



Greg Burns
Tate Township
Trustee



Gary Reed
Tate Township
Trustee
2021 Chairman



Bob Redden
Tate Township
Trustee



Kathy Brannock
Tate Township
Fiscal Officer



Rick Stowell
Bethel-Tate Fire
Department Chief



George Eckert
Tate Township
Zoning Inspector



Ed Stanley
Road Maint.
Supervisor /
Cemetery Sexton



Erik Pike
Tate Township
Deputy

TRUSTEES WELCOME READERS

Welcome to the fourteenth edition of the Tate Township Newsletter. Our goal is to keep residents more informed of Township business including road maintenance, cemetery, zoning, and fire department operations. Township Officials would like your feedback about the Tate Township Newsletter. Do you like or dislike it? Do you find it informative? Would you like to see anything different in the contents? Please let us know by going to our website www.tatetownship.org. Tate Township Trustee meeting is the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the fire station located at 149 N.East St. at 7:00pm.

BETHEL-TATE FIRE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES \$451,500 FEMA AFG GRANT

This community has been very fortunate receiving grants from the Assistance To Firefighter's Grant Program (AFG) from FEMA. This grant is the largest yet and the first vehicle acquisition grant the department has ever received from FEMA. The grant was written to replace the 1988 water tanker that carries 2,000 gal of water where areas of the township have no hydrants within 1,000 feet. Our oldest pumper was a 1984 truck, so we designed this new truck as both a water tender (tanker) and a pumper making this unit two trucks in one. This truck is called a Pumper/Tender that carries 2,500 gallons of water with a 1,500 gallon per minute pump, has 1,075 feet of 4" hydrant hose, 400 feet of 3" hose, 800 feet of 1 3/4" fire attack hose, and 200 feet of 1" hose to be used for grass fires, dumpster fires, and overhaul situations at structure fires. The unit also has a 24' extension ladder, 14' roof ladder, 10' attic ladder, a 3,000 gallon portable dump water tank to be used when multiple water trucks are called to dump water in, air packs, spare air bottles, lighting equipment, and the normal axes and pike poles that are used in fighting any type of fire. The truck was built by Sutphen Corporation, who is the manufacturer that has built all but one of our trucks sitting in the station and took nearly 14 months to build. Cost of the unit was \$582,808.00 The 1984 pumper



this unit replaced has been sold to a dealer who bought it for parts and the 1988 water truck will either be sold once this new truck goes into service or will go to Tate Township Maintenance Dept. The new truck will go into service once all drivers complete the necessary driver's training. This AFG grant is 95% funded by FEMA and Tate Township put in the remaining 5% plus the remaining balance of \$131,308.00.

TATE TOWNSHIP ZONING NEWS

Tate Township Zoning Inspector George Eckert reported the following activities for 2020:

Single Family Dwellings- 14
 Accessory Buildings- 6
 Garages- 21
 Room Additions- 3
 Decks- 3
 Porch- 3
 Carport- 2
 Zone Change Applications- 2
 Zoning Appeals Applications- 2
 Inground pool- 4
 Commercial Buildings- 1
 Patio Rooms- 1
 Solar Panels- 2
 Sign Permits- 1

Please remember that if you are building any new items such as a shed, garage, deck, carport, porch, or any building in general, you **must** obtain a Tate Township Zoning Permit **prior** to a Clermont County Building Permit. Also, to operate a business your property must be zoned business. Zoning regulations are strictly enforced.

Tate Township Zoning Fees are as follows:

SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING- \$200.00
 TWO FAMILY DWELLING- \$350.00
 UNITS OF UP TO TWELVE (per unit)- 150.00
 ROOM ADDITION (under 400 sq ft)- \$100.00
 ROOM ADDITION (over 400 sq ft)- \$150.00
 ACCESSORY BUILDING (shed, under 150 sq ft)- \$50.00
 GARAGE OR POLE BUILDING- \$100.00
 LAND USE CHANGE- \$50.00
 IN GROUND SWIMMING POOL- \$75.00
 DECKS/PORCHES-\$100.00
 COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL .05/sq ft (Minimum)- \$250.00
 SIGNS- \$75.00
 BOOKS/MAPS- \$30.00/\$10.00
 BZA APPLICATION- \$250.00
 ZONING COMMISSION APPLICATION REGULAR- \$350.00 REFUND (if withdrawn before Trustee meeting)- \$175.00
 PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT-\$600.00 REFUND (if withdrawn before Trustee mtg) \$300.00

