

Milford Township News

Volume 2, Issue 1

Spring 2011



Inside this issue:

Fire Department	2
Comprehensive Plan Update	2
Road Improvements	3
Internet Issues	3
Community Member Spotlight	4
Village News/Notices	4
From the Fiscal Officer's desk	4

Important Dates

- *May 8, Mothers Day*
- *May 21, Somerville Chicken Dinner and Homecoming*
- *May 30, Memorial Day*
- *June 19, Fathers Day*
- *August 21, Fire Department Open House (Collinsville)*

About this Newsletter Brad Mills, Trustee

Welcome to Spring! As I have said, Milford Township is a wonderful place to live, especially this time of year. Well, maybe if some of the rain waited until August, when we'll need it!

If you have not heard, Sally Hansel, a dedicated full time employee for 30 years retired at the end of 2010. Sally has been integral in the smooth running of the Community Center and each of the three cemeteries. Her work extended beyond the typical work day, especially when it came to answering phone calls for the Community Center reservations or for cemetery services at all hours of the weekday and weekend.

Also, the Collinsville Post Office celebrated its 175 year anniversary! This was an amazing accomplishment when you consider that so many have closed and been consolidated. We do have an icon in Collinsville, and it is important to honor and preserve it. The best way to do that is to do your best to use the Collinsville Post Office to buy stamps, mail packages, etc. A special thanks to Marna and Rebecca Evans for organizing the festivities.

Finally, Paul Gillespie came through again and won a grant through the Community Development Block Grants awarded through Butler County. The money will be used for additional playground equipment at the Community Center. The playground had been shrinking due to safety concerns on the older equipment. Other grants have been applied for on behalf of the Fire Dept and to add a walking trail to the Community Center, but notification of award/denial takes time.

Feel free to send suggestions to bradmills21@yahoo.com or call 513-907-6793. You can also sign up to receive this newsletter by email, by going to www.milfortownship.net.

Road Department Dan Burkholder, Superintendent

Anyone ready for spring? The road crew at the Milford Township Maintenance Department sure is! Warmer and drier weather will give us an opportunity to repair the wear and tear to township roads that was partially caused by a long, wet winter. Milford Township has added one part time-seasonal employee to assist the road department. This addition will allow us to dedicate more time to road repairs and keep up with the mowing of road ditches and work in the township cemeteries.

This summer paving will be done on Oxford Middletown Road between Oxford Milford Road and State Route 177. Work will start at the end of the new pavement that was put down in 2009 and continue east ending at SR 177.

March 23, 2011 Milford Township Trustee Russ McMillian and I attended a collaboration meeting at the Butler County Engineer's Office. The meeting's purpose was for the BCEO and representatives of Butler County's townships to discuss the county and it's townships maintenance departments. The group discussed ideas and means that could be used so that the county and townships can work together to improve these issues. Road repair and maintenance was a major topic. BCEO is investigating several new techniques. This summer look for test applications of these new road treatments on Eaton Road between Taylor School and Beissinger Roads.

We will be making our spring pour for headstone foundations in the the cemeteries the first or second week of May (weather permitting). Please get your foundation orders in ASAP so that they can be poured and headstones can be placed for Memorial Day.

Fire Department, Milford Township Fire Association

The Fire Dept & Association would like to thank everyone who attended the 2011 spaghetti supper and those who donated door prizes.

Please mark your calendars for our August 21st Fire Dept open house at the Collinsville Station. Lots to see and do plus our 2nd annual chili contest!

Remember, in November 2011 our 5-year current levy expires. During this time we purchased a much-needed 2100-gallon tanker and a new pumper that replaced a 1983 model. We are asking you to please renew the same levy for 5 more years at the same millage. To help this we have been writing grants, and will continue to do so. We have received 28 sets of turn out gear, new air packs, wildfire fighting gear, pagers, educational material used for kids at Bogan & other groups, and specialized washer and dryer for fire turn out gear. The Association was formed to raise funds to supplement as needed.



We have reflective mailbox signs available that make your house very easy to find at night. \$10 each, covers cost of materials. To order, call 726-4311. Smoke detectors are also available for those without means. Installation is available if needed. Call 726-4311.

We are still collecting aluminum cans at both stations, or call 726-4311. Money from this has bought food for the open house, and the spaghetti supper as well as numerous other activities.

