I
n 1966, Jefferson Township took steps to form its own volunteer fire department. Support from the community led to the passage of a $50,000 bond and 1.25 mill operating levy on November 8 of that year. Immediately following the election, the Board of Trustees put out a call for volunteers from the community.

“The response was immediate. In less than two months, 22 men volunteered to serve, all being officially appointed firemen on December 29, 1966. They came from various backgrounds and walks of life: retired railroad men, young factory workers, even executives. James E. Jeffries for example, a laboratory director, was one the first to volunteer. ‘There’s a need’, he explained, ‘And an opportunity to provide civic leadership.’ ‘Maybe,’ he added, ‘I’m just bored.’”

- Newspaper article 1967

Here are a few snapshots in time of Jefferson Township Fire Department - The Early Years...

The original fire station on Havens Corners Road was dedicated on October 15, 1967 and remained in use until the new station was built just up the road in 2001.

The Junior Firefighters program was a mainstay of the early fire department. Beginning in 1969, local teens received firefighting and emergency care training to help with township emergencies.

The Ladies Auxiliary was highly involved in the department; fundraising for new equipment, organizing community events, and training in first aid.

The transition from a volunteer to a professional department kicked off in the early 1970's with the hiring of several paid firefighters. Training, especially medical, became a major focus.

Throughout the 1970's the firefighters often participated in national and international first aid and rescue competitions, winning several awards.

In 1982, the Trustees appointed the department's first female volunteer firefighters: sisters Crystal Dickerson and Georgia Miller. Dickerson went on to become the first female fire chief in Central Ohio in 2008. She retired from Jefferson Township in 2014.

Today, a daily staff of eight full-time firefighters respond to over 2,000 fire and medical emergency calls annually.
Fall 2017 • 7

Fire Levy Renewal
No New Taxes
No Millage Increase

ISSUE #36

An existing 2 mill, 5 year Fire Levy is expiring at the end of 2017. The Jefferson Township Trustees voted unanimously to place a renewal levy on the November 7 ballot. Renewing the 2 mill, 5 year levy means our residents will continue to receive the highest level of fire and emergency medical protection without increasing voted millage.

This renewal levy generates $982,000 annually and currently costs homeowners $60.66 per property value.

"Funds from this levy are essential to maintaining high quality fire protection and emergency medical services, including fire suppression and prevention, lifesaving emergency medical care, car seat inspections, and specialized public education" - Fire Chief Brad Shull.

Check out the Fact Sheet on Page 3 for more information about Issue #36 Fire Levy renewal and the services it supports.

2017 Reappraisals & Levy Reduction Factors
As property values in the Township go up, the millage on existing and renewal levies is reduced so that generated revenue does not rise above what was originally approved by voters.

1. DRAW A MAP OF YOUR HOME & PLAN 2 WAYS OUT
- Include all doors and windows, and identify two ways out of every room.
- Make sure doors and windows are not blocked.
- Choose an outside meeting place that’s a safe distance away from your home.

2. PRACTICE YOUR HOME FIRE DRILL TWICE A YEAR
- Conduct one at night and one during the day and with everyone in your home.
- Practice using different ways out.
- Practice closing doors behind you as you leave - this may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- Teach your children how to escape on their own in case you are unable to help them.
- Once you get outside, stay outside. Never go back inside a burning building.

1. Localized Flooding...? You Can Help!
Localized flooding is a product of more intense rains and added hard surfaces. The two combine to create larger volumes of water running off the ground more quickly than what used to be the case. Creeks and stormwater systems often cannot handle the new flows.

We could allow the creeks to adjust to the new volumes, but this would result in more bank erosion, degraded streams, and continued localized flooding until the creeks adjust. We could enlarge the capacity of our stormwater pipes, but this would put stormwater into the streams even more quickly, increasing damage while adding to infrastructure costs.

