

## Wes Sargent resigns effective Dec. 31

“It has been seven years since first becoming a Township Trustee. This is a period marked with a great deal of personal pride and satisfaction. In that period of time, it has been a pleasure to work with two other Trustees and a very competent Fiscal Officer to complete projects in an effort to make the Granville community a better place to live.

“Driving past Bicentennial Park, it is a pleasure to observe a new green area at that location rather than a dilapidated building. The fix-up, clean-up week the Township now provides in the fall for residents also provides a means to dispose of toxic waste safely. McPeck Lodge was purchased and renovated to make an enhanced community center that residents can use for reunions, parties, etc. for a nominal fee. Several open space properties were purchased that help define Newark along our eastern border, and Spring Valley was converted into an outstanding nature preserve.

**“Thanks for your support during these past seven years. It is my sincere hope and desire for Village and Township officials and citizens to continue striving to do what is right for the greater Granville Community.”**



“It is easy to go on and on about the many things the Township has accomplished the past seven years, but the single emphasis still needed most is light commercial development. We have tried hard to have businesses establish themselves within the Township, but all too often those attempts were met with unfounded and unfair criticism. What we desperately need from community residents are positive alternatives to encourage light commercial business. We all need to join forces and embrace a plan to make controlled commercial development work. Without such a plan, businesses will go to neighboring communities, taxes will continue to escalate, and Granville will become a place where only the wealthy can reside.

“It has been my pleasure to work with Village Council. Together we have accomplished much to help pave the way to make commercial development along Route 16 a reality in the future.

“Thanks for your support during these past seven years. It is my sincere hope and desire for Village and Township officials and citizens to continue striving to do what is right for the greater Granville Community.”  
Wes Sargent

## Fire Dept. doing ‘great’

It’s been two years since the township took over the fire department from the private corporation that ran the Granville Volunteer Fire Department. According to Chief Jeff Hussey, “I think it’s gone great. We’ve been able to do a number of things the private operation couldn’t do.”

One is to place the full-time employees under the state of Ohio pension

See **Fire Dept.** on Page 2

## Roads ready for winter

The four members of the township road crew are keeping a collective eye on the forecast and the other on the work at hand – keeping the thirty-seven miles of township roads clear and safe.

The township bins are full of 225 tons of salt “and we’re as prepared as we can be,” said Granville Township Road Superintendent Travis Binckley.

“Where you’re seeing cities are paying \$140 a ton for salt, we got our bids in early and we’re paying \$57 a ton,” Binckley said, “and by contract we’re guaranteed that price up to 750 tons.”

Meanwhile, more than four miles of roadways were paved last summer, the majority in the northeast quadrant of the township.



“We’re fortunate to be in a situation where we’re almost in a preventive maintenance stage,” Binckley said. “I think that’s one of the reasons we feel very comfortable going into winter.”

## New pickup truck

Township Trustees purchased a new 4x4 pickup truck as well as a new skid loader with grapple bucket and trailer, which Binckley said paid for itself during the September 14 windstorm.

“It was a big job, a very big job,” he said of the storm. “We spent between seven and eight weeks cleaning up, hauling hundreds of loads of brush and chips.”

## Issue One money

The Trustees also applied for Issue One money from the Ohio Public Works Commission to pave Burg St. next year.

“The township’s cost will be 25 cents on the dollar if our applications go through,” Binckley said. “That will enable us to pave Burg St. from basically New Burg to Dry Creek.”

Without Issue One money the project would cost about \$500,000. With Issue One money, however, it’s going to cost less than \$300,000.

## Extra training

Four members of the Granville Township road crew recently completed Ohio LTAP (Local Technical Assistance Program) courses including a four day equipment training course.

## Spring Valley gets new look

Where's the pool? That may be your first question when you enter the new Spring Valley Community Park. The pool so many Granville residents knew for so many years is gone, replaced by a vernal pool – a natural indentation in the ground that may have water only part of the year.



The vernal pool is just part of a sprawling nature preserve where you can now walk several paths and make it a place where you can commune with nature and relax.

“There's a creek that runs through the paths and it's beautiful back there,” Sargent said. “There's one place on top of a ravine that has a clearing and hopefully we'll have picnic tables and benches up there so people can go and overlook this beautiful site.”

The park is a work in progress. The Trustees have already paved the driveway and the parking lot. They put a new roof on the bathhouse. And they renovated the house on the property, as well as improved the drainage and the landscaping, to make it a more desirable rental. Park National Bank has donated \$25,000 to help renovate the park.

