

*Board of Trustees*

*Jerome L. (Jerry) Hirt, Sr.*

*Beth van Haaren*

*Cliff Wray*

*Fiscal Officer*

*Deborah A. Watson*

*Administrator*

*Michael Gebhart*

*Fire Chief*

*Dave 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*

## 2010 Census and Bethel Township

Some results from the 2010 Census have been released. While the population of the United States increased by 9.7 percent from 2000 to 2010 to 308,745,538, the population of Ohio grew only 1.6 percent to 11,536,504. As a result of Ohio's population growth not keeping pace with that of the United States, Ohio will lose two seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. Currently we have 18 congressmen. In 2013 we will only have 16.

Bethel Township's population has decreased slightly in the last 10 years. Our 2010 population was 4,843 people, which is 84 fewer residents than in 2000 or a decrease of 1.7%. However, the number of housing units has increased, from 1,930 housing units in 2000 to 2,018 housing units in 2010. And we have gotten older - in 2000, 23.4% of residents (1153 people) of Bethel Township were under the age of 18. But in 2010, only 20% or 988 residents were under the age of 18. Since the population of Bethel Township is less than 5,000 people, the option to become a Limited Home Rule Township is still not viable.

As additional census results for our township become available, we will post them on our website.

*Beth van Haaren is a Township Trustee*

*Beth.vanhaaren@betheltownship.org*

## Board honors Allen Senseman

.At their January 25, 2011, meeting, the Board of Trustees honored Allen Senseman for his service to the Township as a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA). Mr. Senseman served on the BZA from December of 1997 until December 31, 2010. Senseman has served the Bethel Township Community for decades which also included serving as a member of the Bethel Local Schools Board of Education. Allen, and his wife Sandy, plan to spend more time visiting with their children and grandchildren. Township Administrator Mike Gebhart summed up Allen by saying, "Allen was always there when we needed him." The Township honored him with a framed Resolution of Gratitude and an engraved clock, with Mr. Senseman's years of service, were presented to him during the meeting.



Sandy and Allen Senseman

Don't forget to get out and **vote on May the 3rd**. There are two issues concerning Bethel Township Residents:  
The Health District Levy and the Riverside School Levy



## Zoning Update

### Zoning Certificates Issued:

ZC-01-11	7780 Newberry Rd	Addition
ZC-02-11	8285 State Route 202	Addition

### Bethel Township Zoning Commission (ZC):

The Zoning Commission did not meet for the months of January and February; however they met in March to discuss 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 January and March. The BZA did meet in regular session on February 24, 2011 to hear the following case:

**V-01-11:** A request from Paul & Michelle Vicory, 8780 New Carlisle Road, New Carlisle, OH. The applicant requests a variance under Sec. 30.27 of the Bethel Township

Zoning Resolution to allow a home based business to operate 1) in a detached building and 2) to exceed the noise level permitted on a property zoned Residential (R-1AAA). Denied with a vote of 5-0.

The ZC meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Bethel Township Meeting Room.

*Andy Ehrhart is the Planning & Zoning Director  
andy.ehrhart@betheltownship.org*

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](http://www.betheltownship.org), and in the Troy Daily News. Additionally, residents within 200' of the requesting property are notified by first class mail as per the Bethel Township Zoning Resolution and the Ohio Revised Code.

---

## From the Road Department

**Ditches:** With the recent heavy rains and flooding, the Road Department requests that the residents of Bethel Township help the Road Department and themselves by checking and keeping open ditches on your property open and clean. This will help the storm water to move in the ditch and away from your property, which in turn may reduce your risk of flooding. Keeping the ditches clean also minimizes clogging of tiles under your driveway and under the roads, catch basins and other storm water tiles. Remember storm drains are for water movement only, they are not designed to remove grass, gravel, leaves or any other type of waste materials.

**Portable Basketball Nets:** When these basketball nets are in the road, they are a road hazard, owners may be liable for any damage to vehicles that hit them.

