



Williamsburg Township Newsletter

Ohio

www.williamsburgtownship.org

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

SPRING / SUMMER 2023

Bari Henning
Trustee
724-2994

Gary Jordan
Trustee
724-5315

Guy Bainum
Trustee
724-6553

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 ***

First and foremost, we are grateful for the support on the Fire/EMS Levy in November 2022. This is significant as we transition from a volunteer department to a full-time staffed Fire/EMS Department. For those that voted for the levy, thank you! For those who were not in support, we will strive to build a Fire/EMS Department that you will take pride in and we will work hard to continue to gain your support, by actions. The overall goal is to increase staff to provide a professional level of care to the community as well as to build a strong and upcoming full-time community-oriented Williamsburg Emergency Services Department. We will strive to provide a level of services the Township of Williamsburg deserves. As Williamsburg Township continues to change, we must think beyond our experience and plan beyond our future. There is still opportunity for volunteering. Anyone who wishes to volunteer, please contact Chief McCarthy. Again, thank you, we are grateful!

Julia Hess is the 2023 Williamsburg Township Salute to Leaders nominee for the 2023! She received the award at the Clermont Chamber of Commerce Salute program on March 29, 2023. Julia, a native of Williamsburg, Ohio, attended Williamsburg Local Schools from K-12, then enrolled at Miami University where she earned a Bachelor of Music Degree in 1969. Julia was a 4-year member of the Miami University a Capella Choir which performed and recorded the vocal portion of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony – in German – with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. That team also recorded and performed the World Premiere of Dave Brubeck's "The Light in the Wilderness" Oratorio with Dave Brubeck and the CSO, under the direction of Maestro Erich Kunzel. The team also performed these selections in Cincinnati's Music Hall, Carnegie Hall in New York City and on a one-month tour in ten countries in Europe. Julia later earned her Master's degree at Miami University.

Also, in 1969, Julia married David Hess, and after returning from Europe, she joined him in Puerto Rico where he was serving in the U.S. Navy as a Radarman. While there, she sang in the chapel choir until she was hired as the organist. Because she was not teaching, Mr. & Mrs. Hess decided to start their family; their son, Steven Hess was born at the Roosevelt Naval Base Hospital in December of 1970.

After returning to Ohio, Julia was hired as Vocal-Instrumental teacher (1-12) for Bright Local Schools in Highland County. The following year, she was invited to apply, and was hired as Vocal and General Music teacher for Williamsburg Local Schools, and taught here until retiring in 2001. While at Williamsburg, Julia taught general music (k-3 and 7-8), directed the High School Choir, and taught two elective fine arts classes for high school students. In addition, she directed nineteen musicals and served as majorette and drill team advisor. She also accompanied vocal and instrumental soloists at annual OMEA District Solo Contests, and group rehearsals for Clermont County Honor Choirs in which her students participated.

Julia was inducted into Delta Kappa Gamma – "Key Women Teachers" – in 1972. She served as secretary and president of that organization which was composed of teachers in Clermont, Brown and Highland Counties.

Julia has been a choir member, accompanist, choir director, and now music director of the First Presbyterian Church since 1972. Prior to serving in the Presbyterian Church, she was a member of the Williamsburg Methodist Church where Julia sang in the youth and adult choirs, helped with accompaniment for Sunday School classes (from the time she was in the third grade) and later, substituted as the accompanist for church services.

In 1996, Julia organized and directed the Williamsburg Community Choir to perform a patriotic musical for our town's bicentennial celebration. That choir performed the Star-Spangled Banner at Riverfront Stadium twice. Julia and her husband, organized the Williamsburg Community Band, also for Williamsburg's Bicentennial celebrations; the band continues to rehearse and perform since then, and has performed at June in Olde Williamsburg, for Grant Days and at the Veterans' Home in Georgetown, and many other local venues. This group has also performed for at least twenty of the Christmas Walk events.

In the Williamsburg Garden Club, Julia has served as secretary, president and vice-president – each one, several times. She was invited to become a board member of the Harmony Hill Association, Inc., (Museum) after she retired from teaching in 2001. Julia is currently president of the Harmony Hill Association, Inc. and has served as the secretary, in the past.

Julia has accompanied for some of the recent WHS musicals, and continue to accompany the middle/high school choirs and the elementary choir, as needed. She also accompanies singers at the WHS Alumni banquets, plays for funerals and weddings. Julia assisted with the sectional rehearsals at the 2022 summer band camp, as well. In 2022, Julia was extremely honored to be inducted into Williamsburg High School's Academic Hall of Fame.

