

# Ballville Eagle



## Trustees Comments

As we approach the end of 2006, we reflect on the events and accomplishments of the year.

- Our recycling program was changed to once a month for a trial run as a cost-saving measure. This has proven to be very successful, and the Board has decided to continue. New to the program will be collection of old printer and computer cartridges, which will be donated to Fremont Schools. We also receive \$4,800.00 from the OSS Solid Waste District to help defray recycling costs.
- The Township was successful in obtaining Issue II matching funds for road projects. See the article in the newsletter for further details. An application for 2007 funding has been submitted to the Ohio Public Works Commission. We are extremely grateful to the staff of the Sandusky County Engineer's office for assisting in the grant application process.
- The Park Board hosted the annual Easter Egg Hunt, Halloween Party and Christmas Party for the children of Ballville Township residents.
- 74 acres of property on Baker Road has been obtained for future park development. Funding for this purchase was provided by the Clean Ohio Grant from the Ohio Department of Public Works. We are grateful to the Sandusky County Parks District for their work on the grant application.
- The township hosted the American Cancer Society Relay for Life again in June. This event continues to grow annually and raises much needed funds for cancer research. This is the 11th year Ballville Township has hosted the event at Conner Park. \$175,000.00 was raised at the 2006 event.

As we look ahead to 2007, we as a Board continue to strive to provide the best services possible to our residents with the dollars available. As always, your comments on this newsletter or township issues are always welcome. We wish you and your families a happy holiday season and a prosperous 2007.

*Article written by Mary Kay Gabel, Ballville Fiscal Officer*

## New Title: Fiscal Officer

A new state law went into effect on December 15, 2005, changing the name of Township Clerk to Township Fiscal Officer. This name change better reflects the responsibilities of the job of Fiscal Officer in fiscal duties and record keeping in the township. This position remains an elected position, and all duties remain the same. The title change is also more consistent with similar financial positions in the business community.

*Article written by Mary Kay Gabel,  
Ballville Fiscal Officer*

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

The Ballville Zoning Office issued the following permits for 2006 as of October 31st:

**5 dwelling units, 3 condos, 19 barns, 3 garages, 17 fences, 18 decks, 24 sheds, 1 outdoor movie screen, 19 home additions, 8 above and in the ground swimming pools, 4 front porches, 4 signs (real estate, school, business), 1 gazebo, and 1 steel industrial building.**

# BALLVILLE PARKS –

(CONNER PARK, HYDRAULIC SQUARE, SOUTH RIVER ROAD AREA, AND TINDALL BRIDGE AREA)



## SNOW PLOWING:

The winter season is just around the corner and snowplowing will be underway. The following guidelines listed below are for clearing Ballville Township roads.

1. DO NOT blow or shovel snow into roadway. This action is very dangerous and could possibly cause an accident.
2. If a Township snowplow physically strikes your mailbox, the township is responsible for replacing or repairing the mailbox. If the snow coming off the snowplow damages your mailbox, Township is not responsible for damages.
3. If sod located in the Township road-right-of-way is damaged by a snowplow, the Township will repair the area as soon as possible. This will take place throughout the winter or the early spring.
4. Landscaped areas that are in the road-right-of-way, if damaged, are the residents' responsibility to repair, not the Township's.
5. Trash cans, portable basketball hoops etc. should be moved off the road-right-of-way so snowplows will not strike them when removing snow.
6. A common courtesy from the residents should be to move parked vehicles out of the roadways when snowplows are clearing roads. Cul-de-sacs with parked cars in them are almost impossible to clear snow properly.
7. Ballville Township snowplows follow a certain route when clearing snow off the roadways. Clearing all of the roads in a timely manner is our main priority for the safety of the Ballville Township Residents.
8. If you have any problems with the snowplowing, please call 419-332-7830.

## BALLVILLE TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS:

We need your help with stop signs, road signs and road name signs.

If you see any type of road signs that are missing, damaged or in need of repair, please call the Ballville Township House and report it. Employees will replace it as soon as possible.

Sign inspections are done routinely by Township Employees, but some may be missed.

## RECYCLING 2007:

The 2007 recycling schedule is included with this newsletter, and the guidelines on the schedule should be followed so that Ballville



From the desk of Bill Lagrou,

*Ballville Township Park Superintendent/Park Ranger*

Phone: (419) 332-7830 • Fax: (419) 332-0094

Township can better serve the Township Residents.

The one item that I can not stress enough is to flatten all of your milk jugs, laundry detergent containers, pop bottles etc. This saves a lot of room in the dumpster, and we may not fill up too fast on the recycling days that are busy.

