

Board of Trustees

Gary Biggs

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Beth van Haaren

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Deborah A. Watson

Administrator/Fire Chief

Andy Ehrhart

Assistant Fire Chiefs

Josh Schiebrel

Jay Zimmerman

Planning & Zoning

Marty Caskey

Lead Road Worker

Robert Yocum

Township Offices

8735 S. Second Street (Brandt)

Tipp City, Ohio 45371

937.845.8472

Winter Road Tips

The winter months are here and we will be out plowing and salting the roads as inclement weather arrives. Thanks to some talented young people, our snow plows have some wonderful art on them this winter, as seen in the photo below. During snow and ice storms, the Bethel Township Road Department makes every effort to keep roadways as safe as possible for drivers. Please note that in an effort to reduce costs, we will not plow between the hours of 1 a.m. - 5 a.m. unless storm conditions dictate otherwise. Below are a few tips from our road department:

- Remember that the road in front of the plow is usually in much worse condition than the roadway behind the plow. Plows will typically travel under 35 miles per hour and there is always a temptation to pass them. For your safety, it is recommended that you stay a safe distance behind the snowplows.
- During plowing operations, visibility can be reduced by blowing snow and plow operators may need time to stop or move over to avoid stranded vehicles. Keeping a safe distance between your vehicle and the plow is very important in order to avoid accidents.
- Allow plenty of room when passing a snowplow. Do not cut back into the lane ahead of the plow too quickly since the blade extends several feet ahead of the truck.



- When you see an approaching snow plow on an undivided roadway, move as far away from the center line as you safely can since blowing snow may obscure the actual width of the snowplow's blade.
- Turn on your lights - to see and be seen. Brush the snow off your headlights and tail-lights frequently.

Winter driving requires motorists to be careful and alert, but the most important tip for winter driving is: SLOW DOWN!

4.9 mill Fire and EMS Replacement Levy Passes

We would like to extend a large “thank you” to Bethel Township voters who voted to pass the 4.9 mill Fire and EMS Replacement Levy in November. This levy will replace the 2.0 mill Fire and EMS levy, which originally passed in 1999. Funds from this levy will be used to pay for replacement of a 13-year-old ambulance, repairs to the breathing air system, gear for the firefighters, uniforms, fuel, insurance and training and payroll for our personnel.

This Replacement Levy will appear on your tax bill in February 2018. It will add an additional \$101.50 per year per \$100,000 property value. Many residents believe that our fire department is still a “volunteer” department; this is no longer the case. While we do not employ any full time firefighters or EMS, we have over 30 highly trained part-time members of our department. Most of our members work another job and many of them rotate between multiple fire departments in the area. We strive to have four staff members at the station 24/7. Our response times are quick — approximately 90 seconds to respond to the emergency and, on average, 7 minutes to your door.

If you have additional questions on this levy or the fire department, please contact the Township at 845-8472 or any of the township trustees.

Zoning Update

Zoning Certificates Issued:

ZC-38-16	6185 Dayton-Brandt Rd.	Pole Barn
ZC-39-16	7490 St. Rt. 201	Accessory Building
ZC-40-16	7727 US 40	In-ground Pool
ZC-41-16	5190 Westland Dr.	Addition to Residence
ZC-42-16	7325 St. Rt. 201	Accessory Building
ZC-43-16	7285 Palmer Rd.	Addition to Residence
ZC-44-16	6365 St. Rt. 201	Addition to Residence
ZC-45-16	6476 US 40	Addition to Residence
ZC-46-16	8755 St. Rt. 201	Sign
ZC-47-16	8130 Flick Rd.	Replacement Pole Barn
ZC-48-16	7490 St. Rt. 201	Sign
ZC-49-16	4365 US 40	Replacement Pole Barn

BETHEL TOWNSHIP ZONING COMMISSION (ZC)

The Zoning Commission (ZC) met in December, but not in October or November. They reviewed the following case: ZA-05-16 5700 St. Rt. 571 Rezoning 10.024 acres from A-2 to A-1. (Approved. This case is pending Trustee approval.)

BETHEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS (BZA)

The Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) met in October, but not in November or December. They reviewed the following cases:

V-08-16	5015 St. Rt. 201	Lot smaller than permitted (Approved)
CU-02-16	6365 St. Rt. 201	Second residence on parcel (Denied)
V-09-16	6365 St. Rt. 201	House smaller than 1500 square feet (Cancelled)

FULL YEAR 2016:

Certificates requested:	49	Conditional Use requested:	2
Certificates issued:	49	Conditional Use approved:	1
Declarations received:	4	Zoning Amendments requested:	5
Variances requested:	9	Zoning Amendments approved:	4
Variances approved:	8	Zoning Text Amendments requested:	0

The ZC meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM and the BZA meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM in the Bethel Township Meeting Room when they have cases. Public notice for both the ZC and the BZA meetings are posted in the news section of the Township website 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 2016:

Runs from 1/1/16—12/31/16:

EMS 382 Fire 141 Total 523

10/1/16—12/31/16

EMS 110 Fire 40 Total 150

Heating equipment is involved in **1** in every **6** reported **home fires** and **1** in every **5** home fire deaths.

Ohio Open Checkbook

Bethel Township began using the online checkbook OhioCheckbook.com in July 2016. Bethel Township is the first township in Miami County to post their spending on OhioCheckbook.com. “Bethel Township has been pleased to work with Treasurer Mandel to seek to publish our financial expenditures on OhioCheckbook.com,” said Bethel Township Fiscal Officer Deborah Watson. “We’re proud to be the first township in Miami County to post our checkbook online and to allow our taxpayers to know how their money is being spent.”

OhioCheckbook.com was launched on December 2, 2014, marking the first time in Ohio history when citizens could actually see every expenditure in state government. Since its launch, OhioCheckbook.com has received overwhelming support from newspapers and groups across the state. In 2015, State Treasurer Josh Mandel sent a letter to 18,062 local government and school officials representing 3,962 local governments throughout the state calling on them to place their checkbook level data on OhioCheckbook.com and extending an invitation to partner with his office at no cost to local governments. These local governments include cities, counties, townships, schools, library districts and other special districts. OhioCheckbook.com displays more than \$529 billion in spending over the past eight years, including more than 146 million transactions. The website includes cutting-edge features such as:

- “Google-style” contextual search capabilities, to allow users to sort by keyword, department, category or vendor;
- Fully dynamic interactive charts to drill down on state spending;
- Functionality to compare state spending year-over-year or among agencies; and, capability to share charts or checks with social media networks, and direct contact for agency fiscal offices.

To access the OhioCheckbook.com for Bethel Township, go to our website (www.betheltownship.org) and click on the link on the left hand menu “Bethel Open Checkbook State of Ohio site”. If you have any questions about the expenditures or how to use the open checkbook, please contact the township at 845.8472.

Business Spotlight—A Secret Garden at Weber Estates



Looking for the perfect venue to hold a wedding, graduation party, birthday party, corporate gathering or even a bridal or baby shower? Look no further than “A Secret Garden at Weber Estates.” Situated on just less than six acres off of US Rte 40, owners Bryan and Karen Weber offer a beautiful country setting to host your upcoming event.

Built in the mid-nineteenth century, Weber Estates started life as the Baumgardner family farm. The main house retains many of its original features such as its fireplaces, wood flooring, original sash windows and smoke house. Although the estate is no longer actively farmed, it is surrounded by beautiful farm land and wooded areas.

During wedding season, the property boasts a large tent suitable for up to 250 guests, an ornamental pond with romantic gazebo, and preferred vendors list for all of your wedding needs. There is also a two story banquet facility with seating for about 40, which has a billiards table on the second floor, karaoke, and an ornate spiral staircase.

Owner Karen Weber states “last year we hosted around six weddings, a few birthday and graduation parties, and the Bethel Fire Department’s Christmas Party. This year we have booked sixteen weddings, so we are continuing to grow.”

A Secret Garden at Weber Estates is located at 8390 US Route 40, phone number 937-308-3318. Their website is www.asecretgardenohio.com and they can be found on Facebook.





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

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT WWW.BETHELTONNSHIP.ORG

Or like us on Facebook— Bethel Township, Miami County, Ohio

January

- 4 Historical Society Meeting, 7 PM
- 10 Trustees Regular Business Meeting, 7 PM
- 16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day—Township Offices are closed
- 17 Co. Planning Commission Mtg. in Troy, 7:30 PM
- 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
- 14 Trustees Regular Business Meeting, 7 PM
- 20 President’s Day—Township Offices are closed
- 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

March

- 1 Historical Society Meeting, 7 PM
- 14 Trustees Regular Business Meeting, 7 PM
- 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

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.

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