

Austintown Township

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AUSTINTOWN



The new Meijer store will be 200,000 square feet and is scheduled to open in the Spring of 2021.

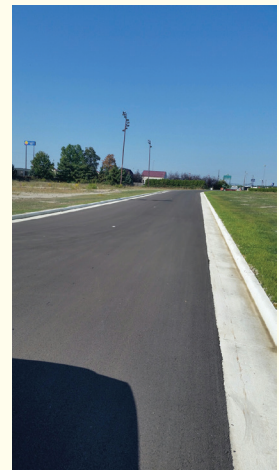


COCCA PLAZA

An 8,400 square foot retail plaza by Cocca Developmet, LTD located at 5532 Mahoning Avenue is scheduled for completion by the start of the holidays.

CLARKINS DRIVE

The 720 foot extension of Clarkins Drive off of SR 46 was completed by Universal Development. The abutting property is zoned Industrial and available for future economic development.





ELECTION DAY

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

Across Ohio each township has 2 Trustee positions on the ballot with the top 2 vote totals as the winners. The contest is non-partisan so there was no primary election in May and there is no party affiliation listed on the ballot.

In the last Trustee General Election in November 2015, 10,120 Austintown voters voted in the Trustee election (only one to elect that year) according to the Mahoning County Board of Election's website. This compares to 11,297 who voted in the Boardman Trustee race.

RACINO FUNDS ...and Resurfacing

The annual \$700,000 resurfacing program that was recently completed also completed the expenditure of all Racino money that the township received 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. Between 2013 and 2016 the township received 3 million dollars total from the State of Ohio (\$500,000) or the Racino (\$2,500,000). Since 2013 through this year the township has spent over 3.5 million dollars on the resurfacing of township roads.

This Racino money allowed the township to average over \$700,000 annually since 2013 resurfacing township roads. With the Racino money no more or gone the township's resurfacing program will likely be reduced to a maximum of \$350,000 assuming the township continues to qualify for \$150,000 in Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) grants. Over the last 27 years the township has received \$5,085,000 in OPWC grants for infrastructure improvements, primarily road improvement projects and storm water alleviation projects.

Thank You County Commissioners!

This past spring about a mile of roads in the South Wickliffe area were resurfaced pursuant to a \$102,000 CDBG grant received from the County Commissioners in 2016. The CDBG program was suspended in 2017 and it is uncertain whether the program will be funded by the federal government in 2018. CDBG funds infrastructure improvements in low to moderate income areas as determined by federal IRS census information.

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 \$ 3.498/MCF on their invoices. This new rate will continue through the September/October, 2018 billing cycle.

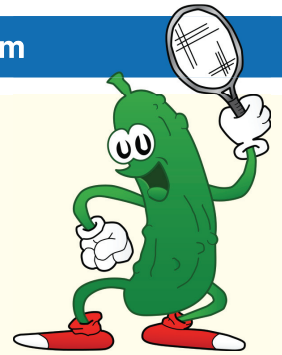


TRICK OR TREAT

TRICK OR TREAT IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31 FROM 5:30 - 7:30 PM. TURN YOUR FRONT PORCH LIGHTS ON IF YOU PLAN TO PARTICIPATE.



New Playgrounds & Pickle Ball



2017 saw some more improvements to equipment and new activities to participate in at Austintown Township Park. Improvements to the tennis courts included pressure washing, repairing cracks and repainting and relining. In addition, the 4 pickle ball courts were realigned to face north & south, repainted & relined. Another improvement this year was a 10' x 10' concrete pad at the entrance of the main dog park and then a sidewalk extending from the pad to the pavilion making access to the pavilion much easier for dog owners. In addition, the band shell was given a long overdue pressure washing and some new landscaping. The newest attraction this year at the park is the 18 hole disc golf course which has brought a whole new age group to the park for some fun and exercise! The first tee is located just South of the recycling bins where you will find scorecards with a map of the entire course and pencils to keep score. If you have never played disc golf before you **MUST** come and check this out this fun for the whole family! And coming this Fall is the installation of a sidewalk from the parking lot by the playground to the splash pad making easier access for all.

