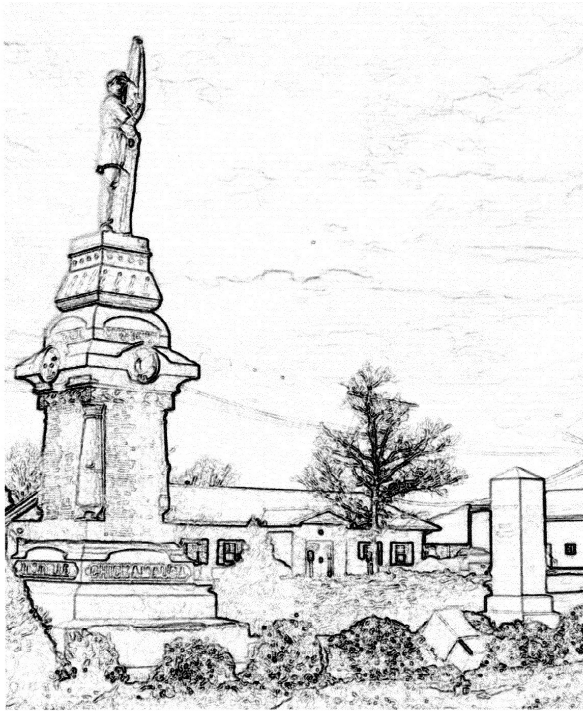


The Pittsfield Township Talk

Jim McConnell, Fiscal Officer
17567 Hallauer Road
Wellington, OH 44090

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The Pittsfield Township Talk

WHO TO CALL

TRUSTEES

Steve Magyar, Chairman 774-4338
Mark Diedrick 440-213-5744
Mark McConnell 647-3427

FISCAL OFFICER

Jim McConnell 775-3352

ROAD SUPERVISOR

Dan Shinsky 774-7223

ZONING INSPECTOR / TYPE II BUSINESS PERMITS

Dan Shinsky 774-7223

TOWNSHIP HALL SUPERVISOR

Pat Koniarski 774-3828

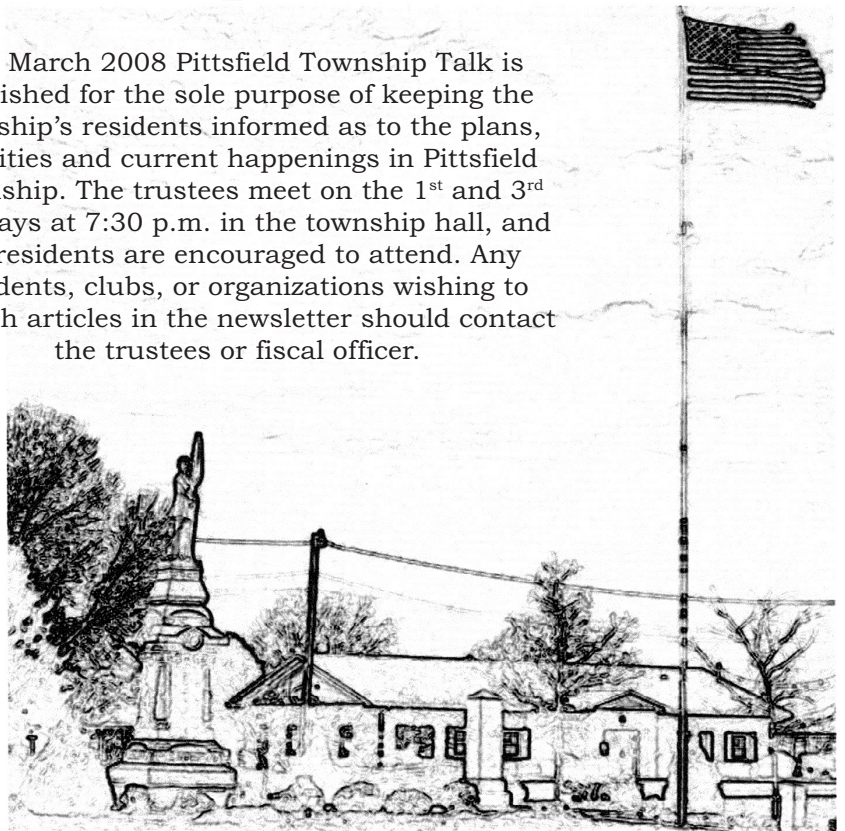
CEMETERY SEXTON

Jim Sheffield 775-7147

TOWNSHIP WEBSITE

<http://www.pittsfieldtwp.us>

The March 2008 Pittsfield Township Talk is published for the sole purpose of keeping the township's residents informed as to the plans, activities and current happenings in Pittsfield Township. The trustees meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays at 7:30 p.m. in the township hall, and all residents are encouraged to attend. Any residents, clubs, or organizations wishing to publish articles in the newsletter should contact the trustees or fiscal officer.



