



# the township *Scribe*



Washington Township . . . Your Community, Your Future

## Five-year fire levy renewal on November ballot

**W**ashington Township Trustees voted to place a five-year, 8.25 mill levy on the November 2015 ballot. The proposed levy would renew an existing five-year levy voters passed in 2010 to support Washington Township's Fire Department. Following are answers to some frequently asked questions about this ballot issue. If you have other questions you'd like to discuss, contact Township Administrator Sara Ott at 614-652-3929 (sott@wtwp.com) or Fire Chief Alec O'Connell at 614-652-3950 (aoconnell@wtwp.com).

### *What is the amount and duration of the levy request?*

The current 5-year 8.25 mill levy for fire and EMS services is set to expire on December 31, 2015. The request to voters on November 3, 2015 is to renew this existing 8.25 mills for an additional 5 years (2016 – 2020).

### *How much will the levy cost a homeowner in taxes each year?*

There is no additional cost. Renewal of 8.25 mills will continue to cost residents \$242.98/year per \$100,000 in property value.

### *Whom will the levy affect?*

All property owners in Washington Township including all owners within the City of Dublin.

### *For what will the levy be used?*

Personnel in firefighting, EMS, fire prevention and administration, fire department equipment, vehicles, training, station maintenance, safety education for the public and local businesses.

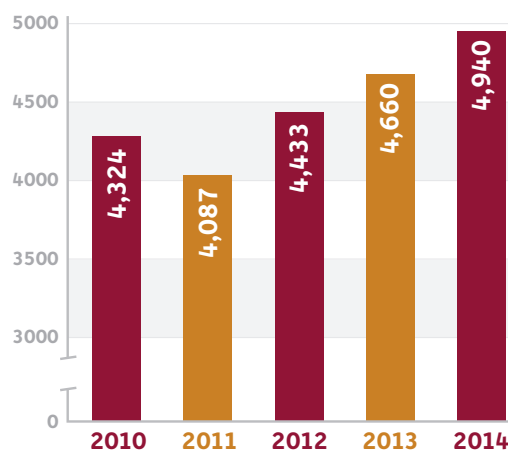
### *How much revenue will the levy generate?*

Approximately \$16.29 million annually. This amount is equivalent to 75% of the Fire Department's annual funding.

### *How many emergency calls does the Fire Department answer each year?*

In 2014, the fire department responded to 4,940 emergency calls. Seventy-five percent (75%) were for EMS services. There has been a 14% increase in emergency calls since 2010.

## NUMBER OF EMERGENCY CALLS



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### *What services does the fire department offer?*

Emergency medical services (EMS), fire, rescue, and emergency call response, fire code enforcement, fire investigation, fire and life safety education, CPR and first aid certification classes, child car seat fitting, and more.

### *Does the Fire Department receive any other levy funding?*

The Fire Department receives funding from three permanent levies which generate approximately \$3.2 million annually.

### *How many fire stations and employees does the fire department have?*

The Fire Department operates four stations and employs 129 firefighters

*Continued on page 2*

# Class registration and service requests go online in October

Beginning in October, you will be able to register and pay for CPR and First Aid classes when it is convenient for you. Our re-designed web site, wtwp.com, will offer the ease of online registration for our classes and appointments for child car seat checks and fingerprinting.

If it's a safety talk you need for a youth or adult group, complete the online program request form and we'll schedule a presentation that meets your needs.

If you are curious about what business the Township Trustees will consider at the next Board of Trustees meeting,

meeting agendas and other meeting documentation are just a click away.



Business owners can access information about obtaining a Knox Box and CPR certification and fire extinguisher

training for their staff.

We're always interested to know if you are happy with our customer service. Three online surveys provide an easy way for you to tell us about your experience as one of our EMS Patients, Child Car Seat Fitting customers, or Businesses who recently had a Fire Safety Inspection.

Convenience and easy access to the Township was our goal in re-designing our new web site. We think the site is better organized to meet our residents' needs for information about available programs, services, and news. Try it from your phone! Let us know what you think. We love feedback. It's easy from the "contact us" link.

## Five-year fire levy continued

(95 full time and 34 part time firefighters), all whom are Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and 89% of whom are licensed as paramedics; five fire prevention inspectors; two community education personnel; and seven administrative staff that perform the functions of human resources, public information, finance, management and leadership.

