



the township *Scribe*



Washington Township . . . Your Community, Your Future

We need to know so we can help

Paramedics are trained to work in emergency situations.

But before they begin their emergency medical care, they must gather as much information about their patient's history and symptoms so they can determine the best way to help the patient.

While acquiring this information quickly can often be challenging, it can be even more complicated if the patient has special needs caused by any physical or mental condition. Without prior knowledge of these kinds of diagnoses, Paramedics can be delayed and sometimes even prevented from helping the person.

For this reason, Washington Township is developing a Special Needs Database. Modeled after a similar program in Delaware County, the database will contain medical information that would be useful to Paramedics in the event of an emergency call to your home.



For example, caretakers may want to provide information about what frightens or calms their autistic child. Or they may wish to share the location of a bedridden family member's location.

Having these details can improve the speed at which a patient can receive care and also, in some cases, improve patient outcomes.

If you would like us to include information about your loved one in our secure database, call 614-652-3920 to request a form. The information you provide is stored and made available on an

as-needed basis to call respondents. The health information you provide is protected by law and used only by Washington Township Fire Department for emergency response.

Questions regarding this program can also be directed to EMS Manager Eric Johnson at 614-652-3936.

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We hope to see you at the Dublin St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 15th!



Chief Woo retires May 9

After 14 years as Washington Township's Fire Chief, Allan Woo will be retiring on May 9th. During his tenure, Chief Woo has helped bring about many changes to the department that have improved its operational efficiency and employee safety record, expanded community safety services and partnerships, and led the Department in earning national accreditation.

The Fire Department's classroom and fire training tower facilities, firefighter fitness testing program, dive team, and public relations program are just a few of the many initiatives that got their start under Chief Woo's direction.

His genuine interest in finding ways to achieve better business outcomes seems to be what drives Chief Woo

beyond the status quo. An advocate of professional development who enables staff to stay current on technology



advancements, business practices, and new skills and equipment, Chief

Woo seized the opportunity to host statewide rescue training certificate classes through Bowling Green State University.

The partnerships he has supported with numerous local organizations and businesses have helped strengthen communications among community stakeholders, save money, and create opportunities that otherwise would have not been possible.

Alec O'Connell, the Township's current Assistant Fire Chief, has been selected to replace Chief Woo. Assistant Chief O'Connell has some big shoes to fill. Having been part of Chief Woo's management team for some time now, we are confident he is well prepared for the work ahead of him to provide the high quality Fire and Emergency Medical Services our residents expect.

Nature relies on native trees for survival

Among National Audubon Society's list of 20 common birds that are in population decline in the United States, all have declined at least 50% since 1970. And while some of this decline can certainly be attributed to loss of habitat when natural areas are replaced with urban developments, the types of trees that are growing in the area also plays a role in the ability of birds and other wildlife to survive. That's where you can make a difference.

The next time you buy a landscape tree, buy one that is native to Ohio instead of an ornamental one that is not indigenous to the area. Join a popular movement toward increasing biodiversity in your backyard and in the community by growing plants upon which Ohio wildlife relies for survival.

To humans, the differences between native and ornamental trees may seem trivial. But to the wildlife whose life cycles are so expertly integrated with native trees, there is a big difference.

One bird species that knows this all too well is the Carolina Chickadee. It must capture 6,000-9,000 caterpillars to feed its typical brood of six nestlings. A supply of caterpillars plentiful enough to support the Chickadee and other insect-eating bird populations requires trees that support the life cycles of the caterpillars; and not just any trees. Native species are, by far, the best.

For example, an oak tree may support as many as 537 different caterpillar species while a Ginkgo, which is native to China and widely used as an



ornamental in cityscapes, hosts only three caterpillar species.

So make the next tree you plant a native one, and help increase the biodiversity in Dublin.

Prevent an airbag assault

Air bags are great safety devices meant to protect you in the event of a crash. In order to be effective, they must be able to counteract the force of your body traveling toward the windshield in an instant. As a result, air bags inflate with tremendous force and speed.

Vehicle design engineers base air bag performance features and their locations in the vehicle on the assumption that the driver will be seated with their back against the seat back.

Drivers who lean forward toward the steering wheel or sit forward in their seat could increase the likelihood of the air bag causing serious injuries if it is deployed.

If you've never experienced an air bag deploying, you may not know that it is not uncommon for them to create

minor injuries such as bruising and abrasions. These injuries are minor compared to the ones the air bags can prevent. However, air bags can also cause more severe injuries like facial and rib bone breaks and fractures, especially if the driver is closer to the air bag than prescribed.

So what can you do to ensure your air bag protects you as it is intended rather than imposes undue harm? Sit back in your seat.



Dirty secrets revealed

Check the food safety inspection reports of the establishments you frequent. Read what Franklin County food safety inspectors find when they visit the kitchens, storage and food prep areas of movie theatres, gas stations, hospitals, schools, grocery stores, and restaurants.

You can access the information on Franklin County Public Health web site. Reports are added every four hours, as they are completed. And, because you'll be able to see inspection histories, you'll have a more accurate picture of what is happening in the kitchens that are serving you and your family food than a single report could provide.

Access the Franklin County Public Health website at www.myfcph.org and click on Food inspection Reports in the middle of the page.

Water in....water out Janell Thomas

Just in time for spring, Homestead Park's restrooms and drinking fountains will soon be back in full service. And thanks to the City of Hilliard, the change from well water to City water is underway with the construction of a water line into the park.

Before the water line project could begin, annexation into the City of Hilliard needed to be started, a process with which the City graciously assisted us.

Once annexation was completed, the City developed bid specifications for the project, for which eight contractors submitted bids. On January 27, Hilliard Council awarded a contract in the amount of

\$151,067 to Layton, Inc., a cost that will be shared by Washington Township and the City of Hilliard.



Back row left to right: Les Carrier, Bill Uttley, Albert Iosue and Joseph Erb. Front row: Tom Baker, President Nathan Painter, Mayor Don Schonhardt and Vice President Kelly McGovern.

Hilliard's engineering department developed the contract for the work and will oversee the construction. The

project is scheduled to be completed by April 15.

We would particularly like to thank Mayor Schonhardt, City Council and City Engineer Seidel for all their help over the past several months.

So when you visit Homestead Park this spring and summer, raise a glass of water in salute of this successful partnership between local governments.

We know it's been inconvenient for our park visitors since the water was turned off. We appreciate your patience through this lengthy transition.

Water play areas removed at Homestead Park

It's been popular for the past 20 years. The wooden fort that has been the perfect backdrop for water gun stand offs and other wet summer fun was showing considerable wear. So in January, the wood structures, shrubs, and water spigots were removed.

As of this past fall, the Trustees' plans were to build a new water play area. However, those plans have been postponed indefinitely, in part due to the need to complete an extensive water line project currently underway in the park and to assess the availability

of funding needed to build and operate a new water play area.

Until this assessment is completed, the former water play area will provide a shady spot for summertime picnics. We will keep you informed through our web site and future newsletter issues of the status of the project plan.

Drinking water and water for hand washing will be available again when the water line project is complete, currently estimated to be April 1st.

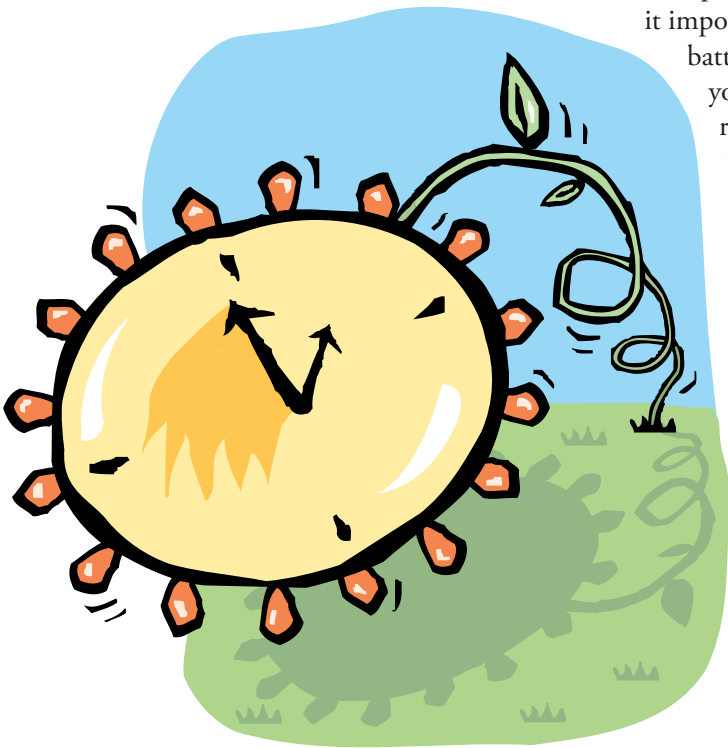
Spring ahead, then spring into action

Daylight Savings Time (DST) begins Sunday March 9th. When you move your clocks forward one hour, take a few minutes to change the batteries in your home's smoke alarms. Remove the detector cover and disconnect the nine-

volt battery, which either powers the detector directly or serves as a back up battery if your detectors are hard-wired to your home's electrical system.

No matter what type of system you have, the stored charge in the batteries depletes over time, making it important that you replace batteries so they work when you need them. Once you replace the battery, replace the cover and push the "test" button. The alarm should sound, indicating that the detector is in working order.

No tools are needed to change the battery, but you will need a sturdy ladder to reach most smoke alarms.



Hydrant flushing may cause temporary water discoloration

The City of Dublin contracts with Washington Township Fire Department to flush and pump all of the City's 2800+ public fire hydrants.

Public hydrants have green bases. Hydrants with white bases are privately-owned and are therefore not serviced by the City or the Fire Department. Owners of these hydrants must make arrangements for them to be serviced in the fall and spring to ensure they are operational.

Spring pumping and flushing dislodges sediment including iron and other deposits from water lines that feed the hydrants and fill the barrel, or body, of the hydrant with water.

Look for notification in the Dublin Villager for the April and May dates when the Fire Department will be flushing and pumping hydrants. If possible, refrain from doing laundry on these days until you have run the cold water in your house long enough for any discoloration to clear. Otherwise, your clothes may take on some of the "color" from the water.



Hydrants with white bases are privately owned and are therefore not serviced by the City or the Fire Department.

Get GRILLING, get GOING, get WET

Enjoy summer with your family and friends...the safe way.



If you use a grill fueled by propane, check all fuel line connections periodically for leaks. If you use charcoal, make sure it is completely cooled before you dispose of it. Warm charcoal or ashes can combust.



Helmets protect heads only if they are worn and fit properly. Make it a habit to wear a helmet when on a bicycle, scooter, roller blades or skateboard.



Keep an eye on children when they are in or near water. Make sure they learn to swim or are using a flotation device. Learn CPR so you can help if needed.



Hazardous waste collection April 19

The Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) will hold a collection for household hazardous waste at Ashland, Inc. (5200 Blazer Parkway) in Dublin, on April 20, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE: Latex paint will not be accepted. This product, once dried, is not considered hazardous and can be disposed of in the trash. Latex paint will dry if exposed to the air. Simply leave the lid off the paint until it dries or use a paint hardener, available in hardware stores.

BUSINESSES

To inquire about the disposal of hazardous materials at a commercially licensed facility, call 614-294-1300

PERMANENT DROP OFF SITE
645 East 8th Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43201
(corner of E. 8th and Essex Ave.)

Hours are:
Wednesday 12pm-6pm
Thursday 9am-5pm
Friday 12pm-6pm
closed holidays

Phone-614-294-1300

Residents can bring their old lawn chemicals, paints strippers, acids, insecticides, etc for environmentally safe disposal.

Pedal through your stress

Relieve stress and give your body what it needs to thrive! Try a bicycle ride. Pedal through tension and sluggishness to create a new you from the inside out!

Dublin has over 100 miles of paved paths, creating many options for distance and destinations. The smooth, mostly-flat terrain gives bicyclists of all experience levels a chance to enjoy the thrills of two-wheel travel without the worries of negotiating with car traffic.

Bike Trail Etiquette

Be courteous. Respect all trail users. Yield to slower users. Obey the rules of the trail.

Announce when passing. Use a bell, horn or voice to indicate your intention to pass. Warn others well in advance so you don't startle them.

Yield to traffic at places where the trail crosses the road. Yield to other users at trail intersections.

Be predictable. Travel in a straight line unless you are avoiding hazards or passing. Indicate your intention to pass.

Keep right. Stay as close to the right as possible, except when passing.

Pass on left. Pull out when you are sure the lane is clear. Allow plenty of room, about two bike lengths, before moving back to the right.

Use lights at night. Most trail users will not have lights at night. Use a white front and red rear light.

Do not block the trail. For group rides, use no more than half the trail. Stop and regroup completely off the trail.

Keep it clean. Place all your trash in its proper place.

New Saturday appointments for child car seat installations

If it's difficult for you to take advantage of our child car seat installation service during weekdays, we're offering appointments on Saturday May 17 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and August 9 from noon to 3 p.m. We're also going to extend our appointment times on the following Thursdays to 7 p.m.: March 13, April 17, June 19, July 17, and Sept. 18.

