CELEBRATE FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

FEATURED STORY

CELEBRATE FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

PG. 3

PLUS

3. THREE LOCAL FIRE OFFICERS EARN CFO CREDENTIALS
4. POLICING IN WT: PROTESTING, POLICIES AND PRACTICES

REINVENTING THE REC CENTER
PG. 6

VIRTUAL BUSINESS BREAKFAST
PG. 5

6TH ANNUAL TERRY BLAIR SCHOLARSHIP WINNER
PG. 7
Welcome To More

You may have noticed—this issue of the Washington Township Quarterly has a new look with a new logo.

At the heart of the brand refresh is a new logo that replaces one with George Washington at the center. The new brand image conveys a contemporary outlook while honoring the township’s long heritage (established 1796) and proudly independent thinking.

“As we reviewed what makes up our township brand, we realized that we had a lot to pack in,” said Trustee President Sharon Lowry. Included on the long list were top ranked schools, award-winning parks, libraries and rec center, thriving neighborhoods, and premium shopping, dining and entertainment, along with abundant community events and activities.

“We felt it was important to capture all of it because Washington Township is where it all takes place, whether you are in the incorporated or unincorporated area. The unity of these two parts of the township helps support our growth and prosperity,” said Lowry.

The township’s new tagline—“Welcome to More”—was selected to reflect the depth and breadth of what the Washington Township community offers. It also is an invitation and a promise by Washington Township government. “A tagline that states ‘welcome to more’ is a lot to live up to, but we welcome the challenge,” said Lowry. “Our goal is to always provide a high-quality experience for residents, businesses, and visitors alike.”

The township’s website, social media, e-newsletter and other communication channels reflect the updated brand that was developed with input from resident and business stakeholders in our community. Over time, the logo will be added to township buildings, signs, shirts, vehicles and streetscape elements such as entry signs and highway overpasses.

“Our goal in undertaking this process was to create brand awareness that encompasses our entire Washington Township community, both incorporated and unincorporated,” said Township Administrator Jesse Lightle. “We hope that our residents will embrace this opportunity to participate as brand ambassadors and tell others about the many ways our community truly does offer more.”

The new logo replaces one that was created in the 1980s. For the branding refresh, the township worked with U! Creative, Inc., an agency with offices in Miamisburg.

The new logo conveys a contemporary outlook with a traditional style in keeping with the township’s long heritage:

• Red, white and blue stripes reflect a connection to our country’s founders and to principles of liberty, freedom and unity.

• Two bands represent incorporated and unincorporated areas of Washington Twp.

• The upper corner resembles a part of national and state flags and points forward and upward for a united township advancing together for growth and prosperity.
Three Local Fire Officers Earn CFO Credentials

Three members of the fire department command staff recently achieved the designation of Chief Fire Officer, a distinction that places them in an elite group of 35 chief officers in Ohio and about 1,500 worldwide.

With six CFOs on its command staff and a total of eight credentialed staff members holding 12 credentials, the Washington Township Fire Department has more Chief Fire Officers and credentialed staff than any department in Ohio.

“These accomplishments reflect a sustained dedication to excellence and professional development. We’re exceptionally proud that our fire staff has made this investment,” said Township Administrator Jesse Lightle. The highest certification awarded by the Commission on Professional Credentialing, the CFO designation requires demonstrated excellence in seven career components: experience, education, professional development, professional contributions, association membership, community involvement and technical competence. Applicants also create a professional development plan.

Bergman has served as deputy chief since 2019 and during his 12 years with Washington Township has also been a battalion chief, lieutenant and firefighter. As deputy chief he is responsible for administrative services and risk reduction efforts.

Augustine earned the designation of Fire Officer in 2016. He was promoted to battalion chief in 2019 after serving the department as a lieutenant and firefighter and also holds the Fire Officer designation. Previously a station captain for Colerain Township Fire Department, Edwards joined Washington Township in May 2019 following 21 years at Colerain and six years with the Newport Fire Department. He earned the CPC Fire Officer designation in 2015.

