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FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

By Sylvania Township Trustees

Recently elected Township Trustees DeeDee

Liedel and Pam Hanley joined Carol Contrada to form a new Board of Trustees in January 2006. The new Board of Trustees has spent the first three months of 2006 becoming familiar with operations of Sylvania Township, evaluating policies and procedures, and addressing community issues. A working retreat with key township employees was held in early March. Trustees and department leaders reviewed current operational issues by department, and identified areas for future consideration. We have already begun to "focus on the future" of Sylvania Township. In the next several months, we hope to implement improvements in the following areas:

1. Fiscal Accountability and Financial Management:

- Provide a budget report which is concise and easily understood, and post the budget report on the Township website for easy accessibility.
- Identify and support cost-efficient spending that reflects value for the dollar.
- Review and update fiscal, accounting, and investment procedures for sound business practices.

2. Communication:

- Revise and improve IT and website design for better communication.
- Explore the idea of Trustee Forums

3. Administration:

The Trustees support the need for continuity of management within the Township administration. To that end we have:

- Appointed Susan Wood as Interim Township Administrator.
- Engaged the professional expertise of the

PAR Consulting Group, a national executive search agency specializing in the public and government sector. The PAR Group will assist in searching for and screening candidates for Administrator.

4. Land Use/Zoning:

- We have identified and revised portions of the Township Zoning Resolution important to the future development of our community. Under the guidance of the Trustees in conjunction with Toledo-Lucas County Plan Commission and Township Zoning Commission, the Zoning Department plans to have recommended changes and amendments to the Zoning Resolution in place by early summer.
- Complete the update of the Master/Land Use Plan.

5. Police Department

With the resignation of former Police Chief Valvano, the Trustees recognized the need to provide stability in the Police Department. We have:

- Appointed Captain Rob Boehme to fill the position of Interim Police Chief.
- Retained the PAR Group to assist in the search for a Police Chief
- Retained an independent consultant to evaluate current policies and procedures of the Police Department and make recommendations to the Board and new Chief of Police.

6. Fire Department:

- The Sylvania Area Fire/EMS Advisory Board presented their interim report to Sylvania City Council and Sylvania Township Board of Trustees. This report evaluated the Sylvania Township Fire Department in four areas: Personnel, Facilities & Equipment, Finance, and

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Focus...continued from page 1

Communication. The Interim Report is available online and is a working document to aid the Trustees in addressing the future needs of our community.

- The Trustees will thoroughly evaluate the recommendations in the Fire/EMS Interim Report and may request additional information from the Advisory Board.

7. Pubic Works Department

- Continue scheduled road maintenance and infrastructure repair
- Investigate and implement more efficient leaf pick-up schedules

8. Policies & Procedures:

- Continue the ongoing evaluation of internal operational policies and procedures, including employee policies, visitor sign-in procedures, and other operational policies. Review and update policies intended to maintain and encourage the orderly enjoyment of our community.

9. Community Issues

- Annexation: The Board is evaluating annexation issues, including the laws regarding annexation, procedure, notification, and implications for residents and businesses. We have called for a moratorium on annexation by the City of Sylvania during the process of developing a community land use plan. Look to hear more in the future on this issue.

Vision for the Future

Having a vision for our community will help to ensure that Sylvania develops and grows into the type of community we all want to remain a part of. Once the administrative forces of the Township are in place, the Trustees hope to engage the community in a discussion to develop a Vision for Sylvania. Having a road map toward future development, goals and objectives will help us, the Trustees, to serve you, the residents of Sylvania Township.

We will continue to evaluate and develop ways to improve the quality of life in the Township. ■



Sylvania Relay For Life! June 16th – 17th At Timberstone JHS

Relay For Life is the American Cancer Society's signature event. It represents our hope that those lost to cancer will be honored and that one day cancer will be eliminated.

