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FALL 2026

Your Community News

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VILLAGE OF CLINTON

A Message from Mayor William (Bud) McDaniel



With the fall season upon us and the days getting shorter, we still have a few events in Clinton. October 31st is our annual Halloween Trick-or-Treating between 6 and 8 PM. I will be at the Village Hall that evening handing out candy. Perhaps a few other council people will join me. Be sure to stop by for your tasty treat. Also, keep an eye out for the winter events at the Harter house located across the street.

channel. Not only is this easier for us to do the broadcast, it allows more flexibility to the viewer as we can store more meetings on that platform and you don't need a subscription to tune in. YouTube is also available on most, if not all, smart TVs. We still prefer that you join us in person so we get a chance to meet everyone. If you can't make it, we understand, as most of us live busy, productive lives. Hope your winter is enjoyable.

Thank you,
Mayor Bud McDaniel • 330-312-1070

We are also expecting fiber to the home this fall. Although the work has not started as of this writing, there are motions in progress to get started. You may have already received a flyer in the mail from T-Mobile to sign up. They are taking the pre-orders online at this time. Currently, the rates are much lower than most of us are probably paying now. However, if you decide to stay with your current provider, I expect the competition to bring their prices down.

I don't expect to see heavy snow through December, but if there is, you know that Kevin will be out there plowing and keeping our roads safe to drive for our morning commute. We had some heavy, surprise snowstorms last winter that dumped on us earlier than expected or came in droves throughout the night that it was hard to keep up with. This is not normal, but can happen. For those of you who remember the blizzard of '78, we know what Ohio can bring. Let's hope that we have a mild winter this year.

One last thing, for those of you who would like to stay more informed as to what is happening in our town, we are now broadcasting on our own YouTube



7871 Main Street Clinton, OH 44216
330-882-4782 • www.clintonoh.gov

Office Hours:
Tues., Thur., Fri. 9 AM - 1 PM

Mayor: Bud McDaniel, mayor@clintonoh.gov

Council Meetings: 1st and 3rd Tuesday, Monthly 7:00 PM

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Lessons in Teamwork: Behind the scenes, working with volunteers, community partners, businesses and administration

Alyssa Bettis, *Economic Development Director*

With fall upon us, Canal Fulton's greatest strengths aren't measured in budgets, buildings or statistics. They're found in the people, businesses and organizations willing to invest their time, energy and resources into this community.

Economic development is about much more than attracting the next business to town. It's about taking care of the ones already here, building relationships, pursuing investment, finding resources, solving problems and occasionally figuring out how to turn a really good idea into reality with a small-city budget.

And if there's one thing I've learned working in small government, it's that titles rarely tell the whole story. My own title has changed a few times since I joined the City, but the responsibilities have mostly accumulated rather than disappeared. Today, I serve as Economic Development Director and Clerk of Council while continuing the responsibilities I held as Assistant to the City Manager. I wear several hats sometimes all before lunch - although I've learned it's usually easier to just keep them all within reach.

Those roles give me an interesting view of how much goes into keeping a small city moving. Economic development doesn't exist in a vacuum. It intersects

with infrastructure, planning, legislation, businesses, community organizations, grants, marketing, events and, most importantly, people. Some of the most important work isn't particularly glamorous. There aren't ribbon cuttings for emails answered, problems solved, relationships maintained, grants researched or the countless small things handled before they ever become big things.



That's perfectly fine with me. Public service shouldn't be measured by who gets the credit. It should be measured by whether the work gets done. And

fortunately, I work in a community filled with people who understand that.

Our businesses invest here, sponsor events, support our schools and nonprofits and continually answer the call when our community needs them. Volunteers and civic organizations give countless hours simply because they care about Canal Fulton. And our City employees perform an enormous amount of work residents may never see because when government is working well, much of the work happens long before anyone has to ask about it.

As we begin looking toward 2027, there will certainly be challenges and difficult decisions. There always are, but I've found that communities rarely move forward by spending all their time deciding what they can do without. Progress usually starts by recognizing what they already have and figuring out how to build upon it.

For me, that means continuing to advocate for our businesses, pursue opportunities, strengthen partnerships, find creative solutions and occasionally wear an unreasonable number of hats. **Canal Fulton is worth the effort, and I'm proud to do the work.**

The Unofficial Mayor Of Locust Street

Alyssa Bettis, Economic Development Director

Anyone who traveled Locust Street during this year's construction project probably became familiar with a few things: Orange barrels, changing traffic patterns, a little extra patience and... the wave.

One of the traffic flaggers working the project quickly became a familiar face. Every time I drove through, there was a smile and a wave and I assumed he recognized me. Then I came across a post in the Voice of Canal Fulton from his wife, Melissa Anderson, and started reading the comments. That's when I discovered something - apparently, everyone thought he recognized them.



Comment after comment came from residents who looked forward to seeing him and said his smile and wave made their day. Somewhere along the way, a traffic flagger had developed quite the constituency. No campaign signs or speeches - just a wave and an apparently impressive approval rating.

And while we thought he was making our days better, Melissa revealed that Canal Fulton was doing the same for him. She thanked residents for the smiles, hellos, cold drinks, coffee, popsicles and kindness they showed her husband, adding, "I have never seen a community treat him so well as you do during one of his jobs."

While residents were driving away thinking, that guy just made my day, he was apparently going home feeling the same way about us. That's Canal Fulton at its best.

We often talk about making an impact as though it has to be something big enough to measure, but impact isn't always something you have to announce. Usually, other people will tell you when you've made one, and judging by those Facebook comments, the people of Canal Fulton have spoken.

Sometimes making a difference is considerably less complicated than we make it. The Locust Street project will eventually end. The equipment and orange barrels will disappear, and most of us will be very happy to see them go. But, there is one part of construction Canal Fulton might actually miss: The Unofficial Mayor of Locust Street.

One smile. One wave. A whole lot of better days.

BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT



Buck Chevrolet

There are businesses located in a community, and then there are businesses that become part of the community. Buck Chevrolet has certainly earned a place in the second category.

Located right here on South Canal Street, Buck Chevrolet has been a familiar name in Canal Fulton for years. But what makes a local business valuable isn't simply the address on the building - it's what that business does with its place in the community. Over the years, the Buck Chevrolet name has appeared alongside countless community efforts, events and organizations. Most recently, Buck Chevrolet stepped forward with a \$2,000 sponsorship of our Summer Concert Series, helping provide free entertainment for residents and visitors throughout the summer.

They have also supported the Mayor's Cup Golf Outing, an event that brings local businesses and community members together while raising money for scholarships benefiting graduating Northwest High School seniors.

Whether the need is sponsorship dollars, support for an event, a community fundraiser or simply a local business willing to say, "How can we help?" Buck Chevrolet has repeatedly answered the call.

As Economic Development Director, one of my favorite parts of the job is building relationships with businesses that understand economic development is a two-way street. We want our community to support our local businesses but we are incredibly fortunate to have businesses that are just as committed to supporting the community in return. Buck Chevrolet is a great example of exactly that.

To Dan Buck and the entire Buck Chevrolet team: thank you for continuing to show up, step up and invest in Canal Fulton.



