Three friends, who last summer helped save a life by performing lifesaving CPR, were reunited with the grateful man and his family a few weeks ago at the Jefferson Township Fire Department.

On June 30, 2012, resident Margaret Gibson, along with family and friends, had planned an early Fourth of July party in adjoining backyards. Powerful storms had blown through the area the night before knocking out the electricity, causing Margaret and friends to second-guess having the party. Using garden tiki torches for light, they decided to make the best of things and go ahead with their party.

A few streets away, the Velovski family was trying to deal with the power outage the best way they could. Mitko Velovski, his children Nick and Maria, father Miroslav and mother Zorka were playing cards together. Mitko’s wife Aneta was at work.

Bored with cards, the kids went outside to play. Not finding any friends to play with, Nick returned home to get his bicycle. Dad Mitko suggested Nick wake his napping grandfather to take him along for a walk while Nick rode his bike. As Nick and Miroslav set out they could not know that in a few minutes, their lives would take a turn for the worst.

Not more than two blocks from their home Miroslav experienced a sudden cardiac arrest. Without a pulse and not breathing Miroslav fell to the sidewalk. Nick got off his bicycle and tried to wake his grandfather; when he couldn’t, he yelled for help. Luckily the Gibson party was nearby, party-goers saw Miroslav fall and heard grandson Nick’s plea.

Gibson, her friends Lexa King, Jennifer Jenkins, and others ran to help while others at the party used their cell phones to call 911.

Gibson, a home health physical therapist, found Miroslav lifeless on the concrete, face down. “As we were running, I was yelling to call 911.”

Gibson, along with King, a nurse practitioner in cardiac surgery and a nursing instructor, immediately began Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). Jenkins, a registered nurse in labor/delivery, was a support to her friends. Said Gibson, “In our profession we are used to ‘being on’, being ready to do something like this. When you’re having a Fourth of July party in your backyard, it’s not something that you expect.”

The Fire Department was dispatched less than one minute after the first 9-1-1 call. One medic, one fire engine and a battalion chief arrived on scene in less than three minutes, seven Paramedics in all. Upon arrival, the paramedics found CPR in progress, with Gibson and King taking turns as each became fatigued. continued on page 2
Jefferson Fire Department’s paramedics quickly took over CPR, and attached a defibrillator to Miroslav. The paramedic in charge that day was Firefighter Robert Petry. Firefighter Petry recalls, “We attached the cardiac monitor and he was in ventricular fibrillation so we delivered a counter-shock immediately. It didn’t look good, he was blue from his chest to his head. It really wasn’t until we were nearly at the hospital when his color began to improve.” The paramedics delivered two counter-shocks while on scene and two while enroute to Mount Carmel East Hospital. “That fourth shock that we delivered just before arriving at the hospital is when Miroslav’s heart began to pump on its own,” added Paramedic Billy Greenwalt.

Jefferson Township’s highly trained paramedics gave life saving fluids, drugs, and electrical therapy. However, all agree the true heroes that day were the quick acting members of the community.

Dr. Paul Zeeb, Medical Director for Jefferson Township, emphasized the point, “It is well proven that immediate bystander CPR and early defibrillation improves the chance of survival for victims of cardiac arrest. Mr. Velovski is alive today because he received both.”

We at the Fire Department would like to wish Mr. Miroslav Velovski continued good health as well as extend our sincere appreciation to all involved in this live saving moment.

LUCAS is a life saver

Recently Jefferson Township Fire Department (JTFD), along with neighboring agencies joined together for a collective purchase of new LUCAS Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) devices. These devices, invented in Sweden, are easy to operate, and can be set up in 30 seconds. The LUCAS is small enough to fit in a backpack, and shaped like an arch that fits over a patient’s chest. A plunger then extends down from the center to compress the chest.

“Even well-trained professional medical providers can quickly become tired when performing chest compressions” says Battalion Chief Chris Heaton, who also serves as JTFD’s EMS Coordinator, “The LUCAS CPR device does not tire out and will perform a perfect compression every time.”

