



WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

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FOR RESIDENTS OF WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP AND CENTERVILLE

FEATURED STORY

STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP

PG. 2

PLUS

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CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON
HISTORY

5 WOODLAND LIGHTS
SHINES ON

7 RECPLEX SUMMER
CAMP 2024

MEET
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COMMUNITY
FOCUS

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CEMETERY
EXPANDS
OPTIONS

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2023 STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP

On a day-to-day basis, local governments deal with many services that, although critically important, might seem routine. Residents expect their streets to be plowed when it snows, for paramedics to arrive promptly when they are ill, and for the police to fully investigate their complaints.

Good local governments do all of this well. An excellent local government does the same, with an eye to the future and a broad view of where its community is heading.

Each year, Washington Township takes the opportunity to share with our residents the successes of the previous year and the projects and initiatives we have in store for the community in the coming year. It's a chance for us to look at how far we have come and what we have accomplished.

In 2023, Washington Township joined a growing number of communities throughout the state in **establishing an electric aggregation program for residents**. The Township locked in a rate considerably lower than the standard rate offered by AES, offering some financial relief to residents who chose to take advantage of the program.

Washington Township has always been proud of its strong fiscal transparency and responsibility.



As we step into a new year and begin tackling new capital improvement projects, we continue to be prudent with our resources, financing all projects debt free by utilizing cash reserves and grant funding opportunities. It's just one more way that we continue to be excellent stewards of taxpayer money.

One of these capital improvement projects is the Countryside Park Master Plan. With residents voting in favor of the replacement recreation services levy this year, we have approved a long-range plan that will bring much needed improvements to the park including permanent bathrooms, revitalized ponds, better traffic flow, and new picnic shelters. This investment represents a concerted effort by the Township to continue taking care of Tom Stolz's gift to the community so that his generosity can be enjoyed by generations to come.

Washington Township's population continues to grow, and with that population growth comes housing needs. In 2023, multiple residential developments were approved, and we heard from our residents throughout the year, both in opposition and in support of these various developments. We encourage this thoughtful dialogue, and we take all public feedback into consideration when making important decisions that impact the future of the Township. Our plan is that this measured and steady growth will result in more families finding their forever home here in our community while continuing to build those strong connections that inspire a sense of belonging.

As we mentioned earlier, many of the services the Township provides can seem mundane and routine. However, these services are the backbone of local government and in Washington Township, we value the pursuit of excellence in all its forms. Nowhere is this more evident than with our Public Works Department. Often working behind-the-scenes, in unfavorable weather and difficult conditions, crews work hard to keep roadways safe, infrastructure updated, cemeteries maintained, and much more. In 2023 alone, **48 streets were included in the Township's annual Street Improvement Program**, which includes curb and sidewalk repair, asphalt milling and paving. There is an in-depth analysis done to determine which streets to include in the annual program. This is called a Pavement Condition Index and the information it provides helps the department forecast future infrastructure projects. This type of thoughtful and practical governance is an example of public service excellence, and we are proud of the services that our Public Works Department provides to residents.

That pursuit of excellence continued with our **Fire Department as they earned re-accreditation through the Commission on Fire Accreditation International for the fourth time**. The accreditation process is not an easy one and includes rigorous submission requirements, a site visit, and a hearing in front of the commissioners. We believe it's worth it though, as accreditation represents a sustained standard of excellence and encourages our department to raise our standards of safety, service, and effectiveness. It demonstrates our commitment to providing the highest quality of service to our community.

In September, we proudly dedicated the new Fire Station 41 on East Franklin Street and said our goodbyes to the former Station 41 on Maple Avenue. And lastly, we wished Chief Scott Kujawa all the best as he retired from the Township, and we warmly welcomed Chief Nick Bergman as the department's new Fire Chief. Chief Kujawa served the Washington Township community for 31 years and we are incredibly grateful for his leadership.

Our Recreation Department is continuously building strong community connections by investing in initiatives, events, and activities that improve our quality of life and inspire a sense of belonging. The community voiced their support of the department in May with the **passage of a replacement levy for recreation services**. The additional revenue will be used to fund infrastructure repairs as well as improvements to Countryside Park. Asking for a levy increase is not something we take lightly. A great deal of planning, budgeting, and cost analysis goes into the decision and the final approval ultimately rests with the voters. We always operate with the residents' best interests in mind, and we are grateful for your support.



Photo: RecPlex team celebrates renovated fitness center opening

After years of planning and preparation, the newly expanded and renovated fitness center and lobby at the RecPlex are nearing completion. New windows have been installed in the fitness center so that members can enjoy a view of Countryside Park while they work out. The next project to be undertaken is the renovation of the women's locker room, which we know is something that our members have been looking forward to for quite some time.

