

CURRENT

Bethel Township Trustees

Miami County Receives Additional Funding for Brandt Sewer

In early June, the Board of Trustees was informed by the Miami County Sanitary Engineering Department that the County had received additional grant funding for the Brandt Sewer Project. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency awarded an additional \$2,445,901.00 to the project.

Trustee Beth van Haaren stated, "We are thrilled that the County was able to secure additional funding for this project not only to eliminate the sanitary health hazard in Brandt, but more importantly to help reduce the assessments for the residents of Brandt." Township Administrator Mike Gebhart believes that this additional grant money will significantly reduce the assessments to the residents of Brandt.

At this time, the County has not determined the final assessments. Shortly after the completion of the Brandt Sewer Project, which is on track for completion in December of 2011, Miami County will calculate the assessments for the property owners in Brandt by compiling the final costs of Phase 1 and 2 of the project along with all grants and loans. Miami County will then notify the residents and Township of the final assessments.

Brandt Sewer Construction Has Begun

Construction on Phase II of the Brandt Sewer Project began in early June. Field's Excavating was awarded the construction contact by the Miami County Commissioner in early May.

Field's crews are currently working 4-10+ hour days each week to complete the project, and is expected to take approximately 180 days to complete.

At the completion of the project, all roads within Brandt, excluding US 40, will be repaved.

Questions can be directed to Jeff Shields –Miami County Sanitary Engineering at (937) 440-5653.

Brandt Sewer Assistance Available

Miami County has obtained a Water and Sewer Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in the amount of \$600,000 for the Brandt Sewer Project. As a part of that grant, households that meet the state income requirements to be qualified as a Low to Moderate Income (LMI) household will be awarded a grant that will pay their property assessment, tap-in fee, and sewer hook-up costs. Nikki Reese from the County's Economic and Community Development Department will be sending out grant applications to all households in the Brandt Service Area in the summer of 2011. Once the materials have been mailed, residents will have ample opportunity to discuss grant opportunities with Nikki.



Employees of Field's Excavating of Kitts Hill, Ohio work to install a sewer line in an alley way as part of the Miami County Brandt Sewer Project.

Board of Trustees

Jerome L. (Jerry) Hirt, Sr.

Beth van Haaren

Cliff Wray

Fiscal Officer

Deborah A. Watson

Administrator

Michael Gebhart

Fire Chief

David Stitzel

Planning & Zoning Director

Andy Ehrhart

Road Superintendent

Robert Yocum

*Township Offices
& Fire Station*

8735 S. Second Street (Brandt)

Tipp City, Ohio 45371

937.845.8472



Zoning Update

Bethel Township Zoning Commission (ZC):

The Zoning Commission met in workshop meetings for the months of May and June to consider changes to the Bethel Township Zoning Resolution.

The ZC meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Bethel Township Meeting Room.

Bethel Township Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA):

The Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) did not meet in regular for the months of April and June. The BZA did meet in regular session on May 26, 2011 to hear the following cases:

V-02-11: A request from Robert Hephner, 8965 S. State Route 202, Tipp City, OH, 45371. The applicant requests a variance under Article 30.05K of the Bethel Township Zoning Resolution to increase the size of an accessory building from the maximum size of sixteen hundred (1600) square feet to twenty eight hundred (2800) square feet. Approved

V-03-11: A request from Robert Leveck (Abbott Sign Company agent), 8740 State Route 201, Tipp City, OH, 45371. The applicant requests the following variances: 1) to increase the overall square feet of signage allowed from fifty (50) square feet to seventy five (75) square feet and 2) to allow for a second free standing sign mounted on the same support structure. Approved

The BZA meets on the forth Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Bethel Township Meeting Room.

Public notice for both the Zoning Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals meetings are posted in the news section of the Township web site at www.betheltownship.org, and in the Troy Daily News. Additionally, residents within 300' of the requesting property are notified by first class mail as per the Bethel Township Zoning Resolution and the Ohio Revised Code.

Zoning Certificates Issued:

ZC-03-11	9730 East Haskett	Accessory Building
ZC-04-11	6865 Ross	Addition
ZC-05-11	6725 Singer	Addition
ZC-06-11	6777 Scarff	Accessory Building
ZC-07-11	9305 Mann	Pool

Fire and EMS Runs to Date

Runs from 3/23-6/10/2011
 EMS 92 Fire 23 Total 115

Runs Year to Date
 EMS 384 Fire 166 Total 230



Summer Reminders:

Now that all the snow is gone and rains are slowing down, it's time to enjoy the summer. Here are some reminders from the Planning & Zoning Department:

Grass & Weeds: Properties need to be free of overgrown grass and weeds. Grass and weeds that exceed 8 inches in height should be reported to the Planning and Zoning Department so that a process can be started to have the grass cut by the owner or ultimately by a pre-determined contractor of the township.

Junk Cars: Bethel Township allows one vehicle that is not operating, not licensed or apparently inoperable. More than one vehicle constitutes a violation of the Bethel Township Zoning Resolution.