Ballville Township has added some NEW items that will be accepted for recycling in 2007. COMPUTER INK JET CARTRIDGES, COMPUTER TONER CARTRIDGES AND OLD CELL PHONES will be accepted during the monthly recycling day. Recycling of these new items will benefit the Fremont City Schools through a program called FUNDING FACTORY.COM. When FundingFactory.com receives these cartridges and cell phones, they give points to the school which in time can be accumulated. By recycling empty cartridges and cell phones, you help the schools with the purchasing of new technology, recreational and sporting equipment, playground systems and even cash. The Fremont City Schools are currently using these points to purchase printers for their schools. For more information about Funding Factory.com, get on their web site at (<http://www.fundingfactory.com>.)

## SHELTER HOUSE RESERVATIONS AT CONNER PARK:

Ballville Township is currently taking 2007 reservations for shelter houses located at Conner Park. You can reserve these shelters for graduations, birthday parties, family reunions, company functions, or just a get together. Call 419-332-7830 for reservations.

## SPORTS FIELDS AT CONNER PARK:

Ballville Township is currently taking 2007 reservations for the sports fields located at Conner Park. To play on one of these fields, games or practices, you need to have a sports contract signed by the Park Superintendent. Call 419-332-7830 for reservations or more information.



## THE HISTORY AND FUNCTION OF THE BALLVILLE TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARDS



Ballville Township adopted zoning in November, 1971. This allowed the Township Trustees to appoint according to the Ohio Revised Code 519.01 to 519.99 two zoning boards. Each board is composed of at least five members and at least two alternate members. Each member term is for five years and so arranged that the term of one member will expire each year.

The Board of Zoning Appeals is a judicial board that hears applications for variances where there are practical difficulties regarding area regulations or unnecessary hardship concerning a particular use of the property relating to the language of the Zoning Resolution, special use permit is for the use of land, buildings or other structures which are subject to specific conditions and are owner specific. The Board of Zoning Appeals has the power additionally to hear and decide appeals where it is alleged there is an error made by the Zoning Inspector.

Any appeals from a decision of the Board of Zoning Appeals can be made to the Court of Common Pleas, Sandusky County Courthouse.

The Board of Zoning Commission hears applications for amending the text and map of a particular zoning district from one classification to another. This Board makes no final decision; it passes along a recommendation to the Township Trustees for their final approval or disapproval. The Board of Zoning Commission also reviews the zoning resolution for updates and possible revisions to the text and map. Again the final decision for amendments to the zoning resolution text and map is the Board of Township Trustees.

All hearings and meetings held by either board are open to the public. The Board hearings are scheduled on an as need be basis and each member is compensated \$20.00 per meeting or hearing for their time and expertise.

A copy of the Ballville Township Zoning Resolution and Zoning District Map is available for review by appointment at the Ballville Township House, 2220 Tiffin Road, Fremont.

## BALLVILLE ZONING SIGN REGULATIONS

Real Estate signs are by far the type of sign that gets the most attention from the Zoning Inspector.

A property owner may only post one 12 square foot sign per parcel of land. This means that if you have one recorded parcel of land, you may only post one sign. Any addition on-premise signs require a permit applied for and issued by the Zoning Inspector. The zoning resolution allows for **NO** directional signs at the nearest intersection or corner.

The second most popular and mostly seasonal sign is the garage sale sign. These signs are considered public interest signs and may be placed on or off premise. The maximum size allowable for this type of sign is 32 square feet. The sign may not be posted more than 60 days prior to the event and must be removed within seven days after the event. **One** directional sign of not more than three square feet in area and located at the nearest intersection to the event is allowable. No sign may be placed in a public road right of way area except publicly owned signs such as traffic control signs.

As always, any questions relating to signs in Ballville Township may be directed to the Zoning Inspector at 419-332-7830 or 419-332-8711.

### DID YOU KNOW?

For 2006, the Ballville Conner Park shelter house reservations totaled 133 with the breakdown being 46 for the Eagle, 42 at the Rusch, and 45 at the Fausey shelter house.

The 2006 Baseball Games at the Conner Park diamonds totaled 35 with 11 being Fremont Athletics, 13 being Fremont Sluggers, and 11 being Fremont Streaks.

The Emeralds Soccer Club played 31 soccer games on the three soccer fields at Conner Park.

## BALLVILLE TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



Over the past few years, Ballville Township has become one of the fastest growing townships in Sandusky County. As our population increases, so must our fire department. As many of you have probably noticed, we are in the process of renovating and adding on to our existing fire station. This project should be completed by March of 2007. The funding for this \$1 million expansion is from years of fundraising, fire contracts, as well as the \$300,000.00 we have received through our grant writing efforts. We have made every attempt to enlist local contractors to do the work. We also depend on volunteer labor from our firefighters. Watch for our open house in the upcoming year which will celebrate 50 years of fire service. Please come join us in the celebration.

