

Sharon Township

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Third Quarter, 2019

—Township Trustees—

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Vice-Chair Lindsay S. Duffey

John H. Oberle

Anthony E. Palmer, Jr., Fiscal Officer

Sharon Township Board of Trustees

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911

Police non-Emergency
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614-885-5115

Road Superintendent
Thomas A. Kayati
614-885-5933

Code Enforcement Director
Mark Higdon
614-787-5644

**Board of Trustees
Regular Meetings**
@ 6:30 p.m.

October 16, 2019

November 6, 2019

*Check website for updates
and more information*

www.sharontwp.us

Facilities Assessment

The Board of Trustees has begun to do a Facilities Assessment Analysis of the Township's Administration and Police Department building. The analysis is to determine if the Township can save money on an alternate facility that better meets the needs of all departments, or if repairs to the current facility make the most financial and logistical sense.

Over the next several months, the Trustees will share the results of the Facilities Needs Assessment. Public meetings will be held to share results and solicit feedback. Conversations will take place at regularly scheduled Trustee Meetings as well as Special Meetings to share findings.

Olentangy Valley Center Under Construction / New Tax Revenue - Incentives Under Consideration

THE TOWNSHIP CONTINUES TO WORK WITH the developer on this project and it is good to see the site being improved to be a long term asset for the community. The owners of the property, and a majority of the tenants, have agreed to move forward on a Joint Economic Development District to allow the Township, along with a city partner, to collect an income tax on the property.

As part of this plan the Township will consider other incentives for the property to support the large investment in the community. We expect to finalize all of this this year. The Township is working with the City of Worthington as the city partner for the project because of the longstanding relationship with the city and the fact the city already provide police protection for the site.

Budget Committee to Plan for Long-Term Sustainability

One of the biggest challenges facing Sharon Township is the sustainability of the Township's general fund. Unlike the funds for the Police Department and the Road Department, the general fund does not have a Township-wide tax levy to sustain it. The general fund had for many years been sustained by local government funds from the state. When those funds were scaled back over an extended period, the general fund shrank. Now, the general fund will need effective solutions to ensure its long-term sustainability.

During Township meetings, the Trustees have routinely provided updates regarding the sustainability of the general fund. In fact, the general fund's sustainability has been included as part of the Township's strategic plan. Improving the health of the general fund will take planning and intentionality. Trustee John Oberle and I are working on a proposal for a budget committee. The budget committee would be dedicated to planning and providing recommendations to the Trustees. With meaningful engagement, we can meet the challenge we face with our general fund. A budget committee dedicated to finding solutions may be one component to help the Township's general fund achieve long-term sustainability.

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From Your Police Department...

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26TH IS THE NEXT PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY...

Your Police Department will again take part in this initiative. We will be collecting potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. We CANNOT COLLECT Liquids, needles, patches, or inhalers. It is preferred that you empty all of your pills from its container into a clear plastic bag. It is recommended that you keep the containers and dispose of them yourself to protect your identity. If you cannot come to our location on that date or want to get rid of your old or unwanted medications now, or at some other future time, please read the following...

How to Dispose of Medicines Properly:

Don't: Flush expired or unwanted prescription and over-the-counter drugs down the toilet or drain unless the label or accompanying patient information specifically instructs you to do so.

Do: Return unwanted or expired prescription and over-the-counter drugs to a drug take-back program or follow the steps for household disposal below.

1ST CHOICE: DRUG TAKE-BACK EVENTS... Such as the one scheduled for October 26th.

2ND CHOICE: HOUSEHOLD DISPOSAL STEPS (Drug Disposal Guidelines, Office of National Drug Police, October 2009):

1. Take your prescription drugs out of their original containers.
2. Mix drugs with an undesirable substance, such as cat litter or used coffee grounds.
3. Put the mixture into a disposable container with a lid, such as an empty margarine tub, or into a sealable bag.
4. Conceal or remove any personal information, including Rx number, on the empty containers by covering it with a permanent marker or duct tape, or by scratching it off.
5. The concealed container with the drug mixture, and the empty drug containers, can now be placed in the trash.

How Proper Disposal of Medicines Protects You and the Earth: Prevents poisoning of children and pets; Deters misuse by teenagers and adults; Avoids health problems from accidentally taking the wrong medicine, too much of the same medicine, or a medicine that is too old to work well; Keeps medicines from entering streams and rivers when poured down the drain or flushed down the toilet.



Thursday, October 31st

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

NEED POLICE ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CALL THE PROPER NUMBER....

The Township Administrative Office phone number is 614-885-5115; we often receive phone calls on that number from residents wanting to speak with a police officer or have them come to their location. The Administrative Assistant does not have the capability to dispatch an officer. No one works in the Administrative Office after 4:00 p.m. on weekdays, and no one is in the office on weekends. Please do not call 614-885-5115 during those hours with the hopes of contacting a police officer. If you need the assistance of an officer, please call the Dispatch Center at 614-525-2125; this is the non-emergency number. If it is an emergency, please call 911.

