

Austintown Township

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Trustee
David Ditzler



Trustee
Lisa Oles



Trustee
Warren "Bo" Pritchard



Fiscal Officer
Michael Kurish

New Fixed Rate for Natural Gas Aggregation Program



Residents currently in the township's natural gas aggregation program supplied by Vectren Source will pay a Supplier Base fixed rate of \$6.9448 per MCF for all gas during the November 2009 to October 2010 billing cycle.

If you find with your November billing that you are not included in the township's aggregation group you should contact Vectren Source at 1-866-224-7163 or e-mail them at customer-care@vectrensource.com in order to enroll.

The annual fixed price obtained was based on the commodity price on the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) on the day the buy order was placed by the township's energy broker. As a result, a binding contract was entered into between the township and the energy supplier, in this case Vectren Source. Contrary to what some people believe a negotiation with a supplier or suppliers does NOT take place. Instead, the township, together with the township's energy broker, closely tracks the wholesale price on the

NYMEX and makes a purchase when the price is at a historical low. The purchase must be made no later than approximately 60 days before the new rate is to go into effect. The procedure is similar to a stock broker purchasing stock for a client based on the price of a share of that stock on the New York Stock Exchange or on the NASDAQ.

Austintown is entering the second year of a two year agreement with Vectren Source. This year's rate is considerably lower than last year's rate of \$10.64 and reflects just how volatile natural gas prices have become. As a matter of fact, approximately a month after the township purchased their gas at \$6.9448 per MCF for a year the best annual fixed rate offered to individuals on the PUCO website was \$7.35 per MCF with a \$125 termination fee or \$8.7582 per MCF with no termination fee.

Participation is completely voluntary. In addition, there is no penalty for leaving the program unlike many offers available to the individual consumer.

ELECTRIC AGGREGATION ON THE NOVEMBER BALLOT

On the November ballot residents will be asked to permit the township to form an aggregation group for electric purchase just as residents were asked in 2006 to permit formation of the township's natural gas aggregation program. If approved by the voters residents will have the option of joining the township's program or making their own choice for an electric supplier, the same choice residents presently have for determining their natural gas supplier.



If the electric aggregation ballot issue passes the township hopes to receive offers presently in place in other local communities in the state. Discounts presently obtained by other local governments from First Energy Solutions (FES) are based on the Price to Compare, or the generation price customers would have been charged if they purchased electric generation service from their local electric utility. FES is presently discounting in Ohio residential customers 6 percent off the Price to Compare and small businesses are receiving 4 percent discount for six years.

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SOUTH RACCOON SIDEWALK COMPLETED FROM MAHONING AVE TO BURKEY ROAD



This summer the Township completed installation of the South Raccoon Sidewalk Project from Mahoning Avenue south to Burkey Road. This project was feasible because of \$225,000 received from a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and a Transportation Enhancement Grant.



BASKETBALL Court Grant Received.

In late September the Ohio Department of Natural Resources awarded the township a \$15,975 NatureWorks grant for the renovation of the two basketball courts at Township Park on Kirk Road. This project was one of 93 projects funded from the 170 applications filed statewide. The money will be used to pay for resurfacing of the 2 courts, replacement of the 4 basketball poles and hoops and fence.



TRICK OR TREAT

**Halloween Trick or Treat
will be held Saturday,
October 31st from 6 PM
until 8 PM.**



Wind Turbines - a possibility?

The Township Trustees and Joyce Gottron, have looked into the possibility of both wind generators and solar panels to power the Stacey Pavilion. Unfortunately, the initial commitment to install a wind generator the size we would need is around \$75,000.00. It requires 3-5 acres of available land (which isn't a problem). But it also requires an average of 11 mph of regular wind speed and our area receives approx. 6-8 mph. which is where the generator begins to generate power. In calculating the installation cost, savings of electricity vs. present utility, the formula shows it will take a minimal of 12 years before we turn the installation cost around to provide a plus in expenditures. The life expectancy of the tower is 25-30 years with 2 to 3% annual upkeep costs.

Solar will take less turn around time, but the funding opportunities for it are also less. In addition, the panels require a minimum of 5 peak hours of sunlight and our area in June and July is at about 5.8 and as low as 1.9 in Dec. The life expectancy of the panels are about 40 years. We are continually looking at available grants for this type of project, but so far we are falling through large funding cracks. The Township will seek a grant should funding and site use both become compatible.

4 MILES OF ROADS RESURFACED



The Township completed their 2009 Road Resurfacing Program prior to the Labor Day holiday. Approximately 4 miles of the township's total of 114 miles of Township roads were resurfaced. At least double that length of roads needed resurfaced this year.

