



Williamsburg Township Newsletter

Ohio

www.williamsburgtownship.org

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

FALL / WINTER 2022-2023

Bari Henning
Trustee
724-2994

Gary Jordan
Trustee
724-5315

Guy Bainum
Trustee
724-6553

Doug Lefferson
Fiscal Officer
513-707-8584

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

Just a reminder, a decision has been made to put the Fire & EMS Levy back on the November 8, 2022 ballot. A Special Levy Newsletter was mailed out to all residents in early October explaining the need for the EMS/Fire Levy. The Williamsburg Township Trustees and Fiscal Officer have held Special Meetings at the Williamsburg Emergency Services Building to explain the challenges and why there is a need for a levy. On **Wednesday, November 2nd**, at the Williamsburg Emergency Services Building starting at **7pm**, the Township residents are invited to listen to the reasons for the need of an Emergency Services Levy and asked questions pertaining to this topic. This will be the only business discussed, no other business will be conducted at this special meeting. We welcome your questions. We appreciate everyone who has attended the two previous meetings, thank you.

The Township has purchased the Concord Church and cemetery, which dates back to 1880. This site has been vacant for quite some time and the church is in disrepair. The floor has dropped to the ground and the studs to the sill plate has disintegrated in most areas. Being vacant has brought numerous problems, more specifically to squatters living on the site. Without heat, electric, and only a holding tank for septic, this presents a health hazard. Heightened awareness has been brought to the abandoned church for **numerous other reasons**. Unfortunately, the building will be demolished. The area will be restored for more cemetery lots for residents. The trustees have made a presentation to the Clermont County Land Bank for a grant to complete this work. No other business will be allowed on site, protecting the sanctity of the cemetery, which is the highest priority.

Each year we budget approximately \$130,000.00 to repave selected roads that are the Township's responsibility. Due to being a petroleum-based product, this cost of this product grows exponentially each year. Our focus to resurface is on the Commons of East Fork Roads. More specifically, this would include West Fork Ridge Drive, Rhodes Drive, East Fork Hills Drive, and East Fork Valley Drive. Once the roads met the Clermont County Engineers approval in 2000, the roads were transferred to Williamsburg Township to maintain. The base of these roads has left a lot to be desired and remain in constant repair.

Earlier in the spring of 2022, these roads were put out for bid and resulted in a \$1,100,000.00 project proposal, **full depth reclamation**. The first attempt at gaining a grant for this project failed. We have been working with the Clermont County Engineers to determine the most cost-effective way to resurface these roads, while addressing quality of the final product and longevity of the roads. This resulted in an opportunity to request a new grant, for **full depth repair**, a different approach resulting in a quality surface. The cost of this new approach will be reduced, however, results in a \$550,000.00 bid estimate. A grant would partially offset a large sum of the cost, approximately 49%. The cost will fluctuate due to the cost of oil. We will communicate the results of this grant effort, once received. Regardless of securing grant moneys, we are dedicated to resurfacing the roads of Commons of East Fork, creating a strategy on how to effectively utilize resources and implement funds wisely, being prudent with tax base dollars.

Success is driven by the leadership that supports Williamsburg Township. 2022 has been very challenging in many ways. We have two groups of leaders that we want to recognize. **The Williamsburg Township Zoning Commission** appointments are Ed Boll, Vonnie Malott, Don Frogge, Nancy Sullivan, and Mike Pope. Chad Graybill and Jody Wiedemann are the alternates. **The Williamsburg Township Zoning Board of Appeals** appointments are Virgil Burroughs, Neil Doss, Tracy Ortman, Brian Henning, and Doug McPhillips. Lucy Snell and Kevin Thomas are the alternates. **We are so grateful for the support and the work these dedicated individuals perform in zoning and appeals. Your public service is valued. We appreciate all that you do, thank you!**

The Adams-Clermont Solid Waste District is holding a tire disposal event 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 18 and Saturday, Nov. 19, at the Neville Public Boat Ramp, off of US 52 on Morgan Street in the Village of Neville. Up to 10 tires will be accepted from Clermont County households only, meaning any tires from businesses (auto dealers or repair shops, trucking companies, etc.) will not be accepted. This event is a good opportunity for residents to dispose of tires that were accumulated from personal use, illegally dumped on their property, or were on their property when they purchased it. If you have any questions regarding this event or other services provided by the Adams-Clermont Solid Waste District, visit www.OEQ.net, email dsnyder@ClermontCountyOhio.gov or phone (513) 732-7744. Williamsburg Township will set the date for the 2023 junk days and shared the date in the spring newsletter. Williamsburg Township does not accept tires at this event. Take advantage of the shared information to dispose of tires. As we state in every fall newsletter, winter is just around the corner. Just a reminder, 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

- Continued From Page 1 -

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.

