

# Copley Connection

Number 97

[www.copley.oh.us](http://www.copley.oh.us)

March 2017

## In Your Opinion

On February 2, 2017, seventy-two neighbors and friends of Copley Township gathered at The HUB Community Center to hear a presentation on the results of the Community Perspective Survey conducted in December of 2016. Determined to reach out to residents and business owners alike, the Board of Trustees hired Consultant Larry Lallo to create a survey to ascertain what participants felt were the best attributes in the community and which areas needed attention and additional resources to provide a basis for evaluating the value of creating a Community Improvement Corporation. Responses came from all areas of the Township and included opinions from ages ranging primarily from 36-65.

When asked if the respondent would recommend Copley Township to family and friends as a good place to live, an overwhelming 96% of those that answered said "yes" citing good schools, access to highways and major shopping areas as the top three reasons closely followed by the feeling that Copley Township is a friendly, quiet place with a reasonable cost of living and the convenience of a small town. Some critical issues facing Copley Township include the need to put policies in place to pace growth in targeted areas, access to water and sewer amenities and the need to attract more businesses. From the survey, three priorities surfaced among responders centering around Community Facilities/Infrastructure, Open Space/Recreation and Business/Job Growth.

Many of the responders included comments to better explain their positions. Ideas for improving pedestrian traffic connecting neighborhoods and businesses surfaced along with requests to create a town center by attracting restaurants and coffee shops to the Copley Circle area. Concerns about aging neighborhoods and property maintenance were prevalent as well as a wish to preserve the Township's history and culture.

Most encouraging was the response to the question regarding

a willingness to volunteer as part of community projects, events and neighborhood block groups. At least 55% of those that responded said they would be able to participate. Those who attended the meeting had the opportunity to sign up as a volunteer for three general areas. The Beautification Committee would include projects ranging from litter pickup to a "Keep Copley Beautiful" campaign. The Focus Group for the Copley Circle would consider ideas for landscaping,

lighting, refurbishing of the gazebo...physical amenities. The Bicentennial Group would be charged with planning the biggest party the Township has ever seen...the 200th birthday of our wonderful community!

All agreed that Copley Township is a great place to live. There are areas with room for improvement and the conversation on how we can begin to make the necessary changes - as a community - has begun. Stay tuned as we begin the journey to work together toward common, identified and attainable goals!



## TOWNSHIP ADOPTS PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE

The Township has adopted a Property Maintenance Code which took effect January 1, 2017. The Code was adopted in response to concerns from residents and business owners alike. The adoption of the Code will help provide necessary tools which protect and enhance property values from the negative impacts of blight, negligence and general property nuisances. Items to be addressed through the Code include:

- Noxious Weeds/Rank Vegetation
- Abandoned or Structurally Deficient Buildings
- Junk/Unlicensed Automobiles
- Trash
- Nuisance Complaints



Jeff Newman, Code Enforcement Officer

Continued on Page 7

### Southern Summit Citizens Police Academy

The Copley, Norton and Barberton Police Departments are proud to present a program that provides insight to the public on the responsibilities and operations of your local Police Department. Our 10th Academy session will begin on March 23, 2017.

We have designed the Southern Summit Citizens Police Academy to accomplish several goals. The most important goal is to open the channels of communication between the citizens and their local Police Department. Additionally, we want to develop an understanding of the police role within the community. The objective of the Academy is not to make police officers out of graduates, but to make them better informed citizens with an accurate knowledge of our many responsibilities and functions.

The Southern Summit Citizens Police Academy is a twelve-week program that will be held each Thursday evening from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. In each class session, instructors will provide guidance and information concerning a particular area of law enforcement. Attendees will have an opportunity to experience how the police department functions in the community with some informative hands-on training.



Requirements for participants are:

- Must be at least 18 years of age.
- Have no criminal history other than minor traffic violations (background checks will be performed).
- Be physically able to participate in active class trainings.
- Commit to attend 12 weekly 3-hour training sessions.
- Sign any required waivers or agreements.

You can pick up an application at the Copley Police Department Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Applications are also available online at [www.copley.oh.us](http://www.copley.oh.us). If you have any questions or would like an application mailed to you, please contact Officer Tom Ballinger at the Copley Police Department, 330-666-4218 or [tballinger@copley.oh.us](mailto:tballinger@copley.oh.us).

