



# THE TOWNSHIP VOICE



FALL 2005

NEWS FROM BAINBRIDGE TOWN HALL

## A Whole New Shopping Experience

An 85-acre area of land between Pettibone Road and Route 43 – once home to a racetrack – has been cleared to make way for The Shops at Market Place.

Zoned “commercial recreation” decades ago, the property extends east to Geauga Lake Road and west to Solon, where it butts up to eight acres of perpetual green space. Similar to Market Square at Four Corners, located across the street, the businesses will generate more than \$1.2 million in property taxes when fully developed. More than \$800,000 is anticipated to go to the Kenston Local School District and approximately \$200,000 to the township. The center, including a Home Depot and Target, is expected to open in the summer of 2006, and provide 700 jobs.

Because of the large employment base, trustees have entered into an arrangement with the City of Solon to create a Joint Economic Development District (JEDD), with the approval of the property owner, which permits the township to impose an income tax on employees working and businesses located in the district. The income tax will raise more than \$200,000 per year, of which Bainbridge will receive one-half and Solon the other half. A portion of the tax revenue will be used to make appropriate improvements around the shopping center and the remainder will be placed in township funds for other needs.



## Eagle Scout Projects Benefit Township



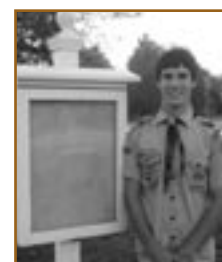
Bainbridge Township has been made richer due to the contributions of several young men working toward their Eagle Scout designation. Two years ago, Michael Schaefer of Troop 98 directed efforts to build a memorial kiosk (bulletin board) at River Road Park that posts team schedules and other athletic information. It is located near the pavilion and honors all service veterans.

Jeremy Ryan constructed an exercise warm-up station on the north side of River Road Park that can be used by joggers or walkers to stretch leg and arm muscles. He also will be painting marker lines on the path denoting distances. Jeremy is from Troop 150, which is affiliated with the Federated Church. The church sponsored Jeremy’s father and uncle when they became Eagle Scouts.



Jon Lucas of Troop 102 sold more than 65 green reflective address signs that more easily identify driveways at night. In concert with the Bainbridge Fire Department, which donated the signs, Jon was in charge of taking orders, purchasing necessary hardware and attaching the signs to mailboxes or posts. Residents who still wish to obtain these signs should call the fire department.

A bulletin board, similar to the one pictured, is under construction just inside the entrance of Restland Cemetery. Dan Olson of Troop 102 is handling the project. The bulletin board will list cemetery regulations, a schedule of when flowers can be placed and removed at gravesites, and a map to describe the location of sections and plots. According to sexton Don Mitchell, the new information board will be a welcomed addition to an always improving and expanding cemetery.



Congratulations and thank you, Eagle Scouts.

## Get Involved

Bainbridge residents regularly serve on various township boards and commissions and offer their talents in countless ways. The contributions have been enormous and are very much appreciated.

Each year, however, we look for new volunteers to offer fresh ideas, fill vacancies when committee members step down and to embark on new initiatives. Volunteer committee members may analyze zoning needs, hear zoning

appeals cases, improve our parks or set policy for our cemeteries. Why not share your expertise and interest? Call the town hall (543-9871) to learn more, or write to the township and describe your background and interests.

# You Have a RIGHT and RESPONSIBILITY

## ★ Voters Will Have a Full Plate on November 8

*"The future of this republic is in the hands of the American voter."*  
- Dwight D. Eisenhower

The 26th Amendment of the Constitution of the United States says if you are 18 you have the privilege and responsibility to vote on Tuesday, November 8. Here's a summary of what will be in store for you at the polls.

### Levies

Bainbridge Township is placing before voters two 2.00 mill replacement levies (Issues 15 and 16) for our road and police departments. A replacement levy is based on today's property value versus the value when the issue was originally passed, yet it is not as expensive as an additional levy. (See story below for more information about these levies.)

Kenston Local School District has a .01 mill levy reduction (Issue 38), which would decrease taxes for a \$100,000.00 fair market valuation by \$0.30.

