



# **KINGSTON NEWS**

## **2ND QUARTER, MAY 2017**

### **Chairman's Chat**

*By Bill Shively, Trustees Chairman*

Hello Everyone! Spring is here! Would someone please inform mother nature that it is the middle of May, and my furnace should not be coming on anymore until October or November. Crazy weather.

The new township dump truck is now in service and ready to go. The truck is a 2015 Western Star single axle dump with a Cummins diesel engine, new snow plow and new salt spreader. The township will put up for bid the 1991 International dump truck and Galion road grader later on this summer. Watch the newsletter for details.

The Wilson road reconstruction project on the south portion is underway. The road is to be straightened out on the curve, widened and turn lanes added going into the new residential areas of the Northstar Development. The road is scheduled to reopen at the end of August.

The trustees have been informed that ODOT is going forward with the proposed roundabout at the State Route 61-656-Wilson Road intersection. Upon final approval for funding, construction could start in 2019-2020 time frame. The township along with the Delaware County Engineers Office will apply for grant money to help fund our share of the construction cost.

The trustees voted to re-apply for an OPWC grant to fund the Blue Church Road resurfacing project. The township will not know if we are approved until later this year. Let's hope we are successful this time.

Trustee Steve Volpe is working to finalize the amount of funding needed to construct the new Township Hall. The trustees are planning to be on the November ballot asking resident approval to

borrow funds for construction. This is not a tax increase. Watch the newsletter for more details.

Trustee Dewey Akers has informed the board that the Porter-Kingston Fire District will put in service a new Engine Rescue Unit (Engine 382) this month. We are very fortunate to have one of the best fire departments around!

Planting season is in full swing. Please watch out for large farm equipment on the roadways. If you have a question or concern, please call me at 740-272-3668 or 740-524-2333.



Pictured above are Trustee Steve Volpe and Ohio Township (OTA) President Thomas Willsey. Trustee Volpe was awarded his certificate for completing the OTA Leadership Academy at the Winter Conference in February 2017. Twenty township elected officials from across the state participated in the academy over a two year period which included eight leadership classes at the annual conference and at the OTA Headquarters in Blacklick, Ohio and a meeting with federal legislators to discuss pertinent township issues.

Trustee Volpe felt it important to participate in the classes to better represent the residents of Kingston Township and develop networking capabilities outside the township.

## **KILBOURNE FESTIVAL 2017**

### **The 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the settling of Kilbourne, OH - Kilbourne Festival, August 19, 2017**

We hope you are all planning to celebrate the 21<sup>st</sup> annual Kilbourne Festival, August 19, 2017. We will also be commemorating the 200<sup>th</sup> year of the settling of Kilbourne, OH (aka Eden) at the same time. We would encourage everyone to dress in period costume of 1817 for this occasion. Our Grand Marshalls, Bob and Mary (Thurston) Fleming are representative of the history of this community in that Mary's ancestor, Daniel Greene Thurston was the first permanent settler in the Kilbourne/Brown Twp area and the Fleming family has helped to shape our history as well.

If you have any old pictures of Kilbourne and Brown TWP that we could copy for a display please contact Jean Hightower, 740-815-7464 or [jean1946@frontier.com](mailto:jean1946@frontier.com). We would like to have the pictures soon. The day will be filled with our usual activities including a parade, breakfast, lunch, games and vendors. To register for the Cornhole Tournament on August 19, call 740-816-0879. The festivities all begin at 8:00AM with breakfast and ends at 3:00PM with the drawing of names for the vendor raffle. For vendor spaces contact Violet at [vm1c1952@yahoo.com](mailto:vm1c1952@yahoo.com).

Cliff (C Dee's Lil Store) will be scheduling his annual horseshoe tournament for sometime in the fall. To register for the tournament call 740-524-3191. If you would like to participate or volunteer for the Festival that supports the Good Samaritan Fund serving Brown, Oxford, Kingston & Peru Townships, please call 740-524-6041 or [www.kilbourneumc.com](http://www.kilbourneumc.com) and leave a detailed message.

## **ZONING REPORT**

**An urgent need still exists** to fill one position on the Board of Zoning Appeals. The position is an

Alternate Position that runs through December 2020. The Alternate attends all meetings but only has voting authority in the absence of a Member.