The second most common complaint after "why wasn't my road paved this year" is "why was only part of my road paved". The simple answer is money or the lack of money.

The money or lack of money issue for road resurfacing can be further broken down into three more specific factors. The First factor is the age of the 2 Road Levies that were originally passed by the voters in 1976 and 1981.

As explained in the General Fund Replacement Levy article each levy is

limited generally to the same amount of taxes received 33 and 28 years ago when first approved by the voters. On top of that the recent economic downturn has increased delinquent revenue or taxes that are due but not paid.

A second factor, as we are all aware of, is expenses that have increased dramatically over the past 28 years. Asphalt especially has increased in price with the increase in energy prices over the years.

And the final factor, as if static revenue and increasing expenses are not bad enough, is the fact that the township's total road mileage has increased over the past 28 years. The greatest increase occurred during the 1990's housing boom in the township. At one time there was new house construction occurring in at least 10 new subdivisions. A decade or more later some of these new subdivisions already need repaving.

Because the township was only financially capable of repaving 40% of the needed miles in poor condition the choice of what roads, or more accurately, what parts of a road, to pave, becomes more difficult each year. And if the township waits until it can afford to pave your entire road, that 200 to 400 foot section of your road that is in the worst condition and that was done this year, may have had to wait 3 or 7 more years before it was paved along with the rest of your street.



Wrapping Up a GREEN Holiday Workshop

The holiday season will be here before we know it. Join the Green Team during our annual holiday workshop hosted by Austintown Township Park to learn how to make the holidays more relaxing, more enjoyable and more Earth- friendly!

Environmental Educator Kim Lewis will kick off the evening with a presentation on how to avoid the trappings of holiday over-consumption. Next, Green Team Director Jim Petuch will lead us in a musical program singing quirky recycling lyrics set to traditional holiday tunes. Afterwards, we'll enjoy refreshments and participate in making recycled crafts that will feature festive holiday decorations and colorful gift - wrap. Please sign up soon. This is a wonderful opportunity to create economical, waste-reducing holiday crafts during an evening full of fun.

The workshop will be held on Wednesday, November 18 at Austintown Township Park, 6000 Kirk Rd. inside the Stacey Pavilion from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Pre-registration and pre-payment of \$5.00 are required by calling the park office at 330-793-0718.

Flood Alleviation Projects continue in 2009



N. WICKLIFFE DETENTION



Kimberly/Baker Stormwater Phase I and Phase II

The Township continued to obtain grants for in-house flood alleviation projects in 2009. The “North Wickliffe Detention” project located between Immaculate Heart of Mary Church and School and south of Resurrection Cemetery was completed this spring. This project was feasible because of an Issue I grant for \$147,000 towards the total project cost of \$175,000. The total project cost would have exceeded \$175,000 if the Diocese of Youngstown had not donated the land for the project. In detaining additional acreage whose stormwater makes it way downstream to the North Wickliffe area, the township has increased the capacity to alleviate in-house flooding.

Another 2009 in-house stormwater alleviation project is the “Kimberly-Baker Roads Storm Sewer Replacement Project.

This project received \$143,000 in Issue I and CDBG grants towards its total cost of \$208,000 dollars. The first phase of this project was completed in the spring. The second phase began construction in late September and will be completed before the end of the year. These 2 phases will alleviate severe in-house flooding in the Baker Street area.

These two projects bring the Township’s total flood alleviation grant and township matching dollars spent since 1992 to approximately \$4,375,000. Stormwater alleviation projects will continue in 2010 with the installation of larger storm pipes in the Lancaster area pursuant to an Issue I grant.

South Raccoon Sidewalk Burkey Road North to Mahoning

Grant for \$225,000

North Wickliffe Storm Water Retention Ohio Public Works Commission
Grant for \$147,000
Local \$28,000
TOTAL \$175,000

Kimberly Drive/Baker Street Storm Sewer Upgrade-Phase I
Grant for \$146,000
Local \$65,000
Total \$211,000



TOWNSHIP RECEIVES GRANT DOLLARS TO PURCHASE PARK LAND

The Township received a \$75,000 grant this year from the State Capital Improvement Budget from the Department of Natural Resources to purchase 6 acres of land adjacent to Austintown Township Park on Kirk Road. The six acres are immediately east of Emmanuel Ministries. This grant was obtained with the assistance of State Representative Ron Gerberry.

In September the township began developing the property for sport practice fields for township youth groups. The township is the general contractor and is providing some of the labor and material for the work. Funding for 3rd party labor and material will come from rental revenue received from the Township owned Westchester Building. This building was donated to the township in 1998 with the donor designating that net income from this building go toward Park or Youth projects.

