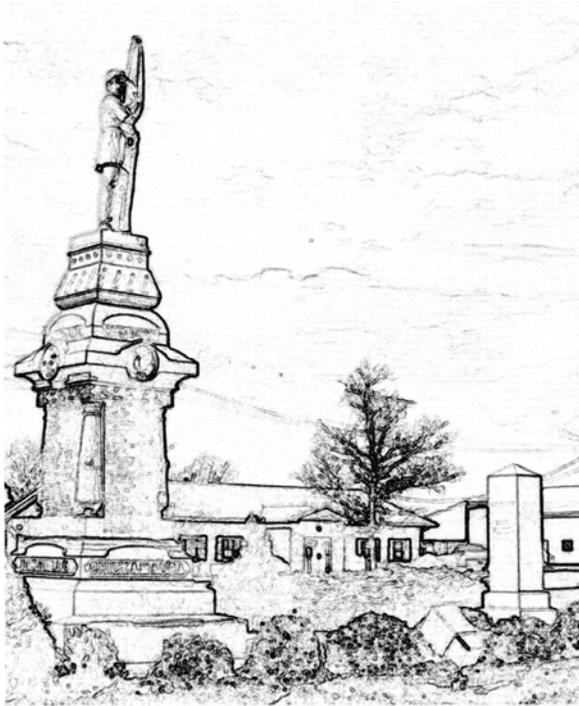


The Pittsfield Township Talk

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

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The Pittsfield Township Talk

WHO TO CALL

TRUSTEES

Mark McConnell, Chairman 647-3427
Mark Diedrick 774-2174
Steve Magyar 774-4338

FISCAL OFFICER

Jim McConnell 775-3352

ROAD SUPERVISOR

Dan Shinsky 440-774-7223

ZONING INSPECTOR

Dan Shinsky 440-774-7223
<http://www.pittsfieldtwp.us>

TYPE II BUSINESS PERMITS

Jim Gleason 775-3795

TOWNSHIP HALL SUPERVISOR

Pat Koniarski 774-3828

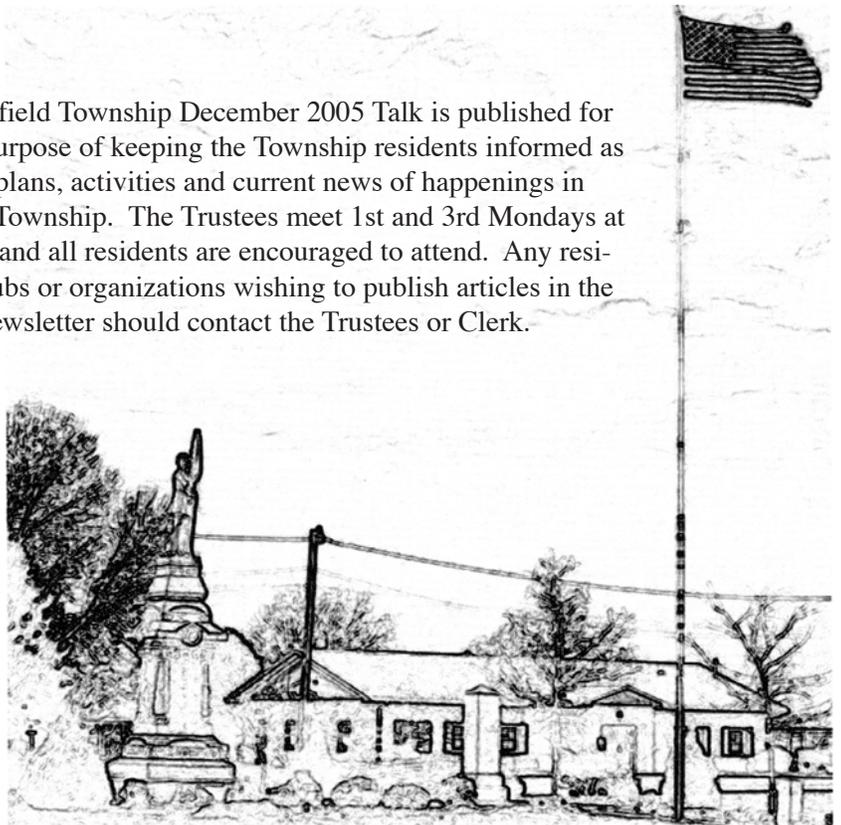
CEMETERY SEXTON

Jim Sheffield 775-7147

NEW WEBSITE:

