

COPLEY-FAIRLAWN CITY SCHOOLS

5

schools

2,830

students

16:1

student-teacher ratio

8

school
counselors

4

school
psychologists

1

intern school
psychologist

4

licensed
clinical
counselors

3

behavioral
specialists

1

prevention
specialist

on staff to provide support and services at every grade level.



Congratulations!

Copley High School girls' varsity soccer team won the 2022 Division II state championship! Head Coach Wally Senk was named 2022 Coach of the Year by United Soccer Coaches.



COPLEY-FAIRLAWN BY THE NUMBERS:

Mean ACT Score: **26.6**

48 students were newly inducted into National Honor Society during the 2022-2023 school year

High school graduation rate: **93.6%**

Average Graduating Class size: **215**

AP Classes offered: **18**

District-wide student technology ratio: **1:1**

Athletics teams offered through the Suburban League:

- **50** high school teams
- **20** middle school teams

Extracurricular activities and clubs offered:

- **25** at CHS
- **10** at CFMS
- **18** in our primary schools

Copley-Fairlawn Cares Program provides student meals throughout the week, weekends, and school breaks for children in need.

Food Service served approximately **400,000** meals (total includes breakfast and lunch) during the 2021-2022 school year.

Transportation serves about **2,200** students daily; approximately **250,000** miles are driven annually.

Two new school buses are on order and are scheduled for delivery in the spring.

The district was recently awarded a **\$500,000** safety grant to be used for camera and PA upgrades, application of security film on specific windows, additional fencing, and repairs and replacement of the existing fence.

Taxpayers passed a **2.98** mil bond issue that will fund renovations and upgrades for our schools, including restroom renovations, sewer service modifications, kitchen upgrades for CHS and CFMS, main entrance upgrades for CHS, locker room upgrades for CHS and CFMS, stadium renovations and parking lot upgrades for each building.

Member of the Four Cities Joint Vocational Compact with Barberton, Norton and Wadsworth City Schools which expands career tech offerings to **17** other programs.

COPLEY TOWNSHIP

ISSUE 2 2023

OHIO

PRESERVING OUR PAST

SECURING OUR FUTURE

**NEW POLICE AND FIRE SAFETY
FACILITY**

**Copley Chamber of Commerce
Meet the Lady Behind The Loop**

2023 EVENTS CALENDAR

**MEET OUR ELECTED
OFFICIALS**

**Copley Outreach Center
Church - Community - School.**

*Community & Economic Development New Adult Fitness
Facility & Ridgewood Road Trail Project Update*

Your plant PLACE



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The Mission of Copley Township is to maintain a sense of Community; to provide the highest level of service and programs that will enhance the quality of life for all businesses and residents.



Copley is located in Summit County, west of the City of Akron, south of Bath Township and the City of Fairlawn, north of the city of Norton and east of Medina County. The 2020 Census estimated our population at 18,403.

Administration Offices

Fire.....330-666-6464
 Police.....330-666-4218
 Service.....330-666-0365
 CED.....330-666-0108
 Town Hall.....330-666-1853

Copley Town Hall
 1540 S. Cleveland-Massillon Road
 Copley, OH 44321
 330-666-1853

Copley Police Department
 1280 Sunset Drive
 Copley, OH 44321
 330-666-4218

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

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

All meetings are open to the public.

COPLEY ONLINE

www.copley.oh.us
 Email: township@copley.oh.us



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GREETINGS!



JANICE L. MARSHALL
TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR



Welcome to the second edition of the Copley Township magazine – our annual roadmap for the year ahead of all things Copley for area residents, business owners and visitors. We hope to provide a chance to learn something new about the Township and a way to plan ahead to participate in “What’s Happening” in your community. The opportunities to get involved are plentiful and the benefits of doing so endless. Our hope is that something you read about this year will spur you on to explore those opportunities a little bit deeper!

“A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step”
Lao Tzu

In 2023, Copley Township will embark on a wide variety of projects designed to enhance the quality of life for all. Promoting economic development, your Board of Trustees has laid the foundation for a project to extend sewer along Copley Road from State Route 21 east to Jacoby Road providing service to both existing businesses and to vacant parcels ready for development. As the recipient of a \$750,000 grant through the State of Ohio Capital Budget appropriations, the Township is designing and will construct a 1.2-mile, 8-foot wide, concrete multi-modal trail and sidewalk, connecting residential neighborhoods from Hametown Road to Copley High School. And thanks to the support of voters in November 2022 approving a 2.1 mil bond levy, the Township is able to move forward with one of the most meaningful investments in our generation - a new joint Police and Fire Safety Facility.

And yet, the most important resource of our community continues to be our residents. The community groups representing local businesses, service organizations supporting our youth and agencies devoted to helping those in need are at the very heart of Copley Township. We welcome the chance to provide a peek into what makes Copley...Copley! And we look forward to meeting you at the next community event! Here’s to taking that single step together in making 2023 the start of a terrific journey!

