Norwich Township Inspections

NORWICH TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Volume 13, Issue 1
June 2007

2007
Meeting Schedule
Norwich Township

June 11th    12 Noon
June 25th    6:30 p.m.
July 9th      12 Noon
July 23rd     6:30 p.m.
Aug. 6th      12 Noon
Aug. 30th     6:30 p.m.

Meetings take place at the Norwich Township Fire Station at 4164 Avery Road.

If you have questions, please call 876-7694.

NEW STANDARDS FOR OPEN BURNING IN NORWICH TOWNSHIP

Burning Permits for recreational fires, campfires, outdoor fireplaces, whether cooking for human consumption, pleasure, religious, warmth, or similar purpose are no longer required. The provisions are that the fire must be fueled by clean seasoned firewood, natural gas or its equivalent. Total fuel areas must also be no larger than three feet in diameter and less than two feet in height. The location for these types of open burning shall not be less than 25 feet from any structure and provisions must be made to keep the fire from spreading. A permit for open burning in Norwich Township, Hilliard, and Brown Township must still be obtained for bonfires whose area will be greater than the above parameters. However the area of these fires can still be no greater than five feet in diameter and five feet in height. These fires shall not be conducted within 50 feet of any structure and provisions must be made to keep the fire from spreading. Permits can be applied for at any Norwich Township Fire Department five days in advance but must be picked up at the fire station located at 4164 Avery Rd. Permits are only processed during normal business hours Monday thru Friday. If application is received less than five days prior to the day of the open burn, there is a five dollar fee. Some open burning is still prohibited. Open burning that will be offensive or objectionable due to smoke or odor emissions when atmospheric conditions make such fires hazardous shall be prohibited. The code official is authorized to order the extinguishment by the permit holder or the fire department of open burning which creates or adds to a hazardous or objectionable situation. Under Ohio law there are certain materials which may not be burned anywhere in the state at any time. These items are:
- Garbage—any wastes created in the process of handling, preparing, cooking or consuming food
- Materials containing rubber, grease and asphalt or made from petroleum, such as tires, cars and auto parts, plastics or plastic-coated wire
- Dead animals

Other restrictions:
- Open burning is not allowed when air pollution warnings are in effect.
- Fires cannot obscure visibility for roadways, railroad tracks or airways
- No waste generated off premises may be burned.

The Ohio EPA has the authority to enforce the open burning laws and illegal open burning can result in substantial penalties. If anyone should have any questions the number for our local EPA district office is (800) 686 6330 or visit the website at www.epa.oh.us.

TRASH PICK UP REMINDER

The Norwich Township Trustees would like to remind all residents that there are three separate trucks used by Local Waste. A recycling truck comes early in the morning and picks up all recyclables followed by a trash truck for normal trash and finally a yard waste truck. If the recyclables are not put out early enough in the morning and are passed up by the recycling truck it will still be picked up, but it will simply be thrown in with the regular trash. Local Waste recommends either setting out recyclables the night before pick up or before 7 a.m..

NORWICH TOWNSHIP
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Effects of contaminated sediment on stream water quality

Basic Information
Sediments are loose particles of sand, clay, silt, and other substances that settle at the bottom of a water body. They come from eroding soil and from decomposing plants and animals. Wind, water, and ice often carry these particles great distances.

Contaminated sediments affect small creatures such as worms, crustaceans, and insect larvae that inhabit the bottom of a water body in what is known as the benthic environment. Some kinds of toxic sediments kill benthic organisms, reducing the food available to larger animals such as fish.

Species that cannot tolerate the toxic contaminants found in some sediments simply die, reducing the variety of organisms, also known as biodiversity, in the affected environment. Animals that survive exposure to contaminated sediments may develop serious health problems, including fin rot, tumors, and reproductive abilities.

Contaminated sediments do not always remain at the bottom of a water body. Anything that stirs up the water, such as a storm or a boat’s propeller, can cause the sediments to go back into suspension, which may mean that all of the animals in the water, and not just the bottom-dwelling organisms, will be directly exposed to toxic contaminants.

Major Contaminants
Five major types of pollutants are found in sediments:

- Nutrients, including phosphorous and nitrogen compounds such as ammonia. Elevated levels of phosphorous can promote the unwanted growth of algae. This can lead to the amount of oxygen in the water being lowered when the algae die and decay. High concentrations of ammonia can be toxic to benthic organisms.
- Bulk Organics, a class of hydrocarbons that includes oil and grease.
- Halogenated Hydrocarbons or Persistent Organics, a group of chemicals that are very resistant to decay. DDT and PCBs are in this category.
- Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs), a group of organic chemicals that includes several petroleum products and byproducts.
- Metals, such as iron, manganese, lead, cadmium, zinc, and mercury, and metalloids such as arsenic and selenium.