<http://www.pittsfieldtwp.us>

The Pittsfield Township December 2005 Talk is published for the sole purpose of keeping the Township residents informed as to the plans, activities and current news of happenings in Pittsfield Township. The Trustees meet 1st and 3rd Mondays at 7:30pm, and all residents are encouraged to attend. Any residents, clubs or organizations wishing to publish articles in the newsletter should contact the Trustees or Clerk.



New SplashZone Rates for Township Residents

The Pittsfield Township Trustees have negotiated an arrangement with the Lorain County Metropolitan Park District to provide reduced membership rates for township residents to the park district's Splash Zone facility on Hamilton Street in Oberlin.

For an annual fee of \$5000 paid by the township, the park district will provide a 50% reduction to their various membership fees. Specifically, the following fee schedule will be applicable to Pittsfield town residents*:

Monthly individual = \$11.25 • Quarterly individual = \$22.50

Yearly individual = \$90.00 • Yearly family of four = \$300.00

Discount does not apply to daily admission.

It will be necessary for anyone applying for a discounted membership to show proof of residency in Pittsfield Township. A utility bill showing your name and address or driver's license should be all that is necessary since the township will provide the Splash Zone staff with information indicating what addresses fall within township boundaries.

The Trustees hope that many of you will find this program a real benefit for your families. Adult members enjoy use of a large, heated indoor pool as well as a variety of fitness equipment. Member discounts are available for several programs including water aerobics and swim lessons for adults and children.

SplashZone is located at 95 West Hamilton Street at route 58 in Oberlin. For more information call 774-5059, or visit www.loraincountymetroparks.com.



**Rates may change without notice;
does not apply to previous purchases;
effective January 2, 2006- Dec 31, 2006.*



History of the Township

The Pilgrim Fathers in Ohio brought the Township form of government to America in 1620. From the New England states, where this governmental unit is still referred to as the "town," this form of government spread west as far as the Rocky Mountains. Today, 22 states have the town or Township form of local government.

The Township in Ohio predates our state government. The size and shape of the Township was determined by the Congressional Acts establishing the various land grants. The Virginia Military Lands are the only lands in Ohio not surveyed

under the range and Township system. All other land grants were surveyed into Townships either five miles square (for example, the Connecticut Western reserve in 1786) or six miles square (for example, the Congress Lands 1798-1801). In certain of the Ohio land grants Congress set aside lands for the use of schools and the support of religious institutions. For example, in Symmes purchase, section 16 in each Township was reserved for the use of schools and Section 29 was set aside to support religious institutions.

As the Ohio Territory became populated it was only natural that the surveyed Townships should become the basic unit of local government. In 1804 the elected officials of a Township consisted of three trustees, a clerk, two overseers for the poor, and a sufficient number of supervisors of highways, in addition to justices of the peace and constables. Later a Township treasurer and assessor were added. In the earliest years of statehood, the Ohio township government cared for the poor, maintained the roads, preserved the peace, registered brands and fulfilled the needs of local government generally.

Today, just as in 1804, The Township of Ohio is a political subdivision of the state. As such it has only those powers granted to it by the state legislature, and performs the functions as directed by the state. To keep pace with the demands of changing times, the functions, duties, and obligations of the township have changed over the years. As demands for increased or different governmental services have been made necessary at the local level the state legislature has responded by giving Township government the authority to provide these services.

The primary functions of Ohio Townships include Lighting, Zoning, Township Roads, Waste Disposal, Cemeteries, and Fire and Police Protection. Other functions include animals running at large; ditches, drains and other surface waters; line fences between adjacent properties; Township hospitals and hospital districts; monument erections; parks and public playgrounds; and in some cases the control of weeds and brush.

Three trustees and a clerk (now Fiscal Officer, see related article this issue), each elected for a four year term, administer each of our Townships today.

SAFETY NOTICE: CAUTION!