One of Washington Township's core values is our commitment to keeping residents and businesses safe and secure. We invest in people and initiatives that keep our community safe from harm, which is why our continued partnership with Montgomery County Sheriff's Office is such a valuable asset to the Township. Through both our school resource officer program and our community-oriented policing outreach, deputies have been able to stay connected with neighborhoods and businesses. In 2023, we added a third school resource officer as we continue to build upon our commitment to keeping our schools safe. In August, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office celebrated National Night Out with a community block party here in the Township. While National Night Out is something the Sheriff's Office recognizes every year, it was the first time we hosted our own event, and it is a tradition we look forward to continuing in the future. This year, the Sheriff's Office partnered again with the Fire Department and Recreation Department to hold the third annual Cruise-In to the Ice Cream Social at the RecPlex. The event drew a record number of attendees this year and we were blessed with beautiful weather and a fun and memorable day. Thank you to all our local business owners who showed their support through sponsorships and donations. We wouldn't be able to offer this community event without your generosity.

With a new year comes new leadership and we are pleased to welcome Brian Lunne to the Board as he has been elected to fill the seat vacated by Dale Berry's retirement. Brian comes to us with many years of experience as a business owner and an incredibly active community volunteer, including serving on the Township's Zoning Commission for the past several years. We look forward to his insight and guidance as he joins Trustees Paulson and Lowry.

As always, and most importantly, thank you to our residents. Above all else, our mission remains to provide for and promote the general health, safety, and welfare of township residents and employees as we create an environment focused on building for the future. **We are honored to serve you in this capacity and sincerely thank you for joining together to build the community that we all enjoy.**



MCSO: Community Focused and Service Oriented

Montgomery County Sheriff deputies assigned to the Washington Township substation serve residents in a variety of ways. While keeping people safe is the number one priority, deputies are also a resource for home security audits, vacation house checks, medication disposal, business security checks, and more.

Home Security Audits: A deputy will meet residents at their property to conduct a comprehensive review of interior and exterior factors and then offer advice on how to improve the security of their home.

Vacation House Checks: Planning a vacation? Contact the Township prior to your trip and a deputy will conduct an exterior house check once a day while you are away. This may include a walk around the house, testing windows and doors and looking for signs of change.

Medication Disposal: Unused or expired medications can be safely disposed of at a secure drop-off box in the lobby of the Washington Township Government Center, 8200 McEwen Rd.

Education Opportunities: Education is the first step toward preventing crime. In addition to the school resource officers who are in every school in Washington Township, deputies are also available to speak to community, church, or business groups on a variety of topics.

“Community engagement is at the heart of everything we do. From crime prevention, robbery, theft, and property crimes, to hosting events and giving safety presentations to students,” says Mike Brem, Washington Township Police Director. “The relationships we build with the community are what make us strong against crime and help assist with crime prevention.”

Neighborhood Watch: These groups offer residents the opportunity to work with law enforcement to prevent crime. Neighborhood Watch Groups typically meet monthly or bimonthly and deputies are available to attend meetings where they can offer updates on neighborhood crime, explain services, or provide crime prevention information.

Community Oriented Policing: The Washington Township substation makes Community Oriented Policing a priority, with numerous community events where deputies and residents can connect.

“Community engagement is at the heart of everything we do... The relationships we build with the community are what make us strong against crime and help assist with crime prevention.”

MIKE BREM

Washington Township Police Director

Business Watch & Security: Reaching out to Township businesses with crime prevention information and scheduled visits helps build working relationships so that businesses and deputies can work together to combat crime.

Contracting police services with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office offers the quality and efficiency of a large department with the advantage of local control. This arrangement also provides significant economic advantages. Washington Township residents pay less for police protection than many other localities and, in return for their investment, receive a variety of support services that smaller departments frequently cannot afford. These include:

- SWAT Team
- Full-time Training Staff & Training Facility
- Traffic Reconstruction
- Victim Advocate
- Hostage Negotiating Team
- Federal, State and Local Task Force participation
- Canine Services
- Evidence Technician
- Montgomery County Drug Free Coalition
- Mental Health & Drug Recovery Options

For residents interested in learning more about any of the services provided by the Washington Township substation, Deputy Bill Jones, Community Oriented Policing Officer, welcomes calls at 937-432-2771.



COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Meet Brian Lunne

Washington Township is pleased to welcome Brian Lunne to the Board of Trustees as he was elected by residents to fill the vacancy created by Dale Berry's retirement.

Mr. Lunne has served on the Township's Zoning Commission since 2019 where he has had the opportunity to become involved in development decisions, meet with residents and business owners, and work with Township staff. Having over 30 years as a business owner and community volunteer, Mr. Lunne looks forward to using his expertise to serve residents and help guide the future of Washington Township.



OPPORTUNITY

VOLUNTEER WITH CENTERVILLE-WASHINGTON HISTORY

Do you love local history? Centerville-Washington History is looking for volunteers who are interested in contributing in a variety of ways including special events, tour guides of the historic buildings, speakers, and more. Visit centervillewashingtonhistory.org/volunteer to get connected.



FEATURED

Woodland Lights Shines On

The joy of Woodland Lights would not be possible without the support of our community, from the thousands of visitors who walk our illuminated pathways to the sponsors who generously help fund the event with cash and in-kind contributions.

