

Jan / Feb / Mar 2010

Board of Trustees

James Roper
Chairman
Jroper@perrytwp.org

Chet Chaney
Vice Chairman
Cchaney@perrytwp.org

Andrew English
Aenglish@perrytwp.org

Fiscal Officer
Michele Elliott
(614) 889-2669

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.
Jan 4th & 20th
Feb 1st & 17th
Mar 1st & 15th

**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.perrytwp.org

**OHIO AMERICAN WATER
COMMUNITY UPDATE**

In less than 3 years, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) has approved two significant Ohio American Water Company (OAW) rate increases impacting Worthington Hills residents:

- March 2007:
14% (water); 5% (sewer)
- November 2008:
30% (water); 37% (sewer)

Yet in June of 2009, OAW applied to the PUCO to increase its rates once again. If approved, this would result in a 60% revenue increase phased in over 4 years via annual step increases - an approximate increase of 240% in water and 300% in sewer rates since 1999.

In response to OAW's proposal, the Perry Township Board of Trustees submitted a Letter of Objection to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and Ohio Consumer's Counsel on behalf of the Worthington Hills community. A formal resolution opposing the rate increases was passed a few months later whereby the Board stated that it believed that the **"requested increases are unfair, excessive and incapable of justification"** (Res. No. 234-09).

PUCO staff issued a report concerning the matter on November 27, 2009. This included a recommendation of a reduced rate increase of 5.9% to 7.3% over current revenues. Further, the staff stated the need for OAW to

Continued on page 3

**2010 BOARD OF TRUSTEES
GET DOWN TO BUSINESS**



Chairman, James Roper; Vice Chairman, Chet Chaney; and newly elected trustee, Andy English open the 2010 regular session on January 4th.

See Oath of Office; page 3

**1.5 MILL ROAD LEVY
APPROVED BY VOTERS**

The road and bridge levy passed with an overwhelming 74% of the voters saying yes to the 5-year replacement levy. Among the projects budgeted for this levy is the completion of road, curb and gutter improvements on Fairway Drive, repairs and improvements to roadside drainage systems in Brookside and crack sealing throughout the township. Collection of the monies will commence this year.



**Please refrain from parking
on the streets during snow
and ice events.**

«PERRY TOWNSHIP RESIDENT»
«5345» «BANBURY DR»
«COLUMBUS» «OH» «43235»

Perry Township
7125 Sawmill Road
Dublin, OH 43016



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

January 2010						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2010						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March 2010						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Trash & Recycling Pick-Up

Trash Pick-Up Only

TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE RETIRES

After more than 2-decades of government service, Bob Myers has retired. His contributions to the community of Perry Township are too extensive to list; but, his dedication, professionalism and valued service to its residents are well recognized.



Chairman Roper thanks Bob for his years of service

Elected officials, family, friends, township staff and other community members shared in the retirement ceremonies on January 16th. Chairman of the Board, James Roper, presented Bob with a framed proclamation of recognition marking his years of public service.

Judge Harland Hale was also in attendance and read a heartfelt note composed on court letterhead. He congratulated Bob on his service to the township and wished him the best in his retirement.

Bob is originally from Shadyside in eastern Ohio. He and his wife Shirley have been residents of Brookside Estates for over 30-years. There, they raised their two sons and became active community members and leaders.

Bob served as a Trustee of the Brookside Estates Civic Association for 18 years and was president of the association for 3 terms.

His association with the township's government offices began in July 1994 when he was appointed to the Zoning Commission and served as chairman. On May 21, 2001 Bob was appointed to the Board of Trustees and was elected for two consecutive terms - 2001 and 2005.

Bob is currently Vice-President of Finance for National Guardian Security Services of Norwalk, CT and Richardson, TX.

JUDGE HALE ADMINISTERS OATH OF OFFICE

During a brief ceremony on January 4th, Judge Harland Hale administered the Oath of Office to incoming township trustee, Andy English and incumbent, James Roper. The two trustees will join Trustee, Chet Chaney and Fiscal Officer, Michele Elliott as the Township's officials.