Thanks to the Milford Township Community,
Jim Meador, Assistant Chief
Shawn Gallagher, Captain

Comprehensive Plan

A Comprehensive Plan for Milford Township is currently being prepared by a citizens committee appointed in February 2011 by your Milford Township Trustees. The purpose of the Plan is to guide future development in the Township. The Committee will continue to meet once or twice a month for possibly the next 10 to 12 months.

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, Jeff Schwab, Dana Saulnier, Daniel Truster, and Diana Zehler.

We are fortunate and honored to have the volunteer services of our Chairperson, Jim Rubenstein. Jim is a Geography Professor at Miami and has Chaired the Comprehensive Plans of Oxford Township and College Corner. In regards to the early stages of Milford's Plan, he states, "The Milford Township Comprehensive Land Use [Plan Committee](#) has met three times, on March 15, April 12, and April 26. The committee has reviewed existing plans, as well as background material concerning environmental features and population trends. Milford Township has grown by 9% during the past decade. The committee has begun to formulate [goals and objectives](#) for the future. Residents of Milford Township are encouraged to participate in the planning process. You (the residents) will be contacted later this year to help formulate ideas for the future of Milford Township, to comment on drafts of suggestions proposed by the committee, and to attend public discussions of drafts of committee ideas."



Milford Township land use, planning, and zoning are controlled by Butler County. The objective of the Comprehensive Plan is to give the County Planning Commission a guide as they make decisions concerning Milford's development future. While the Comprehensive Plan is not the sole factor used in the County's decision making, it is a very important factor, especially since it comes directly from Township residents. This Plan will be our voice at the table of decisions that will affect the future of the Township.

Road Improvements, Brad Mills, Trustee

The Milford Township Road Crew is in charge of maintaining nearly 31 miles of road. One can imagine that with only two full time employees (Dan Burkholder and Larry Parish, Sally Hansel retired at the end of 2010), that plowing, culvert repair, and general road repair/maintenance can be challenging. Add on a declining budget due to decreased property tax revenue, the likely elimination of the estate tax, and a 50% cut in the local government fund, and the Township can no longer simply add new blacktop to damaged roads. Therefore, we had to consider alternative ways to take action to ensure that the roads remain in the best shape possible.

In a typical Summer, three part time employees are hired in order to assist with the maintenance of our three active cemeteries. Cemetery maintenance alone keeps them busy, and does not allow them to provide much help on the roads! As a result, your Township Trustees have decided to hire one additional part time employee that has a CDL (Commercial Drivers License) and can therefore operate all of the necessary equipment for road and culvert maintenance. With the aforementioned decrease in revenue from

multiple sources, general road paving has become increasingly less cost effective. With the new part time employee dedicated to sealing cracks, fixing potholes, and cleaning culverts, we can expect to significantly extend the safe usability of our roads.



I do not believe that I am alone in saying that we have the best road crew in Butler County. Two plows took care of salting and paving the roads during the winter, helping to minimize school delays and maximizing safety in your daily commute. Our crew thoughtfully spreads salt so as to maximize its effectiveness (while maintaining safety), and minimize its cost. They have kept us safe while saving thousands, literally!

With our new employees, please use caution as you drive this summer. There will be more activity in road repair than you've seen in a long time, so our crew will be in harms way on a daily basis. Please use caution and show your appreciation for their hard work.

Internet Issues, Bob Moore, Township Resident

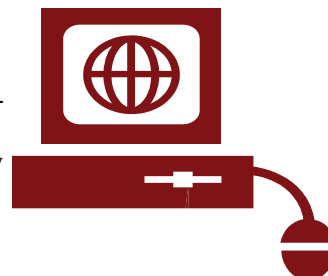
The following article contains information about Twp internet issues. Bob has worked extensively, and unselfishly, to remedy Milford's internet problems. Please take Bob's advice and visit www.heavenwire.net, or call them at 888-595-5818 to let them know of your interest. Right now, they are our best hope of reliable high speed service, with no download limits, at a reasonable price. After you contact them, please contact me with name and road (bradmills21@yahoo.com or 513-907-6793) so that I can personally contact Heavenwire with a list of names. I hope my inbox/voicemail is overwhelmed! –Brad Mills

A little over two years ago the president of Innovative Fiber (i-Fiber), a Middletown Internet Service Provider (ISP), approached the township trustees about bringing broadband Internet to Milford Township utilizing radio waves. I-Fiber already provided services to Madison Township by using antennas mounted on water towers and receiving dishes mounted on the side of customers' homes. Potential customers in Milford Township were then accessing the Internet via ADSL provided by Cincinnati Bell (Zoomtown) and Verizon (now Frontier). Additionally, Wild Blue (satellite) and cell phone providers (via a wireless card in the customer's laptop) were also being utilized. Problems with all of the above ranged from slow speeds, service outages, overage charges and limited service areas.