ELECTED OFFICIALS



SCOTT DRESSLER

Trustee Scott Dressler grew up in Copley Township attending Copley-Fairlawn City Schools from Kindergarten through twelfth grade. Active in Boy Scouts Troop #382, he was the ninth recipient in his troop to receive the Eagle Scout Award. Trustee Dressler received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business from the University of Akron and was certified as a Senior Professional in Human Resources. His career has included management positions in the banking and finance industry as well as in logistics operations. Recognizing the importance of good communication and leadership skills, Trustee Dressler is certified as a Toastmasters International Speaker and helps others become more confident when speaking publicly. He has served the Copley Community through much of his adult life serving 8 years on the Copley-Fairlawn City School Board and 25 years as Copley Township Trustee. Trustee Dressler is married and has four adult children.



BRUCE KOELLNER

Trustee Bruce Koellner is a lifelong resident of Copley Township and graduate of Copley High School. He holds an Associate of Applied Science in Fire Science from Stark Technical College, a Bachelor of Science in Public Safety Management from Franklin University, and a Master of Science in Leadership from Grand Canyon University. Trustee Koellner served the Copley Fire Department as a Firefighter/EMT, Firefighter/Paramedic, and Lieutenant Fire/Medic for 34 years, retiring in 2017. During his tenure in the fire department, he was a charter member of both the Summit County Hazardous Materials Response Team and Summit County Technical Rescue Team, with over 30 years of service to both teams.

In addition to his career in the fire service, he has been a Registered Investment Advisor and Copley business owner for over 29 years. Bruce and his wife, Janel, have been married 33+ years and are the parents of three grown children, and grandparents of three.



JIM SCHULTE

Trustee Jim Schulte began his career in public accounting with Ernst & Young, eventually moving into the private sector serving as Auditor, Manager of International Taxation and Director of Taxation before becoming Corporate Senior Vice-President and Treasurer in publicly traded corporations. Currently, he owns and operates a public accounting firm, Schulte & Company CPAs, Inc. with diverse clients spanning 20 different states

Graduating from the University of Akron with bachelor degrees in Accounting and Criminal Justice and a Masters of Taxation, Trustee Schulte has served his community beginning in the Ohio National Guard and is a member of Blue Coats and AMVETS. He has coached and supported youth sports and has led fund raising and capital improvement projects for Copley-Fairlawn City Schools and the University of Akron. Jim and his wife have lived in Copley for over 30 years where they have raised their three children.



LINDA PEIFFER

Linda Peiffer was appointed May 10, 2016 as Interim Fiscal Officer. Linda is a native of Atwater, Ohio and is currently a Copley resident. Linda attended the University of Colorado and John Carroll University where she studied Real Estate Management. Previously, Linda worked in the private sector in management, accounting and is the owner of several businesses. Linda is also an independent real estate broker in Colorado and Copley, Ohio.

Linda's passion is carriage driving and collecting Victorian memorabilia including restored carriages and sleighs. She created Hitch-In-Time in 2007; horse drawn carriage rides replicating Victorian era transportation complete with period accoutrements.

■ ADMINISTRATION

*You've reached Copley Township...
how can we help you?*





If you have ever telephoned Copley Town Hall, these are the very first words you may have heard - live and in person - from our Receptionist, Beth Siddall. Focused on providing solutions and answers to a whole variety of questions, Beth is a wealth of information who has, really, never met a stranger! From directing your calls to greeting Township visitors, Beth is your first link to an entire network of Administrative Staff here to serve you!



Social Media Content Manager

Beth works closely with our Social Media Content Manager, Sue Mack, in getting the word out about all the happenings in Copley Township. Sue's gift with technology provides a digital link to Township services as well as providing links to County and State agencies. You can sign up on the website to receive notifications of meetings scheduled with the Board of Trustees and Zoning Boards, view past meetings, and find answers to some of the most frequently asked questions. The Township has a presence on FaceBook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn where current events and activities are highlighted. Residents can receive emergency notifications through NIXLE - a reverse information system that provides news on weather alerts, road closures and other crisis situations. For those of us who are less reliant on technology, Sue creates the quarterly newsletter, the Copley Connection, and has been instrumental in creating this annual magazine! Be on the lookout for a new format on the Township's web page...coming soon!



Human Resource Manager

Rounding out the Administration Team is our Human Resource Manager, Selma Muller. In addition to taking care of our 100+ employees with their wage and benefit needs, Selma is also responsible for the Township's document management system, our employee wellness program and for procuring office supplies. As we all know, the success of any organization is directly related to the efficiency of those who take care of the administrative tasks - to that end, Selma is critical to the Township's ability to provide the unparalleled services our residents and business owners have come to appreciate.



General Information

For additional information on how you can sign up on our website, social media platforms and NIXLE account, or if you have a question related to anything "Township", feel free to give us a call! You will find a group of dedicated individuals ready to answer your requests and provide solutions to your concerns!

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Meet the Chief



CHRIS BOWER
FIRE CHIEF

Chris Bower was appointed as Copley Township's Fire Chief in November 2018. Chief Bower began his career as a paramedic in Youngstown, Ohio in 1985. He worked for Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department as a firefighter, University Hospitals MedEvac as a flight paramedic, and the University of Akron as a fire instructor. He began his career with Copley Township Fire Department in 2000 filling roles as a firefighter, lieutenant, and captain.