The Board of Zoning Appeals is comprised of 5 Members and 1 Alternate and meets on an as needed basis hearing variance requests, appeal of orders issued by the Zoning Inspector, conditional use requests and revocation of authorized variances and conditional zoning certificates. The positions receive \$40.00 compensation per meeting. The Board averages about 4-6 meetings per year.

Interested Kingston Township residents should submit a letter or e-mail of interest to the Zoning Office ([zoning@kingstontwp.org](mailto:zoning@kingstontwp.org)). Appointments are made by the Township Trustees during their monthly meetings so applicant attendance at a meeting will be required. **Kingston Township still needs your help!**

Zoning Resolution Update--A Public Hearing is scheduled on Wednesday, June 7, 2017, 7:00pm at the Township Hall to consider a Motion adopted by the Kingston Township Zoning Commission which proposes an amendment of the Kingston Township Zoning Resolution. Proposed changes include section number reference corrections throughout resolution, additional language to Section 6.02, language modification to Sections 7.05 (B) and 15.05 (B) and removal of Section 23.05 and 23.06.

Persons wishing to review the proposed text changes can visit the Kingston Township Hall between the hours of 8:00am and 12:00pm on any Thursday prior to the Public Hearing.

If you have any comments to share with the Zoning Commission regarding the language changes, please contact the Zoning Office by telephone or by e-mail.

## **ROADS & CEMETERIES**

Speed Limits And Excessive Speed--The Trustees have been receiving calls regarding the posted speed limit being too high and excessive motor vehicle speed on roadways within the Township.

While the Trustees have the authority to set speed limits for gravel roads, the authority to post the

limits on paved roadways rests with the Delaware County Engineer and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). If you have concerns about the posted speed limits, please contact the Delaware County Engineer at 740-833-2400.

If you see motor vehicle speeding or other violations and wish to report them, please contact the Delaware County Sheriff at 740-833-2810 since they have the enforcement authority on the roadways.

Blue Church Road Improvements--The townships grant application for funding through the Ohio Public Works Commission to widen and resurface Blue Church Road from State Route 521 north to the turnaround at Interstate 71 was not approved for 2017. On May 2, 2017, the Trustees approved grant application resubmission for 2018 consideration. Should the project be eventually approved, funding will come from the grant, the Delaware County Engineers Office and Kingston Township.

Wilson Road Closure--Wilson Road will be closed to through traffic for 100 days starting Monday, April 3, 2017. The closure will permit roadway replacement and widening of the final section of Wilson Road adjacent to Northstar by Trucco Construction for Nationwide Realty Investors. Wilson Road will be closed west of Carter's Corners on the east end and the intersection of North Galena Road and Wilson Road on the west end except for local traffic. **Wilson Road is scheduled to reopen on Thursday, August 31, 2017.** Any questions regarding the matter should be directed to Randy Rice with Trucco at 740-417-9010.

State Route 61 Improvement--The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) has approved a project to modify the intersection of State Route 61 and State Route 656/Wilson. They are looking at design alternatives to improve sight distances and move traffic through the intersection safely including the possible construction of a roundabout. Their target date for construction is reportedly 2020. Funding for the project will come from an Ohio Public Works Commission grant with the local match coming from the Delaware County Engineer and Kingston Township. As residents well know, this is a very unsafe intersection which has produced a number of vehicular accidents with injuries and

deaths. Questions regarding the project should be directed to ODOT District 6 in Delaware at 740-833-8000.

From March 2017 to May 2017, there was one plot sold in the Blue Church Cemetery and one internment. 22 tons of roadway salt was applied in February and 8 tons was applied in March bringing the salt usage total to 192 tons for the year. Wells Plumbing will be hired to camera drain tile along Twigg Hupp Road to determine if a blockage exists causing water to back up on the roadway during heavy rains. Based on engineering cost estimates for culvert replacement at Rosecrans and Blayne Roads, Blue Church north of Wilson Road and Clark north of Todd Street Road, the Trustees approved \$24,300 for completion of the work this summer at their May Trustees Meeting.

