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PLAIN Township News

WINTER 2022

PLAINTOWNSHIP.COM

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FROM YOUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Plain Township Amphitheater



Architect's rendering of the amphitheater

Plans regarding a Plain Township amphitheater began over 14 years ago with the acquisition of Veterans Park. The park was purchased and paid for with estate tax dollars. Estate tax dollars also paid for the initial amenities created in the park. The township trustees held an open house for Veterans Park, which was formerly known as Schneider Park, with ME Architects and the Stark County Park District. Residents were afforded the opportunity to vote on amenities they would like, not just in the park, but for the whole community. An amphitheater and a dog park received the top votes. The amphitheater was to be built in phase 2 or 3 of the Veterans Park design. When the Ohio General Assembly eliminated estate tax funds to local governments, the revenue stream for this project was lost and the plan for the amphitheater was shelved.

In the interim time-period, the Regional Planning Commission of Stark County updated Plain Township's mini master plan. With the redevelopment of Oakwood Square Plaza, the Oakwood Corridor was designated the "center" of the Plain Township community. It was also identified as the ideal location in which to create a venue to host outdoor concerts and entertainment. These entertainment amenities would in turn make the Plain Township community a more attractive area in which to live and work, as well as help contribute to a positive Plain Township identity.

Regional Planning also crafted a survey for Plain's mini master plan, and the need for an amphitheater was identified. The amphitheater project only became a possibility when Plain Township received federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Even with the ARPA

allocation, because of the elimination of previously received estate tax dollars, Plain Township still could not afford to build an amphitheater at Veterans Park. A tremendous amount of excavating would have been required to prepare a proper site at Veterans Park. This would have been an expensive proposition for the township. Additionally, utilization of the federal ARPA funds was most applicable to the Oakwood Square site. The Oakwood Square location is a collaborative enterprise which benefits our local businesses, as well as our public parks initiatives and investments.

Meetings regarding the amphitheater were held on October 8, 2019, September 28, 2021, October 26, 2021, December 7, 2021, February 10, 2022 (the Open House), March 22, 2022, and April 12, 2022. A Survey Monkey survey was implemented in 2020 to garner community response. Sol Harris Day was selected as the architect and after a public bid process, St. Clair/Pavlis was selected as the general contractor.

The amphitheater will not be on the scale of, for example, a Blossom Music Center. The Plain Township Amphitheater will be a community amphitheater hosting a multitude of events like concerts, speaker series, creative movement for kids, senior fitness, yoga, movies, the 720 Sidestreet Markets, Winterfest, and a variety of community events.

While moving forward with this project, Plain Township also realizes parking is an issue related to the chosen site, and is looking at various options to alleviate any problems. Planning for events is just beginning as the amphitheater is not slated to open until the Fall of 2023. Updates will be shared in all future newsletters.

Scott M. Haws John A. Sabo Brook N. Harless



Township Contacts

| | |
|--|--|
| Administration | (330)492-4689 |
| Fire Department | (330)492-4089 |
| Emergency Calls | 911 |
| History Historical Society preservingplaintwp@gmail.com | (330)492-3566 |
| Parks & Recreation Plain Township Parks | (330)492-4689 |
| Plain Township Comm. Sports Community Soccer Club www.communitysoccerclub.com | (330)499-2222 |
| Plain Local Softball www.PLBSA.com | (330)604-0110 |
| Holly Hills Baseball www.hollyhillsbaseball.com | (330)495-6333 |
| Plain Local Youth Football www.plainlocalyouthfootball.org | (330)451-6480 |
| Big Dog Lacrosse www.bigdoglacrosse.com | (330)309-5669 |
| GlenOak Mat Club 3 Levels - ONE Family Facebool.com | (330)705-8166 |
| Powerline Issues AEP | 1-800-672-2231 |
| 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 Stark County Sewer State of Ohio Roads Township Roads | (330)477-6781 (330)451-2303 (330)452-0365 (330)492-3423 |
| Schools Canton City North Canton Plain Schools Admin. Plain Bus Garage | (330)438-2500 (330)497-5600 (330)492-3500 (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 North Canton Water Aqua Water | (330)489-3315 (330)499-4801 1-877-987-2782 |
| Zoning Permits Plain Township Zoning | (330)492-4686 |



Keep up to date at plaintownship.com
Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

Parks Department

Rob Steinberg, Director
rsteinberg@plaintownship.com

330-492-4686

Senior programs are back

In partnership with the North Canton YMCA and Barrow Fitness, we're excited to announce two senior fitness programming options are back for the winter season...

