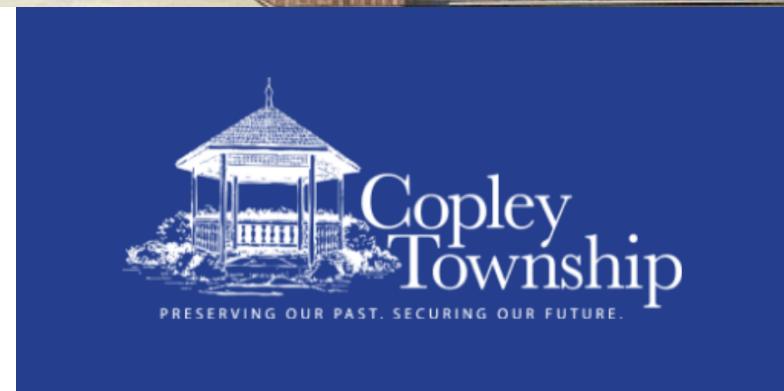


# COPLEY TOWNSHIP

## OHIO

ISSUE 4 2025





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# ■ WELCOME!



***Our roots go back to our brave founders who were not adverse to expressing an opinion or getting involved. It is that rich heritage that created Copley Township and it is this generation that will ensure continued prosperity. With this fourth edition of "Copley Township, Ohio" magazine, we hope to showcase the many examples that highlight our community and the commitment of our residents and business owners. Enjoy!***

Janice L. Marshall  
Township Administrator

Ms. Marshall was first appointed in 2004 as Fiscal Officer serving until 2016 when she was appointed Township Administrator. She attended Copley-Fairlawn City Schools and graduated from the University of Akron with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting. Ms. Marshall lives in the Township where she and her husband raised three daughters.

**G**reetings! Spring has sprung and summer is right around the corner! We hope you enjoyed our first real winter in a while – maybe outdoors sledding and skiing or indoors by a cozy fire with a good book! Either way, we hope you are rejuvenated and are ready to enjoy some great community events and explore the Township and all it has to offer. We've changed our timeline for the magazine from January/February to April/May so we can capture the "happenings about town" and provide more details about how you can get involved!

First and foremost, we want to take you inside our new Police and Fire Safety Facility – newly completed and ready for inspection! Mark your calendars for June 22 from 2-4PM when you can visit the site and see, first-hand, the state-of-the-art facility built and supported with taxpayers' dollars. As part of that project, the new Copley Community Hall is under construction with hopes of an official ribbon cutting as part of the Heritage Day festivities. In addition, multiple infrastructure projects are underway extending sewer services along our main commercial thoroughfare and creating multi-modal transportation options when exploring our community.

***And that is our focus – our community – in every discussion, planning session and ultimate decision. Your input is crucial in setting priorities and your feedback is valued when assessing programs and procedures.***



# ELECTED OFFICIALS



**SCOTT DRESSLER**

Trustee Dressler grew up in Copley Township attending Coley-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 logistical 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 9 years on the Copley-Fairlawn City School Board and 26 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.

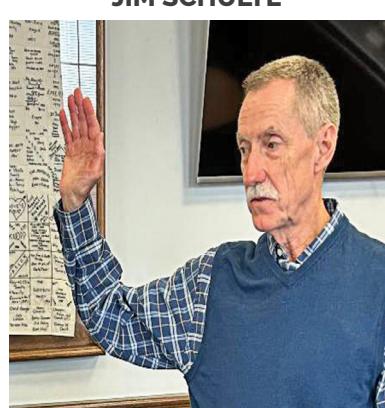
In addition to his career in the fire service, he has been a Registered Investment Advisor and Copley business owner for over 30 years. Bruce and his wife, Janel, have been married 34+ years and are the parents of three grown children, and cherish their role as grandparents.



**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.



**ROY SPEER**

Roy Speer was appointed Fiscal Officer last Winter after the passing of our then Fiscal Officer, Linda Peiffer. Roy is currently a Copley resident, and has been for the past three decades. Because Roy was appointed last Winter by the Board of Trustees, he will be up for election this upcoming Fall.



# COPLEY T SAFETY



# OWNERSHIP CENTER

# COPLEY SAFETY CENTER & COMMUNITY HALL

## JOINT POLICE AND FIRE SAFETY CENTER

In November 2022, the residents of Copley Township voted to fund one of the most meaningful investments of our generation – a new joint Police and Fire Safety Facility. Finally, after years of planning, designing, creating and promoting, a new state-of-the-art facility provides a safer, more efficient environment in which our firefighters, EMS and police personnel can work to protect our community.

The Police Department occupies the north end of the facility moving from a small manufacturing facility converted to a Police Station in the 90's into a building designed with safety in mind and able to accommodate the 27 full-time and 6 part-time officers currently in place. Accommodations for safe, on-site storage of records, evidence and weapons have been included as well.

The Fire Department occupies the southern portion of the building providing 12 vehicle bays, adequate training space, on-site storage of supplies and equipment and a safe decontamination area.

The middle section of the building is a common area for both departments to hold multi-jurisdictional training seminars. In addition, a "Safe Room" will be available to the community 24/7 and a "Baby Box" has been installed meeting the community's safety needs in very particular ways.

Ground was broken on September 23, 2023 and our Safety Forces have been operating from the new facility since April 2025.

In addition, the project has included an access road connecting Cleveland Massillon Road and Copley Road that will rejuvenate Copley Circle, reduce traffic issues and expand our pedestrian network. The extended infrastructure includes landscaping and a sidewalk that will eventually connect with a new sidewalk on Cleveland Massillon from the new intersection at Sunset Drive south to Copley Circle.

## COMMUNITY HALL

The final phase of the entire project includes the renovation of the existing fire bays into a Township Community Room. Work has already begun to ensure that our residents have a place to gather that reflects the support from the community at large and provides a comfortable, innovative environment for community groups and individual residents alike. The room will hold about 200 with chairs only or about 75 with tables and chairs and will include AV Equipment and a small kitchen/serving area.