Another option would be for residents to help out, one yard at a time:
- Simply plant a tree to reduce stormwater runoff from your property. Trees can help slow down and store rainwater.
- Create a depression around a new or existing tree to handle periodic wet periods. Direct your downspouts to that depression, allowing the tree to function like the native plants in a rain garden.
- Install a traditional rain garden. Put in some deep-rooted, native plants in areas around your property, especially where water tends to run off your lot.

Together, we can make a difference in reducing stormwater runoff and localized flooding!

Information provided by Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District

2. Fire Prevention Week 2017
Every Second Counts - Plan 2 Ways Out!

In a fire, seconds count. Seconds can mean the difference between escaping safely from a fire, or tragedy. That’s why this year’s Fire Prevention Week theme: “Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!” is so important. Here are some important steps to developing and practicing your escape plan:

1. DRAW A MAP OF YOUR HOME & PLAN 2 WAYS OUT
- Include all doors and windows, and identify two ways out of every room.
- Make sure doors and windows are not blocked.
- Choose an outside meeting place that’s a safe distance away from your home.

Every Second Counts in a Fire

2. PRACTICE YOUR HOME FIRE DRILL TWICE A YEAR
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Fire Prevention Week is October 8-14

3. FIRE DRILL TWICE A YEAR
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Comprehensive Plan Open Houses

The Township’s Comprehensive Plan, Jefferson Township 2050, is in draft form and ready for public review! The Comprehensive Plan communicates the wants and needs of the community to guide future decisions related to roads, parks, land use, economic development and emergency services. Please join us for one of three informal Open Houses to hear about our BIG IDEAS for the future of Jefferson Township.

Opportunity #1 Tuesday, October 24 from 7-9 PM
Opportunity #2 Thursday, November 2 from 3-5 PM
Opportunity #3 Saturday, November 4 from 10 AM -12 PM

All Open Houses will be held at the Fire Station, 6767 Havens Corners Road.
Going Paperless: New Online Zoning Portal

In an effort to make the zoning process more efficient and convenient, we are pleased to announce the arrival of the Jefferson Township Zoning Portal from CitizenServe! This service will be used for receiving, processing, and retaining zoning permit applications, complaints, and applications for board action. Paper-based applications are no longer accepted as of September 5, 2017.

Applications for the following projects can now be submitted through the online portal:

- Zoning Compliance: additions, alterations and repairs, including decks, patios, fences, sheds, pools, home additions, driveway changes, interior remodels, or similar
- Right-of-Way Excavation: work in the right-of-way including driveway changes, open cutting in the roadway, drainage improvements, or the installation of irrigation between the street and the sidewalk

Frequently Asked Questions

Will I be able to use a credit card to pay my fees?

Yes! Moving to an online portal allows us to securely accept credit card payments, much like a small online retailer. Credit card payments are received through a third-party PCI-compliant credit card processor; your credit card data is kept secure and apart from township records.

Will I get my permit faster?

In most cases, yes! Assuming we receive a complete application, our typical turn-around is 2-3 days, if not faster. If we receive an application that is not complete (i.e. missing dimensions/measurements, HOA approvals, or other details), applicants may experience a delay while information is gathered for submission.

What if I lose my permit?

Your permit information is stored online and can be accessed from anywhere at any time. Archived property information will also be stored online for easy access.

Visit the Portal

jeffersontownship.org/zoning

2017 Road Maintenance

This year’s road maintenance program kicked off at the end of August with crack sealing on over 30 township roads. This preventative maintenance application seals cracks in the pavement using a flexible asphalt emulsion, preventing the cracks from expanding and moisture from further penetrating the pavement.

Beyond crack sealing, the township will also be resurfacing and performing full depth repairs on several roads. You will see two types of resurfacing on our roads: Mill & Fill and Asphalt Overlay.

Newer subdivision roads that were built to modern standards are resurfaced by milling off and replacing the top layer of asphalt for a fresh road surface.