The first project completed with this Westchester net income was building and equipping the Austintown Fitness Center (AFC) on the Fitch campus that opened in 1999. The AFC is used by the high school primarily during the afternoon hours. Austintown Township or Austintown Local School taxpayers and residents can purchase memberships for use in the morning and evening hours and on Saturdays.

A future project for this land, which will require the cooperation of Emanuel Community Church, is to connect this property through the Emanuel Community Church land with the Mill Creek Park Bikeway.



Austintown Township Enters 4th Year of Leaf Program

The Fourth annual Leaf Collection Program is scheduled to begin Monday, October 26, 2009 and end Thursday, November 19, 2009 for four weeks. The program is funded with a \$13,000 grant from the Mahoning County Green Team.

The township is divided into four sections: North, Central, Southeast and Southwest that cover all township, county and state roads within each section. Collection shall take place in the same section on the same day of each week.

The collection schedule is as follows:

- MONDAYS:** October 26, November 2, 9, and 16 SOUTHEAST (south of New Rd. & east of SR 46)
TUESDAYS: October 27, November 3, 10 and 17 CENTRAL (south of Mahoning Ave. & north of New Rd. & east of SR 46)
WEDNESDAYS: October 28, November 4, 11 and 18 North of Mahoning Ave.
THURSDAYS: October 29, November 5, 12 and 19 SOUTHWEST (South of Mahoning Ave. & west of SR 46)

No collections on Friday

Collections will occur between 8:00 am and 3:30 pm. Only leaves in approved recycled paper bags will be collected. The township will sell such recycled paper bags at the Township Hall at 82 Ohlton Rd. and at the Zoning Office at 90 Westchester Drive. The bags are packed by the wholesaler with five bags to a package at a cost of \$2.00 a package.

Austintown Fire Department

Fire department awarded \$333,000 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Stimulus) grant money for Fire station renovations.

The Austintown Township Fire Department was one of only five Ohio Fire departments awarded a stimulus grant to use either to expand station coverage, replace equipment or renovate stations.

Austintown will use its \$333,000 in stimulus funds to renovate Station 3 on Raccoon Road with a second story and a pitched roof. The station, built in 1959, has never been updated.

Presently, the station is used by part time firefighters when they are called from home in response to a structure fire to complement the 6 man crew on duty around the clock. In addition, Lane Ambulance leases space from the township for 7-day 24 hour use of the building for an ambulance crew.



Township receives FEMA/Homeland Security Firefighter's Grant



During the second week in October the township took delivery of a new pumper Firetruck. The \$285,000 cost was paid for with a FEMA / Homeland Security Firefighter's Grant for \$247,500 and \$37,500 in township funds. The truck was purchased on State Bid Contract from Pierce Manufacturing of Wisconsin.

This new pumper, which holds 750 gallons, will replace a 1981 ladder truck taken out of service because the cab supports had rusted away and the cab shifted on the frame bowing the entire cab. In addition, the compartment floors were rusted away to the point that equipment could no longer be placed in them.

This new firetruck will be placed in service for use by the full-time squad at the Mahoning Avenue or Wickliffe Circle station. Placing this new truck into service will reduce annual maintenance costs by approximately \$15,000.00 per year. The current squad truck will relocate to the S. Raccoon station for use by the parttime squad responding to structure fires from home.

DOG COURSING EVENT

On Saturday, October 31 and Sunday, November 1 at Austintown Township Park, 6000 Kirk Rd., come out and watch this exciting sport where AKC sight hounds compete on a 700 yd. mechanical lure course. They are judged on overall ability, speed, endurance, agility and how well they follow the lure.

Following the field trial and test that begins around 9:00 a.m. and runs throughout the day is a FUN RUN that will begin around 3. This is open to any spectators interested in having their dogs give the course a try. Dogs running must have proof of rabies shot and dog license and can sign up the two days of the event. For further information, please contact Vilma O'Neill with Northeast Coursers of Ohio at (330) 533-0180 or (330) 207-7340.

17th ANNUAL NATURE PHOTOGRAPY EXHIBIT



Our Seventeenth Annual Nature Photography Exhibit and Reception will be held Wednesday, November 4, 2009 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Stacey Pavilion at Austintown Township Park, 6000 Kirk Road in sponsorship with The Photo Place, Inc. Plan to join us for the evening to view the fine photography entered in this year's contest. Light refreshments will be served throughout the reception.

