

Village of Mt. Orab Community Connection

Leaf pick up will resume as usual this fall.

August 2020

COVID-19 Economic Impact

Just as the COVID-19 economic shutdown has impacted residents and businesses in the Village, the shutdown has taken a toll on the Village operating budget. Although no one can predict what the long term impact will be on our economy and operating budget, we do know that the Village has already lost \$150,000 in earnings tax revenue during the roughly three-month time frame of shutdown. We are happy to report that since the reopening of businesses the economic projections show that earnings tax revenue seems to be back on track. None the less, revenue lost can not be recovered.

In anticipation of this lost revenue, on April 7, 2020 Village Council pro-actively voted to freeze all non-essential spending. This spending freeze eliminated services such as limb chipping; reduced summer mowing and weed eating; shifted employees to encompass other duties and responsibilities; and enacted limited hiring of new staff. This action resulted in the school resource officers being shifted to other duties. The retiring zoning commissioner's position was not filled. The Deputy Fire Chief's position temporarily shifted to the Brown County COVID-19 task force. Seasonal workers were not hired and part-time workers were shifted to other duties or positions were eliminated.

Limb Chipping

A one time fall limb chipping will begin on October 5th. Pick up will be as usual and piles of limbs should be no larger than 5' high by 8' long (what would fit in the bed of a pick up truck).

Cemetery News

In February, the Village assumed responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the Mt. Orab Cemetery on N. High Street from the Green Township Trustees. Thirty years ago this cemetery was annexed into the Village of Mt. Orab. At the time of the annexation no one was aware of an existing law which, in short, stated that if a village annexed a cemetery it then became the responsibility of that village to operate and maintain the cemetery. The Brown County Prosecutor found this law while researching another cemetery topic setting the wheels in motion for this action.

The Village projects it will cost \$40K-50K to operate and maintain the cemetery annually. Green Township has a cemetery levy in place which previously funded the operation. It is not possible for these levy funds to be transferred to the Village.

The Village has retained Amy Bronson as the Cemetery Sexton (caretaker) and has retained the same mowing company for the cemetery.

Construction

Construction season is well under way! As a reminder, if you have a commercial or residential construction project planned Call Before You Dig.

Property owners/contractors must call the Ohio Utilities Protection Service (OUPS) at 1-800-362-2764 or 811 prior to breaking ground on any construction project. OUPS will locate all underground utilities (electric, gas, cable television, and telephone) within the work site. When you call they will need the address / location of the construction site, the type of work being performed, and the equipment being used. OUPS will notify the Village Utilities who will locate water/sewer lines for you. You should also contact S. Bryer Cable 1-814-282-5223 to locate their cable lines.

These are the first steps to a successful project!

From the desk of Chief Bryan Mount

I would like to take a moment to explain the structure of the Mt. Orab Police Department. We are a small agency with a total of 17 officers. The department is comprised of the Chief, Captain, Sergeant and Detective as well as 6 full-time patrol officers. Two of the full-time officers are assigned to the Western Brown Schools as resource and wellness officers. In addition to the 10 full-time officers we are staffed with 7 part-time officers who work a few hours a week or assist in covering time off and details. Officers of the Mt. Orab Police Department are trained to the highest standards. We are working diligently to insure our officers have the most recent and updated training on ethics, use of force, and cultural diversity as well as training in everyday operations of police duties.

The COVID pandemic has been extremely challenging for the department as we have been asked to reduce spending and budget while increasing our call volume. We are up to the task and we are blessed to have a lot of wonderful residents who support us. Thanks to everyone who have reached out by cards, donations of food and even just a kind word in the challenging times.

There are several things which we would like to take the opportunity to explain to our fellow residents. Among these is the issue of people riding **UTV's** and **GOLF CARTS** on roadways. Ohio law does not allow the operation of golf carts and utility vehicles such as side by sides, razors and quad runners on any roadway. We have been experiencing a lot of people who have been misinformed about riding on the roadways. This is extremely dangerous and presents a risk to the riders as well as the other vehicles on the roadway. Section 73.16 of the Village Ordinance makes it a minor misdemeanor on the first offense (a fine of \$242.00) and a misdemeanor of the 4th degree (fine of \$342.00 and up to 30 days in jail) on the second offense with the penalty escalating on each subsequent offense. The other issue is the use of slow-moving vehicle signs. Ohio law allows for agricultural equipment to be driven on a roadway from one farm field to another for agricultural purposes. This does not allow for the use of the slow-moving vehicle signs to drive unlicensed vehicles on a roadway. Please help us make our streets as safe as possible.