Open burning laws.... Every year the Police Department receives requests about open burning; the calls usually increase during the fall season. The State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency has very strict laws for restricting open burning. Violation of the law can result in substantial penalties. Please visit our Website to view brief information regarding what you can and cannot burn; you will find the link at the bottom of the front page. To view more information regarding open burning, we encourage everyone to go to the bottom of the Township Home Webpage for links to two quick reference guides. For more information, call the Worthington Division of Fire & EMS at 614-885-7640.

Winter... is almost here. During the winter the streets can become ice covered and you may not realize it. We will see snow covering our roadways on some days. Please be cautious when driving. There are laws against texting while driving. This becomes that much more important when the weather is bad and the streets are not in the best of conditions.

The winter holidays... are fast approaching. This becomes a busy time for law enforcement. Home burglaries seem to increase during the holiday season. If you are planning to be away from home a few days, please utilize our Vacation House Watch program. Please see the Police Department

page on the Township Website to complete an on-line form. Or, you can call the office at 614-885-5115 Ext. 1 and Administrative Assistant Sharon Lee will take the information; or when you see one of our personnel on the street you can stop and ask one of them to take the information.



A lot of thieves will watch you take your trash to the curb. They can tell by the boxes and other containers you leave on the curb side what items of value you may have purchased, such as large screen Smart TVs. You may want to consider cutting the containers and boxes into smaller pieces and putting them into plastic bags before taking the trash to the curb.

And of course, there are always the holiday parties and family gatherings. All of us at the Police Department wishes that everyone has an enjoyable time. Unfortunately, some people choose to have too much alcoholic beverages. We are asking that you be aware of how much you are drinking. If you are concerned that you may have had too much, ask someone who has not been drinking to take you home. Or call a friend or a cab to pick you up.

If you are hosting a party, you should try to monitor how much your guests are drinking. If you believe a guest has had too much, consider offering them a place to stay for a few hours until they are sober. Or ask someone who has not been drinking to take them home. You may want to think about taking their car keys away to prevent them from driving, and call a cab or other means of transportation.

A Note of Thanks

SHARON TOWNSHIP wants to thank former Sharon Township Trustee Paul Insley of Insley Printing for his assistance in getting the newsletter out to residents.



CODE CONCERNS

By Mark Higdon, Code Enforcement Director

At this writing (Oct. 1), you'd never know it was Fall. We're facing likely record-high 90° plus temperatures today and tomorrow. The way the grass is rebounding now, it's looking like another April in October. Due to a long, mostly dry spell recently, forecasters are not predicting lush, brilliant fall foliage, but "crumble-and-fall" leaves.

While no one enjoys raking or blowing leaves, it needs to be done for good appearances and for the health of the lawn beneath. Also, I might add, for the health of residents and their neighbors. Rotting leaves become a fertile environment for mold spores. Many people who breathe them become physically distressed or downright sick.

So much for raking and blowing. What about gutters? Well, when they overflow, the home's foundation takes a beating underground. Often this condition contributes to water in basements. So keeping gutters free of leaves and able to flow freely is a favor to your house. Just be careful up on that ladder!

One more thing about leaves: raking them too near storm sewer grates and catch basins risks clogging the township's storm drains. Please watch where your rakings end up. They will be collected by the township near the curb, as usual. Please keep leaves off of the roadway pavement, as they will stick to it when wet and not be collected. Plus the road surface will suffer. (For similar reasons, redirect any sump pump discharge away from the curbs and further back on lots before freezing weather arrives.)

Finally, a general note. In order for trash and recycling to be collected, each home must maintain an account in good standing with the township's only authorized provider: Local Waste Services. Any exception to this policy must be requested in writing to the Township Trustees, or at a regular Trustees meeting. Call 614-885-5115 for further information.

The Exterior Property Maintenance Code can be read online and downloaded from sharontwp.us. Contact me at 614-885-5115 (ext. 402), 614-787-5644 (cell) or codeenforcement@sharontwp.us to discuss *your* code concerns.

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FALL IS UPON US

Leaf Pick-up: The Road Department will be picking up leaves again this year.

PLEASE! ! ! REMEMBER TO USE THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES - THIS WILL HELP TO ENSURE A PROMPT AND SAFE LEAF SEASON.

Leaves only please no foreign materials such as brush, grass clippings, mulch, or flowerbed debris. Collections are done using a vacuum machine, and these materials cause equipment failure and pick-up delays.

Rake leaves to the curb or road edge, PLEASE NOT INTO THE STREET OR GUTTER!

Leaves raked into the street can cause traffic accidents and hazards, you could be held liable. Cars parked over dry leaves in the street cause fires. Wet leaves in the street are difficult to collect and cause storm sewer backups.



Bagged leaves:

If you prefer to bag your leaves they should be put in biodegradable bags available at most hardware and grocery stores. Bagged leaves will be picked up with your garbage. **PLEASE USE THIS METHOD TO DISPOSE OF ALL OTHER YARD WASTE.**

WHEN:

Leaves will be picked up from October 15nd through November 30th, with a final clean up the week of December 2nd.

