

WEBSTER TOWNSHIP

Wood County, Ohio

September, 2020

Contact Webster Township:

Mailing Address:

9637 Middleton Pike

Bowling Green, OH 43402

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Township Hall:

SE Corner of Sugar Ridge Road
and State Route 199

Public Meetings:

2nd Monday - 7:30 A.M.

4th Monday - 7:30 P.M.

Trustees:

Isaac Bailey 419-308-9945

Mark Bushman 419-262-9302

Jim Cajka 419-260-4980

Fiscal Officer:

Julie Foes 419-409-0053

Zoning Inspector:

David Welling 419-208-6055

P.O. Box 932

Luckey, OH 43443

Cemetery Sexton:

Mark Bushman 419-262-9302

On the Web:

www.webstertwp.org

www.facebook.com/webstertwp

www.checkbook.ohio.gov

Fire and EMS Coverage:

Center Township

Freedom Township

Middleton Township

Troy Township

Webster Township is responsible for maintaining township roads, taking care of two cemeteries, and providing fire and EMS services to residents while trying to be as fiscally responsible as possible with residents' tax dollars. Read on to learn how Webster Township is spending its resources to better the community.

Fire and EMS

Fire and EMS protection in Webster Township is divided between Center, Freedom, Middleton, and Troy Townships. Voters have continued to support the 3.1 mill levy used to pay for fire and EMS protection for many years. In 2017, the residents voted to add an additional 0.3 mills increasing the total to 3.4 mills. The Township felt this additional millage was necessary at the time, because the Township wasn't bringing in enough revenue in the Fire and EMS Fund to cover the cost of the protection contracts. Many factors in the equation have since changed. In 2020, the Township will pay a total of \$117,797 for fire and EMS protection. so in November 2020, **Webster Township voters will vote on a levy to renew the 3.4 mills with a decrease of 0.3 mills. If the levy passes, residents' tax burden will decrease to 3.1 mills, or \$0.31 for every \$100 of valuation.**

Township Roads

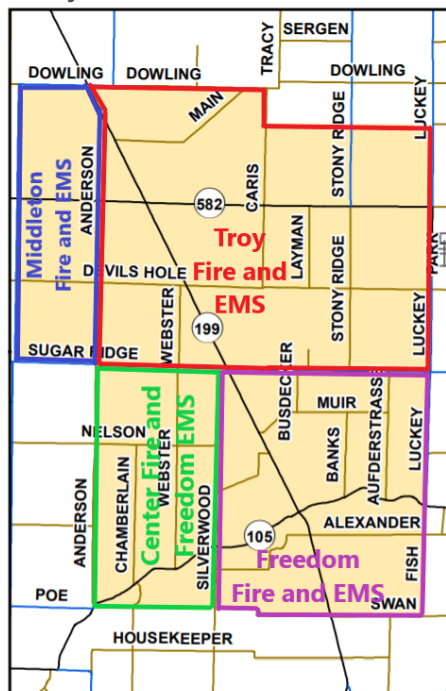
Webster Township is responsible for maintaining 36.756 miles of road including Alexander, Anderson, Aufderstrasse, Banks, Burgess, Busdecker, Caris, Chamberlain, Devils Hole, Dowling, Dunipace, Fish, Layman, Main, Muir, Nelson, Silverwood, Stony Ridge, Swan, and Webster Roads. The other roads in the township are the County's or the State's responsibility. The Township strives to always keep the roads in good driving condition. Randy Aspacher has been snowplowing, mowing, and berming the roads since 2016.

Road Improvements

In 2020, Anderson Road from Nelson Road to State Route 105 was graded to fix drainage issues. Main Road in its entirety will be resurfaced by Gerken Paving, Inc. for a total of \$115,243.05. Silverwood Road from Nelson Road to State Route 105 will be tar and chipped in either 2020 or 2021. In 2019, Chamberlain Road from Nelson Road to State Route 105 was tar and chipped, Dunipace Road was tar and chipped, and stone was added to Anderson Road from Nelson Road to State Route 105. Back in 2018, Aufderstrasse Road from Sugar Ridge Road to Muir Road was repaved, Banks Road was tar and chipped, and a wedge was added to Stony Ridge Road.

