



## Township Government For All

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Dear Neighbor,

Welcome to our August 2020 Sugar Creek Township Newsletter. It is always our goal to keep you updated and well informed about happenings in our community. You may notice that many of the articles in this mailing are truncated. Please go to the Sugar Creek Township Website at [www.sugarcreekoh.us](http://www.sugarcreekoh.us) to see the full articles. While there, please register to receive digital copies of up-coming newsletters. For future editions, we plan to go green, save money, and share information with you more expeditiously when you join our email distribution list. Please sign up!

As the Trustees for Sugar Creek Township, we know that our community is a gem and has become one of the most sought-after locations to live in southwest Ohio. With our popularity comes a careful balancing act to control growth and maintaining a quiet, spacious suburban/rural environment while continuing to provide excellent Administrative, Police, Fire, Zoning, and Road Department services in a fiscally responsible manner for our taxpayers.

Controlled Growth - Our quest is to limit annexation and to preserve Sugar Creek's green park-like feel while attracting appropriate Economic Development to increase Township revenue without additional tax burdens for our residents. We have strategically built a border around the vulnerable external limits of the Township so that neighboring municipalities cannot take our land, develop it to their specifications, receive the property tax revenue, and yet still send the children moving into these new developments to our Bellbrook-Sugar Creek Schools. Our anti-annexation efforts are working. Where our Township edges are secure, we can maintain the rural, green, beautiful country feel that attracted many of us to this region. We are delighted to see so many people walking, running, and enjoying our bike/hike paths to experience scenic Sugar Creek! We have designated the North West, I-675 area of Sugar Creek as our 'Business Corridor' close to Wilmington Pike, Clio, and Center Point Drives and we are attracting new businesses that can increase the value of the properties in the Township in this region and stabilize property tax rates. We have some exciting new businesses looking to move into the Township, two of which are in the process of purchasing land to build new facilities. This new economic development is a win-win for our community. You get exciting new venues that create character while increasing the value of Sugar Creek Township bringing additional tax revenue without burdening the existing businesses or homeowners. The 'Business Corridor' is strategically located for convenience without sacrificing our existing rural nature.

Administration, Police, Fire, Zoning, and Road Department Services - Our goal is to provide the best possible services to the Township while being fiscally responsible. Throughout the many challenges associated with the year 2020, our Sugar Creek Township providers have delivered outstanding services to our community without disruption. Part of our success in maintaining services amid the Pandemic is the quality of our staff. We strive to hire and retain outstanding team members while also ensuring excellent education, training, and team skills to keep our employees working cohesively to support our residents. We have found that by granting competitive pay increases to make Sugar Creek's pay rates similar to neighboring community's we have been able to improve our staff retention rate and employee satisfaction resulting in less turn-over and reduced training costs. We try to maintain esprit-de-corps by ensuring unsafe equipment is repaired or replaced. For instance, new chairs were recently delivered to the firehouses to provide comfort for our crews but also to be able to be sanitized for COVID-19 safety precautions. Township Administrator Barry Tiffany, Assistant Township Administrator /Zoning Director Cara Tilford, Police Chief Mike Brown, Fire Chief Jeff Leaming, , , and Roads & Services Director Bill Harphant continue to demonstrate active leadership in their departments ensuring safety precautions are followed for the health and welfare of their staffs and the public we serve.

We are proud to call Sugar Creek Township our home and honored to assist our neighbors as they strive for positive and peaceful ways to support each other, to work together, and to achieve favorable outcomes as we navigate these trying times of the global pandemic, economic crisis, and social unrest.

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Sugarcreek is a community of approximately 8,500 people with varying backgrounds, interests, ages, and social-economic statuses. As your local government, we have always strived to ensure our resident’s safety, fair treatment, inclusion, and health so that we can thrive as a community. We value all human life and are committed to continue to treat everyone with dignity and respect. This is our mission in our service to you!

