



# Big Island Township

Marion County, Ohio

Population: A whole lot of nice people"



Township hall located on the corner of DeCliff-Big Island Road & Bumford Road

October, 2016

## NEWSLETTER

### Snowplow-Proof Your Mailbox

Now if you are anything like us, you live in a state of complete denial every time the word "winter" is even used. But like it or now, winter is quickly approaching and nothing is quite so disheartening in the dead of winter as a mailbox knee capped by a snowplow or decapitated by the heavy wet stuff the snowplow throws its way. Before bad weather hits, be proactive and try these tips.

- Make sure your mailbox is set up according to the US Postal regulations. The problem is often times mailboxes are neglected. Mailboxes and posts deteriorate over time.
- Check the stability of your post, making sure it is secure in the ground. If it is loose, buy a bag of gravel mix and pack it down around the base at ground level.
- Wash and wax your mailbox. Using simple dishwashing soap and warm water thoroughly, inside and out. Then apply a thin coat of regular car wax to the entire box. The wax protects the paint finish similar to your car.
- If you live in a dimly lit area, you may want to install reflectors on your mailbox and post. The Department of Transportation recommends using blue or clear reflectors as opposed to red or orange because those are often confused with tail lights.
- Keep the area around your mailbox clear of snow piles or any debris. The less you have around the post itself, the less likely the mailbox will become a casualty of the snowplow.
- In areas that get a great deal of snow, people have started attaching large board, planks against their mailboxes to protect them from the plows.
- If you live on a township road that is maintained by Big Island Township, and your mailbox falls victim to our snowplow, please contact one of your township trustees, and you will be reimbursed \$40.



#### Trustees:

Robert Handley, Chairman	740-361-5556
Clyde Sappington	740-396-2195
Phil Schaber,	740-361-1313

Penny Fogle, Fiscal Officer	740-225-4030
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#### Zoning Inspector:

Walter Yancey	740-382-3862
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#### Cemetery Superintendent:

Timothy Noggle	740-499-3698
Cell	740-262-2367

#### Zoning Commission:

Tim Fogle, chairman	740-382-9878
Linda Stacy, secretary	740-382-3023
Mark Lambert	740-382-5933
Warren Marsh	740-465-5009
Jeff Hopkins	740-387-3032

#### Zoning Appeals Board

Marshall Baker, chairman	740-383-4418
Bill Gracely	740-499-3025
Ed Damphouse	740-382-9828
Wendy Fox	740-499-3020

Monthly meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm.

#### Hall Address:

4350 DeCliff-Big Island Road  
Marion, Ohio 43302

#### Billing Address:

4874 Harding Highway West  
Marion, Ohio 43302

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



Your township officers, left to right:: Robert Handley, Clyde Sappington, Penny Fogle, Phil Schaber

## **Put a FREEZE on Winter Fires!**

The threat of winter fires is real. People are at a greater risk in the winter season when they display decorations, cook holiday meals and used unsafe heat sources. The statistics explain the severity and prevalence of winter fires:

- 905 people die in winter home fires each year
- 67 percent of winter fires occur in one and two-family homes
- Cooking is the lead cause of all winter fires
- 5 to 8 pm is the most common time for winter home fires.

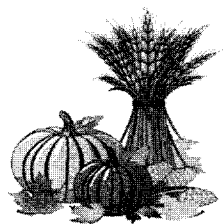
Home fires occur more in winter than in any other season. As you stay cozy and warm this winter, be fire smart.

Heating equipment is involved in 1 in every 6 reported home fires and 1 in every 5 home fire deaths. Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from any heat source such as fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators or space heaters. Plug only 1 heat producing appliance, (such as a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.

Keep portable generators outside, away from windows and as far away as possible from your house. Install and test carbon monoxide alarms at least once a month. Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and every year. Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container, and keep it at least 10 feet from your home and any nearby buildings.

It is fun to decorate for the winter holidays, but holiday decorations can increase your risk for a home fire. As you deck the halls, be fire smart! Keep candles at least 12 inches from anything that burns. 2 out of 5 home decoration fires are started by candles.

Make sure your Christmas tree is at least 3 feet away from heat sources like fire places, radiators, space heaters, candles or heat vents. Make sure your tree does not block exits.



