

Sharon Township

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Second Quarter, 2018

—Township Trustees—

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Vice-Chair Lindsay S. Duffey

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John S. O'Keeffe, Fiscal Officer

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614-885-5933

Code Enforcement Director
Mark Higdon
614-787-5644
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**Board of Trustees
Regular Meetings**
@ 6:30 p.m.

May 16, 2018

June 6, 2018

June 20, 2018

July 18, 2018

*Check website for updates
and more information*

www.sharontwp.us

THANK YOU TO MR. JAMES ALBRECHT AND BOY SCOUT TROOP #862....

James is in the process of obtaining his Eagle Scout ranking. One of the steps to achieving this ranking is to design and complete a community service project. About a year ago, James approached the Sharon Township Police Department and presented a project titled "Sharon Township Address Database." This involved entering all of the resident and business addresses in the unincorporated areas of the township into a database and linking it to various "open source" sites for mapping and address location. One of the purposes of the project was to make it easier and faster for Sharon Twp. police personnel to identify and locate a Township address more efficiently from the cruiser computers. This was created at no cost to the Township.

On March 26th, James demonstrated and released the completed project to the Police Department. The Database has far exceeded what was expected. It will be of great use by Department personnel and should expedite many situations. What is more important, the Database will more accurately pinpoint the address that we are dispatched to. We want to ensure our residents that only addresses, not names, are downloaded into the Database and our personnel can only search by addresses.

Thank you, James Albrecht, for the work you put into this project, and an additional thank

you to the members of Troop #862 who assisted you. We wish you well as you continue your other requirements needed to become an Eagle Scout.

**CIVILIAN RESPONSE TO
ACTIVE SHOOTER EVENTS
(CRASE) SEMINAR....** *You are at work, attending church, visiting your child's school, or just at the local store or shopping mall and you hear gunshots.* Do you know what to do to protect yourself, your loved ones and friends? It is unfortunate that we live in a world where we have to worry about an active shooter event taking place anywhere we go. The best way to prepare for an active shooter event and protect yourself and others is to educate yourself on the best practices.

(Continued on page 2)



The Township Administrative Office often receives phone calls from residents wanting to speak with a police officer, or asking that someone 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.

The *Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events* (CRASE) course is a FREE course designed and built on the Avoid, Deny, Defend strategy developed by ALERRT (Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training) in 2004. CRASE provides strategies, guidance and a proven plan for surviving an active shooter event. The FBI considers ALERRT the national standard for active shooter events. CRASE is a lecture-based course geared towards civilians and coincides with ALERRT material. Topics include the history and prevalence of active shooter events, the role of professional guardians, civilian response options, medical issues, and drills.

CRASE was developed by the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training Center at Texas State University through Grant funding by the U.S. Department of Justice (Bureau of Justice Assistance) and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

The Sharon Township Police Department has four personnel trained in providing the CRASE course. We plan to start presenting the 2 to 3-hour seminar to our residents soon, possibly starting in June. If enough interest is shown, the seminar will be provided several times throughout the year. **Please** keep checking the Township Website for dates and times. Attendees will need to submit an online application when it becomes available. **As stated above, this is a FREE course.**

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SEE SOMETHING; SAY SOMETHING....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 much 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.

GOING AWAY ON VACATION? ... Please take advantage of our Vacation House Watch Program; it is available to all residents of the unincorporated areas of Sharon Township. We have made it easier for those

who have Internet access to make a Vacation House Watch Request. Simply go to the Township's Website at www.sharontwp.us, in the section for the Police Department you will see the link to the on-line form. Just complete the fillable form; when finished, just click on the "Request Service" button at the bottom.

If you do not have Internet service, or do not desire to submit an on-line request, you can still make the request by calling the Township Administrative Assistant at 614-885-5115. The information will be written up and provided to the Police Department.

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. Ask that a cruiser be dispatched to your home, or that an on-duty constable call you. Someone 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.

SUMMER SAFETY.... Summer is finally here. 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.

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.

Every community in Central Ohio is experiencing the same type of crime, someone either rummaging through, or stealing something from vehicles. It does not matter whether they are parked in a driveway or on the street. In well over 90% of the incidents, the vehicles are not locked. **Please, help cut down on this crime of opportunity.** DO NOT leave any items of value in your car or truck; DO NOT leave your windows down; and LOCK ALL OF YOUR DOORS.