Geauga County issues include a .70 mill twenty-year renewal (Issue 6) for the park district – slated to begin in 2007 – to preserve, protect, operate and improve parks, and two proposals (Issues 7 and 8) for the Department on Aging to maintain senior citizen services and facilities. Issue 7 is a 1.00 mill five-year renewal levy while Issue 8 is a .50 mill five-year new levy.

To determine specifically how the levy issues will affect your property taxes, go to "tax facts calculator" on the Geauga County Web site ([www.auditor.co.geauga.oh.us](http://www.auditor.co.geauga.oh.us)).

### Candidates

Two Bainbridge Township trustee positions are before the voters this fall. Because Chuck Hesse, a trustee since 1993 has decided not to seek reelection, at least one new trustee will take office in January. The two individuals with the most votes win. Candidates are Sam Desiderio, incumbent; Jeff Markley, Linda White and Garin Wiss. Three positions will be filled for the Kenston Local School District Board. Candidates include Joan Hamilton, incumbent; James Jimison; Gerry Moreno, incumbent; Bill Timmons, incumbent; and Gina Zahn.

### Issues

Five state issues will also appear. Issue 1 is a constitutional amendment to finance infrastructure capital improvements for local governments. If passed, the state will issue bonds to fund roads, bridges and water improvements. These bonds have assisted in the reconstruction of Pettibone and Haskins Roads. Issues 2 through 5 relate to voting and campaign finance.

*"Where annual elections end, there slavery begins."*  
- John Quincy Adams



## A Closer Look at Proposed Replacement Levies

### Police Department

The 2.00 mill replacement levy to maintain operations of the township's Police Department will replace a current 1976 levy. The net effect to residents will be an additional \$46.33 per \$100,000 valuation; the Geauga County Auditor's office estimates this levy will yield an additional \$637,142 for police department operations. Without the levy, the department projects a deficit of almost \$500,000 by the end of 2006.

Our police department operates primarily on revenues from five previously passed levies. The last one was approved by voters in 1998 and was expected to provide enough funds through 2004; this one will have last through 2006. The department also receives grants, fines and other receipts.

Funds from the new levy will be used primarily to maintain staff at current strength, although one officer will be added in 2006 and another in 2007. About 77 percent of the police department's budget is personnel-related. Other funds also will be used for communications equipment. None of the revenue collected from the proposed levy will be used to retire the debt for the new police station. Other funds have already been earmarked to pay for the new station.

Bainbridge residents created its police department 30 years ago.

### Road Department

The 2.00 mill road department levy will replace a 2.00 mill 1990 levy that expires in 2005. The net effect to residents will be an additional \$30.72 per \$100,000 valuation and an additional \$429,942 for township road operations.

The road department currently operates with money generated from the mandated millage (1.70 mill) and from levies passed in 1996 (2.00 mill) and 2004 (1.00 mill). Funds from this levy will be used to maintain staff at current levels and enable the township to continue with its road maintenance and snow removal programs.

# WEATHERING THE WINTER

## Advice from the Experts

Our road, police and fire departments want residents to be safe and warm this winter. Here are some words of wisdom to get you through the season.

### Keep Roads Clear

Use common sense when the snow falls, reminds the road department.

- ✳ Keep your garbage cans off the road. When snow plow drivers are forced to swerve around your trash, they put themselves and other drivers at risk.
- ✳ Do not park vehicles in a cul-de-sac, especially those with landscaped centers.
- ✳ Do not allow children to play in any large piles of snow located near the roadway. The plows cannot see them.
- ✳ Do not plow snow onto or across the roadway. This is not only a hazard, it is against the law.
- ✳ Do not push snow across the road and pile it on the berms, as it eventually hardens like ice and causes plows to cross the center line into traffic.

### Drive Safely

Sometimes the best winter driving strategy is to stay home. However, if you must venture out, the police department asks that you keep the following in mind:

- ✳ Keep your car or truck in top shape.
- ✳ Allow extra time for slower driving speeds.
- ✳ Stopping distances are not as great with slick roads; when following other vehicles, allow more space between your car and other vehicles.
- ✳ Listen to the weather forecast.

