



# Swancreek Township

VOLUME 1  
ISSUE 2  
AUGUST ~ 2008

Established 1836

## Roads

## Roads Cont.

### Public Service No Piece of Cake

Written by Michael H. Cochran, OTA Executive Director

The job of township trustee and fiscal officer is not as simple as it once was. Long gone are the days of filling potholes and plowing snow, mowing cemeteries and attending township meetings for trustees, and keeping the books, typing minutes and maintaining past records for fiscal officers. Besides issues surrounding growth, townships must continue to incorporate state and federal mandates. When hiring an employee, townships must issue a terrorist declaration form, a social security exemption form and a copy of the township's public records policy. Before entering into a contract with a vendor the township must have an affidavit stating that the vendor did not contribute to a trustee's campaign in excess of the set limit. Townships must take certified training to comply with the national incident management system, certified public investment management and public records law. They also must now have a policy that accounts for fringe benefits and explains when fringe benefits are to be included in employee wages. These are just a few of the recent mandates on township government. It has become increasingly difficult to recruit public servants in today's world. People want the fame and glory but they do not want to do the dirty work. Few people are willing to take phone calls at all hours of the night. Times have changed. Township government is no longer simple and it is crucial for the strengthening and growth of township official educate themselves on new laws, mandates & technology. I would like to take a moment to thank each and every one of you for your dedication and service to your township and township government generally.

\*Source: OH Township News \*

Six entities maintain our roads in Swancreek Township: State, Fulton County, Henry County, Swancreek Township, Providence Township and Swanton Township. To see a list of township roads log onto our website or call the office to determine which entity is responsible for maintaining your road.

Due to budgetary constraints we will only be paving Co. Rd. 2 between B & C. This project has been in the works for approx. 5 years. We have applied for and received a \$137,500 matching grant from the Ohio Public Works Commission. The Co. Rd 2 Road pavement and drainage project has a tentative completion date of September 12, 2009. We will also be doing a lot of preventative maintenance to our roads this year in the form of crack sealing, berming and dura patching. Those of you who live and travel on Co. Rd. 1 will be happy to know that Swanton Twp. will be doing some drainage work on the portion they are responsible for this year and tentatively will be paving it in 2010. Swancreek Township will pave our portion also.

We will be applying for a grant from the Ohio Public Works Commission to do drainage work, as well as paving on Road 2-2 and paving Road E between Roads E and 5-2 for 2009. We will also be applying for CDBG grant funds for a ditch setback on Road 5-2 in 2009.

The Trustees have requested a maintenance schedule from the Fulton County Engineer for the following roads that the county is responsible for: Road 6 between B & C (not on the 2008 schedule), Road B between Road 1 & Road 7 (not on the 2008 schedule), Road 7 between A & B is scheduled for resurfacing and drainage work at a bid cost of \$459,492. Road EF between 1-2 & 2 is scheduled in 2008 for resurfacing at a bid cost of \$196,627.

## Roadside Mowing

Thank you to all who mow that little bit extra on the roadside. This not only makes your neighbor look nicer, but also saves the township mowers time and fuel.

## Driveway Culverts

A property owner, in order to provide an approach to his property, places a culvert in a preexisting ditch, which is part of a public highway, is responsible for the maintenance of that culvert. In accordance with

Ohio Revised Code 5589.06

Ohio Attorney General Opinion #82-025

## Drainage

**Ohio Revised Code 5571.02**  
States: Township Trustees have no authority to construct drains or sewers to carry off surplus water except to the extent incidental to and necessary in the improvement of a township road. 1958 OAG 2775.

## Open Burning

Have you ever been sitting on your porch on a warm summer evening enjoying the clean country air and your neighbor starts to burn their household garbage? Just Give them a copy of ORC 3745-19, which defines illegal burning.

## Zoning

We are in need of a member for the Board of Zoning Appeals. The Zoning Appeals Board meets every third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m., when there is new business. If you live in a zoned portion of the township and would like to get involved to serve our community, please send a letter of interest to the township, to the attention of the Board of Trustees.

If you have any questions regarding acquiring a zoning permit, etc. please call the township administration office.

## Fire & EMS

We receive quality Fire & EMS services at a reasonable cost, that we continually work to keep as low as possible. In 2007 we contracted with Providence Twp for approximately 100 runs, Yor Twp. for approximately 114 runs and Swanton Village for approx. 133 runs. Fire & EMS is funded with the only voted levy in the unincorporated area of our township. Residents in Swancreek Township in the Village are not paying this twp. Fire & EMS Levy.