## **Township Truck For Sale**

Safety is a priority for Big Island Township and making sure that our roads are plowed and taken care of in the winter is a major concern for your township officers. In order to better serve our residents, the township is buying a new truck that will keep the township roads cleared of snow this winter and we are selling our current truck. Please contact one of your township trustees if you are interested.

### **FOR SALE**

1996 Ford F800, Diesel; Hydraulic Hoist  
Five-Speed with 81 Glen Hill Snow Plow,  
24,146 miles  
\$10,000 or best offer



## **October is Energy Awareness Month**

During October, Ohioans are encouraged to review how they use energy at home and at work. Turning off lights when you leave a room, washing only full tubs of dishes or clothes are some of the ways to increase some of your energy efficiency. Minor adjustments in your life can save you money and that adds up when you're managing a family budget. More information on energy efficiency can be found on the PUCO website, <http://puco.ohio.gov>.

## **Ohio Minimum Wage to increase in 2017**

Ohio's minimum wage is scheduled to increase on January 1, 2017 to \$8.15 per hour for non-tipped employees and 4.08 per hour for tipped employees. The minimum wage will apply to employees of businesses with annual gross receipts of more than \$299,000 per year.

The Constitutional Amendment (II-34a) passed by Ohio voters in November, 2006 states that Ohio's minimum wage shall increase on January 1 of each year by the rate of inflation. The state minimum wage is tied to the Consumer Price Index for urban workers and clerical workers for the 12 month period prior to September.

For employees at smaller companies with annual gross receipts of \$299,000 or less per year after January 1, 2017 and for 14 and 15 year olds, the state minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour. For these employees, the state minimum wage is tied to the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour, which requires an act of Congress and the President's signature to change.

## **Cemetery and Grave Site Rules**

Big Island Township has four cemeteries that are maintained by the township. Pleasant Hill Cemetery and Salem Cemetery on DeCliff-Big Island Road currently have gravesites available for purchase. The cost for gravesites are \$400 for township residents, \$600 for Marion County residents, and \$900 for out of country residents

Spring flowers are a welcome site to man and it is especially true to those who like to honor a loved one at their grave sites. Some basic guidelines for gravesites are:

- Flowers and shrubs are to be planted within 12 inches of the monument.
- Do not plant evergreens or other dwarf type shrubs.
- Big Island Township is not responsible for damage or theft on any grave site.
- If flowers and shrubs are not maintained, the township has the right to remove them.
- Cemetery hours: daylight to dusk

Our cemetery superintendent, Tim Noggle, will be happy to address any questions or concerns.

## **Johnson-Rudd Community Food Pantry** by Tim and Vicki Noggle

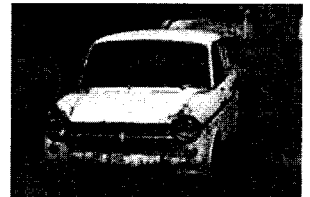
A lot of people sacrifice food over medicine, gas for work, or the electricity or water bill. We are seeing a growth each month and it may surprise you that the seniors are the growing need because of medicine and health care costs. Vicki often gets calls from health care providers that a home has very little food. One thing my wife, Vicki, has been able to do is to offer services seven (7) days a week for these needs. For those who are not able to pick up, she delivers it. As winter approaches along with the holidays, our numbers will continually grow. Although we cannot supply an entire month's food supply, we can help with three (3) meals for three (3) days a month. **Our food pantry days are:**

- **Produce – first Wednesday of each month**
- **Regular pantry – third Wednesday of each month.**

If you find yourself blessed and want to help, you can make the tax deductible donation to the Johnson Rudd Community Pantry. Vicki and I are able to provide these services due to your generous donations along with help from the Mid Ohio Food Bank. It may surprise you how far \$10 or \$20 will go. If you should have any questions or would like to help, please call Vicki Noggle at **740-251-8109**. Once again, thank you and may God bless you.

## **Storage of Junk Cars**

Big Island zoning regulations also apply to cars, trucks, buses, farming or construction equipment that in a partly worn out condition but are being maintained for a possibility of future use. These motor vehicles shall be stored in a building or in an area which would not be visible so as not to detract from the general appearance of property. There should be no more than one wrecked, unlicensed or inoperable automobile allowed per one dwelling unit and is to be stored in an area that cannot be seen from an adjacent lot or street.



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