### Niko - Copley's 1st K-9

Copley Township is a very safe community in which to live, work and go to school. With the addition of Officer Kenny Porter, and his K-9 partner "Niko", Copley just got a little safer!

Officer Porter and Niko were sworn in on October 19, 2016. Officer Porter went to work immediately, but Niko had to stay at home while the department prepared to put him to work. Police had to fit a police cruiser with a kennel enclosure before Niko could ride along on patrol. The enclosure not only makes Niko's ride more comfortable, but it is climate controlled, so it will help to protect him during the hot summer weather. He now comes to work with Officer Porter every day.

Chief of Police Michael Mier said Niko is a welcome addition to the department. He is certified for drug detection, tracking and article searches. Niko will come in handy as officers conduct drug investigations at the local hotels. Niko will also be very helpful in locating missing persons. Copley is home to several nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Occasionally, residents with dementia wander away from these facilities and Niko could help locate those residents more quickly.

In addition to tracking persons, Niko can conduct "article searches". From time to time, suspects throw items from cars or try to conceal evidence from the police. Niko is trained to help search for those items as well.



Officer Kenny Porter and Niko

The community has stepped up in support of Niko in a very big way. Green Animal Hospital takes care of Niko's health needs. The Akron Veterinary Referral and Emergency Center, just off Copley Road, has offered some services. The Rubber City Kennel Club donated \$1,400.00 for a specially fitted bullet proof vest for Niko.

Chief Mier said Copley Police previously borrowed dogs from other area departments as needed. Now, with Niko on staff, we can respond quicker to those situations in which a police dog can help to better protect our community.

Watch for Niko on patrol. His cruiser is marked as a K-9 vehicle and he will be making some appearances at the schools, special events and in the neighborhoods.



## 2016 Year in Review

### Scope of Work

- **448 Asphalt Paving** - Foxtail Tr., Bridlewood Dr., Paxton Rd. Portions of Misty Lane, Willow Green Tr., and Silver Ridge Dr. - \$352,287.27 - Kenmore Construction Co.
- **422 Sealcoat Paving** - N & S Plainview Dr., Greening Dr., Appletree Rd., Wealthy Dr., Coon Rd., S. Hametown Rd., Paxton Rd., Kibler Rd., Sunset Dr. and Sugar Rd. \$108,810.50 - Specialized Construction Co.
- **405 Motor Paving** - Elizabeth Ave - \$24,469.72 - Melway Paving Co.
- **Pavement Markings** - Brookmont Rd., Flight Memorial Dr., Montrose West Ave., Heritage Woods Dr., Hollythorn Dr., Commercial Dr., and Ridge Park Dr., - \$4,514.15 - American Roadway Logistics

**Total - \$490,081.64**

**Historic Depot Project** - Installation of platform on south loading dock to better accommodate visitors, replace dry rot siding, install storage shed for miscellaneous items, and repainting - \$10,450 - Robintech Construction.

**Completion of Service Department Storage Garage** - \$221,600 - Daniel Terreri & Sons, Inc.

**Nomination of Copley Township Cemetery Receiving Vault to the National Register of Historic Places.** - Vault built in 1885.

### Recycle Center Totals

Commingle - 17.72 tons (35,440 lbs.)  
 Aluminum Cans - 0.91 tons (1820 lbs.) - proceeds donated to Akron Children's Hospital Aluminum Cans for Burned Children Program (ACBC)  
 Paper/Cardboard - 8.44 tons (16,895 lbs.)  
 Textiles - 848 lbs.  
**Total - 27.494 tons (54,988 lbs.) diverted from landfills**

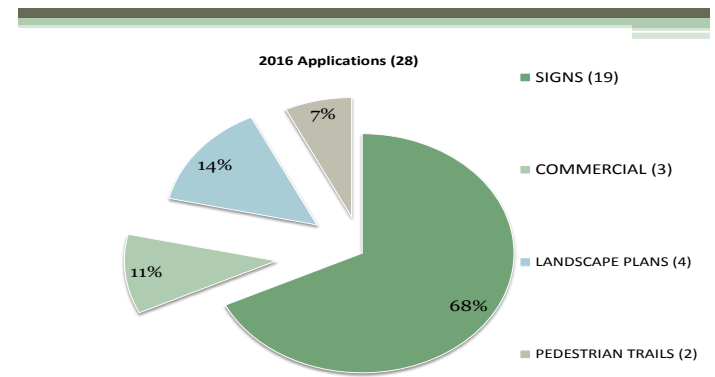
### Recycle Day Totals

Tires - 2/40 CY containers  
 Oils - 275 gal.  
 Antifreeze - 55 gal.  
 E-Waste - 6304 lbs.  
 Batteries - 107 lbs. of rechargeable batteries/20 auto batteries  
 Fluorescent Light Bulbs - 167 various lengths  
 Document Shredding - 3652 lbs.  
 Scrap Metals - 3900 lbs.