For anyone wishing to become a volunteer firefighter with the Ballville Township team, here are a few of the requirements: first, you must be 18 years of age or older, a resident of Ballville Township, have a clean driving record, and no criminal history. Within the first year of becoming a new recruit, you must complete a 36 hour basic firefighting class, complete hazardous material training, volunteer an additional 12 hours per month

for additional fire/first responder training. All of this, by the way, is required by the State of Ohio. This training does not include all the fire and emergency medical calls the fire department responds to throughout the year, day or night, or the Fire Prevention days spent educating the public and our fundraisers.

To volunteer as a Ballville firefighter is a commitment to the community. It is difficult to be a volunteer, but it is one of the most rewarding jobs you will ever do. It is also the best second family you will ever have. For an application, questions or more information about becoming a member, please call 419-334-9546.

Last but not least, it is cool weather again. Please remember to have your furnace serviced as well as your chimney cleaned. Also, make sure your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are in working order. Without them, you and your family don't stand a chance.

As always thank you all for your continued support and above all, have a safe and happy holiday season.

*Article written by the Ballville Township Volunteer Fire Department*

## BALLVILLE TOWNSHIP RECEIVES STATE FUNDING

The Ballville Township Trustees are pleased to announce \$162,800.00 has been awarded by the Ohio Public Works Commission, \$40,700.00 from Sandusky County for a total of \$203,500.00 for 2006 with half being local match for the resurfacing of various township roads.

The Ohio Public Works Commission provides grants and loans for local governments to build and maintain their infrastructure through the State Capital Improvement and the Local Transportation Improvement programs also known as Issue II. Roads, bridges, culverts, water supply, wastewater systems, storm water collection, and solid waste facilities are eligible for assistance. Local governments apply for funding through one of the nineteen District Public Works Integrating Committees in Ohio.

The State Capital Improvements Program was created in 1987 by an amendment to the Ohio Constitution allowing the State of Ohio to use general revenues as debt support and to issue up to \$120 million in bonds each year. Beginning with program year 26 (2012) this will be increased to \$150 million.

The Local Transportation Improvement Program was created by the Ohio legislature in 1988. The program provides \$60 million in gasoline tax receipts each year.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

You can download property appraisal information from the Sandusky County Auditor's website. Just go to [www.sandusky-county.org/CountyAuditor.asp](http://www.sandusky-county.org/CountyAuditor.asp).

*Article written by Mary Kay Gabel and Jane Stout*

## OHIO'S TAX INCREMENT FINANCING PROGRAM (TIF)

Tax Increment Financing provides local governments (townships) with a way to fund public infrastructure improvements such as roads, bridges, ditches, water and sewer lines that are associated with new development.

Because Ohio's Tax Increment Financing program is designed to encourage new investment, it is considered an economic development tool. Similar to the Ohio Enterprise Zone program the TIF program enables townships to exempt from real property taxation the new value added to a parcel or parcels as a result of new property investment and can be used with residential development.

TIF does not change the taxpayer's tax liability or the valuation of the taxpayer's property. Rather, TIF allows the taxpayer to make payments to a special fund in an amount equal to the property tax liability.

These payments in place of taxes are used by the local government to retire debt incurred for the infrastructure improvements needed to support the new real property investment.

For more information on this program visit the website at <http://ohioline.osu.edu/cd-fact/1559.html>.

Information for this article was taken from the Ohio's Tax Increment Financing Program website.

### Did You Know?

From Jan. 1st through November 7th, 2006, the Sandusky County Sheriff's Office answered 933 calls in Ballville Township relating to emergency medical, fire, motor vehicle, domestic incident, breaking and entering, missing persons, theft, bodily injury, animal complaints, vandalism, suspicious persons, and trespassing just to name a few.

## ENERGY SAVING TIPS THAT WILL HELP US ALL GET THROUGH THE WINTER MONTHS

1. Seal the entire window or windows that allow cold air to leak in.
2. If you have no insulation, install in exterior walls, roofs, ceilings, and floors above cold spaces.
3. Be sure you cover any attic or garage ductwork with at least six inches of insulation. Then seal the seams and joints with duct sealing compound.
4. You will save by lowering your thermostat temperature to the lowest setting that is comfortable for you and your family.
5. If you have a crawl space, close the vents and seal the area with insulation from the inside.
6. If your heat pump has an emergency heat setting, don't switch to this setting unless the unit is not working properly. This switch will turn off your energy efficient heat pump.
7. If you have a fireplace that is open to the living space, do not use in periods of extreme cold. Be sure to keep your fireplace damper closed when not in use. Consider installing doors over the fireplace opening if there are none.
8. Consider adding a heat pump to any electric, gas, or oil furnace which will serve as a dual fuel heating system. The electric heat pump will heat your home for much less.
9. Fluorescent light bulbs will use up to 75 percent less energy than a standard bulb and last up to ten times longer.
10. An ENERGY STAR refrigerator can use approximately one-third less energy than a model fifteen years old or older.

