

PIERPONT TOWNSHIP NEWS

Volume 2, Issue 4

November 2021

Its' beginning to look a lot like a CELEBRATION!!



Pierpont HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2021
4-7 P.M.**

1071 ST. RT. 7 IN PIERPONT

LOCATED AT THE WRIGHT BUILDING
(FORMER PIERPONT ELEMENTARY)
DUCRO SERVICES COMMUNITY ROOM

HOLIDAY POP-UP MARKET
UGLY SWEATER CONTEST*
KIDS CRAFTS & ACTIVITIES
IN MEMORIAM TREE
REFRESHMENTS... AND MORE!



*Donations will be accepted at the event
for Country Neighbor's Adopt-a-Family
program.*

**Ugly Sweater Contest: Categories for
Kids 0-17 and Adults 18+. Meet in
Community Room at 5 p.m. for judging.*

For those with questions or who may like to set up as a vendor or be a volunteer, either sign up on Facebook on the Pierpont Holiday Celebration or call Amanda Lloyd at 440-812-5088.



An Experience Worth Having!

I have been asked so many times “So what does a trustee do?” My answer is always “It depends on the township!” Every township is different and every trustee is different. I chose to be a “hands on, get in there and work” trustee. Our township is blessed to have 1 full time and 1 part time road crew, a 3-person cemetery mowing crew, and so many volunteers. (Some townships have more employees than we could ever imagine and garages/offices that are state of the art while other townships make Pierpont look rich.)

I have learned so much while serving as a trustee. I know more about cemetery laws, burials, and grave digging than I ever could imagine that I needed to know. I also have learned about the slope of ditches, using a laser, and where not to stand when the sun could be in the track hoe operator’s eyes. Replacing cross pipes, available dust control products, culvert sizes, driveway culverts, right of ways, outlet ditches, road drainage problems, and of course, the rebirth of potholes started to become normal things to talk about. I experienced walking the woods with a forester and recognizing which trees should be removed for the health of the remaining trees. I know which signs are the townships to replace, and when to call the county for help. I know who to call when the street lights burn out, and what answers to prepare before dialing 811 (“call before you dig”).



And then there came the technology side of things-with the onset of COVID and the need to broadcast and participate in meetings via the Internet, I struggled. I thought I would lose my mind before I figured all of those problems out (which only happened with the help of some friends!) The township website, the newsletter, emails, and social media have all been a big part of the trustee job for me-communication with residents is so important and will continue to be a challenge in Pierpont Township.

I also learned about people-after 35 years in education, people are still able to surprise me! I met SO MANY wonderful people from this township. People who said “Let me help” and they did! All the people who worked behind the scenes to put flags up, fold newsletters, pick up litter, plant flowers, help clean up the cemetery, and were just encouraging is a tribute to our small township.

Of course, I also met people with short memories (no one ever remembers the pot holes or other road problems after they are fixed), nasty attitudes and high opinions (only of themselves). I certainly knew there were people who love gossip, spreading rumors, and bullying anyone with a different opinion (When did that become acceptable?). I guess I went into the office of trustee a little naïve because I can honestly say I never truly understood hate until I was a township trustee! Thankfully hate and negativity generally bring their own downfall, so I will move forward, thankful to be blessed with positivity, friends, and a wonderful community.

I also decided that there are a couple jobs that I think everyone should experience. For instance, anyone who ever helps dig a foundation footer for a cemetery headstone would never consider vandalizing a cemetery. And standing in the road flagging traffic (even on a township road) gives you a new appreciation for slowing down in construction zones.

In closing, I would like to say Thank you to the residents of Pierpont! I learned so much in the last 4 years not only about the things mentioned above but about how wonderful most people respond to hard work and dedication. Please continue to be good neighbors, helpful people and plan for the future of Pierpont Township.

With warmest regards,
Barb Culp



Pierpont Township Property at 1080 State Route 7

In March 2019, CT Consultants prepared a downtown Pierpont General Engineering Plan for Ashtabula County Department of Environmental Services and presented it to the community for public discussion. This plan recommended **the best gravity feed location for the proposed sanitary sewer wastewater treatment plant (WWTP)** on two landlocked parcels located adjacent to the East Br of the Ashtabula River owned by the Cokor family (see map below).

In July, the State of Ohio biennial budget allocated via the OEPA to Pierpont Township \$1.5 M toward the construction of the downtown sanitary sewer project.

