

Copley Connection

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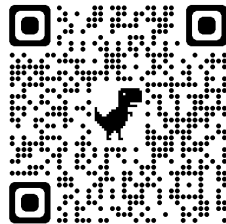
SAFETY FACILITY LEVY - Issue 32

The ballot for the upcoming November 8 election will allow residents to vote on a levy that would fund the construction of a new Copley Township Safety Facility. If passed, the levy would provide a new, joint police and fire facility, an additional roadway and a new community center.

The facilities that house our safety forces are critical to the delivery of the police, crime prevention, fire, rescue, EMS and fire prevention services that help make Copley Township one of the safest communities in Northeast Ohio. As Copley Township has expanded to more than 18,000 residents, those safety forces, and the services they provide, have also grown. Because of this, the existing fire and police facilities no longer meet our community's needs, nor do they support current best practices for modern safety forces operation.

If passed, the proposed Safety Facility Levy would fund construction of a new, joint safety facility. It would also provide:

- A community center with outdoor features and green space, created by renovating and repurposing the area currently occupied by the Copley Township Fire Department.
- An access road that would create a route to the new facility location off Sunset Drive, while also helping to rejuvenate the circle, reduce traffic issues and expand our pedestrian network, making the township more walkable.



See SAFETY Facility FAQs p. 4

SHARE A CHRISTMAS 2022

Copley Township will once again sponsor their annual Share a Christmas Program that benefits needy families in the Copley area at Christmas Time. Please watch our website www.copley.oh.us and our social media sites for more information on this program. Donations can be made in cash, check or credit card. Please call Town Hall (330-666-1853) for more information. Applications for assistance are available on our website.



LIMITED HOME RULE- Issue 33

Limited Home Rule is a form of government created by statute that permits a township to adopt legislation not specifically prohibited by the Ohio Revised Code. Townships are eligible for adopting Limited Home Rule governments if they have a population of at least 2,500 residents. Limited Home Rule would enable Copley Township to pass certain resolutions that have not previously been allowed as a response to the needs of urban areas and to make decisions based on local need.

For a township with more than 15,000 residents, the board of trustees may unanimously vote to adopt this form of government. The Copley Township Board of Trustees, however has chosen to place the issue on the ballot. If a majority of the votes cast are in favor of Limited Home Rule government, it is adopted as the township's government on the first day of January, immediately following the election.

Find More Information On This QR Code



Inside this issue



Service Department

Snow Emergency No Parking Signs
Senior Snow Plow

Page 2



Community & Economic Dev.

Adult Fitness Facility in Copley Community Park

Page 3



Copley Police Department

Halloween in the Park - Oct. 29 2:00 - 4:30 PM
Trick or Treat - October 30th 5-7PM

Page 3

Service Department

Snow Emergency Authorization

Recently the Board of Trustees approved a Snow Emergency Authorization policy allowing the Chairperson of the Board, the Township Administrator, or the Township Service Director to authorize a snow emergency. A snow emergency may be declared when snow fall exceeds four (4) inches or a severe snow or ice condition exists.

Snow emergencies are necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the community. The snow emergency assists in the continued movement of food and fuel supplies, the availability of medical care, and ensures fire and police services have access to all areas of the Township during a heavy snow event.

Limiting or prohibiting parking on Township roadways improves overall snow clearing efficiency and expedites the free flow of vehicular traffic. Although the declaration may lead to some temporary inconvenience

for residents, it allows snow plow drivers unobstructed access to clear the snow to the curb providing more room for on-street parking following the snow event.

The Township will implement a snow emergency declaration through social media, the Township website, local news media outlets, and through Nixle. Nixle is a notification service that allows residents to receive alerts related to weather, traffic, local events, etc. You can sign up for Nixle from your mobile device by texting your zip code to 888777.



Senior Snowplow Program

The Senior Snowplow Program has been offered to township seniors since 2008. The program is designed to provide an unobstructed pathway for emergency services to access homes of seniors within the program in the event of an emergency. The program is not intended as a full driveway clearing service.

Over the years the program has grown significantly. This year the Township has amended the program to ensure that those on the program are adequately serviced. The primary modification has been to limit each contractor to a total of 75 driveways. This will ensure that contractors are able to service all of the drives on their assigned routes.

Applications will be accepted on a first come first serve basis. Applications that are received after the maximum number of participants is reached will be included on a waiting list. Applicants on the waiting list will be added to the program as additional snow plow contractors become available.

The qualifying requirements will remain the same. Applicants must be at least 65 years of age, be the property owner, and reside at the address on the application. All new applicants must provide proof of age with a current Ohio Driver's License, State of Ohio ID card, or Birth Certificate. There must be no one else residing with the applicant under the age of 65 years old that is physically capable of removing

snow.

