



COMMUNITY UPDATE

Fall 2009

Clyo Road Extension Underway



Township Trustees, staff and other area officials break ground on the first phase of the long anticipated Clyo Road Extension Project scheduled for completion this fall.

June 18th marked the construction beginning of the Clyo Road Extension Project. The completion date is expected to be November 30, 2009. The design engineer estimate was \$2.3 million, but the contract award was just \$1.382 million, a savings of over \$900k!

The total Township cost for Phase I of the project is approximately \$600,000, or 43% of the total project cost. The State of Ohio and the Greene County Engineer's Office provided additional funding.

Years ago, the initial design was a typical country style road with ditches, no curbs or gutters, and a speed limit of 55 mph. It was not suitable for good commercial development and the Trustees approved a redesign to lower the speed. The redesign also included a more appealing boulevard design for the roadway, which should attract sustainable commercial development. Slight modifications for aesthetics and safety were added over the past two years while estimates were being acquired.

Phase I is a three-lane boulevard style road with a 14' grass median. Later, Phase II is expected to be widened to five (continued on page 2)

Highlights in this Issue:

Limited Home Rule	2
Zoning Revisions	2
Police Levy on Ballot	3
2007-2008 Audit Results	4
The Guide	5
Farmers' Market	6
Property Tax Distribution	7



Elected Officials:



Mike Pittman
Chairperson



Nadine Daugherty
Vice-Chairperson

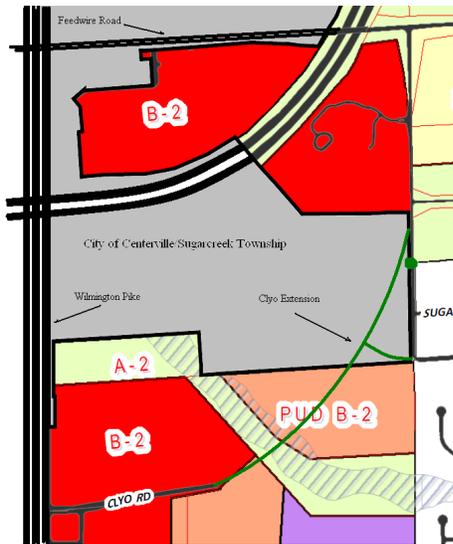


Dick King
Trustee



Ted Hodson
Fiscal Officer

Clyo Road Extension Underway (continued from cover)



lanes leaving the median. Phase II will allow traffic to move through the area more conveniently while drivers seeking a destination in the project area may turn more safely.

Possum Run Road will be terminated just north of the Bellbrook City limits to become a cul-de-sac, which will eliminate through traffic and provide a safer residential street.

Mounding is included to help mitigate the impacts of increased traffic on Clyo Road. Additional mounding is planned later to help keep light and noise originating in the developing areas from impacting the residential areas.

The end result will be improved response times for Fire, EMS and Police emergency calls east of Wilmington Pike and Feedwire Road. 🌿

Zoning Revisions Near Completion

Cara KillKelley, Township Planner/Zoning Official

The Comprehensive Plan Update was completed in late 2007 and the update of the Zoning Resolution is in the public hearing stage. **It is not too late to get involved!** The current draft of the proposed Zoning Resolution is available for review online at www.sugarcreektownship.com. A public hearing with the Board of Zoning Commission (BZC) to review the proposed text amendments is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 10, 7:30 p.m.**, at the Township Administration Offices, 2090 Ferry Road. At the conclusion of the BZC public hearing process, the revisions will undergo a public hearing with the Township Trustees at a date to be determined. You may contact the Zoning Office at 937-848-8426 for more information or visit us online. 🌿

The Question of Limited Home Rule

Barry Tiffany, Township Administrator

In August, the Board of Trustees passed a resolution, by a vote of two to one, to place the question of Limited Home Rule government for the Township on the ballot for the citizens to decide upon. The question will appear as Issue 21 on the ballot of November's general election. If approved by the voters, Limited Home Rule would take effect the first day of January, 2010. **The Township will host public information meetings on Limited Home Rule on October 13 and October 26, 7:00 p.m., at the Bellbrook Middle School, 3600 Feedwire Road.**

