



Focus On The Future *Update*

By Sylvania Township Trustees

In the April 2006 Sylvania Township Newsletter, the Trustees outlined several priorities as part of "Focus on the Future." This article is an update about three of our top priorities.

Fiscal Management

One of the top priorities identified was fiscal accountability and prudent financial management. In conjunction with the ongoing review of policies for prudent fiscal management of taxpayer dollars, the Trustees have implemented recommendations and resolutions which aim to guide prudent fiscal management and the budgeting process.

First, the Trustees have directed the Administrator to engage the services of a consulting agent to seek a part time Finance Director. Responsibilities of this position will include but are not limited to, working with department heads, assisting in providing accurate budgets, and preparing short & long term projections. The part-time Finance Director will report directly to the Administrator, and will review and update underlying financial assumptions, review fiscal accounting & investment procedures for sound business practices, and assist with detailed concise financial statements.

Second, the Trustees have revised our policy regarding Trustees sitting on community boards. Historically, Sylvania Township Trustees have participated as board members of various local community organizations. As a member of the governing body of a charitable entity a trustee would have a fiduciary obligation to that board to do what is in the best interests of that charity. As a Sylvania Township Trustee, one has a fiduciary obligation to all the residents in both Sylvania Township and the City of Sylvania. At times these two obligations may conflict, especially when a request for funds, albeit a worthy request is made to the Township. The Board believes a Trustee who sits as a board member

of an organization requesting financial support may create the appearance of impropriety, and for those worthy organizations which do not include a Sylvania Township Trustee Board member, it could possibly be construed as advantageous for funding of that particular organization. The tough choice was not in refusing to remain on these Boards, but rather, making the difficult decision that the conflict requires us to step aside. Therefore, the majority Board has determined that they will not sit on those community boards.

Third, the Township, in the past, has not budgeted for community organization donations. The Board of Trustees intends to set a budget for organization donations on an annual basis and allocate that amount to applicants on file. In an effort to treat all applicants that apply for funds fairly, the Board has adopted an application form and process that will require applicants for 2007 funding assistance to file an application by September 29, 2006. With all the applicants submitting prior to the start of the fiscal year, each applicant will have an equal opportunity for funding based on the merit of their request. This procedure will provide equal and unbiased treatment for all applicants while allowing the Township to be prudent financial managers of your dollars. Taxpayer dollars are first and foremost dedicated to providing essential governmental services. Planning and budgeting for financial support of community organizations will allow the Township to continue to provide essential services while being sensitive to the needs of organizations that are providing valuable service to the Township. All applications will be carefully examined and given equal consideration.

Stability in the Sylvania Township Police Department

Another priority of the Trustees identified in April was the need for stability in the Police

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ROADreport



The Township's leaf pickup program consists of servicing 128 miles of residential roads, 32 miles of County roads, and 10 miles of State Highways, totaling 171.17 miles of roadways. Our community's landscape largely consists of wooded areas. (Sylvania is Latin for "Wooded Area") These trees are very beautiful and a true nature's jewel, until the leaves drop and fall to the ground. Unfortunately, Mother Nature decides when the leaves fall, and some years the leaves drop late in the season and all at once. The Road Crews start leaf pickup as early as the first week of October. The "soft wood" trees drop their leaves the earliest. As the leaves fall, the Road Department devotes its entire staff to operate 5 crews during the leaf pickup season. Each crew consists of 2 full time employees and 1 or 2 part time/temporary employees. Early snowfalls and above average rain are two factors that spell trouble for leaf pickup. These attributes cause the leaves to become saturated and "heavy" to pick up, thus causing inefficiencies. Our preferred and most efficient method of picking up leaves is utilizing "vacuum tow behind" type of equipment. However, if we encounter above average snow falls and rain, then our crews switch to front loader buckets and dump trucks. We are aware that it is frustrating waiting for your neighborhood pickup. The average truck hauls 14 cubic yards of leaves and the average leaf pickup season produces 1800 truck loads. Our crews work 55 hours per week during the leaf pickup program. During a difficult leaf pickup season, it has been necessary to subcontract some of the leaf removal. We encourage residents to log on to our web page at www.sylvaniatownship.com for schedule updates.

There have been many improvements for the leaf pickup fleet; here are a few:

1. Converted our leaf pickup equipment from gasoline engines to diesel.
2. Enlarged the capacity of the leaf cages mounted to the dump trucks.
3. Added Tandem Dump Trucks to our fleet.
4. Improved the hydraulics of our leaf loaders with "operator friendly" items and more powerful hydraulic pumps. (increased hydraulic response)
5. Increased the intake surface area with the rubber suction hose from 12" to 16" in diameter.

