

Sharon Township

A Publication of Sharon Township
Volume 16 No. 1

First Quarter, 2020

—Township Trustees—

Chair **Laura A. Kunze** Vice-Chair **John H. Oberle** **Lindsay S. Duffey**

Anthony E. Palmer, Jr., Fiscal Officer

Sharon Township Board of Trustees

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Police Department

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911

Police non-Emergency
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Road Superintendent

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614-885-5933

Code Enforcement Director

Mark Higdon
614-787-5644

codeenforcement@sharontwp.us

Board of Trustees Regular Meetings

@ 6:30 p.m.

April 1, 2020

April 15, 2020

*Check website for updates
and more information*

www.sharontwp.us

From Your Police Department...

NEED POLICE ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CALL THE PROPER NUMBER.... The Township Administrative Office often receives phone calls from residents wanting to speak with a police officer or wanting them to come to their location. The Administrative Assistant does not have the capability to dispatch an 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.

KEEPING YOU SAFE AND THE CRIME RATE LOW...The Sharon Township crime rate remains much lower than other areas of Franklin County and Columbus. Most of our neighborhoods are surrounded by Columbus neighborhoods that 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. Another important factor for the low crime rate is all of you, the people who live in the Township. We need you to help us. We cannot be everywhere all the time. Please call us if you see something suspicious.

SEE SOMETHING; SAY SOMETHING.... We are all responsible to each other and our communities to keep everyone safe. Many people believe that it is the responsibility of only the police department to keep them and their family safe. In reality 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 hard we try.

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.

WANT TO KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD... Within the first two weeks of each month, we post on the Website the crime and traffic report from the previous month. The report is broken down by neighborhoods. You will be able to read what type of activity has been close to your home. We do not post specific addresses or names. In addition, by the end of January of each year we post the previous year's Activity Reports. Just go to 'Police Statistics' on the Police Department page of www.sharontwp.us.

NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY IS SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2020.... For those who have prescription drugs to dispose of, you will be able to do so on this date from 10 am.to 2 p.m.. More information will be available as the date gets closer. Look for an announcement on the Township Website at www.sharontwp.us and on the Township Facebook.

ACQUIRING FEDERAL APPROVED COMPLIANCE STATE DRIVER'S LICENSE AND ID CARD.... 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.

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, applicants must provide proof of:

1. Full legal name
2. Date of birth
3. Legal presence in the US
4. Social Security number
5. Ohio street address – **TWO** documents, from different sources, proving Ohio

street address that are listed on the Acceptable Document List are required for proof of Ohio residency.

6. Proof of name change

For more information, please go to <https://www.bmv.ohio.gov>.

Is a compliant driver's license or ID card mandatory? The answer is NO. A standard driver's license or ID 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.

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

- You receive your license or ID card by mail 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.

SCAM ARTISTS... Several times throughout the year we will hear from residents that have become victims of a "Scam." Unfortunately, many times our resident will have lost money to the "Scam Artists." Many times, the loss amounts to thousands of dollars.

Scam Artists are using every method possible to get your money. With the proper information they can remove all of the money from your bank account before anyone becomes aware of it. Many scams seem to be directed toward the so called "elderly" however, anyone of any age can become a victim. Always remember the old adage; if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. If you feel that you are about to be a victim of a scam or are currently a victim of a scam and cannot seem to stop the person who is taking your money, please call the Police Department immediately. We will help you as much as possible. And please, do not be embarrassed to call. You would be surprised of how many people become victims.

Who should you report a scam to? Please call us and we will take a report. If for no other reason than your bank or insurance company may

require it if you hope to recover any of your money. However, these types of crimes are extremely difficult to resolve. You should also report the scam to the State of Ohio at <https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Individuals-and-Families/Tipster>, and the Federal Government at <https://www.usa.gov/stop-scams-frauds>.

New “scams” to get your money are being developed constantly. There are several Websites to visit if you want to stay abreast of the old and current methods being used; two of them are: <https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Individuals-and-Families/Consumers/Consumer-Tips/Consumer-Tips-Scams> and <https://www.usa.gov/common-scams-frauds>



Spring will be here before you know it -- please help us protect our environment by doing your part. Here is a list of some of the ways you can help.

Landscaping & Gardening:

Minimize the need for pesticides by choosing plant species that are resistant to insects and disease. Landscaping with native plant species works best. Provide habitats for birds, bats, toads, etc. that prey on insect pests. Introduce praying mantises, lacewings, ladybugs and other pest-eaters to your garden.