Mrs. Julia Hess, on behalf of our community, the Williamsburg Township Trustees **Salute** you and your passion to lead in significant roles, which has highly contributed to making **Our Community a tremendous place to live and an incredible place to raise a Family!**

The Williamsburg Township Maintenance building is very antiquated and equipment is rotated by the season. The building has no heat, no air conditioning, or restrooms for the maintenance team. A new building has been designed to address capacity, employee safety, and equipment, which will allow the team to be more productive. We have received \$359,000.00 grant money from the American Rescue Plan Act (which may not be used for wages). A generous donation will pay the remaining portion of the cost. The architect has prepared the blueprints of the project and meetings have taken place to prepare the site and other necessary objectives to begin the building process.

Williamsburg Township Junk Days have been set for June 8-10, 2023. The hours will be Thursday, June 8th from 8am-8pm, Friday, June 9th from 8am-8pm, and Saturday, June 10th from 8am-4pm. The collection point will again be the Williamsburg Township Maintenance Department Building. There will be only one Junk Day event set for the township for 2023. For information concerning this event, please call Brian Tatman at 724-1110. The Williamsburg Township Maintenance Department Building is located at the end of **North 8th Street**. Tires will not be accepted at this event. If asked to identify yourself as a resident, a driver license or utility bill would be sufficient.

- Continued From Page 1 -

Each year we budget approximately \$130,000.00 to repave selected roads that are the Township's responsibility. The Commons of East Fork Roadswill be resurfaced this year. More specifically, this would include West Fork Ridge Drive, Rhodes Drive, East Fork Hills Drive, and East Fork Valley Drive.

In 2022, Williamsburg Township worked 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. We were successful in achieving a grant, for full depth repair, resulting in a quality surface. The cost of this approach is estimated to be approximately \$550,000.00. A grant of \$269,500.00 will partially offset a large sum of the cost, the township will dedicate \$180,500.00 initially and additionally have a \$100,000.00, ten-year loan with a zero percent interest rate. This creates a strategy to effectively utilize resources and implement funds wisely, being prudent with tax base dollars. Williamsburg Township Fiscal Officer Doug Lefferson's strategy on funding this effort positioned us to secure the financing for this major project. Job well done Doug!

Williamsburg Township has received a generous monetary donation that will support our Williamsburg Fire/EMS Department. Three LIFPAK 15 V4 Monitor/Defib Units, along with the accompanying equipment from Stryker Medical have been ordered, exceeding \$125,000.00. This equipment will certainly support life saving measures for our residents. We are grateful for the support!

As mentioned in the Fall newsletter, the Township has purchased the Concord Church and cemetery, which dates back to 1880. Unfortunately, the building, due to being in disrepair, will be demolished this summer. A presentation for a grant was pitched to the Clermont County Land Bank, in the fall of 2022. Protecting the sanctity of the cemetery, which is the highest priority, will be achieved. It is our vision to have a pavilion built on site to shelter residents when visiting the cemetery or for the purpose of a funeral. Additionally, we are now in process in securing the full rights to the Clover Cemetery, by virtue of a quit claim deed, with the support of the Clermont County Prosecutors office. This cemetery is located on State Route 133 at the corner of Clover Road and Bass Road.

Wind/solar farms seem to be one of the hottest topics in Clermont County at this time. Numerous companies are aggressively trying to purchase or lease existing farms to build solar farms on them. A resolution, rejecting large wind/solar farm construction in Williamsburg Township has been sent to the Clermont County Commissioners, giving objective-based responses, stating our position concerning wind/solar farms in Williamsburg Township. The Williamsburg Township Zoning Commission has met concerning this activity and will continue to form zoning on this matter. On Wednesday, May 10, 2023 a special meeting will be held, to discuss the matter of zoning wind/solar farms. The purpose of this meeting is to update the zoning effort and give Williamsburg Township residents voice on this matter. Taylor Corbett, Clermont County Planning & Zoning Department and Scott Galver, Economic Development Specialist will be at the meeting to give a brief overview on the four types of solar projects, which are, 1. Major scale – 50 megawatts and above, 2. Minor scale – under 50 megawatts, 3. Commercial – for business facilities, and 4. Residential – for local single-family homes. Senate Bill #52 will be explained as it relates to solar planning and zoning, concerning Williamsburg Township. Grandfathering provisions to address a current project under development will be explained. The meeting will take place at the Williamsburg Emergency Building and will start at 7pm.

We are in process of updating our Williamsburg Township policies for all elected officials and township employees. The policies are updated/revised to stay current with new trends; as well as, new technologies and Social Media/IT applications. The Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG), as it pertains to the Williamsburg Fire/EMS Department are also being updated/revised at this time. Once this is completed by the trustees, fiscal officer, and department leads, the documents will be sent to the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA) for review and support, then to the Clermont County Prosecutors office, for final advice and counsel.