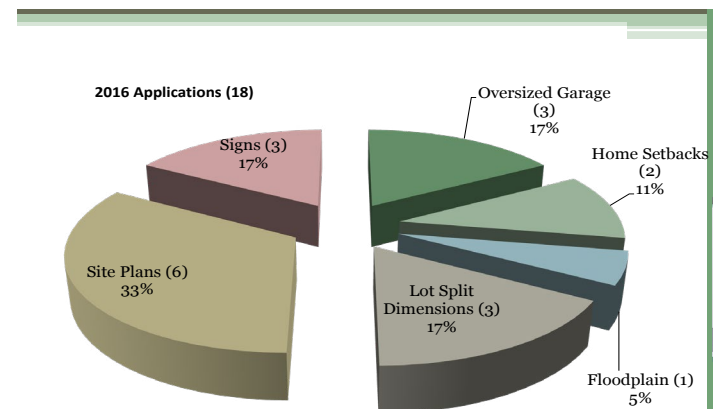
**Road Salt Usage** - 2407.74 tons @ \$51.47/ton (+ fuel charges) - \$131,149.60

## ZONING 2016

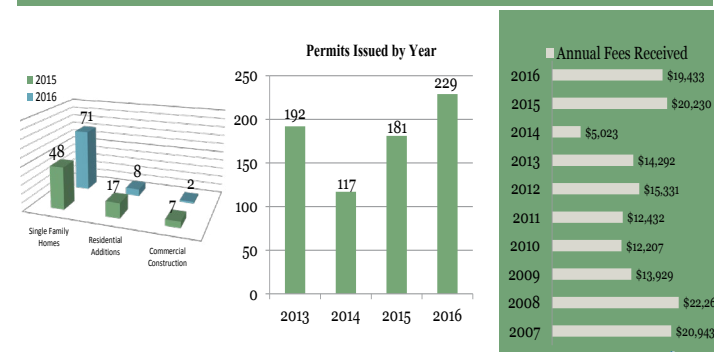
The 2016 calendar year was busy for the Zoning boards as they reviewed 53 applications ranging from commercial developments to parking and landscaping plans. The Township is striving to incorporate high-quality development which enhances the quality of life for businesses and residents alike. Great strides have been made with respect to the implementation of design guidelines which have led to an increase in pedestrian access, aesthetical improvements and the removal of blight from our neighborhoods. Such efforts have led to \$150 million dollars worth of new investments into Copley over the past decade. The Township recognizes the growing need to continue coordinating new investments which add value for existing and future members of our community.