Chief Bower has a Bachelor of Science degree from Youngstown State University. He graduated from the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program and received his Fire Chief credentialing from the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association in 2019. He is a certified Fire Officer II, Hazardous Materials Technician, Firefighter II, Fire Instructor, EMS Instructor, Fire Safety Inspector, and Paramedic.

Chief Bower authored and managed BWC Safety Grants for Copley Fire Department which funded the purchase of patient transportation systems, automated CPR devices, and fire hose management equipment. He also coordinated the implementation of a \$300,000 Regional Assistance to Firefighters Grant which funded a Fire Station Alerting System for Copley, Norton and Barberton Fire Departments. This system which is activated by Southwest Summit Communications (SWSCOM) dispatch center, has improved response times of emergency services in all three communities.

A lifelong resident of Ohio, Chief Bower is married and has three daughters.

Established as a volunteer fire department in 1937, the Copley Fire Department is a well-equipped, professionally staffed operation. The department is made up of full and part-time personnel working around the clock to provide Fire, Rescue, EMS, and Prevention services to Copley Township and surrounding communities.

Copley Fire Department staffs and operates two fire stations 24/7. Station Number 1 serves as the headquarters for the department. Located at Copley Town Hall, 1540 S. Cleveland-Massillon Road, the operations section resides in the lower level of the Town Hall. Fire Administration offices are located on the main floor. Station Number 2 is located at 4570 Medina Road, on Stony Hill, just west of the Montrose commercial area. This station is jointly operated by both Copley and Bath Township Fire Departments. This relationship started over 25 years ago and has saved millions of dollars for both townships while providing a second fire station location for both communities.

As an EMS pioneer, the Copley Fire Department established EMS in Copley beginning in 1974, with the first Paramedics graduating in 1976. From its humble beginning using a 1968 Chevy van, the department now provides modern, high-tech rescue and emergency medical services. Under the medical direction of Doctor Andrew Yocum, the Copley Township Fire Department employs highly trained Paramedics who use an aggressive medical protocol and state-of-the-art equipment to provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) to Copley residents.

An integral part of any public safety program is Prevention. This simple yet powerful approach involves the whole community as stakeholders. Together, the Fire Department, business owners, and residents of Copley collaborate through programs including Fire Safety Inspections, Child Car Seat Installations, Residential Knox Box Program, and Fire Safety Training. Copley Fire Department also empowers the public by providing Fire Extinguisher Training, First Aid, and CPR Classes.

The Copley Fire Department will work together to provide superior service to Copley Township citizens and businesses through comprehensive risk management and safe, efficient, and effective response. **Copley Fire Department Mission Statement**

Consistent with our mission, Copley Fire Department trains and prepares for responses to all hazards, including Fire, Rescue, and EMS. Utilizing a fleet of 3 Fire Engines, 3 ALS Ambulances, 1 Ladder Truck, 1 Water Tanker, and 1 Brush Truck, 2022 was a busy and eventful year for Copley Fire Department. We responded to a record setting 3,188 calls for service, installed a next generation call alerting system which saves emergency response time while decreasing workloads on dispatch personnel. Also in 2022 Copley Fire Department received state grants for adding two full-time Firefighter/ Paramedics to our staff. The additional staffing will help with ever increasing annual call volumes. An additional state grant is funding the development of a Firefighter Behavioral Health program. The grant funded staffing and wellness program helps Copley Fire Department improve service to the community without using tax payer revenue. Copley Township exploits all opportunities for alternate funding sources in an effort to decrease the burden on taxpayers.

Copley Township Fire Department is committed to a safe, efficient and effective operation which contributes to making Copley Township a great community to work and live.



**STATION #1
1540 S. CLEVELAND-MASSILLON ROAD**



**STATION #2
4570 MEDINA ROAD**

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Meet the Chief



MICHAEL MIER
POLICE CHIEF

Chief Michael Mier has served in local level law enforcement for 40 years. He started with the former Northhampton Township Police Department, but spent the greater portion of his career in the Cleveland Metropolitan area. He served with the Warrensville Heights Police Department as a patrol officer, sergeant, lieutenant, and acting Chief of Police. During that time, Michael Mier specialized in drug, gang, and juvenile investigations and served as the department Arson Investigator.

Chief Mier, a lifetime resident of Summit County, graduated from both the University of Akron and Kent State University, majoring in criminal justice studies. He came to the Copley Police Department where he has served as the Chief of Police since December 1999.

The men and women of the Copley Police Department proudly serve our community. We appreciate the opportunity to work for you and your continuous support of our efforts.

Copley Township is the ninth largest community in Summit County. There are over 18,000 residents and our community has about 7,000 housing units in a geographical area of about 22 square miles.

The Copley Police Department is staffed by 31 officers, who patrol the community in marked police cruisers, a motorcycle, bicycles, and on foot. We respond to over 16,000 calls for service each year.

The Copley Police Department participates in several multi-jurisdictional partnerships to help protect you and to share costs to remain fiscally responsible. The department is a member of the Metro SWAT Team, Summit County Drug Unit, Metro Crash Team, United States Marshal's Violent Fugitive Task Force, Summit County Mobile Field Task Force, and the Ohio Organized Crime Investigative Commission ONSET Drug/Hotel Task Force.

