Williamsburg Township Newsletter

Ohio

williamsburgtownship.org

P.O. Box 499, Williamsburg, Ohio 45176-0499 FALL / WINTER 2026

Guy Bainum	Gary Jordan	Charlie Maklem	Doug Lefferson
Trustee	Trustee	Trustee	Fiscal Officer
513-724-6553	513-724-5315	937-272-3937	513-707-8584

Township Trustee Meetings ~ 2nd & 4th Monday 7:00 PM at the Township Emergency Services Building

Williamsburg Township Newsletter can be seen at williamsburgtownship.org

From the Trustees

Williamsburg Township is working with Drew DeMarsh of Clermont County Community and Economic Development to update its 20-year Land Use Plan. This effort will establish a long-range vision that reflects the values and priorities of Township residents, with an emphasis on **preserving our rural character, protecting natural resources,** and **encouraging responsible economic development** along the State Route 32 corridor. Community participation is an important part of updating the Township's land use plan. Residents are encouraged to attend two upcoming public workshops: **Tuesday, November 17, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.**, and **Monday, February 8, 2027**, **at 6:00 p.m**. Both workshops will be held at the Williamsburg Township Emergency Services Building, 915 West Main Street. For updates and access to the community survey, visit williamsburgtownship.org and select "Williamsburg Township Land Use Plan Story Map." The survey gives residents an opportunity to share their views on economic development, rural preservation, future growth, and energy-related land uses, including solar and nuclear energy. The Township anticipates adopting the updated plan by June 2027.

An important component of the Land Use Plan is to ensure that future growth is balanced with available infrastructure and environmental protection. Access to water, sewer, electricity, natural gas, and transportation facilities will help determine where development can be appropriately accommodated. Williamsburg Township is served by several water providers, including the Village of Williamsburg, Tate Monroe Water Association, and Brown County Rural Water Association, while some residents rely on private wells and cisterns. These water systems draw from regional resources, including William H. Harsha Lake and groundwater aquifers, underscoring the importance of protecting our water supply for future generations. Through thoughtful planning and community involvement, Williamsburg Township remains committed to **honoring its rural heritage while preparing responsibly for the future**.

Clermont County Water Resources Department is making efforts to update the Clermont County's Water & Wastewater Master Plan. Williamsburg Township has responded to the Clermont County Water & Wastewater Master Plan Update Questionnaire, with a very detailed response and supporting documents. Support from the Clermont County Water Resources Department is critical in preparing the township's 20-year plan. We are grateful for their proactive support and vision!

We remain focused on the growing traffic demographics of SR 32 and the concerns it brings for safety at the intersections of McKeever Road and Dela Palma Road. Efforts are being made to secure a consulting group to perform a comprehensive traffic study that would consider existing and future development throughout the corridor and provide recommendations for improved safe access along this area of SR 32. The Clermont County Transportation Improvement District (CCTID) has contacted us concerning partnering with them on an updated study of the SR 32 East Corridor, from Bauer Road to the Clermont-Brown County Line. These are next steps in **mobilizing a community** to focus on a proactive effort to get on the bridge list with ODOT; as well as secure a projected date to start this vision. This topic is critical for school bus safety, emergency services access, and our residents' daily travels. The Village of Williamsburg, Jackson Township, the Village of Bethel, and Tate Township have been informed of the ODOT's suggestion to eventually close McKeever Road and Dela Palma Road and rerouting traffic to Eastwood Road. If you would like to view the Williamsburg Township Resolution on this issue, go to williamsburgtownship.org, click on government, then meeting minutes. The resolution is available in the August 10, 2026, meeting minutes.

Williamsburg Township Trustees have approved adding two full-time personnel to our emergency services team. This initiative was made possible through a generous donation. Increased headcount will give Chief McCarthy greater flexibility to manage manpower, which will result in better services to the community. Chief McCarthy and his team continuously thrive to deliver the best possible professional emergency services available to our community.

Williamsburg Township's waste removal contract for the unincorporated area of the township, with Rumpke, will terminate on March 31, 2027. Hannah Lubbers, Director of the Clermont-Adams Solid Waste District, has assisted us in preparing the specifications for the release of a collections services bid. On Tuesday, October 13, 2026, one bid was submitted. Rumpke has been chosen to continue the waste management for Williamsburg Township. The contract will commence on April 1, 2027, and continue for 5 years, through March 31, 2032. There is verbiage for options to extend, by mutual agreement, after the 2032 contract expiration. Some of the highlights of the

contract are the Base #1 pricing for the first year (2027) will remain the same with weekly solid waste removal and twice per month recycling pick up as current 2026 pricing. There is a $2.00 senior discount for Base #1 rates. Senior is defined as 65 years of age or over. Large single bulk items will be picked up each week, instead of once each month. More information will be on the Williamsburg Township Website and in the spring newsletter.