In August, the Pierpont Township Trustees unanimously passed Resolution 2019-35 requesting the Ashtabula County Commissioners to move forward regarding the proposed downtown Pierpont sewer system.

In October, this property became available for sale. The Township, having received the State of Ohio first installment \$750,000 (see table) purchased this property (~ 9 ac) which included the two landlocked parcels and a house at 1080 SR 7 for \$100,000.



Township property purchased for the downtown gravity feed WWTP facility with access road on SR 7. It consists of three parcels totaling ~9 acres: two landlocked parcels adjacent to the East Branch of the Ashtabula River and a house, barn and several out buildings located at 1080 SR7 that provides the access road to the landlocked parcels.

By March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic had struck our nation and the world affecting the people of Ashtabula County and Pierpont Township. The US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and our county health department closed public buildings and public meetings, required social distancing and personal protective equipment to safeguard health. The present Town Hall was inadequate to hold in-person meetings and social distance, so the Pierpont Trustees moved public meetings to Facebook Live. Although we learned how to manage with temporary biohazard controls, the Trustees along with all business and governments throughout the state began to discuss how to re-open for “business” to serve the public. They identified **space limitations for social distancing and ventilation in our current Township Hall as a critical health and safety hazard associated with COVID 19 that must be mitigated if we were to ever return to in-person meetings.** The current Town Hall is ~468 sq ft; with ~200 sq ft of that space walled off to create a more secure fiscal officer office as required by law. Further, this Township Hall does not have a bathroom, and employees use a Blueboy outside of the building.

Federal CARES Act funds became available for townships to better manage space and uses such as lockable airtight doors between public and employee areas, HVAC upgrades, touchless faucets and toilets, technologies such as equipment for online meetings and smart TVs. The Pierpont Trustees were given permission to use CARES funds to

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3

remodel the Township house at 1080 SR 7 to eliminate physical and airborne hazards of our current space-limited Town Hall; to provide employee workspaces with ventilation and social distancing space; and to increase public meeting space to 704 sq ft so as to allow safer public in-person attendance and safe social distance seating. There will be a separate secure room for the fiscal officer's office that does not take space out public meeting area. The Township has also been working with the County and NFP groups writing grants for a handicap ramp and two handicap parking spaces as well as ADA compliant bathrooms so the new Town Hall will be accessible to all residents of Pierpont. The Township will need to continue to seek external funds and grants to remodel two additional rooms to make conference rooms for Township committee meetings.

The 1080 SR 7 house and property offer several unintended benefits to the people of Pierpont Township. The public meeting room can be used by community groups, small get-togethers, and will have an Internet "Zoom" equipped classroom. A USDA grant applied for through Kent State Ashtabula was awarded in October 2021 to set up a ZOOM classroom in Pierpont Township which can be used for remote learning, certification courses, and perhaps even telemedicine at some future date.

The Ashtabula Civic Development Corporation has funds to build a permeable "green" 15 space parking lot, green space plantings to screen the WWTP, and a nature trail to view the Ashtabula River. Other community uses have the potential to evolve.

PLEASE KEEP YOUR EYES ON THIS PROPERTY-The trustees will have a lot of decisions to make in the future about turning this property into a community asset.



Elite Accounting Services LLC

Jodie Hitchcock, EA

30 Main Street, Pierpont

(located in the previous insurance building)

Phone: 1-866-813-6627

Website: eliteaccountingoh.com

Email: jhitchcock@eliteaccountingoh.com

Hours of operation- M-F appointments only

Services offered:

- Tax preparation
- Bookkeeping-monthly document pickup and drop off services available for business clients.
- Payroll preparation
- Payroll tax filing
- Sales tax filing
- IRS representation and tax resolution services

Please find us on Facebook at EliteAccountingOH for tax tips or visit our website and sign up for a newsletter.