Another issue we are experiencing is parking on the roadway. We understand that family's often have parties and gatherings where there are a lot of guests. We are requesting residents and their guests be considerate of their neighbors. Most neighborhoods are marked no parking on the roadway. Any vehicle left unattended for an extended amount of time will be advised to move and/or be cited. Thank you for your cooperation.

Lastly, the Western Brown Schools will be reopening on August 24, 2020 and with that comes all the children walking and on bikes. Please be extra vigilant of busses and be patient while they are stopped for loading and unloading. Additionally, please be aware of crosswalks and crossings within the Village of Mt. Orab as we have numerous children who will be walking to school.

If you have any questions or concerns, I would encourage you to contact me at: bryan.mount@mtoraboh.us or by phone at the Mt. Orab Police Department (937) 444-2281.

As always, I look forward to seeing you around town. Please have a blessed day.

Fire Hydrants

The utilities department in conjunction with the fire department is pleased to announce that all fire hydrants on the Mt. Orab Village water lines have been serviced for the year as part of the annual hydrant maintenance program. Annual hydrant maintenance is required to be performed by the Insurance Service Organization and proper maintenance does have an impact on your fire protection insurance rating.

Water /Sewer

If you plan to work on your water or sewer line please let the Village Utilities know by calling, 444-4141 or 444-2657. This may be a great opportunity to collaborate and update some equipment.

You must let the Village know if you plan to do any work to the sewer lateral. The Village will need to inspect the sewer lateral if you are installing, replacing or repairing any part of it.

Fire Department

During the COVID-19 shutdown, fire and EMS calls for services decreased by 70%. This decrease in emergency calls along with the loss of income tax funds certainly had a negative impact on our operational budget. To help compensate for this financial deficit our Deputy Chief's position was shifted to the Brown County COVID-19 task force; minimum staffing requirements were reevaluated; and we searched and applied for grant funds to help offset the additional expenses of personal protective equipment (PPE) and cleaning supplies as a result of COVID-19.

During the first few weeks of COVID-19 we found it very difficult to purchase adequate personal protective equipment and proper cleaning supplies. Through donations of supplies from community emergency services supporters we were able to obtain an adequate amount of initial supplies to keep our patients and our staff safe. We are happy to report we are no longer experiencing supply deficits and would like to thank those individuals and businesses for their donations.

Fire Inspections

The fire department is currently conducting annual fire inspections in accordance with the Ohio Fire Code, Section 106.2. These inspections are being conducted to improve the overall safety of our community and to allow the fire department to collect vital information needed in the event of an emergency situation. The information gathered will allow the fire department to pre-plan for a variety of emergency situations at each business location. We want business owners and operators to know that we want to work with you to keep our community safe. In many instances businesses can receive a credit on their insurance rating by performing annual fire inspections.

The fire department can also perform in-home inspections at the request of the resident. These inspections are typically needed for foster care, child adoptions, and in-home child and adult care. If you are in need of any of these inspections please contact us at 937-444-3945.

Street Projects

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) has identified two project locations in the Mt. Orab Village Limits that warrant improvements due to traffic safety issues and are in the top 50 most dangerous locations along Ohio's State Highways. Using their Transportation Safety monies, **ODOT has funded 100%** of the design and construction of the following:

1. A new interchange on SR 32 between Brooks Malott Road and Bodman Road along with the extension of Homan Way from Brooks Malott to Bodman Road.

The new interchange, once completed, will eliminate the traffic signal at Brooks Malott Road and will also eliminate access to SR 32 from Brooks Malott. The new interchange will access a new roadway that connects Bardwell West to the North Homan Way via an overpass bridge across SR 32. Homan Way will be extended to connect from Brooks Malott Road to Bodman Road. Additionally, Bodman Road access to SR32 will also be eliminated. The total cost for this project is estimated to be approximately \$13,270,000. This project is funded totally by ODOT and currently in the design phase. Bidding is expected in 2021 and construction in 2022.