**Architectural Review Board (ARB)** Chair: Kelly McPherson  
Vice: Melanie Friedman



**Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA)** Chair: Neal Call  
Vice: Naureen Dar



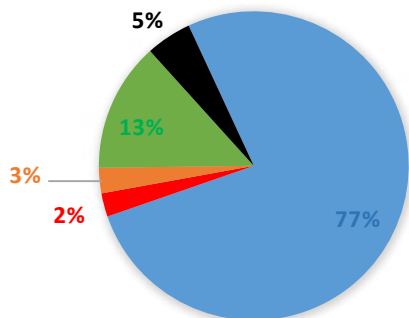


# Fire Department

## 2016 - Year in Review

### 2016 COPLEY FIRE DEPT. CALL TYPES

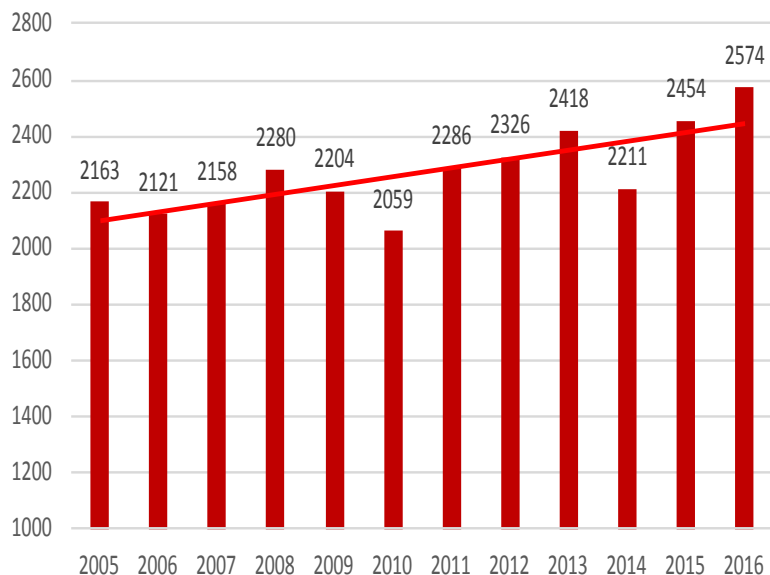
■ EMS ■ Fires ■ Hazards ■ False ■ Other



Copley Fire Department had another record year with 2,574 incidents in 2016. This is the most we ever had and is the first time we passed the 2,500 mark. We were 5% above last year and 14% above our ten year average. There were a record number of calls in six different months: January, May, August, September, November and December.

Copley Fire Department trained over 3,000 hours, that's more than 59 hours per person.

### Annual Call Volume - Copley Fire Dept.



Copley Township Fire Training with Fairlawn Fire, Sharon Township and Twinsburgh Fire Departments.



Change Your Clocks, Change Your Batteries  
Daylight Savings Time Begins Sunday March 12th!

Firefighter/Paramedic John Gordon (24 years of service) retired on June 30, 2016 from the Copley Fire Department. John served as a lead fire investigator for our regional fire investigation team, oversaw our CPR training program and wrote all of the pre-plans for commercial buildings in Copley Township. He also works for the Brecksville and Valley Fire Departments as a part-time firefighter. We miss John, and wish him all the best in retirement!



*Good Luck John  
In Your Retirement!*



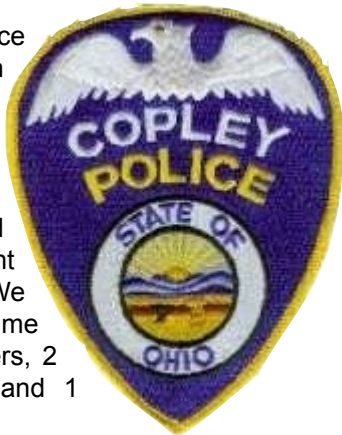
## Police Department

### 2016 - Year in Review Police Department

The Copley Police Department responded to 16,020 calls for service in 2016. Those calls included, but were not limited to, the following activity:

Alarm Drops	734
Animal Complaints	265
Burglaries	40
Domestic Arguments	53
Fights/Disturbances	245
Intoxicated Persons	143
Juvenile Complaints	156
Noise Complaints	126
Checks of Businesses or Homes	2,631
Robberies	2
Shoplifting	49
Stolen Vehicles	26
Suspicious Persons/Vehicles	1,066
Vehicle Tampering	27
Thefts	221
Traffic Complaints	1,345
Traffic Crashes	633
Private Property Crashes	113
Traffic Stops	2,017
Wanted Persons	114

The Copley Police Department participated in several multi-jurisdictional programs including the Summit County Drug Unit, The Summit Metro Crash Team, Metro SWAT and the US Marshal's Violent Fugitive Task Force. We currently have 23 Full-Time Officers, 6 Part-time Officers, 2 Administrative Assistants and 1 Youth Worker.



### Neighborhood Gatherings

**We want to meet you!** The Copley Township Planning Department is creating a Neighborhood Map to facilitate gatherings of neighbors with similar interests or concerns. We hope to schedule a time when we can meet and discuss issues you'd like to see addressed or ideas you have for improving our community! We will come to you if you have a place we can meet or we will host you and your neighbors at the Town Hall; either way, we hope to meet each and every one of you in 2017. Keep an eye out for more information about the gathering in your neighborhood!

### Southwest Summit Communications 9-1-1 Dispatch

SWSCOM just reached a three year anniversary! It was January 7, 2014 when the dispatching staff from Copley, Barberton and Norton moved into the new facility located in the City of Norton. We moved on one of the coldest days on record posing a challenge to our safety forces as well as the communications equipment needed.