Earlier this year i-Fiber signed a contract with Southwest Regional Water District to use additional water towers to mount i-Fiber's antennas. This could have potentially brought the ISP to Milford and Hanover Townships. At the same time i-Fiber's sister company (NORMAP) was bringing a lawsuit against Cincinnati Bell (CB) for allegedly piggy backing on NORMAP's fiber. The lawsuit was settled by CB purchasing NORMAP's fiber. This effectively closed the door on i-Fiber's operations.

Recently Heavenwire (an ISP based in Cincinnati) started providing service to the former customers of i-Fiber in Madison Township. When contacted about extending service to Milford Township Heavenwire responded that if they receive requests from 25 or more potential customers they would evaluate extending service to this area.

To request service go to www.heavenwire.net and click on the request service button.



MILFORD TOWNSHIP, OHIO

Township Maintenance Building
1414 Oxford Trenton Road
Oxford, Ohio 45056

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Fire, Life Squad—Emergency: 911

www.milfordtownship.net

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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 Building.

Fiscal Officer's Desk

Local Government Funds make up 48% of the Township General Fund Revenue. This money pays Township administrative costs and utilities for the maintenance of our buildings and parks.

The state is planning to cut this funding by 25% in 2011 and 50% in 2012. To maintain these services with reduced funding we will need to make informed and conservative budget cuts. Legally the township can only generate funds using operating levies. Unfortunately, this may be something we will have to consider in the future to maintain fiscal soundness.



Village News/Notices

On Saturday May 21st, the Somerville Fire Association will be hosting its annual Chicken Dinner Fundraiser. The dinner will be at the Fire house (260 E Church St), and will be from 4:00 to 7:00pm. Adults tickets are \$8 (smaller plate is \$5), and includes fried chicken, two sides, rolls, dessert, and beverage. There will be numerous prize raffles, and BINGO starts at 7:00pm.

Don't miss another Somerville event on the same date, the Somerville Beautification Association Homecoming. Events will include an antique car show, programs and speakers on Village history, food booths during lunch, and many other events! There will also be a pancake breakfast from 7:00 to 10:00 am.

Spotlight on a Community Member: Jackie Lohrey (Bogan PTG President)

1. **How long have you lived in Milford Township?**- 9 yrs

2. **Family members?**- Husband: Jason, Twin Daughters: Brooke and Dana, Son: Owen

3. **What brought you here (if you moved here)?** My family moved from Camden to Milford Township just before my son was born. We needed a larger home and could not find one in the Camden area that suited our needs. We liked the rural feel of Milford Township and its close proximity to Oxford and Hamilton.

4. **Where are you employed or where have you been employed?** I am a REALTOR and have been with CENTURY 21 Thacker & Associates, Inc. for 7 years. I love helping families achieve their dream of home ownership!

5. **Interests/hobbies/memberships?** I volunteer whenever I can. I am currently President of Bogan Elementary's Parent Teacher Group.

6. **What would you like to see in Milford Township?** I would like to see school zone flashers in front of Bogan Elementary to remind motorists to slow down.

In a time when families are busier than ever, Bogan Elementary Parent Teacher Group (PTG) is fortunate to have an amazing group of parents and teachers who are committed to providing a top-notch education as well as a fun, family-friendly atmosphere for Bogan's students.

With the monies raised from several fundraising efforts, PTG is able to provide educational enrichments which are outside the district's budget. Such items include: field trips for all grade levels, computer software for classrooms, books and magazines, COSI on Wheels, Reading at Home and much more.

PTG also hosts the Bogan Carnival, Santa Shoppe & Breakfast, Kid's Night Out, Skating Parties and Mom's Night Out which brings members of the Bogan community together for entertainment and companionship outside of normal school hours.

The heart of PTG is its volunteers who often go above and beyond for the good of the school. When asked why she is a member of PTG one parent replied, "Because I want to ensure that my child receives the best education possible. Plus, who doesn't want to be part of a group who sends a child to the Cincinnati Zoo for the first time ever? The smiles that PTG evokes are priceless."