An entity of the Center for Public Safety Excellence, Inc., CPC consists of individuals from academia, federal and local government, and the fire and emergency medical services profession.

“It helped me to look at myself as a fire officer, evaluate how I’ve prepared for the job, and establish goals for the future. It also helps me be sure I meet industry standards for the job I’m in.”

“The process of obtaining my CFO has pushed me to accomplish my goals and strive for constant improvement. It also requires me to be a well-rounded chief officer.”

“Credentialing means that my education, training and experience have been vetted by fire service leaders and I have hit all the established benchmarks. It confirms I’m on the right path.”

This year, the Washington Township Fire Department is taking residents behind the scenes during National Fire Prevention Week, October 5-9, with virtual tours and live videos on social media. Throughout the week, families can watch firefighters in action and take virtual tours of the fire houses and apparatus on Facebook.

“Even though we’re not able to have traditional open houses this fall, we have come up with some creative ways to engage and educate the community throughout Fire Prevention Week,” says Fire Chief Scott Kujawa. “We encourage families to participate by watching the videos together and learn about home safety and fire prevention in a fun and entertaining way.”

**S A F E T Y**

**BEHIND THE SCENES FOR FIRE PREVENTION WEEK**

**PLAN YOUR WEEK**
October 5-9 on Facebook and YouTube

**Every day will feature videos from a different fire station, including the distinctive apparatus and equipment located there. Virtual demonstrations will run the gamut – from climbing the 105-foot ladder truck at Station 41 to extinguishing a real fire at the training tower. Videos can be accessed through the Washington Township Fire Department Facebook page and the Washington Township YouTube channel.**

---

**Monday** – See the township’s ladder truck extend to its full 105-foot height and take a virtual tour of Station 41.

**Tuesday** – Learn how to safely extinguish a grease fire, explore Station 42 and virtually climb aboard a fire engine and medic unit.

**Wednesday** – Watch as firefighters practice fighting fires at the training tower, conduct low visibility searches, and practice pumping sprinkler systems at Station 43.

**Thursday** – Tune in for a live video of firefighters wearing their full gear and virtually explore Station 44.

**Friday** – Take a live tour of a medic apparatus, check out the inside of Station 45, learn about grilling safety and witness a simulated water rescue with the department’s new boat.
In light of widespread police reform protests this year, we realize that our residents may have questions about our own community’s policing practices. “We believe it’s important to go beyond simply stating that we support best practices and to report back to our residents about what we are doing to help ensure that takes place,” says Township Administrator Jesse Lightle.

This article provides a brief summary of policies and procedures used by the Washington Township Substation of the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office, as provided by Captain Mike Brem, Township Police Director:

**Crisis Intervention Training** – Over the past five years, 75 percent of MCSO staff has been trained in crisis intervention. The 40-hour course focuses on responding with the least amount of force possible in crisis situations, with an emphasis on the particular challenges faced in emergency calls that involve drug abuse and behavioral disorders.

**Implicit Bias & Racial Profiling** – Deputies are required to meet standards outlined in the department’s racial profiling policy. In 2017, the entire sheriff’s office also participated in training to understand how implicit bias can impact policing.

**IMPACT – Improving Modern Policing and Community Trust**, or IMPACT for short, was formed in 2015 to identify community-based solutions to problems associated with implicit bias. The group is open to anyone and is comprised of a diverse group of people from faith organizations, education, business, government and law enforcement. Other goals of IMPACT are to foster trust and encourage community involvement and support. “IMPACT offers an open dialogue with citizens. This includes working through issues and healing from any past negative experiences. If you have questions about law enforcement, this is the place to get involved,” Brem says.

**Use of Force** – Deputies are required to participate in annual training on appropriate use of force. When a deputy uses force, the incident is thoroughly reviewed by a sergeant, captain, major and chief deputy to ensure that the actions comply with the department’s use of force policy. The Inspectional Services Unit reviews all lethal force incidents and incidents of suspected excessive force and completes a comprehensive report.