Senior Low Impact Fitness Class at Diamond Community Park in the indoor facility Tuesdays & Thursdays from 11:15AM-12:15PM. Cost is \$22.00 and registration can be found online at www.teamsideline.com/plaintownship. Registration for the January class will open on December 1, 2022 and close at the end of the month. Registrations for each month following will open on day 1 of the current month's class for the following month. Tina Hockensmith of Barrow Fitness is our certified instructor and has a true passion for not only fitness but helping people. Join us for fun and fitness at your own pace!

Also returning in partnership with the North Canton YMCA is the **Senior Chair Exercise Class** on Thursdays from 10AM-11AM at Plain Township Hall (2600 Easton Street NE, Canton). Register by calling the North Canton YMCA at 330-499-2587.

If you're looking for a more informal way of being active through the winter months, Plain Townships **Walking Club** is back at the Diamond Community Park Indoor Sports Complex Mondays-Fridays (excluding all Federal Holidays) from 9 -11AM.

For further information please contact Rob Steinberg, Parks Director, at rsteinberg@plaintownship.com or 330-492-4689.

| 2023 Winter Indoor Session 2 Leagues | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| To register, visit: www.teamsideline.com/plaintownship | | | |
| REC PRE K/K | JAN: 28 FEB: 4,11,18,25 MAR: 4,11,18,25 | Registration Opens 12/1/2022 Registration Closes 1/21/2023 | Cost is \$60 per player |
| REC 1-8 | JAN: 28 FEB: 4, 11,18,25 MAR: 4,11,18,25 | Registration Opens 12/1/2022 Registration Closes 1/21/2023 | \$82.50 for 1st child \$71.50 for 2nd child \$66 for 3rd child \$27.50 one time coaching discount |
| U10 | JAN: 24,31 FEB: 7,14,21,28 MAR: 7,14,21 | Registration Opens 12/1/2022 Registration Closes 1/17/2023 | Cost is \$650 per team Referee Fee is \$12 per team |
| U12 | JAN: 28 FEB: 4,11,18,25 MAR: 4,11,18,25 | Registration Opens 12/1/2022 Registration Closes 1/22/2023 | Cost is \$650 per team Referee Fee is \$12 per team |
| U14 | JAN: 30 FEB: 6,13,20,27 MAR: 6,13,20,27 | Registration Opens 12/1/2022 Registration Closes 1/23/2023 | Cost is \$650 per team Referee Fee is \$12 per team |
| Adult Co-ed | FEB: 3,10,17,24 MAR: 3,10,17,24,31 APR: 7 | Registration Opens 12/1/2022 Registration Closes 1/29/2023 | Cost is \$710 per team Referee fee is \$15 per team |
| Men's | JAN: 22,29 FEB: 5,19,26 MAR: 5,12,19,26 APR: 2 | Registration Opens 12/1/2022 Registration Closes 1/15/2023 | Cost is \$710 per team Referee Fee is \$15 per team |
| HS Co-ed | FEB: 1-2, 8-9, 15-16, 22-23 MAR: 1-2, 8-9, 15-16, 22-23, 29-30 | Registration Opens 12/1/2022 Registration Closes 1/27/2023 | Cost is \$710 per team Referee Fee is \$13 per team |
| HS Girls | JAN: 29 FEB: 5,12,19,26 MAR: 5,12,19,26 APR: 2 | Registration Opens 12/1/2022 Registration Closes 1/22/2023 | Cost is \$710 per team Referee Fee is \$13 per team |
| HS REC | JAN: 31 FEB: 7,14,21,28 MAR: 7,14,21,28 APR: 4 | Registration Opens 12/1/2022 Registration Closes 1/24/2023 | Cost is \$710 per team Referee Fee is \$13 per team |

To register for shelters or the Diamond Community Room, please visit:
<https://apm.activecommunities.com/plaintownship/Home>

Local Business Spotlight



Welcome Vans Tire Pros!

Hello Plain Township from the team at Van's Tire Pros! We are excited and thankful to have the opportunity to serve the community by providing automotive services in such a great location. Well, once the construction is done it's going to be great! We are attached to the Advanced Auto building located at 2312 Columbus Rd. Canton, Ohio 44705 and although new to Plain Township, we aren't new to providing automotive services. Our ownership journey began in Alliance when we took over the existing business, Alliance Discount Tire, in 2018 and the foundation of that story began when a boy from Green married a girl from Alliance.