Older thoroughfares, often built on dirt, are resurfaced by overlaying a flexible asphalt on the existing pavement to repair potholes, cracks, and dips.

Mill and Fill

Below is list of roads scheduled for mill and fill resurfacing in 2017:

- Howard Street
- Headley Road
- Jefferson Run Drive
- Kennedy Road
- Oxbow Drive
- Shull Road
- Skyland Court

Asphalt Overlay

Below is a list of roads scheduled for asphalt overlay:

- Havens Road
- McOwen Road
- South Alley, Oak Street, Mill Street, and Center Alley off of Taylor Station Road.

What will I lose if I lose my permit?

Your permit information is stored online and can be accessed from anywhere at any time. Archived property information will also be stored online for easy access.

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- McOwen Road
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Financials:

Expanding Levy: An existing 2 mill levy is expiring at the end of 2017

Proposed Levy Rate: 2 mills - NO CHANGE

Income Generated: $982,000 generated in 2017

Cost to You: $60.66 per $100,000 of county auditor appraised property value (2017 collection)

Budget Impact: 20% of the fire department’s budget is generated by the expiring levy

Five Goals for the Next Five Years:

1. Maintain the current level of fire, emergency medical, and safety education services for the residents and businesses of Jefferson Township.
2. Work to improve our ISO fire protection rating to help lower your property insurance premiums.
3. Utilize data and planning to achieve national accreditation, validating the effectiveness and efficiency of your fire/EMS protection.
4. Monitor and analyze call data to identify opportunities for improvement and enhancement of services.
5. Replace emergency vehicles in accordance with established fleet replacement schedules.

What Will the Levy Support?

- Funding for capital expenses (emergency vehicles)
- $4.5 million for operating expenses including personnel costs, staff training, administrative supplies and expenses, facility maintenance, utilities, etc.
- Continuation of the current high quality fire protection and emergency medical services for Jefferson Township

The Board of Trustees is committed to maximizing the time between increase requests. Funds from this levy are essential to maintaining high quality fire protection and emergency medical services, including fire suppression and prevention, lifesaving emergency medical care, car seat inspections, and specialized public education.

Want More Information?

Fire Chief Brad Shull | bshull@jeffersontownship.org | (614) 861-3757
Administrator Jeff Palm | jpalmt@jeffersontownship.org | (614) 855-4260
JOIN US FOR A SPOOKTACULAR HALLOWEEN PARTY

SATURDAY OCTOBER 21st
FROM 6PM UNTIL 9PM
Jefferson Community Park • 7494 Clark State Road

Hayrides • Bonfire • Nocturnal Animals
Games • Haunted (& Enchanted) Forests
Face Painting • Story Telling • Candy

Boehnke Nature Preserve: Now Open
Jefferson Township's newest park, located on Clark State Road, is now open to the public! The land for this 20-acre nature preserve was donated by longtime resident and nature lover, Phyllis Boehnke.

"Phyllis wanted to protect the land from development and share it with our community," said Trustee Mike Rowan. "We've decided to keep it as natural as possible so that everyone can enjoy it, just as she did."

The park features natural walking trails through woods and meadow, a fishing pond and meandering creek, and provides the opportunity to explore nature close to home.

By design, the trails are simple and natural, and boots are encouraged!

The park is located at 6100 Clark State Road, at the intersection with Mann Road.

Want to get involved with our parks?
Join the Parks Board! Board members plan for the future use and development of township parks, and coordinate fun community events! A regular term is 3 years.

Contact Kelly Kiener for more information about joining today!
kkiener@jeffersontownship.org
(614) 304-0133

Summer Fun at the Park!
This year we celebrated summer with two fun events at the park: An Ice Cream Social in July and the Hog & Corn Roast in August.

If you missed the fun, we'll be back at it again next summer! A big thank you goes out to the Jefferson Township Parks Board for always ensuring our events are a success!

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