FROM THE DESK OF **MAYOR JOSEPH SCHULTZ**

Dear Community, Thank you for your patience, cooperation and understanding throughout this spring and summer time of waterline replacement, curb, gutter and sidewalk installation, chip and sealing of some streets, repaving of one mile of Locust Street, and last but not least the repair and repaving of the Denshire neighborhood streets. Locust Street typically sees between 11,000 and 13,000 cars and trucks per day. I am so very grateful for the citizens along Locust Street who have so kind to the contracting crews of Wenger Construction. The sidewalk that will connect our historic downtown with what I call the commercial district has been a dream and vision of past mayors

dating back to Gene Fellmeth and Dick McLaughlin. I am in my eleventh year of serving as your mayor and I can tell you that I can relate to these men who went before me. Like them, I came into office with many of the same dreams and visions as others before me. Seeing these dreams and visions completed inspires me every day. Those of you who know me personally, know that I give all of the glory to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who strengthens me for my short and long term challenges.

As we head into the 2027 budget, we will try to identify and address our most pressing concerns for aging infrastructure; water supply and treatment, waste and storm water treatment, deteriorating streets, the needs of police and EMS departments and constantly trying to right size city staffing to provide you with the best quality of life

possible. The attitude that I try to instill in our employees is that, we are here for them, they are not here for us. Fortunately for us, so many of you do show up and are here for us to make Canal Fulton a great place to live, work, worship, relax and play. Again, I want to thank the countless and selfless people who voluntarily serve to make Canal Fulton happen. These folks serve on numerous boards, commissions and organizations such as the Park Board, Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, Historic Preservation Commission, Chamber of Commerce, Historic Downtown Canal Fulton Businesses, Heritage Society, Schalmo Family YMCA, Northwest Senior Center Board, Bountiful Gifts, Lions Club and the Canal Fulton Rotary Club. Please forgive if I missed anyone. Your love and service to our community is a blessing to everyone who lives, works or visits Canal Fulton.

A Year of Community, Parks & Memories

Ava Meredith, Parks and Recreation Director

As I approach my one-year anniversary serving as our part-time Parks Director, I've found myself reflecting on just how much can happen in a year when a community comes together.

When I stepped into this role, one of my biggest goals was to help bring people together, create memorable experiences, and make our parks and community spaces places that everyone could enjoy. Looking back, I'm proud of what we've accomplished together and excited for what is still to come.

Over the past year, I had the opportunity to start a new event, the Canine Social, designed to bring our community together with our furry family members while also raising awareness and support for the Humane Society. It was a wonderful way to connect with fellow animal lovers while supporting an important cause in our community.

You may have also noticed the hanging baskets throughout downtown. Those were another project that was especially meaningful to me because I had the opportunity to plant them myself. Little details like these can make such a difference in creating a welcoming, beautiful atmosphere throughout our community.

We also helped bring Canal Days to life, celebrating our community and everything that makes it special. Another highlight was Echoes of Summer, where we welcomed six bands to our amphitheater for an evening filled with live music, food trucks, family, friends, and plenty of fun. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and donors, this event was completely free for the community to attend.

Events like these are reminders of what is possible when local businesses, organizations, volunteers, employees, and community members all work together. None of this would be possible without the support and generosity of those who believe in making our community a great place to live, work, and enjoy.

I also want to take a moment to recognize the incredible employees who help make all of this happen. Our team at the Canalway Center and the Parks Garage is a tremendous help throughout the year. From volunteering at events and helping everything run smoothly to mowing, landscaping, and maintaining the parks around town, they put in countless hours behind the scenes. Their hard work often goes unnoticed, but it makes a huge difference, and I am incredibly grateful for each of them.

There are still plenty of opportunities for our community to come together and make more memories. Mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

- Canal-O-Ween: October 10th
- Christmas on the Canal: December 5th
- Daddy Daughter Dance: February 6, 2027

I hope you'll join us for these events and everything else we have planned. Whether you come out with your family, your friends, your four-legged companions, or simply to enjoy what our community has to offer, there is something for everyone.

This past year has been filled with hard work, new ideas, great memories, and most importantly community.

Here's to another year of making our parks beautiful, creating fun experiences, and bringing our community together.



Historic Downtown Canal Fulton Business Association

2026 Events

MAY 16	MELTED ON THE CANAL
AUG 8	CREATE ON THE CANAL
OCT 10	FALL FESTIVAL Canal-o-Ween
DEC 5	12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS Christmas on the Canal

Follow us on Facebook!

HAT PRESENTS

CANAL-O-WEEN

10.10.26

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN CANAL FULTON

HATFIELD Fall Festival 4-7 PM

FREE FALL FAMILY FUN!
Costume Parade
Trunk-or-Treat
Inflatables | Games | Vendors
Tricks | Treats | Food Trucks
Sensory Zone
And More!

Halloween Parade

7 PM

Gather for a Spooky Procession down Canal Street from the YMCA through Historic Downtown Canal Fulton

CITY OF CANAL FULTON

Building A More Inclusive Canal Fulton

Alyssa Bettis, Economic Development Director

Some of the best ideas don't arrive fully formed. They start with a conversation. That conversation leads to an introduction. Someone else sees the potential and takes the next step, and before long, you've created something nobody necessarily set out to create in the first place.

That's pretty much the story behind the growing Inclusion Zone at our downtown events.

My connection with Ben Guiley actually started somewhere completely different. We met through conversations with our City Engineer surrounding ideas for a potential new park and splash pad. As I got to know Ben and learned more about his work, I discovered that his business model and future plans have a strong focus on autism and creating opportunities for individuals with different needs.

Immediately, I thought there might be a connection worth making, so I connected Ben with our Historic Downtown Canal Fulton Business Association (HDCFBA), and then something important happened – other people took it from there.



HDCFBA President Leslie Wyman toured Ben's warehouse, learned more about his work and began exploring how some of those ideas could fit into what we were already doing in Canal Fulton. That's one of my favorite things about working in a small community – you don't always need a perfectly polished idea to get something worthwhile started. Sometimes you just need to know two people who should know each other.

An Idea Takes Shape

The Inclusion Zone first took shape at Melted on

the Canal, where the idea of creating a more inclusive experience became part of one of our downtown events. It was a start, then Ben saw what it could become.



For Create on the Canal, Ben worked alongside TARRAH's Torch Foundation and the Autism Society to expand the concept into a much larger Inclusion Zone and Sensory Area. With Buck Chevrolet generously donating the use of its pad space and cleaning and preparing the area for us beforehand, we had room to grow the idea. And grow it did.

The goal wasn't simply to create a "quiet area." It was to create another way to experience the event – a welcoming space designed with different sensory needs, abilities and ways of participating in mind.

Because inclusion doesn't mean separating people from everything happening around them – it means finding more ways to bring people into it. That experience gave us an even bigger idea: Why should this only happen once?

Building Something That Can Grow With Us

Now Ben is taking the concept another step further by working on a more permanent, reusable sensory structure that can become part of community events throughout the year.

Rather than rebuilding the idea from scratch every time, the goal is to create something recognizable and adaptable, something we can continue improving as we learn what works and what families would like to see next.

That's exciting, because for many of us, attending a festival is simple. We show up, wander around, listen to music, grab some food and see where the day takes us.

