

Sharon Township

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First Quarter, 2018

—Township Trustees—

Chair Laura A. Kunze

Vice-Chair Lindsay S. Duffey

John H. Oberle

John S. O’Keeffe, Fiscal Officer

Sharon Township Board of Trustees

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Code Enforcement Director

Mark Higdon
614-787-5644

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Board of Trustees Regular Meetings

@ 6:30 p.m.
February 7 & 21
March 7 & 21
April 4 & 18

*Check website for updates
and more information*

www.sharontwp.us

Introducing new Trustee, Laura Kunze

Hello fellow Sharon Township residents. I am so excited to jump into my new role and serve the township. I live in Mount Air, one of the unincorporated areas.

I have been active in my local community as Treasurer and currently Chairman of the Mount Air Improvement Corp. My background is in business operations and strategy, real estate, and healthcare.

I have over 17 years of experience managing and consulting with businesses, from strategic planning to implementation and continuous process improvement.

My professional and personal interests over the years include networking and outreach, environmental stewardship, social causes, health, community activities, natural gardening, and animal rescue.

I am interested in learning more about the different areas of the township and what needs they have. During the campaign I was really impressed with the diversity of neighborhoods and the "sense of place" that each area has.

Meeting the needs of each area while maintaining a sense of cohesiveness of the entire township is a priority. I will be liaison to the STAR Board and am interested in expanding our efforts to engage residents

proactively to continue to improve our neighborhoods.

I love Sharon Township and want to work to maintain and grow our resources.

I would like to be available and accessible to residents and neighborhood associations. Please be sure to contact the office or my email lakunze@sharontwp.us if you would like to reach me directly. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible!

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FROM YOUR POLICE DEPARTMENT

THANK YOU...This is the first Township Newsletter to be published since before the November election. All of the members of the Police Department want to thank our residents for their overwhelming support on Election Day. Seventy percent of those who voted decided in favor of the Levy. This allows the Department to operate at its authorized strength, and to continue offering the same quality service that our residents currently enjoy.

AGAIN, THANK YOU

FIREHOUSE SUBS' PUBLIC SAFETY FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANT TO SHARON TOWNSHIP POLICE

DEPARTMENT...The Sharon Township Police Department, with support from Belle Restaurant Group, our local

Firehouse Subs franchise located at 6454 Sawmill Rd. Columbus, Ohio 43235, submitted a Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation grant request for three Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). The Department is honored that Foundation approved that request. One of the AEDs will be assigned to patrol officers to supplement one that the Department currently has in operation. The other two will be strategically placed within the Sharon Township Police Department and Administrative building to be used not only by other Township employees, but by the general public as well.

In 2005, the Firehouse Subs founders established the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation with the mission of providing funding, life-saving equipment, and educational opportunities to first-responders and public safety organizations. Through the non-profit 501(c)(3), Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation has granted **more than \$31 million to hometown heroes in 46 states, Puerto Rico and Canada, including more than \$1.5 million in Ohio.**

When you visit a Firehouse Subs restaurant, please thank them for their support of all first responding agencies, and for helping us to help save lives.

All of us at the Sharon Township Police Department support the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation.

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.

KEEPING YOU SAFE AND THE CRIME RATE LOW...The Sharon Township crime rate remains much lower than other areas of Franklin County and Columbus. Most of our neighborhoods are surrounded by Columbus neighborhoods that are experiencing an increase in criminal activity. We at the Sharon Township Police Department believe that our almost constant presence in your neighborhood is one of the primary reasons we have not seen an increase in criminal activity. Another important factor for the low crime rate is all of you, the people who live in the Township. We need all of you to help us. We cannot be everywhere all the time.

Statistics show that many crimes go unreported. The only way your police department knows that a criminal incident has occurred is by reporting it to us. We often hear that someone's vehicle was rummaged through and items stolen, yet that person failed to call the Department and report it. Other times a resident on their way to work will flag a constable down and

inform them that they had something stolen from their vehicle but do not have time to file a report because they will be late for work. The person is usually advised to call when they return home that evening so a report could be taken. However, the person more often than not, does not call; consequently, there is no record on file of a crime occurring. If you have been a victim of any crime, regardless of how minor you may think it is, please call 614-525-2125 and ask that a constable be dispatched to your home so a report can be filed.

