

Portage Township News



Ottawa County, Ohio

"A great place to live and raise a family!"

www.portagetownship.net



Elected Officials

Fiscal Officer:

Judy Johannsen
419-732-3543

Trustees:

Drew A. Surovjak
(Chairman)
419-341-5445

Sam Conte
419-732-2302

Keith Heileman
419-656-2767

Township Meetings

Regularly scheduled township meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Office.

2501 E. State Road
Garage/Office
419-732-3543

Brush Pick-up

Jan. 8, Feb. 5,
Mar. 5, Apr. 2

Zoning Office

Hours:

Mon.: 5:30pm – 7:00pm
Sat.: 8:30am – 10:00am
419-734-7296



The elected officials and employees of Portage Township wish everyone a safe and happy
Holiday Season!

A New Truck



The salt associated with typical winter road maintenance can wreak havoc on not only the steel chassis of a truck but also the copper of the truck’s electronic systems. Over the last few seasons the maintenance crew began encountering more and more problems with our truck. In spite of the meticulous maintenance Matt and Bryan perform on our equipment, it became evident that replacing the old truck was the most prudent choice. The township is now prepared for another winter and confident that the residents will continue to receive the quality service to which they have become accustomed. Let it snow!

Recycling Fun Facts

Each year, Americans throw away twenty-five trillion Styrofoam cups.

Township Clean-up



Township Clean-Up occurs twice a year. Spring Clean-Up happens in late April and Fall Clean-Up gets scheduled in early October. The fall township clean-up, which was held from October 5th to the 8th, generated 35,300 pounds of trash and one 40-yard container of recyclable metals. Excluding the expense of labor to oversee the activity, it cost the township \$1,721.85 for disposal.

Sign Retro-reflectivity

Pictured at left is township maintenance supervisor, Matt Seamon, finishing up the replacement of a traffic sign on Forest Street in Gypsum. New federal standards have been developed setting night-visibility requirements for traffic control signage. The most recent set of signs installed in the township brings the township into full retro-reflectivity compliance.



Signs that glow bright enough at night might not seem all that important, but they will make the Portage Township roads safer and also lessen the chance of any liability on the part of the township if a nighttime accident should happen to occur on our roads.

Gypsum Post Office



The United States Postal Service is examining the cost-effectiveness of the smaller rural post offices. The Gypsum Post Office is being reviewed. After the holidays, a questionnaire will be mailed to customers of the Gypsum Post Office. If you receive one, it will be important to complete and return the form unless you have no feelings on the fate of the office.

As soon as the plans for a community meeting concerning the post office are finalized, an announcement will be posted there. A tentative date is set for Tuesday February 5, 2013, at 2:00pm at the Portage Township Hall, 2501 East State Road. The current date is tentative so be sure to check at the office to confirm the information.

Free Firewood for Portage Township Residents

Portage Township has a number of ash trees on township property that have died due to the Emerald Ash Borer. The trustees have decided to make the trees available to township residents for personal use. The township is not offering the wood to any resident intending to sell it for a profit. Of course, it will be necessary for anyone wishing to remove the wood from township property to agree to conditions and assume liability for their work. Township legal council has recommended a waiver form which interested residents must sign in order to remove the wood.

Interested township residents will be required to cut down the trees and remove the wood in a safe and orderly manner. No minors will be permitted to assist in the process. Small limbs and branches will be ground into mulch by township employees. The township will remove the stumps.

Any interested residents can access a copy of the waiver form by visiting the township website at <www.portagetownship.net> and clicking on the "Tree Removal" link on the navigation bar. The form must be completed, signed, and returned to Portage Township, 2501 East State Road. If more requests are received than available trees, applicants will be selected through a random drawing.

Township Community Room

The Township Community Room is available to Portage Township residents for parties, reunions, meetings, and other types of gatherings free of charge. Chairs and tables are also available. Reservations for the room are on a first-come-first-served basis, with priority given to activities benefiting the residents of Portage Township. For further information, contact Trustee Drew Surovjak at 419-341-5445 or call the township office at 419-732-3543 and leave a message.

