



Claridon News & Notes March, 2024

Greetings Claridon!

In this issue of Claridon News & Notes (it's a bit longer than usual!);

Public Forum

Community Easter Egg Hunt

Claridon Community Helps, Total Eclipse of the Heart Breakfast

The Claridon Eclipse

Learn how the new state mandated O&M program will affect you and your septic system.

Commercial Cannabis

Fiscal items

Further Education

A state take-over attempt

Closing

April 4 - Public Forum

Don't miss it! The Claridon Land Use Committee, which is comprised of caring and dedicated Claridon residents, invite you to come to the Claridon Land Use Forum on **April 4 at 6:30pm.**

A survey was sent to all households in our community. The results help us discover the will of the people in regards to zoning and other aspects of our community ([attached is the summary of the results](#)). A lot of work has been put into this effort by both the Land Use Committee and our dedicated residents on

your Zoning Commission Board. More work will be put into the organization and execution of this Public Forum. Individual stations, representing individual aspects of land use, will be set up to make it easier for all to understand. Some members of our BZA and Zoning Commission will be present. The fabulous folks from the Geauga Planning Commission will be there as well. They have been such a big help! Please honor these efforts and come learn what they have learned. Public discussion will be on the agenda. Before changes our made, your opinion matters and must be heard!

Refer to the 'Dates & Links' page on the town website for more Claridon events.

March 23, 11:00a - Easter Egg Hunt (and lots more!)

For the 21st year, dedicated residents will be putting on an Easter Egg Hunt for children. But that's not all! Lunch will be provided (pizza, fruit, veggies), the resurrection story (the reason for the season!) will be shared, a story by Pastor Mary Ellen of the Claridon Congregations Church will be told and Easter themed craft stations can be enjoyed. It starts at 11:00am on March 23. Enjoy!

Refer to the 'Dates & Links' page on the town website for more Claridon events.

Pre-Eclipse Breakfast/fundraiser, April 6, 2024, 9:00a - 12:00p

Claridon Community Helps is at it again! It's called 'Total Eclipse of the Heart!' They give SO much, SO often so, donations are encouraged! They are serving up a free breakfast on April 6 starting at 9:00am. The kind folks at the New Testament Baptist Church offered their new building for the event. The new building is called the M.C. (Mission Center). It is located on Claridon Troy road, a half mile north of Mayfield road. Open the attached to see the flyer which includes the address of the location.

The Claridon Eclipse is right around the corner!

All beef hot dogs, burgers, chips, darkness in the middle of the day! Enjoy this once in a lifetime event with your neighbors and friends. Partial eclipse starts at about 2:00p and ends at about 4:30p. Full eclipse starts at about 3:13p and ends at about 3:17p. Geauga Emergency Services is estimating about 170,000 eclipse seekers will emerge upon Geauga county! I've purposely kept our event from being published because it is for Claridonites and friends of Claridon only. So, whether you live, work, have family in or worship in Claridon, you are welcome to get together for this rare event. See you there!

Geauga Public Health to Attend Trustee Meeting - Claridonites Encouraged to Attend

Kristi Pinkley of Geauga Public Health will be attending our Trustee meeting on April 15.

The health department has begun the process of rolling out a state-mandated Operation & Maintenance program for septic systems in the county and the first residents in Claridon will be affected starting in late Spring, 2024. Geauga Public Health wants Clardonites to know what to expect. Attend the April 15 trustee meeting and find out. The meeting starts at 6:00pm and is held at the Administrative Building.

Claridon Trustees Resolved to Prohibit Commercial Cannabis

On January 15, 2024, at a regular trustee meeting, trustees resolved to prohibit all aspects of commercial cannabis within the Township.

As of now, no one knows exactly how this new statute will look and operate as the state legislature has not yet passed any rules that govern commercial cannabis operations. Some townships are prohibiting commercial cannabis temporarily simply because of this unknown.

As far as Claridon is concerned, Trustees received over 70 petitions from residents to pass this resolution. Further, although this issued passed in the state and in our county, it failed in Claridon. In an effort to perform the will of Claridonites, the trustees passed a resolution to prohibit all aspects of commercial side of cannabis.