We do not have hours or space to develop the plot, but as with all great stories where lives converge, overlap and coincide, know that this story does not fall short. It is said that when a door closes, a window opens, and when the death of a friend to cancer closed a door, a window opened for our legacy to take root in the foundation of his business and the ones that came before. So as local and married owners, trying to plan and provide for our own family we are humbled (and albeit frightened) by another window opening for a chance to expand our legacy even further here in Plain Township.

We envision offering the best value from getting cars in safe operating condition to reigniting the passion for driving that has been lost. Through a partnership with Advanced Auto (conveniently located next door), we have unique circumstances which enable us to take care of automotive needs more efficiently. Everyone is busy again, time is valuable and there are delays everywhere so having this close proximity to parts supply is exciting. We offer services such as alignments, oil changes, brakes, air conditioning, batteries, tires and engine repair to name a few and to make the experience of car maintenance less stressful we offer loaner cars and financing as well.

We are thrilled to be at this location which we have fully remodeled for the best customer experience. We have a quiet and spacious waiting area with some refreshments while you wait. The modern interior and layout will make you feel welcome and hopefully wanting to return. We would love for you to come check us out, and let us take care of you AND your car so you can *"enjoy the ride"* once again. See you soon, from the team at Van's Tire Pros.

-Philip & Bambi Biscan

PLEASE DONATE



Donate new and gently worn coats at the Plain Township Hall • 2600 Easton St.
8am to 4:30pm, Monday - Friday
to benefit **Layers of Hope**



Coats will be distributed by Refuge of Hope - a community coat drive layering men, women and children in Stark County with warmth, love, and hope.

WWW.REFUGEOFHOPE.ORG

Plain Township Historical Society

History on the Move

We have wrapped up another busy year. Thank you to everyone that has donated their time, money and items to help us preserve the history of Plain Township. The 2023 season is in the planning stages, so check back with our Facebook Page and Website for updated information. We hope to see you at next year at an event we are participating in!

Visit the Library

Looking for something to do over the winter? Stop by the Plain Branch of the Stark County District Library located at GlenOak High School and check out the display area. We just wrapped up a "Dinosaurs and Mammalia" display supporting the library's November Dino Month. Over the holidays, there is a gingerbread house display created by one of the library employees. This gingerbread house build is an annual must see. You might even see some history about gingerbread supporting the display. In January, we will launch a new display. Stay tune to see what our next story is at the library.

A Snapshot of History

This glass plate negative from the late 1890s was donated by the Graening family who have lived in Middlebranch for several generations. The house still stands today on Depot Street by Middlebranch Elementary School. At the end of Depot Street, was the train depot. It was not uncommon for horse drawn buggies and wagons to wait here until the train was loaded or unloaded. The writing on the side of the buggy reads "The Reist and Son Grain and Feed Grader and Cleaner." A grader and cleaner removed foreign objects, sorted into categories and determined the commercial value of the grain. This process was mechanized and described in the Stark County Democrat in 1870 as "a wonderful little machine in separating the good grain from the bad and other impurities. It is also so simple in construction and works so admirably that it cannot fail to recommend itself to every candid observer." Much research lies ahead to discover more about Reist and Son.



Fire Department History Preservation Project

We are partnering with the Plain Township Fire Department and their Alumni to capture their history and eventually publish their story. There are many of you out there that have ties to the fire department, consider contacting us and sharing items such as: Uniforms, Badges, Helmets, Photos, Stories, Equipment, Articles, Histories, Rosters, Equipment Lists, Ladies Auxiliary, Fireman Festivals, Building/Location Information, Levies and more. If you are not sure if we may be interested in the items, check with us. We can scan and return photos and paper items if desired.

So how can you help?

Learn more about the history of our area and share that history with others. We are always looking for volunteers. Support our fundraisers. Come to one of our free monthly meetings that are open to the public. Consider donating and sharing of your piece of the history puzzle. We can digitize your items and return them, or give them a permanent home. Thank you for your support and to our partners for providing opportunities to share our history.

2022-23 EVENT SCHEDULE... Mark your calendars!