Our certified car seat technicians will teach you how to install your seat in the safest and most secure position for your child's age, weight, and height.

Call 614-652-3920 to schedule your appointment. Allow for approximately 30 minutes per car seat.

Garden plots for rent

Grow your own food! Washington Township manages a community garden at the corner of Cosgray and Rings Roads in Amlin. Ten of the plots in the garden are available to any Washington Township resident who is interested in being part of a group of friendly gardeners and growing food and friendships.

Plot are 12' X 14' and cost \$30/growing season (plus \$20 refundable deposit).

For more information on how to apply, call 614-652-3922 or visit www.wtwp.com and click on Parks and Recreation.

Fire Department

F A C T S

Why do firefighters take the emergency response vehicles to the grocery store every day?

Our firefighters are on duty for 24 ours at a time. During this period, they live at the firehouse to which they are assigned and perform many of the duties that we all have as part of our daily routines, including purchasing food and preparing meals. Because they are on call during their entire 24-hour shift, the firefighters must be ready to answer any emergency at any time, including while they are grocery shopping.

Who pays for the firefighters' meals while they are on duty?

Firefighters pay for their own meals. While every crew handles it a little differently, all have some method of collecting a daily sum from each firefighter, which is used to purchase the ingredients needed to prepare lunch and dinner for that day. If they're lucky, one of the crew members is a good cook, in which case they usually prepare all the meals when they are on duty.

What do firefighters do when they're not answering emergency calls?

- Station and equipment cleaning, maintenance and repairs
- Equipment testing (hoses, power tools, pumps etc.)
- Hydrant inspections and seasonal pumping and flushing of 2800+ hydrants
- Developing building pre-plans for large commercial structures and those with special hazards
- EMS, rescue, and firefighting skills training
- Continuing education to maintain professional licenses and certifications such as Fire Inspector, Fire Instructor, Firefighter, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, and International Trauma Life Support
- Re-stocking trucks with medical supplies
- Public education programs
- Community events
- Physical fitness training

How many firefighters and paramedics does Washington Township have on staff?

There are 100 full-time and 50 part-time firefighters on staff. Every firefighter in Washington Township must also maintain their Emergency Medical Technician or Paramedic certification. Currently, 99% of our firefighters are certified Paramedics, which enables them to provide medical care at an advanced life support level. The Station Captain or Lieutenant assigns all staff to either fire apparatus or a medic for the duration of their shift. So, all staff must stay up-to-date on all equipment and medical protocols.



Kids can fish with a firefighter

Fish with us at the Dublin Recreation Center pond. Our firefighters will offer an introductory class for 7-11 year olds which will cover equipment and safety, and give youngsters practice baiting hooks, “reading” bobber activity, and removing fish from hooks.

There are plenty of Bluegill, Bass, and Sunfish in this pond so everyone will have some level of success almost immediately. Don't forget to dress for the weather and wear closed toe shoes.

To register, go to www.dublinohiousa.gov/recreation. Online registration begins March 17 for residents and March 24 for non-residents.

Ages: 7-11 years old
 Date: May 22
 Time: 6-7:30 p.m.
 Location: Dublin Recreation Center



Free CPR certification

Wednesday May 21

6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

@ the Dublin Recreation Center

We offer this free class just once a year! Learn the skills that could help you save the life of one of your family members or friends.

Topics addressed include pediatric and adult CPR, recognizing and relieving a choking victim, recognizing the signs of a heart attack, and using an automatic external defibrillator.

Pre-registration is required

Seating is limited

Must be at least 12 years old to participate

Call 614-652-3920

Child Car Seat Checks

Saturday May 24

by appointment only

@ Township Administration

6200 Eiterman Road, Dublin

Learn from our certified car seat technicians 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

Appointments last about 30 minutes



WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

Board of Trustees

Gene Bostic
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Denise Franz King
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ckranstuber@wtwp.com

Fiscal Officer

Joyce Robinson
jrobinson@wtwp.com

Administration

6200 Eiterman Road
Dublin, Ohio 43016
(614) 652-3920
Hours: 7 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Allan Woo, Chief
Leslie Dybiec, Communications Manager
Catherine Grossman, HR Manager
Bob Weisenberger, Zoning Officer

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
parks@wtwp.com
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
Dave Gibson, Assistant Superintendent