

Copley Connection

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January 2026

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Save The Dates

Arbor Day Celebration
Copley Community Park
Saturday, April 25th

Bike Rodeo - Copley Police
4066 Medina Road (Home Depot)
Saturday, May 30th
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Ohio Severe
Weather Awareness Week
March 20th - 26th

**Sign Up for
Emergency Alerts
Here**



Board of Trustees - 2026 Meeting Schedule

During the regular meeting on December 22, 2025, the Copley Township Board of Trustees approved the meeting schedule for 2026. All meetings will take place at Copley Town Hall, located at 1540 S. Cleveland Massillon Road in the North Room. Meetings are open to the public and will be streamed live on the Township website at copley.oh.us.

While the meeting schedule is set for the year ahead, 2026 will bring several changes in Township leadership. Copley Township has experienced notable transitions leading into the new year, beginning with the retirement of Township Administrator Janice Marshall, effective February 1, 2026. Ms. Marshall served the Township for more than 20 years, first in the Fiscal Office and most recently as Township Administrator. Her commitment and years of service have made a lasting impact to the community and her contributions are greatly appreciated.

Following a search process, the Board of Trustees appointed Greg Tracy as the new Township Administrator. Mr. Tracy previously served as Service and Development Director, where he oversaw the Service Department as well as the Community and Economic Development Department.

Additionally, the Board of Trustees also approved new hires, including Kristen Light, Accounting Clerk; Megan Sutherland, Community Development Coordinator; and are in the process for an Administrative Assistant in the Service Department. The Board also announced promotions for various Township personnel, which are highlighted within each department section of this newsletter.

COPLEY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2026 MEETING SCHEDULE

January 12 - 1:00 PM
January 26 - 6:00 PM

July 13 - 1:00 PM
July 27 - 6:00 PM

February 9 - 1:00 PM
February 23 - 6:00 PM

August 10 - 1:00 PM
August 24 - 6:00 PM

March 9 - 1:00 PM
March 23 - 6:00 PM

September 14 - 1:00 PM
September 28 - 6:00 PM

April 13 - 1:00 PM
April 27 - 6:00 PM

October 13 - 1:00 PM
October 26 - 6:00 PM

May 11 - 1:00 PM
May 26 - 6:00 PM

November 9 - 1:00 PM
November 23 - 6:00 PM

June 8 - 1:00 PM
June 22 - 6:00 PM

December 14 - 1:00 PM
December 28 - 6:00 PM

Last December in Copley Township

Copley Circle Holiday Lighting

This past December, the Copley Fairlawn Kiwanis Club, along with the Copley Community Volunteers hosted the annual Holiday Lighting Ceremony at Copley Circle, welcoming residents for an evening of seasonal celebration and community spirit. Guests were greeted with light up wands and enjoyed hot chocolate and cookies as they gathered around the circle in anticipation of the lighting.

As families filled the area, Trustee Dressler led a countdown to the moment the decorations were illuminated, bringing the circle to life with holiday lights shining across the snowy ground. Following the lighting, the Copley Fire Department escorted Santa Claus to the gazebo, where he spent time meeting with children and collecting their wish lists!



In addition to Santa, the evening featured special appearances from the Grinch and several beloved characters from Frozen. After everyone had the opportunity to visit with Santa, the Disney characters performed their popular songs, inviting children and families to sing along and join in the fun.

Copley Township is incredibly grateful for the dedication and hard work of the community organizations and volunteers who contributed their time and efforts to host this annual event for our residents.



Copley-Fairlawn Share A Christmas

The Copley Fire & Rescue Association, Copley Township, the Copley Fairlawn Kiwanis Club, and the Copley Outreach Center work together each year to support families in need throughout the holiday season. Through the generosity of community donations, these organizations are able to provide gifts and food assistance to Copley and Fairlawn residents. This past year, the Share A Christmas program assisted more than 50 families residing within Copley Township including



residents that attend Copley-Fairlawn City Schools. Thanks to the many generous donors, as well as community members who supported the

Town Tavern fundraiser, more than 150 children were able to experience a festive holiday season. Families received gifts and food during Distribution Day, which was held at the Copley Township Safety Center.