Our team of 23 dispatchers, however, worked through many challenges and is better equipped to deal with any emergency situation Copley Township encounters. Sharing equipment and information across three communities has helped tremendously. With our expanded jurisdiction, it is easier to quickly apprehend suspects when they flee by talking directly on the radio to Copley, Norton or Barberton Police. The Joint Fire Station Alerting System allows the fire departments to see a call for service before the dispatcher gathers all of the necessary information from a 9-1-1 caller. Firefighters and paramedics have a head start to respond to your emergency - a great improvement to response times.



We are constantly learning and expanding our knowledge, skills and abilities. In November 2016, we hosted the State of Ohio Amber Alert committee, re-training us on the newest upgrades to this system to find missing children or adults. With many years of dispatching experience on this team, we will continue to look to the future and find the best practices to assist our public safety personnel, and you.

Heritage Day Committee  
Is in need of volunteers in all areas.  
Join our meeting on  
Tuesday, March 21, 2017  
7:00 p.m.  
Copley Town Hall  
1540 S Cleveland-Massillon Road  
or email: [copleybarns@aol.com](mailto:copleybarns@aol.com)



## Community News

### Copley Historical Society Re-Opens the General Store

The Copley Historical Society has opened the General Store in its museum on the second floor of Copley Town Hall, 1540 S Cleveland Massillon Road. Stop by and visit the general store on the first and third Wednesdays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. or by appointment by contacting Helen Humphrys at 330-666-1853.

#### **Copley's General Stores**

General stores carry a broad selection of merchandise for the town and nearby area. As the main store for the community, one could find anything from soup to nuts; from clothes to hardware. Specialty items had to be ordered. Copley had several general stores. Below are just a few.

#### **Weeks General Store and Post Office**

In 1832, Peter and Levitt Weeks opened the first business at Copley Center. They operated the store for a couple of years then used it as a storehouse. They sold it to Herman Oviatt in partnership with Amos Baldwin.

#### **Oviatt and Baldwin General Store**

Oviatt and Baldwin built the stock up to \$2500 worth of goods and ran the store until their partnership dissolved in 1837 and sold the business to partners Patch and Robinson. Patch and Robinson increased the stock then sold it to Robert Codding.

#### **Joseph and Henry White Store**

About 1837, Joseph and Henry White erected another new building at the Center. Luther Parmele, who was a clerk for Oviatt and Baldwin and Leavitt Weeks, ran a store in the new building until Parmele bought Weeks out in 1845. Parmele later moved elsewhere and George Babcock bought the store in 1849 and ran it until 1861. Source – 1969 Historical Souvenir Book – CHS Archives.

Continued on Page 7

### Copley Cares

On Mother's Day of 2016, a group of Copley residents officially launched a campaign to raise \$15,000 to sponsor the Family Room at the new Battered Women's Shelter of Summit and Medina Counties on behalf of the residents of Copley Township. The group called the campaign Copley Cares, and set out to spread the word about the effort and solicit donations. It took many months, but Copley Cares is thrilled to announce that as of the end of November, \$15,034 had been raised! And, in addition to these funds, the shelter received countless donations of clothing, diapers, books, and more in the name of Copley Cares.

The founders and Ambassadors of Copley Cares - Linda Diefendorff, Amy Conwi, Allison Taylor-Chrien, Carrie Worner, Denise Negowski, Romi Brozeit, Melissa Ost, Debbie Jacquin, Yamini Adkins, Beth Jones, Stefani Slattery, and Brenda Cunat - would like to thank everyone who helped them reach their goal. You've had a part in providing a welcoming space, known now as the Unity Room, for families to come together and heal. We're proud to be part of a community that cares!



#### **NIXLE FOR COPLEY TOWNSHIP**

Nixle is the provider of mass notification services for public safety agencies. To sign up for Copley Township ALERTS go to [www.copley.oh.us](http://www.copley.oh.us), or by using your phone to text your zip code to 888777. You can also register from their website at [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com).

### Copley Seniors

If you are a senior (age 55 or older) living in the Copley area, there is a group of your contemporaries who meet regularly for camaraderie, information sharing, fellowship, entertainment and social activities.

This group of older adults has chosen the name COPLEY SENIORS and generally meet the fourth Wednesday of each month at The Hub Community Center located at 3676 Community Lane. Activities have included something for everyone's taste. Members bring a bag lunch from home or local establishments; desserts and beverages provided by members or local retirement communities. Meetings offer programs based on issues of interest to seniors such as health, education and personal safety information or entertainment.