Location: Plain Township Hall 2600 Easton St NE

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm unless otherwise noted

- Dec 21: McDonald's Fundraiser (6302 Market Ave N) 4-8 pm. No flyer required
- Dec: No Free Membership meeting
- Jan 2023: No Membership Meeting
- Feb 20: Topic To Be Announced
- Mar 20: Topic To Be Announced
- Apr 17: Topic To Be Announced
- May 15: Topic To Be Announced
- Jun 19: Annual Picnic - Veterans Park

For information on donating, meetings and our organization refer to:
www.preservingplaintwp.org;
www.facebook.com/PlainTownshipHistoricalSociety
or email us at preservingplaintwp@gmail.com.

HALL OF FAME VILLAGE



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FREE

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Zoning Department

330-492-4686



Zoning Dept. Boards

There are two boards that are pertinent to the Zoning Department. **The Board of Zoning Appeals and the Board of Zoning Commission.** The Boards operate for distinctly different purposes and were prescribed by law and the Plain Township Zoning Resolution.

The Board of Zoning Appeals serves to hear and decide on appeals, variance requests, and issue or revoke conditional use permits. There are two types of variances that may be granted, an area variance or a use variance.

For a **Use Variance** to be granted, it must be determined that a **“necessary hardship”** exists. This generally means that no economically viable or reasonable use of the property exists under current zoning regulations. The application for a variance seeks permission to deviate from the permitted uses in a particular zoning district.

An application for an **Area Variance** seeks relief from area, size, and set-back requirements as established in the Zoning Resolution for the appropriate district. In considering a request for an Area Variance, the legal standard is less stringent and requires only that a **“practical difficulty”** exist in conforming with the zoning regulations.

The Board of Zoning Commission provides a recommendation to the Board of Trustees in both zoning district and text amendment changes to the Zoning Resolution.

Both Boards are comprised of five members and one alternate, all of whom are appointed by the Board of Trustees. If you are interested in serving, please email a letter of interest and resume to zoning@plaintownship.com.



Ask Vinny

Q: I am opening a new business, do I need any permits from the Township?

Vinny Says: Yes. You will need a Certificate of Conformance. You can access the application on our website at www.plaintownship.com or stop in at the Townhall and pick one up. Once you turn it in, a Plain Township Fire Prevention Officer will contact you to schedule an inspection. Once all regulations are met, the Fire Prevention Officer and Zoning Director will sign off and a permit will be issued for the business. It is important for businesses to register with the Township prior to opening. A new permit is required for any change in business use, ownership and tenant.

Fiscal Officer/ Finance 330-493-1366

Tom W. Wolf, CPA • twolf@plaintownship.com



Small Businesses Impact Our Community

Small and local businesses have more community impact than on their designated once-a-year Small Business Saturday awareness events. The ability to reflect a community's character and interact with their neighbors on both a business and personal level is something many large corporations are unable to do. Celebrating a small business is recognizing and cherishing the positive impact it holds around our community, plus all of the independent and unique products or services not found with big businesses.

There are many benefits when you “Shop Local” and support local businesses. For every \$100 you spend at locally owned businesses, \$68 will stay in the community. What happens when you spend that same \$100 at a national chain? Only \$43 stays in the community. Local business owners know you, and you know them. Studies have shown that local businesses donate to community causes at more than twice the rate of chains. Creativity and entrepreneurship are what the American economy is founded upon. Nurturing local business ensures a strong community.

By supporting local businesses, we make Plain Township an interesting and unique community, which will attract new neighbors, visitors, and guests. This benefits everyone!

PLAIN TOWNSHIP PRESENTS

Santa at Central

MEET SANTA AT THE CENTRAL FIRE STATION
1742 SCHNEIDER ST NE

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 10TH
FROM 12:30PM-2:30PM

Enjoy cookies, crafts and photos with Santa

Sponsored by

- Plain Township Parks
- Plain Township Fire Dept
- Firefighters Assn Local 3967
- The Stark County Deputies Assn
- Uptown Cheapskate



Fire Department

330-492-4089



Heat your Home Safely

If you plan to use a wood stove, fireplace, or space heater, be extremely careful. Follow the manufacturer's instructions and remember these safety tips: Turning on the stove for heat is not safe; have at least one of the following heat sources in case the power goes out:

- Extra blankets, sleeping bags, and warm winter coats.
- Fireplace that is up to code with plenty of dry firewood or a gas log fireplace.
- Portable space heaters or kerosene heaters. Check with your local fire department to make sure that kerosene heaters are legal in your area.
- Use electric space heaters with automatic shut-off switches and non-glowing elements. Make sure to keep them away from any flammable materials like curtains or blankets.
- Use fireplaces, wood stoves, or other combustion heaters only if they are properly vented to the outside and do not leak gas from the flue or exhaust into the indoor air space.
- Have your heating system serviced by a qualified technician every year.
- Do not burn paper in a fireplace.
- Make sure you have proper ventilation if you must use a kerosene heater.
- Use only the type of fuel your heater is designed to use-don't substitute.
- Keep heat sources, like space heaters, at least 3 feet away from drapes, furniture, or bedding. Never cover your space heater.
- Make sure that the cord of an electric space heater is not a tripping hazard, but do not run the cord under carpets or rugs.
- Avoid extension cords to plug in your space heater.
- If your space heater has a damaged electrical cord or produces sparks, do not use it.

Dept. Promotions



Plain Township Fire Department has promoted two candidates to fill retirement vacancies. Brandon Mackall has been promoted to Battalion Chief and Ben Magee was promoted to Captain. The promotions are well-deserved. Character, and pursuit of excellence have brought Battalion Chief Mackall and Captain Ben Magee to these positions. Ryan Clevenger and Alexander Derlich have also been promoted from part time status to full time Firefighter/Paramedic Class I. Congratulations to all!

Plain Township Firefighters Presents "Fly the Flag"

The Plain Township Firefighters will place a 3' X 5' flag in your yard before each of the six listed holidays and pick it up after the holiday. The flag will stay in your yard for up to one week. A 20" long plastic pipe will be buried in your front yard permanently flush with the ground, to hold the flag staff. The Plain Township Firefighters will be offering this service to residents and businesses within Plain Township.

- Memorial Day
- Flag Day
- Fourth of July
- Labor Day
- Patriots Day
- Veteran's Day

The cost for this service is only \$30.00 per calendar year.

Profits will be used for Firefighter Charitable funds & Scholarships.

SIGN UP NOW DON'T WAIT

Name: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 IS THIS A GIFT? _____ GIFT GIVERS NAME: _____

PLACEMENT & UTILITIES: The hole for the plastic pipe is drilled 20 inches deep, usually 3ft from the curb and 3 ft from the driveway. Are there any underground utilities in the lawn from 0-20 inches below the surface, such as drains. Yes ___ No ___

For more information:
Phone: 330-492-4089 or E-mail
Flythe flag@plaintownship.com

The flag and staff will remain the property of Plain Township Firefighters and will be removed after each holiday.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
Plain Township Firefighters Local 2967
1742 Schneider Road NE.
Canton, Ohio 44720

House Numbers

Being able to locate 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 by completing the form below and sending it along with a check for \$16.00 to:

Plain Township Paramedics
1742 Schneider Road NE.
Canton, Ohio 44721

For Questions, call the Fire Department at (330)492-4089



House Number Order Form

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Number to be printed on sign: _____

Direction of sign : Horizontal or : Vertical

All proceeds benefit the Plain Township Fire/Paramedic Association.

Clothing Drive

Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health (C&A) is partnering with Plain Township Administrative offices to sponsor a winter clothing drive to benefit C&A clients in need. C&A is asking township residents to donate new hats, gloves, and scarves for us to distribute to families who are unable to afford these items during the winter months. Your donation may be dropped off at the township offices (2600 Easton St. N.E., Canton) during normal business hours now through Jan. 31, 2023.

Each year, C&A serves 4,400 clients who struggle with emotional, behavioral and trauma challenges. The agency works with clients and families to help them successfully meet life's challenges and provide a future of health, hope, happiness and opportunity for children and youth.



Questions? Please contact Dan Mucci at dmucci@childandadolescent.org or call 330.454.7917, ext. 145

Yard Waste

The Plain Township Resident only yard waste site was a huge success this season. Although the site is closed for the Winter, it will reopen on Friday, March 3rd. Live Christmas Trees can be dropped off at the yard waste site in the marked designated area on Saturday, December 31st through Saturday, January 7th. For those residents who would like to purchase a yard waste card, you can do so at plaintownship.com. The key card expires one year from date of purchase. For those residents that purchased their card using a credit card, your key card will auto-renew unless your credit card has expired. In that case, call the Plain Township Administrative Offices at (330) 492-4689 to update your information.



All cards can be picked up at the Township Hall located at 2600 Easton St NE, Canton, Monday-Friday from 8 am until 4:30 pm. Cards will NOT be mailed. Please bring your driver's license or state identification to confirm your identity and residence. One card per household, only. If you do not have access to a computer or prefer to pay by cash or check to purchase a key card, you can fill out a form and pay the fee at the Plain Township Hall. If paying with cash, we need the exact amount as we do not have change. For those paying via cash or check, remember that you will need to renew your yard waste card yearly. The fee for 2023 will remain at \$25.00.



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www.namistarkcounty.org

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2-year **4.75 %** APY* Minimum deposit \$1000

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Financial Advisor
6531 Market Ave N, Suite 100
Canton, OH 44721-2430
330-433-1095



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Financial Advisor
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Canton, OH 44721-3225
330-499-1524

* Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 10/27/2022. CDs offered by Edward Jones are bank-issued and FDIC-insured up to \$250,000 (principal and interest accrued but not yet paid) per depositor, per insured depository institution, for each account ownership category. Please visit www.fdic.gov or contact your financial advisor for additional information. Subject to availability and price change. CD values are subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of CDs can decrease. If CDs are sold prior to maturity, the investor can lose principal value. FDIC insurance does not cover losses in market value. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Yields quoted are net of all commissions. CDs require the distribution of interest and do not allow interest to compound. CDs offered through Edward Jones are issued by banks and thrifts nationwide. All CDs sold by Edward Jones are registered with the Depository Trust Corp. (DTC).

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Nixle Emergency Notifications

The Plain Township Board of Trustees has a community notification service available to all residents, businesses, schools and organizations within Plain Township. This service is called "Nixle." It is a way for our Sheriff's Office, Road, Fire and Parks Departments to communicate quickly and effectively to our residents in case of a township emergency or event. The Nixle service lets us reach out to residents to inform them of events like road closures, snow bans, amber alerts, severe weather, and township wide events (just to name a few) by using email, texting or voice messaging.

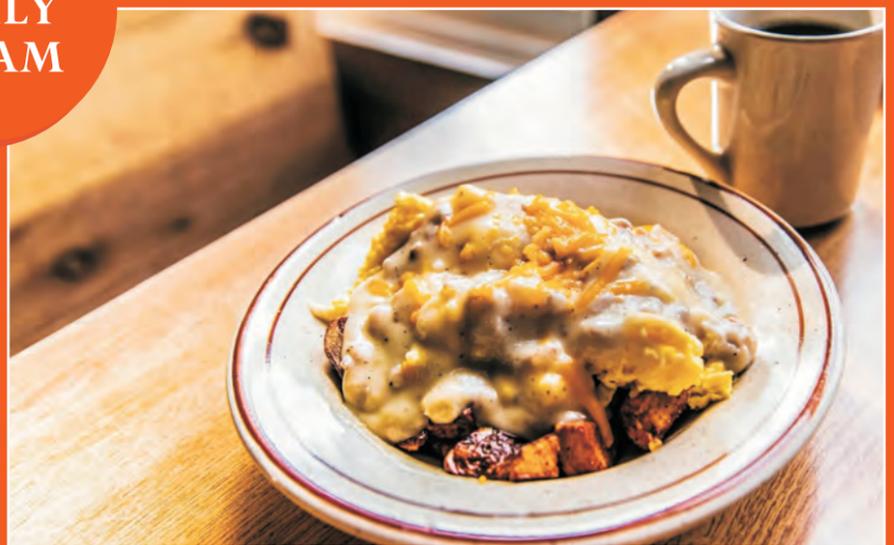
To register for Nixle, either text your zip code to 888777 or go to www.nixle.com. After selecting the "Nixle" link, you may register by entering your zip code in the field provided and clicking Go! On the next screen you will see a Sign Up Now box. Stay safe! Stay connected!



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GEORGE T. MAIER

Stark County Sheriff

Stark County Safety Building • 4500 Atlantic Blvd NE • Canton, OH 44705-4374
Administrative Offices • (330) 430-3800 • Fax (330) 430-3844 • www.starkcountyohio.gov/sheriff

Jail Division • (330) 430-3668 • Fax (330) 451-1309
Court Services Division • 110 Central Plaza S., Suite 301 • Canton, OH 44702 • (330) 451-7425 • Fax (330) 451-7050
Dog Warden Division • 1801 Mahoning Rd. NE. • Canton, OH 44705 • (330) 451-2343

Dear Friends,

Just like that, summer is over and winter is upon us once again! This the best time of year to review safe winter driving and holiday safety tips. Before you know it, we will again face frigid temperatures and snow covered roads. As your Sheriff, I truly want to see everyone arrive at their destination alive and well. We all know how easy it can be to lose control on slippery roadways!

Prior to the start of the winter driving season, it is always a good idea to have your vehicle checked over by a good mechanic to be sure it doesn't leave you stranded. At the very least, you should check to be sure you have adequate tread on your tires, wiper blades in good condition and cold weather rated washer fluid. Also, take time to review your owner's manual to be sure you can properly operate all of the features on your vehicle such as defrosters, lights, cameras, traction control and other safety devices. It is also important to stock your vehicle with snow brushes and ice scrapers, blankets, phone chargers, shovel, jumper cables and other items that might help if you were stranded.

When snow and ice are on the ground, it is even more important to avoid distracted driving and keep all attention on the roadway. Obey the speed limits and drive slower if road conditions make it necessary. According to the National Safety Council, you should avoid using cruise control, accelerate and decelerate slowly and increase your following distance by 8-10 seconds. If you begin to skid, you also need to steer in the direction of the skid. If you have a new driver in the family, take some time to familiarize them with driving in the snow in an isolated area before taking them in traffic. The Plain Township Road Department has some great staff and equipment to clear the road as quick as possible.

Please give them room to work! Stay behind them, don't follow too close and use caution if you need to pass them. Remember, if you can't see a plow driver's mirrors, they can't see you! And as always, be sure to drive sober or call for a ride.

The holiday season is also upon us. While enjoying shopping and family gatherings, it is important to remain vigilant to protect ourselves and property. Remember not to overburden yourself carrying too many large items at once out of a store. There is safety in numbers when you shop with friends or family, particularly at night. Try to place any purchases in a trunk or out of sight. Any visible, expensive items, purses or wallets are very attractive to would-be thieves looking to break into vehicles. At your home, consider keeping curtains or blinds closed when away. It is also a good idea to have lights on a timer and leave the television or a radio turned on. If you have an alarm, don't forget to arm it when you leave. If you see something suspicious at a neighbor's house, don't hesitate to check in with them or call us check things out. Our non-emergency number is 330-430-3800 or we can be reached at 911 if you believe a serious crime is in progress.

I would like to extend warm holiday wishes to everyone. May you and your families enjoy this season. Please keep these safety tips in mind as the winter weather strikes so we can all contribute to a safer Stark County and Plain Township!



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Road Department

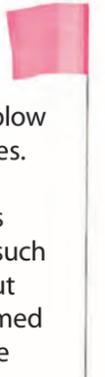
330-492-3423



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- Kindly move all vehicles out of the roadway and into private driveways during all snow and ice events. During a snow emergency, ALL VEHICLES must be removed from roadways.
- Do not allow children to build or occupy snow forts near the edge of roadway.
- Do not throw snow back into roadways, by any means, from driveways or sidewalks.
- Wait to shovel your driveway until the plows have completed their final pass along the curb line or edge of pavement. During a heavy storm our drivers will clear a path in & out to allow for emergency vehicles and traffic.
- Place all trash cans in driveway, not roadway.
- Remove all basketball hoops from roadway.
- Trim trees so that branches do not extend beyond the back of the curb or roadway.
- Do not pile snow in front of fire hydrants.
- Properly secure your mailbox.

Plow Marker Flags



The Plain Township Road Department will be installing plow marker flags on all snow routes. These flags are fluorescent red/pink, and help our drivers determine possible obstacles such as turf, curves, and downspout drains. Please do not be alarmed or remove these flags as these assist our drivers.



Winter Operations

Our snow fleet consist of 12 full-time drivers to maintain over 350 lane miles of roadway. When possible, office personnel, like the Highway Superintendent and Foreman assist in clearing snow. The average width of our township roads ranges from 26 to 30 feet. As a result, this takes our drivers 4 passes to clear an average roadway. There are over 22,000 driveways in Plain Township. Unfortunately, there is absolutely no way that our plow drivers can avoid putting snow in front of your driveway. We also have over 250 cul-de-sacs in the township. Each cul-de-sac has an average of 5 driveways, limiting the places that snow can be put. During major storms, it can reasonably take our snowplow drivers 12 to 16 hours to clear ALL roadways, after the snow has STOPPED! Our crew is instructed to clear main roads first, followed by secondary roads and lastly

dead ends and cul-de-sacs. All drivers do their VERY BEST to not block driveway or mailboxes in cul-de-sacs, but it can be extremely difficult during heavy snow, as the snow must go somewhere. The plow driver's job is solely to clear the roadway.