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact any of our Trustee Board members or our Administration team at (937) 848 -8426. Your Sugarcreek Township Trustees, ~Nadine Daugherty, Carolyn Destefani, & Fred Cramer

## Honoring Trustee Pittman



Michael E. Pittman was passionate about his family and about Sugarcreek Township. He was first appointed a member of the Sugarcreek Township Zoning Commission in 1998 and served in that capacity until he was elected to the position of Township Trustee in 2005. He would serve the community in that role until his death on January 24, 2020.

During his time as Trustee, Mike had a vision to create a walkable and bikeable connection in and around Sugarcreek Township and the City of Bellbrook. He could often be found hiking in a field, envisioning how neighborhoods might be connected to one another in the future. His vision would soon take off as he was instrumental in creating the Safe Routes to School pathway network in place today. During his tenure, the township saw over \$2 million invested (\$1.5 of that in grant funding with the remainder being private funds) in improving connectivity between the township’s neighborhoods and schools and connecting residents to down-

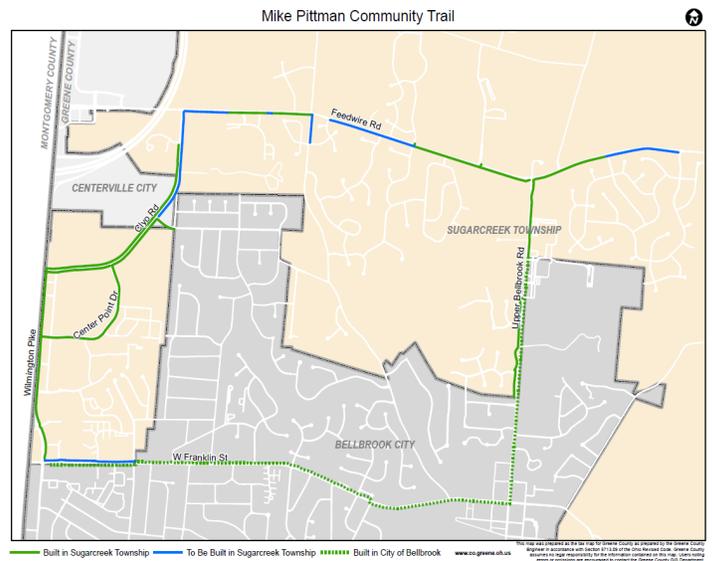
town Bellbrook. One particular year, in negotiating the right-of-way acquisition necessary for a pathway project, it became apparent that a funding shortfall would exist between the cost of the necessary land and the grant funding provided to acquire it. Mr. Pittman allocated a portion of his Trustee salary that year to fill the funding gap rather than see the project halted.

Sugarcreek Township has committed to Mike’s plan for a shared trail system in hopes to ultimately connect a looped network of more than eight miles for our residents to bike, hike, travel, walk, run and enjoy.

On January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020, his fellow Trustees voted to establish January 6<sup>th</sup> as Michael E. Pittman Community Connectivity Day in Sugarcreek Township and to establish all trails within Sugarcreek Township as part of the ‘Michael E. Pittman Community Trail’.



The trail was dedicated on March 1, 2020. Mr. Pittman’s family, friends, colleagues, community members gathered to celebrate his life and legacy.



Through additional grants and private donations, Sugarcreek Township hopes to complete the trail “loop” by 2025. Those wishing to contribute to the Michael E. Pittman Community Trail fund, may do so by sending a check made payable to Sugarcreek Township to 2090 Ferry Road, Sugarcreek Township, Ohio 45305 with Mike Pittman in the memo line.

## Farmer’s Market

The Sugarcreek Township Farmer’s Market is up and running this summer season. We have a great selection of fresh, locally grown fruits, vegetables, and flowers as well as wonderful homemade baked goods, kettle cooked popcorn and fresh beef, chicken, and eggs. Our market runs every Friday, from 3-6pm now through November. We are located in the parking lot of the Sugarcreek Plaza off of Clio Road. If you are interested in becoming a vendor please contact our office at 937-848-8426 or visit our website at [www.sugarcreekOH.US](http://www.sugarcreekOH.US). follow us on Instagram [@sugarcreefarmersmarket!](https://www.instagram.com/sugarcreefarmersmarket/)