Our officers receive continuous in-service training to maintain a high level of competency in all aspects of law enforcement. Officers regularly train in areas related to narcotics investigation, crisis intervention, and active shooter response.

The Copley Police Department conducts annual training in addressing active shooter scenarios in our schools, together with the Bath and Fairlawn Police Departments, so all three communities can work together should such an incident take place in any of our area's school buildings.

The Copley Police Department utilizes modern technology to



D.A.R.E. Essay Winners L-R, Steven Zhe, Tatum Reynolds, AJ Arnold and D.A.R.E. Officer Jeff Harris

protect the community and our officers. We recently purchased small robotic devices, equipped with cameras that our officers can use to check the interior of buildings when searching for suspects and checking out dangerous situations. We recently implemented a drone, donated to the township by the Copley-Fairlawn Kiwanis, to assist with searching large outdoor areas. The drone has already helped our officers locate elderly persons who walked away from senior living facilities. The Copley Police Department is the only department in this area that has the Star Chase Vehicle Pursuit system. If our officers attempt to traffic stop a vehicle, and the driver refuses to stop, the officers are able to deploy a "dart" that is fired at the rear of the fleeing vehicle. The dart is a GPS enabled device that allows our officers to discontinue the chase and the vehicle is then tracked by dispatchers. This helps our officers catch fleeing persons without placing the public in unnecessary danger.

The Copley Police Department offers a number of programs and community policing initiatives including; the DARE Program in the schools, Safety Town, Vacation House Checks, Senior Watch Program, as well as many others. The police department is working with the Copley-Fairlawn Schools to provide full-time School Resource Officers in our buildings to provide a higher level of protection to the students and school staff.

Please consider attending one of our Coffee-With-A-Cop events, held the second Wednesday each month at the Montrose Chick-fil-A Restaurant from 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM. This event provides you a good opportunity to meet some of your police officers and ask any questions or express concerns.

Should you ever have any questions about the police department or safety in your neighborhood, please feel free to call Police Chief Michael Mier at 330-666-4260.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you!



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OF COPLEY

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Call today to come in and tour!

■ SERVICE DEPARTMENT

Copley Township is responsible for maintaining 64.615 miles of roads.

The Copley Township Service Department is dedicated to providing quality community driven services to all Township residents and businesses. The primary responsibilities of the Service Department are to maintain Township roads, facilities, and properties. In addition to these core responsibilities the Service Department responds to emergencies 24 hours a day 7 days a week, assists with community events, and processes permits for activities performed in Township rights-of-way.

Township road maintenance is generally comprised of pavement maintenance activities, roadside drainage, and snow and ice control. Pavement maintenance includes resurfacing, replacement, rejuvenation, treatments, patching, spot repairing, and crack sealing. Many of these methods are performed in house by Service Department personnel.

Roadside drainage responsibilities are prioritized on the effect that drainage has on Township roads. The Township maintains drainage ditches and stormwater facilities within the public rights-of-way to preserve quality road conditions. Repairing catch basins, cleaning storm main lines, and excavating ditches are some of the routine maintenance activities that the Service Department performs.

Snow and Ice control is imperative to maintain safe and navigable roads within the Township. The Service Department

performs snow and ice control services on Township roads excluding those that are maintained by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) or the Summit County Engineer. Township personnel remove snow and ice from over 64 miles of roadway as well as all township facilities and properties.



DRIVEWAY PERMITS

Driveways are a necessary transition to access private properties from public roadways. Driveway maintenance is the sole responsibility of the property owner. When a new driveway is installed or an existing driveway is replaced the Township requires property owners to obtain a ten (10) dollar driveway permit.

The primary purpose of the permit is to inform the Township of the pending project so the Township can ensure the following:

- 1. Pre-inspection by Township personnel to determine if the existing culvert needs replaced.**
- 2. Concrete driveways terminate twelve (12) inches from the edge of the asphalt roadway.**
- 3. The finish of the approach does not exceed the elevation of the road surface.**
- 4. A saw cut is performed along the asphalt road edge to prevent damage during drive removal.**
- 5. A depth of four (4) inches is maintained between the driveway and the road.**

Following the approved installation methods, the Township will fill the area between a concrete driveway and an asphalt roadway with an asphalt based material. This method promotes a smooth transition, minimizes damage to drive aprons from snow plows, and provides adequate grading for water runoff. Permit information can be found on the Service Department page on the Township website.

SNOW REMOVAL/ MAILBOX DAMAGE

Occasionally mailboxes are damaged during snow removal efforts. However, a properly installed and maintained mailbox will withstand snow removal operations. It is important that mailboxes do not extend past the curb or road edge. Mailboxes that are improperly installed and extend out over the curb or road edge are at a higher risk of being damaged by a plow. It is also beneficial to periodically inspect the mailbox for deterioration of the construction materials. Rotted wood and corroded fasteners will decrease the likelihood that a mailbox can withstand being struck by snow as a plow driver clears the road.

