

Elizabeth Township Quarterly

Winter 2003

MEMBERS SOUGHT FOR LAND CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

The trustees are seeking township residents who are willing to serve on the township's new land conservation advisory council. The council will advise the trustees on the future direction of the township's land conservation programs. The advisory council is one of the recommendations in the township's recently completed farmland and open-space conservation strategy. If interested, please contact the township office at 335-1920.

TOWNSHIP GETS AGENCY STATUS FOR FIRE AND EMS SERVICE

The township took another step toward establishing its own emergency medical and fire service in November when it gained agency status from the Miami County Communications Center Board of Directors. The center handles 911 and central dispatch for fire, police and rescue agencies countywide.

ELIZABETH TO BEGIN PAYING TROY FOR AMBULANCE SERVICE

Troy has proposed that the township start paying for ambulance service this year, and that this year be the first of a three-year contract. Troy wants the township to pay \$14,593 this year, with that rate increasing 3 percent annually in 2004 and 2005. Troy's ambulance service responds to the northwest part of the township, and the city has had a contract to provide emergency medical services to the township since 1990. Those requesting ambulance service will still pay for it.

SURVEY OF RURAL SEPTIC SYSTEMS

Several township residents have contacted the trustees with questions and concerns about Miami County's ongoing survey of more than 10,000 household sewage disposal systems in rural parts of the county, including those in Elizabeth Township.

Township property owners with septic systems are required to pay a \$50 fee for the Miami County Health District to inspect their systems. No additional fee will be assessed for five years.

The health district is using \$100,000 from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency to survey septic systems as part of the Home Sewage Disposal System Operation and Maintenance Program.

While there is currently no federal, state or local mandate that requires the Miami County Health District to survey rural septic systems, it is allowed to do so under law. About half of Ohio's local health departments - including Miami County's - already are surveying private septic systems.

Questions about the program should be directed to the health district's sanitarian, Ron Jackson, at 440-5450.

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:

Land Conservation

Karl Gebhart of Teater-Gebhart & Associates of Columbus presented the township's farmland and open space protection strategy to the trustees. His recommendations include:

- establishing a township land conservation covenant.
- promoting participation in the Current Agricultural Use Value and agricultural district programs. The CAUV program allows land to be taxed on its agricultural value – not the market price that developers would pay. The agricultural district program allows farms to put off their share of assessments for water and sewer lines until the land is converted to a nonagricultural use. It also can protect landowners from nuisance lawsuits.
- develop a land conservation program.
- develop a professional and technical assistance program.
- revise the township's zoning code.

Police

- Trustees voted to pay the Miami County Sheriff's Office \$82,000 plus fuel and service costs for 64 hours of police protection per week during 2003.

Of interest

- As in the past, trustees passed a resolution for a group plan allowing each trustee and clerk to be reimbursed for major medical, dental, long-term disability, personal accident and employee life insurance.
- The township general fund had \$38.89 million as of December 2002.
- Trustees approved rehiring Jerry Thorstad as the township's zoning inspector and paying him \$5,000 a year.
- Paul Gearhardt was voted president of the trustees for 2003.
- Kevin and Beth Ann Miller spoke against the requested extension of Adams Road.

BILLS GREATER THAN \$5,000

- Westfield Group (annual commercial package policy): \$5,697
- Excel Contracting (payment for Rudy Road project): \$50,404
- Finley Fire Equipment (thermal-image camera and truck mount): \$13,850
- Excel Contracting (change order on Rudy Road): \$10,680
- Excel Contracting (retainage fee on Rudy Road): \$17,121
- Scott Stamper (work and materials for Sayers Road): \$11,106
- Excel Contracting (work on Rudy Road): \$83,359
- Finley Fire Equipment (second thermal-image camera and truck mount): \$13,850

ZONING UPDATE

- On Oct. 21, the township Board of Zoning Appeals approved, 5-0, Robert and DeNyse Ochs' request for a conditional use permit for private mauseum plots on their property at 3801 Rudy Road.
- The following township residents will serve on the township zoning commission board in 2003: Dwayne Taylor, Amy Eidemiller, Dick Sutherly, Bill Hamiel and Mark Mitchell.
- The following township residents will serve on the township board of appeals in 2003: Don Hiegel, Gerald Elleman, Bob Smart, Bob Quinton and Jay Benham.
- Suzanne Wallace will serve as secretary for both boards.

BUILDING PERMITS/VARIANCES

- Mary Jo Hellyer, to build a home at 4885 Tipp-Elizabeth Road.
- James Sizemore, 465 N. Alcony-Conover Road, to build a family room.
- Roger & Jeanette Ewing, 8440 E. Adams Road, to build an addition to a home and a workshop.
- George Woods, 780 N. Hufford Road, to build a metal storage building.
- Marty Falin, 3245 Benham Road, to build a front and side porch.
- Gene Bradley, 8395 E. Adams Road, to add a family room to a home.

The township's zoning inspector approved all applications.

HISTORY NEXT DOOR

Did you know that Darius W. Weddle (1848-1940), who built the stately brick home on the hill off Weddle Road, was a great-grandson of Daniel Boone? Weddle experimented with tiling and other innovative agricultural practices on his 234-acre farm, which he named Plainview.

— Taken from *A History of Elizabeth Township (1998)*

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

Through March, township officials will meet at 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at the township building, 5710 Walnut Grove Rd. The trustees will meet at 8 p.m. April through December.

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 Dave Wagner, Paul Gearhardt and Ron Swallow. Your clerk is Larry Lavender.

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