Immediately after the ceremony, Andy began his first term in office. He and his wife, Jamie, live in Worthington Hills with their two children, Sam, a second grader and Abby, a first grader at Worthington Hills Elementary.

Originally from Titusville, Pennsylvania, Andy has an undergraduate degree from Penn State University and a Masters in Landscape Architecture from The Ohio State University. Andy currently owns and operates his own firm called Plan-It Studios, a landscape architecture and land planning firm in Perry Township. He has also worked for several other prominent architecture and engineering firms in central Ohio since graduating from Ohio State University.



Andy's wife, Jamie, and children look on as Judge Hale administers the Oath of Office.

He was elected to the Worthington Hills Civic Association in 2006 and was appointed Chairman of the Perry Township Board of Community Relations in 2009. Andy will serve as liaison to the Road Department and Davis Cemetery Advisory Board during the 2010 year while continuing his work with the Board of Community Relations.

Jim Roper is a life-long resident of Ohio having been born and raised in Youngs-

BROOKSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

Happy New Year to all! Brookside School has settled in for the winter and already beginning to plan for our Spring Community Garden Vegetable Garden. The Garden is currently "put to bed" with compost added to the bed topped off with a straw covering.

If you're interested in learning more about our Community Garden please call Mr. Monroe at school, 883-2750.

Brookside is also beginning to explore the addition of a Crosswalk across Snouffer Road at Snouffer Place and Bridewater. This Crosswalk would connect to a Multi-Purpose Path along the south side of Snouffer Road connecting with the existing "Perry Path" at the railroad crossing. If you're interested in serving on such a committee please contact Mr. Monroe at school, 883-2750.

Finally, we continue to seek Reading Tutoring Mentors for our Project MORE program. This program has had excellent results in other schools throughout Ohio. It is based out of Bowling Green University. Volunteers do reading and reading activities with children in need of reading help for 30 minutes in a one to one setting. We can schedule you in for just about any time from 8:15 to 2:00. If interested, please call Mrs. Allison Recchiuti, second grade teacher, at school, 883-2750.

*Fritz Monroe, Principal
Brookside Elementary*



2010 ZONING BOARD MEMBERS

Board of Zoning & Exterior Maintenance Appeals Board Members	Term Ends
Glenn Karr, Chairman	12/31/14
Thomas Francis, Vice Chair	12/31/12
Louis DiOrio	12/31/10
Welty Hugus	12/31/12
Jim Kent	12/31/11
Ginny Shimrock, Secretary	
Matt Ward, Alternate	12/31/12
William McDowall, Alternate	12/31/11
Zoning Commission Board Member	Term Ends
Rich Herner, Chairman	12/31/14
Harold Rausch Vice Chair	12/31/12
Nick Alexander	12/31/11
Rachel Schultz	12/31/12
Doug Anderson	12/31/10
Ginny Shimrock, Secretary	

CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS

Brookside

President: Tom Francis
(614) 659-9324

Worthington Hills

President: Cheryl Garrett
www.worthingtonhills.org
(614) 264-0393

IDENTITY THEFT (Continued from page 5)

- Sign up for online accounts. (It's easier and faster to review accounts online)
- Order and review your credit reports from one of the three credit agencies: TransUnion, Equifax and Experian. Each are each required by law to provide you one free credit report a year. Annual Credit-Report.com has links to all three, and it is the only place to get them free.
- Ensure that your name, address and other information are correct
- Shred old bank statements, applications for new credit cards and other documents that have personal information
- Secure your personal information online and offline

ACTION The steps you will need to take to recover from identity theft depend on the type of fraud you believe has occurred. But, once you have determined identity theft has occurred:

Call the company to report it. By federal law, credit card companies have strong consumer protections in place, and they have large departments to investigate fraud. For that reason, you may want to consider using a credit card to pay for online and major purchases. That will give you more protection than if you use a debit card, because the money comes directly out of your bank account when you use a debit card.