But people experience the exact same environment very differently. Music, crowds, lights, smells, textures, movement and activities can be exciting, distracting, overwhelming, fascinating or several of those things at once. Creating an inclusive event isn't about making everyone experience it the same way, it's about recognizing that they don't.

Coming Up: Canal-o-Ween

We'll have another opportunity to build on the idea at Canal-o-Ween, formerly known as Hatfield Fall Fest. Canal-o-Ween already brings plenty of personality of its own – costumes, Halloween activities, local businesses, families and enough candy to make parents question some of their decisions later that evening.

This year, we're excited to continue developing the Inclusion Zone as part of that experience. And that's an important distinction because we don't want the Inclusion Zone to feel like something happening outside the event – we want it to be part of the event.

And Then: Christmas on the Canal

Before we know it, pumpkins will be replaced by Christmas lights and we'll be preparing for Christmas on the Canal. Christmas brings lights, music, activities, decorations, Santa, families and plenty happening throughout downtown.

That's What Connections Can Do

When I first met Ben through a conversation about a park, splash pad, and a business none of us were discussing sensory spaces at downtown festivals. There wasn't a plan for any of this – there was simply a connection. That connection led to an introduction, which led HDCFBA President Leslie Wyman to Ben's warehouse.

That visit led to more conversations, which became an idea. The idea found its first home at Melted on the Canal and Ben expanded it at Create on the Canal. And now he's building something that can continue growing at Canal-o-Ween, Christmas on the Canal and future community events.

And after that? We keep building, because inclusion isn't a feature we add to an event – it's something we consider while we're creating the event in the first place.

And if one introduction can eventually help one more child, one more adult or one more family experience something happening in their own community that they might otherwise have missed? That's a connection worth making.

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COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT:
Create On The Canal

A Little Creativity. A Lot of Community.

On August 8, downtown Canal Fulton came alive with art, music, food, activities and community during Create on the Canal, organized by the Historic Downtown Canal Fulton Business Association (HDCFBA) and TARRAH’s Torch Foundation.

Artists, authors, businesses, vendors, performers, families and volunteers all came together to make the day happen.

A meaningful addition was the Inclusion Zone and Sensory Area, created through the efforts of Ben Guiley, TARRAH’s Torch Foundation and the Autism Society. Buck Chevrolet generously provided and prepared the space, helping make the event more accessible to individuals and families with different sensory needs.

Worden’s also generously provided space for the food court, while Councilman James Kiefer kicked off the day by singing the National Anthem.

Behind the scenes, countless people – including Leslie and Pat Wyman, Ann Doan, Pam Leddon and the Schalmo Family YMCA, the Village Silversmith, Canal Fulton Library, Olde Canal Days Queens and Canal Fulton Music – helped bring the event together.

And when the day ended, the work continued. Volunteers grabbed trash bags and cleaned up downtown, because that’s what makes a community event successful: everyone bringing something to the table.

Create on the Canal wasn’t just about creating art. It was about creating connections, opportunities and a place where more people could participate. It may take a village. But every once in a while, it takes a small city.

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COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT
Schalmo Family YMCA

Three-Peat Champions, and yes, there's a pig involved

Some communities measure success in dollars raised. Some measure it in lives impacted. At the Schalmo Family YMCA, apparently, we also measure it in bacon.

For the third year in a row, the Schalmo Family YMCA has brought home the "Bringing Home the Bacon" trophy through the YMCA Annual Campaign. And this year, our community didn't just meet the goal, we reached 124% of it. Apparently, when Canal Fulton is given a fundraising goal, we occasionally interpret it more as a suggestion.

Reaching 100% would have been something to celebrate. Going 24% beyond it says even more about the businesses, residents, board members, volunteers, and community partners who continue to believe in what the Schalmo Family YMCA provides. At this point, we're not saying the pig belongs in Canal Fulton permanently, but after three consecutive wins and 124%, he may have established residency.

The trophy is fun, and we'll happily keep it, but what it represents is much more important. The YMCA Annual Campaign helps ensure that cost isn't the reason someone in our community can't experience what the Y has to offer. Those dollars provide financial assistance and opportunities for local children, individuals, and families who might otherwise have to sit something out.

More Than a Building

When people hear "YMCA," it's easy to think of a gym, and yes, there are treadmills. Quite a few of them, actually. But the Schalmo Family YMCA is much more than a place to work out. It's where kids learn new skills and make friends, families spend time together, seniors find activity and connection, and people come to improve their health, find support, and become part of something.

Through the Annual Campaign, we work to make sure those opportunities aren't reserved only for people who can afford them. Because belonging shouldn't depend on your bank account balance.

The campaign succeeds because people throughout our community choose to participate. Businesses sponsor and donate, board members make calls and open

doors, volunteers give their time, and community members contribute what they can. Those individual acts of generosity add up to something much bigger.

A donation isn't simply another number added to a fundraising total. It can mean a child gets to participate, a family gets access to programming, a senior stays connected, or someone who needs the Y gets to walk through the doors without finances being the thing that keeps them outside. That's the real trophy. Although, again, we're keeping the pig.

Let's Make It Four

Winning the Bringing Home the Bacon trophy once is exciting. Twice is impressive. Doing it three years in a row, and reaching 124% of our goal, starts looking suspiciously like a community that really shows up. That's exactly what Canal Fulton does. Year after year, local businesses, organizations, residents, volunteers, and supporters answer the call. Some give a lot, some give a little, some make introductions, and some simply encourage someone else to give.

So, as we look toward the next Annual Campaign, we're asking our community to do what it has already proven it's pretty good at: show up for one another.

If you've donated, volunteered, made a phone call, attended an event, connected us with someone who could help, or simply told another person why the Y matters, thank you. And if you've never participated in the Annual Campaign, we'd love to have you join us.

Because the goal isn't really another trophy. It's another child, another family, another senior, another neighbor who gets to say yes to an opportunity they otherwise might have had to turn down.

That's what we're actually bringing home. Although, if the pig happens to come home for a fourth year... we'll find room.





Hello community members,
It is my honor to be your Ohio State Representative.

Please feel free to contact me anytime via email at rep50@ohiohouse.gov or by phone at 614.466.9078 with any questions or concerns.

Matt Kishman

Hello Lawrence Township neighbors

Most of my business comes from friends, past clients, and people right here in our community—and I'm incredibly grateful for that.

If you know someone thinking about buying, selling, or even just curious about their home value, I would truly appreciate the introduction.

And remember... **you have a friend in real estate.**

Thank you for continuing to support a local Realtor who truly loves this community.

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CITY OF CANAL FULTON

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: Canal Fulton's SJV Plaza

You've probably driven past SJV Plaza more times than you can count. But have you ever actually stopped to think about just how many different things you can do there? As it turns out, quite a lot.

At **EJ Therapy**, children and families can access speech, occupational and physical therapy services right here in Canal Fulton. Their team helps children develop communication, movement and everyday skills – providing an important resource for local families without requiring them to travel far from home.

A couple doors down, **Cut & Curl Corner** has your hair and nails covered. Whether you're due for a trim, ready for a completely new look or just need a little time in the salon chair, it's another service you don't have to leave town to find.

Vintage Rose Tattoo brings local tattoo artistry to the plaza, offering custom work and a considerably longer-lasting way to change your look than the haircut you just got a couple doors down.

