

Austintown Township

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The Austintown Fire Department suffered a great loss in June. Veteran Firefighter John Fritz passed away while on duty at Austintown Station #1. The photo on the right shows a long standing tradition in the fire service of placing a fallen firefighter's turnout gear in front of his apparatus outside of his assigned station. It serves as a sign of respect and thanks to that fallen firefighter for their dedication to the community and to make the residents aware of the firefighter's passing. John was found when an alarm sounded on the morning of June 27 and John, for the first time in his career, failed to answer it. Knowing something had to be wrong, John's crew went looking for him and found he had passed away while on duty.

John joined the Department in February of 1992 as a Part-Time Firefighter. He became full-time in May of 2000.

John had a passion for helping others. He gave 100% of himself to his Community and to his fellow firefighters. He loved taking new recruits under his wing and mentoring them into some of the best we have. John did not stop at training Austintown Firefighters. He taught Firefighting classes at the Mahoning County Career and Technical Center. John touched the lives and was responsible for the success of hundreds of firefighters in the Tri-County area. John had a gift of for treating everyone as if he had known them all his life. He brought a smile to everyone's face just by walking in to a room.

As much as John loved Austintown and the Fire Department, his family was the light of his life. John is survived by his wife Karen and five children. They truly were his inspiration and the loves of his life.

You can't replace a person like John Fritz, yet we will all do our best to remember and mimic how he taught us to have compassion and respect for everyone we come in contact with. RIP.



Austintown Fire Department

Police & Road Levies

Also on the November ballot are a 1.0 mill Police levy and a 1.0 mill Road levy for the purpose of "general construction, reconstruction, resurfacing, and repair" of roads. The owner of a \$100,000 home will pay \$35 a year for each levy if they pass. If the \$100,000 homeowner is eligible for the Homestead Exemption (low-income senior citizens and permanently and totally disabled Ohioans can exempt up to \$25,000 of the market value of their homes from all local property taxes) then each levy's annual cost is reduced to \$26.25 per year. The County Auditor has certified to the township that each levy will collect \$614,000 a year assuming that every taxpayer pays their taxes.

Cost of Living

Have you ever wondered what the cost of living was like 40 years ago as compared to today. Well 2 indicators give some idea. The first indicator is a comparison of the property tax rate assessed in 1976 and the same property tax rate today. In 1976 the voters first approved a 1.5 mill Road levy. Today, because of inflation that levy is assessed at approximately 0.55 mills or about 37% of the 1.5 mills that the voters approved 40 years ago. Another way of looking at it is that inflation alone over the past 40 years has increased Austintown property values by almost 3 times as much.

A second indicator of the cost of living is based on the federal government's inflation calculator found at the Bureau of Labor Statistics website. This inflation calculator reveals that one dollar in 1976 has the same buying power as \$4.23 today! So it appears that overall inflation in the US economy for the past 40 years was greater than inflation to Austintown real estate.

ZONING: *BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR*

The Austintown Township Zoning Office receives hundreds of complaints a year regarding residential, commercial, and industrial properties. While violations regarding commercial and industrial properties tend to be of a more serious nature, complaints about residential violations can be more easily resolved without the need for citations.

The most frequent residential zoning violations involve the parking of motor vehicles on the grass; the storage of junk and debris in an exposed manner; and the lack of basic maintenance on dwellings, garages, sheds and fences.

So what can you do to be a good neighbor? Help maintain the integrity of your neighborhood by keeping the following in mind:

- Park your vehicles on hard-surface paving that consists of concrete, asphalt, or other material as approved by the zoning department.
- Do not park wrecked, dismantled and/or unlicensed vehicles on your property unless stored within a garage.
- Maintain the exterior walls, windows, doors, roofs, gutters and downspouts of your home, garages, sheds, and fences.
- Keep your exterior property clean of used tires, junk and debris.
- Respect your neighbors by not placing your trash, garbage containers, and other debris at the curb for pick-up too early.
- Cut your grass on a weekly basis.
- For the benefit of police and fire safety services, clearly identify and mark your house number on the front of your home.

THANKS FOR BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOR FROM THE AUSTINTOWN TOWNSHIP ZONING DEPARTMENT!

The Zoning Office is located at 90 Westchester Drive and can be contacted at 330-799-3241 or e-mail at dcrivelli@austintowntwp.com.