There are regulations on yard sales in the Township. You **must** obtain a Yard Sale Permit from the Tate Township Zoning Inspector, George Eckert 734-0618 or geckert@tatetownship.org

TATE TOWNSHIP SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT REPORT

Tate Township Deputy Erik Pike submitted the following activity for 2020:

Total Calls Answered- 656
 Offense & Incident Reports Taken- 191
 Accident Reports- 3
 Traffic Contacts- 70

Warrant Attempts- 31
 Warrant Arrests- 22
 Civil Papers Served- 19
 Criminal Arrests- 39
 Investigations Worked- 252
 Reports Closed- 182
 Stolen Property Recovered- \$2,050.00
 Assisted Bethel P.D.- 180

This is only Tate Township Deputy Pike's unit and does not reflect the stats of other Deputies calls in the township for the entire year.

ADDRESS SIGNS

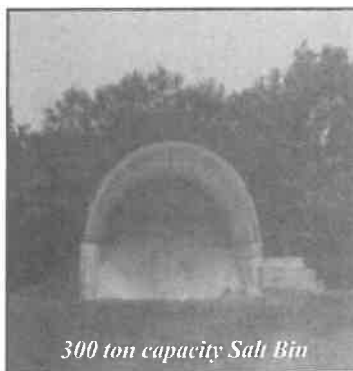
Green reflective address signs are available year round at the Fire Station for \$20.00. These reflective signs make finding your house or business so much easier for not only emergency responders, but delivery trucks as well. Remember, your Fire Department does not go door to door selling address signs, call the station at 734-4444 to order yours today.

TATE TOWNSHIP ROAD MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

Tate Township Maintenance Supervisor Ed Stanley reports his department mowed the sides of all township roads 3 times and cut back trees with the boom mower once in 2020. The crew manually cut all low hanging limbs over township roads to a minimum height of 13'6". Eighty-Eight loads of trees and tree limbs were taken to the marshaling yard as required by the USDA do to the Asian Longhorn Beetle problem here in Tate Twp. Should you see any low hanging trees on a township road or unsightly or hazardous brush, please contact the Maintenance Department at 734-2384 or email Ed (estanley@tatetownship.org)

Tate and Williamsburg Townships together purchased a Durapatcher late in 2019. The Durapatcher is used for filling cracks and potholes on the township roads with the crew using 751 gallons of durapatcher emulsion along with 33 tons of #9 stone. Crews also used 3.65 tons of cold mix asphalt to fill in the deeper potholes and bermed nearly 3 miles of township roads.

The maintenance department also installed 956 feet of culvert pipe at five locations on township roads and 350 feet of culvert pipe on private drives at eleven locations.



If you live on a Tate Township maintained road and your driveway culvert pipe needs replaced, the township maintenance department will install the pipe. The homeowner must first get a permit from the

Clermont County Engineer's Office where the size of pipe needed for your driveway will be determined by that department. Then, the homeowner buys proper sized pipe and contacts the maintenance department. At this point, the maintenance department will schedule the work to be done with an additional cost of gravel that is needed to install the culvert pipe. If a homeowner is going to do improvements to their driveway such as blacktopping or concrete, you will need to call the maintenance department who will come out to inspect your culvert pipe free of charge before any work is done to make sure the pipe is in good shape and does not have to be replaced. This will prevent any surprises like having to tear up your new driveway due to a culvert failure.

Old man winter was brutal for Tate Township road crews, especially February 2021. Snow and ice kept crews out long hours keeping our township roads passable. 180 tons of road salt was applied throughout the 2020-2021 season and the roads were plowed several times. With the large salt bin built by our maintenance department, enough salt was stockpiled so no salt had to be purchased last season. Since the capacity of the new Salt Bin is 300 tons, road salt has already bin purchased and delivered for the 2022 winter season as salt prices are low at this time of year.

TATE TOWNSHIP WEBSITE

Check out our website at www.tatetownship.org to keep up on township news. Read all the Tate Township meeting minutes, see monthly fire department reports, and any special events that go on throughout the year. You can also send emails to any township official should you need answers to a concern or question you may have. Special thanks to Pam Sandker for her hard work keeping our website current.

TATE TOWNSHIP CEMETERY REPORT

In 2020, there were 100 total burials with 29 Cremations, one Indigent with 10 funerals held on Saturdays and 4 on Holidays.

Report given by Ed Stanley, Cemetery Sexton is:

Graves Sold- 66 (cremation section- 8) 47 by residents in the Village and Township & 19 out

Graves bought back- 7

Foundations formed and poured- 72

Tate Township Cemetery mowed- 24 times

Old Bethel, Crane-Schoolhouse, and The Wall on St Rt 125 mowed- 19 times

Wells Cemetery (Swope Rd) was mowed 8 times

Cremation Graves are available for \$200.00

Tate Township Cemetery rules are as follows:

1 Five days after special holidays, all flowers will be discarded.

2. Containers made of glass, pottery, and other easily broken material are prohibited, and if placed will be

discarded. Please refrain from using wires to hold flowers in place. Decorations that do not fit securely on the tombstone are not permitted.

3. Due to safety and maintenance issues, shepherd's hooks, solar lights, or any other object placed on a grave are not permitted.

4. The Cemetery Sexton has the right to remove any tree, shrub, bush, or flower if same has died, becomes unsightly or too large.

5. The cemetery prohibits the planting of bushes, trees, shrubs, or bulbs on grave lots.

6. The cemetery prohibits fences, borders, landscaping stones, or wood chips on grave lots unless they are maintained weekly by the owner.

7. No permanent flower receptacles or other articles may be placed on any lot.

8. Aboveground vaults or mausoleums are not allowed in any section.

9. All markers or monuments will be placed at the head of the grave. No footstones above ground.

10. Because of poor soil conditions, we no longer allow dome or air seal vaults of any type.

ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE UPDATE

The following latest information was taken from the USDA website:

March 2021

This eNewsletter is designed to keep you up-to-date with Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) eradication efforts and serve as a meaningful resource for the most current information. Presently, there are active eradication programs operating in four states: Ohio, New York, Massachusetts, and most recently South Carolina . The following information pertains to eradication activities in Ohio.

OHIO- First detection in June 2011

Regulated Area: 56.5 sq. miles*

56.5 Clermont County (Tate and Williamsburg Townships)

Infested Trees: 21,333

21,248- Tate Township

48 Monroe Township

3- Stonelick/Batavia Township

34 East Fork Recreational Area

Removals: 110,559

20,502 Infested:

20,417- Tate Township

48 Monroe Township

3- Stonelick/Batavia Township

34 East Fork Recreational Area

90,057 High-risk hosts

72,544- Tate Township

1,138- Monroe Township

0- Stonelick/Batavia Township

16,375 East Fork Recreational Area

Surveys: 3,551,453

· Monroe Township declared eradication in September

2018, resulting in a reduction of the regulated area by .5 sq.miles.

Stonelick and Batavia Townships declared eradication in March 2018, resulting in a reduction of the regulated area by 5 sq.miles.

Ground and aerial survey crews continue to conduct delimiting surveys, inspecting all host trees throughout the regulated areas in Clermont County. Staff continues to monitor regulated areas, respond to service calls and conduct training sessions for compliance agreements. To report suspicious activity, please call 513-381-7180 or visit www.asianlonghornedbeetle.com to find more information. Infested trees are removed throughout the year, as they are detected. The wood disposal yard located at 2896 State Route 232 in Bethel is open for business: Mon. through Fri. from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Wood chips are available for residents from 9:00 a.m.– 1:00p.m. on the first Saturday of every month.

BETHEL-TATE FIRE DEPARTMENT 2020 FIRE & EMS REPORT

Bethel-Tate FD responded to 1,772 emergency calls for fire and EMS in 2020 with an average response time (time 911 call was received at the dispatch center until we arrived on the scene was 5.3 minutes. This is an average time taken from all 1,772 calls.