Then there's **Stand Out Photography**, helping families capture everything from everyday moments to the milestones you want to remember.

And nearby, **The Dance Movement** keeps things moving literally providing dance

instruction and giving local kids an opportunity to learn, perform and build confidence close to home.

So, theoretically, you could take your child to therapy, get your hair done, get a tattoo, schedule family portraits and sign someone up for dance without traveling much farther than the length of a parking lot!

We don't necessarily recommend doing all of that in one afternoon, but it's great to have the option. That's what makes SJV Plaza worth a second look.

That's one of the great things about doing business in a small town – you don't always have to travel to a bigger city or a big-box shopping center to find what you need. Sometimes it's been sitting a few minutes from home all along.

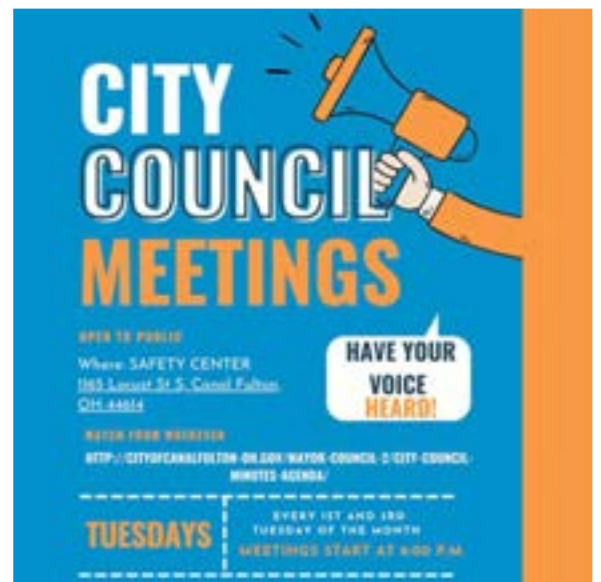
Every one of those storefronts also represents something bigger: a business owner who chose to invest here, people who work here, customers who choose to spend their money locally and services that make Canal Fulton a little more convenient, and a lot more interesting.

So the next time you're passing SJV Plaza, take another look, or better yet, pull in. You just might find a favorite business there.

Your 2026 City Council Members



(Left to right) Council President Jeanann VanDenberg, Joseph Powers, Greg Dakters, Mayor Joseph Schultz, Congresswoman Emilia Sykes, Mark Cozy, James Kiefer, Council Vice President Scott Svab



Canal Fulton Public Library Fall & Winter Programs

All programs (Children's, Teen, and Adult) require registration in advance.

Please call the library at (330) 854-4148 to register.



CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT EVENTS

OCTOBER

Tots and Tales Ages birth-2 | Every Tuesday & Thursday, October 1-29 | 10-10:20 a.m.
Feed Me a Story Ages 3-5 | Every Wednesday, October 7-28 | 11-11:30 a.m.
Starry Night Light Jar Grades K-5 | Thursday, October 1 | 6-6:45 p.m.
Family Game Night Grades K-5 | Thursday, October 8 | 6-6:45 p.m.
STEAM Night: Spooky Season Ages 3-12 | Tuesday, October 13 | 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Kids' Pokemon Club Grades K-5 | Thursday, October 15 | 6-6:45 p.m.
Family Art Night | Friday, October 16 | 5-6 p.m.
Gingerbread Vampires and Zombies Grades K-5 | Thursday, October 22 | 6-6:45 p.m.
Book Character Costume Parade Ages birth-12 | Wednesday, October 28 | 6-7 p.m.
Sock Zombies Grades K-5 | Thursday, October 29 | 6-6:45 p.m.

NOVEMBER

Tots and Tales Ages birth-2 | Every Tuesday & Thursday, November 3-19 | 10-10:20 a.m.
Feed Me a Story Ages 3-5 | Every Wednesday, November 4-18 | 11-11:30 a.m.
Kids' Pokemon Club Grades K-5 | Thursday, November 5 | 6-6:45 p.m.
STEAM Night: Give Thanks Ages 3-12 | Tuesday, November 10 | 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Gratitude Leaves Grades K-5 | Thursday, November 12 | 6-6:45 p.m.
Family Art Night | Friday, November 13 | 5-6 p.m.
Family Story Night: Where the Wild Things Are Ages birth-12
Wednesday, November 18 | 6-7 p.m.
DIY Beaded Corn Grades K-5 | Thursday, November 19 | 6-6:45 p.m.

DECEMBER

Kindermusik Ages 0-2 | Every Tuesday, December 1-15 | 10-10:45 a.m.
Kindermusik Ages 3-5 | Every Tuesday, December 1-15 | 11-11:45 a.m.
Kids' Pokemon Club Grades K-5 | Thursday, December 3 | 6-6:45 p.m.
Cookie Decorating Challenge Families with children ages 3-12
Friday, December 11 | 5-7 p.m.
Kids' Cookbook Club: Cookie Exchange Grades K-5
Saturday, December 12 | 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
That's a Wrap! Grades K-5 | Thursday, December 17 | 6-6:45 p.m.

ADULT & TEEN SERVICES DEPARTMENT EVENTS

OCTOBER

Tech Tuesdays: Every Tuesday, call for appointment
Ohio Canid Center Visit: Friday, October 2nd | 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Ulysses S. Grant, a Life: Saturday, October 3rd | 1:00 p.m.
Music Jam Session: Monday, October 5th | 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Adult Craft, Book Witch: Monday, October 5th | 6:00 p.m.
Teen Advisory Board: Tuesday, October 6th | 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Teen's Crow Party: Tuesday, October 6th | 5:30-7:00 p.m.
Friends Count Needlecraft Club: Wednesday, October 7th | 6:00-7:30 p.m.
"Movied" by History: Saturday, October 10th | 2:00-4:30 p.m.
Teen's Game Cafe: Tuesday, October 13th | 3:30-4:30 p.m.
International Pasta Day Celebration: Saturday, October 17th | 1:00 p.m.
Teen's Manga Cafe: Tuesday, October 20th, 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Third Tuesday Book Discussion: Tuesday, October 20th | 6-7 p.m.
Friends Count Needlecraft Club: Saturday, October 24th | 10:00-11:30 a.m.
Stones & Bones: An Afternoon with Sherri Brake: Saturday, October 24th | 2:00 p.m.
A Haunting in the Library: Adult Murder Mystery Night & Author Talk:
Monday, October 26th, 6:00 p.m.
Teens Squid Games: Tuesday, October 27th | 5:00-7:00 p.m.
Teens Halloween Party: Saturday, October 31st | 12:00-4:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER

Tech Tuesdays: Every Tuesday, call for appointment
Music Jam Session: Monday, November 2nd | 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Teen Advisory Board: Tuesday, November 3rd | 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Friends Count Needlecraft Club: Wednesday, November 4th | 6:00-7:30 p.m.
3 Days in July: The Battle of Gettysburg: Saturday, November 7th | 1:00-2:00 p.m.
"Movied" by History: Monday, November 9th | 4:30-6:30 p.m.
Teen's Game Cafe: Tuesday, November 10th | 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Teen's Manga Cafe: Tuesday, November 17th, 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Third Tuesday Book Discussion: Tuesday, November 17th | 6:00-7:00 p.m.
Friends Count Needlecraft Club: Saturday, November 21st | 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