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The Austintown Police Department would like to thank the community for the amazing number of cards and letters from the public in support of the police department. It is a trying time in law enforcement and we must work together as a community to make it through these difficult times. After a series of incidents in Ohio and around the nation highlighted the challenging situations that exist in too many places between some communities and police the Ohio Task Force on Community-Police Relations was formed by Governor Kasich. The Task Force established state standards for the first time in history for use of force including use of deadly force and agency employee recruitment and hiring. These new standards will hold everyone accountable and instill a greater confidence with the public. At the time of this writing the Austintown Police Department is one of only 38 police agencies to have met these standards and the only one in Mahoning County. On July 27, 2016 the police department received its final certification from the state of Ohio meeting the standards set by the Task Force.

This year the police department has implemented two new programs to expand its community policing. One of the new programs is offering free training to local churches on church security and intruder response. Officers teaching this program have attended several training programs geared toward church security. The program or services are scheduled to start in the early fall. The other program is an Interdiction and Investigative Unit in the State Route 46 and Interstate 80 corridor. This corridor is one of the busiest in the state as it is the halfway point between Chicago and New York City. The purpose of the program is interdiction of Human Trafficking victims, suspects engaged in prostitution, drug trafficking and Homeland Security. Officers will build trust and train owners, managers, and employees of public and private entities to observe, recognize, and report signs of suspicious and criminal activity.

Other community programs that the department offers to the public are the Senior Watch Program and the Child Passenger Seat Certification Program.

The Senior Watch Program assigns a Police Officer to a number of seniors to make regular visits or phone calls to their homes. These Officers check on the safety and well-being of the senior. Working with the Mahoning County Senior Services they will help seek assistance to any number of needs or problems that they are facing. The Child Passenger Seat Certification program has an officer who is a Child Safety Seat Technician. The Officer will check and install all infant, children and booster seats in your vehicle. For any of these services and to find out what other services are offered contact the police department.

The police department also offers programs for children. This summer an Austintown Safety School for Township Children was taught at the Austintown Elementary School in cooperation with the United Way Success by Six Program. The children were given lessons in gun safety using the NRA "Eddie the Eagle" curriculum. The children were introduced to police officers emphasizing a helpful and caring demeanor. They were also taught lessons about "Kind of Knows" to never go with people they kind of know and always ask permission from a Parent/Guardian before they go with anyone. Another program was a bicycle safety event co-sponsored by Austintown Police, Austintown Local Schools and Safe Kids Coalition was held at the Mill Creek Metro Park Trailhead on Kirk Road. A third program in March, 530 laminated photo cards for Kindergarten, First and Second Grade students were done at Austintown Elementary School with the PTA who organized the event. Finally, the two School Resource Officers and Dare Officer participate in several events held for the youth throughout the year. These officers are also assigned to the Austintown Local Schools during the school year.

The Austintown Police Department has taken a leadership role in its pro-active approach to drug enforcement.

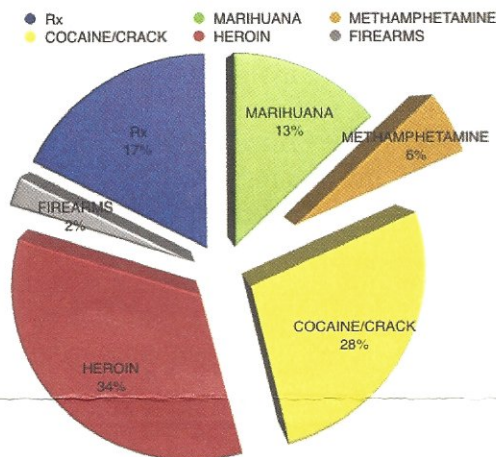
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AUSTINTOWN POLICE, continued

Since 1986, the Austintown Police Department, as one of the founding members of the Mahoning County Drug Task Force, has at least one officer devoted to drug enforcement activities. Currently, as a result of the current drug problem facing society, the Austintown police Department have four narcotics investigators. These officers provide a comprehensive investigative effort and are able to handle drug crimes from nuisance establishments to complex drug trafficking organization investigations.

The Austintown Police department currently provides one full time and two part time investigators to the Mahoning Valley Drug Task Force, as well as the Commander. Through this task force affiliation, the Austintown Police Department is able to draw on the investigative resources of the other Local, State and Federal Agencies who are members of the Mahoning Valley Drug Task Force. This combined investigative effort against drug traffickers enables member agencies to conduct complex investigations related to drug traffickers in ways that individually they could not do due to jurisdictional issues as well as manpower and limited resources.

In 2016 the following chart represents the percentage of cases investigated:



Contraband Removed

Contraband Removed	Amount
Cocaine HCL (Powder Cocaine)	1501 Grams
Cocaine Base (Crack Cocaine)	157 Grams
Heroin	2779 Grams
Marijuana	15,731 Grams
Tramadol Pills	29,132 Doses
Methamphetamine	46 Grams
Long Guns (Rifles)	26

In addition, there were 108 Search Warrants executed and eleven (11) Clandestine Methamphetamine Labs seized.

