

Copley Connection



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March 2014

Focus On Community



Copley Township Solid Waste and Recycling Survey

Copley Township has a 3-year pricing contract with Kimble Companies set to expire on March 31, 2014. The contract is not exclusive and several other haulers are retained by residents. We are exploring the idea of obtaining an exclusive single trash hauler for all residents.

There are three beneficial reasons why this move is being considered. The first and foremost is to save residents money. It has been shown by other communities that by the volumes involved, having an exclusive single trash service results in reduced costs per household. The second is to reduce the number of heavy trash trucks traversing our roads on a weekly basis. Reducing the number of trucks reduces wear and tear on roadways, saving annual repair and repaving costs. The third reason is it allows for much easier annual reporting of solid waste and recyclable materials because only one hauler is involved.

We value input from residents on all matters and this survey will assist in the decision making process. Please take a few moments and fill out the survey below, drop it off, email or mail, or fax it to Copley Township at the address below.

1. Would you be in favor of the Township obtaining bids for an exclusive contract with a single trash hauling company to provide trash hauling and recycling service for all single-family or duplex homes?

Yes No If no, why not? _____

2. Would you be in favor if it meant lower rates?

Yes No If no, why not? _____

Copley Township Board of Trustees
1540 S. Cleveland-Massillon Road
Copley, OH 44321

or

Fax: 330-666-2245
Email - township@copley.oh.us

Copley Township Board of Trustees
Scott D. Dressler, Helen J. Humphrys, and Dale Ann Panovich

It's boring until...

By Dick Viering

Thinking about zoning is boring until something is about to be built in your neighborhood that you don't like. You know - NIMBY - not in my backyard. Or until you want to do something on your property and find out you can't. This is not unusual. We often don't bother to learn about something until we have a need.

For me the need arose when I was (recently) appointed as an alternate to the Zoning Commission. What follows is from my attempt to understand the zoning process as I prepare to serve on the Commission. It's a civics lesson of sorts that became more interesting as I learned more.

The five residents and two alternates serving on the ZONING COMMISSION (ZC) are responsible for developing and maintaining the Zoning Resolution. The regulations contained in the resolution cover where in the Township

commercial, industrial, and residential structures may be built. They also cover many other aspects of projects such as lot size, building size, location of a structure on the property (e.g. setbacks) parking requirements and a variety of other details. The ZC also maintains a zoning map which shows the various zoning districts within the Township. All amendments to the Resolution and map are recommended by the ZC to the Township Trustees. The Board of Trustees has final responsibility for zoning.

Sometimes the regulations are restrictive to the point where the property owner cannot do what he or she wants to do on their property. How can this be? It's private property! Doesn't the township care about its residents? The answer is yes - BUT.



Please see Zoning, P.3

Community Activity

Southwest Summit Communications (SWSCOM) Update

The joint dispatch pilot project that began in 2009 with Copley and the City of Norton, and later with the City of Barberton is now officially a standalone as of January 4, 2014. Together, we have reduced costs and saved lives. We are thrilled with this collaboration with Barberton and Norton and very proud of Copley's dispatchers who led the way into this exciting venture.



Since the dispatch has moved to SWSCOM, for immediate police assistance call 330-666-8866. For police non-emergency matters call 330-666-4218. Emergencies dial 9-1-1.

Winterfest 2014

Mother Nature cooperated by dumping approximately 7" of snow on Copley Township's first Winterfest that was held on January 25th at Copley Community Park. Attendees enjoyed sled riding, ice skating, sled dog demonstrations, ice carving, snow and frisbee golf and a scavenger hunt for the little ones. There were hot dogs, hot chocolate, coffee and a bon fire to add to everyone's enjoyment, made possible by the Copley Township Trustees and the following sponsors:

Copley CERT Team
Copley Community Chamber of Commerce
Copley-Fairlawn Kiwanis Club
Copley Greens Golf Course
Copley Homeowners Association
Copley Tool Rental
Haramis & Roe, Inc.
Len Shetler
Lewis Landscaping Company
Peets Coffee & Tea
Shearer Equipment



Fire Department Activity

EMS Billing

Beginning in 2011 the Copley Township Fire Department began collecting EMS transport revenue for all of their EMS runs. This includes insurance payment for transporting residents of the Township to a hospital. This billing is only for transportation to the hospital, and residents are not asked for any payment unless their insurance company sent funds for the transport bill to them directly. Here are some basic EMS billing facts:

- All transports will be billed to the patient's insurance carrier if we have the patient's insurance information.
- Out of pocket expenses for residents (co-pays, deductibles, etc.) will not be collected as a matter of course.
- Residents will not be asked to pay anything beyond what their insurance pays.
- Residents will only be contacted regarding an EMS billing issue for two reasons:
 1. If the Township's billing company has no insurance information for the patient they will contact the patient in writing to obtain insurance company information.
 2. If a patient's insurance carrier has sent payment for the EMS transport directly to the patient, the billing company will contact the patient in writing for reimbursement of the insurance payment.

The Copley Fire Department has been billing non-residents for EMS transport since 2004. That transport revenue brought in approximately \$85,000 annually. Those funds were used for replacing EMS equipment, purchasing ambulances and to pay for EMS training.

Since 2011, the annual revenue from EMS billing has been \$450,000 annually. These funds were used to help the fire department weather the loss of property tax revenue from 2011 through this year. In 2013 the cost to operate our EMS delivery system was \$2.4 million dollars. EMS billing revenue now covers 19% of our annual budget and provides the bulk of our operating funds.

