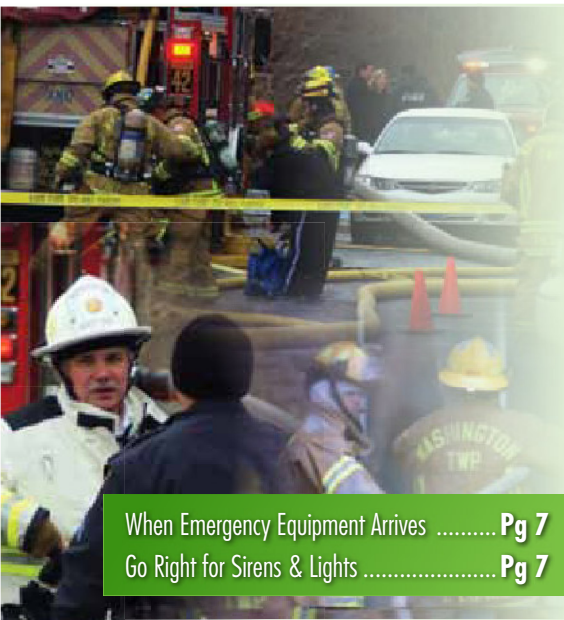


# WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP QUARTERLY

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DELIVERED QUARTERLY  
TO ALL RESIDENTS OF  
CENTERVILLE AND  
WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, OHIO  
GOVERNMENT CENTER  
(937) 433-0152  
RECREATION CENTER  
(937) 433-0130



When Emergency Equipment Arrives ..... Pg 7

Go Right for Sirens & Lights ..... Pg 7

## New Crew Brings Faster Response

**A** new crew added by the Washington Township Fire Department has been helping since June to improve emergency response times. The engine/medic crew provides 24-hour coverage at Station 41, 163 Maple Ave.

Three of the township's five stations are now staffed at all hours, according to Fire Chief Bill Gaul. Because the new crew is centrally located, it's well positioned to assist other crews when they are busy responding to other calls.

"By strategically placing this unit, we've been able to reduce response times and improve the call loads for our other two crews," Gaul said. The crew assists medic units at stations 43 and 44 and responds as an engine crew when needed.

The crew was added in response to an increasing number of fire and medical runs – 5,903 in 2009 compared to 4,933 in 2004. Staffing the new crew requires one additional full-time firefighter and additional part-time staff. Districts also were re-aligned to improve response times.

Other stations with around-the-clock staffing are Station 43, 10499 Dayton-Lebanon Pike, and Station 44, 6690 Centerville-Business Parkway.

## Donations and Grants Will Help Establish Butterfly Playground in Countryside Park

**J**une was a big month for butterflies and playgrounds at Countryside Park, located next to the Washington Township Recreation Center.

A Butterfly Celebration with crafts, games and music marked the annual return of the butterflies to the park, and a proposed Butterfly Playground took a big step forward when it received \$57,000 in donations and grant money.

Since approving a 2002 master plan for the park, Washington Township has hoped to establish a handicapped-accessible playground to expand creative play opportunities for children throughout the community. The

township has pledged \$50,000 in matching seed money, with the remainder to be raised through grants and donations.

In June, the township received \$21,000 from the Yukta Garg Memorial Foundation, which raised money through a series of four concerts featuring popular singers, musicians and film artists from Bollywood, India. Arti and Hemant Garg organized the concerts to honor the memory of their daughter, Yukta, and to support the township in its efforts to build a playground.

"The Gargs have been incredible partners in establishing a financial base for a playground," said Senior Recreation Supervisor Linda Madden, who oversees the project. "They've brought a tremendous amount of organization, creativity and passion to their fundraising."



*Trustee Vice President Dale Berry accepts a \$21,000 check from Arti and Hemant Garg and their daughter, Ishita.*

Also in June, the township received a \$36,000 Community Development Block Grant from Montgomery County. The grant will pay for handicapped accessibility at the park, including development of a driveway, sidewalks and playground pads.

