Road and Bridge Levy Pays for Vital Services

Voters to decide on levy renewal November 3 - NO TAX INCREASE

It took only 15 minutes after the 2019 Memorial Day tornadoes ripped through Harrison Township before Services Department supervisors were on the ground to begin assessing the damage and prioritizing cleanup. Within one hour, all available Department personnel were on the job. Focusing on clearing streets so emergency medical personnel could reach residents needing immediate help, crews had 75 percent of the roads cleared within eight hours of the disaster.

Services residents rely on
The Services Department depends on funding from the road and bridge levy, which pays for critical services. Motorists count on hazard-free roadways and safe bridges. Homeowners depend on storm drainage that protects from flooding, leaf pickup that’s reliable, and snow removal that keeps traffic keep moving.

Parents need to be confident that school buses can travel safely. And everyone deserves to know that fire equipment or a medic unit can reach them in an emergency.

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Services that Depend on Road and Bridge Levy

Which services are funded by the road and bridge levy?
- Street resurfacing and repair
- Street repair
- Snow removal and ice control
- Leaf pickup
- Street cleaning
- Drainage-system maintenance
- Storm-damage cleanup
- Grass cutting in public rights of way
- Park maintenance

For more information about the road and bridge levy, please call 937-890-5611.

Voters to decide on levy renewal November 3 - NO TAX INCREASE

Remember to vote on November 3!
Deputies Get Help with Mental-Health Crisis Response

The Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office is partnering with a community behavioral health agency to provide help for residents in crises.

“With mental-health calls for service on the rise, this could not have come at a better time,” said Sheriff Rob Streck.

The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program, developed with the Montgomery County Alcohol, Drug Addiction, Mental Health Services Board, has three objectives:

• To ensure Sheriff’s deputies are trained to recognize the signs of someone experiencing a behavioral crisis
• To make a mental health professional available 24/7 as a co-responder with deputies to assess, de-escalate and make referrals to individuals in need, and
• To support residents while providing deputies new training and tools.

CIT programs also yield a cost savings to communities by diverting individuals in crisis from jails to treatment.

“Harrison Township appreciates the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office partnering with CIT in assuring that individuals in crisis are advised of the help available,” said Township Trustee President Georgeann Godsey.

The counselors are employed by Eastway Behavioral Health.

Township Casting Vision for the Future

The past 18 months have taught Harrison Township officials to expect the unexpected. A sudden string of destructive tornadoes, a life-altering pandemic and massive job losses are proof of the future’s unpredictability.

But certain facts won’t change

As an older suburb, Harrison Township’s housing stock, infrastructure and populations are aging. Years of tornado-damage recovery lie ahead. Economic growth will come from redevelopment of existing properties. Revitalizing the community will depend on attracting families and businesses.

Current realities and future’s uncertainty have led Township officials to adopt a flexible approach to planning. With the help of a professional planning firm, they’ve created a “planning roadmap.”

“It will guide future decisions about zoning and development by tying them to a vision of what the community wants to become,” said Township Administrator Kris McClintick. “If we put the right tools in place now, we’ll be better prepared to respond to opportunities as they arise.”

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Road Levy

The road and bridge levy contributes $942,000 – or 74 percent of the Services Department budget – allowing the Township to maintain its 90 miles of residential streets. The remainder comes from State funding and other local sources.

Renewal of the Road and Bridge Levy is on the November 3 Ballot

The renewal will result in NO INCREASE OF THE TAX RATE. If approved, the levy will begin January 1, 2021.

Citizens - the key to success

“Neighborhood, business, faith-based, and school-based groups … want the Township to be successful and vibrant,” the firm’s report states. “And they’re willing to work to make it happen.”
Grants Fund Large and Small Improvements

Harrison Township makes a practice of stretching its budget by pursuing grants from outside sources.

“We expect every department to stay aware of funding opportunities that will help us accomplish both large and small improvements for our residents,” said Township Administrator Kris McClintick. “Many of these projects would be out of our reach financially if grant money was not available.”