BLUE CANS WILL APPEAR FOR TRASH COLLECTION

Volume-based trash pick up is coming to Pittsfield Township. Under a new agreement with the township, Allied Waste will provide blue, 96-gallon trash cans to residents who have curbside pick up. These cans will hold the contents of three average garbage cans, or about eight bags. A smaller 64-gallon can is also available at a reduced cost.

Large items that don't fit into the cans will no longer be picked up off the curb. However, there will be six Saturday morning "dumpster days" through the year when dumpsters will be available to Pittsfield residents at the township garage.

While residents will be able to obtain a second garbage can, it will be costly. Reviewing what is going into your trash and using the blue bag recycling program might help you reduce your trash into a smaller container and avoid higher prices for garbage collection.

One reason for the switch in trash pick-up is because Allied Waste is moving to a more automated system to decrease its costs, as well as reduce workers' injuries. The blue garbage cans are designed to work with an automated lift on the garbage trucks. A second reason is to encourage more recycling by limiting the amount of trash homeowners can set at the curb. Lorain County's current recycling programs have averaged a 9% to 13% reduction in waste over the past several years. However, the Ohio EPA has been encouraging the county's Solid Waste District to meet the goal of a 25% waste reduction.

The blue bag recycling program continues to be available to all residents. The following items can be placed in blue bags at the roadside and will be collected for recycling: all metal food or beverage cans; plastic containers coded with a number one or two on the bottom; glass bottles or jars that are clear, brown, or green; and newspapers, though they must be bagged separately from other recyclables. Items to be recycled should be rinsed well and the lids should be removed from glass or plastic containers. Some types of glass should not be placed in with recycling, such as light bulbs, drinking glasses, or windows.

The bins outside the town hall can also be used to recycle newspaper, office paper, or magazines. Aluminum cans may also be dropped off in a trailer behind Pittsfield Community Church. Money from the cans helps the church to pay for its elevator.

Special collection events set up by the county's solid waste management district can help you dispose of potentially hazardous waste. An **E-Scrap Collection** will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 5, at P.C. Campana Industrial Park, 3000 Leavitt Rd.

(Rt. 58) in Lorain. This is an excellent way to dispose of old electronics such as computers, printers, televisions, and small office equipment. Four E-Scrap collections were held in the county last year, and the amount of materials collected nearly doubled from 2006. While electronic waste represents only 2% of America's trash in landfills, it makes up 70% of overall toxic waste.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection will be held on Saturday, April 19, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Lorain County Joint Vocational School on Route 58. Last year, thousands of Lorain County residents lined up to drop off materials such as weed killer, drain cleaners, gasoline, and motor oil. Used motor oil can also be dropped off at many auto repair shops or parts stores for free. The solid waste district can help residents locate a vendor that will accept the used oil. For more details, call their office at 329-5440.

COMPOSTING

IS ANOTHER WAY TO REDUCE WASTE

With the changes coming to our garbage collection, now is the time to review what can be done with the grass clippings, weeds, brush, sticks, and tree limbs that you may be sending with your trash. Yard doesn't break down in the airless environment of a landfill, and its nutrients are lost. But that doesn't mean you will want it cluttering up your yard either.

A simple compost pile can be hidden behind your garage or at the rear of your property. It can be as easy as just piling up your leaves and grass and letting nature take its course. If you want the matter to break down faster, then you could put forth the effort of turning it with a garden fork or adding other ingredients.

Once a compost pile is near at hand, you can start adding waste from your kitchen, including vegetable peels, eggshells, coffee grounds, or similar waste. Just stay away from meat, bones, or grease, since they slow down decomposition and may draw undesirable animals.

Gardeners often add compost to their gardens since it is a good way to improve the dense clay soil which we seem to have in abundance. More information about composting, along with plans for cheap and easy compost piles, can be found on The Ohio State University Extension's website at <http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/1000/1189.html>.

