

Williamsburg Township Newsletter

P.O. Box 499, Williamsburg, Ohio 45176-0499

SPRING / SUMMER 2012

Bari Henning
Trustee
724-2994

Gary Jordan
Trustee
724-5315

Guy Bainum
Trustee
724-6553

Gregory W. Carson
Fiscal Officer
724-8333

www.williamsburgtownship.org

Township Trustee Meetings ~ 2nd & 4th Monday 7:00 PM at Township Hall, located on Alexander Ln.

Williamsburg Township Newsletter can be seen at Williamsburgtownship.org

Village of Williamsburg Newsletter can be seen at Williamsburgohio.org

From The Trustees

If you hear the Outdoor Warning Sirens (Tornado Sirens) sound, don't ignore them, take notice and take action. In the past there were several weather conditions that would activate the sirens. It seemed like they were going off all the time. There were times when the sirens were going off and we really didn't even have bad weather in the area. However, the Clermont County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) has changed their policy on what weather conditions will activate the Tornado Sirens. The following is the current policy of the Clermont County EMA regarding Outdoor Warning Sirens (Tornado Sirens).

Outdoor Warning Sirens

Outdoor warning sirens are used to alert residents who may be outdoors when a Tornado Warning is issued by the National Weather Service, a funnel cloud is reported by credible source, or a chemical emergency has occurred where a shelter-in-place order is issued. The sirens are not intended to alert people indoors. It is highly recommended that each residence, business, school and church purchase weather alert radios that are automatically activated during severe weather and hazardous materials events. Text and e-mail alerts are also available through the Clermont County Division of Public Safety Services, the National Weather Service and other major media outlets. To register for a text/e-mail alert through Clermont County Division of Public Safety Services, go to the following link: <https://sosink.smartmsg.com/>

Activation

All of the outdoor warning sirens in Clermont County will be activated when the following conditions exist:

- A Tornado Warning is issued by the National Weather Service;
- A Tornado or funnel cloud is reported by a public safety official or trained weather spotter; or
- A Chemical emergency has occurred resulting in a shelter-in-place order to be issued.

Testing

The outdoor warning sirens are tested the first Wednesday of every month at 12:00 pm. If severe weather is forecast, or is observed in the area, the monthly test will be postponed until the next monthly test to avoid confusion. The monthly tests are conducted to test the operation of the sirens and to familiarize the residents with the sound of the siren, should a Tornado Warning be issued.

Tornado Watch versus Tornado Warning

A *Tornado Watch* is issued by the National Weather Service when conditions are right for tornadoes to develop. This is the time to remind family members where the safest places within your home are located and listen to your radio or television for further developments.

A *Tornado Warning* is issued by the National Weather Service when a tornado has been sighted or indicated by the weather radar. Take shelter immediately.

What to Do When the Sirens Sound

IF YOU ARE IN:	THEN:
A structure (e.g. residence, small building, school, nursing home, hospital, factory, shopping center, high-rise building)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go to a pre-designated shelter area such as a safe room, basement, storm cellar, or the lowest level of the building. If there is no basement, go to the center of an interior room on the lowest level (closet, interior hallway) away from corners, windows, doors, and outside walls. Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside. Get under a sturdy table and use your arms to protect your head and neck. • In a high-rise building, go to a small interior room or hallway on the lowest floor possible. • Do not open windows. • Listen to the radio, TV, and/or NOAA All Hazard Alert Radio for additional information on weather conditions, evacuation/shelter-in-place instructions, and updates on when conditions are safe.
A vehicle, trailer, or mobile home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get out immediately and go to the lowest floor of a sturdy, nearby building or a storm shelter. Mobile homes, even if tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes.
The outside with no shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands. Be aware of the potential for flooding. • Do not get under an overpass or bridge. You are safer in a low, flat location. • Never try to outrun a tornado in urban or congested areas in a car or truck. Instead, leave the vehicle immediately for safe shelter. • Watch out for flying debris. Flying debris from tornadoes causes most fatalities and injuries.