Pierpont Township External Funds and Grants 2018-2021

November 16, 2021

Date	External funds/grant	Source	Amount	Award/Pending/Not Funded	Comments
2018	Scrolling LED sign	NOPEC		Awarded	
2019	Schrambling Road drainage and improvement	OPWC		Withdrew-matching funds not available due to equipment break-downs	
2020	Winship Avenue Street improvements, stormwater collection, catch basins	Ohio Public Works Commission	\$41,400	Awarded \$25,000	Not able to be accepted due to lack of Right-of-Way agreement with Fire Department
2019-2020	State of Ohio HB 166, section 277.20 Environmental Support Program appropriation item	State of Ohio biennial budget 2019-2021	\$750,000 [2019] \$600,000 [2020]	Received, via OEPA For public sanitary sewer only	Pierpont Sewer Dedicated Account Balance 11/2021 1,438,525
2020-2021	Pierpont Greenspace Project; screening WWTP, green parking lot (15 spaces); nature trails around WWTP	Ashtabula Civic Development Corp	~\$50,000	awarded	CDC reimbursement of approved expenditures
2019	NOPEC Community Grant	NOPEC		Grant money in escrow for future use	
2019	NOPEC Sponsorship Grant	NOPEC	\$250	Used for "Celebrate Pierpont" Business event	
2020-2021	Telemedicine/education zoom room classroom equipment for Pierpont	USDA-Kent State University grant	\$428,091	Awarded Nov 2021 to KSU Ashtabula	Three years, 2022-2024 KSU proposal for zoom classroom equipment for KSU Ashtabula, south county schools (PV, GV), Pierpont, and Kingsville Library
2020	NOPEC Community grant	NOPEC		Grant money in escrow for future use	
2020	NOPEC Sponsorship Grant	NOPEC	\$250	Used for Clean-up Day	
2020	Architectural engineering for Town Hall remodel SR 1080	Pierpont Fund/PA-NE Ohio Community Foundation grant	\$9,000	Awarded	Architectural engineering completed; approved by County Building Dept; used by contractors to ensure compliance
2020 Nov	Remodel SR 1080 township house to enlarge public meeting space and ensure safe ventilation and social distancing -Conferencing and Video System to Broadcast Township Meetings	CARES Funds to Township (CARES=COVID Aid, Relief, and Economic Security)	\$44,373.06 \$6,188.01	Received, remodeling work in progress Conferencing System in use for meetings	Contractors awarded and paid

Pierpont Township External Funds and Grants 2018-2021

November 16, 2021

Year	NOPEC Community Grant	NOPEC		Awarded	Lighting in new meeting room 1080 State Route 7
2021	NOPEC Sponsorship Grant	NOPEC	\$250	Used for Pierpont Business Brochure	
2021	Township infrastructure-sewer/broadband or to complete CARES project investment (Town Hall)	American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)	\$129,158.06	Received \$64,579.03 Balance will be received in 2022 (Must be encumbered by 2024, spent by 2026)	Additional \$\$ for downtown sewer hookups and septic collapse
2021	County/ACES on behalf of Pierpont Township, using Township \$1.4 M as match	Ohio Sewer & Water Infrastructure Program	\$2,000,000	Pending	If funded, \$3.3 M available to construct downtown Pierpont sanitary sewer
2021	Covered handicap ramp, entrance and two handicap parking spaces for remodeled Town Hall at 1080 SR7	Community Development Block Grant Ashtabula County application	\$38,000	Pending	Ashtabula County CDBG on behalf of Pierpont Township
2021	Two handicap bathroom facility	Ashtabula Foundation	\$40,000	Under review	Application by Pierpont Community Action League
2021	Clean-up Day Grant	Ash Co Solid Waste Management District	\$2,180	Pending	Reimburse for Costs Associated with May 2021 Clean-up Day
2021 Aug	Broadband Fiber on States Rts in S. Ashtabula County (St Rt 7 in Pierpont, St. Rt. 193 in Dorset, St. Rt. 322)-applied for by Ash. Co. Commissioners	US Department of Commerce Broadband Program County Resolution \$500,000 match ARPA to grant request		Under Review	

OH EPA

Since early 2019, there has been much discussion about the need (or not) of a sewer system for the downtown area of Pierpont. Pros and cons have been discussed, meetings have been held, and fact sheets distributed. The township trustees have been in meetings with the county commissioners, the county engineer, the county environmental services, the community services and planning department, the EPA, our State Representatives and Senator. We have contacted numerous sources of grants to ensure no cost to the downtown residents and businesses.

Yet here we are, three years later, with no answer.

On March 16, 2021, the Pierpont Township trustees passed a resolution to request an assessment of health and safety for downtown Pierpont from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. Then, the county departments came alive with some interest and a meeting was held on September 9, 2021. Since then, it seems as Pierpont was once again forgotten.

