

PLAIN TOWNSHIP NEWS

ISSUE 1

SPRING 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

The Plain Township Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the promotion of Donald C. Snyder to the position of fire chief on January 6, 2012. Chief Snyder is replacing Fire Chief John Sabo.

Chief Snyder joined the Plain Township Fire and Rescue Department in 1974 as a volunteer, and was hired in 1979 as one of the first full time firefighters. In 1994 he was promoted to captain and in 2001 to deputy chief.

Along with Chief Snyder's promotion, the following Fire

Department personnel were also promoted: Charles Shalenberger to Deputy Chief, Captain Howard Hershberger to Shift Commander, Jason Kuhn to Captain, Troy Slabaugh to Captain and Eric Weidlebacher to Lieutenant. We congratulate all of the firefighters in their promotions.

Retired Chief Sabo swearing in newly promoted Chief Snyder



Swearing in of newly promoted Fire Department personnel



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

Canton Marathon 2012

Please be advised that the Canton Marathon will be hosting an event on Sunday, June 17, 2012. This event will include a 10K race, 13-mile half-marathon, five-person marathon relay and a 26-mile full marathon. With such, comes some traffic interruptions along the race routes with runners and the necessary safety measures—barricades, police officers, volunteers, etc.—in place. These interruptions may affect your residence and traffic flow in your neighborhood.

The goal is to be minimally disruptive to the neighborhoods, businesses and religious institutions on the route, and to reopen traffic lanes in an efficient but safe matter for all involved. The pace will

vary for each race. The courses will roll open at the different checkpoints accordingly.

Race routes can be viewed at www.cantonmarathon.com. Please visit the website to see when and how your neighborhood traffic may be affected.

Although this race will run through our township, this event is not arranged by Plain Township. Questions and concerns can be directed to the Canton Marathon, LLC at (330) 456-9811.



Prescription Pill Drop-off

The Stark County Sheriff Department is sponsoring a drop-off for prescription pills. This is a safe, *no questions asked* drop-off for all prescription pills.

This drop-off will take place at the Plain Township Hall, at 2600 Easton Street NE, on April 28, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

For more information, please contact the Stark County Sheriff Department at (330) 430-3800.

E-Waste Recycling Week

Due to ongoing technological advancements, many electronic products become obsolete within a very short period of time. This creates a large surplus of unwanted electronic products. Disposing of this "e-waste" in landfills has the potential to cause severe human and environmental health impacts.

Plain Township will be accepting electronic waste during the week of April 16 - 21, 2012 from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Bring your "e-waste" to the Plain Township Hall, located at 2600 Easton Street NE. We will be accepting your

- ◆ Household batteries
- ◆ Cell phones/Blackberries
- ◆ Telephones
- ◆ Answering machines
- ◆ Keyboards/mice/speakers
- ◆ Circuit boards
- ◆ Misc computer parts
- ◆ DVD players/VCR's
- ◆ CD's/DVD's/floppy disks
- ◆ MP3 players
- ◆ Radios
- ◆ Calculators
- ◆ If it plugs in or takes batteries, we will take it!



Community Service Day

The Plain Township Trustees and the Plain Local School District are planning a **Plain Pride Community Service Day** for Saturday, May 19, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The day will begin with a kickoff rally at 9:00 a.m. at GlenOak High School. Plain Local students, staff, alumni and volunteers will assist Plain Township residents with yard work and other cleanup projects. Projects may include yard work such as raking, planting or mulching, washing windows, cleaning, assisting the elderly, etc.

Help us help you! Those wishing to request help with a project or to volunteer can access forms at the Plain Township Hall or any Plain Local School Building. Forms can also be found on our websites at www.plaintownship.com or at www.plainlocal.org.



Home Septic Systems

In January 2012, the Stark County Health Department updated regulations regarding home septic systems which utilize aerobic treatment units (aerators). All homeowners with an aerobic treatment unit are required to have a current service contract and maintain a contract for the life of the system. Aerobic systems are highly mechanical. Continual maintenance of these types of systems is vital for proper wastewater treatment. Please contact a licensed service provider to obtain a service contract. A list of providers can be found on our website at www.starkhealth.org. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Courtney Myers at (330) 493-9904 ext. 239.