On March 19, 2012, Clermont County celebrated the 19th annual Salute to Leaders. Each year this event recognizes individuals and organization for their contributions to their communities and the county. Nominations were made in the following categories:

- 1. Civic 2. Community Project 3. Education 4. Environmental/Parks & Recreation 5. Health/Health Care 6. Human Services 7. Rural Interest
 - 8. Safety/Justice 9. The Up `n Over Youth Leadership Award 10. Dr. Richard J. Zinsmeister Humanitarian, 11. The William H. Over Leadership Award
- The Community Project Award Criteria:

- project must make a positive contribution to the quality of life in Clermont County
- large or small project, focus is on the project itself and not the individual personalities involved
- an organization, agency, service club, business, or the media (governmental and youth organizations are included)
- the project needs to be innovative and can include partnerships
- the project must be initiated by the local community or require on-going community involvement

Clermont 20/20 also requests nominations of an individual from each Clermont County Township who has made a substantial contribution to the quality of life for citizens in their community or for all the citizens of Clermont County.

This year's nomination, by the Williamsburg Township Trustees, was the Williamsburg Emergency Mission. Serving Williamsburg for 22 years, this collaboration of churches in Williamsburg is housed in the Williamsburg Methodist Church. Funding comes from the churches, businesses, civic organizations, and individuals. Residents in need can obtain food once a month. The mission also provides financial assistance. The board members are Nancy Pontz, Rita Abrams, Susan Burgess, Cheryl Hess, Lola Irvin, Janita Ely, Betty Fisher, Thema Hall, Charlotte McKibbon, Elma Banium, and Kay Spencer. This true community collaboration, works tirelessly to provide much needed support to those in crisis. We are truly blessed to have the community leaders in our community!

Tim and Wanda Ferree, of Williamsburg Township, won the Community Project award. Mr. and Mrs. Ferree work with the weavers of Olde Williamsburg and Williamsburg Harmony Hill Museum providing weaving classes. They offer a quilt ministry in cooperation with the Williamsburg United Methodist Church making quilts that are distributed to people in nursing homes, homeless shelters, and other institutions. Mr. and Mrs. Ferree make a significant difference as well to those in need in the community.

Williamsburg Township Trustees are very proud of the community award winners of Clermont County 19th annual Salute to Leaders, you efforts make Williamsburg Township a better community to live, work, and raise a Family!

Williamsburg Township Zoning Office

Zoning fees have remained unchanged for the last 12 years in Williamsburg Township. These are the base fees for first time building:

Single Family Dwelling	\$50	Industrial Building over 1,000 sq ft. . . .	Add \$0.15 per sq. ft. over 1,000 sq. ft.
Commercial Buildings 1,000 sq. ft. or less . . .	\$100	Garages, sheds, barns	\$40 for 100 sq. ft. or more
Commercial Building over 1,000 sq.ft.	Add \$0.10 per sq. ft. over 1,000 sq.ft.		\$25 for less than 100 sq. ft.
Industrial Buildings 1,000 sq. ft. or less	\$200	Swimming Pools	\$50 for in ground
			\$25 for above ground

There are fees for re-construction such as alteration, addition, changes, and signage as well as for new parcel splits and surveys. You may call the zoning office for these and other fees. Williamsburg Township Zoning Office phone number 513-724-5529



News from your Emergency Services



It is the mission of Williamsburg Township Emergency Services to provide the highest level of life and property safety through the extension of Fire Prevention, Fire Suppression, Medical Rescue and Public Education Services, consistent with the prudent Utilization of public funds. We continue sending out random surveys from emergency calls we make in the community, we have appreciated the feedback as to how we may better serve you our customers. It's our goal to continue to provide the highest quality of service that you have come to expect.

Help us find you; The Cadets on our department are doing a fund raiser for summer camp. They are selling reflective address signs to aid in finding the correct address when we respond for an emergency. The cost of these signs is \$15, call the Station to order 724-7744 or 724-7382

We will also be glad to check blood pressures and blood sugar levels for any township resident. Just stop by during normal business hours 8:00 am - 6:00 pm.