For more information on Limited Home Rule visit, <http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/504>. For more information on the Public Information meetings, call the Sugar Creek Township Administration Offices at 937-848-8426. 🌿

Police Levy on November Ballot

Gilbert A. Flick, Chief of Police

Your Board of Trustees approved two mills as a **REPLACEMENT** levy for the November 3rd election. This two-mill levy was originally approved by voters in 1990, renewed in 1994 and 1999, and replaced in 2004. There has been **no millage increase** since this levy was originally passed.

Mr. Ted Hodson, the Township's Fiscal Officer, confirms this levy supports 25% of the Police Department's budget. The Police Department's total funding, including this levy at its current value, is projected to decrease approximately \$100,000 in 2009, while "expenditures have been reasonably matching our income over the last several years." Mr. Hodson reports that "loss of this revenue (funds generated from this levy) can only result in a reduction of services to the community".

Mrs. Luwanna Delaney, Greene County Auditor, reports that a two-mill replacement levy would generate an additional \$89,000 for the Police Department at an additional cost to property owners of **\$9.69** per \$100,000 assessed value.

The proposed replacement levy is on the ballot as a short-term remedy. This would allow the Police Department to continue operating at the current level of service for the next three years while decisions are made concerning how the community chooses to be governed in the future. 🌿

Fire Department Update

Randall J. Pavlak, Fire Chief

Thank you for your support this past May!!! With the passage of the levy, we were able to reopen Station 71 in June. We are now back at full strength in our staffing.

The levy passage also enabled us to accept a federal **SAFER** (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) Grant. Over the last three years we applied for this grant, but were turned down. Finally we were awarded \$1.3 million over five years to hire thirteen part-time firefighters. This **matching progress grant** requires we pay 10% of the total cost of wages and benefits in the first year. The subsequent years our cost is 20%, 50% and then 80%. In year five we pick up 100% of their employment cost. The grant is the largest awarded in the SAFER Grant history in Ohio.

During the last five years we have received more than 2.8 million dollars in grant funding. This helps us keep your tax bill lower and brings great assets to our community for exceptional service.

Over the past eighteen months, our Communications Center has been upgraded with new Computer Aided Dispatching (CAD) software. This gives us the ability to have live (real-time) dispatching computer displays in our fire engines and medic units. Having all this information in front of our firefighters and officers greatly increases our chances for saving lives and property.

We need you to volunteer. If you are interested in becoming a Volunteer Firefighter/EMS employee, please contact me at 937-848-7344 or firechief@sugarcreektownship.com. 🌿

2007-2008 Audit Results

Theodore Hodson, Fiscal Officer

Recently, my office received a copy of the final report from the State of Ohio regarding the Audit of years 2007 and 2008. The Audit went very well and resulted in only two incidents of non-compliance. A letter to my office listed a third non-compliance issue due to a change in the Ohio Revised Code stating that personnel expenditures were required to be listed in the Resolution for Permanent Appropriations for each Special Fund where applicable. In the past, only the total appropriation for the fund was required for a Resolution of Appropriations. Please note that personnel and other appropriation categories are broken out to the County Budget Commission as they are in the Public Hearing presenting the next year's budget. This change in law only applies to the recording of appropriations approved by the Board of Trustees.

The Fiscal Office was aware of the other two incidents of non-compliance prior to the Audit taking place. We prepare Blanket Certificates of Purchase in large amounts to facilitate efficiency and expediency in the process of purchasing required goods and materials for daily operation. At times, a particular department may purchase something needed prior to a new Blanket Certificate being written. This is a non-compliance and is supposed to be handled with a Then-and-Now Purchase Order. However, there are many instances where this is not practical. This issue was on our last Audit and I'm sure it will be on our next. It is a common problem with all large Townships, not an indicator of potential expenditures. I would like to quote from the Audit Report page 8, "The Township spent below what was projected and indicates that the Township is working hard to keep expenditures to a minimum."