Over the past several years, the Township has been awarded the following grants:

**Services Department**
- 2020 Ohio Public Works Commission for south Fort McKinley resurfacing - $228,658
- 2017 Ohio Public Works Commission for Sumpter Plat resurfacing – $198,616
- 2017 Ohio Public Works Commission for Woodland Hills water main replacement and resurfacing - $119,417
- Ohio Public Works Commission for Division Avenue and Homesite Drive resurfacing $28,750
- Community Block Development Grant funds have been received to support the Ohio Public Works Commission projects
- US Department of Agriculture for cleanout of storm debris in drainage ditch between Swallow Drive and Shoup Mill Road - $131,827
- Federal Emergency Management Act for tornado cleanup - $1.5 million
- 2019 Keep Montgomery County Beautiful for tree planting at Sinclair Park - $10,000

**Community Development**
- 2016-17 Community Development Block Grant for demolition of 3636 N. Dixie Dr. (former LaQuinta Inn) - $160,000
- 2016-17 Community Development Block Grant for demolition of eight residential structures in Northridge - $80,000
- 2018-19 Community Development Block Grant for demolition of six residential structures in Northridge - $60,000 (funding suspended in 2019 due to tornadoes)

**Fire Department**
- Ohio Division of Emergency Management Services for EMS supplies such as bandages aids, sterile dressings, rubber gloves, face masks - $2,800
- Federal Emergency Management Administration for purchase of 20 self-contained breathing apparatus (air packs) - $129,500
- Community Development Block Grant for purchase of electric cot - $40,000

_**Firefighter Honors Fallen Heroes**_

Harrison Township Firefighter Cole Quillen spent part of his day on September 11 remembering the 343 New York City firefighters who lost their lives while responding to the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center.

For the third year in a row, he donned his bunker pants and coat, helmet and air pack – about 60 pounds worth – and stepped onto stair-stepper fitness equipment. He proceeded to climb 1,600 stairs, the equivalent of the 110 flights ascended by the first responders in that tragedy.

“I got the idea when I saw a video of others doing it,” said Cole, who was five years old at the time of the attack. “I felt it was a good way to honor those people who died trying to save others.”
Castlewood Neighborhood Focus of Revitalization Program

Harrison Township recently announced it is partnering with the Montgomery County Land Bank in a program to revitalize the Castlewood neighborhood. The Land Bank’s Thriving Neighborhood Initiative aims to

- Strengthen and stabilize the neighborhood
- Increase home values and market confidence in the neighborhood
- Encourage investment by homeowners
- Improve quality of life and neighborhood pride

**Land Bank will provide $250,000**

This will be matched by the Township over five years. The $500,000 investment in the neighborhood will pay for the purchase, rehab and resale of a number of homes, removal of dilapidated properties and other improvements.

“This is a great opportunity to set the Castlewood neighborhood on a new, positive course,” said Township Administrator Kris McClintick. “The Township will also accelerate progress by investing in infrastructure projects.”

**In Memoriam**

Recent months have seen the passing of two long-serving Township employees:

**Fire Lieutenant Clay Westfall**, an 18-year veteran, died at the age of 49. He was a respected mentor for younger firefighters, teaching them how to handle different situations.

**Service Worker Timothy Lynch** died at the age of 61. A 15-year veteran of the Services Department, he rarely missed a day of work. He was known for being caring and compassionate with everyone he encountered.

Both men are greatly missed by the Harrison Township family.

Volunteers ‘Spread the Love’

**Two hundred volunteers. Thirty-three properties. Eight hours. One mission.**

This was the recipe for the fourth annual Love Northridge cleanup held on September 19. Organized by the First Heavy Metal Church of Christ, the program promotes neighborhood pride by removing overgrown vegetation, debris, tires and trash from properties that have become eyesores. The targeted properties are identified by Harrison Township code enforcement officers.

