

«PERRY TOWNSHIP RESIDENT»
 «4994» «HENDERSON HEIGHTS RD.»
 «COLUMBUS» «OH» «43220»



Waste Management (614) 833-9111
Road Department (614) 889-8781
 Trash • Recycling • Yard Waste
 For more information please go to www.perrytp.org

| January 2012 | | | | | | | February 2012 | | | | | | | March 2012 | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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Trash & Recycling Only

Jan / Feb / Mar 2012

Board of Trustees

Chet Chaney
 Chairman
 Cchaney@perrytp.org

Andrew English
 Vice Chairman
 Aenglish@perrytp.org

James Roper
 Trustee
 Jroper@perrytp.org

Fiscal Officer
 Michele Elliott
 Mellott@perrytp.org

Administrator
 Robert Myers
 Rmyers@perrytp.org

Police Chief
 Robert Oppenheimer
 (614) 889-8386

Chief Zoning Officer
 Robin Fellure
 (614) 889-1211

Road Superintendent
 Bryan Shonkwiler
 (614) 889-8781

Administrative Office
 (614) 889-2669

**Board of Trustee
 Regular Meetings**
 @ 7:00 p.m.
 January 4th & 18th
 February 6th & 22nd
 March 5th & 19th

**Board of Zoning Appeals
 Meeting**
 @ 7:00 p.m.
 2nd Tuesday of each month

**Zoning Commission
 Meeting**
 @ 7:00 p.m.
 3rd Wednesday of each month

Check our website for
 schedule changes

www.perrytp.org

**TOWNSHIP VOTERS SAY
 YES TO ISSUE 8**

Issue No. 8, Limited Home Rule, was overwhelmingly passed by the voters of Perry Township on November 8th.

Data obtained through the Board of Election's website indicates that 1,390 voters (78%) approved of this form of government.

The Perry Township Home Rule Committee was instrumental in the success of this effort. Members of the committee and volunteers dedicated numerous hours over the past several months. Committee members included Larry Belskis (Chairman), Dan Lacey (Treasurer), Sean McGlone (Campaign Manager), Amy Weirick (Communications), Jim Hiltz, Helen Ware, Marty Savko, Craig Carlson, Eric Luckage, Jennifer Brunner, and Jim Reardon.

The Board of Trustees may now play a significant role in matters related to utility company rate increases and service issues, pass nuisance and traffic resolutions, and pursue development opportunities.

While, Perry Township may be the smallest entity with Limited Home Rule status, it is the intent of the Board that through this new form of government we will grow our township and better protect the interests of its community members.

**OAW REQUEST PROMPTS
 MOTION TO INTERVENE**

The Ohio American Water Company has filed yet another request through the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) to raise water rates. And, once again, the Perry Township Board of Trustees has filed a resolution objecting and opposing the proposed rate increase. But, the Board has not stopped there.

On October 17th, the Board also passed a resolution authorizing the township's special counsel to file a motion to intervene in the 2011 Ohio American Water Company Rate Case. If the request is approved, township officials and designees will be able to appear and speak on behalf of township residents during PUCO hearings.

The Board of Trustees and Fiscal Officer believe that township residents already pay substantially higher and unfair rates for their water and sewer service. The elected officials have also taken the position that the proposed 26% increase is unjustified and would create a financial hardship on families already struggling in a weak economy.

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TOWNSHIP LEVIES HAVE HIGH PASSAGE RATE ON NOV. 8th

Despite recent cuts in local government funding and a difficult economy, township residents clearly recognize the need for essential services, such as fire and police protection, and cemetery and road maintenance. Support for townships was reflected in the high number of levies which passed recently. Statewide, 475 township levies were on the Nov. 8 ballot.

Of the 475, 408 passed for a rate of 85 percent. On the flip side, only 63 failed. The results of four levies have not been finalized due to close votes. Levies ranged from fire, police and EMS to general revenue, electric aggregation and parks. Fire protection accounted for the highest number of levies passed.

The Ohio Township Association (OTA) deems this a victory. "Our position has always been that townships are the closest to the residents they serve and provide more essential services than any other form of government. Voters backed this up last week," said OTA Executive Director Matt DeTemple. Since 2010, 817 township levies have passed.

The Ohio Township Association is a statewide organization dedicated to the promotion and preservation of township government in Ohio. The association was founded on June 28, 1928, and is organized in 87 Ohio counties. The association has more than 5,200 active members, made up of trustees and fiscal officers from Ohio's 1,308 townships, and more than 4,000 associate members.

