

PLAIN TOWNSHIP NEWS

ISSUE 3

FALL 2012



Louis P. Giavasis, Trustee
Scott M. Haws, Trustee
Albert P. Leno II, Trustee

Township Meetings

Board of Trustees

2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month
at 6:00 p.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals

1st Wednesday of the month
at 6:00 p.m.

Zoning Commission

Wednesday in 2nd full week of month
at 6:00 p.m.

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A Letter From The Board of Trustees

In these austere fiscal times, state budget cuts have become a reality for Plain Township. Local Government Funding from Columbus has been reduced by 23.3% for the current fiscal year, and we are anticipating an additional 25% decrease next year. Additionally, the Estate Tax has been eliminated in 2012. Estate tax revenue brought in between \$400,000 and \$600,000 each year and allowed us to develop our parks, purchase sheriff cruisers and provide resources for much needed capital improvement projects. Fortunately for our community, we have our residents to thank for their consistent and strong support of our Fire, Police and Road levies. We also want our residents to know that Plain Township is fiscally sound.

Our department heads, under the direction of the Board of Trustees, have been working creatively to find additional savings, eliminate redundancies and implement cuts to make sure our township continues to offer efficient and effective services to the citizens of Plain.

The Board of Trustees has created a centralized purchasing program for all departments that is expected to save over 13% per year based on our 2011 expenses. We have instituted an energy efficiency program, which will save us approximately 35 % on our energy costs. We have also secured a \$20,000 per year savings in our legal costs through a fixed contract agreement, and have even saved over \$9,000 per year on this newsletter.

Our Road Department has implemented computerized salt controls, which have saved over \$100,000 in just one year. They are upgrading our existing equipment instead of replacing it in order to save money, and have implemented microsurfacing paving techniques which will extend the life of our roads.

Our Parks Department has been the recipient of a Stark Community

Foundation Grant, a grant from the Stark-Wayne-Tuscarawas Joint Solid Waste Management District and a Manning Group Grant for our recycling sites. The Parks Department has also successfully hosted numerous tournaments ranging from soccer, lacrosse, baseball and football to generate needed revenues for our community parks.

Our Fire Department, under the new leadership of Chief Snyder and Deputy Chief Shalenberger, are working to centralize operations with the building of the new fire station on Schneider Street. The Fire Department also continues to search for avenues to reduce cost and to generate revenue through EMS billing and grants. Last month alone, the Fire Department applied for grants totaling over \$180,000.

Our Zoning Department has updated our Township's Mini Master Plan with the collaboration of the Stark County Regional Planning Commission. The Zoning Department has instituted and updated the fee schedule for our zoning code, specifically aimed at internet cafes, and is working with the Stark County Land Reutilization Corporation to address abandoned and foreclosed homes.

The Plain Township Board Trustees has worked diligently to reduce costs and to be proactive in bracing for the anticipated Local Government Fund cuts from the State of Ohio. We are stretching our dollars, planning creatively and working harder and smarter to provide the same quality services our residents rightly expect. We must always remember it is the continued support of the Plain Township community that makes Plain Township a great place to live, work and worship. Please contact us if you have any questions, comments or concerns.

Scott M. Haws
Scott M. Haws
Albert P. Leno II
Albert P. Leno II

Trick Or Treat

Get your goblins, superheroes and princesses ready! Trick Or Treat in Plain Township will be Sunday, October 28, 2012 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Plain Historical Society

The Plain Township Historical Society meets on the third Monday of each month (except December) at the Plain Township Hall at 7:00 p.m. Meetings and programs are open to the public.

September 17 - Richard Haldi will discuss Stark County in the year 1896.

October 15 - Officer elections! Dues must be paid in order to vote. Dwayne Cornell will also speak on the HolGerns Dairy, now known as Milk & Honey.

November 19 - Our annual round table event, during which we reminisce about the past in Plain Township. Come let us know what you remember about these early days.

Water Quality Problems

Yard waste such as leaves and grass clippings can cause significant water quality problems when it is blown or directed into the stormwater system.

