

Apr / May / June 2010

Board of Trustees

James Roper
Chairman
Jroper@perrytpw.org

Chet Chaney
Vice Chairman
Cchaney@perrytpw.org

Andrew English
Aenglish@perrytpw.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.
April 12th & 19th
May 3rd & 17th
June 7th & 21st

**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

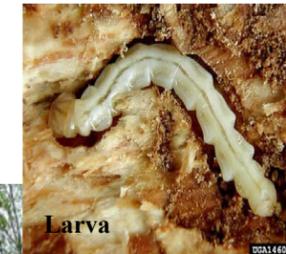
Check our website for
schedule changes

www.perrytpw.org

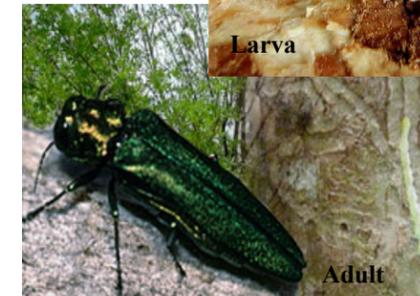
**EMERALD ASH BORER
DESCENDS ON TOWNSHIP**

The Emerald Ash Borer has affected numerous residents in the area. In the past, diseased trees were removed from the property and much of the surrounding area. The cost to remove and replace trees is often significant; however, there are now alternatives available.

Glenn Karr is currently the Chairman of the Perry Township Board of Zoning Appeals, Exterior Property Maintenance Board and a member of the Business Community Relations Board. He is also a Perry Township resident who has experienced first-hand the destructive nature of the Emerald Ash Borer.



Larva



Adult

On **May 11th**, an educational meeting will be held at the Worthington Hills Country Club at **7:00 p.m.** Glenn will be on hand to share his experiences and knowledge with township residents.

**LOCAL CIVIC
ASSOCIATIONS UNITE**

Civic associations are often considered to be the pulse of our community. Civics represent the interest of their residents and bring the community together through gatherings such as the Hog Roast hosted by Brookside residents and Worthington Hills' 4th of July event.

On **April 14, 2010**, the first Civic Association Summit will take place at the Worthington Hills Country Club at **7:00 p.m.** The group will use this time to share information and ideas for the betterment of our community.

A collaborative effort between the current civic associations and township resident, Helen Ware, to establish a civic association in the Henderson Heights area will be one of the topics to be discussed.

**BOARD OF
TRUSTEE
MEETING
DATE
CHANGED**

The first meeting of April will be held on April 12th due to schedule conflicts.

The public is invited to attend.

«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.perrytpw.org

April 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	

Trash & Yard Waste Pick-Up

May 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

Brush Chipping

June 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			

Trash Pick-Up Only

BRUSH CHIPPER MACHINE REGULATIONS

The Perry Township Road Department is providing a one-time spring clean up of tree trimmings from winter's pruning. The chipper machine will be scheduled throughout the Township during the week of **April 26th** through **May 3rd**, 2010.

The Road Department will bring the chipper machine through the Township and remove tree trimmings subject to the following established regulations:

- Tree trimmings only; **No Vines**. Trimmings, which include vines, will not be picked up.
- Trees and bushes with roots cannot go through the chipper machine. Roots must be removed and processed through other composting programs.
- No lumber, boards, wire or other debris.
- All trimmings must be piled next to the curb or at the end of the driveway. Township equipment and employees will not come on private property to remove trimmings.
- Trimmings should not be piled near parked cars, as they may scratch the cars. Trimmings deemed too close to parked cars **will not** be picked up.
- The machine will accept branches with a maximum diameter of 8 inches.
- Trimmings should be a **minimum** of 4 feet in length. There is no maximum length.
- **Trimmings less than 4 feet in length must be bundled or put in a container such as a trashcan or garbage bag.**
- Residents with excessive amounts of trimmings should make other arrangements.
- Township employees will not leave mulch at residences.

Any questions regarding the chipper service should be directed to the Road Department by calling **(614) 889-8781**.

TORNADO WARNING SAFETY TIPS

When the Emergency Warning System is activated, residents and business owners should find a safe place immediately:

- Put as many walls and floors as possible between you and the tornado. Take shelter underneath a sturdy bench, table or in a stairwell. Crouch down and place your head between your knees, using your arms to cover your head.
- If you are in a car, abandon it immediately and find a ditch to lie in. Most tornado deaths occur in cars.
- Go to the basement. If there is no basement, go to an interior room on the lowest floor, such as a bathroom or closet. If possible, cover yourself with a blanket or mattress to protect yourself from flying debris.
- Remember to stay away from exterior walls or glass-enclosed places and windows.

