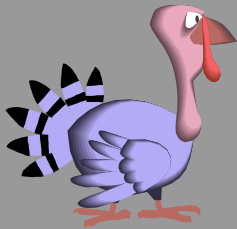


Milford Township News

Volume 1, Issue 2

Fall/Winter 2010



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Important Dates

- *Nov 13: Somerville FD Pork Chop Dinner and Bingo—4:30 to 7:00pm*
- *Jan/Feb 2011: Family Resource Center Free Tax Service come to Milford Twp!—Watch for Notices*
- *April 9: Milford Township FD Spaghetti Dinner*
- *Trustee Meetings: 1st Tuesday of each month*

Milford Twp: A Great Place to Live Brad Mills, Trustee

Welcome to the newest edition of the Milford Township News. As we enter in to the end of 2010, there is plenty of past, present and future news. In the last six months we have celebrated two Bicentennials at Darrtown United Methodist and Collinsville Presbyterian. Currently the township is maintaining and repairing roads, keeping the cemeteries beautiful, and finding new ways to stretch your tax dollars as far as they can go. The future looks bright too. Paul Gillespie is applying for grant money to improve the park at the Community Center, the County will soon be demolishing the old gas station across from the Hitching Post and Don's Carryout, and your township employees are well prepared to make our roads safe for the upcoming snow season. There is much to proud of in Milford Township! We have a great community that is a wonderful place to raise a family, develop friendships, and to enjoy the beautiful rural outdoors.

In this letter, you will find different articles and information from inside the Township. Thanks to Jenni Taylor of the Milford Township Fire Association, Marna Evans, Bruce Erhardt, Don Popp, and Danny Burkholder for their contributions. We're always looking to enhance our newsletter by using guest writers, "spot-light" sections, and articles to showcase some of the events and adventures that happen in the township! When our community members contribute to the newsletter, it can be so much more useful and beneficial to each of us. Please forward your suggestions or input to me at bradmills21@yahoo.com, or call me at 907-6793.



Road Department Dan Burkholder, Superintendent

Fall has arrived in Milford Township with winter soon to follow. As a result, road safety becomes that much more important. First, less hours of daylight mean that you may be driving to and from work in the dark, and therefore deer/car accidents can increase. Please be watchful as they are on the move for the coming months. Also the fall harvest season brings more farm equipment traffic to township roads. Please use patience and care when encountering them. Our farmers do their best to safely navigate the roads.

SAMI-Seal was applied to Frazee Road and the results look pretty good. SAMI (Strain Alleviating Membrane Interlayer) is a much lower cost alternative to new blacktop, but is better than the basic chip-and-seal. SAMI is a sprayed on seal and can be noticed by the gravelly layer left behind, but soon the gravel lessens and the road left behind has sealed cracks and a smoother surface. SAMI significantly extends the life of a road, and allows the Township to cost effectively keep up with regular maintenance of our 31 miles of road.

The Milford Township Maintenance crew recently poured 17 foundations for headstones in the cemeteries. Please place your orders for the 2011 spring pour by the end of April so that foundations can be poured and stones placed for Memorial Day 2011. After the April pouring, foundations won't be poured again until October.

The Milford Township Road crew is preparing the trucks and equipment for snow and ice removal. The township's salt is obtained through a contract secured by the Butler County Engineer's Office. All the townships order salt together so that the cost is reduced. Salt will cost Milford Township \$64.48 per ton. To extend our salt we mix in sand which costs \$3.30 per ton. During the winter of 2009-2010 the road crew spread 177 tons of salt and 300 tons of sand. Our goal is to make Milford Township roads as safe as possible in an economically responsible fashion. Larry Parrish and I (your two man road crew) put great pride in winter road maintenance.

Fire Department Advice Jenni Taylor, Captain 161, Milford Township Fire Department

- Please have your chimney checked and cleaned.
- When disposing of ashes from fireplaces, wood stoves, etc... please make sure that they are completely out, that it is away from any structure and in a non-flammable container.
- If using a turkey fryer, please use it away from any structures. Do not use next to your house or on your deck. Please do not leave it unattended.
- If you are using space heaters, do not leave them unattended. Do not put near anything that is combustible such as clothing, furniture, etc.
- Please make sure that your house number is visible and obvious. This will help any emergency responder to find your home more quickly. We do have the reflective green house number signs available for purchase. Please see any Milford Twp. firefighter or call 513-726-4311, leave a message and someone will return your call.
- Check your smoke detectors and CO detectors monthly and change the batteries twice a year. A good tip is to change the batteries when you change your clocks. You should have at least one smoke detector on every level of your home. A CO detector works best when it's installed about chest height.
- When it snows, please clear your driveways and sidewalks. If you have an emergency, it will be safer and quicker for emergency response if the pathways are clear of snow and ice.
- We have set the date for our Annual Spaghetti Dinner. It will be Saturday, April 9, 2011. We are also selling raffle tickets for your chance to win a chainsaw, leaf blower, weed eater or \$150 credit towards purchase at Dunkelberger Lawn & Garden.



