

# ***Shawnee Township News and Events***



Spring  
2024

## **Brush Pick Up Season is Upon Us**

Each year the Shawnee Township Road crews begin brush pick up in April. The pick up season runs through October and is always weather permitting. Brush will be picked up each week on Thursdays. Brush pick up is for normal maintenance and pruning of trees and shrubs on residential lots within Shawnee Township. Brush pick up **does not** need to be called in for the Township to pick up. The road crew picks up bagged leaves and small brush trimmings throughout the year. If you bag your debris, please call the Road Department to schedule pick up.

**BRUSH PICK-UP POLICY AND REGULATIONS**

**ANY BRUSH PILE NOT FOLLOWING THE POLICY SHALL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE RESIDENT OR LANDOWNER**

**The Brush pick up season will be conducted by policy as follows:**

1. Brush will be picked up on Thursday or Friday, weather permitting.
2. Service will not be provided for lot clearing, hired maintenance or contracted labor, topped trees, cutting entire trees, or excessive brush piles.
3. The Township will not collect any pile larger than a small pickup truck.
4. The Township will remove the brush that is the product of ROUTINE PRUNING and ROUTINE MAINTENANCE only!
5. Other debris mixed in with brush will cause the denial of pick up.
6. Brush pick-up will be suspended as soon as leaf pick-up begins and will not resume until the following spring.
7. Brush must be neatly bundled with the cut ends facing the road. Brush should not be piled on the roadway where it becomes a traffic hazard. Should brush be placed on the road, the person, persons, or landowner will be held personally liable for any outcome of the obstruction.
8. Only piles that meet the above criteria and are bundled in bunches no larger than 4 feet in length, 2 feet in height, and a maximum of 50 pounds will be picked up. The branches shall be no larger than 4 inches in diameter.

**All brush pick-up will be at the discretion of the Road Department**

# National Night Out 2024



Shawnee Township will be holding our 25th annual National Night Out on Tuesday, August 6, 2024. National Night Out (NNO) is a nationwide event that is held on the first Tuesday of August, each year with this year being the 41st year that National Night Out has been celebrated. NNO celebrates community building and Police community partnerships. Shawnee Township has extended our celebration to include our other services, area businesses, schools, churches, and entire community. With the help of our generous sponsors we are able to provide an evening of free entertainment, food and fun for families of all ages. Once again, Chief's Supermarkets will provide brat and hotdog meals. Texas Road will be serving pulled pork sandwiches, and our popcorn, snowcone, cotton candy booths will be up and running. The Dean Maag and Friends band will be in the front shelter house providing entertainment. We will have lots of giveaways, area business booths with information, and a chance to win some awesome prizes. Check out all the bounce houses, the Escape Room, LED Golf, inflatable ax throw, petting zoo, or the Extreme Trampoline! The evening will kick off with the second annual 5K Run for Russ, in honor of Russ Holly. Race start time will be 5:00 sharp. Join us at Heritage Park on

Reed Road on Tuesday, August 6, 2024 from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Don't miss this wonderful community event!

## Spring Clean Up Day



Spring Clean Up Day for Shawnee Township residents will be held on Saturday, May 18, 2024 from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Dumpsters will be located at the Shawnee Township

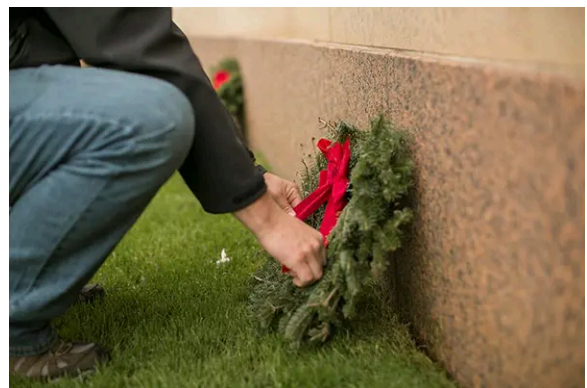
Garage – 2530 Fort Amanda Road.

### Items that will NOT be accepted are:

Refrigerators, air conditioner units, car batteries, chemical waste (household oil, paint, and chemical products), tires, and large furniture.