FIRE DEPARTMENT



The Austintown Fire Department took possession of a new Fire Engine in June. This new truck was placed in service on August 23 after the appropriate equipment including radios, hand tools and hydraulic rescue tools were installed. The new Engine is one of two 24-hour manned trucks. It was purchased to replace a 31-year-old truck bought new in 1986.

It hauls 1000 gallons of water in its middle section. In order to flow that amount of water in addition to the water from the fire hydrants, the truck is equipped with a 1,500 gallon per minute pump. The pump supplies water to the trucks 2,300 feet

of hose. Also on the truck are a full set of hydraulic rescue tools (The Jaws of Life), four ladders, and all of the equipment need to mitigate an emergency scene on the interstate, commercial property or in a residence. One of the new features of this truck are the train air horns. Because newer cars are built to such high sound reducing standards and because of the loud capabilities of in car audio systems, people do not hear the fire engines traveling down the road responding to emergencies. Please always remember to pull to the right when you see red or blue lights and you hear sirens. Your firefighters always appreciate cooperative drivers.

The old 1986 truck was still in great shape but parts are no longer available to make needed repairs. Because they understand the high costs of new apparatus the firefighters are constantly cleaning and maintaining the trucks to maximize the life of the equipment. To get 31 years out of a piece of equipment is very unusual. The average life span for a fire truck is 10 to 15 years. The township simply cannot afford to replace Fire engines that often.

All of the Fire trucks have a three-digit numbers used for maintenance identification. The new truck's three digit identification number is #181. The truck is dedicated to our fallen firefighter John Fritz who passed away on duty in 2016. John's helmet number was #181. You can also find a dedication to John on the side of the new truck. Your Firefighters have a very special attachment to this truck and feel as if John is riding with them on every call it goes on.

If you see the new rig out and about, please stop over and ask the firefighters about it. They are happy to show it to you. The Fire Department would like to thank the residents of Austintown for your continued support.

WOODSIDE COMMUNITY GARDEN

On May 18th, 2017 ground was broken at the former Woodside Elementary School property at the corner of Elmwood and Rosemont Avenues in Austintown to officially begin what has become Woodside Community Garden, an all-volunteer non-profit organization dedicated to converting this 7 1/2 acre Township owned property into a thriving community run green space consisting of flower and vegetable gardens, a fruit tree orchard, berry patches, a butterfly apiary, and agricultural honey producing bee hives.

This past summer saw progress towards that goal with the planting of a successful sunflower field and three productive raised vegetable beds. Tulip bulbs donated from Fellows Riverside Gardens were also planted and will bloom in the Spring of 2018. A pathway was constructed around the perimeter of the property and the surrounding sidewalks were edged and cleaned of grass overgrowth.



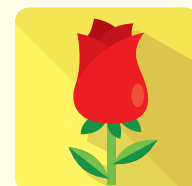
Several community events have served as fundraisers for the garden project. Two Craft/Vendor shows were held in May and September and were very successful not only for the participating vendors, but in raising funds and bringing awareness to the public about the Woodside Community Garden. The Austintown Fitch Concert Choir performed on the garden grounds in August in a joint effort with the Garden to raise funds for the Choir's Carnegie Hall trip and performance next April. The First Annual Community Fall Festival was held Oct. 21st and featured a pumpkin carving contest and bonfire as well as many other Fall family activities.

One of the greatest challenges facing the growth of Woodside Community Garden is a sustainable water source. There are plans for having a well drilled on the property, but this depends on funding as to how soon this will happen. Several more fundraising events are being planned for 2018.

Woodside Community Garden is run by a Board of Directors consisting of Austintown residents. The Founding Board members were Dale Basista, Andrea Bowden, Kimberly Clark, retired Austintown Police Officer Jim Johnson, Pat Simms, and Trustee Rick Stauffer. Former Trustee Lisa Oles is an honorary member of the Board. The committee has grown since first established and includes members Mike Beaudis, Adam Bowden, Barry Franks, Mike McNally, George Kopcial, and Chris Yambar.

All Austintown residents and organizations are invited to participate in this ongoing community project. More information can be found on Facebook under "Austintown Woodside Community Garden" There is also a link to a volunteer page and the website.

Woodside Community Garden has the potential to become one of the largest community gardens in the United States. This will benefit the Township and its residents in many ways, including increasing property values of the surrounding neighborhoods and bringing people together in friendship and a common cause to move the Township forward in making Austintown an even better place to call home.