The Service Department will continue to use a portion of the bays for storage of their vehicles – vehicles which are currently stored outside. The entrance to the Community Room on the south side of the building will open out to a patio extending the space to accommodate the outside on those beautiful Ohio summer and fall days! Completion date is anticipated to be this fall, 2025.

To date, all costs of construction – including change orders and use of contingency dollars - have been within budget. At the time the bonds were sold to finance the project, a premium was recognized; combining the premium with interest earned on the bond proceeds throughout the construction period, the project has remained within budget and the Trustees anticipate that some of those funds may be returned reducing the overall debt of the project. Plans are underway for a Community Open House for the Safety Center scheduled for June 22, 2-4 PM.



Interior rendering of Copley Community Hall, previously the Fire Department Apparatus Bay.

# Your neighborhood *garden center*



Rooted in Copley for over 44 years, we're not just a garden shop – we're your neighbors and fellow plant lovers! Come visit and enjoy a quiet stroll through our fresh plants and flowers.

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# FIRE

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

## A NEED FOR A NEW HOME

For decades, the Copley Fire Department operated out of a space that was never intended to serve a modern fire service. Housed in the repurposed basement of a former schoolhouse attached to Town Hall, the department made the most of its limited space. Over the years, as the number of personnel and emergency apparatus increased, the facility was remodeled and expanded to the extent the building would allow. Despite the dedication and creativity of the department's leadership, the building simply could not keep up with the evolving needs of a professional fire service.

Challenges mounted as the facility aged: moisture and inadequate ventilation led to persistent mold problems, and the structure could not accommodate the hot, warm, and cold zone separations that are critical to reducing firefighters' exposure to carcinogens. Most significantly, there was no remaining space to support the department's continued growth—growth that is essential to meet the rising demand for emergency services in Copley Township. It became clear that a new, purpose-built facility was not just a wish, but a necessity for the safety, health, and effectiveness of our first responders.

Recognizing the urgent need for both the police and fire departments to operate from facilities designed specifically for their missions, the Copley community came together in support of a long-term solution. In November 2022, residents approved a bond levy to fund the construction of a new, purpose-built safety facility. The project was a major undertaking—years in the making. In a recent conversation with our Fire Chief, Chris Bower, regarding the new safety center he stated ""Our goal was to provide the best facility we could within budget. I think we hit the mark. Our new facility provides state-of-the-art design and equipment that will serve the community far into the future."

The new safety center features advanced equipment and design elements that not only meet today's operational needs, but will also support the department's growth for decades to come. It includes dedicated training spaces, individual dorm rooms to ensure firefighters get the rest they need during long shifts, and clearly defined decontamination zones to help reduce exposure to hazardous

**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 MISSION STATEMENT

substances, including carcinogens. Most importantly, it gives our personnel the necessary room to grow.

Our team is excited and deeply appreciative to work in a space that was thoughtfully designed with their health, safety, and effectiveness in mind. This facility stands as a testament to the community's commitment to public safety and the future of Copley Township.

## CABINET FINDS IT'S WAY BACK

Just before moving into the new fire station, the department received a special addition: a vintage secretary cabinet discovered by former Copley firefighter Brian Abbott. He spotted the piece listed for donation on Facebook Marketplace and quickly shared it with the team. The cabinet was located in a storage unit in North Akron, and while its history remains a mystery, it was carefully repaired and restored. We feel incredibly fortunate to have found this unique piece just in time—it adds a touch of character and tradition to our new home.



# POLICE

Copley Township covers about 20 square miles and has over 18,000 residents living in about 7,000 housing units. Copley Township is the tenth largest community in Summit County, the largest township, and is larger than all of the villages.

The Copley Police Department operated out of a small building at 1280 Sunset Drive for about 30 years. This building, which had formerly been a small brush manufacturing facility, was remodeled to serve as the Police Department offices. At that time, there were probably about 15 full-time police officers on the Copley staff. The building served the department well, but due to growth in the department, it became necessary to increase the size of our facility.

Under the direction of Chief Michael Mier, the Copley Police Department has grown to 26 full-time and six part-time officers. Most of the officers are assigned to street patrol duties. There are four detectives and three School Resource Officers. Copley Police officers patrol the community in marked police cruisers, unmarked vehicles, bicycles, a motorcycle, and on foot in many areas. The department has one Police Dog, "Chip", who works with his partner daily. Chip is cross-trained to search for suspects, search for property, trained in narcotics detection, and to protect his partner.



The Copley Police Department participates in several multi-jurisdictional task forces to better serve the community and save money. We have detectives assigned to the Summit County Drug Unit and the Ohio Organized Crime Commission

SNIT Narcotics Unit. We also participate in the Metro SWAT Team, the Metro Crash Team, and the United States Marshal's Violent Fugitive Task Force.

## Enhancing Community Safety and Service

The Copley Township Police Department has officially moved into its new home within the recently completed Safety Center.

One of the standout features of the new lobby is the addition of a secure "safe room." This room is available for anyone who feels they are in immediate danger or is being followed. Upon entering the lobby, individuals can access this secure space, where they remain protected until an

officer arrives to assist them.

Beyond the lobby, the building includes a large multipurpose meeting room used for officer training, and meetings—strengthening the department's capacity for professional development.

The new facility also resolves long-standing space limitations. Officers now have adequate and secure areas for storing evidence, conducting inventories, and performing preliminary tests on suspected drugs. This expansion ensures proper handling and chain of custody procedures are upheld to meet legal standards.

In addition, the department can now safely store a wide range of recovered property—ranging from personal items to vehicles—until rightful owners are identified. This secure storage capability is essential, especially when property must be held for extended periods.

In compliance with updated state laws, the building includes modern interview rooms equipped with audio and visual recording systems. Detectives and juvenile officers also benefit from increased office space, allowing them to conduct investigations, interviews, and youth diversion hearings in a professional and private setting.

