



## At Your Service:

- Michael Todd, Chairman, Police Commissioner
- Mead Wilkins, Bridge and Grounds Superintendant
- Rita Holt, Fire Commissioner and Zoning Liaison

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## MEDINA TOWNSHIP

### A Note from the Chairman

**Michael Todd**

I'm Mike Todd, Chairman of the Medina Township Board of Trustees, and I'd like to welcome you to the inaugural issue of the Medina Township Hometown News, the Township's new newsletter. My fellow trustees, Rita Holt and Mead Wilkins and I have dedicated ourselves to opening and maintaining constant communication between the

citizens of Medina Township and ourselves, and this newsletter is a continuation of these efforts. The Hometown News will be a great source of information about the township, its people and places, and the great things that are happening here.

The newsletter compliments the Township's new website. The goal for the last three years has been to bring

transparency to the workings of the Township and to keep residents involved. The three of us strongly believe that the more the community is involved the better the Township will be.

All the best to you,

Mike Todd  
Chairman, Medina Township  
Board of Trustees

### Proud to be a Township Resident

As most residents have seen, Blakslee Park (29 acres at Fenn Road and Route 3) is finally coming on line. There are three professionally installed baseball and two soccer fields. They will be ready for children and adults to begin playing next spring. A grand opening is being planned for families in the community for April, 2009.

The park is named after the Blakslee family from whom the land was purchased, but who was also one of the original pioneer families. History indicates that in 1820, Mr. Gad Blakeslee had 18 of his sheep killed by wolves in the Township, while Burrit Blakslee caught several otters in the Rocky River during the first few years of the settlement.

The adjacent Medina Center Cemetery has been given the attention it deserves. The

cemetery has gone from a blighted area (according to the Medina Sun) to a place of dignity and honor again.



The Township's new maintenance garage is ready to be occupied this month. There is an increased salt shed capacity to make sure that township residents will have safe roads this winter. In front of the maintenance building is a "Home Town Hero" monument to honor Township residents who have served to protect our freedom and given their life in the process. This has been a volunteer effort that is greatly appreciated and adds value to this park complex.

Also you may have seen changes at the Township Hall at Fenn and Huffman Roads. The roof that is over 100 years old is being replaced and overgrown trees and shrubs have been removed.

The Township has a long and proud history dating back to 1818. It is important for all of us, including new residents, to be connected with the past and have a sense of continuity with our roots.

Hopefully you can see by the work being done currently, that the Trustees are proud of the Township, its' history and want residents to share that pride as we move forward in making this a great place to live, work and raise a family.

## Medina Township Officers Receive Awards



Officer Cliff Nicholson and Officer Dave Maslyk honored receive awards.

### David Arbogast Chief of Police

Safe Community Coalition honored officers on September 26, 2008 for outstanding service in traffic enforcement. Medina County can be proud that so far in 2008 we have not had one alcohol related fatality to date. Medina Township had two officers recognized for

their efforts. Officer Cliff Nicholson was awarded outstanding traffic officer for 2008. He made over 900 traffic stops that resulted in 100 motorists who were driving under suspension and 28 DUI arrests.

Officer Dave Maslyk was awarded the top DUI enforcement officer with 38 arrests. Officer Maslyk only

had six months of service from the reporting period. We are proud of the efforts by officers Nicholson and Maslyk for getting 62 drunk drivers off our roads. The Township made 102 DUI arrests for the reporting period ending June 30, 2008.

## Comprehensive Zoning Plan

### Mead Wilkins

Medina Township applied for a grant in 2006 and was awarded \$5000.00 to revise and update its' Comprehensive Plan. This important plan is a document that defines zoning regulations, policy and areas of developmental growth as well as restrictions. The current plan was adopted in 1983 with minor revisions in 2002.

Eighteen township residents have been meeting regularly with a professional planner and community developer to examine each area in the township and define its' unique characteristics, attributes, preferred land uses and recommend density

and/or open space requirements. Reaching consensus has not always been easy for the group as there are business needs, suburban needs and rural needs being expressed simultaneously. How can we preserve the essential rural character of the township, acknowledge the need for high density housing for young families or seniors and still support vital business interests?

