Citizens’ Calls for Fire Department Services Growing

March 15 Fire Levy Renewal Vital to Life-saving Services, Property Protection

Twenty times per day, the Harrison Township Fire Department responds to citizens’ calls for service. About 87 percent of those are calls for emergency medical services; the rest relate to fire protection. These statistics make Harrison Township one of the busiest fire departments in Montgomery County.

And the demands for service keep growing. 2015 saw a 4 percent increase in calls over 2014. Even so, the Department’s average response time remained under five minutes. Fire Department revenues have been declining since 2011 – by about $2 million from 2010 to 2015 – due to reduced property taxes and state budget cuts. To deal with these losses, the Township has delayed vehicle replacements and also worked hard to keep up with rising personnel and equipment-maintenance costs.

A 4.0-mill fire levy approved by voters in 2015 has helped to recover a portion of the budget shortfall, but the five-year levy remains the Department’s primary source of funds.

Fire Levy renewal means NO INCREASE IN THE TAX RATE

Did you know?

• Highly visible emergency medical services and fire protection are just one side of the Fire Department’s responsibilities. In 2015, the Department conducted 1,155 inspections of businesses, schools and other public places for safety hazards that could harm lives or property.

• The Department responded to 6,331 emergency medical service calls and 953 fire calls in 2015.

• The Fire Department has sought outside resources to supplement the budget and won grants totaling $118,000 last year to help offset revenue losses.

TOWNSHIP CALENDAR 2016

Township offices are closed on the following dates:

**May 30** Memorial Day Trash pick-up delayed one day all week
**July 4** Independence Day Trash pick-up delayed one day all week
**September 5** Labor Day Trash pick-up delayed one day all week
**October 10** Columbus Day Trash pick-up on regular schedule

**Trusting Meetings**
Trustees Meetings are held twice a month in the Township Government Center.
- First Monday – Workshop Meeting at 5:30 p.m.; General Session at 7 p.m.
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All meetings except executive sessions are open to the public, and citizens are welcome to attend.

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Land Bank Helps Remove Distressed Properties

The Montgomery County Land Bank makes it easier for communities and individuals to rehab abandoned, run-down properties and return them to productive use. Here’s how the organization has been helping Harrison Township:

Demolition Program

The Land Bank is a conduit for various federal and state grants that target the demolition of distressed properties before they can cause widespread neighborhood decline. The Neighborhood Initiative Program, for example, will pay for the demolition of 30 Harrison Township properties by the end of 2016.

After a structure is demolished, neighboring property owners can acquire the property from the Land Bank for a set fee, on a first come, first served basis.

Renovation Program

The Land Bank offers the DIY Renovation Program (formerly known as Deed in Escrow), which allows responsible buyers to bid on vacant, tax-foreclosed properties with the goal of rehabbing them for reuse. The Land Bank holds the property deed in escrow while the buyer makes the improvements. When all Land Bank requirements are met, the deed is transferred to the owner, who may sell, lease or occupy the property.

Twelve Harrison Township properties have been accepted into the DIY Renovation Program, and more will be submitted throughout 2016.

“This program turns tax-delinquent properties into tax-producing ones, and rehabs structures that would have remained neighborhood eyesores indefinitely,” said Township Development Director Jack Kuntz. “It’s a win for the Township, the neighborhood and the new owner.”

Any resident interested in one of these Land Bank programs may call Jack Kuntz at 890-5611 or the Land Bank at 531-6921.

Learning What Deputies Do Day-to-Day

Twenty-three Montgomery County citizens have a better understanding of law enforcement after completing the first 10-week Citizens’ Police Academy offered by the Sheriff’s Office.

“It gave them a complete overview of what the Sheriff’s Office stands for and what deputies do day-to-day,” said Harrison Township Substation Commander Captain Jeremy Roy.

Participants experienced everything from a mock accident scene and jail visit to a SWAT incident and a K-9 scenario.

Their reactions? Survey responses included comments such as “I had high expectations, and this exceeded them,” and “an incredible learning opportunity.”

The next Citizens’ Police Academy is planned for the fall of 2016.