Thanks to the community's unwavering support, Copley Township has established a police facility that meets modern standards and supports best practices

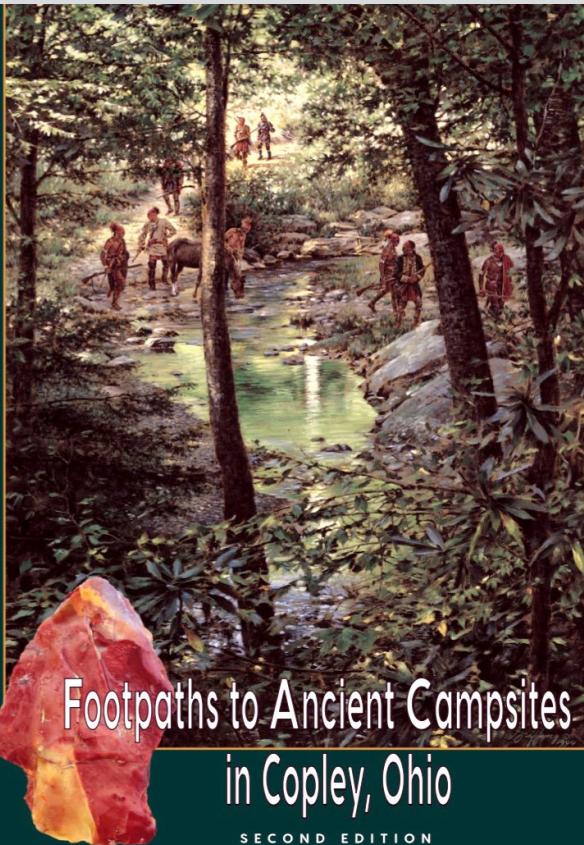
in public safety. This investment not only enhances the capabilities of our police department but also reinforces our shared commitment to making Copley a safer and stronger place to call home.

**"Some police departments have no DRE officers on staff. The Copley Police Department is fortunate to have three such officers at this time. Officers William Diesch, Michael Greissing, and Sgt. Joel Marmet"**

**CHIEF MICHAEL MIER**

**Learn about two Copley Police Officers receiving a special designation on page 18.**





Bob Haag found his first arrowhead over 65 years ago at his childhood home in Copley, Ohio. In 2006 he released *Footpaths to Ancient Campsites* in Copley Township, Ohio, documenting the many trails and camp sites in and around Copley, and picturing many local collections of prehistoric Indian artistry.

During 2009-11 Bob released his 3 volume compilation of prehistoric Indian relic auction catalogs held in Ohio.

A member of the Archaeological Society of Ohio for over 50 years, and numerous other archaeological and historical societies, he has had numerous articles published in *Ohio Archaeologist*, and served as a Trustee for the Archaeological Society of Ohio. In March of 2025 he released his second edition of *Footpaths to Ancient Campsites* in Copley Township including more information and replacing the original black and white photos with color photos.

To get your copy, please reach out to the author at [rhaag@neo.rr.com](mailto:rhaag@neo.rr.com) or by phone at (330) 658-2821.

SPONSORED BY: Bob Haag



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# CED STAFF



*"We take great pride in what we do here in the Department of Community and Economic Development - we have the opportunity to work in a great community that supports mindful growth, but also ensures protection of its natural areas, and with that, creates a sustainable place to raise a family or start a business!"*

**Greg Tracy**, Service and Development Director. Mr. Greg Tracy has earned a new title at Copley Township as the new Service and Development Director. Since joining us in 2021, he has been instrumental in enhancing the infrastructure of our Township. Mr. Tracy has 10+ years of experience in public service and earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from The Ohio State University.

**Shawna Gfroerer**, MPA , Zoning Inspector. Ms. Gfroerer serves as the Zoning Inspector supporting the overall operations of the zoning & permitting process for the Township. As part of her responsibilities, Ms. Gfroerer is the Department liaison for the Architectural Review Board, Board of Zoning Appeals and the Zoning Commission.



**Jeff Newman**, Code Enforcement Officer. Mr. Jeff Newman serves as the Township's Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) and is responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the Property Maintenance Code. Mr. Newman reviews concerns and complaints by performing on-site investigations. Mr. Newman is tasked with ensuring structures are structurally safe and properties are free from nuisance and blight affects.

**Clarissa Hunt**, Administrative Assistant. As the Administrative Assistant for the Department of Community & Economic Development, Ms. Hunt assists the Director, the Zoning Inspector and the Code Enforcement Officer as well as serves as a liaison for the various events, activities, programs and business celebrations.

## COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION (CIC)

The Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) is designed to advance, encourage, and promote the industrial, economic, commercial, and civic development of Copley Township. The CIC functions as a not-for-profit and has all the powers granted a corporation not-for-profit under Chapter 1702 and 1724 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Copley Township Board of Trustees have officially designated the CIC as the Township's agency for economic development per Chapter 1724 of the Ohio Revised Code. Guided by a 10-person Board of Directors, the CIC is focused on revitalizing undeveloped or underutilized land throughout the community and supporting local businesses through its Annual Matching Grant Program. To learn more about the CIC, please contact the CIC President, Jessica Vargo, CPA.

# COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The department's focus lies within several core objectives which include economic development, community engagement, neighborhood revitalization, and strategic land planning. Copley strives to foster sound economic development objectives which facilitate investment, through the Community Improvement Corporation, a strategic Business Expansion Retention Plan, and well-placed Infrastructure. We emphatically believe engaging with our residents will foster greater community pride and collective unity. Part of that engagement includes engaging with homeowners to improve and enhance the housing stock and thereby help foster strong and prosperous neighborhoods. Residents are encouraged to utilize the Property Maintenance Code and Keep Copley Beautiful initiatives to help protect and restore our neighborhoods. We must also do our part to plan for future generations. A great deal of attention has been given to strategic planning initiatives as this becomes the foundation for an equitable community. Zoning Permits and Resolutions are instrumental in sound land planning. Additionally, Copley supports a Comprehensive Land Use Plan which guides the Township on strategic land-use decisions.

