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2019 Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule
Every second Wednesday at 3 p.m. and every fourth Wednesday at 7 p.m., unless otherwise rescheduled or canceled, at the Jefferson Township Fire Station, 6767 Havens Corners Road.

Visit jeffersonstownship.org for an updated schedule.

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Salt Barn Upgrade
If you drive past the township’s service complex at 6620 Havens Corners Road, you may catch a glimpse of our new salt barn. It was built this summer to replace a circa 1980’s wooden pole barn. The new barn is designed to hold roughly 350 tons of salt, which will ensure the township never runs out in the middle of a prolonged winter storm.

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This summer, a rain garden was installed at the Jefferson Township fire station with help from graduate students from the Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering Department at The Ohio State University. The project included installing over 150 feet of undrain pipe, a water control structure, and 66 tons of a special media designed to support plant growth while allowing water to pass through quickly. On two weekends in June and October a group of volunteers, including grad students and township residents, planted several thousand seedlings to help slow and clean stormwater runoff before it reaches Blacklick Creek.

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And more! Check it out inside!
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General Inquiries
info@jeffersonstownship.org

Elected Officials
Rich Courter, Trustee
Mike Rowan, Trustee
Claire Yoder, Trustee
Ken Jones, Fiscal Officer

Administration
6545 Havens Road
Dion Greener, Township Administrator
Kelly Kiener, Asst. Township Administrator
Mike Anderson, Development Director
Jane Johnson, Fiscal Coordinator

Zoning & Building
6545 Havens Road
Charles McCroskey, Administrator/Inspector

Service & Roads
6620 Havens Corners Road
Joe Gerhart, Superintendent

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6767 Havens Corners Road
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In response to feedback from residents, the Township applied for grant funding from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources in late 2018 and early 2019 to construct asphalt multipurpose paths, replace the playground equipment, and repave the driveway at Jefferson Community Park. To our excitement, both applications were approved!

Jefferson Township was awarded a total of $283,413 in match funding for the projects. $133,413 from the Land and Water Conservation program for the paths and driveway, and $150,000 from the Land and Water Conservation program for the paths and driveway. $133,413 from the Land and Water Conservation program for the paths and driveway. Both projects are expected to be completed in 2020.

Playground Replacement

The proposed playground equipment focuses heavily on providing both physical and cognitive challenges, as well as encouraging imaginative pretend and inclusive play.

A variety of traditional equipment such as slides, swings, and seesaws were chosen, as well as more unconventional components like the netted timber stacks, made from real black locust logs, and rock boulders, designed to feel real while still meeting safety standards.

Multipurpose Paths

The planned 10-foot wide asphalt paths will include a bikeway connector trail (teal) to promote alternative transportation from surrounding neighborhoods, and a looped path (blue) for runners, walkers, strollers etc. The orange trails shown are existing mulch paths that will be left undisturbed. The project also includes funds to repave the driveway.

Helping Hands Snow Plow

When snowflakes start to fly this winter, be on the lookout for an extra special snow plow on one of Jefferson Township’s trucks. The “Helping Hands Snow Plow” was decorated by kids from around the area at our Ice Cream Social this July at Jefferson Community Park.

The Township’s service crew helped kids add their handprint to the snow plow and talked to them about the big equipment on display including a large dump truck, backhoe, and tractor. Special thank you to the Jefferson Township Parks Board for their help putting on this fun event for our community!

From the Office of the Franklin County Engineer

Cornell Robertson, Franklin County Engineer, leads an agency of action, innovation, and collaboration. The Engineer’s office provides for safe and efficient movement of people and goods from place to place by building and maintaining Franklin County’s roads and bridges.

The County Engineer’s office is working hard on the following projects in Jefferson Township.

Morse Road at Kitzmiller Road

The Morse Road at Kitzmiller Road intersection improvement is complete and the roads were reopened October 1, 2019. A modern roundabout was constructed at the intersection, the bridge on Morse Road over Blacklick Creek was replaced, and drainage improvements were made. The project was completed on time and under budget.

Reynoldsburg-New Albany Road at Wolli Creek Drive

This Reynoldsburg-New Albany Road improvement to widen the road and add turn lanes at Wolli Creek Drive was recently completed in November 2019. A two-way, left-turn lane was also added along Reynoldsburg-New Albany Road between Wolli Creek Drive and Hannah Farms Court and storm sewer drainage systems have been installed.

Reynoldsburg-New Albany Road at Clark State Road

A modern roundabout will be constructed at the intersection of Reynoldsburg-New Albany Road at Clark State Road. The roundabout will replace the existing signaled intersection and will improve safety and traffic flow in the area. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in 2020, and it is estimated that the intersection will be closed for approximately 90 days. Prior to construction, tree removal within the road right-of-way is scheduled to occur between January and March 2020, weather permitting. Tree removal is necessary to allow for utility relocation and for the subsequent roadway reconstruction.