Group To Honor Vets--On Sunday, May 28, 2017 at approximately 3:00pm, the Sunbury American Legion Post 457 and the Sunbury Halter and Saddle 4-H Club will hold an informal ceremony to memorialize World War II and Korean War Veterans interned in the Blue Church Cemetery located at the corner of State Route 521 and Blue Church Road. The group will be checking to ensure that bronze flag holders are present at each veteran's grave. Anyone wishing to attend the ceremony is more than welcome.

## TODD STREET ROAD CLEANUP



Pictured above are a group of Todd Street Road residents who decided to make a difference in their neighborhood by collecting trash and debris along roadways in their area on March 19, 2017.



## DID YOU KNOW?????????

### Kingston Township's Failed Railroad

The group, organized by Samantha Young, collected well over 20 bags of items that had been discarded along the roadways including 3 tires. The Delaware County General Health District partnered with the group by supplying trash pickers, safety vests and trash bags through the Keep Delaware County Beautiful program. The trash bags were collected and disposed by the Township.

The Kingston Township Trustees are proud of the positive community spirit displayed by this group, and encourage other residents to band together to make a difference in their neighborhood. If you plan such an event, please feel free to contact Jenifer Way-Young (740-203-2076) at the Health District for support materials and Road Superintendent Doug Crowl (740-815-8427) for bag collection.

### NEW TRUCK DELIVERED



Pictured above from left to right are Trustee Dewey Akers, Trustee Bill Shively, Trustee Steve Volpe and Road Superintendent Doug Crowl standing in front of the Western Star dump truck. This is the first brand new vehicle (never titled) that the township has ever purchased—all others have been previously owned.

In the early 1850's, the Springfield and Mansfield Railroad Company developed a plan to build a rail line from Springfield east to the City of Delaware and then on to Mount Vernon through Brown, Kingston and Porter Townships. This proposed line had several other names including the Springfield and Delaware Railroad, and Springfield, Delaware and Mount Vernon Railroad.

Financial problems plagued the company and with more direct routes available from Cleveland to Cincinnati, the plan for the Springfield to Mount Vernon rail line was abandoned reportedly in 1853. The company was sold in 1862 to the Cleveland and Columbus Railroad.

The proposed route would have taken the line through Eden (which is now Kilbourne) and Olive Green. To finance the project, the railroad attempted to have local townships back the sale of government bonds. According to a local account, the railroad did approach the Brown Township Trustees to back the bonds in the railroad (whether they or Kingston Township financially backed the bonds is not known), and according to Kingston Township Road Superintendent Doug Crowl, bonds were backed by the Porter Township Trustees. After the railroad project was abandoned, the township was sued by a lending institution located in Toledo, Ohio. This lawsuit eventually ended up in the Ohio Supreme Court in 1884 who (we believe) upheld the appeals court ruling that the township was not responsible for the bond cost. It is not known whether any tracks for the railroad were actually laid. If anyone has knowledge about whether tracks were installed, please let us know.

Today, there are several places where remnants of the failed railroad can be seen. The best remnant of the raised rail bed is the mounded area located on the east and west side of Blue Church Road just north of State Route 521 at the creek. Raised remnants can also be seen on the north side of State Route 521. The raised rail bed is located just inside the wooded area at the back of the farm field across from the white house and barn just west of State Route 61. For the adventurer, a stone bridge abutment still exists where the proposed railroad

was to cross Alum Creek south of State Route 521 in Kilbourne. The abutment is located within Alum Creek State Park and public parking is available on the south side of State Route 521. The abutment is about one quarter mile downstream of the parking lot toward the lake.

Make sure that you check out these locations the next time you travel Blue Church Road and/or State Route 521, and see the remnants of the failed railroad that almost ran through Kingston Township.

*By Dave Stites and Doug Crowl*

Information for this article obtained in part from Kingston Township Memories In Its Bicentennial Year, 2013, The Big Walnut Area Historical Society, the 1880 History of Delaware County and a discussion with Suzanne Allen.

## PORTER KINGSTON FIRE DISTRICT

### New DELCO ALERT Weather Warning

In March 2017, the Delaware County 9-1-1 Center launched a new public notification system for severe weather events. The DELCO ALERT system will send text and email alerts for severe weather and other important matters such as boil alerts. All county residents wishing to participate in the system will need to register with the county even if they were registered under the old CodeRED notification system.