## Meet Your Trustees



Nadine S. Daugherty

Nadine Daugherty is a lifelong resident of Sugar Creek Township and has had the honor of serving as your Trustee since 2001. She is a graduate of Bellbrook High School and Miami Jacobs College. She retired as Business Manager with Radiology Physicians with 30 years of service. She and her husband of 40 years, Bob, raised their three children here, all graduates of Bellbrook High School. She became actively involved in Township politics in the 1990's concerned about rapid out of control development taking away the rural character of Sugar Creek. She started a grassroots organization, SOS! Save our Sugar Creek for sensible, controlled development and served on the implementation committee for the Township's first last Land Use Plan. Her focus remains on protecting open space, wildlife and the Little Miami River, while serving as a fiscal watchdog. She is an active member of the Bellbrook Methodist Church and cherishes our hometown family values. Nadine has served on many boards and committees during her tenure as Trustee including Greene County Regional Planning, the Greene County Health District, Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission and has been an active participant with the Little Miami River Kleeners.



Carolyn L. Destefani

Carolyn Destefani has lived in Sugar Creek Township for over 20 years. Carolyn and Chuck, her husband of 30+ years, raised both of their children in the Bellbrook-Sugar Creek School System. A die-hard Buckeye, Carolyn holds a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from The Ohio State University. Carolyn is an Air Force Veteran. She operated the Bellbrook-Sugar Creek Family Resource Center and then joined HumanIT. She currently works for Estrella Group LLC. Carolyn is in her second term as a Sugar Creek Township Trustee. It was a highlight of her Trusteeship to be part of the collaborative team that helped resolve an 11-year legal dispute with the City of Centerville with a reciprocal agreement for continuance of Fire/EMS service while receiving fair compensation at the maximum rate allowable by law with non-annexation language. Carolyn's professional memberships include: Greene County Township Association President, Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission Board of Directors; Greene County Water/Wastewater Advisory Committee Chairperson; Chamber of Commerce Board; Ohio Township Association Leadership Academy Graduate, Miami Valley Military Affairs Association Area Representative; Ohio Central Committee, National Association of Towns and Townships legislative Fly-In, Capitol Hill in Washington D.C., and a member of the Dayton-Wright Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association Chapter.



Fred Cramer

Fred Cramer, was raised in Greene County and graduated from Beavercreek High School, where he met Mike Pittman, and Wright State University. He and his wife Jeannie have been residents of Sugar Creek Township for 20 years. Prior to his appointment as Trustee, Fred served on the Sugar Creek Township Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) for 12 years. Fred started Guide Technologies, a reseller of business software specifically for manufacturing companies, after leaving IBM. Trustee Mike Pittman suggested Fred fill his Trustee term and the Trustees took Mike's suggestion and appointed Fred Cramer Trustee in 2020. Fred's goals as a Trustee are to bring economic development to the Township to increase revenues as an alternative to increased taxation on residents. He looks forward to continuing the Township's commitment to excellent service and will seek election to the position of Township Trustee to fill the remainder of Trustee Pittman's unexpired term in the Fall. Fred spends time in Columbus with Chad and Rion, son and daughter-in-law, along with his grand children, Payton and Preston. Fred is an avid golfer, a member of the Wright State Advisory Council and is the president-elect of the Dayton Agonis Club.

# Townships: An Efficient Form of Local Government

Congratulations! If you received this newsletter you call Sugarcreek Township home (not Bellbrook, Xenia, Spring Valley or Dayton like your zip code may say-more about that later) and we are so happy to have you as part of our community! Townships were the first form of local government created in the State of Ohio. This basic form of local government has remained since its inception largely unchanged (our staying power is a testament to our efficiency). Townships are governed, not by a City Council or a Mayor, but by three elected Trustees and one elected Fiscal Officer. The Trustees employ a Township Administrator to handle the day-to-day management of the Township and appoint Department Heads to lead the individual departments within the Township (Police, Fire, Roads and Services and Planning and Zoning). The Trustees remain always available to address issues that may arise and are able to deal effectively with problems because of their intimate knowledge of the community. Township government in Ohio offers more personal service, more attention to individual needs and a better understanding of local problems than any other unit of government.