Teams of 8 to 15 people walk or run around a track for 18 hours. One team member at a time circles the track for 30 minutes. During Relay, team members create a community party atmosphere by camping out, enjoying entertainment, food, games and camaraderie. Why not put together a team from your church, club, work, family, or group of friends! For more information, contact ACS Office at 419/874-3081

FISCAL footnotes

By Dave Simko, Fiscal Officer

Fiscal Officer?! Yes, I am now the Fiscal Officer, or as an attorney might say f/n/a the Township Clerk! The Ohio legislature, effective December 15, 2005, passed a law that changed my title to Fiscal Officer. Apparently the thought was that the title more aptly described my duties. Perhaps this is true for while I do maintain minutes for Trustee meetings a significant amount of my time is devoted to Township financial matters, its books and records and overseeing a budget of over \$20,000,000.00.

This portion of my column takes a brief look back to December 31, 2005. How did the Township do financially? Our receipts were \$22,215,985.96. Our budget was \$21,324,302.75. Most importantly our disbursements were \$19,267,149.49. I am pleased with this positive result. Our employees actually can take the credit. When they realize that with the economy in our area still struggling (e.g. Flat tax receipts) they took very seriously the concerns raised and really worked hard to make sure we used our tax money as wisely as possible. Their

effort along with the Trustees and Fiscal Office created this positive financial ending to the year.

While not having the space to go into great detail, it may interest you to know that the Township budget consists principally of the General, Road, Fire and Police funds.

For 2006, all funds (except fire) appear to be sound. Currently, it is projected that the fire tax levy receipts will not support the anticipated expenses. In 2005, the Trustees advanced funds from the general fund to enable our Fire Fund to meet expenses. The Interim Report of the Fire/EMS Advisory Board is on the Township web site.

Finally, as many of you know I present to the Township Trustees at its meetings month end reports that provide great detail on the Townships financial position on each and every account maintained by the Township. These reports are Public Records. We are currently looking for a reasonable method to present a periodic summary of our financial picture on our web site. More on this issue in future articles. ■



POLICEbeat

By Acting Chief Robert Boehme

As warmer weather approaches, most of our residents spend increasing time outdoors in their yards and neighborhoods. With increased outdoor activity items of value are commonly left outside for extended periods of time which result in their theft. A more serious consideration for residents during warmer weather is the tendency to leave doors unlocked or standing open for extended periods identifying these homes as easy targets for "would be" thieves and burglars. You can significantly reduce your family's chance of being victimized in this manner by routinely adopting the following practices remembering that offenders usually select the easiest targets.

Most importantly ensure all doors are closed and even locked when you are out in the yard or neighborhood. Overhead garage doors and the door from the garage into the living

area are doors most commonly left open and subsequently entered by perpetrators.

All items of value within parked vehicles should always be removed especially if the vehicle is to remain parked for an extended period or overnight. At the minimum, items of value must be concealed within the vehicle preferably in the trunk of a passenger car. Trucks and SUVs are not as secure as they provide no trunk area for concealment. Generally speaking, vehicles parked in driveways are broken into less than those parked on the street.

These past several months we have seen a considerable number of burglaries occurring in during the daytime while residents are away from home. Though a number of perpetrators have been apprehended, Sylvania Township and adjoining communities continue to experience an unacceptable number of

burglaries. Installation of outdoor lighting, especially motion detector lights around doors and windows are an effective deterrent. Trim any foundation shrubbery that has partially grown over windows or other points of entry. In identifying methods to make your home more secure just remember you are attempting to make illegal entry more difficult and increase chances of detection if entry is attempted.

Finally, report anything suspicious or out of the ordinary to our police department. We take a very proactive approach to prevention of these types of crimes in our neighborhoods. Don't be surprised to get a call from our department in the middle of the night should you forget to close your overhead garage door. We are here to protect and to serve you but we also rely on each of you to be "our eyes and ears" in our community. ■

PERSONNEL profile

The Sylvania Township Police Department hired four (4) Police Officers in October 2005, to maintain service levels as promised in the recent Police Levy. The new officers replace two officers that retired, one officer that was hired by a federal agency, and one officer that was injured on duty.