**Neck Restraints Policy** – The Sheriff’s Office prohibits personnel from using neck restraints, also known as chokeholds, as a routine defensive control tactic. Deputies are taught the importance of placing an offender in the “recovery position,” which is on their side, after they resist arrest and to never restrict a suspect’s airway.

**Accountability** – Deputies wear wireless microphones and are instructed to position their cruiser so that the dash camera captures footage of interactions.

**Transparency** – When deputies are involved in lethal force, their names are released along with video and audio.

**Complaint Process** – Every citizen complaint is documented, then reviewed by the Inspectional Services Unit, a separate section of the sheriff’s office, in order to promote accountability. If deemed necessary, the complaint is investigated by ISU.

**Accreditation** – When a law enforcement agency is accredited, it means that an independent agency is looking over the department’s shoulder to ensure that best practices are in place. MCSO has been accredited for 30 years by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement (CALEA) and holds accreditation in every aspect of its operations.

**Staffing** – The sheriff’s office is making it a priority to invest in recruitment and promotion practices that create a diverse workforce.

**Other Programs** – The Washington Township Substation makes Community Oriented Policing a priority, with numerous community events where deputies and citizens can connect. The department also solicits comments and concerns via an annual citizen survey.
POLICING

NEW CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM

A new Crisis Intervention Team approach is helping local sheriff’s deputies respond to emergency calls involving a mental health or drug-related crisis.

Since July, a mental health specialist has been riding with deputies and providing follow-up casework as part of a joint program with Eastway Behavioral Healthcare and Montgomery County’s Alcohol Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS).

The innovative crisis intervention approach helps people with mental disorders or addictions access medical treatment rather than be placed in the criminal justice system. “We can provide a better service with this in place, connect people to the specific help they need, and reduce the number of repeat calls,” said Capt. Mike Brem, Police Director.

The specialist is primarily riding with the community oriented policing deputy, but will be riding along and working with any deputy as the program progresses. Prior to this, the sheriff’s office has tracked mental health calls, followed by home visits by trained staff and crisis care professionals, said Brem. “After seeing the positive effects of helping people through crisis, we are excited to see how staff dedicated to this on a daily basis will assist people who are in need of services.”

BUSINESS

Businesses Breakfast Goes Virtual

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27

We know it’s been a challenging year for many small businesses. Now more than ever, we want to support you!

This fall, we plan to do that with a Business Box containing the same high-quality programming and resources that businesses usually receive at the annual breakfast. With information ranging from township updates to raffle prizes, the Business Box will be mailed to any township business that registers by October 16:

Gifts & Prizes – Every package comes with a gift card to a township business. Some will even contain raffle prizes donated by a variety of local businesses.

Flash Drive Presentations – The definition of workplace safety changed dramatically this spring, and no one knows this more than safety product supplier Ritz Safety whose headquarters are located on Paragon Road. Dan Crotty, Chief Executive Officer, will be interviewed about what it was like to shift operations to meet the needs of a world-wide pandemic. Pertinent updates for businesses will be presented by staff. Topics will include zoning, development, fire, police, public works and recreation.

Networking – Throughout the day on Tuesday, October 27, select departments will be available to speak with businesses via Zoom office hours. Appointments are not needed and businesses that have RSVP’d for the Business Box are welcome to use this time to network with elected officials and have questions answered by department heads.

Resources – The Business Box will include information from Business First resource partners on topics such as grant opportunities, workforce development, research, expansion, and how to connect with a resource partner.

“Our goal is to make our virtual Business Breakfast as valuable to businesses as our usual breakfasts, however we also recognize that nothing can compare to in-person contact. We’ll be back next year to personally reconnect with business leaders,” said Township Administrator Jesse Lightle.