Roadside Spraying

This year, the Township is going to have the roadsides sprayed on Caris Road, Stony Ridge Road, and Layman Road, as well as Devils Hole Road from Luckey Road to State Route 199. If all goes well, the Township will get into a rotation program and all the roadsides will get sprayed once every three to five years or as needed.



Fire and EMS Coverage Map

Webster Township Cemetery

Webster Township Cemetery, off of State Route 199, north of State Route 105, has seen lots of activity recently. The trees have been trimmed, the yucca plants covering graves have been removed, birdhouses have been installed, the driveways have been sealed, and soon row numbers will be painted on the drives, section markers will added, and new signs will be installed. Chase Greulich has been working hard to keep the cemetery mowed and maintained this year.

Mapping Project

The Township received a grant in the fall of 2019 to update the cemetery maps and create a database with information on both the owners and occupants of each grave at Webster Township Cemetery. Ten community members helped map the cemetery, and Fiscal Officer Julie Foos is creating the database using the information they found. The map and database will be posted on the township's website when they are completed. Bill Subsara of Fremont has been a huge help with this project and has volunteered countless hours to update, add to, and correct the last cemetery listing done in 2010. He created a booklet available for sale of the cemetery with listings of occupants by name, location, military status, etc., as well as stories about the history of the cemetery and interesting people buried there.

Memorial Day Ceremony

Every year at 9:00 A.M. on Memorial Day, Troy-Webster American Legion Post 240 holds a short ceremony at five local cemeteries starting with Webster Township Cemetery. The firing squad marches in, fires a 21 gun salute, places two wreaths in honor of all the veterans who lost their lives serving their country, and then marches out. If any veteran is interested in being a part of the firing squad, please contact Commander Tom Briggs at 419-266-5434. The American Legion also places flags on all of the veterans' graves to honor their sacrifice.

Historic Cemetery Walk

The Pemberville Public Library is organizing a Historic Cemetery Walk at Webster Township Cemetery on October 3, 2020. Beginning at dusk, small groups of family and friends can walk through the lantern-lit cemetery and hear stories about some of the fascinating residents. Groups need to register with the library and reserve their time slot. More information will be available at www.pembervillelibrary.org as the walk nears. If anyone is interested in being a guide, please contact the library at 419-287-4012.

Wreaths Across America

In December 2019, a Wreaths Across America event organized by Eastwood alumni Chad and Victoria Albright was held at the cemetery to honor the 180 veterans buried there. Chad began with a short ceremony reminding all in attendance of the sacrifices made by those who have served our country. Community members then tidied the hero's graves and laid a wreath on each one. The Eastwood Key Club partnered with the Albrights to help with fundraising. Community members were asked to sponsor wreaths for \$15 each. This event will be held again in 2020 on December 19 at Webster Township Cemetery. There was such a good turnout and such interest in this event that it may also be held at other cemeteries in the Eastwood area. Please be on the lookout for more information on sponsoring a wreath or attending the event on our Facebook page or at www.wreathscrossamerica.org. If any groups are interested in helping with fundraising, please contact Chad Albright at 703-298-7435.



A wreath placed on a veteran's grave

Old Belleville Ridge Cemetery

Webster Township is also responsible for Old Belleville Ridge Cemetery on the southeast corner of Carter Road and Dowling Road. This cemetery is currently inactive. Most of the burials took place in the 1800's, with the earliest known burial in 1861 and the most recent burial in 1949. Only seven people buried here died in the 1900's. There are 15 veterans resting at Old Belleville Ridge representing the War of 1812, the Mexican-American War, and the Civil War.



Multiple days a week, the ball diamonds are occupied, the parking lot is full, and parents line the fences

Election Day

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, 2020. The only issue put on the ballot by Webster Township is the renewal of the 3.4 mill levy with a decrease of 0.3 mills for fire and EMS protection. Voting in person will take place at the American Legion Hall in Pemberville instead of at the Township Hall. Polls will be open from 6:30 A.M. to 7:30 P.M. Visit www.co.wood.oh.us/boe to register to vote, apply for an absentee ballot, or see election results. The deadline for voter registration for the November election is October 5.