Honey Buzzness, Adapted from an article in the Hamilton Journal News

There's always been a little sting before the sweet reward of being a honey farmer. But this year has been a little more painful for Don Popp's Honey Farm. Don Popp, owner of the honey farm in Milford Twp., has been watchful of colony collapse disorder (CCD), in which bees will mysteriously leave their hives and never return. In the fall of 2009, he and his bee keeper assistant, Robyn Huston, noticed some of their 250 hives were thinning out. By the spring, 100 of them were empty, meaning 60 million bees had deserted. "Sometimes you saw a queen bee and just a few bees left and sometimes there were none at all," Popp said. What causes the disorder is still unknown, though many researchers believe a combination of disease, pesticides and a lack of access to nectar may be to blame, said Barbara Bloetscher, an entomologist with the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

The devastating loss pushed Popp to take a gamble and drive to Claxton, Ga., to buy \$10,000 worth of bees — equating to about 500 pounds of insects — to populate his empty hives and hopefully breed to fill 50 new hives. For a week, 300 hives encircled his property at 3134 Oxford Middletown Road while Popp looked over his new brood before splitting them up between 30 different locations across three counties. He's hopeful the bees have bred and expanded so that he'll collect 20,000 pounds of honey this summer.

Popp also sold some of the bees to other bee keepers in the area to replace their stocks which also were decimated by CCD. And from the calls Huston said she's received from markets and grocers as far away as Wisconsin, many other honey farmers have gone out of business, unable to afford to replace their bees. "There are a lot of people calling us now saying they need honey," she said. "I'm thinking there will be a shortage this year."

Keeping up the bee population is much more important than just honey production. Bloetscher said one-third of all food eaten is pollinated by bees. "The best thing that people can do (to help) is plant flowers native to the area ... and watch their pesticide use," she said. "Just spray the leaves, not the flowers."

As a 15-year veteran and Preble County bee inspector, Popp said he's confident scientists will find the answer to colony collapse disorder. In the meantime, he said as long as he can afford to replace them, his farm will stay open.

"You get upset but you don't get discouraged because I love bee keeping, that is my passion," he said. "And I've got people and stores who count on me and if I don't produce honey they won't have any."

Church Bicenntenials, Marna Evans and Bruce Erhardt

Two Churches in Milford Township are celebrating their bicentennial this year (200 years). These two articles are condensed from each Church's history presented at their respective celebrations. Thanks to Marna Evans for contributing Darrtown's and Bruce Erhardt for contributing Collinsville's.

Darrtown United Methodist Church (1810-2010)

Ohio became a state in 1803. General Anthony Wayne had previously driven most of the hostile Indians out of the territory and land was offered at the Cincinnati land office for \$2 an acre. The members of the Methodist ancestral church made their way through the Ohio wilderness to the Beeler Settlement in Oxford Township's Section 25. Here they built their log cabins near Four Mile Creek. An itinerant Methodist circuit rider often came with Bible in hand to spread his message. As a result in 1810, a log church was erected in the settlement with burial grounds nearby. No one knows the exact spot today, but it is here that the church was born. History tells the names of the people who started the church and that some 40 settlers were buried in the cemetery. Yet the church and all the graves disappeared. It is an unsolved mystery to tell if fire or flood waters destroyed what the Methodists had built.



The small congregation was not defeated by their loss. Instead they headed to the recently laid out village of Darrtown and had services in the Town Hall and other temporary buildings. In 1871, with great financial effort, the Methodists built the present church containing only the sanctuary. By the turn of the century, all debts had been paid. Then in 1907, the church was heavily damaged by a tornado. The congregation rebuilt within a year. In 1955 and 1962 social rooms and modern conveniences were added to make the beautiful and useful church that is evident today.

Collinsville Presbyterian Church (1810-2010)

In 1810, the Seven Mile Presbyterian Church was organized in the home of Oliver Smith, who lived on the banks of Seven Mile Creek (hence the church name). In 1811, two acres of land were deeded to the Presbyterians for a meeting house and burying ground. This property was given by Mathew Richardson, early settler and land owner. It was located on State Route 73, the current site of the Collinsville Cemetery. Richardson also sold a parcel to Charles Collins, an English wagonmaker, and the town was named after him.

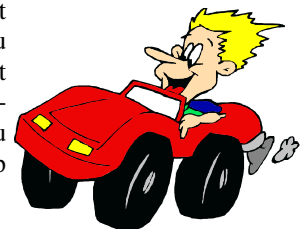
The original church building was located in the NW corner of the cemetery. This 30 by 40 foot log structure was heated by an open hearth in the center of the building. The pews were made of log slabs. The church was later covered by clapboard. In 1837, a second church was built 8 rods SW of the first church. This building was remodeled over time and used for worship 52 years.

