

Milford Township News

Volume 3, Issue 1

Spring 2012



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Important Dates

- April 14: Milford Township Fire Association Spaghetti Dinner
- April 21: Darrtown Bicentennial Committee meeting at Hitching Post—10:30am
- May 12: Somerville Fire Dept Chicken Dinner
- June 2: Somerville Homecoming
- Early June : Look for Darrtown Community Yard Sale

About this Newsletter Brad Mills, Trustee

As we approach the beginning of what looks to be a beautiful Spring, there are many Township events to reflect on. In the past six months your Comprehensive Plan Committee has been working to finish a plan that will guide land use into the future, your Road Crew has been maintaining and repairing roads, and we are finding new ways to stretch your tax dollars as far as they can go. Finally, the Darrtown Bicentennial Planning Committee has been working diligently to prepare for a great event in the Summer of 2014 (see insert).

This mailing owes a debt of gratitude to Henry Sester and his company, Ket-Moy Printing. Henry's care for the Township, led him to give a very reasonable price on publishing. Please visit Ket-Moy at www.ket-moy.com. We are also grateful to be supported (see ads inside) by some great local businesses; Presidio Pines Bed and Breakfast, Coombs Excavating and Drainage, Eric's Pizza, and Megan's Grocery and Deli. 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 letters. 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 find other important Township information at www.milfordtownship.net.

Fire Department Milford Township Fire Association

Thank you to all for supporting our fire levy!

Our 9th Annual Spaghetti Supper will be April 14th from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center in Collinsville. Tickets are \$7.00 in advance or \$8.00 at the door. You can get tickets from any Milford Twp. Fireman or at Dunkelberger's Lawn & Garden in Collinsville. We will have raffles, door prizes, split the pot drawings and T-shirts. Proceeds from previous dinners have purchased AED Defibrillators, pagers, educational materials used at Bogan Elementary, safety vests, and more. If you would like to donate to the raffle call 726-4311 and leave a message.

We still have reflective House number signs available for \$10. These signs make it much easier to locate your home. Call 726-4311 to purchase.

We have been asked about the severe weather sirens. Anytime you hear the sirens you should take shelter. As weather patterns move through the area we could have the sirens go off more than once. Again, anytime you hear the weather siren, take cover. If you have children, you should have a family weather plan and practice it just like a fire drill.

As Spring approaches you should check your drains and sump pumps to make sure everything is working properly. With Spring, you should always change the batteries in your smoke detectors.

Driveway access: make sure your driveway is clear of low hanging branches. Emergency units are much bigger than your family car and low hanging branches can slow our response time.

We are still collecting pop cans, money raised offsets the cost of items need by the department. Leave your aluminum cans at either firehouse, in the white tubs by the door.

Road Department Dan Burkholder, Superintendant

I hope that everyone in Milford Twp enjoyed one of the mildest winters on record. I know that the crew here at the Milford Twp Maintenance Dept sure did! Because of the warm temperatures and absence of snow, the road crew was only called out to treat roads four times. We only used about 30 tons of salt compared to the 190 tons we normally spread on the township roads.


The unusually mild winter gave the Milford Twp road crew a great opportunity to repair the township roads. Using the Crafcro crack sealer from DJL Material and Supply we were able to make repairs to most all of Darrtown. Repairs were also made to Harris Road, Shollenbarger Rd, Oxford Middletown Rd, Oxford Milford Rd, Huston Rd. and Trenton Oxford Rd.

As the weather improves, watch for the installation of new play ground equipment at the Milford Twp Community Center. The new pieces of equipment were obtained through the Community Development Block Grant that Milford Twp trustee, Paul Gillespie, submitted!

New blacktop is planned for Harris Rd. Hopefully the entire stretch of Harris Rd from SR 177 to Oxford Milford Rd will be paved later this summer.

Lastly, I would like to remind everyone wishing to have a foundation poured in one of the Milford Twp cemeteries to get an order placed. These orders can be made through the monument company you are using. We would like to have the orders by May 1 as we plan on pouring foundations the week of May 7.

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Comprehensive Plan Jim Rubenstein, Committee Chair

A draft of a new Land Use Plan for Milford Township has been prepared by a 16-member citizens committee appointed by the Milford Township Trustees. The committee identified as its most important objective to maintain the rural character of Milford Township. The draft plan suggests six goals to promote this objective:

1. To manage and plan for limited growth with minimal change to protect Milford Township's current assets and amenities. Milford Township's population in 2010 was 3,550, and it has grown by 9 percent in the past decade.
2. To conserve Milford Township's woods, water, wildlife, and other important environmental features. Land near the Four Mile Creek and Seven Mile Creek floodplain are especially important, because of the potential for flooding, pollution of the ground water aquifer, and erosion along steep slopes.
3. To sustain and nurture the agricultural landscape and farming economy of Milford Township. Milford Township lost approximately 650 acres or 3 percent of its agricultural land between 1999 and 2011; approximately 77 percent of Milford Township's land is still agriculture, and the draft Plan would like to see as much of that land as possible continue to be actively farmed.
4. To maintain the current density of one house per 5-to-10 acres, while encouraging construction of small group housing in clustered arrangements. The draft Plan discourages the development of large subdivisions in Milford Township.
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 draft Plan proposes to leave the current Agriculture zoning in place in Milford Township, while offering property owners the option, if they wish, of arranging small groups of houses in a clustered pattern.
6. To provide high-quality infrastructure appropriate for a predominantly low-density rural community. The draft Plan does not support extension of sewer lines into Milford Township. Waste water is handled through individual septic, aerobic, and other home-based treatments. Improvements in these systems have made them more reliable and environmentally sound.