The origins of sediment contamination can be divided into point and non-point sources of pollution. Point source pollution comes from a specific, identifiable source such as a pipe. Non-point source pollution cannot be traced to a specific spot.

Point sources include municipal sewage treatment plants, overflows from combined sanitary and storm sewers, storm water discharges from municipal and industrial facilities, and waste discharges from industry.

Non-point sources include storm water runoff from hazardous and solid-waste sites; runoff from croplands, livestock pens, mining and manufacturing operations, and storage sites. Atmospheric deposition is another source of non-point pollution.

How to Prevent
Preventing further sediment contamination is everyone’s responsibility. Many people overlook one major source of water contaminants; individual households. The small amounts of cleaners, solvents, motor oil, and other toxic materials dumped down the drain or onto the lawn or driveway of a single household may seem insignificant. When thousands or millions of households release toxic substances in this way, however, the effect is substantial. The contaminants flow into sewage treatment plants, which are not designed to remove chemicals. Thus, the contaminants enter the water cycle and may end up in sediments.

You can help by exploring environmentally friendly alternatives to household cleaners, by recycling motor oil, and by responsibly disposing of paint cans, household chemical containers, and insecticides.

Many towns and counties sponsor hazardous waste disposal centers. Please use them.

As a citizen, encourage your town, county, or state to enforce environmental protection laws and to pursue watershed-based management. Remind your representatives in government and your fellow citizens that contaminated sediments affect not only wildlife, but can seriously harm people, too.

Norwich Township Fire Department Hosts 7th Annual EMS Challenge

Each year Norwich Township Fire Department, in conjunction with The Ohio State University Medical Center, holds an all day continuing education event open to Central Ohio EMS providers. The event helps Norwich Township Firefighters fulfill their continuing education requirements for their EMT-P certification, as well as showcasing new technology available in the world of EMS.

This year Paramedics were challenged with learning stations which included dealing with different types of respiratory ailments, special pediatric emergencies and a class on the fire departments command system. One of the highlights of this years challenge was learning how to respond to a mass casualty incident. Mass casualty means that the number of victims is more than the normal response can handle. There was a mock scenario which was an explosion at a high school with numerous injuries. There were approximately 15-20 students from the high schools who volunteered their time to act as victims and shown above is one of the students being prepared for the scenario. Paramedics were faced with many injured students with varying degrees of injuries and forced to triage or rank each person’s injury based on severity. This type of training is necessary because Paramedics must train to be able to quickly assess a persons injuries so they can alert the other Medic units that will be coming in from other departments and transport victims to the appropriate hospital.

Cell Phones and 911

Many people are opting to change their phone service from a traditional phone line coming into their residence to a cell phone. It is important for you, the customer, to verify with your provider how their cell phone operates when you dial 911. With a traditional phone line, the Enhanced 911 service provides the dispatcher with the address and phone number you are calling from as well as additional information on their screen about emergency service providers. When you make a call from a cell phone, there is a signal sent through the air to a tower and the phone call is then made via a wireless/computer/cable connection. The primary answering point (for 911) for the cell phone may not be in the same city or county which you are calling from, which is the case for Central Ohio. If you utilize the cell phone from your residence, it is important for you to know who your local providers of emergency services are, this way you can specifically ask for that agency when you make a 911 call on your cell phone. If you travel, try to maintain an awareness of street names and numbers, this way you can be as specific as possible, should you have to make a call for assistance. When you ‘dial 911’ from a cell phone, you will most likely be transferred to the appropriate agency, do not hang up while this call is being transferred. Remember, to stay calm when you ‘dial 911’, speak clearly and remain on the line and answer all questions.

ORC 9.03 Allows Public Funds to be used for newsletters.

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Norwich Township News Assistant Editor: Kevin Strawser
With the hot summer months fast upon us here are some tips on preventing heat-related illnesses:

- Drink plenty of fluids. Don’t wait until you are thirsty to drink.
- Don’t drink fluids containing caffeine, alcohol, or large amounts of sugar.
- Avoid very cold drinks as they may cause stomach cramps.
- Stay indoors and, if possible, in an air-conditioned place. A mall or library may be an option. Call your local health department to see if there are any heat-relief shelters in your areas.
- Never leave anyone in a closed parked vehicle.
- Wear loose light-colored clothing.
- Some people are at a greater risk of suffering heat-related illness. Check regularly on:
  - Infants and young children
  - People 65 and over
  - People who have a mental illness
- Those who are physically ill, especially with heart disease or high blood pressure

If you must be out in the heat:

- Limit activity to morning and evening hours
- Cut down on exercise; if you must exercise drink plenty of fluids (two to four glasses per hour).
- Protect yourself from the sun by wearing a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses and by putting on sunscreen of SPF 15 or higher.