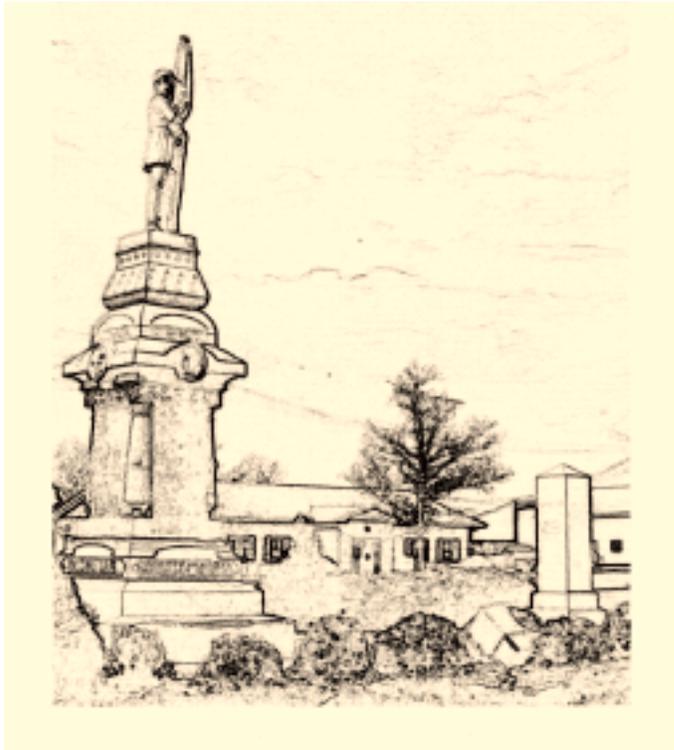


# The Pittsfield Township Talk

Jim McConnell, Fiscal Officer  
17567 Hallauer Road  
Wellington, OH 44090

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U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
WELLINGTON,  
OH  
44090  
PERMIT #66



# The Pittsfield Township Talk

## WHO TO CALL

### TRUSTEES

Mark McConnell, Chairman 647-3427  
Steve Magyar 774-4338  
Mark Diedrick 440-213-5744

