

Sharon Township

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—Township Trustees—

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John S. O’Keeffe, Fiscal Officer

Township Trustees and Staff Successfully Advocating for Our Residents!

By John H. Oberle, Chair

We are pleased to report that the Township has had great success recently on issues important to our residents and we appreciate the partnership with other communities to find the solutions — here is a brief update:

- **No new storm water line and no trees to be cut down on Flint Road-** As we have previously reported, 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. There was a plan for storm water lines to run along the east side of Flint Road and then cross Flint Road by the Flint Road Cemetery which included cutting down trees. The Township worked with the City of Columbus to find alternative plans which do not impact our residents.

Development on 7967 Friend Street Stopped- The residents near Flint Road brought to our attention a proposed apartment complex to be built on Friend Street. which did not fit into the neighborhood. The Trustees and our Code Enforcement officer have been working to stop the proposed development. The application for rezoning has been voted down by the local area commission and the Columbus Development Commission unanimously. The Developer now is not pursuing the project.

- **Olentangy Bike Path Near Worthington Hills-** The City of Columbus was working on a proposed extension of the bike path which could have gone past the Hills Market at the Olentangy Valley Center. Our residents and the Townships worked to ensure the path will only link to Clubview Boulevard where there is proper signalization and safety measures.

Township Survey

The Board of Trustees and senior staff of Sharon Township are interested in getting responses from our residents on several issues to seek input on our services so we can provide the best services to our residents. The Trustees will be going door to door in October to deliver these surveys and we appreciate your time on responses to them.

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Technology Update

By Lindsay S. Duffey

The Technology Committee has been hard at work creating the new township website. We are excited to share the updates soon. We have made many changes, including making it easier to view on tablets and mobile devices. Look for it to be live by the first of the year.

Olentangy Trail update – Antrim to Bethel

Columbus Recreation and Parks recently held an open house to share plans to improve the Olentangy Trail between Antrim Park and Bethel Rd. Additionally, it will provide trail access from Bethel Road Corridor to the Olentangy Trail. The project is scheduled for construction in 2019. Township Officials will continue to work with Columbus Recreation and Parks on this project.

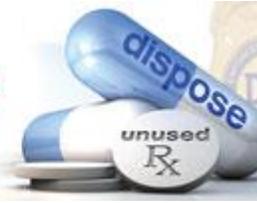
Be A Good Neighbor

If you have access to a driveway, please use it as you are able, as a courtesy to residents who do not. Thank you for your consideration.

Aqua Ohio Franklin County District Fire Hydrant Flushing Schedule-Fall 2016

Worthington Hills Perry & Sharon Twp.
Worthington Hills Water Service Area
October 27, 2016

Got Drugs?



NATIONAL DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY....

The Sharon Township Police Department will again take part in the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) National Drug Take Back Initiative. The event will be held on Saturday, October 22nd, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We cannot take any prescription drugs prior to or after that date and time.

What will we collect? We will collect pills only.

*What we **CANNOT** collect?* We cannot collect liquids, needles, patches, inhalers, or anything other than pills.

News from Your Police Department

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, please call the Dispatch Center at 614-525-2125; this is the non-emergency number. If it is an emergency, please call 911.

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.

FLOODS AND OTHER STORM-RELATED INCIDENTS....

On June 23 of this year homes of some of our residents who live on or near the Olentangy River were flooded when the river overflowed its bank. During the early morning hours of that day a large amount of rain fell in a short period of time in Southern Delaware County and Northern Franklin County. Most of our residents did not receive the alert that went out for all of Central Ohio at about 4:30 a.m.; it did not forecast possible flooding for any certain area. Nor did it warn of any flash flooding. There is speculation that runoff water south of the City of Delaware and immediately north of Mt. Air caused the flash flooding that allowed the water to rise out of the banks.

A special Board of Trustee meeting was held on July 27th to discuss what had occurred, how the Township responds, and what our residents can do in the future to help themselves and their neighbors should such an incident occur again. Interim Director for the Franklin County Emergency Management Agency, Darrel Koerber, attended along with two co-workers. Among the topics they discussed were the type of warnings their agency provides in addition to those issued by the National Weather Service.

Franklin County's Mass Notification and Warning System is called 'ALERT Franklin County'. It is 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. The system 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.

The Board of Trustees encourages all of our residents to register for ALERT Franklin County. Sign up today at www.alertfranklincounty.org.

Director Koerber and his staff explained that on the morning of June 23, starting at about 6:00 a.m., our residents were subjected to a "flash flood" with a "flood." As mentioned above, the National Weather Service had issued a flood alert. What they did not do was issue any warning of a flash flood. You may be

asking, what is the difference between the two. The National Weather Service definition is:

Flood: An overflow of water onto normally dry land. The inundation of a normally dry area caused by rising water in an existing waterway, such as a river, stream, or drainage ditch. Ponding of water at or near the point where the rain fell. Flooding is a longer term event than flash flooding: it may last days or weeks.