Electric Aggregate Program

Recently, an opt-out letter was sent to eligible residents and small businesses of Plain Township, specifying the terms and conditions of a new governmental aggregation offer. Residential customers in the program will receive 10 percent off AEP Ohio's generation rate and small business customers will receive 8 percent off AEP Ohio's generation rate through their March 2015 meter read dates.

Plain Township voters approved governmental aggregation in November 2011.

Questions about this program should be directed to the community's electric generation supplier, First Energy Solutions, at 1-866-636-3749.

Historical Society Dinner

The Plain Township Historical Society cordially invites you to our sixth annual buffet dinner party. The dinner is being held on Monday, March 19, 2012, 6:30 p.m. at Skyland Pines Banquet Hall, 3550 Columbus Road, Canton.

The public is invited to attend this buffet dinner and enjoy the entertainment provided by the GlenOak Jazz Band.

There will be a 50/50 raffle and a cash bar. Tickets are \$25 per person and must be received by March 12, 2012.

Checks may be payable to The Plain Township Historical Society. Enclose your check or money order along with your name, address, phone number and number attending and send to:

*Plain Township Historical Society
ATTN: Jo Ellen Reikowski
2600 Easton Street NE
Canton, Ohio 44721*

You can find more information from the Plain Township Historical Society by visiting us online at www.plaintownship.com.

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

Do You Rent Your Home?

If you are renting your home, you DO need renter's insurance!

Statistics show that nine out of ten renters do not have renter's insurance. Most people think that they won't need it. Yet there are more fires in rented homes and apartments than owner-occupied structures. The risk increases even more in an apartment building because there are more families in one building than in a single-family home.

Renter's insurance is inexpensive. The average annual premium is between \$130 - \$150 for \$20,000 worth of coverage, and usually includes personal liability.

Don't risk losing everything in a fire without coverage. We have seen too many people lose everything they have. Not having insurance makes the loss even worse. We strongly recommend you get renter's insurance right away.

Cans for Burned Children

Aluminum Cans for Burned Children (ACBC) is an organization that helps child burn victims and their families by providing

special protective clothing not covered by insurance, non-medical items such as pets or toys lost in house fires, bicycles that help children exercise injured bodies and even transportation to out-patient treatments.

Many special events for child burn victims are also funded by ACBC through your donations, such as an annual holiday party, a summer burn camp, an annual weekend outing for adult burn patients and fire safety educational programs that help prevent future tragedies.

Your generous contributions 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



Congratulations On Your Retirement Chief John A. Sabo!

On February 4, 2012, the Plain Township Board of Trustees along with family and friends celebrated the retirement of Chief Sabo with a banquet. The Board of Trustees presented him with a proclamation and a gift from the township. Chief Sabo retired on January 6, 2012, after 44 years of service, 18 years served as fire chief.



Zoning Complaint Procedure

With the spring and summer seasons upon us, the Plain Township Zoning Department has been receiving numerous nuisance complaints, mainly due to high grass and weeds. The Zoning Department has the following policy regarding the filing and investigation of violations or nuisance conditions which affect public health or safety:

- ◆ Complaints will be taken in person, in writing or by telephone.
- ◆ Complaints that are filed with an identifiable complainant will be immediately prioritized and dealt with in a timely manner.
- ◆ A response will be forwarded to identifiable complainants regarding the conditions found and the intended course of action, following initial investigation of the complaint.
- ◆ Anonymous complaints will be taken, but are not prioritized, and will only be investigated when all regularly scheduled work has been completed and there is additional time available within the department.

Complaints regarding high grass or weeds must be at least eight inches in length and must cover 50 percent of the land or more.

ORC Section 505.87 authorizes the Board of Trustees to provide for the abatement, control or removal of vegetation, garbage, refuse and other debris from land in the township if the board determines that the owner's maintenance of such constitutes a nuisance.

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 listed, 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.

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.

Zoning Permits Required

Before you begin any construction project, your first step should be to contact the Plain Township 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 size and location of the new construction. *Permits must be issued before the work begins.*

If you are hiring a contractor, the Zoning Department recommends that you discuss who will be responsible for obtaining permits with your contractor. Remember that, ultimately, the property owner is responsible for compliance of his or her property with all zoning requirements.

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

Sign Permits

Almost any temporary sign requires a sign permit, so before you put out that 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 display 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 a permit! Please check with the Plain Township Zoning Department for size regulations.

For more information from the Plain Township Zoning Department, visit www.plaintownship.com.

Spring Maintenance

The road crew will be sweeping all township streets beginning the second week of March, if weather allows. Yard repairs from snowplow damage will begin in early April in the order that the requests were received. Asphalt repair will be done during the summer.

If you see a pot hole on a township road, please contact the Plain Township Road Department at (330) 492-3423. Repairs will be made as soon as we are aware of the obstruction.

Notify the Plain Township Road Department of any pot holes! Please call (330) 492-3423.

2011 Year End Report

During 2011, the road crew completed 3,295 work order requests for services such as patching, street sweeping, catch basin repairs, curb repairs, drainage, roadside mowing, snow plowing and deicing of township roads.

The Plain Township Road Department also completed the following:

- ◆ Paved 11.42 miles of road.
- ◆ Repaired and power-boxed township roads, using 858 tons of asphalt.
- ◆ Repaired/replaced 1,695 feet of concrete curb and gutter.
- ◆ Installed/repared 2,020 feet of asphalt curb.
- ◆ Striped 22.32 miles of center line and 40.44 of edge line.
- ◆ Crack-sealed a total of 4.83 miles of roadway.
- ◆ Vactored 73,690 feet of ditch line.
- ◆ Flushed/cleaned 4,098 feet of pipe.
- ◆ Cleaned 215 catch basins.
- ◆ Installed/repared 3,499 feet of culvert pipe.
- ◆ Installed/repared 146 catch basins.

- ◆ Reconstructed 1,510 feet of roadside ditches.
- ◆ Swept 525 curb miles of road.

Prevent Drainage Issues

You can help prevent drainage problems by remembering not to blow or rake leaves, grass clippings or other debris into the storm sewers, ditches or streets. This is not only a violation of ORC 3767.17, but it will also help to reduce many drainage and flooding problems during heavy rainfalls.

Please also remember 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 dumping taking place, please report it to the Stark County Health Department at (330) 493-9904.

Right-of-Way Obstructions

Please trim back your trees, bushes, and/or hedges that may cause a sight problem for drivers. The courts have determined that there may be a joint liability between owner and the governmental agency for hazards in the right-of-way. Plain Township is not held responsible for trees in the right-of-way!

Portable and permanent basketball hoops have become very popular throughout our community. Please remember that no basketball hoops or garbage cans are permitted to be placed in the right-of-way. The Plain Township Trustees request that these hoops be moved immediately.

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 at www.plaintownship.com.

Stormwater Marking

We are currently seeking volunteers for the Plain Township 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? Curb marking is a coordinated effort to apply educational messages on local storm drains and basins that flow into vital bodies of water.

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

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 down stream.

If you or your organization are interested, please contact Sean Moriarty at the Road Department at (330) 492-3423.

Visit www.plaintownship.com for more information!

Plain Township Easter Egg Hunt

Count your eggs at the sixth annual Easter Egg Hunt. An egg-cellent time is promised for all children up to the age of ten. Hop on over early to find the best hunting spots and get a picture with the Easter bunny. The hunt will begin for all age groups at 1:30 p.m. sharp, rain or shine. After the hunt, the Stark County Sheriff's Department will be offering registration for the CompuKid Program, which provides parents with a disk of your child's complete identity information. A free snack and beverage will be provided to each child, courtesy of the Plain Township Parks & Recreation Department and the Easton Street McDonald's.

When: Saturday, April 7, 2012 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
Where: Diamond Community Park, 2782 Diamond Street NE, Plain Township
Fee: FREE!

Arts In The Park

The Plain Township Parks Department and Plain Local Schools will bring Schneider Community Park to life with the second annual Arts In The Park event. Art, ceramics and photography will be displayed from Plain Local students. There will also be musical performances at the park, as well as across the street on the GlenOak Campus Piazza. Refreshments will be provided by the Plain Township Trustees at the Schneider Community Park Shelter.

When: Wednesday, May 16, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.
Where: Schneider Community Park, 1714 Schneider Street NE, Plain Township
Fee: FREE!