Bring a driver's license or other ID with an address for proof of residency.

## Exciting News for the Shawnee Cemetery



Cemetery Sexton, Lesa Wende has worked diligently to bring the Wreaths across

America to the Shawnee Cemetery December 2024. In addition, The Wreaths across America Mobile Education Exhibit will be coming on May 22, 2024!



### The History of Wreaths across America

Morrill Worcester, owner of Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine, was a 12-year old paper boy when he won a trip to Washington D.C. It was his first visit to our nation's capital and one that would change the trajectory of his life and the lives of millions of others across the country. Seeing the hundreds of thousands of graves and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery made an especially indelible impression on him. It was to be an experience that would follow him throughout his life and successful career, reminding him that his good fortune was due, in large part, to the values of his nation and the veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

In 1992, Worcester Wreath found themselves with a surplus of wreaths nearing the end of the holiday season. Remembering his boyhood experience at Arlington, Worcester realized he had an opportunity to honor our country's veterans. With the aid of Maine Senator Olympia Snowe (ret), arrangements were made for the surplus wreaths to be placed at

Arlington in one of the older cemetery sections that had been receiving fewer visitors each passing year.

As plans were underway to transport the wreaths to Washington, a number of other individuals and organizations stepped up to help. James Prout, owner of local trucking company Blue Bird Ranch, Inc., generously provided transportation all the way to Virginia. Volunteers from the local American Legion and VFW Posts gathered with members of the community to decorate each wreath with traditional red, hand-tied bows. Members of the Maine State Society of Washington D.C., helped to organize the wreath-laying, which included a special ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

For over a decade, this annual tribute went on quietly and privately. Everything changed in 2005, when a photo of the stones at Arlington, adorned with wreaths and covered in snow, circulated around the internet. Suddenly, the homespun tribute from a small town in downeast Maine was receiving national attention. Thousands of requests poured in from all over the country from people wanting to help purchase and lay wreaths at Arlington. Thousands more wanted to emulate the Arlington project at their local National and State cemeteries. Still others simply desired to share their stories and thank Morrill Worcester for honoring our nation's heroes. Many were surviving family members of some of those heroes.

Unable to donate thousands of wreaths to each state, Worcester began sending seven wreaths to every state: One for each branch of the military and an additional wreath to pray tribute to POW/MIAs. In 2006, with the

help of the Civil Air Patrol and other civic organizations, simultaneous wreath-laying ceremonies were held at over 150 locations around the country. The Patriot Guard Riders volunteered as escorts for the wreaths going to Arlington in the beginnings of the annual "Veterans Honor Parade," a convoy that now travels the east coast every year in early December.

The annual trip to Arlington and the groups of volunteers eager to participate in Worcester's simple wreath-laying event grew each year until it became clear that the desire to remember and honor our country's fallen heroes was bigger than he could have imagined possible at the outset. The movement had grown beyond Arlington and bigger than this one company in Harrington, Maine.

In 2007, the Worcester family, along with the support of veterans organizations and a variety of other groups and individuals who had helped with their annual veterans wreath ceremony in Arlington, formed Wreaths Across America, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, to continue and expand this effort, and support others around the country who wanted to do the same. The simple mission of the organization was established:

Remember. Honor. Teach.

Just one year later, over 300 locations held wreath-laying ceremonies in every state, Puerto Rico and 24 overseas cemeteries. Over 100,000 wreaths were placed on veterans' graves. Over 60,000 volunteers participated. And that year, December 13, 2008 was unanimously voted by the United States Congress as "Wreaths Across America Day."

In 2014, a goal of placing a veteran's wreath on every grave marker was met with the sponsorship and placement of 226,525 wreaths.

In 2018, a delegation of volunteers and supporters were invited by the American Battle Monuments Commission to hold a wreath ceremony to honor the nearly 10,000 heroes interred at Normandy American Cemetery in France.

In 2022, Wreaths Across America and its national network of volunteers placed more than 2.7 million sponsored veterans' wreaths on headstones of our nation's service members at 3,702 participating locations. This was accomplished with the support of more than 5,000 sponsorship groups, corporation contributions, and in-kind donations from the transportation industry across the country.

