



# Williamsburg Township Newsletter

Ohio

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

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

SPRING / SUMMER 2024

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](http://Williamsburgtownship.org)

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

## \*\*\* From The Trustees \*\*\*

The State of Ohio Auditor has completed the audit that was conducted after the passing of Williamsburg Township Fiscal Officer Greg Carson. The findings of the audit can be found on the State Auditor's site at Auditor of State of Ohio, Keith Faber - [audits@ohioauditor.gov](mailto:audits@ohioauditor.gov). Audit results were presented at the April 22, 2024 Williamsburg Township Trustee meeting. An in-depth presentation was given by Doug Lefferson, Williamsburg Township Fiscal Officer. The presentation can be viewed at our website at [williamsburgtownship.org](http://williamsburgtownship.org). The process, prepared by the Ohio State Auditors Department, took approximately two years to complete and was made public on April 9, 2024.

As you may know, Chad Graybill passed away on March 3, 2024. Chad supported Williamsburg Township on the Williamsburg Township Zoning Commission. Whenever called upon he was ready to exhibit his leadership in whatever capacity he could to support our community efforts. This fall we will construct a shelter/pavilion at the Concord Cemetery on Twin Bridges Road. This initiative will be constructed by the students of the Grant Vocational School. It is by virtue of his efforts that this will take place. His love for his Family, the students at Grant Vocational School, and community was obvious. He will be truly missed in whatever capacity that he touched. Chad left our community of Williamsburg better than he found it!

The new Williamsburg Township Maintenance building process has started. The building is up, the concrete has been poured and finished, the garage doors are hung, and the utilities are initially in place. When completed, this project will be funded in full by grant money from the American Rescue Plan Act and private donations from the Abrams Family Foundation. The other buildings on site will receive a face lift, which is a separate project, and projected to be complete late spring.

Significant efforts have been made to secure grants. In the last 18 months a combination of funds from grants and private donations has resulted in over 1.5 million dollars of new money. This effort was led by Doug Lefferson, Chief Jason McCarthy, Brian Tatman and supported as a complete team. On behalf of the residents of Williamsburg Township, we are grateful for the generous support from the Abrams Family Foundation, Purina, and others in building a better Williamsburg Community. Thank you!

Rumpke and Williamsburg Township have reached an agreement for a two-year extension on the current waste collection and recycling services contract. From April 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025 base price will be \$22.37 each month. From April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026 base price #1 will be \$23.04 each month. Price for an additional waste container will be \$3.50 per month for the 96-gallon container, for the two-year period. Price for an additional recycling container will be \$3.50 per month, for the 2-year period. Price for special large pick up items will be \$25.00 per item, for the two-year period; however, on the first pick up of each month large items (up to three items) will be picked up for no additional charge. Some large items are required to be wrapped in order to be disposed. Please inform Rumpke if you intend to place a large item out at the first of each month and find out if the item is required to be wrapped. You can reach Rumpke at 513-851-0122. The price for hand service will be \$30.33 each month for April 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025 and \$31.24 each month for April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026. The maximum will be six 35-gallon bags or cans per week, if the hand service is utilized. Rumpke will provide 96-gallon trash carts and 65-gallon recycling carts, as in the past. All waste collection pickup dates will remain the same. Recycling dates will remain the same, every other week. The billing cycle will remain unchanged.

Williamsburg Township Junk Days have been set for June 6-8, 2024. The hours will be Thursday, June 6th from 8am-8pm, Friday, June 7th from 8am-8pm, and Saturday, June 8th 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 2024. For information concerning this event, please call Brian Tatman at 513-724-1110. The Williamsburg Township Maintenance Department Building is located at the end of North 8<sup>th</sup> Street. Tires will not be accepted at this event. If asked to identify yourself as a resident, a driver license or utility bill will be sufficient.

The Commons of East Fork Roads was resurfaced in 2023! It was a very arduous task and we remained within the budget for the project. Just a reminder, parking on the side of the road or the cul-de-sac is not permitted on West Fork Ridge Drive, Rhodes Drive, East Fork Hills Drive, East Fork Valley Drive, and Afton Drive. Afton Drive is the road that Design Within Reach and Purina is located. These roads, to include the cul-de-sac areas, need to be clear for the use of Emergency Services vehicles. This year Hennings Mill Road will be resurfaced. Tentatively, the Clermont County Engineers will be replacing the bridge on this road in 2025.

Wind/solar farms seem to be one of the hottest topics in Clermont County at this time, as well as Williamsburg Township. Numerous companies are aggressively trying to purchase or lease existing farms to build solar farms on them. Williamsburg Township is opposed to major scale 50 megawatts solar farms. As stated in a previous newsletter, there are four types of solar projects, 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 explains this as it relates to solar planning and zoning. Savion has made application with the State of Ohio to place a large base solar farm in Stonelick Township, more specifically on St. Rt. 276 near the Arch Material. Savion has petitioned to have part of this initiative to be in a small portion of Williamsburg Township and Batavia Township, as well.