Many people do not know the difference between storm sewers and sanitary sewers. While sanitary sewers carry sewage and wastewater that is sent to a treatment plant before being discharged, storm sewers are a separate system and are designed to transport *only* stormwater runoff directly to our local lakes, rivers and creeks. There is no treatment or filtering of stormwater.

If you've used chemicals on your lawn they may contaminate the water that runs into the catch

basins. Even non-treated lawn clippings will do harm. When they decompose, they release carbon and nitrogen that feed undesirable algae, which uses up oxygen in the water and kills aquatic life.

Learn more about protecting our local water quality at

www.plaintownship.com/stormwater

and join the team, we're all downstream!

Another problem caused by lawn clippings, leaves and other yard debris in the storm sewer is that this waste often clumps, contributing to flooding in your neighborhood.

Perhaps you only occasionally allow grass clippings or leaves into the street to wash down the storm sewer. Multiply these "occasions" by the thousands of homes in Plain Township and you can see why carelessly disposing of yard waste in the street is a huge concern.

The best option is to mulch the grass back into your yard as you mow. This is beneficial to your lawn, providing valuable fertilizer as long as you mow regularly. Alternatively, Plain Township provides two sites for residents to dispose of yard waste. All materials are to be unloaded and emptied from bags by residents. Yard waste such as grass clippings, leaves and small to medium-sized branches are accepted. *Plastic bags, treated wood and business*

yard waste are not acceptable. Please see page 8 for our yard waste recycling facility locations and hours.

Keep Schneider Clean!

Plain Township is sponsoring the *Keep Schneider Clean* campaign. This initiative is to educate our residents regarding pet waste at the new Schneider Dog Park and to raise funds for the park.

Pet waste is a major source of bacteria that ends up in our streams. When it rains, your pets' "business" left in the dog park is washed into the nearest waterway. When pet waste decomposes in the water, it uses oxygen and releases compounds that are harmful to fish and animals in our lakes, rivers and streams.

You can help by cleaning up after your pet—not only in the dog park, but at home too! You can also help by sending a donation to the *Keep Schneider Clean* campaign at the Plain Township Hall, 2600 Easton Street NE, Canton, Ohio 44721. Large and small donations are always appreciated. A sponsorship of \$500 or more will get your name or business on a sign to be prominently displayed at the entrance of the Schneider Community Dog Park.



Keith Williams Insurance

4125 Martindale Road NE
Canton OH

330-492-9440



1976 Glen Oak Graduate



House Numbers Available

Being able to find your residence or business is critical to aiding safety professionals in responding to an emergency. Residents can obtain signs with a blue metal background and large reflective numbers to aid in locating addresses. To order, send the order form and a \$15 check to:

Plain Township Paramedics,

3625 Middlebranch Avenue NE

Canton, OH 44705

Call (330) 492-4089 with questions.

House Numbering Order Form

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Zip: _____

Number on sign: _____

Direction of numbers on sign:

Horizontal

Vertical

Proceeds benefit the
Plain Township Fire/
Medics Association

Aluminum Cans for Burned Children

ACBC is an organization that helps child burn victims and their families by providing the following:

- *Special protective clothing not covered by insurance.
- *Non-medical items such as pets or toys lost in home fires.
- *Bicycles that help children exercise their injured bodies.
- *Transportation to out-patient treatments.

Many special events for child burn victims are also funded by Aluminum Cans for Burned Children thanks to your donations:

- *Annual holiday party.
- *Summer Burn Camp.
- *Fire safety educational programs that help prevent future tragedies.
- *An annual weekend outing for adult burn patients who have been treated at the Akron Regional Burn Center.

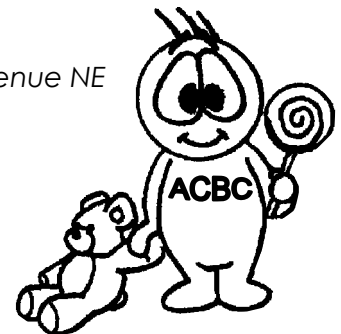
Your contribution of aluminum cans at any of the Plain Township Fire Stations is very appreciated!

