



MARCH 2024
It's Time for Spring!

Ruritans Scholarships ~ 2024

The Harpersfield Ruritans will be awarding scholarships for 2024 to Harpersfield High School Graduates.

The requirements for eligibility are as follows:

1. A minimum of a 3-point average.
2. An ACT score of at least 19.
3. A senior must be signed up to attend a college or preparatory school.
4. The applicant must reside in Harpersfield Township.

Direct questions to Geneva High School guidance counselor, Kimberly DeBacker, or call Ruritans, Larry Lister - 440-479-0987.

Jim Pristov, Township Trustee



ZONING DEPARTMENT NOTES

We welcome all new members to the zoning boards. Paula Pristov to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Beth Henning and Ann Moses to the Zoning Commission Board.

Ed Spoor, Township Trustee



Harpersfield Township

4858 Cork Cold Springs Rd.

Geneva, OH 44041

2024



NAD Membership
All of March



Move Clocks Ahead
March 10

Fish Fry • 5 - 7 p.m.

February 16 • March 1, 15, 29 • April 12

Scholarship Application Deadline

Early April



Total Solar Eclipse • April 8

RAM • April 13 - 14



Memorial Day Parade

May 27 - 11:30 a.m.



Clean-Up Day

September 14 • 8 a.m. - noon



HARPERSFIELD TOWNSHIP GENERAL INFORMATION

Twp. Mailing Address: 4858 Cork Cold Springs Rd.

TRUSTEES:

Jim Pristov, Chairman	Home 466-4864
Ed Spoor, Vice Chairman	Home 466-3661
Mickey Mihalick	Home 415-3621
Sharon Rohrbaugh	Office 466-2242
Renée Hanyok	Office 466-9292

FISCAL OFFICER:

Newsletter Editor:

Fire Station #1

Fire Station #2

Community Center

Township website:

1481 Old Harpersfield Rd.
Cork Cold Springs Rd. west of State Route 534.
Cork Cold Springs Rd. west of State Route 534.
<http://www.harpersfield.us/>

Meetings:

1481 Old Harpersfield Rd.

TRUSTEES:

2nd and 4th Mondays at 7:00 PM

ZONING COMMISSION:

1st Monday at 7:00 PM

Zoning Commission Members:

Ken McLeod - Ed Pristov - Larry Lister
Pete Hommel - Gary Somnitz - Ann Moses

Board of Zoning Appeals Members:

Angie Riffle - Don Bowling - Cliff Henry
Dave Snyder - Ashley Kirk - Paula Pristov

ZONING OFFICE:

1481 Old Harpersfield Rd. - 466-4240

TOWNSHIP GARAGE:

Rt. 307 west of Harpersfield Rd. - 466-7170

Zoning Administrator:

Larry Lister - 466-4240 / 344-7165 (cell)

Zoning Clerk:

Debbie Riffle - 466-4240

Zoning email address:

zoning@harpersfield.us

ROAD DEPARTMENT RUMBLES

The Road Department, once again, has done many projects to improve roads and drainage in the Township. There've been 12 cross pipes replaced, 11.5 miles of chip and seal, 3 miles of ditching, miles of cutting back right of way and the paving of Old Orchard Drive.

Working with Geneva City on the Harpersfield Trail, they partnered to extend the trail from where it ended on Clay Street to connect to Beringer Place. This makes it much safer for the residents, who live in the area that were forced to walk in the road, to get to the starting point of the trail. What a great project for both Communities.



Equipment purchased for this year, was a new Case excavator and a new Mack Dump truck.



A BIG thank you to the Road Crew for the installation of a new salt storage dome. This new salt dome will allow the road department to load salt much quicker, saving time and wear and tear on equipment. Previously, having to drive the loader 1/8 mile to Harpersfield Road, loading salt, then taking the loader back to the garage on Route 307 each time.

The dome is constructed of solid concrete retaining block, a steel roof and an asphalt base. The bin will hold up to 300 tons of material. All work was completed by our Road Department saving the township about \$75,000.00. Thanks again to the road crew for their hard work and saving the township a considerable amount of money.



Ed Spoor, Township Trustee

Pre-Sort Standard
U.S. Postage

PAID

Geneva, Ohio
Permit No. 479



REMOTE AREA MEDICAL

Remote Area Medical (RAM)

Free medical care April 13-14, 2024

Lakeside High school, 6600 Sanborn Rd. Ashtabula

Free, First come, First served, No ID required!

Medical: physical exams, RX consultations, women's health exams.

Dental: cleanings, fillings, extractions, X-rays.

Vision: complete eye exams, eye health evaluations, prescription glasses made on site.



For more info: RAMUSA.ORG 865-579-1530

Ed Spoor, Township Trustee



TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

A total solar eclipse will be visible in parts of Ohio the afternoon of April 8, 2024. Are you ready?



Be prepared for cell service overload due to the increase in visitors that will be staying in the area and using the local network. Have cash on hand as potential challenges with credit/debit card use may be affected. Be prepared for crowds and higher than normal traffic.



The last total eclipse in Ohio was in 1806; and the next one in Ohio, after the 2024 event, will be in the year 2444.

* * The best way to safely watch a total eclipse is to wear protective eclipse glasses. * *

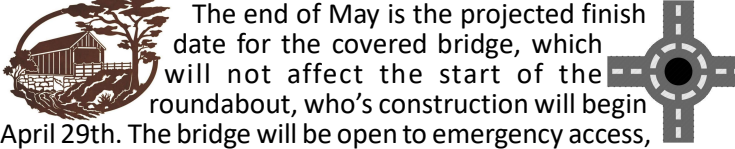


Ed Spoor, Township Trustee

TRUSTEES REPORT

Welcome Mickey Mihalick, our new trustee to the board. She will be filling Ray Gruber's seat. Mickey will be a valuable addition to our board of trustees. *Thank you* to all the Harpersfield residents that showed interest and applied for this position.


Ray stepped down as trustee and has since moved to Maine. He has done a lot for our community. We will all miss him. Ray was recognized as the 2023 Harpersfield Citizen of the Year.



The end of May is the projected finish date for the covered bridge, which will not affect the start of the roundabout, who's construction will begin April 29th. The bridge will be open to emergency access, but, may not be open to local traffic.


We're hoping to have the new Marriot TownePlace Suites Hotel and Pizza Roto opening soon.

Ed Spoor, Township Trustee


Harpersfield Ruritans

The Harpersfield Ruritans would like to thank  all those who supported their fund raisers throughout the year, which included the grape juice booth at the Grape Jamboree and the Harpersfield Clambake which they share with the Harpersfield Volunteer Fire Department in mid October.

 This year the funds will be used towards awarding two \$1,000.00 scholarships to graduating high school seniors that reside in Harpersfield Township. We urge all seniors who meet the requirements to apply. Applications must be submitted by early April. Please check with your guidance counselor for information for the application. 

 The Easter Bunny will be making an early stop at Cork Elementary School to share some Easter candy with the students and teachers.


On April 26th, the Ruritans will bring American Holly Tree seedlings to the Cork Elementary School students to celebrate Earth Day. This year, First Energy is working with the Ruritans in providing the tree seedlings.


On Monday, May 27th, the Ruritans and the Harpersfield Volunteer Fire Department, will host the Memorial Day Parade and program. The parade will begin at 11:30 AM, from the Harpersfield Administration Building and end at Harpersfield Cemetery on State Route 307. The program will begin at noon. Free hot dogs and beverages will be served by the Ruritans after the service. Many residents attend this beautiful ceremony in memory of our fallen soldiers who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Please join us. 


Thank you for your support.


Jim Pristor, Township Trustee


NORTHWEST AMBULANCE DISTRICT

 The Northwest Ambulance District, run by, Administrator, Vince Gildone and his well trained staff, had another busy year in 2023 with 3,390 ambulance calls for: 215 motor vehicle

 accidents; 152 cardiac; 182 lift assists; 409 falls; 1,737 medical general calls; 17 patient out calls; 22 patient support calls; 21 overdoses; 42 fire; 11 water rescues and 794 nursing home calls. Harpersfield

 Township had 371 calls for the year with an average response time of 4.8 minutes. Northwest ambulance continues to train their teams so they are well prepared to take care of the needs of our residents.

The district meeting room is open for organizational meetings. CPR training classes are also available to residents. For information for using the meeting room or available classes please call 440-466-4900. 


March is membership month for NAD. For \$15.00 your family can become a member. For \$10.00 Northwest Ambulance will make you an address sign for your mailbox, which makes it easier to locate your home for a call. Please take time to renew your membership for 2024 by calling 440-466-4900. 