## JEDD SEWER EXTENSION

In an effort to ensure that parcels along Copley's main thoroughfare (SR162) are adequately serviced with the necessary public utilities to drive economic development in the township, the township has planned and started a \$7M sewer improvement project. The township has partnered with the Summit County Department of Sanitary Sewer Services to manage the installation of sanitary sewer on Copley Rd from SR21 east to the

intersection with Jacoby Rd. Phase 1 of the installation, which serves the new Safety Center on Sunset Dr, runs from Sunset Dr to Centerview Circle has been completed. Phase II is currently under design and scheduled to start construction in the summer or fall of 2026.

## RIDGEWOOD ROAD TRAIL

The Ridgewood Rd Trail is a new multi-modal trail that will link residents to schools and amenities in the township. This fall, residents living in the northwest quadrant of the Township will have a new way to get to the High School using the new eight-foot wide, one-mile long trail on Ridgewood Road.

The trail begins at S. Hametown Rd and extends the entire length of Ridgewood Rd to Cleveland Massillon Road. The trail is being funded almost entirely with grants funds received from the American Rescue Plan Act and State Capital Improvement Program. The construction of this trail is the start of integrating a pedestrian network within the township as part of the Township's multi modal connectivity plan.



## MONTROSE MINI PLAN GATHERING

On September 24, 2024, approximately 60 residents and stakeholders gathered with the Copley Township Zoning Commission, staff and consultant, Kimley-Horn to discuss the future of the Montrose Neighborhood. The Kimley-Horn team presented information gathered about the neighborhood including land use, zoning, circulation, parking, mobility features and visual analysis of the existing buildings and landscape. Residents participated in three exercises including: Assets & Issues Identification, Placemaking, and Circulation, Parking, Mobility & Zoning. In general participants expressed a desire to make the area pedestrian friendly with more opportunities to gather and walk in the Montrose shopping areas



## ADAPTIVE REUSES BRING NEW LIFE TO MONTROSE

The Department of Community & Economic Development has been busy working with property owners and land developers to bring new life to existing buildings in Montrose. Beginning in 2022, Butterfli Holdings approached Copley with the vision of retrofitting a former single tenant building, known formerly as Ethan Allen, into a multi-tenant building. The vision brought a new approach to the area and up to four new businesses to the area. To date, Panera, X Golf and most recently, Honeygrow, are now occupying this refreshed space.

In 2024, Akron Children's Hospital reached out with a goal of moving pediatric services to Copley. The result was a complete update to the former Golf Galaxy space creating the new Akron Children's Urgent Care.

## MONTROSE LIGHTING IMPROVEMENTS

Copley Township believes that property maintenance and upkeep is a priority. The department has been actively working with property owners in the Montrose Areas to update the Market Square in Montrose plaza lighting as well as street lighting along Flight Memorial Drive. Lighting is essential to a safe, welcoming environment and brings customers and new tenants alike. Below, we are excited to show the positive difference that this project, that is still in process, is making.



Before re-energizing



After re-energizing



**TREE CITY USA®**

## GET INVOLVED! ARBOR DAY 2026!

**Copley Township has been recognized as a Tree City USA for six consecutive years and to support that designation we take great pride in celebrating Arbor Day! Celebrated annually on the last Friday of April, Copley will support activities and events which usually involve tree giveaways, 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.**



# ■ SERVICE

The Service Department is tasked with maintaining all Township owned buildings and their properties along with all dedicated Township road right-of-ways. With a crew of nine full-time professionals possessing a variety of skills, the Service Department cares for our 80-acre Community Park, Copley Circle and three cemeteries while maintaining all Township buildings - Copley Town Hall, Copley Community Hall, Old Fire Station #2, Service Department garages, the Safety Center, the Community Park maintenance building, equipment storage facilities, the salt storage building, the Historical Depot, and ACY Caboose. In addition, the Township preserves 61.715 miles of Township roads ensuring safe and secure passage in any and all types of weather conditions.

## Frost Solutions

After a successful pilot program during the winter of 2023-24 the township added two additional mini weather stations to monitor weather and road conditions for the 2024-25 winter season. The three mini weather stations have proved effective allowing management and staff to monitor road conditions remotely and assist in predicting the need for a snow and ice response. The addition of the monitors has allowed the Service Department to be proactive in responding to weather events. In many cases the Service Department is able to react and plan in advance of weather events reducing the need for safety forces to contact dispatch when road conditions have already deteriorated.



Snow and Ice Dashboard for last year's snow season.

## Safety Grants

The Township installed tarps on two separate dump trucks utilizing the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation Safety Intervention Grant. The total cost of the tarps was \$5,970.00 with the township being responsible for 25% of that cost which equates to \$1492.50. The tarps



Mini Weather Station located in Copley Township, at the corner of Heritage Woods and SR-18.

ensure safe transportation of loads decreasing the risk for motorists near the dump truck while hauling materials. They also provide for reduced risks for staff who would previously need to scale the truck to apply bungee cords and tarp material.



Township plow truck equipped with brand new tarp.

## Equipment

As part of Copley Township's ongoing Capital Equipment Replacement Plan, the Service Department recently welcomed two major equipment upgrades aimed at improving operational efficiency and reducing downtime.

A brand-new 2024 Freightliner dump truck, equipped with a snow and ice control package, has been added to the fleet. This modern vehicle replaces a 2002 International model, which was sold at auction to help offset the cost of the new equipment. In addition, the department acquired a 2024 CAT 420 backhoe to replace a 1992 Ford 655C model.

These strategic replacements reflect Copley Township's commitment to maintaining a well-equipped, high-performing service department. One that continues to meet the needs of our growing community with dependable, up-to-date resources.

# THE WILLIAMS FAMILY

Recently, resident Wendy Williams visited the township offices to request assistance with a unique challenge. Wendy and her husband David, who live on Heritage Woods Drive, regularly walk through their neighborhood picking up litter left by others. During one of their routine cleanups, they came across a significant amount of illegal dumping—specifically, 22 discarded tires.

While the couple is accustomed to collecting and disposing of several bags of trash each week, the tires posed a more complicated problem. Wendy initially wasn't sure where to turn. She first stopped at the Copley Police Department, where she was quickly connected with township staff for further help.

Inspired by the couple's civic-minded spirit, the township determined it would support their efforts directly. Staff arranged to meet them at their home to help transport the tires.