Additionally, the Boy Scouts are building bridges and Denison University students are working on projects to make it a much more enjoyable and educational place to walk.

“It butts up to another parcel we purchased years ago and the combination is just gorgeous,” Sargent said.

The Granville Recreation Commission is overseeing the upkeep and the rental of the two shelter houses on the property. “We handed it over to them and they get the rental money but they have to do some of the work on it as well,” Sargent said. Great for parties and family gatherings, call 587-1976 for times and availability.

“Spring Valley has been an integral part of this community for a long time,” Sargent concluded, “and we hope it continues to be. We want people to go out to walk around, to rent the shelter house, to make it an educational place. There are so many ideas right now, it's really been fun to work on this project.”

## New Trustee for township



Bill Mason is Granville Township's new Trustee. Mason, 74, is a long-time Granville resident, 1957 Denison University graduate and career educator.

In addition to teaching, he served as vice president of SchoolMatch, an international educational research and consulting firm, in charge of their consulting services.

“My interest is sincere,” Mason said of his appointment. “I really don't have any axe to grind. I don't have any preconceived ideas or notions other than to do a good job and be involved.”

## Computerized cemetery

The Granville Township Trustees take a lot of pride in Maple Grove, Old Colony and Philipps cemeteries “because they're very dear to a lot of people who go in and out of there,” according to Trustee Fred Abraham.

In the past all the cemetery records were handwritten, some going back to the 1800s. Now there's an effort underway to transfer the records to a computer.

“When it's all said and done you'll be able to type in a name and it will pop up and tell us exactly where they're located along with the deed,” said Trustee Fred Abraham.

Approximately 65 percent of the cemetery's information has already been transferred.

“It will take another six months,” Abraham said, “and eventually those handwritten notes will go to the Granville Historical Society.”

Meanwhile, Jim and Maxine Fannin continue their work to restore the head stones at the cemeteries, particularly Old Colony and Philipps.

“Whatever it takes to restore those, that's their goal,” Abraham said. “They do an excellent job.”

If you are a current Granville resident or resided in Granville for at least twenty years the present cost for a cemetery space is \$550. Non-resident cost is \$1,000.

## Fire Dept. from Page 1

system. Another is to provide a little more stability.

“Under the private corporation the chief was an elected volunteer position which often times changed almost annually and we have a little more consistency now,” Hussey said.

There is now round the clock staffing with a full crew. To provide more dormitory (and administrative) space the township acquired the Heim property next to the existing buildings.

Put it all together, Hussey said, and it means “our response times improved by 4 to 4 ½ minutes from what they were a couple years ago.”

## Calling all volunteers

“We're always looking for good, dedicated, reliable people,” Hussey said.

Interested? Call 587-0261.

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**Fire**  
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**Roads/Cemetery Department**  
Superintendent Travis Binkley  
Office: 587-0229

**Zoning**  
Zoning Inspector Warren May  
Office: 587-1831

**Zoning Commission**  
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Mickey Smith  
Judy Preston  
Greg Dixon  
Roger Dunifon  
Laura Mickelson

**FYI**  
37: Miles of roads in Granville Township, which equals about 74 lane miles.

**FYI**  
4,500: Approximate population of Granville Township.

# Planning & Development Notes

## Grant Denied

The Trustees worked with Owens Corning and their consultant Poggemeyer Deign Group to help develop and present a \$5 million Job Ready Sites grant application to the state. The company would match this with \$5.2 million in order to develop sites for research and technology office jobs along SR 16 southwest of Granville. This would provide increased tax base to support our schools and all other governmental services. That grant was ultimately denied. Owens Corning officials may reapply.

## Property Acquired

Columbus-based Metropolitan Partners Commercial Developments has acquired the former Shurtz property on South Main Street/River Road, the trailer park on Weaver Drive and the vacant land across from it as well as the BP site. They have begun planning for commercial redevelopment, mostly office buildings. They plan to renovate the Shurtz property and possibly put another building on the property.

"We are working with the developer to increase our economic development to support the tax base of all affected local governments," Habig said.

## Kraner Development

The trustees worked with Bill Kraner to help evaluate his proposed 475 acre development mostly within our school district on the eastern edge of our township. Our research estimated the number of school children expected and helped the school board obtain a one percent sale price fee for each home sold. This enabled to development to at worst break even on the cost of educating these children from K-12.

"It's all zoned and a deal with the schools has been worked out," said Trustee Bill Habig, "so I think everything is geared to go as soon as the market turns up."

