

Williamsburg Township Newsletter

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

FALL / WINTER 2015-2016

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



Each year, Brian Tatman, Williamsburg Township Maintenance Department Manager, reports out to the Trustees the condition of each road in the township to include the condition of bridges and culverts. This year, Cobb Road has been paved, which is 1.04 miles in length. Generally, the township paves a road every other year, depending on the length and condition. This is accomplished through a collaboration with the Clermont County Engineers Department, ran by Patrick Manger. Due to the fact that townships in Clermont County do not have the proper equipment to pave roads, we leverage our strength through the county which bids out larger projects. Once this process is complete, the projects are coordinated and implemented. Mr. Manger and his team provide an excellent opportunity, for townships that want to participate, to get a quality job completed, with a cost savings. Many culverts were replaced and road repairs completed by the Township throughout the year. The Williamsburg Township Trustees are committed to making sure our roads are well maintained and the community has safe access to their homes. Great Job by the Williamsburg Township Maintenance Department, and we appreciate all the support we get from Clermont County Engineer Pat Manger's team. Up to date information concerning the Eastgate Corridor or Clermont County projects can be found at clermontengineer.org. Information concerning Williamsburg Township roads and maintenance can be found at williamsburgtownship.org.

Williamsburg Township Zoning Administrator, Yvonne Malott, has been very busy updating the Township Zoning Resolutions, with the support of Mr. Corbett from the Clermont County Department of Community and Economic Development. As a light overview, the resolutions regulate the location, size, height and use of buildings/structures and is enacted to promote public health, safety, and general welfare of the township. Updating the Township Zoning Resolutions is a significant and challenging task. Once completed, the document will be reviewed by our Township Zoning Commission. Information concerning the Zoning Commission or Zoning Board of Appeals can be found at williamsburgtownship.org under zoning, which is where you can find our zoning map and permit requirements, as well as other information. The Williamsburg Township Trustees appreciate the dedication and ownership that Yvonne Malott exhibits for our community.

Chief Wiedemann, Williamsburg Emergency Services Chief, is working hard with his team to keep the equipment on hand updated with the newest technology in order to keep our community safe. Recently, Williamsburg Emergency

From The Trustees

Services was awarded a \$100,000 federal grant to help pay for 20 new self contained breathing apparatuses and 10 spare cylinders. This was achieved by virtue of a grant written by Daniel Knapke, with the support of the Emergency Services team. The new gear will replace equipment that is obsolete. The Trustees appropriated approximately \$30,000.00, which supported purchasing six additional self-contained breathing apparatuses, ensuring total compliance with the grant.

We commend Chief Weidmann, Daniel Knapke, and the team for the success of the grant. We are very prudent with the tax payers money and it is often challenging to pace the community needs and stay within our plan and budget. Achieving the grant alleviates a lot of pleasure from us and continues to upgrade the safety of our community. Earlier this year, the Williamsburg Emergency Services achieved a \$7000.00 grant to offset the cost of training and equipment.

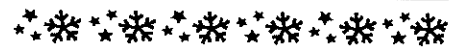
In the State of Ohio, there are 1308 townships. Each township has experienced a nearly 50% cut in Local Government funds since 2008. More than 500 township levies will appear on the November 3, 2015 ballot this fall, 120 of which are additional levies. Of the additional levies, 44 are for safety and 43 are road levies. Staying prudent with funds, achieving grants, and collaborating as a team has kept us from running levies and has kept us accountable to the tax payers money.

After several months working on details for a new ambulance, Chief Wiedemann has brought forward details with the new technologies to support progressive changes. With the State bid cost and our specifications, the cost will be \$198,257.98. The Williamsburg Township Trustees has appropriated the money to order the new ambulance from Horton Emergency Vehicles which will arrive mid-summer of 2016. Chief Weidmann pointed out that by ordering now we will avoid a \$ 10,000.00 to \$15,000.00 dollar increase after November 10, 2015.

Winter is around the corner, following is the snow advisory information from the Clermont County Sheriff's website (<http://www.clermontsheriff.org/RoadConditions.aspx>)

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

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:

Level One: "ROADWAYS ARE HAZARDOUS WITH BLOWING AND DRIFTING SNOW. ROADS ARE ALSO ICY. DRIVE VERY CAUTIOUSLY." *This level of snow emergency is merely advisory in nature, cautioning motorists to drive carefully on snow covered and icy roadways. Since this states the obvious, this level will rarely be used in Clermont County.*

Level Two: "ROADWAYS ARE HAZARDOUS WITH BLOWING AND DRIFTING SNOW. ONLY THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO FEEL IT IS NECESSARY TO DRIVE SHOULD BE OUT ON THE ROADWAYS. CONTACT YOUR EMPLOYER TO SEE IF YOU SHOULD REPORT FOR WORK." *This level of snow advisory is more severe than Level One and recommends that only necessary vehicular travel be undertaken. There are NO legal restrictions or penalties for driving under a Level Two advisory. Offices and businesses have the discretion to establish "Work or No-work" policies for their staff and employees under this level.*

Level Three: "ALL ROADWAYS ARE CLOSED TO NON-EMERGENCY PERSONNEL. NO ONE SHOULD BE OUT DURING THESE CONDITIONS UNLESS IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY TO TRAVEL. ALL EMPLOYEES SHOULD CONTACT THEIR EMPLOYER TO SEE IF THEY SHOULD REPORT TO WORK. THOSE TRAVELING ON THE ROADWAYS MAY SUBJECT THEMSELVES TO ARREST." *This information can be viewed at clermontsheriff.org*

Last but not least, The Williamsburg Township Trustees would like to acknowledge the effort of the Old Firehouse Brewery, 237 West Main Street, in the Village of Williamsburg. For their first year anniversary, OFB raised over \$1,700.00 for your local Williamsburg Emergency Services that will go towards a new thermal imaging camera. We want to congratulate you on your first year anniversary and the support you give to our Community. Thank you!