The last issue resulted from an error in the Certificate of Revenue submitted to the Greene County Auditor. The Greene County Auditor compares my Certificate of Revenue to the approved appropriations. The error in the submitted revenue amount was corrected and exceeded the appropriation. This error occurred early in 2008 and was corrected with the Greene County Auditor's Office. However, the State is required to write a non-compliance if it occurs, regardless of the circumstances. Again, we were aware of the issue prior to the Audit.

Overall, I was very pleased with the Audit results. The non-compliance issues were not of major consequence and the results were expected. I will strive to continue to account for your tax dollars in a conscientious and professional manner. Even though we may not always be in compliance with all state regulations, we always know where every dollar is. 🌿



Tom's Mulch has been honored by your Trustees with the first Sugar Creek Township Community Pillar Award. This award is presented to businesses and members of the community for their continued commitment to the Citizens of Sugar Creek Township through community involvement and an exceptional community/business partnership.

The GUIDE Drug Prevention Program Kick-off

Lieutenant James Deaton

On September 23rd, Sugarcreek Township Police in cooperation with several other county, city and state agencies, kicked-off the GUIDE program at Bellbrook Middle School. The GUIDE program is a new drug prevention program designed for students in the 8th grade. This program will show how drug abuse can affect their lives from numerous points of view. These views include law enforcement and the court system, health practitioners, educators, college and military recruiters and social workers. The program will also reach out and educate parents on how to apply drug prevention techniques as well as recognize symptoms of drug abuse. It will show them the resources available to help them guide their children through their academic career. This information will be disseminated through town hall meetings, media coverage, promotional materials and endorsements of the project. This program will include a wide variety of instructional techniques including, but not limited to, classroom instruction, internet courses, displays and activities, hands on exercises, and real life testimonials.



The program won't be confined to the week of instruction. The nexus will be put in place for a Student Advisory Board that will include the School Resource Officer and school faculty member participation. This advisory board will be a voice for the students and play a key role in understanding the problems and influences teenagers face regarding drug abuse.

The GUIDE will include an ongoing evaluation of trends in drug abuse prevention techniques and application as well as community awareness and participation. An important component of this project is maintaining communication among agencies and the community.

This program has been designed to be flexible enough to be tailored to any community in Greene or Montgomery County, but be specific enough to be consistent in its application. The program will continually seek counsel and participation from all social services and current drug prevention specialists to insure the program is validated and endorsed.

The entire GUIDE Development Council and instructors look forward to working with the students and community as we continue to help address drug prevention in the region. 🌿

Roads and Services Department Update

Tracey Messer, Roads and Services Director

We were able to recover \$93,600 from FEMA for our clean up efforts after “Dry Ike” (the wind-storm that took place on September 14, 2008), \$30,000 more than we anticipated.

Our fall road work is well underway, including berming to control erosion and sedimentation, clearing of road rights-of-way, and crack sealing to prevent water from entering the base of our roadways.

(continued on page 7)

Sugarcreek Township Farmers' Market

The Sugarcreek Township Farmers' Market kicked off its inaugural season on June 12. The steadfast support of our community saw the market grow to over 30 vendors midsummer!



The market provides a valuable outlet for local growers and producers, while bringing neighbors together. The combined efforts of the Sugarcreek Township Police Department, the Bellbrook/Sugarcreek Ministerial Association, and the Bellbrook/

Sugarcreek Family Resource Center gave participating vendors the opportunity to donate unsold perishable goods to be distributed to the less fortunate members of our community.

The market runs through October 23rd, and is held every Friday afternoon from 3-7 p.m. A Winter Market will begin in November and will run through April 2010. The Winter Market will be held monthly on the third Friday of each month from 3-5 p.m. in the PetSmart parking lot. The Township wishes to *sincerely* thank Robert Zavakos, CSZ Inc., and PetSmart for their gracious hospitality in hosting the Farmers' Market. The market simply would not have been possible without their support.