The device also allows for chest compressions to be performed when it would not otherwise be possible. For example, a patient might go into cardiac arrest in a second-floor bedroom. Emergency responders would have to stop giving CPR while transporting the patient down the stairs and moving the patient in and out of an ambulance. The LUCAS CPR device strapped on to the patient provides uninterrupted chest compressions during patient movement.

Using the LUCAS CPR device frees up emergency personnel, allowing them to focus on the needs of the patient and family as well.

“The use of this device keeps your Fire Department at the cutting edge of technology, offering the best care possible for you and your loved ones,” Heaton said.

Kroger holds Drug Take Back event

It’s time once again to clean out your cabinets of old and expired prescriptions. Kroger will hold their annual “Drug Take Back Event” on Saturday, April 27. The event will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the following four locations:

▷ 2525 Hilliard-Rome Road, Hilliard
▷ 5800 West Broad Street, Galloway
▷ 6011 Groveport Road, Groveport
▷ 1365 Stoneridge Drive, Gahanna

Plan to drop off your old and expired prescription medications for safe disposal as part of your daily errands - for FREE! Any bottles or sensitive information will be destroyed in a HIPAA-compliant manner.

Event sponsors:

Coming soon...

Adult CPR classes will soon be offered by the Jefferson Township Fire Department. For information on upcoming classes, please call the fire department at 614-861-3757 or e-mail rsingle@jefferson township.org.

Find us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/jefferson townshipfire
ISSUE 8   3-Mill FIRE and EMS Permanent Levy Information

Recently, the Board of Trustees took steps to place a 3.0 permanent levy for fire protection and emergency medical services on the May election ballot. This additional revenue is needed to maintain the current level of operation of your fire department.

FINANCIALS
▷ Proposed levy rate ......................................................... 3.0 Mills
▷ Proposed levy duration ............................................. Permanent
▷ Amount proposed levy will generate ..................... $1.35 Million
▷ Annual Cost Increase ............................................... $90/year per $100,000 of County Auditor appraised property value

Current fire levies generate approximately $2,637,000 annually, or cost property owners $175/year per $100,000 of County Auditor appraised property value.

DEPARTMENT SERVICES
▷ Fire Suppression
▷ Rescue
▷ Fire Code Enforcement
▷ Fire Investigation
▷ Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

PUBLIC SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAMS
▷ Fire Extinguisher Training
▷ Fire/EMS Public Speakers for public functions
▷ Home Safety Surveys
▷ School Presentations
▷ Fire Station Tours
▷ Currently developing CPR and First Aid certification classes

DEPARTMENT STATISTICS
▷ Daily Emergency Staff:
  • 4 - 6 full-time
  • 0 - 3 part-time
  • One battalion chief

All staff are cross-trained as emergency medical technicians, and most as Certified Paramedics.
▷ Daily Administrative Staff:
  • One fire chief
  • One administrative assistant

2012 SERVICE STATISTICS
▷ 2,000+ emergency calls, 66% of which were EMS
▷ 81 Fire Code Compliance Inspections in new and existing buildings
▷ 62 Public Service Events (e.g. Neighborhood Block Parties, Birthday Parties, Civic Events)
▷ Public Education Outreach Programs with over 1200 participants

SERVICE AREA
▷ 14+ square miles
▷ Approximately 11,000+ residents with an increase during daytime hours

ACTION ALREADY TAKEN TO MINIMIZE COSTS
▷ Eliminated one Battalion Chief position ......................................................... saving $125,000/year
▷ Eliminated Fleet Maintenance Service Agreements and changes to “as needed” services.......................... saving $70,000/year
▷ Eliminated most Fire/EMS training opportunities offered by outside specialists/organizations ................ saving $3,300/year
▷ Reduced minimum daily emergency responder staffing from eight to six, thereby eliminating the need to fill spots with overtime
▷ Redirected entire $500,000 budget for emergency vehicle replacement to operating expenses

