

Sharon Township

A Publication of Sharon Township
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Third Quarter, 2015

—Township Trustees—

Chair Lori A. Gerald

Vice-Chair Phillip W. Smith

Trustee John H. Oberle

John S. O’Keeffe, Fiscal Officer

614-525-2125

**is the new non-emergency number
for Sharon Township Police Dept.**

From Your Police Department...

The Police Department’s new non-emergency phone number is 614-525-2125.

In the last newsletter we discussed transitioning the Police Department’s dispatching services to the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office beginning August 3rd. Well, the transition went smoothly except for one issue that we and the Sheriff’s Office became aware of on Friday, July 31st. We learned that the non-emergency phone number, 614-885-3777, would not be transferred to the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office by August 3rd. The Sheriff’s Office offered the Township a separate phone line within their telephone communications system without any additional charge to the Township.

The decision was made to accept their offer. With the help of Fiscal Officer John O’Keeffe, Administrative Assistant Sharon Lee, and employees of the Police Department, a very brief message was put together, printed onto postcards, and mailed to every resident and business in Sharon Township. The postcards were mailed out Friday afternoon; we understand that most of our residents received the card the following Monday. The Sheriff’s main number, 614-525-3333, was used as a temporary non-emergency number for Sharon Township until our new number could be recorded and activated. The new number became active on August 19th; it is 614-525-2125. ***Please make sure to delete / erase the old number of 614-885-3777 from any contact list you may have and add the new non-emergency number of 614-525-2125.*** This will ring into the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office Communications Center; the person answering the phone will answer “Sharon Township.” All of the other Sharon Township phone numbers remain the same.

A second postcard was sent to all of our residents and businesses advising those with alarm systems to contact their alarm companies and have them change the old 614-885-3777 number to the new number; 614-525-2125.

We want our residents to know that another reason for deciding to change the non-emergency phone number is because it saved you, the tax payer, money. It was going to cost the Township several hundred dollars to pay the three vendors involved in transferring the 614-885-3777 to the Sheriff’s Office; we were not provided with an exact cost. By accepting the new number, we saved whatever that amount was going to be. We were paying an average of \$82.00 a month to AT&T for the use of 614-885-3777. The 614-525-2125 is provided to us at no cost and we do not pay a monthly rate. This saves the Police Department about \$1,000.00 a year. If you remember from the last newsletter, we informed you that the reason we were moving our dispatching service to the Sheriff’s Office is because the Police Department was saving several thousand dollars a year. For the remainder of 2015 we will not realize much of a savings. Starting in 2016 we will see a significant cost savings for dispatching services. How much? The Department should realize a savings of at least \$8,500.00 a year; possibly more.

Vacation House Watch...

If you want us to watch your home while you are away, there are two ways to get the information to us. We prefer that you call the Township Administrative Office at 614-885-5115, push #1 to be transferred to the Police Department; the person answering the phone, usually Administrative Assistant Sharon Lee, will record your information. ***Please call Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.*** A second means of recording a vacation house watch is to speak directly with a constable. When you see a constable patrolling your neighborhood, stop and ask

them to record the information. They will ensure that the information is properly filed. Or you can call 614-525-2125 and ask that a constable come to your home. **Please, do not send your information to the Police Department E-mail.** All e-mail systems are susceptible to hackers, including the Township. Never send personal information through an e-mail. Another reason is because the Department's e-mail is not checked every day; we could easily miss your request.

School Days Are Here...

By the time you read this newsletter most schools in the area will be open. Please be careful and watch out for school busses loading and unloading children of all ages. This past spring we received several complaints of drivers passing stopped school busses while they load and unload. Most of the complaints came in from the Mt. Air and Worthington Hills areas. We realize that most likely it is not our residents passing the schools busses illegally; it is those persons passing through. If you see this happening on a regular basis, please let us know. If you can record the license number of the offending vehicle, provide us with the information conduct a follow-up investigation. This does not mean charges will be filed, but at the very least the owner will be advised not to allow it to occur again.

Thank You from Police Department Personnel...

All of us at the Police Department want to thank all of you for cooperating with the parking regulations. The Police Department has constantly remained neutral throughout the process of all the meetings and decision making. However, once a law is passed, it is our responsibility to enforce it. We attempted to be as compassionate as possible in the first thirty (30) days of the regulation taking affect by issuing written warnings. Very few actual parking violations have been written since enforcement has started. That is what we want to thank everyone for; our sworn personnel really do not like issuing tickets to our residents. Please keep minding the parking regulations.

