

Copley Connection

Number 86

www.copley.oh.us

May 2014

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM - CERT

In April 2013, Copley Township formed its first CERT training program. CERT prepares residents to help themselves, their families and their neighbors in the event of a disaster. This volunteer program trains citizens to be better prepared



Search and Rescue Drill

to respond to emergencies in their communities. When emergencies happen, CERT members can provide critical support to first responders, immediate assistance to victims and can help organize spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site. CERT members can also help with non-emergency projects that help improve community safety. Copley's CERT Team, consisting of 40 Copley residents, has been training for the past 9 months. The CERT team completed their final exam on Saturday, March 29 at Copley High School and are now certified. The CERT team participated in a mock disaster drill following the final exam.

Copley's CERT team will continue their training the third Tuesday of every month. If you are interested in joining Copley's CERT Team, residents can call Sue Mack at 330-666-1853 for an application or go to www.copley.oh.us to apply.



On Community



CERT Team transporting injured to triage.

Disturbing Statistics

In the lobby of the Copley Police Station there is a poster concerning crime in Summit County. It notes that in the county every:

- 26 days arson is committed
- 14 days someone is murdered
- 1.5 days someone is raped
- 12.8 hours there is a robbery
- 8.6 hours a car is stolen
- 45 seconds a theft is committed

We are fortunate to live in an area where the incidence of these crimes is much, much lower. A big part of this is our Copley Police Department which has always been well supported by township residents.



Proposed rendition of the new Copley Police Station.

In 1995 the Police Department moved from cramped quarters in the Town Hall to its present location on Sunset Drive. The current station was formerly an industrial facility which was remodeled to serve police department needs.

It was a great move - lots of additional space for the department of 18 full-time officers. At the time, there were just over 11,000 residents in the township. Currently there are 23 full-time and 7 part-time officers serving more than 17,000 residents. The additional residents, along with commercial and industrial growth have combined to significantly increase the demands placed on our police department. The "new" police station, which was such an improvement all those years ago, is no longer adequate.

This is why the Township Trustees are working toward a new police station on a site adjacent to the existing station.

The cost of the new facility is projected to be \$5,682,000. Architectural and other costs during the

planning phase are being paid from the Township's General Fund. Construction funds will come from money set aside for capital improvement and low interest loans. One source being investigated is a USDA Rural Development Loan. Loans are expected to be repaid from current revenues.

Finance Department Activity

Saving \$ Thru COOP Efforts

Schools and governments at all levels are regularly exhorted to stretch tax dollars by entering into cooperative projects. Copley Township, in cooperation with the cities of Barberton and Norton, have one such project up and running. Located in Norton, the joint dispatch center - Southwest Summit Communications - handles all police, fire and EMS calls for all three communities.

The center is funded by payments from the member communities on a cost sharing formula based on number of calls. Karen Gregorcic is the administrator of the center. The \$600,000 cost of the new center was split equally by the three communities. These funds came from a zero interest Local Government Innovation Fund Loan from the State of Ohio.

The "next generation" equipment at the center would have cost each community several hundred thousand dollars apiece. The expenditure for 24/7 staffing is no more than the cost of operating three separate dispatch centers.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE . . .

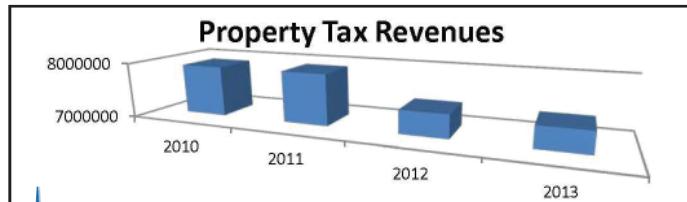
. . .is the joint fire station on route 18 built and operated jointly by Bath and Copley Townships.

Effect of the Economy on Township Finances

The US economy has been tough on families and businesses since the "housing crash" and the recovery has been slow but its improving. Couple that with the repeal of the estate tax and the decreased local government funding and Fiscal Officer Janice Marshall will tell you budgeting is difficult.

Property owners can attribute the declines to unpaid property taxes and reductions in assessed valuations. It is impossible to tell how much delinquency there will be in a given year and what reductions, sought by property owners, the Board of Tax Revision in Columbus will grant.

Through it all Copley has persevered. Since 2010, a fifteen percent spending reduction in every department took effect and will continue indefinitely. Township employees stepped up by accepting no raise increases for the last three years and a slight increase to health care costs. Carryovers are healthy coming into 2014 and with the teamwork demonstrated by the departments, the future is brighter.



Service Department Activity

Community Center Demolition

The Township will build a new Police Station on the parcel where the Community Center is located so it is necessary for the Community Center, pavilion, storage barns, and waste water treatment plant to be removed to make room for the new construction. Razing of these facilities not only allows the construction of the new facility but also opens up a large area to store construction equipment and materials. Demolition scope of work documents and Township/contractor agreement are being finalized and a request to advertise for bids will be made once they are completed. The loss of the Community Center will only be temporary as the new Police Station will have a 2700 square foot Community Room as part of its construction. Quasi public and charitable organizations will be welcome to use this room for meetings. The Community Room will have a divider curtain down the middle so two groups may use the facility at the same time. Incorporating a Community Room onto the new Police Station is the most cost-effective way to have a meeting place for our residents to utilize without being a stand-alone building which costs more to sustain.

2014 Road Projects

Copley Township, along with other Summit County communities, is once again partnering with the Summit County Engineer for its annual road repair projects as a way to save money. By joining with other communities and the Engineer the savings range from 5% to 7%. That doesn't sound like much but considering the Township spent \$422,473.98 on its 2013 road projects, and at an average of 6% cost savings, the Township saved \$25,348.43.



