

Kingston Township

November 2010

News

Chairman's Chat – By Steve Volpe



Harvest at Blue Church and Wilson roads, by Jim Martin

Harvest time is here again. Fall colors, crisp cool days. What a great time of year! Even better, the campaigning season is almost over. Hurray! But seriously, with harvesting in full swing, please be patient with the farm machinery on the roads. Everyone is busy, take your time and be courteous.

Fall is also the time of lots of leaves. They're beautiful to look at but what a pain to handle and clear. And I know you would never think of breaking the law by burning leaves. This is especially important because of our dry conditions. Fires can get out of control very quickly. We do have a great fire department, but let's not test them.

The biggest thing on the Trustees' agenda this month is awarding the new trash contract. For this we would really appreciate your input. We have two qualified trash haulers for the township. Your cost will go up minimally no matter which one we pick. The question at hand is whether or not to include curb side recycling. This service will cost \$3 to \$4 per month extra. It's not much, less than the cost of driving to the recycle station, and the county recycling service is dealing with a serious reduction of funds and increased costs. So, we may have to take on some of the financial responsibility ourselves. Please e-mail myself or Dewey Akers with your comments before our special meeting about this contract on October 26.

Finally, Election Day is November 2nd. It has never been more important for you to educate yourself and VOTE.

Remember, life is not a rehearsal. Get out and enjoy yourself.

Trustees Meeting

Surplus maintenance items were sold at public auction at the October 5th Trustees Meeting. The Township Hall was packed with bidders and the items brought more than \$2,500.

Roads and Cemeteries

Road Superintendent Doug Crowl now has an e-mail address at roads@kingstontwp.org. He also will be getting a cell phone and the land line at the maintenance building will be disconnected.

Zoning News

The Zoning Commission has completed the revisions to the Zoning Code. Public hearings on the document will occur in upcoming months.

The Trustees interviewed two candidates for the open five-year term Zoning Commission position but made no decision at their October meeting. They agreed to do additional research.

Sheriff Issues Alert

Sunbury/Galena Sees a Cluster of Daytime Break-ins

The Sunbury/Galena area has seen a cluster of daytime break-ins recently. During the past two weeks there have been five home break-ins during the morning and daytime hours while homeowners were away. Most burglars do not want confrontation so they will break into homes during the day while homeowners are at work. This usually leads to the burglar entering the home from the rear of the house to avoid being seen. However, entry of the home was gained by kicking in the front door on three of these cases. In all of the cases, the homes were ransacked and easily taken items of value were stolen. Items taken include televisions, jewelry, a laptop, a camera, a game system, and a rifle. At each crime scene evidence was left behind by the burglar. Detectives with the Sheriff's Office continue to follow leads and review evidence to determine if these burglaries are related and to locate a suspect. Please be aware of any suspicious vehicles and persons in your neighborhood and report any suspicious activity immediately at 740-833-2800.

Take an Active Roll in Crime Prevention:

- Lock all doors and windows;
- Turn on alarm systems/if you have one, use it every time;
- Be aware of your surroundings and take note of suspicious vehicles and people;
- Take down the license plate number of any suspicious vehicles; and,
- Report all suspicious activity to 740-833-2800.

Call even if you can only relay partial information. No tip is too small. The Delaware County Sheriff's Office investigates every tip it receives.

Beggar's Night

Beggar's Night is Thursday, Oct. 28, 6-8 p.m. Since many of us have longer driveways and are spread apart, if you are giving out candy, place a sign at your driveway and leave a light on. Be safe and be sure to stop for candy at the Porter Kingston Fire Station, 12844 Olive Green Rd., Sunbury OH.

The UL Halloween Safety Guide

It's the scariest night of the year! But with a little attention to safety, you can keep it fun and not frightful. Here are a few tips for you to follow and a quiz to review about safety with your kids. Boo!

Don't Frankenstein Your Lights

Do not connect more than three miniature light strings together. Also, be sure to check the rating on your extension cords and do not plug in more than the recommended wattage. Cords should not be run under carpets or tacked-up with metal nails or staples.

Inspect Decorations with Fiendish Care

Inspect all of your electric lights and decorations for damage or wear. Cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, and loose connections may pose a fire or shock hazard. Look for a red UL mark to indicate that lights are certified for both indoor and outdoor use. A green UL mark indicates certification for indoor use only.

Beware of Candles!

Candles, especially in a Jack O'Lantern, should be off the ground and out of children's reach. Try battery-operated LED candles for an even safer option.

Don't Trip Up Your Goblins

Halloween costumes should allow full movement for your kids. Costumes that drag, constrict, or drape pose a dangerous hazard, especially at night. Check to ensure that costumes don't restrict your children's vision, and instruct them to watch out for tripping hazards, such as cords.