Flash flood: A flood caused by heavy or excessive rainfall in a short period of time, generally less than six hours. Flash floods are usually characterized by raging torrents after heavy rains that rip through river beds, urban streets, or mountain canyons sweeping everything before them. They can occur within minutes or a few hours of excessive rainfall. They can also occur even if no rain has fallen, for instance after a levee or dam has failed, or after a sudden release of water by a debris or ice jam.

The National Weather Service issues two types of flood alerts; they are (1) **Flood Watch**; and (2) **Flood Warning**:

Flood Watch = “Be Aware.” Conditions are right for flooding to occur in your area.

Steps to Take

- Turn on your TV/radio. You will receive the latest weather updates and emergency instructions.
- Know where to go. You may need to reach higher ground quickly and on foot.
- Build or restock your emergency preparedness kit. Include a flashlight, batteries, cash, and first aid supplies.

Prepare Your Home

- Bring in outdoor furniture and move important indoor items to the highest possible floor. This will help protect them from flood damage.
- Disconnect electrical appliances and do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water. You could be electrocuted.
- If instructed, turn off your gas and electricity at the main switch or valve. This helps prevent fires and explosions.



Flood Warning = "Take Action!"

Flooding is either happening or will happen shortly.

Steps to Take

- Move immediately to higher ground or stay on high ground.
- Evacuate if directed.
- Avoid walking or driving through flood waters. Turn Around, Don't Drown! Just six inches of

moving water can knock you down and two feet of water can sweep your vehicle away.

What is the Police Department's policy during periods of heavy rain and flooding?

During periods of heavy rain, our on-duty personnel constantly check the Olentangy River at three locations looking for signs of possible flooding; Mt. Air, Olentangy Park fishing access (Worthington), and Tremont Gardens. The Mt. Air area is where flood waters will most likely arrive first. Once the water has overflowed the river bank, and it appears that it will continue to rise, our personnel will either go door-to-door alerting residents and/or use the public address system on the cruisers. In most instances we cannot force people to evacuate. We can legally prevent anyone from entering the flooded area.

FIRE PIT/OPEN BURNING LAWS....

Every year the Police Department receives requests about open burning; the calls usually increase during the fall season. The State of Ohio has very strict laws for restricting open burning. Open burning in Ohio is regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Violation of the law can result in substantial penalties. To view the laws, we encourage everyone to go to two different Websites where the laws and restrictions are explained in great detail. Those websites are:

- www.epa.ohio.gov/dapc/general/openburning.aspx
- <http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/3745>. (Section 3745-19-03 is specific to open burning in restricted areas such as Sharon Township.)

We have printed portions of the applicable section of the Ohio Administrative Code that regulates open burning. Sharon Township is considered a restricted area because we lie within the boundaries, or within 1,000 feet, of several municipalities.

3745-19-03 Open burning in restricted areas.

(A) No person or property owner shall cause or allow open burning in a restricted area except as provided in paragraphs (B) to (D) of this rule or in section [3704.11](#) of the Revised Code.

(B) Open burning shall be allowed for the following purposes without notification to or permission from the Ohio EPA:

(2) Bonfires, campfires and outdoor fireplace equipment, whether for cooking food for human consumption, pleasure, religious, ceremonial, warmth, recreational, or similar purposes, if the following conditions are met:

(a) They are fueled with clean seasoned firewood, natural gas or equivalent, or any clean burning fuel with emissions that are equivalent to or lower than those created from the burning of seasoned firewood;

(b) They are not used for waste disposal purposes; and

(c) They shall have a total fuel area of three feet or less in diameter and two feet or less in height.

(C) Open burning shall be allowed for the following purposes with prior notification to the Ohio EPA in accordance with paragraph (B) of rule [3745-19-05](#) of the Administrative Code:

(1) Prevention or control of disease or pests, with written or oral verification to the Ohio EPA from the Ohio department of health or local health department, the centers for disease control and prevention, cooperative extension service, Ohio department of agriculture, or United States department of agriculture, that open burning is the only appropriate disposal method.

(2) Bonfires or campfires used for ceremonial purposes that do not meet the requirements of paragraph (B) (2) of this rule, provided the following conditions are met:

(a) They have a total fuel area no greater than five feet in diameter by five feet in height and burn no longer than three hours;

(b) They are not used for waste disposal purposes; and

(c) They are fueled with clean seasoned firewood, natural gas or equivalent, or any clean burning fuel with emissions that are equivalent to or lower than those created from the burning of seasoned firewood.



LEAF PICKUP:

The Sharon Township Road Department will be picking up leaves again this year -- **October 17th through November 30th.**

PLEASE! ! ! REMEMBER TO USE THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES – THIS WILL HELP TO ENSURE A PROMPT AND SAFE LEAF SEASON

- No foreign materials such as brush, twigs, grass clippings, mulch, or flower bed debris. Collections are done using a vacuum machine, and these materials cause equipment failure and pick-up delays.

RAKE LEAVES TO THE CURB OR ROAD EDGE, PLEASE NOT INTO THE STREET!

