

SHARON TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Recycling Carts Delivered

The Township is pleased to report that free Recycling carts have been delivered to each home in the unincorporated area of the Township. Our team worked with the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) to obtain grants and federal funding to provide the residents with new and larger carts to recycle. Recycling has been a large request for years by our residents, and we are glad to work with SWACO to continue to promote cost effective ways to continue this service.

Potential Fire District Levy Discussed

Since the early 1990's Sharon Township has maintained a fire district with the City of Worthington. From 1994 to 2024, Township residents paid a very low amount for fire protection. After reaching an agreement with the City of Worthington, Sharon Township placed a levy on ballot for approval to increase the amount collected to about a total of \$500,000.

Under the fire district contract with the City of Worthington, Sharon Township will see the option to pass a levy starting in 2026 and extending the next two years. Each year getting progressively more expensive until the final year.

The trustees have held a series of special sessions to discuss the possibility of placing a new fire levy on the May 2026 ballot. Reach out to the trustees with your thoughts on this matter. Or please attend one of the two final meetings on the topic on January 21, 2026, at Tree of Life School or on January 28, 2026 at the Sharon Township Administrative Building at 95 East Wilson Bridge Road, Worthington, OH.

Placing a levy on the 2026 ballot is the least expensive option. Waiting until next year, or 2028, will lead to increasing costs under the fire district contract. Please go to www.sharontwp.us and find additional information about the proposed fire levy.

Farley Appointed Trustee

On November 30, 2025, the Sharon Township Board of Trustees appointed Michael Farley as Sharon Township Trustee. Farley will fill the unexpired term of office (12/31/2027).

The board of township trustees are responsible for governing the township, managing the township's budget, overseeing the services of the township like police protection and road services. The trustees are the legislative body of Sharon Township. The trustees oversee employees and work with the Fiscal Officer to maintain compliance with expenditures of public funds.

Prior to his appointment as Sharon Township Trustee, Farley served as Sharon Township Fiscal Officer since his appointment March of 2022. Farley was subsequently elected as Sharon Township Fiscal Officer in 2023. The Fiscal Officer is tasked with ensuring the financial well-being of Sharon Township.

As Fiscal Officer, Farley oversaw a period that continued improvements in transparency and compliance. His efforts led to an audited Agreed Upon Procedures report for the biennium ending 2024 that showed successful compliance with Ohio law.

Michael and his wife, Erin, have raised their family in our community. He works in the property and casualty insurance industry as Vice President of Government Affairs and General Counsel for the Ohio Insurance Institute. Michael is also an Adjunct Professor of law at Capital University Law School. He is active in public service as President of the Ohio Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs, member of the Commission on the Thomas J. Moyer Ohio Judicial Center and is an active member of Worthington Presbyterian Church.

Justin Adkins is the new Sharon Township Fiscal Officer

Justin Adkins was appointed as Sharon Township Fiscal Officer on November 30, 2025, by the Sharon Township Board of Trustees. He is honored to serve the citizens of Sharon Township as their Fiscal Officer.

The Fiscal Officer is tasked with ensuring Sharon Township's financial well-being. This is accomplished by ensuring that funds are spent as legally required and appropriated by the trustees, implementing fiscal controls, and maintaining compliance with Ohio law. The Fiscal Officer is also tasked with maintaining many of the township's current and historical records.

Justin is a senior software engineer and has lived in Sharon Township since 2014, starting on West Kanawha. He partners with many local organizations to help them achieve affordable solutions to their technical problems. Justin excels at finding concise, elegant solutions to complicated problems and is a lover of The Lord of the Rings and all things politics. Justin and his two cats, Caesar and Cleopatra, live in the Shaker Square neighborhood of Worthington, near Linworth.

Justin's goal for 2026 includes publishing years of historical financial data, posting current financials regularly, publishing Township meeting recordings online, holding quarterly meetings of the records commission, and modernizing the townships' technology practices.

Natural sound barrier exploration for Tremont Gardens-
Trustee Kunze is working with ODOT and will be calling a meeting with Master Gardener Debra Knapke and interested residents in Tremont Gardens to discuss options and funding

mechanisms for possible tree/brush sound buffering along 315 and the Olentangy Trail. This area has petitioned for and performed updated sound studies via ODOT multiple times since 2013 and does not qualify for a freeway sound barrier. Specific criteria that must be met, including effective sound impact of a wall for the affected homes, resident desire for the project, and the cost per positively impacted home (as measured in the sound studies) must be less than \$56,000 per home. The project failed to meet a few criteria. That said, living barriers can provide some sound dampening and visual barrier and may actually be better for the environment and wildlife. We hope to kick off a meeting in February.