By the time township staff arrived at the Williams' residence later that day, the couple had already pulled 20 of the 22 tires from the overgrown, muddy embankment and stacked them neatly near the curb.

Wendy and her husband expressed heartfelt appreciation for the township's assistance, and Copley Township, in turn, extends sincere thanks to the Williams family for their dedication to keeping the community clean and beautiful. Their efforts are a powerful reminder of the pride our residents take in their community and a shining example of what it means to care for the place you call home.

## Fiber Optic Internet Service

### OMNI-FIBER

Lit Fiber has recently merged with Omni Fiber. They have concluded their build in the Township and are coordinating their restoration efforts. If you have complaints regarding restoration from work conducted by Lit/Omni Fiber you can reach out directly by calling (855) 382-0129 or by submitting a construction feedback request on their website at [omnifiber.com/construction](http://omnifiber.com/construction).



### FRONTIER

Frontier will continue their fiber build in the township this year. Construction will begin in late spring and last throughout the year. Areas that were constructed last fall and into the winter that require restoration will be restored by Frontier. If you have an area in need of restoration as a result of Frontier's installation process you can contact Frontier by calling (855) 266-5649 or by emailing [FTRQACentral@ftr.com](mailto:FTRQACentral@ftr.com).



FRONTIER

# ADMINISTRATION

In every thriving organization, there are people whose names might not be in the headlines—but whose fingerprints are on everything. In Copley Township, they anticipate needs before they're spoken, keep departments running without a hitch, and make sure nothing—and no one—falls through the cracks. We call them our Administrative Assistants, but really, they're the ones who keep the heartbeat steady at Town Hall. And if you've ever had something go right in Copley, chances are they had a hand in it. Every organization needs "that person"... Copley Township has a team of the best!

## Community and Economic Development, Administrative Assistant - Clarissa Hunt

Clarissa started with the Township in January 2019 in the Community and Economic Development Department. A fairly new concept in the Township, the department was, and is, growing. Clarissa has been instrumental in helping to develop the mission and focus of the department by coordinating and participating in community events such as the Arbor Day celebration, creating the department's web page on the Township's website and providing support for the Zoning Inspector, Development Director and Property Maintenance Code Enforcement Officer. She brings a wonderful sense of humor and conscientious expertise to her position making for a truly pleasant experience for all.

## Finance, Assistant to the Fiscal Officer - Megan Rutherford

Megan started with the Township in April 2023 and from day one has had a positive impact filling a full-time position as Assistant to the Fiscal Officer. She is a quick learner with an uncanny ability to remain "cool" under pressure and has assumed more tasks in the Fiscal Office. Megan undertook a project overhauling the Township's timesheet process, streamlining it for both employees reporting hours and our fiscal team working on payroll. We look forward to a long tenure for Megan as she exhibits all of the characteristics the Township could ever want for an employee.

## Fire Department, Administrative Assistant - Keely Meissner

Keely started with the Copley Fire Department in September 2001. Coming from the City of Fairlawn, where she worked in the Service Department, Keely brought valuable knowledge about working in the public sector. She quickly became a valuable resource for the Fire Department and today, she provides that wisdom and historical knowledge that comes with being a loyal and dedicated employee. Around the office, Keely has infectious humor and the kindest of dispositions - always available to help and support the fire safety forces and residents alike.

## Human Resources, HR Manager - Selma Muller

In August 2007, Selma began her employment with the Township in the Fiscal Office. New to the public sector, Selma was exposed to a variety of administrative projects including payroll and record keeping. In January 2012, Selma became a full-time employee focusing on human resources and record retention. Today, as Human Resource Manager, Selma is also responsible for the Township's Wellness Programming, Document Management System and procurement of supplies. Equally important is Selma's role in supporting our employees with their health benefits providing information and connections to the proper resources. She has garnered the trust and respect from all and is able to provide that necessary peace of mind for each and every employee.

## Marketing, Media Content Manager - Xavier Kanis

Meet Xavier, the Township's newest employee! Xavier Kanis, joins the Administrative Team as Media Content Manager replacing Sue Mack who retired at the end of 2024. Sue was instrumental in establishing the website and social media platforms for the Township at a time when we really did not have any social media presence. Xavier, a lifelong Akron native, comes to us with a background ranging from directing and hosting multiple radio shows on 98.5 WNUW, to interning with the Akron RubberDucks, generating new business revenue for the Cleveland Browns and executing marketing campaigns at iHeartMedia. As a graduate of Neumann University in Aston, Pennsylvania, Xavier plans to build on the foundation started by Sue to include informational campaigns aimed at keeping the residents and business owners updated with the most current information. You can meet Xavier by stopping in or calling the Town Hall – he is up front and center at the Receptionist area - ready to learn about you and the Township!

## Police Department, Administrative Assistant - Sheryl Deppisch

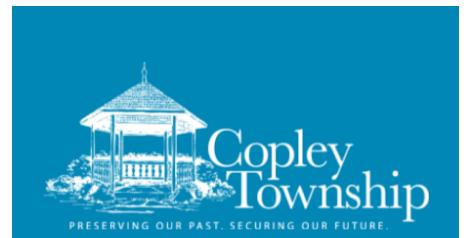
In April 2016, Sheryl joined the Township as a part-time Administrative Assistant in the Police Department. Working with Sandy Bittner, Sheryl learned the intricacies of the department and was able to assume her roll full-time following Sandy's retirement in September 2021. Clearly, the job requires the ability to multi-task, to maintain confidentiality, and to think on your feet. Sheryl can do all of that and keep over 25 Police officers organized and on-track. In addition, Sheryl coordinates community activities such as - Bike Rodeo, Safety Town, Halloween in the Park - contributing to the positive relationship cultivated between the Police Department and our residents. Sheryl is an integral part of the department providing an administrative foundation for the officers.

