

PIERPONT TOWNSHIP NEWS

Volume 1, Issue 3

October 2020

GREAT NEWS FOR OUR TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS!

The Pierpont Volunteer Fire Department would like to announce that starting October 4th 2020 the Fire Department will be staffed 12 hours per day, seven days a week, 365 days of the year with a medic squad. The hours that we are staffed will be 7am to 7pm. This was made possible by the passing of the additional levy last year. Due to the volunteerism dropping at alarming rates all across our state and country we are taking a proactive approach to providing care during our busiest of times for all of our township residents.



Fire & EMS Emergency Number: 911

Fire Department Non-Emergency Number: 440-577-1190

Pierpont Township

Notice of Public Hearing

Zoning Commission

Hearing Date: Tuesday October 27, 2020 at
6:00PM

Hearing Location: Virtual Meeting via Facebook Live ("Pierpont, OH" Facebook page)

The Commission will be considering text amendments to the Pierpont Township Zoning Resolution.

Residents who wish to present testimony at this hearing and those with inquiries should contact Fiscal Officer, Jennifer Hoover at (440) 577-1015 and leave a message; or via email pierpontfiscalofficer@gmail.com. Questions and comments will also be accepted and addressed at the end of the hearing via Facebook Live.

A copy of the proposed amendment can be found on our website at pierponttownship.com or a copy can be printed and mailed to you.

At the conclusion of the hearing, the Zoning Commission will decide whether or not to submit their recommendation to the Board of Township Trustees for further action.

TRUNK OR TREAT: HALLOWEEN FUN

When: Saturday, October 31

Time: 6-8 pm

Where: behind the Fire Department

Who: Those wishing to hand out candy should come to the department between 5:30-5:45 to get your vehicle parked and get set up with your treats.

Ghouls, Goblins, and other costumed creatures: Should arrive between 6-8 to participate in the community trick or treating.

Sponsored by: Pierpont Volunteer Fire Department and the Aftershock Fast pitch Team.



THANK YOU

Thank you to the Pierpont Township Beautification Committee for donating Keep Pierpont Beautiful signs. Please be a responsible citizen and do not litter.

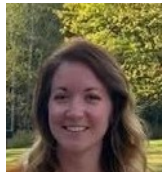
MORE ABOUT ZONING

The Pierpont Township Zoning Text hasn't been updated since 1976 and upon review, many items were found to be outdated and unconstitutional. The Pierpont Township Zoning Commission began reviewing the text

in February 2019, with the help of Janice Switzer, former Director of Ashtabula County Community Services and Planning. In March 2020, the Zoning Commission finalized their draft amendments and moved to forward them to the County Planning Commission for approval, but COVID-19 had other plans and the amendment was put to a halt.

The County Planning Commission has resumed meeting and reviewing zoning text amendments so the Pierpont Township Zoning Commission met on September 29, 2020 and voted to send the amended text to the County once again. The County Planning Commission will review the proposed amendments and return any comments to the Zoning Commission. The Zoning Commission will then hold a public hearing on the amendments on October 27, 2020 via Facebook Live on the "Pierpont, OH" page. The proposed amendments will be available on our website at pierponttownship.com or you can contact Jennifer Hoover to obtain a printed or emailed copy of the amendments. Since the public hearing will not be open for in-person attendance, residents are encouraged to send their questions and comments to the commission ahead of time. Comments and questions will also be addressed from the Facebook video during the hearing in order to comply with Ohio's Open Meeting laws.

At the conclusion of the public hearing, the commission may vote to send the proposed text to the Township Trustees for their approval, but the commission does have a period of 30 days to send their recommendation to the trustees. Upon receipt, the trustees are also required to hold a public hearing on the matter. That public hearing will be on November 17, 2020 at 5:30PM. Just like our regular trustee meetings and the zoning commission public hearing, this public hearing will be closed for in-person attendance and broadcast and open for comments on the "Pierpont, Oh" Facebook page. The trustees will then have a period of 20 days to act on the amendments. They have the option to approve or deny the changes, or make additional suggestions to the Zoning Commission. The text amendments will take effect 30 days after they have been approved by the trustees.



Jennifer Hoover
Fiscal Officer

Check It Out!! Pierpont has 2 Libraries!



Robin Heston is standing beside the Little Library which she maintains at the Township Hall at 1109 State Route 7.



