

# Elizabeth Township Spring 2012 Newsletter

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## A Word from the Trustees.....

**Road Construction** Detours, orange barrels, redirecting traffic, this is not what we want to hear but it needs to be done. The trustees have awarded the contract to Durst Bros. Excavating from Tipp City. They are going to update and fix the drainage on Phase II of Hufford Road along with resurfacing the road, widening the road and fixing the culverts. This construction is estimated to last approximately 20 weeks and scheduled to be finished by August 15, 2012 depending on the weather, of course. During this phase it will be necessary at times to have the road closed. Please be patient during the construction process and obey the signs that are posted. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause in maneuvering about the township, but we're hoping to have this completed as soon as possible.

**OTA Conference** In February Trustee Greg Dilts attended the Ohio Township Association Winter Conference held in Columbus, Ohio. He participated in numerous workshops with emphasis on how the economy affects our township, learning new technology and how to best maintain our roads. Greg also enrolled in the Leadership Academy. The purpose of the Leadership Academy is to enhance leadership and decision-making skills through required workshops. Greg strongly feels these workshops are beneficial in helping him be an effective trustee and he looks forward to attending future leadership workshops this summer in addition to attending the Ohio Township Conference next year.

**INTERNET?** Did you know that Elizabeth Township now has internet access? This past fall we contracted with Imagine Networks to place some antennas on top of the Elizabeth Community Center. We had numerous requests from area residents to look into the possibility of getting internet access in this area. Some of us still had dial-up service and we all know how long that takes just to download a small email, let alone the larger tasks that many of us tackle on a daily basis. So if you still have dial-up service or pay the high cost of an internet card or just want to see what Imagine Networks can offer, please give them a call at 1-877-677-0001 and ask what they can do for you.

**It takes a community to raise kids.....** Again this spring Trustee Greg Dilts is working with Diana Karneham, director of the David L. Brown Center, along with the youths who are housed there in cleaning up the trash along the roadways in our township. Last year they collected approximately 10 trash bags full of trash. This is a win/win situation for both the township and the kids...we get our roadways cleared of unsightly trash and the kids are credited with community service. According to Greg, the kids had a fun time last year and look forward to helping us out again. We have approximately 14 miles of roads to maintain in the township so keeping them free of trash and debris is no small task!





AWW, spring is here and with that comes the sweet smell of spring flowers and fresh cut grass. With that in mind, we will be out and about mowing our side ditches. If you come upon us mowing, please slow down and pass with care. All too often we are distracted while driving, especially now days with the use of the handy-dandy cell phone. It only takes a split second for an accident to happen. We encourage everyone to be cautious and drive safely.

**WHERE ARE YOU?** Can the fire department and sheriff's department find you? Does your mailbox distinctly display your house number? If not and you are a township resident, we have a few of our reflective green signs left over for you to place on your mailbox. This is the most effective way to have the fire department and sheriff's department to find your house quickly in case of an emergency. This is a first come, first serve basis until we run out, and it is only available to our township residents. So please call the township building at 937-335-1920 and leave a message or email us at [trustees@elizabethtownshipohio.com](mailto:trustees@elizabethtownshipohio.com) with your name, phone number and address if you're interested in one of these reflective signs.



Please feel free to stop by the Elizabeth Township Firehouse on Children's Home Road between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to have your blood pressure taken. Our firefighters/paramedics are there 7 days a week, 24 hours a day and are always willing to serve you. They will also be available after hours if needed.

## Arrest made in connection with 19 thefts

by Lt. Jamie McGlinch Miami County Sheriff Department

The Miami County Sheriff's Office has charged one Douglas Vincent Keechle (DOB: 06/30/1980) with receiving stolen property for his involvement in 19 separate thefts from automobiles in Bethel, Elizabeth, and Staunton Townships during November and December of 2011. Keechle and his attorney reached an agreement in which he cooperated with deputies in identifying the thefts he committed in Miami County. Keechle was also involved in thefts in Clark, Greene, and Montgomery Counties. Keechle admitted to having a cocaine problem which fueled his stealing. Keechle is currently in the Montgomery County Jail awaiting sentencing on several theft related crimes and is expected to be sentenced to prison. The Sheriff's Office continues to urge residents to report any suspicious behavior or vehicles by calling 911.

## BURGLARY/THEFT CRIME TIPS

by Lt. Jamie McGlinch Miami County Sheriff Department

- Keep all access doors locked along with vehicle doors
- Keep an extra car in the driveway instead of garage to make it appear someone is home
- Leave a radio on and make the house appear occupied
- If anyone knocks at your door and then has an unreasonable explanation for being there, i.e. "do you know where so and so lives", "can I use your phone", "I ran out of gas", etc. please obtain a license plate number and description of vehicle and call 911 immediately. Many daytime burglars will ring or knock first prior to breaking in to make sure no one is home. If someone answers the door they will be nervous and have an unusual reason for being there.