Say Boo! to Unsafe Costumes

Be sure to purchase or make costumes out of flame-resistant materials such as nylon or polyester as these specially marked fabrics will resist burning and extinguish quickly. Make sure your child knows to stop, drop, and roll in case their costume catches fire.

Be Safe and Bright

Choose costumes that are lighter in color and attach reflective materials to costumes. Make sure each child has a flashlight to help them see and be seen.

Keep Hungry Monsters from Feeding

Never let your kids eat Halloween candy before you inspect it in the light at home. Even if you know your neighbors, you should always check to be safe and throw away open candy or anything that looks at all suspicious.

Talk to your Little Ghouls About Safety

Here's a fun way to go over basic safety rules with your kids before the evening arrives. Give them this Halloween family safety quiz: <http://safetyathome.com/seasonal-safety/fall-safety-articles/the-ul-halloween-safety-guide-and-trick-or-treat-family-safety-quiz/>. When they're done, award them with a UL safety certificate that they can post on the front door!

Big Walnut Schools

Big Walnut Schools Superintendent Steve Mazzi attended the Trustees' October meeting to explain the school district's 2009-10 state report card. The school district again received an excellent rating by meeting 26 out of 26 state indicators, making adequate yearly progress, and meeting value-added measures. Big Walnut is ranked among the top of the excellent rated schools in Ohio and Ohio ranks fifth in the nation for the quality of its education. Mazzi said it's important to provide a variety of course offerings, opportunities, and chances for our children to succeed and compete for scholarships and jobs.

Scott Erick, from the ABC Committee, also attended to discuss the schools' 7.5 mill, five-year emergency operating levy. He explained that he moved here because of our good schools but his children were casualties of the Harrison St. Elementary School closing. Erick owns a small business in Sunbury and some rental properties. He said the quality of the schools affects businesses and property values and that he always receives questions about the schools from prospective renters. He added that a house in the Southwestern School

District originally listed for \$278,000 but only listed for \$178,000 after the district could not pass an operating levy.

Erick said that Big Walnut Schools have been rated excellent for five consecutive years and have a 98% graduation rate. "The schools are the central focus of why people come here and stay here. They are the core of the community," he said. He asked residents to keep this an area people are proud of.

Erick said the schools have been fiscally responsible by cutting \$5 million, or 20 percent of its budget. This led to drastic changes in classroom sizes which studies show dramatically affects how well children learn. He also said that we educate our children for nearly \$600 less than the state average and \$500 less than the federal average and still maintain an excellent rating. Since Delaware County is considered a high income area, the funding our school district receives from the state is reduced. We must make up the difference locally to preserve the quality of our children's education. "It's important that we invest in the future," Erick added. He also explained that administrative staff have had no raises for two years and teachers will receive no raises through 2011-12.

A list of potential cuts and reinstatements, as well as other information, is available at www.eaglepride.org. Mazzi added that the district's budget is available to the public to review and he welcomes people to contact him directly with any questions they have at steve_mazzi@bigwalnut.k12.oh.us or 965-2706.

Erick invited residents to an Open Forum at 7 p.m. on Oct. 26 at Big Walnut High School.

Newsletter By E-mail

To receive an e-mailed version, contact kingstonnews@embarqmail.com.

Kingston Calendar

Meetings occur at the Township Hall, 9899 St. Rt. 521, (Rt. 521 & Carter's Corner Rd.) unless noted* otherwise. Trash pick up days are Thursdays except during holiday weeks.

Trustees Meeting (1st Tuesday) Nov. 2, 7:30 PM
Trash Days (Thursdays) Nov. 4, 11
Recycling Bin Arrives (2nd Thursday) ..Nov. 11 (until full)
Zoning Commission (3rd Wednesday) Nov. 17, 7 PM
Trash Day (Thursdays) Nov. 18, 26*

Who To Call (740 Area Code)

TRUSTEES

Steve Volpe, Ch.: 965-1802, svolpe@kingstontwp.org
Dewey Akers: 803-1529, dakers@kingstontwp.org
Bill Shively: 272-3668, 8760 SR 521, Sunbury, OH

FISCAL OFFICER

Greg Roy: 524-8591, fiscalofficer@kingstontwp.org

NEWS & INFO

Township Web Site: <http://www.kingstontwp.org>
Newsletter Editor: Jeanna Burrell 965-1914
e-mail: kingstonnews@embarqmail.com

PORTER KINGSTON FIRE DISTRICT

Emergency: 911; Business: 524-5050

PKFD@rrohio.com; <http://www.PKFD.org>

ROADS & CEMETERIES

Doug Crowl, 740-513-8041 roads@kingstontwp.org

TRASH

Rumpke: 1-888-RUMPKE1 (1-888-786-7531)

e-mail: chris.lavender@rumpke.com

web: <http://www.rumpke.com>

ZONING

Robert Talbott: 524-0290, Fax: 524-5304

e-mail: zoning@kingstontwp.org