Saying we don't want to change is not an option, we already have! The dynamics and growth of the community, the job market, fuel prices, environmental concerns and the areas of economic development have evolved

dramatically over the last 25 years whether you want to admit it or not.

The trustees believe that being proactive, by engaging diverse community interests in a strenuous dialogue and planning for the future is the best way to preserve the quality of life that we all enjoy and want to protect.

Soon there will be public hearings to review and get input regarding the various elements in this plan. It is hoped that residents will take ample advantage of this opportunity to be heard and help determine the future state of the Township.

*"Saying we don't want to change is not an option, we already have!"*

## Wal-Mart Helps Save Lives

### David Arbogast Chief of Police

Wal-Mart manager Cory Howell presented a check to Medina Township Police for \$1500.00 to purchase an

Automated External Defibrillator (AED). Chief Arbogast said "We know this device will save lives".

We were fortunate that

Montville had an AED in their patrol car when a call went out that a patron at a local bar was in full arrest. Using the AED, officers were able to save the mans' life.

## Township Residents benefit from Community Partners

### **Medina Township Police Department- Community Oriented Policing in Action.**

The Medina Township Police Department has aggressively undertaken an effort to become actively involved in the community. Under the leadership of Police Chief David Arbogast, the Police Department has participated in a number of service, education and outreach efforts in order to proactively engage the community. The Department's philosophy of Community Oriented Policing works to make sure citizens know that the Police Department is an active part of the community, and not just a law enforcement organization.

The MTPD and its Community Partners sponsored the second annual Clean Up Medina Township event in April. This event saw the Department and over 80 volunteers pick up 1.35 tons

(120 bags) of litter throughout Medina Township. In May, the Department teamed with Century Harley-Davidson to provide a bicycle and motorcycle safety event to the community at large, including a bicycle helmet giveaway.

At a number of public events or schools, our officers can be found, presenting educational programs and distributing items to attendees. The Home DNA kits, funded by the Community Partners program, are a particularly useful item, given to kids and parents to make sure that families have genetic material available for police in the event that it is needed. Most recently, the department hosted and staffed a booth at the Medina County Fair.

These events have taken place at absolutely no cost to Township taxpayers, thanks to the support of the Medina County Police Department's

Community Partners. The Partners, an initiative spearheaded by Chief Arbogast, are a consortium of local businesses, individuals and organizations who have donated to help ensure that the community outreach and educational projects of the department can be done without cost to the taxpayers.

If you are interested in becoming a MTPD Community Partner, please contact Chief David Arbogast at 330-723-1408.

The Department is always looking for more events to attend, and groups to speak to. If you know of an event, please contact Laurie Shoemaker with the Department at [lshoemaker@mtpd.net](mailto:lshoemaker@mtpd.net) with details. If possible, she will arrange for the Department to be represented at your event.



*Sgt. Zieja explaining bicycle safety during 2008 "Bike to Biker" event.*

## Zoning Department

The Zoning Office is your first contact with Medina Township when building a house, shed, accessory building, garage (if separate from the house), deck, hot tub, installing a pool (above ground or in ground), or pond. We review your Zoning Application, assisting you if necessary. We look at where your structure will be placed on the lot.

You must have a Zoning Permit before you can build anything on your property.

The job of the Zoning office is to make sure that what you build is permitted and in the correct location on your

property as required by your individual districts and three commercial districts.

If you are in a Homeowner's Association, an approval letter from them is also required. We have 10 business days to issue a permit.

The fee is based upon square footage. Upon approval, we will contact you. You must then go to the Medina County Building Department for building permits.

This is just some of what we do as Zoning Inspectors. You can view and/or

download the Zoning Resolutions Book from the website [www.medinatownship.com](http://www.medinatownship.com), click on Zoning Inspectors and have access to all Zoning information. We will be glad to talk to you about any matters concerning Zoning; please give us a call, Monday through Thursday 9:00am until noon (closed Friday). Elaine Ridgley, Zoning Inspector  
Mary Ann Heiss, Assistant Zoning Inspector  
Phone: 330-721-1997, Fax: 330-725-2945

*Good zoning helps to make good neighborhoods, residential and commercial.*

## To Honor and Remember



*"Memorial to be placed at Blakslee Park."*

A memorial will be placed at Blakslee Park thanks to Project Medina County Hometown Hero.

