On Election Day, November 4, 2014, our Township’s fire department faces a tipping point. The Issue #39 Fire Protection and EMS Levy, is necessary to ensure our Township’s continued safety and to support the work of our dedicated fire department and emergency medical services (EMS) personnel. Without the passage of Issue #39 Fire Protection and EMS Levy, wait times during emergencies may increase, we will need to lay off personnel, and our fire equipment will continue to deteriorate without any means to fix or replace it.

We are at a crossroads in Jefferson Township. Reduced tax allocations, cuts in state funding and an increase in emergency runs make the demand for funding our fire department and EMS greater than ever.

Our population has increased significantly over the years, and that’s a testament to the quality of life we offer here. But it’s important to note that the Township’s budgets do not increase as the population increases as they would in cities with an income tax.

Issue #39 Fire Protection and EMS Levy gives us the opportunity to restructure our funding from temporary to continuing. This change will eliminate the need to return to voters in three of every five years to authorize the same levels of funding that have been approved and re-approved over the years.

Issue #39 Fire Protection and EMS Levy will combine two temporary levies. The first is a 2-mill temporary levy, which expires at the end of this year. And the second is a 1-mill temporary levy, expiring in 2015. A third temporary levy expire in 2017, and the Township leadership does not plan to return for another Fire/EMS ballot decision until then.

For 2015 only, Issue #39 Fire Protection and EMS Levy adds less than $48 for each $100,000 of assessed property value. In 2016, property owners will actually get a reprieve of $23.50 per $100,000 of County Auditor assessed property value due to the expiration of the 2015 1-mill levy, resulting in a net increase of less than $25 in 2016 and 2017.

If you have any questions pertaining to Issue #39 Fire Protection and EMS Levy, please contact your Fire Department at 614-861-3757 or at fireprevention@jeffersontownship.org.

Jefferson Township is going green, and saving green! In an effort to reduce cost and waste, this is the final edition of the printed Jefferson Township Newsletter.

Future communications will be distributed via e-mail and will also be available on the Township website.

We encourage everyone to sign up to receive monthly updates, newsletters, and other important communications from the township.

It’s easy! Simply visit the Township website at jeffersontownship.org or give us a call at 614-885-4260 and we’ll add you to our list!

Be informed about what’s going on in your community, sign up today!
Why update the plan?

A Comprehensive Plan creates a long-range vision of a community’s future ~ building relationships among leaders, residents and businesses with the goal of maintaining a sustainable vision fiscally, socially and environmentally. An updated Comprehensive Plan will provide your elected officials with a document on which to base land use and long term development decisions in concert with the community’s vision.

Jefferson Township’s existing plan is almost 20 years old, and since that time, Jefferson Township has seen many changes. Traditional revenue sources have disappeared and the population, number of households and Township road miles have all doubled. Not only does this mean that much of the existing plan may no longer apply, it means that over half of current Township residents did not have the opportunity to be involved in the original plan.

How do I get involved?

On June 24, a Community Outreach Meeting was held at New Horizons Community Church to kick-off the planning process. The goal of the meeting was to identify the framework and scope of the Comprehensive Plan update, which will prepare the Township for future growth and development. Attendees were given the opportunity to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the Township.

Excellent feedback was received, and this vital information will be used to prepare requests for qualifications (RFQs) and requests for proposals (RFPs) from professional planners to aid in developing the updates.

We look forward to hosting future meetings as the planning progresses, to ensure maximum input from our residents and business owners. Everyone is encouraged take ownership in your community and in its future.

Meeting dates, times and locations will be announced in future on-line Township e-updates, so be sure to sign up at jeffersontownship.org.

Olde Quarry Park opens

Jefferson Township residents can now enjoy a new natural oasis, away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. At 860 Reynoldsburg-New Albany Road, just north of the cemetery, the entrance to Olde Quarry Park slopes down into a deep wooded valley, the site of an old working quarry.

The nearly 20-acre park was acquired in 2005 through a Clean Ohio grant, along with over 60 acres of additional land and conservation easements to forever remain in their natural state. It took funding from two NatureWorks grants through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources in 2011 and 2012, as well as in-kind donations and multiple Eagle Scouts projects to complete the park. In total, the Township was successful in receiving over $142,000 in NatureWorks funding to build a shelter house, a larger parking area, and ADA accessible restrooms.

The new shelter house, with views of the pond, features a large grill, electrical outlets, and picnic tables, with seating for up to 64 people. The shelter house can be rented for private events. In addition to the shelter house, park-goers can now enjoy a large fishing pond, picnic areas with grills, and wooded walking paths that wind around the pond and east to the scenic Blacklick Creek. Olde Quarry Park is open daily from 8 a.m. until sunset.