462 Fire Calls

Structure (House, Business, Barn, Outbuilding)- 65

Fire Alarm Activations– 37

CO Alarm Activations– 2

Vehicle Fires– 13

Motor Vehicle Accidents (reported injuries)- 94 with 4 persons entrapped in vehicles

Air Care Called– 6/0 Fatalities from Auto Accidents

Field Fires– 8

Illegal Open Burn– 22

Dumpster Fires– 0

Tree Down Blocking Roadway—45 cut & cleared by FD

Emergency To Property Calls (usually flooded basements or tree into house)- 6

Wires Down– 28 / Transformer Fire– 5

Hazardous Materials Call (Flammable/Combustible liquids spill or corrosives)- 2

Natural/Propane Gas Leaks– 16

Explosive Ordinance Found– 1/ Bomb Threat– 1

Good Intent Calls– 13 (not a false alarm but ends up being no fire)

Misc. Fire Request– 14 (searches, animal rescues, general service calls)

Medical Calls to Assist Medic Unit or to First Respond– 107

Village Calls– 123/Township Calls– 273

Mutual Aid Given– 66 times(Central Joint Fire Dist-6/ Franklin Twp– 7/ Monroe Twp– 17/ Washington Twp– 5/ Williamsburg– 3/ Pierce Twp– 12/ Hamersville– 6/ Mt Orab– 10/ New Richmond– 0

Mutual Aid Received– 23 times(6 Central Joint/ Franklin Twp– 1/ Monroe Twp– 16/ Washington Twp– 2/ Williamsburg– 5/ Pierce Twp– 1/ Hamersville– 1/ Mt Orab– 0

Number of Calls per time of day: 7a-4p– 204/ 4p-12a– 199/ 12a-7a– 59

Total fire loss for 2020- \$130,615.00 with total property saved \$6,743,535.00

0 fire related injury to a Firefighter, 2 Civilian fire injuries, and 1 Civilian fire-related death.

Total EMS Calls– 1,310 with the total time out on Calls– 1,538 hours (doesn't include re-stocking and clean up)

Primary Ambulance– 1,173/ Back-up Ambulance– 184/ Engine first responding when both ambulances are out– 35

Village Calls– 617/ Township Calls– 604 Mutual Aid Given– 91/ Mutual Aid Received– 4

Avg. En Route Time– 1.3 minutes/ Avg. Response Time (time we are dispatched until on scene)- 5.3 minutes Time calls came in- 7a-4p calls– 588/ 4p-12a calls– 488/ 12a-7a calls– 233

Total Transports to the hospital– 856/ Non-Transports– 412

Hospitals Transported To: Anderson Mercy– 272/ Clermont Mercy– 512/ Children's– 28/ University– 15/Mt. Orab Mercy– 11/ Christ– 2/ Veterans– 5/Bethesda North– 3/ Jewish– 1/Good Samaritan– 0/UC Westchester– 0

In addition to the normal everyday calls that are made, your firefighters are trained in various levels of services that we extend out to the public. Among these services are inspecting all of our businesses, churches, four family and above apartment buildings and foster homes. Over 160 of these inspections are conducted every year, not including the re-inspections we go back on to make sure all violations have been corrected. This helps reduce the number of fires and life safety accidents in public buildings and makes for a safe environment for you to shop, worship, or live. We issue over 500 open burning permits throughout Tate Township on an annual basis. Burn Permits are inspected by a certified fire safety inspector for the type of material that is requested to be burned along with the size and location of the pile. The permit can only be issued if the requirements are met, set forth by the Ohio Fire Code and the EPA. Burn Permits cannot be issued in the Village of Bethel or within 1000 feet of the Village limits. All these inspection permits are at no charge.

We also have certified CPR and First Aid instructors that teach CPR and First Aid classes. Call station for the times and dates. Costs for these classes are CPR– 75.00, CPR and First Aid– 100.00.

All twelve of our fulltime employees have different responsibilities that keeps the department operating. These jobs range from ordering medical supplies to oil changes on every one of our vehicles. By changing our own oil on both gasoline and diesel engines rather than sending them out to be done saves the Township a lot of money on a yearly basis.

The upkeep on all the life-saving and firefighting equipment from vehicles to small engines is constant when making the amount of emergency calls we do each year. By doing the majority of the maintenance ourselves is a cost savings for the taxpayers.