# Swan Creek Township

~ FOR YOUR INFORMATION ~

## Permissive Tax

When purchasing your vehicle license plates make sure you indicate that you live in Swan Creek Township on your registration. There are two reasons for this: #1. Part of the permissive tax is given back to the township to help pay for road maintenance, #2. You may have to pay more for your plates, for example, if you live in Swan Creek Township you have to pay a county permissive tax of \$15.00 if you live in The Village of Anton this amount is \$20.00. None of this tax goes to Swan Creek Township.

## Fiscal Officer

The 2005-2006 Audit is complete. The Report is available for viewing, as well as the 2007 Annual Financial Report. These reports can be viewed during regular township business hours; 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Monday - Friday. If you would like to make an appointment outside of regular hours, please call The Fiscal Officer, Dawn Wheatley at 419-822-4371

## Newsletter

We were pleased with the positive response we received regarding the first newsletter. Please let us know what you think of this newsletter. This is our newsletter; if you have any suggestions, please contact the Administration Office; 419-822-4371 or visit the "Contact Us" form on the website. [www.swancreektp.org](http://www.swancreektp.org).

## Real Estate Tax

We would like to take this opportunity to explain where your township tax dollars go. For an example we will use a home evaluation of \$142,000.00 The Township tax on this would be \$94.90 per half. The services you receive are:

Roadside mowing  
Berミング  
Resurfacing  
Pavement markings  
Ice & snow removal  
Road drainage  
Fire & EMS services  
Administration services  
And maintenance of five cemeteries

## Recycling

The township has a nice recycling center located in the township administration parking lot at 5565 Co. Rd. D, Delta, which is open 24/7. We want to thank all of you who use this center for making that extra effort to keep it clean. We are continuing to work on the list of materials we can accept. Good news; we can now accept plastic shopping bags, cell phones and computer towers & monitors. Once again, we ask that you only drop off #1 & #2 plastics. No PVC pipe or Styrofoam. Anything not posted has to be taken to the landfill at the cost of the township. Please see our website for a complete list of accepted materials.

**NOTE: No household garbage**  
**Please**

## New Faces

Congratulations to your newly elected officials;

James Leu, Trustee  
&

Dawn Wheatley, Fiscal Officer

Jim is a lifelong resident of Swan Creek Township. He has been married to his wife, Judi, for 42 years. They have 2 children.

Dawn is also a lifelong resident of Swan Creek Township. She is married to her husband of 14 years, Robert. They have 2 children.

We would also like to introduce you to your Township Administrative Assistant, Chris Lauch. Chris is a lifelong resident of Swan Creek Township. She has been married to her husband Mark for 14 years. They have 3 children. In addition to being your receptionist, Chris is also the secretary to the Board of Trustees, the Zoning Inspector, as well as the Board of Zoning Appeals and Zoning Commission. She also helps maintain the cemetery records for our 5 cemeteries and assists the Fiscal Officer.

## 2008 Board Meeting Schedules

**TRUSTEE:** 1st & 3rd Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Hall.

**ZONING APPEALS:** 3rd Thursday of every month, provided there is new business, at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Hall. All Appeals meetings are published in the local newspaper 10 days before the hearing.

**ZONING:** Held on every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. if there is new business.

To view or print any of the 2008 meeting schedules or Minutes of the meetings, please visit our website.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Swan Creek Board of Trustees:

Phil Wiland, Chairman  
[philwiland@swancreektp.org](mailto:philwiland@swancreektp.org)

Ron Holdeman, Vice Chairman  
[swancreekrjh@aol.com](mailto:swancreekrjh@aol.com)

James H. Leu, Trustee  
[jhleu@powersupply.net](mailto:jhleu@powersupply.net)

### Fiscal Officer:

Dawn Wheatley  
[dawn@swancreektp.org](mailto:dawn@swancreektp.org)

### Zoning Inspector:

Walt Hallett, III  
419-822-4371

### Maintenance Dept.

Tim Lambert, Supervisor  
&  
Matt Stout  
[roads@swancreektp.org](mailto:roads@swancreektp.org)  
419-822-5641

### Administrative Assistant:

Chris Lauch  
[chris@swancreektp.org](mailto:chris@swancreektp.org)  
Phone: 419-822-4371  
Fax: 419-822-5721  
Office Hours:  
Monday-Friday  
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

### Website:

**Swancreektp.org**  
To view Meeting Minutes, obtain application forms, fee schedules, request public records, view Water District information, Fill out a "Contact Us" form, view information about our Maintenance Department, Recycling Center, Cemeteries Rules, and much more!