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*Township Offices
& Fire Station*

8735 S. Second Street (Brandt)

Tipp City, Ohio 45371

937.845.8472

CURRENT

Bethel Township Trustees

Miami County's Phoneton Sewer Project

By Jill Rhoades, Miami County Sanitary Engineer

In May, 2011, the Miami County Commissioners were awarded \$5.5 million in Ohio EPA Principal Forgiveness Funding (funding that does not have to be repaid) for the purpose of constructing a gravity sewer system in Phoneton and Wiley Industrial Park and running sewer force mains from Brandt to Phoneton, Phoneton to West Charleston and Brandt to Bethel Schools. The remainder of the project costs are eligible for an Ohio EPA 0% Interest Loan.



This project is important to Miami County and Bethel Township for several reasons:

- Elimination of a health hazard: Most of the homes and businesses in Phoneton and Wiley Industrial Park are served with private wells and on-site wastewater treatment systems. On-Site wastewater treatment systems in this area mostly consist of septic tanks with leach fields; and several discharging systems, which is no longer a currently approved method of septic waste disposal. Most of the leach fields are smaller and older (30 years +) than what would be permitted under current OEPA or County Health Standards. Finally, most of the lots have insufficient available space for a replacement system to be constructed. The County Health District has quite a bit of well sampling information for this area that has been collected over the years. Approximately 50% of the samples tested positive for fecal coli form, an indication that untreated septic waste could be contaminating private wells.
- Prevent Annexation: The sewer will provide infrastructure that helps to prevent annexation of the township to Huber Heights. The wastewater from this project will be treated by Clark County via the Brandt Sewers Pump Station.
- Funding: The project is largely funded by the Ohio EPA. The county and the township could not afford to put this infrastructure in place without the grant from this agency.
- Increase Property Values: Centralized sewer can increase both residential and industrial property values.
- Supports Bethel Township businesses: Centralized sewer allows businesses to grow (both in people and in building size) without having to put in additional septic tanks and leach beds.

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Crime Prevention Tips from the Miami County Sheriff's Department



Over the past several weeks, the Township has seen a significant increase in personal property thefts from both residential property and vehicles. The Miami County Sheriff's Office continues to investigate these crimes and reminds residents to:

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Township Revenues Continue to Shrink...

By Jerome "Jerry" L. Hirt, Sr.
Bethel Township Trustee

Township Government is funded by various tax sources, all of which have faced deep cuts in recent years. We, as individuals, all realize the strain of a slow economy on our personal finances and our news media reports on its negative effect on tax revenue collection at the Federal, State, and Municipal levels. Seldom, do we think of how the slow economy effects your township government and the services it provides. Township services are funded solely by real estate property taxes, gasoline taxes, motor vehicle license fees, estate taxes, and the Ohio Local Government Fund.

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Miami County's Phoneton Sewer Project

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The Phoneton Sewer project has been split into five separate construction contracts. These five contracts were awarded by the Miami County Commissioners in early December to three different contractors. Fifteen different companies bid on all or some of the contracts in October. Construction will begin in spring of 2012, although you may see surveying and pre-construction crews out in January and February. Phoneton residents, Wiley Industrial Park, Process Equipment Company and Bethel Schools can expect to begin to connect to the sewer in 2013.

For a map of the project, please go to the Miami County Sanitary Engineering website www.miamicountysed.com and click on the link to Phoneton Sewer Project. Additional questions or comments should be directed to Jill Rhoades, Miami County Sanitary Engineer at 440.5653.

The Miami County Sanitary Engineering Department has a website, at www.miamicountysed.com. Updates on the Brandt and Phoneton Sewer Projects, as well as information on all of the services they provide can be found on their website. Services include: drinking water, solid waste disposal and sewer service.

Miami County's Brandt Sewer Project Update

Work continues to progress on the Brandt Sewer Project. The gravity portion of the sewer in Brandt is in the final phase of pipe testing. Crews are working to complete the gravity lines east of US40 and SR201 and the pump station located to the east of Brandt on US40.

Miami County Sanitary Engineering anticipates that hook ups from the sewer lines to each residence will begin sometime during the first three months of this year.



Crime Prevention Tips from the Miami County Sheriff's Department

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- Keep all access doors locked along with vehicle doors
- Keep an extra car in the driveway close to the house in a well lit area instead of in the garage to make it appear someone is home
- Leave a radio on and make the house appear occupied
- If anyone knocks at your door and then has an unreasonable explanation for being there, i.e. "do you know where so and so lives", "can I use your phone", "I ran out of gas", etc. please obtain a license plate number and description of vehicle and call 911 immediately. Many daytime burglars will ring or knock first prior to breaking in to make sure no one is home. If someone answers the door they will be nervous and have an unusual reason for being there. The same goes with calls or hang-up calls. Burglars do not want you to be home when they break-in and will try to make sure no one is home.
- Learn what cars belong at your neighbors and call 911 if any vehicle not seen before is noticed in the driveway. Rural burglars will target those residences that have few neighbors so please look out for any unusual vehicle and call 911 immediately.
- Keep all valuables inside your residence; do not leave them in the car. At night, park car in garage if possible or close to residence in a well lit area.
- At nighttime utilize exterior lighting around your house to deter crime. If you get up in the middle of the night, take a moment to look out your window to observe any persons or vehicles that may be prowling.

