

# The Pittsfield Township Talk

Jim McConnell, Clerk  
17567 Hallauer Road  
Wellington, OH 44090

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# The Pittsfield Township Talk

## WHO TO CALL

### TRUSTEES

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

### CLERK

Jim McConnell 775-3352

### ROAD SUPERVISOR

Dan Shinsky

### ZONING INSPECTOR

Bill Cutchner 775-4095  
[www.loraincounty.net/cities/pittsfield](http://www.loraincounty.net/cities/pittsfield)

### TYPE II BUSINESS PERMITS

Jim Gleason 775-3795

### TOWNSHIP HALL SUPERVISOR

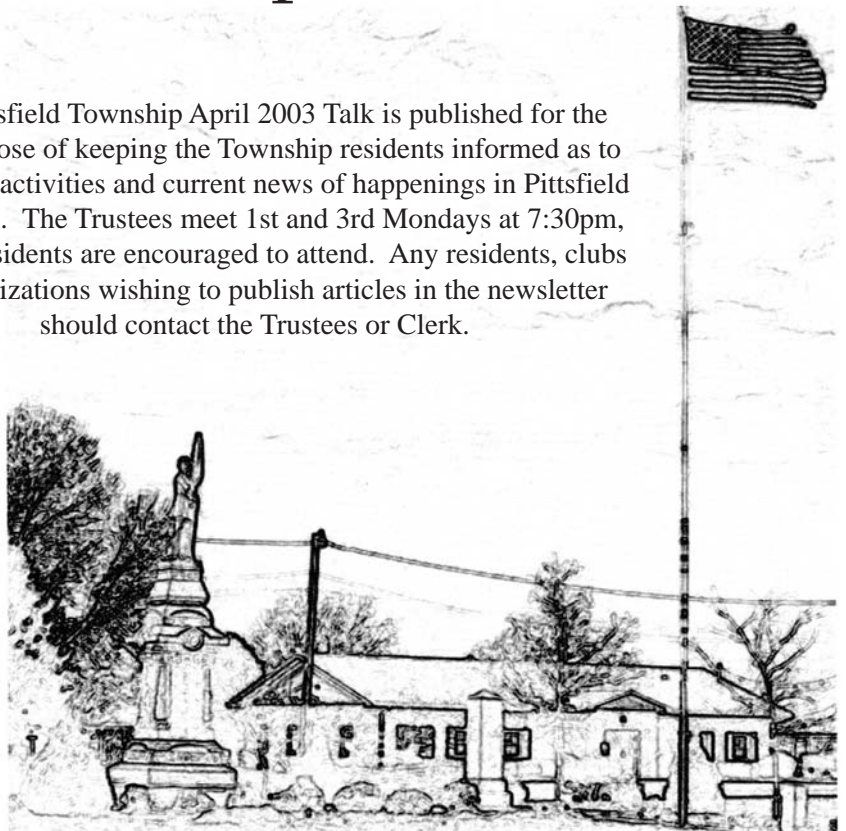
Pat Koniarski 774-3828

### CEMETERY SEXTON

Jim Sheffield 775-7147

**WEBSITE:** [www.loraincounty.net/cities/pittsfield](http://www.loraincounty.net/cities/pittsfield)

The Pittsfield Township April 2003 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.



# Interested in Preserving the Rural Character of Pittsfield? Meeting on Selling/Donating Development Rights

**A meeting for those interested in preserving their land through the Ohio Department of Agriculture's (ODA) Purchase of Development Rights program will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. April 9, 2003 at the Oberlin Public Library.**

Under the state's program, by voluntarily selling an agricultural easement to the Ohio Department of Agriculture, the landowner can be paid the difference in price between the agricultural value and the development value and be assured the land will never be developed for any purposes except agricultural.

The meeting will include three presentations on:

- **Integrating land preservation into estate planning**
- **Income tax and estate settlement implications for easement sale and/or donation**
- **Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (AEPP)**

This meeting is sponsored by Erie, Huron and Lorain County Ohio State University Extension, Firelands Land Conservancy, Oberlin Design Initiative and the Oberlin Open Spaces and Visual Environment Commission. For more information, call (440) 326-5856.

## Zoning Inspector Applications

**T**he Pittsfield Township Trustees are seeking applicants for the position of township Zoning Inspector. This position will be open as of June 1<sup>st</sup> and applications need to be submitted by 7:30 pm, April 21<sup>st</sup> to Jim McConnell, Clerk.

