

Sharon Township

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—Township Trustees—

Chair John H. Oberle

Phillip W. Smith

Lindsay S. Duffey

John S. O’Keeffe, Fiscal Officer

Meet the New Sharon Township Trustee

Dear Residents:

My name is Lindsay Duffey and I am your newest Sharon Township Trustee. Like many of you, I am a wife and a mother. Mike and I have two young children, Jack and Annie.

I am so excited to serve you, continue the great work already underway and make progress on our new goals for 2016. With your help, I know we can make residents’ lives just a bit easier.

As you may recall, my platform included a pledge to get township meeting agendas and minutes online. This will be among our top priorities this month and next as we work with staff. We will also be forming a technology committee to advise us.

While I walked door-to-door this past fall, many of you provided ideas or suggestions for how to make Sharon Township even better. Thank you so much! I’ve taken notes and we are following up now. Your thoughts are appreciated.

You can also share your ideas or follow my work on my facebook page at [facebook.com/MeetLindsayDuffey](https://www.facebook.com/MeetLindsayDuffey).

Please feel free to make suggestions for our trustees! I will do my best to reply quickly.

Best wishes for a happy new year in 2016!

Sincerely,
Lindsay Duffey
Newly Elected Sharon Township Trustee



Winter Is Here

Snow Removal:

Please help us keep the roads free of snow and ice. When shoveling snow from the driveway please don’t throw it into the street; piles of snow thrown back into the street can be hazardous to traffic and may cause unexpected slippery spots.

To help keep the snowplows from filling your drive entrance back in with snow as they pass, pile your

snow on the opposite side of your driveway from the flow of traffic.

On street parking – If you must park your car on the street, please move it to a clear location after a 2” or more snowfall. This will allow the plow trucks to clear the area where you normally park. If possible, park on the other side of the street.

Give them a break. When approaching a plow truck, please give them the right of way; stay at least 50 feet from the rear of the truck. Please do not try to pass a salt truck on steep hills; they are trying to make the roadway safe for you. Remember the salt trucks are driving on the untreated pavement and may lose traction the same as your vehicle does.

Snow Removal Policy:

Our policy on snow removal is clear. This means we plow the roads from curb to curb or road edge to road edge. We salt down the center of the roads to allow the salt brine to melt the snow and ice in both directions. During the late evening hours and during heavy snowfalls we try to maintain two lanes of open roadway, returning during daylight hours or after snowfall stops to clear the roads to full width.

How do we know when the roads need plowed or salted?

During regular work hours 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. the Road Department monitors the road conditions with the help of the Police Department. The Police Department is responsible for monitoring road conditions during our off time. When they determine our services are needed they have the dispatcher call the Road Superintendent. Our response time to their call is normally between 30 to 45 minutes to get employees in and trucks loaded. If you have any questions or problems please call the numbers listed.



Winter Driving Tips:

- When stopped at an intersection in a vehicle with an automatic transmission, if you feel your vehicle starting to slide to one side, put your transmission in the neutral position.

On extremely slippery roads sometimes the drive wheels will start to spin even though the brakes are being applied. This can cause the vehicle to start sliding off the road even though you're not moving forward.

- When starting out on slippery pavement it can help to start out in 2nd gear; this works with an automatic or standard transmission.

Always allow additional stopping distance. Watch for Black Ice, this is the thin layer of ice that forms on the roadways, that looks more like wet pavement. This is especially common after sunset as the temperatures begin to fall and water on the roads starts to refreeze.

- Consider creating a safety kit with flares, blankets, water, sand, salt, a shovel and a flashlight in the event of being stranded.

Have a Safe and Warm Winter
The Sharon Township Road Department

Telephone Numbers –7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. 614-885-5933 Please Note: This phone is answered: Walnut Grove Cemetery and Sharon Township Road Department.

24-Hour Number

614-525-2125 – Please Note: This is the Police Department Non-emergency number.



Animal Complaints & Concerns

The Police Department receives many complaints about dogs, and other pets and animals. Unfortunately, we are not equipped to handle most of the complaints. The majority of the complaints concern barking dogs. The most we can do is ask the owner of the pet to try and keep their dog quiet; this usually works for a short period of time.

The best thing to do is to call the Franklin County Department of Animal Control at 614-525-3400. Their purpose is to enforce dog laws in Franklin County and to keep our residents safe from animal-related health or safety dangers. A deputy warden is on duty 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to address your needs and concerns which include:

- Dogs running loose
- Sick or injured stray dogs
- Animal bites
- Enforcement of vicious and dangerous dog laws
- Animal rescue

Below are phone numbers that may help; please keep them handy so you can find them easily:

- Dogs running loose, sick and injured stray dogs: Franklin County Dept. of Animal Care and Control at 614-525-3400.