Friday, November 11, 2022 is Veteran's Day, brought to you by our national treasure, the veterans. Freedom is not free. Take the time to say thank you to a veteran and reflect the appreciation veterans deserve. We appreciate the active duty service members and veterans for their service and the freedom we have each day! **Happy Veteran's Day.**

It has been a tough year in so many ways, for most of us. As we face into 2023, we wish you all the Blessings for Thanksgiving and God's Grace during the Christmas Holidays! Be safe, stay strong, and remain well, as a community.

Go Wildcats!!!

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

Respectfully,
Guy Bainum
Trustee

Bari Henning
Trustee

Gary Jordan
Trustee

News from your Emergency Services

Imagine reaching up to grab your favorite novel from the bookshelf or turning on your tablet for a good read. That feeling of excitement that begins to overwhelm your body. Your heartbeat starts to speed up and your mind quickly travels to far off places as it anticipates the reading of chapter after chapter of twists and turns that continues with the turning of a new page.

The tightly knitted community of Williamsburg is experiencing a new and exciting chapter in a long and extravagant history involving the Williamsburg Township Emergency Services. An already intriguing story dating back to 1935, where the residents of a small town founded by William Lytle created a Fire Department to protect the lives, property, and extravagant future for the people of this amazing community. Harry Stamm as the first Fire Chief, along with 12 other members of the community have built a foundation that still stands today. Through selfless acts of community service and sacrifice, the men, women, and young adults within the community have served with pride and honor for the betterment and for the future of the community. In the late 1950's Vernon Schott implemented EMS into the community. This monumental action opened the door for names like Dr. Dan Storer, Dr. Lisa Doss-Kiser, Doris Smith, Mary McCarty, Mary Marshall, Dana Smith, and Jayne Lawrence to provide EMS to the community through the 1980's through the present. As the story builds and the pages turn into chapters, names like Assistant Chief Paul Jones, Assistant Chief Bob Knapke, Chief Wendell Cowdery, Chief Dick Mallot, Captain Ron Goldston, Chief TJ Spencer, Chief Ken Wiley, Lt. Dave Knapke, and the most recently retired Chief Kevin Wiedemann have opened, filled, and closed chapter after chapter in this great and unfinished novel. Each of these individuals were accompanied by an amazing group of men and women, who at a moment's notice would cease anything and everything they were doing and help the community. Our department will forever respect and honor these great people that have enshrined our past and laid a vision for our future. As I start the newest chapter in this novel full of historical events and amazing people, I want to reflect on and honor the past as well as utilize an already solid foundation that has been laid down by those brothers and sister before me. To then forge a great future while raising this department to extraordinary heights by encompassing the attributes of professionalism, honesty, pride, teamwork, community, family and many more. The future here has never been brighter than it is today.

When I talk about myself and where I'm from I proudly speak of the great community of Williamsburg where I have lived and chosen to raise my family for the past 12 years. I was raised in Clermont County in a family of 6. Having an exceptionally hard-working father that taught me that anything worth having is worth working for, and to lead by example. A mother that instilled compassion and empathy amongst many other admirable attributes. This along with an older brother and two younger sisters was the beginning of defining who I am today. I attended grade school at Saint Thomas More and graduated from McNicholas High School in 2002. After graduation I attended Hocking College and The University of Cincinnati (Clermont Campus). I have an amazing wife and two of the most perfect daughters ages 7 and 2.