MAHONING COUNTY LAND BANK

The township has spent \$249,743 on demolition expenses between 2014 and 2016. \$55,889 was reimbursed by State Grants. Almost all the buildings demolished were Single Family residents that were vacant and in arrears on their property taxes. In order to demolish any building either the County Board of Health has to certify that it is inhabitable or the Township's Fire Inspector has to certify that it is unsafe. The costs of demolition are then placed on the tax duplicate or assessed to the property's taxes. In most cases, however, the demolition costs are not recovered from the property owner.

The township works closely with the Mahoning County Land Bank in an attempt to find new owners of this now vacant land who will maintain the property.

The mission of Mahoning County Land Bank is to promote healthy, sustainable neighborhoods by restoring vacant, abandoned, tax-delinquent land to productive status. There are many ways the Land Bank works to make vacant land productive again.

Their Side Lot Program helps residents and organizations to acquire vacant lots, especially those that are adjacent to what they already own. Homeowners enlarge their yards, churches and community groups beautify and maintain highly-visible properties and businesses gain room to expand.

The County Land Bank has received \$14.7 million in reimbursements from a state agency to acquire and demolish vacant, abandoned, blighted houses in Austintown and elsewhere in the County. Light to moderate landscaping then occurs on the cleared lots. Neighboring homeowners have the opportunity to expand their yards with the cleaned, greened land. Some properties are selected for special treatments, such as rain gardens.

Not every house that enters the County Land Bank's inventory is demolished. The Deed in Escrow Program gives buyers an opportunity to purchase houses at a modest price if they are able to make repairs in a negotiated time frame. The County Land Bank provides a professional inspector's report that details the scope of the work.

Land assembly is another of the County Land Bank's success stories. By acquiring a number of properties in a defined place, new opportunities are created. As an example, the new Chill-Can manufacturing facility that is under construction on Youngstown's East Side is located on a 21-acre site. Half of that land – 10.6 acres -- was acquired by the County Land Bank for this project.

Mahoning County Land Bank is organized as a nonprofit community improvement corporation. It has a 9-member Board of Directors and an office in downtown Youngstown and a staff that works in partnership with local governments to restore vacant, abandoned land to productivity. For information, visit www.mahoninglandbank.com or call Deb Flora who provided this information at 330-259-1040. To see project photos and updates, look for Mahoning County Land Bank on Facebook and Instagram, or follow them @mc_landbank.

AUSTINTOWN OVER THE YEARS

According to the Atlas of Mahoning County Ohio 1874 published by Titus, Simmons & Titus of Philadelphia, the population of the township in 1860 was 1,507. It increased to 1,948 in 1870.

The West Austintown Business Directory listed a Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Boots, Shoes, Hats, Caps, and Notions. Other listed businesses were a Dealer in Stock, a Proprietor of Saloon and restaurant and a man listed as the Top Boss at Harroff Coal Company.

The Austintown Centre Business Directory included the Proprietor of the Imperial Hotel, the Proprietor of the Steam Sawmill, a Resident Farmer, a Tanner and Manufacturer of Cheese and a Dealer in fine Sheep and Blooded Cattle.

The railroad running north south in the western end of the township was the Niles and New Lisbon RR. Just west of this railroad at what appears to be the SW corner of Mahoning & Turner roads a School is shown on the map. A School is also shown at the NW corner of Mahoning and Meridian.



PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT (PSAP) AND HOW IT AFFECTS AUSTINTOWN RESIDENTS



Pictured: one of four dispatch positions.

A PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point) is the place where 911 phone calls are answered. Since the inception of Mahoning County 911 in March 1994 the residents of Austintown have always enjoyed the benefits and personal service provided by having their PSAP located within the Township and staffed by Township employees. The Austintown PSAP is located in the Police Department building.

Recently the State of Ohio mandated that only 3 PSAPs in the County could be supported by 911 funds. This could have forced the closure of the Austintown PSAP. In an effort to meet these mandates, on June 26, 2017, the Mahoning County PSAP did close. The result was that the towns and agencies previously handled by the County were split between the Boardman PSAP and the Austintown PSAP and half of the county employees transferred to either Boardman or Austintown.