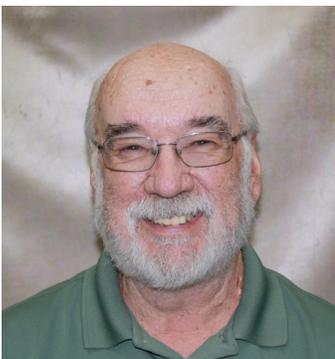
The duties of the Trustees, Fiscal Officer and Administrator are proscribed in Chapter 5 of the Ohio Revised Code. Trustees have both limited legislative functions, as well as executive functions, while the fiscal officer has responsibility for the financial functions of the township. Trustees are elected to four-year terms (staggered) commencing on January 1<sup>st</sup> following the November elections.

Fiscal Officer duties include the management of all financial records, accounts and transactions as well as paying all bills, issuing checks and payroll. The Fiscal Officer is an independently elected public official with separate duties from the Trustees and is elected to a four-year term commencing April 1<sup>st</sup> after the November election.

A study completed in 2019 titled, *Ohio's Townships: Spending, Taxing and Borrowing Less*, concluded Townships have current expenditures per capita less than one-half of other local government entities (like cities and villages). The study found the median taxes per capita to be considerably lower in townships than in municipalities. Townships are not subject to a local income tax.

## Claim the Name Sugarcreek

Did you know that if your mailing address is Xenia, Bellbrook, Dayton or Spring Valley you can use (and we encourage you to!) Sugarcreek Township, Ohio with your respective zip code. Sugarcreek Township is an allowable alternate to these city names. After all, you don't live in Bellbrook, Xenia, Dayton or Spring Valley you live in Sugarcreek Township!



## A Note from Theodore Hodson, Fiscal Officer

As a brief note for 2020, our normal budgeting process has changed due to the COVID-19 crisis. Instead of submitting a formal budget of appropriations for 2021, we will only certify our anticipated revenue with the Greene County Budget Commission. Our current appropriations budget for 2020 will be carried forward into 2021. If changes in appropriations are needed, they will be submitted to the Greene County Auditor's office as necessary. To date, COVID-19 has had only a modest impact on our revenue sources and I am hopeful this will continue.

### Road Levy on Ballot

This Fall the voters in Sugarcreek Township are being asked to consider the renewal of the levy that funds the maintenance of our roadways. The levy will not cost taxpayers any additional money; it is a renewal to fund continued operations of our Roads and Services Department. This 0.80 mill levy is the only levy supporting the operations of the Roads and Services Department and it generates \$280,000 per year. The Roads and Services Department is responsible for the maintenance of approximately 52 road miles, snow and ice removal, mowing, signage, guardrails, and clearing brush and debris. Please contact me if you have questions about the levy, our plan for maintaining the roads, or something regarding the street where you live.

Barry Tiffany, Township Administrator

### Let's Talk Trash

You are reading this piece, so the title apparently caught your attention. When you think of trash talk, a couple of thoughts might come to mind. We are not talking about trashy talk, rather, we are talking about real trash that lurks around our community. Trash, in this case, refers to smaller items of waste that do not decompose over the short term. The trash that lies alongside roads, in public spaces, in creek beds and around our neighborhoods distracts from the beauty of our community. Let's do something about it!

You might ask, how can I help? There are several ways individuals and groups can help with the clean-up process. These activities do not take up too much time and lead to cleaner and more pleasant community environment.

Community cleanup can be at the individual or community-wide level. Individual efforts may include simply taking a bag with you on walks—and *when you see trash, retrieve trash!* On the other hand, groups of volunteers can also unite to clean up public spaces, neighborhood common areas, parks, creeks and roadsides. You can organize a *neighborhood clean-up day* that focuses only on your subdivision or a larger surrounding area. You might call on an existing organized group to offer manpower for a trash pick-up day for the larger community.

While giving hands are the most valuable assets for a successful outcome, materials and services needed may be donated by the Township's business community.