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 and our children as school lets out for the year.

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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.

Just a reminder, June In Olde Williamsburgh, will be held in the Village of Williamsburg, on June 21<sup>st</sup> and June 22<sup>nd</sup> with a variety of food trucks and craft vendors to choose from! Once again, the rides from Cincinnati Circus will return. The schedule on the main stage each night brings great music to Williamsburg, the Legion has cold beer, and on Saturday night the festival will end with fireworks! The festival offers community fun, amusement rides, a parade, vendor booths, food trucks, fireworks, games, live entertainment, and activities for all ages. The event is organized by the June in Olde Williamsburgh Committee (also known as the "Bicentennial of Olde Williamsburgh") which is a non-profit organization classified as a 501c (3) registered with the State of Ohio. The initial development of the organization was in support of the activities related to the Bicentennial Celebration of Williamsburgh in 1996. The tradition continues and the annual event in June offers the community activities that bring us together. Come out and join in the fun!

Just a reminder, please take time to support the businesses in Williamsburg Township and the Village of Williamsburg. It is an incredible way to invest in our community and support the growth as we face into our changing future.

**As Williamsburg Schools complete another year, on behalf of the Williamsburg Township Community, congratulation to the graduating Seniors. We wish you God's Blessings and Grace. 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



Spring is here! Spring is easily identified by the fresh scents, newly formed buds on the trees, and the resurgence of wildlife into our backyards. Spring also brings an increased opportunity for severe weather events. Severe weather events are dynamic and always present many dangers. Damaging winds, flash floods, and lightning are just some of the dangers associated with these weather patterns. A good framework for severe weather is to **Plan, Practice, Monitor, and Act**. **Planning** for these events should include safety plans when at home, work, school, and even outdoor activities. Have a safety plan that identifies safe areas for refuge; get into a sturdy building and put as many walls between you and the outside as possible. Get as low in the building as possible, whether that be the basement or the lowest floor of your home. Have a disaster kit. Some items in this kit might be flashlights, first aid supplies including tourniquet, a battery powered radio and spare batteries, portable charging pack for cell phones, drinking water, and blankets. **Practice, Practice, Practice!** Practice your safety plan to train you and your family to be ready for a severe weather event. **Monitor**, have multiple ways to receive weather warnings. Outdoor warning sirens are intended to give warning to individuals who are outside. These devices should not be the sole warning device you rely on for notification of imminent severe weather. **Act**, when severe weather threatens activate your plan!

The freshness of spring should also be a reminder to change out the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. These detectors also have a suggested life span from the manufacturer. These devices truly save lives. If you need help changing batteries or have questions about your devices give us a call! If you need us for fire or for an emergency medical related reason, no matter how big or small the emergency is, please call 911. With our call volume continuing to increase, and as we continue to grow our training program, we may not always be at the station to answer the phone or the door.

As you are walking around your yard picking up some sticks and tossing them in a pile take your time and enjoy the weather. Before you decide to light that pile on fire take a minute, hop on the internet, grab a fresh cup of your favorite drink, and read up on the Ohio EPA open burning regulations ([epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/air-pollution-control/permitting/open-burning](http://epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/air-pollution-control/permitting/open-burning).)

In 2023 your Emergency Services Team had 491 fire responses. This was a 52% increase from 2022. We provided Mutual Aid to neighboring departments 119 times. This is a 113% increase from 2022. 179 fire responses were in the Village of Williamsburg. Village responses accounted for 36% of our annual fire responses in 2023. This was a 90% increase from 2022. 193 fire responses were made within the Township. This accounts for 39% of the 2023 fire calls. Our team responded to 1,231 EMS calls. This was a 7% increase from 2022. We responded Mutual Aid on 86 calls. We performed 575 or 47% of the annual calls within the village. This yielded a 20 % increase from 2022. We completed 570 EMS calls within the township. This accounted for 46% of our EMS calls.