REGISTRATION & PARTICIPATION

Registration - Any business in the unincorporated area of the township may register for the Business Box at washingtontwp.org/breakfast. Registration closes October 16.

Raffle Prizes – If your business is interested in contributing a raffle prize to the Business Box, email raffledisplay@washingtontwp.org by October 16. Winners of the raffle will be randomly selected.

SERVING YOU

Leaf Collection Begins in October

Beginning in late October and running through mid-December, leaf collection will be taking place throughout the township. Our website offers frequent updates and color-coded maps show all leaf routes. Information is at washingtontwp.org/leaves. Collection times are dependent upon the weather so following the township on social media is the best way to stay informed.

Facebook.com/WashingtonTwp
Reinventing Rec

When the Recreation Center closed in mid-March, it was hard to imagine the full impact of COVID-19 on our community. “To say that it has been a challenge is an understatement,” says recreation director Mark Metzger. “Every aspect of our operation was impacted, from how programs are offered to how our spaces are configured and utilized. I commend our innovative and resilient staff for successfully maneuvering the Rec Center from what it was, to what it needs to be for our residents during the pandemic.”

During the shutdown, staff learned the art of planning for multiple scenarios in each department so they could hit the ground running when reopening directives were issued. Virtual and live options were explored in Zoom meetings, as were mandated facility modifications.

For those still apprehensive about returning to public facilities, it is important to note the safety precautions in place at each recreation facility. Each building now has touchless features in restrooms, sanitizer dispensers in multiple locations, Plexiglass shields in high traffic areas, and water bottle filling stations. Spaces and entrances have been reconfigured and class sizes restricted in order to limit congestion and meet physical distancing and room capacity limits. Ventilation systems have been modified to improve air circulation and a professional company cleans, disinfects and fogs recreation facilities routinely. The township will apply for reimbursement for many of these qualifying expenses under the CARES Act, FEMA and other sources of COVID-related funding. These upgrades also represent investments in the facilities that will continue serving the community in the long term.

The Rec Center is not navigating through the pandemic alone. Established relationships with state and local recreation agencies grew stronger through frequent communication and conversations between colleagues as all faced similar, unprecedented challenges. In Washington Township, the trustees, administrator and all township departments are driving forces in establishing best practices to ensure your safety at township facilities and services.

“The true measure that you have exceptional employees does not occur during status quo. It comes when they are faced with an unexpected crisis”, says Jesse Lightle, Township Administrator. “I am extremely proud of township employees for their outstanding efforts this past year and I thank each of them for helping to keep our community safe.”

AQUATIC

MAKE SOME WAVES

Swim lesson registration is happening now. Water safety remains a top priority to our American Red Cross trained lifeguards and instructors as the Rec Center’s water disinfectant and dry land practices meet standards for operating public pools set by the CDC and the American Red Cross Scientific Advisory Council. Guidelines include reduced class sizes, shorter sessions, physical distancing between instructors and students, personal equipment for each participant and thorough disinfecting practices. Swim lessons are scheduled on Saturdays. Diving lessons are for Grades 1-9 and held on Wednesdays.

Visit washingtontwp.org/recreation for specific dates and times that work best for your family.

ENRICHMENT

WORKOUTS FOR THE MIND

The adage, “You don’t know what you’ve got until its gone”, has never resonated more strongly than it has during the COVID-19 outbreak.

While group gatherings, a hallmark of the Enrichment Center, are not an option, there are a number of educational and entertaining activities that meet state mandates for safety. Art classes, educational programs, health seminars, and discussion groups are a few examples. They will be added to the Rec Center schedule as local partners ease restrictions on community outreach and become available for cooperative programming. Visit the recreation website regularly for available enrichment classes for adults of all ages.

SPORTS

A RETURN TO PLAY

This fall, archery, basketball, rock climbing, indoor soccer, pickleball, and volleyball are returning to your Rec Center. Floor hockey is a new addition for those wanting to learn the fundamental skills of this no contact sport with a focus on team collaboration. Pool, or billiards if you prefer, can be played at Rec West thanks to a donation of a regulation pool table by the City of Moraine. That’s a winning shot in our eyes and the township thanks them for their generosity.