An open house on January 24 to discuss the draft attracted around 60 township residents. Others expressed their opinions at the February 7 Trustees meeting, a committee meeting on March 13, and other gatherings. The committee revised the draft to reflect the views of the public. If the Trustees recommend adoption, the Plan would go to the Butler County Planning Commission for approval later this year.

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Somerville Cemetery Improvements Brad Mills and Jacob Flum

Last September I learned of the remarkable Eagle Scout project that Milford Township resident, and Talawanda High School student, Jacob Flum accomplished. Jacob decided to do his Eagle Scout project at the Somerville Cemetery, cleaning headstones. If you have walked the Cemetery, behind the Church, you may remember how difficult it was to read the headstones. In fact, you would have thought that they would be impossible to repair! Amazingly, thanks to Jacob, many of these headstones are not only readable, but many, many years of wear have been reversed. The following two paragraphs are Jacob's summary of his efforts, in his own words.

I decided to do my Eagle Scout project at the cemetery after my grandpa (Charles Johnson) brought up the rather decaying condition of some of the older headstones. Many of them were unreadable, and overgrown. The cleaning was done with electric drills with special brushes attached to the end of them. After going over the headstones and clearing most of the mosses and lichens, an ammonia water mixture was applied and then rinsed. To end the process, a biocide

was added to help prevent the vegetation from growing back. I received help from my scout troop (930), friends, family, and Rebecca Evans, who taught me the process of how to clean the headstones, as well as donating/loaning most of the materials I needed.

I have been in Scouting for about 5 years, where I have learned invaluable life, outdoor, and leadership skills.

Jacob should know soon if he is an Eagle Scout. In the meantime, he is keeping busy with his many honors classes while maintaining a 4.3 GPA overall (ranked 7th in his class). Milford Township is proud to call Jacob one of our own!



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Somerville Beautification Committee Ruth Felblinger

As a member of the committee, I was asked to give some information on our purpose and our goals for the community in and around Somerville. The committee began 3 yrs. ago with just a handful of dedicated members. We now have approx 15 members.

Our first goal was to bring the Village together socially. We did that by bringing back the Somerville Homecoming. For many years it was an annual event, then it dissolved, so the committee felt bringing it back would be good for the community. The first year was small but still had a good turn out, the next year grew, and our plan is for it to grow larger every year. Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 2 and come join us.

Along with the Homecoming, we are also hosting an Easter Egg Hunt for the children, and every December we help the Fire Dept with the Santa Visit. This year we were able to give every child a gift and a picture with Santa. We had some very happy kids!

We do fund raisers to raise the money, and these Quarter Auctions have been very successful. We would like to give recognition to Milford Township for donating the community center to us for this event.

We focus on the needs of our residents and help as much as we can. Our future plans are to add things to the village and make it a pleasant looking town, to be admired when you drive through. We are waiting to see if assistance is needed to build a picnic shelter on the site of the old school, if so, then that will be a priority for us to help with in the near future.

Our project this year is addressing a very serious issue at our local Bogan Elementary School on St. Rt. 177. As you all probably know there are no school zone flashing lights at the entrance of the school. There have been many near accidents there, myself being one of them. The small school sign is not sufficient enough in our opinion for such a high traffic area.

ODOT has been contacted and the school board is looking into a way to fix this problem. It will cost around \$9,000 to \$12,000 to buy these lights. The Somerville Beautification Committee has agreed to put up a generous amount of money toward the purchase of these lights for the safety of our children here in the village and the Milford township area. We are all working together to make this happen. We are trying to raise as much money as we can, so if any readers of this article would like to help us with this much needed cause, all donations would be so greatly appreciated.....my contact number is 513-839-6076.



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Paul Gillespie 523-0365
Brad Mills 907-6793

Fiscal Officer

Mollie Hansel 255-2501

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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

Once again, the Trustees are trying to be great stewards of your tax dollars. Grants have been awarded to add play-ground equipment and a walking path to the Community Center park. The equipment will be in place soon, while the path will hopefully be constructed later in 2012. The Trustees also collaborated with the Fire Department to submit a grant for equipment, so we'll see if there is good news on that grant for the next newsletter!

Your Township is always concerned about road safety, and especially road speeds. Periodically, we will request to have a study done on one of our Township roads. This past Fall, ODOT studied Harris Rd, and determined that the traffic volume and accident history did not warrant a reduction in speed. We will remain vigilant in making these requests, even if the result isn't always what we would have hoped for.

Township & Village News

Somerville Fire Dept bought a "New" (used) Tanker this year. It is now in service and ready to roll. This truck gives the ability to pump as well as dump the water. It has many advantages that the old 1974 lacked. We do still owe some money on it, so our spring fundraiser will have to make that for us. Our treasury is currently riding at a very low ebb, and we are hoping for no emergency expenses.

Spring Chicken dinner is set for May 12, 2012. Dinner starts @ 4:00 p.m and runs until Bingo starts @ 7:00 p.m. I am hoping to get letters out this month to drum up some special raffles.

The Somerville Beautification Committee also has the Homecoming planned for June 2nd this year. The Secretary of that group is Judy Murray. She can be reached @ 513-726-5395.

- Jane Robinson, Somerville FD

Fiscal Officer's Desk

I wish to say thank you to all of the citizens of Milford Township. While I served Milford Township we have changed with the times going from the ledger system to the computer age. I will miss working with all of you, but I am looking forward to the new experiences ahead with my retirement. I know the Township will continue to grow and prosper in the years to come.

-Susie Dunkelberger