### Be on Alert for Fire Hazards

The fire department warns that snow and ice, fireplaces, holiday decorations and furnaces can be dangerous if not handled appropriately. Some tips:

- ✳ Check batteries in smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.
- ✳ Ensure generators, flashlights and auxiliary heating are “ready” if needed.
- ✳ Practice fire safety escape drills and establish an outdoor meeting place.
- ✳ Keep snow and ice from obstructing address number markings.
- ✳ Keep snow from hampering access to fire hydrants.
- ✳ Keep snow and ice buildup from blocking access from possible escape doors.
- ✳ Have your furnace inspected and serviced before the heating season.
- ✳ Have fireplaces and wood burning stoves inspected and cleaned prior to the heating season.
- ✳ Ensure that fireplace screens or barriers are utilized when operating fireplace.
- ✳ NEVER use a grill, stove or range as a heating source
- ✳ NEVER use gasoline in kerosene portable heaters or flammable liquids to start fires.
- ✳ NEVER place discarded fireplace ashes inside or next to a structure.
- ✳ Keep all flammables at least 36 inches from portable heaters.
- ✳ Avoid overloading electrical circuits with inadequate or multiple extension cords.
- ✳ Avoid use of live candles as decorations.
- ✳ NEVER leave candles unattended or use as decorations on trees.
- ✳ Use freshly cut trees and water appropriately to avoid drying.
- ✳ Keep tree away from sparks or heat source.

Please visit [www.bainbridgfire.com](http://www.bainbridgfire.com) for more information about holiday and winter safety or call the fire department at 440-543-9873.

## Storm Water Pollution Solutions

During the winter months, the frozen ground prevents the absorption of storm water. As a result, storm water and any pollutants it contains runs into our storm sewers and ditches and, from there, into our streams and lakes. Do your part to prevent the pollution of our waterways.

- ✳ Minimize the use of road salt on your driveways and walks.
- ✳ Eliminate washing or rinsing your car in your garage. If your garage runoff empties into a storm water drain, ditch, river, or lake, pollutants are likely to enter the water system.
- ✳ Don't spread fertilizers. When the ground is frozen, this material is not absorbed and may be swept away by the rain and into our storm water systems.

If you have any questions about what you can do to help prevent storm water pollution this winter, please contact Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District at (440) 834-1122 or visit [www.geaugaswcd.com](http://www.geaugaswcd.com)



*In late April, the township was struck with a heavy, limb-breaking snowstorm. The township immediately deployed chipping contractors, but also asked the road crew to use the Gradall and front-loaders to remove debris.*

*As resident Eileen Dickerson remarked, “Thanks guys ... for removing big piles of brush and also for the great job you do all year long!”*



*Every June the township sponsors a clean-up weekend for residents who fill eight to ten 40-yard dumpsters with trash and other household debris. Employees used their muscle and heavy machinery to lift everything from old bicycles and tires to televisions and refrigerators.*

# The Right Guy for the Job

As a result of the very active use of our parks, and upon the recommendation of the Bainbridge Township Park Board, trustees hired a part time park manager this year. Bob Ford, the successful candidate, will maintain these valuable facilities, coordinate their use, ensure compliance by user groups with applicable rules, and plan for maximum utilization.

Bob had lived in Bainbridge for 30 years before moving to Auburn where he resides with his wife Sue and their two children, Trish and Eric. He owns a construction company for his full time employment but has always been active in the community. From a recreational standpoint, he has been very involved in KAA and KCE, particularly in grooming fields for baseball use. Prior to joining the township, he had volunteered to maintain the ball diamonds at Settler's and River Road Parks, which are now his principal responsibilities in the summer. In the fall, he concentrates on the soccer fields.



The need for this formal position arose when Bainbridge created River Road Park. Previously, the township's Park Board coordinated much of the park activities, but with the additional park – on top of ever-increasing park use and the need for local athletic teams from Kenston to train at our parks during construction of the new high school – the need for someone to care for the facilities became very apparent.

Bob has spent countless hours this year reacting to the needs of these parks (just ask his wife) and is now focusing on future improvements. Says Bob about his new position, "I am pleased when I see others having fun."

## We Tip our Hats!

At the end of this year, Chuck Hesse will retire from his post as Township Trustee

after 13 years of service to the township. Chuck began his involvement in our community with Kenston Athletic Association, first as a coach and then as its president for a number of years. He began his governmental service to the township as a member of the zoning commission for two

years and then was appointed to the township board of trustees to complete the remaining term of Bill Repke, who became county commissioner. Chuck then went on to win three four-year terms of his own.