2. Interchange improvement at SR 32 and US 68 (N High Street) and Sterling Run Boulevard.

The improvements at SR 32 and US 68 interchange include:

- ⇒ The elimination of the traffic signal at the eastbound on and off ramps, construction of a modified roundabout at the eastbound on and off ramps that enable continuous traffic flow.
- ⇒ The lengthening of the left turn on to the westbound ramp to SR 32, the addition of a 2nd left turn lane from Sterling Run Boulevard onto northbound US 68 along with signal improvements.
- ⇒ The addition of a second northbound lane on US 68 from Sterling Run to bridge with extension of the bridge over Sterling Run and other related construction items.

The Estimated cost of the transportation safety portion of the project is \$2,136,000 and the cost is **100% paid by ODOT**. The Village will also have a local share cost of approximately \$500,000 for engineering design fees and some Sterling Run Road improvements that tie into the safety improvements. Assessments to the benefitted properties will be used to pay these costs. The project is in the final design stages and bidding is expected in late 2020 with construction to occur and be completed in the 2021 construction season.

The Village will be the beneficiary of approximately \$15,406,000 of the ODOT Transportation Safety Funding for both projects, which ultimately enhance traffic safety within the Village and greatly enhanced traffic flow and access with no outlay of Village monies from existing revenues.

**Village of Mt. Orab
Community Connection**

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In these uncertain times, I would like to reassure you that our fire department is working diligently to keep you safe. During the COVID-19 pandemic we have experienced citizens not calling for emergency medical services until it is nearly too late; many out of fear of becoming infected with COVID-19. We want you to know that our apparatus and equipment is properly decontaminated between patients and hospitals have protocols in place for separating potential COVID patients from non-COVID patients. Please **DO NOT** hesitate to call 911 for any medical emergency.

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Emergencies, Police, Fire & EMS: 911

- Village Administration - 937-444-4141
- Tax Department - 937-444-2945
- Police Non-Emergency - 937-444-2281
- Mayors Court - 937-444-2281
- Fire Non-Emergency - 937-444-3945
- Board of Public Affairs 937-444-4141

Thunderstorm Warning

A Severe Thunderstorm Warning is issued when a severe storm is happening or imminent.

Take shelter immediately!

Check for forecast updates, as conditions can change rapidly.



Take Action!

Thunderstorm Watch

A Severe Thunderstorm Watch is issued when severe storms are possible in the near future.

Stay tuned to forecast updates and monitor sky conditions.

Know where to take shelter.

Be Prepared.

Verify Your Voter Registration

Ohio's deadline  is October 9th

**Ohio Public Health Advisory System
Risk Level Application to Daily Activities**

Yellow	Orange	Red	Purple
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit with family and friends, using social distancing and wear facial coverings if you are in public Go to the park, have picnics, etc. Go out to eat and/or shopping if comfortable doing so and follow all safety precautions Engage in activities if comfortable after reviewing and weighing risks If a high risk individual or household contact of high risk individual, take additional precautions and weigh risk for each activity. Focus on social distancing (6ft or more), hand washing, wear a facial covering when in public, cover your cough and sneezes, and encourage outdoor activities. Follow all sector specific guidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit unnecessary trips Wear a face covering in public places, if able (refer to the current Public Health Order) Consider meeting with family and friends virtually or visit where you can maintain social distance. Reconsider plans for gatherings. Decrease in-person interaction with others Consider curbside services or take out as appropriate Businesses can review plans and update as needed Consider moving all meetings and services virtually Follow all sector specific guidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extreme Risk of Transmission and Negative Outcomes associated with COVID-19 Stay at home/Necessary travel only Follow all Public Health Orders and guidance 	

coronavirus.ohio.gov
defiancecohealth.org/coronavirus/

Defiance County



Public Health

*Social activities listed are limited to optional in-person activities and do not include work, education, or child care/camp options.