



WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

SUPPORTING EACH OTHER



Community. Residents. Government.

SUPPORTING EACH OTHER

Local government supports our community by providing services that help keep it safe, strong, attractive and vibrant. Some are dramatic in nature, such as solving a crime, fighting a fire, or responding to an accident scene. Others are broad in scope: planning for future development or building a road.

Still others help sustain the community by supporting its individual members – teaching a child to swim, organizing adult volleyball leagues, or providing summer camps that help working parents and active kids.

Washington Township can provide these services only because residents support local government through their approval of property tax levies. In 2010, about 62 percent of the township's revenue came from tax levies that residents directly approved.

Even in a distressed economy, voters have continued to support township services, notably with the approval in 2010 of two police services replacement levies. We see this as an indication that we are meeting your expectations for good government and as an incentive to continue.

Township government strives to support the Centerville/Washington Township community through high-quality and cost-effective services. Residents support local government by approving levies, voicing their opinions, volunteering, and serving on boards and commissions. Our community is strong first and foremost because we support each other.

Voices & Stories celebrated the stories of residents from seven cultures. The event was sponsored by Centerville-Washington Diversity Council.

Centerville-Washington Township Historical Society



Hithergreen Center



Organizations that Support Each Other

Washington Township Trustees are elected by the entire Centerville/Washington Township community and oversee programs that benefit the entire geographic area.

Some services are provided directly by the township and others through a cooperative network of agencies and associations that work for the common good. Washington Township and the City of Centerville both help fund the historical society, senior center, diversity council and Americana Festival.

All of Our Residents – The Township provides emergency fire and medical services and recreation programming for the entire community. All residents pay 5.2 mills of voted property tax for the services, plus .7 mill not subject to voter approval for general operations.

Un-voted millage helps fund payroll, accounting and human resources for fire and recreation departments which comprise about 51 percent of township personnel and payroll costs. Other uses include:

- Projects geared to city residents, such as tornado sirens and city parking lots
- Services for all, including Centerville Cemetery and maintenance and utilities at Town Hall
- Projects with the city

A Shared Road – A commitment to provide excellent value for our residents in the city was demonstrated with a \$62,000 contribution for a Centerville project to widen and reconstruct Sheehan Road near Dayton-Lebanon Pike. The project will improve access to a new Kroger Marketplace.

Mutual Support: Taxpayers & Police Services

At a time when many localities faced cutbacks, township police services remained steady and affordable due to cost-effective services and citizen support.

Support from Residents –

Service levels were sustained because residents supported two levies that will generate

about \$4.36 million annually and provide nearly all funding for police services in unincorporated Washington Township.

Citizens voted in May to replace one expiring levy and update a continuing levy based on 1982 property values. Because the levies are replacements, the township can benefit from new construction and receive revenue based on 2010 property values. The following levies maintain long-term financial stability and quality services:

- 2-mill, five-year term levy - Replaced an expiring levy of equal value and duration.
- 1.95-mill continuous levy - Updated a 2-mill levy that was based on 1982 property values.

Cost-Effective Services –

Four more years of high-quality and affordable police services were ensured when township trustees entered into a new contract

with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office. The contract maintains the same staffing of 31.5 positions, including two detectives, school resource officer, traffic officer and community education officer.

Contracting for services pairs the advantages of local control with the economies of scale provided by a large department. Consolidated services from the county include evidence collection, traffic reconstruction,

hostage negotiations, SWAT teams, canine services, victim advocates and more.

Flagship Agency –

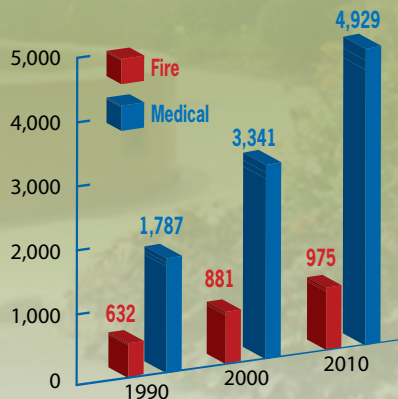
Police services are recognized as among the best in the nation with the Flagship Agency Award, achieved by meeting all standards of the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. All aspects of operations also are accredited.