DECEMBER

Tech Tuesdays: Every Tuesday, call for appointment
Teen Advisory Board: Tuesday, December 1st | 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Music Jam Session: Monday, December 7th | 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Teen's Game Cafe: Tuesday, December 8th | 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Tunes by the Towpath: Patrick Masalko, Sounds Like a Holiday:
Tuesday, December 8th | 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Teen's Manga Cafe: Tuesday, December 15th | 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Third Tuesday Book Discussion: Tuesday, December 15th | 6:00-7:00 p.m.
Teen's Holiday Movie Night: Tuesday, December 29th, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

PLEASE VISIT WWW.CITYOFCANALFULTON-OH.GOV FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP



Keith Blowers Trustee Talk: Finances & Fire EMS Services 330-904-9319

Most of us probably look at our property tax bill and have the same first thought: that's a lot of money. What is much less obvious is where all of

that money actually goes, how much comes to Lawrence Township, and what we are legally allowed to do with it.

Township finances are a little more complicated than one big checking account. Different revenue sources are designated for different purposes, and money collected for one department or through a specific levy generally cannot simply be moved somewhere else because another need comes up. Police, roads, Fire/EMS, parks, zoning, administration, equipment, facilities, and other township responsibilities all have to be funded and planned for within those limitations.

As trustees, one of our most important responsibilities is balancing the level of services our residents expect with the resources available to pay for them. I think most people would agree that we want good roads, dependable police protection, quality Fire and EMS service, well-maintained parks, and responsive township services. The more difficult discussion is how much each of those services costs and how we make sure those costs remain affordable and sustainable for taxpayers.

We have talked previously about some of these challenges with our Road Department. Lawrence Township maintains approximately 58 miles of roadway, and the department is responsible for much more than just paving. Snow and ice removal, mowing, drainage, berm maintenance, weed control, equipment, fuel, and countless other expenses all come from a limited road budget. When available funding does not keep pace with the cost of providing services, choices have to be made. Sometimes that means using a less expensive option such as chip and seal rather than the paving residents would prefer.

Public safety presents many of the same challenges, although the way those services are provided can be different. Our Police Department operates directly under Lawrence Township providing our residents with a local department focused solely on them.

Fire and Emergency Medical Services are somewhat different. A portion of the township is served through a contractual relationship with the North Lawrence Volunteer Fire Department, which is a private organization providing Fire and EMS services. We will be reviewing this contract together with North Lawrence this fall. The rest of the township is serviced through a "living together" agreement sharing Fire and EMS costs and staffing with the City of Canal Fulton which is managed through representatives from both political bodies.

We have tremendous respect for the men and women who answer the call when our residents need help. Firefighters, EMTs, and paramedics perform an incredibly important service, often under difficult circumstances. Supporting those individuals and appreciating the work they do is completely compatible with carefully reviewing and negotiating the contract under which those services are provided.

As trustees, our responsibility is not simply to ask whether Fire and EMS service is important. Of course it is. Our responsibility is to determine what level of service our residents are receiving, what that service costs, whether Lawrence Township is paying an appropriate share, what future equipment and capital needs may exist, and whether the agreement is financially sustainable for the taxpayers we represent. Those are questions that should be asked of any significant taxpayer-funded contract.

This also means looking beyond just the price written on the front page of an agreement. Staffing, response times, call volume, equipment and apparatus, operating costs, capital replacement needs, revenue from other jurisdictions, and how shared expenses

are allocated can all play a role in understanding the actual cost of providing service.

We understand these services are personal. When you call 911, you are not thinking about budgets or contracts, you simply want someone qualified to show up quickly and help.

Our job as trustees, however, requires us to consider both sides of that equation. We have to work to ensure that dependable service is there when you need it while also making sure the financial commitments we make today are responsible.

That same philosophy applies across township government. Whether we are buying a truck, paving a road, negotiating a service agreement, repairing a building, or planning for future equipment replacement, our goal should be to make decisions based on good information and with the long-term interests of the entire township in mind.

You certainly do not have to agree with every decision we make. In fact, with three trustees and thousands of residents, it would probably be concerning if everyone agreed all of the time. What I do believe you should expect from us is transparency, thoughtful discussion, and responsible stewardship of the money entrusted to the township.

Over the coming months, we will continue working through the township budget and planning for the years ahead. I hope to share more information about where township revenue comes from, how it is divided among our various responsibilities, and some of the major financial challenges and opportunities we see in the future.

As always, I encourage residents to ask questions and stay involved. Our public meetings are held the first and third Mondays of each month at 5:30 p.m., and you are always welcome to reach out through the township office with questions, concerns, or comments.



Douglas Swartz Trustee Talk: Our Township's History 330-705-1457

I started digging into the history of Lawrence Township, and the farther I went, the more interesting it became. I learned quite a few things I never knew, and I am guessing some of you may not know them either.

We drive across the Tuscarawas River, through North Lawrence and Canal Fulton, past the canal and along roads that have been here for generations. Much of our local history can be traced back to one thing that was here long before any of us: the Tuscarawas River. Long before Lawrence Township or Canal Fulton existed, Native people lived and traveled throughout what is now Ohio. The Tuscarawas River and the larger Cuyahoga-Tuscarawas corridor provided a natural route through this part of the state.

Even more interesting, the river running through our community was once part of an official boundary between United States lands and Native lands. The 1785 Treaty of Fort McIntosh established a boundary that followed the Cuyahoga River to the old portage and then the Tuscarawas south. The Treaty of Greenville in 1795 again used that same general line. In local terms, land east of the river was generally on the United States side of the treaty line while land west remained on the Native side.

The next time you cross the Tuscarawas River, think about the fact that more than 230 years ago crossing it could also mean crossing a treaty boundary. After the boundary moved farther west, settlers began arriving. An 1881 history of Stark County tells of Henry Clapper and Henry Lower arriving around 1808. They built a brush shelter, cleared and planted land, and the Clapper family later built what was described as the first cabin in the township.

By 1810 township government was taking shape, and by 1815 Lawrence Township had become the community whose name we still carry today. Some early township offices would sound familiar: trustees, a clerk, treasurer and constables. Others might get a few strange looks today. Records also list fence viewers, overseers of the poor and property appraisers.

Apparently township government has been dealing with roads, property disputes, taxes and people needing help for more than 200 years. Some things really do not change that much. Another local fact surprised me. Stark County historical material says the first wedding in Stark County took place here on June 6, 1806. James F. Leonard married Sarah Barber nine years before Lawrence Township was formally laid out.

So why are we called Lawrence Township? The township was named for Captain James Lawrence of the United States Navy, a national hero during the War of 1812. In 1813, while commanding the USS Chesapeake, Lawrence was mortally wounded. Before being carried below deck, he gave the order that became famous: "Don't give up the ship." Oliver Hazard Perry later placed those words on a battle flag. They eventually became Lawrence Township's motto.

Our township history and Canal Fulton's history really cannot be separated. Before Canal Fulton existed, there was Milan, laid out on the west side of the Tuscarawas River in 1814. Then Ohio decided to dig a really big ditch through the neighborhood, and everything changed. Construction of the Ohio & Erie Canal began in 1825. When it reached our area, the village of Fulton was laid out on the east side of the Tuscarawas River in 1826, directly across from Milan.

You can still see the canal's impact in the way the community was designed. Milan had been laid out in a more traditional manner, while Fulton was built

around the canal. Look at an old map and you can literally see the streets bend around what was then the community's most important transportation system. The canal brought commerce right to Fulton's doorstep. Farmers brought crops into town, warehouses stored goods, and canal boats carried freight while horses and mules walked the towpath. What is peaceful parkland today was essentially the interstate highway and freight terminal of its time.

Fulton and Milan eventually became one community in 1853. The railroad later helped shape North Lawrence and make coal mining a major local industry. Anyone familiar with North Lawrence has probably seen the name BOWDIL on fire department apparatus. The Bowdil Company began manufacturing mining equipment in 1923. Its name came from founders Newton K. BOWman and John DILLon. According to the fire department's history, the community even used the name Bowdil, Ohio, for a time.

What I enjoyed most about researching all of this is realizing that, despite the lines on a map, Canal Fulton, North Lawrence and Lawrence Township really are one community in a lot of ways. My parents moved here from Akron when I was four years old. Since then, I have lived in Lawrence Township, Canal Fulton and North Lawrence. All three have been home to me.

If you are reading this, there is a good chance our children attend or attended the same schools. We shop at the same stores, eat at the same restaurants, use the same local businesses, visit the same library and enjoy the same parks and towpath. Our police, fire and emergency services work together. Our civic organizations, families and friendships overlap.

Government boundaries are necessary, but they do not define a community. People do.

PLEASE VISIT WWW.LAWRENCETWP-OH.ORG FOR FURTHER INFORMATION



Patricia Boser Trustee Talk
(707) 592-4250

Summer Road Work Update

As summer ends, our Road Department is concluding a busy season of maintaining and improving township roads. The warmer months provide an important opportunity to complete projects that extend road life, improve drainage, and address needed repairs. Culvert replacements were a priority because they must be completed before chip and seal work can begin. This year, nine culverts were replaced, with additional replacements still needed. Our road crew has also completed spot paving, road repairs, patching, pothole maintenance, roadside mowing, ditch and culvert work, berm maintenance, tree and brush trimming, and equipment maintenance and repairs. Over time, older equipment can become increasingly costly and difficult to maintain, especially when parts become obsolete. In those cases, replacing equipment may be the most practical and responsible option. While this work may not always be highly visible, it helps protect our roads and prevents small issues from becoming larger, more costly repairs. Chip and seal will continue to be a major summer priority. Melway Paving completed this year's chip and seal work during a period of unusually high heat indexes. Once the township is scheduled for sealing, the work must proceed as planned and cannot be rescheduled. The new striping on Arcadia and Forty Corners improves visibility and supports safer travel at night and during wet or snowy conditions. The striping cost the township \$12,578.

Share the Road this Harvest Season

As harvest season gets underway, please remember to give our local farmers plenty of room on the road. Farm equipment is often large and slow-moving and may need extra space when turning or entering fields. A little patience can make a big difference: slow down, keep a safe distance, and only pass when it is safe and legal to do so. Our farmers are working long hours to bring in the harvest, so please show them the same courtesy and respect we would want on the road. *Be patient, share the road, and help keep everyone safe this harvest season.*

Winter Preparation

Although the summer construction season is winding down, the work does not stop. Fall and winter preparation is an important time for the Road Department, beginning with the purchase of 1,200 tons of road salt at an approximate cost of \$86,000 to prepare for snow and ice conditions. The township will continue addressing drainage, roadside maintenance, and other projects while preparing for winter operations. Snowplows, trucks, spreaders, and other equipment will be inspected and serviced so they are ready when winter weather arrives. At the same time, we will continue evaluating road conditions and identifying priorities for future improvements. Our new 2026 Ford F550 is awaiting installation of its Henderson dump bed, which is expected to take place sometime in 2027. Preparing before the first snowfall is essential to keeping our roads safe while responsibly managing township resources and taxpayer dollars. As a reminder, Lawrence Township has a snow policy addressing snowplow-related damage to property and yards. Mailbox damage is covered only when the plow itself strikes the mailbox, not when damage is caused by snow thrown from the plow. Excessive turf damage will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Thank You to Our Residents

We would like to thank our residents for their continued patience, cooperation and support through the year. Our road department remains committed to keeping our roads safe and maintained through whatever winter weather comes our way. From all of us at Lawrence Township, we wish you and your families a safe, joyful, and happy holiday season. May the coming year bring good, health, happiness, and many blessings to our entire community.



ROAD DEPT. NEWS

Supt: Mark Sibila • 330-854-3494

As we prepare for the winter season, our crew is busy making sure trees are cut back from roadways, culverts are clear of debris, potholes are filled and equipment is ready for the winter months. Please do your part to ensure a safe and smooth winter by remembering these few items:

Mailboxes: In January 1999, Township Resolution 1999-044 was passed acknowledging the township would assume the responsibility of replacing only those mailboxes physically knocked down by the road crew during the snow removal process. The township will not be responsible for mailboxes that are down due to the weight of the snow or deterioration. This is a good time to replace rotten and/or weak mailbox posts.

Basketball Hoops: I would like to remind you that basketball hoops need to be removed from roadways and cul-de-sacs for the winter months. If these are not removed, it makes it difficult for the road crew to salt and plow effectively.

Plowing: When the snow starts flying and bad weather arrives, please remember that we concentrate on plowing the main roads first and then we plow the allotments. Please slow down and give road crews plenty of room to work when they are plowing.

Also, give yourself extra time to travel and remember road conditions can change quickly as temperature drops. As always, we appreciate everyone's patience and cooperation as our road crew tries to maintain safe roads for our community throughout the fall and winter months.

POLICE DEPT. 330-854-2096

A Message from New Police Chief Brad Henson



Chief Brad Henson

As the newly appointed Chief of Police, I feel my first newsletter article should simply be an introduction. I have lived in Lawrence Township for 24 years. My wife, Anna, and I have raised our two daughters here in the Northwest School District. This community isn't simply where I work; it is where my family and I have made our home.

I began my law enforcement career with the Stark County Sheriff's Office. It was a great experience, and at the time I never imagined leaving. Circumstances had other plans, however, and I was eventually laid off. My wife informed me that I needed something

to do, so I took a position as a Reserve Officer with the Lawrence Township Police Department.

I eventually became a part-time officer, and when the Sheriff's Office called me back, I had a difficult decision to make. I turned down the opportunity to return to a full-time position and instead remained a part-time officer here. I had found a home. I liked the officers I worked beside, I liked the community we served, and I was proud to be a part of both.

Over the years, I became a full-time officer and was later promoted to Detective/Sergeant. I served as Union President and had the privilege of spending 12 1/2 years assigned to the Stark County Metropolitan Narcotics Unit, a countywide drug task force operated through the Sheriff's Office. That assignment had an immense influence on me as a police officer. It gave me the opportunity to work alongside officers from throughout Stark County as well as state and federal agencies, building relationships and friendships that continue to benefit our department today.