All of these new officers either have previous law enforcement experience and/or an educational background in Criminal Justice prior to being selected through the Sylvania Township Police Department's highly competitive application process.

Your new Police Officers are (*in alphabetical order*):

Derek Borstelman - Officer Borstelman holds an Associate in Applied Science in Criminal Justice Technology from Northwest State

Community College. He received his Police Academy training from Paulding Basic Police School, Police Academy in 2005. Officer Borstelman previously worked for the Cedar Point Police Department and an Auxiliary Police Officer at Wauseon Police Department.

Todd Curtis - Officer Curtis attended the University of Toledo and received a Masters Criminal Investigators Certification from the Ohio Police Officers Training Academy. He attended the Police Academy at the Criminal Justice Training and Education Center in 1992. Prior to coming to Sylvania Township, Officer Curtis worked for Perkins Township Police Department as a Road Sergeant. Officer Curtis also serves as a Police Academy Instructor.

Matthew Miller - Officer Miller

holds a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from the University Of Toledo. He attended the Police Academy at Owens Community College in 2005. Officer Miller worked for the Wood County and Lucas County Adult Probation Department before being hired by the Sylvania Township Police Department.

Randal Mull - Officer Mull holds an Associate in Applied Science in Criminal Justice Technology from Owens Community College. He attended the Police Academy at Owens Community College in 2003. Officer Mull's prior experience includes the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority Police Department and a part-time position with the Delta Police Department. Officer Mull enjoys hunting and golf. ■

Sylvania Township Police Department present award.



Officer Sarah Toth of the Sylvania Township Police Department presents a plaque to

Terry Benton, of the Toledo Lodge #53 Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. The Lodge shares profits from an Instant Bingo Ticket Program with the Sylvania Township Police Department, the Veterans Home in Sandusky and Hospice of Northwest Ohio. Additionally, the program provides \$10,000.00 in annual scholarships for area high school seniors for their future college education.

The Sylvania Township Police Department uses the funds for drug awareness programs such as D.A.R.E. Soon, the Police Department will use a portion of the proceeds as seed money for a new program that will allow parents to purchase drug and alcohol home testing kits. These tools can confirm their suspicions in the privacy and security of the home and directs them to appropriate resources if alcohol or drug use is discovered. The easy-to-use test gives almost instantaneous results. These kits will soon be available at the Sylvania Township Police Department for a nominal fee. ■

When you visit Township Hall...

We always welcome visitors to the Township offices and look forward to helping you with your inquiries. When you visit during the work day, we now require visitors to sign in with our receptionist, Linda Gilsdorf. Unfortunately, in today's workplace and in most government buildings security can no longer be taken for granted. We invite your visits, comments and questions and trust that your visits to Township Hall will be enjoyable and informative.

EMS/FIRE facts



Equipment Received through Fire Act Grant

The fire department recently received the following equipment from grant funding. A new air compressor / fill station for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) has been placed in-service at Fire Station #1. Three additional (SCBA) harnesses with regulators and 8 additional face pieces have been received. Twenty-two emergency escape belts with bail out equipment and department rope and rope rescue equipment have been received and will be placed in-service as soon as training is completed. This equipment was purchased and 90% was paid by the Federal government and the fire department was responsible for 10% of the costs. ■

Shriners Recognize Fire Department Personnel

On February 9th the Zenobia Shriners recognized area fire department personnel at their 4th Annual Fire Fighter recognition program. Seven Sylvania Township Fire Department personnel were nominated by Fire Chief Christopher Maurer, and recognized for their service to the community.

Retired Part-Paid Captain Robert Sheets was recognized for his 40 years of service to the community. Retired Assistant Chief George France received recognition for 30+ years of service as a full-time career firefighter.