A WINTER MARKET will begin in November and will be held on the third Friday of each month running through April, 2010. Dates for Winter Markets are:

- November 20, 2009
- December 18, 2009
- January 15, 2010
- February 19, 2010
- March 19, 2010
- April 16, 2010

Winter Markets will be held in the PetSmart parking lot (4333 Feedwire Road) from 3-5 p.m.

ODOT Approves Our School Travel Plan

On August 17, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) announced their approval of the Sugarcreek Township/City of Bellbrook School Travel Plan (STP). An ODOT grant funded development of the STP, while local management is by the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Committee. The SRTS Committee is comprised of a diverse group of stakeholders including parents, community members, the Sugarcreek Local School District, the City of Bellbrook, Sugarcreek Township, the Bellbrook Sugarcreek Park District and the Township Open Space Advisory Committee. The hard work and dedication by this diverse group of stakeholders has been commended by ODOT. Their efforts have made our community eligible to apply for project funding to make it safer for our children to bike and walk to school. More School Travel Plan details may be viewed online at www.sugarcreektownship.com. 🌿

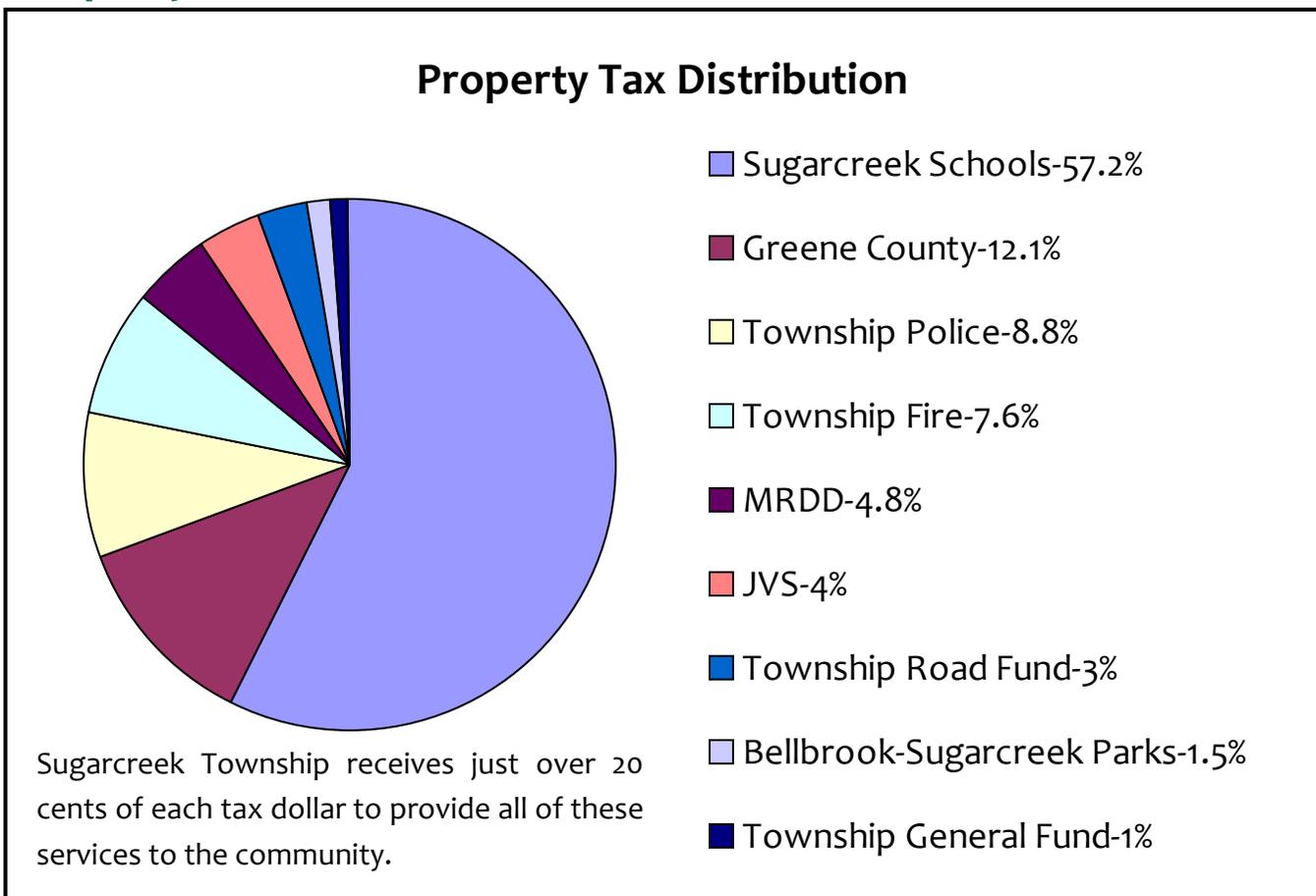
Interested in getting involved in your community? Opportunities abound from the Open Space Advisory Committee to Township Zoning Boards! Contact the Township Administration Offices at 937-848-8426 for more information on serving your community and making a difference!