Do not over apply pesticides and fertilizers. Follow directions and use judiciously. Pull weeds by hand when possible.

Try “xeriscaping” your home with low-water-consumption plants. Save yourself time, money and water! Find more information on xeriscaping at:

- *What Is Xeriscape?*

www.csu.org/environment/xeriscape/about/index.html

Do not over water the lawn or garden. Over watering may increase leaching of fertilizers to ground and surface water.

When your lawn or garden needs watering, use slow watering techniques such as trickle irrigation or soaker hoses. Such devices reduce runoff and are more effective than sprinklers.

When you mow, set the blades to cut the grass two or three inches high. Most grasses are healthiest at this height and this also helps control weeds. Mow often and leave the clippings on the ground. They will help keep moisture in and provide nutrients to the soil as they decompose.

Compost your leaves, grass clippings and garden waste. Composting is easy and can be very inexpensive – no sophisticated equipment is needed. For more information, see Ohio EPA’s *Composting: A Citizen’s Guide to the Proper Disposal of Leaves and Other Organic Materials* at <https://www.epa.state.oh.us/dmwm/> Control soil erosion on your property by planting ground cover and stabilizing erosion-prone areas.

Painting:

Do not allow liquid paint products and wastes to drain into the gutter, street or storm drains. Choose water-based paints (such as latex) instead of oil based.

Save unused paint materials for a local household hazardous waste collection event, or reuse leftover paints when possible. Also, many local theater/performance groups and school art departments will take unused and leftover paint.

For More Information:

Ohio EPA’s Division of Surface Water Storm Water Program implements the federal storm water program for both industry and municipalities. Contact them at (614) 644-2001 or www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/storm/.

Ohio EPA’s Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention. (800) 329-7518 or www.epa.state.oh.us/ocapp/.

Storm Water Pollution Prevention for the Home

Prepared by: Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention and Ohio EPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer. **Revised 5/08** Division of Surface Water, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, OH.

Important Information about Franklin Soil & Water’s Spring Tree & Plant Sale

Last day to order is **March 29!** But we recommend placing orders early as there may be limited quantities of some plants.

There are no refunds unless a plant you ordered and paid for is unavailable at time of pickup.

Conservation-grade, bare root seedlings are generally small, so a large-capacity vehicle is not necessary for pick-up.

Some container plants may still be dormant at pickup. We encourage you to plant normally.

It is important to plant bare root seedlings immediately. Do not leave them in your car or hot garage. You can read about proper tree planting here: www.franklinswcd.org/plant-your-trees-right

The species we sell (except for edible landscaping) are Ohio natives or cultivars, but may not be native to Franklin County.

For a complete tree and plant list, along with a detailed description visit:

www.franklinswcd.org/tree-and-plant-sale

SAVE THIS INFORMATION FOR DETAILS ON PICK-UP!

Instructions for Tree Sale Ordering & Pick-up

1. **Place your order online and pay at <https://www.franklinswcd.org/products>**
2. **Fill out the included paper order form and mail with check to:**

Franklin Soil and Water, 1404 Goodale Blvd., Suite 100, Columbus, OH 43212

Make check payable to Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District

1. **Last day to order from the tree sale is Sunday, March 29.**
2. **Pick up your order at Ohio Division of Wildlife (1500 Dublin Rd., Columbus, OH 43215. See Below for details.**
3. **Orders not picked up will be donated to local nonprofits by Tuesday, April 21.**

Order Pick-up

. Pick-up is at the Ohio Division of Wildlife, 1500 Dublin Road, Columbus, OH 43215

. Friday, April 17 - 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

. Saturday, April 18 – 8 a.m. to Noon

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

ZONING in our township is this column's topic. Some townships have their own zoning codes. **Sharon Township goes by the Zoning Resolution of Franklin County** in all zoning matters. That resolution is enforced by Franklin County zoning officers.

Zoning regulations mainly cover land and the structures on it: usage, type, number, size and condition of structures/land and—to a limited extent—vehicles observed on properties. “Junk” or “inoperable” motor vehicles are specifically covered and regulated.