Swimming Pools: All swimming pools (including above ground and temporary pools that have a depth greater than twenty four (24) inches) are required to have a fence or barrier of at least four (4) feet around the entire pool area. If the pool wall is four (4) feet or greater, the pool wall may count as a barrier. Any steps or decks leading to an above ground pool must either be retracting or have a gate of at least 4 feet.

From the Fire Department: 1991 Fire Engine to be Replaced

For several years, Engine 6, a 1991 Pierce Dash Fire Pumper that serves as the primary firefighting engine for the Township, has continually experienced costly repairs associated with an aging piece of fire apparatus. Due to the age of the engine, some parts such as the micro processor which allows the engine to pump water became harder to find. Engine 6 has experienced 2 micro processor failures in the past 24 months at a cost of approximately \$4,500.00 per occurrence. In some cases, Engine 6 has been placed out of service while parts are found and/or repairs were made.

As repairs became more costly, the Fire Department began to explore ways to replace the aging engine. In 2010, the Township applied for an Assistance to Firefighters Grant through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to replace the engine at a cost of approximately \$475,00.00. The Township did not receive the grant.

Bethel Township Fire Chief David Stitzel continued to work to replace the engine. He was able to custom build a new fire engine that would meet the needs of the community, while significantly reducing the cost of the unit. The total cost for the new engine is \$355,489.00, which is below the state bid price.

Chief Stitzel then worked with Fiscal Officer Debbie Watson to find the best available financing. It became clear, that financing would add thousands of dollars to the purchase of the engine. In fact, based on the best available financing of the engine at 3.57% for five years, the Township would pay \$38,962.75 in interest. Watson and Stitzel explored the possibility of establishing a loan from the Township's General Fund to the Fire Department Funds to purchase the engine at 0% interest (the Township's General Fund includes money generated from the 3.8 mil Levy). After consulting with the Miami County Prosecutor's Office, it was determined that this loan idea was the best possible way to replace the engine, while being fiscally prudent with the Township's money. The Board of Trustees passed Resolution #11-04-062 authorizing the purchase of the new engine. Delivery of the engine is expected in the early fall of this year.

Fire Department Training: Roof Simulator Built

As part of the Township's ongoing commitment to provide the community with the best trained Fire and EMS personnel, a new ventilation simulator has been constructed in the rear of the firehouse. The training aid simulates a steep roof. It is utilized to train Department personnel in proper techniques to ladder the roof, establish a foothold and cut a ventilation hole with a chainsaw.

The project was completed for under \$600.00 utilizing Department personnel. The Board of Trustees and Fire Department would like to thank Pioneer Electric for donating the poles that support the roof and the Merz Family for the donation of the shingles.



Lt. Matt Bakan instructs Firefighter Chris Kyer on the proper techniques for roof ventilation on a fire scene.

Fire Department Training: Used Cars Needed

The Bethel Township Fire Department needs your old and unwanted vehicles. The Department is continually looking for vehicles to train firefighters and EMT's in the use of our extrication equipment, better known as the Jaws of Life, as well the best techniques for removing patients involved in motor vehicle accidents.

Donating your [car](#) for training may save a life by ensuring firefighters know how to handle serious auto accidents. When you donate a car, you'll get a receipt that you can use to possibly get a tax deduction. Contact Chief David Stitzel at 845-4274 or david.stitzel@betheltownship.org for more details.



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VISIT US ON THE WEB AT WWW.BETHELTOWNSHIP.ORG

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July

- 7 Historical Society Meeting, 7 PM
- 12 Trustees Regular Business Meeting, 7 PM
- 15 August ZC & BZA Meeting deadline
- 19 Trustees Workshop Meeting, 8:30AM
- 19 Co. Planning Commission Mtg., Troy, 7:30 PM
- 26 Trustees Regular Business Meeting, 7 PM
- 28 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, 6:30 PM
Zoning Commission Meeting, 7:30 PM

August

- 4 Historical Society Meeting, 7 PM
- 9 Trustees Regular Business Meeting, 7 PM
- 15 August ZC & BZA Meeting deadline
- 16 Trustees Workshop Meeting, 8:30AM
- 16 Co. Planning Commission Mtg., Troy, 7:30 PM
- 23 Trustees Regular Business Meeting, 7 PM
- 25 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, 6:30 PM
Zoning Commission Meeting, 7:30 PM

September

- 1 Historical Society Meeting, 7 PM
- 13 Trustees Regular Business Meeting, 7 PM
- 15 August ZC & BZA Meeting deadline
- 20 Trustees Workshop Meeting, 8:30AM
- 20 Co. Planning Commission Mtg., Troy, 7:30 PM
- 22 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, 6:30 PM
Zoning Commission Meeting, 7:30 PM
- 27 Trustees Regular Business Meeting, 7 PM

Upcoming Events:

October

- 9 Fire Department Open House at the Firehouse
in Brandt: 1:00PM to 4:00PM

ZC: Bethel Township Zoning Commission
BZA: Bethel Township Board of Zoning Appeals

All meetings are held in the Bethel Township Community Room, 8735 S. Second Street-Brandt unless otherwise noted.
All meetings are subject to cancellation.

