

Elizabeth Township Quarterly

Summer/Fall 2003

FIRE AND EMS UPDATE

The township began its ambulance service on July 18. Fire service is expected to begin this fall.

The township's ambulance service operates out of the former Slone Excavating building and nine acres at 2287 Children's Home Road, as will the fire department. The township purchased the building this year for \$447,784.50.

The trustees also agreed to hire the New Carlisle Fire Department to man the township's fire and ambulance service, with the township furnishing the building and equipment. New Carlisle has approved the agreement. The city billed the township \$77,500 for the first three months of service based on anticipated costs. The township will thereafter pay actual costs.

The trustees voted to purchase a fire truck for \$218,664, and an ambulance for \$94,725. The township now has both vehicles. MedTran and CareFlight have approached the township about using the fire and ambulance station as a launch point for their services.

REFLECTIVE ADDRESS SIGNS

Township residents who do not already have reflective green address signs attached to their mailbox posts may purchase them from the township at a reduced cost of \$3. The signs will be available from 9 a.m. until noon on Saturday, Oct. 4, at the township house, 5710 Walnut Grove Road. Thereafter, they may be purchased at the fire and ambulance station at 2287 Children's Home Road. Township residents are encouraged to purchase the reflective signs and mount them on their mailbox posts so that fire and ambulance personnel, as well as police, can more easily find their residences if emergencies arise.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Elizabeth Twp.'s farmland preservation advisory committee held its first meeting in May. One topic discussed was the Agricultural District Program. This program allows property owners to defer utility assessments from water and sewer lines, provides a degree of protection against nuisance lawsuits and provides limited protection against eminent domain.

There is no cost to enroll the five-year program, but there is a penalty for taking land out of the program early. Land cannot be subdivided for housing while it is enrolled in the program.

Only 67 parcels in the township are enrolled in the Agricultural District Program. For more information, contact the Miami County Auditor's office at 440-5925 and ask to speak with either Linda Tinnerman or Linda Pearson.

Advisory committee members are Jay Benham, Tom Brown, Laura Bygs, Louise Curtis, Nancy Nims, Bill Sutherly, Ron Swallow (trustee representative), Harold Watters (ex officio member), and an ex

officio member from the Miami Soil & Water Conservation District. The advisory committee makes recommendations to the trustees.

The trustees have approved several recommendations made by the farmland preservation advisory committee. They include:

- Conduct an information meeting for township residents on the status and activities of the farmland/open space protection program.
- Conduct an agricultural district sign-up meeting in the township.
- Establish priority areas within the township for farmland/open space protection.
- Develop local farmland/open space protection criteria.
- Establish the Elizabeth Twp. Land Conservancy.

A REMINDER ON ROADS

Township trustees are responsible for ditch maintenance along only some of the roads that run through Elizabeth Township. Roads such as State Route 41, 201 and 202 are cared for by the state Department of Transportation. The county maintains roads such as Walnut Grove, LeFevre and Tipp-Elizabeth. Elizabeth's trustees maintain 15.1 miles of roads, including the following: Adams, Benham, Cedar Cove, Dayton-Brandt (from State Route 41 to LeFevre), Gearhart (from Tipp-Elizabeth to Elizabeth-Bethel), Hickory Hollow, Hufford, Lehman, McCandliss, Marshall, Mill, Rudy, Sanders, Sayers (from State Route 41 to LeFevre), Shaggy Bark, Weddle and Widener.

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:

Roads

- The 2003 road program includes the following roads (cost): Adams (\$3,498), Lehman (\$7,259), Marshall (\$7,387), Mill (\$32,343) and Sanders (\$9,475). The deck of the bridge on Mill Road also has been replaced by the Miami County Engineer's Office.

Fire & Ambulance

- Trustees approved paying Troy \$14,593 for 2003 ambulance service early this year, but have since voted to send a letter notifying the city that the township no longer needs its services now that it has its own ambulance service.
- Trustees voted to hire Robert Counts as a consultant for emergency medical services in 2003, first on a monthly basis and then by the hour.

Of interest

- The township's general fund had \$38.54 million as of July 2003.
- Elizabeth Twp.'s budget is \$1.71 million this year, up from \$1.12 million in 2002. Though last year's budget was \$1.12 million, only \$724,986 was spent. That's more than \$200,000 less than the \$927,475 in interest that the township earned on its investments.

- Township resident Phyllis Bair suggested the new fire department be called "Grayson Station." Grayson Station was the name of the railroad station once located across the road from the Slone building.
- Bair also suggested the trustees consider converting the old township building across from Miami East South Elementary into a one-room schoolhouse for educational purposes.
- The township received an opinion from the Miami County Prosecutor's Office stating that the township is not permitted to donate funds. After receiving that opinion, the trustees decided to stop making contributions to the Casstown Memorial Day Association.
- The township used 137 tons of salt last winter.
- The township has adopted the following policy for the inspection of public records: all accounting information and books will be available for public inspection at any regular meeting upon request and upon giving notice to the township clerk at least 48 hours in advance. Copies will be available at a cost of 50 cents per page.
- Trustees voted to offer Randy Clark \$6,000 for right-of-way acquisition on Rudy Road to settle a pending lawsuit out of court.

BILLS GREATER THAN \$5,000

- Miller-Valentine (deposit for Slone Excavating building): \$5,000
- Christiansburg Fire Co. (fire and ambulance services, first half 2003): \$11,941
- Casstown Volunteer Fire Dept. (fire protection services, first half 2003): \$9,691
- New Carlisle Fire Dept. (fire protection services, first half 2003): \$6,000
- Life Pack: \$18,000
- Thermal imaging camera: \$11,895
- Miscellaneous equipment for EMS: \$7,756.05
- Defibrillator: \$20,638.40
- Eight uniforms for firefighters: \$13,812.96
- Rescue and fire equipment: \$14,375
- J.W. Devers & Son (pick-up repairs): \$5,878
- Ace Professional Tree Service (tree and limb removal): \$13,200

BUILDING PERMITS/VARIANCES

- Opal Terebinski, new house at 3443 E. State Route 41
- Gene Bradley, 8395 E. Adams Road, deck
- John and Pam Tishaus, new home at 5585 Tipp-Elizabeth Road
- Corbett and Carolyn Banks, 8325 Adams Road, pole storage building
- Warner Bowling, 3040 Gearhart Road, building measuring 40 feet by 56 feet
- F. Richard and Jayne Benham, 5215 Tipp-Elizabeth Road, single-family home
- D.R. Slone, 3180 Dayton-Brandt Road, addition/garage
- William & Danetta Meyer, 1835 S. Alcony-Conover Road, three-car garage
- Michael and Michelle Murphy, Gearhart Road, single-family home
- Catherine Sutherly, 6100 E. State Route 41, addition of a family room
- Alma Moore, 950 S. Alcony-Conover Road, new residence

- Bruce Pitts, 8665 Mill Road, add to and remodel a kitchen and utility room

CONTACT US

Quarterly newsletters are mailed to registered township voters. If you know of a resident who is not registered to vote, 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

The trustees meet at 8 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at the township house, 5710 Walnut Grove Road. 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, Ron Swallow and Dave Wagner. Your clerk is Larry Lavender.

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