

emphasizing Excellence



2009

WASHINGTON
TOWNSHIP
ANNUAL
REPORT

Effort & Excellence



As an organization, Washington Township strives daily for excellence.

Most days, we excel in ways that are both routine and extraordinary – clearing a snowy road, answering a resident's question, planting flowers on a median, responding to an emergency, or providing opportunities for children to stay fit.

Adding depth and quality to our core services is an ongoing priority for every Washington Township department. For this reason, we're pleased to report that both of our safety services – fire and police – have attained levels of accreditation that place them among the top in our region.

Much more than an accolade, accreditation is first and foremost a process of self examination and continuous improvement. It has required police and fire staff members to evaluate their services, consult with the community, meet professional standards, think strategically, and set new goals.

Other departments express excellence in a variety of ways. Our Public Works Department expanded green initiatives in 2009. Our Development Services Department kept a close watch on housing stock and helped support the success of local businesses. Our recreation staff staged a community celebration of centennial proportions.

These and other accomplishments are described in this report. We present them with pride, knowing that Washington Township government has remained fiscally responsible and highly accountable to its residents.

A Flagship Agency

Police services were recognized as among the best in the nation when the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office became the first sheriff's department in Ohio to earn the Flagship Agency Award. The honor – achieved by meeting 100 percent of accreditation standards – was conferred by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies.

Township police services also continue to hold triple-crown accreditation status, meaning that all aspects of operations are accredited – from dispatch to road patrol to the jail.



Town Hall Americana Float

emphasizing Excellence

Excellence in Safety Services

A Journey that Began with Accreditation

Becoming the second fire department in southwest Ohio to earn accreditation required that the Fire Department complete five years of review, assessment and preparation.

However, achieving accreditation in 2008 was just a beginning. The process has since launched the department in a direction that will enhance services far into the future as we follow the strategic plan developed during the accreditation process.

In the year following accreditation, the township has:

- **Updated the emergency records management system to better track employee training and the cost of keeping equipment in service.**
- **Updated records management in order to isolate response times for specific districts and fine tune emergency response.**
- **Purchased consoles to improve the ergonomic function of the fire dispatch center.**



Town Hall Celebrates its Centennial

Washington Township's Town Hall observed its 100th birthday with a celebration befitting downtown's most visible historic landmark.

The celebration took place at the Americana Festival on the Fourth of July and included three performances of an original 30-minute play, a float in the parade, and displays that told the story of Town Hall's first 100 years. The Town Hall plaza featured patriotic arts and crafts, games, balloons and activities for children.

Earlier in the week, Washington Township hosted a centennial gala for people with a connection to Town Hall, including those who acted on the stage or worked in the building. Entertainment included a film interview with local actors.

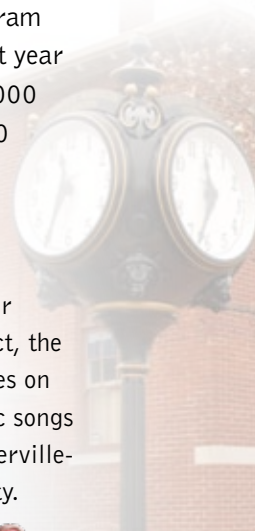


Past & Present

For many years, Town Hall was the central gathering place for almost every sort of community event – from high school graduations and elementary school pageants to courtroom trials, community theater, church services and traveling road shows. It now is home to Town Hall Theatre, a township program presenting theater for young audiences that last year served 19,000 young people, reached over 28,000 audience members, and involved more than 200 community volunteers.

Perfect Timing

A new street clock was up and running in time for Town Hall's centennial. A joint community project, the decorative clock stands taller than 12 feet, chimes on the quarter hour, and plays a long list of patriotic songs and seasonal tunes. Funding came from the Centerville-Washington Foundation, the township and the city.



Targeting Traffic on Two Wheels

The township's first police motorcycle is saving money on fuel while providing improved enforcement and emergency response. Less conspicuous than a cruiser, the motorcycle is used to target traffic violations which are the most common police complaint.



Excellence *services*

Green Grants

Grants and in-kind contributions have helped expand green initiatives, with new opportunities for residents to recycle electronics and household hazardous waste.

Community Shred Day - was offered four times during the year. In October, it was expanded to include electronics, resulting in 750 car loads of paper, data storage and electronics in one day.