**Bi-Annual Cemetery Clean Up:** All decorations from grave sites must be removed by April 1. Decorations may be replaced on April 15. Memorial Day clean up in all Township Cemeteries will start on May 2. Fall clean up in all Township Cemeteries will start on October 3. All decorations must be removed by October 1. Decorations may be replaced in the Cemeteries after October 15. Any unsightly live or artificial flowers or decorations may be removed by the Cemetery Crews when deemed unsightly or if they cause a problem with mowing & maintenance, at anytime during the year.

**Roadside Mowing:** The Roadside mowing season starts May 1st and will end in October. Please be careful around the equipment, as the driver may not see you.

---

## Brandt Sewer Update

Phase I of the Brandt Sewer Project (installing the force main along U.S. Route 40 from 235 to Brandt) was completed in November, 2010. Bids for Phase II of the project were received by the Miami County Commissioners on March 22. The Commissioners will award the Phase II construction contract by the end of April. Construction of the gravity sewer lines in Brandt should begin mid-May and be complete by August. If you have additional questions or concerns about this project, please contact the Miami County Sanitary Engineering Department at 440.5654.

## Board of Trustees honors Fire Department

The Board of Trustees honored members of the Township’s Fire Department at their December 14, 2010 meeting. During the meeting, the Trustees named the Department’s Rookie of the Year, Firefighter of the Year, EMS Member of the Year, and Officers of the Year. The Department members nominated and voted on these awards, and Chief Stitzel recommended their approval to the Board of Trustees. Andrew Moore-FF/Paramedic was named Rookie of the Year, Kurtis Green FF/EMT-Basic was named Firefighter of the Year and Lt. Matt Bakan-FF/Paramedic was named EMS Member of the Year.

For this past year, the Officer of the Year award was handled differently. In the past, this award went to one officer. For 2010, the Officers were honored collectively for their efforts during a very difficult year. Interim Chief Robert Counts, Jay Zimmerman, Josh Schiebrel, Terry Weldon, James Sebastian and David Stitzel were honored for their service to the men and women of the Bethel Township Fire Department, as well as the entire community. We thank all the members of the Department for their selflessness and courage in serving Bethel Township.

## From the Fire Department

Bethel Township Fire Department is pleased to announce the creation of the **"Home Alone Program"**. This is a telephone calling system, a service designed for older adults, disabled persons, shut-ins who live alone or anyone else in our Township who needs to be checked on a daily basis. It is funded by the Bethel Township Trustees and operated, free of charge, by the Bethel Township Fire Department.

The Bethel Township Fire Department provides a community calling program that includes reminders and call reassurance programs for township residents at home. The Bethel Township Fire Department’s **"Home Alone Program"** allow seniors to call in each day to say "I'm OK today". This provides the subscriber more flexibility in their schedule, rather than receiving a call at a fixed time each day. If the senior fails to call the fire department by a certain time, the fire department will call the resident's home to see if they are okay. If there is no response to the call, an action plan will be generated that was worked out with the family and the subscriber.

*For additional information on the program or to subscribe, please contact Chief Dave Stitzel at the Bethel Fire Department 845.8452 or email him @ david.stitzel@betheltownship.org.*



## Fire & EMS

**Runs from 1/1/11 to 3/22/11**

EMS 81 Fire 38 Total 119

### Year End Report, # of Runs

	2009	2010	% Change
EMS	390	401	2.7%
FIRE	185	170	-8.8%

## Crime Prevention Tip

If you utilize a portable GPS unit in your car, be sure to place it and the mounting device in a secure out of sight place in your car. A current trend is for thieves to break into your vehicle and steal your garage door opener and GPS unit. The thieves then use the GPS unit to find your home and the garage door opener to enter your home to burglarize it.

**Going Green**—it’s not just Bethel’s school color, it is also an attempt to reduce the amount of renewable and non-renewable resources we use and save money at the same time. It costs us, on average \$1,000, to print and mail this quarterly newsletter to all households in the township. Want to save some paper and some of your tax dollars? Let us send you the Bethel Current to your email. Call or send us your email address and we will be happy to send it to you electronically.