What is Project Medina County Hometown Hero? Carl Hicks, II is a Marine veteran. He started Project Hometown Hero to raise money to erect memorials in the cities or towns in Medina County for our soldiers who have paid the ultimate price.

The mission of PROJECT MEDINA COUNTY HOMETOWN HERO is to establish a memorial in the hometown of every service member from Medina County killed in action in the war on terror in Iraq or Afghanistan. Sadly, we have one here in

the township by the name of **PFC. Devin J. Grella**, whose family lives on Tompkins Road.

When a serviceman or woman is lost on the battlefield, it has become customary to arrange their fallen comrade's boots, rifle, and helmet while surviving members of their squad gather around to remember and pray. This symbolic arrangement is called the Battle Cross.

The memorial is a life size reproduction of this Battlefield Cross cast in high quality bronze, suitable for outdoor display. A memorial plaque is attached to the base with the service

member's name and unit information. We have been working on the project for over a year and are now in the process of displaying the Memorial at Blakeslee Park. Brick pavers are being placed as a walkway to the memorial. Information on purchasing brick pavers can be picked up at Town Hall. Showing your support will provide funds for the completion of the memorial and additional monies raised over and above the cost of this memorial will be divided among the fallen soldiers' families.

## Firefighter Training Simulates the Heat

**Parker Browne  
Medina Twp. Fire Dept.**



*"Medina Township Firemen participating in the Flashover Fire Behavior Training."*

A veteran Lieutenant and eight veteran firefighters are currently taking part in a 136 hour advanced State of Ohio Certified Firefighter Level 2 training course. The course began in September and will continue until April, 2009. Captain Shawn Kasson is the lead instructor for the program that will qualify fire department personnel from Firefighter-1 to Firefighter-2. The course is supported by The University of Akron Training Center of fire, and Medina County Career Center.

Part of the training, on Saturday, Sept. 20, included a Fire-Behavior Flashover Simulator which came to the Township as part of the

outreach program from the Ohio Fire Academy. The large trailer simulator provides classroom and practical skills training so that each class member is able to see and feel the dynamics of a controlled interior structure fire as it progresses through the growth and fully developed phases; as the heat increases, and begins to flashover. In flashover, the temperature in the room reaches a point where the combustible contents of the room may ignite all at once.

In addition, two recruit firefighters are currently attending resident Firefighter 2 classes, one at the Ohio Fire Academy and one at Cuyahoga Community College. Each will end in November. Fire Chief Mark

Crumley is pleased that upon completion of these trainings, all fire/rescue response officers and firefighters will be trained to the professional level.

MTFD is a paid-on-call department with 35 officers and firefighters, operating from two stations with 9 fire/rescue apparatus and support vehicles.

*Contact: W. Parker Browne,  
CFPS, Staff Support Officer*

*Medina Twp. Fire Dept.*

*330-612-3567*

*Brownfire@aol.com*

# What's next in our Township?

## Mead Wilkins, Road and Bridge Superintendent

You might think that by all the projects going on currently, that the Trustees are done for the year. That would be wrong. Here are several important works in progress that will enhance the quality of life for Township residents:

**Nettleton Road.** The Road Department applied for and was granted Issue I funding in the amount of \$ 257,000.00 to repair the dangerous and deteriorating constricted vertical sag and curve on Nettleton Road. There has been a substantial increase in traffic in this area that made this an urgent concern.

**Siman Park.** In 1999, 33 acres were purchased by the

Township east of where **Route 3 and Hamlin intersect.** Negotiations are proceeding to open this up to the public as a wildflower nature preserve with hiking trails and a picnic shelter.

**Scenic Byway to Historic Medina.** An application has been completed and sent to the State of Ohio to designate Route 3 from I. 71 to the Medina Square as a scenic byway. The purpose is to capture the natural beauty and historic nature of this area.

