A Message from the Board of Trustees

The Trustees are continuing efforts to implement recommendations of the adopted Comprehensive Mini-Master Plan. An overall rezoning plan has been proposed for an area of the township generally bounded by 38th St. on the south, I-77 on the north and east and the existing business zoning district along Whipple Avenue. The proposed changes are in conformance with many of the Plan’s adopted goals and recommendations, and will assist in protecting existing neighborhoods and the natural resources of the township. The proposed amendment includes a “buffer” zone between business and residential zoning districts and the “downzoning” to rural residential of an area of the township recommended to be protected from intensive development. This area was also identified in the Mini-Master Plan as future parkland, due to the location of the flood plain of the West Branch of the Nimishillen Creek and other environmental constraints.

In accordance with state law, public hearings will be held on the proposed amendment. For dates and times of the hearings or for additional information on this proposed rezoning plan, please contact the township office.

Yard Waste Drop-off

Yard waste drop-off sites are now available for residents at the following two locations:

- **Fire Station #4**, 2855 Easton St. NE, open Monday, Thursday and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- **Warstler Brothers Landscaping**, 4125 Salway Ave. NW, open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

No plastic bags are accepted, and yard waste must be unloaded and unbagged by residents. No yard waste is accepted from businesses.
Complaint Procedure
Ohio Revised Code Section 505.87 authorizes the Board of Trustees to provide for abatement, control, or removal of vegetation, garbage, refuse and other debris from land in the Township, if the Board determines that the owner's maintenance of such vegetation, garbage, refuse and other debris constitutes a nuisance. The Zoning Department has the following policy regarding the filing and investigation of complaints for zoning violations or nuisance conditions which affect public health and/or safety:

- complaints will be taken in person, in writing, or by telephone.
- complaints that are filed with an identifiable complainant will be immediately prioritized and dealt with in a timely manner.
- a response will be forwarded to identifiable complainants regarding the conditions found and intended course of action following initial investigation of the complaint.
- anonymous complaints will be taken but are not prioritized and will only be investigated when all regularly scheduled work has been completed and there is additional time available within the Department.

Vegetation List
- Dead plant material piled such that it emits objectionable and foul odors or presents a haven for rodents.
- Dead trees, shrubs, or other plant material, if they should fall, which present a safety hazard to adjacent public or private property.
- Any vegetation which presents a sight distance safety hazard to motorists using either public or private streets or driveways.
  - Any vegetation which, because of its characteristics of growth, spreads onto adjacent property and cannot be controlled.
- Any grass or weeds on lots, either on which buildings and structures are built or which are vacant, where more than 50 percent of the parcel has vegetation exceeding 8” in height and a complaint has been filed.

Refuse/Debris/Garbage List
A. Unlicensed, wrecked, junk and/or abandoned motor vehicles on private property with or without the permission of the property owner that is not in a completely enclosed building.
  - Unlicensed motor vehicles
  - A motor vehicle that is extremely damaged including but not limited to any of the following: missing wheels, tires, body parts, motors, transmissions, muffler parts, deflated tires
  - A motor vehicle that is inoperable
  - An abandoned motor vehicle

B. Discarded and/Dismantled Motor Vehicle Materials or Parts
  - Discarded or salvaged motor vehicle materials such as scrap metals.
  - Discarded and/or dismantled motor vehicle parts including but not limited to any one of the following:
    a. Motor vehicle motors or engines
    b. Motor vehicle doors, windows or body parts
    c. Motor vehicle tires
    d. Motor vehicle mufflers and/or tailpipes

C. Discarded or Used Building Materials-Household or Industrial Appliances
  - Discarded or salvaged non-motor vehicle materials such as scrap metals, used building materials, used lumber, used glass, plastic, iron, paper, rags, cordage, barrels, doors, gutters, windows, tires, roof shingles
  - Household or industrial appliances including, but not limited to, ovens, stoves, refrigerators, furniture, washers, dryers, heating and air conditioning units.

*Sections A, B, and C do not apply to a junkyard or automobile wrecking yard defined in and operating in compliance with the Plain Township Zoning Code.

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D. Garbage

- Any garbage, including but not limited to, food and/or organic waste.

*Section D does not apply to a sanitary landfill as defined in and operating in compliance with the Zoning Code.

Zoning Permits Required

Before you begin any construction project, your first step should be to contact the Zoning Department to discuss the minimum setbacks and maximum size requirements that apply to your property.

In addition to a permit application, a to-scale site plan of your property is required to illustrate the new construction's size and location on the property. **Permits must be issued before work begins.**

If you are hiring a contractor, the Zoning Department recommends that you discuss who will be responsible for obtaining permits with your contractor. Remember that ultimately, the property owner is responsible for compliance of his or her property with all Township zoning requirements.

For general information regarding minimum requirements for your project, application procedures, and fees required, call the Zoning Department at 330-492-4686.

New Zoning Director

The Trustees wish to express their appreciation to Michelle Mahoney, who recently resigned after 12 years of working for the Zoning Department, the last three as Zoning Director. Michelle wishes to spend more time with her family, and the Trustees and Township staff wish her well.

Plain Township also wishes to welcome Steve Peroz as the new Zoning Director. Steve has a Masters’ Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Akron, and has a number of years of experience in zoning from working for several Ohio communities.

Plain Township Historical Society

The Plain Township Historical Society is a new group that has been formed to gather and preserve the history of Plain Township. The Society meets on the third Monday of each month at the Plain Township Hall at 7:00 p.m. Our group is looking for additional members who have an interest and curiosity about our township both past and present.

If you would like additional information about our Society, please call:

- Tom Pieper 330-494-6187
- Ruby Bair 330-499-2356
- Judy Cloud Pocock 330-492-3566

The following programs are scheduled this summer:

**June 20**—Dick Stambaugh will speak on Indians of this area.

**July 18**—David Ross will discuss the history of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (located at 55th St. and Middlebranch Rd. NE)

**August 15**—There will be a cemetery walk through the Wartstler Cemetery on Middlebranch Road. We have talked about pioneer families at previous meetings and we will be looking for their gravesites.

If you would like to hear a program on a specific topic or would be willing to present a program appropriate to the nature of our group, please contact us. So mark the date on your calendar and make plans to join us. We would like to have the opportunity to hear your perspective and information!
Township streets to be paved this summer are listed to the left.

**Prevent Drainage Problems**

Please remember not to rake leaves, grass clippings, or other debris into storm sewers, ditches or streets. Keeping storm sewers and ditches clean will help reduce drainage problems. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Please also remember that it is illegal to dump oil, antifreeze, herbicides, pesticides or other hazardous products into ditches, culverts or catch basins. All violators will be prosecuted. If you see dumping taking place, please report it to the Stark County Health Department at **330-493-9904**.

**Permits Required**

**Road Opening Permits**—A permit is required for any excavation in the Township right-of-way. A permit can be obtained by coming to the Plain Township Road Garage, 6300 Heminger Ave. NE, Canton, Ohio. The fee is $50.00.

**Driveway Permits**—A permit is required for new construction, or any improvements you make to your existing driveway. This permit gives you the guidelines for paving and apron requirements. A permit can be obtained by coming to the Plain Township Road Garage, 6300 Heminger Ave. NE, Canton, Ohio. The fee is $2.00.

**Portable Basketball Hoops**

Portable basketball hoops have been very popular throughout the Township over the last couple of years. Some being put in the right-of-way can and already have caused problems. According to O.R.C. Section 3767.15, no obstruction can be placed in the right-of-way. The Trustees are asking that these hoops be moved out of the right-of-way.
Aluminum Cans for Burned Children (ACBC)

ACBC was started in 1985. The program's goal was to provide funding to help burned children and their families emotionally and physically return to normal lives.

ACBC helps child burn victims and their families by providing the following:
- special protective clothing not covered by insurance
- non-medical items such as pets and toys lost in home fires
- bicycles that help children exercise their injured bodies
- transportation to outpatient treatments

Many special events and programs for child burn victims are also funded by ACBC:
- annual holiday party
- summer burn camp
- fire safety education programs that help prevent future tragedies
- plus an annual weekend outing for adult burn patients who have been treated at the Akron Regional Burn Center.

Through your donations of aluminum cans and fund-raising events, we are able to continue to make a difference in so many lives. Your contribution of aluminum cans at the Fire Stations is greatly appreciated.

House Numbers Available

Being able to find your residence or business is critical to aiding safety professionals in responding to an emergency. Residents can obtain signs with a blue metal background and large reflective numbers to aid in locating addresses.
Three self-service recycling sites in Plain Township are now open seven days a week, dawn to dusk, at:

- Diamond Park, 2782 Diamond NE - west parking lot
- Taft & Day School grounds, on Salway NW
- K-Mart, 3801 Harmont Ave. NE

The recycling bins are labeled as follows, and recyclables should be sorted accordingly:

- Newspapers/magazines
- Plastics (#1 & #2)/glass
- Food boxes
- Aluminum/steel
- Flat corrugated cardboard

Please call Stark County Recycling at 330-451-7808 with any questions.

For information on disposal of items not included in this program, please call the Joint Solid Waste Management District at 1-800-678-9839.