Sirens will stop when the weather warning has been cancelled.

PUBLIC RECORDS INFORMATION

Our offices are able to disseminate information quickly and efficiently via several mediums such as this newsletter, the township website, email, and E-Broadcasts.

During the 2008 windstorm and recent snow and ice events, residents were kept apprised of the road crew's progress. Worthington Hills residents have received routine updates on the proposed Ohio American Water rate increases. All worthwhile and helpful information.

Our community should keep in mind that information shared with township offices is more-often-than-not, a matter of public record.

According to the Ohio Revised Code; 149.43, a public record is a record kept by any public office and while there are exceptions - medical records, for instance - many of the records on file in our offices are available to the public upon request. This includes, but is not limited to, email addresses, names, and phone numbers.

ASSISTANCE FOR ELIGIBLE COLUMBIA GAS CUSTOMERS

When Ohio endures cold winter temperatures, customer service representatives at the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) hear from many consumers struggling to keep their heat on during a tough economy.

There is an additional source of assistance open to income-eligible Columbia Gas customers who have used the one-time payment of \$175 through the Winter Reconnection Program or otherwise exhausted their Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) funds.

Approximately \$1.9 million in emergency assistance funding remains available for families earning from 175 to 200 percent of federal poverty guidelines (from \$37,500 - \$42,400 annually for a family of four). The money became available last winter after the OCC and others negotiated an agreement with Columbia to use federally awarded interstate pipeline refunds.

The funds are administered by local community action agencies which accept applications and determine eligibility. Customers must provide a pay stub or a W-2 to demonstrate their income level. They may be able to secure up to \$250 in additional assistance, payable once within a 12-month period. The program remains in effect as long as funds are available.

Go to the Ohio Department of Development for information related to solar water heating grants:
www.odod.state.oh.us

CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS

Brookside
President: Tom Francis
www.brookside-estates.us
(614) 659-9324

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

ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT (continued)

2. Take the time to get references. Neighbors, a friend, the Better Business Bureau, and Angie's List are all great sources for references. Driving down the street to see a potential contractor's previous work is an excellent way to determine the quality of work you can expect.

3. Pick a reputable contractor who is and can show proof that they have or currently are: Licensed; Bonded; Insured; General Liability and Fleet Insurance; Workers Compensation; Unemployment Insurance; Payroll Taxes...and so on.

4. Have a signed contract that details exactly what the contractor is going to do for you and how much this will cost. Most contracts will include any warranty issues. Know exactly what your hard earned dollars are buying.

NOTICE

Zoning officers are often off-site inspecting township properties. Therefore, we highly recommend that residents, contractors, and business owners schedule an appointment by calling **(614) 889-1211**.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Civic Association Summit
April 14th @ 7:00 p.m.
Worthington Hill's County Club

Brookside Community Garage Sale & plant sale
April 24th.

Emerald Ash Borer Workshop
May 11th @ 7:00 p.m.
Worthington Hill's County Club

Go to our website
www.perrytwp.org for updates on community events.



CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT (continued)

Below are preventative measures you can take as well as helpful websites that provide additional suggestions for keeping your children safe:

- Always ask your parents' permission before using your full name, address, telephone number or school name anywhere on the Internet.
- Always tell your parents or guardian if you see something online that you know is wrong or that makes you feel uncomfortable.
- Don't respond to messages that make you feel uncomfortable or uneasy.
- Never give out a credit card number or password online.
- Never send out your picture without your parents' permission.
- Be careful when someone offers you something for nothing, such as gifts or money.
- Don't ever accept a gift or an offer that involves having someone visit your house.
- Never arrange to meet someone you've met online in person unless you discuss it with your parents and an adult goes with you.
- Talk to your parents to set up rules for going online. Decide with them the best time of day to be online, the length of time to be online and appropriate areas to visit.
- Get to know your "online friends" just as you get to know all of your other friends. Be sure that you are dealing with someone that you and your parents know and trust before giving out any personal information about yourself via email.

A Parent's Guide to Internet Safety

www.fbi.gov/publications/pguide/pguidee.htm

COMING SOON:

Watch for door-to-door sales policy and safety information to be posted on the township website under the Police tab.

DON'T FORGET YOUR PERMIT!

The cost is \$3.00. The permit can be downloaded via the www.perrytpw.org website, click on the zoning tab, forms.



BROOKSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

We are beginning to get ready for our spring plantings in the Brookside School Community Vegetable Garden! Classrooms will be sprouting our crops in the classroom and then transferring them into the garden in mid-May. Would you like to help? If so, please contact either Mr. Monroe or Mrs. King at school, 883-2750. You may also email Mr. Monroe at fmonroe@worthington.k12.oh.us and Mrs. King at jking@worthington.k12.oh.us. Our summer plans for the garden are also developing. Please email Mrs. Koralleen Stavish at koralleen@gmail.com if you like to help maintain the garden this summer.