2013-2014 Winter Season

This winter season has proven to be one of the snowiest in recent years with snowfalls totaling 20 inches or more above the average. The Service Department crews have certainly been kept busy keeping Township roads safe for travelers. This season they have used about 3650 tons of salt totaling \$145,416.00 (\$39.84 per ton). The first day they started salting was November 12, 2013, have gone out 39 times (as of March 30, 2014), and have logged 180 hours of overtime at a cost of \$57,272.40. They did a great job keeping our roads cleared.



Fire Department Activity

Fire Department Leadership

Only major city departments have the manpower to handle all the different types of emergencies that fire departments are called upon to handle. So, of necessity, fire departments in smaller communities began establishing cooperative operations long before the notion began to receive so much emphasis.

For example, the need for water to fight fires in rural areas caused departments to form mutual aid pacts many years ago. Our Copley Fire Department is part of a Code 10 water shuffle group that involves nine other communities.

Michael Benson is finishing his seventh year as our fire chief. When asked for other examples of cooperative arrangements, he said it's a long list. Here are some of the ones he mentioned:

- The previously noted joint dispatch center, the joint fire station and the water shuttle group.
- The Summit County HazMat Team is made up of a few specially trained fire fighters from each department. The result is a large team with a variety of expertise that is available anywhere in the county. It has also been typed by the State of Ohio for deployment throughout the state.
- The arrangement is similar in technical rescue (trench collapse, confined spaces, etc.) emergencies. Trained personnel from our department handle the first 30 minutes of a rescue until the county team arrives. The different types of rescues are studied and practiced regularly. Summit County contributes the majority of personnel and equipment to the Ohio Region 5 Technical Rescue Team which covers 13 counties.
- Fire investigation is another specialized area. The highest level of certification from the International Association of Arson Investigators is CFI - Certified Fire Investigator. This requires many years of experience, special training and passing a difficult examination. Two of our Copley fire fighters hold this certification. Members from the six Summit County Departments in the Code 10 Water Shuffle Group are available to assist each other.
- Since time and adequacy of personnel and equipment are major factors in saving lives and minimizing damage, Bath, Copley, Fairlawn, Norton, and Sharon automatically respond to alarms in the other communities. Unneeded units return to their stations.



Summit County HazMat Team

Looking for intergovernmental cooperation?

Your Fire Department is a leader!

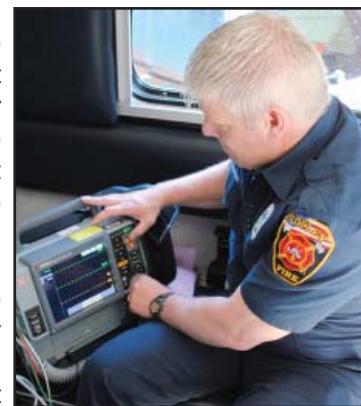
Handling Heart Attacks

It was more than a decade ago when our township fire department began to study ways to handle heart attacks. The care was given to victims of ST segment elevation myocardial infarction, a STEMI (the most life-threatening type of heart attack) during transport and initial intake at the hospital is crucial. Time lost to diagnosis in the ER and in getting victim and surgeon to the cardiac cath lab is often the difference between the degree of damage or even survival.

The outcome of the department's research was equipping EMS vehicles with 12 lead EKG units. The readouts from these units are transmitted to the hospital while the victim is enroute. The result is that no time is lost after the patient arrives at the hospital. The cardiologist on duty has already made a diagnosis and alerted the cardiac cath lab and surgical personnel to be ready, when necessary, by the time the patient arrives.

It's probably incorrect to say that there is a good place to have a heart attack. BUT, our EMS is ready to provide the best kind of support when called upon. One reason our EMS is one of the best in the county is cross training - -

55 of our 59 firefighters are trained paramedics!



Jim Logsdon, Firefighter/Paramedic

Zoning Department Activity

Room to Grow?

There are three new residential developments ready to proceed in the township. The largest is the Miller Farm Subdivision (Garth Miller Farm) - 115 acres at the corner of Medina Line Road and State Route 18. Pulte is planning to build a total of 167 homes there in 3 phases - one phase each year.

The next largest residential development is the Arbor Chase Subdivision which will consist of 65 ranch-style homes. Pulte is the developer and the Subdivision will be located off Heritage Woods Drive (across from the Montrose Park development).

The final development is the completion of the Hillside Estates Phase 4 development. Ryan Homes is the builder and the final phase will consist of 37 new homes. The development is located off S. Hametown Road.

Upon completion of these developments, there will be minimal land suitable for residential development north of Copley Road. There are however large blocks of land zoned for residential use south of Copley Road. These areas are not served by centralized water and/or sewer. Therefore, it's likely that this land would remain rural residential.

However, it would not be wise to say never. If economic conditions were to improve and utilities were to be extended, Copley could experience another growth spurt.



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!

Bookmobile Comes To Copley

**Akron-Summit County Public Library's Bookmobile
stops on Thursdays at the following intersections
starting June 12 and ending August 14th:**

Scenic View Dr. and Janwood Dr. 9:50 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.
Treetop Dr. and Fernway Dr. 10:25 a.m. - 10:55 a.m.
Misty Lane and Ridge Crest Dr. 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Fawn Meadow / Scarlet Oak 2:10 p.m. - 2:40 p.m.
Wallwood Dr. and Grapervine Swing 3:05 p.m. - 3:35 p.m.
Belle Meade / Arrowhead 3:45 p.m. - 4:10 p.m.



Like Us On
facebook



Follow Us On
Twitter

*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

COPLEY ONLINE

WEBSITE: WWW.COPLEY.OH.US

EMAIL: TOWNSHIP@COPLEY.OH.US



COPLEY CONNECTION

MAY 2014

