

# The Coventry Quill

A Publication by Coventry Township Trustees— George Beckham, Edward Diebold and Jeff Houck

Fall 2020

# General Fund

*The Backbone of our Township*

### What is Issue #34?

Issue #34 is for the Replacement of .95 mills of an existing General Fund - Current Expense Levy. It will cost the owner of a \$100,000.00 home approximately \$2.77 per month or \$16.63 per half. This is not a new tax—currently this levy generates \$212,244 and a Replacement of the existing levy will bring in an estimated \$228,576 which is an increase in revenue of \$16,332.00.

Department, Road Department and Sheriff's Patrol when their individual levies do not generate enough funds to cover their ever-increasing costs. The General Fund also has the job of covering all of our utility costs and any capital improvements needed to maintain our infrastructure.

reduction in revenue due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Considering the impact of the virus on everyone in the community, we are only requesting a replacement to bring this levy up to current tax standards. Passage of Issue 34 is vital to the operation of your Township services.

As a Township we are very limited in funding streams and are unable to create new revenue through sales taxes like a City or the State is able to. Tax monies, such as the Local Government Fund, and Estate Tax that we counted on receiving from the State of Ohio have been drastically reduced, or eliminated completely over the last fifteen years. In addition to those losses, the State is projecting that we will have an approximate 20%

# ISSUE 34

### Why is Issue #34 needed?

The General Fund is the backbone of all Township funding. It is the only fund that can support all of the Township departments. It not only covers the cost of operating our, Cemeteries, Zoning and Administration Offices, but is also used to help support the Parks, Fire

# PORTAGE LAKES HISTORY ROCKS!



We think Portage Lakes history ROCKS—Literally! A few of you may have noticed the 15 ton boulder that has been added to the E. Reservoir Dam - this rock was donated by Turkeyfoot Hill Sand & Gravel to hold the historical kiosk created by ODNR, in conjunction with the Ohio Historical Society and our very own Portage Lakes Historical Society. This kiosk will help educate residents and visitors about our history and serve as a reminder of the businesses that existed before the dam was expanded. A HUGE THANK YOU to Miller's Towing for donating not only their equipment, but several hours of their morning to transport the rock from 619 and place it in it's new location on the dam. Another HUGE THANK YOU to Turkeyfoot Hill Sand & Gravel for their wonderful donation. Also, a big thank you to Trustee, George Beckham, Road Superintendent, Lael Stouffer and Portage Lakes Historical Society President, Carol Eubank for coordinating this momentous effort.



The Board of Trustees are still in discussions with ODNR over the use of the Dam property. Because of the dam structure itself, we are limited as far as what can go there and want to consider the residential neighborhoods that surround the dam. If anyone has any input that they would like to have considered, please contact the Board of Trustees at [trustees@coventrytownship.com](mailto:trustees@coventrytownship.com).

### Coventry Township Board of Trustees

George Beckham · Edward Diebold · Jeff Houck  
Fiscal Officer—Lori A. Seeman

Fire Chief: John Dolensky · Zoning Inspector: Mike Harrison  
Road Superintendent: Lael Stouffer · Administrator: Anna Bryant



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## IMPORTANT DATES:

**Twp. Trick-or-Treat**  
**Saturday, Oct. 31st (5:30-8:30)**

**ELECTION DAY**  
**Tuesday, November 3rd**  
Contact Summit County Board of  
Elections to find your precinct  
330-643-5200

**Fall Leaf & Tire Drop-Off**  
**Saturday, November 7th**  
**& Saturday, November 21st**

ReWorks Leaf Drop-Off & Township Tire Drop-Off  
at Cottage Grove Park 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

## Helpful Phone Numbers

Coventry Township 330-644-0785  
Fire Department (Business) 330-644-3228  
Summit County Sheriff 330-643-2181

### FOR ALL EMERGENCIES PLEASE DIAL 9-1-1

Ohio EPA-Northeast Dist. 330-963-1200  
Republic Waste 1-800-247-3644  
Summit ReWorks 330-374-0383  
Summit Soil & Water 330-929-2871

# coventrytownship.com

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# A Sign of the Times

When people think of landmarks in Coventry Township, they probably think of the Clock Tower, perhaps the Olde Harbor Inn, or even the Lakes themselves. The Township Duck sign located in front of the Fire Station and Administrative Offices has also been a familiar sight since its installation in 1994.

Several months ago, the posts for this all wood sign deteriorated to the point that the sign had to be taken down due to safety concerns. Discussion on upgrading the sign and adding a digital sign took place, but funds were needed elsewhere. It was

decided that although needing restoration, it would be best to use the original sign to once again mark the location of your Township services.

A Portage Lakes contractor, Good Built Construction was hired to repaint and reinstall the sign. After some trouble matching paint colors, they were able to engage the services of Rob Hendrix to repaint the sign. Rob's father, former owner of Lakes Lettering had originally painted the sign over 25 years ago for Trustee, Val Sawhill. Rob used the same brushes his dad used and brought the sign back to it's original, vibrant condition!



Above: John Shepard (Coventry resident lending a hand) and Good Built Construction's crew of Mike Hutfels, Jim Stewart and Dan Gatian install the like new Township sign in its new location between the Fire/Administration Building and the Road Department Building on Portage Lakes Drive

Left: the Coventry Township Road crew landscaped around the sign's new location—adding the finishing touches to our beautifully restored sign!

# WHY DON'T WE "PAVE" OUR ROADS?

## 2020 Paving Maintenance Program



Top: Deteriorated Township roadway

Bottom: Restored roadway with 405 Motor Pave and Chip/Seal Coating

Like most communities around us, our residential streets are considered "low volume" roadways. We use a product called 405 Motor Pave to rebuild the base of the road once it has deteriorated. Unlike asphalt or concrete, it is a flexible surface that is more durable than conventional hot mix on low volume roads. It can be open to traffic as soon as it is compacted, and is then protected by a Chip and Seal coating.

Chip & Seal is a special protective wearing surface with multiple benefits:

- Enhances safety by providing good skid resistance
- Provides an effective moisture barrier for underlying pavement
- Prohibits aging and oxidation due to the effects of water and sun
- Provides a uniform and aesthetic edge to edge protection.

These two products combined, offer a more durable roadway at approximately half the cost of conventional hot mix paving. Motor Pave averages \$12 per square yard and Chip and Seal averages \$2 per square yard. By comparison, hot mix asphalt can cost \$15-\$18 per square yard.

In preparation for road resurfacing our Township road department also replaces culverts and improves open ditches so that our storm-water systems are updated along with the roadway. This hand-in-hand practice helps to ensure the best driving surface and expands the life of our Township roads.

# Meet Trustee Houck

Jeff Houck is the newest face on our Board of Trustees. He may be a newly elected official, but he is no stranger to our community and certainly no stranger to the Portage Lakes!

Jeff was born in Youngstown and raised in Pittsburgh. His career brought him to the Akron area in the late 1980's and he has been a resident of Coventry Township for 16 years. Jeff and his wife Lisa have a daughter and two sons, a daughter-in-law and a son-in-law, and two granddaughters (a grandson is expected to join the family in December!).

Jeff received his Bachelor of Science degree from The Pennsylvania State University and his Master of Business Administration from the University of Akron. His career has been in healthcare-related organizations, starting in hospital administration and moving toward building several successful hospice programs. The first several years were spent as an efficiency engineer, but in 1990 he started building new hospitals and programs and became a job creator, which he much prefers.


In 2007 he and Lisa (with a third business partner) bought the Upper Deck in New Franklin, and they learned the joys and trials of entrepreneurship. After making the Upper Deck successful and selling it, they started a new

venture called Lala's Restaurant and Fireside Lounge, which they operate to this day.

Jeff and his business partners started Autumn Hills Home Care in 2016, and through that organization have cared for nearly 100 senior citizens in the area, employing 90 caregivers and performing tasks that help seniors stay safe in their homes.

Jeff took an interest in the operation of the Township several years ago, regularly attending monthly trustee meetings and becoming more involved in the community. He made the move to lending his leadership skills to the Township and ran for office in 2019. He was elected to office that November and took the oath of office in January 2020. He has found it challenging and satisfying. He enjoys taking up and resolving issues for residents as well and being involved with the management of the treasury of the community.





**All Township meetings are currently held online via ZOOM Meeting due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. They will remain online until further notice.**

To access these meetings, please visit our website at [coventrytownship.com](http://coventrytownship.com), select 'Events' and then 'Calendar' from the drop-down menu. You can then select the date and meeting you are wishing to attend. The Zoom link and login information is found there. Please contact Anna Bryant at the Township Administration Office if you have any problems accessing the meetings.

# WATER-RESCUE UPGRADE

## Putting Grant Funds to Work!

The Fire Department was recently awarded \$11,834.00 in grant funds through the Summit County Emergency Management Executive Committee (EMEC) grant program thanks to the work of Lt. Brian Langenek and Deputy Chief Adam Rockich. These funds will replace an open utility trailer that was converted to house the department's water rescue equipment over 20 years ago. The new dive trailer will allow all of the water rescue gear to be stored inside, keeping it out of the elements.



It will also have onboard charging for vital rescue equipment, immediate exterior lighting for nighttime operations and many new upgrades to aid in our response.

2020 has proven to be another busy water-rescue season with our dive team responding to multiple emergencies throughout the County. Coventry's dive team is part of the South-Summit Water Rescue team along with Green and New Franklin. This trailer will be used to support larger scale, or out of County missions when requested. Please feel free to contact the Coventry Fire Department if you have any questions about how grant funding is used to offset costs of equipment and staffing.