

# Sharon Township

A Publication of Sharon Township  
Volume 13 No. 2

Second Quarter, 2017

## —Township Trustees—

**Chair John H. Oberle**

**Phillip W. Smith**

**Lindsay S. Duffey**

**John S. O’Keeffe, Fiscal Officer**

## Aqua to upgrade meters in Worthington Hills

AQUA OHIO IS BEGINNING A COMPREHENSIVE WATER meter upgrade program in the Worthington Hills System.

Worthington Hills residents will begin to receive letters from Aqua about the upgrade around the first week of May. They will be asked to schedule a time with Aqua Contractor, Vanguard Utility Service Inc, for meter replacement.

Aqua would like to remind residents that their employees drive Aqua-branded vehicles, wear uniforms with the Aqua logo, and carry photo identification cards. Vanguard employees will be clothed differently, but will have similar identification cards.

—Lindsay Duffey



## Special Meeting June 21<sup>st</sup>

The Board of Trustees has scheduled a special meeting to be held on Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The regular Trustee business meeting will start immediately following the special meeting.

The purpose of the special meeting is to discuss the flood and land mitigation along the Olentangy River in the Mt. Air area of the Township. Present for the meeting will be representatives from the Franklin County Emergency Management Agency, the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, and Franklin County – Columbus Metro Parks.



## Township Acquires Historical Property

I am very pleased to announce that Sharon Township recently closed on the former Ozem Gardner House at 8221 Flint Road which is adjacent to the Flint Road Cemetery. The purchase allows additional grave spots, promotes operation efficiency and will provide a public

meeting space. Sharon Township is a part of the Walnut Grove and Flint Union Cemeteries with the City of Worthington.

The Board of Trustees for the Cemeteries determined that this property was a cost effective priority to serve long term plans for the cemetery and they authorized funding this purchase. The Township and Worthington agreed, and the Township agreed to act as the property owner since we already own the Flint Cemetery. The property needs significant work, but when renovated, it will serve the cemetery and Township well. We will keep you updated on the progress but it will be a long-term project.

—John H. Oberle, Chair



## News from your Police Department .....

**A VERY BIG THANK YOU!!!** The Police Department has received two donations of money to be applied toward the purchase of an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED). The Worthington Hills Civic Association donated \$500.00, and a Township resident, who wishes to remain anonymous, donated \$300.00. On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, at their regular scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the additional funds needed to purchase the AED. We received the AED on May 11. Once we have personnel properly trained on the use of the AED, it will be carried in a cruiser. We are extremely grateful for the donations.



**AGAIN, A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO BOTH DONORS FOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS!!!** In the future this piece of equipment, purchased by the donated funds, will save at least one person’s life.

**WELCOME TO A NEW FULLTIME CONSTABLE** .... On May 17<sup>th</sup>, we swore in a new fulltime constable, Daniel Grant. He retired from the Columbus Division of Police after thirty-two years of service. Prior to joining CPD, Daniel was a Sharon Township constable

for four years (1981-1985). We believe Dan will be a welcome and valued addition to the Department. He will need to go through a few weeks of training to be re-acclimated to the Township. Please welcome him back when you see him.

**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 wants one to come to their location. The Administrative Assistant does not have the capability to dispatch an officer. Usually there is not a police officer in the building. 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.

**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.

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](http://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. Some of the information we would like for you to provide is:

- Date and time leaving and returning
- Vehicles that will be left parked at the property
- Lights that will remain on 24 hours, or will be on a timer; please tell us the time the lights will be going on and off
- Persons who may be staying at the house or have access to it
- Animals (pets) maintained at the residence

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.

### **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. I 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 against you, please call 614-525-2125 for a constable to come out and we will discuss the situation with you. Sometimes there is a fine line between what criminal violations are 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.

