

# Williamsburg Township Newsletter

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

FALL / WINTER 2011-2012

Bari Henning  
Trustee  
724-2994

Gary Jordan  
Trustee  
724-5315

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Trustee  
724-6553

Gregory W. Carson  
Fiscal Officer  
724-8333

**[www.williamsburgtownship.org](http://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](http://Williamsburgtownship.org)

Village of Williamsburg Newsletter can be seen at [Williamsburgohio.org](http://Williamsburgohio.org)

## From The Trustees

Williamsburg Township 2011 summer has proven to be full of events from keeping the township standing tall, to adding a new ladder truck, while improving Williamsburg Emergency Services by recruiting our own cadets.

Earlier this year, the Williamsburg Township Trustees worked with Williamsburg Emergency Services Chief Ken Wylie and the leadership to purchase a 1984 Sutphen Aerial fire truck. It will replace our 1968 Aerial which had been taken out of service because it was in need of some extensive and expensive repairs. The 1984 unit we purchased had been completely re-worked and re-built by Harry Sutphen with the intension that his community fire department, which he is a volunteer of, would purchase it. However before he had it done his department unexpectedly had to purchase a new life squad and couldn't afford the aerial. Making an upgrade of this type greatly improves the continuing safety needs of the community, while being prudent with the tax payer's money. In addition to adding new equipment to the Department, we support a team of young cadets who continually take on new educational opportunities, preparing themselves to be the Emergency Services leaders of the future! These young cadets are Jordan Wright, Courtney Hauck, Joe Morgan, Tyler Frazee, and Branden Nooe. As always, we are proud of our Emergency Services team and all they do for us and their progressive attitude.

Earlier this year the Williamsburg Junior Athletic Association (WJAA) filed a petition requesting that the property where the ball fields are located be annexed into the Village of Williamsburg. Some time in the future WJAA will need access to sewer and to be able to tap into village sewer they must be located within the village corporation limit. Realizing WJAA's future needs we agreed to the annexation of this property knowing it is in the best interest of WJAA, the kids and the community. Our attorney told us that this is the only time he remembers where a Township and a Village were in agreement on an annexation of a piece of property.

Working with the community, collaboration efforts continues on the Middle East Fork Watershed Planning Partnership. Becky McClatchey, Watershed Coordinator, Clermont SWCD, has made two presentations at Williamsburg Township meetings concerning this ongoing effort and how it will contribute to the community if embraced.

Miss McClatchey offered this brief description of the project to help the community to understand the intent of the effort: Members of the Middle East Fork Watershed Planning Partnership are continuing their work to develop a Balanced Growth Land Use Plan for the Middle East Fork Watershed, a sub-watershed of the East Fork Little Miami River located in Clermont County. The Balanced Growth Program is a voluntary and incentive-based program that encourages local communities to prioritize areas for development and conservation, with the aim of balancing future growth and economic development with natural resource protection.

The Partnership, which includes representatives from each Middle East Fork community, along with public and private sector representatives, is working together to identify priority areas for development, conservation, and agriculture. The "Priority Areas" are simply recommendations for those land uses and do not change the underlying zoning or affect property rights. The priority designations simply open up the possibility of utilizing state (and/or local) incentives if jurisdictions and landowners choose to implement the recommended land use.

This locally-led planning process is in its second year and will culminate in January 2012 with a Balanced Growth Plan for the Middle East Fork. The Plan will include a map of priority areas and general recommendations for voluntary implementation of best local land use practices, along with potential local incentives. The Partnership will continue to work together beyond this initial planning process to develop potential local incentives to implement the Plan.

For more information, please contact the Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District at 513-732-7075 or visit the project website at: <http://www.clermontswcd.org/balancedgrowth.aspx>.

### **The Middle East Fork Balanced Growth Plan Mission Statement:**

Balanced Growth is a voluntary and incentive-based strategy to protect and re-store the Middle East Fork Watershed to ensure long-term economic competitiveness, ecological health, and quality of life.

#### **GOALS:**

Protect public health, safety and welfare. Promote economic development. Protect water quality and watershed health. Preserve the natural character of the landscape and agricultural land uses. Encourage sustainable growth and development.

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

- Implement best land use practices and policies.
- Maintain growth/development near population centers and existing infrastructure.
- Develop local incentives to encourage balanced growth.
- Protect areas with prime farmland/locally important soils.

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In contrast to the Balance Growth Plan, during the August Clermont County Township Association meeting, discussions took place on the continuing concern of CECOS hazardous waste landfill.