THE LEVY WILL SUPPORT
▷ $250,000 for capital expenditures for possible lease purchase of one ambulance, one engine and a command vehicle
▷ $3.98 million for operating expenses

WHY ADDITIONAL REVENUE IS NEEDED NOW
▷ Loss of the State’s Tangible Personal Property Tax, which once contributed $280,000/year to the Fire Department
▷ Cost of equipment, supplies, training, maintenance and other services increases each year without a corresponding increase in the funds that are collected through the levies
▷ Emergency call volume and Township population have both more than doubled in the past 10 years

ADDITIONAL CUTS AND EFFECTS IF LEVY FAILS
▷ Elimination of part-time personnel program, reducing the number of on-duty staff available to answer emergencies
▷ Township Trustees would initiate a staff reduction plan
▷ Daily staffing would drop from 10 to 7, which would prevent one (of two) Department EMS vehicles and the ladder truck from being staffed
▷ No emergency response vehicles would be replaced; repairs would be made as the operating budget permits
▷ Aging fleet would be out of service more often due to increase in maintenance needs

continued on page 4
Levy information

In an effort to supply you with information regarding this levy, we would welcome the opportunity to attend meetings or answer any questions you may have.

Please feel free to contact us:
Fire Chief Crystal Dickerson ..................cdickerson@jefferson township.org ............614-774-3808
Battalion Chief Brad Shull ....................bshull@jefferson township.org ...............614-774-8914
Battalion Chief Bill McCullough .............wmcnullough@jefferson township.org ........614-774-8941
Battalion Chief Chris Heaton .................cheaton@jefferson township.org ............614-774-8964
Administrator Tom Spring ....................tspring@jefferson township.org ...............614-855-4260

Day in the life

Our firefighter/paramedics are on duty 24 hours and then have 48 hours off. There are three shifts, each shift works every third day.

At 8 a.m. the shift begins with roll call in the truck bay. A “pass-down” exchange of information is given by the out-going unit.

Personnel perform daily apparatus checks, inspecting equipment for operational readiness, and all EMS supplies are replenished as needed.

Firefighters attend to cleaning all living and office areas. Scheduled equipment and station maintenance is done. During this time public education events, special projects, and other activities are scheduled. Grocery shopping is done as well.

Physical Fitness. Time is set aside each day for physical training so that the firefighters have an opportunity to maintain fitness levels. Lunch follows.

Afternoons may be spent in Fire or EMS training, doing fire inspections or “walk-throughs” at local businesses, giving station tours, or participating in community events. Dinner follows in the early evening.

Meals prepared by the day’s cook and helpers are served “family style.”

Down time. Firefighters use this time to complete run reports, study, train, work on special projects as assigned, watch television, read, relax.

The shift is relieved at 8 a.m. the next day.

During their entire 24-hour shift the fire department responds to emergency and non-emergency calls. On average firefighters and paramedics respond to six emergency calls a day, and depending on the nature, runs can last from one hour to as long as ten hours.

Often they miss lunch and dinner and must readjust all of the responsibilities that keep the department in a readiness state. After all activities are completed, firefighters are permitted sleep time, however this sleep period could be interrupted by emergency calls at all hours of the night.

Who buys the groceries

Have you ever seen a fire truck in the parking lot of a grocery store or firefighters pushing a cart up and down the store aisles and thought, “Gee, are my tax dollars paying for their food and time to shop?”

If you aren’t familiar with how your fire department operates, you may have pondered such a question. But once you learn that firefighters are assigned to a truck and a position on that truck for their entire 24-hour shift, it makes more sense that the entire crew on that vehicle would have to travel together. And, to remain ready to respond when dispatched, the truck and staff must always have quick access to their vehicle and all the equipment in it.

So even though the firefighters are shopping, they are in ready status, and can be dispatched at any time. When it comes time to check out, Jefferson Township firefighters pay for their own groceries. The Fire Department does not provide food for the meals the firefighters eat during their 24-hour shift.