Household Hazardous Waste - The Public Works Department provided a collection site in September for 48,094 pounds of household hazardous waste in partnership with Montgomery County and Centerville.



Green Initiatives

Stormwater - The township worked to reduce storm water pollution by training public works staff, educating residents, and attaching "No Dumping" placards to 200 catch basins.



Park Land - Trustees donated a one-acre parcel on Spring Valley Road to the Centerville-Washington Park District for its 50th anniversary. The donation is helping the district reach its goal of conserving land for 50 parks in 50 years.



Bike Trail - The township paid to complete the last 1,000 feet of bike trail in Iron Horse Park, located in the city and owned by the park district. The path furthers the goals set forth in the Create the Vision Community Plan.

Rixan received a Business First visit



Business Breakfast

Business Initiatives

Township businesses are vital to our local and regional community. Washington Township supports their efforts with information, recognition, programs and a membership contribution to the SouthMetro Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Crime-Fighting Partners - More than 600 township businesses received a visit and a handshake last year from a deputy at the Washington Township Substation. The community education officer offered a brochure on crime prevention and collected contact information so that managers can be reached by police. Sharing information is useful for alerting businesses about crimes as well as calling on them for assistance.

Business First - Over the past two years, the township has introduced at least 20 local businesses to Business First, a county program that connects businesses to resources and volunteer advisors. Township staff and Business First representatives make business visits together, bringing information on organizational development, funding sources, workforce challenges and other topics.

Breakfast at Champps - Nearly 100 business leaders came together for an update on local government at the fifth annual Business Breakfast, hosted by Washington Township at Champps Restaurant. The event provides a networking opportunity and recognizes businesses for their contributions.





Two-Way Communication

Listening to Residents at Neighborhood Nights -

Trustees invited residents to attend a series of Neighborhood Nights, each focusing on a different quadrant of the township. Residents attended a reception, met township officials, and commented on issues of importance to them.

Informing Residents at washingtonwp.org -

The township increased communication through an expanded web site that offers more content and interactive features. Visitors can subscribe to electronic newsletters and register online for emergency notification, the annual business breakfast and hundreds of recreation programs.

Expanded content included information and useful links related to business, emergency preparation and the environment, plus photos and proclamations of people recognized at trustee meetings. The web site provides greater information to residents in a cost-effective format.



Lee Snyder

Leadership

A Long & Loyal Connection

After 12 years as a trustee, Lee Snyder said good-bye to his official duties. Snyder has had a long and loyal connection to Washington Township, first as a firefighter and later as the first Captain of Fire Station No. 43 and a member of the Zoning Commission.

// These 12 years have given me the opportunity to participate in government that is grassroots governance at its best – service oriented, cost-effective, and focused on excellence. //

– Lee Snyder, Trustee 1997-2009



Dale Berry

New Faces

Dale Berry was appointed in January as a trustee, following the election of Terry Blair to the Ohio General Assembly. A Realtor and retired vocational coordinator, Berry previously served on the Zoning Commission and on boards for local, state and national real estate associations.

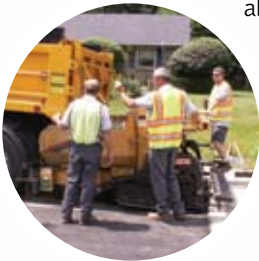


Scott Paulson

In November, Berry was elected to the remaining two years of Blair's term, Scott Paulson was elected to his first term, and Joyce Young won reelection as trustee. Paulson is a partner and vice president for a Springboro business and has served on the township Zoning Commission and local Rotary boards.

On the Road to Repair

Resurfacing - More than 40 residential streets and part of Atchison Road were resurfaced through the annual Street Improvement Program. The program included about 1,700 feet of curb replacement and nearly seven miles of roadway, ranging from two to three lanes wide.



Curb Work – An additional 3,000 feet of curb was repaired or replaced as part of a curb rehabilitation program. Most improvements took place on Ariadne Trail, off Sheehan Road.

Shelters & Streetscape

The township's first four bus shelters were installed on Route 725. Bus riders now have shelter from the weather and the Route 725 corridor has new streetscape elements that include a bench, brick pavers, trash receptacle and landscaping.

