



Published by the Granville

Township Trustees  
for the residents  
of Granville Township

february 2004

# the record

## Granville Township Trustees Welcome Your Input

As elected officials who represent both Village and Township residents, your Granville Township Trustees are accountable to address issues that affect you and our community.

In light of residents' concerns raised regarding the "hunting issue," the trustees apologize for the limited notice provided. In the future whenever possible, we will strive to fully communicate well in advance so that there is sufficient opportunity for public comment and input. As promised, the hunting program will be evaluated at the end of January, and your input is encouraged by phone, e-mail or in person.

Another issue raised concerns listing of properties purchased by the Township. A full list of these properties will be posted on the Township web site ([www.granvilletownship.org](http://www.granvilletownship.org)) by the end of the month and included in our next newsletter.

While we always strive to be proactive and responsible in dealing with Township issues, we also welcome community input that allows us to be more effective.

With this in mind, Trustees Jim Havens and Wes Sargent are writing periodic articles for the Sentinel that will cover aspects of the Township's mission, its implementation, and an objective view of current issues and their handling by your Trustees. These articles will also be mailed to Township and Village residents via this newsletter format, and be available on-line on the Township web site at [www.granvilletownship.org](http://www.granvilletownship.org).

### First Open Forum, February 18

If you would like more information about an issue or concern, contact information for the Township trustees and clerk is included at the end of this newsletter. Trustees will also be holding public community forums to answer questions about your Township government. We will be seeking your input. **The first open forum is scheduled for 7:00 p.m., February 18, 2004, in the Library of the Granville Intermediate School.**

*NOTE: Our first article to the community, written by Wes Sargent, follows and addresses taxation and representation.*

## Village and Township Taxation and Representation

Recently, Village and Township residents have asked Township trustees to outline how residents are taxed by the Township; how residents can have a voice in these tax-supported activities; and how these taxes are calculated. First, let's look at the big picture of real property taxes.

Below is a breakdown of the real property taxes paid by residents.

TAXING ENTITY	2004 Voted/ Inside Millage	2004 Effective Res/Ag Millage	% of Effective Res/Ag Millage
Granville Schools	81.19	44.26	71
Granville Township	11.00	9.67	15
Licking County	7.20	5.88	9
Joint Voc. School	2.80	2.80	5
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>102.19</b>	<b>62.61</b>	<b>100</b>

## What do your taxes support?

About 15% of your real property tax goes to the Township. Let's look at what these taxes support, keeping a few things in mind:

- Granville Township comprises residents who live and pay property taxes in the:
  - incorporated area (the Village) and
  - unincorporated area, i.e. the remainder of the Township.
- Village residents vote for Township trustees and clerk and elected Village council people. Those residents living outside the Village do not vote for village council people.
- Fire and emergency services, recreation commission activities, open space acquisitions, cemetery acquisition and maintenance are supported by their respective levies which are voted for by all of the residents in the Village and unincorporated portions of the community.
- The road and bridge levy is only voted on by residents outside the Village, and the funds are used only for items that lie outside of the incorporated limits.
- Inside millage is set by state law.
- Because the tax base, i.e. the value of real property, is relatively equal in both the incorporated and unincorporated areas of the community, the actual amounts of money collected from each jurisdiction are about the same.

## Township Taxation Breakdowns

Amounts Collected	Voted Millage
Fire Department \$486,524	2.3 mills
Recreation Commission \$113,692	.5 mills
Open Space Preservation \$769,038	3.5 mills
Cemetery \$102,857	.4 mills
Road and Bridge \$498,290	4.0 mills
Inside Millage \$77,143	.3 mills (non-voted)

*Note: These figures are estimated collections for 2004 tax receipts.*

### Independent Boards

The Fire Department and Recreation Commission are independent Ohio non-profit corporations that are governed by independent boards. These commissions are composed of board members who reside in Granville Village and the Township. Your Township trustees allow and encourage these boards to operate independently, and trustees contract with these organizations to provide community-wide services.

After the open space preservation levies passed, Township trustees appointed study and recommendation committees composed of a wide and diverse cross section of the community. This included elected Village council people, members of Village council land planning boards, and Village and Township residents. These committees met independently and issued reports with recommendations and criteria for acquisitions.

Although Open Space Preservation will be addressed in detail in an upcoming article and forum, I'll quote for you the recommended priorities given to your Granville Township Trustees at our April 25, 2001 meeting:

1. Preservation of areas of scenic/natural beauty as well as areas of historical or unusual geological significance that may be subject to development;
2. Preservation of the integrity of the comprehensive plan;
3. Protection of agricultural lands;
4. Preservation of Granville lands in danger of being annexed to other communities and/or high density development; and
5. Protection of edges and boundaries: village entrances, buffers, open vistas, and viewsheds.

Your Township trustees have followed the report recommendations. The actual properties identified for acquisition are confidential and protected from public release by Ohio sunshine laws. The need for privacy is fairly obvious. If targeted properties were identified publicly, their owners might decide to increase the price and make them more expensive to acquire. Developers might also attempt to purchase the properties before the Township could act.

### Your voice is welcome

Your trustees try very hard to give residents who are taxed a direct and continuing voice in how their taxes are allocated and spent. In areas where both the Village and non-Village residents are taxed, there are obvious efficiencies and common benefits for services rendered community wide. Examples include a common park and recreation system, a common fire and emergency delivery system, and a common cemetery maintenance system.

Ohio law requires that these levies be applied at a uniform rate. There has been some suggestion that rates for older citizens or those who have lived in the community for a longer period of time be given a tax reduction. While appealing to some, such action would be unconstitutional and outside the lawful powers of Township officials.

### Open Space and Parks

The Township has acquired approximately 750 acres of recreational and protected open space, spending nearly \$4.5 million over a course of more than 15 years. More than \$1 million has been spent from the Township's non-open-space monies. Some of that money has been used to build Raccoon Valley Park. And, while Village residents contribute to approximately half of the inside millage that goes into the Township's collections—approximately \$38,000 per year—we have used this money for items that are used by the entire Granville Community.

In closing, if anyone has any ideas on how to lower taxes, provide equivalent services, or better empower residents to have direct input in the use and allocation of our resources, please let us know. We welcome your ideas, comments and criticism. If you can't attend the meeting, feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,  
Jim Havens, Lyle King and Wes Sargent

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Visit the  
Granville Township  
web site at

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