

# Bainbridge Township NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1

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ISSUE 1

## Something's New In Your Mailbox !!!

On February 1st the Bainbridge Township Board of Trustees approved the formulation and distribution of a Bainbridge Township Newsletter. This Newsletter will be informational in nature and is governed by the Ohio Revised Code (Section 505.07). The Trustees and Newsletter staff hope this publication will be enjoyed by all residents and your questions and suggestions are encouraged.

In each issue of the Newsletter there will be a corner set aside for "Questions to the Editor". If you have a question about your township, please write and the Newsletter Staff will try to answer your question in the next issue. Please sign with your name, address and telephone number. We will be unable to print all questions, however, we will try to contact you personally with the answer.

Thank you.

Bainbridge Township Trustees  
Newsletter Staff

## YOUR TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

One of the most often asked questions regarding our township's government is . . . "Who is the Mayor of Bainbridge Township?" For those of you who have asked and those of you who have yet to ask, Bainbridge Township does not have a Mayor. The township is administered by three trustees (Dr. Robert Schlatzer, Mr. William Repke and Dr. Raymond Mattson) and a clerk (Mrs. Julia DuRoss). They are elected to four year terms, on a staggered basis. The Board of Trustees power includes legislative, managerial, supervisory and some judicial power. The clerk is responsible for all of the township record keeping.

Dr. Schlatzer (Chairman) has lived in Pilgrim Village since May of 1966 with his wife Chris. Dr. Schlatzer is the father of three sons; Brant, a junior at Kenston High School; Kurt, presently serving with the United States Navy; and Karl who resides in North Carolina. Dr. Schlatzer is the

proud grandfather of two.

Dr. Schlatzer served as trustee from 1974-77, was then appointed in July of 1980 to complete an unexpired term and elected in 1981 and 1985. He serves on the Health District Advisory Committee, the

Chagrin Falls Park Board of Trustees and is a member of the Men's Civic Club.

Mr. Repke has lived in Lake Lucerne since 1969 with his wife Marilena. Mr. Repke's son Bill is (continued on page 4)



(Seated) Mr. Repke & Dr. Schlatzer; (Standing) Dr. Mattson & Mrs. DuRoss

Photo by: Joan Demitjian

## BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP . . .

### THE BEGINNING

Bainbridge Township consists of five square miles, or approximately 16,000 acres. In 1811, David McConoughey, his wife and six children became the first settlers of Bainbridge Township. The family came from Blandford, Massachusetts, with the 600 mile trip taking 53 days. They originally settled on 100 acres of land at the south east corner of the township.

With 12 families totaling 72 residents, the settlement became Bainbridge Township in 1817 (which included the area now known as Auburn Township). Prior to this time, the settlement had been known by such names as Austintown, Kentstown (thus the name Kenston), and Bissell's Corners, all names of early settlers. One year later, Auburn Township separated, with this historical information not clearly recorded. The name Bainbridge was selected to honor a popular naval hero of the War of 1812. Commodore William Bainbridge commanded the U.S.S. Constitution, "Old Ironsides".

The first road in Bainbridge Township was begun in 1801. At that time the President of the United States was Thomas Jefferson (the third President), and Ohio would become a state two years later. The road followed an indian trail and traveled from Lake Erie to Chillicothe, Ohio (the political center of the territory), thus the name Chillicothe Road. The next three roads built were Chagrin Road and the two Bainbridge Roads. This connected Bainbridge Township to the East and West and other settlements in the territory. Some of the original Bainbridge Township roads were named after early residents. Taylor May Road was named because it passed by the May Farm in Auburn Township and the Taylor Farm in Bainbridge Township. Haskins Road was named because it

passed through the Haskins Farm, which is still owned and operated by Robert Haskins and his family. Snyder Road, Brewster Road, Pettibone Road, Root Road and Giles Road (now Sea World Drive/Depot Road) were all named after early settlers.

Along the Southern Boundary of Bainbridge Township on Crackel Road was a small industrial community consisting of over 50 houses, a brick yard, a tannery, a blacksmith/shoemakers shop, a grist mill, a woolen mill and a cooperage, where barrels and wooden utensils were made. These were all located within a two mile radius and is now the site of the Centerville Mills YMCA Camp.

In each issue of the Bainbridge Township Newsletter we hope to give you more history and bring you a little closer to your township's roots.

### What is Township Government ???

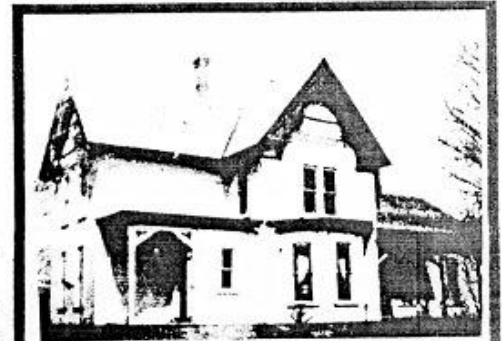
The Township in Ohio is a political subdivision of the State. As such, it has only those powers granted to it by the State Legislature, and performs the functions as directed by the State. To keep pace with the demands of changing times, the functions, duties and obligations of the township have been changed over the years. As demands for increased or different governmental services have been made necessary at the local level, the State Legislature has responded by giving township government the authority to provide these services. The township must follow the laws of "The Ohio Revised Code".

