

Milford Township News

Volume 2, Issue 2

Fall 2011



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Important Dates

- Oct 31: Halloween 6:00 to 7:30pm
- Nov 5: Somerville Fire Department Pork Chop Dinner
- Nov 8: Election Day
- Nov 12: Waste Tire Recycling at Ross High School
- April 14: Milford Twp Fire Dept Spaghetti Dinner

About this Newsletter Brad Mills, Trustee

Welcome to the first mailed edition of the Milford Township News! As we approach the end of 2011, there are many Township events to reflect on. In the past six months your Comprehensive Plan Committee has been working to write a plan that will guide land use into the future, your Road Crew has been maintaining and repairing roads and kept the cemeteries beautiful, and we are finding new ways to stretch your tax dollars as far as they can go. For example, grant money has been won to improve the park at the Community Center. As always, there is much to be proud of in Milford Township!

This mailing was made possible by a donation from the Milford Township Fire Association, and the advertisements of four local businesses; Dunkelberger Lawn and Garden, E & M Repair, BP, and Somerville National Bank. 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 the Fire Department, Road Department, and the Comprehensive Plan Committee. Please do not hesitate to contact me with your suggestions, events, and news that will help with future newsletters. Furthermore, 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, sign-up to receive this newsletter by email, or other important Township information at www.milfordtownship.net.

Fire Department, Milford Township Fire Association

We would like to thank everyone who attended our open house in August at the Community Center grounds.

We greatly appreciated your support of us by passing the two mill fire levy five years ago. We feel the money was spent responsibly by buying two new trucks, one pumper and one tanker. We have continued to write grants and have won several to help offset rising costs. But in order to continue the level of Fire Service we currently provide, passing of the two mill replacement levy is critical. Requirements for equipment and training of fireman continue to increase both in cost and time spent. This levy is not a tax increase, it simply replaces the current levy that expires this year.

With cold weather approaching please have your chimney checked and cleaned. Remember to dispose of ashes away from any structure, and use a non-flammable container. If you are using space heaters do not leave them unattended.

Check your CO and Smoke Detectors and replace the batteries yearly.

We are continuing to collect aluminum cans. There are containers at both fire houses, or you can call 726-4311 and leave a message. We will contact you about pickups. We use these funds to purchase food for the open house and Spaghetti Dinner as well as other items for the department.

Mark your calendars for April 14, 2012 for the Fire Associations Annual Spaghetti Dinner. Proceeds from previous dinners purchased two Cardiac Science AED's. One is housed at each fire station, and we have purchased educational materials to use at Bogan elementary school during fire prevention month in October each year.

Shawn Gallagher & Jim Meador

Road Department Dan Burkholder, Superintendant

The Milford Township Maintenance crew has had a very busy and productive summer. The addition of two seasonal part time employees helped keep our summer work rolling. Ronnie Hansel has done a great job of keeping the township road ditches mowed and looking good. His presence has enable Larry Parrish and seasonal employee Paul Meyers to work on Milford Township's roads. They have been able to patch a large portion of the roads with our Durapatcher.

This fall we plan to use a Roadsealer Crack Sealant from D.J.L. Material Supply Inc. to repair some of our newer road surfaces. This new approach to fixing cracks should greatly extend the life of these roads, while being very cost effective.

The eastern half of Oxford Middletown Rd. from 177 to Oxford Milford Rd. has been re-paved and looks great! By November 1st, the Trustees will request estimates from the Engineer's Office for next year's paving.

I would like to remind everyone to keep tabs on the Eaton Road Paving Test that the Butler County Engineer's Office is having put down. The test area is on Eaton Rd. between Taylor School Rd. and Brooks Rd. Six different types of road paving materials will be applied in 400 foot intervals. This will be a great tool in evaluating road repair and maintenance options. This side by side comparison will help us select the most cost efficient and best quality paving materials.

The Milford Township Maintenance Department hopes you have a safe and happy autumn season!



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*Six convenient locations to serve you in the
Butler and Preble County Areas, please call for
a location near you.*

Comprehensive Plan Jim Rubenstein, Committee Chair

A citizens committee appointed in February 2011 continues to work on a Comprehensive Land Use Plan for Milford Township. The Milford Township Plan Committee members are Mark Boardman, Dan Burkholder, Amy Butterfield, Don Dunkelberger, Greg Elam, Marna Evans, Sally Hansel, Eric Hollins, Rodney Kolb, Maria and Scott Lindley, Jim Reid, Rob Rich, Jim Rubenstein (chair), Jeff Schwab, Dana Saulnier, Daniel Truster, and Diana Zehler. The committee has been meeting once or twice a month.

The committee has discussed goals and objectives to help guide the future of Milford Township. The overarching goal is to preserve the township's rural character. A draft statement reads: "Milford Township is rural in character, and township residents place a high priority on preserving that rural character. Maintaining rural character was the most frequently cited goal of committee members."

'Rural character' does not have a single straightforward definition. The committee has been considering five key elements of rural character:

1. To protect Milford Township's current assets and amenities by managing and planning for limited growth with minimal change.
2. To conserve Milford Township's woods, water, wildlife, and other sensitive environmental features.
3. To sustain and nurture the agricultural landscape and farming economy of Milford Township.
4. To maintain the current pattern of 5-to-10 acre house lots while at the same time encouraging alternative patterns at somewhat higher density, but not including subdivisions.
5. To protect the rights of individual owners to develop property in accordance with current ordinances, while facilitating options for alternative patterns of development.

The committee expects to complete a first draft of the Plan in early 2012. The draft will be circulated to the residents of Milford Township. The draft will also be displayed at a public meeting in early 2012. Reaction from the public will be encouraged, and the Plan will be revised to take into account public comment.