The same goes with calls or hang-up calls. Burglars do not want you to be home when they break-in and will try to make sure no one is home.

- Learn what cars belong at your neighbors and call 911 if any vehicle not seen before is noticed in the driveway. Rural burglars will target those residences that have few neighbors so please look out for any unusual vehicle and call 911 immediately.
- Keep all valuables inside your residence, do not leave them in the car. At night, park car in garage if possible or close to residence in a lit area.
- At nighttime utilize exterior lighting around your house to deter crime. If you get up in the middle of the night, take a moment to look out your window to observe any persons or vehicles that may be prowling.
- CALL 911, IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING

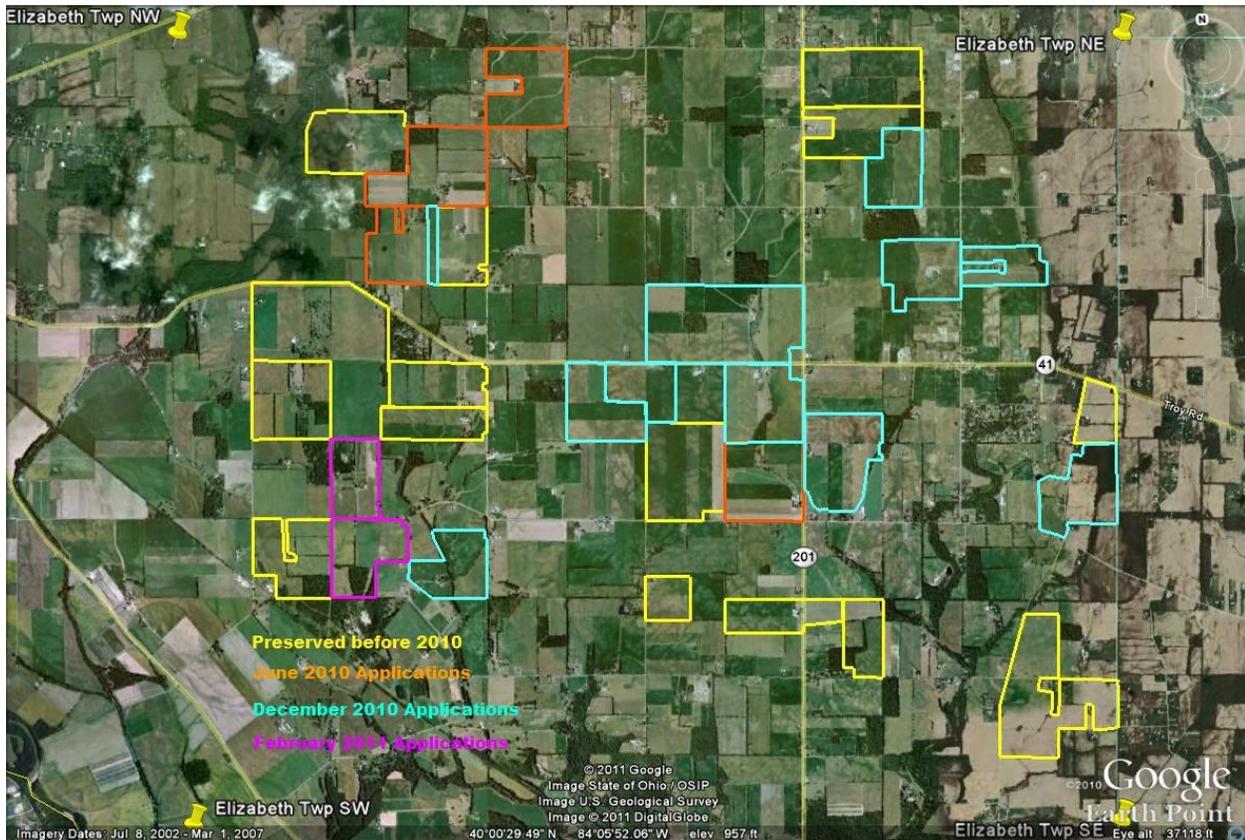
## **Elizabeth Township Farmland Preservation**

Submitted by Randy Mott

The Trustees suspended taking any new farmland preservation applications in June of 2011. We currently have 8 landowners who applied to the 2011 program previous to the suspension of applications. These 8 landowners have approved applications that total 1630 acres of township farmland that could be preserved for only agricultural activities. We have finished the title searches for all of the parcels and are currently awaiting the easement appraisals to be completed and expect that closings will take place within the first half of 2012.