CALL 911, IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING



2012 Township Meeting Schedule

January

- 4 Historical Society Meeting, 7 PM
- 10 Trustees Regular Business Meeting, 7 PM
- 17 Co. Planning Commission Mtg. in Troy, 7:30 PM
- 20 February Meeting deadline
- 24 Trustees Regular Business Meeting, 7 PM
- 26 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, 6:30 PM
Zoning Commission Meeting, 7:30 PM

February

- 1 Historical Society Meeting, 7 PM
- 14 Trustees Regular Business Meeting, 7 PM
- 17 March Meeting deadline
- 21 Co. Planning Commission Mtg. in Troy, 7:30 PM
- 24 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, 6:30 PM
Zoning Commission Meeting, 7:30 PM
- 28 Trustees Regular Business Meeting, 7 PM

March

- 7 Historical Society Meeting, 7 PM
- 13 Trustees Regular Business Meeting, 7 PM
- 16 April Meeting deadline
- 20 Co. Planning Commission Mtg. in 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

April

- 4 Historical Society Meeting, 7 PM
- 10 Trustees Regular Business Meeting, 7 PM
- 17 Co. Planning Commission Mtg. in Troy, 7:30 PM
- 20 May Meeting deadline
- 24 Trustees Regular Business Meeting, 7 PM
- 26 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, 6:30 PM
Zoning Commission Meeting, 7:30 PM

May

- 2 Historical Society
- 8 Trustees Regular Business Meeting, 7 PM
- 15 Co. Planning Commission Mtg. in Troy, 7:30 PM
- 18 June Meeting deadline
- 22 Trustees Regular Business Meeting, 7 PM
- 24 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, 6:30 PM

May, cont.

- 24 Zoning Commission Meeting, 7:30 PM

June

- 6 Historical Society Meeting, 7 PM
- 12 Trustees Regular Business Meeting, 7 PM
- 15 July Meeting deadline
- 19 Co. Planning Commission Mtg. in Troy, 7:30 PM
- 12 Trustees Regular Business Meeting, 7 PM
- 26 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, 6:30 PM
- 28 Zoning Commission Meeting, 7:30 PM
Trustees Regular Business Meeting

July

- 4 Historical Society Meeting, 7 PM
- 10 Trustees Regular Business Meeting, 7 PM
- 17 Co. Planning Commission Mtg. in Troy, 7:30 PM
- 20 August Meeting deadline
- 24 Trustees Regular Business Meeting, 7 PM
- 26 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, 6:30 PM
Zoning Commission Meeting, 7:30 PM

August

- 1 Historical Society Meeting, 7 PM
- 14 Trustees Regular Business Meeting, 7 PM
- 17 September Meeting deadline
- 21 Co. Planning Commission Mtg. in Troy, 7:30 PM
- 23 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, 6:30 PM
Zoning Commission Meeting, 7:30 PM
- 28 Trustees Regular Business Meeting, 7 PM

September

- 5 Historical Society Meeting, 7 PM
- 11 Trustees Regular Business Meeting, 7 PM
- 16 October Meeting deadline
- 18 Co. Planning Commission Mtg. in Troy, 7:30 PM
- 21 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, 6:30 PM
Zoning Commission Meeting, 7:30 PM
- 25 Trustees Regular Business Meeting, 7 PM
- 27 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, 6:30 PM
Zoning Commission Meeting, 7:30 PM

Please note:

The Board of Trustees meets in Workshop Session on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month @ 8:30AM in the Township Building in Brandt. Please check the Township's website at www.betheltownship.org for Workshop Session cancellations.

2012 Township Meeting Schedule, cont.



October

- 3 Historical Society Meeting, 7 PM
- 7 Fire Open House, 1 - 4 PM
- 9 Trustees Regular Business Meeting, 7 PM
- 19 November Meeting deadline
- 16 Co. Planning Commission Mtg. in Troy,
- 23 Trustees Regular Business Meeting, 7 PM
- 25 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, 6:30 PM
Zoning Commission Meeting, 7:30 PM

November

- 6 Election Day
- 7 Historical Society Meeting, 7 PM
- 13 Trustees Regular Business Meeting, 7 PM
- 16 December Meeting deadline
- 20 Co. Planning Commission Mtg. in Troy, 7:30 PM
- 27 Trustees Regular Business Meeting, 7 PM
- 29 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, 6:30 PM
Zoning Commission Meeting, 7:30 PM