After much thought and consideration, the Williamsburg Township Hall will be demolished. With the support of Desmond Maaytah, Clermont County Economic Community Development Administrator, a grant has been secured to offset the cost of demolition, reducing our responsibility to $5,000. The structure needs numerous improvements, for example a constantly flooding HVAC room and a failing nonfunctioning foundation cistern wall. Continued investment in the site is counterproductive and a waste of tax dollars. Demolition is set for the month of December 2026. This property, located at 4025 Alexander Lane, Batavia, Ohio 45103, will continue to be zoned residential.

Effective October 1,2026, the **daily township activities** were relocated to the Williamsburg Maintenance Building, located at 242 North 8th Street, Williamsburg, Ohio 45176. This will become our business address. Williamsburg Township meetings will be held at the Williamsburg Township Emergency Services Building, located at 915 West Main Street, Williamsburg, Ohio 45176. Township meetings will continue to be held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. As always, the community is welcome to attend. This transition began on October 1, 2026. All phone numbers will remain the same.

After lengthy review and consideration, Williamsburg Township Zoning Board is in the final steps of adding new zoning language concerning Data Centers. We are grateful to the Zoning Board members for their willingness to support our community and give their time for the betterment of our community.

It's that time of year when we start preparing to resurface roads in the township. Williamsburg Township participates in the Clermont County Engineer's Office Road Resurfacing and Repair Program with a 2027 budget of $145,000. At this time, Todds Run Foster Road will be repaved in 2027. Ireton Road is being considered for repaving in 2028.

The newsletter is running a few weeks behind this fall due to the waste management bid process. As a result, we missed acknowledging Veteran's Day, prior to the holiday. Each day we need to recognize our national treasure of veterans and active-duty military members. Every day is an opportunity to fly our American flag to show respect to our veterans on this date. It's our community, let's show unity in our patriotism. Flying the American Flag is an incredible way to reflect American Pride and respect to our veterans! Proper display of the American Flag can be viewed the Legion site, **williamsburglegion.com/flag-etiquette**. Let us define our community and leave a great legacy. We are grateful for the Williamsburg American Legion Post 288; **You make our community a tremendous place to live and an incredible place to raise a family!**

After a wet spring, hot summer, and dry fall, it is time to focus on winter. Just a reminder, when the condition of roads and highways within Clermont County have 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. This information can be viewed at www.clermontsheriff.org. **Our goal is to keep everyone safe and our township roads clear.**

The Clermont County Sheriff's Department hosted the October Clermont County Trustees Association meeting. Sheriff Stratton and his team showed the trustees some of the newest leading-edge technology that is being utilized in law enforcement. This highly skilled team is creating some best practices that other departments in the area and country are using, with this new technology. Their passion for keeping our county safe is impressive and we are grateful! Like our veterans, this group is worthy of a thank you if you get the opportunity.

Congratulations to Matt Earley, Superintendent Williamsburg Local School District, the Williamsburg Local School District faculty, staff, and administration on earning a 5-Star Rating on the latest report card from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce. The team's perseverance and passion to provide the best possible education for our youth is obvious. We are grateful, and proud of the team's achievement! **You make our community a tremendous place to live, get a valued education, and an incredible place to raise a family! Go Wildcats!!!**

Consider supporting the various church food pantries in our community. Some pantries operate year-round in support of those who may need a helping hand. Winter is a tough time for many due to heating bills and rising inflation. Please consider supporting the church pantries in our community through a monetary or food donation.

As we face into 2027, 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.

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

Guy Bainum	Gary Jordan	Charlie Maklem	Doug Lefferson
Trustee	Trustee	Trustee	Fiscal Officer

Roads, Cemetery, and Zoning

Roads: This summer Williamsburg Township took possession of brand-new Case Backhoe. The old one was 27 years old and was purchased used. The new backhoe will be used for loading salt, ditching, moving dirt and many other things. Full-depth repairs were done on Musgrove Road. The Maintenance Department is ready for all the winter weather. We have 90 tons of salt on hand already to fight anything mother nature plans to throw at us.