Sharon Township Police Department and the National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day...

On Saturday, September 26th, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., your Police Department is taking part in the 10th National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. The misuse and abuse of prescription drugs in all neighborhoods is a problem that is on the rise, especially with our children. Many Americans are not aware that medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are at alarming rates, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that many abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, many Americans do not know how to properly dispose of their unused medicine, often flushing them down the toilet or throwing them away – both potential safety and health hazards.

We, along with other local law enforcement agencies, were invited by SWACO, in partnership with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), to participate in the prescription drug take-back program. Our collection point will be in the front driveway of our building at 95 E. Wilson Bridge Road. Please bring your unwanted, unneeded, or expired prescription drugs and turn them in. **Bring pills only; WE CANNOT ACCEPT LIQUID MEDICATIONS, SYRINGES, OR NEEDLES.** After collection, SWACO will dispose of the prescription drugs in a safe manner.



National Prescription Drug Take-Back event is Saturday, September 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Sharon Township Police Department and Administrative Building, 95 E. Wilson Bridge Road, Worthington.

Block Watch

The RKW Block Watch would like to remind the Tremont Garden neighbors that the speed limit is 25 mph on our streets. We have a lot of walkers, runners, and children on our streets so please be mindful of them while traveling through the neighborhood.

The Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP) has been completed and was presented to the Trustees at the July 8th meeting. The document can be edited so it can be adopted by other areas of the Township. We hope to have copies to all residents of Tremont Gardens as well as posted on the Township's website. Thank you to all of the Block Watch members who participated in preparing this document.

Remember: SEE SOMETHING,
SAY SOMETHING,
CALL THE POLICE!

**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**

No Parking in Sharon Township

On April 15, 2015 The Sharon Township Board of Trustees passed a No Parking Resolution for several areas of Sharon Township. The full Resolution can be viewed on line at www.sharontwp.us . Look under the RESOLUTIONS TAB then click on PARKING REGULATIONS RESOLUTION.

Parking regulations for West Kanawha Avenue and Rosslyn Avenue will vary during leaf pickup season to allow for leaf pickup on both sides of the streets, as follows.

ROSSLYN AVENUE: Starting October 15th and ending on December 15th there will be NO PARKING on the south side of the street on Tuesdays from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. During that time period signs will be added to the north side of the Street allowing parking on Tuesdays from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

WEST KANAWHA AVENUE: Starting October 15th and ending on December 15th there will be NO PARKING on the north side of the street on Tuesdays from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. During that time period signs will be added to the south side of the Street allowing parking on Tuesdays from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Last year this was done twice each week, however the Road Department found with all the vehicles moved out of the way they were able to finish both of these streets in one day. The Township understands this may be an inconvenience for residents during this time period and would like to thank you for your cooperation.

Leaf Pickup Program 2015

Leaf pickup will begin the 3rd week of October as always, the date this year is the 19th **PLEASE DON'T POLLUTE OUR RIVERS AND STREAMS BY PLACING YOUR LEAVES IN THE ROADWAY.** . The Road Department will attempt to pick up leaves in all areas each week. Once the truck has gone by your residence it will not be back until the following week. The only streets that have a designated pick up day are the South side of Rosslyn Avenue and the North side of West Kanawha Avenue. This is due to the parking restrictions on these street leaves will be picked up on Tuesdays. Day and frequency of pick will vary depending on volume of leaves to pick up, weather conditions, or any mechanical problems with equipment. The crew normally starts out in the Tremont Gardens area on Mondays then moves to the Sharon Hills area, then to the Flint area, then to the Worthington Hills and Mt. Air Area and then to Home Acre Dr. and Hildreth Ave. Residents on Snouffer Rd. need to call to schedule for pickup If you have any questions contact the Road Department at 614 885-5933. Leaf pick up ends on November 30.



If You Drink

There are options to keep you safe.

Please select a designated driver!