In 2023, eight top-tier sponsors went above and beyond to help make this beloved holiday tradition special for everyone. These top sponsors were joined by twenty-one other community-minded organizations, and we are grateful to each one. To view the complete list of Woodland Lights sponsors, please visit www.woodlandlights.org



PLATINUM \$5,000 +



SPONSORED BY
VOSS CHEVROLET
AND YOUR
MIAMI VALLEY CHEVY DEALERS

GOLD \$2,500 +



COMMUNITY

Centerville-Washington Township Cemetery Expands Options

Responding to an increasing interest from residents, Washington Township is pleased to announce that the Centerville-Washington Township Cemetery has expanded its inurnment options with the addition of a new columbarium. The Township Cemetery, located at 68 Maple Ave., is the only active Washington Township burial ground, with more than 2,300 gravesites on ten acres. "We have heard from so many families who want their final resting place to be at the Township Cemetery," said Public Works Director, Tim Franck. "But there simply isn't much acreage remaining for burial sites or development, so we started to look for other ways to accommodate residents and their families.

We are pleased to now have a solution in the form of a 24-niche columbarium as a place to hold urns and memorialize loved ones," said Franck. A columbarium offers an alternative to scattering ashes and provides a final resting place in which to visit and pay respects. To view pricing visit www.washingtontwp.org/cemeteries. To set up an appointment with the Cemetery office, please call 937-433-0150.



RECREATION

Bollywood Gala

The annual Bollywood Gala, scheduled for Sunday, March 3, from 3-6p at RecPlex West, honors the life of Yukta Garg who was tragically killed in a car crash as she was leaving the recreation center after a day of summer camp.

Organized by her parents, Hemant and Arti Garg, the free gala features Hindi dance, music and refreshments in a heartwarming and uplifting atmosphere. Proceeds from the event support the Yukta Garg Memorial Foundation that funds recreational programs for children.

Since the first Bollywood in 2007, RecPlex has been awarded Foundation funds for two outdoor playgrounds in Countryside Park, an indoor playhouse at RecPlex East and a pool water feature. At this year's Gala, the Foundation will present a check for \$10,000 toward the Countryside Park master plan; specifically, to fund a portion of the planned Mindfulness Trail. Foundation grants to date total \$80,000.

Donations to the Foundation will be accepted at the gala. Opportunities to sponsor the event are available on the foundation's website: www.ygmf.org.



Summer Camp 2024

Registration for summer camp begins March 1 for residents of Washington Township and Centerville. Children have many camp options to consider, including staying onsite for swimming, kayaking, rock climbing and park play to going offsite on daily educational and recreational field trips. There are also specialty camps that cultivate creativity and imagination in art and theater or sports and competitive play. Whatever your child's interest, we have a camp for them!

Camps fill up quickly so to make sure you don't end up on the waitlist, register early at www.washingtontwp.org/camp.



Family Adventure Day

Mark your calendars for the annual RecPlex Family Adventure Day, happening on Saturday, April 27 from 11a to 4p. This family-friendly event returns for its seventh year and has something for everyone including swimming, kayaking, rock climbing, archery, an obstacle course, and much more. Food trucks will be on hand to fuel your adventures.

For details and to purchase tickets in advance, visit www.washingtontwp.org/adventure



SPRING 2024

SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION

March 1 for Washington Township & Centerville residents

www.washingtontwp.org/camp

BOLLYWOOD GALA

March 3, 3-6p at the RecPlex West Auditorium, 965 Miamisburg-Centerville Rd.

TRUSTEE MEETINGS

Usual meeting times are 6:30p for the first meeting of the month and noon for the second meeting of the month, unless otherwise noted. Meetings are held at the Government Center, 8200 McEwen Rd.

March 4	March 18
April 1	April 15
May 6	May 20

SUPER SATURDAY

Two free services, document shredding and medication disposal, will be offered to residents at 8190 McEwen Rd.

April 27, 10a – 1p

FAMILY ADVENTURE DAY

Full details and tickets can be found at www.washingtontwp.org/adventure

April 27, 11a – 4p

BLOOD DRIVE

Blood drives take place at Fire Headquarters, 8320 McEwen Rd. Visit our website to make an appointment.

March 14, 1-7p

May 9, 1-7p



PUBLIC SAFETY

Be Prepared for Severe Weather

Are you and your family prepared for tornado season? Washington Township encourages residents to familiarize themselves with the Resolve to Be Ready Campaign, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The program includes simple but effective steps that families can take to prepare for and respond to a range of emergencies, including natural disasters.

In the event of an emergency, Washington Township may use a variety of information outlets to communicate to residents including CodeRED, an alert system that relays information to residents by phone.

Easily register by texting
"WASHINGTONTWP" to
99411 or by scanning
the QR code.



OUR MISSION

- Provide for and promote the general health, safety and welfare of township residents and employees
- Create an environment focused on building for the future

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

8200 MCEWEN ROAD,
WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP, OHIO 45458

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