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## **Rush Run Stream Cleanup**

**S**haron Township would like to thank all the volunteers who helped with the March 5, 2017 stream cleanup. All your hard work was greatly appreciated and made a big difference to the health of Rush Run. There was a total of 19 volunteers removing six 40 gallon bags of litter, two room size pieces of carpeting, and cut and removed 10 yards of honeysuckle, and cleared two large log and debris jams. What an amazing group of hard workers, it was an honor to work with you all. Thank you all for your support.

Thomas Kayati, Superintendent  
Sharon Township Road Department

## **Landscape Solutions**

Rainwater collects on land because of soil types, location, and upstream issues. For many drainage problems that do not threaten a structure there are cost-effective alternatives that reduce the amount of storm water going to streams. Below are practical and natural options for eliminating extra water as a homeowner, dependent on an individual's expectations.

### ***The Right Tree in the Right Place***

Trees reduce the amount of water running into streams and/or causing wet spots in your yard. Additional rainfall collects on leaf surfaces and evaporates before it reaches the ground.

### ***Encourage Water-Tolerant Species***

If grass is not growing in wet spots on your lawn, consider planting water-tolerant species, such as inkberry or silky dogwood. This reduces maintenance costs and attracts wildlife. A small depression (swale) may also allow you to install a mini-wetland (an area 20,000 sq. ft. may be eligible for design assistance from our office).



### ***Rain Barrels***

Collecting rainwater from rooftops and storing it for later use prevents rooftop runoff, which carries pollutants into waterways. Lawns actually prefer rainwater since it has not been treated with chemicals. Most barrels have

mesh screens to keep out leaves, shingle grit and mosquitoes.

### ***Make a Natural Water Feature***

If there is a wet spot in your yard you can create a water feature. Consult with a local nursery, landscaper, library, or Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District for information.

### ***Keep Structures out of Special Flood Hazard Areas***

Residents unknowingly build on Special Flood Hazard Areas, which are the site of initial flooding during a massive rain event. Impervious surfaces increase the risk of flooding. Conservation easements can help protect these sensitive areas.

### ***Landscape Solutions***

For information on water tolerant tree and plant species native to Ohio, contact OSU Extension or your local nursery.

Contact Franklin SWCD at 614-486-9613 for questions regarding rain barrels, swales, and easements.

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## **Sharon Memorial Board**

The Sharon Memorial Board is looking for volunteers to serve on their Board. The Sharon Memorial is "A Memorial dedicated to commemorate the services of all members and veterans of the armed forces of the United States from the greater Worthington community area." If you are interested in joining, please contact the Sharon Memorial Board President Mark Goyer 614-370-0424.

—Phillip Smith

## Friendly Reminder

Just a friendly reminder that if you have property that runs along the alley between Rosslyn and W. Kanawha, you need to remember to cut the grass and to keep all limbs, branches, etc. from flowing into the alley. The alley needs to be clear, so that it can be navigated by cars and walkers.



Also, with the mild winter that we had, we are expecting a larger number of mosquitos and ticks this spring and summer. Please remember to empty all standing water around your property. If you have been outside, please check your clothing as well as your animals to ensure that you do not have ticks on you. Carefully remove the tick and dispose of it in an airtight container. Do NOT just throw them to the ground. If you are uncertain about removing ticks from your animals, please contact your vet.

Thank you and have a great summer.

–Phillip Smith



## Renewing Your License Plates?

**Make sure your tax dollars go where they belong.** When renewing your license plates, please make sure your taxes are going to Sharon Township, Tax District 2579, and not the City of Columbus or other jurisdictions. Part of the license fees are used for Road Department services. If you do not check your registration, your money may go to the wrong entity. This is your money, please make sure it goes to your community.



## 2017 Road Resurfacing Program

The 2017 resurfacing program consists of a 1 ½ inch milling (grinding down) and filling (new layer of asphalt) Westview Avenue from the Township line near High Street to Riverside Drive. From Riverside Drive to the dead end on Westview there will be a 2" overlay of asphalt on top of the existing pavement. Riverside Drive from Westview south to the dead end will receive a 2" overlay on top of the existing pavement. Riverside Drive between West Kanawha and Rosslyn Avenue will receive full depth repairs as needed. Estimated cost for the resurfacing program this year is \$103,211.25.

