



Williamsburg Township Newsletter

Ohio

www.williamsburgtownship.org

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

FALL / WINTER 2019-2020

Bari Henning
Trustee
724-2994

Gary Jordan
Trustee
724-5315

Guy Bainum
Trustee
724-6553

Gregory W. Carson
Fiscal Officer
724-8333

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

This year, the Clermont County Commissioners invited the villages and townships to pitch out a review of their community. Williamsburg Township Trustees and Fiscal Officer put together an overview of our township, which somewhat reflects the newsletter. It is a great story, proudly told of our community and where we have been, where we are at, and where we are heading. It was a great opportunity to mention our pride in our school system that has an Excellent Academic State Rating! Well done to the team at Williamsburg School! It was a proud moment to tell the Commissioners about the students that strive to grow in knowledge and exhibit the skill in sport competitiveness, at any sport, and any level. Great job Wildcats! You make us proud.

The Village of Williamsburg was founded in 1796 by William Lytle. Williamsburg Township was founded in 1801, which is 1 of 1309 townships, in the 88 counties in Ohio. There are 14 townships in Clermont County.

Located east of the County Seat, Batavia, Williamsburg Township has over 5900 residence, situated with over an additional draw of 1.1 million workers within 45 miles. Noticeably, the volume of traffic in the morning and evening is an indicator that we are growing, as well as, the areas around us. As the super structure has improved traveling east on St. Rt. 32, from Eastgate, the volume of traffic traveling west on St. Rt. 32 to St. Rt. 275 each morning is challenging. The area is obviously developing.

South Afton Park is Southwest Ohio's only SiteOhio authenticated site with this designation, which the Clermont County Economic Development team, led by Director Andy Kuchta, has marketed well. There are 242 acres at South Afton Park, with 193 of shovel ready acres ready for industrial development. The site has had 14 visits to date, with three of those visits this year from international companies from Japan, Germany, Brazil, Canada, and China. There has been four projects where South Afton was the only OhioSite left under consideration. There are two projects where South Afton is still in the running to win, versus other states. The initiative has Tax Incremented Financing (TIF), as well as, a Joint Economic Development District (JEDD). Williamsburg Township Trustees chose the Village of Williamsburg to collect taxes from the site, through Ohio's Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA). Design Within Reach has contributed as a quality business and employed well over the projected number of employees, with future growth opportunities. Williamsburg Township Trustee, Gary Jordan, has stepped back after a two year appointment to the Clermont County CIC and Trustee Bari Henning has accepted an appointment to fill that position.

Greg Carson, Williamsburg Township Fiscal Officer drives our fiscal responsibilities and is in his 20th year, in this position. The township participates in the Ohio State Treasurer's Online Checkbook transparency effort. This allows for full transparency and accountability. Williamsburg Township has had clean audits every year and we remain prudent with residence/tax payer's money.

Vonnie Malott, Williamsburg Township Zoning Administrator, has made a decision to retire after 20 years of dedicated service to our township. Zoning was established in 1966 and is enforced. Vonnie has been instrumental in leading the efforts concerning updating our zoning, which was a daunting task. She has exhibited fairness, and consistency, while displaying respect. The Township Trustees, on behalf of a grateful community, congratulate you on your dedicated service and retirement, wishing you God's Blessing and Grace! Filling this position will be Brian Tatman.

Brian will continue to manage the Township Maintenance, as well as, manage the Zoning Administrators position. The township has over 18 miles of roads to maintain, as well as, three cemeteries. This year, Hageman's Crossing and Hibbs Roads were repaved. Initiatives to repave roads are time consuming and costly, due to the petroleum based product. We have made contact with the Clermont County Engineer concerning latent defects to the West Fork Drive Roads. This project will take time and be costly; however, through collaboration, the project will be addressed.

Chief Kevin Wiedemann, Emergency Services, manages a 24/7 paramedic unit, with two fulltime firefighters and over 40 volunteers. Anyone who is interested in becoming a volunteer firefighter, please contact Chief Wiedemann at 724-7744. As the Chief, he stays busy with South Afton Park, partnering with local businesses. and the Williamsburg School system. He is currently pricing out a new ambulance, to keep Emergency Services current and effective. We are proud of the men and women who constantly watch over our community, keeping us safe, we are grateful for your dedication!

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Safety is our number one goal as Trustees. This topic we all need to pay close attention to which is the McKeever and Dela Palma / St. Rt. 32 corridor. We explained to the Commissioners that due to the economic growth in our community, as well as, surrounding communities, these two exchanges remain challenging and create potential safety hazards. An improved super structure needs to be added, replacing the existing access. We will keep focused on these county and state roads. This remains important for our school buses, emergency services, and local traffic. Please remain attentive to this section of the highway as you travel.

On October 17, 2019 the Clermont County Sheriffs Department hosted the Clermont County Trustees for the Sheriff's Office annual update. The annual review document updated the efforts in the Patrol Division, School Resource Officers, Investigative Division, Narcotics Division, Special Response Team, Task Force One (Dive Team), K-9 Unit, Motor Cycle Unit, Court Services Unit, efforts in the opioid epidemic crisis, and school safety, to name a few. Listening to their efforts with the new Drone Unit, it was very apparent that the team, led by Sheriff Leahy, is at the leading edge of community safety and excellence. These men and women, like our emergency services, are a class act. Take the time to express our gratitude to these leaders who work hard at keeping us safe.