### Tips for Planning

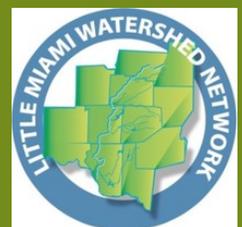
- Plan your event well in advance to allow time to organize the process.
- Identify the targeted area for the clean-up process and create a detailed event plan to include maps if needed. Consider parking for the volunteer workers.
- Consider the best plan for communication. Plan how to share the details with residents.
- Gather volunteers early and identify gear they need to bring. This may include trash bags, gloves, appropriate shoes, bright-reflective clothing, reusable water bottles, sunscreen, etc.
- Gather other supplies needed. This is where the business community may assist with donated materials needed such as trash bags, gloves, trash pickers or other tools.
- Plan where the trash will go. The Township's Administration building can serve as the drop-off location for the trash when planned. Plan for pick-up and transport of the trash once it is collected.
- Consider waivers for volunteers to sign. Of course, we do not anticipate injury—though, you should be protected.
- Celebrate the outcome. Thank volunteers for the time and effort.
- Consider a follow-up event.

Most importantly, *when you see trash, retrieve trash!* Our community deserves it.



Did you know we have a dedicated group of local residents working for the betterment of the Little Miami River?

For upcoming events and information, please visit [www.littlemiamiwatershednetwork.org](http://www.littlemiamiwatershednetwork.org)



### Sugarcreek Police: A Message from the Chief, Michal A. Brown

On behalf of the Sugarcreek Township Police Department, we condemn the actions of the police officers responsible for causing the death of George Floyd. The death of Mr. Floyd was tragic and inexcusable. The horrendous acts of these officers have echoed throughout the law enforcement profession.

I want to be clear that the actions taken by those officers have not gone unnoticed by the men and women of Sugarcreek Township Police Department, as well as our community officials. The actions of those officers go against our professional code of conduct and defies our commitment to protect and serve *all members* of our community. The members of Sugarcreek Township Police Department adhere to the high standards of fair treatment, dignity, and respect toward our residents each and every day.

I am disheartened that such vicious actions were committed by those who were sworn to protect the innocent. I want each member of our community to feel safe, to feel included, and to know that the members of Sugarcreek Township Police Department value human life. We respect the right for peaceful protest and do not condone the violent actions of others toward anyone, including fellow officers.

I have been asked several questions regarding use-of-force and chokeholds. Sugarcreek Township Police Officers do not use chokeholds of any type when securing the arrest of an individual. This "technique" is not taught at the local police academy.

Although there have been very few use-of-force incidents involving our officers, all have been thoroughly investigated. In addition, all have simply included "wrestling" with the individual in order to safely secure the arrest.

Prior to hiring, the candidate submits to a psychological test. Once hired, they are assigned a training officer for a (3) month training period. This period of time is after each (new) officer has already completed a 700+ hour academy that is sanctioned by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy. My training officers are selected based on their years of service, knowledge of state and local law as well as the department's policies. In addition, the FTO has proven to be of good character and is community oriented.

Lastly, since early 2014, all Sugarcreek Township Police Officers are assigned a body camera. Per department policy, the camera must be worn and activated when the officer is interacting with members of the community.

### Sugarcreek Police : Spotlight on New Officers



Officer Adam Klark joined our department in June of 2019.



Officer Benjamin Liggett joined our department in January of 2020.



Officer Joshua Lacy joined our department in March of 2020.

# Sugarcreek Fire:

## A Message from Chief Jeffrey A. Leaming

### COVID-19's Impact on the Sugarcreek Fire Department

We are all in this together seems to be the mantra utilized most often when discussing the implications of the pandemic. From the onset the Sugarcreek Fire Department has been working closely with our local Medical Director Dr. Jon Riggs, the Greene County Combined Health District, Greene County Emergency Management and various other allied agencies to establish directives for our staff on how to best deal with the virus. Our highest priority remains to provide exceptional emergency services to our customer's; but with that we must work diligently to protect our staff so that we have sufficient providers to answer those emergency calls. The following are some of the changes in our operations that we implemented from the onset and are continuing to this day.

