

Swan Creek Township

Established 1836

JULY 07

History of Swan Creek Twp.

The Pilgrim fathers brought the township form of government to America in 1620. In Ohio, the township predates our state government. The townships size and shape were determined by the Congressional Acts which established the various land grants. Townships were surveyed into six miles square, as in the Congress Lands, 1789-1801. Within each of the Ohio land grants, Congress set aside sections of the land for the use of schools and the support of religious institutions. As the Ohio territory became populated, it was only natural that the surveyed townships should become the basic unit of local government. In the early years of statehood, Ohio township government cared for the poor, maintained the roads, preserved the peace, registered brands and fulfilled the needs of local government generally. Today, just as in 1804, the township in Ohio is a political subdivision of the state. As such, it has only those powers granted to it by the state legislature and performs functions defined by the state. Three Trustees and a clerk/Fiscal Officer, each elected for a four year term, administer each of our townships today. Officially they fill their offices on a part-time basis, but they are always ready to meet their responsibilities and put in many hours of work to serve their constituents. Their intimate knowledge of their community, it's needs, and it's citizens enables them to offer more personal service than any other unit of government. Swan Creek Township was established in 1836. For a more detailed history of Swan Creek Township visit our website, click on "History". *source: Township Assoc.*

Roads

Swan Creek Twp. is responsible for maintaining 46 miles of roads.

To help cover the expense of the service the Twp. receives part of the State's motor vehicle fuel tax and license fees. These revenues are modest in relation to the cost involved.

With the price of oil rising, the costs of paving our roads have sky rocketed. The cost of paving a mile road with asphalt/ 1" leveling coat and 1 1/4 surface could reach well over \$100,000

Seal Coat surface is a little messy for awhile, however, at costs of approx. \$10,000 per mile, dollar for dollar it is the most cost effective way to maintain a road surface until we can budget the money to pave it.

We ask that you have patience and we thank you for your understanding.

In 2007 we will be seal coating the following roads:

Rd. 1 between roads B & C, road 4 between road E & ST RT 2, Winding Way Subdivision, road 5 between road B & road C, road 6-3 between road EF & road F, Circle Drive west section, Circle Drive Rd C - Stop Sign.

We will be asphaltting the following road: Road C between 3 & 6. We have applied for grant money to resurface Road 2 between road B & road C and ditch work on Rd. C between roads 3 & 4 for 2008.

FIRE/EMS PROTECTION & CEMETERIES

Fire & EMS

Swan Creek Township currently is contracting with Swanton Fire & Rescue, Delta Comm. Fire Dept.—York Twp. and Providence Twp. Fire Dept. for our fire & rescue services. Fire & Rescue services are funded with the only voted levy Swan Creek Twp. has.

The Trustees are always working with the above entities to assure that Swan Creek Twp. residents receive quality service at the lowest costs.



Cemeteries



Swan Creek Township has five cemeteries to maintain; Swanton, Raker, St. John's, Shiloh, & Keene totaling approximately 25 acres. We currently have no cemetery maintenance levy, therefore the costs have to come from the General Fund. Please contact the Administrative Office for lot and grave availability.

- **We want to know! Please contact us if you want to let us know the BEST way of getting information to you. Please email Chris Lauch at chris@swancreektpw.org**
- **You can visit us on the web at swancreektpw.org **new & improved site coming soon.**

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Zoning

Approximately 3/4 of Swan Creek Twp. is zoned. Zoning is the regulation of the use of land and buildings that permit a community to control development of its territory. It provides for orderly growth by protecting homes and property from harmful uses on neighboring properties. Any Zoning restrictions must have a reasonable relationship to public health, safety,

morals, or general welfare. Ohio law provides for the submission of a zoning plan to the electors of the township. A zoning permit is required for most improvements within the zoned area. You can pick up a permit at the Township Administration Building or print one off of our website. Our Zoning department consists of two boards as well as the Zoning Inspector, Walt Hallett, III.

Swan Creek Zoning Board:

Walt Lange, James McConkey, Joe Kahl, and

Jim Wagoner

Swan Creek Zoning Board of Appeals:

Earl Rowland, Ron Rouleau, Darrin Gramling, Bill Grimley, and Tom Baker

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL WHO HAVE SERVED OUR COMMUNITY IN THE PAST, AS WELL AS OUR PRESENT BOARD MEMBERS!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Swan Creek Board of Trustees:

Ron Holdeman
swancreekrjh@aol.com

Phil Wiland
philwil@toledosuper.net

Randal Ruge
rrruge@iname.com

Fiscal Officer:

Dawn Wheatley
dawn@swancreektp.org

Zoning Inspector:

Walt Hallett, III
419-822-4731—leave a message

Maintenance Dept.

Tim Lambert—Supervisor & Matt Stout—roads@swancreektp.org

Administrative Assistant:

Chris Lauch
chris@swancreektp.org
Phone: 419-822-4371
Fax: 419-822-5721
website: Swancreektwp.org

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Tiles & Catch Basins—

2007 has been a very rainy spring thus causing a lot of flooding. Ohio Revised Code only allows the Board of Trustees to maintain the drainage for the water runoff from the township roads. These tiles and catch basins are for the most part, old and too small to accommodate the requests we have had to hook up to them for residential drainage. Please keep in mind that this system of road drainage tile is for road drainage only. Fulton County is responsible for ditches except for any ditch that is along a township road.

Driveway tile

Maintenance and care are the property owners responsibility.

A **driveway permit** is required for all new driveways or existing drives that are going to be paved with asphalt or concrete. There is no fee for this

permit.

Right of way—

All roads have a right of way that can vary from 40' to 60'. This right of way is measured from the center of the road. It is owned by the entity that maintains your road. Thus giving them access to run drainage and allowing utilities to run their lines.

Deceased Animals on roadways—

Please be advised that unless it is a very large animal such as a deer, Swan Creek Twp does not remove them.

A Citizen Concern/ Suggestion

form is located on our website to better assist you. In the future we will have a survey you can fill out. Please check back to our website often to view new items, minutes, zoning forms, etc.

Recycle Center—

Swan Creek Twp has a very nice recycling center that is open 24/7. Please help us to keep it clean and neat. This building was paid for with grant money. If you do not recycle we encourage you to make that little extra effort to do so, to help conserve energy and save our landfills, as well as saving money on your garbage collection bill.

Open Burning Laws—

For questions concerning Open Burning Laws please contact the EPA office at 614-644-3469 or www.epa.state.oh.us/dapc/general/openburning.html.

The Swan Creek Township Trustees encourage you to attend meetings and look forward to community participation.