Future Projects

The Franklin County Engineer’s Office has a number of other projects located throughout Jefferson Township in various stages of development. Currently, in-house design continues on the Mann Road culvert (between Havens Corners Road and Havens Road) replacement project. The Havens Corners Road Corridor Study (from Hamilton Road to Waggoner Road) is being finalized. Also, the intersections of Reynoldsburg-New Albany Road at Havens Road, Morse Road at Babбит Road, and Morse Road at Johnstown Road (US62) are being further investigated for future upgrades.

Raising Stormwater Awareness

From October 20 through 26 this year, central Ohio communities participated in Stormwater Awareness Week, a regional effort to raise awareness about the importance of protecting our water resources. Franklin County has over 2,940 miles of waterways including ditches, streams, and rivers that drain the county through several watersheds, ultimately dumping into the Ohio River. Stormwater is generated from rain and snow-melt that flows over land or hard surfaces, picking up pollutants such as trash, chemicals, oils, and dirt. A major responsibility of Jefferson Township’s service crew is to inspect and maintain the stormwater system. This includes everything from curb inlet repair and ditch cleaning, to the replacement of several hundred feet of damaged pipe.

Residents can assist by picking up trash in your neighborhood, planting native plants and trees, installing a rain garden to collect stormwater runoff, mulching or bagging leaves from your yard, and by clearing debris (trash, grass clippings, leaves, etc.) from ditches, storm drains, and curbs!
Eagle Scout Service Projects - Giving Back to the Community

In the past five years alone, Jefferson Township has been the beneficiary of 11 Eagle Scout Projects, seven of which were improvements to our newest park, Bohneke Nature Preserve. Opening this park to our community would not have been possible without the efforts of these young men.

Check out this listing of Eagle Scout projects in Jefferson Township from 2014 through 2019.

March 2014 - Monument cleaning and resetting at the historic Havens Cemetery on Reynoldsburg-New Albany Road - Bailey Ozment

April 2016 - Outbuilding demolition at Bohneke Nature Preserve in preparation for the park's opening - Brian Foresi

September 2016 - Replacing old wire fence with new split rail and fence line clearing at the historic Dague Cemetery on US 62 - Matthew Copeland

May 2017 - Outbuilding demolition (#2) at Bohneke Nature Preserve in preparation for the park's opening - Jonah Conley

July 2017 - Trail layout, clearing, and mulching at Bohneke Nature Preserve - Will Mignery

August 2017 - Parking lot and message board construction at Bohneke Nature Preserve - Luke Hess

August 2017 - Construction of a pedestrian bridge at Bohneke Nature Preserve - Peter Sherley

August 2018 - Installation of a drainage pipe and gravel on a wet portion of trail at Bohneke Nature Preserve - Reed Robertson

February 2019 - Replacement of a pedestrian bridge at Jefferson Community Park - Kyle Mair

August 2019 - Construction of a second pedestrian bridge over the creek at Bohneke Nature Preserve - Mark Copeland

August 2019 - Construction of bluebird houses at Jefferson Community Park, Bohneke Nature Preserve, and Township Hall - Josh Handel

A New Type of Development for Jefferson Township

One of the key focus points during the planning process for the Jefferson Township 2050 Comprehensive Plan, was the area along Reynoldsburg-New Albany Road between Taylor Road and Blacklick Ridge Boulevard, conventionally known as "Old Blacklick".

Because of the proximity to Broad Street, existing street grid, number of buildings available for re-purposing, and the amount of land available for redevelopment, Old Blacklick was identified as an area that should be re-imagined to include a commercial corridor of shops and restaurants along Reynoldsburg-New Albany Road, with potential for upper floor office and residential uses.

Snow & Ice Removal Plan

The Jefferson Township Service Department is responsible for clearing 50+ miles of road in the winter, including the thoroughfares of Havens, Headley, Kennedy, Mann, McOwen, Shull, and portions of Dixon, as well as all subdivision roads in the unincorporated area. During heavy snowfalls, our crew members often work 12-hour shifts to ensure the safety of motorists.

It is the objective of the service department to clear roadways in a manner that ensures public safety and the safety of our snow plow drivers, while remaining fiscally responsible in the face of rising staffing, fuel and salt costs.

The Board of Trustees has approved an updated snow and ice removal plan for the 2019-2020 winter season. When snowfall is forecast to reach 4 inches or less accumulation per storm, the service department will plow and/or salt arterial (priority 1) roads at the discretion of the service superintendent. This includes thoroughfares, as well as the primary entry and exit roads in subdivisions. Once the arterial roads are safely passable, collector (priority 2) roads will be plowed and/or treated, taking into consideration the temperature, weather conditions and forecast, rate of snowmelt, time of day, traffic conditions, and other special circumstances. Priority 3 and 4 roads, which include lower volume neighborhood streets, will be treated as needed during daylight hours Monday - Friday.

All roads will be treated 24/7 when snowfall reaches 4 inches or more or to prevent/treat black ice.