Everyone reporting for duty is screened for any illness and their temperature is checked, anyone having a low-grade fever or any symptoms are required to stay home. Besides the daily equipment and gear checks; we have placed a tremendous emphasis on sanitizing all touch surfaces throughout our buildings, including our fire apparatus and medic units with hospital grade sanitizer. Greene Central Dispatch is our 911 public safety answering point or in other words all 911 calls from the Township will be answered by dispatchers from Greene Central. The staff at the dispatch center now has the added responsibility of attempting to screen calls for service to determine if anyone at the caller's location could possibly be positive for the virus or having significant symptoms of COVID-19. Dispatchers are attempting to determine the level of protective equipment that may be required depending on the level of illness at the location. Please if anyone must call 911 for whatever reason work with dispatch to answer their screening questions as that truly impacts how we gear up to provide assistance. No matter what the call for service is for us we are having our staff at a minimum wear a protective mask and anyone on scene that we come in close contact with we will ask them to also put on a mask as well. We are limiting using what we consider full personal protective equipment on EMS calls (N-95 mask, gown, gloves and goggles) because of a national shortage of these supplies to only calls where patients are symptomatic or have tested positive. We are not allowing family members to ride along to the hospital in the medic unit to limit additional exposure unless we have no other alternatives. Additionally we are limiting any outside visitors to the stations including eliminating all tours for the foreseeable future.

We are all in this together and we encourage everyone to wash hands frequently, wear a mask in public and do your part to limit the spread of the virus. Hopefully you appreciate our efforts to keep our staff healthy and the processes we have implemented to our daily operations all in an effort so that we remain available to meet the needs of our community.

## Employee Spotlight

Captain Josh Johnson has been employed by the Sugarcreek Fire Department since 2004. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 2009 and then to Captain in 2014. Josh is a resident of Centerville, graduated from Carrol High School in 1999, holds an Associates Degree in Fire Science from Columbia Southern University and is slated to complete his Bachelor of Science Degree in Fire Administration also from Columbia Southern this coming December. Captain Johnson is the shift supervisor working a 24-hour platoon schedule every third day. As the shift commander he responds to all calls for service and functions as the incident commander and manages the day to day operations of his crew. Captain Johnson is also responsible for departmental training and oversees Emergency Medical Services for the department. Captain Johnson was credentialed as a Fire Officer by the Commission on Professional Credentialing in May of 2019. The Fire Officer designation is a tremendous accomplishment recognizing his education, certification's, and achievements in the fire service. Additionally, Captain Johnson is a member of Ohio Task Force One as a Medical Specialist and has been deployed on numerous FEMA missions around the Country.





## CLAIM THE NAME!

**USING "SUGARCREEK" AND YOUR CURRENT ZIP CODE (45305, 45385, ETC.) IS PERMITTED**

This will be our last printed Sugarcreek Newsletter. Please visit our website to sign up for notifications and the eNewsletter in the future.

### Administration Offices:

2090 Ferry Road  
Sugarcreek , Ohio 45305  
937-848-8426

Find us online:

[www.SugarcreekOH.US](http://www.SugarcreekOH.US)

## MEETING SCHEDULE

### MONDAYS

The Board of Trustees meets in Regular Session on the first and third Mondays of the month, 7:00 pm, at the Township Administration Offices, 2090 Ferry Road. A Work Session precedes each Regular Session beginning at 5:30 pm.

### TUESDAYS

The Board of Zoning Commission meets on the first Tuesday of the month, 7:00 pm, at the Township Administration Offices, 2090 Ferry Road.

### THURSDAYS

The Board of Zoning Appeals meets on the fourth Thursday of the month, 7:00 pm, at the Township Administration Offices, 2090 Ferry Road.

### FRIDAYS

Farmers' Markets are held through the month of November, every Friday from 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm behind the Kettering Health Network's Sugarcreek Health Center off Briggs Road and Wilmington Pike.

**WINTER MARKETS** will begin in December and are held on the third Friday of each month from 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm through April 2017.

**NOTE: Due to COVID-19, all meetings are being held via Zoom until further notice.**

**Changes in meeting dates and times do occur.**

Please go to [www.SugarcreekOH.US](http://www.SugarcreekOH.US) and for information and updates.