Active personnel receiving recognition were Part-Paid Captain/EMT Don Vineyard, 36+ years of service; Part-Paid Firefighter Terry Ducy for 37+ years of service; Firefighter/EMT Ken Seidl, for 34+ years of service including time as a part-paid and full-time firefighter with Sylvania Township and time served with Ottawa Hills Fire Dept; Lieutenant/EMT Robert Stark, for 30+ years of service as a career firefighter; and Lieutenant/EMT Fred Czaja, for over 33 years of service to the community.

Lieutenant Czaja is one of the original ten firefighters hired in January 1973 and the only full-time employee of that original group still employed with the fire department. He is stationed at the #2 Fire Station on Central Avenue. ■

"Z" is for zoning

by Mary Lou O'Mara, Zoning Manager

With the spring weather coming upon us, Sylvania Township Zoning is resuming Target Enforcement. Not only will Inspectors be out in all areas of the township, they will be targeting the following one mile section beginning the first week in May: The eastern township line between Alexis and Laskey roads, and westward towards the Merriman and Whiteford Roads area.

To ensure that your property is in

compliance, please see that it is clear of all junk, garbage, and debris.

Take advantage of the Annual Spring Clean-Up the 2nd week in April, for removal of storm damage brush and leaves. Also, disabled vehicles may not be parked outside on any lot; they must be stored in an enclosed structure only or removed from the property.

If you have any questions, issues, or concerns please feel free to contact the Zoning Office at 419-885-5276 or email us at www.sylvaniatownship.com. ■

ROADreport



Many residents inquire; what's the difference between Township Roads, County Roads, or State Highways?

Here's a quick definition, let's say you are driving from your home to one of the local high schools. The streets within your subdivision (or residential area) are more than likely Township roads. Once you leave your subdivision and drive onto a main roadway or street (artery), you are driving on a County or State highway, excluding interstates.

As per Ohio Revised Code, all main roadways or streets (arteries) located in the Township are maintained by either the County or ODOT agencies. However, this is not the case for Cities. Cities that have established corporate limits are responsible to maintain all streets regardless their status of residential, commercial, or main arteries, excluding interstates.

Here's a quick summary of the different types of roadway mileage within Sylvania Township:

TOWNSHIP ROADS	128.25 MILES
COUNTY ROADS	32.05 MILES
STATE HIGHWAYS	10.29 MILES
INTERSTATES	3.51 MILES

ALERT!

The Ohio Department of Transportation has announced a significant Bridge Repair project at the I-475 & US 23 interchange. The 10 million dollar project will encompass numerous bridges and includes widening improvements at the southbound I-475 exit at Central Avenue. Below are the highlights concerning the project:

- Begin date, March 20, 2006.
- Completion date, June 2007.
- Exit ramp widening from 1 lane to 2 lanes, southbound I-475 at Central Avenue, begins March 20, 2006 – completion date April 5, 2006.
- Central Avenue & I-475 exit ramp signal lights are monitored and re-phased to improve traffic flow.
- Radio Traffic Advisory, station 1630AM.
- Bridge lane closures begin April 5, 2006 – completion date June 2007.

Detour route established at I-475 & Central Avenue ramps. ■



IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN !!!

Sylvania Township Road Crews will be busy again this Spring and Summer performing the following Milling & Resurfacing Projects:

BLAKSLEY PLACE & SYLFORD

PLACE SUBDIVISIONS: McClain Dr., Westminster Rd., Dead ends at McClain, Merriman Rd., McGregor to north end., Davenport Rd., McClain to Merriman.

COBBLESTONE SUBDIVISION, PLATS 1 & 3:

Smith Farm Rd., Stone Post Rd., Rock Hill Ln., Slate Ridge Ct., Kellie Ln., East Cobblestone Ln., Olde Marsh Rd. Powder Creek Ln.

HUNTERS GREEN SUBDIVISION:

Hunters Green Drive, Queensberry Ct., Waterford Ct.

MINER PARK SUBDIVISION: Courville Ave., Forest Lawn Rd., Rolandale Ave., Vineyard Ave., Homedale Ave.