ISO RATING NOW A CLASS 3/3Y

For the first time in history, Bethel-Tate Fire Department has been issued a Class 3/3Y rating by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) in New York. In 2001, Bethel-Tate was a Class 6/9, in 2009 our rating went down to a Class 4/8b and remained the same until now. Normally every 4-5 years, the department is reviewed by ISO. During the visit, the inspector reviews department operating procedures that includes how many firetrucks and how much water on the trucks are responding on the initial dispatch to a fire, equipment on the units, average amount of manpower, training records (how many hours of training are we taking each year), automatic mutual aid response (meaning do we have a neighboring mutual aid fire department dispatched at the same time we are dispatched), and response times. The fire department portion of the review is 50% of the final score. Then, water supply makes up 40% of the score where the inspector, along with the fire department, flows a certain number of fire hydrants to see how much pressure and volume the hydrants are putting out. Then the inspector interviews the 911 Communication Center in Batavia where they also look over their operating procedures and time it takes to dispatch a call out. This portion of the review accounts for 10% of the total score. Finally, an extra 5.5% comes from community outreach which includes fire inspections conducted by the fire department and fire safety courses taught every year (school fire prevention classes, fire extinguisher training classes, etc.). The final score is added with a number scoring range from Class 1 which is the best to Class 10 being the worst. Ohio has, according to ISO, 1,909 fire departments in the State. Of these, there are 6 Class 1 departments, 102 Class 2, and 221 departments that are a Class 3. That puts Bethel-Tate in the top 17% with 83% of the rest of the fire departments in the State a Class 4-10. If you look at the figures across the US, there are nearly 30,000 fire departments with only 393 being a Class 1, 1,772 a Class 2, and 3,644 a Class 3, the other 24,000 fire departments are Class 4-10. That puts Bethel-Tate in the top 19% of all fire departments across the US.

A Class 3 is given if you live within 5 miles of the fire station and within 1,000 feet from a fire hydrant. A Class 3Y is given to residents if you live within 5 miles of the fire station but more than 1,000 feet from a fire hydrant. What does this mean for you as a resident? ISO provides what is often called the "ISO fire score," to homeowners insurance companies. The insurers then use it to help set homeowners insurance rates. The more well-equipped the fire department is to put out a fire, the less likely your house is to burn down. That makes your home less risky, and therefore less expensive to insure. The impact of the areas ISO score on your homeowner's insurance policy varies by insurer, according to ISO.

FIRE DEPARTMENT LADIES AUXILIARY

The fire department's Ladies Auxiliary will not be having their annual Quarter Auction fundraiser again this Spring. This is the second year the event has been cancelled due to the Covid pandemic. Hopefully, life will get back to some sort of normalcy later this year where this event can resume in the Fall, if not then next Spring. This event raises money that the department uses to buy both fire and medical equipment. Our Auxiliary lost one of its members earlier this year, Helen Cole. Helen was very dedicated to our organization and if you went to any of the Quarter Auctions, Helen was the "paddle lady" who always greeted everyone with a smile. She will be greatly missed by all of us.

PLEASE, CALL 911

Every year there are residents who either call or drive to the fire station to report either a fire related incident or the need for a life squad thinking it will be faster vs. calling 911. Fact is, it takes us longer to get to you! There is the belief that firefighters and paramedics, while on duty are just sitting around the station ready for the next call to come in. Every shift, on duty crews have assignments that includes, but not limited to, conducting fire inspections which are off site, CPR classes which at times can be out of the station, outside either training, mowing grass and weed eating, maybe we're out on other calls where no one is at the station. I think you probably get the picture that not every minute of the day is spent in the station waiting on the next call. That is why it is so important to call 911 where a trained call taker can get the most accurate information, and while talking to you, they are sending the information to another desk where a dispatcher is alerting our firefighters by a tone that goes out on our radios. No matter where we are, if two of us are in one end of the building and the other three or four of us are outside or at the other end of the station, we all get the call at once which makes a quicker response to you.

FIRE DEPARTMENT BUILDING HAS A FRESH NEW LOOK

Tate Township was awarded a Community Block Development Grant for parking lot improvements of over \$100,000 late in the year 2018. Late in the year 2020, the project has been completed with all new blacktop and concrete aprons. Also this past Fall, firefighters put several fresh coats of paint changing the aqua blue color to a rust/red that totally changed the appearance of the building. The original building was built in 1959 when the department was volunteer only. A building addition was added in 1996 to accommodate around the clock on duty staffing when the building got its aqua blue trim and bay doors color scheme. Hope you will agree that the fire department property looks really nice with all the recent improvements thanks to the Clermont County Commissioners awarding Tate Township the parking lot grant and our firefighters, paramedics, and EMT's for their hard work painting.

BETHEL-TATE FIRE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES MORE GRANTS!