### FISCAL OFFICER

Jim McConnell 775-3352

### ROAD SUPERVISOR

Dan Shinsky 774-7223

### ZONING INSPECTOR / TYPE II BUSINESS PERMITS

Dan Shinsky 774-7223

### TOWNSHIP HALL SUPERVISOR

Pat Koniarski 774-3828

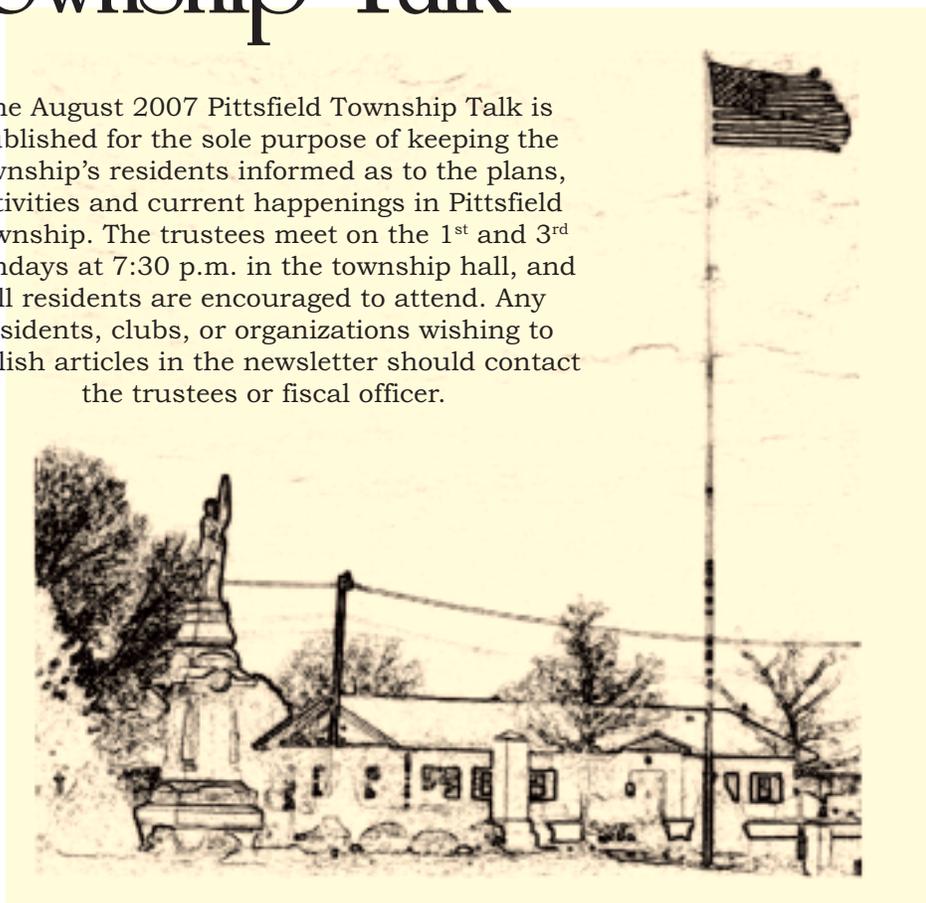
### CEMETERY SEXTON

Jim Sheffield 775-7147

### TOWNSHIP WEBSITE

<http://www.pittsfieldtwp.us>

The August 2007 Pittsfield Township Talk is published for the sole purpose of keeping the township's residents informed as to the plans, activities and current happenings in Pittsfield Township. The trustees meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays at 7:30 p.m. in the township hall, and all residents are encouraged to attend. Any residents, clubs, or organizations wishing to publish articles in the newsletter should contact the trustees or fiscal officer.



# Cemeteries Spruced Up with New Markers and Barn



Pittsfield's two cemeteries will undergo improvements this fall. Badly damaged headstones in the township's cemeteries will be replaced over the coming month with new markers, other stones may be repaired, and some veteran's gravesites will also receive new flag holders.

Weather has taken its toll and left a number of headstones damaged and sometimes illegible. Repairs made over the years have patched together the older stones for as long as possible. Township Historian Ralph Hayes is rallying residents who would like to assist him with preserving the cemetery, including documenting information from those

headstones that need replaced. (See the back page for more information on how to help.)

Replacement markers that are being provided by the township are made from recycled plastic. The cost of the markers was nearly covered thanks to a \$2,800 Close the Loop Grant from the Lorain County Solid Waste District. Close the Loop grants help encourage the purchase of products made from recycled materials.

And thanks to the interest of the Wellington VFW and Ray Church — they have obtained 50 new flag holders to honor veteran's graves. The memorials will replace old or damaged flag holders and will be set in place in the near future.

The gravestone projects are part of ongoing improvements at the cemeteries. Residents may have noticed the new storage building at the Pittsfield East Cemetery on Route 303. This building cost about \$15,000 to construct last fall, and it gives township employees a place to store mowers and other items that are needed to care for the cemeteries. This building also provides a place to stage any equipment needed for funerals, out of view from the actual services.



## Splash Zone Discounts Available for Residents

Is the summer heat getting you down? The trustees wish to remind Pittsfield Township



residents that they can obtain half-price discounts on memberships to the Splash Zone in Oberlin.

The Splash Zone, located at 95 W. Hamilton St., offers a large indoor pool, a tot pool, fitness equipment, swim lessons and other programs.

The discount doesn't apply to daily entrance fees, but it can be used for all other memberships. When applying for the discounted membership, you will need to show proof of residency, such as your driver's license or a utility bill with your address. For more information about the Splash Zone, call 774-5059, or visit [www.loraincountymetroparks.com](http://www.loraincountymetroparks.com).