Finally, here are a few helpful items that residents can do to assist in the leaf pickup program:

1. The most important suggestion is to separate leaves from grass clippings, brush, and other debris.
2. Place your leaves along the side of the street as close to the edge of the roadway
3. Place your leaves away from obstacles such as mailboxes, fire hydrants, landscaping timbers, and landscaping rocks. These obstacles become hidden within the leaf piles and can cause injury to the machinery and employees.
4. Prior to raking your leaves or scheduling your lawn service, log on to our web page and see the latest leaf pickup schedule.
5. Keep in mind our Free Drop Off location at 6505 W. Bancroft Rd., just east of McCord Rd. ■

Update, continued from page 1.

Department. To that end, we hired a Police Consultant to study our police operations and provide a comprehensive report to the trustees. The subsequent report contains frank and candid observations regarding the status of the Sylvania Township Police Department which will serve as a resource guide to provide valuable assistance to our Chief of Police. The community can be very proud of their Police Department as noted in the report: "...Their honesty, candor and true desire to improve their department were remarkable." "It became apparent early on in the interview process that the employees of Sylvania Township Police Department are loyal employees who appreciate their position in public service and are committed to providing the best possible service to residents of the community." Our new Chief of Police, Mr. Bob Metzger, is fortunate to have such a great department to command; additionally he will be able to utilize the consultant report as a resource guide as he acclimates himself to the Police department. We welcome Chief Metzger to Sylvania Township, and encourage you to read more about him in the "Personnel Profile" article in this newsletter.

Land Use Plan Update

Last but certainly not least, the Township officially began the process of updating the land use plan. The first "kick off meeting" with the committee was held in late August. The goal is to have completion in six months, around February 2007. Please visit the zoning section of our website where we will have more information posted in the future. The committee anticipates significant community input via online communication, open house forums, and communication with Poggemeyer Design Group. We look forward to completing this document which not only guides land use decisions but additionally, will provide direction and capability to begin the process and implementation of design standards; architectural, landscape and signage standards in the 2007 fiscal year. ■

EMS/FIRE **facts**



Have You Considered Being a Volunteer/Part-Paid Fire Fighter?

Are you interested in helping your fellow citizens? Have you considered applying to become a volunteer/part-paid fire fighter for the Sylvania Township Fire Department?

The fire department provides fire, emergency medical services, and disaster response in the City of Sylvania and Sylvania Township.

The Sylvania Township Fire Department is a combination fire department with 60 full-time personnel and 10 volunteer/part-paid personnel. Applications for volunteer/part-paid personnel are now being accepted for an observation period that will begin in January 2007. You may obtain an application by downloading it at www.sylvaniatownship.com or stopping in at the fire department office located at 6633 Monroe Street between 8:00 am

and 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. When completed the application must be returned to the fire department office.

Applicants must be a high school graduate or equivalent GED and must be a resident of the City or Township of Sylvania. A preliminary background check will be conducted on all applicants. Once this is complete the applicant will be invited to become an observer for 90 days. As an observer the applicant will attend (observing) weekly training sessions so they have a better understanding of the time commitments and expectations in providing this service. After an acceptable observation period their name will be submitted, to be placed on the part-paid roster provided the applicant passes a pre-agility, medical and a drug screen test.

In the first year the recruit will be required to attend weekly training sessions, attend and pass a State of Ohio FF-1 certification course that is 120 hours of training. The department will pay for this training course. In the second year a recruit will enroll in an approved Emergency Medical Training course of 130 hours. Upon successful completion the recruit will be reimbursed for the cost of the EMT course. Volunteer/Part-Paid personnel must maintain their certifications based on the requirements of the Ohio Department of Public Safety and the fire department.

If you are looking for an exciting way to give back to your community please consider applying and begin an observation period to determine if you have the time and commitment to make to this worthwhile service. ■

FISCAL **footnotes**



By Dave Simko, Fiscal Officer

It is hard to believe that Summer has gone by and we are heading into Fall. With Fall approaching we are nearing the tenth month into our financial year. In the township, from a fiscal perspective, we are doing well.

Essentially, as many of you know, we have four major fund categories. The general, road and bridge, police and fire funds. As I have written before, the general, road and bridge and police funds are doing very well. Revenues are about what was expected and expenses also are staying within projections. I anticipate that these funds will finish the year within budget and will provide for a carryover for the next year. This is good financial news as we are accurately forecasting our revenue (with significant help from the county auditor's office), spending within those revenues and keeping a

"safety cushion" for unexpected matters that may arise.