The Washington Township float won the Americana Festival's Grand Marshal Award.



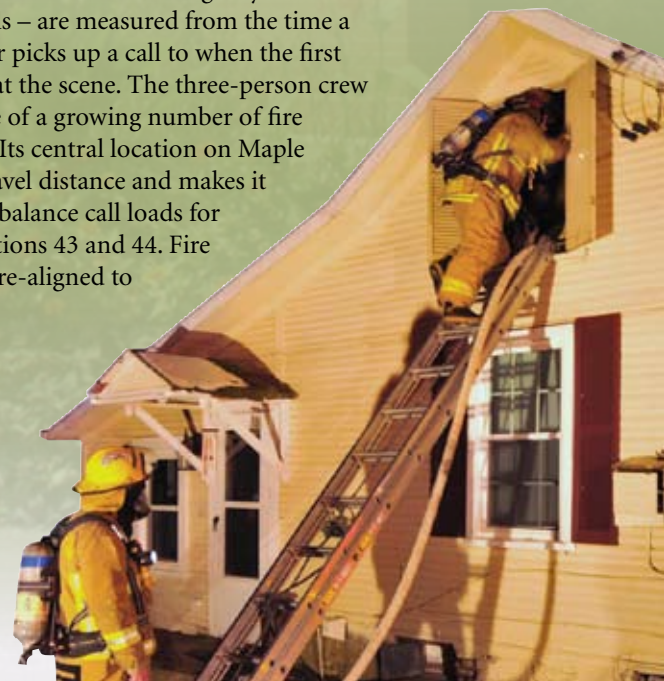
Supporting Residents: Improving Services



Emergency Calls

Shaving Time off Emergency Response – Since adding an around-the-clock crew last summer at Fire Station 41, the Fire Department has shortened its average response time by 6 percent. The department shaved off 32 seconds – from 8 minutes, 10 seconds to 7 minutes, 38 seconds.

Response times – which include emergency and nonemergency calls – are measured from the time a primary dispatcher picks up a call to when the first responder arrives at the scene. The three-person crew was added because of a growing number of fire and medical runs. Its central location on Maple Avenue reduces travel distance and makes it well positioned to balance call loads for medic crews at stations 43 and 44. Fire districts also were re-aligned to improve response.



Setting the Example

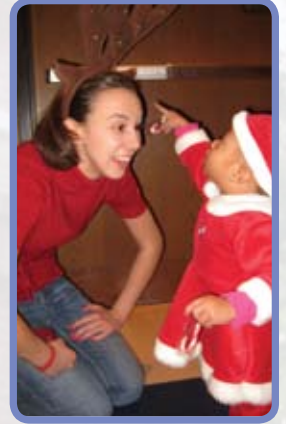


The Wright Stuff – Our safety personnel are among the best, including Deputy Matt Wright and EMT/Paramedic Scott Haas. In January, Wright pulled a trapped driver from a fiery crash. Six months later, he spotted an armed murder suspect and single-

handedly apprehended him after a high-speed chase. For his actions, he was honored by the Buckeye State Sheriff's Association.

Haas exemplifies excellence through hard work and a desire to help. He averaged over 250 monthly in-service hours with the fire department while holding a full-time job. He was recognized by the Centerville Noon Optimists.

Community Service Award – Ashley Sarmiento, a Centerville High School graduate, earned the 8th annual Community Service Award. A scholar-athlete who volunteers extensively, Ashley threw a holiday party for children with life-threatening illnesses.



Supporting Infrastructure

Nutt Road – Bids were awarded in the fall to widen a little over a quarter-mile section of Nutt Road from Meadow Woods Lane east to near Schoolhouse Park. The project widens the road to three lanes with curb, gutter, storm sewers and sidewalk for improved safety.

Paragon Road Right-of-Way – Trustees took steps to acquire right-of-way to improve Paragon Road from West Spring Valley Pike south to the corporation line. Negotiations with landowners, begun in 2009, resulted in agreements for 17 of the 23 properties affected.