Our 5th and 6th graders performed a Musical Review of "School House Rock" and "High School Musical" on March 25 and 26.

Phase 2 of the new playground equipment will be installed during the month of April. We thank our volunteers and contributors for their continued support.

Have you heard about our Open School Nights on Wednesdays? Each Wednesday night from 6:00-8:00, the school was open for computer and library use. Families were able to come to the school and log on with our "training" log ons and use the Internet right here at school! The program was a huge success! We thank everyone for participating.

Have a wonderful spring and please stop by to enjoy your school grounds!

Fritz Monroe
Principal



Waste Management Yard Waste Collection Begins April 9th

Place your yard waste in containers clearly marked "Yard Waste." Containers should be set on the opposite side of your driveway, away from your trash tote.

Questions? Contact Waste Management Customer Service: (614) 833-9111

OCC: PREVENTING UTILITY DISCONNECTS *By Paul E. Kostyu*

State law prevents utilities from disconnecting a consumer's gas and electric services for nonpayment if the disconnection would be especially dangerous or life threatening to the consumer and the consumer has a medical certification on file with the utility company.

Medical certifications can be used to prevent a utility disconnection up to three times during a 12-month period or to reconnect service if the customer already has been disconnected no more than 21 days. Certification forms must be completed for each case of disconnection or reconnection. Certifications are valid for 30 days and are available from the utility or a public health facility. The certification must be signed by a licensed physician, physician assistant, clinical nurse specialist, certified nurse practitioner, certified nurse-midwife or a local board of health physician.

"Determining a medical certification condition lies exclusively with the medical professional, not the utility or the OCC," said Maria Durban, Customer Service Manager for the Office of the Consumers' Counsel (OCC). "This determination is made by the doctor consulting with the patient."

Regardless of the medical condition that may exist, consumers can contact the OCC's Consumer Services Division with questions or concerns about the process of obtaining a medical certification (1-877-742-5622).

"Our representatives can address individual inquiries about how to initiate and renew medical certification options," Durban said. "We can assist consumers in making sure services remain connected or restored in a timely fashion."

Medical certifications can postpone a disconnection, but they do not absolve a customer of the obligation to pay the amount due for gas or electric services.

"Sometimes, additional payment arrangements are needed," Durban said. "The OCC can help establish payment arrangements between the consumer and the company."

OCC, medical and utility professionals agree that planning ahead and communicating special needs are key.

OCC: PREVENTING UTILITY DISCONNECTS (continued)

"If you have a health condition that would be affected by a shut off of utilities, make sure you take the time to communicate openly and honestly with your physician to ensure your health is not adversely affected" said Jason Korna, a spokesperson for the Ohio State medical Associations.

Consumers with a medical condition who also are experiencing difficulty paying their utility bills have options available to them other than a medical certification.

"Someone who has a more extended problem with paying should use an extended payment plan, PIPP (Percentage of Income Payment Plan) or one of the other programs," said Trisha Ingraham of FirstEnergy, adding that a medical certification should be reserved for a short-term medical need. "We tell people having trouble that they should call us and we will work with them."

Vikki Michalski of American Electric Power agreed. "People shouldn't wait if they have a problem paying," she said. "Let us know immediately." AEP provides a consumer handbook on its Web site with information about medical certifications (www.AEP.com).

Duke Energy has a special toll-free number people with life threatening medical conditions should call to use the certification process (**1-800-648-7777**). Johnna Reeder of Duke Energy encouraged consumers with medical conditions also to plan ahead, consider applying for a longer-term payment plan if they qualify and not use a medical certification simply because they have fallen behind in their bills.

Medical issues also come into play when there is a general power outage. Electric companies take certain factors into consideration when restoring power during an outage. In some cases, electric companies can give preference to individuals who rely on life support devices, such as respirators, ventilators or other medical equipment. Consumers who rely on such devices should let electric companies know of their circumstance before an outage occurs. There is no guarantee; however, these customers will receive power immediately so they should always have a backup plan in place.

ELECTED OFFICIAL'S REPORT

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

The 5-year solid waste and recycling contract with Waste Management will expire at the end of June 2010. Last year the Board of Trustees initiated the process of developing new bid specifications by distributing a community survey. On March 8th the sealed bids from several waste haulers were received, opened, and read in a public forum. Four companies are being considered: Republic, Rumpke, Waste Management, and Local Waste Service. Over the next few weeks, the Board of Trustees will review and consider each proposal carefully before making a final decision.