We appreciate residents’ patience during snow and ice events this winter season.
Prevent Chimney Fires with Regular Maintenance

Each year thousands of homes experience chimney fires due to improper maintenance. Most chimney fires are caused by creosote, a by-product from the incomplete combustion of wood. Creosote builds up on the sides of your chimney as a liquid that later condenses into a solid. As it builds up it begins to block the flue and can ignite into a fire.

Jefferson Township firefighters encourage you to take these simple precautions to prevent a chimney fire in your home:

1. **Clean your chimney.** Have your chimney professionally cleaned and inspected at least once a year. A professional chimney sweep will do more than brush out your chimney. They will also inspect for cracks, liner damage, improper installation and much more.

2. **Use dry wood.** If your wood is wet or not fully cured, it will produce more smoke and not burn as hot. Burning wet wood, as well as construction scraps, treated woods, and any sappy pines can contribute to creosote buildup in your chimney.

3. **Use hard firewood.** Burn hard woods such as hickory, ash or pines such as hickory, ash or pines can contribute to creosote buildup in your chimney. Treat woods, and any sappy pines can contribute to creosote buildup in your chimney.

4. **Lack of air supply causes chimney fires.** Creosote forms if your fireplace cannot draw in fresh air. Make sure your damper is open, and once the fire is going keep glass hearth doors open to encourage airflow.

**SAFETY PRECAUTIONS**
- Never leave your fireplace unattended.
- Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate the fire.
- Keep the area around the chimney or wood stove clear of debris, decorations and other flammable materials.
- Install carbon monoxide (CO) detectors in your home to provide peace of mind and keep your family safe throughout the year.

**WARNING SIGNS**
- Puffy creosote with rainbow-colored streaks
- Warped damper metal or metal connector pipe.
- Damaged or collapsed flue tiles or tiles with large chunks missing.
- Discolored or distorted rain cap.
- Flakes or larger pieces of creosote found on the roof or ground.
- Cracks in exterior masonry.

**How to Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning**

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in America. At least 1,500 people die and 10,000 become ill from CO poisoning each year, according to the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Carbon Monoxide is colorless, odorless, tasteless, and non-irritating. It is a natural by-product of combustion from fuel burning appliances and is undetectable to human senses. It can cause health problems, brain damage, even death.

The good news is CO poisoning is preventable. JTFD recommends that every home have at least one CO alarm with an audible warning signal installed near sleeping areas. Without this alarm, you may not be aware CO is present.

While CO alarms are designed to detect a CO leak before family members get sick, if the leak is severe enough, flu-like symptoms will begin to appear quickly. This is most common a mong younger or older family members who are more vulnerable to the poison.

**Tips for purchasing and installing CO alarms**

- Compare the different types of alarms. Plug-in models load into an electrical outlet. Some have a battery backup in case the power goes out. Battery-powered models use a special battery pack that must be replaced regularly.

- Read the labels carefully. Look for the seal of an independent testing agency such as Underwriters Laboratory (UL) or Factory Mutual (FM).

- Install CO alarms near sleeping areas and on every floor of the home. Locate alarms at least 5 to 6 feet away from fuel-burning appliances and follow manufacturer’s recommendations. CO will diffuse across a room, allowing a working CO alarm to be placed at any height, unlike smoke alarms that must be placed high to capture the first signs of smoke.

- Never leave your fireplace unattended or leave the building immediately and call 911. Do not re-enter until responders say it is safe to do so.

- If no symptoms are present, press the reset button on your CO alarm and turn off all potential sources of carbon monoxide (any appliance or machine that runs on fossil fuel such as gas furnace, water heater, stove, oven, clothes dryer, space heater, fireplace or car left running in an attached garage).

- Open doors and windows to let in fresh air.

- Call a trained service technician to check your appliances, flue and chimney systems.

**What to do if your CO alarm activates**
- Gather all family members in a pre-designated meeting place and check to be sure everyone is present.
- Determine if anyone is experiencing poisoning symptoms such as headache, nausea, dizziness or disorientation.
- If so, leave the building immediately and call 911. Do not re-enter until responders say it is safe to do so.
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**Child Passenger Safety**

When you consider the many kinds of vehicles and child safety seat models on the market, it’s easy to understand why installing and using car seats properly is complicated. JTFD offers free car seat safety checks with a certified child passenger safety technician by appointment, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 9 am and 3 pm. Call 614-861-3757 to schedule.

**2019 Fire Station Open House**

Fun and fire safety were the top draws for the kids and adults who attended Jefferson Township Fire Department’s open house on Saturday, September 14.

The National Fire Protection Association theme this year, “Not Every Hero Wears a Cape, Plan and Practice Your Escape,” put the spotlight on everyday people who motivate their households to develop and practice a home fire escape plan.

Special thanks to Art Garden Academy Gahanna, Central Ohio Antique Fire Apparatus Association, Franklin County Safe Communities, Franklin County Sheriff’s Office, Gahanna Lincoln HS student volunteers, Mifflin Township Fire Department, and Mount Carmel East EMS.

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