

Elizabeth Township Quarterly

Fall 2005

LONG-TIME TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE TO RETIRE

After serving as a township trustee for 24 years, Paul Gearhardt will be stepping down as a trustee after this year. The township thanks him for his many years of dedicated service.

On Nov. 8, five people will be running for two trustee seats, including the one being vacated by Gearhardt: Don Hiegel, Chad Lavender, Ted McDowell, Bill Sutherly and Ron Swallow (incumbent).

FARMLAND PRESERVATION UPDATE

Louise and Marvin Curtis have accepted the state Department of Agriculture's offer to enroll their 136.5-acre farm in the state's agricultural easement purchase program, which will effectively preserve the farm located at the southeast corner of Walnut Grove and Children's Home-Grayson Road. Their decision to enroll brings the total number of farms preserved in the township to three. Two other farm owners in the township also were accepted into the program this year, but ultimately decided not to participate. The township also paid Wright Law Co. LPA \$1,463 to establish a township agricultural easement purchase program by Jan. 1, 2006.

The state of Ohio recently paid Sutherly Land LLC \$108,641 - 50 percent of the cost of development rights for the family's 77-acre farm on Tipp-Elizabeth Road. The township provided a 25 percent match of \$54,320.50. Sutherly Land LLC donated the remaining 25 percent of the value of the farm's development rights.

NEWSLETTER WRITER NEEDED

Township trustees are seeking an individual to prepare township newsletters on a quarterly basis. If interested, please contact the trustees at 335-1920.

MONTHLY TRUSTEE WORKSHOPS BEING HELD

Due to an increasing number of projects, township trustees have begun holding workshops at 8 p.m. on the second Monday of each month. The workshops are open to the public.

NOTES FROM RECENT TRUSTEE MEETINGS

Though taken directly from the township clerk's minutes, the following notes represent highlights - not a comprehensive account - of recent township trustee meetings:

Fire & Ambulance

- Trustees voted to have New Carlisle draw up a contract for the purchase of the township's fire truck, which currently is not in use.

Conversion of former Elizabeth school (now the Elizabeth Township Community Center)

- Trustees hired Choice One Engineering for \$1,175 to provide professional services for a site plan at the township community center.
- Trustees hired Henderson Blind Sales of Greenville to install new blinds in the community center at a cost of \$5,500.
- Trustees approved an additional \$650 for chairs and other furniture at the community center.
- Trustees hired McCall Sharp to provide architectural services at a cost not to exceed \$8,020.
- Trustees approved hiring Trader Builders Inc. to address drainage issues at the school for \$18,500.
- Trustees approved hiring Trader Builders Inc. to install a mound system at a cost of \$9,500.
- Trustees approved a 3-year, \$1 contractual agreement with the Elizabeth Township Historical Society granting the society occupancy of the township community center beginning June 15, 2005.
- The Tecumseh YMCA expressed interest in working the township to establish programs at the township community center.

Roads

- Trustees approved paying Strawser Inc. to apply slurry seal to Hufford Road at a cost of \$46,112.

Of interest

- Trustees submitted the following figures for the 2006 budget: Elizabeth Township Community Center, \$1 million; roads, \$400,000; slurry seal, \$80,000; additional, \$20,000; land preservation, \$125,000; additional attorney fees, \$25,000.
- Trustees voted to instruct the township's zoning inspector to no longer approve building lots that lack at least 250 feet of road frontage and maintain at least that much width through the entire depth of the lot. The trustees later rescinded that motion.
- Trustees approved an additional \$3,000 for the township's community picnic on July 10, bringing the total amount earmarked for the event to \$15,000.
- The township had \$38.49 million in its general fund as of July 31.

•BILLS GREATER THAN \$5,000

- D.A. Roberts & Associates, Inc. (remove carpets and refinish floors at township community center): \$6,600
- Jess Construction (general contracting): \$10,150

- Miami County Sheriff's Office (contract for additional policing for first half of 2005): \$43,708
- City of New Carlisle (fire protection, 2nd quarter 2005): \$77,500
- Henderson Blind Sales: \$5,760
- Quality Lawn, Landscape & Fence Inc. (improvements at township community center): \$7,404
- Lyons Catering (meals for community picnic): \$5,419
- Trader Builders Inc. (work on community center and salt bin): \$48,990

BUILDING PERMITS/VARIANCES

The following applications have been approved by the township's zoning inspector:

- Harvey and Toni Trent, inground swimming pool, 500 Children's Home Road
- Scott and Caren Febo, new house, LeFevre Road
- Charles and Dana Pearson, new house and pole barn, 6320 Tipp-Elizabeth Road
- Charles Bowling, new house and pole barn, 6368 Tipp-Elizabeth Road
- David and Jonetta Dye, garden shed, 8365 E. State Route 41
- Boyd Beyer, new house, 8680 E. Casstown-Clark Road
- Lois Swallow, storage barn, 5475 E. Walnut Grove Road
- David Blocher, storage shed, 5335 E. Walnut Grove Road, pole barn (variance, approved - not able to build over a tile. McKendree Church, accepted (May 31)
- Richard Goodwin, garage, 1410 Sanders Road
- Dean Bowman, new house and a garage/shop, 500 N. Children's Home Road
- Jim Benham, new barn, 4017 Tipp-Elizabeth Road
- Michael and Janet Artz, storage shed, 3090 Benham Road

ZONING UPDATE

The township's board of zoning appeals recently approved three applications. They include:

- David Blocher's application for a variance for a pole barn at 5335 E. Walnut Grove Road (approved May 31)
- an application for the township to take over maintenance of the McKendree Cemetery (approved May 31)
- Michael Smith's application to build a pole barn exceeding size requirements at 1676 Knoop Road (approved August 2)

Boyd Beyer is seeking a conditional use to sell custom-built motor homes and trailers at 8680 Casstown-Clark Road.

The township's zoning commission also has held several meetings regarding proposed changes to the township's zoning laws.

CONTACT US

Township newsletters are mailed to all registered voters in Elizabeth Township. If you know of a township landowner who lives outside the township, but who would like to receive the next newsletter, 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 Wednesdays 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 8 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. Your trustees are Paul Gearhardt (335-2108), Ron Swallow (339-1084) and Dave Wagner (857-9371). Your clerk is Larry Lavender (845-0047).

Elizabeth Twp. Trustees
5710 Walnut Grove Road
Troy, OH 45373