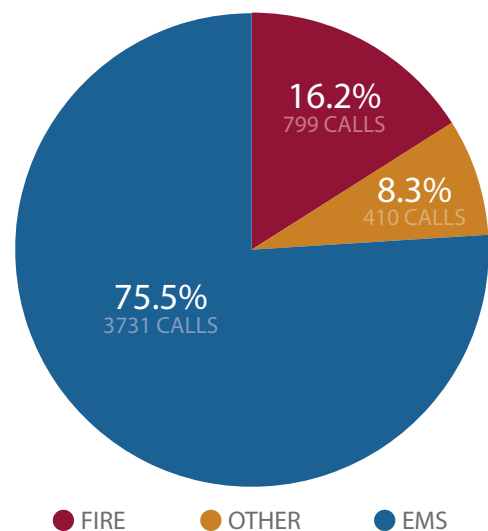
### *Will the levy be used to fund any new programs or increase staffing?*

No new programs will be offered with this levy. One additional position, Assistant Fire Chief, is proposed to be funded.

### *Does the Township have a fund balance and if so, why?*

The Township maintains a fund balance in a saving account and investments. The Fire Department uses dollars in the fund balance to pay for capital purchases such as fire trucks and for operating expenses such as salaries and supplies. Over the next five years, the Fire Department will spend a majority of its fund balance and retain approximately 93 days of operating costs in a savings account.

## 4940 EMERGENCY CALLS in 2014





# FIRE STATION OPEN HOUSE

**OCT. 4, 2015 1-4 P.M.**

- ★ CLIMB IN THE TRUCKS ★ TAKE A FIRE STATION TOUR ★
- ★ TALK TO THE FIREFIGHTERS ★ SEE DEMONSTRATIONS ★
- ★ ENJOY SNACKS ★ MEET SPARKY, THE FIRE SAFETY DOG ★



**STATION 91**  
6255 SHIER RINGS RD

**STATION 92**  
4497 HARD RD

**STATION 93**  
5825 BRAND RD

**STATION 95**  
5750 BLAZER PKWY



## Help keep your drinking water clean

**W**hen you turn on the water tap in your home, you probably aren't thinking about the quality of the water you are drinking or how your actions can affect it. As consumers, we place a great deal of faith in our municipalities to treat and distribute water that is safe to drink.

But municipal water treatment has its limits. While the technology and know-how exist to remove all contaminants from water, the equipment and other resources needed to accomplish it would make water unaffordable. So, to keep water costs in line with consumer expectations, water treatment plants monitor for the presence and quantity of a variety of contaminants to ensure that the water they deliver to their customers meets or exceeds all federally-mandated Safe Drinking Water Act standards.

For what kinds of pollutants does Columbus monitor?

The City of Columbus publishes the *Water for Living Consumer Confidence Report*, which outlines for consumers the type and quantities of a variety of both Federally regulated and unregulated contaminants for which they test and detect in treated water samples. Seeing the list of contaminants the City monitors may help you

identify ways in which you can help reduce or eliminate them from your drinking water.

For example, in the 2014 report, herbicides, which are used to kill weeds, were identified in treated water samples from the Dublin Road and Hap Cremean water plants. These two water plants use source water from local rivers and reservoirs.

These and other contaminants are commonly delivered to rivers and



reservoirs by way of rainwater and snow melt, which picks up whatever is in its path (animal waste, fertilizer, herbicide residue, motor oil etc.) as it travels to the waterway. This kind of pollution is referred to as nonpoint source pollution because it has no single source. Rather, its source is whatever is on any surface with which water comes in contact and includes storm drains, because they are directly connected to streams, rivers and

reservoirs.

So what can you do to help reduce nonpoint source pollution so rivers and reservoirs remain a reliable resource for safe drinking water?

### **Dispose of household hazardous waste properly.**

Never dump hazardous materials (lawn chemicals, paint strippers, insecticides, gasoline, pool chemicals, antifreeze etc.) into a storm drain, open waterway, ditch, or even into your household trash. Visit [swaco.org](http://swaco.org) for information

about free drop off location for these items and a complete list of what is considered hazardous.

### **Try alternative maintenance methods in your landscape.**

Choose native plants. Spot treat problem areas, or better yet, consider less toxic alternatives. Use the mulching feature on your lawn mower instead of bagging the clippings, or better yet, create your own compost from your yard waste.

### **Reduce storm water runoff.**

Use soaker hoses or drip irrigation and don't over-water. Aim sprinklers away from paved surfaces - they don't need water.

### **Maintain vehicles to prevent leaking fluids.**

Once on the ground, these pollutants wash into storm drains that lead to rivers.

### **Dispose of yard and pet waste properly.**

Dumping yard waste into storm drains or waterways disrupts the delicate balance of nutrients needed to support the aquatic ecosystem, and can clog drains, contributing to flooding. Utilize your local yard waste collection program or compost your yard waste. Dispose of pet waste in your household trash. When pet waste is disposed of improperly (dumped into a storm drain or just left on the lawn), it can be the source of harmful bacteria and parasites.

For more information or to see the latest *Water for Living Consumer Confidence Report*, visit [www.utilities.columbus.gov](http://www.utilities.columbus.gov) and select the report from the Document Library.

## From rivers and reservoirs to your tap

Treatment is a 6-step process in Columbus water treatment plants when rivers and reservoirs are the source of drinking water.

**1** Water is drawn into the treatment plant from the reservoir or stream through rotating screens.

**2** Alum is added to cause fine particles to clump together and sink to the bottom of the basin. This sediment is pumped from the bottom of the pools and stored in holding lagoons to dry.

**3** The softening process involves the addition of sodium carbonate and hydrated lime to remove calcium and magnesium ions that are responsible for water hardness.

**4** After an additional sedimentation process, carbon dioxide is added to lower the pH level to approximately 7.8.

**5** Water then flows through large sand filters made up of layers of gravel, sand, and anthracite coal.

**6** Addition of chlorine to disinfect the water, fluoride to protect teeth and a corrosion inhibitor take place at the end of the process.

## Homestead Park becomes 19th Metro Park

Washington Township's Homestead Park became Homestead Metro Park on September 1st. While the decision to close the Township's Parks Department wasn't an easy one, finding a partner like the Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks who have similar goals of conservation and education ensures that Homestead will remain an accessible place for leisure recreation and nature exploration.

As one of Metro Parks' 19 clean, safe facilities, Homestead is the cornerstone of many exciting developments. Beginning in September, the park will have a full-time and part-time naturalist who will offer a variety of free programs throughout the year. Visit [metroparks.net](http://metroparks.net) or pick up a copy of the Parkscope magazine to find out more about these programs.

Shelters and lodges at Homestead Metro Park can be reserved for up to a year in advance at [metroparks.net](http://metroparks.net), or by calling 614.508.8111.



### Babysitter training class

Become a certified, confident, and responsible babysitter. This American Red Cross course covers basic childcare, first aid, rescue breathing, accident prevention, stages of youth development and supervision skills. Please bring a sack lunch and beverage to class.

Ages 11-15

\$45 Township/Dublin residents, \$50 non-residents.

Register at [wtwp.com](http://wtwp.com) for either November 21 or January 30, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



## BEGGARS NIGHT SAFETY

from firefighter Jeremy Stiver

Beggar's Night in Dublin is Thursday October 29, from 6-8 p.m. Share these tips with your costumed family members if they plan to participate.

Fasten reflective tape to costumes and bags to increase visibility to drivers.

Wear well-fitting costumes, masks and shoes to avoid blocked vision, trips and falls.

Look both ways before crossing the street. Use established crosswalks whenever possible.

Be courteous and appreciative toward the people whose homes you visit.



# Celebrate the Season With Us!



## Dublin Spooktacular!

**Thursday October 15  
3:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

**@ the Dublin Recreation Center**

The Fire Department will be at Spooktacular again this year, celebrating fall and the trick-or-treat season. Say hello to firefighters and safety educators and see what sweets and treats they have for you.



## Santa's coming to town December 9, 6-8 p.m.

Township Administration Building, 6200 Eiterman Rd.

Make holiday memories at this fun family event with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Bring your camera and pose with them on an 1937 antique fire truck, create a holiday craft, and enjoy delicious refreshments.

Admission is free. We will be accepting new, unwrapped toys and or monetary donations to benefit the *Firefighters For Kids Toy Drive*. No registration required.



## Safety services for businesses

The Fire Department offers local businesses a variety of services that support employee and customer safety, both of which are vital to the success of any company or organization.

In addition to conducting fire safety inspections, the Fire Department maintains pre-plans for many businesses in the Washington Township response area. Pre-plans are documents associated with a specific address which map building features such as construction materials, utilities, sprinkler and electrical rooms, access points, hydrant locations, fire

suppression systems, and potential hazards.

Group CPR certification classes and fire extinguisher training are also available to businesses.

We'll bring the manikins to you or you can arrange for your group to come to our training facility at 6200 Eiterman Road.

Fire extinguisher training utilizes a specially-designed piece of equipment that generates live fire. Under the control of the trainer, class participants practice the steps

of extinguishing the fire.

To schedule a class for your employees, call 614-652-3947.



## Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are flu-like

by Fire Marshal Alan Perkins

Carbon monoxide (CO) is most widely known as one of the gases that is emitted from gasoline and diesel-fueled vehicles. What many people don't know is that CO is odorless, colorless, poisonous, and is also produced by fuel-burning appliances such as furnaces, ranges, water heaters, and room heaters in your home. CO is generated when fossil fuels like natural gas, kerosene, gasoline, and charcoal are not completely burned.

Many people with CO poisoning mistake their symptoms for those of the flu because of the similarities such as headache, fatigue, shortness of breath, nausea, and dizziness, but without a fever.

To help you detect potentially life-threatening levels of CO in your home, install a CO alarm, which will sound when specific concentrations (measured in parts per million) occur for specific periods of time. Use only CO alarms that meet the requirements of the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) standard #2034 so you can be assured that it will perform to these concentration and time standards.

CO alarms do not take the place of smoke alarms but they should be installed in similar locations such as the hallways near every separate sleeping area of the home.

Although they can provide added protection against dangerous CO levels, CO alarms are no substitute for the proper use and upkeep of appliances that produce this poisonous gas.

To safeguard against CO poisoning in your home:

- Have your heating system (including chimneys and vents) inspected and serviced annually.
- Make sure all your appliances are installed according to the manufacturer's instructions and local building codes.
- Never use gas ranges, ovens or clothes dryers to heat your home.
- Never operate non-vented fuel-burning appliances or gas-powered tools, generators and engines in any room with closed doors or windows.
- Never leave a car running in an attached garage, even if the garage door is open.
- Never burn charcoal or use portable fuel-burning camping equipment inside a home, garage, vehicle, or tent.
- Replace CO alarms according to the manufacturer's instructions. Battery-powered alarms may have battery packs designed to last about two years. In addition to sounding when CO reaches a certain level, the CO alarm may also have a "low-battery" signal. Consult the instruction manual for your CO alarm to learn about its features.

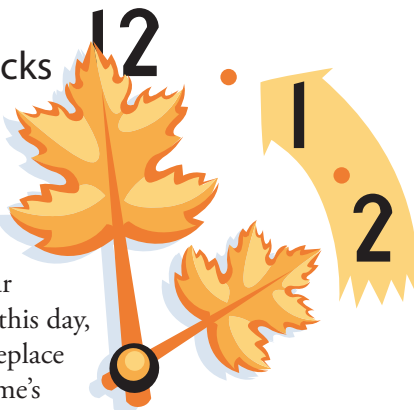
If you think you are experiencing any symptoms of CO poisoning, get fresh air immediately. Open windows and doors for more ventilation. Turn off any fuel-burning appliances and call the fire department to report your symptoms. Prompt medical attention is important. You could lose consciousness and die if you do nothing.

## Change your clocks and smoke alarm batteries

Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday November 1st. When you turn your clocks back an hour on this day, use it as a reminder to replace the batteries in your home's smoke detectors.

Some detectors require batteries for power and others, that are powered by the home's electricity service, require batteries to ensure they will operate during power outages.

No matter which type your home has, make sure they will work when needed. Install fresh batteries!



## Child Car Seat Checks

Tuesdays and Thursdays  
by appointment only

@ Township Administration  
6200 Eterman Road, Dublin

Learn from our certified car seat technician how to properly position and secure your child's car seat in your vehicle so that it provides the maximum amount of protection in the event of a collision.

Call 614-652-3920 for an appointment.

Appointments last about 30 minutes per seat.

# WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

## Board of Trustees

Gene Bostic

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Denise Franz King

dking@wtwp.com

Charles W. Kranstuber

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## Fiscal Officer

Joyce Robinson

jrobinson@wtwp.com



## Administration

6200 Eiterman Road

Dublin, Ohio 43016

(614) 652-3920

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

Sara Ott, Administrator

Alec O'Connell, Fire Chief

Leslie Dybiec, Communications Manager

Catherine Grossman, HR Manager

## Fire Stations

Station 91: 6255 Shier Rings Road

Station 92: 4497 Hard Road

Station 93: 5825 Brand Road

Station 95: 5750 Blazer Parkway