The first Citizens’ Academy brought together 23 Montgomery County residents, including Harrison Township Trustee President Georgeann Godsay (center of photo) – to learn about the day-to-day work of the Sheriff’s Office. The next academy will be held in the fall of 2016. Check the Sheriff’s Department website at mcohio.org/sheriff or call 496-7787 for more information.
Township Staff Learns Lessons in Efficiency

Seventeen Township employees recently attended the LeanOhio Boot Camp, an intensive week-long training program that aims to make government simpler, faster, better and less costly. All of them received scholarships to attend through the State of Ohio.

Harrison Township also received a $20,000 grant from the state’s Local Government Innovation Fund to perform a lean Six Sigma project and conduct further staff training.

Businesses use Lean Six Sigma methods to eliminate wasteful steps from their production processes. The state’s training program teaches public employees how to evaluate government processes and make them more efficient. For example, the Township staff is using the training to streamline the grass and weed abatement program.

“We’ll be using the tools we learned to make our other processes more efficient, as well,” said Township Administrator Kris McClintick.

Community Garage Sale

If you’re planning a garage sale this summer, schedule it for June 2-4 to take advantage of the buzz around Harrison Township’s annual Community Garage Sale. The sales are a fun time to get out and find some treasures as you meet your neighbors.

Mark your calendar today!

Deputies’ Heroic Acts Honored

Four Montgomery County Sheriff’s deputies and their sergeant—all from the Harrison Township Substation—have been honored as heroes for their brave actions last spring to save a man from a house engulfed in flames.

Deputy Douglas Phillips first noticed the fire in the area of Neva Drive and North Dixie, and immediately called for a fire response. He tried to enter the home before firefighters arrived but was pushed back by heavy smoke. One man emerged from the home and said another was still inside.

After firefighters arrived, Deputies Brian Crowe and Gust Teague assisted them with a successful victim rescue by helping to lift two firefighters up through the window.

Meanwhile, Deputy Darren Harvey and Sergeant Shamus McLaughlin pulled fire hose from the engine and fought the fire to direct it away from the rescue operation.

For their heroic acts, the men have received commendations and three law-enforcement awards.

Tow nship Officials Sworn In

Township Trustee Ron Casey was elected to his third term of office in the November 2015 election. He was appointed trustee in mid-2007 and first elected in November of that year. Also, Debbie Merrick was elected to her third term as Township Fiscal Officer. She was appointed February 2007 and re-elected in November 2007.

Five officers from the Harrison Township Sheriff’s Office Substation received prestigious law-enforcement honors for their heroic acts. They are (l to r) Sgt. Shamus McLaughlin, Deputies Brian Crowe, Douglas Philips, Gust Teague and K-9 Deputy Darren Harvey.

Buckeye State Sheriffs’ Association Medal of Honor, Crime Stoppers Annual Medal of Valor and the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office Deputy of the Month for April.

“This is a good example of how our deputies are doing all they can for the citizens of Harrison Township,” said Substation Commander Captain Jeremy Roy. “And they get it back in the form of the citizens’ support.”
Emerson felt a calling

ing the deer away.”

they were great about chas-

pick the vegetables. And

“There were 12-15 who

they could help,” she said.

many kids of all ages

“I was surprised by how

what she didn’t anticipate

was the warm welcome

she received from the

neighbors, and especially

the kids.

“I was surprised by how

many kids of all ages

would come by to ask if

they could help,” she said.

“There were 12-15 who

helped me plant the seeds

and plants, pull weeds and

pick the vegetables. And

they were great about chas-

ing the deer away.”

Emerson felt a calling
to plant the garden after

working in local food pan-

tries and noticing the lack

of fresh produce. Although

she had always had her

own small backyard gar-

den, she took on the larger

plot in a leap of faith.

“I found the land online,

and once the opportu-
nity presented itself, I just

walked through the door,”

she said.

The garden produced

more than 600 pounds of

vegetables, which Emerson
gave to the food pantries

as well as the neighbors.

She has now organized the
effort as a nonprofit cor-

poration called Harvest for

Hope Inc., and is reaching

out to potential community

partners who will support

her work and also keep

the neighborhood

kids involved.