## Trail Plan

The Trustees are working with the Village of Granville on a joint trail plan. The next step will be to estimate costs and to set priorities for trail development. We also worked with Kendal interests to explore feasibility of a path connecting the Kendal facility to the T.J. Evans trail and with Granville Rotary, which has committed funds to help plan and fund a bridge from the T.J. Evans trail to Raccoon Valley Park.

## Comprehensive Plan

The Trustees held a meeting December 10, 2008 to talk about a new comprehensive plan for development in the township. As of mid-December trustees Abraham and Habig were beginning work with Granville Village to resolve issues raised by the community and from our own reviews. Once changes have been made a public meeting will be held in January.

## FYI

13,300 acres: The approximate area of Granville Township.

## FYI

55 MPH: The speed limit on Granville Township roads unless otherwise posted.

## FYI

16 to 20: Hours per week volunteer firefighters work in Granville Township.

## Contract talks with Union Twp.

The fire department provides fire and EMS protection services for about eighty percent of McKean Township and north of the railroad tracks in Union Township.

"Some of our discussion with Union Township in the last year or so has been a little challenging because we discovered honestly the Union Township contract was seriously under priced," Chief Jeff Hussey said. "So in an effort to make it fair we had to increase the price in the Union Township contract. McKean Township seems very satisfied. Union Township, I think, once we get some bumps worked out, is also going to agree they're getting a pretty good value for what we're providing down there. We really enjoy providing service to those communities so we feel that arrangement will continue well into the future."

## FYI

1806: Year Granville Township was chartered while a part of Fairfield County

# Open Space Levy

Preserving open space is a priority with the Trustees "to preserve the integrity of the township," according to Trustee Wes Sargent.

Fortunately, Granville Township is one of the few townships in Ohio to have passed Open Space levies for the purpose of raising money to acquire title to developable property or alternatively to acquire the development rights to property with the plan to leave it as open space. The Township has passed two levies raising money for the acquisition of open space and combines this money with general fund money to make property acquisitions.



One of many Open Space purchases

The Trustees established committees consisting of both Village and Township residents to make recommendations for possible acquisitions. To date, the Township has purchased parcels totaling approximately 536 acres including purchases in the Village of the front lawn area of the Bryn Du Mansion and three building lots along the north side of West Broadway. The Township has also purchased conservation easements, designed to limit development, on another 232 acres.

There are other property negotiations underway. The Trustees are talking to five property owners about purchasing development rights and property. Two of those five acquisitions were expected to be completed by the first of the year or shortly thereafter. It is hoped that acquisition of property and development rights will help to limit development within the Granville community.

"It's a means to preserve the country living part of the township," Sargent said, "and I think that's very important."

See **Open Space** on Page 4

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## **New Roads Dept. building**

Granville Township will soon have a new Roads Department building on Columbus Rd. across from the Spring Valley Community Park. The building will house 16,000 square feet of office, storage and repair space for the township's vehicles.

"We're going to utilize the whole building, that's for sure," said Trustee Fred Abraham.

There will also be a new bin to hold 400 tons of salt. "We built it that big so we can buy the salt in the summertime when the price is down and save the taxpayers money," Abraham said.

### **FYI**

Michael Duncan is the township's part-time fire inspector. "He's able to educate people on how to make their businesses safer," Hussey said, "so we find most people to be very cooperative."

### **FYI**

1913: The year the first automobile funeral was held in Granville Township.

## **Open Space** from Page 3

We pride ourselves on what our township looks like and we want to preserve that if we can."

Does that mean Granville Township is anti-development? Far from it.

"We would love to get commercial development in the township, research and development, light manufacturing, office" Sargent explained. "It's been difficult so far but when the new highway is done and the airport is 30 minutes away, and we're even closer to Interstates, it makes it so we have a very desirable location for commercial development."

## **Bryn Du Mansion**

Granville Township presently controls about sixteen acres through ownership of land in front of the Bryn Du Mansion. This land was purchased with Open Space funds that were supposed to be for passive, not active, recreation according to Trustee Bill Habig. In order to accommodate the wide range of organized recreational activities already occurring on it, the Trustees worked with State Rep. Jay Hottinger to obtain passage of HB 385, which clarified recreational use of our open space land within the Bryn Du lawn. This has allowed community sports activities to continue there as long as permanent facilities are not installed.

**the RECORD** is published by the Granville Township Trustees to keep residents informed about township activities that affect them. All material contained herein is believed to be accurate but is not intended to substitute for legal, accounting, tax or professional advice. Granville Township Trustee meetings are normally held on the second and fourth Wednesdays at 7:00 PM in the meeting room at the Maple Grove Cemetery, 349 E. Maple St., Granville. Telephone: 740-587-3885.

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