



Hambden HIGHLIGHTS

FALL 2020

Hambden Park Improvements

You may have noticed the large pile of asphalt grindings sitting in the middle of the park parking lot – it is hard to miss! These grindings are for a parking lot drainage improvement project that was slated for 2020. However, due to COVID and the number of companies and private parties doing home/business improvements, the Township could not find a contractor able to complete the work in 2020. As a result, the project is now slated for early spring in 2021. We apologize for the unsightly inconvenience.



Fiscal Officer's Report

The Budget meeting at the County Auditor's Office was held for all townships in mid-August.

We received a unanimous YES vote on our annual budget.

The township has received funding for the COVID-19 crisis that can be used for sanitization supplies and equipment to protect our workers and the public.

We are constantly looking for ways to reduce spending and make things more productive.

A new brush chipper was recently purchased to speed up roadside cleanup after tree and brush work.

In the past the road dept. workers would have to wait for enough material to grind before renting a chipper.

This required piling the branches and then coming back a second time to grind them up.

Now it can be done immediately.

We applied for, and received, a \$6,776 NOPEC Energy Grant to convert all 28 street lights in the township to LED lighting.



This will be done at no cost to the taxpayers and will reduce our future energy costs for street lighting substantially.

– Mike Romans

Who is Responsible for Property Lines?

I often get asked to help find property lines and markers when there's a new project being planned. I'll check the file for a survey but since they're not required, we often do not have a copy. The county maintains mapping software that shows property lines and while it's usually accurate, it's not perfect. Because it's not 100% accurate, it cannot be used to determine exact measurements when dealing with complaints or setbacks. This means that property owners are responsible for maintaining their pins/markers and knowing where their property lines are located.

If you are looking to build and not completely confident in where your lines are, hire a surveyor. This not only removes all doubt but protects you down the road.

Even if a structure was inspected and found to be compliant, I'm only using my estimations and the numbers cited on your application.

The Geauga County Engineers office maintains a list of accredited surveyors that service this area.

– Richard Acquaviva,
Hambden Zoning Inspector



From the Desk of Fire Chief Scott Hildenbrand



Well 2020 will be a year that we will all remember. Due to the pandemic, the Fire Department has had to make several changes to our operation. As you know, we enjoy serving and working with the residents of the Township. This year has been very different: we were unable to host the Easter Egg Hunt; we did not host the Memorial Day Pancake breakfast; our Mother's Day Rib dinner was cancelled; as well as the Community Picnic. Our biggest fund raiser is our Clam/Steak bakes in September and October which were also cancelled. All of these events not only generate funds for us but

most importantly provides for an opportunity for the residents to come to the Fire Station and interact with our Firefighters. We are also unable to provide fire prevention classes to the children. We want to remind our residents to have their chimney cleaned and inspected before you use your solid fuel heater.

Although we have always wore personnel protective equipment on emergency medical calls, we have made some changes. You will find that our people will be wearing a mask and gloves on ALL calls. We have sealed off the patient compartment of the ambulance from the driver, and we disinfect the squad completely after every call. If we respond to a suspected COVID-19 patient our emergency medical personnel will also be wearing suits that totally cover their clothing. During these types of calls only

one EMS personnel will enter the home and the driver will stay outside, if possible. The dispatchers are asking more detailed questions on the 911 call and may ask the patient to meet the ambulance outside if they can. To date we have transported several COVID-19 positive patients and none of your Firefighters have come down with the virus. We continue to monitor our people before they come to the fire station and ask that if they do not feel well please don't come in. We will get through this and 2020 will definitely be a year to remember. Please stay safe and healthy.

Your Fire Department

We did receive the new fire engine and it is in service. This engine replaced the 1999 Engine and that Engine was

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WATER DRAINAGE & CULVERT PIPES

The township is responsible for maintaining road drainage. We are not responsible for the drainage of resident's yards. Water that runs off the roads or water that is managed by way of a network of ditches (some are on private property) is what we maintain and periodically inspect. Road rights-of-way typically run 30 feet on each side of the center of each road and we have the legal right to come into the right-of-way and clean and remove vegetation from a ditch to maintain flow and inspect culvert pipes.

We last did a major 5-year inspection of all culvert pipes last year. We maintain an inventory of pipes with their dates of installation and condition ratings. Our road staff has been trained by ODOT in how to inspect these pipes and look for problems. We also work in tandem with the Geauga County Engineer's office for culvert replacement and road resurfacing.

When we do ditching, we employ the use of a laser transit to set grades of ditches so that they carry water away properly. We often get complaints about water drainage. Unfortunately, with a crew of three and 52 miles of ditches to maintain – we are not always able to get to everything as quickly as we would like to. Here's what you can do to help everyone:

1) Keep driveway pipes and culverts clear of rocks to maintain flow. Placing rocks in front of or near pipe openings slows and restricts the water flow – which can cause the flow to change its course which causes erosion and damage to your driveway, your drive pipe, and the berm of the road.

2) Keep vegetation out of waterways as much as possible. Cattails and other vegetation restrict flow and prevent us from being able to see pipe openings. We will remove them during roadside mowing because they are in the right-of-way. Cattails

are considered an invasive species and should not be in ditches. We do roadside mowing a few times a year to take care of areas not normally mowed/maintained by property owners.

