

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

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

Dec. 2, Jan. 6, Feb. 3,
 Mar. 3, Apr. 7

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 the best to all
 residents as we enter this
Holiday Season!*

Late Breaking News

The winter edition of the Portage Township news is usually distributed the first or second week of December. This year there is important information that needs to be distributed to township residents in a timely fashion. Therefore, this issue is being distributed a little early.

At the October 20th Portage Township Trustee meeting, Trustee Drew Surovjak read a letter of resignation. He stated that his resignation would be effective December 1, 2014. Drew's term was scheduled to expire December 31, 2015.

Ohio Revised Code specifies the procedure for filling a vacancy on boards of township trustees. And, of course, since it's Ohio Revised Code it would take an attorney to explain all of the intricacies of the law. Basically, Sam and Keith will have 30 days after Drew's departure to appoint a qualified replacement. To qualify, a person must be a township resident and registered to vote. If a replacement is not appointed by the end of the thirty day period, the presiding probate judge will make the appointment.

That being said, the compelling reason for the early delivery of this newsletter is to encourage any qualified township resident interested in serving as a trustee to mail a résumé along with a cover letter to Portage Township Trustees, 2501 East State Road, Port Clinton, Ohio 43452. Applications must be received no later than December 1, 2014 for consideration. Feel free to contact an elected official if you have any questions about the duties responsibilities and benefits of being a township trustee.

The elected officials and employees of Portage Township would like to thank Drew for his eight years of dedicated services. He will be missed.

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. The room comes supplied with tables and chairs. Individuals using the facilities are reminded that they are expected to leave the room in a neat and clean fashion.

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 a trustee.

Website

Residents are reminded that Portage Township maintains a website at no cost to the township through the generosity of Portage Township property owner Randy Pindor, president of *Radius Marketing* located in Strongsville, Ohio. The website is 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 to see what it has to offer.

Salt Shortage

Residents may have read in local papers that there is a salt shortage and cost will increase from \$35 per ton for salt last year to \$105 per ton this coming winter. And it is reported that salt may not be available at any price.

Given that information, Portage Township is attempting to secure an adequate supply for the upcoming winter but warns all residents to drive safely this winter wherever they travel. Salting of all roads will possibly not be as extensive as in years past.

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** published quarterly.
- **Website** includes extensive township information and forms available at www.portagetownship.net.
- **Community Room** is available to township residents at no charge. Contact a trustee.

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 specifies the appropriate activities permitted in the various districts within the township in an attempt 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 2014 the members of the Portage Township Zoning Commission were Kathy Elchert, Phil McMurray, Bob Follman, Kyle Auxter, Ron Huskey, and Matt Capodice.

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 2014 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.

Train Problems

The railroad tracks traveling the length of Portage Township have four private and three public grade crossings. The trustees have recently received complaints of crossings being blocked for extended periods of time. This can be of serious concern because there are areas of the township which are completely inaccessible for emergency vehicles when crossings are blocked. The two crossings which can be blocked without isolating areas of the township, Lake Street in Gypsum and Plasterbed Road, end up requiring travelers to detour all the way through the City of Port Clinton to facilitate crossings when the tracks are blocked.

At a recent trustee meeting Deputy Jim Muller explained that he has begun ticketing train engineers for blocking traffic. He explained that if a resident encounters a train blocking a road the resident is encouraged to call the sheriff's office at 419-734-4404 and report the problem. A deputy will be dispatched.

Christmas Tree Pick-Up

A Portage Township Christmas tree pick-up has been scheduled for January 13, 2015. Trees must be at the edge of the road before 7:00am on January 13th 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 6th will be picked up at that time. If a tree isn't placed by the road in time for the pick-up on the 13th, 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

Portage Township

(Refrigerator Friendly Calendar)

November 2014

17 Trustee Meeting

27 Thanksgiving

December 2014

1 Trustee Meeting – 7:00pm

15 Trustee Meeting – 7:00pm

25 **Christmas**

January 2015

5 Trustee Meeting – 7:00pm

6 **Brush Pick-Up**

19 Trustee Meeting – 7:00pm

19 **Martin Luther King Day**

February 2015

2 Trustee Meeting – 7:00pm

3 **Brush Pick-Up**

14 **Valentine's Day**

16 Trustee Meeting – 7:00pm

16 **President's Day Observed**

March 2015

2 Trustee Meeting – 7:00pm

3 **Brush Pick-Up**

Farewell!



I suspect it's a surprise to many that I have elected to retire from my trustee position at this time. In some respects it surprises me too. But, I have given this serious consideration and believe that the time is right.

I have worked diligently to serve as a trustee for this township for almost 8 years. I have decided that it is now time to spend more

of my time enjoying my wife and our retirement without the ongoing interruptions of my township job. It's time to step aside and make room for someone with a fresh passion to join the board.

I would like to thank Sam and Keith for their work. I thank Judy for the diligence and dedication she has demonstrated as fiscal officer. The township is very lucky to have her. And I need to thank the township employees: Matt, Bryan, Mary, and Jerry. Their hard work and loyalty has made my trustee job easier. Last but certainly not least, I need to thank my wife BJ for her support and her excellent

editing skills. She has been instrumental in the composition and mailing of the past 32 issues of the *Portage Township News*.

I know there are many residents in the township well qualified and capable of filling my seat on the board. I encourage you to step forward and be considered. I can assure you that the experience is very rewarding.

It has been an honor to serve as a Portage Township Trustee. I am grateful for all the friendships I have made and wish the best for the township and its residents.

Thanks to all.

Drew