Each of the fourteen townships located in Clermont County are concerned about the integrity of the liner which holds contaminants, which are believed to be leaking from the CECOS facility. Unattended, the contaminants from this facility could contaminate our source for domestic water which comes from Harsha Lake. A resolution has been forwarded to Mr. Scott Nally, Director, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, to put them on notice that the post closure plan for CECOS must be progressive and effective, ensuring the safety of our community in the future. As this does not present an immediate threat to our area, a passive approach will.

Efforts have been made throughout the summer, within the Williamsburg Township, as well as collectively, with the Clermont County Township Association to improve on our community.

## \*\*\*\*\* Williamsburg Township Zoning Office \*\*\*\*\*

**T**he Village and the Township zoning resolutions are different. So if your property is in the Township and you have questions contact the Williamsburg Township Zoning Office at 513-724-5529.

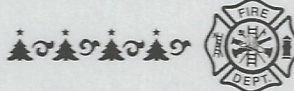
A permit is needed for any building taking up ground space that is larger than 9 cubic square feet (the size of a normal dog house). The Village had its own rules and regulations. Clermont County has its own set of rules and regulations also.

The county may not require a permit for a small 9'X9' shed but the Township does, even if it is on skids and can be moved. The Township does not need a set of blue prints only the site plan when applying for a permit but the County does.

The hours are short at the Zoning office but if you call and make an appointment the Zoning Administrator will come back into the office. Most people have to work for a living and it is difficult to get to offices that are not open during that times they are not at work.

It has been a hardship on many because of the economy and the permits issued are considerably fewer than in the past. More are staying put and remodeling rather than moving to a new place.

Again if you have any questions the zoning Administrator will be glad to help as much as possible and try to direct you in the right direction.



## 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 to send out random surveys from emergency calls we make in the community. We would like to thank everyone that has returned the survey. We appreciate 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.

We continue to offer CPR and First Aid Class for township residents. For the friends and family CPR class, there is no charge, for the Professional Health Care CPR class there is a fee of \$30.00. If you are interested in taking a class call the Station to get registered.

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.

Also it is that time of year to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. We would also like to encourage residents to have their heating systems checked before winter and also have **your** chimney cleaned and checked.

According to the Civilian Fire Report Fatalities in Residential Buildings report:

Ninety-one percent of all civilian fatalities in residential building fires involve thermal burns and smoke inhalation.

- Bedrooms (55 percent) are the leading location where civilian fire fatalities occur in residential buildings.
- Fifty-one percent of civilian fire fatalities in residential buildings occur between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. This period also accounts for 49 percent of fatal fires.
- Seventy percent of fire victims in residential buildings were escaping (36 percent) or sleeping (34 percent) at the time of their deaths.
- Smoking was the leading cause of fatal residential building fires.
- Males accounted for 57 percent of civilian fire fatalities in residential buildings; women accounted for 43 percent of the fatalities.
- Approximately 43 percent of civilian fatalities in residential building fires are between the ages of 40 and 69.
- Thirteen percent of civilian fire fatalities in residential buildings were less than 10 years old.
- An estimated 374,900 residential building fires are reported to U.S. fire departments each year and cause an estimated 2,630 deaths, 13,075 injuries, and \$7.6 billion in property loss.

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- Cooking is the leading cause of residential building fires (44 percent). Nearly all residential building cooking fires are small, confined fires (94 percent).
- Residential building fire incidence is higher in the cooler months, peaking in January at 11 percent.
- Residential building fires occur most frequently in the early evening hours, peaking during the dinner hours from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., when cooking fires are high.
- Forty-six percent of nonconfined residential building fires extend beyond the room of origin. The leading causes of these larger fires are electrical malfunctions (16 percent), unintentional or careless actions (15 percent), intentional (12 percent), and open flame (11 percent).
- Smoke alarms were not present in 21 percent of the larger, nonconfined fires in occupied residential buildings.

Chief Ken Wylie

## From the Cemetery Sexton and Road Maintenance Supervisor

Williamsburg Cemetery have grave spaces available at a cost of \$250 per grave for residents and \$650 per grave for non residents. For information call 513- 724-1110.

Winter is approaching and the Township has approximately 160 tons of salt in stock for road treatment. Use caution when following or meeting salt trucks. Salt spreaders can cause damage to the paint on cars when following to close. Some Township roads are only 12' wide and Township plows are 10' wide. Drivers will get over and allow you to pass when possible.

## HARMONY HILL

### WILLIAMSBURG AND THE CIVIL WAR

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War. The first shot was fired on Fort Sumter, South Carolina on April 12, 1861. The war was said to have been fought between the North and South over the issue of slavery and the citizens of Williamsburg were directly involved in and affected by the war.