- Cars parked over dry leaves in the street may cause fires.
- Wet leaves are difficult to collect and cause storm sewer backups.
- The Township Road Department will try to pick-up leaves in all areas once each week. The days your leaves are picked-up will vary depending on the weather conditions and volume of leaves to be picked up. Leaves should be ready for pickup on Monday.

BAGGED LEAVES:

If you prefer to bag your leaves they should be put in biodegradable bags available at most hardware and grocery stores. Bagged leaves will be picked up with your garbage. **PLEASE USE THIS METHOD TO DISPOSE OF ALL OTHER YARD WASTE.**

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!

Rain Gardens, Rain Gardens, Rain Gardens

By installing a rain garden on your property, you can make an important contribution to protecting a local stream. Stormwater is the major source of pollutants in urban areas. This runoff from hard surfaces carries pollution to our streams and causes erosion in those streams, compounding the problems our streams face. Most of the streams in the county receive more water from hard surfaces than they can handle and remain healthy. We need to find ways to allow this runoff to infiltrate into the ground. In many residential neighborhoods, rain gardens provide the only options for helping this happen.

Rain gardens can be planted with native plants, providing valuable food and habitat for our local butterflies, birds, and other pollinators. They can also be planted with a single tree, one or more shrubs, or even turfgrass. Research on turfgrass indicates that it is not as effective in infiltrating water as are other plants, it will work and is better than nothing. For more information on rain gardens, go directly to: <http://www.franklinswcd.org/programs-and-services/backyard-assistance/rain-gardens-2/>.

What is GET GRASSY?

Why Get Grassy? How you treat your lawn matters for water quality in central Ohio! Healthy lawns have deeper root systems, drought and disease tolerance, and are better for water quality because they absorb more rainfall.

The City of Columbus, Franklin Soil and Water, and local lawn care companies have partnered to encourage our residents to do their part for water quality by caring for their lawn properly. Read more at www.getgrassy.org and take the pledge to receive a free gift.

Tips for lawn care:

- Visit www.greenspotbackyards.org for a complete list of workshops (registration details), program information (including rebate eligibility), and the online course and quiz. For participating municipalities, residents can receive rebates for rain barrels, compost bins, and native plants. New this year, to help with the City of Columbus' Branch Out campaign, eligible residents in participating municipalities can also choose to receive their rebate toward a tree!
- Questions? Call 614-486-9613 or email Kristin Hilson, Program Coordinator, at khilson@franklinswcd.org.

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Exterior Property Maintenance Code

by Mark Higdon, Director

Canvassing

I have been walking township neighborhoods for several months, knocking on doors and meeting our residents where they live. Each property has received a brochure that tells what the code is about, why we have it and how code compliance benefits everyone. The canvassing has been a positive experience and a pleasure to do. My thanks to all residents who took time to chat with me, especially to those who offered cold water during our +90° days!

Issues

Junk motor vehicles have become a repeated concern. Out in the open, junk cars contribute to blight and pose possible safety hazards. The Township is authorized by law to regulate and, in extreme cases, to remove such vehicles from private property. The best way to avoid neighbors' complaints and unwanted attention is to not have such vehicles on your property. The second best way is to conceal an inoperable vehicle (only one per property) inside an accessory building or behind an opaque 6'-high fence: per Franklin County zoning regulations.

As always...

Residents with code-related ideas, complaints or inquiries are encouraged to call me at 614-885-5115, ext. 402 (office), or 614-787-5644 (cell). Email to codeenforcement@sharontwp.us. The Code can be read or downloaded at www.sharontwp.us. Click on "Township Resolutions" and then on the link to the code.

**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



TRICK OR TREAT....

By Phillip Smith

Trick or Treat (Beggars) Night will be held on Halloween, Monday October 31st, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This is the same evening that most, if not all, of the jurisdictions in Franklin County are holding theirs.

All of us at Sharon Township want all of the children and adults taking part in Trick or Treat to have a fun and safe evening. **Please follow these Halloween safety tips:**

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

- Adults should accompany young children and older kids should travel in groups.
- Children should wear light colored clothing short enough to prevent tripping. Adding reflective tape to costumes and outer garments will increase visibility.
- Carry and use flashlights or glow sticks after dark.
- Visit homes you know and stay within your neighborhood. Together with your child, map out a safe route so you know where they will be.
- Remind children not to take short cuts through backyards, alleys or fields.
- Remind children never to enter a stranger's house or vehicle.
- Encourage neighborhood block watches and citizens' groups to patrol the neighborhood.
- Drive slowly and schedule trips so as to avoid the times of heavy pedestrian traffic.
- Discourage children from eating their treats until they get home.
- Closely check all treats at home in a well-lit place. Remove all opened candies or treats not in their original wrappers. Inspect all fruit and homemade goodies.
- Report any suspicious or criminal activity to the police immediately by calling 614-525-2125.



**An act that takes just two seconds
can change your life**

A Message from Your friends at Sharon Township and
the Ohio Traffic Safety Office