

# Big Island Township Newsletter

November 2011 Township Hall location: Corner of Bumford and DeCliff-Big Island Roads



Monthly meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm in the township hall

## Some of the Township Accomplishments during 2011

- Culvert replacement at the corner of Schmidt Road and Seiter Road (This was a joint project between the township and the county)
- 300 feet of tile along Lee Road was repaired to allow for better drainage
- The signs at Pleasant Hill Cemetery were replaced
- The railroad sign on Espyville Road south of Route 95 was repainted
- Trees were trimmed along several township roads
- Much needed repairs were done on the township hall

## Big Island Township and the county exchange roads

Due to the increase in traffic and demand for service and care that will accompany the construction of the new Elgin School Campus, the township and county exchanged ownership of several roads this past year.

The county will now be responsible for the section of Keener Road from State Route 203 to LaRue - Prospect Road. This includes repair and maintenance and snow removal. The county also received the section of Espyville Road between LaRue - Prospect Road and LaRue - Green Camp Road.

In exchange for these two roads the township received all of Seiter Road and the section of Espyville Road north of LaRue - Prospect Road.

★ ★ ★ *We are now on* ★ ★ ★  
★ ★ **Facebook** ★ ★ ★  
bigislandtownshipnewsletter@yahoo.com



Information currently available at



[www.bigislandtownship.org](http://www.bigislandtownship.org)

- Printable copies of monthly Trustee meeting Minutes
- Complete list of Township Officers w/ phone numbers
- Printable copy of Township Zoning Regulations
- Cemetery Regulations and Fees
- Fire Department/EMS Contact Information
- Archive of Previous Newsletters



Steve Uhl painting railroad crossing sign at Espyville Rd. south of Route 95

*Be Sure To Count  
Your Blessings This  
Thanksgiving Season*

*The Township Trustees wish  
you and your family a happy  
and safe Thanksgiving Holiday*



## Trustees

Steven Uhl (Chairman) 375-0000  
suhl\_bitownship@yahoo.com  
Philip Schaber (Vice Chairman) 499-3241  
Robert Handley 465-5050

## Fiscal Officer

Penny Fogle 382-9878  
pfogle\_bitownship@yahoo.com

## Zoning Inspector

Jerry Yancey 382-3862

## Cemetery Superintendent

Tim Noggle 262-2367

## Zoning Commission

Tim Fogle (Chairman) 382-9878  
Linda Stacy (Secretary) 382-3023  
Mark Lambert 382-5933  
Paul Snare 382-8371  
Jeff Hopkins 387-3032

## Zoning Appeals Board

Marshall Baker (Chairman) 383-4418  
John Hesse (Secretary) 383-4821  
Bill Gracely 499-3025  
Robert Willis 465-5165  
Mary Plough 465-2334

## Alternates:

Ryan Eisele	Wendy Fox
Warren Marsh	Loretta Ryan
Visla Marsh	Edward Damphouse
Cheryl Rhoads	Ryan Caldwell



Joint culvert repair between Big Island Township and Marion County at the intersection of Schmidt and Seiter Roads

## New Vision Senior Group Meetings

- Meetings held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month.
- 10:00am until noon
- 12:00 Noon - a hot meal is served.  
Price of meal is \$4.00 per member
- Anyone 55 years old or older is invited to join.
- The meetings are held at the James H. Johnson - Charles Rudd Community Complex on state route 95 1/4 mile east of New Bloomington.
- Everyone is welcome. No pre-registraion required.



## **Food Pantry**



The purpose of the food bank is to assist families who are experiencing financial difficulties by providing food and a limited selection of other household supplies.

The hours food will be distributed is between **2:00pm and 4:00pm every Wednesday and 2:00pm and 6:00pm on the third Wednesday.**

Food can be picked up at the James H. Johnson - Charles Rudd Community Complex.

Call Vicki Noggle at 251-8109 for complete information.

The food pantry does not discriminate against nor judge anyone requesting assistance.

**All donations to the food pantry are tax deductible**

## Have an item for the newsletter or for the web site\*

The Big Island Newsletter is currently planned to be published twice a year, in April and November. If you have an item you would like to have included in a copy of the newsletter or on the website, contact **Steve Uhl at 375-0000**, email the information to Steve at [suhl\\_bitownship@yahoo.com](mailto:suhl_bitownship@yahoo.com), or drop the information off at the James H. Johnson - Charles Rudd Community Complex.

Photos are welcome and can be returned.

Please be sure to include your name and phone number in case we need additional information.

\*The Township Trustees reserve the right to refuse any submission due to content and/or benefit to the township.

# “They left the door unlocked. They were inviting me to come on in. It was their fault.”

This statement was made by an inmate at one of the Marion prisons when asked why he broke into a house to burglarize it.