All of that eventually brings me to the position of Chief. I'll admit, becoming Chief of Police was never something I spent my career planning toward. However, when the opportunity presented itself, I realized how much this department and this community have given me during my 15 years here.

I wanted the opportunity to give something back. My goal is fairly simple: to leave the Lawrence Township Police Department better than I found it. I want our officers to have the training, equipment, leadership, and support they need to do their jobs well. I want our residents to have confidence in the people who serve them. And I want to make sure we are building a department capable of serving this community not only today, but for many years to come.

There will undoubtedly be challenges along the way, but I am incredibly proud of the officers of the Lawrence Township Police Department and honored to have the opportunity to lead them.

Most importantly, I may be the Chief of Police, but this is **YOUR Police Department**. If you have a question, comment, concern, or simply want to introduce yourself, please feel free to call or email me or, better yet, stop by the department and chat.

I look forward to serving you.

SERVING LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP

ADMINISTRATIVE HOURS:

Monday - Thurs. 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. | Closed Friday

Email: info@lawrencetwp-oh.org

Keith Blowers, President	330-904-9319 kblowers@lawrencetwp-oh.org (Liaison for the Fire & Park Departments)
Douglas Swartz, Vice President	330-705-1457 dswartz@lawrencetwp-oh.org (Liaison for the Police Department)
Patricia Boser, Trustee	707-592-4250 pboser@lawrencetwp-oh.org (Liaison for the Road Department)
Cindy Meisner, Fiscal Officer	330-854-3830 cmeisner@lawrencetwp-oh.org
Bill Hostler, Zoning Inspector	330-854-7118 whostler@lawrencetwp-oh.org
Aimee Stutz, Admin. Assistant	330-854-3830 astutz@lawrencetwp-oh.org
Marita Simon, Fiscal Assistant	330-854-3830 msimon@lawrencetwp-oh.org
Lawrence Township Road Garage	330-854-3494 msibila@lawrencetwp-oh.org
Lawrence Township Police Dept.	330-854-2096 Non-Emergency
Lawrence Township Fire Dept.	330-854-2456 Non-Emergency
North Lawrence Vol. Fire Dept.	330-832-6347 Non-Emergency



LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP/CANAL FULTON

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Chief Shawn Yerian • 330-854-2456 • For emergencies, call 911

Investing in Our Community’s Protection



This fall, the department placed a new brush truck in service to improve our response to grass, brush, field, and other off-road fires. The truck was acquired through a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant, which was awarded based on an approved project cost of \$265,000, consisting of \$252,380.95 in federal funding and a required \$12,619.05 local match. The new unit will be especially valuable during the fall, when dry vegetation and seasonal burning can increase fire hazards.

Over the past two years, our department has acquired apparatus supported by \$1,236,666.66 in federal grant awards, significantly reducing local purchase costs. Work is also underway on a new vehicle exhaust removal system at our fire station on Locust Street. The project is supported by \$76,413.33 in federal funding and will help reduce firefighters’ exposure to vehicle exhaust while improving station safety.

Issue 25: Lawrence Township Fire Levy

Lawrence Township residents will see Issue 25 on the November ballot. Issue 25 is a replacement of the Township’s existing 0.5-mill and 1.9-mill fire levies for a five-year period. Revenue from these levies supports Lawrence Township’s share of fire and EMS services provided through the jointly operated Lawrence Township/Canal Fulton Fire Department.

Issue 25 applies only to Lawrence Township. It does not apply to residents of the City of Canal Fulton.

This information is provided to explain how the issue relates to fire and EMS services. Complete ballot language and tax impact information are available through Lawrence Township and the Stark County Board of Elections.

Growing Our Paramedic Team

Congratulations to Makala Jones, Alexavier Mohler, Corey Rock, and Michael Zervos on graduating from the accelerated paramedic program offered through Stark State College. Their accomplishment adds four newly trained paramedics to our department and strengthens our ability to provide advanced emergency medical care throughout Lawrence Township and Canal Fulton.



Fire Prevention Week: October 4-10

During Fire Prevention Week, our firefighters will be in the schools each day providing age-appropriate fire safety education. We will visit students in kindergarten through second grade at Northwest Primary School and third-grade students at W.S. Stinson Elementary School. Students will learn about smoke alarms, home escape planning, calling 911, “Stop, Drop, and Roll,” and other important fire safety lessons.

Prepare for Colder Weather

As temperatures begin to fall, have furnaces, fireplaces, chimneys, and other heating equipment inspected and serviced. Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, and test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms monthly.



Portable generators must always be operated outdoors and away from doors, windows, and vents.



Fall Outdoor Burning Safety

Fall brings dry leaves, vegetation, and an increased risk of grass and brush fires. Before burning outdoors, check applicable restrictions and weather conditions. Never leave a fire unattended, keep water or extinguishing equipment nearby, and make sure the fire is completely out before leaving the area. If a fire begins to spread beyond your control, call 911 immediately.

City of Massillon Program

Yard Waste Drop-Off Option

Available to Lawrence Township Residents

CLEANER YARDS • GREENER COMMUNITIES • A STRONGER TOMORROW

ANNUAL PASS: \$50

Unlimited Drop-Offs

Season: April 1 – December 1

Passes purchased after the season begins are not prorated.

Location

401 Walnut Road SW
Massillon, Ohio 44647

CONVENIENT, ACCESSIBLE,
A CLEANER TOMORROW

Who Can Use It?

Non-residents who live within
Stark County, including
Lawrence Township residents,
may purchase a yearly Yard
Waste Drop-Off pass.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR
CLEANER COMMUNITIES

Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday: 7:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Extended Hours:
1st & 3rd Wednesday: 7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
3rd Saturday: 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

MORE OPPORTUNITIES
TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY CLEAN

Accepted Items

Grass clippings

Leaves

Branches and twigs

Logs

Shrubbery

Car and light-truck tires (off the rim)

Not Accepted

Stumps

Dirt or sod

Treated or painted lumber

Demolition wood

Plastic bags

Flower pots

Plastic bottles

Paint cans

Anything with metal

Please do NOT bag
your yard waste.
If brought in bags, you will be
asked to empty them
when unloading.

HELP KEEP THE PROCESS
FAST AND EFFICIENT

How to Purchase a Pass

Purchase online with a credit/debit card or in person at the City Garage
with a credit/debit card. Cash and checks are not accepted.

For online purchases, enter your first and last name in the 'Account
Reference' field and enter \$50.00 as the payment amount.

If purchasing online, bring your receipt and a valid photo ID

Purchase Online:

massillonohio.repcanywhere.com/streetdept

SIMPLE. SECURE. CONVENIENT.

Questions? Contact the City of Massillon Street Department

330-833-5746

A Cleaner
Brighter Stark County
Together

This service is provided by the City of Massillon and is not operated by Lawrence Township.



Zoning Inspector Bill Hostler
330-854-7118

Understanding Nuisance Complaints in Lawrence Township

One of the responsibilities of the Lawrence Township Zoning Department is investigating complaints about properties that may be in violation of the Township's Zoning Resolution. We take every complaint seriously and investigate the situation. However, not every complaint results in a finding of a zoning violation or a declaration of a nuisance.