Commonly, the “cook,” who, among the station crew, is deemed the most talented in the kitchen, collects money from the station crew for the day’s meals.

Shopping for, preparing, and eating the food comes second to answering any emergency calls. It is not uncommon for crews to leave their grocery carts in the store and return later, turn off the heat on a partially cooked meal, or leave their food on their plates. It’s part of the job and goes with the territory.

JTFD firefighters leave their partially eaten meals to answer an emergency call.
Spring clean your conscience

When you moved your clocks forward one hour on March 10, did you take a few minutes to change the batteries in your home’s smoke detectors? Do you have the kind of smoke alarms you need to protect your family? Are they installed where they will be most effective?

Smoke alarms should be installed on every level of your home and inside and outside the doors of sleeping areas.

Use the photoelectric type (vs. ionization) because they are more responsive to smoldering fires, which create smoke that can kill before some people even awaken. Smoldering fires are the most common types of fires in rooms other than the kitchen, where flaming fires are more common.

Remove the detector cover and disconnect the nine-volt battery, which either powers the detector directly or serves as a backup battery if your detectors are hard-wired to your home’s electrical system.

No matter what type of system you have, the stored charge in the batteries depletes over time, making it important that you replace them so they are working when you need them. Once you replace the battery, replace the cover and push the “test” button. The alarm should sound, indicating that the detector is in working order.

No tools are needed to change the battery, but you will need a sturdy ladder to reach most detectors.

WE CAN HELP!

If you need help checking or installing batteries in your smoke detectors, or you know of someone who does need help, give the fire department a call at 614-861-3757.

We’ll send a crew to help you!

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!

Vacation home watch

Going on a vacation? Jefferson Township residents can call the Franklin County Sheriff’s non-emergency number, 614-525-3364 to schedule random checks of your home. Each check is logged. Tip: if you return home earlier than planned, give them a call to let them know, so that you aren’t mistaken for an intruder.

You can help your community

Serve your community in time of disaster by becoming a member of CERT - the Community Emergency Response Team.

In 95 percent of all emergencies, the victim or bystander provides the first immediate assistance on the scene. The CERT training helps citizens become better prepared during an emergency or disaster to help their family, their neighbors, and their community.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training gets you involved at the local level with response activities. You then have the option to be on a citizen response team to be called and activated to help our community respond. Local citizens with military service training can be a priceless asset in the time of a local emergency. Your experience and skills are needed.

The training courses include basic information on disaster preparedness, first aid, fire safety and utility controls, light search and rescue, disaster psychology, and terrorism. No future commitment is required after the class.

All classes will be held at:
- Ohio University - Pickerington Campus
  12933 Stonecreek Drive
  Pickerington OH 43147

April 2013 Training Dates:
- 9th, 11th, 16th, 18th (room 27) from 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- 20th (room 101) from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Attendance at each of the 5 sessions is required for completion of the course. Attire is casual. Course includes lecture and hands-on activities.

Call 740-654-4357 or go online at www.fairfieldema.com to register! The course is free, but you must register.

2013 National EMS Week
May 19 - 25

We are proud of our Jefferson Township Firefighter Paramedics, and appreciate the care that they give each and every day!

They are highly skilled, well-trained, healthcare professionals who tirelessly respond to medical and traumatic emergencies, providing advanced life support care to people in our community.

Stop by the fire station at 6767 Havens Corners Road to get your blood pressure checked, or just to say hello!
Service Department wears many hats

Ever wonder what those guys who drive around your neighborhood in Jefferson Township trucks do? They do a lot!

Service Department employees Joe, Dusty, Jack and Rob maintain 47 miles of Township roads, which include:
- repairing roads, signs, and guardrails
- maintaining gravel berms, and water drainage
- trimming trees, removing fallen trees and road litter
- removing bulk trash, and mowing roadsides
- removing dead animals from Township road “rights-of-way”
- plowing snow and salting icy roads

In addition, the Service Department maintains township owned buildings and open spaces including four parks and five cemeteries. Two of the cemeteries are still active and the Service crew is responsible for opening and closing graves.