3) Ditch enclosures. If not installed properly using correct pipe size, pipe type, proper backfill, and grade/pitch – they will cause issues later by filling with silt/sediment and then the township will have to remove them. Remember, we are responsible for maintaining water flow from the road and maintaining conveyance of the water. We do not need permission to remove enclosures if they are in the right-of-way; however, we do not remove pipes without contacting an owner first. We have a permitting process that gives instructions for acceptable practice when enclosing a ditch. If your enclosure becomes blocked or damaged the township can remove the pipe and restore an open ditch. The township will not replace an enclosure. The cost AND maintenance of ditch enclosures are the SOLE responsibility of property owners. Open ditches are maintained by the township. It is much easier to have open ditches so we can see the water flow. It is difficult to know where a clog in an enclosure is without digging up the pipe(s) which can get very costly to the property owner.

4) Drive Pipes. We have a permitting process for drive pipes and we will assist you. Property owners must purchase the pipe and we will do the rest of the work for you. We will provide pipe specifications. If you're concerned about the condition of your drive pipe – call us. Most pipes cost around \$130-150.

Thank you for helping us keep water moving. If we all work together, we will be able to more effectively utilize your tax money to maintain our roads.



MEMORIAL DAY THANK YOU

2020 may go down as one of the strangest years ever. We've had to cancel a number of events and things that are in the normal course of our lives. We know that Memorial Day is a very important day to our community - so we worked together to produce the Memorial Day procession through the township. Our Memorial Day procession was a great success!

We'd like to thank Barry Brack for the use of his "hillbilly limousine" wagon; the awesome Hambden Township Fire Department; Glen Palmer for the reading of the veteran's names; the Morgan family for video editing and music; and every resident that came out and waved at us during our procession. A link to the video of the reading of the names at our memorial is on our website or go to YouTube and search for Hambden Township.

Your Fire Department • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

sold at auction. We also traded in the pumper tanker that responded to very few calls in the last few years. We evaluated the use of this truck and made the decision, along with the Township Trustees, to reduce the fleet and trade the truck in. This helped to reduce the price of the new truck by \$100,000 and will save the Township money on insurance and preventive maintenance costs. Because it will not impact our response and it is better to trade it while it was still worth some money. With that we also have a little more room inside the apparatus and were able to move some vehicles around.

The Township did receive money that helps us be better prepared and safer during this pandemic. The Township Trustees have allocated money to the Fire Department to make the workplace safer to work in. We have thus far replaced the cloth chairs with chairs that can be easily disinfected. We are also looking to change some of the things in the restrooms that will not require people to touch them, like touchless soap dispensers, touchless paper towel dispensers and touchless hand sanitizers throughout the station for our use as well as the publics. We are also replacing the EMS bags to bags that can be decontaminated better. Due to the fact that most training classes have been cancelled we are also looking at electronic equipment that supports virtual learning. We must protect our people and at the same time continue to train. After all we cannot stop doing what we do and cannot work from home.



VanBoxel SURPLUS

Van Boxel Discount Building Supplies at 13770 GAR Highway in Hambden Township formed in 2018 with a mission to supply only high-quality flooring, kitchen cabinets and building supplies at unbeatable prices.

Owner Kyle Van Boxel grew up in Hambden Township and graduated from Chardon High School. His wife Nicole, owner of neighboring Nickel's Cabin Cut's and Salon, grew up in Newbury Township and graduated from Newbury High School. After high school the couple moved to Bristolville Township, in Trumbull County, for 8 years until they saved up money to buy a property in Hambden.

When Kyle and Nicole talked about having a family there was only one town they wanted to raise their kids in, and of course - it's Hambden.

All of Kyle's best memories are from growing up in Hambden, from living on a farm on Pearl Road, to 5 years in Leaders Trailer Park, to a cozy white house on Chardon Windsor Road.

"We are proud to live in Hambden Township," Kyle said. Buyers travel from great distances to shop at the building supply business. "We mostly buy directly from the factories along with buying quantities that allow us get the biggest discount possible," Kyle said. "We currently have the second largest stock of waterproof flooring on site, in stock in northeast Ohio which was a huge accomplishment for us. "We also sell wholesale truckloads of roofing materials throughout the United States becoming one of the largest distributors of builder grade ice and water shield," Kyle said.

The company has grown exponentially in the last few years following the simple principle of buying in bulk and selling at low prices. None of Van Boxel Discount Building Supplies sales team work on commission so it is a very laid back no hassle atmosphere. "If we do not have the best product for your needs we will tell you who does," Kyle said.

"We are extremely proud to have successful businesses in Hambden Township limits, along with giving back to the community whenever possible. We do have future plans of opening up stores across the state with the same philosophy and mission."

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Hambden Resident

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Keith McClintock, *Vice Chairman*
Paul Molan, *Trustee*

Fiscal Officer

Mike Romans

Administrative Assistant

Mary Ann Dottore

Road Superintendent

David Heald

Zoning Inspector

Richard (RJ) Acquaviva

Meeting Dates at the Township Hall

Trustees:
First & Third Wednesday of the Month
6:30 p.m.

Zoning Commission:
First Tuesday of the Month
6:30 p.m.

In 2020 we repaired and resurfaced Locust Grove and Montclair Drive. We've done a lot of tree work and ditching as well as patching and crack sealing throughout the township. We've been preparing Holi Dale for new culverts by doing drainage improvements. This year we purchased a chipper so that we don't have to leave piles of branches along the road and wait until there's enough to rent a chipper. The chipper will also make storm cleanups faster and we won't have to pile debris in the township yard.

In 2021 we will be repairing and resurfacing Copperleaf Drive and doing major culvert replacements on Holi Dale and possibly Williams Road. We have applied for Ohio Public Works grant money to do improvements and resurfacing on Williams Road in 2022.

As the winter season nears please remember to inspect and secure mailboxes and posts for snowplow season. Remember to not push snow into or across the roads as it causes dangerous conditions for our drivers and may damage the cutting edge of the plows. Please do not pile snow in cul-de-sacs.

