

Sharon Township

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Second Quarter, 2019

—Township Trustees—

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Vice-Chair Lindsay S. Duffey

John H. Oberle

Anthony E. Palmer, Jr., Deputy Fiscal Office

Sharon Township Board of Trustees

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Administrative Office
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Police Department

Police/Fire Emergency
911

Police non-Emergency
614-525-2125

police@sharontwp.us

Police Chief

Donald E. Schwind
614-885-5115

Road Superintendent

Thomas A. Kayati
614-885-5933

Code Enforcement Director

Mark Higdon
614-787-5644

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Board of Trustees Regular Meetings

@ 6:30 p.m.

June 5, 2019

June 19, 2019

*Check website for updates
and more information*

www.sharontwp.us

Sharon Township's New Fiscal Officer

I'M TONY PALMER, SHARON TOWNSHIP'S NEW FISCAL officer. You may know me better as Lindsey Palmer's husband or Annie and Grant's dad. We live in the unincorporated area of the Township, so we enjoy fully the great service and responsiveness of our Township government. We love living in Sharon Township. Because of our family's growing attachment to this community, we want to serve our neighbors. I have been fortunate to serve on the Sharon Township Memorial Board and, more recently, on the Mount Air Water District Board of Trustees. Lindsey is active in several local organizations, including the Worthington Hills Elementary School PTA. Being able to serve our Township – our neighbors – is a privilege for me and my family.

I am an attorney, with most of my experience in the public sector. As a firm believer in public service, I have served as an assistant prosecuting attorney for Franklin County, as well as a policy director and contracts compliance program manager for the Franklin County Sheriff. Currently, I serve as assistant legal counsel for the Ohio Department of Education. In these capacities, I have advised governments about legal obligations and compliance matters. With my background, I intend to help our Township meet its obligations and implement best practices in the management of its operations.

I look forward to continuing to work with the great team we have at the Township. And I look forward to serving you and our wonderful community.

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FROM YOUR POLICE DEPARTMENT

SEE SOMETHING; SAY SOMETHING....It takes all of us working together to provide and maintain a safe environment; the police department and its employees cannot do it alone, no matter how much we try.

The reason this is brought up is because it has come to the attention of the Police Department that many of our residents are hesitant to call when they see or hear something that may be suspicious. Many of our residents are concerned or embarrassed that they may be 'putting us out.' Nothing could be further from the truth; it is our duty, responsibility, and desire to respond to the needs and concerns of our residents and businesses as quickly, efficiently and effectively as possible.

Though we try to be in the neighborhoods as much as possible, it is impossible for us to see everything. We rely upon our residents to tell us immediately when they see or hear something that sounds or looks different or suspicious. Please, do not wait until the next day, next week, or the next time you are outside and see one of our constables. We need to know immediately; please call the Police Dispatcher at 614-525-2125 any time of the day or night.

GOING AWAY ON VACATION? ... Please take advantage of our Vacation House Watch Program; it is available to all residents of the unincorporated areas of Sharon Township. We have made it easier for those who have Internet access to make a Vacation House Watch Request. Simply go to the Township's Website at www.sharontwp.us, in the section for the Police Department you will see the link to the on-line form. Just complete the fillable form; when finished, just click on the "Request Service" button at the bottom.

If you do not have Internet service, or do not desire to submit an on-line request, you can still make the request by calling the Township Administrative Assistant at 614-885-5115. The information will be written up and provided to the Police Department.

If you want to contact us about a Vacation House Watch and it is after normal office hours, or on the weekend or holiday, please call the Dispatch Center at 614-525-2125. Ask that a cruiser be dispatched to your home, or that an on-duty constable call you. Someone will respond and record the information.

Constables will physically check your residence at least once per shift, sometimes more often if the workload permits. Please call us if you plan to be away whether it is two days or several months.