NOTES FROM THE PAST

By Ralph Hayes
Township Historian

The McRoberts Family were very early settlers of the township. My township records show that they arrived from Vermont in 1832, and settled on original township lot No. 18, where the family continued to reside for many generations. Lot 18 is located on the northeast corner of the Hallauer Road and Kipton Nickle-Plate intersection. The lot contains 100 acres of land and is presently owned by several property owners.

In 1931, Nellie McRoberts, who was a daughter of Henry and Harriet McRoberts and a granddaughter of Peter and Eliza McRoberts (who were the early settlers from Vermont), wrote a letter to the editor of the *Oberlin News Tribune* regarding a very large tree that once stood on the neighboring Pomeroy Farm.

The Pomeroy Farm was owned and settled by John Pomeroy and his wife Clarissa. They migrated here from Massachusetts and spent the rest of their lives in our community. The Pomeroy Farm was the next farm east of the McRoberts' farm on the north side of Kipton Nickle-Plate Road, being Lot 19. As of the 2004 plat book, the property is owned in two separate parcels by John Forthofer and Robert Pandey.

In her letter to the paper, Nellie stated that a record regarding the big tree was kept in her family for many years. She stated that she, as well as the other grandchildren, played around and on the old stump when they were children. The record she submitted to the newspaper is as follows:

GREAT TREE ON THE FARM OF JOHN M. POMEROY IN THE TOWN OF PITTSFIELD, LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO.
"Measures around the trunk one foot above the ground, 27 feet; three feet above the ground it measures 20 feet; across the trunk 6 feet, 4 inches; from the ground to the first limb 70 feet; where it is in circumference, 16 feet, 9 inches; smallest place between that and the ground, 13 feet, 6 inches."

"It is known to be above the age of 350 years, but as the heart of the tree is somewhat decayed, it is difficult to tell how much over."

"On Oct. 31, 1854, the following people stood together upon the stump where it was cut three feet above the ground: John M. Pomeroy and his wife Clarissa Pomeroy, Caroline Pomeroy, James Gambell, Harriet Pomeroy-my mother, Henry Pomeroy, Nancy Pomeroy, Celia Pomeroy, Clara G. Pomeroy, John G. Pomeroy, John Foster Lewis, Fanny Pomeroy Lewis, Emma Lewis, Charles Wack, Lydia Alvira Wack, Nancy P. Gambell, Jerushia Holbrook, Mary E. Pomeroy, Stella Pomeroy, Frankly H. Wheeler, Eliza P. Wheeler, with room reserved for Wright Pomeroy and Dexter Holbrook."

Nellie L. McRoberts died in 1944 and is buried with the McRoberts family in the East Pittsfield Cemetery.

PITTSFIELD TOWNSHIP'S HISTORICAL SOCIETY TAKES SHAPE

A group of local residents with an interest in our township's history are successfully taking on the task of forming the Pittsfield Township Historical Society.

At the initial meeting, Township Historian Ralph Hayes led a general discussion on the need for a local historical society along with reviewing the process necessary to comply with legal requirements for becoming such an organization. With 15 people present, the group decided to proceed by officially forming an Ohio nonprofit corporation and eventually applying for 501 (c) 3 tax status with the IRS.

Ralph Hayes was designated as temporary chairman and Rhonda Worcester volunteered as temporary secretary of the group. Lynn Youngblood is the interim treasurer. A committee to draft a code of regulations was formed with Bryce Brown, Brad Hayes, and Bert Latran Jr. Latran also volunteered to work on drafting a "statement of purpose" which is needed to file Articles of Incorporation with the State of Ohio. All other attendees were also encouraged to

draft purpose statements as well.

So far, the group has finalized its official statement of purpose, completed and filed its Articles of Incorporation with the state, and adopted a Code of Bylaws. The society meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month in the town hall, and everyone is welcome to attend. For more information on how to join, please look in this newsletter for a membership application.

WORKSHOP CENTERED ON CEMETERY PRESERVATION

The trustees sponsored a March 19 workshop that discussed procedures and techniques to be used in the restoration and preservation of our local cemeteries.

Township historian Ralph Hayes was joined by John Heider, a cemetery restorer from Monticello, Illinois, for the presentation. Heider taught participants about materials and techniques used to restore headstones,

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returning stones to their original locations, and locating buried stones and unmarked graves.

A hands-on workshop will be held in the late spring so participants can become involved in the restoration process. If you are interested in helping, please contact Ralph Hayes at 647-2203, or e-mail him at hayes@kellnet.com. The next Township Talk will cover more from this presentation and upcoming plans.



the heavy snow flying off the edge of the plow actually takes out the mailbox.