VALENCIA GARDENS SUBDIVISION:

Anacona Dr., Cartagena Dr., Valencia Dr.

MISCELLANEOUS ROADWAYS: Bristol Ct., Bromfield Cir., Brooklawn Dr., Cambrian Rd., Courville Ave., Fox Run, Kindheart Rd., Knoll Ave., Mortemore Dr., Vineyard Rd., Willow Glen ■

WHAT'S happening

Election Day - Voters are encouraged to go to the polls on **May 2**. If you are unsure of where your precinct votes, you can visit their website at lucascountyvotes.org for up to date information as well as information regarding voter registration.

BE AN ELECTION TROUBLE SHOOTER. The Lucas County Board of Elections is very much in need of 245 qualified, professional, civic-minded men and women to act as "paid" Trouble Shooters. Call (419) 213-2043 or (419) 213-2644 for more information.

June 16-17, 2006: Relay for Life at Timberstone Junior High School

July 3, 2006: Sylvania Star-Spangled Celebration 7 p.m. - 12 midnight @ Centennial Terrace. Fireworks will start around 10 p.m.

July 10-16, 2006: Jamie Farr Owens Corning Classic at Highland Meadows Golf Club

July 16, 2006: Annual River Ball Race at Harroun Park 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Franciscan Center Upcoming Events:

April 15, 2006: Toledo Jazz

Orchestra presents BEYOND THE STRATOSPHERE: THE MUSIC OF STAN KENTON

April 21, 2006: WE'RE IN THE MONEY: Or "Who was Depressed During the Depression?"

April 29, 2006: LUMINATIONS 2006

May 26, 2006: WE'LL MEET AGAIN: The Love Songs of World War II

Dancing Under The Stars at Centennial Terrace. **Saturdays, June - September.**



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Robert Boehme

FIRE CHIEF

Christopher Maurer

419/882-0031 **Phone**
419/885-8311 **Fax**

SYLVANIA TOWNSHIP SPRING CLEAN UP SCHEDULE

April 10, 2006: All roads between the Ohio state line and Monroe Street.

April 17, 2006: All roads between Monroe Street and Central Avenue, including all roads east of Holland Sylvania.

April 24, 2006: All roads between McCord Road and Holland Sylvania.

May 1, 2006: All roads between McCord Road and King Road.

May 8, 2006: All roads west of King Road.

This pick up will consist of storm damaged brush and leaves.

- Brush must be no longer than 6 feet in length and 6 inches in diameter, this service does not include Tree Removal.
- Brush must be in a manageable/organized condition,
- Only brush materials will be picked up (no metal, rope, string, vines or building materials)
- Leaves must be raked to the edge of the road, no plastic bags.

Please have your piles to the edge of the road before your scheduled date. The Spring Clean up Program is a **"ONE TIME ONLY"** pick up. We will not be able to return for anyone missing their scheduled day.

APRIL

- 3 Board of Zoning Appeals - 6:00 p.m.
- 4 Board of Township Trustees – 4:00 p.m.
- 18 Board of Township Trustees – 6:00 p.m.
- 26 Zoning Commission – 6:00 p.m.

MAY

- 1 Board of Zoning Appeals – 6:00 p.m.
- 2 ELECTION DAY
- 2 Board of Township Trustees – CANCELLED
- 16 Board of Township Trustees – 6:00 p.m.
- 24 Zoning Commission – 6:00 p.m.
- 29 MEMORIAL DAY (Offices Closed)

JUNE

- 5 Board of Zoning Appeals – 6:00 p.m.
- 6 Board of Township Trustees – 4:00 p.m.
- 20 Board of Township Trustees – 6:00 p.m.
- 28 Zoning Commission – 6:00 p.m.

JULY

- 4 Board of Township Trustees – CANCELLED
- 10 Board of Zoning Appeals – 6:00 p.m.
- 18 Board of Township Trustees – 6:00 p.m.
- 26 Zoning Commission – 6:00 p.m.