“In some cases, the people living at these properties aren’t able to do the work themselves,” said Paul Wiley, project coordinator for First Heavy Metal Church. “Other properties are abandoned and have become dumping grounds.”

Volunteers come from across the Miami Valley, mostly in groups from other churches. Sometimes neighbors come out of their homes to help when they see the volunteers working.

Keep Montgomery County Beautiful provides a rent-free trailer for the event. Volunteers typically fill ten Dumpsters over the course of the day.

“There’s a joyful spirit in volunteering,” Wiley said. “They come out to spread the love.”

The Castlewood neighborhood is bordered by North Main Street to the east, Riverside Drive to the west, East Nottingham Road to the north and Redwood Avenue to the south.
Harrison Township residents will again this year enjoy the convenience of leaf pickup provided by the Township. Each zone will be picked up twice between October 19 and December 28.

The schedule is organized by leaf pickup zones. To find your zone, refer to the map on this page or find it on the Harrison Township website (www.harrisontownship.org). From the home page, click on “Departments,” then “Services” and finally, “Leaf Pickup.” Look up your street name and then the zone.

Keep this schedule in a handy place throughout the season. Also, please remember these guidelines:

- Pile your leaves curbside by 7:30 a.m. on Monday of your scheduled week.
- Avoid piling your leaves around parked vehicles, trees, poles, signs, culverts and ditches.
- Don’t mix any other wastes — such as brush, tree limbs, garbage, grass clippings and animal wastes — with your leaves.
- If you want to bag your leaves and place them curbside, you can call the Services Department at 937-274-6871, and they will pick them up as soon as possible.
- You may also put your leaves in the Rumpke containers or the overage bags purchased from the Township. Leave them out for pickup on your regular trash collection day.

If you have questions about leaf pickup, please contact the Services Department at 937-274-6871.

Be sure to "like" Harrison Township on Facebook.
Help for Tornado Victims

Resources are still available for repairs for tornado-damaged owner-occupied residential properties. Anyone who needs assistance in recovering from the tornadoes may call Catholic Social Services directly at 937-223-7217 ext. 1137 to be connected to a disaster case manager.

Township Responds to Covid-19 Pandemic

Covid-19 has presented challenges across the board. Here are some examples of how Township operations have been adjusted:

- Township offices were closed to the public for a few weeks, but remained staffed so phones could be answered and urgent issues addressed.
- Safety services continued as normal throughout the pandemic, although personnel adopted additional protocols for the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) for the safety of first responders and patients.
- It will be a few months until the financial impact of Covid-19 is realized, as officials wait to see how it affected property tax payments for the second half of 2020.
- Fire Department revenues decreased during March - May because calls for emergency services decreased by 40-50 percent.
- The federal government provided a small amount of relief from the CARES Act that helped offset some of the financial losses, but not all.

"Although the Township has made many adjustments for the safety and health of citizens and employees, we remain committed to delivering the high level of service our residents and businesses have come to expect," said Township Administrator Kris McClintick.

Local Dealership Grateful to Fire Department

On the morning after the Memorial Day tornadoes, Harrison Township fire crews were checking both residential and commercial areas of the Township when they found a flagpole lying on the ground at Evans Arena Dodge, 924 Shiloh Springs Rd. The fire personnel retrieved the oversized flag attached to the pole and took it back to the fire station for safekeeping. When the car dealership opened again, Fire Chief Mark Lynch returned the flag to them.

To express their gratitude, the Ohio Automobile Dealers Association donated a piece of equipment that is useful for training because it monitors the depth and rate of compressions when someone is performing CPR.

“This is a unique training tool, one that, I believe, will help save lives,” said Fire Chief Mark Lynch. “We thank the Association for their support and generosity.”