Thank You County Commissioners & County Engineer

This past summer about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of roads in the N. Wickliffe area were resurfaced pursuant to a CDBG grant received from the County Commissioners. In addition, the Commissioners approved a 2017 CDBG grant in the sum of \$102,000 that will pay for the resurface of approximately a mile of roads next year in the S. Wickliffe area south of the former Woodside elementary school site.

The township would also like to thank Mahoning County Engineer Pat Ginnetti for supporting the township's recent Issue I application for a \$150,000 grant to resurface roads in the township in 2017.

Did you know???

According to the Ohio Township Association research that was done this past spring revealed that 88 percent of the land mass in Ohio is in a township.



TRICK OR TREAT

Trick or Treat is scheduled for Monday, October 31 from 5:30 - 7:30 P.M.

Turn your front porch lights ON if you plan to participate.



Come out and ENJOY YOUR PARK!

In May of 2016 a new playground was installed at the Park thanks to the generous donation from Walt Terlecky and his family. The new and probably the most popular feature of the new playground is the adult/infant swing which allows a parent to swing with their infant while facing them. Dave Williams & Assoc installed the playground. The name of the new playground is The Terlecky Family Playground.

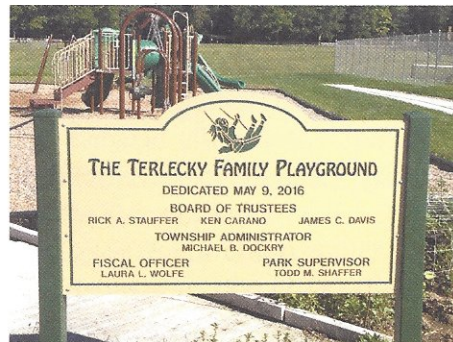
Also new this Summer is our Pickle Ball courts. Pickle Ball is a shortened version of tennis which is popular with the senior citizens. The court is much smaller, the ball is bigger and plastic, and the rackets are smaller and lighter. Arrow Asphalt installed the 2 courts which we plan to expand to a total of 4 courts possibly in Spring of 2017.

Our splash pad got an addition in April when we had a 32" high concrete block wall installed around the pad. This was installed to keep the water from draining off the pad and causing mud pits and also to give the parents a place to sit while watching their children. The top of the wall was capped making it a nice place to sit and relax while the children played.

Coming in the Fall of 2016 will be an 18 hole Frisbee Golf course. Score cards will be provided with a picture of the entire course and the distances from tee box to the hole. Frisbee Golf is played just like regular golf except you use Frisbees and the holes are actually metal baskets with chains which drops the Frisbee in to the basket when the Frisbee hits the chains.

As you can see we have something for everyone out here at Austintown Park....games, sporting activities, unleash dog park, playgrounds and water fun so come out and enjoy YOUR Park!! We are open every day from Dawn until Dusk 365 days a year!

Hope to see you soon!!!!



New Playground thanks to the generous donation from Walt Terlecky and his family.



New
Splash Pad



New Pickle Ball Court

Tax Estimator

Mahoning County Auditor's Office

The Mahoning County Auditor's website has a "Tax Estimator" that estimates the yearly property taxes paid on Owner Occupied (Residential) or Commercial real estate depending on its location and tax valuation. The site also lists the "Effective Rate" (The present rate that is assessed that is a reduction of the original Voted mills because of inflationary increases in property value over the years) for each political subdivision. For example, if "53 Youngstown City Youngstown CSD" (CSD stands for City School District) is chosen for a \$100,000 home that is Owner Occupied the result is an Estimated Yearly Tax of \$2,180 and an Effective Rate over 71 mills assessed against a \$100,000 home located in the both the City of Youngstown and the City's School District. For "Boardman TWP Boardman LSD" (LSD stands for Local School District) the same choice results in an Estimated Yearly Tax of \$ 2,188 and an Effective Rate also over 71 mills. For "48 Austintown TWP Austintown LSD" the same choice results in an Estimated Yearly Tax of \$2,039 and an Effective Rate over 66 mills.

The tax revenue received from these 66 plus mills is distributed 53% to the Austintown Schools, 24% to the Township, 18% to support county entities like Children Services, the TB Clinic, the Library, Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, 3% supports the Career and Technical Center school and 2% supports Mill Creek Park.

The current Auditor, Ralph T. Meacham, CPA, took office on March 3, 2015 and serves as the county's chief fiscal officer, chief assessor and sealer of weights and measures.

