



Harlem Township

ESTABLISHED 1810

News & Notes

2021 Edition

Board of Trustees

3663 S. State Route 605

Galena, Ohio 43021

(740) 965-2661

www.harlemtwp.com

From the Trustees

As with many of you, 2020 was an exceptionally busy and challenging year for your Township Trustees.

The Trustees conducted a total of 28 Trustee meetings. We also had numerous meetings with Delaware County Regional Planning, Delaware County Public Officials (County Prosecutor, County Engineer, County Auditor, County Sanitation, County Administrator, County Commissioners, County Board of Elections) other townships, ODOT, our state representatives, the Delaware Public Health District and others.

We spent many additional hours interviewing individuals for the positions of Fire Chief, Fiscal Officer and Administrative Assistant.

Meetings with our Fire Chief and Fiscal Officer were held to properly designate the use for CARES funds received by Harlem Township to combat the coronavirus.

During 2020, we held Trustee, Zoning, BZA and Parks meeting via Zoom, so that the public could safely participate in the meetings from the comfort of their own home. Since this format has worked so well, we plan on continuing Zoom in 2021.

The trustee board would like to thank all the township employees who worked so hard in 2020 to improve the lives of the residents of Harlem Township. We know there were many additional challenges they faced, based on the pandemic. We would also like to thank the many committee volunteers who donated their time during the past year. Our township would not be the great place it is to live and raise a family, without the efforts of these individuals.

As we look forward to a busy 2021 as our community moves toward more "normal" living conditions, we would like to encourage your participation in township affairs and committees to continue the legacy of the Township being a great place to live!

Most Sincerely,

Harlem Township Trustees

Jerry Paul, (740) 965-9632

David Jackson, (614) 989-6680

Bob Singer, (740) 965-6374

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History of Townships

The Pilgrims brought this form of government to America in 1620. In Ohio, the Township predates State government.

Congressional Acts established Land grants, which were divided into "Township" sections. Harlem Township's land area is approximately 6 miles by 6 miles. Within Ohio's 88 counties, there are 1308 Townships. Harlem Township was established in 1810.

Three elected Trustees and a Fiscal Officer govern each Township. Trustees have the responsibility to maintain township roads and ditches, cemetery up-keep, including burials, management of township revenues and to provide for fire and EMS coverage.

Township funding is limited and comes primarily from property taxes, gasoline tax and permissive motor vehicle license tax.

Powers of the Township are subject to the Ohio Revised Code and like any other organization in government, a Township is what its Residents and businesses make it.

Ref. Ohio Township News Jan/Feb 2019

Township Roads

There are three classes of roads in Harlem Township: State, County and Township. Our Board is responsible for 23.78 miles of Township roadways, including ditch maintenance (mowing and drainage).

Our goal is to keep our roads on a rotation schedule to ensure that each road receives attention every 4-5 years or sooner, if needed.

In 2020, we allocated \$165,107.59 to our road program and in 2021 we plan to expend \$168,700.

The on-going challenge is the ever-increasing cost of asphalt, gravel, and labor. One mile of asphalt overlay 1-inch-thick costs are approximately \$117,500. One mile of tar and chip treatment costs approximately \$29,000.

Yearly Township revenues guide our decisions as to the allocation of funds to our roads.

Roads scheduled for improvement for 2021 are Gorsuch Road (between RT 605 and Miller-Paul Road), and Green Cook Road (between Robins Road and the Franklin County Line).

Bart Walker, Maintenance Supervisor
740 965-3456

Township Comprehensive Plan Nearing Completion

The Harlem Township Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee (HTCPSC) was appointed by the Township Trustees in December 2019 to revise and update the Township Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan is the document that guides the type of development permitted, and where it is permitted, in the Township.

The Steering Committee is working proactively in guiding and shaping future development in our Township. Revisions of the Comprehensive Plan are designed to prevent unwanted development that would be forced on us by developers and other entities.

Currently, the Steering Committee is reviewing Draft 4 of the revised Comprehensive Plan. This current draft is available for public review through a link on the Township website. (Select the Resources Tab and click on Comprehensive Master Plan in the dropdown menu.)