No matter how it happened, if the township damaged your mailbox there is a way to recoup your loss. The township's policy is to pay up to \$50 for the cost of the mailbox. Receipts must be sent to Fiscal Officer James McConnell, 17567 Hallauer Road, Wellington, OH 44090. If you live on a state route or a county road, you will need to take the matter up with those entities.

DECORATIONS NEED TO BE REMOVED BY APRIL 10

If you have placed wreathes, flowers, or other such memorials at a loved one's grave over the winter, please don't forget to go back for them. You will have until April 10 to pick up these items or they will be disposed of in order to prepare for the spring mowing season. Also, the planting of trees or shrubs is not permitted in the township's cemeteries. Complete cemetery rules and policies will be posted at each cemetery.



BERT LATRAN IS PICKED AS OBERLIN'S MAN OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Pittsfield resident Bert Latran Jr. for being named the 2007 Oberlinian of the Year by the *Oberlin News Tribune*. Latran was recognized because of his enthusiasm and pride he dedicates to his community as well as his concern for others.

Latran is known around Oberlin for his volunteerism as well as his efforts to get others involved. One project that was taken note of by the *News Tribune* was Latran's organization of a group of volunteers to clean the Ramsey right of way for Pride Day 2007.

Latran is the owner of a landscape and tree trimming business, Bert's Prettywork Trimming Service. He is a member of the Oberlin Heritage Center's board of trustees and was a founding board member for the Boys and Girls Club of Lorain County.

In Pittsfield, he is a member of the zoning board of appeals and has taken an interest in the newly formed Pittsfield Township Historical Society. He is nearly always in attendance at our township's meetings and takes a constant interest in public affairs.

QUARRY ROAD INTERSECTIONS CAUSE CONCERN

Collisions at Quarry Road intersections that result in serious injuries and death seem to be a too-frequent scenario. The problem for Pittsfield is primarily where Quarry intersects state Route 303 and US Route 20.

Township trustees have been in contact with the Highway Patrol and the Ohio Department of Transportation with the goal of upgrading the intersections with stop signs equipped with flashing LED lights.

ODOT recently reviewed the Route 303 and Route 20 intersections, plus the Quarry Road and state Route 511 intersection. Data from accidents at Route 303 which were caused by drivers failing to stop led to the addition of two more stop signs on the left-hand sides of Quarry Road at Route 303. However, ODOT has replied to the township's request for the flashing LED signs to say that they do not intend to make more changes beyond the new signs they've installed.

MAILBOX DAMAGE?

IT'S NOTHING PERSONAL...

So your mailbox was knocked to Kingdom Come the last big snowfall? Yes, these things do happen. The 11-foot plow on the front of the township (or the county or the state) dump truck sometimes does its job better than expected. It isn't always a direct hit either; many times



article continued from page 4

ODOT re-evaluated the intersection after adding the two new signs to determine how many vehicles passing through the intersection stop, slow down, or ignore the signs. "After reviewing all of the data we collected, it appears the majority of drivers are aware of the stop condition but are choosing not to make a complete stop before entering, or crossing, SR 303. This is a driver behavior issue and not an engineering issue," says ODOT's letter to the township trustees.

The trustees are continuing to explore all options for improving the safety of these intersections. Meanwhile, residents familiar with the intersections need to stay aware of their surroundings when driving, and please don't take chances by making a rolling stop. Also, drive defensively and look out for other drivers who may not heed the stop signs.

SPLASH ZONE MEMBERSHIP RATES CONTINUE AT HALF PRICE

In January, the township trustees voted to continue their agreement with the Lorain County Metro Parks to offer Pittsfield residents half-price membership rates to Splash Zone.



The Splash Zone, located at 95 W. Hamilton St. in Oberlin, offers a large indoor pool, a tot pool, fitness equipment, swim lessons and other programs.

The discount doesn't apply to daily entrance fees, but it can be used for all other memberships. When applying for the discounted membership, you will need to show proof of residency, such as your driver's license or a utility bill with your address. For more information about the Splash Zone, call 774-5059, or visit www.loraincountymetroparks.com.

SEEDLING AND PLANT OFFER THROUGH THE CONSERVATION OFFICE

The 2008 Annual Conservation Seedling Sale is now underway at the Lorain Soil and Water Conservation District office. Windbreak stock can now be ordered for pick-up in time for spring planting. Orders are accepted on a first come, first serve basis since there are a limited number of each packet available.