Recognizing Excellence in Others

Julie Creech received the township's seventh annual Community Service Award. Among her volunteer projects: Riding her bike to raise \$8,000 for diabetes research.

// My parents told me never to settle... that if I want to make a difference, I can. //

– Julie Creech



Courage Award

Washington Twp. Fire Department received the Courage Award from the South Metro Regional Chamber of Commerce. The award recognizes outstanding courage and entrepreneurial spirit. Risk taking, problem solving and ethical judgments were considered by a chamber assessment team.



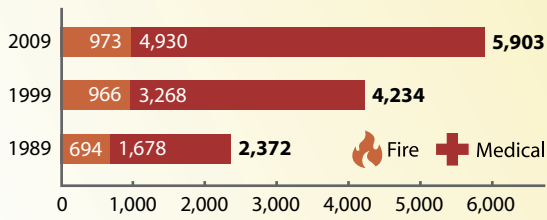
Community Outreach

Life-Saving Equipment - Two heart attack victims were saved last year with automated external defibrillators (AEDs) located in public places. The Fire Department now has placed 52 AEDs in public locations throughout the community and 313 people have been trained to administer their life-saving shock.

Education - The WT Fire Department reaches out to the community in a variety of ways. Last year, about 8,500 students received safety education and 2,500 people were trained to administer CPR. In 2009, the department participated in 11 car seat check events, inspected 74 child safety seats, and assisted parents in their proper use.



Fire & Medical Emergency Calls



Imaginations Take Flight

Imaginations took flight when summer campers shared their ideas for a new playground with a butterfly theme. Landscape architects from Envision-Works incorporated the ideas into a plan for a 4,000-square foot playground in Countryside Park. The firm donated its time and expertise to the project. Other donations raised to date will pay for the first phase of the playground which is designed to increase spontaneous play opportunities for children.



A Bright Spot in the Winter Sky

Woodland Lights lit up the night sky for a 17th season with a profusion of lights and animation. More than 17,000 visitors attended the event which was supported by 16 business sponsors.

Rec West Gets a Facelift

Rec West received an exterior makeover in the fall when its columns were faced in stone and shake shingles were replaced with a sturdier and more stylish bronze-colored metal. Low-maintenance cement board also replaced wood siding.

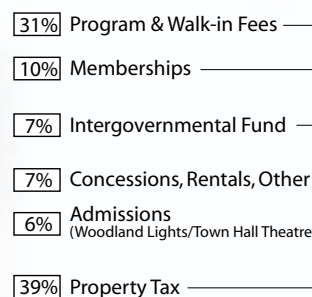


The first Summer Kick-Off Carnival celebrated the start of summer with a weekend of games, rides, live music and food for all ages.



How Recreation is Funded

(Total Funding: \$2,665,043)



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. Paper costs were reduced with electronic newsletters and mandatory direct deposit of payroll checks.

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 are required every two years. However, to maintain the highest accountability to taxpayers, our fiscal officer requests that audits be completed annually.

Financial Forecasting

Washington Township routinely forecasts and budgets five years in advance. The resulting Capital Improvement Plan maintains a positive balance for the next five years and an overall 25% balance at the end of three years.

Income Stability

Township income remained steady during an economic downturn that continued into 2009. The overall valuation of residential and commercial property increased slightly, by 1.4 percent at the end of 2009.

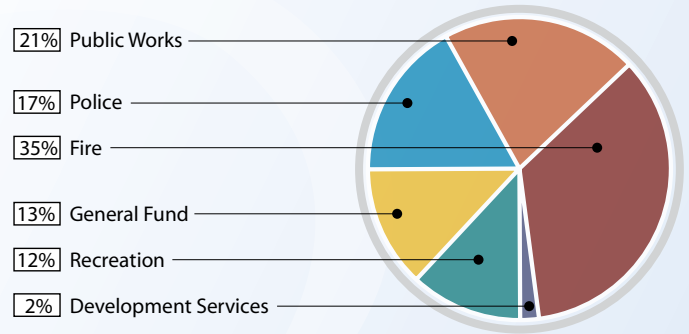
Grants Offset Cost of Services

The township makes an ongoing effort to offset the cost of services with grant money that helps ease the tax burden for residents and, in some cases, improves services more quickly than ordinarily would be possible. Last year, 12 grants were awarded to offset the cost of services in the areas of fire, public works, recreation and recycling.