On November 9, 2021, after months of waiting for a positive sign from our county officials, I sent the resolution to the Ohio EPA, and the EPA responded that an investigation of the downtown Pierpont area will be conducted.

The EPA has a set of requirements to be met in both their investigation and in the results that they find. It should be noted that the investigation itself is weather dependent as steady dry weather conditions are needed to conduct their tests. The entire process can take up to 6 months (but once again, it is weather dependent, as to start and finish time). I understand that some people will be upset with my decision and I can live with that! I am ready for the matter of a sewer system to be behind us. The EPA will investigate and make a referral as to the need for a sewer system. It will be a settled matter.

Barb Culp



Please be courteous to others and watch your speed -seems as if we are always all in a rush to get somewhere and our minds are busy elsewhere. Remember there are other drivers, children, pets, walkers, skiers, and farm equipment sharing our roads. PLEASE be careful! Patience!

ROAD SIGNS

A few months ago, the township purchased several new road signs. The road men have been putting them up as they can. There were replacements for the warning of an Autistic Child area, and some new high-water signs, in addition to some road closed signs needed for when a road is blocked by fallen trees etc. I want

to thank our road men, Dave and Tom.



They just put-up flip down permanent high-water signs on Hall Road that floods more than any other township road. This flip sign was needed to facilitate quicker response time and freeing personnel to attend to other roads. All



these signs make our township a safer place for our residents.

COMING SOON!



ICE & SNOW
TAKE IT SLOW
**Ice and Snow ...
Take it Slow
Don't crowd the plow.**

Pierpont has had some noteworthy residents.

One such resident was Asa Benjamin. Asa was born in Preston, New London, CT in 1754. His family moved to Pierpont in 1811. Prior to his moving, he enlisted in the Revolutionary War. He joined Worthington MA on May 4, 1775. He re-enlisted and was discharged a total of 6 times before his final discharge in 1781. On March 19, 1778 Asa was transferred to Valley Forge, PA. It was during this re-enlistment that he served in the Commander-in-Chief's Guard, later known as the Life Guard. The elite members were selected from each colony, originally 4 each. They were chosen to protect General Washington, his headquarters, his papers, and his baggage. General Washington's orders were very specific when selecting his guard. The orders required:



"Depends upon the Colonels for good men, such as they can recommend for their sobriety, honesty, and good behavior. He wishes them to be from five feet eight inches to five feet ten inches, handsomely and well made, and as there is nothing in his eyes more desirable than cleanliness in a soldier, he desires that particular attention be made in the choice of such men as are clean and spruce.....nor does he desire any man to be sent to him that is not perfectly willing or desirous of being in this Guard-They should be drilled men."

Asa served several months in the Guard. He returned home and eventually re-enlisted and rose to the rank of Lieutenant.

Asa was buried in the family Plot in the Sam Brown (Hall Road) Cemetery in Pierpont, Oh. A tree has grown up in front of his headstone. This summer, Jerry Redmond and members of the Sons of the American Revolution have relocated Asa's stone to the side of the tree. It is hoped that eventually a historic highway marker can be placed to inform visitors of the importance of Asa Benjamin and his service as one of General Washington's Body Guards. Asa's stone has eroded over the years. With appropriate tools most of his inscription can be read. Next spring, I hope to properly clean the headstones in the Hall Road Cemetery and try to scribe the inscription for preservation.



I would like to give a special thank you to Jerry and Bonnie Redmond for their dedication and careful oversight of the flags on the Veterans' graves in our cemeteries. Also, a very special thank you to Asa Benjamin for his service to our country and his dedication to General Washington's Life Guard and for making Pierpont OH his home.



The information for this article was taken from an internet article, Asa Benjamin and the Revolutionary War, written by Asa's 4th great grandson. Asa's grandson includes pictures with his article.

If you have someone you would like featured, please let me know. Also, if you have or know of any pictures of the Veterans Honor Roll Board that once was in front of the Pierpont Grange Hall (and then moved to the front of the school). I am looking for a legible listing of the names included there.

Thank you
Pam Hudson

**SPENCER'S
FARM**
FARM RAISED BEEF AND PORK
6367 Root Road Conneaut, Ohio 44030
440-594-1008
www.spencersfarmohio.com

Buy Direct
We Manufacture
...
Metal Roofing
Metal Siding
Trim &
Accessories



Custom Trim • Sliding Door Track
Aluminum Side Rails • Double Bubble Insulation
**Neal Miller • 690 Creek Road
Pierpont, Ohio 44082**

LOCAL ACTIVITIES: There is ALWAYS something to do!