Damage can occur from a direct plow strike, from throwing snow, and from other unrelated events. Mailboxes damaged by a direct plow strike will be repaired by the Township. Mailboxes damaged from the snow plow throwing snow from the road are the responsibility of the homeowner. Repairs to mailboxes struck by a plow will not occur until after the snow clearing operations are completed.



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■ COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

NEW! ADULT FITNESS FACILITY



This fall, Copley Township completed the installation of an adult fitness facility area at the Copley Community Park located at 3232 Copley Rd. The fitness facility is located near the entrance from Copley Rd and features several standard and handicap parking spaces for easy access. In addition to the parking spaces, the project entailed construction of a 20' x 40' concrete pad to house the equipment, turf installation, and connection to the Sunside Trail. The equipment itself provides users of all ages the ability to exercise on twelve different machines; some provide adjustable resistance dials to make the movements more challenging. Some of the machines include chest

and back press, ab crunch and leg lift, elliptical, and squat press. This project would not be possible without the donation of land itself from the Village of St. Edward and the Community Development Block Grant received from Summit County to purchase the equipment and turf. In order to thank both entities, we plan to host a dedication ceremony in the Spring to officially dedicate this wonderful addition to our community park. Keep and eye out on our social media platforms for an official date on the ceremony. Any questions about the fitness facility or the community park can be directed to Loudan Klein (330-666-0108) or Greg Tracy, Service Director (330-666-0365).

GET INVOLVED ! ARBOR DAY!

Copley Township has been recognized as a Tree City USA for three consecutive years. To support that designation we take pride in celebrating Arbor Day! Celebrated annually on the last Friday of April, Copley will support activities and events which usually involve tree givaways, kid's activities, and education on how to contribute to our tree canopy restoration. To get involved, or to hear more about upcoming efforts, please contact our Administrative Assistant, Clarissa Hunt (330-666-0108).





RIDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL CORRIDOR WEST | AFTER

RIDGEWOOD ROAD TRAIL PROJECT - NEXT STEPS

Copley Township was graciously awarded \$750,000 this spring from the State of Ohio through the Capital Budget for the design and construction of a trail along Ridgewood Road stretching from Hametown Road east, to Cleveland-Massillon Road, roughly 1.2 miles long. This was Copley's first Capital Budget award and was one of the highest trail projects awards across the state. With nearly half of Township's residents located west of State Route 21, the Ridgewood Road Trail Project will provide an off-road route to the east side of Route 21 and, more importantly, the high school, making it safer for kids to get to school.

The first step in the project is to begin the preliminary design of the trail and evaluate preferred trail width and locations. Environmental Design Group (EDG) has been selected to assist the Township in engineering the trail prior to construction. The Township and

EDG will be hosting several public meetings with hopes of increasing public involvement and to provide open communications about the project status and to facilitate dialogue with property owners about the most logical and least impactful locations for the trail. Exact locations and dimensions have yet to be determined but will be evaluated based on topography, utilities, and right-of-way.

The funding received from the state and the committed funds from the Township will not cover the total cost of the entire project. However, we will design the entire scope of the project but we are hopeful funding is in place to cover a majority of the construction. More information on public meetings will be shared in the coming months. Any questions related to this project can be directed to Loudan Klein, Director of Community and Economic Development (lklein@copley.oh.us or 330-666-0108).

Connectivity is Key. The Department of Community & Economic Development is dedicated to the pursuit of trails and greenways which connect Copley's residents to the community we live in. Through the use of a Trails & Greenways Committee and partnerships with residential and commercial developers, we will continue to build and implement practices that encourage connectivity in the Township.

■ COPLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Have you met the Copley Community Chamber of Commerce?

The Copley Chamber was formed in 2011 with the mission of promoting business development, cooperation, and expansion in the township by fostering relationships between the business community, government agencies, schools, civic organizations, and citizens of Copley Township.

The vision was to create a welcoming space for local leaders to share ideas, make lasting connections, and work together for the benefit of the community.

Over the years, the Chamber successfully navigated changes and challenging times thanks to the dedicated service of countless volunteers until, in 2021, they were able to expand their impact by hiring their first Executive Director.

Included in that expansion was a merging of Chamber memberships with those of The Loop In Copley, a community-based promotion aimed at "Keeping Copley in The Loop" on local happenings. The Loop began in 2018 to help spread the word about the wonderful businesses and organizations in and around Copley Township. On The Loop's website, people

can find events to enjoy and meetings to attend, businesses and organizations to support, a free weekly newsletter and more, giving Chamber members a direct connection to the community.

The Chamber Board rounded out their 2021 expansion by joining the Northern Ohio Area Chambers of Commerce (NOACC) and the Collaborative Chambers Alliance (CCA), allowing them to provide their members with greater cost-saving benefits and networking opportunities.

The Copley Community Chamber of Commerce is stronger today than it has ever been and continues to grow through that original vision of creating a welcoming space.

If you've only just met the Copley Chamber, get to know us better by visiting our website and joining us for a meeting. We'll be happy to see you there!

TheCopleyChamber.com
LoopinCopley.com



Are You a *LOOPER*?

Looper: 1. An individual who lives in or around Copley Township and not only loves the community and wants to see it thrive, but who also loves new ways to support its small businesses and community organizations. 2. A card-carrying subscriber to emails listing exclusive offers from the businesses in The Loop.