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.

WANT TO KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?...Within the first two weeks of each month, we post on the Website the crime and traffic report from the previous month. The report is broken down by neighborhoods. You will be able to read what type of activity has been reported where you live. We do not post specific addresses or names. By the end of January of each year, we post the previous years Activity Reports. Just go to 'Police Statistics' on the Police Department page of www.sharontwp.us.

NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY IS SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2018.... For those who have prescription drugs to dispose of, you will be able to on this date. More information will be available as the date gets closer. Look for an announcement www.sharontwp.us and on the Township Facebook Page.



COLUMBUS HUMANE and FRANKLIN COUNTY ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL

Who do you call if you have a complaint about animal cruelty? What about vicious or dangerous dogs?

COLUMBUS HUMANE

Let's answer the first question. The Capital Area Humane Society is now Columbus Humane. They are the lead enforcement agency in Franklin County for investigating reports of animal cruelty, abuse, and neglect. Personnel are available 365 days a year to investigate the complaints, and to educate members of the community of the proper care and treatment of animals.

Anyone can call to report what they suspect is a case of cruelty, abuse, and neglect. Columbus Humane receives calls from concerned citizens, social services, health departments, and other law enforcement agencies.

Columbus Humane does not pick up stray dogs, dogs running loose; for this type of complaint call Franklin County Animal Care & Control.

Columbus Humane does not pick up stray cats and kittens. There is no agency in Central Ohio that provides this service. They will accept stray cats and kittens (*not wild/feral*) that are candidates for adoption.

How to file a report:

Please call 614-777-7387, ext. 250 to leave a voice mail. This service is available 24 hours a day. *All calls are completely confidential.* You will need to leave the street address and zip code of where the animal is located. If you leave a return phone number, this will allow the Cruelty Dispatcher to contact you for further information.

Or, file an On-line report at

www.columbushumane.org

How do you recognize animal cruelty (from Columbus Humane's Website):

- Extremely thin, starving animals
- Wounds on the body.
- Patches of missing hair.
- Limping.
- Dogs who are repeatedly left alone without food, water or shelter, often chained or locked up in a yard.
- Animals that have been abandoned by their owner.
- An owner striking, or otherwise physically abusing an animal.
- Tick or flea infestations. Flystrike – open wounds on ears and/or nose caused by biting flies.
- Animals with an injury or illness who have not received medical care.
- Embedded collars/chains around the neck.
- Animals whose hair is severely matted.
- Intentionally fighting animals.

**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

FRANKLIN COUNTY ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL.

The Franklin County Animal Care & Control provides field animal control services to the citizens of Franklin County 24-hours a day, 365 days a year. They are responsible for the enforcement of Ohio's vicious, dangerous and nuisance dog laws in Franklin County. Call their offices at 614-525-3400, 24-hours a day.

The agency also handles the following problems related to animals:

- Dogs running loose; call 614-525-3400 to file a report.
- Sick or injured stray dogs; call 614-525-3400 to file a report.
- Bites and injuries caused by dogs; occurred within 24 hours call 614-525-3400 to file a report. For non-serious bites more than 24 hours old, call Franklin County Public Health at 614-525-3160 to file a report.
- Bites and injuries caused by other animals; for bites to humans involving other mammal (i.e. cats, raccoons, bats), or scratches that break the skin, call 614-525-3400 to file a report.

For more information, please visit their Website at <https://dogs.franklincountyohio.gov>, or find a link on the Franklin County Commissioners' Website at <https://commissioners.franklincountyohio.gov>.

The Sharon Township Police Department does not investigate instances of animal cruelty, abuse, neglect, and vicious / dangerous / nuisance dog laws. The organizations listed in this article have the experience and expertise to investigate these types of cases.