**facebook**

Friend us on Facebook. Log onto Facebook and search for Bethel Township, Miami County.



PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
TIPP CITY, OH  
PERMIT #22

## Bethel Township Trustees

Miami County  
8735 South Second Street—Brandt  
Tipp City, Ohio 45371

Phone: 937-845-8472  
Fax: 937-845-7316  
Email: [www.betheltownship.org](http://www.betheltownship.org)

### Trustee Jerry Hirt

p. 667.1083  
[jerry.hirt@betheltownship.org](mailto:jerry.hirt@betheltownship.org)

### Trustee Beth van Haaren

p. 845.3937  
[beth.vanhaaren@betheltownship.org](mailto:beth.vanhaaren@betheltownship.org)

### Trustee Cliff Wray

p. 845.9920  
[cliff.wray@betheltownship.org](mailto:cliff.wray@betheltownship.org)

## VISIT US ON THE WEB AT [WWW.BETHELTOWNSHIP.ORG](http://WWW.BETHELTOWNSHIP.ORG) CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### APRIL

- 6 Historical Society Meeting, 7 PM
- 12 Trustees Regular Business Mtg.  
7 PM
- 15 May Meeting deadline
- 19 Trustee Workshop Meeting,  
8:30AM
- 19 County Planning Commission Mtg.  
in Troy, 7:30 PM
- 26 Trustees Regular Business Mtg.  
7 PM
- 28 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting,  
6:30 PM  
Zoning Commission Meeting,  
7:30 PM

### MAY

- 4 Historical Society Meeting, 7 PM
- 10 Trustees Regular Business Meeting,  
7 PM
- 17 Trustee Workshop Mtg, 8:30AM
- 17 County Planning Commission Mtg.  
in Troy, 7:30 PM
- 20 June Meeting deadline
- 24 Trustees Regular Business Meeting,  
7 PM
- 26 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting,  
6:30 PM  
Zoning Commission Meeting,  
7:30 PM
- 30 Memorial Day, Township Offices  
Closed

### JUNE

- 1 Historical Society Meeting, 7 PM
- 14 Trustees Regular Business Mtg.  
7 PM
- 17 July Meeting deadline
- 21 Trustee Workshop Meeting,  
8:30AM
- 21 County Planning Commission  
Mtg. in Troy, 7:30 PM
- 23 Board of Zoning Appeals Mtg.  
6:30 PM  
Zoning Commission Meeting,  
7:30 PM
- 28 Trustees Regular Business Mtg.

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

## Miami County Health Department

### What Does the Health Department Do For You?

Health District, Health Department, or Public Health. Whatever name you use, have you ever wondered exactly what your health department does for you – even if you have never been inside their building? It is a question that most people never ask. However, if you did ask someone on the street what the Health Department does, they would probably say “inspect restaurants,” or “give flu shots.” These are both critical jobs that the health department does, but it only scratches the surface of what they do every day. The Miami County Health District is involved in over 60 different programs, many of which you are probably not aware. The Miami County Health District is strategically shaped into several divisions according to function.

**Nursing** – The public health nurses at the Health District provide childhood and adult vaccinations, including vaccines required when traveling outside of the country. The Prenatal Wellness Center provides a comprehensive team consisting of an OB/GYN physician, a registered dietician, a licensed social worker, and a registered nurse to assist pregnant women during and after pregnancy. The Well Child Clinic provides preventive care to children from birth to 21 years of age. The Well Child Clinic also performs kindergarten physicals, sports physicals, developmental, hearing and vision screenings and much more.

**Environmental Health** - The sanitarians (health inspectors) at the Miami County Health District not only inspect the restaurants and grocery stores in the area, but they also inspect and regulate schools, jails, public swimming pools, campgrounds, mobile home parks, septic systems, and water wells. In addition to these programs, the EH division also responds to hundreds of complaints every year involving trash, housing, solid waste, pollution and any other type of general nuisance that may present a health hazard. In recent years, the Health District has also started enforcing the smoke-free workplace laws and is helping the public understand and manage bed bugs. Also within the EH division is the Plumbing Department; these inspectors examine commercial and residential plumbing work to ensure that connections are made in a safe and sanitary manner.