Miami Mini Mart
Locally owned and operated
1459 Oxford – Trenton Rd. (SR 73)
(513) 524-2369

Recycling News, Anne Fiehrer Flaig, Butler County Recycling and Solid Waste District

Butler County residents with unwanted car, truck or tractor tires can drop off these items, **at no charge** at Ross High School on Saturday, Nov 12 between 9 A.M. and 2 P.M.

Butler County Recycling and Solid Waste District hosts this annual event to encourage residents to safely dispose and recycle their used tires. Individuals may bring any size tire, please remove tires from the rims.

Last year, the District recycled 196,660 pounds of waste tires, or the equivalent of nearly 10,000 car tires. This event is one of our most popular recycling programs.

Ross High School, located at 3601 Hamilton-Cleves Road, provides an ample parking area, and easy access for residents to drive up and drop off their tire loads.

For additional information about recycling services or for driving directions to Ross High School, visit www.butlercountyrecycles.org or call 887-3653.

Businesses with tires to recycle should contact the city of Hamilton transfer station, operated by Rumpke, at 867-8661. This facility accepts waste tires for processing year round. Please note there is a per tire processing fee.

Butler County Recycling and Solid Waste District promotes recycling, waste reduction and responsible disposal of all waste from households, commercial establishments, and industry.

Also, in Milford Township, look for the green recycle containers at the Township Maintenance Building and the Hitching Post. These containers accept all recyclables, and they do not have to be separated!

Community Center



For those fortunate enough to have found previous editions of this newsletter at local businesses, you may remember an article about the Community Center. However, seeing as this is the first “mailed” edition, I think it is important that all residents need to know about this great place!

The Milford Township Community Center is situated on the west side of Collinsville off of Huston Road. The following article gives a brief history of the Center and rental information.

About 15 years ago, the Township acquired the former Marie Schmidt Elementary School (Collinsville School) at the time the Talawanda Board of Education closed most rural schools. The purchase was \$1. What a deal! The original property contained approximately 6 acres. However, in 2007, with the use of estate tax dollars, an additional 12 acres of adjoining land was purchased for future expansion. By future expansion, we mean that expansion of the park (i.e. walking trail, benches), and possible relocation of Township Maintenance and Offices.

The Building contains an older section that is 4,400 square feet, and is estimated to have been built in the 1920's. The newer portion, built in 1980 is 3,300 square feet. The older section is great for activities that require a classroom; such as, study groups, formal meetings, etc. For example, bible studies regularly meet as does the Comprehensive Plan Committee. The newer portion is ideal for a range of uses. With a gymnasium and full service kitchen, the building can accommodate many types of functions; including, family reunions, receptions, organization meetings, and small group meetings.

The Community Center grounds are home to a picnic shelter, playground, and cinder walking trail. The shelter can be reserved for outdoor functions. The Township has applied for and received approximately \$500,000 in grants for improvements to the Community Center, including a recent grant through the County to replace some playground equipment. These improvements include infrastructure repairs, elevator installation, parking lot expansion, and playground equipment.

To rent the kitchen and gym, the price can range from \$150 to \$250. One room rental for 3-hours is \$75. Gym can be rented per hour, and the shelter reservation is \$25. For more information see www.milfordtownship.net, or call 523-1684 for reservations.



MILFORD TOWNSHIP, OHIO

Township Maintenance Building
1414 Oxford Trenton Road
Oxford, Ohio 45056

Office Phone: 523-1684

Fire, Life Squad—Emergency: 911

www.milfordtownship.net

Board of Trustees

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Russell McMillian | 726-4442 |
| Paul Gillespie | 523-0365 |
| Brad Mills | 907-6793 |

Fiscal Officer

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Susanne Dunkelberger | 726-6066 |
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Newsletter Editor

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| 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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Trustee's Desk

As you are well aware, the fiscal climate is challenging. You probably also hear that local governments are always trying find ways to stretch tax dollars and "tighten their belts." Nobody does this better than our Fire Department. The all volunteer force expects nothing in return for putting their life on the line, in order to save your life and property. Please vote on November 8th, and Vote Yes to give the Department another 5 year levy to replace the levy expiring this year.

Did you know that we are in negotiations with Oxford to renew the Township's EMS contract? Oxford covers the Western half of the Township, while Seven Mile covers the Eastern half. Both contracts come out of the Fire Departments budget. Each year we renew the contract with both communities, and we are thankful for the honest and fair negotiations, and the great service that they provide.

Township & Village Notice

Susie Dunkelberger has decided not to seek re-election. She will be sorely missed, having served eight years as the Township's Fiscal Officer. However, her experience and dedication to public service goes well beyond these last eight! She efficiently navigates audits, is a steward of the budget, and her forecasts and foresight guides the Trustees decision making process. Our next newsletter will tell you more about what an asset she has been to the Township.

Be sure to take part in the Nov. 5 Somerville Fire Department Pork Chop Dinner! The dinner is from 4:30 to 7:00 at the Firehouse (260 E. Church St). Come ready to play Bingo at 7:00, and enter to win \$\$ in the raffle!



Fiscal Officer's Desk

Government entities are required by law to have a regular audit of their finances every two years. Milford Township's audit was just completed for the years ending December 31, 2010-2009.

Milford Township received another "clean" (no issues or findings) audit again as in past audits. There were no evidences of material weaknesses or any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting in the Township financial statements. All accounting practices as prescribed by the Auditor of State have been followed.

The Auditor of State's Office conducted their audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted by the U. S. Government Auditing Standards.