2018 - New Vision / New Leadership / Resident Centered Goals

WITH THE NEW YEAR UPON US, THE TRUSTEES AND THE senior leadership team are energized to take a step back and to re-prioritize our goals in order to provide the best outcomes for our residents. We are excited to have Laura Kunze as a new Trustee from the unincorporated area. Laura will serve as Chairperson of the Township and Lindsay Duffey will serve as Vice Chairperson. From my perspective it is important to have someone lead from the unincorporated area and I thought it important to step down as Chairman to get new ideas, and to grow the next generation of leaders in the Township.

The leadership team at the Township is extremely close, and are committed to working together, so we can work better for you. This year we will be amending our vision for the Township, working on a strategic plan, and rolling up our sleeves to get things done.

However, this process will be an open dialogue with our residents and we want to get as much feedback as possible. We will be holding regional meetings to learn from each area of the Township and we will be available to discuss ideas and get feedback.

We hope this is an excellent year for you and your household. We also hope it is an excellent year for the Township and we need your help and guidance.

By John H. Oberle, Trustee

Historical Records

The Fiscal Office is in the final phase of scanning township minutes covering 1910 through 1962. The Ohio Historical Society loaned out the minute books to the township and we converted them into searchable PDFs for each year from 1944 forward. The 1910 to 1936 minutes were hand written and are not searchable. No reason was given to us for the minute gap for the years 1937 to 1943.

There was a Board of Trustees meeting on June 6, 1944, which was D-Day in Europe.

Finally, the minutes for 1963 to 2017 are available on the township web site and can be downloaded and then searched using Adobe Acrobat Reader. One can find a number of interesting facts about Sharon Township. For example, in the August 4, 1993 minutes on page 183, is the township resolution that establishes the Sharon-Riverlea Fire District that is still in place and operating.

Recycling is here!

Sharon Township now has weekly curbside recycling. If you have already opted in, we hope you are enjoying this new service.

If you have noticed the recycling trucks, and would like to add the service, at no additional cost to you, here are the steps to take:

1. Call the Local Waste office at 614-409-9375
2. Submit an online request by clicking on the Service Request button under the Contact tab at www.localwasteservices.com www.localwasteservices.com

Once you have added recycling services, there are three ways to place your recycling curbside -

- Request complimentary recycling bins from Local Waste - 18 gallons
- Rent a 65 gallon recycling cart from Local Waste for \$2.50/ month
- Purchase your own container and place a Recycling sticker on it. Stickers are available at the Sharon Township Administrative offices, or from your local STAR Board member.

Many materials are recyclable. For a comprehensive list of permitted materials, please go to our website.

If you need additional 18 gallon bins or Recycling stickers, they may be picked up at the Sharon Township Administrative office.



Your neighbor, helping to beautify lawns in the community for the past 6 years!

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For a FREE quote:
614.554.7097 or
www.yardprolawnservices.com





PREVENTING STORMWATER POLLUTION

Why Your Actions Matter

Individuals are more important than ever in improving and preserving our streams for wildlife, recreation, drinking water, quality of life, and as a legacy for our children. How do our actions influence water quality? Rainwater that runs off hard surfaces including roads, parking lots, roofs, sidewalks, and driveways is piped directly to streams without cleaning or filtering. This runoff carries everything picked up along its path including litter, chemicals, and excess nutrients. Even clean runoff causes problems in Franklin County because of the amount of water entering streams and rivers after a rain. The extra runoff from hard surfaces causes streambank erosion, property loss, and even flooding. These simple tips can help keep our streams and rivers healthy for all of us.

What We Can Do...

In the Yard Plant grass or ground cover in areas of bare soil. Rain can carry large amounts of soil to a storm drain or stream even on gentle slopes. Eroded soil is the major pollutant in Ohio's rivers. Remove grass clippings and leaves from street gutters and storm drains. Don't toss clippings down a stream bank or in a ditch. As organic material decomposes in streams, it decreases the oxygen necessary for aquatic life. Utilize fertilizers and pesticides responsibly, or consider alternatives. When using pesticides and fertilizers, read the labels and do your research to ensure proper application and timing.