Northwest ambulance district thanks the residents of the district for passing the levy this past November. Administrator Vince Gildone said, "Our ability to respond to the needs of our community, in all types of emergencies and other events, would not be possible without the continued strong support we have received from the people." The number of calls go up each year.

Jim Pristor, Township Trustee

 **WE THANK YOU! FOR YOUR SUPPORT!** 


FIRE DEPARTMENT FLICKERS


During 2023, Harpersfield Volunteer Fire Department responded to 176 calls - thank you to our volunteers and their families for their time and service to our community. Thanks also goes out to those in our community who came out in November in support of our replacement operating levy. With the successful passage of this levy, the fire department can continue to provide the citizens of Harpersfield with fire protection. This comes in the form of personal protective equipment, on-going training, and truck maintenance. While this operating levy is crucial to the day-to-day running of the fire department, it does not provide funds for purchasing new fire trucks. However, we are happy to announce that our 2013 bond, for engine 662 at Station One, has been paid off. 


 Come out and join us for fellowship at our annual Lenten Fish Fry Fridays, taking place every other Friday at the Community Center beginning on February 16th. As always, if anyone is interested in being part of your fire department, please call 440-376-4816. 

Frank Henry, Fire Chief

SENIOR CENTER NEWS

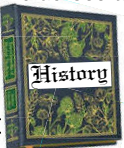
 The Senior Center offers daily activities Monday-Friday. The director does a great job of procuring programs of interest to the seniors liking. The number of participants has grown over the last year.


Rides are available for all Harpersfield Township and the Geneva Area City School District seniors to get to and from the different programs, doctor appointments, grocery stores, etc. 

 If anyone has any questions or would like a monthly calendar of events they may contact Harpersfield Township's new board representative and volunteer, Tonia Varckette at 440-812-4101 or windfall@roadrunner.com. She is replacing Ray Gruber who has stepped down after 20 years as Chairman of the Senior Center. "Thank you" Ray for all your dedication to the Senior Center, and as a fellow trustee. You were a great mentor to me.

Ed Spoor, Township Trustee

HISTORY OF THE TOWNSHIP PART 13 - El Dorado

While Fran and I were packing up for our trip to Maine I came across a book from 1878 dealing with the history of Ashtabula County that I had totally forgotten about. This is a very large book (a coffee table style) and deals with every township and city in the county. It was written by the Williams Brothers and printed in Philadelphia. The following information was taken from that book about Harpersfield Township. 

 In the year 1797 a number of persons residing in Harpersfield, Delaware County, New York formed themselves into a company and in June of that year entered into a contract with Oliver Phelps and Gideon Granger, of the Connecticut Land Company, for six townships of land in what was then termed New Connecticut, at the Northwestern Territory. The present township of Harpersfield was one of the six so purchases. The following September, a committee was sent to Ohio for the purpose of ascertaining "how the land lay."

After due search, it was decided that Harpersfield was the most eligible locality in which to commence settlement, and accordingly, on March 7, 1798, Alexander Harper, William Mc Farland, and Ezra Gregory, with their families, and Benjamin Hartwell took their departure from old Harpersfield for the "El Dorado" or land of promise.

Arriving in Rome, New York, they remained until the 1st of May, at which time the journey was resumed; first in boats to Queenstown, from thence by teams to Fort Erie, going up on the Canada shore, as there were, at that time, no roads west of the Genesee River; in fact, there were but three families in Buffalo, and only a garrison at Fort Erie.

At this time they found a small vessel about ready to sail. In this, a passage was secured for the families and a small quantity of provisions. The vessel was too heavily loaded to admit much additional weight. It is thought that this vessel was the only one owned on the American side of Lake Erie.


Arriving at the Peninsula, they were after a week, enabled to procure small boats, with which to complete the journey, and by the aid of which they arrived at the mouth of the stream now known as Cunningham Creek on June 28, 1798, and the first night encamped on the beach of the lake, with no other shelter than the "starry decked canopy of heaven."

The following day they cut a road through to what is now Harpersfield, and at evening made an encampment in the northwest corner of the township.

I will be sending you more excerpts from this book in future newsletters.

Respectively submitted, *Ray Gruber Jr.*

(Gone, but, not forgotten. . . ♥)

 Never iron a four-leaf clover, because you don't want to . . . press your luck.

~ IRISH PROVERB

 When Irish eyes are smilin' . . . surely, they're up to somethin'.