Special Thanks!

Current and former Township staff, the Jefferson Township Parks Board, and the generous sponsors who donated money, time and materials:


Thanks also for in-kind labor provided by the Jefferson Township Service Crew, and the volunteer work of Ryan Coupland of Boy Scout Troop 898, Joey Nash, Nick Workman and Troy Ferron of Boy Scout Troop 317.

To reserve the shelter house on-line, visit the Township website, jeffersontownship.org. For more information e-mail Kelly Kiener, Parks Coordinator, kkiener@jeffersontownship.org.
Meet Your Firefighters
Newly Promoted Battalion Chief Cliff Reynolds

Jefferson Township Fire Department is proud to announce the promotion of Clifton A. Reynolds to the position of Battalion Chief.

Battalion Chief (BC) Reynolds has been employed by Jefferson Township Fire Department for 26 years as a Firefighter/Paramedic, serving as Lieutenant for the last 20 years. BC Reynolds has served as Fire Training Officer as well as EMS Coordinator and has been chosen by his peers as Fire Fighter of Year for 3 consecutive years.

BC Reynolds is currently attending Columbus State Community College completing his degree in Fire Science. His credentials include the following State of Ohio certifications:

Ohio Level II Firefighter, Certified Fire Safety Inspector, Paramedic, Ohio Fire Instructor, and he is also nationally certified as an Incident Commander.

BC Reynolds has a long family history in the fire service, having served as a volunteer firefighter in Harrisville, Ohio for many years alongside his father, the late Albert W. Reynolds, who served as Assistant Fire Chief at Harrisville Volunteer Fire Department for nearly 10 years. His love of the fire service has been passed on to two of his sons who also serve as firefighters in the Columbus area.

BC Reynolds has been married to his wife Patsy for almost 30 years; they are the parents of 3 sons and have 5 grandchildren. He’s a proud “Papa.”

Battalion Chief Reynolds is currently assigned to 2-Unit and began his new role on September 22nd, with an official swearing-in ceremony to be scheduled later this year. Chief Reynolds is filling an open Battalion Chief position that has been vacant since June.

Salt prices rise for Jefferson Township

You may have heard news reports about salt prices rising in the state, but how does that affect Jefferson Township? This winter is going to be more expensive for Jefferson Township.

The Township purchases its salt through a cooperative purchasing program, which allows ordering salt at prices bid on by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). During the 2013-2014 winter season, the Township ordered 600 tons of salt at $48.69 per ton.

For the 2014-2015 winter season, ODOT has locked in pricing for program participants in Franklin County at $70.22 per ton, a 44% increase. The increase is attributed to heavy demand for salt last winter, resulting in supply shortages.

Jefferson Township has ordered 600 tons of salt in preparation for this winter season, and therefore will see a nearly $13,000 increase in salt spending.

There was a record crowd at the fire department open house on Sunday, October 5! Kids and adults enjoyed the activities, from shooting pretend flames with a real fire hose, and watching the adults learn how to use a fire extinguisher, to learning how to crawl low if there’s smoke, and learning not to be afraid of a firefighter dressed in all his or her gear. There were goodies and fun galore!

Firefighter Cory and Firefighter Joe showed the kids that firefighters are not scary when they have all of their fire gear on, because firefighters are their friends!
JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP NEWS
6545 Havens Road
Blacklick OH 43004

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
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Special Assistant
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Service Department
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Service Superintendent
jgerhart@jeffersontownship.org

Fire Department
Crystal Dickerson
Fire Chief
cdickerson@jeffersontownship.org
Rebecca Swingle
Fire Administrative Assistant
rsingle@jeffersontownship.org

Child Safety Seat Check
Sunday, October 26
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Michelle’s Academy
7297 Blacklick Ridge Blvd
Blacklick OH 43004
let’s keep our little pumpkins safe!
Event will be held in the parking lot of Michelle’s Academy

OFFICE HOURS
Administration Office
M - TH 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
F 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
6545 Havens Road, Blacklick OH 43004
Phone 614-855-4260  Fax 614-855-3761

Zoning Office
M - TH 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
F 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
6545 Havens Road, Blacklick OH 43004
Phone 614-855-4265  Fax 614-855-1759

Service Department
M - TH 6:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Spring/Summer)
M - F 6:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. (Fall/Winter)
6620 Havens Corners Road, Blacklick OH 43004
Phone 614-861-2440  Fax 614-552-6464

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

For your immediate cemetery needs, call Kelly Kiener at 614-304-0133.