

OXFORD TOWNSHIP

# MESSENGER

419-359-1735

Fall, 2012

Vol. 15, Issue 2

**TRUSTEES**

Mike Parker  
419-704-2549  
mgparker@firstenergycorp.com

Scott Leber  
419-706-5850  
scottrods62@aol.com

James Stewart  
419-359-1576

**FISCAL OFFICER**

Phil David  
419-359-1735  
Fax: 419-359-1544  
OxfordTwpGov@aol.com

**ROAD SUPERINTENDENT**

David Kelley  
419-359-1447  
Cell: 419-656-4502  
OxfordTwpGov@aol.com

**ZONING INSPECTOR**

Phil David  
419-359-1735  
OxfordZone@aol.com

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Deb DeChant  
419-359-1355  
OxfordMessenger@aol.com

**FIRE PREVENTION OFFICERS**

Don Vartorella  
Phone: 419-499-8164  
Cell: 419-271-5942  
dvartorella@neo.rr.com

Kerry Jett-- Assistant  
Phone: 419-359-1788  
Cell: 419-656-1247  
jettchief@aol.com

**OXFORD TOWNSHIP FUND**

The Oxford Township Fund was initiated in 2008 by a generous donation of the Sloma family. It is a fund held in trust by the Sandusky/Erie County Community Foundation for use by Oxford Township. The Mission of the Sandusky/Erie County Community Foundation is to develop a permanent endowment, to identify and respond to community needs, and to facilitate charitable giving. Since its founding, the Foundation has grown from assets totaling \$1.8 million to more than \$13 million today. During this time, The Foundation has also awarded more than \$4 million in grants and scholarships for the benefit of Erie County residents. The Oxford Township Fund is accruing funds so that eventually an endowment can be used to fund such things as park, grounds, and building improvements and maintenance. There are three Directors of this fund by charter and they are: a member of the Sloma family, a resident of the Township, and a Township Trustee. Donations to this fund may be made by check payable to the Oxford Township Fund c/o The Sandusky Erie Community Foundation, 135 E. Washington Row, Sandusky, OH 44870. A donation form can be obtained on line at: <http://www.sanduskyfoundation.org/for-donors/giving>, or you may call 419-621-9690. Contributions are tax deductible.

**GASTIER FARM BED & BREAKFAST CLOSES**

After twenty-two years of service in Oxford Township, the Gastier Farm Bed & Breakfast has closed to its guests. The Gastier family have brought many returning friends and acquaintances into our community and had the opportunity to provide some agricultural education in the process. We would like to express our thanks to Ted & Donna for promoting our community and extend our best wishes for your future plans and endeavors!



**Please remember to exercise your right to vote on  
Tuesday, November 6!**

## SUMMER SUMMARY

Summer has once again gone by quickly. This summer the Township shared manpower and equipment with Margareta and Groton Townships again to patch and wedge coat roads. A short part of the western end of Higbee Road was also wedge coated as part of Oxford Township's Five Year Plan. The wedge coating and chipping program is designed to rebuild the edges of the roads, eliminate water collection on the road, and to seal the road and prevent break up. Our Road superintendent David Kelley has been very successful at preserving roads in this manner, as was his predecessor Dale Justi. Portions of Ransom (Mason-NASA) and Thomas (Strecker-Mason) roads were tarred and chipped, in accordance with the plan. Also, as part of the plan, the 1982 John Deere tractor for road mowing was replaced with a new John Deere 5083E tractor and mower, procured using the government purchasing program. Using the government purchasing program allowed the Township to purchase a new tractor and mower for the price of a 4 to 5 year old good used tractor and mower of the same capability.

Other general maintenance items included building an asphalt berm or apron at the entrance to Wensink Seed farms to extend the width of the road and eliminate the safety hazard of stones being drug out onto the road. The business paid for the material and the township supplied labor and equipment for installation, thus giving Township residents a very efficient solution to a public problem. Tom Weilnau, using his equipment, cut brush back on Huber Hill. The hill side is now clear of undergrowth and brush, which allows the grass to re-establish. Jerry Snyder, using Wensink's tractor, cut brush back on Scheid and Taylor Roads, thus preventing a hazard for motorists and bicyclists.

It is very important to note that a great deal of the work done by the Township could not be performed without the support of the residents of the Township, both individually by examples as noted above and collectively, due to the support for the replacement levy passed in 2010.