Place an initial fraud alert with one of the three major credit reporting agencies. (They are required by law to report the fraud alert to the other two agencies.) The alert, which remains on your credit report for 90 days, automatically entitles you to a free copy of your report. Review this for any accounts you did not open or activity you did not conduct and confirm personal information.

File an identity theft report with the police department and the Ohio Attorney General's Office

MONEY GUIDES:

After you have filed the reports, make multiple copies of them and save the originals in a safe place. While identity theft is hard to prosecute, these documents will help you investigate your case with the

IDENTITY THEFT (Continued from page 2)

- credit agencies and the financial institutions you do business with.
- Consider an extended fraud alert, which lasts seven years, requires creditors to contact you personally before new accounts are opened.
- Remember: Fraud alerts help only when a thief is trying to open a new line of credit. They may not prevent a thief from using existing accounts or ordering new cards. Nor can they prevent the opening of a bank account or another account that does not require a credit check.
- Regardless of the severity of the problem, be careful when you contact the companies of the compromised accounts or the accounts you think have been tampered with. While the level of risk varies because of credit limit, credit history and other factors, your credit score may be negatively affected if you choose to cancel credit card accounts.
- Inform the creditor that you have reason to suspect you are victim of fraud, and ask it for the company's policy in situations like these. **One option is to ask that the account be assigned a new number.**
- When contacting credit agencies, place a 100-word consumer statement on your credit report explaining the fraud. This statement will stay on your credit report as long as you want.
- Keep documentation on all of your conversations and interactions with these lenders.



EXTRA HELP

In recent years, the three main credit agencies and other companies are offering credit monitoring and identity fraud services for monthly or annual subscriptions.

Go to www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/ for additional information.

OATH OF OFFICE (Continued)

town. He received his law degree from Capital University and has been in private practice with the Columbus law offices of ISAAC, BRANT, LEDMAN & TEETOR, LLP since the mid-80s. In 1994, Jim became a partner in the firm and has taken the role as lead counsel in over 350 civil cases and 30 jury trials.

Jim served two terms as President of the Worthington Hills Civic association before making his first run for office in November 2001. Since then, he was re-elected to a second 4-year term in 2005 and again this year. He was recently nominated as Chairman of the Board and also serves as the liaison for the Police Department and township spokesperson.



Jim and his wife, Kim, live in Worthington Hills. They have two teenage sons, Drew who is presently attending Penn State University and Matt, a senior at Worthington Kilbourne High School.

2010 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE Administrative Offices Closed On: ooooooooooooooooooooan:

New Year's Day	Friday, January 1
Martin Luther King	Monday, January 18
Presidents' Day	Monday, February 15
Memorial Day	Monday, May 31
Independence Day	Monday, July 5
Labor Day	Monday, September 6
Columbus Day	Monday, October 11
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 25
Veteran's Day	Friday, November 26
Christmas	Friday, December 24

OHIO AMERICAN WATER (Continued from page 1)

"better control costs and to better reflect economic conditions in the market it serves." According to the document, the "Staff concluded that Ohio American Water needs to change its business model" and urged the Commission to deny OAW's request to phase in additional rate increases each year through 2012.

The pressure exerted by opposition groups seems to have paid off. According to the PUCO, Ohio American Water ceased its efforts to increase rates for the years 2011, 2012, and 2013. However, current rates continue to pose a problem for many government officials and community members.

During the January 4, 2010 Regular Session, the Board met with Richard Oxender (Oxender and Associates) a long-time Worthington Hills resident and local lobbyist. Over the next few months Mr. Oxender will donate his time and over 40-years of expertise representing the Board and its residents before the Ohio legislature.

The Board continues to work closely with Mr. Oxender to attempt the passage of important legislation that would protect residents from any future excessive rate proposals and/or increases. The Board has taken the position that township residents should expect quality service and reasonable rates. Mr. Oxender will ensure that this important message is communicated clearly to the Ohio General Assembly.

