

OXFORD TOWNSHIP

MESSENGER

419-359-1735

Spring, 2016

Vol. 19, Issue 1

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FROM THE TRUSTEES

This spring issue of the Messenger is intended to be informative by not only bringing you a bit of information pertinent to township government but also information that is useful in other ways and that residents may not otherwise be aware of. Real estate taxes on residential homes went up slightly and in some cases decreased, commercial taxes went up in the 2-4% range, but taxes on agricultural land went up as much as 40% or more in some cases. Since agriculture is the main stay of our township, we added an article on Current Agricultural Use Value (CAUV). We also have informative information on upcoming events, the Erie County Landfill and Fire Services.

Related to the Township, this year's roadwork goals are to complete paving a portion of Wood Rd. from Ransom to Patten Tract. Also we are going to chip seal Huber Rd. Salt usage this winter was low, as only 50 tons of salt was used and normally we use 175 tons. We have enough on hand to mix with stone and fill the salt shed, so this means we probably won't need to purchase any more salt until 2017!

36th Annual 4-H Chicken BBQ and Auction: Saturday, April 23rd at the Erie County Fair Grounds. Dinner is 4:30-7 pm (or until sold out) Silent Auction is from 5-7 pm. Live Auction starts at 7pm.

Oxford Township Garage Sale: The weekend of June 10th-12th several township residents will be having garage sales. If you would like to join them, Liana Wensink will be collecting addresses for a list to hand out. Email her at OxfordMessenger@aol.com. Please submit your address by June 5th. There will also be signs posted advertising the sale weekend.

Summer Recycling Event

Saturday, June 11th
8:00 am until 11:00 am
Oxford Township Complex

Includes:
Used tires (no rims allowed)
Appliances, including stoves,
refrigerators, washers,
dryers, etc.

NO TVs or Monitors!!!

**Groton Twp Fire Dept
Spaghetti Dinner**

Saturday, April 2nd
4:30 pm until 7:00 pm

Groton Twp Fire Dept.
9414 Portland Rd.

Cost: \$8 Adult, \$5 Child,
3 yrs. and under Free

Included with the meal is...
Toss Salad, Garlic Bread, Assorted
Desserts and Beverage

OPEN BURNING

We are in an extremely dry period, and if you must burn openly, be extremely careful and remember there are State regulations covering open burning. Excerpts of the regulations are listed below. **Contact Groton Township Fire Chief Kerry Jett for permission and notification for legal burning or questions: 419-656-1247.**

Open Burn Information From Ohio EPA Website

What can I burn?

The following open fires are allowed in Ohio and apply to our township:

- Barbeques, campfires, and wood stack no larger than 2 ft. high x 3 ft. wide.
- Cookouts. Use clean, seasoned firewood or equivalent.
- Agricultural waste: Agricultural wastes and plant matter such as tree trimmings, stumps, brush, weeds, leaves, grass, shrubbery, and material from crop or livestock production. This includes fence posts and scrap lumber, but does not include buildings, land clearing waste, dead animals or animal waste. Fire must be more than 1,000 ft. from neighbor's inhabited building. Request permission from Ohio EPA if pile is greater than 20 ft. wide x 10 ft. high (4,000 cubic feet). This may take two weeks.
- Land Clearing Waste: Plant matter such as tree trimmings, stumps, brush, weeds, leaves, grass, shrubbery and crop residues. With prior written permission from Ohio EPA. This may take two weeks.
- Residential Waste: Plant matter such as tree trimmings, stumps, brush, weeds, leaves, grass, shrubbery and crop residues. Also wastes such as wood or paper products that are generated by one-, two-, or three-family residences. Fire must be more than 1,000 ft. from neighbor's inhabited building. Request permission from Ohio EPA if pile is greater than 10 ft. x 10 ft. This may take two weeks.
- Ceremonial Fires: Wood stack no larger than 5 ft. high x 5 ft. wide. Duration no longer than three hours. No notification required.

What can't I open burn:

- Garbage, waste oil, tires, rubber, plastic, railroad ties, waste generated from off premises, dead animals (except by approval of Health Dept.).

If the Fire Department is called out for an illegal burn, the Township will bill the landowner or resident.

FROM GROTON TOWNSHIP FIRE CHIEF KERRY JETT AND GROTON AND OXFORD TWP. TRUSTEES:

Firefighters wanted! Please consider joining the Groton Twp. Fire Department. Applicants must pass a physical, background check and drug test, which is paid for by Groton Twp. Fire Dept. Also, must complete 36 hrs. of state training along with having to maintain 54 hrs. of training every 3 years to remain certified. You can get your 54 hrs. of training in order to keep your certification on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. of each month on Station at Groton. Contact Chief Jett at grotontownship@earthlink.net or call 419-656-1247 if you are interested in becoming a volunteer firefighter.