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY PRECAUTIONS....

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. We 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, please call 614-525-2125 for a constable to come out and discuss the situation with you. Sometimes there is a fine line between what are criminal violations and civil violations.



A simple act that takes 2 seconds can save a life!

*From Your Friends at Sharon Twp. and
The Ohio Traffic Safety Office.*

**Insuring Sharon Township
residents since 1946**

Call Insurance

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

www.callinsurance.com

**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**

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.

Strategic Planning is a Team Effort

Successful organizations engage in a continuous process of assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation. These activities require the input and engagement of all stakeholders. In a township, stakeholders include township residents, community leaders, businesses and customers as well as township leadership and staff.

We are arranging regional special meetings over the next few weeks to focus on the unique needs of each area of the township. These meetings will be announced by hand-delivered flyers as well as in the media outlets, Sharon Township website and Facebook page. These meetings will give residents in each area a forum to raise concerns and ideas that impact the neighborhood and township as a whole. Our goal is to make the meetings accessible to more residents by having them closer to home and in addition to our regular township meetings. These will be for listening and discussion, not decision-making sessions.

We are also posting a link on the Sharon Township website for a resident survey. We ask that each resident takes a few minutes to complete the survey so that we get as much input as possible for the Strategic Planning process. Survey results will be anonymous.

Our Strategic Planning process includes identifying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats as a township as well as in each region of the township. Issues that impact one area ultimately impact the entire township. We also want to create a vision and pathway toward the future of Sharon Township. Next steps will include prioritization, resource planning, timelines, accountabilities and performance measures.

Strategic planning is not a one-time event. We will continuously work to strengthen the township for a solid and sustainable future. Your input and feedback will be invaluable. We hope to see you at an upcoming special meeting and look forward to hearing from you in the survey process.

– Laura Kunze

Renewing Your License Plates?

Make sure your tax dollars go where they belong. When renewing your license plates, please make sure your taxes are going to Sharon Township, Tax District 2579, and not the City of Columbus or other jurisdictions. Part of the license fees are used for Road Department services. If you do not check your registration, your money may go to the wrong entity. This is your money; please make sure it goes to your community.



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Flint Road Cemetery Meeting on New Building Use on June 19th

A new building was purchased by the Township at 8221 Flint Road on behalf of the **Walnut Grove and Flint Union Cemetery Board**. The Cemetery Board is holding a meeting at Sharon Township (95 E. Wilson Bridge Road) on June 19th at 7:00pm to get input from the community on potential uses for the property. The building has been part of the long range plans for the cemetery and will be a great asset for the community. We hope you can join.

—John Oberle, Vice Chairperson
of Cemetery Board of Trustees

Prevent water well pollution

Protect your water supply by carefully managing activities near the water source. For households using a domestic well, this includes keeping contaminants away from sinkholes and the well itself. Keep hazardous chemicals out of septic systems.

- Slope the area around the well to drain surface runoff away from the well.
- Install a well cap or sanitary seal to prevent unauthorized use of, or entry into, the well.
- Keep accurate records of well maintenance, such as disinfection or sediment removal, that may require the use of chemicals in the well.

- Hire a certified well driller for any new well construction, modification, or abandonment and closure.
- Avoid mixing or using pesticides, fertilizers, herbicides, degreasers, fuels, and other pollutants near the well.
- Do not dispose of wastes in dry wells or in abandoned wells.
- Do not cut off the well casing below the land surface.
- Pump and inspect septic systems as often as recommended by your local health department.
- Never dispose of harsh chemicals, solvents, petroleum products, or pesticides in a septic system or dry well. Periodically inspect exposed parts of the well for problems such as:
 - Cracked, corroded or damaged well casing
 - Broken or missing well cap
 - Settling and cracking of surface seals

Regularly check the integrity of any above ground and underground storage tanks that hold home heating oil, diesel, or gasoline on your property

Check with your local health department or environmental agency to ensure activities and industry on or near your property are set a safe distance from your well.

Testing wells to safeguard your water

Testing Frequency

Test your private well annually for total coliform bacteria, nitrates, total dissolved solids, and pH levels. If you suspect the presence of other contaminants, you should test for those also. You can also contact your local health department to find out what substances may be common in your area's groundwater.

You may want to test more frequently if small children or elderly adults live in your house or if someone in your house is pregnant or nursing. These segments of the population are often more vulnerable to pollutants than others.