Leaf Collection



As always, Matt, Bryan, and Jerry did a great job of cleaning up the leaves left along the sides of roads by township residents. At 10 cubic yards per load, the 43 truck loads means that 430 cubic yards of organic matter didn't get burned or sent to the landfill.

The smell of burning leaves can bring back fond memories of the past, but it's important to remember that the environment is much better off now that the township is providing residents with an eco-friendly method for disposing of the leaves and other yard waste.

Recycling Grant

The township has just been informed that a \$1,000 infrastructure grant has been approved by the OSS Solid Waste District. The grant will assist the township in the cost of installing a cement pad to the south of the current recycling area. It will permit the recycling bins to be kept in a more orderly fashion.

Christmas Tree Pick-Up

A Portage Township Christmas tree pick-up has been scheduled for January 11, 2013. Trees must be at the edge of the road before 7:00am on January 11th to ensure that they will be picked up. Please be certain that all ornaments and decorations have been removed. Of course, any Christmas trees left by the side of the road for the brush pick-up on January 8th will be picked up at that time. If a tree isn't placed by the road in time for the pick-up on the 11th, it will have to wait for the next normal brush pickup. Brush pick-up always occurs on the first Tuesday of EVERY month.

Portage Township Trustees
2501 East State Road
Port Clinton, Ohio 43452

Presorted Standard
U. S. Postage
PAID
Gypsum, Ohio 43433
Permit No. 10

Portage Township

(Refrigerator Friendly Calendar)

December 2012

17 Trustee Meeting – 7:00pm

25 **Christmas**

January 2013

7 Trustee Meeting – 7:00pm

8 **Brush Pick-Up**

11 **Christmas Tree Pick-Up***

21 Trustee Meeting – 7:00pm

February 2013

4 Trustee Meeting – 7:00pm

5 **Brush Pick-Up**

14 **Valentine's Day**

18 Trustee Meeting – 7:00pm

18 **President's Day Observed**

March 2013

4 Trustee Meeting – 7:00pm

5 **Brush Pick-Up**

18 Trustee Meeting – 7:00pm

25-29 Cemetery Clean-Up

* See related story on page 3



Bits and Pieces

Zoning

One of the more time-consuming aspects of Mary Gardner's Zoning Inspector job is the sorting out of situations where residents or businesses add accessory buildings, signage, or alter the use of the property without visiting the zoning office first. If you have questions, please call first. You'll be glad you did.

Township Ditches

Some of the roads in the township have ditches along one or both sides. Hickory Grove Road, for example, has a ditch along its north side. Residents are discouraged from using the ditches as a place to dispose of leaves and other yard waste. The purpose of the ditches

is to provide a path for excess storm water to drain to the lake or bay. If the ditches become clogged with yard waste carelessly discarded by a resident, it can create a problem for many of the nearby properties. Please be considerate and keep the ditches clear.

Website

Residents are reminded that the township now has a website full of valuable township information. Visit <www.portagetownship.net> to see what it has to offer.

Save a Tree

By opting to receive your *Portage Township News* electronically via email, you can save a (very small) tree. Simply send an email to <dsurovjak@roadrunner.com> indicating the address at which you

receive your "snail mail" newsletter. Your address will be removed from the mailing list and you will receive a PDF copy of the *Portage Township News* via an email from Drew. And you will receive it almost a week earlier than "snail mail".

Township Facts

Based on the 2010 census, Ohio has 1,308 Townships. Four million Ohioans or 35% of the entire state population reside in townships. From 2000 to 2012 the population growth rate in townships was four times the rate for the entire state. Over that time period virtually all of Ohio's growth occurred in townships. It is estimated that townships govern 91 percent of Ohio's land.

The above Township Facts were provided by the Ohio Township Association.