Additional information about the duties, responsibilities and salary can be obtained from any of the township Trustees.

## Spring is Sprung

**N**ow that the long hard winter is finally receding and we can turn our thoughts from snow shovels to lawn mowers, please give us your assistance regarding cemetery memorials and decorations. Dan will soon be needing to mow and trim in the township cemeteries and his job will be significantly easier if we all remove the planters and wreaths that have accumulated since last fall. With Easter being late this year, special consideration will be given to those spring memorials. All older

memorials will be removed and discarded if still in place when mowing and trimming become necessary. Thank you for your help.

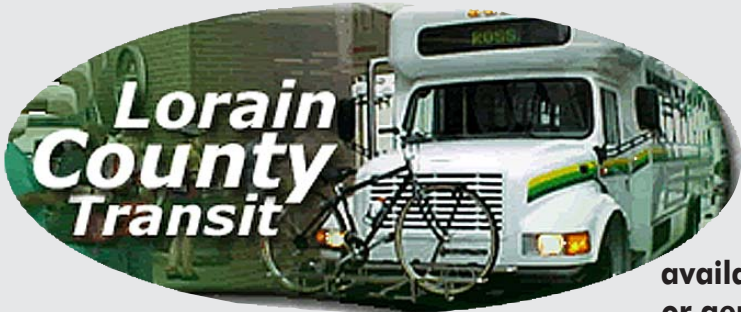
## Lorain County Community Policing Program Needs Your Support

**E**ach year the Lorain County Sheriff's Office organizes many child and adult safety programs throughout the county, including Police Week at the Westfield Shopping Town, The Lorain County Fair, Safetytowns and many individual requests from county organizations and clubs. These programs have continually expanded over the years, but the funding has not.

The Community Policing Unit would like to raise \$4,000 to update and expand safety and awareness programs in our community. Pittsfield Township cannot use public funds for this purpose, but would like to encourage residents to send private donations to: Lorain County Community Policing Program, c/o Lorain County Sheriff's Office, Elyria, Ohio 44035.

# Pittsfield Township Residents:

Has cabin fever got you down? Are you feeling trapped indoors? Never fear ... we're here!



## Route 21 Oberlin/Wellington

The table below indicates partial service available Monday through Friday. For complete schedule or general information please call 233-7868 or 329-5545

<b>NORTHBOUND</b> <i>Main St. &amp; Herrick Ave.</i>	<b>SOUTHBOUND</b> <i>East College @ Rax</i>
<b>6:30 a.m.</b>	<b>6:21 a.m.</b>
<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>9:21 a.m.</b>
<b>12:30 p.m.</b>	<b>12:21 p.m.</b>
<b>3:30 p.m.</b>	<b>3:21 p.m.</b>
<b>5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>5:21 p.m.</b>
<b>7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>7:21 p.m.</b>

**Pittsfield Trustees have opened up the town hall parking lot for LTC riders. Just park your car and hop aboard the Route 21!**

**If you need assistance in planning your trip, call one of our friendly and helpful Customer Service Representatives at one of the numbers listed below. For more information on services available in your area or for general information please call Customer Service at 324-6955 or 949-2525**

Lorain County Transit can get you where you need to go! Whether it's a historical escape to the quaint town of Oberlin for antiquing and lunch or a shopping spree at Westfield Town Center in Elyria, LCT is here for you! We can move you from city to city without the worries of heavy spring road construction.

LCT has Fixed Route service that runs from the transfer point in Elyria, through Oberlin and downtown Wellington. Serving areas such as: LCT's Park-N-Ride lot, Oberlin Industrial Park, Concord Manor, Drug Mart,

Missler's, Oberlin College, Lorain County JVS, Downtown Wellington, St. Patrick's Manor, Heritage Square Apartments, and anywhere in between.

Don't forget about LCT's Dial-A-Ride service! Dial-A-Ride is a curb-to-curb service for those unable to use the Fixed Route system. Dial-A-Ride requires 48 hours advance scheduling and trips are provided on a seat available basis. For further information on Dial-A-Ride please call scheduling at 324-6955 or 949-2525

**Lorain County Transit...**  
**Together We're Making a Difference**

[www.LorainCountyTransit.com](http://www.LorainCountyTransit.com)

## New Zoning Resolution is Now in Effect!

**P**ittsfield's new Zoning resolution was passed in December and went into effect January 16<sup>th</sup> of this year. Major changes in zoning permits are in affect. All construction with a foundation and a roof will now require a zoning permit, including agricultural use buildings. Ag use buildings will be free from any township fees provided that they are to be used by a defined farm. The process is simple with a sketch or drawing of the parcel with all buildings located, use of building, size of building, dimensions from road, side lot line, rear lot line and other buildings.