Christmas with a Cop

Hosted by Fairlawn Police, in conjunction with Akron Children's Hospital, Bath, Cleveland Clinic, Ohio State Highway Patrol, Metro Transit Authority, Richfield Summit County Sheriff, and Summa police departments our officers were able to assist their assigned children from Copley-Fairlawn City Schools and their families. Over 20 kids participated and were able to have breakfast with Santa, ride with their assigned Police Officers with lights and sirens over to Walmart to shop and ended the day with lunch donated by Copley Chick-fil-A.

Thank you to our generous donors for helping make such an impact on these families during the Holiday Season. For every \$250 we raise, a child from the Copley-Fairlawn school system gets the opportunity to participate in the program and shop for Christmas while being accompanied by a uniformed officer.



Architectural Design Guidelines

The Copley Township Architectural Review Board is working to establish design guidelines for new commercial, mixed use, industrial and subdivision development in the Township. As a Township, Copley is not permitted to require architectural design or aesthetics above and beyond the Zoning Resolution in areas outside of a zoned historic district. The Guidelines will be compatible with zoning regulations and will assist the Township in communicating the goals and desires for the look and feel of development. In general, the Guidelines will work to promote high quality development in the areas of: Site Planning, Architecture, Landscape and Tree Preservation, Lighting and Signage. The Guidelines will be reviewed at monthly meetings of the Architectural Review Board (ARB). The ARB meets the first Monday of each month at 6:00 pm. For more information, please visit <https://www.copley.oh.us/170/Architectural-Review-Board>

Zoning Resolution Audit

The Copley Township Zoning Commission is in the process of conducting a Zoning Resolution Audit. The current Zoning Resolution was adopted in 2012. Since this time, incremental updates have been completed to reflect desires of the Township and updates to the Ohio Revised Code. It is suggested that a Zoning Resolution undergo an audit/update every 5-10 years in conjunction with a Comprehensive Land Use Plan review and update. The Audit will assist the Township in ensuring:

- Alignment with the adopted Copley Township Comprehensive Land Use Plan
- Streamlined zoning procedures to facilitate high-quality development
- Modernized definitions and permitted uses
- Improved clarity and usability for the public, developers, and staff
- Compliance with Ohio Revised Code Section 519.

Changes recommended by the Audit will be presented during regular business meetings of the Zoning Commission. The Commission meets the first Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm. For more information, please visit <https://www.copley.oh.us/176/Zoning-Commission>

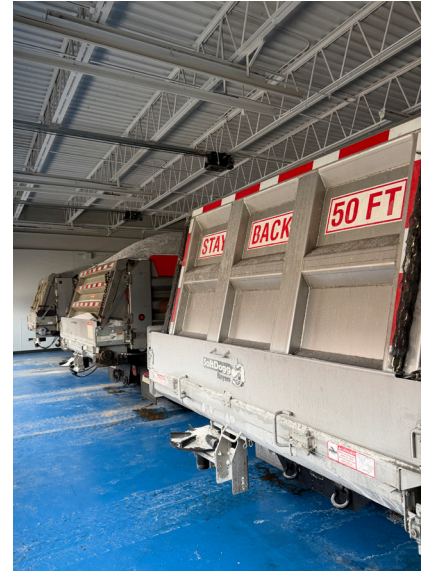
Personnel Changes

Shawna Gfroerer has been promoted to the role of Director of Planning and Zoning. Ms. Gfroerer will also continue to serve as the Zoning Inspector for Copley Township. Additionally, we are pleased to welcome Megan Sutherland. Ms. Sutherland has recently joined Copley Township as the Community Development Coordinator. She brings experience leading innovative community initiatives, including family programming at Summit County Public Health and neighborhood redevelopment with the Summit County Land Bank. Megan holds a master's degree in public administration and is passionate about creating programs that bring people together and strengthen communities. She is excited to support new projects that benefit the Copley community. Ms. Sutherland will serve as the Executive Director for the Community Improvement Corporation. The Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) is designed to advance, encourage, and promote the industrial, economic, commercial, and civic development of Copley Township.

Don't Crowd the Plow

As winter weather continues, residents are reminded to give snow plow trucks plenty of space while traveling the roadways. These five-ton vehicles are responsible for maintaining more than 64 miles of roads, working to ensure safe travel for Copley residents, employees, and students.