They wear many hats and strive to provide quality services to the Township community, operating with four full-time employees and one seasonal employee to help through the warmer months. There are no plans to replace two full-time positions that were vacated in 2011.

Color your landscape, capture the rain

You can help Jefferson Township meet our clean water goals by creating a rain garden on your property.

What is a rain garden? An attractive landscaped area planted with perennial native plants which don’t mind getting “wet feet.” Built in a bowl shape, a rain garden is designed to increase infiltration allowing rain and snowmelt to seep naturally into the ground. Benefits of rain gardens are multiple; they recharge groundwater supply, prevent water quality problems, provide habitat for birds and butterflies, and are great looking landscape features.

Planting a rain garden may seem like a small thing, but if you calculate the amount of rain that runs off your property, you might be surprised. Every drop counts! Rain gardens capture rain that usually runs off your property and allows it time to soak into the ground. This helps minimize run-off and helps reduce the amount of non-point source pollution (soil, fertilizers, pesticides, pet wastes, grass clippings, yard debris, etc.) that enters our waterways.

An excellent publication to help you design and locate your rain garden, the Geauga SWCD Rain Garden Manual for Homeowners, can be downloaded from www.franklinswcd.org/2010/08/what-is-a-rain-garden/. The manual outlines instructions for planning, site preparation, digging, and planting native species.

If you are interested in capturing and treating storm water on your property in a creative fashion, using your own personal flair, contact the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District for more information.

Dixon Road to be paved

The Public Works Integrating Committee for Franklin County has awarded Jefferson Township a grant to pave Dixon Road and Poppy Hills Drive. Construction estimates were $250,000 and $135,000 respectively.

Residents along Dixon Road helped us with letters of support, said Tom Spring, township administrator. Since then, freezing and thawing over the winter has worsened the condition of the road, which already was in a failing condition, testing the patience of motorists and residents.

“Repairing Dixon Road has been a priority the past three years,” Spring said. Timing was an issue and a plan to solve the drainage issues plaguing the road was necessary.

“Last year, with the help of Franklin County’s soil and water conservation district, obstructions along Cole Ditch were identified,” Spring said. “Staff from the county engineer and township removed trees and other overgrowth, with cooperation of the landowners,” Spring said. That made it possible to take the next step – securing funding for paving the portion of the road maintained by the township.

The City of Pataskala, which maintains the northern and southern ends of the shared road, also offered input. In light of the failure of the township road levy last November, the announcement of the grant in December was welcome news to township officials.

The project marks the third consecutive year Jefferson Township successfully obtained Public Works grants. Previous grants were awarded for improvements to Shel and Clotts roads. The township expects the Ohio Public Works Commission to issue an agreement for the resurfacing program for Dixon and Poppy Hills this July, which will be coordinated through the Office of the Franklin County Engineer.

Backyard conservation tips

Storm water and the pollutants carried with it are destructive to streams, properties, and habitat. Backyard conservation practices can help reduce storm water runoff, promote water conservation, and prevent pollutants from entering our streams. They can add diversity and improve aesthetics in our communities.

Backyard conservation Tips for Home:
- Leave a buffer of grass or trees between the stream or ditch and your lawn
- Reduce or stop pesticide use on lawns and gardens
- Keep fallen leaves on lawn (chop finely and spread) or put in compost pile
- Use native plants
- Use a rain barrel or rain garden to catch runoff from your rooftop - then use the water for your plants
- Consider planting a rain garden
- Water plants in early morning or evening

Visit www.franklinswcd.org/ for more tips on backyard conservation!
New life for an old park

Funds from a 2011 Ohio Department of Natural Resources NatureWorks 2011 grant, numerous volunteer hours, and multiple Eagle Scout projects have helped to breathe new life into an old park.

