

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP
 6400 Lockbourne Road
 Lockbourne, Ohio 43137

hamiltontownshipohio.org

FALL 2016

- **Monday, October 31st**
BEGGARS NIGHT from 6-8 p.m.
- **Tuesday, November 8th**
ELECTION DAY

PRESORT STANDARD
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Do you have a story idea you would like to see in future editions of the Township Journal?

Send your comments to Linda Dillman, Editor, at townshipjournal@gmail.com

Hamilton Township Board of Trustees

Meeting Schedule 2016

Meetings are at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Center. All meetings are open to the public.

September 14th and 28th

October 12th and 26th

November 9th and 23rd

December 14th and 28th

Meetings that fall on a holiday will be rescheduled. Call the Township office for updates.

Hamilton Township Telephone Numbers

Hamilton Township Administration/Community Center

6400 Lockbourne Road, Lockbourne, Ohio 43137
 Office Hours: Monday thru Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm (614) **491-3963**

Board of Trustees

Howard Hahn, Chairman (614) **491-7842**
 Shannan Bush, Vice-Chairman..... (614) **491-5664**
 C. Chris Hann, Vice-Chairman (614) **491-0812**

Fiscal Officer

Lisa Shirkey (614) **491-9275**

Township Secretary

Penni Triplett..... (614) **491-3963**

Hamilton Township Road Maintenance

6355 Lockbourne Road, Lockbourne, Ohio 43137 (614) **491-8550**

Road Superintendent

Don Smith..... (614) **491-8550**

Hamilton Township Fire Department

Station 1 - 1460 Obetz Road, Columbus, Ohio 43207 (614) **491-1013**
 Station 2 - 6410 Lockbourne Road, Lockbourne, Ohio 43137..... (614) **491-1050**

Fire Chief

Ralph Shillingburg..... (614) **491-1700**

Franklin County Sheriff's Hamilton Township Sub Station

Radio Room..... (614) **525-3333**
 FAX..... (614) **491-3003**



Township JOURNAL

Hamilton Township Administration
 and Community Center
 6400 Lockbourne Road,
 Lockbourne, Ohio 43137

HamiltonTownship.org

FALL 2016

Introducing Trustee Howard Hahn



The township is managed by a three-member Board of Trustees elected by voters in alternating years. The Hahn legacy began with years of dedicated service by Gary Hahn as a trustee and volunteer firefighter and now continues with his son, Howard, 36.

“As a lifelong resident, I have grown to love the area,” remarked Howard. “It’s close enough to all

of the major areas of the county, yet still rural enough that it doesn’t have major issues with traffic, crime, and blight.”

Following in his father’s footsteps, Howard said he has always been interested in politics and how local government works. This also led to his current career as a Firefighter/Paramedic for Madison Township and aided in the decision to run for Hamilton Township trustee in November 2011.

“I believe that having worked in township government as a firefighter/paramedic for over 10 years and having grown up in the township, I had a good understanding of the needs and wants of the residents,” continued Howard. “This is also a way for me to give back to the township and help to lead the local government into the future.”

He was first elected as trustee in 2011 and re-elected in November 2015. His current term ends in 2019. Howard is a 1998 graduate of Hamilton Township High School, a 2002 OSU graduate and is involved in charity work for Ronald McDonald House, Goodwill, MDA and Habitat for Humanity. He is an avid Buckeye football fan and, as the father of a three-and-a-half-year-old, spends Saturdays with his daughter visiting parks, the zoo and museums.

In looking to the future, Howard feels the greatest challenge facing the township over the next five years is fiscal stability. He said ongoing cuts at the state level to local government is putting a strain on the township budget and will continue to impact funding in multiple areas for years to come.

GO SLOW in School Zones

Summer vacation is over and school is back in session, so pedestrian and vehicular traffic in and around school zones along Rathmell Road and Parsons Avenue is on the rise. Please keep a watchful eye for children waiting for buses, on sidewalks and crossing streets on their way to class.

There is no excuse for speeding through school zones and violators will be ticketed, so slow down when the lights are flashing and follow the rules: Twenty miles per hour during school recess, while children are going to or leaving school during opening/closing hours and when twenty miles per hour school speed limit signs are erected.

Keep our kids safe by slowing down in school zones and being extra vigilant while driving through housing areas when students are on their way to school.





ELECTION INFORMATION

In addition to a slate of local and national candidates, Hamilton Township voters face two local issues on the Nov. 8 ballot. **Issue 51** is a proposed Fire Tax Levy for an additional 4 mills for a continuing period of time. The cost to property owners would be .40 per \$100 of valuation. **Issue 60** is a renewal of a COTA Sales and Use Tax of a quarter percent for 10 years. Registration for the November General Election must be postmarked no later than Oct. 11 to the Franklin County Board of Elections. For more information, contact the board at 614-525-3100 or visit vote.franklincountyohio.gov.

From the Road Department



The township is self-funding the \$65,000 cost of a blacktop project this year on three local roadways. Work will soon begin on Service Drive in Hamilton Meadows, Todd Avenue and Davis Avenue. Road Superintendent Don Smith expects the project to start around Sept. 15 and asks for patience while crews are in the area. "It won't take long from start to finish," said Smith.