This commercial prohibition has nothing to do with the personal use of cannabis. The personal growing and using of cannabis, with limited restrictions (reference the ballot language), is now protected by state law.

We've Been Saving

For several years, we've been intentionally saving for a few things. Some of them are ready to happen;

New Roof - We are receiving bids for a new maintenance building roof. 5 years ago, we recognized the roof (it's still the original roof) was in bad shape. At the time, we didn't have the money for a new roof so, we just kept fixing it. After 5 years, we saved enough money. We plan on having a brand new roof sometime this year.

New Garage Door Panels - Just like the maintenance building roof, several of the large overhead garage door panels are beyond repair. We are set to replace them with new.

New Truck - The township has been saving for a new truck. The truck we will be purchasing is a Mac. It is the largest non-CDL size allowed. We are excited to finally be able to afford this truck.

Town Hall Roof - An old slate roof sits atop our town hall. It's the original roof of this very old building. In keeping with the character of the building, the board of trustees decided to keep it and simply perform repairs as needed. The township saves a certain amount each year to do this.

Cemetery Restoration - Many of our monuments and stones are in desperate need of repair and have been for a long time so, we've been saving for 5 years. We now have the funds to perform \$80,000 worth of restoration. The restoration includes fixing old foundations, resurrecting fallen monuments, fixing broken monuments, lining up rows more precisely, cleaning the stones and more. This should cover the entirety of Center Cemetery plus, all of West Cemetery OR, part of East Cemetery. We are still discussing West verses East. If you have any questions or insights, contact me. All this work will be done this year.

Hall Road - Although we did not specifically save to resurface Hall road (our current lowest rated road for quality), we did over-save for Taylor Wells road so, we have significant funds left over. Further, we've been cautious in spending for the last 5 or 6 years because we do not get sufficient income for our roads. Also, the lowest bid for Hall road came in over \$35,000 less than projected (love that!). With that said, we're happy we have enough funds to resurface Hall road this year. Ronyak Brothers won the bid therefore, is expected to be issued the contract. The unofficial cost is \$265,000.

Trustees, Fiscal, Zoning Inspector...further education

Each February, the Claridon Fiscal, Zoning Inspector and Trustees travel to Columbus for the Ohio Township Association Winter Conference. The conference is at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. It offers a trade show and lots of work session classes... everything from Zoning, fiscal items, cemeteries, roads, proper meeting procedures, communicating with the public and press, i.t. and much, much more. It is highly beneficial to helping us serve our community more efficiently, accurately, transparently and fiscally. The Ohio Township

Association exists to protect and support local government, which brings me to the next topic...

A Zoning Take-over Attempt?

Certain groups, want to build more homes. Specifically in central Ohio. It is under the guise of resolving the affordable housing crisis. So, what's standing in their way? The answer is local zoning regulations. For instance, in Claridon, only one home can be built on a 3 acre lot (this regulation helps Claridon remain rural). Think about how many more homes one can put on a 3 acre lot if that regulation was not in place. The proposal to take away zoning authority from townships and give it to the state is in the Senate Select Committee right now. The idea is to give zoning authority to the state which means all township zoning may be wiped clean so the state can draw up universal zoning for everyone. From agricultural exemptions to forcing townships like Middlefield to have zoning to changing the very character of our community, the negative implications are vast.

Rest assured, the Ohio Township Association and Geauga County is leading the fight to thwart this effort. I have over 50 zoning personal and trustees from across the county meeting on a regular basis. In fact, the Farm Bureau will be at our next meeting. They will prove to be a powerful ally. We will get other influential groups on board as well as hundreds of township. I not only want to thwart this effort, but, by the time it's said and done, I want to send these groups and the state a very clear message; 'You can not steal authority away from townships!' Local government is the purest form of American democracy and it will not be trampled upon!

Closing

That's it for now. Thanks for caring enough to subscribe to Claridon News & Notes... it means a lot! As usual, please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions, concerns or insights. Remember, you voted me in as trustee and your tax dollars compensate me so, I work for you :)

Until next time.....

Jonathan Tiber
Claridon Trustee