**Vital Statistics** - The office of Vital Statistics is responsible for the coding and archiving of Birth and Death Certificates for Miami County. When a Birth or Death certificate is received, it is completed and registered with the State Vital Statistics office. Recently, the Miami County Health District became one of the first counties to be able to issue birth certificates for any person born in any county in Ohio.

**Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)** - WIC is a program that provides Federal grants to States for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk. Many Miami County residents receive a healthy, good start from the services of WIC – with the hope that they will strengthen our community later in life.

**Other functions** –The Miami County Health District is also involved in Emergency Preparedness and Response. The Health District works to maintain a strong public health infrastructure capable of responding to incidents that result in public health threats and emergencies. Also, the health department is responsible for probing reports of communicable diseases. The reports are thoroughly and rapidly investigated to protect and prevent the spread of diseases in your community.

As you can see, your local health department is involved in many aspects of public health and the wellness. Sometimes it may be behind the scenes, but the dedicated employees of the Miami County Health District work hard every day to have a positive impact on your life no matter where you are in the community. If you have questions or comments for the Miami County Health District you can reach them at 440.8105. The Health District is located at 510 West Water Street, Troy, OH.



## Riverside of Miami County

### *What kind of services does the Miami County Board of MRDD provide?*

900 children and adults in Miami County qualify for services from the Miami County Board of MRDD (Riverside) – each of these individuals has a “board contact” who is their connection for services and supports. Here are some details about how they are served.

- 377 children ages birth through 22, receive day, evening and weekend services. These services include: early intervention, center-based and itinerant preschool, evening, weekend and summer recreational activities.
- 323 adults receive day, evening and weekend services. These services include: employment through our production facilities at RT Industries, support for individuals working at jobs in the community, specialized day services for individuals for whom work is not a viable option, training services to help individuals learn necessary life and work skills, and participation in other day programming in the community.
- 300 individuals – 115 children and 185 adults with disabilities participate in a variety of recreation activities including Special Olympics.
- 60 people – on average per year – both children over the age of 6 and adults, request and complete the eligibility determination process for Board services.
- 100 people – on average per year – receive help to establish estates, trusts, legal guardianships or judicial system liaison services.
- 320 individuals receive residential supports. These services include: group home placements, support for individuals in the family home, or in apartments and houses in the community.
- 407 people receive ancillary services such as speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, nursing and interpreter services.
- 505 people - adults and children - receive service coordination. These services are managed by a service and support administrator who is the single-point-of-contact for the consumer and his/her family. This is an essential function to maximize the safety and well-being of these individuals.
- 256 calls per year are handled through our crisis “hot line” during evenings and weekends.

*The MISSION of the Miami County Board of Developmental Disabilities (Riverside of Miami County) is to empower children and adults with developmental disabilities to live, work and play as full members of the Miami County community.*

---

It's almost summer! Please remember that all swimming pools (in-ground and above ground) must be enclosed by a minimum five foot high fence. The fence must be in good condition and have a self locking gate. If you have any questions about the requirements, please contact Andy Ehrhart, Bethel Township Zoning Director at 845.8472.



**Road Repair**—the winter weather has been especially harsh on our roads. The township has already started to fix potholes and will begin crack sealing in early May, once the weather has warmed up. There has been spot base failure on many of our township roads causing damage. We completed a road inventory in early March. The township trustees will make a list of road repairs, prioritize that list and evaluate the money available to make those repairs. If you notice damage to a township road, please contact a trustee or Michael Gebhart at 845.8472.

**Junk Storage** — Now that spring is finally here many of us are ready to get outside and do some spring cleaning. Please remember that Section 30.26 of Bethel Township’s Zoning Code prohibits the accumulation and/or storage of junk vehicles, disabled or inoperative machinery or equipment, discarded appliances or furnishings, other junk or debris except when stored within a completely enclosed structure. If you have any questions about this regulation, please contact Andy Ehrhart at 845.8472.