This EMS billing program is evaluated annually and reported to the Board of Trustees. If any questions arise from a resident about EMS billing they are free to contact our EMS Coordinator, Chris Bower or the Fire Chief, Michael Benson, at 330-666-6464.



Dine to Make a Difference!

Copley Historical Society collaborated with Bob Evans Restaurant for a fundraiser at 4076 Medina Road on Tuesday, March 4, 2014 from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m. Bob Evans will donate 15% of sales when presented with a flyer at time of checkout. The donation applies to dine in and carry-out. Flyers are available at Copley Town Hall or by emailing hhumphrys@copley.oh.us.



By the Numbers

Year-end reports although needed, are tedious to prepare. This is the Reader's Digest condensed version as we look back over 2013:

Fire - 2,418 calls - of those, 1,690 were for EMS. This is our highest volume of calls ever recorded.

Police - 17,673 calls.

Park - 163 baseball games/practices; 306 soccer games/practices; 1 baseball tournament and 1 softball tournament.

Recycle Center - 35 tons of cardboard; 12 tons of commingle and 3 tons of aluminum cans were dropped off.

Roads - 3,782' of storm lines cleaned, 110 catch basins cleaned; 2,985 tons of salt used.

Service - Collected 130 loads of brush, 230 Christmas trees, 5,325 pounds of electronics, 10 tons of tires, 335 gallons of oil, 35 gallons of antifreeze, 3 gallons of vegetable oil, and 34 various types of batteries.

Zoning - 192 permits issued with property valued at \$9,840,510. Approved two new housing subdivisions for construction starts in 2014.

Financial - Every department is operating in the black - with a healthy general fund. A more in depth financial picture will be published in the next Connection after the budget and final appropriations are approved by March 31. All reports are available for inspection.

Zoning

continued from Page 1

Zoning, which may be an obstacle to an individual owner's plans, is one of the most important ways in which the Township accomplishes its STEWARDSHIP responsibility. It's how the Township - whoever the Trustees or Zoning Commission members may be - keeps Copley Township a desirable place to live and work over the long haul. It is the Township's major means for protecting the future. ***The zoning process focuses on the community as a whole - not on individual residents.***

OK, this is the greater good argument. But, what about the individual and his or her wishes and plans! This is why there is a BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS (BZA). As carefully as the Zoning Resolution is written, it cannot accommodate every possible set of circumstances. To avoid a foolish consistency, intelligent, carefully examined exceptions must be allowed.

The BZA consists of five residents and, again, two alternates. Its mission is to work with individual property owners in cases where requirements of the zoning regulations would result in practical difficulties or an unnecessary hardship. ***When this occurs, the BZA may grant that property owner a variance.***

OK, the process seems sound but, how well trained are the board and commission members for their jobs. Sometimes the members have backgrounds which do apply. However, mostly it's on-the-job training. The Township Trustees try to maintain a balance of experienced and new members on the ZC and the BZA. Generally, the alternate members gain a reasonable amount of experience before being appointed to full member status. Also, consultants (attorneys, etc.) are made available to both organizations when needed.

There is one other source of expertise involved in this process and that is the ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD (ARB). The ARB consists of five members and two alternates. However, these residents are specifically chosen for their expert backgrounds. Presently, the membership consists of two registered architects, a master

mason, a civil engineer, a certified planner, an arborist and a businessman. The ARB reviews new residential and commercial developments for overall site design, landscaping and tree preservation. The ARB, which began meeting in January 2013, acts in an advisory capacity to the ZC and BZA.

So, the zoning process is well conceived and organized. It provides: 1) long-term protection of the quality of life in Copley Township, 2) an appeal mechanism for property owners who may be unduly restricted by zoning regulations, and 3) involvement of residents and experts in the decision-making process.

F.Y.I.

- Zoning Commission and BZA members are appointed by the Township Trustees to staggered, five-year terms. Alternates are appointed to two-year terms.
- ARB is new and currently its members are serving one-year terms.
- All members of the BZA, ZC and ARB are Township residents.
- Members receive compensation of \$25/meeting (chairs receive \$30) unless waived.
- Meetings are scheduled monthly - but are cancelled when there are no applications to be reviewed.
- A long-term Land Use Plan was adopted in 2009 which provides guidance to the various boards. Development of this plan involved numerous public meetings and a community survey.
- The Township employs one full-time planning director and one full-time zoning inspector to ensure zoning regulations are being enforced.
- The Township also has access to various Summit County Departments such as the Planning Commission, Planning Staff, and Engineer's Office as needed.



COPLEY TOWNSHIP
1540 S. Cleveland Massillon Road
Copley, Ohio 44321-1908

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 351
AKRON, OHIO

Motor Vehicle License Tax to Copley Township

Please remember - when renewing your annual license plate/sticker, make sure you state you live in COPLEY TOWNSHIP so the Township rightly receives its portion of the license tax fee. Copley has six zip codes that range from Akron 44320, Akron 44333, Barberton 44203, Copley 44321, Norton 44203, and Wadsworth 44281. The registrar will write the city address name on your driver's license in the jurisdiction area unless you state you live in Copley Township!

Meeting Notes

Regular Board of Trustees Meetings are held the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

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

All Meetings Are Open To The Public.

**TO REACH OUR NEW DISPATCH CENTER CALL
330-666-8866**



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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
Zoning	330-666-0108

Trustees

Helen Humphrys	
Scott Dressler	330-666-1853
Dale Panovich	

Fiscal Officer

Janice Marshall	330-666-1853
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COPLEY ONLINE

WEBSITE: WWW.COPLEY.OH.US

EMAIL: TOWNSHIP@COPLEY.OH.US



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MARCH 2014