I joined Williamsburg Township Emergency Services in the Fall of 2010. However, I began my career in the fire service in 2001 while in high school, as a fire explorer with the BMOP Fire Department under Chief Paul Tieman. Once attending college and completing my Firefighter 2 as well as Paramedic classes I began progressing my career in the service. In 2008 I was afforded the opportunity to accept a full-time position with the Central Joint Fire EMS District. I was unaware at that time how impactful this decision was going to be on my career and the opportunities it would prepare me for in the future. While working for CJFED I was able to gain an exceptional amount of experience and knowledge within the fire service. From every co-worker to each supervisor, I will always be grateful and indebted to them for shaping me to be what I am today. As I worked in this great system built by the founding Chief Kevin Riley I continued to grow as a person and as a firefighter. During my years of service, I have obtained many certifications and certificates. In addition to earning my Firefighter 2 and Paramedic certifications I hold certificates or certifications in many other compliments. CPR and Basic Life Support, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support, Certified Fire Safety Inspector, Continuing Education Instructor, National Incident Management Systems 100, 200, 300, 400, 700, and 800, Rope Rescue Technician, Ice Rescue Technician and Certified Ice Rescue Instructor, Swift-water Operations level with Rescue Boat Technician, Hazmat Awareness and Operations, and others as well.

- Continued On Page 3 -

- Continued From Page 2 -

As I write to you today about our future, we as a department will strive for greatness as those before us did. To achieve this, we seek the support of not only the members of our department but the community as well. Our mission is to be there for each community member on their best and worst days. We want to share the enjoyment on the best of days and to intervene and make a difference on the worst of days. We as a department will strive to mirror the greatness of this small community while we forge forward to unprecedented levels. When seconds matter in the preservation of life or property we want to be swift and professional. This next chapter will pave the path for the future generation of our kids and grandkids. We will write the next part of this story together, and without the support of our members or the community we will not be able to continue to build upon the foundation laid before us by those who we so passionately respect and honor. With great support from the Williamsburg community the opportunities afforded to our department will be infinite, and our success will be the greatest achieved yet.

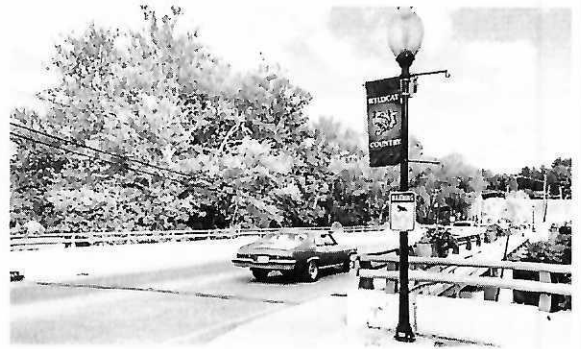
In the words of the great poet Robert Frost,
 "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I, I took the one less travelled by. And that has made all the difference."

So, let's be swift and confident with where we go and only look back to honor those before us.
 I speak these words to you with great excitement!

Your Fire Chief,
 Jason McCarthy
 Williamsburg Township Emergency Services
 jmccarthy@williamsburgtownship.org

Harmony Hill

In the late 1700's the settlers of Williamsburg had numerous challenges. One such challenge was fording the East Fork River. Crudely made ferries were used and later a rope ferry connected the eastern end of Gay Street to the opposite bank. Later, a two part timber bridge was then constructed in 1845 near the foot of Main Street. The east end of the larger bridge rested on an island and the other bridge spanned the bayou. A flood destroyed this bridge in 1859 and in 1860 it was replaced by a single bridge. This bridge was the one burned by Morgan's Raiders in 1863 as they rode south out of the village, taking most of the villager's horses and much food. The Union Soldiers were in pursuit but were delayed without the bridge. Soon after that a covered bridge was built and used until the middle of the 1930's. In 1936 the present bridge was built of concrete and steel, which sits on two abutments and two center piers above the East Fork of the Little Miami river. At the time of completion it was thought to be a most beautiful bridge which should never need replacing.



Sad Announcement: Harmony Hill has recently lost one of our most outstanding members, Virginus Cornice Hall, Jr., on September 24. Virginus was a direct descendant of Major General William Lytle. Virginus was a fine gentleman who was generous with his knowledge and contributions to Harmony Hill. He was a kind, soft spoken, scholar, who provided an important link to Williamsburg's beginnings. He will be sorely missed.

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.

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