For the past three years Copley Seniors have gone back to school, Copley High School specifically, for sessions on computer and technology training. Collaboration projects were expanded to include a reading program for students in the elementary schools and an invitation to a special performance of the High School Fall class play. The elementary school reading program is very successful but need additional volunteers to meet the requests from Copley-Fairlawn schools. If you are 55+ and the group's activities sound interesting to you, why not attend one of the monthly gatherings? For more information, contact Bill or Kay Daniel at 330-666-5582, or you may visit the website [www.dragonweir.com/copley\\_seniors/](http://www.dragonweir.com/copley_seniors/). If you are interested in the elementary school reading program, contact Margaret Heinbuch for additional information at 330-666-1662. Teaching experience not necessary.





## Focus on Community

### Sweep the Streets

As the trustees prepare for its 2019 Bicentennial, they realize the next hundred years requires vigilance by the residents to continue to maintain the healthy environment and prosperous community they enjoy today in Copley. Recently the trustees adopted a Property Maintenance Code that took effect January 1, 2017 and are also planning a beautification program. Part of the beautification would be an annual roadside litter collection program.

Sweep the Streets will take place on Saturday, April 22, 2017 from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. in conjunction with Earth Day. Due to the traffic on the state and county routes volunteers will be protected by a rolling roadblock by Copley Police and traffic control by the Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT). Although activity will be centered

near the main roadways, an additional challenge will be given to each Homeowners Association for their respective subdivisions.



The day will conclude at noon at Copley Circle with refreshments for the volunteers. Certificates of recognition will be given to each participant and the list of the participants formally recognized at the next trustee meeting and on the website.

Please call the town hall at 330-666-1853 or email to [Township@copley.oh.us](mailto:Township@copley.oh.us) to sign up to volunteer.

Planning for the next hundred years is not easy but in this one respect with litter control and a beautification program in place, the message should continue while instilling pride in the community.

### General Store

Cont. from P.6

#### **Xury Gingery Store**

In the 1890's Xury and his wife, Edith built a store on Medina Line Road at the AC&Y railroad tracks and called the area Paxton. Here there were tenders of a water tank for the steam trains, pumping water into the tank from Wolf Creek. In 1896, he built a general store on the north side of Copley Center. He wanted to move closer to the store so he built a home behind the store in 1900. Sometime in the 1920's, Xury decided to get out of the business and sold his store to Seth Minor and his house to the Averill family. In years to follow, the house was used as Post Office, Justice of the Peace office and an office for Elmer Coon, the town constable. Source-Jim Averill CHS Archives.



#### **Seth Minor Store**

Seth Minor, a young man born and raised in Copley on a farm on Minor Road, operated the store until 1949 when he sold the store to Henry Ball, Dick Walters' father-in-law. Source – CHS Archives

#### **Walters Town 'n Country Store**

In 1950, Dick Walters purchased the store from his father-in-law and demolished it. He built Walters Town n' Country Store, the first "modern shopping center" in Copley. Today the Walter Properties occupy the site at Copley Center. Source- CHS Archives.

#### **Harry Holshue General Store and Grocery**

In 1937, Harry Holshue built a store on the southeast side of Copley Center. Harry, who had been paralyzed since he was eight years old, ran the store in his wheelchair for 20 years. He later turned it into a self-serve grocery. Harry's building still stands housing Napa Auto Parts. Source – CHS Archives

### Property Maintenance Code

Cont. from P.1

To enhance the Township's efforts, the Trustees hired Jeffrey Newman to serve as the Code Enforcement Officer. Jeff has served in the Copley Police Department since 1995 and understands the Township well and is eager to assist the community within his new capacity. In addition to Jeff's extensive knowledge of the Township, he brings a "hands-on-approach" in working with residents and business owners alike to improve their properties. If you have any concerns or items that you would like to discuss, please contact Jeff at [jnewman@copley.oh.us](mailto:jnewman@copley.oh.us) or contact the Zoning Department at (330) 666-0108.



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

PRSRT 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 4:30 p.m.

Please visit our website [www.copley.oh.us](http://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  
Zoning .....330-666-0108

### Trustees

Helen Humphrys  
Scott Dressler .....330-666-1853  
Dale Panovich

### Administrator

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

### Fiscal Officer

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

### COPLEY ONLINE

WEBSITE: [WWW.COPLEY.OH.US](http://WWW.COPLEY.OH.US)

EMAIL: [TOWNSHIP@COPLEY.OH.US](mailto:TOWNSHIP@COPLEY.OH.US)