The program is also available to disabled residents with a disability that prevents them from removing snow. Applicants must provide medical certification in the form of a letter or note from their physician as proof of disability.

Those included in the program are required to install adequate markers on each side of the driveway, make sure the address is clearly visible from the road, and keep the driveway clear of obstructions including parked vehicles.

Please be sure to follow these guidelines. These guidelines are necessary for the contractors to easily identify and clear the drive. Drives that do not meet the guidelines may be omitted until the guidelines are met.

Please keep the spirit and intent of the program in mind when applying. The program is very important to the health and safety of our seniors and residents and who are physically unable to clear snow fall to provide sufficient emergency access.

Visit the Township website or contact the Service Department at 330-666-0365 with any questions related to the Snow Emergency Authorization or the Senior Snowplow Program.



Community and Economic Development

Adult Fitness Facility In Copley Community Park

In 2019, Copley Township was fortunate to receive 11.6 acres of land donated by The Village of St. Edward (Assisted Living and Nursing Care Facilities) to be utilized in conjunction with Copley Community Park with the expectation of housing a senior citizen targeted facility on the property. The Copley Community park (our only public park) is a well-used, extremely valuable resource to our community totaling just over 85 acres in size and housing baseball fields, pavilions, two playgrounds and several miles of trails. With the assistance of a Community Development Block Grant from Summit County, Copley is constructing an adult fitness facility on the donated land. This will provide an opportunity for seniors and disabled individuals to utilize exercise equipment, stay active, and enjoy the park to a degree that they were not able to previously. While the Copley Community Park currently has two playgrounds, both lack equipment targeted at the Senior or disabled adult population; nor is anything like this available throughout Copley Township. Outdoor exercise for senior citizens can be limited at times; Playground equipment providers have now developed a number of pieces designed specifically for all ages allowing users to target different muscle groups and enjoy exercising in new ways. In addition, having an area where Seniors can interact and share experiences can help alleviate loneliness and feelings of isolation.

Although the facility targets the Senior population, it can ultimately be used by anyone! The project entails construction of a 24'x40' concrete pad housing the following equipment: ab crunch/leg lift, balance steps, cardio stepper, chest/back press, hand wheels, tai chi wheels, pull/up dip, squat press, and introduction sign. A turf matting will also be installed in and around the equipment to provide a long-

lasting stable and safe base for users to access and enjoy the equipment. Construction has commenced on the concrete and we anticipate installation and completion of the project by the end of October. Keep an eye out for information on a dedication ceremony to The Village of St. Edward and Copley seniors to celebrate the official Grand Opening!



Halloween in the Park - Copley Police Department

The Copley Police Department's annual Halloween in the Park will be held at Copley Community Park, 3232 Copley Rd, in Copley Township. This event will be held Saturday, October 29, 2022 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The rain location will be Copley-Fairlawn Middle School.

Children can trick-or-treat through a path at the park, have fun with arts and crafts, and play many games and win some prizes! There will be cider and donuts for everyone, while supplies last.

Copley Police and Fire Departments will be on hand to display safety vehicles. Free trick-or-treat bags, glow sticks, candy, prizes, and pumpkins will be passed out to all who attend, along with other trick-or-treat items while supplies last. This event is free to the public, thanks in part to our partner organization, the Copley-Fairlawn Kiwanis Club.



Neighborhood **TRICK OR TREAT** in Copley Township will be Sunday, October 30th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Copley Township Safety Facility Levy FAQs

Q What is the purpose of the Safety Facility Levy?

A If approved, the Safety Facility Levy would fund the construction of a new joint facility for the Copley Township fire and police departments. The facility would serve as the new shared base for all police, crime prevention, rescue, EMS and fire prevention services within the township. As part of the development of this facility, the levy would also support the addition of a roadway to the new site—off Sunset Drive—and resulting expansion of the township's pedestrian network, as well as the creation of a new community center.

Q Doesn't Copley Township already have levies for the police and fire departments?

A Voters previously approved operating levies—the Police Protection and Fire & EMS operating levies—that fund the day-to-day expenses of providing safety services in the township, such as salaries and equipment. These levies do not support construction of facilities.

Q How much would the levy cost?

A Bonds will be issued for the cost of developing the proposed facility, which is estimated at \$20.5 million. At an interest rate of 5% over 26 years, the levy has a value of 2.11 mills, which means the average annual property tax required to fund the levy is calculated at 2.11 mills for each \$1 of tax valuation, or 21.1 cents (\$.211) for each \$100 of tax valuation. The cost to a homeowner of a \$100,000 home in Copley Township would be \$73.86 per year, or \$36.93 per half.