Fire Station #1 - 3625 Middlebranch Avenue NE

Fire Station #3 - 2625 25th Street NE

Fire Station #4 - 2855 Easton Street NE

Fire Station #5 - 7858 Market Avenue N



Recent Changes to State of Ohio Open Burning Regulations

Plain Township is classified as a "restricted area" by the Ohio EPA. In addition, open burning is also governed by the Ohio Fire Code, the Ohio Revised Code, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and Department of Forestry. There have been some recent changes related to these various codes concerning recreational fires.

A *recreational fire* is "a fire for the purpose of cooking food for human consumption, pleasure, warmth, recreational or similar purposes" if all conditions in the code are met. Generally, recreational fires must have a pile size of no larger than three feet in diameter, two feet high and must be no less than 25 feet from any structure. The materials utilized must be clean, dry wood only and shall not be utilized for waste disposal purposes. The fire must be attended at all times and a method of extinguishing the fire must be present. You must also register your recreational fire with the Plain Township Fire Department.

Additionally, no longer is open burning of any kind permitted between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. during the months of March, April, May, October and November. No open burning is permitted when hazardous conditions exist, such as local wind speeds that exceed fifteen miles per hour, conditions that are too dry to burn or when atmospheric conditions are inappropriate for burning.

These regulations are set by the State of Ohio and are enforced by Plain Township. The purpose is to reduce the amount of pollutants in the air as well as adhering to fire safety practices.

Fall Yard Debris

With the fall season upon us, the Plain Township Zoning Department will begin to receive phone calls regarding leaves. Please be advised that there are no zoning regulations regarding leaves and/or leaf cleanup. Plain Township provides two yard waste recycling facilities (see page 8 for locations and hour). If you know of an elderly person or a neighbor needing assistance, lend a helping hand or suggest that they contact a local church or youth group for volunteers.

Zoning Certificate of Conformance

To all commercial property owners and potential tenants: A Certificate of Conformance Permit is required prior to anyone occupying a building in a Business, Office or Industrial District.

A new permit is required for any change in business use, ownership or tenant. Applications can be picked up at the Plain Township Zoning Department during regular office hours.

Board Positions Available

The Plain Township Trustees are accepting letters of intent from persons interested in filling expiring terms for the Board of Zoning Appeals and Zoning Commission. One position to each Board will be appointed for a five-year term, beginning January 2013. Interested persons must be legal residents of Plain Township and must be able to devote up to three evenings per month to hear variance, conditional use or rezoning requests. Zoning knowledge is preferred but not required.

Letters of intent should be accompanied by a resume and may be mailed to the Plain Township Zoning Department (ATTN: Zoning Director) 2600 Easton Street NE, Canton, Ohio 44721 or dropped off during our office hours, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Letters of intent will be accepted until *Monday, December 3, 2012*.

Sign Permits

Almost any temporary sign requires a sign permit. So before you put out the next banner or portable sign, make sure you have obtained your sign permit from the Zoning Department.

A temporary sign permit is good for thirty days. You may put out a temporary sign for two months out of a six-month time period. Please apply for and obtain your temporary sign permit *before* placing it outside of your business.

All permanent signs require permits!

New Website Additions!

You can now find more zoning information online at www.plaintownship.com. Just log on to view our current zoning map (updated in September 2011). The map is subject to change, but all of these changes will be listed on our website as they occur.

Our Zoning Classifications of Properties list is also available online. This is a zoning classification list of all township properties that you can search by address or parcel number to find out how a particular property is zoned. We strive to have the most accurate information possible; this list will be updated as changes occur.

The list of Plain Township businesses will be coming soon! This will be the most current list of all businesses in Plain Township that have obtained their Certificate of Conformance Permit. This list will be updated monthly. If your business name is on the list and you wish to have your website and/or email address included, contact Stephanie at smetzger@plaintownship.com. If your business name is not on the list, please fill out a Certificate of Conformance application and obtain your permit.