- Cruelty, abandoned, or neglected animals: Capital Area Humane Society at 614-777-3787.

- Reporting of dog bites: Franklin County Board of Health at 614-525-3400.

- Wildlife issues: ODNR at 1-800-WILDLIFE

- Other animal related problems: Animal Control Enforcement Division at 614-525-3400.

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 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.



Trash Collection Day is Monday

Please have your materials out by 6:30 a.m. on your scheduled pick up day.

Please place materials in bags or containers that do not exceed 50 lbs.

Bulk items such as furniture and mattresses are accepted.

The homeowner pays for the service. Please see Local Waste at localwasteservices.com for more information. Or call them at 614-409-9375.

A reminder from Trustee **Phillip Smith**: Please put trash in cans or a bag, so that the original container of the purchased item doesn't target your home for a break-in. Watch out for your neighbors and have a safe 2016!



**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

sue@callinsurance.com

Reporting Water Pollution

If you see anyone putting anything down a storm drain or into a ditch, stream or river, call the Sharon Township Police Department non-emergency number: 614-525-2125

Chemical or petroleum pollution: call the Ohio EPA 24-hour hotline, 800-282-9378

Sewage-related pollution: Call the Franklin County Public Health 24-hour hotline, 614-525-3965, or report online at www.myfcph.org.

Agriculture or manure-related pollution: Call Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District, 614-486-9613 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

You can also contact us about any non-emergency water pollution and we will contact the appropriate agency.

Rain Gardens

Rain gardens are shallow gardens designed to absorb rainwater runoff from rooftops, driveways, sidewalks, roads, and other hard surfaces, including turf grass lawns. They allow water to soak into the ground, reducing runoff. Tough plants that thrive during brief periods of inundation as well as drought do well in rain gardens, and they can be installed in a variety of home and commercial landscapes.

How do they work?

- Rainwater is directed into the garden via rain chains, rain barrel overflow, downspouts, driveway drains, curb cuts, dry streambeds, and sheet flow.
- When water soaks in, less storm water erodes our streams and rivers.

- Deep-rooted plants break up hard soils and create channels for water to move through.
- Plant uptake, physical filtration, and biological processes reduce contaminants like oil, metals, and nutrients.



What are their benefits?

- Reduce localized flooding
- Beautify your landscape
- Create important habitat

I'd like to be a rain gardener! What do I do?

Franklin Soil and Water provides technical assistance (site assessments, soil suitability, and planting lists) to landowners, local community groups, and municipalities. We also serve as the lead for the [Central Ohio Rain Garden Initiative](http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/corgi) (CORGI), a collaborative effort to promote the benefits of rain gardens for community beautification and clean water.

For more information about any of our rain garden programs, contact Sara Ernst by phone at 614-486-9613 ext. 125, or by email: sernst@franklinswcd.org

Integrated Environmental Lessons! Workshops for Formal and Non-formal Educators held at Highbanks Metro Park

Join naturalists, environmental educators, teachers and homeschooling parents as we explore the value and vulnerability of our natural resources through a series of interactive workshops.

**Using Maps, Apps, and More
to Teach Environmental Education**
Saturday January 23, 2016 8:30 am– 4:00 pm
Bring an electronic device that has internet access. We are going to pick environmental topics and give you an app to make the lesson a superior learning experience for students. From tracing water pollution back to its source to learning the technology of polymers – you will go home with an app for it. Geared for grades K-8. Workshop fee \$5.

**Hands-on Environmental Education Through
Upcycling**
Saturday, February 20, 2016 8:30 am – 4:00 pm
This hands-on make-it/take-it session will 'upcycle' common classroom materials and teach you how to

make erosion, pollution, and water cycle models to use in a classroom. Workshop fee \$10.

For more information contact:

Dona Rhea at Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District, 740-368-1921 or

dona-rhea@delawareswcd.org

Linda Pettit at Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District, 614-486-9613, ext. 115 or

linda-pettit@franklinswcd.org

Jill Snyder at Highbanks Metro Park, 614-846-9962 or snyder@metroparks.net



A Trustee signs off

Lori Gerald wants to thank you! It has been an honor and a privilege to have represented the great residents of Sharon Township for the past four years. There were many challenges and I always tried to put the best interest of our residents first.

There will continue to be challenges for our Township and we need to make sure that residents are heard. I encourage you to attend our township meetings not just when there are concerns and issues that are being discussed. Keep your trustees accountable to the good tax-paying residents of this township.



From Your Police Department...