Volunteers move mountains to plan events, shop owners create worlds to be explored, and residents and visitors alike should have every opportunity to enjoy it all. That's why in 2018, Allison Chrien created The Loop in Copley - a website with a free weekly newsletter to serve as your home for information on the day-to-day happenings of Copley Township.

When you visit the website, you'll find a map of places to visit, a calendar of events for things to do, and lists of people doing work of every sort to support! And if you're looking for employment or volunteer opportunities, or more information on special community events like Heritage Day or shop hops for the holidays, you'll find plenty of pages for all of that, too.

You'll even find out how you can support the "Local" cause by becoming a card-carrying Looper and get an idea of the Exclusives you'll receive in return!

Visit loopincopley.com, and follow along on Facebook and Instagram.



Meet the lady behind the LOOP!



Allison Chrien is the Executive Director of the Copley Chamber of Commerce and the lady behind The Loop. Her goal is always to help local businesses and organizations connect with residents, help residents get out and explore their community, and help visitors learn what makes Copley such a special place to be.

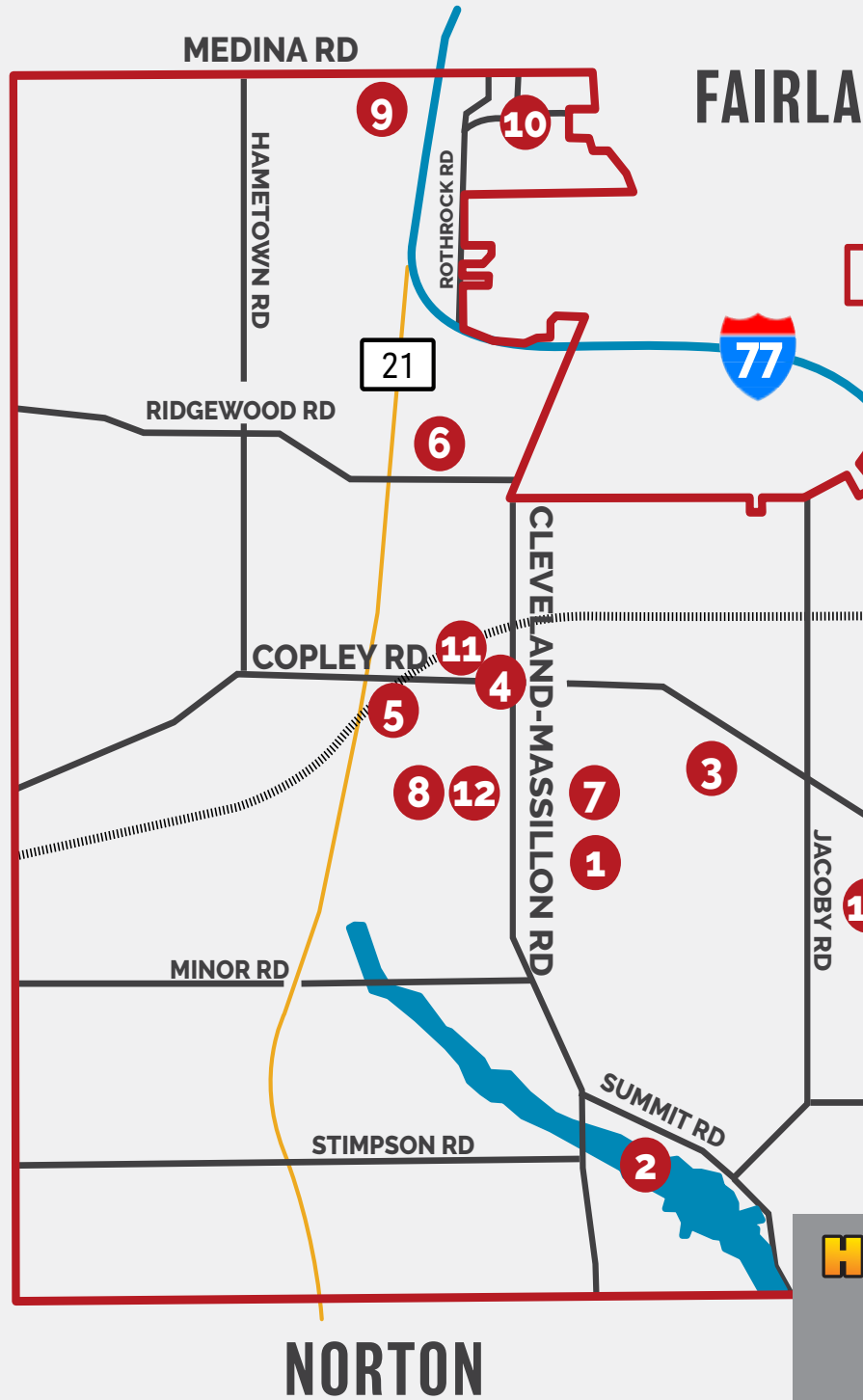
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MAP OF ATTRACTIONS

- 1** ARROWHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL
- 2** BARBERTON RESERVOIR
- 3** COMMUNITY PARK
- 4** COPLEY CIRCLE
- 5** COPLEY DEPOT
- 6** COPLEY-FAIRLAWN HIGH SCHOOL
- 7** COPLEY-FAIRLAWN MIDDLE SCHOOL
- 8** FIRE DEPARTMENT No 1
- 9** FIRE DEPARTMENT No 2
- 10** MONTROSE COMMERCIAL AREA
- 11** POLICE DEPARTMENT
- 12** TOWN HALL
- 13** WALDORF SCHOOL



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■ COPLEY OUTREACH CENTER

The Copley Outreach Center located on the circle in Copley Township, is one of the only local resource centers in our community. The Outreach is a faith-based, volunteer run, food assistance center that has been in operation since 1995 under the support of both the Copley United Methodist Church and Guardian Angels Catholic Church.