NEW ZONING FEES

Please note that on May 22, 2012, the Plain Township Board of Trustees passed a resolution to change the zoning fee schedule. There are a variety of changes and one new addition dealing with Internet Café/Skilled Games. Please be sure to check the Zoning page at www.plaintownship.com for the new fee schedule.

Zoning Permits Required

Before you begin any construction project, your first step should be to contact the Zoning Department to discuss the minimum setbacks and maximum size requirements that apply to your property.

In addition to a permit application, a site plan drawn to scale of your property is required to illustrate the new construction's size and location on the property. *Permits must be issued before work begins.*

For general information regarding the minimum requirements for your project, application procedures and fees required, you can call the Zoning Department at (330)492-4686.

Paving & Microsurfacing

Our 2012 Plain Township Paving and Road Repair Project has now been completed. Approximately four miles of roadway have been repaved and six miles have been microsurfaced.

We would like to thank our residents for their patience with any inconveniences that may have occurred during this time.

Sight Obstructions

Please trim back your trees, bushes, hedges, etc. that may cause a sight problem for drivers on your street. The courts have determined that there may be a joint liability between the property owner and the government agency for hazards in the right-of-way.

If you see an obstruction of sight in your neighborhood, please report it to the Plain Township Road Department at (330) 492-3423.

Right-of-Way Obstruction

Please remember that trash cans and basketball hoops cannot be placed in the road right-of-way. According to ORC Section 3767.15, no obstruction can be placed in the right-of-way.

To report right-of-way obstructions, please call (330) 492-3423.

Drainage Problems

Please remember not to rake leaves, grass clippings or other debris into the storm sewers, ditches or streets. Keeping storm sewers and

ditches clean will help reduce drainage problems. Your cooperation is appreciated.

If you see dumping taking place, please call (330) 493-9904.

Also note that it is illegal to dump oil, antifreeze, herbicides, pesticides or other hazardous products into ditches, culverts or catch basins. All violators will be prosecuted. If you see illegal dumping taking place, please report it to the Stark County Health Department at (330) 493-9904.

Permits Required

A Road Opening Permit is required for any excavation in the township right-of-way. The fee for this permit is \$50.

A Driveway Permit is required for new construction or any other improvements made to an existing driveway. This permit gives you instructions for paving and apron requirements. The fee for this permit is \$10.

Permits can be obtained by coming to the Plain Township Road Department, located at 6300 Heminger Avenue NE. More information can be found on the internet at www.plaintownship.com.

Stormwater Marking

Plain Township is seeking volunteers for the stormwater curb marking program. We need groups of four or more such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, youth groups or anyone else who may be interested.

What is stormwater curb marking? This is a coordinated effort to apply educational messages on local storm drains and basins

that flow into important bodies of water.

Organizing a curb marking project is a very important environmental initiative that can lead to cleaner, healthier recreation and drinking water for our homes, communities and our neighbors downstream.



The purpose of curb marking storm drains is to reduce or eliminate NPS pollution. Stenciling the words "Do Not Dump, Drains To Lake" warns the community not to dump pollutants in catch basins.

If you or your organization are interested, please contact Sean Moriarty at the Plain Township Road Department (330) 492-3423 or by email at smoriarty@plaintownship.com.

Learn more about protecting our local water quality at

www.plaintownship.com/stormwater

and join the team, we're all downstream!

Competitive Indoor Soccer

Competitive Indoor Soccer begins on November 2, 2012. The registration deadline for this league is October 26, 2012. This league is for skilled players in the U-8, U-10, U-12, U-14, Adult Coed, Open Mens, High School Boys and High School Girls divisions.

Recreational Indoor Soccer

Recreational Indoor Soccer will begin on November 3, 2012. Players in kindergarten through eighth grade are permitted to participate. Parents and guardians who would like to volunteer to coach a soccer team will receive one child's registration at a discount rate of \$50.00. Registration will be taken at the Diamond Sports Complex on Saturday, October 6 & 13, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Call (330) 499-0000 for information.