Events with * contain information about the event elsewhere in this newsletter.

Basketball games, Wrestling matches, and Swimming meets are happening almost daily for our local High School Athletes-a great chance to support our students!

****November 27:** Pierpont Holiday Celebration 4-7 pm @ the Wright Building

November 29 @ 1 pm: Marshmallow Snowman Craft Ages 5-12. Andover Public Library; Call to pre-register 440-293-6792

December 2 @ 4pm: Trim a Tree & Make a Holiday Ornament Ages 5-11. Andover Public Library; Call to pre-register 440-293-6792

December 2 @ 7:00 pm: Pierpont Community Action League meeting at Ducro Community Center; new members welcome

December 5 @ 2-4 pm: Quilt Show at the Andover Public Library

December 6 @ 7:00 pm: 2nd grade Choir Concert PV School Auditorium (VMPAC)

December 7 @ 6:00 pm: Pierpont Township Trustee Meeting; open to public but also livestreamed on Facebook: Pierpont OH (Space is limited for social distancing.)

December 9 @ 5:30-7:00 Christmas with Santa & Mrs. Claus at the Andover Public Library

December 11 @ 9am Christmas Cookie Decorating Class Ducro Community Center; Cost \$20. Sponsored by PCAL. Call Jennifer to register 440-228-0976

December 12 @ 6:00 pm: Christmas Concert with Jerry Garcia at the Pierpont Presbyterian Church

December 13 @ 6:00-7:00 pm: What was the Star of Bethlehem at the Andover Public Library

December 13 @ 6:00 pm: Pierpont Township Revitalization Committee Meeting at the Ducro Community Room.

December 14 @ 7:00 pm: 5th & 6th Grade Band Concert VMPAC

December 15 @ 7:00 pm: 7th & 8th grade band Concert with the High School Band Concert VMPAC

December 15 @ 6:00 pm: Wine Cork Reindeer Ornament Craft for Adults & Teen 16 + @ the Andover Public Library. Preregister 440-293-6792

December 20 @ 5:45 pm: Decorate a Gingerbread House All ages. Andover Public Library Call 440-293-6792 to pre-register

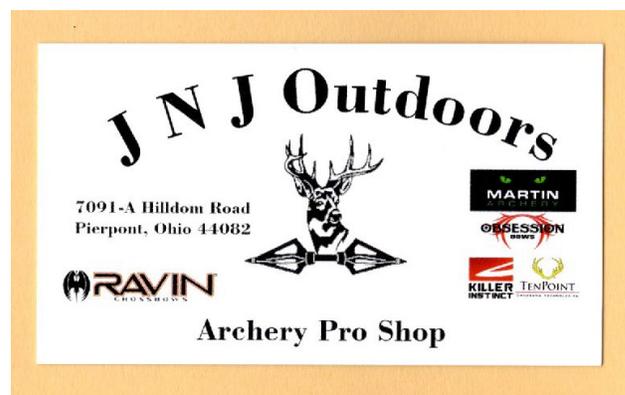
December 21 @ 6:00: Pierpont Township Trustee Meeting; open to public but also livestreamed on Facebook: Pierpont OH (Space is limited for social distancing.) Work session following meeting with incoming trustees.

December 22 @ 6:00-7:00 PM: Carols & Cocoa at the Andover Public Library.

December 23 @ 3-8 pm: Blood Drive at the Wright Building; sponsored by the Pierpont Community Action League (PCAL)

December 24 @ 6:00 pm: Christmas Eve Service @ the Penn Line Church of Christ

December 24 @ 6:00 pm: Christmas Eve Service @ the Pierpont Presbyterian Church



**Western Reserve
Animal Clinic**



Allison Baird, DVM
Rachel Rielinger, DVM
1199 State Route 7 North, Pierpont, OH 44082
440-577-1111 (P)
440-577-9754 (F)
info@pinehollowvet.com

Ask how you can save about 30% on the wellness care for your pet!
We offer Vaccine Value Packages so you can pick the level of protection for your pet at a reduced price. The "VVP's" are only offered certain days and times during the week. Call the clinic for more information.



Pierpont Township
1109 State Route 7
Pierpont, OH 44082

PRSRT
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

Local Postal Customer