Q How long will the levy last?

A If approved, the proposed Copley Township Safety Facility Levy would first be collected in 2023 and would run for 26 years. Payments would be collected by the county through residents' property taxes.

Q Why do our fire and police departments need new facilities?

A Our fire and police facilities are not adequate to meet the needs of today's departments, and they don't support current best practices—and in some cases regulations—for modern safety forces. The fire department is currently housed in the basement of an old schoolhouse (currently the Town Hall) built more than 100 years ago. The space currently housing the police department was originally built in 1983 for a manufacturing operation. Both departments have outgrown their current facilities, and renovation options can no longer be effective in adding capacity or bringing the spaces up to today's standards for operation.

Q Why is now the right time for the Safety Facility Levy?

A Copley Township is committed to responsible, thoughtful stewardship of the community's resources. Our safety forces have made the best use of their existing facilities for as long as possible, making incremental improvements through renovations along the way. The proposed facility would enable our fire and police departments to continue to expand to keep pace with the community's growth. And it would improve the safety and security of our fire, EMS and police personnel—and our community.

Copley Township Safety Facility Levy FAQs

Q What are the plans for the proposed Copley Township Safety Facility?

A The plan would bring the community an approximately 40,000-square-foot safety facility that would jointly house the township's fire and police departments. The facility would comply with all current standards and regulations for safety facilities and would exceed current energy code requirements. Building materials—like the anticipated metal roof—have been selected for efficiency and longevity to maximize the community's investment well into the future. Some features of the front exterior of the facility have been designed to coordinate with the tower on the existing Town Hall. To view renderings of the facility, as well as an initial zone layout plan, visit www.copley.oh.us/425/Safety-Facility-Levy.

- Fire staff would have a separate entry leading to the fire wing of the facility that would include:

Gender-separated dorms and lockers | A support area | Living, kitchen and dining space | Separate decontamination space | Apparatus bays | Workshop and storage area | Administrative and staff offices

- Police staff would also have a separate entry, leading to the police wing of the facility that would include:

Gender-separated lockers | A support area | Work spaces for patrol staff and detectives | An evidence room | A jail with separate holding areas for adults and juveniles | Administrative and staff offices | Carport for police cruisers (exterior)

The departments would share a public entrance and lobby—with a safe room and triage room for enhanced safety and security—and spaces for physical and educational training, mechanical storage and tornado shelter.

Q What happens if Copley Township's safety forces do not get a new facility?

A If a levy isn't approved to fund the construction of a new facility, the township would continue to prioritize renovations that could have the biggest impact in helping meet the departments' needs. But renovations alone cannot overcome the limitations of the township's current facilities. Without a bond levy to support the construction of a new facility, the township would need to consider how the General Fund could potentially support the needs of our safety forces. Utilizing these funds would mean postponing or not fulfilling other community needs.

Q If the proposed Safety Facility is built, what will happen to existing facilities?

A If passed, the levy would also fund the repurposing of the existing fire department apparatus bays. The bays would be renovated to provide the community with a resource that has long been in high demand: a new community center. The center would include a community room, meeting rooms, kitchenette, storage, restrooms and a separate entrance. It would also include extended parking, outdoor features and green space that could be used for community events and activities.

Q Where can I find more information about the proposed Copley Township Safety Facility Levy?

A Find the latest information about the levy at www.copley.oh.us/425/Safety-Facility-Levy.



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Copley, Ohio 44321-1908

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Meeting Notes

Regular Board of Trustees Meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

Please visit our website www.copley.oh.us for updated meeting times and special meetings.

Check our website for the Board of Zoning Appeals, Zoning Commission and Architectural Review Board Meeting Schedules.

All Meetings Are Open To The Public



This is an official newsletter published as a service to residents under authority of the Ohio Revised Code. Copley Township Trustees review and approve the contents. Please direct comments and improvements to the Township Trustees.

Copley Township Telephone Numbers

Emergency Police & Fire.....9-1-1
Non Emerg. Police & Fire.....330-666-8866

Administrative Offices

Fire.....330-666-6464
Police.....330-666-4218
Service.....330-666-0365
Community/Economic Dev.....330-666-0108

Trustees

Jim Schulte
Scott Dressler.....330-666-1853
Bruce Koellner

Administrator

Janice Marshall.....330-666-1853

Fiscal Officer

Linda Peiffer.....330-666-1853

COPLEY ONLINE

WEBSITE: www.copley.oh.us

EMAIL: township@copley.oh.us