As fiscal officer, the auditor is responsible for maintaining county financial records, issuing warrants (checks) for payment of county obligations and preparing the County's Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

As sealer of weights and measures, the auditor's inspector tests and certifies the accuracy of various commercial measuring devices.

As assessor, one of the auditor's responsibilities is determining property values for taxing purposes. Auditor Meacham and his staff are in the process of conducting the county-wide reappraisal of all property for tax year 2017, calendar year 2018. Ohio law requires all county Auditors to reappraise each parcel in their county every six years. Taxpayers will see these new reappraised values on the property tax bills that they will receive in 2018.

REDUCTION IN GENERAL FUND REVENUE

Changes in state law to 3 revenue sources for local governments has reduced the township's revenue to the General Fund by approximately \$870,000 a year when 2010 General Fund revenue is compared to 2015 General Fund revenue. The first revenue source is the Local Government Fund which is essentially state tax revenue, like the sales tax and state income tax, collected by the state of Ohio and sent to local governments. The state has cut Local Government revenue to about 60% of its 2010 level. The other changes in state law responsible for reducing General Fund revenue was the elimination of the Estate Tax and the Tangible Personal Property tax.

General Fund revenue supports not only the administration expenses of the township but also operational expenses of all departments. In addition, the General Fund revenue also funds road resurfacing and local matches for grants.

New Natural Gas Aggregation Rate

Residents in the township's Natural Gas Aggregation program should begin to see, if they have not already, the township's new one year fixed rate of \$ 3.47/MCF on their invoices. This new rate will continue through September, 2017.

ELECTION DAY



Election Day is Tuesday November 8 from 6:30 AM to 7:30 PM. The week prior to election day voters can vote at the Board of Elections on Monday through Friday from 8AM-7PM, on Saturday November 5 from 8AM-4PM, Sunday November 6 from 1PM-5PM and Monday November 7 from 8AM-2PM.

In the last Presidential General Election in November 2012, upwards of 18,182 Austintown voters went to the polls according to the vote totals listed on the Mahoning County Board of Election's website. This compares to approximately 20,000 voters in Boardman and 27,130 voters in the City of Youngstown.

RACINO FUNDS

2016 is the last year that the township will receive any funds from either the State or the Hollywood Gaming at Mahoning Valley Race Course (Racino) as the result of the Racino's locating in the township. Originally, the state law passed when the state gave Penn National permission to locate a Racino in Austintown called for 2 one million dollar payments in 2013 and 2014 and \$500,000 a year payments thereafter for each year the racino continued to operate in the township. Subsequent legislation terminated the indefinite \$500,000 annual payments and instead the township will receive only \$500,000 (\$250,000 each from the state and Racino) in 2015 and 2016.

Upon receiving these "final" payments in 2016 the township will have received a total of \$3 million dollars since 2013 as the result of the Racino locating in the township. At the same time, the township since 2013 has spent, or in the case of 2016 has appropriated to spend, a total of approximately \$2.9 million on resurfacing of township roads.

2017 July 4th activities planning meetings

All volunteers are invited to join the 2017 Fourth of July planning committee that meets from 4:30 to 5:45 PM at town hall at 82 Ohltown Road on the 2nd Monday of each month. Volunteers are needed to help work on the Fireworks, the Parade, the pre-Fireworks activities, the Prayer Breakfast and other activities that commemorate the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.



R/X Drug Drop Box

**Available NOW for your convenience 24 hours a day/
7 days a week - in the lobby at the Austintown Police
Department, 92 Ohltown Road, Austintown, Ohio.**

We accept old, expired, used R/X and OTC medicine.

NO needles, syringes or liquids PLEASE.

QUESTIONS: 330-270-5115

Township Hall

82 Ohltown Road
Austintown, Ohio 44515
Phone: 330-792-8139
Fax: 330-793-9919

Hours:

Monday-Friday 8 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Voice mail also available

Website:

www.austintowntwp.com

Austintown Phone Numbers:

Trustees or Administration:

330-792-8139 or 330-792-8584

Police Non-Emergency:

330-799-9721

Fire-Business: 330-799-8502

Road: 330-792-2602

Park: 330-793-0718

Park Pavilion Rentals: 330-792-2602

Zoning: 330-799-3241

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Laura Wolfe

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Pictured:

Seated:
Laura Wolfe,
Fiscal Officer

Standing:
Trustees
Rick Stauffer,
Jim Davis
Ken Carano

Trustees meetings are at Township Hall at 82 Ohltown Road on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:00 P.M. and on the 4th Monday of each month at noon.