On January 28th, Andy English submitted testimony on behalf of Worthington residents. Residents can also submit questions and comments to the PUCO and Ohio Consumer's Counsel:

- Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
(614) 466-3292
www.PUCO.ohio.gov
- Ohio Consumers' Counsel
(614) 466-8574
www.pickocc.org

A link on our website has been established to keep you informed of news and updates concerning this issue. Go to www.perrytwp.org, click on the "link" tab, and select Ohio American Water.

ELECTED OFFICIAL'S REPORT

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

The 2010 year has brought with it changes and challenges. Robert Myers recently retired as township trustee after 20 years of service. We thank him for his dedication to our community and wish him the best in future endeavors. We also would like to welcome incoming trustee, Andy English, who began his first term in office on January 1st.

The Trustees and Fiscal Officer will coordinate their efforts with the help of lobbyist Ric Oxender (Oxender & Associates) and other local municipalities to address the proposed Ohio American Water rate increases. Although, OAW has chosen not to pursue rate increases for the years 2011, 2012, and 2013; current rates are still an issue for many. This year the solid waste and recycling removal contract will expire and we have been working diligently to prepare for the bidding process. We thank those residents who participated in the online survey and value your input.

The Business Community Relations Board (BCR) has set clear goals for the upcoming year to include Emerald Ash Borer education programs, a school crosswalk, and increased communication. The Davis Cemetery Advisory Board will reconvene to address the development of a safe parking area and walkway for visitors leading into the site.

As always, we encourage you to submit suggestions and comments. Your feedback helps us address issues important to township residents and local business owners. Our regular meetings are typically held on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month (see schedule on page 1) and we invite you to attend.

CHIEF ZONING OFFICE'S REPORT

By Robin Fellure

During the next few months we will be busy following up on any open applications for permits obtained in 2009. If you applied for a permit and have completed the project but have not contacted us yet for the final inspection, please call Robin or John at 614-889-1211 so we may stop by, take a picture and complete the final inspection.

As a reminder, the township's zoning map and codes are easily accessible via the township's website: www.perrytwp.org. Just click on the zoning tab and then click on either the zoning code or district map (on the right).

Also, remember that if you need to meet with either John or me be sure to contact our office directly to set up an appointment.

Finally, according to the township's zoning code, trash cans are not supposed to be visible from the street. So try and keep them out of site.

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

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT

By Chief Robert Oppenheimer

Identity theft, you say, can't happen to you! Do you want to bet your money on that?

The risk of identity theft is fairly low, but the pain if you fall victim is quite high, so it is prudent to think of identity theft and fraud as an illness that you do not want to contract.

Identity theft "occurs when someone uses your personal identifying information - such as your name, social security or credit card number - without your permission, to commit fraud or other crimes."

You may find that you will need only to close a compromised account or freeze your credit if errors appear. But recovering from the effects of an extreme case of identity theft can be incredibly messy and time-consuming.

While financial institutions, health care companies and other organizations have taken steps to improve security measures in recent years, do not rely on them to protect you. Taking some common-sense steps now can help prevent major headaches later.

PREVENTION

The earlier you catch an error, the easier it is to resolve it:

- Review monthly statements from your checking, credit card, and other financial accounts

(Continued on page 6)

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

By Bryan Shonkwiler

Happy New Year!! Another year has come and gone. Once again, the Road Department was very busy in 2009.

At this time last year, we had responded to 15 snow/ice events. Once the weather warmed up, we began sealing the cracks on 17 of the Township's streets and collected over 240 cubic yards of wood chips during the spring brush chipping. We completed several storm sewer projects and repaired or replaced approximately 30 regulatory and street signs. The contracted road work was completed and we had a record season for leaf collection, picking up 4,584 cubic yards of leaves.

We are now prepared to battle the snow and ice for yet another season. We have road salt on hand and have secured a contract for plenty more. Our equipment has been 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 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.