The wreath-laying that began more than 30 years ago is still held annually, on the second or third Saturday of December. WAA's annual pilgrimage from Harrington, Maine to Arlington National Cemetery has become known as "the world's largest veterans' parade." Every year the convoy of trucks, local law enforcement, staff and supporters stop at schools, monuments, veterans' homes and communities along the way to talk about the Wreaths Across America mission and remind people how important it is to remember, honor and teach.

For more information on how you can donate to Wreaths across America for the Shawnee Cemetery go to:

<https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/OH0412>

# Eagle Scout Project Complete!



Come check out the Eagle Scout Project at the front of the cemetery. Shawnee Senior Andrew McKenzie has done a wonderful job! The dedication ceremony will be held on May 11, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.



## Before You Light Up...

Individuals that choose to conduct open burning in Ohio should be aware of rules and regulations that may affect them.

Ohio Revised Code 1503.18 prohibits most open burning in unincorporated areas in March, April, May, October, and November between 6am and 6pm. Open burning during these times may be permissible if conditions outlined in the exclusionary text are met. This code is under authority of the Ohio Division of Forestry.

The Ohio EPA has authority regarding open burning under Ohio Administrative Code. Check OhioEPA website for details.

Local governments or fire departments may have local burn rules established. It is good practice to check with these local entities prior to conducting open burns.

Individuals may be held liable for damages caused as a result of a fire that they kindle.

Consider disposing of yard waste through alternative methods, such as composting.

**Why is open burning a problem?**

Open burning can release many kinds of toxic fumes. Leaves and plant materials send aloft millions of spores when they catch fire, causing many people with allergies to have difficulty breathing. The pollutants released by open burning also make it more difficult to meet health-based air quality standards, especially in or near large cities. The gas released by open burning can also corrode metal siding and damage paint on buildings.

**What open burning is never allowed?**

Under Ohio law, these materials may not be burned anywhere in the state at any time:

- 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; and
- dead animals—unless approved for control of disease by a governing agency.

**Other restrictions:**

- Open burning is not allowed when air pollution warnings, alerts or emergencies are in effect.
- Fires cannot obscure visibility for roadways, railroad tracks or air fields.
- No wastes generated off the premises may be burned. For example, a tree trimming contractor may not haul branches and limbs to another site to burn.

**What happens if I'm caught illegally open burning?**

Ohio EPA has the authority to enforce the state's open burning laws. Violations can result in substantial penalties.

The following Chart is not a complete listing of the regulations. For a complete chart visit

the Fire Department tab on ShawneeTownship.com.

Shawnee Township falls under the regulations of "Outside a Village or City if generated on property" (column 2)

TYPE OF FIRE	OUTSIDE A VILLAGE OR CITY* if generated on property
Barbeques, campfires cookout	Wood stack no larger than 2 ft. high x 3 ft. wide. Use clean, seasoned firewood or equivalent
Agricultural waste	Agricultural wastes and plant matter such as tree trimmings, stumps, brush, weeds, leaves, grass, shrubbery and material from crop or livestock production. This includes fence posts and scrap lumber, but does not include buildings, land clearing waste, dead animals or animal waste. Fire must be more than 1,000 feet from a neighbor's inhabited building. Request permission from the Ohio EPA if pile greater than 20 ft. wide x 10 ft. high (4,000 cubic feet). This may take two weeks.
Land-clearing waste	Plant matter such as tree trimmings, stumps, brush, weeds, leaves, grass, shrubbery and crop residues. With prior written permission from the Ohio EPA. This may take two weeks
Residential waste	Plant matter such as tree trimmings, stumps, brush, weeds, leaves, grass, shrubbery and crop residues. Also wastes such as wood or paper products that are generated by one-, two-, or three-family residences. Fire must be more than 1,000 feet from a neighbor's inhabited building. Request permission from the Ohio EPA if pile greater than 10 ft. x 10 ft. x 10 ft. This may take two weeks
Ceremonial fires	Wood stack no larger than 5 ft. high x 5 ft. wide. Duration no longer than three hours. No notification required
Occupational fires: welding torches, heating tar, heating for warmth of outdoor workers and strikers	Use clean seasoned firewood. For example, a heating fire contained in a 55-gallon drum.