Regulations regarding group sports remain fluid but the Rec Center is adhering to state and local guidelines. For the most current information regarding fall sports, visit washingtontwp.org/recreation.
Scholarships Awarded to Outstanding Recent Graduates

At the time of publication, tentative plans are in place for Woodland Lights, however, a final decision will be made in October in accordance with state and local mandates. “Woodland Lights is our gift to the community, a way to say thank you to our residents, our partners and sponsors, and to go dark is not an option,” says Trustee President, Sharon Lowry.

In an extraordinary gesture of support, longtime event sponsor, Sam’s Club, has offered to provide its annual five-thousand-dollar sponsorship, regardless of what happens with the event this year. In the words of store manager, Eric Heigel, “We are very fortunate and appreciative that we have a lot of people who help out here at the store and throughout the community who make everything possible. We will get through these unprecedented times together.” Washington Township is extremely grateful to Sam’s Club for helping us bring this gift to our community when it is especially needed.

Rec Center staff have planned for multiple scenarios, depending on what state and local mandates will be in effect for large gatherings. “While it is clear that the traditional full-scale event will be impacted, event planners are working to find options that will keep the lights on for what has become a multi-generational tradition,” Lowry says.

Details will be available at woodlandlights.org and on social media.

Scholarships Awarded to Outstanding Recent Graduates

Adeola Adelekan was awarded the Terry Blair Scholarship for her strong interest in leadership and service. The award is administered by Centerville Noon Optimist Club.

Years of volunteer experience led Centerville High School service club advisors to select Abdullah Nasir for the Washington Township Community Service Award.

ACTIVITY

Woodland Lights

At the time of publication, tentative plans are in place for Woodland Lights, however, a final decision will be made in October in accordance with state and local mandates.

“Woodland Lights is our gift to the community, a way to say thank you to our residents, our partners and sponsors, and to go dark is not an option,” says Trustee President, Sharon Lowry.

In an extraordinary gesture of support, longtime event sponsor, Sam’s Club, has offered to provide its annual five-thousand-dollar sponsorship, regardless of what happens with the event this year. In the words of store manager, Eric Heigel, “We are very fortunate and appreciative that we have a lot of people who help out here at the store and throughout the community who make everything possible. We will get through these unprecedented times together.” Washington Township is extremely grateful to Sam’s Club for helping us bring this gift to our community when it is especially needed.

Rec Center staff have planned for multiple scenarios, depending on what state and local mandates will be in effect for large gatherings. “While it is clear that the traditional full-scale event will be impacted, event planners are working to find options that will keep the lights on for what has become a multi-generational tradition,” Lowry says.

Details will be available at woodlandlights.org and on social media.

Woodland Lights

In an extraordinary gesture of support, longtime event sponsor, Sam’s Club, has offered to provide its annual five-thousand-dollar sponsorship, regardless of what happens with the event this year. In the words of store manager, Eric Heigel, “We are very fortunate and appreciative that we have a lot of people who help out here at the store and throughout the community who make everything possible. We will get through these unprecedented times together.” Washington Township is extremely grateful to Sam’s Club for helping us bring this gift to our community when it is especially needed.

Rec Center staff have planned for multiple scenarios, depending on what state and local mandates will be in effect for large gatherings. “While it is clear that the traditional full-scale event will be impacted, event planners are working to find options that will keep the lights on for what has become a multi-generational tradition,” Lowry says.

Details will be available at woodlandlights.org and on social media.

SUPER SATURDAY

Two free services – document shredding and drug drop-off – are available to Centerville/Washington Township residents at the final Super Saturday event of the year on October 10 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

“Additional safety procedures will be in place due to the pandemic, including precautions that residents are asked to take,” said Township Administrator Jesse Lightle. Staff will wear masks and all drivers and passengers are asked to do the same.