All residents and property owners are encouraged to review the latest draft and offer their comments to the Steering Committee prior to their forwarding a final version for submission to the Township Zoning Commission. (Submit comments via email to: mkabler@harlemtwp.com)

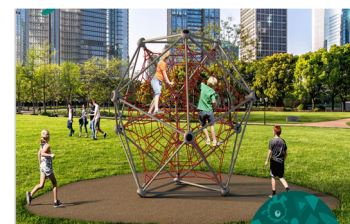
Harlem Community Playground Committee Makes Ready to Complete Installation of New Playground Equipment

Guided by a public-private partnership, Harlem Township is building an amazing new playground in our Community Park. The playground initiative was started by a generous donation and matched by private contributions plus funding authorized by the Township Trustees.

Finding that the Community Park lacked sufficient playground equipment for our children, the Harlem Community Playground committee laid out plans to create a new playground area. In July 2019 with help from a crew of volunteers, we assembled and installed a set of swings and a multi-purpose play center where kids can climb, swing, explore, imagine balance, slide, and play. With the first phase of playground development in place we observed an immediate increase in the number of children playing in our Community Park.

In order to allow for more children to safely play, increase access for those with development disabilities, and offer an experience full of exploration, exercise, imagination, creativity, and learning, we plan to complete the new playground this summer during a second phase of construction with the installation of three play stations: a climbing challenge station; a spinner; and saucer swing designed to include those with developmental disabilities.

If you have any questions or would like to help with this worth-while project, please contact Chuck Bachman at 614-679-4333 or Ed Valeska at 513-370-4759. You can also find additional information on the Community Park on the Township web page at <https://harlemtwp.com>.



Harlem Township Zoning Commission

The Zoning Commission (ZC) consists of five members appointed by the Harlem Township Trustees to 5-year terms and one alternate to serve a one-year term subject to renewal. The ZC's major responsibilities include review and revision of the Zoning Resolution and Master Plan, hearing/voting on applicant submissions for development plans, zoning map amendments (changes in zoning districts), and zoning text changes.

- **Workshop Meetings** - During the past year, the ZC has been participating with members of the Township Master Plan Steering Committee at its monthly workshop meetings. A great deal of public recommendations and input has been received. The ZC formulates recommendations and submits the information to the Trustees for their consideration.
- **Regular Meetings** - The ZC regular meetings for the past year have been focused on making some minor modifications in the text of the Township Zoning Resolution and reviewing Zoning Amendment requests (changes in Zoning) for Township property owners. Most of these changes have been requests to change Agriculture Residential (AR-1) to Farm Residential (FR-1).

Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA)

The Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) was created when the Township Zoning Resolution was adopted in November, 1988.

The BZA is composed of five (5) members who are appointed by the Board of Township Trustees. All members are residents of the unincorporated territory of Harlem Township. The terms of all members are for a period of five (5) years and so arranged that the term of one member expires each year. The trustees have also appointed two "alternate BZA members" who can serve on the Board should one of the regular members be unable to attend a BZA meeting. The alternates are also appointed for five (5) year terms.

To read more about the BZA, please view the website at <http://harlemtwp.com>.

2020 Year End Financial Report

The Harlem Township unaudited 2020 Year End Financial Report is available for review at the Fiscal Office, 3883 S. St. Rt. 605, Galena, Ohio 43021. Please call (740) 965-2661 to schedule an appointment.

Lisa Hursey, Fiscal Officer

Township Committee Monthly Meetings

Due to the Governor's Stay at Home order, all committee meetings will be held as teleconferences using Zoom until further notice. Details for sign-in will be posted and updated each month on the Township website at www.harlemtwp.com.

The Harlem Township Zoning Commission
First Monday, 7:30 p.m. unless a Holiday Falls on that day, in which case the meeting will be held on **Tuesday** at 7:30 p.m.