In 1995 the two churches converted a small, single-family dwelling (located on the corner of S Cleveland-Massillon Rd and Sunnyfield Dr) into an emergency food pantry. This joint effort was created to support the growing needs of residents living in the township and within the Copley-Fairlawn School District. Over the last twenty-seven years, it has grown to provide food assistance to individuals and families in our community facing food insecurity. The Outreach Center partners with the Akron-Canton Food Bank to purchase food supplies at a reduced cost, as well as purchasing food from Aldi's, ACME, and Giant Eagle.

Director of The Copley Outreach Center, Maryann Henry, has

been an active member of the community since 1958. Mrs. Henry, along with the volunteers at The Outreach Center actively provide emergency food assistance to Copley Township as well as the Copley-Fairlawn School District. The Outreach has two different programs to fulfill the varying needs of residents. Once a month The Family Assistance Program provides families with an assortment of pre-bagged food. The Copley-Fairlawn Cares Backpack Program provides a weekly bag containing weekend meals to qualifying students throughout the academic year, and a weekly box of food during the summer months through the Kids Summer Program.



Cub Scout Troop #3300 conducted a food drive that was a huge success! Afterwards they came to the Center and sorted all the food that was collected! JOB WELL DONE!

The volunteers and supporters of the Copley Outreach Center dedicate themselves to being an active presence of Christ in the schools and the community of Copley Township by assisting fellow citizens in sharing their blessings of time, talent and resources to benefit the entire community.

In 2021 The Outreach Center provided groceries to 47 families. This year the numbers nearly doubled to providing 70 families a month with groceries. Mrs. Henry expects this number to continue to increase due to the impact of inflation on gas and food. The Backpack Program provides weekly bags of food to 110 students during the school year and to 80 students and their families during the summer months.

In October The Outreach Center held its first annual fundraiser which was a great success. The Empty Bowl Event received support through selling sponsorships to local businesses and tickets to members of the community. Each attendee enjoyed a meal consisting of soup, salad, roll, beverage and dessert along with a one-of-a-kind hand glazed ceramic bowl. The food was prepared by the high school students in the culinary arts program at Bistro-81; the ceramic bowls were hand glazed by the art students at Copley-Fairlawn Middle School, and the water and desserts were donated from members of the various PTA/PTSA in the Copley-Fairlawn School District.

While various organizations, events, and individual donations work to accomplish support for the basic needs of The Copley Outreach Center, a funding gap still exists. In 2021 approximately \$22,000 was spent on food. Despite a rapid increase in the cost of food, in 2022 The Outreach was able to bring the cost of food down to \$17,000. This was only possible due to the generosity of the community through several businesses and neighborhood food drives.

The Copley Outreach Center is very fortunate to have the support of many local organizations including: The Copley United Methodist Church who provides the building for The Centers services, Guardian Angels Church who provides funding resources for monthly expenses, The Copley-Fairlawn School District who partners for the Backpack Program, and The Copley Kiwanis who make the weekly food deliveries to the schools. In addition, the Outreach is also blessed with support from many churches in the area who help provide financial assistance and food donations, including St. Luke's Church, The Vine, Crosspoint Alliance Church, Grace Church, and Faith Lutheran Church.



The Copley Outreach Center informs and engages the community through the webpage (www.Copleyoutreach.org) and Facebook page (Copley Outreach Center), in addition to articles in local news sources (West Side Leader, Copley Connection). Please consider donating to help grow The Outreach's mission of feeding those in need. All donations (food, monetary) will aid in continuing this vital, local program. Mrs. Henry, along with the volunteers at The Copley Outreach Center, thanks everyone for their on-going support in helping the families in our community. Together we are making a difference!



EVENT CALENDAR 2023



APRIL

22 Sweep the Streets! Litter Clean-Up
28-29 Arbor Day Celebrations

JUNE

3 Bike Rodeo

AUGUST

4 • 6 Heritage Days Celebration

SEPTEMBER

11-15 Brush Collection - East Side
18-22 Brush Collection - West Side

OCTOBER

7 Recycle Day
28 Halloween in the Park
29 Trick or Treat in Copley Township

NOVEMBER

6-17 Share A Christmas Interviews/Donations

DECEMBER

3 Holiday Tree lighting

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■ NEW SAFETY FACILITY

We expect to break ground for the new facility in late 2023, with the grand opening anticipated in 2024. Securing our future has always been a cornerstone of Copley Township. Our new Safety Facility will be one of the most significant ways we will do just that providing a tangible way taxpayer dollars are put to work right in our community.

