

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

July 1, Aug. 5,
Sept. 2, Oct. 7

Zoning Office

Hours:

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

OSS Grant Enhances Community Room



The spring issue of the *Portage Township News* described the progress made on the renovation of the Portage Township Community Room. Originally, the Community Room was an unused garage area that the trustees decided to make available to residents for private gatherings such as birthday parties, reunions, and other family gatherings.

The hall received sporadic use but, it was basically a two-car garage in which to hold family activities. The trustees decided to make the room more suitable for the residents' use. In the fall of 2013, the garage doors were removed and replaced with windows. Over the winter, a new heating/cooling system was installed and the service area was enclosed behind a wall. Finally, with the help of a \$1,195.00 grant awarded to the township by the Ottawa-Sandusky-Seneca Joint

Solid Waste Management District, a suspended ceiling was installed. With the exception of the installation of the heating/cooling system, all labor was provided by Matt and Bryan, the two full-time township employees. Considering all of the time they put into plowing snow this winter, it's surprising they had the time to finish it.

The hall is still available to township residents free of charge for personal, non-commercial activities. Of course, we expect the hall to be left in a clean and tidy manner after it has been used. Residents are required to sign a usage agreement which can be downloaded from the township website www.portagetownship.net.

Residents interested in scheduling the use of the hall can do so by contacting trustee Drew Surovjak at 419-341-5445.

Is it right to.....



In the November elections of 1989 the residents of Portage Township approved a zoning resolution with the intent of promoting public health, safety, comfort, and the general welfare of the township. One of the areas addressed in the Zoning Resolution was advertising signage and how it is used.

In 2011, advertisements for area businesses began to appear along the fences at the Erie Ottawa Regional Airport. Since the Portage Township Zoning Resolution has very restrictive regulations concerning the use of off-premises signage, the zoning inspector informed the airport of the violation. In order to limit clutter and distractions along roads, all off-premises signs, signs not located at the place of business, must be placed at least 250 feet apart.

The airport then approached the township trustees asking if something could be worked out so that the airport could continue the signage as a means of supplementing their apparent inability to generate adequate revenues through aviation-related activities. The trustees pointed out that the manner in which signage was being displayed at the airport was not permitted anywhere else in the township and granting an exception specific to the airport would be unfair to all other township businesses and property owners. The trustees explained that they did not feel it in the best interest of the township to create some sort of loophole permitting the airport's continued rental of signage space. The township trustees hoped the airport administration would pursue some other method of generating funds that was not so inherently unfair.

Signage continued to appear along the fences of

the airport and when again approached by the township, the airport indicated that, in their governmental capacity, they were exempt from township zoning. The township had no legal authority to regulate airport signage and the practice would continue.

But exempt or not, the township felt that the airport was exploiting the township and the zoning regulations. In November of 2013, the chairman of the Portage Township Trustees made a presentation to the airport board expressing the inequities the airport was generating through its ongoing rental of signage space. No business in the township was permitted to display signs in the manner that the airport was and therefore, the airport was assuming an extremely unfair advantage. In a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect, the airport was requested to reconsider their stand on the signage and do the honorable thing by ceasing their unfair practices. The township had no desire to interfere with the aviation-related activities of the airport but had hoped that the airport would recognize that their advertising venture is unfair to the township, its businesses and its residents.

Portage Township applauds the progress that has recently occurred at the airport but regrets that the airport has chosen to exploit the inequities created by this situation. In past years the township and airport have had an excellent working relationship. Since 2011 that relationship has become strained. The township looks forward to a day when a relationship of mutual trust, respect, and cooperation can be reestablished between Portage Township and the Erie Ottawa International Airport.

Meals on Wheels

by Drew Surovjak

In March of this year I was presented with an opportunity to ride along on the two different routes which deliver Home Delivered Meals to Portage Township residents. Over the span of two days, I was rewarded beyond my expectations.

As the sign on the vehicle says, the purpose of the program, provided through Ottawa County Senior Resources, is intended to help seniors maintain their independence. Hot meals are delivered to the homes of seniors unable to easily access community services. For many of the seniors, the delivery driver may be the only human contact of the day.