Recently there was a change made to the way the Severe Weather and Outdoor All Hazards Notification (Tornado Sirens) will be activated.

NEW PROCEDURES / ACTIVATION CRITERIA

A. TIME CRITICAL (IMMINENT DANGER FROM SEVERE WEATHER)

- TORNADO WARNING FOR CLERMONT COUNTY.
- TORNADO WARNING FOR AN ADJACENT COUNTY THAT COULD AFFECT CLERMONT COUNTY.
- REPORT OF OR A TORNADO OR FUNNEL CLOUD SIGHTING

Upon confirmation of an actual sighting of a tornado with a public safety official from the jurisdiction making the report, the warning sirens will be activated on a county-wide basis.

Fire Safety for Older Adults

Focus on Fire Safety

The facts speak for themselves: **the relative risk of Americans over the age of 65 dying in a fire is 2.6 times greater than that of the general population.** The risk worsens as age increases. People age 85 and older die in fires at a rate 4.4 times higher than the rest of the population.

The leading cause of fire deaths in older adults is **smoking** and the leading cause of fire injuries in older adults is **cooking.**

There are a number of **precautionary steps** older Americans can take to dramatically **reduce their chances of becoming a fire casualty**, including:

- Don't leave smoking materials unattended and never smoke in bed.
- Never leave cooking unattended. Use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heat sources, like portable space heaters, wood burning stoves, and fireplaces.
- Place a smoke alarm on every level of your home, including the basement, and both inside and outside bedrooms. Remember to change the batteries in your smoke detectors when you change the time on your clocks.

Know at least two exits from every room. Make sure all doors and windows that lead outside open easily.

Chief Ken Wylie

History of the Ohio Township Association

The Pilgrim Fathers brought the township form of government to America in 1620. This unit of local government eventually spread as far west as the Rocky Mountains. Today, it is found in 22 states, known as the town or township.

In Ohio, the township predates our state government. The townships' size and shape were determined by the Congressional Acts, which established the various land grants.

As the Ohio territory became populated, it was only natural that the surveyed townships should become the basic unit of local government. In 1804, the elected officials of a township consisted of three trustees, a clerk, two overseers of the poor, and a sufficient number of supervisors of highway, in additions to justices of the peace and constables. A township treasurer and assessor were later added. In the early years of statehood, Ohio township government cared for the poor, maintained the roads, and preserved the peace.

Today, just as in 1804, the township is a political subdivision of the state. To keep pace with the demands of changing times, the functions, duties and obligations of the township have changed over the years. Demands for increased or different services have prompted the state legislature to grant Ohio's 1,308 townships the authority to fulfill these changing needs. Three trustees and a fiscal officer, each elected to a four year-term, administer our townships today. In addition, some townships now appoint a township administrator, whose duties are defined by the individual township. The township administrator typically helps plan, coordinate and implement township goals. Elected officials fill their roles on a part time basis; however, their intimate knowledge of their community, its needs and its citizens enables them to offer more personal service than any other unit of government. Townships today are responsible for fire and police protection, parks and recreation, zoning, cemeteries, waste disposal, maintaining roads, and more.

From the Cemetery Sexton and Road Maintenance Supervisor

From the Cemetery Sexton and Road Maintenance Supervisor Williamsburg Township has cemetery graves available in Williamsburg Cemetery and Concord Cemetery. The cost of graves for residents is \$250.00 per grave and \$650.00 per grave for non-residents. For more information contact the cemetery sexton at 513-724-1110. Grass mowing season is here again. Any decorations or materials placed on the grass during mowing season will be discarded except on Memorial Day and 5 working days after Memorial Day. The dates for the Williamsburg Township clean up days this year are June 7-8, & 9th and October 4-5, & 6th Dumpsters will be located at the end of north 8th Street. Dumpsters will be available from 8 am to 8 pm on Thursday and Friday and from 8 am to 4 pm on Saturday. Township personal will be available to help load large items into the dumpsters. The township is unable to take chemicals, liquid paint, batteries, units containing refrigerant, and propane tanks. We will accept 3 old tires per family.