Candles can be more dangerous than you think and can cause structural fires

Over the past several years, Wellington Fire District has responded to several incidents where candles have caused fires resulting in property damage. Recently, various types of candles have been recalled by manufactures after several reports have deemed them a fire hazard. Misuse and carelessness have also contributed to fires caused by burning candles.

We remind you to think about what you are doing when burning candles and to be safe in doing so. Here are some helpful tips and facts to consider:

- **Make sure the flame is not too high and that there is nothing above it that can easily ignite (such as curtains or drapes).**
- **Be careful where you place the candle in the room. Hot wax can ignite furniture and even carpeting if exposed.**
- **Put your candle in a proper container and make sure it can hold the melted wax. It's best to use a designed candleholder and not plastic, glass, or other such materials for holders. Several reports have shown glass containers breaking from hot wax.**
- **Be aware of that toxic gas that the flame *may* release while burning. Make sure you don't use too many candles at once and have a place for the flames to vent.**

NEVER LEAVE A BURNING CANDLE UNATTENDED.

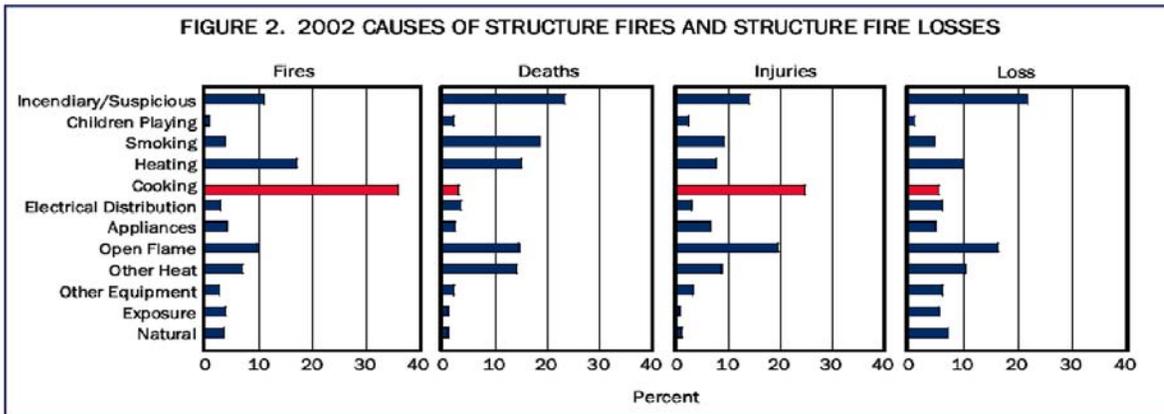


TAKE CAUTION WHEN COOKING

- Don't leave cooking food unattended. If you must leave, turn off all cooking appliances.
- Don't put any combustible materials such as towels, potholders, papers, etc. near any heating appliances.
- Don't attempt to move a pan of grease that is on fire. Put a lid on the pan and turn off the heat or use an ABC Fire Extinguisher.
- Alert your family so evacuation can begin.
- Don't wear loose fitting clothing. It is more likely to come into contact with a heating source and become ignited. Wear tight fitting clothing around arms and waist.
- Don't leave small appliances (toasters, can opener, etc.) plugged into outlets. Always unplug after each use.

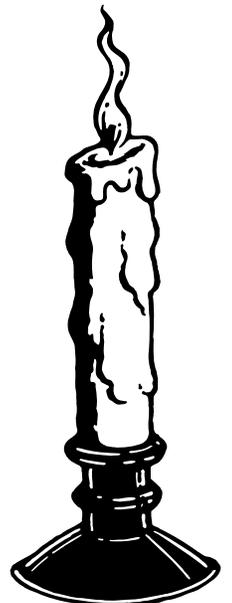
Each home should have at least one working smoke alarm on every floor.

For more information on fire prevention, contact the Wellington Fire District at 440-647-2245.



WHERE FIRES OCCUR

Although cooking fires occur in many property types, the overwhelming majority of them take place in residential structures. Over 80% of cooking fires occur either in one- and two-family dwellings or in multifamily buildings such as apartments .



Happy New Year!

Lorain County Office on Aging

To better serve the senior citizens in the southern county townships, the Lorain County Office on Aging now has an office in Wellington.