*A message from your friends at Sharon Township
and the Ohio Traffic Safety Office*

Water Advisories—Helping to Protect Ohio's Waterways from Our Own Backyards

While the current nutrient-related water pollution incidents in the news leave challenges for policy makers, there are things we can do at home to reduce nutrient pollution in our streams. We know nutrients can be beneficial to plant growth; elevated nutrients that wash off the land and in our streams can pose a threat to human health. Elevated concentrations of nitrates present a health risk to both infants and women who are pregnant. This spring nitrate levels were identified in drinking water coming from the Columbus Dublin Road water plant, resulting in a water advisory.

Elevated levels of soluble phosphorus can also pose a risk. Harmful algae blooms caused by elevated phosphorus levels produce toxins that can be harmful to humans and pets. As families take to the beaches for summer break, there continues to be concerns about toxic algae in lakes across Ohio. Fertilizers, animal waste, and sewage are major sources of nutrient pollution in our streams. Other sources include atmospheric deposition of automobile exhaust, soil erosion, yard waste, and detergents.



There are many actions residents and homeowners can take to reduce nutrient pollution in our local streams.

1. If you have a household sewage treatment system (septic system or aerator), make sure that it is functioning properly.

2. If you fertilize your lawn, read the labels and do your research to ensure proper application and timing. Sweep up any fertilizer from sidewalks, driveways, streets and other hard surfaces, so that it doesn't wash into storm drains.

3. Keep lawn and yard waste (raked leaves, yard clippings, etc.) out of the street and backyard streams. Remember, storm drains discharge directly to our streams.

4. Pick up pet waste and dispose of it properly.

5. Wash your car in an area where the wash and rinse water drains to a grassy area and not the street, or wash it at a commercial car wash.

6. Install practices that infiltrate rain water into the ground such as rain barrels and cisterns that store water that can be reused and rain gardens that can store and infiltrate water from our rooftops.

7. Maintain your vehicles' pollution control devices. These devices reduce the nitrogen compounds that are released into the air and then return to the ground in the form of rain as nutrients.

We all contribute to water pollution and we can reduce this pollution by practicing good stewardship at home.



Local Waste Senior Citizen Discount

A recent review of the Local Waste contract led to discussions resulting in a change to the Senior Citizen Discount Program. Effective September 1, 2015, all Sharon Township residents who are 62 years or older are eligible for the discount. Previously, the age limit was 65 and above.

For those township residents who are 62 years old or older, please contact Local Waste directly and follow their instructions on updating your account information so the Senior Citizen Discount can be applied to your future billings. The phone number for Local Waste Service is 614-409-9375.

– Lori Gerald, Trustee

From the Code Enforcement Director

Summertime, and the livin' ain't always easy

The good news is that, thanks to an overabundance of rain this year, "green season" lasted well into August. But that also put conscientious residents behind their mowers and weed whackers more frequently than usual. Thanks to all of them for their extra efforts! They're a great example to others, such as the Code Enforcement Director, who aren't always rarin' to fire up the lawn equipment. Keeping the grass cut and the weeds at bay is the neighborly thing to do. And there are still a few months left in 2015 to do it.

Sump discharges into the streets

The Second Quarter Sharon Township newsletter discussed this issue. Direct discharge of sump water through the curb into the roadway is a potential code violation. More important is that these sump discharges can cause acute problems, particularly winter-time road icing and damage. Code Enforcement and the Road Department have reached out to property owners this year in order to prevent such hazards during the coming winter. Hats off to all residents who are working on the issue! The goal is to keep township streets safe and undamaged. Please call either the Road Department (885-5933) or Code Enforcement (885-5115 ext. 402 or 787-5644-cell) with any related questions or concerns.

Household hazardous waste disposal

As good as Local Waste's (409-9375) service is for township residents and businesses, the trucks will not pick up certain things, as a matter of law and/or safety. However, the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) offers opportunities for proper disposal of problem materials and objects. Read all about it at www.swaco.org. The upper-right corner of the home page includes links to detailed information about what can and cannot be picked up at the curb, along with locations and procedures for the proper disposal of household hazardous waste. Look there for recycling information, too. Remember: for the safety of yourselves, your neighbors (children, especially!) and pets, keep hazardous materials away from the curb and dispose of them properly. And please have trash containers at the curb for the shortest time possible each week.

The Exterior Property Maintenance Code (EPMC) may be read or downloaded at www.sharontwp.us. Click on "Township Resolutions," and then on the link to the code. Code Enforcement Director Mark Higdon can be reached by email at codeenforcement@sharontwp.us (be sure to type the "double-e" in the middle).