SUMMER SAFETY.... Summer is finally here. With the warm weather comes enjoyable times outdoors. It also means school will soon be out for a few months and our children are outside playing. Most of the roadways in Sharon Township are residential streets; that means the speed limit is 25 miles per hour. Please slow down for the safety of everyone, we are increasing our patrol time in the residential areas; this

also means we are keeping a close lookout for traffic violators, and not just speeders. All traffic laws need to be obeyed; this includes STOP signs. Please come to a FULL stop, look around for pedestrian and vehicular traffic, then proceed with caution once it is safe.

HOME SAFETY.... As mentioned, summer is finally here. That means we are leaving our doors and windows open to get fresh air into our homes. Please, if you are leaving your home for any period of time, close and lock all windows and doors to prevent any unwanted guests from entering. Same with your garage doors; unless you are working in your garage we suggest that you keep it closed. Though we have not experienced this too much in Sharon Township, many neighborhoods throughout the County are experiencing thefts and burglaries where the criminal is entering the garage and or home and stealing items because of an open overhead garage door.

Every community in Central Ohio is experiencing the same type of crime, someone either rummaging through, or stealing something from vehicles. It does not matter whether they are parked in a driveway or on the street. In well over 90% of the incidents, the vehicles are not locked. **Please, help cut down on this crime of opportunity.** DO NOT leave any items of value in your car or truck; DO NOT leave your windows down; and LOCK ALL OF YOUR DOORS.

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY PRECAUTIONS.... Although it is great to feel warm again, this weather can also present some problems for our community. Warm weather always brings into our neighborhoods many companies seeking to work on your homes, seal driveways, trim trees, etc. Before signing a contract please do everything you can to ensure that it is a reputable company that you are willing to have work done on your home. One way is to call the Better Business Bureau. We realize this may take a little time, but it could save you a lot of money and/or trouble with faulty work. If you believe that a crime has been committed, please call 614-525-2125 for a constable to come out and discuss the situation with you. Sometimes there is a fine line between what are criminal violations and civil violations.

Anytime you believe there is anything suspicious occurring in your neighborhood please call 614-525-2125 and we will respond as quickly as possible.

TRANSIENT VENDORS.... On May 16, 2011, Resolution No. 02162011B Establishing the Regulation and Registration of Transient Vendors became law in Sharon Township. If any person or group is in your neighborhood trying to sell something and/or solicit money please call 614-525-2125 and ask that a cruiser be dispatched. Our personnel will speak with the individual or group and advise them of the Resolution and what they must do to be within the law. The Resolution has been posted on the Township Website for your perusal.

Storm Water Pollution Prevention Tips

What Can You Do?

General Information:

- Never allow any chemicals, yard wastes or any other materials to be washed down or put into storm drains. These drains may bypass the wastewater treatment plant and go directly to lakes or rivers.
- If you must buy an item that is potentially hazardous, be sure to buy only as much as you need, and follow the instructions on the label for proper use, storage and disposal. Save unused materials for a local household hazardous waste collection event. For more information, contact your local solid waste management district. For district contact information, visit Ohio EPA's Division of Materials and Waste Management at www.epa.ohio.gov/dsiwm/pages/recycpro.aspx or call (614) 644-2621.
- Use a garbage can for trash and recycle reusable materials. Improperly discarded trash may be carried by runoff into the storm sewer.
- Never allow roof gutters to drain directly to the street or storm sewer. Allow drainage from the roof to flow over your lawn instead.

Auto maintenance:

- Automobile fluids from leaks or maintenance changes are another source of water pollution. Each year Americans dump enough used oil in landfills to equal approximately 13 spills the size of the Exxon Valdez spill! Even more oil is disposed of illegally. Much of this oil eventually finds its way into our water. Never put used oil or other chemicals down storm drains or in drainage ditches. One quart of oil can contaminate up to two million gallons of drinking water!
- Clean up spilled brake fluid, oil, grease and antifreeze with kitty litter or other absorbent material. Do not hose them into the street where they can eventually reach local streams and lakes.
- If you change your own oil or antifreeze, be sure to carefully collect all the used oil or antifreeze in a proper container with a tight-fitting cap, and deliver it to a service or recycling center with the oil filter. Most auto parts stores will recycle oil for you at no charge. Contact your local solid waste management district, call the Ohio Environment Hotline at **800-CLEANUP** or visit www.earth911.com to find the nearest collection center for your used automotive fluids.
- Wash your car only when necessary; use a bucket to save water. Wash your car on a grassy area so the ground can filter the water. Or, go to a commercial car wash that uses water efficiently and disposes of runoff properly.