Apply chemicals in dry weather and water sparingly to keep them in your yard. Sweep from sidewalks and driveways back into the yard. Bag pet waste and throw it in the trash. It contains nitrogen, phosphorous, and harmful bacteria and parasites which pollute our streams. Never hose it down a storm drain. Direct downspouts to a rain barrel or a rain garden instead of toward driveways, streets, or storm drains.

For information on backyard conservation, visit www.franklinswcd.org. Plant native trees, shrubs, and perennials. Trees soak up hundreds of gallons of rainwater and native plants support pollinators and other wildlife. Native plants are also better adapted to our climate and require fewer fertilizers and pesticides.

In the Garage

Wash your car on grass or gravel, or use commercial car washes. Commercial washes are required to recycle water and send it to a wastewater treatment plant. Water from washing your car carries soap, dirt, and grease down the storm drain to the nearest stream. Use a broom instead of a hose to clean parking areas. Use kitty litter to soak up auto leaks or chemical spills, then sweep up and double bag before putting it in the trash. Recycle used oil. Advance Auto Parts, AutoZone, Napa, and Jiffy Lube will accept the amount from one oil change if its put in a container with a lid.

Around the House

Treat oil-based paint, thinners, solvents and polishes as household hazardous waste. Latex paint is water-based, so rinse brushes in a sink. Allow extra latex paint to dry and throw the paint can in the trash. Store all chemicals in a dry place protected from the rain. Household hazardous waste must be properly disposed of to prevent pollution. For collection dates and locations call 614-871-5100 or visit www.swaco.org. Decide if and when you need heavy-duty cleaning power. Some household cleaners are difficult for wastewater treatment plants to remove. Phosphates in some dishwasher soaps and the anti-bacterial ingredient triclosan are examples. For 'green cleaning' tips visit Backyard Conservation at www.franklinswcd.org. Maintain your aerator or septic system. Put aside a monthly "fee" so that the pumping that is necessary every three to five years will be covered. For more information, visit Franklin County Public Health at www.myfcph.org/npdes.php

Reporting Problems

If you see someone putting anything down a storm drain or directly into a stream or river, obtain a license plate number or address and report it to It's a Crime at 614-871-5322 or www.itsacrime.org. Chemical and petroleum spills: call the Ohio EPA 24-hour hotline, 800-282-9378. Sewage-related pollution: call the Franklin County Public Health 24-hour hotline, 614-525-3965 or e-mail failingHSTS@franklincountyohio.gov. Agriculture or manure-related pollution: call Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District at 614-486-9613, or use the "Contact Us" tab at www.franklinswcd.org. You can also contact Franklin Soil and Water about any other non-emergency pollution and we will inform the proper agency. Or contact the Sharon Township Road Department at 614 885-5933 Ext. 402

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.

CODE  CONCERNS

CURBING TRASH AND RECYCLING

Section 5.04(H)(2) of the Exterior Property Maintenance Code was amended by the Trustees January 17 to add language about recycling. Here's what to remember.

- Bring trash cans, loose items and recycling containers to the curb any time after 6am the day before collection.
- Remove all containers and uncollected items from the curbside no later than 6pm the day after collection.

By observing these hours, you do your neighbors, yourself and your neighborhood a service.

ICE ON THE STREETS

Many factors contribute to those problem patches of ice on the street that we all have driven and walked across or around. Sump pump discharge is one of those factors. Residents who notice a bad spread of ice off their curbs are asked to

- Check to see if their sump pump discharges are contributing to the icing.
- If so—and if possible—redirect the discharge away from the street for the winter.

Drivers and pedestrians alike will be glad you did! So will the Road Department.

The Exterior Property Maintenance Code can be read online and downloaded from sharontwp.us. Contact me at 614-885-5115 (ext. 402), 614-787-5644 (cell) or codeenforcement@sharontwp.us to discuss *your* code concerns.

By Mark Higdon, Code Enforcement Director

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

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financial goals
deserve a
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