SNOW PARKING BAN

The snow parking ban will be in effect for ALL Plain Township roadways anytime snow has become or is expected to be 2" or more. Notice will be posted and announced on WHBC, Canton Repository, along with Nixle, Facebook and Twitter.

TRASH CANS

If trash cans are accidentally knocked over or hit by our plow drivers and damage occurs, please contact your trash removal service for replacement, the Road Department is not responsible for replacement of trash cans.

Mailbox Policy

A properly installed and maintained mailbox will withstand snow removal operations. Please install your mailboxes in accordance with applicable postal regulations but keep them as far from the edge of the road as possible. To find out what the proper location of your mailbox is along the roadway, contact your local postmaster. Massive posts, barricades or supports that represent a danger to vehicular traffic or personal safety are not permitted.

We operate on the assumption that individual mailboxes have been installed and maintained by the homeowner and are capable of withstanding the impact of thrown snow. This is the homeowner's responsibility.

Repairs will not be made to mailboxes that are improperly installed or maintained. Boxes down from snowplow throwing will be re-fastened if possible. Boxes down due to deteriorated materials will be the homeowner's responsibility.

In the event your properly placed mailbox is down, a report must be submitted to the road department (in writing, [mailbox policy form] or by phone) within three (3) days of the mishap, unless there are extenuation circumstances prohibiting notification within the 3-day

period. The Damaged Mailbox Must Be Made Available To The Township For Inspection.

Although decorative or expensive mailboxes are permitted within the Township and may be required by individual homeowner associations, they are not required by the Township. Our policy in the case of damage to any mailbox by our plow trucks is limited to repair of the existing mailbox, replacement with a generic mailbox or as close to the existing mailbox as possible, or submission of a receipt for reimbursement of the established cost of the materials for the U.S. Postal mailbox and post materials. Regardless, in either circumstance, the Township will limit the payment not to exceed \$75.00 per eligible mailbox repair/replacement. Mailbox repair will not take place until current snow operations are finished. In the event the mailbox is so severely damaged as to make mail delivery impossible, the Township will install a temporary mailbox to be used during inspection and review of each mailbox damage complaint.



For information regarding our policy in regard to plow damaged mailboxes, visit our website at: www.plaintownship.com/documents/roads/MailboxDamageForm.pdf

“Paint the Plow”

A HUGE thank you to Plain Local Schools, GlenOak Teacher Mrs. Jill Balderson and the Visual Arts Program who did a fantastic job working with the Plain Township Highway Superintendent, JP Neff, to paint two of our snowplows before the winter season starts. A group of 10 Juniors and Seniors in the IB Visual Art Program teamed up to illustrate EAGLE PRIDE! on the plows.



The Plain Township Board, selected from students, the winning two designs to be painted. The two selected designs were created by Seniors, Olivia Crowl and Christina Amanatides.

The following student artists took part in this fun event as well: Gabby Buckley, Ava Collins, Abby Watson, Carrie Schorsten, Lila King, Bella Lattavo, Sophia Petrakis, Addie Postlewaite, Olivia Ramsey.

The Road Department is also working with Family Disability Services/THE WORKSHOPS, INC to paint two additional plows for this year with the goal of having them on display at The Great Pumpkin Race this fall.

LOOK FOR THESE PLOWS THIS WINTER!!

Winter Stormwater



Start shoveling early! The more snow you remove, the less salt you will need. More salt does not equal more melting snow. Follow product instructions when spreading de-icing material and give it time to work. Sweep up any material remaining after the snow/ice melts. When temperatures hit 15° F or below, salt is not effective. Consider using traction materials that contain an acetate, potassium chloride, magnesium chloride, or cracked cornmeal instead of sand or kitty litter! Pay close attention to places that may have eroded during the snow melt. Plan to improve these areas in the spring by using native grasses, meadow plants, or native trees and shrubs. Make sure the storm drains closest to your property are clear of snow and other debris. Do not shovel snow into storm drains since they empty directly into our local waterways.

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