## Service, Administrative Assistant - Kristen Light

Kristen joined our Service Department in May 2021 and we are so grateful for the professionalism and expertise she brings to the department. Kristen was quick to recognize the need for compassion and common sense while fielding issues and concerns from our residents and has carried on the tradition of "service" to our residents. While overseeing the annual brush collection, shredding day and Township recycle day, along with applying for recycling grants. Her patience is limitless and her commitment to the tasks at hand unwavering. Kristen keeps ten employees prepared and ready to tackle the myriad of jobs the department encounters.

## General Information

For additional information on how you can sign up on our website, social media platforms and Regroup 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!



***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 Safety Center  
1260 Sunset Drive  
Copley, OH 44321  
330-666-4218

Regular Board of Trustees Meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Monday 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.

# POLICE continued

## NEWLY TRAINED DRUG RECONGNITION EXPERTS

The Ohio Drug Recognition Expert Program is a traffic safety program that focuses on the detection, apprehension, and adjudication of drug-impaired drivers. A Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) is a law enforcement officer who is highly trained to recognize impairment of drivers under the influence of drugs other than or in addition to alcohol.

All Copley Police Officers are trained in the detection of impaired drivers and follow strict guidelines to monitor and test persons suspected of operating vehicles while impaired. The DRE Program, however, provides DRE officers with significantly more skills to not only detect impairment but to identify the type of drug the subject might be under the influence of at the time of arrest.

The DRE training program is very involved and difficult. Officers participate in two weeks of classroom training.

During the third week of training, DRE candidates travel out of state to participate in live training with the hope of successfully completing the program and attaining the certification necessary for court room testimony.

Candidates for the program must complete several threshold steps prior to qualification for the training. Copley Police Officers William Diesch and Michael Greissing both recently participated in the training program. Both traveled to Florida, where they participated in the certification process. Both of these officers successfully completed the program and are now fully certified Drug Recognition Experts.

All of our DRE officers are available to other area department should they have a need for a Drug Recognition Expert. We commend our officers for expressing interest in the DRE Program and taking the time to participate in the difficult training to successfully become a certified Drug Recognition Expert.



*Give your child the care they need, the learning they want, and excitement they will look forward to with Kids Academy of Copley*



### Program Offered:

- Step-up to quality
- Infant, preschool, and school age
- Creative curriculum
- School-age summer camp

### MORE INFORMATION

 [Kidsacademyofcopley.com](http://Kidsacademyofcopley.com)

Call today (330)666-8293

Enroll Now!



# EVENT CALENDAR 2025

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

At the Town Hall, we have to plan ahead to make sure we are prepared to host a variety of activities throughout the year. So...here are some dates for you that you can put on your brand new calendar.

Plenty of details will follow but these are some sure bets you can put on your calendar with no fear of needing to cross them out! Remember to check out our website at [www.copley.oh.us](http://www.copley.oh.us) for more events and to register to receive notices of Township meetings, news and current happenings! If you haven't yet, sign up for our emergency alerts. There is a qr code at the very beginning of the magazine that will direct you to our page.

### **MAY**

**31** Copley Police Bike Rodeo

### **JUNE**

**8** Summer Music Series Begins  
**16-20** Copley Police Safety Town

### **JULY**

**20** Copley Car Show

### **AUGUST**

**5 - 7** Heritage Days Celebration

### **SEPTEMBER**

**8-12** Brush Collection - District 1 (East)  
**15-19** Brush Collection - District 2 (West)

### **OCTOBER**

**4** Recycle Day  
**11** Shredding Day  
**29** Halloween in the Park  
**30** Trick or Treat in Copley Township



# BUSINESS INDEX

## Our Advertisers

**Copley-Fairlawn City Schools**  
Copleyfairlawn.org

**Graf's Garden Shop**  
1015 White Pond Dr  
Akron, OH 44320  
330-836-2727  
www.grafgrowers.com

**Hamads Auto Repair, LLC**  
2700 Copley Road  
Copley, OH 44321  
330-670-9800

**Kids Academy of Copley**

3745 Copley Rd  
Copley, OH 44321  
330-666-8293  
www.kidsacademyofcopley.com

**Lewis Landscaping**

330-666-2655  
www.lewislandscaping1.com

**The Market Path**

1265 S. Cleveland-Massillon Rd.  
Copley, OH 44321  
330-258-9003  
www.themarketpath.com

**Rizzi's Ristorante & Pizzeria**  
2809 Copley Rd (at Jacoby)  
Copley, OH 44321  
330-666-1221  
330-668-2626  
www.rizzispizza.com

**Robert Haag, Author**  
Footpaths to Ancient Campsites  
in Copley, Ohio - Second Edition

**The Vine Fellowship Church**  
3676 Community Ln Ste 100  
Copley, OH 44321  
330-576-6608  
www.tvcopley.org



## SHARE A CHRISTMAS



Would you like to be sure that your charitable contribution really benefits those in need? Would you like to see your donations help local families? Perhaps a neighbor has had a bad year, or your child may have a needy classmate.

Your monetary donations will be given to local families we anticipate helping this year due to so many families being out of work and struggling. Checks can be made out to Copley Township Share A Christmas. All proceeds will be used to buy gift cards so parents may purchase the presents that are listed on the kids' wish lists.

Copley-Fairlawn Kiwanis and the Outreach Center in Copley will continue to participate by providing for families in the area who have young ones, or school age children in the Copley-Fairlawn City Schools. All donations will stay locally to help our neighbors.

Application forms for assistance are available online at [www.copley.oh.us](http://www.copley.oh.us) and at the front desk of Town Hall. For more information call Town Hall at 330-666-1853.

# VOLUNTEERS

## COPLEY COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS - "Where Things Get Solved...When you Get Involved"

**Looking for a way to  
get involved with your  
community? A core group  
of volunteers living and  
working in Copley  
have the answer!**



The Copley Township Volunteer group meets quarterly at Copley Town Hall on March 1st, June 1st, September 1st and December 1st, and will schedule additional meetings as needed. The Town Hall is located at 1540 S. Cleveland-Massillon Road. Plans are getting underway for the Heritage Days Festivities. Heritage Days is celebrated annually in Copley Township the first weekend in August. Volunteers are needed to assist. To volunteer or learn more about Heritage Day in Copley, please contact Janice Marshall, [jmarshall@copley.oh.us](mailto:jmarshall@copley.oh.us).