Regarding the fire fund, again as I previously reported, revenue is on target at this point in time. Expenses too are what was budgeted. The difficulty, however is that revenue and expenses are nearly identical. Therefore any fluctuation or delay in revenue receipts or an unanticipated expense can easily cause a shortfall.

In sum, at this point our financial picture is generally bright and sound. This is encouraging as our region (Northwest Ohio) struggles economically. With all funds, not just the fire fund, I will continue to monitor closely receipts and expenditures and keep the trustees and each of you informed.

Best wishes to each of you for the Fall coming season. ■

POLICE **beat**

Sylvania Twp. Police Open House & Safety Fair

When: Saturday, October 7th
Noon- 3 p.m.

Where: 4420 King Road
Sylvania, OH 43560

What:

- Safety & Security Tips
- Child I.D. Kits
- Kid's Activities
- Refreshments & More !



PERSONNEL **profile**



The Trustees are pleased to welcome Mr. Robert Metzger as our new Chief of Police. Chief Metzger comes to the Sylvania Township Police

Department after over 31 years of police experience in Michigan.

Chief Metzger spent 17+ years on the Saginaw Township Police Department. While on that department he was a detective, Sergeant, and SWAT team supervisor. He left Saginaw Township to become the Chief of Police of the Zeeland Michigan Police Department. He took over from a chief who had

been there for over 40 years with 33 as chief. After 5 years in Zeeland he went to the Adrian Police Department as Chief of Police. There he was the first outside chief in over 50 years. After 3 years in Adrian, he took over the Huron Township Police Department where he also served as Chief of Police. While in Michigan he was active in the MACP serving as a board member, Youth committee chairman, training committee member, and governor's appointment to the state youth committee.

Chief Metzger is a graduate of the 180th NA, and has also completed the Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command. In addition he has completed a Bachelor's degree from Saginaw Valley State University, and a Master's degree

from the University of Detroit/Mercy. He has also published two articles on management in the Police Chief Magazine.

The Trustees are impressed with his demonstrated leadership, technical, organizational and professional skills and dedication to professionalism in the police environment. The Trustees are confident that Chief Metzger will provide leadership and stability to the Sylvania Township Police Department well into the future.

Chief Metzger is planning to move to Sylvania Township with his wife of 34 years, Linda. He also has two sons, one who is married with three children and another who is single. He looks forward to getting as active in the Ohio association as he was in the Michigan association. ■

WHAT'S **happening**



FALL FESTIVAL

Sylvania's annual Fall Festival will be held on Sunday, October 15 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The parade will begin at 1 p.m. and Doug Bingham, head of the Canadian Trade Commission will serve as this year's Grand Marshall. Entertainment will again be provided by Eddie Boggs. Plenty of food, games, and a Halloween Costume Contest will round out the day.

HALLOWEEN HIKE at Olander Park

The Olander Park System's most popular family program returns! The "Hike" is Saturday, October 28, with gates open from 6 to 7 p.m., and the event lasting until 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$1 per child ages 3 to 12; adults & kids 2 and under free. Sylvania Area Family Services receives the gate admission to ensure that all our children enjoy a "Happy Halloween!". There are 20 Treat Stations around the lake, with three "Friendly" storytellers sharing tales of the enchanted evening. The

Kroger Company directly donates all treats. The "Halloween Hike" is a family-friendly program that it not intended to scare children in any form. Park at Tam-O-Shanter and a Lucas County Deputy Sheriff will escort you across Vicksburg Avenue to Olander Park.

If you and your family would like to volunteer to run a Treat Station during the "Halloween Hike", contact TOPS at 419/882-8313, ext. #31 or olanderpk@sev.org. The time frame is approximately 5:30 – 7:45 p.m. Dress in an inexpensive and 'friendly' costume.

DAY LIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Sunday, October 29 marks the end of Daylight Savings Time. Don't forget to turn your clocks back! This is also a good time to change the batteries in all your smoke detectors.

TRICK OR TREAT

Attention all goblins!! Trick or Treating will be observed in the Township on Tuesday, October 31 from 6:00 – 7:30

p.m. Have a safe and happy Halloween!