# Summer Curfew Reminder

The curfew schedule below applies to the following jurisdictions: Allen County, City of Lima, American Township, Bath Township, Marion Township, Perry Township, Shawnee Township, Village of Elida, and Village of Lafayette.

## Under Age 13

Sunday - Thursday: September 1 - May 31 - 7:00 pm  
Friday & Saturday: September 1 - May 31 - 9:00 pm  
Sunday - Saturday: June 1 - August 31 - 9:00 pm

## 13 thru 15 Years of Age

Sunday - Thursday: September 1 - May 31 - 8:00 pm  
Friday & Saturday: September 1 - May 31 - 10:00 pm  
Sunday - Saturday: June 1 thru August 31 - 10:00 pm

## 16 thru 17 Years of Age

Sunday - Thursday: September 1 - May 31 - 10:00 pm  
Friday & Saturday: September 1 - May 31 - Midnight  
Sunday - Saturday: June 1 thru August 31 - Midnight

## At Our Parks



In 1973, the Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District Board accepted a deed for 108 acres of the Lima Army Modification center land from the federal government. An additional 54 acres with the former 108, totaling 162 acres, came to the Park District through application to former President Nixon's "Legacy of Parks" program. Subsequently, 81 acres of the land was returned to the Lima Army Modification Center for expansion, leaving Heritage Park at its present size of 81 acres.

The land in the area of Heritage Park was the last Shawnee Indian reservation in the State of Ohio, and located on this reservation was the Shawnee council house. The council house was erected in 1790 and was the home of celebrations, funerals, religious ceremonies, and important meetings. This building was the center of the Shawnees' activities by both the Hog Creek Shawnees and the Wapakoneta Shawnees. The council house stood until 1834 when it was torn down by the Hover family, who then owned the property. The small house and barn located east of the entrance of the West End picnic area was the old Hover farmhouse. The bank barn used to be to the west of the farmhouse, right where the woods begins.



Over the past sixty years, a transition has occurred from field to forest over much of Heritage Park. Currently, the most dominant

successional state is the *Intermediate Forest* to the east of the West End picnic area. As recently as 50 years ago, nearly all of this area was pasture. When the land was allowed to sit undisturbed, grasses and shrubs dominated the landscape. As time passed, fast growing trees were introduced and began to grow and overshadow the grasses and shrubs. As this area continues to mature, the larger, hardier trees, like oaks, ashes, hickories and walnuts will become established and the shrubs and smaller trees, such as elms, cherries and red maples, will die out. As the trees in the forest grow and limit the growth in the understory, a *Mature Forest* will be the dominant successional state. The West End picnic area, for example, is considered a mature landscape.

Enjoy your hike through the matured forest or your picnic under the hickories and oaks. While you consider how beautiful everything is, just remember, it's all changing right before your eyes!

## Let's Talk Sirens



This system is designed to activate response agency notification and public warning procedures required as the result of a natural or technological emergency.

The Allen County Sheriff's Office serves as the 24-hour **WARNING** and **NOTIFICATION** entry point CALL 227-3535 or **9-1-1**

In the event of:

Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) Any incident involving a known or suspected hazardous material

TANK TRUCK – RAIL TANK CAR – STORAGE FACILITY

Any accident or major incident involving a tank truck, rail tank or fixed storage tank containing any hazardous materials including gasoline, oil products or flammable gas –

**REPORT EVEN IF AN ACTUAL RUPTURE HAS NOT OCCURRED!**

FIRE OR EXPLOSION

Multiple homes, buildings, industry, storage facilities or any occurrence where evacuation may be necessary

PIPELINE

Any major accident or rupture involving a pipeline carrying any material, including natural gas

MAJOR TRANSPORTATION ACCIDENT

Aircraft, train, passenger bus or multiple vehicles

NATURAL DISASTER

Tornado sightings or winter emergencies

**IF IN DOUBT – REPORT!!!**

**The Allen County Sirens are tested the first (1st) Wednesday of each month.**