“They were fascinated by

picking vegetables and

eating them on the spot,”

she said. “I gave each of

them a mini-pumpkin, and

they loved that.”

Interested in learning more

about Harvest of Hope?

Contact Michelle Emerson

at 937-620-7693 or michel-

leemerson@hotmail.com.

Healthy Harvests

for Fort McKinley Neighbors

The Fort McKinley community garden has been a success for several years, thanks to the efforts of neighbors and

New Path, the nonprofit arm of the Fort McKinley United

Methodist/Ginghamburg Church. The garden sits on the

site of the former Royal Crest Dairy, an eyesore torn down

by the Township. CountyCorp Development purchased the

property as well as an adjacent one and has made them

available for the community garden.

Shiloh Farmers’ Market

Returns May 7

Fresh produce and more is just around the corner. Now in its eighteenth season, the

Shiloh Farmers’ Market will open for business Saturday, May 7. The hours are 8 a.m. to 1

p.m. every Saturday through October 15. The location is in the Shiloh Church parking lot

at the corner of Main Street and Philadelphia Drive.

The market accepts SNAP/EBT and credit cards, both through a token system.

Check the market’s website at shilohfarmersmarket.com for more information.
Neighborhoods See Roadway Improvements

Harrison Township actively pursues federal, state and county grants to supplement local dollars for roadway improvements. Projects over the past several years have included the resurfacing of more than 35 miles of roadway. Here’s a rundown of recent activity:

Northridge

- Arthur Plat – Phase I of the water main replacement and resurfacing project will be completed in April 2016. Phase II will begin in 2018. The total cost of both phases is approximately $3.5 million, with the Township’s share being nearly $312,000.
- Woodland Hills Plat – Phase I of the water main replacement and resurfacing project is under construction and will be completed this year. Phase II will begin in 2018. The total cost of both projects is just over $4.6 million. The Township’s cost will be $37,363. The Township will request funding for two more phases.
- Ottello Avenue - Culvert replacement will begin this year. The Township will pay 10 percent of the total cost of $216,155.
- Ashcraft Plat – Roadway resurfacing will take place in 2017 at a total cost of $258,861. The Township costs will be $59,000.
- Titus Plat – Roadway resurfacing will start in 2017 at a total cost of $219,551. The Township will pay $24,063.
- North Dixie – Phase 5B of the Montgomery County Engineer’s widening project will cost $6 million, and the Township costs will be $54,000.

Fort McKinley

- Fort McKinley Meadowdale Plat – Resurfacing and curb ramp Improvements were completed in early 2015 at a total cost of $692,516. The Township costs were $346,258.

Shiloh

- North Main Street – The Ohio Department of Transportation completed resurfacing north of Shiloh Springs at a cost of $540,367 and a traffic signal replacement project along the North Main corridor costing $1,347,000.

Stay tuned for news about new roadway projects in future editions of this newsletter.

Neighborhood Groups Bring Citizens Together

Harrison Township supports and encourages residents to join together in neighborhood groups to get to know each other, plan social events, solve mutual problems and create a general sense of community safety. Sheriff’s deputies are regular attendees at the meetings, and Township officials participate, as appropriate.

These neighborhood groups are currently active:

**Fort McKinley/Meadowdale**
- Fort McKinley/El Paso
- Esmeralda
- Falmouth (This group is starting to get back together.)

**Shiloh**
- Woodway/Rugby
- Merrimac
- Pinecrest Knolls
- Wampler Estates
- Meadows of Catalpa
- Eastdale
- Winding Ridge

**Northridge**
- Woodland Hills

Interested in learning more about neighborhood groups? Call Development Director Jack Kuntz at 890-5611 for more information.
Car Dealership Demolished

The long-awaited demolition of the former Peffley Ford car dealership at 4600 N. Main St. was completed in January. Township officials have been trying for several years to work with the property owner toward its removal. The demolition costs will be assessed to the property owners’ taxes. The business opened in 1930, and is said to have been the Dayton area’s oldest auto dealership. The Township is studying options for the property’s redevelopment.

Planning to Remodel?