ELECTION DAY

Voters are encouraged to go to the polls on November 7. 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. The Rotary Club will also be hosting its 48th annual Pancake Supper at Northview High School Cafeteria from 4:30 p.m. till 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children under 12 and are available at the door.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Saturday, December 2 from 5-8 p.m. marks the date for Holiday Happenings. Main Street will be closed between Monroe Street and the Historical Village. Enjoy carriage rides, music, and a special visit with Santa at 5:30 p.m. There will be free hot chocolate and cookies at the Historical Village. ■

"Z" is for Zoning

by Mary Lou O'Mara, Zoning Administrator

The vision for how Sylvania Township might look like in the future is being discussed as part of information gathering efforts to update the Land Use Plan. Members of this committee are elected and appointed officials, professionals, and township residents consisting of the following:

Don Mewhort, Chairman	County Planning Commission, Resident Appointee
Laurie Adams	Resident, Traffic Engineer for DGL
Pam Hanley	Township Trustee
Gary Madrzykowski	Sylvania Area Park System
Neal Mahoney	Zoning Commission Board Member, Resident
Tom McArdle	Resident
Jim McGowan Jr.	Developer, Resident
Ron Myers	County Engineer's Office
John Nagy	Planning Commission Staff member
Mary Lou O'Mara	Zoning Administrator
Brad Reiger	Sylvania Schools Supt.
Arthur Taylor	Resident
Hugh Thomas	Township Administrator
Keith Walker	Resident, Chamber of Commerce
Khaled Yousef	Resident, Engineer for SSOE

During the August 22 Kick-Off Meeting several areas of concern were discussed and will be addressed by committee members: opportunities for public input, that

the plan is embraced by the community, incorporating the Central Ave. Corridor Plan, looking at the Holland Sylvania Rd. and Sylvania Ave. areas, revisit the issue of the dump, water and sewer line extensions, the Sylvania and McCord intersection, transitional land use areas, fiscal impacts of development between residential, commercial, and/or industrial developments in terms of knowing what financial consequences are present, examine ways to build the tax base, economic development strategies geared toward further developing employment centers, access management strategies in conjunction with the Lucas Co. through the County Engineer's Office, growth impacts to the school district, updated demographic data that may relate to the school district, include County and State officials in the planning process, the use of design standards, and signage.

The Land Use Plan Update is expected to be completed in six months. Notifications of public meetings and other information may be found on the township website and there will be periodic news releases in our local newspapers to keep you informed.

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 ■

EYE on the township

By Hugh L. Thomas, Administrator

I do not have one eye on the Township. As I drive around the community, it takes both eyes constantly watching the new scenery and looking for landmarks and street names. Some of my navigation problems are related to the road construction around town and on the interstates; some are just because the area is new to me. I hope I am not getting geographically challenged as I get older. To help alleviate this issue, I have been driving around the neighborhoods of Sylvania Township every morning prior to starting work. This seemed initially like an efficient way to learn the street layout until I

found the greatest concentrations of commuter traffic. At that point I just became one of the numerous drivers anxious to move through the lanes of jammed vehicles.

But this too shall pass. Construction season shall give way to another season—leaf removal season and then the season of snow removal. It is the nature of my work that I tend to look at your community and every community differently than another new resident. My focus is on the delivery of public services and how they can be improved upon. While studying the operations of the government takes up much of my time, I am committed to also meet

people that live or do business in the Township. By meeting and talking to you personally I hope to gain a perspective of how you view your community and the services provided by Sylvania Township.

As the days go by and the more people I meet, I feel confident that your community will become my community. Sylvania Township has many positive attributes that make it a desirable hometown. I hope to add something to those attributes during my tenure at the Township and contribute to the sustainability of the high quality of life enjoyed by residents of Sylvania Township. ■



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**CLIP' N SAVE
CALENDAR**

Spring Clean Up

(storm damaged brush and leaves)

Starts 1st week of April and
runs entire month

General Refuse Pickup

**NOTE* New Date*

September 18 - 22, 2006

Leaf Pick Up

Starts 3rd week of October
through mid December if necessary

Brush & Christmas Tree Pick Up

Begins January 2nd through mid March

OCTOBER

- 3 Board of Township Trustees – 4:00 p.m.
- 9 Board of Zoning Appeals – 6:00 p.m.
- 9 COLUMBUS DAY (offices closed)
- 17 Board of Township Trustees – 6:00 p.m.
- 25 Zoning Commission – 6:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER

- 7 Election Day
- 7 Board of Township Trustees – 4:00 p.m.
- 13 Board of Zoning Appeals – 6:00 p.m.
- 21 Board of Township Trustees – 6:00 p.m.
- 22 Zoning Commission – 6:00 p.m.

DECEMBER

- 5 Board of Township Trustees – 4:00 p.m.
- 11 Board of Zoning Appeals – 6:00 p.m.
- 19 Board of Township Trustees – 6:00 p.m.
- 27 Zoning Commission – 6:00 p.m.

***"Listen! the wind is rising, and the air is wild
with leaves, we have had our summer evenings,
now for October eves!"***

- Humbert Wolfe