A gentleman by the name of Charles Boerstler "Boss" Huber was known as the Conductor of the Underground Railroad in Williamsburg. He was a strong abolitionist and is said to have helped as many as 500 slaves to find their way to freedom. He owned a tannery and was helped by a free black man named Marcus Sims who worked for him. The slaves were hidden on Huber's farm outside of the village and Sims would drive the wagon concealing the slaves to Wilmington where a group of Quakers would help them on their way North. When Huber died at the young age of 48, his neighbor, Dr. Levitt T. Pease, then became the station master and Sims continued to help until he enlisted in the Army and was later killed in battle. These individuals risked everything for what they thought to be a person's right to be free.

Williamsburg has the distinction of having five locations designated by the National Park Service to be on the National Underground Railroad Freedom Trail. "Boss" Huber's home (160 Gay Street), Marcus Sims - Huber Tannery Site (134 S. Second Street), Dr. Levitt T. Pease Home (180 Gay Street), Williamsburg Twp. Cemetery (Gay Street) and the Charles Huber Farm Site (975 West Main Street).

Over 300,000 men from Ohio volunteered for the Army including men from our community, and a few years after the war a group of local citizens erected a beautiful monument of a Civil War soldier in the Williamsburg Cemetery to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice. There are several Civil War soldiers buried in surrounding cemeteries.

The village was directly affected by the war when, on the afternoon of July 14, 1863, Gen. John Hunt Morgan and his 3000 men rode into town fleeing from Union Gen. Hobson and his troops. They stayed overnight and terrorized and robbed the locals before riding out of town the next day, burning the covered bridge. It was said they burned the bridge in retaliation for the involvement of Huber and Pease in the Underground Railroad Movement. Now, 150 years later, let us honor the memory of those who risked their all for such a noble cause.

Join your  
Historical  
Society  
and learn  
more  
about the  
community  
where you live!

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please complete the application form and mail or bring to:  
Harmony Hill Association, Inc., 299 South Third St., Williamsburg, Ohio 45176

#### Please print clearly:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Memberships:  
Student (K-12): \$3  
Single Adult: \$12  
Family: \$24

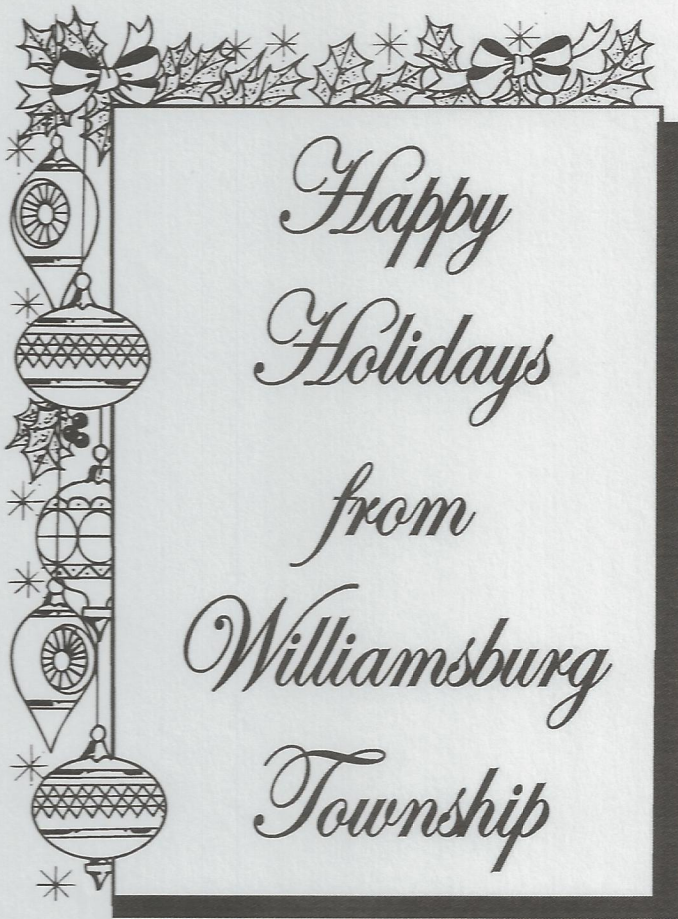
For further information call:  
(513) 724-7824

Dues are effective: January 1-December 31

(Membership gift is presented to new members; pick up at Harmony Hill.)

Please make checks payable to: Harmony Hill Assoc., Inc. (Contributions are tax deductible.)





# Trains of Williamsburg 2011 Christmas Walk

(Downtown Williamsburg)

Friday

December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011

5:00pm - 9:00pm



OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Keeping you informed.

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

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