When issues with the outstanding six properties are decided by the court, the township will straighten and widen Paragon and add sidewalk, curb, storm sewers, fencing and landscaping. The project will improve safety, accommodate increased traffic, and ensure a \$1 million grant/loan from Ohio Public Works Commission.

Streets & Curbs – More than six miles of roads – ranging from two to three lanes – were resurfaced through a \$1 million street improvement program that included all or part of 25 residential streets, Congress Park Drive, Normandy Lane, Paragon Road and a commercial cul-de-sac.



Paragon was resurfaced with township dollars from Normandy to Grants Trail. Combined with resurfacing funded by the Stimulus Bill, asphalt was applied from Congress Park to Alex-Bell Road. About 3,300 feet of curb and 300 square-feet of sidewalk also were repaired in various areas of the township.

Business & Development

New Faces – A local firm began providing knowledgeable and customer-focused zoning and inspection services in the township's Development Services Department. National Inspection Corporation oversees the inspection division and provides staff support to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Outsourcing to NIC is expected to save about \$35,000 annually.

Developments – Although a sluggish economy slowed development in the Miami Valley and elsewhere, Washington Township continued to see projects take shape. In particular, the Austin Pike interchange provided development opportunities in the south. Development highlights include three new preschools, a hotel and a worship center for a church.

Business Breakfast at Champps – About 100 business and government representatives attended the sixth annual Washington Township Business Breakfast in September. The township invites business leaders to breakfast to recognize their vital contributions and exchange information. For the sixth year, the breakfast was provided courtesy of Champps Americana.



*Andrew McKenzie and
John Bull of NIC*



Recreation— Supporting Fun, Fitness & More

Party Rentals Cater to Brides and Businesses – Rec West offers more options for weddings, parties, and corporate events since trustees approved a new policy allowing party hosts to serve beer and wine to guests. Renters can select from 29,000-square feet of meeting space and from five sizes and types of rooms for small to large groups.



New Frog Slide – A new frog slide made a splash at the indoor recreation pool. Named Fribbit, the 3,500-pound cement frog can be used by children under 40 inches tall. The slide was purchased for \$1,000 – well below its original \$15,000 price – and installed by employees to minimize costs. Children helped name Fribbit during a fall contest.

The Right Fitness Option – Offering new and varied fitness options kept workouts fun at the WT Recreation Center. The new Power Pump class worked on toning and sculpting exercises choreographed to music. A Kick Boxing class returned after a hiatus, and new evening sessions were added for two popular fitness classes – Land Zumba and Yoga Fit.

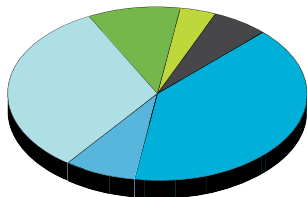
Keepers of the Earth – Summer camps encouraged youth to explore area parks as part of its “Keepers of the Earth” theme. Campers combined creativity with conservation by making crafts with natural materials and recycled products. One trend in camp registration: while the number of campers didn’t vary much, campers on average attended more sessions than previous years.

Percent of Expenses Funded by Recreation Fees

2008: 53.2% 2009: 53.9% 2010: 56.2%

Recreation services are funded mostly by user fees and property taxes. In 2010, fees provided 56.2% of the Recreation Department’s operating expenses. The township reviews revenue and expenses on an annual basis and adjusts fees as needed. The Recreation Department also has trimmed expenses to keep costs in line with revenue.

How Recreation is Funded



- 6% *Admissions: Woodland Lights/Town Hall Theatre*
- 4% *Concessions, Rentals, Other*
- 10% *Memberships*
- 32% *Program & Walk-in Fees*
- 8% *Intergovernmental Fund*
- 40% *Property Tax*

Supporting a Livable, Attractive Community

New Landmark Improves Major Community Corridor

A new entry sign and low brick walls provide an attractive landmark for a major township corridor and partly frame an historic cemetery on Miamisburg-Centerville Road. Featuring pillars, metal fencing and landscaping, the landmark is part of a streetscape plan promoting community identity through public improvements. Another aspect of the plan was implemented when the Rahn and Marshall intersection became the first in the north to receive a mast-arm traffic signal.