Documents should be packed in disposable containers and both drivers and passengers are asked to remain in their vehicle at all times with windows rolled up. Drivers will be notified when to unlock doors or release the trunk latch so that staff can access documents.

Although child safety seat checks will not take place due to safety concerns with COVID-19, residents can find a SafeKids car seat guide and other Super Saturday information at washingtonlwp.org/supersaturday.

Questions about document shredding also can be answered by calling 937-433-0151.

October 10
10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Document Disposal
Public Works Garage
8190 McEwen Rd.

Drug Drop Off
Fire Headquarters
8320 McEwen Rd.

COMMUNITY

Scholarships Awarded to Outstanding Recent Graduates

Adeola Adelekan was awarded the Terry Blair Scholarship for her strong interest in leadership and service. The award is administered by Centerville Noon Optimist Club.

Years of volunteer experience led Centerville High School service club advisors to select Abdullah Nasir for the Washington Township Community Service Award.

CALENDAR

TRUSTEE MEETINGS

Usual meeting times are 6:30 pm on the first Monday of the month and noon on the third Monday. Meetings will be held via Zoom or at the Government Center, 8200 McEwen Rd. Check www.washingtontwp.org/trustees for updates on how the meeting will take place and for a link to the Zoom meeting. You also can send us a note, call, or visit www.washingtontwp.org.

October 5

October 19

November 2

November 16

December 7

December 14

SUPER SATURDAY

Two free services – document shredding and drug drop-off – are available to Centerville/Washington Township residents at the final Super Saturday event of the year on October 10 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

“Additional safety procedures will be in place due to the pandemic, including precautions that residents are asked to take,” said Township Administrator Jesse Lightle. Staff will wear masks and all drivers and passengers are asked to do the same.

Documents should be packed in disposable containers and both drivers and passengers are asked to remain in their vehicle at all times with windows rolled up. Drivers will be notified when to unlock doors or release the trunk latch so that staff can access documents.

Although child safety seat checks will not take place due to safety concerns with COVID-19, residents can find a SafeKids car seat guide and other Super Saturday information at washingtonlwp.org/supersaturday.

Questions about document shredding also can be answered by calling 937-433-0151.

October 10
10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Document Disposal
Public Works Garage
8190 McEwen Rd.

Drug Drop Off
Fire Headquarters
8320 McEwen Rd.
Washington Township’s newest residential project is Washington Glen, approved in May by township trustees.

The development of 255 single-family detached and attached patio homes will be situated on a little more than 84 acres on Yankee Street, south of Austin Boulevard, according to Development Director Ryan Lee. The nearly $100 million project is being developed by MI Homes of Cincinnati and is expected to break ground this year.

Washington Glen will include a landscaped boulevard and entrance at Yankee Street with a decorative water feature to the north, public rights of way, and wetland preservation-open space areas, Lee said. Multi-use trails will extend southwest from the Yankee Street entrance and provide connectivity to Yankee Terrace and to Settler’s Walk via the Springboro trail network.

As part of Phase 1, the developer will be required to install a traffic signal and make turn lane improvements at the intersection with Yankee Street.

“We’re fortunate that our township continues to be an extremely desirable place to live. Our community amenities – from parks to recreation programs and high-quality schools and libraries – are unsurpassed in Montgomery County,” Lee said. During 2019, 54 percent of all residential construction took place in unincorporated Washington Township.

Lots in Washington Glen will provide spatial separation and dimensions consistent with the abutting developments of Yankee Terrace and Settler’s Walk, Lee said. For instance, the lots abutting Yankee Terrace are sized to accommodate the minimum lot dimensions and setbacks consistent with Yankee Terrace lots.

MI Homes has two other developments underway in Washington Township, Wynstone and Trails of Saddle Creek on Clyo Road.

Official rendering of proposed single family home in upcoming Washington Glen residential development