will be using the safer pheromone which was used in 2014.

For additional information you can call “The Gypsy Moth hotline”, 1-800-282-1955, option 3, then option 7 or visit their website at: <http://www.agri.ohio.gov/divs/plant/gypsy/gypsy-index.aspx>. Mosquitoes are another summer nuisance and for more information about control and service, check with Franklin County Public Health at 614-525-BITE (2483) or visit www.myfcph.org.

—Phillip W. Smith, Trustee

Columbia Gas of Ohio begins Natural Gas Line Replacement Project in Sharon Township



Columbia Gas of Ohio is beginning a major pipeline improvement project in Sharon Township in April 2016. The company will upgrade nearly four miles of natural gas mainline and 650 customer service lines in the neighborhood with specially designed plastic pipe.

The project includes a number of streets near Rosslyn Avenue and Milton Avenue. Earlier this year, Columbia representatives held information meetings with Township Trustees and customers about the construction process.

Customers will notice preliminary construction work in the neighborhood affected, such as marking the right of way and existing utilities, and the inspection of sewer lines. Next, Columbia Gas employees and contractors will install a new main line followed by new service lines to homes and businesses.

Natural gas meters located on the inside of the home or business and some located on the outside will be relocated, depending on the circumstance. An outdoor meter eliminates the risk of shut off due to access issues, and provides first responders with easy access to the meter during an emergency. This is a safety enhancement and a convenience to our customers. Any meter move out and customer service line replacement will be done at no additional cost to the customer. Columbia Gas will restore all property affected by our construction to the same or better condition, including streets, sidewalks, lawns and driveways.

This work will require a short interruption of natural gas service. Columbia Gas employees and/or contractors will make contact with customers prior to shutting off service and to schedule re-light appointments.

All employees and contractors carry identification cards with their name and photograph, and are happy to

show it. Feel free to speak with Columbia contractors on site or contact External Affairs Specialist Shanelle Hinkle-Moore and (614) 381-2151.

These projects are part of Columbia's 25-year, \$2 billion plan to improve the safety and reliability of our more than 20,000-mile underground natural gas line system.

For more information on the project, visit ColumbiaGasOhio.com/Replacement

....

From the Code Enforcement Director

May thru Sept., 2016

As a supplement to normal operations, the Code Enforcement Director (CED) will be canvassing the township from May through September. The following neighborhoods will each receive approximately a month of special attention devoted to education and outreach:

- **May:** Tremont Gardens (Westview, W. Kanawha, Rosslyn Avenues)
- **June:** Sharon Hills and the Olentangy River Rd. corridor from Bethel Rd. to Wilson Bridge Rd.
- **July:** Mt. Air and Worthington Hills
- **August:** The Flint Rd. and Park Rd. corridors
- **September:** Community Park area: including Hildreth Ave., Home Acre Dr., Maple Canyon Ave. and Community Park Dr.

The purposes of the canvassing are to get acquainted and spread the message that code compliance benefits everyone's property and its value. The CED will knock on doors and discuss questions, issues and concerns with any interested resident. An informational brochure will be handed out or left behind.

Already-open cases will not be affected by this outreach program; they will continue to be processed according to code and policy. *However, during each neighborhood's dedicated month, no new case will be opened in that neighborhood unless a citizen complains about a property and the CED confirms that it is in code violation. No case will be opened based solely on the CED's observations.*

Residents with code-related ideas, complaints or inquiries are encouraged to call Director Mark Higdon at 614-885-5115, ext. 402 (office), or 614-787-5644 (cell). Send emails to codeenforcement@sharontwp.us (be sure to type the double-e). The Exterior Property Maintenance Code can be read or downloaded at www.sharontwp.us. Click on "Township Resolutions," and then on the link to the code.

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

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.

Sharon Township Phone Numbers

Administrative offices -- 614-885-5115
Fiscal Officer -- 614-885-5115, ext. 403
Police Non-Emergency -- 614-525-2125
Worthington Fire Non-Emergency -- 614-885-9555
Police and Fire Emergency -- 911
Road Department -- 614-885-5933

Animal Complaints & Concerns

The Police Department receives many complaints about dogs, and other pets and animals. Unfortunately, we are not equipped to handle most of the complaints. The majority of the complaints concern barking dogs. The most we can do is ask the owner of the pet to try and keep their dog quiet; this usually works for a short period of time.

The best thing to do is to call the Franklin County Department of Animal Control at 614-525-3400. Their purpose is to enforce dog laws in Franklin County and to keep our residents safe from animal-related health or safety dangers. A deputy warden is on duty 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to address your needs and concerns which include:

- Dogs running loose
- Sick or injured stray dogs
- Animal bites
- Enforcement of vicious and dangerous dog laws
- Animal rescue