King Of The Hill Challenge

Come enjoy Plain Township Park's disc golf course at Schneider Community Park. This full day of events will begin with a disc golf clinic to help beginners become familiar with the game as well as basic throwing techniques. Lunch provided by Quonset Hut. A two-person scramble will follow, pairing up beginners with experienced players. The day will end with real excitement as players go head-to-head to crown the King of the Hill.

When: Sunday, September 23 at 11:30 a.m.

Where: Schneider Community Park, 1704 Schneider Street NE, Canton, Ohio 44721

Fee: FREE for the clinic | \$5 per person for the tournament

Zumba Fitness Classes

Zumba is a fitness class that combines dance and fitness moves for a fun workout. Music selections of both fast and slow rhythms to help sculpt the body. This class is modified appropriately for teenagers, adults and even senior citizens of any skill level, taught by an authorized Zumba fitness instructor. Burn up to 900 calories per class! Please contact us at (330) 499-0000 or visit www.plaintownship.com for information.

When: Tuesdays, November 6 - January 15 from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Where: Diamond Sports Complex upstairs mezzanine, 2782 Diamond Street NE, Canton, Ohio 44721

Fee: \$5 per class | \$32 per eight-week session

Parks For Soldiers

This Veterans Day, Schneider Park will transform into a battlefield. This battlefield will be in the form of a mean 1.35-mile race and obstacle course that will challenge even the fittest of athletes while making the weekend warrior feel accomplished. Bumps and bruises are included in a race like this! Your registration fee will go to the development of Schneider Community Park and will also benefit the Wounded Warrior Project—both worthy causes that will serve many generations in the future. For more information, please contact Danette Lund at (330) 418-0728.

When: Sunday, November 11, 2012

Where: Schneider Community Park, 1704 Schneider Street NE, Canton, Ohio 44721

Fee: \$25 for students | \$30 for ages 23+ | FREE for all service members!

Celebrating Veterans Day Weekend

The Canton Marathon organization will present a 5k race in Plain Township on November 10, 2012. For more information, please visit www.cantonmarathon.com.

New Messy Hands and Squeaky Sneakers programs are coming to Diamond Park! Visit www.plaintownship.com to learn how you can sign up your preschooler!

Senior Programs

The Plain Township Parks and Recreation Department, in cooperation with Parkway AARP Chapter 5190, presents a series of seminars to bring together local senior citizens. On the fourth Thursday of each month, seniors can meet for lunch and listen to a guest speaker or enjoy entertainment at the lovely Chateau Michele, 2231 44th Street NW, Canton. Seminars are only \$10 and all senior citizens are welcome. Reservations must be made prior to attending.

All guests and visitors are welcome to attend two seminars before it is required by the AARP that you become a member of the national organization. Membership in the local chapter is \$8 per year. For more information, contact Marge McClelland at (330) 497-0184.

September 27, 2012 - 12:00 p.m. - Advice for Seniors - Scott Heather

Lunch: Country-Fried Steak with Mashed Potatoes OR Broiled Scrod with Baked Potatoes
Includes: Salad, Roll and Dessert!

October 25, 2012 - 12:00 p.m. - The Voyage of Two Children - Colette Michael Kager

Lunch: Baked Chicken OR Sausage & Peppers
Includes: Salad, Roll, Pasta Marinara and Dessert!

November 15, 2012 - 12:00 p.m. - Gospel & Country Music - Jill Jordan Burke

Lunch: Turkey with Mashed Potatoes OR Ham with Scalloped Potatoes
Includes: Salad, Roll and Dessert!



Soccer 101

This class is for beginners ages four to six years who want to get involved with the game of soccer. Frank Gagliardi will teach your child the basics of shooting, passing and dribbling the soccer ball. Each week your child will play in a scrimmage at the end of class. Space is limited, so please register early! Call (330) 499-0000 or visit www.plaintownship.com for more information.

When: Tuesdays, November 6 - January 8 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Where: Diamond Sports Complex, 2782 Diamond Street NE, Canton, Ohio 44721
Fee: \$60 per child

Footskills

This skill-building program is designed to help both beginners and experienced players ages seven through thirteen years. Participants in this program will learn basic and advanced combination foot skills and turns, proper passing, collecting and shooting techniques, along with the ability to apply these skills in the game. Space is limited, so please register early! Call (330) 499-0000 or visit www.plaintownship.com for information.