It was back to the drawing board for another road project the trustees hoped to fund with an Ohio Public Works Commission grant for new curbs, gutters and blacktop on Astoria Drive in Hamilton Meadows.

"We did not get the grant. They go by a point system (to award funding) and our points totaled 73, but it took 76 points to get a grant," Smith reported. "We will apply for another grant from OPWC for \$250,000 in September."

Sidewalks

The township has received many complaints from residents reporting they are unable to navigate sidewalks because they are either blocked by cars or are in bad shape. Kids riding bicycles, parents pushing strollers, handicapped individuals and people out for a stroll are sometimes forced to walk in the street.

If your car is blocking the sidewalk, move it. While the sidewalk is public property, it is the responsibility of the property owner to keep it maintained. The trustees recently approved new sidewalk maintenance and repair criteria in determining whether to repair or replace. Guidelines include: edges of adjoining sections or parts of sections that differ by more than one-half inch vertically, open joints between adjoining sections or parts of sections that are five-eighths of an inch or more wide, cracked sections with missing or loose pieces, deteriorating surfaces including loose aggregate and sidewalks constructed or repaired without prior approval from Franklin County.

The township reserves the right to determine the timing, order and manner of replacement of sidewalks deemed unsafe based and is responsible for the repair or replacement of sidewalks in cases where the sidewalk has been compromised by public infrastructure.

Yards, Trees and Trash

Keeping your yard—front and back—maintained helps everyone. It cuts down on unwanted critters and helps property values remain stable. Mowing grass on a regular basis, raking up fallen leaves and trimming overgrown tree limbs are measures that go a long way in keeping the community a pleasant place to live.

Bag your loose grass and leaves. Do not blow the debris out to the curb and into the street. It stops up storm drains and causes an unnecessary financial burden for the township. And make sure you put your trash out at the curb in time for Wednesday pick-up by Republic Waste.



LOCAL HISTORY: John Rathmell

Roadways throughout the township are named for notable pioneers and Rathmell Road is no exception.

John Rathmell was born in Madison Township on June 29, 1820 to Franklin County settler Thomas Rathmell and his wife, Mary. John was the eldest of three siblings and was taught in a log schoolhouse. He became a teacher, later marrying one of his former students (Susan Frank), and spent his summers farming on land he owned in Hamilton Township.

His property was located near the intersection of present day Lockbourne Road and State Route 665.

The couple had eight children- one followed in his father's footsteps and became a farmer, another became a doctor, one son was a Columbus attorney and another became a teacher. According to a Centennial Biographical History, Rathmell was a "well-read man, keeping informed on all the issues of the day, political and otherwise."

He was active in a local Methodist church and was a Sunday School superintendent for many years. Rathmell was also supportive of causes he believed in and considered "...kindly, and at all times honorable and upright and ...enjoyed the high regard of those with whom he came in contact."

Rathmell passed away on Oct. 24, 1885 and was buried in the Walnut Hill cemetery.

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

Continuing education and training is a vital part of the Hamilton Township Fire Department and firefighters spend many hours honing their skills, such as at a recent session involving the state Fire Marshal's live fire portable trailer. Local firefighters spent two days rotating through different positions inside a smoke-filled, flashover environment.



Andrew Hieronimus, a full-time firefighter since Jan. 2012, is leaving Hamilton Township Fire to continue his career with the City of Delaware Fire Department, where he will be working at a department closer to his home and family. The members of the Hamilton Township Fire Department wish him well. He will be missed. As a result of the vacancy created by Hieronimus' departure, the fire department welcomes Firefighter Scott Johnson Jr. to the full-time ranks. He joined the department two years ago and is currently working in a part-time capacity.

The Hamilton Township Fire Department is accepting **fan donations** at both firehouses for citizens in need. Station 171 is located at 1460 Obetz Rd. and Station 172 is located at 6410 Lockbourne Rd. If you are in need, please stop by either location and you will be given a fan free of charge.

A long line of township emergency vehicles wound its way through Hamilton Meadows on July 9 as part of the annual Hamilton Youth Athletic Association parade. **Honorary Firefighter Ali Schutte** led the department from the in-charge seat of Engine 173.

Relax at the Park



The Hamilton Township Park, bordered by Lockbourne Road and Edgeview Drive in Hamilton Meadows, is a place to catch a fish or a Frisbee; hit softballs and baseballs, kick a soccer ball or catch a football; walk a dog; fly a kite; go for a run or climb on a jungle gym. Maintained by the township Road Department, the park provides easy access to Big Walnut Creek and plenty of parking along groomed fields and gravel roadways. In season, a concession stand operated by local athletic association volunteers is open during league games. The park is also a place to relax in a covered gazebo or take in the view from the newest structure, a covered bridge spanning a small water run-off near the Lockbourne Road entrance. It is also the perfect setting for pictures and impromptu picnics.

As the seasons change, take time to enjoy your park.