Williamsburg Township assists in culvert pipe replacement on Williamsburg Township Roads when needed. The cost of the culvert pipe, rock, or other needed material is the responsibility of the resident. Ditches are in place to keep the roads safe, culvert pipes assist in removing the flow of water from the roads, keeping the roads clear. A list of Williamsburg Township Roads is listed on our website. Call Brian Tatman, Williamsburg Township Maintenance Supervisor for details concerning replacement. All other roads are the responsibility of the Clermont County Engineers or the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) per the Ohio Revised Code (ORC). Private roads are the responsibility of the owners.

Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District Seeks Public Input

Across the United States, Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) work at the county level to provide technical and financial assistance along with educational resources to help landowners conserve and protect healthy soils, water, farmland, woodland and wildlife. Clermont SWCD is inviting the public to offer feedback and suggestions on ways the district can improve local conservation programs to benefit the agricultural community, urban areas, area schools and individual landowners. Please take a moment to complete a survey by scanning this QR code with your phone – participants will be entered into a drawing to win gift cards to local businesses.



At the Clermont County Trustees Association meeting on Thursday, March 16, 2023, the Clermont County Health Department presented an overview of the responsibilities, challenges, and accomplishments, over the last year. Clermont Health Commissioner Julianne Nesbit leads the department's administration, community health services, and environmental health services of this team. Services provided can be viewed at ccphohio.org; as well as, the 2022 Annual Report. We are grateful for all this team accomplishes for the community.

Williamsburg Township randomly places a radar sign on various roads, to obviously bring awareness of a driver's speed. Drive safe and please watch for children by the road. The activity at railroad crossings is growing, it is a great safety topic for new drivers. Please exercise safety as the State, County, and Township road crews will be out working on the roads this summer.

Williamsburg Emergency Mission Community Food Pantry is supported by several churches in the Williamsburg area. It is operated out of the Williamsburg United Methodist Church, in collaboration with the other churches. The current economy is very challenging for many families and many residents use this opportunity when they need a hand up. For hours of operation call 513-724-0085. For those who do not need the support at this time, it is an excellent opportunity to support the Williamsburg Emergency Mission Community Food Pantry through a monetary or food donation.

Congratulations Graduating Seniors! The 2023 graduating class are champions regardless if they are in the classroom or on the sports field. As a community, we are so proud of your achievements! As in the past, Williamsburg Schools has provided you with an excellent education, from the very best teachers, and have been preparing you for the next exciting chapter in your life. Spread your wings and become the leadership for our future. On behalf of the Williamsburg Township community, congratulations on your accomplishments! We wish you God's Blessing and Grace! 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

Zoning, Roads and Cemetery

Roads

Williamsburg Township received a grant to repair and repave the Commons of East Fork Subdivision. The project is expected to start sometime after July 1, 2023. Williamsburg Township will be out patching and repairing roads when weather allows. If you see workers out on the road please remember to slow down. The Township used approximately 75 tons of salt this past winter. Williamsburg Township Residential Junk Days is scheduled for June 8th and 9th from 8 am to 8pm and June 10th from 8 am to 4 pm. This is for Williamsburg Township residents to clean up their properties in Williamsburg Township. Proof of residency may be asked for.

Cemetery

Spring is here, which means mowing season has started. Just a reminder that any decorations left in the grass during mowing season will be picked up and discarded. We do not allow any shepherd hooks in the grass. We do have plenty of grave spaces available. If you are needing to purchase a grave space call the Maintenance Office at 513-724-1110 to make an appointment. We are looking for 2 part time workers to mow and trim this summer. If interested please call the Maintenance Office at 513-724-1110.

Zoning

Williamsburg Township Zoning office is open by appointment only. If you need a zoning permit or have a question please call the Zoning Office at 513-724-5529.

Section 409: General Property Maintenance Requirements Yards:

1. All yards and lots shall be kept free of overgrown grasses, debris, junk, junk vehicles and other materials that may cause a fire, health, or safety hazard, or general unsightliness.