Programs offered are: health and nutrition education, assisted transportation, light housekeeping, minor home repair, chore program, monthly food delivery, Senior Years Newspaper subscription, Golden Buckeye registration and Retired Senior Volunteer Program. They also assist, provide and help complete medication cost relief forms, energy assistance forms and Medicare forms.

If you, or anyone you know needs help, please call the township's senior coordinator, Bridget Graham at 647-3801. Her hours are 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. If it is after hours, please leave a message and she will get back with you as soon as possible.

Also, if you would like to volunteer to help in any way with this much needed program, please call Bridget at that number, also.

January Trustee Meeting Schedule Change

Due to the holidays (and the Fiesta Bowl), the Trustee Meetings will be held on January 9th and 23rd at 7:30 p.m. Meetings for February will resume to the normally scheduled first and third Mondays.

Mailbox Replacement Policy

Pittsfield Township Trustees recently reaffirmed their policy regarding mailbox replacement. For residents on township roads, if a mailbox needs replacement as a result of snow plowing operations, the township will reimburse the homeowner up to \$50.00 for that purpose one time per winter. Any resident who needs to take advantage of this policy should forward a receipt for the replacement mailbox and materials to township fiscal officer Jim McConnell @ 17567 Hallauer Rd., Wellington.

As often as not, mailboxes are damaged just from the force of the snow coming off the plow rather than actual contact from the plow itself. The township snowplow operators do

the best they can to avoid mailbox damage but sometimes it is beyond their control. Conditions are generally less than ideal and visibility is usually severely restricted. Residents might save themselves some time and bother by examining, and, if possible, strengthening their mailboxes now, to help them withstand plowing operations.

Title Change for the Township Clerk

Due to the recent adoption by the Ohio Legislature of Sub. S.B. 107, which took effect December 15th, all Township Clerks in Ohio became Township Fiscal Officers. The change was implemented to better reflect the nature of the responsibilities of the office. In some cases, the title "Clerk" was deemed inadequate when used on official documents such as some federal forms. It appears that to some Washington bureaucrats and others, "Clerk" sounded too *clerical* and not sufficiently dignified, official, or "fiscal". So as of December 15th, the office of Pittsfield Township Clerk no longer exists and is now known as Pittsfield Township Fiscal Officer.

Snowmobile Common Sense

We have already had a snowy start to this winter and the snowmobilers have had a number of opportunities to enjoy the wintry conditions. Inevitably, this brings a number of complaints from property owners about unauthorized use of their land - even their front yards.

We expect most snowmobile operators to be respectful of other people's property. As a result, many have asked land owners permission for access across their land. However, it is also obvious that some sled riders have chosen to ignore "no trespassing" indicators, and seem to lack common courtesy in where they ride - across open fields or individual front (and sometimes rear) yards.

Please remember, just because you spent a lot of money on a winter toy and mother nature occasionally provides enough snow to pull them out of the garage, you do not have the right to ride anywhere and everywhere you please. Access to property is still at the discretion of the property owner. Please be considerate and sensible in how, when, and where you ride.

The Sheriff's department has indicated that they will follow up on citizen's complaints as promptly as possible. They also suggest that accurate and complete descriptions of the snowmobiles and their riders are the best tool they have. Even better would be pictures or videos if possible.

Newspaper Recycling

Many of you have noticed the green recycling containers near the township garage. These receptacles have replaced the trailer that used to be at the same location for deposit of old newspaper.

The new containers are furnished by Abitibi Consolidated, a firm whose business is recycling paper products. Instead of township employees needing to haul the accumulated newspapers to a recycling point for no compensation to the township, Abitibi will now periodically empty these containers and pay the township based on the weight of papers collected. The revenue is not significant, but it is positive cash revenue. The township will use the revenue to help defray the cost of these newsletters and fund other recycling and litter control efforts.

Newspapers, stationary, office paper, and magazines are all eligible for recycling. Even though your individual contribution may seem insignificant, collectively it will make a significant difference in reducing material going into the landfill and providing some additional revenue for the township. Plan ahead and make use of the convenient Abitibi recycling containers the next time you pass by the township center.



License Plate Renewal

Be certain to indicate that you are a resident of Pittsfield Township when you renew your vehicle registration, whether you do that in person, through the mail or online. Pittsfield Township will get a portion of the license fee to be used toward maintenance of the township's roads.