

CLARIDON EMAIL NEWS & NOTES

January 3, 2022

Hello Claridon!

I hope you had a joyful Christmas and I also wish you a very happy New Year.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Firstly, I am reaching out to encourage you to be a part of one of three groups I'm creating. Please consider coming aboard! These groups can work at their own pace. It's simply residents investing a little into our community. Reach out to me if you are interested or have any questions about what is involved in the groups. The three groups are;

Claridon History (currently 2 residents are aboard...thank you!)

Claridon Events (Currently 4 residents are aboard...thank you!)

Claridon Cemetery Beautification and Restoration (currently 0 residents are aboard)

AQUILLA VILLAGE

For those of you who don't already know, Aquilla Village is in the process of becoming fully independent from Claridon Township. They have been operating independently for many years. We expect them to achieve this milestone during calendar year 2022. There are many wonderful folks in Aquilla Village. We wish them the very best and are proud to call them neighbors.

OUR FIRE CONTRACTS

As many of you know, our Township contracts with two private fire departments, Chardon Fire Department and Burton Fire Department. We have three year contracts with each. Both contracts come to an end on December 31, 2021. We negotiated new contracts with both. These contracts will be in effect on January 1, 2021. We have enough funds to support the contracts (including years 2023 and 2024 for Chardon Fire) so, proposed fire levies will not be necessary. The new contracts are posted on the Township website under Community Links (<https://claridontownship.com/community-information/>). If you have any questions about them, including what to do if you receive an EMS bill after services rendered, contact me. JTiber@ClaridonTownship.com or 216-276-8342.

OUR ROAD FUND

Our road fund is minimal. Our proposed 5-year, 1.76 mill Road Levy failed on the November ballot. Most of you are well aware of how our spending cuts and streamlining different aspects of operations in order to put off proposing a road levy. Most are also aware that we are operating on one single 30-year old levy. Further, many are aware that we suspended collection on a Fire/EMS levy by the same amount we proposed the Road Levy however, the Levy still failed by a narrow margin. I looked up how Claridon voted for the County Road Renewal Levy. That renewal levy passed by a large margin in the county but, according to the Board of Election data,

it passed in Claridon by a very narrow margin. To some degree, we can be proud that our residents don't just check 'yes' when it comes to levies. We should continue to be discerning. When it comes to our township though, I urge you to contact me and ask me to justify a new Road Levy. All trustees must have solid justification for even asking for more funding from residents. Our funding is well below the minimum necessity to maintain the 14 plus miles of roads we are responsible for. We will continue to make do with what we have as best we can.

EVENTS

Township events is the primary way to get that old-school sense of community back into Claridon! Please check our Dates & Links page (<https://claridontownship.com/community-information/>) and set your calendars. Particularly, 'Get Down with the Town' has been specifically created for neighbors to meet neighbors. Get Down with the Town is held at Claridon Recreation Park on the first Sunday evening of August each year.

TOWNSHIP HISTORY AND THE OTA

The Pilgrim fathers brought the township form of government to America in 1620. This unit of local government eventually spread as far west as the Rocky Mountains. Today, it is found in 20 states, known as the town or township. There are 1,308 townships in Ohio.

The Ohio Township Association (OTA) and the Geauga County Township Association (GCTA)

In 1926, a joint committee of the 86th Ohio General Assembly - which had been studying local government in Ohio - issued a report that recommended “the immediate abolition of the township and the transfer of its remaining functions to the county.” The committee recommended that a bill be introduced to abolish townships in Ohio.

A number of township leaders recognized that a united front was needed to respond to this threat. Chief among them was Col. E.L. Kingsbury of Perrysburg Township. Kingsbury was 83 years old at the time and a veteran of the Civil War, but that didn't stop him from traveling around Ohio to urge trustees and clerks to form county township associations.

In 1928, Joe R. Thomas of Vermilion Township in Ashland County proposed a resolution to form such an association, which the Ashland County Township Association adopted. Soon a committee was formed to pursue the creation of a state association, led by Thomas. His committee sent letters to all 6,000 township officials in Ohio, notifying them of a meeting to be held in Columbus on June 28, 1928, to consider forming the state association.

On that day, 240 officials from 51 counties met and created the State Association of Trustees and Clerks, which would be organized by a county association in each county. A constitution was adopted with one amendment, raising the annual dues from 50 cents to \$1.

An annual meeting of the state association was to be held on the last Thursday of January each year, which is one reason why the OTA's annual Winter Conference is held the last week in January.

Thanks to the efforts of these early leaders, no bill was ever introduced to abolish townships. In fact, every member of the joint committee eventually repudiated the report that called for such

action. It was later revealed that none of the “experts” who worked on the study had ever served as a township official or had even lived in a township.

Today, this state association is called the Ohio Township Association. 87 of the 88 counties in Ohio have county chapters. Cuyahoga County is the only county that does not have a chapter. That's because they only have two (2) townships in the county, Chagrin Falls Township and Olmsted Township. Olmsted Township was invited into the neighboring Lorain County Township Association and the Geauga County Township Association has welcomed Chagrin Falls Township. This means that all 1,308 Ohio townships are members of the Ohio Township Association.

Our chapter meets quarterly. It is made up of 'Active Members' which include all township Trustees and Fiscal Officers and 'Associate Members' which include members of our county Sheriff's office, Auditor's office, Prosecutor's office, various Fire Chiefs, township zoning inspectors, and many other township and county employees. There are more than 110 members in our chapter.

Each year in late January, all the chapters still get together in Columbus for Winter Conferences. It's a chance to further our education on the township form of governance and a great way to network.

On behalf of myself and fellow Trustees, Mr. Roger Miller and Mr. Cooper Sherman, until next time, have a great New Year! ...And contact us any time.

Jonathan Tiber
Claridon Township Trustee
216-276-8342