Source: The Ohio Township Association
<http://www.cpmra.muohio.edu/OTAohio/>
November 16, 2011



DID YOU KNOW

... of the 7 permanent levies established for fire & rescue, over a 10 year period Perry Township suspended six? Each year more than half of the monies used to pay for Fire & EMS emergency services come the sale of fire equipment in 2000.

2012 INTERNSHIP PROGRAM GEARING UP

Perry Township of Franklin County offers an internship program that allows high school students with an interest and/or background in government administration, local government law, or law enforcement to participate in projects and programs designed to broaden an understanding of Local Government. Interns work for a total of 6 full weeks, Monday through Friday, during the months of June, July and August. An application process is required. The 2012 program is open to students who have not previously participated in a Perry Township Internship program. Interns participating in this program will receive a stipend of \$9.00 per hour. Please note that space in this program is limited.

The deadline for summer application is **April 2, 2012**. Information will be posted on the township's website under "Links" beginning **January 1, 2012**.

The High School Internship Program provides a work-based learning experience for Perry Township high school students.

HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HEAP)

 The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is a federally funded program administered by the Ohio Department of Development's Office of Community Assistance (OCA). It is designed to help eligible low-income Ohioans meet the high costs of home heating.

If you are eligible for assistance, the amount of your one-time HEAP benefit will depend on federal funding levels, how many people live with you, total household income, and the primary fuel you use to heat your home. In most cases, the one-time benefit will be a credit applied to your energy bill by your utility company (or fuel vendor).

Call HEAP toll-free at (800) 282-0880 or for more information go to their website: <http://development.ohio.gov/Community/ocs/heap.htm>

OHIO TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION 2012 SCHOLARSHIPS

OTA will offer three, \$1,500 college scholarships in 2012. As in previous years, the OTA is offering two Local Achievement and one Academic Achievement scholarship to high school seniors.

Students must reside in one of Ohio's 1,308 townships, be a U.S. resident, and plan to attend a two or four-year Ohio college or university in the fall of 2012.

The deadline is **Jan. 27, 2012**. Go to www.perrytwp.org and click on "Links."

GET CONNECTED VIA FB, THE WEB, & NEWSLETTER

The township has made a concerted effort to distribute information to residents and business owners of Perry Township.

Our website, www.perrytwp.org, has expanded dramatically over the past 3 years. Last quarter we launched a Facebook page as well. The E-Broadcast system is used for safety, weather related, and other important need-to-know information. Sign up via our website to receive an electronic version of our newsletter too!

FRANKLIN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT TIPS

The Board of Health recommends that folks follow a few simple guidelines this winter:

Get a flu shot. Everyone 6 months of age and older is encouraged to get vaccinated every year. Flu season in Ohio normally peaks in January or later

Wash your hands frequently. You should scrub vigorously with soap and water for 10-15 seconds to keep them as germ-free as possible.

Also, avoid touching your nose, eyes and mouth and cover your nose and mouth when coughing.

Practice good health habits. Go to their website for these and other ideas: <http://myfcph.org>.

GET READY FOR WINTER TIPS FOR COLD WEATHER

Vehicle care tips include:

- ♦ Get a tune up
- ♦ Check your battery
- ♦ Check radiator coolant and sturdiness of hoses and belts
- ♦ Refer to the vehicle's manual to see if a lighter grade oil is recommended for winter driving
- ♦ Change burned out headlights, tail lights and turn signals
- ♦ Check tire tread and wear – minimum tread is 1/16" for adequate traction
- ♦ Make sure brakes are in proper working order
- ♦ Keep spare window washer fluid in the trunk and make sure the washer blades are in good working condition

Prepare a winter emergency kit for your vehicles.

 Supplies should include:

- ♦ At least two blankets or a sleeping bag
- ♦ Flashlight or battery-powered lantern and extra batteries; cell phone & charger
- ♦ Booster (jumper) cables & Emergency flares
- ♦ Extra clothing, particularly boots, hats and mittens
- ♦ A steel shovel and rope to use as a lifeline
- ♦ Bottled water or juice and nonperishable food
- ♦ First-aid kit and necessary medications
- ♦ Cat litter to use for traction

CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS

Brookside

President: Tom Francis
(614) 659-9324
<http://brookside-estates.uc>

Henderson Heights

President: Helen Ware
(614) 207-7036

Worthington Hills

President: Jim Hilz
(614) 614-854-9258
www.worthingtonhills.org

TOWNSHIP'S APPROVED VENDOR LIST ONLINE

Each year, residents are approached by companies peddling their services door-to-door. And, each year a percentage of our residents are scammed by these same organizations.