### VOLUNTEER



Are you a high school or college student looking to earn volunteer hours, boost your resume, or make real connections in your community? Copley Township offers a range of volunteer opportunities where you can gain experience, develop leadership skills, and make a positive impact. From helping at local events to assisting with community projects or township initiatives, your time and energy can help shape the future of Copley—while also giving you valuable experience for school, scholarships, or your career. You'll meet some who have been dedicating their time to the community for years and others who are new to the group. Regardless, you'll be helping to create a sense of community with others who share your vision and passion for Copley Township.



The volunteer opportunities are endless. Whether you have an hour or weeks, there are many special events in Copley throughout the year and it takes many people to be successful. Some of the events include the Copley Car Show, Copley Heritage Days, Halloween in the Park, and Copley Clean-Up Day. There are also many organizations in the Copley Community such as the Copley Outreach Center, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 473, Copley Bandstand Committee, Copley Historical Society and Copley-Fairlawn Kiwanis Club. For more information please call Xavier Kanis, 330-666-1853.

# COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

## Copley Outreach Center

The Copley Community Outreach Center is one of the only local community resource centers located in Copley Township. The Center is a faith based, volunteer driven food assistance center that has been in operation since 1995 under the support of 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 Road and N. Sunnyfield Drive into an Emergency Food Pantry to meet the growing needs of residents in the Township and within the Copley-Fairlawn School District. Over the last twenty-six years, the Center has grown to provide resources for Utility to help prevent shut-offs, as well as emergency food assistance. These services are offered primarily to seniors and low income families. The Outreach Center has partnered with the Akron-Canton Food Bank to assist in food supply needs at a reduced rate.

In December of 2019, Mrs. Maryann Henry was appointed as the new Director of the Copley Outreach Center. Mrs. Henry has taken steps to continue to support all of the families in our community and our school district. The Center is now able to provide annual assistance to over 30 seniors in the community, 100 families and 165 students in the Copley-Fairlawn School District.

The Copley Community Outreach Center is fortunate to have the support of organizations including; The Copley United Methodist Church, Guardian Angels Church, The Copley Fairlawn School District, Copley Kiwanis, and Angels in Blue Jeans, supported by Guardian Angels.

Learn more about the Copley Outreach Center at <https://copleyoutreach.org>.



## Scouts BSA Troop 382

Scouts BSA Troop 382 was founded in May of 1956 chartered by the Copley Grange and met in the Town Hall. Boy Scouts of America is an organization that provides a program through volunteer leaders that provides young people with the skills to make ethical choices and respect for others as well as our environment for their lifetime. It is a youth run organization with adult volunteers guiding the youth leaders through a program centered on outdoor skills and teamwork.

Troop 382 meets every Tuesday at Copley United Methodist Church at 1518 S. Cleveland Massillon Road Copley, Ohio from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. The Troop can be reached at [www.Troop382.com](http://www.Troop382.com) or at [mfscouters@aol.com](mailto:mfscouters@aol.com).

## Gold Star Girl Scouts

If you were to line up every box of cookies sold by the Copley-Fairlawn Girl Scouts in 2021, the stretch of Thin Mints, Samoas, and Tagalongs would span over two-and-a-half miles. That's 14,170 feet of sugary goodness, to be exact! That's longer than the Hollywood Walk of Fame!

Here in Copley, our Girl Scouts are working hard to earn gold stars of their own. In the past three years, the Copley Fairlawn Girl Scout Service Unit is proud to have 7 girls earn their Girl Scout Gold Award. This award is the highest achievement in Girl Scouting.

Of course, the Girl Scouts don't stop at just cookies. Local troops dedicated countless hours of community service to the Girl Scout National Volunteer Project by cleaning up trails and donating to food banks and shelters. In addition, the Girl Scouts collected, cleaned, and sorted over 800 pounds of plastic which was eventually recycled and transformed into 8-foot benches. You can find these benches at Fort Island Elementary and St. Hilary School, ready to be enjoyed.

# The Copley American Legion

The Copley American Legion, Frank Bender Post 473 was chartered by the National Legion Dec 12, 1933, and the Department (State of Ohio) Dec 22, 1933. Named for Copley resident, Benjamin Frank Bender. Frank was orphaned and raised by the Miksch family in Copley. He died of pneumonia and was buried in France during WW I. While organizing the creation of the Post, close friend and founding member of Post 473, Cecil Hopkins, suggested naming the Post after Frank.

The Copley American Legion Auxiliary Unit 473 was chartered by the National Auxiliary on April 30, 1937, and the Department (State of Ohio) on May 10, 1937. There were 24 original members, and now several second and third-generation active members. The American Legion's goals, mission, and activities are supported in a variety of ways through local charities by contributing time, spirit and money to support our veterans and community organizations.

Unit 473 organizes post dinners, get-togethers, and especially Memorial Day ceremonies and parades. Copley High School along with members of the Legion, administer the Americanism & Government testing. Students who place well in the statewide testing, may be awarded a trip to Washington DC, highlighting many Memorials, placing a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown, Gettysburg, and the 911 Memorial in Pennsylvania.

Family of Legion members are eligible for Auxiliary membership. Monthly meetings are on the first Wednesday at 10:30 am at the Post, 3255 Copley Road. Our motto is..."Service--not-self".

The Legion has a continuous record of community service to their members and local veterans since their charter was issued, organizing the annual time-honored commemorative

Memorial Day Parades and Ceremonies. In 2025, the Copley American Legion, Frank Bender Post 473 will hold the 93rd consecutive ceremony.

Since the early 60s, the Legion has raised the flag at all Copley home football games. Most members are also active in a variety of Legion-related groups, local church and community organizations.

All who have worn the uniform, and were honorably discharged, are eligible and are included in the membership. The meetings are on the second Tuesday, 7:00 pm at the Post 3255 Copley Road.