2. NO owner or person in control of parcel, dwelling, business, building or premises shall allow grass, weeds, noxious weeds, brush or similar vegetation to remain on the premises at such a height and density as to constitute harborage, actual or potential, for rodents or vermin.

a. For the purpose of this section, a height of twelve (12) inches constitute a potential hazard.

b. The forgoing shall not apply to premises or part thereof on which such growth may be reasonably demonstrated to be for agricultural, horticultural, or natural prairie or wooded areas.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Tatman

Williamsburg Township - Zoning, Roads & Cemetery Supervisor

blatman@williamsburgtownship.org

Harmony Hill

The Bullskin Trace or Trail was created first by the buffalo and wild animals. It stretched from Detroit, MI, to the great salt licks in KY. It was one of the very first roads in Ohio, having its beginning in Clermont County east of the little town of Edenton. On the edge of town on St. Rt. #133, you will see a stone marker placed there by the DAR in 1927. It followed St.Rt. 133 through Williamsburg, Bethel, and Felicity ending at the little town called Rural on the Ohio River, founded 1845. This town no longer exists because it was destroyed by a flood in 1913. Today it is near the town of Chilo. It ended at the mouth of the Bull Skin Creek which was where it received its name. This creek was an easy inland access from the Ohio River. The mouth of the creek is a prehistoric site and is on the National Register of Historic Sites. Artifacts found there date back to 4000 BC-1000 BC. The Trace was used by wild animals, Native Americans and pioneers all travelling to the salt licks, the Army during the War of 1812 to take supplies to Admiral Perry on Lake Erie, and finally escaping slaves on their way to freedom on the Underground Railroad. It ran through Williamsburg down what is now Gay Street to the end at the old ford and ferry site. This path can still be seen today. About 1778, the Shawnee led by Tecumseh, Black Snake, and Blue Jacket chased Daniel Boone and Simon Kenton on the trail, crossing the East Fork to the Dela Palma Road that eventually led to the big native encampment at what is now Chillicothe. Boone and Kenton were captured and taken there but eventually escaped. In 1793 Gen. Anthony Wayne's Army moved up the trace and had a skirmish with the Shawnee near Stonelick Creek.

In 1797/98 William Lytle and fellow surveyor, John Donnels laid out the route from Newtown to Williamsburg and then on to Chillicothe. It was first known as Donnels' Trace and later named the Dela Palma Road after a little settlement nearby. This road was important to Lytle because it led the settlers directly to Lytlestown. The Trace to Chillicothe was 60 and 1/2 miles long. When James Kain and his sons created the dugway, it cut off one half mile of the journey. The roads from Newtown to Williamsburg and the Bullskin Trace became corduroy roads, surfaced by split logs, laid side by side. A very bumpy ride! There were saw mills all along the way to supply the logs. George Washington purchased four tracts totaling 3000 acres along the Trace. In 1807 the State Legislature set aside \$700 for improvements to the road and it was designated then as the Xenia State Road, one of the first roads in Ohio. The Bullskin Trace eventually became St. Rt. #133 and was officially dedicated in November of 1929.

~Written by Izella Cadwallader ~Submitted by Marlene Sorensen

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.



NEWS FROM YOUR EMERGENCY SERVICES



As the winter ice melts away and the trees begin to bud, we are excited to welcome the warm spring air! We at the Williamsburg Township Emergency Services are continually thankful for the love and support shown to us throughout the community. We are looking forward to a summer filled with community events. With warmer weather brings summer fun and outdoor events. While these events are exciting, they can present unforeseen hazards and emergencies. We would like to remind everyone of a few safety items. Severe storms have the potential to bring down power lines. Please never walk over or touch a downed power line. These lines can be instantly deadly. Stay clear and call for help! Summer swim parties are a must have event when celebrating with family and friends. Please be vigilant while you, your friends, and family are in or around swimming pools, lakes, ponds, or streams. Please do not use accelerants to start campfires. While sitting by a nice warm fire do not place anything in the fire besides seasoned firewood. Accelerants and compressed canisters such as hair spray or old spray paint cans are dangerous and explosive. Please do not leave campfires unattended. If you have not already changed the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, please do not hesitate to do so. If you need help with this task, we would be more than happy to assist. Call the station and we can set up a time to help. We are excited to see what the summer brings. Please feel free to stop by the fire station this summer and meet some fresh faces.

Thank you for your eternal support!

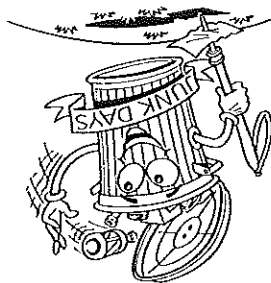
Your Fire Chief,

Jason McCarthy

Williamsburg Township Emergency Services

jmccarthy@williamsburgtownship.org

OR CURRENT RESIDENT



Details inside newsletter
June 8th-10th, 2023
Dates

**Williamsburg Township
Junk Days
Spring Clean-up**

Keeping you informed.

Williamsburg Township Newsletter
P.O. Box 499
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