The results of our photography judges' decisions for first, second and third places along with honorable mentions in the six categories will be announced at the reception. The People's Choice for Best of Show will be awarded at 8:15 p.m. near the close of the reception based on votes cast. For more contest details call the park office at (330) 793-0718 or photoplaceonline.com.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Austintown Police Department is responsible for the protection of life and property, the maintenance of peace and order, the provision of emergency and other police services to the public and the consistent, impartial enforcement of the law.

The department is comprised of 39 Sworn Personnel and 12 Non-Sworn Personnel. The department consists of four divisions, Patrol, Detective, Communications, and Support Services, each fulfilling specific needs providing Law Enforcement Services to the Public. Other than providing basic law enforcement to the public the department also provides several other services. The department has a D.A.R.E. Officer who is assigned to the local schools full time to teach the D.A.R.E. curriculum to students in grades kindergarten, first, third, fifth, seventh and tenth. In the summer months the D.A.R.E. Officer is the coordinator for the Safety Town Program, which provides education to young students about gun, fire, electrical, bicycle safety and other safety issues.

The department also has a Neighborhood Watch / Crime Prevention Program providing security surveys at Austintown homes and businesses. Senior Citizens are provided with a Senior Citizen Watch Program where Police Officers are assigned to a number of seniors. These Officers make regular visits to the seniors to check on their safety and well-being and to help seek assistance that they may need for any number of problems they are facing. This program is done in cooperation with the Mahoning County Sheriffs Department.

The department also has two Certified Child Passenger Safety Seat Technicians to help the public install their child seats properly in their vehicles and to educate them on child seat laws.

One of the department's firearms instructor is certified with the National Rifle Association as an instructor in their Eddy the Eagle Program, which teaches firearms safety to children. This instructor has taught firearms safety to children involved with the Safety Town Program. The Department also provides Gun Locks free to the public.

Our department has two K-9 Units with trained handlers. They are used throughout our Township and will assist any other department that requires the K-9s.

The department also works with the Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts and Special Needs Children, providing tours of the department and a chance to ask questions of the Police Officers. We also have engaged in a mentoring program with many of the local schools and students. The department also actively seeks grant money from the state and federal government and in 2009 the department has received over \$48,000.00 dollars so far.

REPLACEMENT LEVY ON BALLOT

Also on the November ballot is a replacement levy request for the 0.6 General Fund levy first passed in 1976. This year the General Fund revenue was used to pay for the operations of the Police and Fire departments, for the township's annual road resurfacing program and for matching funds for grants.

Today, the General Fund effective rate on residential property is 0.2 mills and not the 0.6 mills passed in 1976. The reduction in the tax rate occurred over the years as the township's total taxable property valuation increased. The law requires a reduction in the effective rate of a levy as a township's commercial and residential growth occurs in order to limit the revenue to a figure close to what the revenue was in the levy's first year. As a result of this reduction in the rate, the levy's total revenue remains approximately the same as it was in 1976.

Today, the 0.6 General Fund levy's revenue is only approximately \$141,000. Therefore, if passed by the voters, the replacement levy will increase the General Fund annual revenue by approximately \$225,000. A \$100,000 homeowner that paid approximately \$18 per year in taxes in 1976 pays only approximately \$6 per year today. The replacement levy if passed would return the \$100,000 homeowner annual taxes to \$18 a year or an additional \$1 a month.

Township Hall

82 Ohltown Road
Austintown, Ohio 44515
Phone: 330-792-8139
Fax: 330-793-9919

Hours:

Monday-Friday 8 A.M. to 4 P.M.
Voice mail also available

Website:

www.austintowntwp.com

Police Department
330-799-9721

Crime Tip
330-270-5108

Police/Fire Dispatch
330-799-9721 or
330-799-3243

Fire Dept.: 330-799-8502

Park: 330-793-0718

Roads: 330-792-2602

Zoning: 330-799-3241

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New Bus Service in Austintown

New curb-to-curb transportation was recently started by the Western Reserve Transit Authority (WRTA) in Austintown. The program, called EasyGo, allows Mahoning County residents to call WRTA and schedule transportation on smaller buses from their home or other location to another place such as a doctor's appointment. The cost is \$3.50 one way or \$2.50 one way for seniors and people with disabilities.

County voters last November approved a 0.25- percent sales tax for the transit service, which is expected to generate \$6 million annually. WRTA had pledged night and Saturday service would be restored, routes would be expanded and the door-to-door service implemented if the tax passed.

EasyGo is available from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays. Calls may be scheduled between one day and one week before an appointment. Trips are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis.

More information about EasyGo and other WRTA services are available at www.wrtaonline.com

If you have any questions, call or email:

Customer Service
877-845-WRTA
info@wrtaonline.com

Monday –Friday, 7:00 AM – 4:30 PM



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