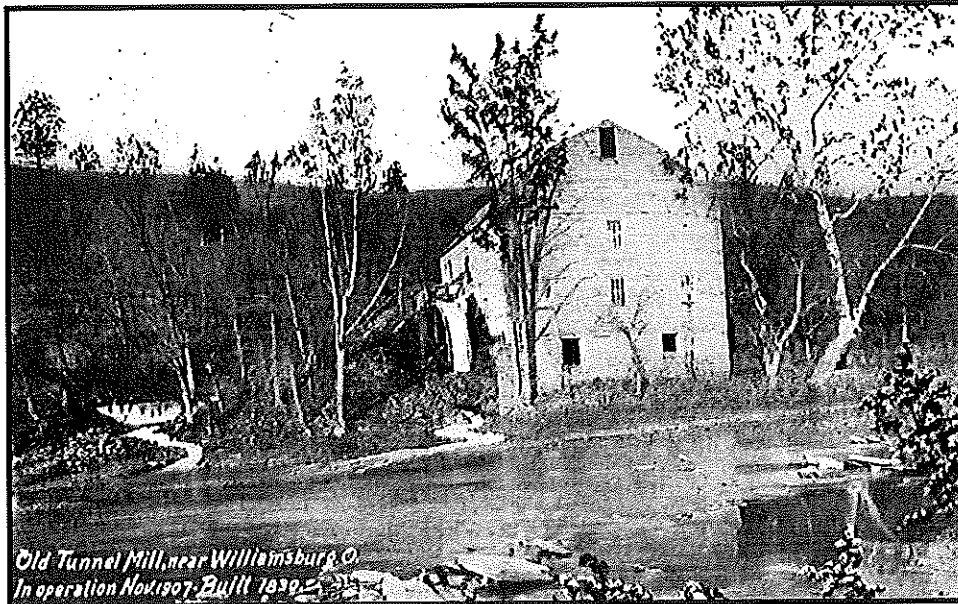
Every day we are thankful for the generosity of our community and the support everyone has given us, and continues to give us. We are always working diligently to remain prepared for emergencies. We were given an amazing opportunity to build a relationship with Nestle Purina. Like the spring flowers, this relationship has quickly blossomed into an amazing partnership. Nestle Purina has donated over \$237,000 to our department to help us modernize our aging rescue equipment, and to add copious amounts of new life safety equipment. This equipment costing nearly \$197,000 will be used in our everyday operations as we provide emergency services to our residents. The opportunity for us to update, upgrade, and increase our life safety and rescue capabilities so quickly, and at no cost to the members of our community, is incredible! The remaining \$40,000 dollars will be utilized to continue to provide training opportunities to the members of our department, as well as the neighboring departments that we continue to work so closely with. The interoperability with our neighboring departments is critical on large scale emergency responses to achieve the most favorable outcomes. Our vision is to always provide our residents with the highest and most professional level of care possible.

Our members, our families, our Fire Department, our village, our township, and our school district are beyond amazing and special! Every individual that falls within these groups has the ability and opportunity to make our community more incredible by each passing day. Robert Frost once said, "Come grow old with me, for the best is yet to come!" The foundation has been laid, and now it's our time to continue to build upon something special. Let's work together as we continue to build a community that will forever flourish like the blossoms of spring and strive to reach new and unprecedented levels in our community.

Your Fire Chief,  
Jason McCarthy

Williamsburg Township Emergency Services  
[jmccarthy@williamsburgtownship.org](mailto:jmccarthy@williamsburgtownship.org)

**Harmony Hill**



*Old Tunnel Mill, near Williamsburg, O.  
In operation Nov. 1807 - BUILT 1830-2*

**TUNNEL MILL - GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN**

The Mill was built to take advantage of the horseshoe curve of the East Fork and was noted for its unusual tunnel carved under a ridge. Thomas L. Shields first hoped to harness the river by cutting a raceway through the high ridge with a 25 foot cascade to the lower end that would provide the power for the mill. Those plans for the raceway were "ditched" and it wasn't until 1830 that two brothers, Elijah and James Dennis bought the property and began building the Mill. The Mill was closed for a while but in the early 1900's it was known as Warman's Mill. The last known owners were the Barnes Family. It is unknown when the Mill ceased operation. Over the years, the surrounding area was a popular spot for fishing, swimming and picnicking. There were several summer camps nearby owned by Cincinnati residents who would come there to enjoy the weekend. Tunnel Mill has almost been obliterated by time and progress. The old bridge was demolished, and the dam covered over by backup waters of East Fork Lake. A boat ramp and parking lot now occupy the Mill's site. Very few park visitors notice the only remaining sign of the old landmark, an obscure caved-in tunnel in the side of a hill. The Tarvin Family recently presented the Harmony Hill Museum with an original oil painting of the Mill by local artist, Allen Glancy. The painting is over 100 years old. The public is invited to stop by the Museum to view the painting and the many other interesting exhibits. The Museum is open the first Saturday of the month from 1:00 – 4:00 PM.

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.

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## Zoning, Roads and Cemetery

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We have had a lot going on this year already. The new maintenance building has been built. The maintenance department has purchased a new truck to replace a 23-year-old truck. Mowing season has started, reminder that any decorations in the grass will be removed and discarded. Junk Days are June 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and June 8<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Items that are **not accepted** include tires, anything with refrigerant in it, propane tanks with valves in them, any liquids. If you have any questions please contact the maintenance department at 513-724-1110.

We have a new way of applying for a zoning permit coming soon. You will be able to either apply for it online or you can still make an appointment and come in. It will be online thru our website. The online process should streamline everything a lot easier. Or if you choose you can still call in and talk with someone. You will also be able to request that a property be checked for violations.

With spring time coming I would like to remind everyone that there are property maintenance requirements.

The Williamsburg Township Zoning Commission is working on updating solar requirement for the zoning resolution. Once that is in place they will be working on updating the rest of the zoning resolution handbook.

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.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Brian Tatman  
Williamsburg Township Zoning, Roads & Cemetery Supervisor  
513-724-1110  
[btatman@williamsburgtownship.org](mailto:btatman@williamsburgtownship.org)

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT



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

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