The qualifications for the program include: the participant must be 60 years or older and be homebound, meaning they have complications making it difficult for them to get out and about without help.



There are six meal routes in which nine drivers travel approximately 1500 miles delivering over 1000 meals a week. Each stop is a meal delivery, a brief visit, and a check on the well-being of the senior. I suspect that many more individuals qualify for the service. If you think you, a family member, or a neighbor qualify for services, call 877-898-6459 and explore the possibility. You may be doing yourself or someone else a great favor.



Township Clean-Up

The spring township clean-up was not as highly utilized as the fall 2013 collection. It generated 38,680 pounds of trash (about 3,000 pounds less than fall 2013) and 2,940 pounds of recyclable metals (about 13,000 pounds less than fall 2013). Excluding the expense of labor to man the activity, it cost the township \$1,957.10 for landfill and trucking fees.

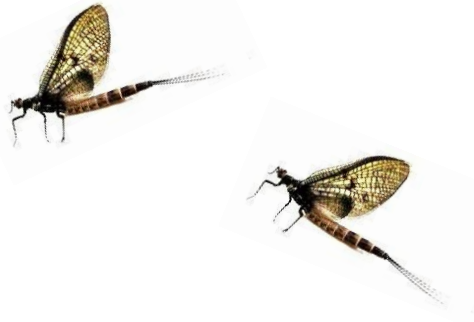
The decrease in utilization was unexpected but may be due to the fact that the past winter seemed to hold on so long. Many residents were probably still dreading the next snowfall rather than thinking about spring activities such as the biannual township clean-up.

Is any of this yours?



If you drive around Portage Township often, you have undoubtedly seen Father Ray Ensman out walking. Frequently he is carrying a plastic bag and collecting litter. When stopped one day and asked if he would permit us to include a picture of him in the newsletter, he posed and asked us to include this question: "Is any of this yours?" Imagine how wonderful this township would be if everyone took as much pride in it as Father Ray. Thanks Father Ray for helping to make Portage Township *a great place to live and raise a family!*

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



Portage Township

(Refrigerator Friendly Calendar)

June

16 Trustee Meeting – 7:00pm

July

1 **Brush Pick-Up**

7 Trustee Meeting – 7:00pm

14-20 **Ottawa County Fair**

21 Trustee Meeting – 7:00pm

August

4 Trustee Meeting – 7:00pm

5 **Brush Pick-Up**

18 Trustee Meeting – 7:00pm

25 **Port Clinton Schools Begin**

September

1 Trustee Meeting – 7:00pm

2 **Brush Pick-Up**

13 Hazardous Waste Collection*

15 Trustee Meeting – 7:00pm

20 Appliance Collection*

27 TV & Electronics Collection*

* Visit <www.recycleloss.org> for details

Roads, Roads, Roads

Over this past winter the Portage Township roads, and all area roads for that matter, took a beating. There was excessive plow activity, lots of salt, and excessive stress damage to the road surface due to the extreme cold and deep penetration of frost.

Township paving plans for 2014, which are decided a year in advance, were the paving of Gill Road from Harbor Road to Christy Chapel Road. It was decided to hold off paving the remainder of Gill Road until the state completes its work on State Route 2. The staging area for the Route 2 construction is at the east end of Gill road and the related heavy traffic is expected to damage that section of the road. Ohio Department of Transportation has promised to repair any damage caused to Gill Road once construction is complete. At that time the completion of the Gill Road resurfacing will be more appropriate.

Due to last winter's damage to township roads, the



trustees have decided that it will be prudent to also chip/seal and fog coat Anderson, Dubbert, Garnet, Emerald and Schiewe Roads. It was determined that those roads needed some attention this year before another winter. Remembering the dust problem which occurred when the township chip/sealed the roads in Gypsum, the trustees decided to add a fog coat to help alleviate that problem.

Pictured above is a crew from Kokosing Construction Company applying the new surface to the east bound side of Gill Road.