### What is Zoning ???

Zoning is the regulation of the use of land and buildings which permits a community to control the development of its own territory. It provides for orderly growth by protecting homes and property from harmful uses on neighboring properties. Since any zoning is a restriction upon unlimited use of land by the owner, it must have a reasonable relationship to public health, safety, morals, comfort or general welfare.

Ohio recognized the need for rural zoning in 1947, when it authorized township zoning. Ohio law now adequately provides for the submission of a zoning plan to the electors of the township and, if it is adopted, contains provisions for the administration, enforcement, and amendment of the zoning plan.

### History Quiz



The above photo is an early Bainbridge Township residence, "The Delos Root Home". This home is over 100 years old. Can you identify where this home is located?

Answer next issue...

We abuse the land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.

- Aldo Leopold 1886-1948

## YOUR TOWNSHIP . . . AT A GLANCE

### Road Department

The Bainbridge Township Road Department is manned by 5 full time employees. These men are responsible for maintaining township roads. The present acting Road Superintendent is Alan Halko. It is important for residents to be aware of which roads are maintained by the Township Road Department.

SR 306 and US 422 are maintained for repair and snow removal by the Ohio Department of Transportation. For problems and concerns regarding these two roads, call 834-4441.

Chagrin Road, Bainbridge-Solon Road and Bainbridge-Auburn Road are the responsibility of Geauga County Road Department (for repairs only) with their phone number being 834-4011. Snow removal of these three roads is the responsibility of the Township Road Department. Again this is for snow removal.

All other roads are the responsibility of the Bainbridge Road Department unless they are private roads. As of 1987, there are 66.25 miles of dedicated road in Bainbridge Township.

### Police Department

The Bainbridge Township Police Department was established in June of 1975. James P. Jimison was appointed Chief of Police and remains the only Chief of Police the Department has had. Presently there are 11 full time and 2 part time police officers. The Police Department now includes an in-house computer system and state of the art radio dispatch console. The Department recently purchased its first 4-wheel drive vehicle to aid officers during severe weather or for off the road investigations.

### Fire Department

The Bainbridge Volunteer Fire Company was chartered on August 4, 1942. At that time the Township had no local fire protection and relied on the Chagrin Falls Fire Department for fire service. It should be noted that the Bainbridge Volunteer Fire Company was one of the first departments in the nation to carry water on pumpers and to use white as a vehicle color. The present Bainbridge Township Fire Chief is Edward G. Plonske and there are 25 regular and 5 junior members on the Volunteer Fire Company.

### Maintenance Department

This department was established in 1983 to insure proper care and maintenance of all township vehicles. Prior to this time much of the vehicle maintenance was done outside of the township. Robert Fill holds the position of Maintenance & Equipment Operations Manager, and is responsible for the on-going maintenance, repair and upkeep of township vehicles in order to provide for optimum performance.

### Zoning Department

The Bainbridge Township Zoning Department is located in the Town Hall. The position of Zoning Inspector is held by Fred L. Krueger. He is knowledgeable in all aspects of township zoning and is responsible for approving zoning applications which conform to the zoning resolution. His assistant, Harold "Hadge" Hissam, does most of the site inspections and handles zoning complaints. If you need to meet with either of these gentlemen, it is suggested that you phone first for an appointment.

### Town Hall Operations

The Town Hall is used for Board of Trustee Meetings, Zoning Commission Meetings and Board of Zoning Appeals Meetings. It also houses the Office of the Clerk, the Zoning Department, the Police Department (lower level), and is where all the general business of the township takes place.

The front hall of this building as well as the Burns-Lindow Building (corner of Bainbridge-Solon Road and SR 306) are available for public rental. For information and rates for these buildings, contact Charles H. Taylor, Town Hall Superintendent.

### William Burns Remembered

On March 12, 1988 the trustees noted with regret the death of William Burns; 1911-1988; one of the founders of the Bainbridge Fire Department in 1942 and was a charter member; he was a Bainbridge Township Trustee from 1948 to 1954; he was a Geauga County Commissioner from 1954 to 1977. The trustees commended the dedication and community service of the late Mr. Burns.

### Employees Honored

On March 19, 1988 the trustees adopted a resolution in honor of Frances Phan, Charles Taylor and Richard Thomas, employees of Bainbridge Township, each of whom have completed ten years of service.

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Information for various articles in this newsletter was compiled from: "The Bicentennial Year in History of Bainbridge Township", Bainbridge Bicentennial Committee; and "The History and Function of Townships in Ohio", Ohio State Association of Township Trustees and Clerks.