The permit process for commercial and industrial use has been changed as well. The process is more comprehensive with the business going though a site plan review by the Zoning Board for compliance with the new Zoning Resolution. This should assure the residents of Pittsfield Township that we will have businesses that would enhance property values and quality of life for the residents. Items required for businesses to enhance their properties will include landscaping buffers and enclosed

areas for business vehicles and unsightly materials used in the business. New sign regulations are also in effect.

The residential permit process has changed very little. The major change for residential permits will be the process by which family businesses are allowed and accessory buildings will be limited in size.

The new Zoning Resolution can be obtained online at <http://www.loraincounty.net/cities/Pittsfield>, or on disk free of charge or printed at a fee of \$10 from Bill Cutcher, Zoning Inspector or Steve Magyar, Trustee.

## Oberlin Public School Levy

**R**esidents within the Oberlin City School District will be asked to vote May 6, 2003 on two funding issues for the school district. Issue 12 is a proposed school district annual income tax of one-quarter of one percent (0.25%) beginning January 2004, to be used to cover current expenses. Issue 13 is a proposed additional tax, also to cover current expenses, of 8.0 mills, or 80 cents per \$100 of real estate valuation for five years.

Please consider these issues carefully and cast your vote on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

## Where Can I Dispose of ...

Paint, motor oil and all other household hazardous waste?

**Check this out!**

And What About Tires?

**Lorain County Solid Waste Management  
District Tire Collection Day  
is May 17, 2003**

**New Russia Township Hall  
46268 Butternut Ridge Road, Oberlin**



*You Are Invited to...*

# **The Lorain County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day**

**Saturday April 26, 2003**

**9:00a.m. - 3:30p.m.**

**Lorain County Community College**

1005 North Abbe Road, Elyria, Ohio 44035

-or-

**Lorain County Joint Vocational School**

15181 State Route 58 Oberlin, Ohio 44074



## *Acceptable Materials:*

**Corrosives:** Acids and Caustics, Car Batteries, Pool Chemicals, 12 Volt Batteries, Bleach, Household Batteries

**Flammables:** Paint, Adhesives, Solvents, Turpentine, Lighter Fluid, Propane Cylinders, Paint Thinner, Used Motor Oil, Household Cleaners.

**Reactive Material:** Cyanide Poisons, Fertilizers, Pool Chlorine

**Toxics:** Rat Poison, Smoke Detectors, Mercury, Roofing Tar, Antifreeze, Flares, Medications, Driveway Sealer, Weed Killers, Insect Killers, Florescent Bulbs

## **These Items NOT Acceptable!**

**Ammunition, Tires, Trash, Explosives, Light bulbs, Recyclables, Biomedical waste (blood, needles), Business waste or materials**

**This program is free to ALL Lorain County residents!**

### **PACKING INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Bring materials in original packaging if possible and tighten lids securely.
2. Label all items if known.
3. Pack leaking containers in a box surrounded by cat litter or sawdust.

*Brought to you by:*

The Lorain County Commissioners:  
Mary Jo Vasi, Betty Blair, David J. Moore  
and

Lorain County Solid Waste  
Management District

**For more information call  
1-800-449-5463**

# Can I Recycle My Old Fluorescent Bulbs and Ballasts?

All fluorescent bulbs and ballasts contain mercury, a hazardous substance that, when released into the environment, can contribute to neurological impairment in children and other adverse health affects. To safely dispose of this contaminate, the Lorain County Commissioners and The Lorain County Solid Waste Management District sponsor a **FREE Fluorescent Bulb and Ballast Recycling Program.**

**When: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**Where: The Lorain County Maintenance Warehouse  
25 East Avenue, Elyria**

**Who: All Lorain County residents, businesses, school districts,  
governments and non-profit organizations.**

**What: Bring these items to be recycled:**  
**Straight fluorescent tubes, all lengths**

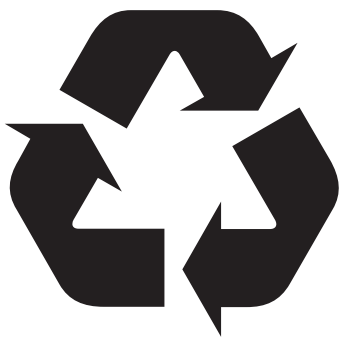
- *U-shaped and other odd-shaped fluorescent tubes*
- *Ballasts from all fluorescent light fixtures*
- *High Intensity Discharge (HID) bulbs*
  1. *High Pressure Sodium (HPS) Types*
  2. *Metal Halide (MH) Type*
  3. *Mercury Vapor (MV) Type*

