

Sharon Township

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Second Quarter, 2022

—Township Trustees—

Chair, Laura Kunze Vice-Chair, John Oberle Tony Palmer
Michael Farley, Fiscal Officer

Sharon Township Board of Trustees

Laura Kunze
Chair

lakunze@sharontwp.us

Vice-Chair
John Oberle

joberle@sharontwp.us

Tony Palmer

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Fiscal Officer

Michael Farley

fiscalofficer@sharontwp.us

Administrative Office

614-885-5115 ext. 404

Police Department

Police/Fire Emergency

911

Police non-Emergency

614-525-2125

police@sharontwp.us

Police Chief

Jeff Tuchfarber

614-885-5115

Road Superintendent

Tom Kayati

614-885-5933

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Board of Trustees

Regular Meetings

@ 6:30 p.m.

First and Third Wednesdays of each month

*Check website for updates
and more information*

www.sharontwp.us

LEADERSHIP CHANGES:

Board Appoints New Trustee

Lindsay Duffey stepped down as Trustee on January 31, 2022. Lindsay had served as Trustee for the Township for the past six years. During her last Township Board meeting, Lindsay was recognized by State Senator Stephanie Kunze for Lindsay's service to the Township. Lindsay is continuing her public service as a teacher at Evening Street Elementary.

The Board considered several applicants to serve the remainder of Lindsay's term. On February 25th, the Board appointed Tony Palmer, who had served as Township Fiscal Officer since 2019. Tony and his family live in the unincorporated area of Sharon Township in Worthington Hills.

Trustees Appoint New Fiscal Officer

On March 21, 2022, the Sharon Township Board of Trustees appointed Michael Farley as Sharon Township Fiscal Officer to serve the unexpired term of Tony Palmer through March 31, 2024. Michael served as Deputy Fiscal Officer immediately following the resignation of Tony as Fiscal Officer.

The Fiscal Officer is tasked with ensuring the financial well-being of Sharon Township. 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

A huge thank you to Lindsay Duffey for her 6 years of service and dedication to the Township!

also tasked with maintaining many of the township's records.

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 First Vice President of the Ohio Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs, Treasurer of the Ohio Center for Law Related Education (civics education) and Vice President of the Thomas Worthington High School Touchdown Club.

TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE UPDATES

Fire District Change Sought by City of Worthington

The City of Worthington asked Sharon Township to address the Township's funding for the Fire District. Under an agreement entered in 1993, the City of Worthington took over the responsibility for providing fire and emergency medical services to City and Township residents and businesses. In 1993, Township residents approved a levy of 3 mills to fund the Township Fire District and pay for fire and EMS services provided by the City.

Under the 1993 service agreement, the City can ask the Township to increase its property taxes for the Fire District. Before doing so, the City is required to either enact additional property taxes or approve an income tax increase to fund its division of fire operations. Once the City has done so, the Township must, according to the agreement, seek approval from residents for a property tax increase to cover the cost of the increase made by the City. The agreement specifies that the amount of the Township Fire District increase is an *equitable proportion* to the increase in taxes by the City, taking into account factors such as: area served, demands on service,

assessed property valuation, and relative population. The equitable proportion is based on the revenue realized by the City to fund the operations of the Division of Fire and EMS and is not based on a percentage increase by the City.

Since the 1993 service agreement, the City has increased its income tax, with amounts being allocated by the City to fund the operations of the Division of Fire and EMS. That increase in property taxes has triggered the City's request for the Township to increase the revenue generated by the Township's property tax for the Fire District. The Township has not increased or changed its funding of the Fire District since 1993. The Township continues to work with the City to identify an equitable proportion based on all of the factors. This issue has been, and will continue to be, on the Board's agenda for its meetings.

Township Collecting New Revenue from Olentangy Valley Center (OVC)

The Township, in concert with the City of Worthington, created a Joint Economic Development District (JEDD) last year to bring in income tax on the OVC property to help offset economic development incentives provided for the development project. These incentives helped keep the OVC in the Township and the JEDD is expected to bring in much more revenue once it is fully realized. The JEDD Board is looking to fill one vacancy on the Board and will be approving the budget for the JEDD at their next meeting. The Township is looking at whether it is possible to expand the JEDD to other commercial properties in the Township.