In November 2022, the residents of Copley Township voted to approve a 2.1 mil bond levy allowing the Township to move forward with one of the most meaningful investments in our generation - the development of a modern, high-performing facility to house fire, EMS and police personnel and operations. This investment will enrich our community in a trio of ways; It will bring Copley Township a modern joint fire and police facility, an in-demand community center with outdoor features and green space, and an access road that will help rejuvenate the Circle and expand our pedestrian network. In addition, the new Safety Facility will enhance the work and lives of our public servants, providing a safer, more efficient environment in which our firefighters, EMS and police can continue their efforts to protect our community.

The existing police facility was built in 1983 and has housed the Copley Township police force since 1995. At that time, there were only 16 full-time officers.



As Copley Township has grown to more than 18,000 residents, so has the demand on our safety forces, and the services they provide. 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.

Thank you, Copley Township Residents, for supporting the Safety Facility Levy!



As the community's population has grown, so has the size of its police department, which now employs 26 full-time and six part-time officers. The building is not up to present-day safety and security standards, creating potential vulnerabilities for visitors, officers and the public. The existing lobby is very small and has no public restrooms. Limited space also presents a challenge in the event of domestic or dangerous situations and the officers' ability to separate individuals. The addition of a safe room will provide an additional level of protection for the public, especially those involved in a domestic or stalking situation, or those fearing they're being followed while in public. The current building has insufficient room for storing evidence and property. The new facility will include a drug processing room, an armory, interview rooms equipped with audio and visual recording devices, increased office space, records storage, and updated jail cells to meet current standards and much more.

Our current fire facility - which is housed in the basement of an old schoolhouse (currently the town hall) built over 100 years ago - is also too small for our growing department. The current facility offers no space for personnel to safely decontaminate - a threat to the ongoing health of the firefighters. Right now it is not possible to designate gender-specific areas; all areas are currently shared by personnel of both genders. The new facility will provide space for trainings and meetings, and physical fitness equipment which is a necessity for both departments, due to the demanding physical requirements that come with the occupation and long work hours in the field and during extended shifts lasting up to 24 hours. Additional space will be provided in the bay areas and all areas for storing essential supplies which are currently scattered around the inside and outside of the fire building. The additional space will also accommodate future community growth and corresponding hiring needs.

■ COMMUNITY NEWS



Angels are among us...in all different shapes and sizes!

You have met them yourself...that individual that sometimes appears out of nowhere to come to your aid in a crisis. Of course, they would never consider themselves to be a hero let alone a true angel, but to those of us in need, the term "Angel" is more than appropriate.

Meet "Barbara"...a recent widow, Barbara, was introduced to our Property Maintenance Code Enforcement Officer, Jeff Newman, because of a complaint made that her property was unkempt. Living alone, Barbara was unable to do much maintenance in and around her home. Barbara serves as a foster parent to children who the courts have determined must be cared for by someone outside the family. She was currently caring for a child who was brought to her when he was just two days old. Now in her 70s, Barbara and her late husband have been "angels" to over 80 children – some for a few days; some for several years. While she does receive some pay from the county for her service, she reluctantly admits that it is seldom enough to cover all of what is actually needed. And, unfortunately, not much is left for home repair and maintenance.

Meet "Wes"...Wes and a group of cohorts make up a philanthropic group of "Angels in Blue Jeans". "Angels in Blue Jeans" (ABJ) is a growing mission ministry that started at Guardian Angels Church in the summer of 2007 when the founder was invited to do an Appalachia Service Project. For years, they have travelled all over the country providing assistance to communities and individuals in need – whether due to a natural disaster, poor economic conditions or any other hardship that grabs their attention. Fortunately, Jeff Newman knows Wes and, during a conversation, mentioned the plight of Barbara. Seeing an opportunity to provide aid in their own back yard, Wes and his "angels" met with Barbara to devise a plan. The needs were great – a

working light in the kitchen, a handrail to the basement stairs, repair of holes in the dry wall surrounding rusty duct work, replacement of a faulty electrical panel and numerous projects outside the home.

Fast forward to December 2022... the Angels in Blue Jeans managed to repair the damaged walls and ceilings in Barbara's home, replaced the faulty ceiling light in her kitchen, installed a new electrical panel with breakers, reattached the handrail to the basement and repaired her duct work. In the Spring of 2023, the Angels plan on returning to repair her back porch steps and landing. After a fresh coat of paint, this haven for innocent children in need of an angel is a safer place for Barbara to continue to do her work.

The moral of the story...you never know when or in what form an angel will appear to help. While some may view a visit from Jeff as a negative, his interaction provided a means for a whole host of angels to work together to create a positive outcome. Angels are among us...in all shapes and sizes!



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Before



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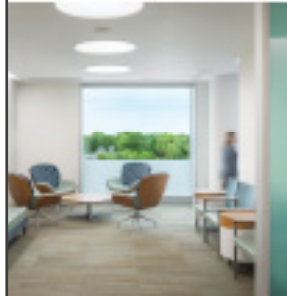
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