## Copley Bandstand Summer Music Series

48 years ago a few community members decided to get together and figure out a way to bring live musical entertainment to the citizens of Copley. This was the genesis of The Copley Bandstand Summer Music Series. We provide concerts every summer on Sunday evenings from June to August. We are run by volunteers and funded through donations. If you are interested in volunteering with the Bandstand Committee please contact Chairman Ryan Corley for more details 330-690-7177.

## Copley Chamber of Commerce

The Copley Community Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to connecting businesses, residents, and community organizations in meaningful ways. We're here to serve as a hub for local engagement by "Keeping Copley in The Loop"—sharing updates through our weekly Loop News email, active social media presence, and community-focused website. Our goal is to support a

thriving local economy while fostering strong relationships throughout Copley Township.

In addition to offering valuable networking opportunities and business resources, the Chamber leads community-building efforts like our Copley Hands in Action volunteer days and our Path to Presents holiday shopping event, a festive and engaging way to support local businesses during the holiday season.

Whether you're a business owner, a nonprofit leader, or a resident who loves this community, the Copley Chamber is here to help you stay connected, informed, and involved. For more information, visit our website at [www.thecopleychamber.com](http://www.thecopleychamber.com)



## Copley Historical Society

The Copley Historical Society was formed in 1974 by area residents when it was discovered that the old AC&Y rail depot was to be destroyed. The saving, moving, and restoration of the Depot was the work of the Society.

Other projects include a Pioneer Memorial Marker located in Copley Cemetery, identification of century homes, taped interviews with older residents entitled, Copley Historical Society Memories Program, cataloging of newspaper clippings dating from the mid 1800's onward, return of the Copley Cannon (which was stolen twice), securing and restoring a 1947 railroad caboose and acquiring historic

artifacts and objects. Membership is open to anyone interested in the preservation of Copley's heritage.

Step back in time and discover the people, places and stories that shaped **Copley Township in Images of Copley**. Learn more about this book on the next page!



# COPLEY TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A New Look at Copley's Past: "Images of Copley Township, In the Beginning"

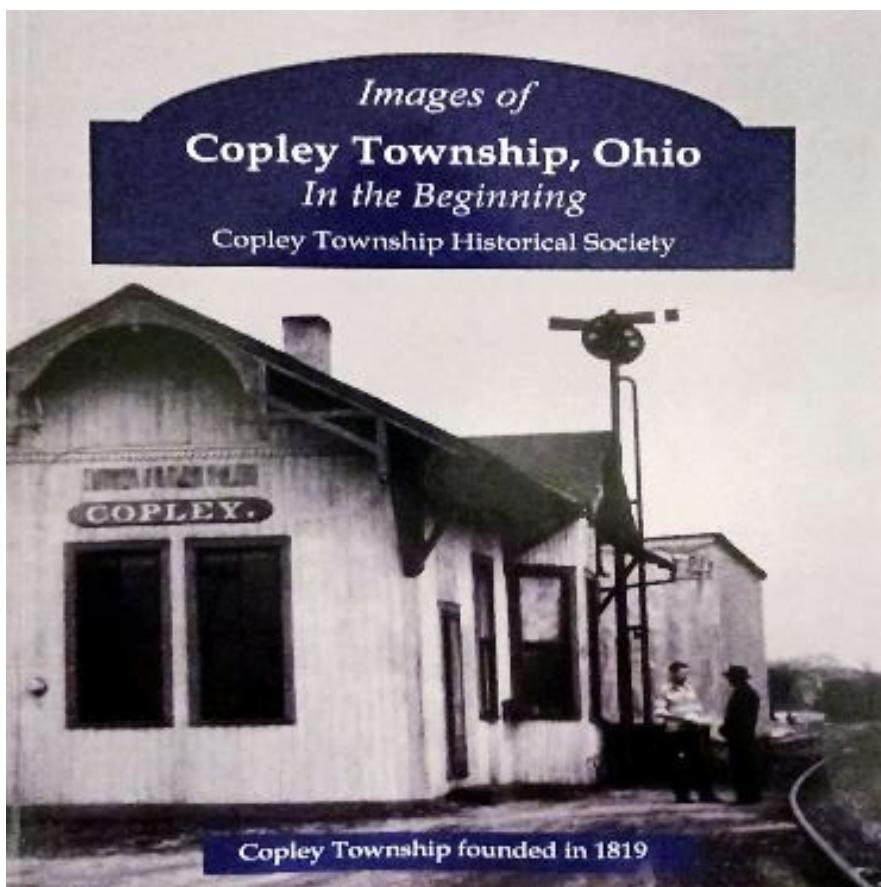
The Copley Historical Society has proudly published a new book that brings our community's roots to life: *Images of Copley Township, In the Beginning*. This thoughtfully curated volume captures the essence of Copley's earliest days through a rich blend of historical narratives and rare photographs.

Inside, readers will discover a vivid portrait of life in the township from its founding through the early 1900s. The book highlights the stories of the first settler families and early residents who shaped the community we know today. With archival images of original homesteads, one-room schoolhouses, family farms, barns, early industries, and local businesses, the book offers an intimate glimpse into Copley's transformation over the years.

Beyond the historical facts, the book also includes candid snapshots of everyday life—festivals, school events, and the faces of Copley's past—creating a heartfelt and authentic connection to our shared heritage.

Whether you're a lifelong resident or a newcomer eager to learn more about your hometown, *Images of Copley Township, In the Beginning* is a meaningful tribute to the people and places that laid the foundation of our vibrant township.

Copies are available through the Copley Historical Society. Don't miss this chance to own a beautiful piece of local history!





# SAFETY CENTER FACILITY DEDICATION

**JUNE 22, 2-4 PM**

- Tour the building
- Hear from the Police and Fire Chief
- Refreshments provided by Copley Township Historical Society

**YOU'RE  
INVITED!**

Address:

1260 Sunset Drive Copley, OH 44321

📞 (330) 666-4218 - Police  
📞 (330) 666-6464 - Fire  
🌐 [www.copley.oh.us](http://www.copley.oh.us)



**JOIN US AS WE DEDICATE COPLEY'S NEWEST  
POLICE AND FIRE SAFETY CENTER**