Mount Air Water District

Sharon Township recently formed a Water District in the Mount Air neighborhood. This important entity is a resource that can qualify and apply for public funding (low interest loans, grants), negotiate for water services, and contract with water service entities. There are several areas in Sharon Township that are also dependent on well water (and septic). Formation of the Water District prevented the potential annexation of Mount Air from the township, something that would have affected all of our residents. The district can be expanded to other unincorporated areas within Franklin County in the future with a resolution from the Mount Air Water District Board of Trustees should the need arise.

The Mount Air Water District Board of Trustees includes Laura Kunze (President), Bill Ash (Vice President), Mark McPhilimy (Secretary/Treasurer), and Tony Palmer. We are seeking a 5th board member, ideally an unincorporated resident who is not currently on the Mount Air well system. If you have interest, please contact Laura at lakunze@sharontwp.us. The water project in Mount Air is in the funding, engineering/planning phase and we hope to break ground in summer 2020.

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Quick Yard and Garden Tips

As we head into the summer, we have asked long time Sharon Township resident **Debra Knapke, The Garden Sage**, to share some yard and garden tips for caring for our plants and lawn.

Lawn:

- Scalping your lawn is not only unsightly, but it exposes grass roots to the heat of the sun, and allows water to evaporate from the soil more quickly.
- Set your mower height to 3"; 3.5" or 4" is even better. This conserves water and shades the roots of your lawn plants.
- Clover is an excellent addition to a lawn. It adds nitrogen to the soil so you need to fertilize less.
- Take care with lawn herbicides and pesticides. Children, pets and you should not be exposed to these chemicals. Also, these chemicals can, and do, end up in our rivers and lakes.
- If you use conventional fertilizer, buy a type that does not contain phosphorus. Most soils have enough phosphorus for good lawn growth. Excess phosphorus leaves the soil easily and causes problems in our waterways.
- If you suspect your soil is low in nutrients, test your soil. Franklin County Extension has soil testing kits for sale:

<https://franklin.osu.edu/program-areas/agriculture-and-natural-resources/soil-testing>

Gardens:

- Deer, rabbits, groundhogs and raccoons are some of our biggest challenges for our edible and ornamental gardens. Consider fencing in plants that are attractive to these animals: tomatoes, greens, sunflowers, anything in the rose family (strawberries, roses), hydrangea.
- Alternatively you can use repellents – Liquid Fence, Plantskyd, etc. There are liquid and granular formulations. Do not use the liquid formulations for leafy vegetables or on fruiting plants (tomatoes, etc.) once the fruit is on the plant. You will not like the taste!

CODE CONCERNS

GOOD TO BE BACK

I have recently returned to work following nearly a year of intensive treatment for leukemia. While I was on medical leave, code-related issues were referred to Sharon Township Trustees and staff, and to Franklin County zoning and health officials (a shout-out to all of the above). I am grateful for our residents'

understanding and patience during this period. Thanks also to those who offered prayers and support. Now, to catch up and meet this season's challenges!

At this time of year, green stuff grows like crazy. Fortunately, keeping it under control is doable by almost everyone. Commitment, courtesy and regular follow-through are the keys. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- Uncontrolled overgrowth detracts not only from the appearance of your property; it also has a similar effect on your neighbors'.
- On the other hand, regular mowing, trimming and pruning help maintain and leverage neighborhood property values (remember curb appeal).
- For appearance's sake and for the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and motorists, please sweep and keep those slippery grass clippings and trimming debris away from the public roadways (or tell your mowing service). This also contributes to clearer storm drains and cleaner waterways.

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.

–Mark Higdon

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