## **DO NOT BRING:**

- *Incandescent bulbs, spotlights and other non-fluorescent lighting*
- *Fluorescent tubes and bulbs with green metal ends*  
*(These are mercury free and may be disposed of as regular trash)*

*NOTE: Tubes and bulbs are most safely transported in the box they were originally shipped in. If not available, empty cardboard cartons for straight tubes will be available at the recycling site. If absolutely necessary, tie small bundles of tubes with twine (do not use adhesive tape.)*

**For more information on any of these programs,  
call (440) 329-4550 or 1-800-HHW-LINE.**



## New Cure for Cabin Fever!

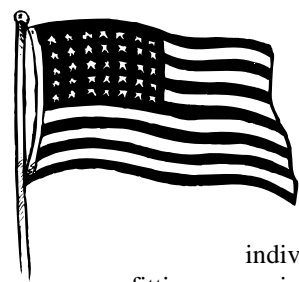
**R**eward yourself for surviving the brutal winter months by experiencing summer a little early at Splash Zone, just a short trip from Pittsfield to 95 W. Hamilton St., Oberlin. This new addition to Oberlin's recreational options offers an indoor and outdoor pool (opens June 6) and an array of classes, including swim lessons for children and adults, water aerobics, yoga, kick boxing, weight training, lifeguard classes and many more. For more information call 774-5059 or attend an open house April 23 from 1 to 4 p.m.

## Ohio Turns the Big 2-0-0!!

**T**he Lorain County Metro Parks will be celebrating Ohio's Bicentennial with a special exhibit titled, "Ohio 200: A Celebration of Lorain County's History." This exhibit, spanning the county's history from wilderness to modern-day technology, will be on display at the French Creek Nature Center in Sheffield Village from April 11 through June 8. Check out the exhibit June 1 and 2<sup>nd</sup> for a special highlighted section on Oberlin and June 3 through June 8 for the Wellington area.

Lorain County's historical societies are also asking the people of Lorain County to add their memories of life in Lorain County to the record of local history. Every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., beginning April 15<sup>th</sup> throughout the exhibit, residents are invited to share stories of winning a blue ribbon at the fair, shopping at Penny's in downtown Elyria, surviving the Pittsfield tornado or any bit of history you personally saw or took part in. For more information about the exhibit or any of the special bicentennial programs, call (440) 949-5200.

Anyone interested in helping to develop a comprehensive history of Pittsfield Township, please contact Clerk Jim McConnell. Especially if you have pictures or family history that should be included in a history of the Township, let Jim know. Once the level of interest is known, the Trustees will determine how best to proceed with such a project.



## Memorial Day Activities

It may seem hard to believe but Memorial Day is only a few weeks away. Each year a group of dedicated individuals plans and provides a small but fitting memorial service in remembrance of township veterans. The service usually starts at 10 am at the Community Church and includes a ceremony at the monuments in the park. Additionally, township youth place bouquets of flowers at the grave of every veteran buried in the township cemeteries.

Please join in the service this coming Memorial Day, May 26<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to help with the service, contact Charles Carter, at 774-3151. And if you can help provide flowers for the cemetery bouquets, that assistance is always appreciated. Jean McConnell would welcome any donations from your yards and gardens. She can be reached at 775-3355 if you can let her know what you can provide or bring the donations to the Community Church by 8 am on Memorial Day.

## Local Government Funds

**A**s most of you are probably aware, the State Legislature has recently passed budget legislation that attempts to address the funding shortfall that has developed in state government. One of the most significant ways this deficit is being addressed is by reducing local government funds that are normally distributed from state tax revenues through the county auditors to townships, villages, cities and libraries.

Pittsfield Township stands to lose as much as \$5000.00 or more as a result of this action. Perhaps as important as the actual dollars is the irritating tendency of the state government to balance their budgets by withholding funds from local governments. You might want to have a discussion with your state legislator about the issue. Lets make them aware that the next time they need to balance the budget, doing it on the backs of our local governments could be politically painful to them.