Deer Population Is Growing / Feeding Deer Not Recommended

The Township has been looking at the growing deer population in the region and whether any action should take place to address this issue.

We have communicated with several other jurisdictions to see if there are regional solutions for the growing deer population problem. We continue to discuss this issue in our Township meetings and we are working on options. One initial recommendation is to not feed the deer at your home or nearby park areas. This only increases the domestication of the deer, and it could lead to injury or spreading of disease according to studies.

FROM YOUR POLICE DEPARTMENT...

A Big Thank You...

All of the employees and staff of the Police Department would like to thank Trustee Lindsay Duffey for her dedication and hard work while serving on the Board of Trustees. She assisted the Police Department immensely during her term. When Lindsay was the Police Department's liaison to the Board of Trustees, it was her responsibility to ensure the Department protected and served the Township residents to the best of its ability and to the level of service our residents expect and deserve. She took that responsibility seriously and did her best to make sure all of us were doing our jobs.

It isn't always easy to keep people happy; this includes Township residents and employees, as well as others affected by decisions that the Board makes. During her time in office, Lindsay worked hard to try to do what everyone wanted with the hope that those persons would be pleased with the outcome. Her desire was to leave the Township in better shape than it was before she took office. I know the employees of the Police Department feel that she accomplished what she intended. The residents I have spoken with believe the same.

All of us at the Department wish Lindsay well in all future endeavors. Our hope is that she stays involved with the community and will stop by the office from time to time.

Thank you again Lindsay, from all of us at the Police Department. You will be missed.

Keeping you safe and the crime rate low...

For those of you who live in the Township, your crime rate remains much lower than other areas of Franklin County and Columbus. Many of the surrounding Columbus neighborhoods are experiencing an increase in criminal activity. We, at the Sharon Township Police Department, believe that our almost constant presence in your neighborhood is one of the primary reasons we have not seen an increase in criminal activity. A few residents reported things stolen from their yards or sheds and unlocked vehicles being gone through (always lock your vehicle). Even with these reports being filed, the Township's crime rate is extremely low compared to the surrounding neighborhoods. We have not experienced any stabbings or shootings that many of the surrounding areas have experienced. Hopefully it will remain that way.

To repeat an earlier statement, "We at the Sharon Township Police Department believe that our almost constant presence in your neighborhood is one of the primary reasons we have not seen an increase in criminal activity." Another important factor for the low crime rate is all of you, the people who live in the Township. We need all of you to help us. We cannot be everywhere all of the time.

Statistics show that many crimes go unreported. The only way your police department knows that a criminal incident has occurred is by reporting it to us. We often hear that someone's vehicle was rummaged through and items stolen, yet that person failed to call the Department and report it. Other times a resident on their way to work will flag a constable down and inform them that they had something stolen from their vehicle but do not have time to file a report because they will be late for work. The person is usually advised to call

when they return home that evening so a report could be taken. However, the person more often than not, does not call. Consequently, there is no record on file of a crime occurring. If you have been a victim of any crime, regardless of how minor you may think it is, please call 614-525-2125 and ask that a constable be dispatched to your home so a report can be filed.

Reporting crimes are the only means by which a police department can determine what type of activity is occurring within their jurisdiction.

No law enforcement agency can promise their residents a 0% crime rate; it is impossible even with the best security systems installed in every home, business and vehicle in the Township. Some crime is still going to occur. But, with our residents and law enforcement officers working together we can keep the crime rate as low as possible; thus keeping our neighborhoods safe. WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP US? Really it is quite simple, just follow this rule; "SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING." If you notice anything that appears to be suspicious to you, call 614-525-2125 and ask that a constable be dispatched to check things out. Please inform the person answering the telephone at the dispatch center what you saw and/or what type of activity you are suspicious of, so the information can be relayed to the constable. Please provide as much information as possible. We will respond to anything you call about, regardless of what it is. Please, do not think you are wasting our time; this is what we are here to do. Nothing is too small or unimportant. You should also let the complaint taker know if you do, or do not, want the constable to stop and speak with you.

Franklin County Sheriff's Citizen Academy

The Franklin County Sheriff's Office is once again conducting a Citizens Academy. The mission of the Franklin County Sheriff's Citizen Academy is to

build a stronger relationship with the community it serves.

Classes are held one night a week for ten weeks. All participants must complete a background check.