According to Major Jeff Cline of the Marion County Sheriff’s Office most crimes like thefts and burglaries are committed by individuals who are not career criminals. Most of these crimes are committed by people looking for a quick and easy way to make some money.

The best way to protect yourself and your property is to understand what the potential offender is searching for and how they select their victim. Once you understand some of these facts, you can begin to think like a potential intruder and start looking at your home and property as the potential thief would to see what you need to do, or change, to make yourself, your home, shed, or barn an unappealing target.

According to Marion County Sheriff’s Office statistics, burglaries and other similar crimes are relatively low in Big Island Township when compared to the other townships in the county.

However, with the current economic conditions the incidents of crime, not only in our township but throughout the entire county and state, can be expected to increase.

## Number of crimes Marion County Sheriff’s Office responded to between May 1, 2011 and October 24, 2011 in Big Island Township

Thefts:	12	Burglaries:	5
Trespassing:	2	Prowlers:	2
Burglary Alarms:	9	Vandalisms:	5
Menacing/Threats:	3	Warrant Arrests:	2
Sex Offenses:	1		
Fight/Disorderly Conduct:		1	
Domestic Violence Incidents:		13	
Telecommunication Harassments:		4	

## What you can do to protect yourself

- Make your house look occupied
- Lock all doors and windows when not at home
- Keep grass mowed and drives and sidewalks cleaned off
- Collect the paper and mail or have someone do it for you
- Use timers to turn lights on/off when not at home

## Major items people are looking for to steal

- \*Scrap metal
- \*Copper plumbing
- \*Copper wire (that can have rubber insulation removed and be sold)
- \*Tv’s, Computer, other electronics
- \*Tools
- \*Anything that can be taken easily and sold quickly

## Where are the offenders looking to strike

Vacant homes or homes that look vacant:

- \*Tall, unmown grass
- \*Papers, mail not picked up
- \*Snow not cleared from drive or sidewalks
- \*House dark with no movements or other indication of people being home

Open or unlocked barns, garages and shops

Anywhere scrap metal, tools, etc. are laying in the open and easily accessible

## Tricks of the offenders to find out if someone is home

Someone will knock on your door to see if anyone is home. If no one answers they know the house is empty and they can attempt to enter it to remove the items they want.

If someone answers the door the individual will ask directions to a location, ask if you have seen a lost pet, or some other question as an excuse for stopping. They can see what you have in your home for either a later attempt or they will go elsewhere.

The individual, or individuals, may watch your house over a period of time to get an idea of your lifestyle, to learn when you are at home and when you normally are not.

- Provide adequate lighting around the outside of your house
- Trim shrubs and trees to prevent having a place for an intruder to hide
- Lock barns, garages, and sheds
- Install an alarm system or identify your house as having an alarm system.

**Remember: Thieves go to the easiest target**

for more information go to [www.ncpc.org](http://www.ncpc.org) the National Crime Prevention Council

## November, 2011 Big Island Township Newsletter

### Neighborhood Crime Watch Areas being organized

A group of area residents are working with the Marion County Sheriff's Office to organize one or more Crime Watch Areas in the township and surrounding areas.

If you are interested in participating in this program or would like to receive more information on how you can better protect yourself and your property contact Jean Johnson at 499-3965.

### Are You Protected?

Inside this issue:

- Crime statistics for Big Island Township for the last six months

- Information about what burglars are looking for and who they are hitting

- Ways you can protect yourself from becoming a victim

Big Island Township  
4350 Big Island - DeCliff Rd.  
Marion, Ohio 43302

### Questions or Concerns?

If you have any questions or concerns about the township, our duty, zoning, or other matters, feel free to contact one of the trustees or come to a township meeting with your concerns.

Your input is important to us.

### Important Websites

Ohio General Assembly - [www.legislature.state.ohio.us](http://www.legislature.state.ohio.us)  
Ohio Revised Code - <http://codes.ohio.gov/orc>  
Ohio Township Assoc. - [www.ohiotownships.org](http://www.ohiotownships.org)  
Auditor of State - [www.auditor.state.oh.us](http://www.auditor.state.oh.us)  
Ohio Attorney General - [www.ag.state.oh.us](http://www.ag.state.oh.us)  
Ohio Tax Department - [www.tax.ohio.gov](http://www.tax.ohio.gov)

### State Contact Information

Ohio House of Representatives  
77 S. High Street  
Columbus Ohio 43266-0603  
(614) 466-2000

Ohio Senate  
Ohio Statehouse  
Senate Office Building  
Columbus, Ohio 34215-4276  
(614) 466-2000

Ohio Governor  
77 S. High Street, 30th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6108  
(614) 466-3555