SOME THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT WATER!

The greatest reduction in personal water usage can be in the bathroom. Two-thirds of the water used in an average home is in the bathroom, mostly for flushing toilets, or taking showers and baths.

- Check your toilet for leaks. Place a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Wait 15 minutes, without flushing, to see if the color appears in the bowl. If so, you have a leak which you can repair to save money right away.
- If you don't have a low flow toilet, you can make your own "water saver" for the toilet. Remove the label from a 1 liter plastic bottle. Fill the bottom with small stones or sand to weigh it down. Fill the remainder of the bottle with water and put the cap back on. Lift the tank top. Flush the toilet to empty the water out and put the bottle in the tank. You'll save 1 liter of water with each flush.
- Don't let the faucet run while you brush your teeth, wash your hands, or shave. Each time you turn off the faucet, you can save 1 to 4 gallons of water!



FAUCET LEAK (drops/minute)	GALLONS LOST PER MONTH	GALLONS LOST PER YEAR
● 30	84	1,008
● 60	168	2,016
● 90	253	3,036
● 120	337	4,044

Add up all the land that drains into the same waterway, and you have a watershed. Understanding how we impact our watershed is the first step toward protecting water quality.

Water from rainfall, snowmelt, and sprinklers moves over land to the nearest storm drain, ditch or creek. Pollutants hitch a ride in this water, entering waterways throughout the Miami Valley. This runoff can pollute the water, harming the creatures living in and around the stream. Controlling runoff pollution helps ensure we will have enough clean water for future generations.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

- Pick a few of the simple steps recommended in this brochure. Try them for a few months. Remember, a few simple changes can make a big difference.
- Share this tip card with a friend or neighbor.
- Get involved in local watershed activities.



Clean Water, Healthy Life is an educational outreach effort of the Miami Valley Storm Water Awareness Team. The "Team" is a collaboration of agencies with an interest in preserving water quality throughout Southwestern Ohio. To learn more about what you can do to support clean-water efforts, contact the Miami Conservancy District at 937-223-1278, or your local Soil & Water Conservation District office.

TIP CARD NO. 1



tap into
MORE
savings

saving water saves you money...

Find out how making a few water saving changes around the house and yard can save you money and protect our water.



DID YOU KNOW THAT A SILENT TOILET LEAK CAN WASTE AS MUCH AS 200 GALLONS OF WATER PER DAY?

A FEW SIMPLE WATER SAVING CHANGES WILL SAVE YOU MONEY AND PROTECT WATER FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS...

Saving water is important in Southwest Ohio, as well as in areas where water is scarce. You are paying for every drop whether it's used or wasted.

Conserve water...save money...
and protect nature!

Leaks in your home could be causing you to waste money. Even the tiniest leak adds up to a lot of lost water in a small amount of time, so it is important to check and maintain your faucets, toilets, and water-using appliances. In addition, you can save money by implementing the following simple water saving techniques that will quickly become habit.



IN THE HOUSE

- Insulate hot water pipes - this reduces the amount of water that needs to run before hot water is available.
- Water plants with the old water from your freshwater fish tanks. It's an inexpensive fertilizer high in nitrogen and phosphorus. Pet bowls or kiddie pools work well, too.
- Run full loads of laundry or use the correct load size settings. You'll save electricity as well as water.
- Be creative! Have a family contest to see who can be the best water conserver.

IN THE KITCHEN

- Fill a pitcher with tap water and put it in the fridge. It's faster - and less wasteful - than running the tap every time you want a cold drink of water. Running the faucet can waste 3 to 7 gallons of water per glass of water.
- Run full loads in the dishwasher. The wash cycle uses the same amount of water even if it just has a few dishes in it. If washing dishes by hand, turn the water off between rinses or partially fill one side of the sink for rinsing only.

IN THE YARD

- Wash your car on your lawn. This way you can clean your car and water the grass at the same time - and keep soap, oil, grease, and metals from flowing into the storm drain on their way to the nearest stream. Be sure to turn the hose off between rinses.
- Install rain barrels so you'll have free - and chlorine-free - irrigation water.
- If you water your lawn, 1 inch a week is all it needs. If you have a sprinkler system, install rain sensors. Overwatering can damage plants, stimulate fungus, and leach nutrients out of the soil.
- A good deep watering in the morning or late in the evening reduces evaporation and promotes deep root growth. Frequent, light watering will result in grass with shallow roots that can't handle extreme weather conditions.
- Be sure to adjust sprinklers so only the lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk or driveway. Avoid watering on windy days, so the water will go where you want it.
- Place a layer of mulch around trees and plants to retain water.
- Use a broom, instead of a hose, to clean sidewalks and driveways.