– Mark F. Higdon



Sharon Township Fiscal Office News



Recently the Auditor of State (AOS) awarded the audit of Sharon Township for the four-year period of 2013 through 2016 to the accounting firm, Julian & Grube. The audit of the fiscal years 2013 and 2014 is expected to begin in the near future.

Boy Scout Troop 862 recently completed the mulching of the township hall grounds. The work was part of a project led by Eagle Scout Nathan Hull. In order to pay for the mulch, the Boy Scouts had a car wash event at the Dairy Queen in Worthington and raised over \$300 from the event plus they received a generous donation from township resident Robert Shough.

The Fiscal Office is in the process of identifying old accounting records, some going back to the 1980s for destruction in accordance with the township Records Retention Schedule. Both the Ohio Historical Society and Ohio Auditor of State recently approved Sharon Township's updated Records Retention Schedule. Documents such as personnel-related are retained for 40 years as required by the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System, while minutes and resolutions are permanent records. Most accounting records can be destroyed after they are five years of age, provided they have been audited by the Ohio Auditor of State.

—John S. O’Keeffe, Fiscal Officer

SWACO Recycle Drop-Off Locations

Sharon Woods Metro Park
6911 Cleveland Avenue 43229

Northgate Center
6655 Sharon Woods 43229

Beechcroft High School
6100 Beechcroft Rd. 43229

Worthington Community Center
374 Highland Avenue 43085

Worthington No. 2
48 E. New England Ave. 43085

Fire Station 27
7560 Smokey Row Road 43235

Bill McDonald Athletic Complex
4900 Olentangy River Road 43214

Indianola Plaza
3600 Indianola Avenue 43214

Indian Springs Elementary School
50 E. Henderson Road 43214

Charity Newsies
4300 Indianola Ave. 43214

SHARED SERVICES MEETING

On Tuesday August 25th, the Board of Trustees of Perry and Sharon Townships, Fiscal Officer and their department heads met to discuss Shared Services.

The department heads spoke on what is currently being done by their departments to save taxpayer money and there was a brief discussion of the Franklin County Mutual Aid Agreement that covers police departments. It is expected that there will be additional discussion between the two townships on ways to be even more efficient in providing services to township residents.

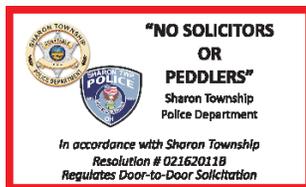
The Board of Trustees in a July letter to township staff and to the Tuesday night audience indicated there were no plans or support for the merging of the two townships.

Election Day will be here soon

- a) No political sign shall be posted in any place or in any manner that is destructive to public property upon posting or removal.
- b) No political sign shall be posted in a public right-of-way nor shall any such sign be posted on a utility pole.
- c) Candidates for public office, their campaign committees, or other persons responsible for the posting of campaign material on public property are responsible for removing those campaign materials following the election.



SHARON TOWNSHIP
95 E WILSON BRIDGE ROAD
WORTHINGTON OH 43085



No Solicitation Stickers

You can obtain a sticker from a Sharon Township Constable or at the Township Administration Building, 95 E. Wilson Bridge Road, Worthington OH.

Shout Out

Special thanks goes to Mark Krausz of the Sharon Hills Civic Association for his help in reducing newsletter postage cost. Mark will receive the newsletter directly from the township then forward the document onto the civic association members. Thirty-six newsletters will not be mailed now, saving \$17.64 in postage cost.

If there are other civic associations that would do the same in protecting their members' privacy and saving taxpayer money, then contact the Fiscal Officer.

– John S. O’Keeffe, Fiscal Officer

ALERT Franklin County

Recently, the Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security (FCEM&HS) agency created **ALERT Franklin County**, a state-of-the-art mass notification and warning system designed to alert residents about emergencies and other important community news in all jurisdictions within Franklin County.

ALERT Franklin County provides important information directly to you via text message, email, cell phone, home phone, or work phone. Text message is the fastest way to receive notifications.

ALERT Franklin County is customizable and allows residents to choose what kind of community notifications they want to receive, how and the device where they want to receive them.

You can go to the **ALERT Franklin County** web site www.alertfranklincounty.org and sign up for the free service.