The Perry Township Police Department requires all "for profit" organizations to obtain a transient vendor permit. A completed application and payment is mandatory. The list of vendors who have permission to sell services and goods in the township is now posted on the website. Just go to www.perrytwp.org, Police Tab, and click on "Approved Transient Vendors."

If a vendor is unable to produce a Perry Township permit upon request, residents are advised to contact the Perry Township Police Department by calling **(614) 889-8386**.

WELTY HUGUS: BZA MEMBER RETIRES

Welty Hugus, a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals since 1982, retired this in October 2011 after 28 years of service. The Board of Trustees, Fiscal Officer, Administrator, Chief Zoning Inspector and fellow board members extend to him their best wishes.



Please do not park in the streets during snow removal.

OAW Continued from page 1

Success is often measured by a community's effort. Residents and business owners of Perry Township are encouraged to voice their opinion to the PUCO and state legislators. Community members affected by the rate increase may wish to appear and provide testimony before the PUCO during hearings.

Contact Information:

PUCO (614) 466-3292

State Senator Kevin Bacon
SD03@senate.state.oh.us

State Senator Jim Hughes
SD16@senate.state.oh.us

State Representative Mike Duffey
district21@ohr.state.oh.us

State Representative John Carney
district22@ohr.state.oh.us



HOUSE CHECKS AVAILABLE VIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Whether you and your family are leaving town for a couple days or a couple weeks, contact the Perry Township Police Department to set up a free house check.

Dial:
614-339-0240 (set up); **614-339-0241** (cancel)

or visit our website at www.perrytwp.org, click on the Police tab and choose "House Checks."

A few tips:

- Don't forget to lock your doors and windows.
- Be careful about who you tell of your vacation plans.
- Remember, burglars find house keys easily when they are hidden in potted plants, under doormats, or above the door ledge.
- Stop all postal and newspaper deliveries.
- Maintain a "lived in" look while away.

'TIS THE SEASON TO CELEBRATE & SHARE THE JOY!

It's Christmas time and Brookside Civic Association invites you to join us for two special ways to celebrate the holidays.

1 LIGHT UP BROOKSIDE for CHRISTMAS.

Decorate your house and doorways for the Civic Association's annual contest for the best decorations of the season. Our judges will be roaming the streets after nightfall on **FRIDAY EVENING December 9th** and will choose 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winnings for the categories of best decorated house and best decorated doors / porches.



Winners will be awarded Anderson Gift Certificates and BCA will display a beautiful sign in your yard for the remainder of the holiday season. BCA will remove the signs in the new year so please display the signs proudly.

We encourage everyone to take a Christmas walk or drive to find out the winners for 2011.

2 CHRISTMAS CHEER EVENT

Saturday December 10th from 6:30 to 8:30 is sure to be an exciting event for all ages. Come to Brookside Elementary School's gym to visit Santa. **Bring your camera** so that you can take the kids or family picture with Santa. No standing in line at the malls. Santa will have a lovely fireside background to make sure the picture is extra special for you to use on your Christmas card or letter.



Then line up the family for a horse drawn wagon ride down our streets to see the houses decorated for Christmas. Cost of the wagon ride is \$1.00 per person or a non perishable food item. Food collected will go to the Salvation Army's Christmas Cheer Program to help Brookside spread good will throughout our community to those in need. Please feel free to bring as much food as you can afford as the economy has caused so many job losses. The following items are most needed:

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Whole Grain Cereal | Oatmeal | Canned meats/fish |
| Cooking Oil | Boxed Potatoes | Pasta Sauce |
| Canned Chili | Sugar & Flour | Whole wheat crackers |
| Noodles/Spaghetti | Cake Mixes | Pancake Mixes |
| Ketchup/Mustard | Syrup | Salad Dressings |
| Cookie Mixes | Granola Bars | Popcorn |
| Canned Tomatoes | Dried Beans | Low salt canned veggies |
| Dish Detergent | Shampoo | Toothpaste/Deodorant |
| Granola Bars | Popcorn | Pet Food |
| Canned Fruit | Toilet Paper | Dried beans/lentils |

While you are waiting for your family's time with Santa or waiting for the wagon ride, there will be hot chocolate and home made Christmas Cookies to help fill you with the joys this evening will bring.

Let's all participate in these two events in gratefulness for the blessings we have had this year.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL !



ELECTED OFFICIAL'S REPORT

*By Trustees Chet Chaney, James Roper, Andy English
And Fiscal Officer Michele Elliott*

Over the past several months, the Perry Township Limited Home Rule Committee has worked diligently to educate the community as to the benefits of Limited Home Rule. On November 8th, Issue 8 passed by a 3-1 margin. As we look toward fighting another proposed water rate hike, their efforts are quickly paying off. We as a township no longer must sit on the sidelines; but, now have the opportunity and tools to negotiate. We thank the voters of Perry Township for their support.

State budget cuts have caused reductions in tax revenue for all townships. Perry Township is fortunate to have a solid financial base, however, whenever revenue is lost efforts must be made to compensate. The Fiscal Officer, Michele Elliott, has requested that each department provide a report highlighting potential cost saving measures for the upcoming year. In 2011, Chief Oppenheimer negotiate a lease for a shooting range which will save the department over \$2,000 annually. The Road Department continues its crack sealing schedule which extends the life of township roadways. The Trustees have moved to viewing meeting documents online, saving hundred of dollars in paper and staff hours. In 2012, the fiscal office will transition its payroll system to a more efficient online version. Employees will log in to download payroll and benefit information; rather than receiving hard copies of their documents.

During the fall months, the Board of Trustees took their board meetings on the road in an effort to accommodate our residents. We hope to do the same again in 2012. Regular board meetings are typically on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month unless there is a holiday. Our schedule is posted on our website - www.perrytownship.org. We encourage and invite township community members to attend.

We wish you happy holiday and a Happy New Year!

CHIEF ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT

By Robin Fellure

During the next few months we will be busy following up on any open applications for permits from this past year. If you applied for a permit and have completed the project please contact us for your final inspection. Call Robin or John at 614-889-1211 so we may stop by, take a picture and complete the final inspection.

As a property owner you need to be informed and make sure you and your contractors are following the zoning and building codes. So, if you ever have a question about Zoning codes and permits please call us. We would be happy to speak with you.

Please remember that trash cans are not supposed to be visible from the property lines. So try and keep them out of site.

If you need to meet with either John Hewitt or myself an appointment is necessary. Please contact our office by calling **(614) 889-1211** to schedule. Also, the Zoning Department's hours of operation are Monday, Thursday, Friday 8:00 a.m. - noon; Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 a.m - noon.

To all of the residents of Perry Township we wish you a Happy New Year.

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT

By Chief Robert Oppenheimer

Driving Safe in Snow and Ice

Stay Alert and Slow Down

It is best to winterize your vehicle before winter strikes. Schedule a maintenance check-up for the vehicle's tires and tire pressure, battery, belts and hoses, radiator, oil, lights, brakes, exhaust system, heater/defroster, wipers and ignition system. Keep your gas tank sufficiently full – at least half a tank is recommended.

Winter driving conditions such as rain, snow, and ice dramatically affect the braking distance of a vehicle. The driver's capability to complete a smooth and safe stop is severely limited due to reduced tire traction. In order to stop safely, the vehicle's wheels must maintain traction by remaining on contact with the road surface while rolling, referred to as "rolling traction". When handling slippery winter roads, the keys to safety are slower speeds, gentler stops and turns, and increased following distances.

Tire pressure usually lowers itself in winter and raises itself in summer. Under-inflated tires can cause a car to react more slowly to steering. Every time the outside temperature drops ten degrees, the air pressure inside your tires goes down about one or two PSI. Tires lose air normally through the process of permeation. Drivers should check their tire pressures frequently during cold weather, adding enough air to keep them at recommended levels of inflation at all times.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

By Bryan Shonkwiler

Happy New Year!!!

Another year has come and gone. Once again, the Road Department was very busy in 2011. We responded to 20 snow/ice events as of the first of December. The February 2nd wind storm took 2 ½ weeks to clean up. We collected over 250 cubic yards of wood chips during the spring brush chipping.

We've completed several storm sewer and road repair projects. The contracted road work was completed and we just finished up the leaf collection program, collecting 203 loads of leaves. We are now prepared to battle the snow and ice for another season. We have road salt on hand and a contract for plenty more available. Our equipment is being prepped and the crew is ready. We ask that you remove your vehicles and other obstructions (basketball hoops, skateboard ramps, etc.) from the street, during snow events, so that our equipment can safely and efficiently clear the roads.

During periods when it's not snowing, we will continue with the crack sealing program and will be trimming trees that are encroaching on the roadway. Our trimming policy is to cut at least a few feet back from the edge of the road and up to 13 feet above the pavement. This will clear the way for our equipment perform without obstruction.

We hope that everyone has a safe and enjoyable holiday season.