You should test your private well immediately if:

- There are known problems with ground water or drinking water in your area
- Conditions near your well have changed significantly (i.e. flooding, land disturbances, and new construction or industrial activity)
- You replace or repair any part of your well system.
- You notice a change in your water quality (i.e. odor, color, taste).

In addition, well owners should also determine if the ground water you rely on for household use is under direct influence from surface water. Ground

water under the direct influence of surface water is susceptible to contamination from activities on the surface. Direct influence is determined on a site by site basis under state program criteria. To find a state agency to contact, Ohio EPA at www.epa.state.oh.us

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SPRING CLEAN YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

Now is a great time to have your septic system check to make sure everything is in proper working order. REMEMBER your septic system is your responsibility and replacing it is very expensive. Septic and aeration systems should be pumped every three to five years, is your due to be pumped? If you have an aeration system make sure your aerator motor is running and the timer is set for the correct time of day. The timers are run by electricity and should be reset any time there is a power outage, when was the last time you checked yours? Remember if your system is not working properly and is contaminating the ditches, sewers, creeks, and/or rivers you will be cited by the Franklin County Health Department and be required to take immediate action to correct the problem. It is also the Township's responsibility to report any violation it finds to the Health Department. If your system is tied into the Township storm sewer system and is found to be failing you may lose the privilege to use the storm sewer as a discharge point. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR SYSTEM IS WORKING PROPERLY FOR YOUR HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

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2018 Road Resurfacing Program

This year's Road Resurfacing Program includes resurfacing Pocono Road. The application will be to mill down the existing surface, add a layer of fiber asphalt material overlay with fine gravel and then a one and a half -inch of asphalt. Other work we are hoping to get completed is the repair/replacement of the culvert on Plum Tree Drive just west of Olentangy River Road. The Franklin County Engineers Office is currently working on a plan for this project; we hope to have more information later this year.

Home Based Primary Care for Veterans



Are you or your loved-one a veteran who has difficulty leaving the home for medical care due to physical illness? Then the VA's Home Based Primary Care

Program (HBPC) may be an option for you.

Home Based Primary Care is a unique primary care practice that meets veterans where they live – in their own homes. Our providers come to you! Not only will our primary care provider visit, but also our nurse and social worker. In addition, a physical/occupational therapist, dietician and psychologist are also available to collaborate on your care as necessary. Our aim is to provide comprehensive care to you, our Veteran, so that you can continue to live independently in your home for as long as it is safe to do so.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Enrolled with the Columbus VA Ambulatory Care Center for Medical care
- Reside in the community (this includes Assisted Living Facilities but not nursing homes)
- Have significant difficulty leaving your residence to attend primary care appointments due to physical illness (i.e. history of stroke, cancer, Parkinson's disease, advanced dementia, respiratory illness)
- Live within the coverage area of the Columbus VA HBPC program
- Require routine visits for medical monitoring for complex medical conditions

To find out if the program is right for you, contact your Primary Care Social Worker at the Columbus VA for more information. You can also contact HBPC Social Worker, Amanda Ripke, at 614-388-7737 (a fellow resident of Sharon Township!).

If you are not enrolled for VA healthcare and are interested in receiving care through the Columbus VA, please contact the clinic's enrollment department at 614-257-5608



Community Backyards – help the Township and earn money toward new landscaping

SHARON TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS ARE ELIGIBLE TO EARN \$50 toward the purchase of a rain barrel, compost bin or new native plants and trees for their landscaping!

“Community Backyards is an educational program promoting storm water awareness and education within Franklin County. Keeping rain where it falls and using it as a resource keeps our watersheds healthy and safe. (Franklin Soil and Water) continues to promote the use of rain barrels and rain gardens while introducing residents to backyard conservation practices including composting, using native plants and trees in the landscape and responsible lawn care.”

To participate in the program, visit www.communitybackyards.org and fill out your information. Residents can choose to complete the course in person or online. Once the course is complete, Community Backyards will email you a voucher to use with a licensed retailer within 60 days.

Participation by residents also helps Sharon Township fulfill requirements for the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). Please help us improve the water quality in Sharon Township by participating in these programs.

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

Your personal
financial goals
deserve a
personal approach.



Stephen G. Daley, CRPC
Financial Advisor,
Associate Vice President

A platinum financial services practice

250 W. Old Wilson Bridge Rd., Suite 150
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