If you are interested in being a part of the discussion please email Laura at lakunze@sharontwp.us

STAR Board- need nominations or applications for 2026-2027 term

Sharon Township would like to reconstitute the STAR (Sharon Township Area Resident) Board, a volunteer group of residents who meet at least quarterly to advise the Sharon Township leadership, take on projects and work to ensure all areas of the township have a chance to impact the township as a whole in a positive manner. The STAR Board also may assist in communicating township activities and opportunities to their respective neighborhoods via email, social media and/or flyers door to door.

If you are interested in serving or know someone you would like to nominate, please email the Sharon Township office at (info@sharontwp.us). STAR Board members should reside in the neighborhood they wish to represent (i.e., Tremont Gardens, Community Park, Mount Air, Worthington Hills, Flint Ridge Terrace, Flint Road, Worthington Hills, Sharon Hills). In denser areas we may consider more than 1 representative and would like an alternate if possible from all areas so we have consistent representation. Please include a statement as to why you feel you (or your nominee) would make a good STAR Board member for your area. This cohort would serve for a 2026-2027 term.

Native or nuisance? How Sharon Township handles code enforcement complaints while encouraging more nature-friendly landscape and water management options Franklin County code enforcement serves the Sharon Township community and our police department Community Liaison (who is this now?? works with the Sharon Township Board of Trustees to investigate any complaints that come to the township and coordinate with Franklin County. Some concerns need to be handled by Franklin County Public Health as well as code enforcement.

Many residents are exploring ways to be better stewards of their properties with natural water mitigation, native plantings and natural ways to discourage weed and pest infestations from their yards and neighborhoods. We want to encourage responsible choices that also benefit the neighborhood and township or county resources. Aging storm sewers may not be able to handle increased rains as they used to due to externalities outside of our

control, such as adjacent development. Likewise, pesticides and other chemicals can move downstream and impact other properties and get to the waterways and move to other areas. Sharon Township would like to make review and make updates to the current code where there is ambiguity, or it is outdated and will seek resident input. We would also like to host some discussions about effective ways to balance beautification, erosion control, water and pest management with the desire to work more in harmony with our environment. Residents may disagree as to what constitutes a nuisance or blight on property. Where a concern may not rise to the level of action by Code Enforcement, we want to encourage neighbors to respect and balance their landscape desires in a holistic manner to the benefit of the whole neighborhood. Please stay tuned for opportunities to join the conversation.

From Your Police Department



NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY

The Sharon Township Police Department took part in the 2025 Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) National Prescription Drug Take-Back Initiative in April and October. The total drugs turned in by residents was 39.5 pounds. Because of the great response from residents the Sharon Township Police Department will continue to be involved with the National Prescription Drug Take-Back. Please see the following information in regards to proper disposal of prescription medications.

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 28th.

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.

WELCOME two NEW CONSTABLES

On August 6th, the Trustees sworn in a new full-time constable, Derek Slane. He was previously employed with the Deshler Police Department as a reserve officer. Constable Slane has completed his Field Training Program. Since then we have seen Constable Slane progress very well during his short time with us. We believe he will be a valuable asset to the police department and the residents of Sharon Township. Please welcome him when you see him.

November 19th, the Trustees sworn in a new part-time constable, Aaron Wellman. He is currently employed as a Police Lieutenant with the Defense Logistics Agency. Constable Wellman is currently in his Field Training Program. When he completes his field training, we feel his will also be a valuable asset to the department. His duties with DLA include developing training to the officers he oversees which we believe he will enhance our training objectives. Please welcome him also when you see him.

As well as adding two new constables to the police department, we would also like to recognize the promotions of Sergeant Brooke Dendiu to Lieutenant and Constable Evan Martindale to Sergeant. They have become vital parts to the leadership team of the department as well as mentors to the constables. We look forward to watch the growth as they are the future of the Sharon Township Police Department.

UPDATES FROM THE ROAD DEPARTMENT

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

Recycling Carts Delivered

The Township is pleased to report that free Recycling carts have been delivered to each home in the unincorporated area of the Township. Our team worked with the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) to obtain grants and federal funding to provide the residents with new and larger carts to recycle. Recycling has been a large request for years by our residents, and we are glad to work with SWACO to continue to promote cost effective ways to continue this service.