December

- 5 Historical Society Meeting, 7 PM
- 11 Trustees Regular Business Meeting, 7 PM
- 18 Co. Planning Commission Mtg. in Troy, 7:30 PM
- 21 January 2013 Meeting Deadline
- 22 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, 6:30 PM
Zoning Commission Meeting, 7:30 PM

Zoning Certificates Issued:

ZC-14-11	7755 Staley	Accessory Building
ZC-15-11	8824 US Route 40	Accessory Building
ZC-16-11	5775 State Route 201	Addition
ZC-17-11	6570 Bethelville	Addition
ZC-18-11	8660 New Carlisle	Accessory Building
ZC-19-11	5825 Rudy	Addition
ZC-20-11	5578 State Route 202	Sign

Zoning Update

Bethel Township Zoning Commission (ZC):

The Zoning Commission met in workshop meetings in the months of October and November to discuss changes in the zoning resolution regarding the areas affected by the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The Zoning Commission did not meet for the month of December.

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 for the months October, November or December no cases were filed for their review.

The BZA meets on the fourth 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.

Fire and EMS Runs to Date:

Runs from 9/14-12/21/2011

EMS 100 Fire 18 Total 118

Runs Year to Date

EMS 379 Fire 113 Total 492



Fire Levy Renewed—Thank You!

On November 8, 2011, voters approved the renewal of the 2 mil Fire Levy by a 2:1 margin. Assistant Chief Josh Schiebrele stated, "We appreciate the confidence that our residence have shown in us by renewing this levy, and will continue to work to provide outstanding service to the community."

There will be no increase in your taxes.

Township Revenues Continue to Shrink...

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In order to help solve State funding shortfalls, the State Legislature in August of 2010 reduced the Ohio Local Government Fund, to every township, village, city and county in Ohio by 25 percent for 2011 and will further reduce that funding by another 50% for 2012. Prior to this decision by the Legislature, Bethel Township received approximately \$51,000.00 in Ohio Local Government Funds each year. For 2011, Local Government Funding was reduced to Bethel Township to approximately \$38,250.00 and for 2012 it will be reduced further to \$19,125.00.

In addition to the cuts to the Ohio Local Government Fund, the State legislature has also eliminated all estate taxes by 2013. Both of these funding sources helped offset the cost of services provided to residents not only in Bethel Township, but to communities across the State.

Gasoline tax revenue continues to shrink as the slow economy has reduced consumption, and thus collection of the State gasoline taxes. By formula, these taxes are distributed to Local Governmental units on the bases of the percentage of road mileage they are responsible for maintaining. In Bethel Township, we are responsible for roughly 1/3 of the 77 miles of roadway in the Township.

An ironic element of our state tax structure is that local government, the most responsive form of government, is the only level of government, that we directly approve the taxes for. Township Government cannot levy a tax to support general services without you, the voter, directly approving it. Townships and School Districts rely on you the tax payer for support, and we as local officials appreciate that support. The Township has several voter supported levies, which fund Township services based on your property tax. The Fire and Emergency Medical Services are funded by two levies; one of 1.5 mils and one of 2.0 mils. Additional Police Protection is provided by a contract with the Miami County Sheriff funded by a levy of 1.0 mil. The 3.8 mil, approved in 2003 and renewed in 2008, supports our efforts to protect the viability of the Township. These funds have been reserved to only fund efforts to protect our boundaries, and thus protect our long-term financial security and preserve our Bethel Community and lifestyle.

In two ways, the weak economy directly influences our revenue stream from these property value based taxes. Unfortunately, our community has not been spared from the property value losses that are occurring throughout the country. This leads to a long term decrease in lower tax revenue. In addition to lower property values, the downturn in residential and commercial growth limits any new revenue being generated to help offset those losses.

We are committed to be fiscally responsible cutting costs, whenever possible, while maintaining acceptable services. We always encourage you to call the Township Office (937-845-8472) with questions or comments. Our staff is always willing to be of assistance or leave a message for one of your elected officials and we will return your call.

Fire Department Year End Awards



Kurtis Green receives the Fire-fighter of the Year Award from Chief David Stitzel.

At their December 13, 2011, the Board of Trustees recognized Fire Department Personnel for their contributions to the community. The 2011 Fire Department Award recipients are:

Lt. Matt Bakan-Officer of the Year
 Andrew Moore-EMT of the Year
 Kurtis Green-Firefighter of the Year
 Tyler Horton-Rookie of the Year

Congratulations and thank you to all the members of the Bethel Township Fire Department for their service to the community.

E-Newsletter

To help save on printing costs and postage, if you would like to receive the Bethel Current Newsletter via email, just send your email address to:



bethelcurrent@betheltownship.org



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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

Trustee Jerry Hirt
ph. 667.1083
jerry.hirt@betheltownship.org

Trustee Beth van Haaren
ph. 845.3937
beth.vanhaaren@betheltownship.org

Trustee Cliff Wray
ph. 845.9920
cliff.wray@betheltownship.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT WWW.BETHELTONSHIP.ORG

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All meetings are subject to cancellation.