If interested, you may sign up or for more information by going to the below listed website; <http://sheriff.franklincountyohio.gov/programs>CitizensAcademy>

Drug Take Back



Sharon Township will again be participating in the **DEA Drug Take Back Program** on Saturday, April 30th, 2022 from 10am to 2pm. It will be held at the Sharon Township Police Department at 95 E. Wilson Bridge Road, Worthington, Ohio 43085.

The misuse of prescription drugs is a significant problem across our nation. Americans misuse controlled prescription drugs, most often obtaining them from the medicine cabinets of family and friends. The simple step of ridding your home of old and unwanted prescription drugs can greatly reduce the chances of misuse.

Accepted items:

- Any prescription pills

Unaccepted items:

- Thermometers, liquids, inhalers, ointments, syringes/needles (sharps), medication/medical waste from businesses or clinics, any over-the-counter medication.

FROM YOUR ROADS DEPARTMENT...

Rosslyn, West Kanawha, Westview Sanitary Sewer Extension:

Franklin County Sanitary Engineer will be installing new sanitary sewer lines on Rosslyn Ave., West Kanawha Ave., Westview Ave., Riverside Dr., and portions of Olentangy Blvd. The project is currently out for bid and the exact opening date has not yet been determined, however, it will be sometime in April. Once a bid has been awarded, Franklin County plans to have a public meeting for residents to attend. All affected residents will be notified by Franklin County Sanitary Engineer. Sharon Township will also be posting the information on our web site and Facebook page. This project will be started this year. The new line will be to service those properties that don't currently have sanitary sewer available to them. Property owners will have some say on where they would like their tie-in placed on their property. It is our understanding that these locations will be finalized during the construction process. All tie-ins will be placed in the grass portion of the Right-of-way during construction, however, no tie-ins will be permitted until the entire system has been installed and approved. Once the system is fully installed and approved, there will be another meeting to discuss the tie-in process schedule for doing that work. We will keep you all updated as we are able to get additional information.

Plant Native Plants

Add a pop of color to your yard! Planting native plants can save money and time over non-native plants, while also providing needed nutrients for butterflies and insects that are food for baby birds. Even better, deep roots of native plants break clay soil to soak up more rain and protect streams by preventing erosion. Non-native invasive plants displace or crowd native plants. Invasive plants

impact wildlife, which rely on native plants for food, shelter, and habitat.

Native plants - those that occur in a specific geographic region over hundreds or thousands of years - have immeasurable environmental and aesthetic benefits.

When it comes to their ecological and environmental importance, native plants are the best of the best.

Native plants:

- Grow extensive root systems that hold soil in place (reducing soil erosion and pollution) and aid in managing and filtering storm water runoff
- Often require less water and no fertilizers or pesticides
- Provide natural habitat for wildlife, including many bird, insect and mammal species
- Preserve the natural history of a geographic area
- Require little maintenance once established while providing a palette of colorful flowers, fruits/berries and leaves.

Incorporating native plants into your backyard, community or farm has measurable benefits to both terrestrial and aquatic habitats. Storm runoff increases greatly in urban areas because of roads, roofs and parking lots. In rural areas, runoff can become a problem if it's causing erosion or nutrient loss on crop fields. Native plants have deeper and more extensive root systems that prevent erosion and provide extra filtration, which can reduce the amount of pollutants in local waterways such as the Olentangy River. The Ohio EPA has identified total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for the Olentangy River which specifies the amount a pollutant needs to be reduced to in order to meet water quality standards. The primary TMDLs for the Olentangy River are bacteria, sediment and phosphorus. Residents can help reduce the amount of pollution in local streams and rivers by planting native plants to improve infiltration and prevent soil erosion.

Research suggests that native landscaping in the form of rain gardens, buffers, bioswales, prairies, green roofs and urban tree canopies, may provide a low-cost alternative to large-scale infrastructure solutions to reduce runoff. Native plants and trees intercept rainfall while their roots aid infiltration and prevent runoff by acting as pathways for water flow. Because of this, native plants can enhance the value of grassed waterways on farms and in drainage ditches. Many native species can also be planted in wet areas in your yard where turfgrass may struggle to grow.

April is Native Plant Month in Ohio! Learn more and find ways to celebrate at

<https://www.ohionativeplantmonth.org/>



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