Items available include Austrian, white, and Scotch pines; Norway and Colorado spruces; American arborvitae; Douglas fir; red maple;



northern red oak; white flowering dogwood; butterfly bush; bachelor's button; black-eyed Susans; coral bells; lavender; blanket flower; and snowmound spirea. Some plants are seedling stock while others come potted.

A wildlife packet being offered includes two each of American cranberry, red osier dogwood, hazel nut, shadblow serviceberry, and black chokeberry. Bird houses and feeders, bat houses, and squirrel feeders are also available through the office. Orders can be picked up on April 11 and 12 at Grobe Fruit Farm, 43857 St. Rt. 113. There are no refunds on orders that are not picked up.

Orders must be placed by April 4. More information and prices can be obtained from the Soil and Water Conservation Office by calling 326-5800 or go online to www.lorainswcd.com/news.html.

Celebrate Ohio's Arbor Day on April 25th by planting a tree!



SENIOR LIVING FAIR HELPS CONNECT PEOPLE WITH SERVICES

Senior citizens in Southern Lorain County can learn about resources and services tailored to their needs during the third annual Senior Living Fair, which is to be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on May 2 at the Lorain County Fairgrounds.

The Senior Living Fair is put together through the Lorain County Office on Aging's Southern Satellite Office. More than 100 exhibitors are expected to participate, including various local, state, and federal government agencies. The exhibitors have been asked to provide "give-aways" for the attendees, as well.

The Office on Aging will provide a complimentary lunch to all seniors in attendance, and door prizes will be given away every few minutes. There will also be health screenings, entertainment, legal seminars, and cooking and nutrition demonstrations. For more information, call Bridget Graham at 647-3780.

LCCC- WELLINGTON CENTER HAS MUCH TO SHARE WITH THE AREA

Lorain County Community College's Wellington Center has some great opportunities for residents beyond its offering of accessible college classes. An open house on Saturday, April 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. will give everyone a chance to check out this new asset to our end of the county.

Tours of the facility, technology demonstrations, open computer lab, and academic advisors will be available during the open house. Light refreshments will be served.

One benefit the center offers the community is a free computer lab. The college issues "community user cards" to those who want to use the computers. The lab provides high-speed Internet access, Windows software programs and networked printers. An LCCC Computer Lab Aide is always in the lab and available to help.

If you would like to learn more about using the Internet, then a short-term credit class being offered at the college center may be right for you. LCCC will offer its "Exploring the Internet" class from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on April 5, 19, and 20. Tuition and Lab Fees apply to this class.

Another short-term credit class to be offered at the center will focus on CPR. This class will be offered from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on April 26 and 27.

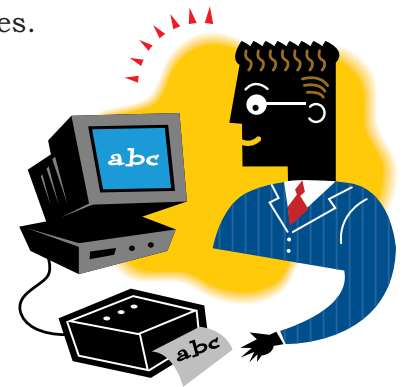
The LCCC Computer Lab is open as follows:

Monday/Tuesday: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Wednesday: 4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Thursday/Friday: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. - Noon



Free job search assistance workshops will also be held at the Wellington Center. The schedule for workshops is as follows:

- **Job Search and Networking**—Thursday, April 3, 2 to 3:30 p.m. or Tuesday, April 29, 6 to 7:30 p.m.
- **Resumes and Cover Letters**—Thursday, April 10, 2 to 3:30 p.m. or Tuesday, May 6, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- **Interviewing Skills**—Thursday, April 17, 2 to 3:30 p.m. or Tuesday, May 13, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

For more information, please call LCCC-Wellington at 647-1776.

ZONING BOARD MEMBERS: These residents are current members of the township's zoning boards

Township zoning commission

2008 Meetings set for Jan. 13, March 10, June 9, Sept. 8, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m.

Chris Jordan, chair

Al Haines, secretary

Doreen Rathwell

Dave Poling

William Cutcher

Gene Mullins, alternate

Township board of zoning appeals

Meets as needed

Neil Breyley, chair

Mark Hess, secretary/alternate

Bert Latran, Jr.

Bryce Brown

Rita Waltz

Dale Martin