**Insuring Sharon Township  
residents since 1946**

***Call Insurance***

***95 East Wilson Bridge Road  
Worthington, OH 43085-2301***

**Call or Email Leanne Daggett or  
Sue Willing  
for a free auto and home  
insurance review**

**614-846-4120**

**[leanne@callinsurance.com](mailto:leanne@callinsurance.com)**

**[sue@callinsurance.com](mailto:sue@callinsurance.com)**

## CheckBook.com

Progress has been made and the Sharon Township entry on the Ohio Treasurer of State's CheckBook.com web site <http://ohiotreasurer.gov/Transparency/Ohios-Online-Checkbook> will be up and running on May 31, 2017.

OhioCheckbook.com is a first-of-its-kind government transparency website that shows taxpayers exactly how their tax money is being spent. Some of the local governments on the site now include Franklin County, Cities of Columbus and Worthington, and Worthington School District.

Either use the above link to go directly to the CheckBook.com web site or access it through the Fiscal Office section on the township's web site.

## 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

Spring has totally sprung, and the greenery can be quite spectacular around Sharon Township. Unfortunately, “spectacular” to “eyesore” is not always a long transition. Unmowed grass and other uncontrolled greenery on just a few properties can detract from the appearance of many others. Do your neighbors and yourselves a favor: keep up with keeping the grass down to a reasonable height.

Responses to the Township’s resident survey last year indicate that junk cars are a concern in just about every neighborhood. In the unincorporated Township, “inoperable” motor vehicles may be stored only one to a property, and only behind an opaque fence or inside an approved structure. I am happy to respond to inquiries with additional information.

Finally, you’ve seen these tips before, but they’re worth reviewing.

1. Keep grass mowed, good vegetation trimmed and building exteriors in good condition.
2. Don’t let *blighting* conditions—e.g. exposed junk and rubbish—develop on your property: neatly store or cover items of value.
3. Trash receptacles at the curb *only* between 6AM Sundays and 6PM Tuesdays.
4. Exposed junk vehicles = blight and possible code violation.
5. Be sensitive to the effect your property’s appearance has on its value and on that of others.

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

–Mark Higdon, Code Enforcement Director



## 2017 MEETING DATES

The Sharon Township Trustees will meet in regular session on the first and the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. as follows (with noted exception). All meetings are held at 95 E. Wilson Bridge Road.

June 7, 2017

June 21, 2017

July 12, 2017

\*\*\*NO -- 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting July 2017\*\*\*

August 2, 2017

August 16, 2017

September 6, 2017

September 20, 2017

October 4, 2017

October 18, 2017

November 1, 2017

November 15, 2017

December 6, 2017

December 20, 2017



When you partake in summer activities – such as walking the dog, jogging/running, bicycling – with headphones on, please be aware of your surroundings. Motor vehicles are using the same streets and while listening to headphones, you may not be aware of the traffic and unintentionally cause an accident. We do not want you to become a statistic.

SHARON TOWNSHIP  
95 E WILSON BRIDGE ROAD  
WORTHINGTON OH 43085-2301

*We are proud that you call  
Sharon Township your home.  
Let's keep it that way!*

*Please.....*



From your friends at Sharon Township and  
The Ohio Traffic Safety Office

## Waste Service and Utility News

LOCAL WASTE SERVICES offers a \$1.50 per month discount to all those 62 years or older and who are the head of the household. Contact Local Waste Services 614-409-9375 on how to sign up for the monthly discount.

The City of Columbus offers a Senior Citizen Water Discount Program and a Low Income Water and Sewer Discount Program. To determine if you meet Columbus Department Water & Sewer Programs criteria, go to

<https://www.columbus.gov/utilities/customers/Utility-Discout-Programs/> or contact the Columbus Department of Public Utilities Call Center by calling 311 or 614-645-8276.



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