Cemetery: With mowing season coming to an end, starting the 1st of December, the Cemetery Crew will not remove flowers from graves unless they interfere with digging of graves. The Cemetery Crew will pour foundations for headstones one more time near the end of October. The township has plenty of grave spaces available for sale. If you need to purchase grave spaces, please call the Maintenance Office at 513-724-1110.

Zoning: The Zoning Department has moved, we are located at 242 N. Eighth Street, at the back of the Cemetery. Williamsburg Township Zoning Commission is almost done with new language for Data Centers. It should be completed by the end of the year. They have had several workshops for residents to hear and have input into the language. When it is finished it will follow the process for approval. The 20-year plan is still moving forward. I want to thank all the residents that have come out to the workshops and filled out the surveys. If you would like to view the Williamsburg Township zoning, go to williamsburgtownship.org, click on residents, then zoning. The Zoning Office is open by appointment only. If you need to make an appointment, please call 513-724-5529.

Brian Tatman
Williamsburg Township – Zoning, Roads & Cemetery Supervisor
btatman@williamsburgtownship.org

Emergency Services

In a small rural community, being a part of the community means more than responding to emergencies. It means being neighbors, building relationships, supporting local events, and looking out for one another. Our fire department is proud to serve the families, businesses, and residents who make our township such a special place to call home. Whether we are visiting residents at community events, educating children about fire safety, or answering the call during someone's time of need, we value the opportunity to connect with the people we serve. The trust and support of our community means a great deal to our department. A strong community is built on neighbors helping neighbors, and we are honored to be a part of that tradition.

As winter approaches, we encourage everyone to take a few simple steps to keep their families and homes safe. Have your heating system and chimney inspected as recommended and keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from space heaters, fireplaces, and wood stoves. Always turn off portable heaters when leaving a room or going to bed and plug them directly into a wall outlet. Never use an oven or stovetop to heat your home. Test your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors regularly and make sure everyone in your household knows two ways out of every room and where to meet outside. If using a generator during a power outage, operate it outdoors at least 20 feet away from doors, windows, and vents to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Winter weather can bring additional challenges, so please check on elderly neighbors and those who may need assistance staying warm and safe. By taking these precautions and looking out for one another, we can all help make our community a safer place. From our fire department family to yours, we wish you a safe and healthy winter season!

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

Harmony Hill
THE SCHOOLS OF WILLIAMSBURG

As we watch Williamsburg's new elementary building rise on the Public Square, we are reminded of those schools which came before it. Ministers and surveyors who traveled to our pioneer village preceded the construction of any designated school building. They were usually paid for their services with food, lodging, or whatever items of value the parents of their pupils could spare. Leonard Raper seems to be the earliest surveyor/teacher in our records; he came to Williamsburgh in 1798. He served in the Revolutionary War, but not as a colonist; he was in the British Army.

The first school building erected within the village was a log structure with dirt floors; it was built on the NW corner of Broadway and Main Streets. It was replaced by a two-room cabin located on the SW corner of Main and Second Streets, and it was evidently not an improvement on the first structure. The third schoolhouse project was initiated in 1814 and completed in 1818. It was a two-story brick building which stood on the west side of Mulberry Alley, facing the alley. It was a "Subscription School," and reportedly the first brick school between Cincinnati and Chillicothe. The first floor was used for school classes, and the second floor served as the Masonic Hall.

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Keeping you informed!

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The State of Ohio enacted a law for the creation of common schools in 1821. As a result, nine "country" schools were built in the area. In 1860, an eight-room, two-story brick structure was completed on the village square – the former site of the Clermont County Courthouse and Jail. That school was destroyed by fire in February of 1922. The structure that replaced it was a three-story building which was completed in September of 1923. In 1955, the first classes were held in the elementary building which is still in use. Increasing enrollment necessitated the addition of an eight-room wing in 1958, and another one in 1965. The current Middle/High School building was completed in 1996, and it houses students in grades six through twelve. The Grant Career Center in Bethel serves students in grades eleven and twelve from Williamsburg, Bethel, Felicity and New Richmond.

A History Note from the Williamsburg Harmony Hill Museum – www.harmonyhill museum.com

More information concerning Harmony Hill and membership may be viewed at harmonyhillmuseum.com. Please come by and experience the rich history of our community.

