

Milford Township News

Volume 4, Issue 2

Fall 2013



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Important Dates

- *October 31: Milford Township and Somerville Halloween from 6:00 to 7:30*
- *November 9: Darrtown Bicentennial Harvest Dinner, 5 to 8pm at Community Center*
- *April 5, 2014: Milford Twp Fire Assoc. Spaghetti Dinner!*

About this Newsletter Brad Mills, Trustee

As summer fades, and fall is in full swing, there are exciting news and events from this past year in Milford Township. The Darrtown Bicentennial Committee has done a wonderful job beautifying the open space next to the Hitching Post, and they are continuing to work hard as the Bicentennial approaches next summer. Speaking of Darrtown, the Milford Township Fire Department is busy expanding the firehouse. When this long awaited project is complete, your Fire Department will be better prepared to respond to any Township emergency. I think that we can all be pleased with that! Finally, grants have been awarded to pave roads on the west side of Darrtown, and to improve the playground equipment and add benches to the Community Center Park.

As always, this mailing owes a debt of gratitude to Henry Sester and his company, Ket-Moy Printing (www.ket-moy.com). Henry continues to put the Township first, as he publishes this newsletter at a large discount. **We are also grateful to be supported (see ads inside) by some great local businesses; B & M Landscaping, Butler Rural Electric, Somerville National Bank, and Century 21: Thacker & Associates.** We thank them for their support and hope that you will consider using all of our Township's wonderful local businesses.

Inside, you will find articles from and about the Fire Department, Road Department, the Oxford Community Choice Pantry, and the Darrtown Bicentennial Committee. If you would like to contribute or add an important event, then please call Brad Mills at 907-6793 or email bradmills21@yahoo.com. In addition to this newsletter, you can find past newsletters, or other important Township information at www.milfordtownship.net.

Fire Department Milford Township Fire Association

The open house and chili cook off was a big success. We had 9 entries for the cook off. First place went to Justin Maddock, second place Myra Krauth, and Third place Donna Gallagher. Several departments from the area joined us, and we want to especially thank Al Shumn for bringing the train ride for the kids.

We want to thank everyone who is supporting our can drive. We have collection barrels at each fire house. The money goes to buy items for the department.

As fall approaches please have your fireplaces and furnaces checked to make sure they are operating in good order. As holidays approach, check electrical cords and do not over load electrical circuits. Also be careful with candles and other open flames.

We would like to thank all those in the township who continue to support the fire department. We would especially like to thank Megan's in Somerville and Eric's Pizza in Darrtown for supplying food and ice for emergency calls the department goes on for extended periods. Both these establishments donate food for the firemen working the emergencies. We greatly appreciate this effort and hope the community will support these businesses as well.

(continues on page 2.....)

We are still doing the reflective mail box signs - contact the department for info at 726-4311.

Remember to change batteries in your smoke and CO detectors.

We have stickers for your windows to warn for children, invalids, and pets in the house.

Jim Meador chief 162
Shawn Gallagher captain 162



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Oxford Community Choice Pantry

Bob Ratterman, Director

Oxford Community Choice Pantry—the name says it all!

Oxford—Located in Oxford, the pantry serves any qualified resident of Milford, Oxford, Reily and Hanover townships. The pantry opened in 2007 as a merger of several food pantries to serve those in the Talawanda School District who find themselves short on food needed for their families. Federal and Ohio food commodities are made available through Shared Harvest Foodbank, which serves a five-county region.

Community—The pantry depends on the community for food drives, monetary donations or volunteer service in order to operate. Pantry hours are 5 to 7 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays and 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturdays.

Choice—The pantry is set up like a small grocery store. Customers make selections from among food groups, which allows them to have a choice in what they eat and it also reduces waste.

Pantry—The pantry serves any resident of the Talawanda School District who fits under the federal government's income guidelines. While most pantries serve people once per month, OCCP clients are eligible to shop every 14 days.

To register and be served by the pantry, residents should visit the pantry at 400 West Withrow Street in Oxford. It is the white building on the grounds of Mt. Olivet Cemetery, of St. Mary Church. The mailing address is P.O. Box 391, Oxford Ohio 45056. Phone is 523-3851.



197 South Main Street
Somerville, OH 45064
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*Six convenient locations to serve you in the
Butler and Preble County Areas, please call for
a location near you.*

Road Department

Dan Burkholder, Superintendent

October brings the busy fall season to Milford Township. The farmers are busy harvesting crops and the Milford Township road crew is busy wrapping up several projects.

Two new benches have been installed around the walking track at the community center, and watch for two more. Also, plans are in the works to replace the picnic tables at the shelter. In the cemeteries, foundations are being poured and the new graves are being dressed and seeded.

Darrtown Rd. has been repaved and looks great! The road crew continues to replace Milford township road signs to meet the new federal sign retroreflectivity requirements. Vandalism of these signs continues to be a costly issue for the township.

Watch for a road culvert replacement on Bauer Rd. The Butler County Engineers Office is redesigning and installing the new culvert due to its inadequate depth, length, and need for redesign.