**5 Year Plan.** An evaluative process was completed with the County Engineers Office to designate and prioritize future road maintenance needs. Hood Road has been recently repaved. Striping at Grande Blvd. and several other intersections were

completed. Truck damage on Cook Road will be repaired prior to winter and several other drainage problems and damaged sections have been fixed.

**Debbie Drive.** Although a lot of citizens may be unfamiliar with the problems on Debbie Drive, the residents living there are not. This a long standing drainage and road deterioration problem on a residential street north of Route 18 and west of Windfall Road. The County Engineers will be presenting various options at public meeting to address the cost benefit analysis issue.

As you can see, the Road and Bridges Department has been hard at work ensuring that Township residents are safe, now and into the future.

*"The Road and Bridges Department has been hard at work ensuring that the Township residents are safe, now and into the future."*

# Administration

## Rita Holt, Trustee - Fire Commissioner and Zoning Liaison

Before my election as a Medina Twp. Trustee, I knew the challenges, especially financial, that were facing the township. I must compliment both Trustee Todd and Trustee Wilkins for their financial acumen,

communication skills and the completion of projects without asking the residents for more money.

It has been a pleasure serving with these two gentlemen.

For me, the best part of being a trustee is working with our residents. If we cannot resolve the problem,

we refer residents to the appropriate governmental agency. We are all aware of today's economics and have a very conservative approach with all issues. That is what "grass roots government" is all about!

*"The best part of being a trustee is working with our residents."*

# Township now has a Certified Safety Seat Inspector

Child Passenger Safety (CPS) professionals have observed high levels of misuse of child restraint systems (CRSs) for many years. A recent study conducted for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) observed one or more forms of misuse in 79.5 percent of the seats inspected.

Our Township has provided training for Laurie Shoemaker, MTPD Administrative Assistant, who

is now certified in Medina County to conduct safety seat inspections.



The Department will be involved in many upcoming events offering free inspections. Together with Medina County Health

Department, we just recently offered inspections at Home Depot in Medina which turned out to be a great success. A schedule of upcoming free inspections, sponsored by Medina County Health Department, may be found on our website or picked up at Town Hall or the Police Station. You may also schedule an appointment to have your child's safety seat inspected.

Call 330-723-1408 for an appointment.

## Medina Township

3799 Huffman Road

### EMERGENCY - 911

TWP. ADMINISTRATION:  
(330) 725-5713

ZONING OFFICE:  
(330) 721-1997

POLICE DISPATCH:  
(330) 723-5191

Non-Emergency Police Station:  
(330) 723-1408

Non-Emergency Fire Dept.:  
(330) 723-6900

Fire Inspections:  
(330) 723-1943

Roads Department:  
(330) 764-8767

### **Trustees:**

**Michael Todd, Chairman**  
330-722-2572

**Rita Holt**  
330-725-8681

**Mead Wilkins**  
330-723-2747

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.medinatownship.com](http://www.medinatownship.com)

## MEDINA TOWNSHIP

3799 Huffman Road  
Medina, OH 44256

## Did You Know?

### Interesting facts about Medina Township:

- Medina Township was founded in 1818.
- Medina Township officials live and work in close contact with the people they serve – a personal touch rarely available in other forms of government.
- The Township holds a town meeting every other Thursday of each month. (Dates and times are posted on sign in front of Town Hall) These meetings are open to the public.
- Medina Township has four elected non-partisan officials. There are three Trustees and one fiscal officer. The fiscal officer serves as our Treasurer as well. These officials function efficiently and can accomplish more, for less tax money, than any other form of local government. They face the same basic problem of how best to serve the people, but do it in a rural community.

### Interesting Facts about Medina Township Police Officers:

- All Medina Township Officers have been through a two day intensive Drivers Training.
- All Officers in Medina Township have completed C.I.T. (Crisis Intervention Training). They are the only Department in Medina County that has that distinction.
- Chief Arbogast has a Master Degree in Public Administration and soon Sgt. Zieja (December of this year 2008) will have a Master's Degree in Public Administration as well.
- Sgt. Polomsky and Officer Nicholson have an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice.