



the township Scribe



Washington Township . . . Your Community, Your Future

Firefighters try walking in their shoes

What does it feel like to suffer from Alzheimer's Disease or dementia? It's an important question for the millions of people who love and or care for those with this debilitating disease. Understanding the physical, emotional, and cognitive changes that occur as this disease progresses can help loved ones and caretakers to be more supportive, more empathetic, and better able to address the person's limitations and needs.

That's why Washington Township Paramedics are taking advantage of

a training opportunity at the Dublin Retirement Village called Virtual Dementia Training™, offered by Second Winds Dreams, Marietta, GA.



Sensory-altering equipment helps mimic the challenges that often characterize old age and dementia.

The training classes are offered twice a month and are led by Dublin Retirement Village Director Ron Keller with staff members Christina Goulet, Dan Hance, and Michelle Mell. Free

of charge and open to anyone age 12 and older, the class exposes students to the physical and cognitive limitations

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that old age and Alzheimer's disease can cause and gives participants a chance to feel, first hand, what it's like to perform daily tasks with some of the more common physical impairments caused by the disease. *continued on page 6*

EMS Bike Patrol trains new Norwich team

The EMS Bike Patrol is a team of Paramedics on two wheels. Nimble and amply equipped, the team provides EMS care at community events such as festivals, concerts and parades where large crowds of people may delay access by truck or when the location of an emergency is difficult to reach by traditional EMS vehicles.

Every bike is outfitted with the equipment that enables Paramedics to provide nearly the same level of care as a full size medic truck. Medications, airway supplies, and a heart monitor are all on board, only in smaller sizes



Navigating all types of terrain and tight turns at slow speeds are key skills team members must master.

and quantities to fit on the bike.

In order to serve on the EMS Bike Patrol, Paramedics complete a forty-hour course certified by the International Police Mountain Bike Association (IPMBA) to learn riding skills and navigate situations they will likely encounter on duty.

For example, the nearly 50 pounds of EMS equipment on the back of each bike requires mastery of special braking techniques to maintain control on a rapid stop. Navigating tight spaces, tight turns at low speeds, curbs, group riding, and riding under and

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Township considering the future of Parks and Recreation amenities

Washington Township has provided gathering locations, open spaces, and family oriented recreation programming in the community for over 35 years. As with all services, it is important to periodically review the costs and methods used to deliver those services. In 2014, the Washington Township Trustees began the process of reviewing the provision of parks and recreation services in the Township.



97% of the Township's population is located within Dublin. Therefore, a large majority of Dublin residents are contributing to the cost of operating Dublin's and the Township's parks

The Trustees are committed to ensuring that Homestead and Kaltenbach Parks, along with the Community Center at Kaltenbach Park, remain as recreational facilities and serve the populations they do today. The changes being investigated are related to who will manage them. The Trustees believe that organizations that already have large, successful parks and recreation departments will be able to manage these parks well and continue to provide quality amenities in the community. Over the next several months, the Trustees will continue to work diligently to find quality partners to take over management of these facilities.

The Township's population has increased over the past four decades with most of these new residents also residing in the City of Dublin. In fact

and recreation systems. The Trustees recognize that this is an inefficiency and are working to examine options through partnerships to reduce this redundancy.

To learn more and stay informed, visit our website at wtwp.com, where periodic updates will be posted.

Questions regarding the Parks transition project may be directed to Sara Ott, Township Administrator, at 614-652-3929 or sott@wtwp.com

Fish with a firefighter on October 2

Whether you are new to fishing or already hooked, you'll have a blast at our fishing class for youth ages 7-11. We supply the poles, bait, and instructors---our firefighters.

There's nothing like watching the excitement in children as they bring their fish to shore. The pond is well stocked, making for a great outdoor experience for kids.

Pre-registration is required and must be made through the City of Dublin Recreation Services Division. Class size is limited so register early.

Date: October 2
Time: 6-7 p.m.
Ages: 7-11

Register at www.dublinohiousa.gov or call Jen Vosters at 614-410-4573.



Replace, test, teach

Smoke alarms are great....if they work. Do yours? Most home detectors in Dublin's newer homes are hardwired into the household electrical system and have a nine-volt battery for back up power in the event of a power outage. However, it's more common for older homes to have smoke alarms that are powered only by battery, making it really important that the battery is charged and able to power the detector when it's needed.



No matter which type is in your home, be sure to replace each alarm's nine-volt battery once a year. Don't wait for a fire to find out whether they work.

Remembering when to replace the battery is easier if it coincides with when you change your clocks to or from Daylight Savings Time (DST). This year, DST ends on Sunday November 2nd. So, inventory your smoke alarms and make sure you have at least one on every level of your home and outside each bedroom.

Installing new batteries is easy. Just snap off the cover, remove and replace the battery and snap the cover back in place. Then test each one by pushing the test button. This is a great time to share with your children what smoke

alarms are, what they sounds like, and what to do if they hear one.

If any of your smoke alarms are more than 10 years old, we recommend you replace them with either a photoelectric type (in bedrooms, hallways, living areas) or an ionization type (near the kitchen).

Photoelectric alarms have been shown to respond faster in smoldering fires, which are the most common in homes. Because smoldering fires generate lots of smoke, the most deadly aspect of fires, it is imperative that a warning sounds as quickly as possible.

Photoelectric smoke detectors cost more than the ionization type, but they are worth the extra cost for the added seconds you'll have to escape.

Ionization alarms respond more readily to heat from flames and are best placed near kitchens. If you'd like one of our fire inspectors to check your home for the quantity and placement of smoke alarms, give us a call at 614-652-3920 to schedule an appointment. There is no charge for this service, which takes about 30 minutes.

Check out our display comparing ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms at Fire Station 91 during the annual Fire Prevention Week open house on October 5th. See page 5 for details.

EMS Bike Patrol Trains *Continued from page 1*

over a variety of obstacles are just a few of the scenarios covered in the course. Rider safety and equipment, bike maintenance, community relations, and a review of State laws governing bicycle riding are also part of the training.

Washington Township has two IPMBA-certified instructors, which allows them to train new members as needed without incurring the expense of out-of-state travel and training fees. Recently, these two instructors trained a team of nine Norwich Township Paramedics so they could start an EMS Bike Patrol of their own.

Since Washington and Norwich Township Fire Departments have adjacent service territories and mutual aid agreements, the EMS Bike Patrol will be another way the two departments can support each other, if needed.

Taste of Dublin delivers delicious *Get your tickets!*

Dublin has some great restaurants. Wouldn't it be nice to taste their chefs' delicious creations while you enjoy your favorite beverage and mingle with others in the Dublin community? One evening, one place, one price....at the 13th annual Taste of Dublin, sponsored by the Dublin Chamber of Commerce.

More than 35 of the area's top restaurants and caterers will participate on Tuesday September 17th from 6-9 p.m. at the OCLC Conference Center (6600 Kilgour Place).

Tickets are \$35 each and include unlimited food tastings and beverage tickets (must be at least 21 to participate). For more information, contact the Dublin Chamber at 614-889-2001 or at dublinchamber.org.

Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. We'll let you know about classes, events, challenges, news, and the need-to-know information that impacts you and your family.



@wt_dublinohio

Washington.Township.Dublin.Ohio

Township has a new Administrator



Meet Sara Ott, Washington Township's new Administrator. Mrs. Ott began at the Township on April 28th and oversees business operations for the Fire, Parks and Recreation, Communications, Human Resources, and Zoning Departments.

Strategist, problem-solver, and innovator, Mrs. Ott has the experience and skill set the Township Trustees were looking for in a leader who can help the Township improve and streamline its services to better meet the needs of its constituents.

Formerly serving as the Sr. Project Manager for the City of Dublin, Ott has been involved with many of Dublin's

community-wide initiatives including the I270/33 interchange project, Bri-Hi Square development and community education efforts.

Additionally, she is experienced in capital and operating budget development, master planning, real estate acquisitions, human resources administration, zoning and intergovernmental relations.

Her knowledge of the City's history combined with the community relationships she has established, serve as a valuable foundation for future partnerships aimed at enhancing the quality of the Township's services and, in many cases, improving efficiency.

Mrs. Ott resides in Washington Township with her husband and two children.

Mrs. Ott welcomes your questions, comments, and concerns about Washington Township's programs and services. Feel free to contact her at sott@wtwp.com or (614) 652-3929.

Washington Township boundaries expand to include entire Tartan Ridge neighborhood

A recent boundary adjustment to expand Washington Township has resolved a significant concern for the residents of the Tartan Ridge neighborhood, Washington Township, Jerome Township, and the City of Dublin.

The neighborhood was divided between Jerome and Washington townships and was utilizing a unique political entity called a community authority to provide a means for the residents whose homes were in Jerome Township to pay fees for their fire and EMS services from Washington Township. This arrangement was to ensure the entire neighborhood was serviced by one primary Fire and EMS provider.

Due to concern with the enabling documents for the community authority, full fees equivalent to the fire tax rate were not collected from Jerome Township property owners. Ultimately, the political entities and many property owners recognized adjusting Washington Township's boundaries to include the entire neighborhood was the best long term solution to ensure clarity for the services and to allow property owners to be directly taxed as all other residents for fire and EMS services. The adjustment also allows these residents to vote on issues directly related to taxes for their fire and EMS services. The boundary adjustment was completed in July, 2014.

Resolving this complicated problem required cooperation from many parties. Washington Township Trustees would like to thank all parties involved for the assistance and cooperation in helping move this issue to resolution: the residents of Tartan Ridge, Bricker & Eckler, Union County Prosecutor's Office, Union County Auditor, Jerome Township Trustees, Dublin City Council, Dublin City Manager, and Edwards Land Company.

To all the formerly Jerome Township residents: Welcome to Washington Township!

Fire Station Open House

Sunday October 5, 1-4 p.m.



Get fired up for our annual Fire Station Open House. Yes, there will be fire. And you can learn how to use a fire extinguisher and put it out!

Youngsters can walk through Sparky's Fire Safety House to identify home hazards and crawl in a smoke tunnel to see how fast they can "get low and go" to escape.

If it's big dogs you love, our Fire Prevention mascot, Sparky, loves meeting kids. He's very photogenic too.

And back by popular demand, our rescue team will offer the Kid's highline. Youth can be hoisted in the air in the basket rescuers use to carry injured people from hard-to-reach locations.

Enjoy popcorn and hot dogs, water hose target, smoke tunnel, kids fire helmets, and valuable safety information at all four stations.

Station-specific events and displays:

Station 91, 6255 Shier Rings Road

- See Dublin's largest smoke alarm and learn about the pros and cons of ionization and photoelectric types and where they will be most effective in your home
- Visit with Sparky
- Auto extrication @ 2 pm, Kids highline ride @3-4pm (photo below)

Station 92, 4497 Hard Road

- Put the fire out using a fire extinguisher.
- Learn about extinguisher types so you can get the one that is right for your home.

Station 93, 5825 Brand Road

- Hunt for home hazards in Sparky's Safety House
- Visit with Sparky

Station 95, 5750 Blazer Parkway

- Tour this special station (which is inside a water tower) as you hunt for safety hazards. Find them all and earn a prize.



Fire Chief no stranger to the Township



For Chief Alec O'Connell, it's all about family... the wife and two daughters he has at home and the 150-member family he has at the Washington Township Fire Department.

O'Connell became Washington Township's Fire Chief on May 10th. And he hit the ground running, comfortable in his surroundings and with the people he has come to know over the past 27-years at the Township. O'Connell began his career as a part-time firefighter, advancing to full time firefighter, Lieutenant, Captain, Battalion Chief, and Assistant Chief, before being promoted to the Fire Department's top leadership position.

Because he has been a part of the Fire Department for so long, he knows his "family members" well and has developed staff relationships that promote the kind of cooperation and commitment that are the hallmark of any thriving organization.

"I believe the talent and expertise we have in this organization is second to none. I'm fortunate to have their support and commitment to achieving all we have set out to do."

Chief O'Connell's list of goals is aggressive and includes both internally and externally-focused projects aimed at

maintaining the exceptional level of service for which the Department is known and finding new ways of leveraging partnerships to reduce costs and streamline business processes.

One initiative currently underway that will surely contribute to achieving both of these goals is the addition of an evaluation program for all fire safety education classes, emergency medical services, and fire inspections. Offered in both electronic and paper formats, the Department's aim is to make completing the evaluations fast and easy. If you receive one of our surveys, we hope you will take the time to share your feedback with us so we can identify where we need to make changes and/or improvements.

O'Connell says that outreach education offerings will also be reviewed as staff develop new programs to meet the needs and interests of all residents, no matter what their age.

If you've not yet had the chance to attend one of the Fire Department's safety education programs or visit one of its four fire stations to talk with firefighters, consider enrolling in the Citizen's Fire Academy. It's a fun way to experience, first-hand, many aspects of being a firefighter and get acquainted with the people who will be there for you in an emergency, 24/7, 365 days a year. Stay tuned for details. We expect to offer it next year. If you have ideas for ways the Fire Department can better serve your safety needs, Chief O'Connell can be reached at aoconnell@wtwp.com or (614) 652-3950.

Firefighters try walking *Continued from page 1*

For example, special eyeglasses mimic the effects of glaucoma. Wearing two pair of gloves creates a loss of feeling in the fingers. With these and other challenges put upon them, participants attempt to complete a variety of tasks that are common to every day life.

"Participation does require that students are open to venturing into the unknown," said Director Ron Keller. "Chances are, this will be a new experience for most people."

It's that experience that has made a lasting impression on the Washington Township Paramedics who have completed the training. "Putting yourself in a situation that gives you

a clear picture of your patient's perspective is invaluable," explains Fire Department Training Manger John Nichols.

Over the coming year, the Fire Department will have many more Paramedics who experience Virtual Dementia Training™ at the Dublin Retirement Village.

Nichols believes that "learning opportunities like this one are important to the Fire Department because they make us better paramedics and better people."

Paper or electronic?



We are evaluating our newsletter format and would like to make sure we are making it available to you in a way that's easy and accessible.

Currently, our newsletter is delivered by U.S. Mail using a very economical delivery method offered to government agencies. The newsletter is also available for download from our web site, www.wtwp.com.

We'd like to know what changes, if any, you'd suggest that would improve the chance of you receiving and or reading our biannual (March and September) newsletter, *The Scribe*.

Please complete this short survey that will help us to determine the direction we should take with the Township newsletter? **The electronic version is available on our web site at www.wtwp.com**

1. The Township's newsletter, *The Scribe*, is published twice a year. Do you receive it in the mail or get a copy at the library or Dublin RecreationCenter? yes no **If no, skip to question #4.**
2. Do you usually read the *The Scribe* newsletter? yes **If yes, skip to question #4.** no
3. What is the main reason you don't read *The Scribe* newsletter?(check all that apply)
 Not enough time I'm not interested Other (please specify)
4. In what format(s) do you prefer to read the newsletters like *The Scribe*?
 Paper Electronic **Skip to question #6.**
5. What makes the paper version better for you? (check all that apply) _____
 It's convenient I find paper copies easier to read
 I save it for future reference Other (please specify) _____
6. In the future, *The Scribe* newsletter will be delivered either in paper format or electronically to your e-mail or on our web site. How would you prefer to receive it?
 sent to my home **Skip to question #8.**
 sent to my e-mail inbox
 available for download from the Township's web site **Skip to question #8.**
7. If you prefer to receive a copy in your e-mail inbox, would you be willing to visit our web site to give us your e-mail address?
 definitely maybe not really definitely not
8. Have you ever read or printed *The Scribe* newsletter from the Township's web site, wtwp.com?
 yes no **If "no", why not (please explain)?** _____
9. Would you like a staff member to contact you to discuss this survey or answer questions you may have about the Township or Fire Department?
 yes no
If yes, please provide your phone number with area code and the best time to reach you.

Please return this survey by October 1, 2014.

Mail to: 6200 Eiterman Road, Dublin Ohio, 43016

Email to: info@wtwp.com

Fax to: 614-766-2507

You may also complete and submit this form online at www.wtwp.com

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

Board of Trustees

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Joyce Robinson
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Administration

6200 Eiterman Road
Dublin, Ohio 43016
(614) 652-3920

Hours: 7 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Sara Ott, Township Administrator
Alec O'Connell, Fire Chief
Leslie Dybiec, Communications Manager
Catherine Grossman, HR Manager

Our Mission

Orchestrate a safe,
healthy, and exhilarating
living experience for our
community.

Fire Stations

Station 91: 6255 Shier Rings Road
Station 92: 4497 Hard Road
Station 93: 5825 Brand Road
Station 95: 5750 Blazer Parkway

Parks and Recreation

4675 Cosgray Road
Hilliard, Ohio 43026
(614) 652-3922
Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m M-F
Janell Thomas, Director
The Homestead Park
4675 Cosgray Road, Hilliard, Ohio 43026
Community Center & Kaltenbach Park
5985 Cara Road, Dublin, Ohio 43016
Amlin Crossing Park
5468 Cosgray Road, Dublin, Ohio 43016

Road and Bridge

4675 Cosgray Road
Hilliard, Ohio 43026
(614) 652-3921
Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Janell Thomas, Superintendent