



the township *Scribe*



Washington Township . . . Your Community, Your Future

Shore access critical for river rescues

From her home near the Scioto River, Washington Township Trustee Denise Franz King could hear a child yelling, “Daddy, Daddy, Daddy!”

“I could hear fear in their voice,” said Ms. King. “I felt so helpless.”

The voice was that of a boy who was stranded on an island in the center of the river with his dad, after their two kayaks, which were tethered, got carried through rapids and caught in branches. The other members of their family, mom and sister, were in their own kayak, hanging on to a tree trunk to prevent their progress down the river.

Fortunately, Washington Township Fire Department’s firefighters arrived

and rescued the family and their three kayaks before anyone was harmed.

Rescuers launched boats from two river access points, one on the east side of the river and one on the west side. “Flood conditions were also in play so



A secured line that crosses the river serves as a tether for the rescue boat, allowing rescuers a high degree of control over their boat positioning in swift water

it was fortunate we had options,” said Captain Fred Gardini.

“It was lucky that they were able to deploy their boats within close proximity to where the family was

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stranded,” said Trustee King. “Time is a critical factor in every rescue.”

Steep topography, man-made barriers, water level, and vegetation are among the obstacles that prevent many riverbank sites from being viable boat launch points for river rescues. There aren’t many places that provide all the conditions needed to safely deliver trailers and boats to the water’s edge. So, as part of the fire department’s annual river rescue training, firefighters

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Fire department earns highest ISO rating

On December 17th, Washington Township Fire Department received notification that they had earned the highest possible Public Protection Classification (PPC™) rating, 1 (on a scale of 1-10), from the Insurance Services Office Inc. (ISO). This superior rating may benefit residents

and businesses in Dublin and in the unincorporated areas of Washington Township through the reduction of property/casualty insurance premiums. Many insurers use ISO’s Public Protection Classification system when considering the likelihood of loss due to structure fires. In general, premiums for fire insurance in a community with

a good PPC™ are substantially lower than those for a community with a poor PPC™, assuming all other factors are equal.

“The Fire Department could not have achieved this distinction without our partnership with the City of Dublin,” said Chief Alec O’Connell. “We rely on the City to manage all emergency

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2017 Services Stats

- 1502 Fire/Rescue calls
- 4179 EMS calls
- 2670 Fire code compliance inspections
- 3387 Fire code violations identified
- 1923 CPR trained
- 255 Child car seats fitted
- 209 First Aid trained
- 9954 Community outreach/education

ISO rating *continued from page 1*

communications and maintain more than 3000 hydrants. They do that extremely well.”

To earn the ISO-1 classification, Washington Township Fire Department had to score very well against a set of performance criteria, based on standards recognized by the National Fire Protection Association that are grouped into four categories:

Water flow rate requirements that are necessary for fire suppression purposes throughout the emergency response district

Emergency communications, including reporting, telecommunications and dispatching

Fire department equipment, staffing, training, geographical distribution of fire companies within the response area, operations, and community risk reduction

Water supply, including hydrant inspection and flow testing, availability of alternative and/or supplemental water supply, and the degree to which the department could access a 3,500 gallons per minute water flow rate, if needed.

“We are thrilled to have partnered with Washington Township in earning this uppermost evaluation of our community’s fire protection capabilities. This ISO rating upgrade supports Dublin’s commitment to service excellence and maintaining a high quality of life for our residents, business owners and daytime workforce,” said Assistant City Manager Michelle Crandall.

Washington Township Fire Department shares the ISO-1 distinction with only three other fire departments in Ohio: City of Stow, Colerain Township, and Toledo and with only 270 (0.6%) other fire departments in the United States. Washington Township, and Toledo. Only 57 fire departments in the United States are both ISO-1 rated and accredited by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International.