Beautification

Exceptional properties were recognized with 21 Beautification Awards from the township’s Visual Improvement Program Committee. Recipients included 16 residential and five business properties.



Finding Other Sources of Financial Support

who performed in memory of their daughter, Yukta. In 2001, trustees pledged \$50,000 in matching seed money and, by the close of 2010, \$164,800 of the \$250,000 needed to break ground had been raised.

The township has billed for non-resident transport since 2005.



Tornado Sirens – The community's 1975 tornado warning system was updated with a new version that emits higher decibels at a greater range. With the purchase and installation of two sirens in 2010, eight out of 12 have been replaced. The purchase was offset with a \$40,900 FEMA grant. The sirens offer greater reliability.

Woodland Lights – Countryside Park was transformed for the 18th year into a half-mile fantasyland of lights and holiday displays, thanks in part to 15 businesses that contributed more than \$34,000 in cash and in-kind services.

The township solicits grants and donations to help to stretch tax dollars and realize goals:

Butterfly Playground – A playground plan for Countryside Park took a step forward with a \$21,000 gift from the Yukta Garg Memorial Foundation and a \$36,000 Community Development Block Grant.

Residents Arti and Hemant Garg raised their gift through four concerts featuring popular Bollywood singers, musicians and film artists

EMS Services – The Fire Department began billing insurance companies for the emergency transport of patients – a measure that provides needed revenue and offsets property taxes for residents and businesses. Residents do not pay out-of-pocket for emergency transport and billing does not increase the cost of insurance premiums.



Town Hall Theatre – In-kind donations of \$263,000, plus the efforts of 256 volunteers, helped provide quality theater for young audiences. The theater also won more than \$12,000 in grants.

Green Initiatives

Reducing & Recycling – Four Community Shred days offered residents the chance to recycle sensitive documents and data storage materials. For the second year, the fall event also accepted home electronics, batteries and mercury-containing devices.

Wooded & Green – Woodland Lights received extra sparkle with 10,000 LED lights that use less amperage. Over the next five years, all lights will be replaced – which means the color and illumination will increase, along with the energy savings.

Volunteer Park – This half-acre park at Yankee Street and Yanks Court received an infusion of shrubs and perennials. Improvements were coordinated by staff and the Visual Improvement Program Committee.

Listening & Informing

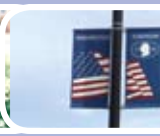
Listening: Fire Department Strategic Plan – Community members told the Fire Department about their service expectations, priorities and concerns at a Community Input Session. The information that was collected helped the department update its Strategic Plan which identifies how the fire and emergency medical needs of our community can best be met.

Informing: Nixle – The township began offering information through Nixle, a free service that delivers messages to email accounts and cell phones. Residents who subscribe receive periodic updates about services and events.





FINANCIAL

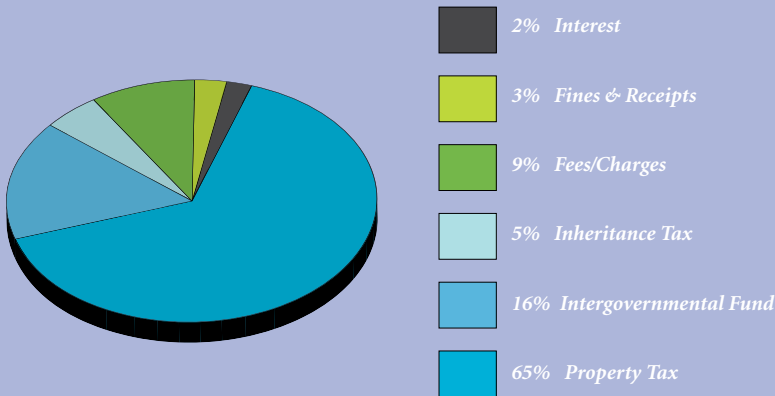


STABILITY & FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Income Stability

Township property tax income remained steady during an economic downturn that continued into 2010. The overall valuation of residential and commercial property increased very slightly, by .32 percent at the end of 2010.