The Road Department will try to pick-up leaves in all areas once each week. The days your leaves are picked up will vary depending on the weather conditions and volume of leaves to be picked up. Leaves should be ready for pick-up on Monday.

Thank you for helping to make this a safe program.

PARKING ON WEST KANAWHA AVE. AND ROSSLYN AVE

Please remember to park your vehicles on the opposite side of the road on Tuesdays from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This will allow leaves to be collected on the south side of Rosslyn Ave. and the North side of West Kanawha Ave.

Storm Water Runoff

Storm water runoff is water from rain or melting snow that does not soak into the ground. It flows from rooftops, paved areas, bare soil, and lawns into storm drains or ditches. Storm sewers and ditches collect storm water runoff and empty it directly to local bodies of water. Ideally, storm water runoff would be free of contaminants. In reality, it picks up pollutants such as animal waste, pesticides, fertilizers, salt, oil and grease, soil and debris and transports them to waterways where they are discharged with no treatment. This is storm water pollution. You can identify a storm sewer by the open grates along roadways and within some low-lying areas.

What is an “Illicit Discharge?”

An illicit (illegal) discharge is any discharge to a municipal storm sewer system – storm drains, pipes, and ditches – that is not composed entirely of storm water. Pollutants end up in storm sewer systems in a number of ways, many of which are easily preventable. In some instances, companies or residences have waste pipes tapped into storm water pipes. In other cases, individuals use the storm drain inlets to dispose of various types of waste. Disposal of anything other than storm water in storm sewers is illegal!

Storm sewer systems cannot treat polluted water. Storm water does not get carried to the

wastewater treatment plant. Storm sewers transport rainwater and everything in it directly into surrounding rivers, streams, lakes, and other bodies of water.

Examples of Illicit Discharges

- Septic Tank Seepage / Illegal Sanitary Connections
- Laundry Wastewater / Detergent
- Improper Waste Oil Disposal / Auto Fluids Flushing
- Home Improvement Waste (e.g. concrete, paint)
- Pesticides and Fertilizers
- Improper Disposal of Commercial and Industrial Hazardous Waste
- Pool / Spa Discharge
- Cooking Grease / Household Waste

Signs of an Illicit Discharge

The point in a storm sewer system where it empties into a body of water is a storm sewer outfall. It may be a pipe or ditch. If the outfall is flowing when there has been no recent rainfall, this may indicate an illicit discharge. Visible sewage waste, foul odor, suds or other evidence of contamination, are indicators that an illicit discharge is contaminating the storm sewer.

Things You Can Do to Protect Water Quality

- Never dump anything down storm drains
- Use lawn and garden chemicals sparingly; sweep up any excess from driveways, sidewalks and roads
- Repair vehicle leaks; cover spilled fluids with kitty litter then sweep into household waste
- Pick up after your pet and dispose of properly
- Control soil erosion on your property by planting ground cover and stabilizing erosion-prone areas
- Keep grass clippings, leaves, litter, and debris out of street gutters and storm drains
- Direct downspouts onto grassy areas away from paved surfaces
- Use a commercial car wash or wash your vehicle on the grass instead of the driveway
- Dispose of used oil, antifreeze, paints and other household chemicals in an approved manner

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Acquiring Federal Approved Compliance Card and State Driver's License

THE POLICE DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED INQUIRIES about the new Federal Approved Compliance Card Driver's License that is being issued by the State of Ohio. It is designed to be in compliance with new federal travel restrictions requiring secure identification that go into effect October 2020. We are providing the following information to answer some of the concerns and questions our residents have. The information is copied from the BMV Website. For more information, please go to

<https://www.bmv.ohio.gov>.

Residents interested in using their state-issued credential for access to federal facilities or services, such as airport security screening by the Transportation Safety Administration (TSA) for boarding commercial airlines, may choose to obtain a compliant card that meets all federal requirements. Choosing this option when obtaining a new or renewed license or identification card, residents will be required to provide documentation proving their name and date of birth (such as a birth certificate or passport), social security number (such as a Social Security card), and two additional documents proving residential address (such as utility bills).

Residents not interested in or not needing to use their state-issued credential for federal identification purposes will have the option of obtaining a standard driver license or identification card without additional document requirements beyond those currently in place.

What has changed in how Driver's Licenses or State ID cards are issued?

- You receive your license or ID card by mail in about 10 business days after visiting a Deputy Registrar;
- You will receive an Ohio Interim Documentation form for confirmation of driving privileges until the card arrives in the mail; and
- You will be given the option to have a driver license or identification card that is acceptable for federal identification purposes.

Is a compliant card mandatory? The answer is NO. A standard driver license or identification card can still be used for most functions, just not

for airport security to fly commercially or access to federal buildings, including military bases. The standard card does not require additional identity documents, unless the driver license or identification card is being issued for the first time.

Again, to obtain a compliant card requires more than the standard card. You will need to provide documents to prove identity:

- Full legal name
- Date of Birth
- Social Security Number
- 2 - Proofs of Ohio Residency
- Proof of Legal Presence
- If applicable, proof of name change



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