## Vacancy on Zoning Board

The township's zoning board is in need of an alternate member. An alternate member acts as a back-up in case a regular member of the board is unable to attend a meeting or hearing. Alternates also are needed if a vacancy opens up on the board. Pittsfield Township's Zoning Board meets quarterly and on an as-needed basis. If you are interested

in being part of the board, contact any trustee or the fiscal officer.

## Trustees Approve Changes to Zoning Book

Several changes to the Pittsfield Township Zoning Book have been presented by the Zoning Board and approved by the trustees. The changes will hopefully clarify some points in the zoning requirements for residents. In some cases, the new rules cover areas not previously addressed. The Zoning Board is also considering changes to Family Business permits and how often they should be reviewed by zoning officials.

The following additions or changes are those that have been approved. The zoning book can be found in its entirety online at [www.pittsfieldtp.us](http://www.pittsfieldtp.us).

**Fences:** Walls and fences shall be installed no closer than 25 feet from the road right of way and in accordance with the legal description of the property. Also the finished side shall face the adjacent property. Fences may be placed to the property line and shall be properly maintained.

### Private Bridges:

No Person shall construct a bridge on their property which is intended for vehicular travel, especially emergency vehicles (ambulance and/or fire trucks) without a zoning permit/certificate.

The plans for the bridge must be prepared by a registered architect or engineer and must be approved by the Township Trustees before construction is begun.

The bridge shall be designed so as to:

- Be capable of withstanding 100% of a legal load as established by the Ohio Department of Transportation.
- Have approaches designed to accommodate long wheelbase vehicles, such as fire trucks and other safety vehicles.
- Comply with the width, horizontal, and vertical clearances specified in Number 2 of this section.
- Not to impede the flow of water under the bridge. If the stream or creek is part of the 100 year flood plain, as designated by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Flood Insurance Rate Maps, the design shall conform to all applicable NFIP standards.
- Entrance to and exit from the bridge shall be maintained as specified in Number 2 of this section.
- The deck and under-structure shall be maintained at all times.

**Signs:** Green reflective address signs are required and available through the Pittsfield Township Trustees. They are to be posted at the road right of way or on the mail box post for the purpose of property identification for emergency vehicles.

**Site Plan Review and Performance Standards:** All proposed uses located within the Pittsfield Township / Oberlin Annexation Agreement area shall also be reviewed under the standards of the Oberlin Zoning Code Sections 1357.06 and 1357.10, with the exceptions of 1357.06(j) and (1 1-8) and 1357.10(c)(1)(A-F) and (c)(7,8), which are outside of the Township Site Plan Review parameters under the Ohio Revised Code.

In instances pertaining to storm water management and architectural design details, the Township will encourage coordination between the applicant and the City of Oberlin and where applicable, the County approving agency.

**The following are in agreement with the City of Oberlin and Pittsfield Township revenue sharing/annexation agreement:**

1. Slightly enlarge the Industrial District to include a portion of the Waltz property, Pittsfield lot 5; the portion of this property is located in the southeast corner of lot approximately 400 ft x 1271.96 ft.
2. Rezone the existing "Office Transition" area along Route 58 on the east side from the southern boundary of the Waltz property, north to Pittsfield/New Russia Township boundary, to residential zoning.
3. Rezone the area on the northeast corner of Route 58 and Route 20 from "Small Retail" to an "Office Transition District" classification and enlarge the covered area to include the Hanmer property on Pittsfield lot 16.

## ***High Water Leads to Concerns for Residents' Safety***

Over the past year, the township has become more proactive about warning drivers when there is floodwater on the roads. These efforts have been in response to the June 2006 drowning of Wellington Fire District diver Alan Anderson on Pitts Road in Wellington Township.

Since that time, Pittsfield Township has installed permanent high water signs in areas where the roadway floods frequently. These high water signs fold in half and are left closed on the posts; when necessary, the signs are then opened up. This saves time for the road supervisor who may need to monitor several flooded sites simultaneously as well as erect road barriers. Previously, each high water signpost had to be set in place by hand (or by tractor) and then later removed.

High water depth gauge markers have also been purchased for areas where the Black River crosses township roads. These markers will give a reference as to how deep the water is in areas prone to flooding.