To register, go to <http://www.co.delaware.oh.us> and click the DELCO ALERT link on the bottom right side of the home page. The user can register by filling out the online form. All information collected is kept confidential and will not be shared for any other use.

When registering, users can opt to receive text and/or email alerts for warnings of high wind, flash floods, blizzards, freezing rain, winter storms, severe thunderstorm warnings and watches and tornado watches. Registered users will automatically receive tornado warnings.

Residents who do not have access to texts or emails can call 740-833-2180, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8AM and 4:30PM, and staff will assist them in finding other notification tools. For information about the Delaware County 9-1-1

Center, please visit their website at <http://www.delco911.org>.

## CALENDAR

Meetings are at the Township Hall, unless noted otherwise. **Trash pickup days are Fridays except during holiday weeks\* where Friday service will be performed on Saturday.** \*\*Note Change

**Trustees Meeting** May 2, 7 PM  
June 6, 7PM  
July 5, 2017 (Wednesday)  
August 1, 2017  
September 5, 2017

**Zoning Commission** May 10, 2017, 7 PM  
August 9, 2017, 7 PM  
November 8, 2017, 7 PM

**Trash Days** May 5, 12, 19 & 26  
June **2\***, 9, 16, 23 & 30  
July **8\***, 14, 21, & 28  
August 4, 11, 18 & 25  
September 1, **9\***, 15, 22, 29

## CONTACTS

(740 Area Code)

### TRUSTEES

Bill Shively, 272-3668, 8760 SR 521, Sunbury  
Dewey Akers, 803-1529, [dakers@kingstontwp.org](mailto:dakers@kingstontwp.org)  
Steve Volpe, 965-1802, [svolpe@kingstontwp.org](mailto:svolpe@kingstontwp.org)

### FISCAL OFFICER

Greg Roy: 504-0311,  
[fiscalofficer@kingstontwp.org](mailto:fiscalofficer@kingstontwp.org)

### DELAWARE COUNTY EMS

Emergency: 911; Business: 833 [www.delcoems.org](http://www.delcoems.org)

### NEWS & INFORMATION

Zoning Office Telephone: 524-0290  
Township Web Site: [www.kingstontwp.org](http://www.kingstontwp.org)

**Please contact the Zoning Office by e-mail at [zoning@kingstontwp.org](mailto:zoning@kingstontwp.org) or by phone at 740-524-0290 to be added or removed from the Newsletter Distribution List.**

### PORTER KINGSTON FIRE DISTRICT

Emergency: 911; Business: 524-5050  
Email: [PKFD@rrohio.com](mailto:PKFD@rrohio.com) [www.PKFD.org](http://www.PKFD.org)



## ROADS & CEMETERIES

Doug Crowl, 815-8427, [roads@kingstontwp.org](mailto:roads@kingstontwp.org)

## TRASH & RECYCLING

Waste Management: 866-797-9018

On-line: [www.wm.com](http://www.wm.com)

## ZONING

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

[zoning@kingstontwp.org](mailto:zoning@kingstontwp.org)

## SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION SERVICE

740-368-1921

## DELAWARE COUNTY CODE COMPLIANCE

740-833-2200

## DELAWARE GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

740-368-1700

## TRASH CONTRACT EXTENDED

The township refuse contract with Waste Management was extended three (3) years till December 31, 2019 by the Kingston Township Trustees during their November 1, 2016 Monthly Meeting. The current quarterly rate of \$38.64 will remain the same for 2017 with a 2% raise in the rate for both 2018 and 2019. **The 2018 quarterly rate will be \$39.42 and \$40.20 for 2019.** Cart rental will remain at \$2.75 per cart per month through the period.

During their deliberations, the Trustees agreed that initial service problems encountered during the change from Big O to Waste Management have been resolved. When investigating several recent service complaints brought to their attention, the Trustees found that the complainants had not paid their refuse bill or got their refuse to the curb late.

Because of the type of collection trucks (front open bin emptied overhead into the main compaction unit) used by Waste Management, the Trustees have received complaints about blowing loose trash along our roadways on collection day. **The solution rests with all township residents where the Trustees ask that all loose trash be bagged instead of just piled in individual refuse cans.** For service contact Waste Management at 866-797-9018 or on-line at [www.wm.com](http://www.wm.com) .