Olde Quarry Park, formerly known as “Plumber’s Park”, is located at the intersection of Reynoldsburg-New Albany Road and Taylor Road, on the north side of the Jefferson Cemetery. The park is currently under development, and when completed, will improve public access while preserving the area’s natural habitat.

The park will offer walking trails, a pond for fishing, a shelter house, picnic areas, parking, and an A.D.A. accessible restroom facility.

“Access to outdoor recreation is key to not only providing a healthy community but also aides in economic development of the area,” said David Payne, chief of the ODNR Division of Parks and Recreation. “We strive to strengthen the connections between nature, fitness and community.”

Olde Quarry Park is scheduled to open summer, 2013.

Meet Joe Gerhart, Service Department Superintendent

Joe started working part-time for the Township’s Service Department in the early eighties. In 1984 he left to seek other employment, and in 1992 returned full-time to the Service Department. In 2001 Joe was promoted to Service Department Superintendent.

When asked what he enjoys most about his job, Joe says, “I enjoy the variety of services our Department provides to the Township residents. I take pride in assisting the public with their needs. The Service Department crew is great to work with, and the fact that our jobs require us to be outdoors is a huge plus.”

The third child born to Ray and Jean Gerhart, Joe has two sisters, Brenda and Pamela. Raised in the Gahanna, Ohio area, Joe graduated in 1980 from Gahanna Lincoln High School. He and wife Yvonne “Yogi” Gerhart will celebrate their 22nd wedding anniversary this year. They have two sons, Gabriel and Trevor.

Put This On Your Calendar!

**Spring Walk**

The annual Spring Walk will be held at Jefferson Community Park on Sunday, April 14 at 2 p.m.

A naturalist will guide visitors through the park to see the beauty and life that Spring brings. Light snacks and beverages will be provided.

Come dressed for the weather as the Walk will be held rain or shine.

**Farmers’ Market**

The 2013 Jefferson Community Community Farmers’ Market will start June 22 and run through September 7, every Saturday from 9 a.m. to Noon.

Local vendors will once again offer fresh produce, honey, breads and pastries, pies, and other homemade treats for sale.

Weekly events will also be held at the market such as: antique tractors, fire trucks, blood pressure checks, the Sheriff’s Child I.D. Program, bluegrass band, and alpacas.

**Ice Cream Social**

Come to the Jefferson Community Park to enjoy an Ice Cream Social on Saturday, July 13 at 11 a.m.

Along with free ice cream, children can join in old-fashioned games like “sack races” and get their faces painted. There will be music to enjoy.

All of this will take place in the Maple Leaf shelter house during the Farmers’ Market.
JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP
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dfinn@jeffersontownship.org
Mat Flanagan, Chair
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Rob Platte
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Donna Glenn
Cemetery Sexton
614-855-1847

Fire Department
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Fire Chief
cdickerson@jeffersontownship.org

Rebecca Swingle
Fire Administrative Assistant
rswingle@jeffersontownship.org

Office Hours
Administration Office
M - TH 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Friday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
6545 Havens Road, Blacklick OH 43004
Phone 614-855-4260 Fax 614-855-3761

Zoning Office
M - TH 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Friday 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
6545 Havens Road, Blacklick OH 43004
Phone 614-855-4265 Fax 614-855-1759

Service Department
M - TH 6:30 AM to 5:00 PM
M - F 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM (Winter Hours)
6620 Havens Road, Blacklick OH 43004
Phone 614-861-2240 Fax 614-552-6464

Fire Department
Open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year
M - F 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM (Business Hours)
6767 Havens Corners Road, Blacklick OH 43004
Phone 614-861-3757 Fax 614-861-0968

Our newsletter is going green!
Subscribe to our electronic newsletter!
In an effort to reduce cost and waste, future newsletters will be
distributed via e-mail and will also be available on the Township
website.

To subscribe, visit our website at www.jeffersontownship.org