Respectfully,
Bari Henning - Gary Jordan - Guy Bainum



Williamsburg Township Zoning Office



Williamsburg Village and Williamsburg 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 structure smaller than 200 square feet 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.

Williamsburg Township Zoning Office hours are 9am until 11am. Monday through Friday (except on Federal Holidays).

Appointments can be made to accommodate citizens that cannot make these hours by calling 513-724-5529 and leaving a message with your contact number.

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.



From the Cemetery Sexton and Road Maintenance Supervisor



The Township took delivery of a 2015 International 7400 Dump Truck with new snow plow and salt spreader back in February. It replaced a 2001 International 4900. The new truck is ready to haul salt this winter and clear all the roads when we need to. We also have a 2008 Ford F550 dump truck for fighting snow and ice events. The Township salt supply is fully stocked at this time. We also have 150 tons of salt on order for the winter.

This year Cobb Road was paved and we replaced 2 road pipes. When Cobb Road was paved it had an extra chemical added to it afterwards to help make the road last longer. With the extra chemical added it can make the road last up to an extra 5 years. This is the first road the Township has used it on. We are also patching roads on West Fork Drive and East Fork Valley Drive.



Williamsburg Township Cemetery has grave spaces available for purchase. If you would like to make an appointment to look at graves or purchase them please call 513-724-1110. The Township averages 60 to 80 funerals a year. At the end of October we have had 58 funerals. We are coming to the end of mowing season, any decorations placed on the ground around headstones after November 30 will not be removed until March 2016 for the next mowing season...



News from your Emergency Services



Williamsburg Township Emergency Services is please to announce that we have been awarded a FEMA Grant for \$99,791.00 this will go toward the purchase of 20 SCBA's and 10 spare bottles. We are also in the process of getting specs on a new life squad. I'm really excited about the new equipment and the growth of the department; this will keep our members safe while helping them serve the community in a more efficient manor.

Just a reminder with cold weather coming, please make sure that your heating system is in proper working order and that your CO detector and smoke detectors are also in proper working order.

The department would like to welcome 2 new members, Daniel Seaman and Thomas Hart. We would also like to wish Perry Bennett a Happy Retirement he has served with the department for 20 years. He held the position of Assistant Fire Chief.

I would like to thank everyone that came out to our Open House, it would not have been possible without the members that volunteered and the ladies auxiliary.

Kevin Wiedemann
Fire Chief

HARMONY HILL



the Thomas Morris Tavern



Jail (left) and Courthouse on the Public Square (Present site of old W.H.S.)

WILLIAMSBURGH'S FIRST COURTHOUSES

Williamsburgh was made the Clermont County Seat in 1801 by declaration of the Court of General Quarter Sessions. They entered into an agreement with Thomas Morris whose home and business were located on the East side of Broadway about halfway between Main and Gay Streets, presently 164 N. Broadway. According to that agreement, Morris was to furnish the court with a "convenient house, table, benches, fuel, etc. for the purpose of holding court for a term of four years at \$20 a year." Mr. Morris kept a log hotel adjoining another log building (used as the jail), which joined yet another log building which became the first courthouse of the county.

On June 10, 1805, the County Commissioners entered into an agreement with Nicholas Sinks who had purchased the property (described above) and business from Morris in 1804. Mr. Sinks agreed to "furnish a room with convenient benches, tables and seats for the purpose of holding court in his residence together with a room or rooms for the Grand and Petit Juries to sit in and a room for the County Commissioners to use, and to 'keep the necessary fires' for the court at \$24 a year."

In 1805, the Commissioners finally decided it was time to erect a proper courthouse, and they did so on the public square. On August 1, 1805, the board awarded the contract to John Wright, the lowest bidder, and John Charles agreed to build the two-story stone structure for \$1,449. It took four years to construct it, and it was used as the Clermont County Courthouse from 1810 until 1823. The jail, also on the public square was built in 1811. Both the courthouse and the jail were torn down in 1858 to build a school on the site. (It burned in February of 1922, and the present building on that site was finished in time for the 1923-24 school year.)

After the county seat was permanently moved to Batavia in 1824, the citizens of Williamsburgh took possession of the square and public buildings for several years. General Lytle then claimed the property under terms of the dedication which stated that if the county seat should be removed, the land should revert to the original proprietor (William Lytle). Lytle claimed the property and then sold it to the Unites States Bank; the bank sold it to Sayers Gazley and Adam S. Walker in 1846. The village was determined to reclaim the property and brought a suit in the name of Charles B. Huber and others against Gazley and Walker. The case was under litigation for several years. In 1849, the Supreme Court of Ohio finally decreed that the title to the public square belonged to the village forever.

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.



Trains of Williamsburg 2015 Christmas Walk



OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Keeping you informed.

BULK RATE
U.S. Postage Paid
Williamsburg, Ohio 45176
Permit # 56

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