Tornado Recovery and Rebuilding Continues

The Harrison Township community has made progress in recovering from the widespread destruction caused by the 2019 Memorial Day tornadoes. There are numerous dimensions to the recovery process:

- Most cleanup of tree debris is complete, with the exception of some areas in Northridge and Shiloh, mainly along the ditch lines, which will require a large-scale operation.
- The Township continues to work alongside regional agencies on recovery in residential and commercial areas. Many homes and businesses have been repaired or rebuilt, although long-term recovery may take 3 – 5 years. Efforts will continue, along with a potential program that would provide affordable housing to tornado survivors.
- River’s Edge Apartments lost 25 buildings on approximately 10 acres. Although the property owner has decided not to rebuild at this time, redevelopment is not being ruled out.
Welcome, New Businesses
Harrison Township welcomes these new businesses to the community:

- **Caliber Collision Center** - 6192 Webster St.
- **Daydream Massage, LLC** - 6023 N. Dixie Dr.
- **Dixie One Stop Thrift Shop** - 5201 N. Dixie Dr.
- **First Financial Bank** - 4801 N. Main St.
- **Mahajan Therapeutics** - 6210 N. Main St.
- **Midnight Carryout** - 4502 Webster St.
- **Minerva Bunker Gear Cleaners of Ohio Corp.** - 620 Shiloh Springs Rd.
- **Networking Equal Care Opportunities, LLC** - 2077 Embury Park Dr.
- **Real Style Beauty Bar, LLC** - 545 W. Siebenthaler Ave.
- **Revive Salon & Spa** - 5212 N. Main St.
- **Taquitos Uruapan II** - 5832 N. Dixie Dr.
- **The Wright Place** - 5408-5412 N. Main St.

When shopping for the goods and services you need, be sure to consider local businesses first.

Restaurant Depot is open for business! The grand opening this summer — although modest because of Covid-19 restrictions — was truly a celebration of determination and commitment. It’s been a rocky road for the wholesale food-service supplier, which was within a few weeks of opening in 2019 when the Memorial Day tornadoes caused major damage to the building. They rebuilt, only to be delayed by Covid-19.

Spin Light Car Wash is being built on a vacant parcel that once was the site of a fast-food restaurant and is expected to be a nice addition to the Needmore Road-North Dixie Drive intersection.

Gem City Tire received a $37,500 Montgomery County grant in 2019 for capital improvements to the building at 2531 Needmore Rd. The project will lead to the creation of eight new jobs over two years. Gem City Tire relocated in 2005 from Sharonville to Harrison Township, which is home to the company’s corporate offices, the tire retread plant, warehouse and tire-installation service.

Staub Manufacturing Solutions, a family-owned contract manufacturer specializing in metal fabrication, is planning an expansion within its existing footprint for an in-house powder coating/painting division. It is scheduled to become operational by spring 2021. The new project represents an investment of $2 million, including $75,000 in economic development funding awarded by Montgomery County in 2018.

What’s Your Story?
Do you or your organization have a community event or story you’d like to see in this newsletter? Please let us know. We’ll review your information and publish the story, if it’s appropriate. Contact Shonda Hill at 937-890-5611 or shill@harrisontownship.org.
Beggars’ Night Set
Princesses, pirates, ghosts and goblins will celebrate Beggars’ Night in Harrison Township on Saturday, October 31, from 6-8 p.m. Please keep your children safe and healthy by following the most recent guidelines from the Ohio Department of Health at coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/celebrating-halloween.pdf.

Change Your Clocks, Change Your Batteries
The daylight-saving time change makes it easy to remember to change your smoke alarm battery, too. As you set back your clock for the “fall back” time change on Sunday, November 1, change your smoke alarm battery as well to ensure the device is ready to do its life-saving work.

Fire Hydrant Testing
The Fire Department is completing its annual fire hydrant testing through November 2. This may stir up sediment in the water lines and cause the water to be discolored, so it’s best to check before doing laundry.

Save A Tree  Please let us know if you’d like to receive this newsletter in your email. Call 937-890-5611 to have your name added to the list.