A Glimpse Back at Historic Williamsburg

During the early 1700's, several groups of Native Americans moved onto Ohio lands. Included in these were the Delaware, Miami, Mingo, Shawnee and Wyandotte. The Delaware and Shawnee in Pennsylvania had been forced westward across the Appalachians. They established new hunting bases in the Upper Ohio Valley. Farther downstream on the Ohio, the Shawnee established their headquarters at the mouth of the Scioto River, where, beginning in the 1730's, they drew together Native Americans who had been scattered since the Iroquois Wars (1600's).

In Clermont County, the primary Native American groups were the Shawnee and the Miami. There was a seasonal Shawnee Village within the present Williamsburg Village limits (early 1780's/1790's). It was located on land later bordered by Fourth, Mill, Third and Walnut Streets at the northern end of the village.

It was the Shawnee who provided the greatest strength in the Indian coalition opposing American expansion west of the Appalachians. In 1792, the last battle of record occurred between a Shawnee raiding party, which included Tecumseh and Black Snake, and an American scouting party led by Simon Kenton on the southeast side of the East Fork of the Little Miami River near the mouth of Grassy Run, in what is now Jackson Township. By 1831, all but about 600 Shawnee had left Ohio for Oklahoma Territory.

Bullskin Trail was a buffalo trace and Indian trail which ran from Detroit, Michigan (Fort Detroit) to Blue Licks, south of Maysville, Kentucky. In Clermont County, most of this trail follows State Route 133. In Williamsburg, the trail is present-day Gay Street which was once the main street in our town. The fording spot (across the East Fork of the Little Miami River) was at the eastern end of Gay Street. It was here that Daniel Boone escaped from the Shawnees on June 17, 1778. Simon Kenton also crossed here as a prisoner of the Shawnees on September 14, 1778.

The last buffalo sighting in Williamsburg Township was reported to have been in 1805. The last bear killed in the township is believed to have been in 1832.

Williamsburg Was founded in 1796, and Clermont County, the eighth county in the state of Ohio was officially formed on December 6, 1800, when it was carved from eastern Hamilton County. Williamsburg Township was established on February 25, 1801, and Ohio became a state in 1803.

Be sure to stop in at Harmony Hill Museum during the *Lytle Birthday event on Sunday, September 9, 2012, between 2:00 and 5:00* to see a display of Native American artifacts . We appreciate your interest and support. If you would like to be a contributing member of the Harmony Hill Association, please fill out the membership form below and mail it to **Harmony Hill Association, Inc., % Beth Barth, 3905 Elston Hockstock Rd., Batavia, Ohio, 45103.** (Contributions are tax deductible.)

On June 9th at 1:00 P.M., Earl Pringle will present a chair caning program at Harmony Hill. Please register your intent to attend by calling (513) 724-3657 by May 31. There is no charge for the program.

(Checks payable to: Harmony Hill Association, Inc.)

Name: _____
Street: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: (____) _____ Email _____

Annual Memberships:
Student: K-12: \$3.00
Single Adult: \$12
Family: \$24
Lifetime Family: \$100

Membership dues are effective from January 1- December 31

Williamsburg Township Junk Days

**Spring Clean-up
Dates**

June 7th, 8th & 9th

**Fall Clean-up
Dates**

Oct. 4th, 5th & 6th



*Details
inside
newsletter*



*The Old High School Grounds
in Williamsburg, Ohio
(513) 724-6107*

June in Olde Williamsburgh

June 1st, 2nd & 3rd

- * Rides
- * Food
- * Fireworks
- * Live Band
& More

*For more information & schedule of events, go to
www.williamsburgohio.org*

The Mobile Mammography van is scheduled to visit Williamsburg on Tuesday, September 4th in the morning. Anyone interested in scheduling a mammogram can do so by calling 513-686-3300 to schedule an appointment. It is usually covered by insurance. They do have some grant funding for those who don't have insurance.

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Keeping you informed.

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P.O. Box 499
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