Along with the Austintown Police and Fire departments the Police Department's Communications Division now dispatches for Jackson Township, Milton Township, Craig Beach Village and the Mahoning County Sheriff's Office as well.

This consolidation has also provided additional benefits to the residents of Austintown; (1) our 800 MHz radio system, originally purchased in 2013 in conjunction with Boardman Township, was updated in 2017 by Mahoning County so your PSAP now have access to a 3.5-million-dollar multi-site multi-jurisdictional public safety radio system for instantaneous communications to public safety agencies county wide and (2) six additional employees were brought into the PSAP at no additional cost to the Township.

The PSAP is staffed by 14 people with experience ranging from brand new to 29 years of service with the Township. On a yearly basis these dispatchers will handle approximately 30,000 911-calls and 55,000 10-digit calls.

If you have an emergency that requires police, fire or medical response then do not hesitate to call 911. If you accidentally call 911 then stay on the phone and talk to the dispatcher to let them know everything is ok. One of the biggest problems faced nationwide by PSAPs is deactivated cell phones calling 911. More often than not these are children playing with the phones given to them by their parents or relatives. To kids it is fun to be able to call someone over and over again on these phones. To a dispatcher the time spent on these calls trying to verify if an actual emergency exists is time they cannot devote to callers that truly need help. Please do not give deactivated cell phones to your children to play with.

THE NEW MAHONING COUNTY DOG POUND



Pictured above is the new 14,300 square foot Mahoning County Dog Pound opening soon. It is located at 1230 N. Meridian Road. It will accommodate four times what the old building was designed to hold and will now allow the Dog Warden's office to offer small dogs and puppies for adoption, along with training and educational programs. Money to pay for the construction came from Dog and Kennel Fund fees.

FUTURE STATE PROJECTS

If your regular route home to or from work takes you through the Mahoning and State Route 46 intersection then you are familiar with the congestion this intersection experiences. Because of this congestion the state is planning a \$1.5 million project to occur in a few years to add 2 lanes at this intersection to improve safety and traffic flow.

Another state project to improve safety and traffic flow that is a few years off, is a \$4.4 million project to widen State Route 46 from Interstate 80 north through the County Line Road intersection.

6 YEAR PROPERTY REVALUATION

Ohio law requires the County Auditor to determine fair market value of all real estate in the county every 6 years. Tentative information from the recent property revaluation shows Austintown's Agricultural zoned real estate increased by 9.8% from 6 years ago, Industrial real estate increased by 7.2% and Residential and Commercial real estate increased by about 1%. This compares with the County's overall revaluations of Agricultural zoned real estate increasing by 9.4% from 6 years ago, Industrial real estate increased by 3.4%, Residential increased by 1.9% and Commercial real estate increased by 0.27%.

YOUR TAX \$\$

The property tax on a residential home with a tax value of \$100,000 is approximately \$2,092. The effective tax rate for this home is 68 mills for School, County and Township taxes. The township's portion of these 68 mills is 15.53 mills or approximately 23%. Therefore, out of the \$2,092 of annual taxes approximately \$507 a year is for township services or \$1.39 a day for 7/24 safety services like Police, Fire and 911 Dispatch, plus Road, Park, Senior & Zoning services.

Looking at the 2016 total Township expenses by department the results showed the Police department with the largest expenses with 37.34% followed by the Fire department at 22.54%, Road department at 18.21%, Administration or General Fund expenses at 8.87%, Communication or Dispatch expenses at 7.04%, Park expenses at 2.99%, Senior Center expenses at 2.94% and Zoning expenses at 1.95%.

Please visit Austintown Township Website at www.austintowntwp.com

Austintown Township
82 Ohltown Road
Austintown, OH 44515-2323
Phone: 330-792-8584
Fax: **330-259-7895**
Email: austintwp@aol.com
www.austintowntwp.com

PRESORTED STANDARD
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PERMIT NO. 214

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.

Pictured:
Seated:
Laura Wolfe,
Fiscal Officer
Standing:
Rick Stauffer,
Trustees
Jim Davis
Ken Carano



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
E-mails:

James Davis
jdavis4trustee@aol.com
Rick A. Stauffer
tepcrick@sbcglobal.net
Ken Carano
kac304@aol.com
Michael Dockry
maddockry@austintowntwp.com
Laura Wolfe
lwolfe@austintowntwp.com