Daylight
Savings Time
begins March 11

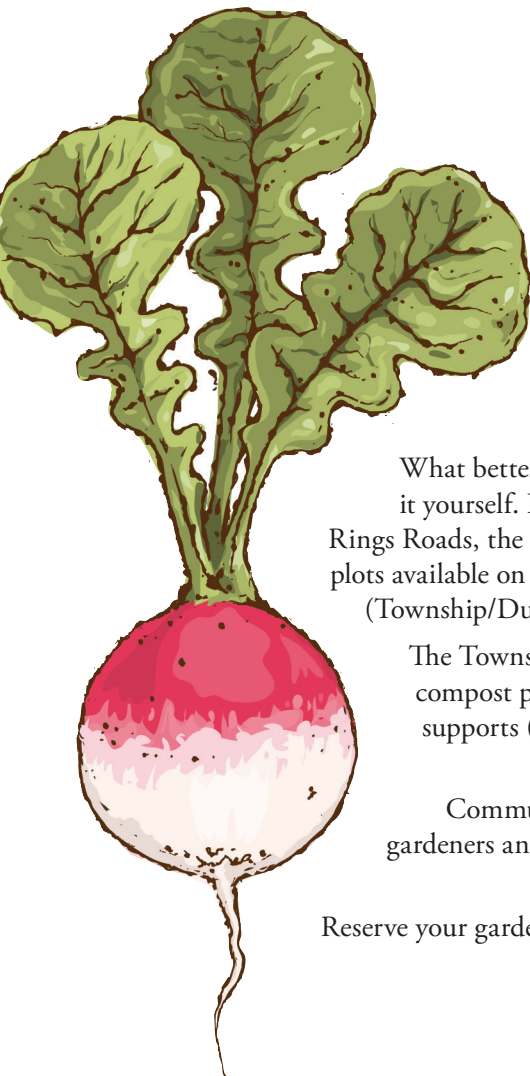
Grow your way to good health

What better way to get fresh, organic food than to grow it yourself. Located near the intersection of Cosgray and Rings Roads, the Township’s community garden has 12’ X 14’ plots available on a first-come, first-served basis for \$40/season (Township/Dublin resident) and \$50/season (non-resident).

The Township supplies the tilled soil, water source, and compost pile. Gardeners supply the seeds, plants, plant supports (if needed), weeding, harvesting, and end-of-season garden plot clean up.

Community gardening is a good way to meet fellow gardeners and an economical way to bring healthful food to your table.

Reserve your garden plot on our web site, wtwp.com. Go to “classes,” and select “community garden.”



Shore access *continued from page 1*

identify, test, and map the access points they can use under low and high water conditions.

“The more access points we have along the banks of the river, the greater the chance we will be able to use one that is close to our victim,” explained Gardini.

Washington Township is working with the City of Dublin to develop an additional river access point along the Scioto. “Recreation is important to our residents and many enjoy the fun and fitness opportunities that the Scioto River offers,” said Parks and Recreation Director Matt Earman. “We always encourage water safety and offer classes to help reduce the risk of water emergencies but, when they do occur, we want to make sure rescuers can get to the emergency scene as quickly as possible.”

EMS consortium paves way for enhanced patient care

The Township’s emergency medical services are performed according to an adopted policy called the EMS Protocol, which outlines all the processes, procedures, drugs, and care standards that our Paramedics adhere to when addressing people’s medical emergencies.

“It’s our road map for patient care,” said EMS Manager Troy Elmore. Everything our Paramedics do to help those with medical emergencies is specified in our EMS Protocol, a 450-page manual.

Despite its length, it’s a document that must be updated periodically, when the Township’s Medical Director deems it necessary. Examples of changes that may warrant protocol updates include the availability of new equipment, changes in drug availability, cost and efficacy, and research findings.

Ohio law stipulates that all EMS providers utilize a board certified medical director to oversee their EMS protocol. Historically, EMS providers have contracted with a medical director of their choosing and developed their own EMS protocol.

However, beginning in March 2018, a consortium comprised of Washington, Orange, Liberty, Genoa, and Harlem Townships, and the City of Delaware will adopt a common EMS protocol and share the services of one medical director. The common protocol will benefit patients by allowing Paramedics a greater range of treatment options, enabling more targeted treatments, and promoting more advanced patient care.

“Adopting a common protocol will require training on all topics that were not part of our previous protocol,” said

Don’t take unnecessary risks in the water

- Know how to swim before you get into a kayak, canoe or other water craft.
- Practice in your canoe or kayak on calm, shallow water like a lake or pool before venturing into any river.
- Always wear your personal flotation device, no matter how experienced or confident you are in the water.
- Avoid high water conditions. River water levels can change rapidly after a period of heavy rainfall.
- Take a cell phone with you in a waterproof container so you can call for help, if needed.
- Never tether boats, canoes, kayaks or inner tubes together.
- Be wary of obstacles below the water’s surface like rocks and branches that can create hazards.



Elmore. “Every consortium member will be responsible for training their staff to meet the new standards of treatment and care.”

By adopting a common protocol, consortium members will save money as the protocol oversight will be the responsibility of one medical director rather than several, and updates will be available to all members at the same time which will improve consistency of care across the regions covered by the members of the consortium.

“This consortium stands to both save its members money and improve patient care,” said Chief Alec O’Connell. “It’s taken some time to get there but the result certainly justifies the time and effort that everyone dedicated to make it possible.”



Dublin's law says scoop it

It's not a pretty subject, but it is pretty important: pet waste. America's 83 million pet dogs produce an estimated 10.6 million tons of poop annually.

Only about 60% of dog owners say they pick up their pet's waste. The most common reasons people cite for leaving it on the ground include "it eventually goes away," "too much work," "small dog, small waste," "it's in the woods," "it's in my own yard."

While some communities may rely on dog owners' and walkers' sense of personal and or civic responsibility to pick up after their pets, some communities have passed laws requiring it. The City of Columbus and the City of Dublin both have such laws. If it seems like a silly thing to legislate, you may change your mind once you realize the negative impact that all that domesticated animal waste can have on human health.

When pet waste is left on the ground, it poses a significant threat to human health because it can harbor bacteria and viruses like *E. coli* and Parvo, and parasites such as tapeworm and roundworm. Even the smallest remnants of dog waste can infect a person if it enters the body via the mouth, nose, or eyes (mucous membranes). Since parks, sports fields, and playgrounds are popular places for both dogs and people, it's not difficult to imagine individuals unknowingly coming into contact with pet waste that has not been picked up. And even after days of rain, snow, etc., which may render it a less obvious obstacle to avoid, pet waste can still harbor the microscopic bacteria and parasites that pose a health risk to people and their pets.

In addition to posing a human health hazard through direct contact, pet waste also poses a threat to water quality. When rain or lawn irrigation

water washes over pet waste, the water picks up any bacteria, viruses, and parasites it contains, and carries the contaminated water into storm drains. These drains lead to the very rivers Central Ohioans use to for recreation and to source their drinking water.

How do we know that pet waste is a significant contributor to water pollution? Studies have attributed 20-30% of bacteria in water samples from urban watersheds to dog waste.

In 1993, the US EPA reported that 95% of fecal coliform found in urban storm water was of non-human origin (Alderiso et al., 1996 and Trial et al., 1993). Studies in Seattle, Washington, found that nearly 20% of the bacteria isolates that researchers could match with a host animal were matched with dogs.

Help maintain our community's high quality of life by keeping our water clean. Pick up poop!

An easy way to ensure you are always prepared is to keep a plastic bag in your car, coat pocket, or purse. Use the bag as a "glove." Then turn the bag inside out, tie a knot to close it, and dispose of it with your household trash.

There is no perfect solution for pet waste disposal, but sanitary landfills are designed to collect the water that seeps through them, eliminating the direct impact pet waste can have on local waterways.

Sources: Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, Cleveland OH, www.clearchoicescleanwater.org

Dublin Ordinance, Code Section 96.17, (A), (2)

No person being the owner or having charge of any animal on any public or private other than the property of the owner or person having charge of such animal, shall fail to have in his possession a wood, plastic, or metal device or other container for the purpose of picking up and properly disposing of any fecal matter left by his/her animal. Failure of any such person to have in his possession such suitable device is prima-facie evidence of a violation of this section. No

person shall fail to remove fecal matter left by his/her animal within a reasonable amount of time by properly placing such refuse into a waste receptacle.





Neighborhood Bridges is a community kindness program designed to connect the needs of people with those whose resources and capabilities match their needs. The program's founder and CEO, Rick Bannister, started the Westerville-based non-profit organization because he believes "we are always better

when we understand our neighbors and can help one another."

Neighborhood Bridges may have its roots in Westerville but Rick's idea has attracted the attention of many other communities who are inspired by the program's mission and impressed with the level of its success (community participation). Already, Gahanna, Grove City, and Dublin have 'Bridges' programs and many more communities are expected to join.

Dublin's program is only a few months old and, already, volunteer directors Jill Kranstuber and Sarah Savage have seen success in the many matches the program has been able to facilitate.

A "match" or "bridge" originates when a program advocate identifies and confirms a community member's need. For Dublin's Neighborhood Bridges program, needs are posted on the Dublin Bridges web site at www.dublinbridges.org where the public can see it and respond if they can help meet the need.

Local community and social service agencies serve as program advocates. To keep the identities

of the program participants anonymous, no names are used when the need is advertised or filled.

Community member needs vary and include services as well as tangible items. Examples of requests that have been fulfilled include those for food, clothing, furniture, appliances, tutoring, school supplies, counseling, youth activity fees, and transportation (e.g., to an appointment).

To facilitate the transfer of items from donors to recipients, several community agencies serve as drop-off sites for the items, which can then be picked up and delivered by

Dublin Bridges directors or a partner agency such as Two Men and a Truck. Washington Township is a proud partner in Dublin Bridges, serving as a program advocate and also as a drop-off location for donated items that are on their way to filling specific needs.

If you are interested to see if you can help someone in the Dublin community, visit dublinbridges.org. If your organization is interested to talk with one of the Dublin Bridge directors about becoming an advocate, email Jill Kranstuber at jillkrans@yahoo.com or Sarah Savage at sbsavage421@gmail.com.

“We are always better when we understand our neighbors and can help one another.”

Rick Bannister
Neighborhood Bridges CEO



During the month of April, the fire department's four fire stations will serve as drop off locations for food donations to benefit those served by the Mid-Ohio Foodbank. Food items must be non-perishable, dry or canned, and not expired.

The Mid-Ohio Foodbank works with grocers, food companies, Ohio farmers, the USDA, community partners, and the public, to obtain food and distribute it to 650 food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, after-school programs, and senior housing sites across central and eastern Ohio. Half of all the people they serve are children and seniors.

DRIVE-THRU & DROP OFF
April 21 from 9am-noon

@ Station 91
6255 Shier Rings Road

download the app
PulsePoint

Are you trained to administer CPR and/or rescue breathing and willing to help someone suffering from cardiac arrest?

If so, download the free PulsePoint app. Once registered, you will receive notification if/when a person (within 1/4 mile of your location and in a public place) is in cardiac arrest.

Safety Education

Register at wtwp.com



Storytime at the Fire Station

We'll read a story, meet fire safety mascot Sparky, and take a short tour of the fire station. Pre-registration is required as space is limited. Parents/guardians must accompany children.

Ages: 3-5 recommended; All ages welcome.

Date: May 4 Station 95, 5750 Blazer Pkwy
Register by April 27

June 1 Station 91, 6255 Shier Rings Rd.
Register by May 25

July 13 Station 93, 5825 Brand Rd.
Register by July 6

August 10 Station 92, 4497 Hard Rd.
Register by August 3

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Fee: No fee. Registration is required at wtwp.com

Free Family & Friends CPR

Wednesday May 23

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

@ the Dublin Community
Recreation Center



If you want to gain the skills that could help save your loved one's life, the *Family and Friends CPR* course is for you. Developed by the American Heart Association, this course covers the same topics as the CPR certification course except no certification card is earned. Instead, participants earn a Township-issued completion certificate.

Participants must be at least 12 years old by the class date. To accommodate the maximum number of people in the space we have available, we won't have tables or chairs available so please wear comfortable clothes suitable for activities on the floor.

Registration opens April 1st
Space is limited

Fire Extinguisher Training for Businesses

Make sure your staff know what to do and have the confidence to act quickly if they ever need to use a fire extinguisher in the workplace. Call us at 614-652-3947 to schedule your group's hands-on training.



Family Fishing with Firefighters

Grab a cane pole and bait (provided) and see how many Bluegill, Bass, and Sunfish you can catch in the Dublin Recreation Center pond. Don't forget to dress for the weather and wear closed toe shoes. A fire truck may visit at the program conclusion (emergency call dependent).

Register at www.dublinohiousa.gov/recreation

Date: Tuesday, May 1

Time: 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Fee: \$9 per family

WET SUITS & Way-Cool Trucks

Friday June 15, 10 a.m. to noon

Bring your family, friends, youth group, or neighborhood play group to a morning of fun! We'll be in the Dublin Recreation Center parking lot closest to the amphitheatre.

- Tour Sparky's fire safety house
- Watch a dive team demonstration @ 10:30 a.m. (recreation center pool)
- Get your bicycle helmet checked for size and fit
- Climb inside a fire and medic truck



Red Cross Babysitting

Students will learn the skills needed to safely and responsibly provide care for children and infants. Course topics include leadership skills, considerations for starting your own babysitting business, personal and child safety, and techniques for encouraging youth cooperation and contentment.

Ages: 11-15

Date: Monday, April 2 *Register by March 26*
Wednesday, June 6 *Register by May 30*

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location: Township Administration, 6200 Eiterman Road

Fee: \$45 (Township/Dublin residents)
\$50 (non-residents)

Citizen Fire Academy

Get to know your fire department. Through lecture, demonstrations, and hands-on adventure, our firefighters will share the broad scope of their jobs as first responders during fire, medical, and rescue emergencies. Feel the weight of full turnout gear. Test your auto extrication skills using the "jaws of life." Feel the force of a charged fire hose. Rappel from our four-story training tower and climb our 100-foot ladder. Dates, times and application online at wtwp.com

"The hands-on drills and camaraderie between classmates were amazing. Once in a lifetime experience!" -Vikki Aldrich, class of 2017

Infant CPR for Expecting and New Parents

If you are expecting or adopting a child, have a newborn at home, or will be babysitting your new grandchild, this class is for you! React quickly with the knowledge and skills that can help a baby if they are choking or need CPR. Our certified car seat technician will offer tips on securing your child's car seat. Car seat fittings are available for class participants after class.

Ages: 18 & older

Date: Wednesday, April 18 *Register by April 11*

Time: 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Location: Township Administration, 6200 Eiterman Road

Fee: \$10 (Township/Dublin residents)
\$15 (non-residents)



WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

Board of Trustees

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Administration

6200 Eiterman Road
Dublin, Ohio 43016

(614) 652-3920

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

Eric Richter, 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