2011 Washington Township Revenue



Financial Forecasting

Washington Township routinely forecasts and budgets five years in advance. The resulting Capital Improvement Plan maintains an overall 25% balance at the end of five years. Individual funds also maintain a 25% balance for five years, including capital expenses – with the exception of Recreation which receives daily revenue through class fees and memberships.



Accountability

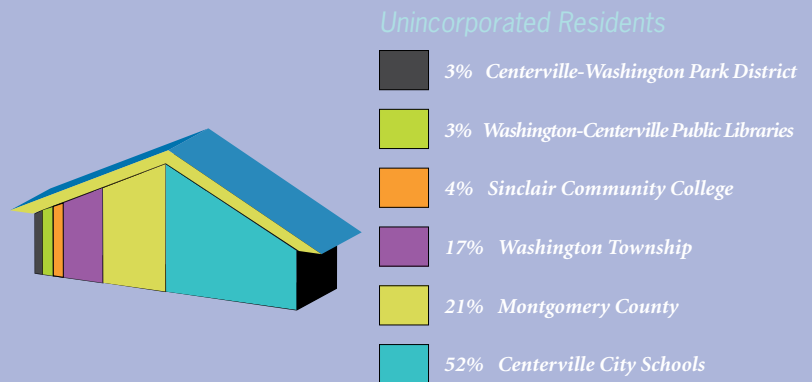
Washington Township earned an unqualified opinion again from the State Auditor's Office, meaning that no material problems were found in the township's financial statements. Audits of the township are required every two years. However, to maintain the highest accountability to taxpayers, our fiscal officer requests that audits be completed annually.

Fiscal Restraint

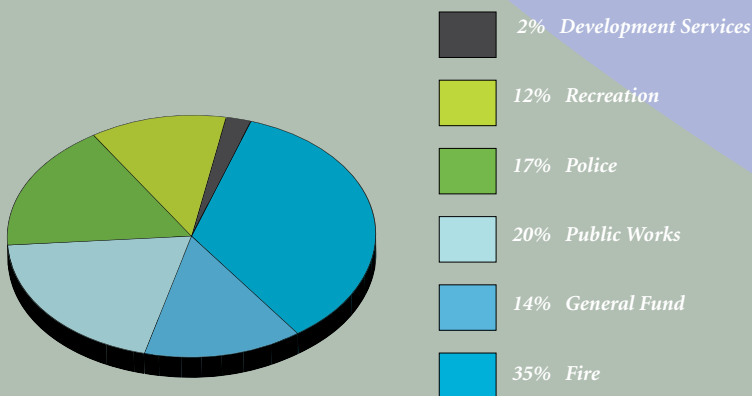
Washington Township practiced fiscal restraint by budgeting conservatively, maintaining a lean organization, and pursuing cost efficiencies. Cost containment strategies included delaying capital expenses and carefully reviewing the need for expenses such as overtime, bank fees, memberships and subscriptions.



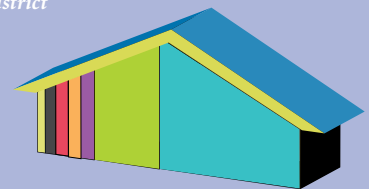
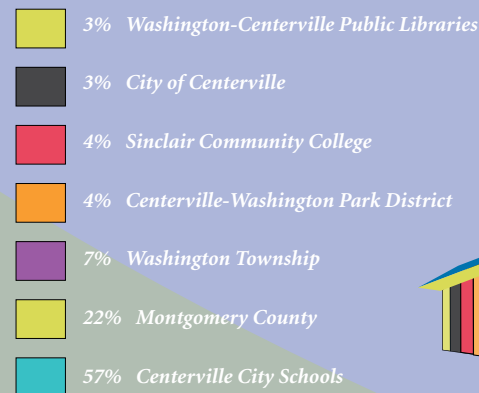
Where Your Property Taxes Are Allocated



What Your Township Dollars Fund



Incorporated Residents



WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP MISSION

To provide for and promote the general health, safety and welfare of township residents and employees to create an environment focused on building for the future.



2010 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Joyce C. Young, President
Dale M. Berry, Vice President
Scott Paulson

2010 FISCAL OFFICER

Tom Zobrist

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