The Harlem Township Zoning Commission
Workshop, second Monday, 7:30 p.m. unless a holiday falls on that day in which case the meeting will be held on **Tuesday** at 7:30 p.m.

The Park Committee
Second Wednesday, 5:30 p.m.

The Harlem Township Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA), third Monday, 7:30 p.m. unless a holiday falls on that day, in which case the meeting will be held on **Tuesday** at 7:30 pm

The Board of Trustees
Third Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

Township Cemeteries

The Harlem Township Trustees are responsible for Cemetery care and upkeep, burials and headstone footer installations.

Fancher Cemetery with its divisions (Maple Grove and Barnhard) and Hunt Cemetery (Center Village and Green Cook) are most active in terms of burials. Center Village, Harlem and Snipe (Green Cook and Fancher) Cemeteries make up the balance. The Barnhard Section of Fancher (recently acquired by the Township) is under development and not ready yet for burial activity.

A comprehensive Cemetery Management Software program, Ramaker, is used to manage all details of the cemeteries, such as available and sold lots and names of the interred.

Grave site rates for 2021 are \$500 for Resident, \$1000 for Non-Resident. Opening and closing rates are: **Urn:** \$250 (Mon-Fri), \$450 (Sat, Sun & Holidays). **Full Burial:** \$600 (Mon-Fri), \$1000 (Sat, Sun & Holidays).

Headstone footer rates are 95 cents per square inch and are poured within 30 days after April 15 and within 30 days after October 1st. All prices are set annually and are subject to change.

HARLEM TOWNSHIP
3663 S. STATE ROUTE 605
GALENA, OH 43021

PRSR STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
COLUMBUS OH
PERMIT NO 8421

Meet the New Township Staff



Chris Caito, Fire Chief

On May 1, 2020, Captain Christopher J. Caito was promoted to Fire Chief. He has been in the fire service for 40 + years and joined the Harlem Township Division of Fire in March of 2004.



Lisa Hursey, Fiscal Officer

Lisa joined the Township as the Fiscal Officer in 2020 and has been a resident of Harlem Township since 1992. Lisa has one grown son. She has been actively involved in organizing toy and food drives for local non-profit organizations and churches to assist local families during Thanksgiving and Christmas since 2002. Lisa is an avid Ohio State Fan...Go Bucks!



Valerie Hamill, Administration

Valerie joined the Township in May 2020, and assists the Trustees with office administration, such as the township website maintenance and updates, Cemetery software management, correspondence, among other duties and responsibilities. Valerie is a long-time resident of Harlem Township with her husband Bruce.

The Harlem Township Division of Fire

The Covid-19 pandemic has challenged everyone. The Harlem Township Division of Fire has been enduring this situation, while conducting our essential business as usual. Special events have been relatively non-existent due to the pandemic. While we experienced an approximately 30% initial reduction in calls for service, we quickly returned to normal.

2020 ended as a slightly busier year in responses. The fire division logged 551 runs with 66% emergency medical and 36% fire calls.

And in 2020, long-time Chief Dale Fling and Lt. Wendell Piper retired from the department after 40+year careers. Captain Christopher J. Caito was appointed to fire chief on May 1st to replace Chief Fling.

The Harlem Township Division of Fire consists of 7 career fire fighter/EMT personnel, including the Chief and 3 lieutenants. Supplementing the career personnel, are 17 part-time firefighter/EMT members. All personnel, except the Chief, work a platoon system consisting of 24 hrs. on duty and 48 hours off.

With an average staffing of 4 members per day, we cross-staff either an advanced life support medic or a fire truck, depending on the nature of the call. We are currently partnering with the American Red Cross in their smoke detector program. There will be more information on this as details are finalized.

The fire division has ordered a new Advanced Life Support Transport Vehicle to replace our 21-year-old truck. We anticipate delivery mid-to late summer.

We have also applied for an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for the procurement of a new tanker truck. If we are successful in being awarded the grant, a new truck will be purchased to replace our existing 40-plus year old, which has mechanical issues.

To read the full history of the Harlem Township Fire Department, please visit www.harlemtwp.com under the Fire tab.