Always exercise caution when driving through water, or better yet, take a detour. Water is deceiving and what you think is only a few inches deep, may be much deeper. In some cases, moving water will wash away the road edge, so there may not be a solid road under you at all if you try to pass through it. Finally, if there are barriers closing a road, don't go around them.

## ***Township's Stop Signs Are Improved***

If you are caught rolling through a stop sign in Pittsfield, you won't be able to say it was because you didn't see it! This summer, the township's stop signs were replaced with new, more reflective signs. In addition, signposts have had vertical red reflective strips installed to make them more visible to drivers. If you notice a sign that needs attention, signs that are at the intersection of a county road or a state route are the responsibility of those agencies.



## ***In with the New Tables and Out with the Old***

Nine new tables have been purchased for use in the Pittsfield Township Hall. The new rectangular tables are the same size as the ones they are replacing and seat 6 to 8 people. The old tables have seen a number of parties, but are still in good shape. They are for sale through sealed bid to anyone who is interested in obtaining them. To submit a bid, write that you are interested in the tables, state if you want all nine or just some of them, and the amount per table you are willing to pay. Then send your bid to Township Fiscal Officer Jim McConnell, 17567 Hallauer Road, Wellington OH, 44090. Bids will be opened at the township meeting on Aug. 20.

# Ralph Hayes about His New Role as Township Historian

I'd like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to our township trustees for recently appointing me official township historian. Many of you know me as a life-long resident of the township with an avid interest in our local history. For you newer residents, I look forward to personally meeting you and sharing, along with our more established residents, the rich history of our township.

During the coming issues of the Township Talk, I will be writing about our past. If you desire a specific topic to be covered, let me know. I am also willing to research your personal interests such as family histories, or possibly the history of your current residence.

One of my primary objectives as historian will be to archive as much information as possible about our township history. In addition to our old official township records, I would like to include family histories of our past and current residents; old photos of people, places and events; old land titles; church records; school records; along with information on community events and local organizations such as 4-H clubs, Scouts, Grange, Farm Women's Club, neighborhood clubs, Farm Institutes, and others.

In order to compile this information, I need your help. If any of you have records containing this type of information, please contact me. If you don't want to part with the original document or record, I would be glad to have it copied for inclusion in the township archives. I also need help researching, compiling and organizing this information for public access.

I will be contacting some of you to determine your interest in participating in an oral history project. I will be asking your permission to tape record a personal interview regarding your memories of living in Pittsfield Township.

I will also be considering the possibility of forming a Pittsfield Township Historical Society. This would allow us as a non-profit, tax exempt organization the opportunity to apply for grants to fund our preservation and restoration activities. This would also allow us to accept donations. Anyone interested in helping this effort please contact me.

As you can see, my wish list of expectations as your township historian is endless, but I feel it is extremely important that this historical information should be compiled and preserved for our future generations. Thank you again for this opportunity, and I look forward to your input and support in this effort.

Ralph Hayes, Township Historian



## Edith Clapp, Telephone Operator for Pittsfield, Ohio.

Edith Hoffman Clapp was born June 21, 1898, the daughter of Valentine and Emma Sprague Hoffman. Her husband was Perry Clapp. Edith died on May 5, 1977 in Elyria at the age of 78. (Photo provided by Al Leiby of Penfield Township.)

Historian's note: Does anyone have information on other telephone operators in Pittsfield, or where the telephone exchange was located?

## Volunteers Wanted to Improve Pittsfield Cemeteries

Township Historian Ralph Hayes is looking for volunteers who are interested in helping to improve and preserve our township's cemeteries. The work would involve cleaning, restoration, straightening, and leveling some of our earliest and oldest gravestones. Also included will be work in documenting the repairs, photographing the stones and doing research on the inscriptions and their carvers.

Training will be provided, along with a flexible work schedule. Anyone interested in lending a hand with this project should contact Ralph at 440-647-2203, or e-mail him at hayes@kellnet.com.