

Elizabeth Township Quarterly

Spring 2006

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5710 Walnut Grove Road

Spotlight on EMS



Recipe for a Fire Department!

72	Dedicated Firefighter/EMT's
2,920	Shifts per year
17,520	Hours per year

Employ the Firefighter/EMTs part time.

Gently stir with their full time jobs and their family time to keep them happy.

Blend well with the New Carlisle Fire Division to make sure their skills are kept sharp while slowly pouring them into the 2,920 shifts.

Let stand 17,520 hours per year and use their knowledge and skills to respond to 150 Advanced Life Support calls.

VOILA! You have Elizabeth Township Fire and EMS.

That was incredibly light-hearted, but the numbers are accurate. We actually do employ 72 part-time firefighter/EMTs to make sure all the shifts at Elizabeth Township and New Carlisle are filled 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Our Firefighter/EMTs come from departments that include New Carlisle, Troy, Huber Heights, Beavercreek, Fairborn, Bethel Township, Pike Township, Enon-Mad River and Grandview Heights-Columbus Ohio. The hours they work for us are mixed very carefully with their full-time jobs and their family responsibilities to make sure everyone wins.

What Does the Fire Department Do?

In addition to Firefighting and Rescue, perhaps the most important commodity for Elizabeth Township residents is the Emergency Medical Service. We provide Advanced Life Support (ALS), on all runs in the Township.

Okay you say, so what is ALS? ALS means that there is a Paramedic on duty at your station all the time. A Paramedic does everything a Basic EMT can do plus more.

Sounds a bit like I'm talking in circles, so let's review. According to State Law a Basic EMT can operate an ambulance and provide emergency medical services. In an emergency, a basic can determine the extent and nature of the illness or injury and establish priorities. A Basic EMT can open an airway, provide CPR, control bleeding, treat for shock, splint a fracture, bandage, assist in child birth and provide initial care for poison and burn patients. If a patient is trapped in a vehicle the EMT basic can give all possible medical services and protection to the patient as well as provide light rescue services.

Now let's put the Paramedic in the mix. A Paramedic can do all of those things plus monitor your heart, perform an 12 Lead EKG, use defibrillation to correct heart malfunctions and electronics to support heart functions, perform advanced airway procedures, relieve collapsed lung problems, administer drugs to assist with heart functions, overdoses, allergic reactions, pain relief, etc. In addition the Medic can triage adult and pediatric trauma victims to determine the priority and method of treatment.

We do all this to make sure you get the best pre-hospital care available in our area.

So What's Changed Since We Began?

When we started providing our services it was estimated that there were about 75 EMS responses in the Township annually. We finished last year with 142 responses. **That's a 90% increase!** We think that's because you now know we're available and you call us when you need us!

Our statistics also show that we're on your doorstep in an average of 8½ to 9 minutes. We've maintained that average the entire time we've been in the Township.

We don't want you to stop calling! In fact, our number is really quite easy to remember it is **911!** We want to continue providing all the care we can to you and your family before and during transport to the hospital.

And finally, what's an article from the Fire Department without a **plug** (excuse the pun) for Fire Prevention. Daylight Savings Time is quickly approaching. Please take the time to change the batteries, clean, and test your smoke detector when you change your clocks. Try to make this a habit twice a year when the time changes. A working smoke detector **will** give you some extra time to exit your home in an emergency. Remember, the life you save may be your own! And remember our phone number: It's **911**.

In Good Health,

Ronald Grout, Paramedic/FF
Fire Administrator/Chief



Dry Hydrants

Dry hydrants placed in our Township are one way to improve fire protection in our community. A dry hydrant is a non-pressurized, low-cost pipe system installed along the bank of a body of water. The top of the pipe extends above the ground next to the body of water and the bottom of the pipe extends down into the water. A minimum of two feet of water must be maintained over the bottom of the pipe to assure year-round water supply.

Easy access is essential during an emergency. The hydrant should be well marked and next to an all-weather road. Access to the hydrant must have a minimum width of 12 feet and maximum grade of 8 percent. Place a sign next to the hydrant.

Dry hydrants require regular maintenance. Each hydrant should be inspected quarterly. If a dry hydrant is located on private property, get written permission at the time of installation to access for inspections and emergencies.

Ohio State University Extension FactSheet AEX-422-98

All or part of the FactSheets contained on Ohioline may be copied with permission for educational, non-profit purposes. Credit must be given to "Ohio State University Extension."

There are several ponds in Elizabeth Township which will benefit the citizens by reducing the time needed to fill tank trucks. Dry hydrants provide an easy access to fill tank trucks regardless of the weather.

If you are interested in having a dry hydrant placed near your pond, please contact the Trustees at 335-1920.

Renovation of the Elizabeth Township Community Center

The Trustees examined the three bids they received for the renovation of the Elizabeth Township Community Center. They received bids from Jess Construction, Arcanum, Bruns Construction, Troy, and Rieck Mechanical Builders. They had a previous bid from McCall Sharp Architecture, Springfield. The Trustees chose Jess Construction. Steve Sarver informed the Trustees the work can begin the end of February or the beginning of March. The changes to the parking lot should be completed in July. The entire project could take as long as one year. The construction will consist of a new roof, new furnace, added bathrooms, elevator, and other updates that will make the building more available to a wider audience.

Bicentennial Bench

Delores Swallow of the Elizabeth Township Community Center Building Committee presented to the Trustees an opportunity for the township to purchase a Bicentennial Bench. This bench will be placed at the ETCC for the community to appreciate. The bench is made of granite, is 48” long, and will be engraved. The cost of this bench is \$975.00. It will be installed around June 1, 2006. Installation of the bench is done by the monument company and is included in the price.

Miami County Milestones is selling these benches to individuals, businesses, townships, cities and villages to celebrate and commemorate the Bicentennial.

Township Trivia

What was Alcony first called?

Farmland Preservation

On January 19 Kelly Rowan, Assistant Manager of the Office of Farmland Preservation of the Ohio Department of Agriculture explained the Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (AEPP).

This program is a voluntary, permanent, legally binding restriction placed on a farm that limits the use of the land to agricultural activity. The land is under private ownership and management and stays on the tax rolls under current agricultural use valuation (CAUV). It can be sold or left to others as a gift at any time, but the restriction prohibiting non-farm development stays with the land. She explained how to apply for Clean Ohio funds through local government(our township), Soil and Water Conservation Districts, or a land trust, which then submits the application to the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

Jim Leonard, attorney with Wright Law Co. LPA explained the following criteria for applying: 40 acres, enrolled in CAUV, parcels are contiguous, parcels are owned by same legal entity, and no portion of applicant farm is omitted from the application. ODA farmstead policy permits the construction of one new house, if no housing currently exists. He also stated the State of Ohio cannot overturn the township preservation.

Farms are chosen by a two-tier ranking system. The first tier consists of objective criteria to sort out the most important farms to protect; and a second tier contains more subjective and relevant factors. The ranking system gives preference to those farms best suited to promote the program’s goal of protecting the best soils and creating permanent, economically viable blocks of farmland that complement a local comprehensive land use plan.

Listed below are the steps one needs to follow to start the Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (AEPP).

Steps:

1. Call Auditor’s office 440-5925 and request tax forms. It will be helpful

to give parcel numbers, if you do not have parcel numbers give the address of your farm. Tell them this is for the Ohio AEPP.

2. Call Miami County Soil & Water Conservation District (1330 N. County Rd. 25A, Troy 335-7666 press 3). Ask for Craig or Linda, set up an appointment. Remember to take your tax forms.
3. Further help and information will be available for Tier 2. If you have questions call:

Bill Sutherly	339-5888
Ron Swallow	339-1084
Dave Wagner	857-9487

The deadline for this program is April 7, 2006.

The earth does not belong to us. We belong to the earth.

Chief Seattle (1790-1866) *Brother Eagle, Sister Sky*

Bridges of Miami County

Miami County is one of the few counties in Ohio that has a bridge levy on record.

On May 2 county voters will be asked to approve a bridge levy replacement to increase the money the levy brings in annually. This is the first time an increase has been proposed since the Miami County bridge levy was approved in 1951. This replacement levy would bring in an estimated \$972,000 a year, while a renewal of the existing levy would generate approximately \$630,000 a year.

The replacement levy would be used for replacement, repair and repainting of the 319 county bridges under the jurisdiction of the county engineer's office. This replacement levy will increase taxes from \$5.27 per year to \$14.18 per year, for the owner of a \$100,000 home.

More than 100 of the bridges in Miami County are more than 50 years old and many of those were built with money collected from the first bridge levy passed by county voters in 1951.

*Excerpts from Dayton Daily News-February 3, 2006
& Will Sanders Troy Daily News-February 8, 2006*

Voting at the Township House

Mark your calendars for voting at the Township House, 5710 Walnut Grove Road. These are the dates to remember: Tuesday, May 2, 2006-Primary Election; Tuesday, August 8, 2006-Special Election; and Tuesday, November 7, 2006-General Election. The voting times are 6:30 AM to 7:30 PM. Miami County Board of Elections has a new web address where information can be found. It is www.miamicountyelections.org. Other good voting information can be found at the Secretary of State's website. This one is www.sos.state.oh.us.

Miami County, Ohio Commemorative Bicentennial History Book

Miami County, Ohio Milestones Committee is publishing a Miami County, Ohio Commemorative History Book. This book will contain historical photos of the county. Every town and township will have their own page. The historical photos can relate to Miami County History, Agriculture, Architecture, Businesses, Churches, Families/Genealogies, Military, Politics, Schools, Sports, and Transportation.

There is no charge for having your photos published in the Miami County pictorial book. The photos and book orders should be sent in no later than March 31, 2006. The cost is \$34.95, plus postage and handling is \$6.50 plus tax.

This is the Bicentennial of Elizabeth Township, so if you have information for this book please mail it to Miami County, Ohio Commemorative Bicentennial History Book, c/o Miami County Visitors and Convention Bureau, 405 S.W. Public Square, Ste. 272, Troy, Ohio 45373.

Please contact Diana Thompson at 339-1044 or dthompson@visitmiamicounty.org if you have any questions or if you need more information than provided, a more complete brochure can be sent to you by calling the above number.

Building Permits

Fern Rectenwald-building 38' x 60'-3854 Gearhart Road
Tom & Dawn Wallace-porch-8300 E. Casstown Clark Road
Michael & Leslie Then-new residence-3113 Gearhart Road
These permits were approved by Gerald Thorstad, Zoning Inspector.

Zoning Law Changes

1. Rewrite the Purpose of the District to add disclosure statement notifying property owners that they may be subject to negative impacts from agriculture operations-the right to farm.
2. Limit the amount of property being divided into 10+ acre tracts to only 30% of the original tract.
3. Minimum lot width to a minimum of 300 feet, measured at road frontage and at its minimum dimensions.
4. Single family dwelling minimum residential floor area to 1,600 square feet from 1,200 square feet.

These were voted on March 1, 2006.

Did you know the answer? Miami City

Contact Us

Township newsletters are mailed to all registered voters and landowners in Elizabeth Township. If you know someone who is not receiving a newsletter, but would like to receive one, please contact the township trustees by phone 335-1920, fax 335-1927 or e-mail at eliztshp@voyager.net

Trustees meet at 8 p.m. on the first and third Wednesday of each month through the end of November at the township house, 5710 Walnut Grove Road (meetings begin at 7 p.m. December through March). Work sessions are held at 7 p.m. on the second Monday of each month. 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.