Address Signs

There are many green 911 address signs missing throughout the township, and many of the older signs have lost their reflectivity. If anyone wants a new sign or wants to update their old sign, contact Isaac Bailey.

On the Web

There is lots of information on Webster Township's website including minutes from meetings, the Zoning Resolution, and the old cemetery maps. Webster Township is the only township in the county to post its expenses monthly on its OhioCheckbook page. In an effort to increase transparency, residents can check out exactly what the Township is spending tax dollars on. Webster Township also has a Facebook page to keep residents up to date on what is happening throughout the township.

Webster School Property

In late 2018, Webster Township acquired the property where Webster Elementary School once stood. In 2019, the Eastwood Youth Soccer Association set up soccer fields for various ages and played their fall season there. In 2020, the Northwest Ohio Eagles 8U softball team and Velocity's 10U, 12U, and 14U softball teams used the ball diamonds for their summer season and will play their fall season there as well. The teams have also been utilizing the concession stand and are planning on putting any profit made right back into the fields. Countless residents have commented on how nice it is to see the property being used again. Thank you to Coach Angie Miesmer, Coach Greg Gonyer, and all who have volunteered their time and energy to bring the ball diamonds back to playing condition.

Property Updates

Webster Township will be applying for the Wood County Parks District grant in hopes to secure funding to start updating and improving the playground. The Township is working with a consulting company to come up with the best plan for making sure the playground is both safe and fun for kids of all ages. The Township is also planning to put up a shelter house near the playground that can be used for outdoor gatherings. These improvements will span multiple years and will be completed as funding becomes available. If any groups or individuals are looking for a community service project, there are lots of projects that could be tackled. Please contact a township official if anyone has any time, talents, or resources they would like to donate towards making the property a true asset to the community.

Room for Expansion

The Trustees view the Webster School property as a great location for any future buildings. The Trustees are working on plans for constructing a building with two bays near where the old school sat. This building will be used to park equipment and for miscellaneous storage. The Township could also use a smaller building, also with two bays, to store salt and stone.

Webster Township Zoning

Webster Township is zoned, which means there are rules and regulations for houses, buildings, ponds, etc. All of these rules can be found in the Zoning Resolution on the township's website. The Zoning Resolution covers setbacks from property lines, minimum lot size, frontage requirements, junk vehicles, permitted property usage and much more. The Township is zoned agricultural with only a few parcels as exceptions.

The Zoning Inspector, David Welling, has been appointed by the Trustees to enforce the Zoning Resolution by means of issuing permits for new construction and making sure residents stay in compliance. Permits are required for houses, accessory buildings, additions, pools or ponds, some fences, signs, and satellite dishes as well as road bores or road cuts. Conditional use permits can be issued for in-home businesses, which would otherwise not be allowed.

The Zoning Commission is charged with maintaining the Zoning Resolution and presenting updates to be approved by the Trustees as needed. The Zoning Commission has five members and one alternate and has been meeting quarterly to stay current on zoning issues throughout the township.

The Board of Zoning Appeals comes into play when a resident does not meet the requirements for a zoning permit. The resident can appeal to the BZA, made up of five members and one alternate, and have his case heard by a jury of his peers. The BZA may approve an appeal if a hardship is found.

If anyone is interested in serving on either the Zoning Commission or Board of Zoning Appeals, please contact a township official.

Webster Township
9637 Middleton Pike
Bowling Green, OH 43402

Feedback

If anyone has any feedback regarding ways the township could better serve its residents, please either contact a township official or come to a public meeting. Meetings are held at the Webster Township Hall on the second and fourth Monday of every month. Visitors are always welcome.

Hall Rental

The Township Hall, located on the corner of Sugar Ridge Road and State Route 199, is available for gatherings. For \$100, anyone is able to rent the hall for the day. Prior to COVID-19, Girl Scout Troup 10221 used the hall on certain Tuesdays during the school year, and Duke's Mixture 4-H club used the hall on Sundays.

PLACE
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