Lt. Welch and Lt. Becker load new hose on pumper.

Bethel-Tate Fire Department has received another grant from FEMA Assistance To Firefighter's grant program. This time the grant was awarded for fire hose and nozzles that totals \$130,970.00 that replaces all the fire hose and nozzles,

most of which were 30 years old. Each year, the department does hose testing per NFPA recommendations and required by ISO. Every year, we have several sections of hose that fails the testing and is then discarded. NFPA (National Fire Protection Agency) has set a standard that any section of fire hose that is 30 years and older is not acceptable to be used in firefighting operations. In referring to this NFPA standard when applying for the competitive AFG grant in the narrative proved to be successful for the department in the review process. The department received 4,700 feet of 4" hydrant hose, 4,400 feet of 1 3/4" fire attack hose, 1,200 feet of 1" trash line hose used for grass fires, dumpster fires, and overhaul extinguishment on structure fires. Along with all the fire hose were nozzles to replace every nozzle on every truck, along with hose fittings, lighting equipment, and various other miscellaneous firefighting equipment for all our trucks. This AFG grant is a 95% funded by FEMA with Tate Township putting in the remaining 5%.



Asst. Chief Cooper, Lt. Welch, and FF/Medic Kent Bryant label new hose and nozzles.

BTFD was just notified by the State of Ohio Fire Marshal's Office that we have been awarded a \$10,000.00 grant for fire gear and air masks. This is another competitive grant and is the first time the department has ever received this grant from the fire marshal's office.

TATE TOWNSHIP MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT UPGRADES AND ADDS TO FLEET

Tate Township Trustees, with Maintenance Supervisor Ed Stanley's recommendation have upgraded two dump trucks



Durapatcher Emulsion Machine

that are equipped with salt spreaders and snow plows the past two years. These new trucks replace two much older, rusted out units that have been sold. The latest truck is a 2020 Ford F-550 with a 7.3 gasoline engine. Also replaced is a 2020 Case 580N backhoe that replaced the 1992 Case



Retaining Wall

580K model. The 1992 backhoe has also been sold. Adding to the fleet is a Durapatcher that is used to fill potholes and cracks that uses fine stone and a hot tar emulsion to make the road repairs. Tate and Williamsburg townships went in 50/50 on this machine, making it less expensive for both townships as this is a piece of equipment that is not used all the time. The Durapatcher machine will help keep our township roads from needing paved as

often. Supervisor Stanley also acquired the old Fire Chief's vehicle which is a 2006 Ford Explorer that he uses to investigate various types of road and drainage ditch issues, checks road conditions when inclement weather arrives, and shows cemetery plot locations to family members in the Tate Township Cemetery.



2020 Ford F-550 Maintenance Department Truck



2020 Case Backhoe 580N

Tate Township Trustees also allowed the Maintenance/Cemetery Department to erect a retaining wall behind the maintenance barn. Heavy rains were washing away the trees and the slope soon to be threatening graves just close to the barn. The concrete retaining wall has been completed by the maintenance department eliminating any further issues with soil erosion.

RUMPKE TRASH & RECYCLING SERVICES

Tate Township Trustees partnered with Rumpke Waste & Recycling Services back in 2018 which gives township residents special pricing along with the Tate Township Enhanced Service Plan. If you are a Tate Township resident you get weekly trash removal, it also includes one bulk item each week. If you do have a bulk item, you must call Rumpke ahead of time to let them know and, if you do live in the township, you must tell them you live in Tate Township and not just give your address and say Bethel or you may be told that it will cost extra for this bulk item. With the Enhanced Plan, if you want a recycling bin, you get the bin free and is picked up every other week. If you need a regular trash dumpster, Rumpke offers a 96- gallon dumpster on wheels for an extra 2.00 per month. For residents who do not have trash pickup, burning of trash, even if it is in a barrel, is prohibited and against state and local fire codes which are strictly enforced by the fire department and law enforcement. You can contact Rumpke at 1-800-828-8171 or www.rumpke.com



SPRING WEATHER SAFETY- BE PREPARED



Spring is here and along with the warm weather and sunshine also brings severe weather at times. Here in the Ohio River Valley, weather can change at a moment's notice. It can be sunny and warm and the next thing you know is the skies are darkening with thunderstorms moving into the area. Meteorologists have the equipment now to forecast the possibility of severe weather usually a day or so ahead of the weather system moving through our area. Download your favorite weather

alert app on your phone, this will give you enough warning to take shelter should a severe storm occur. But well before this, have a plan in place. Just like a fire safety plan, most families know what to do when hearing the smoke detector or see fire. You know to get out of the house and call 911. A severe weather safety plan could save your life. Have a safe place in your home you can go should a tornado develop. If you have a basement, go there, if you do not, go to the lowest level of your house and go to an interior room and cover your head staying away from windows.