For everyone's safety, please avoid following plow trucks too closely and use extra caution when approaching or passing them. Allowing plow operators the room they need helps keep roads clear and protects both drivers and Township employees during winter weather events.



Check your Mail... Box

Speaking of winter weather, now is the perfect time to make sure your mailbox is in good condition and able to withstand snow removal operations! Mailboxes should be securely installed and free of deterioration, such as rotted wood or corroded fasteners. If the structural integrity of a mailbox is compromised, it may be damaged by the weight of snow being pushed from the roadway during plowing.

If a mailbox is directly struck by a township snowplow, the Township will coordinate its repair. However, damage caused by snow being thrown from the plow is the responsibility of the property owner. If you believe your mailbox was directly hit by a snowplow, please contact the Service Department by calling (330) 666-0365.

Personnel Changes

The Copley Township Service Department promoted two employees, Brad Lott and Michael Stillman, to the new position of Crew Leader. We are excited for these men to assume their new leadership responsibilities while still serving as working members in our service department. These promotions come as the Service Department leadership and administrative staff sees change. As of publishing this edition of the Copley Connection, there is still an opening for Service Director/Highway Superintendent the department is in the process of bringing in an Administrative ssistant.



Fire Department

Preparing for a Safe Spring

With spring, around the corner it's not too early to think about the next season approaching and related fire safety priorities. As you begin your spring cleaning and prepare your yards for the warmer months, I ask you to keep these vital safety tips in mind to protect your family and our community.

1. The "Spring Forward" Life-Saver

While we have moved away from the need to change clocks manually on every device, the tradition of checking your smoke alarms remains critical.

- Test every alarm: Ensure there is a working smoke detector on every level of your home and near all sleeping areas.
- Replace batteries: If your alarms are not the 10-year sealed battery type, now is the time to put in fresh ones.
- Check the date: Smoke alarms expire every 10 years. If yours are older, it's time for a replacement.

2. Spring Cleaning Beyond the Dust

Spring cleaning is the perfect opportunity to eliminate hidden fire hazards inside your home: • Dryer Vents: Lint buildup is a leading cause of home fires. Beyond cleaning the lint trap after every load, take the time this spring to inspect and clean the entire exhaust duct.

- Clutter Clearance: Clear out stacks of old newspapers, rags, or flammable liquids stored near furnaces or water heaters.

3. Safe Outdoor Living

As we move our cooking and cleanup outdoors, please be mindful of Ohio's seasonal regulations:

- Grill Readiness: Before your first cookout, inspect your grill for leaks or cracks in the hoses. Keep grills at least 10 feet away from your siding and eaves.
- Open Burning Ban: Remember that Ohio State law prohibits most outdoor burning in unincorporated areas from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM during March, April, and May. This is due to the high risk of wildfires caused by dry vegetation and spring winds.

4. Help Us Find You

In an emergency, every second counts. Please ensure your house number is clearly visible from the street. If your numbers are faded or hidden by new spring growth, please take a moment to trim the brush or refresh the paint. Our team at the Copley Fire Department is honored to serve this township. Whether we are operating out of our New Safety Center or responding to a call on your street, our goal is your safety. Let's work together to make this a safe and vibrant spring season.

Chris Bower,
Copley Fire Chief

Police Department

Dare Program

The Copley Police Department has specially trained officers who work with our children in the classroom. The D.A.R.E. Program (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) is taught in the Copley-Fairlawn Schools. The subject matter includes lessons on

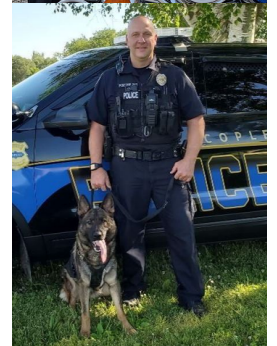
drug use and misuse, personal safety, resistance techniques, decision-making, and risk-taking. The 8th grade class of 2025 had their D.A.R.E. Graduation December 18, 2025. Pictured here are the students who were chosen for the best essay's written, along with Officer Diesch CFMS D.A.R.E. Officer and SRO.



Copley Police Department

We Are Hiring!