## FALL FORWARD

Berm work is ongoing on Lovers Lane Road. This work is being done to improve drainage at road's edge. Campbell St. will be patched as well. David Kelley will continue winter preparations on equipment and stock the salt shed. For 2013, no major equipment purchases are needed. The next piece to be replaced is the ton truck, a 2001 model, and that is currently planned for replacement in 2014. This may be extended based on its performance and other priorities. Road work for 2013 includes wedge coat of Lovers Lane and Schaeffer Rd. Tar and chipping is planned for west Higbee Rd and Wood Rd. west of Patten Tract. A tire recycle collection is planned for Saturday, June 22, 2013.

**Please remember Oxford Township in your charitable gifts or estate planning!**

A fund has been established at the Sandusky-Erie County Community Foundation for this purpose. For further information, contact one of the Trustees.

## **HELLO FROM THE ZONING DESK**

The Oxford Township Zoning Department has issued 25 zoning permits so far for 2012, for a total value of \$358,000. Permits were issued for decks, fences, pools and accessory structures with only one house addition being built in Oxford Township for 2012.

The Zoning Appeals Board has held five “Appeal Board Hearings” so far this year. They granted three variance certificates to exceed the maximum allowable square footage for an accessory structure.

People ask why you don't just increase the allowable square footage so people don't have to go through all this process. In 2003 the Zoning Board increased the allowable square footage from 1500 to 2000 square feet for “allowable accessory building floor space”. Their opinion was that they set a standard for what would fit aesthetically on the current residential lot that was less than five acres. There are no maximum allowable standards for lots over five acres. When a property owner applies to the Appeals Board for a variance to exceed the maximum allowable sq. ft. for an accessory structure, the Appeals Board takes several things into consideration: the size of the lot, the size of the building, the design of the building, the need for the building, opinions from surrounding property owners, if this building will fit into the surrounding aesthetic values of the community. All of these things are considered before the Board makes their decision.

The most recent hearing was for a variance to not meet minimum set back requirements from the road right of way. This particular house was built before zoning and sets closer than the current sixty foot setback requirement. The new owner, wanting to enlarge the front porch, tore the current front porch off, which had been grandfathered in (a term used for something that was built before zoning was implemented). Now, because the house sits too close to the road, a variance was needed to rebuild. Had he first applied for a zoning permit, he would have been advised of the zoning situation and would have had the option of just repairing the existing porch, or proceeding with his current plans and applying for a variance. However, because the old porch was torn completely off, a variance was needed to build a new porch in place of the old one.

I can't stress enough, if you have any questions or doubts, please call before you do anything. Problems like this can be avoided, or at least you will be aware of what you will have to do before proceeding with your plans. Nobody likes surprises.

*Phil David, Zoning Inspector*

## **OHIO STATEWIDE ISSUES ON THE BALLOT**

This Election Day, November 6, Ohio voters will decide two Statewide Ballot issues: State Issue 1– Constitutional Convention and State Issue 2– State-Funded Commission to Draw Legislative and Congressional Districts.

The 2012 State Issues Report, which includes the official ballot language, arguments for and against and the full text of the issues, is now posted on the Secretary of State's website at [www.OhioSecretaryofState.gov](http://www.OhioSecretaryofState.gov) (click on the “What's on the Ballot” button at the bottom of the home page).

---

## OXFORD TOWNSHIP

11104 Ransom Rd.  
Monroeville, OH 44847

OxfordMessenger@aol.com

www.OxfordTownshipOhio.com

### **PUBLIC WELCOME!**

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

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



### **SAUSAGE & PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

to Benefit the Groton Township Fire Dept.

**Sunday, November 4th**

**7:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**All you can eat!**

**Pancakes, Sausage, Scrambled  
Eggs, Hash Browns and Beverage**

**Groton Township Hall  
9414 Portland Road, Castalia**

**Donation:**

**Adults: \$7; Children: \$4**

**3 yrs and under: Free**

*(The Groton Township Fire Department is  
the responding fire department for  
a large part of Oxford Township!)*

---

### **ERIE COUNTY HEALTH OUTREACH CLINIC FLU VACCINES**

The seasonal flu vaccine protects against three influenza viruses that research indicates will be most common during this flu season. The viruses in the vaccine change each year based on surveillance and scientists' estimations about which types and strains of viruses will circulate in a given year.

Outreach clinics will be conveniently held from 8:00 am– 10:00 am as follows:

**Oxford Township Hall:** Nov. 13 & Dec. 4

**Groton Twp. Hall:** Nov. 14 & Dec. 5 & 26

**Milan Village Hall:** Nov. 31 & Dec. 12

Cost is \$10 for children 6 months-18 yrs.; \$25 for adults; \$55 High dose 65 yrs. and older

They can take cash or bill insurance (please check with your insurance carrier).

Bring photo ID and insurance card.