The Little Free Library which is located at the home of Tiffanie and James Willison at 257 Creek Road.

Find more information on this little library on Facebook at Creek Road Library.



Both of the libraries have books for anyone who wants to borrow them, and will take donations of books.

CARES ACT FUNDS

Pierpont Township has taken all of the necessary steps for approval and has received federal funds as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security ("CARES") Act. This money can only be used for unforeseen expenses that have arisen due to COVID-19. The township has used a portion of the funds to purchase a video conferencing system and laptop to allow meetings to be broadcast while the township hall is closed to in-person attendance and will allow the trustees to record meetings and keep a record of them electronically. The trustees have also purchased a scanner to send files and documents electronically in order to limit in-person contact, and face masks, hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies and several folding tables to allow for social distancing of board and commission members at meetings.

Township, County, and State Roads

We often receive questions and comments from residents about why certain roads are being paved, mowed, or plowed sooner (or later) than others. The answer often lies in the fact that Pierpont Township has 3 types of roads in the township.

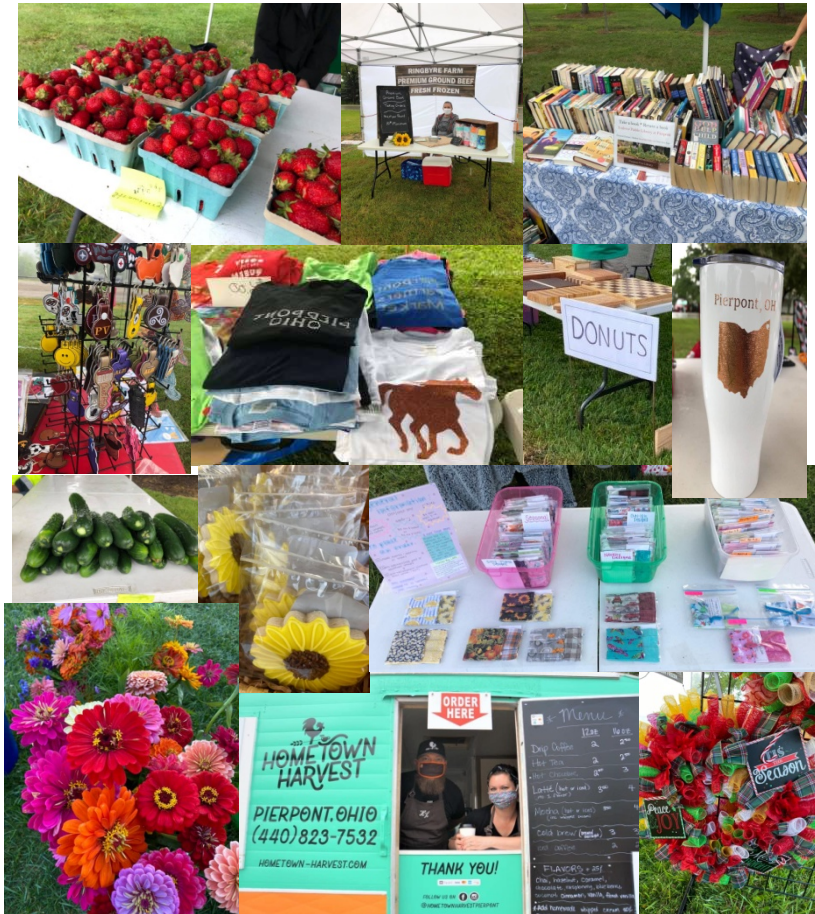
The three types are:

- (1) State roads (shown in **red**) which include the roads and highways of the state highway system;
 - (2) County roads (shown in **green**) which include all roads which are, or may be, established as part of the county system of roads pursuant to O.R.C. 5541.01 to 5541.03, inclusive, and to be maintained by the board of county Commissioners; and
 - (3) Township roads (shown in black/white) which include all public highways other than state and county roads, and which are to be maintained by the board of township trustees.
- Maintenance of Beckwith Road is shared with Monroe Township; Monroe maintains the section from RT 7 west to Stanhope Kelloggsville Rd. and Pierpont Township maintains the section from RT 7 east to the PA line.
 - Maintenance of State Line Rd. is shared with Beaver Township in PA. Pierpont Township maintains the southern end from Turner to RT 6 and the northern portion from RT 167 north to Graham.