When: Tuesdays, November 6 - January 8 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Where: Diamond Sports Complex, 2782 Diamond Street NE, Canton, Ohio 44721
Fee: \$75 per child

Indoor Soccer Season Opener Tournament

Join us October 26 - 28, 2012 for the first annual Indoor Soccer Season Opener Tournament! Games begin at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, October 26 for Coed Adult; 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 27 for U-10, U-12, U-14 and Coed Adult; 12:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 28 for High School Girls, High School Open and Mens. Play a minimum of three exciting, fast-pace, 28-minute games. Winners in each division will receive a team trophy and \$60 off towards first session Indoor Soccer League registration at the Diamond Sports Complex. Referee fees and the team trophy are included in the \$99 registration fee. Please contact us at (330) 499-0000 or visit us online at www.plaintownship.com for more information. *Registration must be turned in by October 22, 2012.*

Contact List

Elected Officials

Trustees	(330) 492-4689
Fiscal Officer/Finance	(330) 493-1366
County Commissioners	(330) 451-7371

Fire & Rescue

Fire Administration	(330) 492-4089
Emergency Calls	911

History

Historical Society	(330) 494-6187
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Parks & Recreation

Plain Township Parks	(330) 499-0000
Park Reservations	(330) 492-4689

Plain Local Sports

Community Soccer Club
www.communitysoccerclub.com

Holly Hills Baseball	(330) 495-6333
	www.hollyhillsbaseball.com

Greater Stark Co. Amateur Soccer League	
	www.greaterstarkasl.org

Plain Local Baseball	(330) 280-2501
	www.PLBSA.com

Plain Midget Football	(330) 966-2475
	www.plainlocalfootball.org

Big Dog Lacrosse	(330) 685-7199
	www.bigdoglacrosse.com

Police

Stark County Sheriff	(330) 430-3800
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Real Estate Records

Stark County Auditor	(330) 451-7334
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Recycling

Solid Waste District	1-800-678-9839
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Road/Storm Sewer

Stark County Roads	(330) 477-6781
Stark County Sewer	(330) 451-2303
State of Ohio Roads	(330) 452-0365
Township Roads	(330) 492-3423

Schools

Canton City	(330) 438-2500
North Canton	(330) 497-5600
Plain Schools Admin.	(330) 492-3500
Plain Bus Garage	(330) 492-1918

Septic Systems

Stark Co. Health Dept.	(330) 493-9904
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Voter Registration

Board of Elections	(330) 451-8683
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Water Service

Canton City Water	(330) 489-3315
North Canton Water	(330) 499-4801
Aqua Water	1-877-987-2782

Zoning Permits

Plain Township Zoning	(330) 492-4686
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PLAIN TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

2600 Easton Street NE, Canton, OH 44721

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #277
CANTON, OH

Administration: (330) 492-4689

Finance: (330) 493-1366

Fire/Rescue: (330) 492-4089

Parks/Rec: (330) 499-0000

Road: (330) 492-3423

Sheriff: (330) 430-3800

Zoning: (330) 492-4686

E-mail: general@plaintownship.com or
visit our website for an e-mail directory

www.plaintownship.com

YARD WASTE RECYCLING FACILITIES

Unassisted yard waste drop-offs are available at two locations. Leaves, branches, small tree limbs and other yard waste is accepted and may be loose or in paper bags. Please, no plastic bags.

Fire Station #4, 2855 Easton Street NE

- ♦ Monday, Thursday and Saturday, 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- ♦ Starting October 9, 2012, we will be open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Sunday from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Closed for Columbus Day, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving weekend.
- ♦ Starting November 26, 2012, we will resume Monday, Thursday and Saturday, 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Warstler Brothers Landscaping, 4125 Salway Avenue NW

- ♦ Starting October 1, 2012, we will be open seven days per week, 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Please note that we will close for the winter