CAUV

The article below is from the Ohio General Assembly web site and is by State Representative Steve Arndt of our District. It is the simplest and most straightforward information we have seen on CAUV and legislation proposed that will help eliminate the dramatic changes in tax burden on agricultural land. The Trustees support the legislation propose in House Bill 398.

<http://www.ohiohouse.gov/steven-arndt/press/guest-column-from-representative-steve-arndtfarmers-brace-for-cauv-bill>

The 2016 tax season is quickly upon us, and for many farmers in our community it means bracing for another alarming CAUV tax bill. My office has received many constituent phone calls, which we have been more than happy to answer.

First, it's important to start with the history of this program. Starting in the 1970's, Ohio voters adopted a tax formula called the Commercial Agricultural Use Value, or CAUV. This formula significantly reduces the property tax on farmland in an effort to help farmers afford and preserve their land. By preserving as much farmland as possible, it addresses the national security issue of ensuring food is available and affordable for consumers.

Many farmers in Ottawa and Erie counties have seen their property-tax bills increase in the latest round of tax collections. This is due to the CAUV formula which includes profits from several years back that were much higher than the 2014 and 2015 yield. This significantly skews the average, causing the property tax rate to soar while the farmers' income declined. As an agricultural community, Ottawa and Erie County farmers have felt the impact of inflated CAUV first hand. For many, this was a surprise that they were not able to account for and it is causing farmers to struggle to make their payments. It is clear that the legislature should look at how the CAUV formula is structured; however the solution involves a delicate balancing act with the residential property tax.

Neither the Ohio Constitution nor current law prescribes the specific method for determining CAUV values. Instead, current law requires the Ohio Tax Commissioner to adopt a method by administrative rule that "reflect[s] standard and modern appraisal techniques that take into consideration: the productivity of the soil under normal management practices; the average price patterns of the crops and products produced to determine the income potential to be capitalized; the market value of the land for agricultural use; and other pertinent factors." The method adopted by the Commissioner is published annually in CAUV "land tables," which applies to CAUV land in counties undergoing reappraisal that year and continue to apply in those counties for the following two years until the next reappraisal or update year.

To address farmers' concerns, the Ohio House has introduced House Bill 398, which requires a component of the CAUV formula cannot include escalating land value and owner equity, thereby enhancing the economic value of land. The bill will also place a ceiling on the taxable value of CAUV land that is used for conservation purposes, effectively reducing the taxable value of that land not currently valued at the lowest-valued soil type. House Bill 398 has been referred to the House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee for consideration. It is clear that we must work together with the agriculture community and listen to their suggestions regarding a CAUV fix.

While I continue to evaluate this issue and help find a solution for our Ottawa and Erie County agricultural communities, I would appreciate your input on this and all state legislative matters.

Please feel free to contact my office at (614) 644-6011 or Rep89@ohiohouse.gov.

OXFORD TOWNSHIP

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PUBLIC WELCOME!

The Trustees meet the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 7 pm at the Oxford Township Complex.

Zoning Office hours currently are every Tuesday, 7 pm to 8 pm.

2016 Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Erie County Landfill
10101 Hoover Road, Milan
1:00-3:00 pm

Registration Dates

June 16
July 21
August 18
September 15
October 13

Collection Dates

June 25
July 30
August 27
September 24
October 22

Erie County RESIDENTS ONLY! No Businesses or Contractors

You must be pre-registered for this event or you will be turned away.

Acceptable Material

Must Pre-Register with Lisa Beursken at (419) 433-7303 or by email at LBeursken@eriecounty.oh.gov and you will receive confirmation no later than Thursday before the event.

- Oil Based Paint
- Mercury
- Solvents
- Acids/Bases
- Paint Thinner
- Pesticides
- Adhesives
- Cleaners
- Fluorescent Tubes Only
- Fertilizers
- Tar
- Fuels
- Reactives
- Aerosols
- Light Ballasts

Other Material Options

There are free outlets in Erie County for the below materials. Please contact the Solid Waste District at (419) 433-7303 for these options as they will not be collected at this event.

- Compact Fluorescent Bulbs
- Batteries
- Motor Oil
- Propane Cylinders
- Antifreeze
- Latex Paint