Other energy saving techniques are reducing air leaks by caulking around windows, doors, and electrical outlets. Add weather stripping to the tops and bottoms of windows and doors.

Wrap your water heater and pipes with insulation where they are exposed in a garage or basement area. Plus, if you have an older water heater or furnace, consider replacing with a newer, more efficient unit. Additionally, when shopping, be on the look out for the ENERGY STAR label that indicates products with the highest energy efficiency rating.

Content for this article was taken from the AEP Ohio website and the Duke Energy Corporation website.

# BALLVILLE'S OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION CLEAN OHIO GRANT

In December of 2006, Ballville Township acquired 74.49 acres of land at the corner of Baker and Rice Roads in the Tindall Bridge area. The property was purchased with the assistance of a grant from the Ohio Public Works Commission. The future plan for the land is to use as a nature preserve for leisure recreation as well as a natural habitat. The land also abuts the banks of the Sandusky River.

The current use of the land is agriculture which is under contract for the next several years. When the farm contract expires, the township plans tree plantings, natural grass plantings and various plants that, hopefully, will attract wildlife to the area.

In 2001, a \$400 million Clean Ohio Fund was created to preserve farmland and green space, develop recreational trails, and clean up Brownfield sites. The Ohio Department of Agriculture Office of Farmland Preservation implements the \$25 million portion of this fund for farmland preservation. For the 2006 funding round, up to \$5 million in funding will

be available. Grants are issued for up to 75 percent of the points-based appraised value of a farm's development rights. A payment cap has been set at \$2,000 per acre, with a maximum of \$500,000 per farm. All easement transactions are permanent and are recorded on the property deed and transfer with the land to successive owners.

For more information about this program visit the website at [www.ohioagriculture.gov/farmland](http://www.ohioagriculture.gov/farmland).

*Article written by Bill Lagrou and Jane Stout*

## DID YOU KNOW?

According to the 2000 U.S. Census information, Ballville has a total of 2643 households, 2525 of which are occupied. The total recorded population is 6395 with the median household income being \$50,922. The low to moderate income percent in Ballville is 26.3%, the percent of poverty is 5.3% and the percent of unemployment is 2.5%.



# BALLVILLE TOWNSHIP CEMETERIES' RULES AND REGULATIONS ADOPTED IN 2006

- ◆ ALL CEMETERIES WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT SUNRISE AND WILL CLOSE AT SUNSET.
- ◆ THERE WILL BE NO TRESPASSING ON CEMETERY PREMISES AFTER DARK.
- ◆ ANYONE FOUND TRESPASSING WILL BE PROSECUTED TO THE FULLEST EXTENT OF THE LAW.
- ◆ ALL WORK IN THE CEMETERIES WILL BE PERFORMED BY BALLVILLE PERSONNEL ONLY UNLESS OTHERWISE APPROVED BY THE TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES.
- ◆ NO GLASS OR WIRE BURIAL DECORATIONS CAN BE ERECTED ON A GRAVE SITE DURING THE MOWING SEASON OF APRIL 15TH THROUGH OCTOBER 15TH OF ANY YEAR.
- ◆ PLANTINGS OF ANY KIND WITHIN THE CEMETERIES MUST BE APPROVED BY THE TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES BEFORE PLANTING. ANY PLANTING NOT APPROVED WILL BE REMOVED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT AND DISCARDED.
- ◆ DISPLAYS OF FLAGS, OR BANNERS, FOR EXAMPLE, WITHIN THE CEMETERIES MUST BE APPROVED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT PRIOR TO PLACEMENT.
- ◆ ANY DISPLAY ITEMS SUCH AS FLAGS, OR BANNERS, FOR EXAMPLE NOT AUTHORIZED AND DISCOVERED WILL BE REMOVED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT AND DISCARDED.
- ◆ ALL WINTER GRAVE SITE DECORATIONS MUST BE REMOVED BY APRIL 1ST OF ANY YEAR. SPRING AND SUMMER DECORATIONS WILL BE ALLOWED AFTER APRIL 15TH UNTIL OCTOBER 1ST OF ANY YEAR. ANY WINTER DECORATIONS DISCOVERED WILL BE REMOVED AND DISCARDED.
- ◆ THE TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ITEMS LOST OR STOLEN OR DAMAGED ON ANY CEMETERY PREMISES.
- ◆ NO PERSON WILL CAUSE SERIOUS DAMAGE TO ANY TOMB, MONUMENT, GRAVESTONE, OR ANY OTHER STRUCTURE THAT IS USED AS A MEMORIAL FOR THE DECEASED.
- ◆ NO PERSON WILL CAUSE DAMAGE TO ANY FENCING, RAILING, CURB, OR OTHER PROPERTY THAT IS USED TO PROTECT, ENCLOSE, OR ORNAMENT ANY CEMETERY.
- ◆ NO PERSON WILL CAUSE HARM TO A PLACE OF BURIAL BY BREAKING AND ENTERING A TOMB, CRYPT, CASKET OR OTHER STRUCTURE USED AS A MEMORIAL FOR THE DECEASED.
- ◆ IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CEMETERIES RULES AND REGULATIONS, PLEASE CALL SUPERINTENDENT BILL LAGROU AT 419-332-7830.