Sometimes, what one person considers to be a nuisance is simply something that is not regulated by the Township's Zoning Resolution. I thought it might be helpful to explain some of the more common complaints we receive.

An Unkept Yard Does Not Always Mean a Zoning Violation

We receive complaints about weeds in flower beds, tall grass, or other conditions that a neighbor may consider unattractive. While some property conditions can constitute a nuisance, simply failing to weed a flower bed does not automatically make a property a zoning violation.

The same is true of agricultural properties. A farmer may not always be able to mow or maintain a field according to the schedule a neighbor would prefer. Farming operations are affected by weather, planting and harvesting schedules, and many other factors.

Parking in a Front Yard or on the Road

Another common complaint is that someone is parking a vehicle in their front yard. If the vehicle is properly licensed and the parking does not otherwise violate the Zoning Resolution, simply parking a vehicle in the front yard is not necessarily a zoning violation.

Likewise, parking on a public road is generally not a zoning violation. The exception is when a snow parking ban is in effect. During a snow parking ban, vehicles may not be parked on the roadway.

Who Is Responsible for Mowing the Ditch?

We also receive complaints that a homeowner is not mowing the grass in the ditch along their property. If the ditch falls within the road right-of-way, the homeowner is not necessarily responsible for maintaining it. The Township Road Department does its best to mow the ditches several times throughout the year.

Unfortunately, with the amount of rain we have received this year, keeping up with the growth has been extremely difficult. We understand that the grass may sometimes get taller than we would like, but the Road Department is working to maintain the roadsides as conditions allow.

"My Neighbor Is Living in Their Camper"

This is another complaint we hear fairly often. A camper sitting on a property does not automatically mean someone is living in it.

Seeing someone go in and out of a camper, or seeing that the camper is being used occasionally, is not proof that it is being used as a permanent residence. There would need to be evidence that someone is actually residing in the camper, and that can be very difficult to establish unless the occupant acknowledges that they are living there.

"My Neighbor Has Chickens"

Lawrence Township is a rural township, and keeping chickens is permitted, provided the property and the chickens meet the applicable setback requirements. Simply having chickens on a property is not a zoning violation.

What Happens When a Complaint Is Received?

Every complaint is investigated. If an actual zoning violation is found, the property owner is given an opportunity to correct the violation. Some complaints are resolved quickly, while others require additional investigation or enforcement.

Continued on next page

THE 2026 C1CU SCHOOL VOTE SHOWDOWN

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE SCHOOL AUG 21-OCT 24

FIRST PLACE

\$1000

SECOND PLACE

\$500

THIRD PLACE

\$250

VOTE AT C1CU.COM

The school with the most votes will win \$1,000. Second highest votes will win \$500, third highest votes will win \$250. Voting ends October 24, 2026.

c1cu.com

COMMUNITY ONE

Credit Union Inc.

NCUA

LIVE IN STARK COUNTY? YOU CAN JOIN!

Understanding Nuisance Complaints *continued*

So far this year, the Township has received 15 nuisance complaints. Of those:

- 11 have been addressed and resolved;
- 1 was referred to the Stark County Health Department; and
- 3 remain pending.

When a property is formally declared a nuisance, it is not something the Township takes lightly. A nuisance declaration can have significant consequences for both the property owner and the Township.

One of those consequences is that a lien may be placed against the property for costs incurred by the Township. This can create an additional financial burden for a property owner who may already be struggling.

There is also a financial impact on the Township. In many cases, the Township does not recover those costs until the property is eventually sold, which could be years later. If the property goes into foreclosure, there is even a possibility that the Township may never recover the money.

A Different Perspective

My background is in landscaping and construction, so I would probably notice an unkept yard, dilapidated building, or other property maintenance issue sooner than the average person. I understand why a property that is not being maintained can be frustrating to look at.

However, before making a complaint, I would encourage everyone to take a moment and ask themselves a simple question: “Does the way my neighbor chooses to maintain or use their property actually affect my life in a negative way, or is it simply different from the way I would choose to maintain my own property?”

Not every property is going to look the same, and not every property will be maintained to the same standard. As long as a property owner is complying with the Township’s regulations, differences in how people maintain or use their property are sometimes simply differences in how people choose to live.

The Zoning Department will continue to investigate every legitimate complaint and enforce the Township’s Zoning Resolution when violations are found. At the same time, we want residents to understand that our job is to enforce the regulations-not to enforce personal preferences.

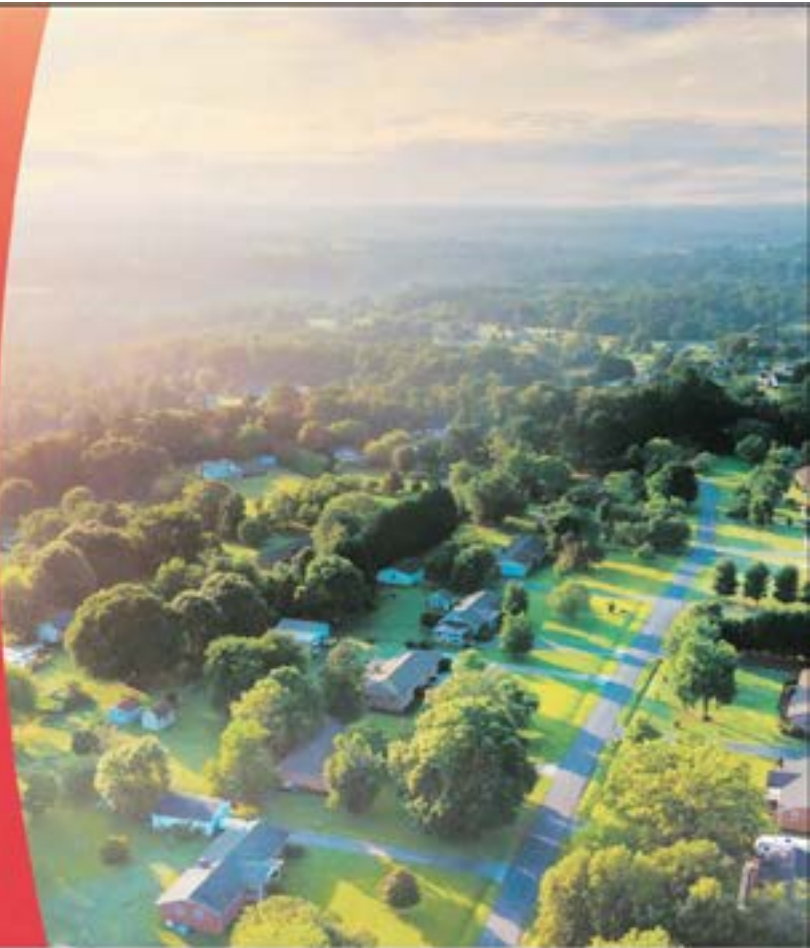
Remaining 2026 Trustee Meeting Schedule

Generally, regular Board meetings are set for the first and third Mondays of each month (subject to holiday adjustment), beginning at 4:30 p.m. for executive sessions, as authorized. Such executive sessions to conclude no later than 5:30 p.m.; with the public session to then commence at 5:30 p.m.

October 5, 19	5:30 p.m.
November 2, 16	5:30 p.m.
December 7, 21	5:30 p.m.

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