******* Clermont County Snow Advisory Information *******
Snow advisory notifications are broadcast by local television and radio

NOTE: We request that citizens get snow advisory information from Radio/ TV broadcasts rather than calling the Sheriff's Office or Communications Center. Under Ohio law County Sheriffs may declare "Snow Advisories" as appropriate. When the condition of roads and highways within Clermont County has become impaired as the result of snow or ice, a snow advisory may be declared and conveyed to all electronic and print media within the Greater Cincinnati area. In Clermont County snow emergencies are used sparingly, and only when roadway conditions are treacherous throughout the entire county. There are three levels of snow advisories. This information can be viewed at www.clermontsheriff.org.

Our goal is to keep everyone safe and our township roads clear.

Last but not least, each year on November 11, we honor veterans across the country. Williamsburg Township is a great community to raise a family and we live free in a great country. This Veterans Day, take time to exhibit our thankfulness to those that served and reflect on those who paid the ultimate price. On behalf on the community of Williamsburg Township,

We are grateful for all veterans who served our country, your service makes our Township proud! Thank you!

Our Community is a tremendous place to live and an incredible place to raise a Family!

Williamsburg Township Road and Cemetery

Roads

Winter is slowly approaching, if you see salt trucks out please give them plenty of room and do not follow closely. Remember they are out clearing the roads for you to travel on. We have plenty of salt on hand and have more on order if we need it. The Township did receive a sign grant this year thru the State Of Ohio. There is no out of pocket money from the Township. The grant total was \$20829.30. That covers all the signs, post and hardware to install them. We will be out installing them once receive everything.

Cemetery

We are about done with mowing in the cemetery. However we still have leaves to mulch and take care of Just a reminder if decorations are in the grass they will be discarded. We still have plenty of graves available. If you need a grave you can call the Maintenance office at 513-724-1110 to set up an appointment to meet. The cost of graves are \$350 for a resident of the Williamsburg Township.

News from your Emergency Services

The department received a \$40,000.00 matching Grant from BWC to purchase (2) new cots with loading systems. The new load system cots will help reduce back injuries for our members. This was a matching grant, the total purchase price was \$88,000.00. The Williamsburg Township Emergency Services is holding a blood drive on Friday, January - 10th, 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm, please come donate and help save a life. With the weather getting colder, please remember to have working smoke detectors and CO detectors. When cooking this Holiday season, do not leave food unattended on the stove, cooking is the #1 cause of house fires.

Wishing Everyone A Very Merry Christmas & A Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous 2020!

Kevin Wiedemann Fire Chief

**Blood drive on Friday
January - 10th,
1:00 pm to 7:00 pm**



Williamsburg Township Zoning Office

My name is Brian Tatman, I am the new Township Zoning Administrator. I took over on September 1. I have been with the Township since June of 2000. Mrs. Malott retired after 20 years with the Township. If you need to meet with me call and leave a message at the 513-724-5529. I will get back with you as soon as possible.

The Zoning office will be open by appointment only.

Harmony Hill

The Underground Railroad is used to describe a network of meeting places, secret routes, passageways, and safe houses used by slaves in the United States to escape slave holding states to northern states and Canada. Aiding the slaves in their flight was a system of safe houses, called stations or depots, and abolitionists determined to free as many as possible even though such actions violated state laws and the U.S. Constitution. There were many well-used routes stretching west through Ohio to Indiana and Iowa. Others headed north through Pennsylvania and into New England or through Detroit on their way to Canada.

One Williamsburg station has been designated at 180 Gay Street in Williamsburg. This Greek revival house was built in the 1840's and was the home of stationmaster Dr. Leavitt Thaxter Pease and his wife, Nancy Ann Fee. Doctor Pease, an advocate of human freedom and civil rights moved to Williamsburg in February, 1835, and practiced medicine for over 40 years. Many antislavery meetings were held at night in the upstairs rooms of this home and at one time had a tunnel that linked this home with another in the village. Some Civil War artifacts have been found during past renovations. Today, the Booth family resides in this beautiful historic home.



HISTORY NOTES above are courtesy of the **HARMONY HILL ASSOCIATION, INC.** MEMBERSHIP IN THE HARMONY HILL ASSOCIATION ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE. TO JOIN, SIMPLY FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING APPLICATION AND SEND TO: Harmony Hill Association, Inc., % Beth Barth, 3905 Elston Hockstock Rd., Batavia, Ohio 45103. We will send you a receipt for tax purposes. Checks should be made payable to Harmony Hill Association, Inc.

Check one:

- Lifetime Family Membership - \$100
 - Annual Family Membership - \$24
 - Annual Single Adult - \$12
 - Annual Student (K-12) - \$3
- Corporate memberships or donations from individuals are also gladly accepted!**

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Street Address _____ Email _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____ Membership _____ Donation _____

Annual memberships are effective from January 1- December 31.
Visit the Harmony Hill Museum and Clermont County Historical Society Museum the first Saturday of each month from 1 P.M. to 4 P.M. at 299 South Third Street, Williamsburg.

Christmas Walk Friday
 Dec. 6, 2019
 5^{pm} - 9^{pm}

Trains of Old Williamsburg

WE WISH YOU A MERRY
 Christmas
 & Happy
 New Year 2020

From Williamsburg Township

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

BULK RATE
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 Keeping you informed.