

# Portage Township News



Ottawa County, Ohio

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

[www.portagetownship.net](http://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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>

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. 7, Feb. 4,  
Mar. 4, Apr. 1

### 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 long time coming...Or should we say: "A long time GOING!"**



Back in 2007 a mobile home on Garnet Avenue was abandoned. The owner walked away and the financial institution holding a lien on the property wasn't interested in doing anything about the situation. Over the years the trustees attempted a number of times to resolve the situation and get the property cleaned up, to no avail.

This year, Ottawa County accessed grant money through the "Moving Ohio Forward Demolition Program". The program intended to stabilize and improve communities by removing blighted and abandoned homes with funds from the national mortgage settlement. Along with the home on Garnet, two additional structures on State Road were demolished. Above are before and after pictures of the Garnet property. The trustees would like to thank the County Commissioners for pursuing the grant funding.

## **November Elections**

There were no surprises in Portage Township on Election Day. Keith Heileman and Sam Conte ran unopposed and will each serve the township for another four years. It is hoped that the absence of competition is the result of satisfied township residents being pleased with the services they are receiving. The residents' support is appreciated and all elected officials and employees of the township will continue striving to serve the residents well and keep *Portage Township a great place to live and raise a family.*

## 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.

## Website

Residents are reminded that the township now has a website full of valuable township information. Along with zoning forms, maps, and information, services are explained more thoroughly and previous newsletters are available. Visit <[www.portagetownship.net](http://www.portagetownship.net)> to see what it has to offer.

## Recycling Fun Facts

If all newspapers were recycled, we could save 250,000,000 trees a year.

## 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 11<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup>, generated 41,680 pounds of trash and one 40-yard container of recyclable metals. Excluding the expense of labor to oversee the activity, it cost the township \$1,746.20 for disposal.

## Portage Township Services

A number of services are provided to the residents of Portage Township either directly by the township or through service agreements with the township.

### Services provided directly by the township include:

- **Curbside Brush Pick-Up** on the first Tuesday of every month.
- **Yard Waste Drop-Off** at the township complex during daylight hours.
- **Recycling Drop-Off** at the township complex during daylight hours.
- **Spring and Fall Township Clean-Ups** in April and October.
- **Curbside Leaf Pick-Up** throughout the month of November.
- **Road Maintenance and Snow Removal** for all township roads.
- **Christy Chapel Cemetery**  
*(If you have questions about the above services, direct your calls to the maintenance supervisor at 419-732-3543.)*
- **Zoning Permits and Enforcement** *(If you have questions, direct your calls to Mary, the Zoning Inspector, at 419-734-7296.)*
- **Newsletter, Website, and the use of the Community Room.** *(If you have questions, direct your calls to Drew Surovjak at 419-341-5445.)*

### Contracted services include:

- **Law Enforcement** services contracted through the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office. *(Non-emergency calls can be directed to 419-734-4404.)*
- **Fire Department Services** contracted through the Port Clinton Fire Department. *(Non-emergency calls can be directed to 419-734-3430.)*
- **Ambulance and EMS Services** provided to Portage Township, the city of Port Clinton, and Bay Township through a contract with North Central EMS. *(Non-emergency questions can be directed to 419-499-2515.)*

In the event of an emergency

**dial 911!**

## A big **THANKS!**

Zoning is a balance between property rights and property protections. It determines appropriate activities for the various districts within the township, attempting to ensure that property values and quality of life are not adversely affected by activities on adjacent properties.

In November of 1989 voters approved zoning for Portage Township. Since that time the township has been served by volunteers sitting on the Portage Township Zoning Commission and the Portage Township Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA). A typical term of service lasts five years and many members have served multiple terms.

The Zoning Commission's role is that of a legislative body. The commission's responsibility is to write, amend, and oversee the content of Zoning Resolution. They also determine the appropriate zoning classification for areas within the township. For 2013 the members of the Portage Township Zoning Commission were Dave Gill, Mark Skinner, Phil McMurray, Bob Follman, Kyle Auxter, and Ron Huskey.

The BZA assumes the judicial role in the process. The board hears appeals, requests for variances from the strict interpretations of the resolution, and requests for conditional uses to be permitted in specific zoning districts. For 2013 the members of the BZA were Chris Galvin, Linda Fritz, Steve Nickel, Paul Berndt, Paul (Dutch) Schultz, and Keith Conte.

Mary Gardner is the Zoning Inspector for Portage Township. She reviews applications, issues permits, and ensures that the Zoning Resolution is being adhered to within the township. Her role is a difficult responsibility because her relationship with township residents can range from friendly and helpful to that of an enforcer depending on the situation.

On behalf of all township residents the elected officials of Portage Township want to take this opportunity to thank Mary for the outstanding job she has done. We also want to thank the volunteer members of the Zoning Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals.

## Leaf Collection



As always, Matt, Bryan, and Jerry did another great job of cleaning up the leaves left along the sides of roads by township residents. At 10 cubic yards per load, the 35 truck loads means that 340 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.

## Christmas Tree Pick-Up

A Portage Township Christmas tree pick-up has been scheduled for January 14, 2013. Trees must be at the edge of the road before 7:00am on January 14<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> will be picked up at that time. If a tree isn't placed by the road in time for the pick-up on the 14<sup>th</sup>, 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 2013**

16 Trustee Meeting – 7:00pm

25 **Christmas**

**January 2014**

6 Trustee Meeting – 7:00pm

7 **Brush Pick-Up**

14 **Christmas Tree Pick-Up\***

20 Trustee Meeting – 7:00pm

**February 2014**

3 Trustee Meeting – 7:00pm

4 **Brush Pick-Up**

14 **Valentine's Day**

17 Trustee Meeting – 7:00pm

17 **President's Day Observed**

**March 2014**

3 Trustee Meeting – 7:00pm

4 **Brush Pick-Up**

17 Trustee Meeting – 7:00pm

22-28 Cemetery Clean-Up

\* See related story on page 3



**A free offer from First Energy**

This offer is for all residential account customers served by Ohio Edison, TE and CEI. Customers will receive the Energy Conservation Kit at "no additional cost". Expenses for the kit are paid for through Senate Bill 221 requirements. No additional costs or handling fees will be charged to customers who request the kits.

The kit includes

- 4 – 60 watt equivalent CFLs
- 3 – 100 watt equivalent CFLs
- 2 – 75 watt equivalent CFLs
- 2 LED night lights
- 1 smart strip power strip

**How to Enroll**

• Customers can sign up to receive their Energy Conservation Kit by enrolling online at [www.ohioenergykit.com](http://www.ohioenergykit.com) or by calling First Energy's vendor, PowerDirect, at **1-888-866-3201** (Customers must have their 12 digit Ohio Edison account number to sign up for the free materials.)