## BALLVILLE TOWNSHIP BURIAL SITES FEE SCHEDULE

Cemetery	Ballville Residents	Non-Ballville Residents
Burial Lot	\$200	\$500
Opening/Closing Cost	\$400	\$500
Weekend/Holiday Closing (additional fee)	\$200	\$200
Cremation Grave Opening	\$150	\$200
Cremation Weekend/Holiday Closing	\$50	\$50
FOUNDATIONS WILL BE FIGURED AT \$ .25 PER SQUARE INCH		
Mausoleum	Ballville Residents	Non-Ballville Residents
Crypt, including marble engraving plate	\$1,000	\$1,500
Interment fee	\$250	\$350
Weekend/Holiday Closing (additional fee)	\$200	\$200
Engraving on marble plate done at crypt owner's expense		

The following are the holidays for which an additional charge is noted: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day, Labor Day, Fourth of July, President's Day, Veteran's Day, Columbus Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, Memorial Day."

Contact: Bill Lagrou, Ballville Township Road Superintendent, 419-332-7830

(Subject to review every four years - revised 6/21/06)

# Ballville Township

2220 Tiffin Road • Fremont, OH 43420  
**Phone:** (419) 332-7830 • **Fax:** 419-332-0094  
**Webpage:** www.ballville.org

## Office Hours

7:30 to 4:00 P.M. • Monday-Friday

## Board of Trustees

Roy Sadler	419-332-4939
David Stotz	419-332-4873
Gerald Kessler	419-332-2905

## Fiscal Officer

Mary Kay Gabel 419-332-9488

*Meetings are held the 1st, 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. and open to the public.*

## Zoning

Jane Stout, *Zoning Inspector* 419-332-7830  
Fax: 419-332-0094

Permit Hours: 1st & 3rd Tues. Evenings 6:00 p.m.  
and every Fri. Morning 9-11 a.m.

## Board of Zoning Commission

John Swint  
Philip Klausz, Chairman  
Lester Gallatin, Vice Chairman  
Brian Edwards  
Thos. Hoffman

## Board of Zoning Appeals

Juanita Bennett, Vice Chairman  
James Fleming  
Nancy Francis  
Richard Geyer  
Roger Williams, Chairman  
James Gillis  
Larry Bowers

*Hearings are held on an as needed basis.*

## Parks and Recreation Board

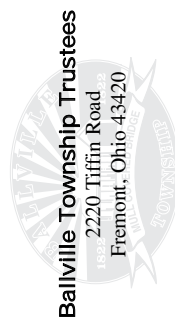
Ben Hickey  
Brad Lawrence  
Lester Gallatin, Vice Chairman  
Kerry Wood, Chairman  
Jane Boggs  
James Ginnever

*Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 P.M.*

## Road/Parks Superintendent Ranger

William Lagrou,  
*Twp. Superintendent/Ranger* 419-332-7830

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Permit No. 36



## Cemetery Board

Harold Knudsen  
Wayne Lieske  
Howard Sachs

## Fire Departments

### *Ballville Volunteer Fire Dept.*

*Doug Crowell, Chief*  
*Non-emergency calls:* 419-332-0774

### *Green Springs VFD*

*Greg Lowe, Chief*  
*Non-emergency calls:* 419-639-2222

### *Old Fort VFD*

*Craig Mellott, Chief*  
*Non-emergency calls:* 419-992-4518

## Newsletter Staff

Ben Hickey  
Mary Kay Gabel  
Jane Stout