If you are looking at the Pierpont Township map, and realizing that there are many roads you have never been on, please take a ride and check out the rest of the township.
The scenery in Pierpont Township in the fall is stunning!

GOODBYE SUMMER....



Thank you!

Thank you to all who participated in the Pierpont Farmer's Market. We appreciate all the vendors who shared their talents, all the buyers who supported the vendors and everyone who just came to hang out and see their neighbors!

Thank you to Katy Bernadez who spent years in the past getting this market started, and thank you to Cheri Hoover and Amanda Lloyd for their efforts keeping the Market running smoothly this summer!

Special thanks to Cameron Wright for use of his property to hold this weekly event.

Looking forward to next year!

HELLO FALL...



AND HERE COMES WINTER!

We hear complaints every winter about the mail boxes, and the mail ladies not being able to get close enough. The township road crew has been working on filling in low spots in front of mailboxes.



According to the U.S. Postal Service, the property owner is responsible for the maintenance needed at a mailbox not owned by the local post office. Purchase, installation, maintenance, repair, and replacement of mail receptacles are the responsibility of the customer. The homeowner needs to maintain the box and area around it if they want to continue to get mail there.

Mailbox and Plow Facts



- According to the USPS, mailboxes are to be 41" to 45" above the road surface
- the township currently has two snow plows-one is 41.5" high, the other is 53.5" high

The plow drivers try to get close to the mailboxes, but as you can see from the information above, if they get too close, residents will not be happy.

Please remember to clean around your mailbox, and let's make sure our elderly neighbors get theirs done also.

Mass Gatherings and Public Meetings

I think everyone is aware that Gov. DeWine banned mass gatherings of over 10 people in March. As a result, the trustees and their committees are keeping their meetings public by doing them in a live stream on the Pierpont OH Facebook page. One of the few silver linings of this pandemic-more and more of you are listening into the township meetings! We are in the process of purchasing a new video and audio system which will make the meetings easier to hear. If you have not had a chance to tune in, Trustees Pam Hudson and Barb Culp are usually at the hall, and Trustee Bob Jackson is on the teleconference. Fiscal Officer Jennifer Hoover is also at the hall, but in the background keeping our video going. We thank you for your patience as we have worked through some technical difficulties. We welcome your comments and questions during our meetings.



DETOUR

Marcy Road will be closed by the County from October 13 To November 10 for bridge replacement. The closure will be between Route 7 and Creek/Cemetery roads.



Our normal view of the Marcy Road Bridge

Side views of the bridge.



The article on the **next page** was written by Heidi Fought, Executive Director of the Ohio Township Association. We thought it was a very well written article and had a lot of truth in it and something we should keep in mind not only as we head out to our precinct, but in our everyday lives. We hope you enjoy the article as much as we did.

Barb, Bob, & Pam



Finding the Good

Heidi M. Fought, OTA Executive Director

Right when you thought 2020 couldn't get any worse, the Ohio Statehouse was rocked by a scandal that saw the Speaker of the House removed from his position by his colleagues - now, the former Speaker, three lobbyists and a political consultant have been indicted on federal bribery charges.

As someone that has been around the Statehouse for 22 years and a registered lobbyist for the Ohio Township Association for 20 of those years, I have seen my fair share of legislators accused of illegal or unethical behavior. But the breadth of the alleged corruption scheme uncovered by federal prosecutors is alarming and, in all honesty, sickening.

Serving the OTA as your executive director is a privilege, just like serving constituents as a township trustee or fiscal officer is a privilege. You have put your faith and trust in me to help guide the Association, like your residents have put their faith and trust in you to be a leader in your community. The key words in those sentences are "faith and trust." Faith that you will make decisions in the best interest of your constituents. Trust that you will adhere to all laws and be an example of integrity.

Honest. Moral. Civil. If you ask a person on the street today to use one word to describe politicians or those involved in government, I am pretty certain these are not words that would be used. In fact, if you are active at all on social media, you might be led to believe that all politicians are crooks and liars. Yet, I personally know many politicians, local elected officials and government employees that are trustworthy and honest people.

At the age of 14, George Washington, the father of our country, wrote down 110 rules under the title *Rules of Civility & Decent Behaviour in Company and Conversation*. These rules were drawn from an English translation of a French book of maxims and were intended to polish manners, keep alive the best affections of the heart, impress the obligation of moral virtues, teach how to treat others in social relations, and instill the practice of self-control.