National Trails Day: Grand Opening of Middlebranch Trail at Schneider Park

A bicycle poker run, a ribbon cutting ceremony, music by the GlenOak High School Marching Band, disc golf, bicycle/helmet checks for children, concessions and informational booths will mark National Trails Day and the grand opening of the new five-mile Middlebranch Trail. Come join the fun at Schneider Community Park with the partners who made this trail possible: Stark Parks, Plain Township, Plain Local Schools, City of Canton, Gervasi Vineyard, Rice's Nursery, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and Friends of Stark Parks. (PLEASE NOTE: The ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place at 1:00 p.m. at Schneider Community Park.)

When: Saturday, June 2, 2012 from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m.
Where: Schneider Community Park, 1714 Schneider Street NE, Plain Township
Fee: FREE!

Camp Re-Use It

Learn from Wendy Bullock, the Stark-Tuscarawas-Wayne Joint Solid Waste Management District's education specialist. This five-day camp will teach your child the importance of the three R's: *reduce, reuse* and *recycle*. This class is very hands-on and interactive. Parents/guardian may drop off children or stay for the fun.

When: Monday, July 9 - Friday, July 13, 2012 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Where: Diamond Community Room, 2782 Diamond Street NE, Plain Township
Fee: FREE!

Friends of Plain Parks: Get Involved!

Meetings will be conducted at the Plain Township Hall, 2600 Easton Street NE, on the second Thursday of every month at 6:00 p.m. The need for additional funding for these and other park projects has never been greater. We have no levy to draw from for operation and maintenance. Any questions regarding meeting information or how to become a member, please contact Danette Lund, Vice President, at (330) 418-0728 or danilund3@yahoo.com.

Summer Tennis

Plain Township Parks will again be offering the QuickStart Tennis program for children ages 5 - 12, as well as tennis lessons for adults and teens. Check www.plaintownship.com this summer for more information.

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. For more information, contact Marge McClelland at (330) 497-0184.

April 26, 2012 - 12:00 p.m. - Colonial Reenactment - David & Sheila Guy

David and Sheila Guy will be dressed in colonial attire and present what it was like to live during this era.

Lunch: Beef Kabob OR Saute Shrimp with Rice

Includes: Salad and Dessert!

May 24, 2012 - 12:00 p.m. - Gardening for Seniors - Cindi Petitti

Back by popular demand, Cindi Petitti from Petitti Garden Center will show you how to get ready for spring with her helpful gardening tips.

Lunch: Broccoli & Cheese Quiche OR Chicken Salad Croissant

Includes: Salad and Dessert!

June 28, 2012 - 12:00 p.m. - Flags, Banners & Pennants - Susan Williams

Susan Williams from The Society for Anachronism will present a program titled *Flags, Banners & Pennants*. This program will teach you the meaning and origin of these important symbols.

Lunch: Grilled Sirloin OR Chicken Breast

Includes: Salad, Beans and Dessert!



Cruise-In Car Show

Save the date! The Cruise-In Car Show is scheduled for **Saturday, July 28, 2012 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.** at Diamond Community Park. (A rain date has been scheduled for Sunday, July 29, 2012 from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m.) Check www.plaintownship.com for more information about this exciting annual event.

Keep Schneider Clean!

The *Keep Schneider Clean* campaign is an initiative to educate our residents regarding pet waste at the new Schneider Dog Park, and to raise funds for Doggie-Pot waste bags 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. From mutts to Westminster champions, your pet's waste can contain as many as 75 diseases and viruses that have the potential to make our waterways unsafe for recreation. 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. These funds will be used to purchase Doggie-Pot waste bags to be used in the park every day of the year. Large and small donations are appreciated. A sponsorship of \$500 or more will get your name or business name on a sign to be prominently displayed at the entrance of the dog park.

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

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

Real Estate Records

Stark County Auditor (330) 451-7334

Recycling

Solid Waste District 1-800-678-9839

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

Voter Registration

Board of Elections (330) 451-8683

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

PLAIN TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

2600 Easton Street NE, Canton, OH 44721

PRSRST 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

- ♦ Reopens on March 26, 2012.
- ♦ Monday, Thursday and Saturday, 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Warstler Brothers Landscaping, 4125 Salway Avenue NW

- ♦ Reopens on March 5, 2012.
- ♦ Open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- ♦ Open Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.