A decision in the Ohio American Water rate case (Worthington Hills area) is anticipated later this week. On March 17th, final reply briefs were filed by the PUCO, Consumers' Counsel, and OAW in response to the initial staff report. The determination is now back in the hands of the PUCO staff. The final order must then be approved by the 5 PUCO Commissioners. Go to PUCO.com for updated information.

Because of schedule conflicts, the first meeting of April will be held on Monday, April 12th at 7:00 p.m. The Business of Community Relations Board will reconvene this month to continue discussions related to a proposed school crosswalk in the area of Bridewater and Snouffer. An informational meeting has also been scheduled for May 11th at the Worthington Hills Country Club to discuss the Emerald Ash Borer issue. The Davis Cemetery Advisory Board continues its efforts to develop a safe parking area and walkway for visitors.

Please remember to check our website - www.perrytownship.org - for updates and other important information.

CHIEF ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT

By Robin Fellure

The weather is getting nicer, the snow drifts are gone, and it's almost time to start sprucing up your yard and home.

One of the biggest eyesores for many residents are trashcans. Remember, trash should always be placed in appropriate containers and stored in an area that is not visible from the property line.

Zoning permits are often required for bigger projects such as driveway repairs (excluding resealing), fences, and patios. Several of these permits can be downloaded via www.perrytwp.org by clicking on the Zoning tab.

Please make sure your home has clearly visible house numbers located on the primary structure that are at least 4" in height and can be seen from the street right of way. This is very important so that public safety vehicles can locate the dwelling in case of an emergency.

While many families take care of spring cleanup projects, there may be jobs that require the expertise of a contractor. Perry Township resident, David DePaso, an owner of a local paving company offers the following advice when choosing a contractor:

1. Take the time to get competitive proposals from reputable contractors that comply with Township Zoning Codes. Stay away from companies that engage in door to door solicitation. If the contractors you are talking with and considering do not know the Perry Township Zoning Codes, chances are good they are not going to comply with them.

Continued on page 7

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT

By Chief Robert Oppenheimer

So, you think that this could not happen to your child?

Before coming to Perry Township as Chief, I was the Detective Bureau Lieutenant in Worthington. One morning, I received a phone call from the communication center informing me of a long distance phone call from a young man in Denver, Colorado who had been chatting on-line with a 13 year old girl from Worthington. The caller stated that the girl told him she had met a 19 year old on line and she had no school that day, was planning to meet the man at a local business in Worthington. The caller did not have her address, just her name. The police, quickly determining where she lived, arrived at her residence to inform the parents of the potentially dangerous situation. The parents, stunned and horrified, were convinced "it could not be our daughter".

Talking with the 13 year old honor roll student, the detectives asked to view the emails allegedly sent by the 19 year old. The parents were in utter disbelief that their daughter was corresponding with and planning to meet this individual. Agreeing to wear a body wire, the girl kept her date with her on-line suitor. He did arrive, significantly older than 19 and having traveled more than 150 miles, only to be welcomed by Worthington police who arrested him on the spot. Based on the drugs, alcohol, and other items found in his car, his intentions were far from honorable. Charged and convicted, the offender is now serving a lengthy prison sentence.

This girl could be anyone's daughter, even yours. Therefore, it is important for parents to be vigilant and take precautions to prevent their children from interactions with predators that roam the chat rooms.

Continued on page 6

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

By Bryan Shonkwiler

What a Winter!!! The Perry Township Road Department responded to 28 snow and ice events this season (as of 3/5/10). There were three significant snow events in February which led to a record breaking 30.5 inches for the month and required 160 man hours of overtime to remove from the roads. As you can imagine, we are eager to get out of the snow and into the sun.

We will continue crack sealing along with other street maintenance projects. Spring brush chipping is scheduled from **April 26th** to **May 3rd**. Branches should be 8 inches in diameter or less and more than 4 feet long and placed at the edge of your yard near the street. We will come by and chip them up and haul the chips to a recycling facility. Branches and twigs smaller than 4' x 8" should be bundled or put in containers for Waste Management on "Yard Waste" days which begins on Friday, April 9th. Complete brush chipping regulations can be found in this newsletter and on our website by clicking on the "Road" tab.

Here's a few interesting facts I gathered while completing the annual SWACO report: During 2009, 1,969.8 tons of trash, 285.6 tons of recyclables, and 209.8 tons of yard waste was collected throughout the township.

As our crew continues to care for the township's 16.20 miles of roadways, here's hoping that everyone has a great Spring.

If you have any questions or comments, don't hesitate to call. The direct dial for the Road Department is **(614) 889-8781**.