Because county zoning regulations and issues sometimes overlap those of Sharon Township's Exterior Property Maintenance Code, **your Code Enforcement Director (CED) is in regular contact with county zoning authorities and, when appropriate, works with them.**

A recent example involved a zoning variance requested by a township property owner to build beyond what is permitted in the county zoning resolution. Despite very short notice, **your neighbors, Trustees and CED mobilized quickly to see that the interests of nearby property owners were recognized and heard.**

After testimonies before the Franklin County Board of Zoning Appeals, the variance was granted *conditioned upon a significant downsizing of the appellant's original plans.*

In order to ensure more timely notice on such matters in the future, your CED has arranged to be on four relevant county email lists. This will afford Township Trustees and staff a longer time line to acquaint themselves with upcoming zoning issues, establish contact and dialog with affected residents, and—if appropriate—take action.

All residents are encouraged to contact your CED and/or Trustees as soon as you learn about any zoning issue that may affect you. Even rumors will be investigated. Better to sort things out sooner than to wait until it's too late. Contact information for all can be found in the left sidebar of the front page of this newsletter. Clip that and save it. Your CED's contact info also immediately follows.

The Exterior Property Maintenance Code can be read online and downloaded from

DON'T BE THE DEALER



Keep them safe. Clean them out.
Take them back.

Saturday, April 25th

10 a.m.-2p.m., at

**SHARON TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT, 95 E. WILSON BRIDGE RD.,
WORTHINGTON, OHIO**



**WE CAN ONLY COLLECT PILLS, CAPSULES, PATCHES AND BLISTER PACKS. WE CANNOT
ACCEPT INHALERS, LIQUIDS, SHARPS, SYRINGES, OR PLASTIC/GLASS BOTTLES.**

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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Striping on Clubview Blvd.

As you may have noticed, Clubview Blvd has not been striped since it was repaved last summer. The Township will begin the striping process this spring. Please note - there are no longer two lanes of traffic going into Worthington Hills (westbound). The driving lane will be on the left-hand side of the road – south side, and right-hand side - north will have hash lines marking an area that will not be for vehicles. The lanes of traffic going eastbound out of Worthington Hills will remain the same.

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From the Fire Department:

Lieutenant of Prevention Brad Dunn shared the following Winter Safety information.

With the winter season upon us, the City of Worthington Division of Fire & EMS would like to remind residents of the potential dangers related to Carbon Monoxide exposure. It is important to remember that Carbon Monoxide is a poisonous gas which can be produced by any fuel-burning appliance. This colorless, odorless, and tasteless gas is particularly hazardous in that it can be lethal when inhaled. In an effort to prevent Carbon Monoxide poisoning, all residents are encouraged to practice the following tips outlined by the Ohio State Fire Marshal's Office:

- Install Carbon Monoxide alarms near sleeping areas and on every level of the home if possible.
- Have heating systems inspected / serviced annually.
- Make sure chimneys and vents are free of blockages, corrosion, and loose connections.
- Never operate unvented fuel-burning appliances in any room where people are sleeping.
- Open flues completely when fireplaces are in use.
- Never use generators, camp stoves, charcoal-burning devices inside the home or garage.

Additionally, the City of Worthington Division of Fire & EMS continues to offer free smoke alarm installation and home safety inspections to all residents within the response area. The home safety inspection program serves to provide residents with an assessment of potential safety

risks within the home while also allowing for an evaluation of smoke & carbon monoxide alarms, evacuation planning, and overall emergency preparedness. If you have any questions related to these free services, please feel free to contact the Division of Fire EMS at 614-885-7640.

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Updates on the Mount Air Water project

We are busily working with DelCo Water on financing and planning phases for the water lines in the Mount Air community. Engineering has begun the design phase with aerial mapping and wetlands assessment. Soon they will begin working with residents directly to locate septic and leach beds, identify current water connection locations and to obtain any necessary easements. Funding being pursued includes long-term interest free loans and grants.

We are still planning for construction to begin sometime summer of 2020.

This is an important project that ensures sustainable water service to our residents. Residents are reminded to have their internal plumbing checked for presence of lead that could be released with a new water source. At the time of connection each resident will be responsible for the cost of line connection from the meter into the home.

Updates are communicated via the Mount Air Facebook page, via OneCall to the MAIC shareholders, on the Mount Air Water District website mountairwaterdistrict.org, and via main/door:door flyer delivery. If you have questions you are welcome to direct them to Laura Kunze lakunze@sharontwp.us or via cell 614-395-7009.

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