I picked up this book on a trip to our nation's Capitol Building in 2019. I read through all 110 rules and thought how different society would be if Americans followed those rules. After the news last month of the alleged bribery scheme and other

recent happenings, I pulled the book out and reread it. Much of Washington's shaping of the office of the Presidency and his management of staff can be found in the *Rules of Civility*. At the bottom of the page are a few of the rules that struck a chord with me.

Rule #22 encourages one to have good sportsmanship and humility in victory. In other words, do not gloat or celebrate the losses of others. Rule #45 encourages one to think clearly before speaking (or typing!) so that you do not regret your actions later. After viewing social media today, I think there are quite a few people that could benefit from this rule, as well as Rule #49, which encourages one to hold his or her tongue and to refrain from name calling, shaming, or bullying. Unfortunately, the shrillest voices are the ones that get the most attention and this has become normal and acceptable in our everyday life.

Rule #56 encourages one to surround oneself with people who are "of good quality." People who are *honest, moral, and civil*. If just one of the indicted individuals in the Statehouse scandal had chosen to ally with those of high quality instead of the people with whom they actually associated, where would their life be today?

Rule #69 encourages one to listen to both sides of an argument before deciding. I truly believe that debate and discourse are healthy but in doing so, it is vital that common sense, compromise, and decorum are a part of that process. Following in that same vein, Rule #110 encourages one to always think, speak and act with a conscience. The former Speaker of the House took an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the State of Ohio. He had the ability to use his position for good, but now faces possible jail time for his alleged actions and has largely lost the faith and trust of the public.

If we cannot be civil, our quality of life deteriorates, society itself begins to fray and democracy is weakened. George Washington spoke to this, too, on September 19, 1796 in his farewell speech. He warned of possible pitfalls that could undermine or destroy the liberty of this new country.

I cannot help but wonder what the political landscapes in Ohio and Washington, DC (*not to mention some township halls*) would be like if all Americans adhered to Washington's *Rules of Civility*. ■

Rules Excerpted from Washington's Rules of Civility:

22nd "Show not yourself glad at the misfortune of another, though he were your enemy."

45th "Being to advise or reprehend any one, consider whether it ought to be in public or private, presently or at some other time, in what terms to do it; and in reproving show no sign of choler, but do it with all sweetness and mildness."

49th "Use no reproachful language against any one; neither curse nor revile."

56th "Associate yourself with men of good quality, if you esteem your own reputation; for it is better to be alone than in bad company."

69th "If two contend together, take not the part of either unconstrained; and be not obstinate in your own opinion; in things indifferent be on the major side."

110th "Labour to keep alive in your breast that little celestial fire called conscience."

Pierpont Community Calendar

October 20: 6:00 pm

Pierpont Township Trustee Meeting

October 26: 7:00 pm

Pierpont Twp. Parks Commission Meeting

October 27: 6:00 pm

Pierpont Twp Zoning Hearing

October 29: 3-8:00 pm

Blood Drive held at Ducro Community Center

Sponsored by the Pierpont Community Action League

October 31: 6-8 pm

Trunk or Treat behind the Fire Hall on Marcy Road

Sponsored by the Fire Dept and the Aftershock Fast Pitch team

November 3: 6:00 pm

Pierpont Township Trustee Meeting

November 17: 5:30 pm TENTATIVE

Pierpont Twp Zoning Hearing

November 17: 6:00 pm

Pierpont Township Trustee Meeting

December 1: 6:00 pm

Pierpont Township Trustee Meeting

December 15: 6:00 pm

Pierpont Township Trustee Meeting

December 21: 6:00 pm

Pierpont Township Revitalization Meeting

Schrambling Road ditches



Cemetery Road Tree Removal



The pictures to the left were submitted from Mr. Don Brain. They were in his high school yearbook.

We would really like to have some more pictures, newspaper clippings, or any historical types of documents to share in the newsletter.

Thank you Don! Our history made us who we are! We can't forget the struggles it took to build this township.

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Local Postal Customer

Contact Information

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Zoning Inspector:

Rich Rea 440-577-1578
richrea@windstream.net



You know it is officially Fall in Pierpont when you see the pumpkins lining the bridge. We want to give a huge shout out to the Millard Family for this awesome tradition!

**Pierpont Township
1109 State Route 7
Pierpont, OH 44082**