Have a wonderful fall season! -Dan Burkholder, Milford Township Road Superintendent

DESCENDANTS OF DARRTOWN FOUNDER LOCATED—Darr family members to return for Darrtown's Bicentennial

The public is invited to participate in Darrtown's Bicentennial celebration July 5-6, 2014. The historical significance of the event will be enhanced by the presence of Darr family members, who are descendants of Conrad Darr, founder of "Darr's Town." Fourth-generation Darrs were recently located and invited to attend Darrtown's 200th birthday, thanks to the genealogy work of Kim Johnson, a resident of Minnesota. Johnson is connected to Darrtown, through his marriage to Sally Rinal Johnson, who is the granddaughter of Luther McVicker, a Darrtown native who operated McVicker's Garage, in the heart of the village, during the middle of the last century.

John Darr, who died in 1923, is the Darr known to live in Darrtown. Since that time, the Darr family has been absent from Darrtown. As a result of Johnson's research, some 90 years later, Darr family members will again walk the streets of Darrtown – or at least ride, in the Bicentennial parade, through the village!

In addition to the parade, Bicentennial planners anticipate the following activities and events: an exhibit of Walter "Smokey" Alston's baseball memorabilia; an auction of professional sports collectibles, assembled by Darrtown native, Kirk Mee; a temporary U. S. Post Office that will produce "Darrtown, Ohio" postmarks; an interactive, genealogical display of family names that are associated with Darrtown and Milford Township; organized tours of the Darrtown cemetery; displays of vintage cars and tractors; exhibits and demonstrations of locally-produced, hand-crafted items; live music by local musicians; and lots of good food.

Donations and fundraisers fund the Darrtown Bicentennial. Please support the Bicentennial by attending the November 9th "Harvest Dinner and Fundraiser" at the Milford Township Community Center in Collinsville and consider commemorating your family with an engraved paver in the Milford Township Memorial Park in Darrtown's village square. For more information about these projects, please visit the Darrtown website at: <http://www.darrtown.com> or see Darrtown Bicentennial on FaceBook.



Township Government

Brian McGuire, Madison Township Trustee

Difficult economic conditions are continuing to affect all us. Families look for ways to stretch their dollars and provide basic needs as they are faced with unprecedented financial challenges. National, state and local governments continue to look for ways to cut costs and still be responsive to the needs of the public. One of the local, state, and national ideas that are currently being discussed is forced consolidation of governments, believing it will reduce costs and taxes. This is the so called, "bigger is better" idea for local governments. This is a wrong assumption and wrong approach. Small local governments, like townships, are more accessible, responsive, and spend less than big government. The Ohio Township Association has issued a report based on a study done by researcher Wendell Cox. The report is titled "Local Democracy in Ohio: A Review of City, Village and Township Financial Performance by Size." This extensive report confirms the fact that small local governments, can rapidly respond to the changing needs of their communities because of their stronger ties and their understanding of the concerns of their residents. The report also confirms that townships are more fiscally responsible. Townships are more efficient and perform better with less, which is a stark contrast to larger governments.

Townships work hard to do more with less and will continue to be fiscally responsible with your tax dollars. The OTA report and the Wendell Cox report are available on your township's web site: www.milfordtownship.net.



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Fiscal Officer

Mollie Hansel	255-2501
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Newsletter Editor

Brad Mills	907-6793
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Meeting Times

The Township Trustees meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Meetings are held in the Township Maintenance Bldg.

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Milford Township!

Your Milford Township elected officials believe strongly in good communication with residents. After all, we are stewards of your tax dollars, and we believe that you should know how they are used. Therefore, we use this newsletter, our website, monthly meetings, and are always available to take your call.

We believe that the Township has great personnel, in the road and fire department, that are available to help address residents' concerns. We are all neighbors, and have chosen to serve our Township because we believe in keeping out local community great! Please do not hesitate to contact us.

Milford Township News!

Grant Awards

In a constant effort to provide Milford Township residents with the best their local government can offer, we continue to make up for reduced revenue through grant writing. This past year, we have written grants to Butler Rural Electric, the Oxford Community Foundation, NatureWorks (Ohio Dept of Natural Resources), Assistance to Firefighters, and the Butler County Community Development Block Grant.

We feel that it is our obligation to "go after" these competitive grants, because certain projects are just no longer feasible with budget reductions. This year, through these grants, we are proud to say that we have added four benches to the Collinsville Community Center Park, and will be paving the roads on the west side of Darrtown in 2014. A big thanks goes to Butler Rural Electric, the Oxford Community Foundation, and the County Block Grant Program for their support. These grants total approximately \$92,000!

State Auditor News

A big congrats and thanks to Mollie Hansel for easily passing the bi-annual audit from the Ohio Auditor's Office!

Fiscal Officer is a very time consuming position, that not only requires daily attention, but comes with a lot of responsibility. Everything that the Township does begins with revenue collection and allocation, which comes to the Township through the Fiscal Officer. Therefore, to have such a clean audit should give all residents confidence that the Township is stretching all of the revenue as far as it will go.

Good Work Mollie!