All of the employees and staff of the Police Department would like to thank Trustee Lori Gerald for her dedication and hard work while serving on the Board of Trustees. She assisted the Police Department immensely during her term. As 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 is never easy to keep people happy; this includes Township residents and employees, and others affected by decisions that the Board makes. During her time in office, Lori 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 Lori well in all future endeavors. Our hope is that she stays involved

with her immediate community (Rosslyn-Kanawha-Westview area) as well as the entire Township.

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. We have taken several reports of items being stolen from vehicles, or vehicles rummaged through during 2015. Through the year a couple of vehicles were reported stolen. Some residents have reported that their homes were broken into, or someone attempted to break into it. A few residents reported things stolen from their yards or sheds. Even with these reports being filed, the Township's crime rate is extremely low compared to the surrounding neighborhoods. We have not had any stabbings or shootings that many of the surrounding areas have experienced.

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 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 is the only means by which a police department can determine what type of activity is occurring within its jurisdiction.

No law enforcement agency can promise its 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 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. Provide as much information as possible. Please, do not think you are wasting our time; this is what we get paid 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.

Update on the new dispatching service...

As you know, the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office started dispatching the Police Department on August 3, 2015. So far everything appears to be going well. Our personnel are much happier with the new service for several reasons. For those of you who live in Worthington Hills and other neighborhoods that border Perry Township, as of December 16, 2015, the Perry Township is also being dispatched by the Sheriff’s Office. Both of our departments are dispatched on the same radio channel. That means we can once again listen to each other’s call for service and quickly respond to assist the other department when necessary.

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From the Code Enforcement Director

As 2016 makes its debut on the calendar (don’t forget to write it on your checks), The Code Enforcement Director would like to share with residents in unincorporated Sharon Township some goals and objectives for the new year. But before the bullet points begin, here—straight from the Code Enforcement Policy Manual—is the Mission Statement:

Code Enforcement’s mission is to enhance Sharon Township’s livability by protecting the health, safety, and environment of its residents and visitors by assuring compliance with the Township’s Exterior Property Maintenance Code (EPMC). The Township will pursue code adherence by encouraging voluntary compliance and—when needed—by following prescribed steps, including legal action, for code violators.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2016

All goals and objectives are aimed at improving the overall job performance of the Code Enforcement

Director and the efficiency and effectiveness of Code Enforcement, as well as enhancing the value of this service to the unincorporated Township. Therefore, in no particular order:

- Dedicate regular “street time” to non-enforcement activities: e.g. interviewing, advising and educating residents in their neighborhoods about how Code Enforcement works in the Township and about its benefits to all.
- Develop, improve and distribute “leave-behind” literature, including: 1) a general-purpose brochure or EPMC fact sheet, 2) grass-cutting advisory, 3) alley-side maintenance advisory, 4) sump discharge advisory, 5) junk car advisory and other special flyers as aids to averting the need for formal code-enforcement procedures.
- Continue to improve and refine the EPMC case management system for greater efficiency, effectiveness and transparency.
- Pursue contacts and interaction with other area code enforcement agencies when such outreach will improve EPMC-related services for township residents.
- Fine-tune Code Enforcement best practices and standards to the distinctive and diverse characters of the various neighborhoods and locations that are governed by the EPMC.
- In general, strive to better serve the residents and businesses of unincorporated Sharon Township and their property interests.

Residents with code-related ideas, complaints or inquiries are encouraged to call Director Mark Higdon at 614-885-5115, ext. 402 (office), or 614-787-5644 (cell). Send emails to codeenforcement@sharontwp.us (be sure to type the double-e). The EPMC can be read or downloaded at www.sharontwp.us. Click on “Township Resolutions,” and then on the link to the code.

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Olentangy Bike Path Possible Extension

The township received notice this month from the City of Columbus about a proposed extension of the existing bike path to Clubview Blvd. (and possibly Highview Drive) in Worthington Hills. The township has asked for a meeting on this topic so we understand any impacts for our residents. We will keep you updated. As you may know, there is also a plan to move the bike path north to Highbanks Park on US 23, but this is in the long term planning phase. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Trustee Oberle as he is working with the city on this issue.

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



A Message from Your Friends at Sharon Twp.

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.

2016 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):

January 6, 2016
January 29, 2016
February 3, 2016
February 17, 2016
March 2, 2016
March 16, 2016
April 6, 2016
April 20, 2016
May 4, 2016
May 18, 2016
June 1, 2016
June 15, 2016

July 6, 2016
NO -- 2nd Meeting July 2016
August 3, 2016
August 17, 2016
September 7, 2016
September 21, 2016
October 5, 2016
October 19, 2016
November 2, 2016
November 16, 2016
December 7, 2016
December 21, 2016

Support Your Township -- Stay Informed

Keep Up-To-Date On Township Business

Come To Township Board Meetings