As a trustee, he has been at the forefront of securing funding from outside sources

for paving projects (Knowles Industrial Park) and for our seniors (Senior Center addition at Chagrin Falls Park Community Center), as well as initiating the pursuit of federal funds for the purchase of Centerville Mills Park.

Chuck has been a hardworking, diligent public servant to the residents of Bainbridge Township and his shoes will be enormous to fill. His

vision, dedication and problem-solving ability will be missed, and we wish him well. If you see Chuck in the grocery store or in church or at the movies, remember the hours he toiled on your behalf ... and thank him.

## Caution Urged When Filling Ditches

Trustees adopted a policy recently that outlines a procedure for property owners who wish to fill in the ditch in front of their property on a township road. Prior to contracting such work, it is necessary to call the township road department at 543-9874 and advise of your intent. Applications must be completed detailing your request and acknowledging your obligation to maintain the installed pipe in a manner that will permit the water to flow without obstruction. The ditch policy assures that any change in the culvert will not impede water flow or affect your neighbor's property. A fee and inspections are required.

If your property is located on a county road, the Geauga County Engineer's office should be contacted. Its approval process is similar.

## Fire Department: Improvements continue with personnel and equipment

In a move to improve response times, trustees approved an increase in the number of on-call personnel to four staff members for the day shift (6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.) and three staff members for the evening shift (6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.). The evening crew may be expanded in mid-2006 if resources are available. We are fortunate to also have dozens of volunteers who assist our fire department with major calls.

In addition to the extra personnel, the trustees approved the purchase of an ambulance (\$150,000) and are considering a tanker (\$450,000+). Both will be delivered in 2006. Most of the cost of the ambulance will be covered by funds received from EMS-billing of nonresidents. Personnel and equipment costs also are paid from levy revenues.

These and other improvements are outlined in the department's five-year plan.

## Frohring Funds Are Good Investments

Investments for the Paul Frohring estate tax funds have paid more than \$3.4 million in interest and capital gains since trustees adopted a policy of placing the original \$15 million into a “laddered” securities portfolio of bonds with a one- to five-year maturation. In an updated report to the township, Alan Weilacher, who is a senior vice president at Smith Barney and a Bainbridge resident, reported that the annual projected income will rise slightly due to the recent rate increases by the Federal Reserve. Mr. Weilacher works within the investment policy guidelines established by the township and in accordance with Ohio state law. The structure of the portfolio provides the township with liquidity and predictability.

Currently, approximately \$770,000 remains in an interest bearing money market in case funds are needed in the short term, and \$9,358,000 is in longer-term U.S. government agency securities. The total balance in the fund, on October 10, 2005, was \$10,128,000.

Trustees expect to add another \$1.4 million to the fund by the end of the year when it receives a grant from the federal government to assist with the township’s purchase of Centerville Mills Park.

## Government Grant Cinches Centerville

Our nearly two-year wait is over. The U.S. Congress approved approximately 80 percent of the funding necessary to assist the township in purchasing 163 acres of protected green space formerly owned by the Cleveland YMCA. While title to the property – officially known as Centerville Mills Park – will not be transferred until the grant is delivered, the township has assumed responsibility for all operations and encourages residents to swim, hike, camp and, if snow is sufficient, sled and cross-country ski.



The township is pleased that many of you already have been enjoying the park for recreation and leisure activities. Over the summer, CYO of Cleveland provided day camping at the park, with more than 100 campers attending each nine-week period. About 200 campers came from the 44023 ZIP code and more than 60 Bainbridge families went swimming at the park’s large pool. Trustees will soon review plans for 2006 and ways to enhance public use of the facilities. Meanwhile, residents should be aware that the park is open from sunrise to sunset, and facility rental agreements are available at the park office.

## A Salute to Rick Thomas



After providing nearly 28 years of service to the township’s road department, Assistant Superintendent Rick Thomas will retire in early November. Rick will give up his winter duties in Bainbridge for rest and relaxation in sunny Florida, although he expects to return and enjoy northeast Ohio each summer.

During his years of service here, Rick was a senior maintenance worker and foreman before assuming his current position five years ago. He noted that when he first started, the township road department had a \$300,000 budget and serviced 35 miles of road, many of which

were gravel. Today, the department has a \$1.7 million budget and is responsible for 85 miles of road. Rich also noted that a five-ton combination dump truck/plow cost \$28,000 two decades ago. A truck now costs \$100,000.

Best wishes Rick and thank you for your many years of public service.

## Happy Trails to You

When the township’s master recreation plan was developed a few years ago, a large number of residents responding to the survey indicated they would like to see trails and greenways throughout the township. As a result of that direction, the trustees formed the Walkways and Bikeways Committee of interested residents. The committee’s proposed trail blueprint, prepared in 2002, continues to be refined with its objective of connecting major residential areas of the township to each other, as well as to parks, schools, shopping, churches, and the library.

Currently, the committee is reviewing the blueprint, discussing alternate routes, identifying costs for construction and maintenance, and investigating sources of funding.

Additionally, the trustees believe they will survey township residents again to determine their desire for a trails network as described above. The Trails “blueprint” can be viewed on the township web site at [www.bainbridgetwp.com](http://www.bainbridgetwp.com).

*Special Reports, Trails Map Image.*



# Some Final Notes and Reminders

- Discussions continue with interested parties regarding future use of the Early Learning Center (ELC) located on Route 306 in the heart of Bainbridge. The township currently owns the structure and property and will take possession next summer. The school was exchanged for the Howard property (owned by the township), which is the current site of the new Kenston High School. Kenston Community Education, which provides adult and continuing education for our area, has expressed an interest in using many of the classrooms. The Geauga County Department on Aging is considering the school for its Seniors' program, which provides hot lunches and activities for those who are 65 years of age or older. The department's proposal is contingent on passage of levies currently on the ballot.
- Restland Cemetery is expanding. With our inventory of gravesites diminishing, plans are well underway to expand the cemetery to the south and construct 1,200 new plots. Trees and brush will be removed over the winter. The expansion will be completed by the fall of 2006.
- Mike Swigonski and Jonathan Day, fireman from the township, have volunteered their services to the southern states still recovering from the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. These firefighters packed their bags on October 6 and joined three other men from Geauga County to cover for Louisiana firemen on leave to rebuild or repair their homes. Our firefighters have been assigned to St. Bernard Parish, near New Orleans, and are expected to return after a two-week assignment. Other communities in Geauga County have also responded to a general call from the State of Ohio. We salute them!
- Our community parks are valued resources, used by individuals of all ages, all day long. Please do your part to keep these lovely facilities clean. Please discard rubbish and pop bottles in containers, and if your pooch makes a mess, clean it up. Too many "accidents" have been occurring, particularly on the walking paths. Thank you!



Mike Swigonski (left), Jonathan Day (right).

# Township Phone Numbers, Office Hours, and Meeting Times

<b>Bainbridge Police</b>	Environmental Protection Agency.....1-330-425-9171
EMERGENCY..... 911	
Non-emergency.....543-8252	<b>Utilities</b>
<b>Bainbridge Fire</b>	Ameritech .....1-800-660-1000
EMERGENCY..... 911	ALLTEL (543 exchange).....1-330-656-8200
Non-emergency..... 543-9873	Dominion East Ohio.....216-361-2345
<b>Township Offices</b> .....543-9871	First Energy .....216-861-9000
Trustees	Adelphia Cable .....1-800-686-2510
Clerk	
Zoning	
General Information	
Road Department .....543-9874	
Burns-Lindow Building.....543-1244	Town Hall Office Hours.....8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Kenston Board of Education .....543-9677	Trustees Meetings.....7:00 p.m. Mondays
Auburn-Bainbridge Recreation Board .....543-2552	Zoning Commission Meetings .....7:30 p.m. second & last Thursday of the month
Gauga County Offices.....564-7131	Zoning Board of Appeals.....7:30 p.m. third Thursday of the month
Automobile License Bureau .....1-440-729-3648	
Ohio Department of Transportation .....834-4441	
Trustees: Sam Desiderio, 543-5814; Charles Hesse, 543-7425; Christopher Horn, 543-1355; Township Clerk, Sue Angelino, 543-9871.	
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The Township Voice  
 Bainbridge Township  
 17826 Chillicothe Road  
 Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44023

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