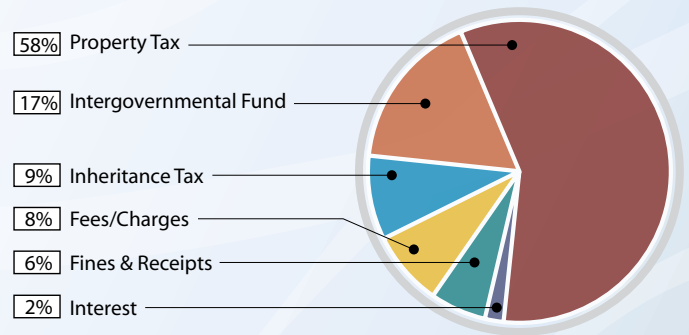
	Public Works: South Paragon Road improvement and North Paragon resurfacing	\$1,205,282
	Fire: Air packs, tornado sirens and training	\$177,006
	Recreation: Handicapped accessibility, theater productions, playground equipment, Woodland Lights*	\$43,910
	Recycling: Electronics recycling	\$3,640
	In-Kind Grants & Donations: Woodland Lights (\$39,750 value) Disposal services for hazardous waste Design Services for playground	—
Total 2009 Grants		*\$1,429,838

* Excludes In-Kind Donations

What Your Township Dollars Fund

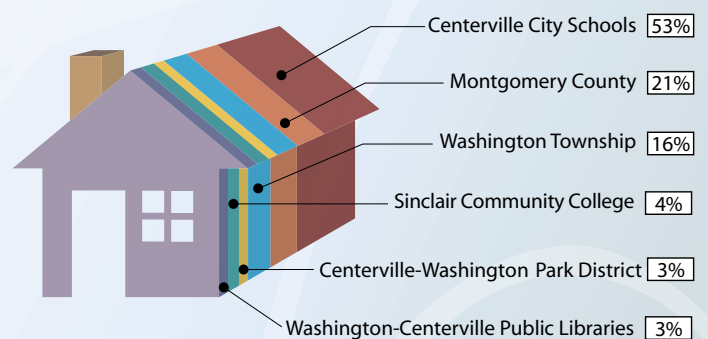


2009 Washington Township Revenue

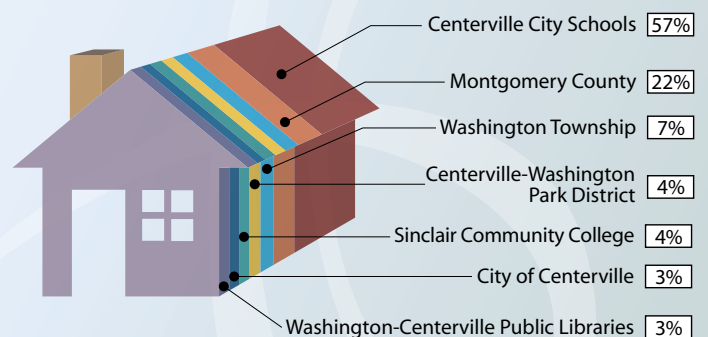


Where Your Property Taxes Are Allocated

Unincorporated Residents



Incorporated Residents (Centerville)



2009



2009 Beautification Award Winner

Washington Township Mission Statement

It is the mission of Washington Township government to provide for and promote the general health, safety and welfare of Township residents by:

- Delivering service in a professional, impartial and cost-effective manner;
- Planning for the long-range development and improvement of the Township;
- Being responsive to the individual needs of Township residents, with an awareness of the community's collective needs.



2009 Board of Trustees

Lee E. Snyder, president
Joyce C. Young, vice president
Dale M. Berry

2009 Fiscal Officer

Thomas J. Zobrist

Washington Township Government Center

8200 McEwen Road
Dayton, Ohio 45458-2050
(937) 433-0152
www.washingtontwp.org



Americana Festival

Hithergreen Center



Centerville-Washington Township Historical Society



Centerville-Washington Diversity Council

Excellent Community Partnerships

Services in Washington Township are provided not only by the township, but through a cooperative network of public bodies that work for the common good. The township, along with the City of Centerville, helps fund many of them, including the historical society, diversity council, senior center and Americana Festival.