The following supplies should be kept on hand in the event of a power outage. A power outage could last an hour or it could last for several days. Be self-sufficient and don't rely

on others if at all possible.

Have enough food and water for 72 hours

Keep enough fuel in your vehicle, not just enough to get to a gas station(remember the power is out, they won't be open for pumping fuel)

Have battery powered flashlights and a battery powered radio

Make sure you have extra batteries and they're not out of date

If you do have a portable generator, DO NOT operate it indoors or in a garage. Gasoline and diesel- powered generators produce carbon monoxide and will produce CO poisoning that will make you sick and can kill you. These units must be operated outdoors in a well- ventilated environment

Don't even think about going near a downed wire. Even if you think you know the wire is a cable line or a telephone line, it may be in contact with a power line and could possibly be energized. If the power is out in the area and you think a downed wire is safe to get near, it may not be. Maybe your neighbor has started his generator to supply his house and doesn't have the proper equipment to do this safely. This could be back feeding into the electrical grid and the wire could very well be energized. Report any wire down to 911 and stay away.

Finally, check on your elderly neighbors who may not have the ability to care for themselves for an extended period.

OUTDOOR WARNING SIRENS

Tate Township has four outdoor warning sirens and the Village of Bethel has one. These sirens are not called tornado sirens anymore as they can be activated for different emergency situations other than weather related. These sirens are not meant for you to hear them indoors, that's why they are called outdoor warning sirens. These sirens are tested the first Wednesday of every month, except when threatening weather is in the area or if ice is on the speakers which can cause damage. The sirens can only be activated in our area by three agencies, Clermont County 911 Center, Union Twp Communication Center, and Loveland Communication Center. Other than when testing, if the sirens activate for three minutes, turn on your TV or radio for information. The only time the sirens sound for weather is a tornado warning only, not for severe thunderstorm warnings. If the reason is for something other than weather, you will be instructed on what action to take via the news media.

If you don't have a safe place to shelter in the event of a tornado warning, our area's tornado shelter is located at 125 E Plane St, Community Christian Church. The S. East St side entrance doors lead to the basement where a fire department representative or a police officer will instruct you where the safe area is. You will also need to sign in and sign out for accountability purposes. No pets are permitted in the building per the church. They are kind enough to allow this shelter, so please abide by their rule. Once the tornado warning has been allowed to expire, the shelter will close.

CLEAN-UP DAYS SPONSORED BY TATE TOWNSHIP

June 11 & 12 7am– 5pm

June 11 and 12, Friday and Saturday are the days to haul off all your junk accumulated over the past year. Tate Township will have the large box dumpsters available at the Township Maintenance Building located at 2655 Spring St. to accept your unwanted items. Items not accepted are yard waste, paint, or any other hazardous materials. Tires will be accepted for a small fee. Clean up days only applies to Tate Township and Village of Bethel residents and proof of residency is required and will be checked.

Last year's clean up days ended up with 100.56 tons on trash collected along with 179 tires taken. Tate Township residents brought 403 loads and Village of Bethel residents brought 89 loads for a total of 492 loads of metal, trash, and tires.

Special thanks to Tate Township Trustees Gary Reed and Bob Redden, Clermont County Sherriff's Dept., Clermont County Municipal Court, and Village of Bethel for their assistance.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Area Tornado Shelter	Community Christian Church - 125 E. Plane St. - S. East St. entrance doors
Tate Township Website.....	www.tatetownship.org
Tate Township Road/Cemetery Department.....	734-2384
Tate Township Zoning Department.....	734-0618
Fire Department Office (non-emergency).....	734-4444
Clermont County Sheriff's Office.....	732-7500
Clermont County Communication Center (non-emergency).....	732-2231
Ohio State Highway Patrol (Batavia Post).....	732-1510
To Report an Emergency (Fire, Life Squad, Police)	911