Since its formation, the Collinsville Church was considered the "mother" church of the surrounding Presbyterian Churches. As the area became more settled, members withdrew from the parent church to form their own churches. When the town of Seven Mile organized its Presbyterian Church in 1878, the mother church changed its name to Collinsville Presbyterian Church. In 1889, the Collinsville Prebyterian purchased land on Hamilton Eaton Road in Collinsville and it is here that the present church was built. In 1963, an addition with extra assembly space and modernization was added.

BMV

Is Milford Township Receiving your BMV License Tax?

As painful as the cost of gasoline has been in the past years, we all still drive, and in order to drive in Ohio, you must pay an annual license fee every time you renew or register a license. With this registering comes a license plate tax fee from the state, a portion of which comes back to the township as long as it properly designated. To ensure that your tax dollars are returning to Milford Township, please take a moment to verify with the BMV (Bureau of Motor Vehicles) that Milford Township is listed on your vehicle registration prior to renewal or new registration. If you renew your license plates by mail or via a third party, such as a leasing company, please verify that Milford Township is designated as the recipient of the tax dollars. If Milford Township is not specifically designated as the area where you live, the money will not go to our community. If you have any questions about the license fee, please call the Ohio BMV at 614-752-7500. Help keep Milford Tax dollars in Milford Township to benefit our community!



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

Newsletter Editor

Brad Mills 907-6793

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.

Spotlight on a Community Member: Don Popp

1. How long have you lived in Milford Township?— **19 yrs**
2. Who are your family members?— **Wife: Darlene Son: Roger Daughter: Tracy**
3. What brought you here (if you moved here)?—
After Retiring from GM in Fort Wayne, IN, we returned to the area
4. Where are you employed or where have you been employed?—
Retired from General Motors
5. Interests/hobbies/memberships?— **Owner of Don Popp's Honey Farm (1995)**
6. What would you like to see in Milford Township?— **Would like to see if something can be done to stop people from letting their dog's bark at night!**

Don Popp's Honey Farm is located on Oxford Middletown Road. Honey can be purchased from the box at the back of his driveway, or it can be found for sale at the Oxford Kroger, Butterfield's Farm Market, Trader's World, Whole Foods, and at many other places in and around Cincinnati.

Don has bee boxes on approximately 30 locations in three counties around Southwest Ohio. Each box produces jars of honey and in total will give him about 10 tons of sellable honey this year! He has been in the business for about 15 years, and started into it after retiring from GM. He is blessed to have help from Robyn Huston and many family members. Robyn is his beekeeper assistant, and daughter Tracy is the bookkeeper.

For more information visit: donpoppshoneyfarm.com

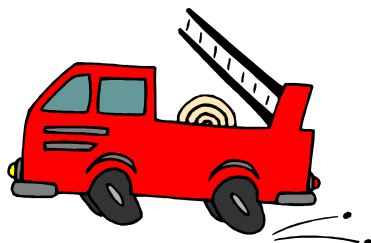
Trustee's Desk

The financial climate is as tough as ever, and the coming year does not look like things will improve. That said, the Trustee's have been working hard to stretch dollars by sealing roads instead of paving, and applying for grants every chance we get. Recent applications have been to improve the playground facilities at The Community Center, and for personal protective equipment and firehouse exhaust systems for the Milford Twp Fire Department.

Did you know that each Trustee inspects the cemeteries? Paul inspects Darrrtown, Russ inspects Collinsville, and Brad inspects Somerville. Larry, Dan, and Sally do a great job of maintaining them, but if you have questions or concerns about the cemeteries please call the Twp Office to let us know. Rest assured that we are doing our best to keep them beautiful.

Township & Village Notice

Be sure not to miss the Somerville Pork Chop Dinner and Bingo! This important fundraiser for the Fire Department is held on November 13, with dinner beginning at 4:30pm and ending at 7:00pm. Bingo then begins, and will continue until close. The event is held at the Somerville Fire House at 260 Church Street (just east of Main St and at the intersection of Church and OH744). The Somerville Fire Department relies exclusively on donations and these fundraisers, so be sure to show your appreciation and attend the Dinner!



Fiscal Officer's Desk

In October, I attended a preview and training for new software for a Uniform Accounting Network (UAN). This is a state mandated program. This will allow townships to network multiple computers for multiple users at the same time. Networking will make us more efficient so that our officials and employees can work on our computers at the same time. For example, I can work on accounting while an employee can update cemetery information.

January of 2011 will see Accounting only users updated to the system. However, Milford Township will be and Accounting/Payroll users, and will be updated into this program in January of 2012.

This system is a secure system as users within the UAN can still be restricted from using certain functions so that sensitive information can only be accessed by certain people.