Roads and Services Department Update (Continued from page 5)

With volatile petroleum-based repaving costs in mind, we are looking at ways to extend the life of our roads, stretching your tax dollars to the fullest. Our new Pavement Condition Rating System (PCRS) identifies and describes pavement distress in terms of severity and extent. Future road applications include chip seals, micro surfacing, SAMs (Stress Absorbing Membranes), and SAMIs (Stress Absorbing Membrane Interlayers) to address road conditions based on our PCRS ratings.

This winter we will be exploring the application of salt brine to our roads to help combat the winter elements. Creating a layer of salt brine between the road surface and the snow would allow us to get the roadways cleared more quickly. It also saves money by cutting down on the amount of salt needed. Last year some local jurisdictions paid as high as \$170.00 per ton for salt. Our group buying allowed us to pay \$68.05 per ton. We had been anxiously awaiting the salt bids for this year and are fortunate to be paying \$64.55 per ton. Please be assured that we will be ready when the snow and ice arrive to get you where you need to be! 🍁

Property Tax Distribution



Greene County's distribution includes the following levies: Children's Services (1.4%), Hospital (1.4%), Library (1.4%), Senior Council on Aging (1.1%), Health (0.7%), County Bridge Fund (0.4%), and Mental Health (1.7%) as well as inside millage for the County General Fund (3.4%) and County Debt Obligations (0.6%).



Administration Offices:

2090 Ferry Road

Bellbrook, Ohio 45305

P: (937) 848-8426

F: (937) 848-7060

www.sugarcreektownship.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONDAYS

The Board of Township Trustees meets in Regular Session on the first and third Monday of the month, 7:30 p.m., at the Township Administration Offices, 2090 Ferry Road.

TUESDAYS

The Board of Zoning Commission meets on the second Tuesday of the month, 7:30 p.m., at the Township Administration Offices, 2090 Ferry Road.

WEDNESDAYS

The Board of Township Trustees meets in Work Session on the Wednesday preceding the first and third Monday of the month, 5:30 p.m., at the Township Administration Offices, 2090 Ferry Road.

The Open Space Advisory Committee meets on the third Wednesday of the month, 7:00 p.m., at the Bellbrook City Offices, 15 E. Franklin Street, in the Community Meeting Room.

THURSDAYS

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

FRIDAYS

Farmers' Markets are held through October 24, 2009, every Friday from 3:00-7:00 p.m. at 4333 Feed-wire Road, adjacent to PetSmart. Winter Markets begin on November 20, 2009, and will be held on the third Friday of each month from 3:00-5:00 p.m. through April 2010.

NOTE: Changes in meeting dates, as well as cancellations, do occur from time to time. Go to www.sugarcreektownship.com and click on our **COMMUNITY CALENDAR for updates.**