Two trustees retiring

At Flanagan, township trustee for the past 28 years, and Donna Finn, trustee for the past 16 years, have retired. Flanagan retired Nov. 30 and was succeeded by Richard Courter, an insurance agent. Finn, who completed her fourth four-year term, stepped down on Dec. 31. Finn was succeeded by Claire Yoder, who had been president of the Gahanna Jefferson Board of Education, and just completed her third four-year term. Yoder and Courter ran for office without opposition.

Flanagan, owner of Flanagan's, a popular restaurant at Clark State and Reynoldsburg-New Albany roads, ran for the first of his seven terms as township trustee in 1985. He, along with trustees Steve Miller and Ray Jarvis, established the Jefferson Water and Sewer District, which brought public water and sewer to a large portion of the township. The district, along with a zoning resolution that encouraged conservation development and open space, enabled the township to control its destiny and the quality of life of residents. The move staved off annexation and protected the rural character of the township while allowing for orderly development.

Miller noted, “Mat kept tight controls on the spending. He is frugal, and if Mat voted to spend a dime of township money, you can rest assured it was a needed expenditure. I appreciate all that Mat has done for me and the township.”

Finn, a long-time township resident, has two firsts to her credit as a township official. She served the township for 10 years as the first female township zoning inspector in Franklin County, and then ran and became elected as Jefferson Township’s first female township trustee.

“What I enjoyed most was trying to work out the budget, work with my fellow trustees, and be pro-active on all issues that came up,” Finn said. “I enjoyed working with our township administrator, and seeing our staff grow in their willingness to learn new things, help each other, and work toward the same goal. They use their time wisely and aid others.”

Don Brosius, a township attorney, said, “I’ve known Donna since she was the zoning inspector for the township. She has always been dedicated to the Township and has consistently placed the interests of the township first. Her character, personality, and insight will be sorely missed. I am sure everyone associated with the Township wishes her nothing but the best in the future.”

Mike Rowan is in the middle of his fourth term on the board. Ken Jones, fiscal officer since 2004, began his current term as fiscal officer in 2012.

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Applications are being accepted for boards and commissions

Become involved in your township

As a resident of Jefferson Township, you most likely have a direct, vested interest in the wellbeing of your community. Myriad opportunities abound for residents who are interested in planning for the future – be it land use, parks, public safety, and other topics – to serve on a township board or commission. Those chosen will need to participate in some training and be able to attend a monthly meeting. Meeting dates and times for the year are typically set by members at their reorganizational meeting early in the year. Meetings are typically held at the township hall or fire station.

If you have a background or experience in a given area, the board of trustees encourages you to consider applying for one of the following appointed positions.

By law, members of the Zoning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals must be residents of the unincorporated area.

Residents of Jefferson Township who live in either the unincorporated or incorporated areas (i.e., Reynoldsburg, Gahanna, and Columbus) may apply to serve on the other boards and commissions.

Please e-mail or send a letter, indicating the position of your interest, along with a resume to:
Mr. Tom Spring
Jefferson Township Administrator
6545 Havens Road
Blacklick OH 43004-9743
tspring@jeffersontownship.org

Zoning Commission - Members residing in the unincorporated area are responsible for making recommendations to the Board of Trustees concerning planning, land use, re-zoning of property, subdivision development, and zoning code changes, among other responsibilities. Members serve five-year terms, and an alternate member is appointed each year to serve in the absence of a regular member. The board will make appointments to two expiring and three unexpired terms. Currently, the commission meets on the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m.

Board of Zoning Appeals - Members from the unincorporated area conduct formal administrative hearings on applications for variances from strict enforcement of the zoning resolution, requests for conditional uses, and appeals of decisions of the zoning inspectors. Like the Zoning Commission, there are five regular members, serving five-year, staggered terms, and one alternate serving a one-year term. There is one vacancy on the board, and two expiring terms to be filled. The board currently meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.

Parks Board - Members plan for the future use and development of the township parks and open spaces, and programming, including special events. Members serve three-year terms. The board will be filling one expiring term and one unexpired term.

The Board of Trustees will communicate with all applicants. Appointments will be made by January 22.

In addition to the aforementioned appointments, residents are welcome to volunteer to share their expertise by serving on one of the following:

Safety Committee - Participation is open to residents who have an interest in law enforcement, fire prevention and suppression, emergency medical services, code enforcement, or general public safety. The committee currently meets quarterly or as needed.

Jefferson Historical Preservation Association – The organization is comprised of residents with a common interest in protecting the rural quality and natural beauty of the township and its history. The organization is dedicated to preserving historic structures – homes, barns, and schoolhouses – and tree-lined roads, clear streams and green spaces. The association was instrumental in establishing the Scenic Byways and the pulloff area on Havens and Clark State roads that affords a scenic view of Rocky Fork Creek. A major upcoming activity will be planning for the Jefferson Township 2016 bicentennial celebration. Meeting dates have not been determined.

Scenic Byways Committee - The committee is reviewing and updating the management plan for the Jefferson Township Scenic Byways, focusing on aesthetics, trees, wildflowers, signs, road conditions, and other amenities. Participation is open to residents who have a desire to preserve the aesthetic appearance and the rural character of the state-designated scenic byways. Designated roads are Clark State, Mann, Headley, Shull, Darling and Rovilla roads, and portions of Havens, Waggoner, and Reynoldsburg New Albany roads. The committee currently meets the first Thursday of each month at 10 a.m.

Land Conservation Association - The association oversees the protection of lands set aside by residents with conservation and other protective easements and measures designed to protect open space into perpetuity. Currently, the township has two parcels of farmland in an agricultural trust, and several parcels with conservation easements, together totaling hundreds of acres. The association will re-organize early next year.