If a remodeling project is in your future, be sure to have your plans reviewed by the Harrison Township Fire Department before you get started. This ensures the safety of your facilities for employees and customers. Also, failure to have plans approved could be grounds for your insurance company to deny coverage in the event of a fire or other disaster. For more information, contact the Fire Department at 274-4351.

Fire Extinguisher Care

That fire extinguisher that’s been collecting dust in the back of your closet won’t do you much good in the event of a fire. Fire extinguishers must be maintained at least once a year to operate properly.

The US Fire Administration provides these tips:

- Make sure the can, hoses and nozzles aren’t damaged, dented or rusted.
- Remove any dust, oil, or grease that might be on the outside of the extinguisher.
- Review your unit’s instructions. Some extinguishers need to be shaken monthly; others need to be pressure tested every few years. Also, check for the recommended pressure level to be sure it’s not too high or too low.

Contact the Harrison Township Fire Department at 274-4351 for more information.

Have You Planned Your Fire Escape?

Whether you’re a homeowner with loved ones to protect, or a business owner concerned about keeping employees and customers safe, you need to take time to create a fire escape plan.

The Harrison Township Fire Department is available to help. Experts from the Department will work with you to create the best plan for your situation.

Please don’t take chances. Preparation can make all the difference when lives are at stake.

Call the Fire Prevention Bureau today at 274-4351 to schedule an appointment.
Welcome, New Businesses

Harrison Township Trustees welcome the following new businesses to the community.

Northridge Area

Advanced Jones Machinery, 4600 Webster St.
Arrest-A-Pest, 2600 Needmore Rd.
Distributor Tool Supply, 5660 Webster St.
Morgan Tool & Machine, 3500-3510 Stop Eight Rd.
Nevels Precision Machining, 2770 Thunderhawk Ct.
Ohio Metal Fabrication, 6057 Milo Rd.
Olive Mediterranean Grill, 6129 N. Dixie Dr.
Royalty Motor Group, 3301 N. Dixie Dr.
Toney Tool, 3488 Stop Eight Rd.
Vibrant Art Group, 3353-3355 Needmore Rd.

Shiloh Area

Deluxe Babershop, 6140 N. Main St.
Dollar Tree, 4207 N. Main St.
Fatima Hair & Braids, 4240 N. Main St.

The next time you need to shop for products and services, consider your choices right here in Harrison Township, and “buy local” when you can.

Manufacturing Growing in Township

If you look at the list of new businesses on this page, you may notice that about one-third are in some phase of the manufacturing industry. In fact, the Dayton Business Journal’s 2015 Manufacturer of the Year, Staub Manufacturing Solutions, just moved to the Township in 2014.

Why do they choose Harrison Township?

For most, the most important feature is the location. “We really like being close to major interstates like I-75 and I-70, and access to all of Ohio, Indiana and Northern Kentucky,” said Gary Weldon, Staub’s business development manager. “The accessibility to our major markets is key for us.”

With 24 employees, Staub specializes in the areas of production metal fabrication and laser cutting. The company serves medium-to large-sized manufacturers in Ohio and surrounding states. Aggressive growth goals over the next five to ten years may cause the company to expand its 36,500-square-foot building on the existing property.

If you’re looking for a place to hold a business retreat or office get-together, look no further than Sinclair Park on Shoup Mill Road at Riverside Drive. It features a beautiful wooded setting with two open-air shelters and a lodge that can be used for meetings, receptions and other gatherings. For rates and reservations, contact the Township’s Services Department at 274-6871 during business hours.

If you add in logistics and transportation support. “These companies add good jobs and help to diversify our business environment,” said Township Development Director Jack Kuntz. “We welcome them to our community.”
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Know of a home or business with beautiful and creative landscaping? If so, be sure to nominate the property for a Harrison Township Visual Improvement Program award this spring and summer. The winners are selected by the Neighborhood Presidents Council.
The VIP award is good for neighborhoods because it encourages and inspires property owners to invest in the appearance of their homes or businesses.
To nominate a property, call the Township at 890-5611 or mail the nomination to VIP Awards, Harrison Township Government Center, 5945 N. Dixie Dr., Dayton OH 45414.

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Please let us know if you’d like to receive this newsletter in your email.
Call 890-5611 to get your name on the list.