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### A New Way to Get Information

The township offers information through Nixle, a service that delivers text messages to cell phones and email accounts.

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## Inside

Fall Rec Program Information

Visit our website at [www.washingtontwp.org](http://www.washingtontwp.org)

# Playground Takes a Step Forward

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## The Playground Plan

Landscape architects from Envision-Works developed a playground plan last summer that includes various play areas scattered throughout the park. "Different playground concepts are located in different areas. The hope is children can walk the entire one-mile path and have fun at different play stations throughout," Madden said. Funding now stands at close to \$109,000, still short of the initial goal to start construction.

"The township is offering a plan, a location, and a financial base to build upon, but how and when the playground takes shape will depend upon grants and donations from the local community," said Dave Paice, recreation facilities director. The township is looking first at these areas for development:

**Nature Sounds Area** – A music and theater space for creative play. A stage provides the focal point for the area and will be surrounded by four to six outdoor musical pieces, including chimes, drums and xylophones.

**Butterfly Meadow Playground Area** – A place to climb and play on a spider-web like structure, sheltered from the sun by giant flower umbrellas. Large bugs provide smaller climbing opportunities and educational display boards offer the chance to learn about the life cycles of meadow

*Children celebrated the annual return of the butterflies to Countryside Park. The June event included family games, crafts and songs.*



*With his wife Arti looking on, Hemant Garg speaks at the fourth in a series of fundraisers they have organized.*

insects. The Butterfly Meadow will be near the park's A-frame shelter and adjacent to a butterfly garden that was established with the help of two local boy scouts.

"A new playground will enhance our summer park activities and provide year-round community play space," Paice said. Depending upon funding, the playground could potentially grow over the long term to include themed play areas for natural history, woodlands, and ponds and streams.

The butterfly theme was inspired by Yukta Garg, 6, an avid Recreation Center user and butterfly lover who died in a 2006 auto accident near the recreation center. The activity areas were inspired by her interests that also are shared by many children her age.

Play areas were developed last year after Envision-Works met with kids attending recreation summer programs. Campers and Rec'ing Crew members expanded upon the butterfly theme, offered their interpretations, and sketched out their ideas.



*Singing star Kavita Krishnamurti, who performed the original soundtrack to one of the most popular films in Bollywood history, reprised her performance at the June fundraiser.*

## New Signal Will Improve Appearance of Intersection

A traffic signal at the Rahn and Marshall intersection will be replaced this year with a mast-arm style that furthers the Washington Township streetscape plan.

In recent years, the mast-arm style has been installed in the southern part of the township when new signals were added, however this is the first intersection in the north to receive the streetscape version, said Public Works Director Mike Wanamaker.

The typical intersection has four poles, one on each corner, with wires strung between them. A mast-arm traffic signal arches over an intersection, eliminating unsightly wires.

The township's streetscape plan guides public improvements such as lighting, bus stops, benches, identification signs and sidewalk pavers. "The idea is to enhance roadways and public areas and to provide a sense of identity and community," said Wanamaker.

When the new signal is installed, six intersections in Washington Township will have the classic mast-arm design. In this case, two corners of the intersection are in the township and two are in the City of Centerville. The Montgomery County Engineer's office is coordinating the project.

## You Can Participate in Local Government

Citizens are invited to participate in local government by attending meetings of the Washington Township Board of Trustees.

Time is set aside at the start of each meeting for residents to ask questions and voice comments and concerns. Meetings typically take place at 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Monday of the month at the Government Center, 8200 McEwen Rd. Upcoming meetings:

|              |            |             |
|--------------|------------|-------------|
| August 16    | October 4  | November 15 |
| September 13 | October 18 | December 6  |
| September 20 | November 1 |             |

If you have a comment about township services and prefer more immediate attention, complete the comment card on the inside back page of the *Quarterly*.