Be heart smart! Sign up for CPR/AED classes now!

When people are equipped with the skills to perform CPR, and know how to properly use an AED, they become "heart smart" and help increase survival rates for those experiencing cardiac arrest.

You can become “heart smart” by signing up for CPR / AED classes offered by the Jefferson Township Fire Department.

Upcoming classes (limited to 10 per class):
Saturday, Feb 8 ------- 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Sunday, Feb 9.......... 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday Feb 23 ......... 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Cost:
$20 for Jefferson Township residents
$30 for non-residents

Please call 614-861-3757 or e-mail rswingle@jeffersontownship.org to register.
Planning a home improvement project

Thinking about making a home improvement? Jefferson Township requires you to obtain a Certificate of Zoning Compliance for projects such as, but not limited to, decks, patios, fences, detached garages, additions, pergolas, swimming pools, hot tubs, and sheds.

To obtain a Certificate of Zoning Compliance for your home improvement project, submit a zoning permit application along with two copies of site plans drawn to scale. The site plans should show actual lot dimensions including easements, exact size and location of all existing and proposed buildings or structures, and setback distances from structures to property lines.

Zoning staff will review the application and site plans to ensure the project meets the minimum required zoning standards. If the application is approved, a construction permit will be issued. Once the project is complete, a final zoning inspection should be requested by the property owner. This final zoning inspection will ensure that construction was completed in accordance with the approved application. At this time, the Township will issue a Certificate of Zoning Compliance.

For more information, contact the Zoning Department at 614-855-4265.

Some of the projects listed above may also require a residential building permit from Franklin County or approval from a homeowner’s association prior to construction.

Information on building permits is available from the Office of Economic Development and Planning, 614-525-3166 or 614-525-3094, or at the following web link: http://development.franklincountyohio.gov/

Reflective address signs

Have you wondered how you can get a blue reflective vertical address sign with reflective silver numbers for your mailbox post? Made of the same tough materials as road signs these home address signs are so reflective that emergency crews don’t have to struggle to read your address at night.

The cost is $10 per sign (covers the cost of materials), and can be ordered from the fire department. Call the JTFD at 614-861-3757 to order your sign today!

New meeting dates and locations

Jefferson Township Trustees have voted to have their regular meetings in 2014 on the second Thursday of the month at 10 a.m. and the fourth Wednesday at 7 p.m. However, the first regular meeting will be January 14 at 6:30 p.m. All regular meetings will be at the fire station, 6767 Havens Corners Road. The move enables more parking, and larger meeting facilities for the public than the township hall. Updates are published on the township website, www.jeffersontownship.org . For more information, contact the township hall at 614-855-4260.

Upcoming Meetings

Board of Trustees
January 14..... Regular meeting, 6:30 p.m.
January 14.....Public Hearing, Joint Economic Development Zone, 7 p.m.
January 22.....Regular Meeting, 7 p.m. (*note correct time is 7 p.m.)
All meetings are at the fire station, 6767 Havens Corners Road, Blacklick.

Jefferson Township trustees will hold a hearing Jan. 14 at 7 p.m. at the fire station to consider the adoption of a resolution approving a contract to designate a joint economic development zone with the City of Gahanna. The purpose of the hearing is to allow for public comment and recommendations on the proposed contract and zone. A copy of the contract, designating the zone, map, description, and economic development plan is available for public inspection at the office of Ken Jones, fiscal officer, during regular business hours through Jan. 14. Legal notice was published Dec. 13.

On Jan. 23, the Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing at 7 p.m. in the township hall, 6545 Havens Road, to hear Case No. ZC-2014-01 - an application filed by Scioto Properties to rezone Parcels 170-000613 and 170-000854 at 5400 Clark State Road containing 1.573 acres from Restricted Suburban Residential to Exceptional Use to allow for construction of a single family dwelling to operate as a residential care facility licensed by the state for rehabilitation of five or fewer residents. Applications are available for inspection at the Zoning Office during regular business hours.

Bad weather well-being checks

Jefferson Township firefighter/paramedics are offering to check on the elderly and ill residents during severe weather, especially if there is a loss of power. For some of our elderly or ill neighbors, a storm can turn into a frightening experience. The loss of power or heat or the idea of being “snowed in” might not be the end of the world to most of us, but to someone sick or someone elderly and frail, this can be a nightmare. Firefighters will check to ensure these older adults and/or ill residents have adequate working heating systems, and to determine whether they are using heating devices that could pose risks of fire or carbon monoxide poisoning. A phone call, a knock at the door, and some real help might make all the difference for someone, especially someone living alone. For more information, call your fire department at 614-861-3757.
SUBSCRIBE TO OUR ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER!
To subscribe, visit our website at: www.jeffersontownship.org

Your opinion matters

How do you feel about your township?
Do you like living in Jefferson Township?
Would you like to see your children stay here?

From January 6 to 26, 2014, the Township is conducting an on-line survey of residents’ opinions about living in Jefferson Township. The survey asks residents to state whether they agree, somewhat agree or disagree to 10 statements, and takes only a minute or two to complete.

“We see the survey as one of the components to overall planning and a way to engage residents in providing feedback,” said Tom Spring, Township Administrator. Jefferson Township staff has been busy the last few months planning for upcoming capital and operational needs, and the township is assessing the need for more comprehensive planning and public engagement. With two new trustees on board, the timing is right to do a survey.

From January 6 to 26, 2014 residents can go to www.ValleyOpinion.com/Jefferson to take the survey, which is being conducted free to the Township, in cooperation with Farris Marketing and Boardman Township (Mahoning County). For more information, contact the Township office at 614-855-4260.