50% of the cost to acquire the conservation easements is coming from USDA/NRCS, 25% of the cost is coming from Elizabeth Township and the balance of the value of the conservation easement is being donated by the landowner. Conservation easements to retain the rural nature of our township are an investment in the future for our children and grandchildren. The current program for acquiring them is the least cost easement program that the Township has ever used to preserve farmland.

Even though we are not taking any new applications, we are interested in talking with any township farm owner who would like to learn more about the conservation easement program. If interested, please contact any of the Trustees, the township office 335-1920, or Randy Mott, Farmland Preservation Chairman 545-8772 for more information.



## Elizabeth Township Fire & EMS

### Severe Weather Preparedness

The recent outbreak of severe storms and tornados throughout our region is a reminder our area is susceptible to damaging storms at any time. It is highly recommended that each family have a sheltering plan, emergency kit, and communications plan in the event a damaging storm strikes.

It is crucial to know the difference between a severe weather “watch” versus “warning”. A “watch” means conditions are favorable for severe weather as opposed to a “warning” which means severe weather is imminent. Staying informed is very crucial to decision making during severe storms. Families should invest in a NOAA weather radio which can be purchased at most commercial retail stores. Watching local news channels for weather updates is highly recommended to stay informed about changing weather situations.

Having a plan means knowing where storm shelters are and what individual families should do if they find themselves seeking shelter outside of the home, sheltering at home, or stranded away from home. Families need to designate an area within the home as a shelter and should practice a retreat to this shelter to ensure each family member knows where to go. If the home has a safe room or engineered shelter the family should go there immediately. However, in the event the family does not have an engineered shelter within their home they should retreat to a windowless interior room, preferably a cellar or basement at the lowest level of the home. If there is no basement, the family should retreat to an inner hallway or a smaller inner room without windows such as a closet or bathroom. Seeking refuge under a piece of furniture, workbench, or heavy table is recommended while protecting the head and neck with arms.

Families should also keep a kit ready in the event disaster strikes. This kit should include at a minimum; flashlights, portable battery powered radio, first aid kit, non-perishable canned food, water, non-electric can opener, essential medicines, cash/credit cards, sturdy shoes or boots, and extra batteries.

Lastly, all families should have a communications plan in the event family members are separated from one another during a severe weather outbreak. This is a real possibility during the day when adults are at work and children are at school. To gain accountability of everyone assign an out-of-state (or area) relative or friend to serve as the "family contact". Make sure everyone in the family knows the name, address, and phone number of the contact person.

When severe weather strikes, you have only a short amount of time to make life or death decisions. Advanced planning and quick responses are the keys to surviving severe weather. If you would like further information, please reference the FEMA website at – <http://www.ready.gov/natural-disasters>

Submitted by Tracy Young, CFO, Fire Chief, Elizabeth Township Fire & EMS

## **Township Zoning**

The Elizabeth Township Zoning Office just received information from The Miami County Department of Development (Miami County Planning and Zoning / Miami County Building Regulations) concerning Residential and Commercial Roofs. The new requirements that went into effect on February 6, 2012, state that "Residential and Commercial pitched roofs 2 1/2 pitch and steeper will require a permit". You will need to contact the Miami County Department of Development at 510 W. Water Street, Suite 120, Troy, Ohio 45373 (937-440-8121) prior to starting any roofing project. We are now well underway in the 2012 building season with over \$574,000 of construction so far. Remember to check to see if a Zoning and or Building permit is required for your project by contacting Ted McDowell at 335-1252.



The ETCC is accepting applications for part time employment as Building Supervisor with cleaning responsibilities. Individual must be mature, responsible, have reliable transportation and be able to work flexible hours including nights and Saturdays. For more information contact Zlata Garrison at 335-3822.

## **Contact Us**

Township newsletters are mailed to all registered voters and landowners in Elizabeth Township. Please let us know if your address changes. If you know someone who is not receiving a newsletter, but would like to receive one, please contact Zlata Garrison at 937-335-3822 or at [Zlata.Garrison@335-etcc.com](mailto:Zlata.Garrison@335-etcc.com)

Trustees meet at 8 P.M. on the first and third Wednesday of each month through the end of October at the township house, 5710 Walnut Grove Road (meetings begin at 7 P.M. November through March). If you would like to be placed on a meeting's agenda, please contact the township trustee office with as much advance notice as possible. Additional township information can be found on our website: [www.elizabethtownshipohio.com](http://www.elizabethtownshipohio.com).