## Spring and Summer Road Work

**P**ittsfield Township has some of the best roads of any Lorain County township. In order to keep them in good shape, the Trustees have determined which roads will get attention this spring and summer. Hughes Road will see the most activity with the portion from St. Rt. 58 to Quarry Road being completely resurfaced. Some financial assistance from the Ohio Public Works Commission will help defray the cost. This project will include a significant safety consideration by making the approaches to the Lake Shore railway crossing less severe.

Additionally, Hughes Road from Hallauer Road to West Road will receive a chip and seal coat as will Pitts Road from Merriam Road to Whitney Road and Whitney Road from St. Rt. 58 to PittsRoad. The chip and seal work is likely to be done in June while the resurfacing work will most likely be later in the summer.



## Financial Settlement with Oberlin

**T**he Trustees recently reached an agreement with the City of Oberlin for payment of past due tax revenues owed the Township. These monies were due based on a twelve year old agreement between the City and the Township. This agreement was negotiated when the Ames department store was being built and that property was annexed by the City of Oberlin.

As partial compensation for the permanent annexation of township property into the City, the Township expected to receive certain tax reimbursements. Due to a lot of factors, the majority of these payments had not been made. After thorough research and review, both entities agreed that Oberlin owed Pittsfield Township \$58,115.69.

A revised agreement that is simpler to administer and more clearly meets the best interests of both the City and the Township is currently being negotiated. The original agreement was innovative for its time and it is anticipated the revised agreement will also set standards for favorable relationships between a municipality and its neighboring townships.

## Topic: Wood burning chimney fires

Over 45,000, chimney fires occur each year in the United States. Many of these fires occur because of poor maintenance and inadequate cleaning of the wood burning furnace and the chimney. Here are some good reminders to help prevent chimney fires from occurring in your home.

- Have your chimney inspected and cleaned before each heating season by a qualified chimney sweep.
- Burn only dry, seasoned wood in your fireplace or wood burner.
- Never use any type of flammable or combustible liquid to start a fire.
- Do not burn plastic, garbage or wood that has been treated with a preservative, paint or any other chemical.
- Clean out your fireplace or wood burner after each use. Place the ashes in a safe metal container. Place the container outside your home, away from any combustible materials, until they have completely cooled.

**Note:** Over the past two years the Wellington Fire District has responded to at least three structure fires in Pittsfield Township that were caused or directly related to wood burning heating appliances. Due to the fact that these structure fires appear to be similar in nature, I would recommend that all homeowners with wood burning heating/appliances immediately have them inspected and cleaned by a qualified chimney sweep.

Should any home owner/occupant have any questions please contact the fire department at 440-647-2245 during normal business hours 7:30 am. to 5:00 pm. Monday through Friday.



## Emergency Room:

### Not a Waiting Room, Guaranteed!

Allen Medical has initiated a new program with a guarantee that states, Emergencies at Allen Medical Center receive our prompt attention, guaranteed. If you are not seen by qualified Emergency Room Personnel within 15 minutes and a physician within 1 hour, the hospital and physician will waive their bill for emergency room services at the hospital.

Even before we presented this guarantee to the community, more than 90% of our ER patients were seen by our medical personnel and physicians within 30 minutes upon arrival. The services at Allen Medical Center have not changed, but we have decided to tell the public about our prompt quality care. We know that patients want to be seen quickly when they visit an ER. At Allen Medical Center, we stand behind delivering prompt care and are willing to guarantee that level of service to our patients.



Our entire ER staff is committed to this guarantee. What we want people to know, however, is that even with this time guarantee, they will receive the same top quality care they have always received at Allen Medical Center. We have board-certified physicians who specialize in emergency care. And, almost 50% of our employees have worked for Allen Medical Center for 10 or more years and are dedicated to providing this same quality health care.

None of us ever plan an emergency. But I can say with confidence that if and when an emergency occurs, those who choose our hospital can be assured that not only are they going to be given prompt attention, but they will be given that attention by competent, qualified staff in a very compassionate way.

Ed Oley, President and CEO  
Allen Medical Center

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**Township's New 2003 Sterling Truck, 37,700# Gross Capacity, powered by a 275 hp. Turbo Charged Cat Diesel w/ Allison 6 Speed Automatic Transmission, is now complete, equipped with a stainless steel dump box, salt spreader, Stainless Hydraulic Tanks, Flashing Lights and hitch for a snow plow. The truck has been lettered with the Township's new graphic logo designed by township employees. The truck was purchased by low bid from Kinstle Sterling Truck Center, Wapakoneta & Equipment purchased from Newell Equipment, Galion Oh. **And it is so QUIET that you no longer can hear Dan two miles away!****