Applications are
available online or
at the Copley
Police Department
1260 Sunset Drive
Copley, OH 44321



Community News

Copley and Revere PBIS

Copley-Fairlawn City Schools and Revere Local Schools continue to support students through the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) framework. PBIS is a school wide approach that focuses on promoting positive behavior, helping students succeed both academically and socially. Both school districts implement PBIS in age-appropriate ways, using incentives, recognition programs, and consistent expectations to reinforce positive choices. By focusing on prevention and early support, PBIS helps students build essential life skills that contribute to a safe, welcoming school environment. While both districts are pioneering this proactive system for education, their methods differ slightly.



Revere High School Students enjoying a pancake breakfast as part of their Momentum Meal.

Revere High School has recently been awarded a Bronze level distinction for its PBIS program and is actively working toward district wide recognition for its efforts. Revere High School and Revere Middle School utilize an additional PBIS guide uniquely known as the "Vision of a Minuteman." Each month, educators submit nominations for students to attend "Momentum Meals." During these celebrations, students can collect merchandise from the "Swaggin Wagon," play for prizes using a claw machine, and redeem rewards for snacks, swag and more!

Copley Fairlawn City Schools continue to demonstrate a strong commitment to PBIS implementation and student support across the district. Herberich Primary School has earned a Silver Distinction, and Copley Fairlawn Middle School has received a Bronze Distinction in recognition of their efforts. These distinctions highlight the daily work of educators and staff who implement this framework. Earlier this January, Copley-Fairlawn Middle School celebrated their students' success with their quarterly PBIS incentive. Lisa McFedries, Dean of Students, told us that "Approximately 92% of students received an invite, meaning they received zero consequences across all school settings for the previous quarter; it was a huge success!" Copley Township is proud to support initiatives that strengthen our schools and provide a positive educational experience for families throughout our community.

Soup Sale for Veterans

The Copley American Legion Auxiliary Unit 473 will have a soup sale on Saturday, February 7 from Noon to 4:00 p.m. at the Copley American Legion Frank Bender Post 473, 3255 Copley Road. A variety of homemade soups will be offered: \$10 for a quart to go, and only \$5 to enjoy a bowl at the post. Stock up for the big game!

Copley Outreach Center

Copley Outreach would like to thank all of our community members, churches, and businesses who have continued to support our mission to end hunger in our schools



and community. This year has been challenging, but with community support, we have been able to feed more families and their children than ever before! This year, we have distributed 1444 bags of groceries to 450 households, 4320 weekend bags to 120 students during the school year, and 85 weekly boxes to 40 students throughout the summer. To continue providing food assistance to community members in need, we rely on your generosity through donations. This year, we have spent over \$18,000 on food from Aldi's, Sam's Club, and the Akron-Canton Food Bank. Your support, whether through food donations or monetary contributions, is highly valued as we work to address food



insecurity. Copley Township has 3,613 households, and Fairlawn has 3,577, for a total of 7,190 households in our service area. If 200 of these

households committed to donating \$15.00 per month to Copley Outreach, we would receive \$3,000 per month, or \$36,000 per year! This would cover the cost of all our food and the supplies needed to provide for these families for an entire year.

Please consider sending a monthly check or visit our website to set up a monthly donation of \$10.00 or more at <https://copleyoutreach.org/donations-2> If you donate through our website, no fees are deducted from your contribution. All funds go directly to support those in our community who are in need. Also, keep an eye on our Facebook page for food items that we need.

Grateful doesn't begin to express our gratitude for your support! Thank you!

Maryann Henry, Director
Copley Outreach Center
1502 S. Cleveland Massillon Rd.
Copley, OH. 44321
330-665-3335



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

Prsrt std
U.S. Postage
PAID
Cuyahoga Fls, OH
Permit No. 136



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 - 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 2nd and 4th Monday of each month. The first meeting of the month will be held at 1:00 p.m. The second meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m.

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

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

All Meetings Are Open To The Public and Live Streamed for your convenience at Copley.oh.us

*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 & Fire9-1-1

Administrative Offices

Fire330-666-6464

Police330-666-4218

Service330-666-0365

Community/Economic Dev.....330-666-0108

Trustees

Jim Schulte

Scott Dressler330-666-1853

Bruce Koellner

Administrator

Janice Marshall330-666-1853

Fiscal Officer

Roy Speer.....330-666-1853

COPLEY ONLINE

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