



Parkman Paragraphs

VOL 2 No 1 - JUNE 2005

Published in June, September, December and February by the Parkman Township Trustees, Parkman, Ohio © June 2005. Portions of this newsletter may be reproduced with proper credit to the source. Deadline is August 1 for the September 2005 issue.

Editor: Lynn Komandt, PO Box 552, Parkman OH 44080-0552, 548-5636 for newsletter items only. For all other Township business, call 548-2904.

Township Phone: 548-2904

Meetings normally are at 7:30pm in the rear of the Community House

Township Trustees (1st & 3rd Tue.)

Kevin O'Reilly
Lucinda Sharp-Gates
Alan Wilson

Township Clerk

Nancy Wheelock

Zoning Commission (4th Tue.)

John Augustine & Bill Pollard

Zoning Appeals Board (2nd Tue.)

Dennis Ikeler

Zoning Inspector (Weds. 7-8:30)

John Hasman

Roads Department

Tom Evers

Parkman Community House & Overlook Park Parnaby Pavilion

Wendy Anderson

Cemetery Sexton

Dale Komandt

Fire & Rescue

Wayne Komandt

Fire/Medical Emergencies:

CALL 911

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Parkman Paragraphs, published quarterly, is a newsletter for reporting information from various sources and resources within the community to foster and promote understanding and good community relations.

I can hardly believe we're starting our second year! But we can't do it without your input. The next issue's deadline is August 1, and there should be lots of news to share. So call me at 548-5636 and tell me that you sending me an article.

Spring has taken it's own sweet time getting here, and I haven't had nearly enough "clutch time" on my motorcycle. If Spring is so late, does that mean Summer will last until December?

We have been in contact with the *Geauga County MapleLeaf* and your editor will be putting together a "Parkman News" column as happenings in Parkman allow. So now you have an even more frequent vehicle available for your news. Call me and we'll let all of Geauga County know what's happening in Parkman!

TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES' NOTES

from Kevin O'Reilly, Trustee

Many of you have expressed concern over the condition of the township roads. The Trustees are currently in the process of determining priorities for road improvement projects. We have chosen to target two roads for dust control efforts this summer. We will be using an oil product for dust control and base stabilization on Newcomb Rd. and calcium chloride for dust control on Nash Rd. east of State Route 168. If these products prove effective and economical, we may use them on more roads in future years. Feel free to call any of the Trustees if you have constructive suggestions for road improvements.

The Community House will soon have a new water supply and we have been told that the water is so good in our new well we won't need our water softener and filter system. Be sure to try some of the water when you visit the community house.

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SPOTLIGHT ON PARKMAN BUSINESS

This column introduces our community's businesses so you'll know what's available right here in our township. Have a business or service that you would like us to feature? Call Lynn Komandt at 548-5636 or email her at heeler2000@hotmail.com.

DIVE INTO THE SKY

The Cleveland Parachute Center, Inc. has been in Parkman, Ohio since 1957. It started as a club with Dale Gates as President. The Center was first located in Parkman at Soltis Farms on Soltis Rd. It then moved to Troy Kimpton Farm on Hoover Rd. in Troy, Ohio. In 1965 the Center relocated to 15199 Grove Rd. in Parkman Township, where it is today. Currently, Dale Gate's son, Bob Gates, operates and manages the Cleveland Parachute Center, Inc. Spectators are welcome to come and watch the many experienced skydivers as well as first-time students. The Cleveland Parachute Center, Inc. offers first-time Instructional Skydiving Courses, where you can train and skydive all in the same day. The Center is open mainly on Saturdays and Sundays with periodic times throughout the week.



Check out their website for more information: www.clevelandparachute.com or e-mail: info@clevelandparachute.com. Or phone them at (440) 548-4511.

TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES' NOTES *(continued from page 1)*

Memorial Day is coming and, as always, there will be a community observance at Overlook Cemetery on Tavern Rd. Mark your calendar and plan on joining many of your neighbors to honor our veterans (see the Memorial Day Schedule on page 5).

Summer is almost here, so be sure to take advantage of the great facilities the Township has to offer at Overlook Park. The picnic pavilion and ball fields are free for any township resident to use. Reservations may be needed, so call Wendy Anderson 548-2907 to check on the date if you are planning an event.

As always, the Trustees value your input and would love to hear from you. Please call any of us and let us know what is good about Parkman Township!

PARKMAN WANTS YOU!

Like to write? Know a little about computers? Like to find graphics that help tell the story? Do you email? Know a little about bulk mailing? Want to contribute to your township? You, too, can be a newsletter editor! Soon I'll be stepping down as Editor of *Parkman Paragraphs* due to personal commitments and other reasons. So send a letter to the Township Trustees at PO Box 688, Parkman OH 44080. They're waiting for you to contact them!

HISTORICAL SOCIETY HAPPENINGS

Just a reminder, the **garage sale has been postponed to July** (date to be determined). Check the front lawn of the Historical Society House for signs with more info. We still need donations of new or gently used stuff to help raise more funds for our restoration project. Call Jeanne and let her know what you can give (548-2138).

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Several weeks ago your Trustees met with the County Commissioners and other Geauga County citizens to talk about concerns within the various communities. From that meeting the Trustees came away with the same conclusion: Parkman needs an identity and we need to identify the concerns of our residents.

To begin facilitation of these topics we are asking that you respond to the following query. Once the results are in, the Trustees will initiate a town meeting, probably in September, at the Community House. Because so many changes are coming to our Township in the next two years, two of which are the sewers and the Route 422 project, the Trustees feel that there is a need to define the important issues, listen to the residents to meet the many challenges within the community.

From the list below, we would ask that you number the issues in order of importance to the community, the number **1 being the greatest importance** and the number 5 being the least important issue.

____ ZONING/ LAND USE

____ TRAFFIC

____ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

____ TOWNSHIP ROADS

____ AGRICULTURE



To reply to this query just clip this page, fold it in half, put a piece of tape on the three open sides, put a 37-cent stamp on, and mail to Township Clerk Nancy Wheelock at P.O. Box 688, Parkman, Ohio 44080 (it's already addressed for you).

OR you can e-mail lgates@smythecramer.com (Lucinda Gates) or acwilson@acwei.com (Alan Wilson). Please feel free to add your comments. We thank you for taking a few moments to help us.

Your Trustees

Add your comments here:



CHAMBER CHATTER

Because of the heavy snow storm in April, the Chamber has rescheduled its Fifth Annual “**Come Fly With Us**” Kite Festival on Saturday, June 4, from 10am to 5pm at Overlook Park. This is for all ages and much will be going on. There’ll be kite vendors, Junk Yard Kite Building Contest, “Make It” Workshops, demonstrations, kite sprint races, music and face painting (and maybe even more). Refreshments will be available. FMI: 440/632-3473.



THE POSTAL SCENE

from Bruce Schaefer, Parkman Postmaster

Stamp Rate Increase?

I'm sure by now many of you have heard about the proposed rate increase. The USPS is in good financial shape. The proposed rate increase is due to funding of military retirement credit for Postal employees covered by the Civil Service Retirement System. No other branch of the government pays for military time (all payments come from the US Treasury Department).

There are two US Postal Reform Bills that would relieve the USPS of \$27 billion in military pension obligations. But the current administration is opposed.

If the Postal Service is excused from paying military pensions for Postal employees, then tax payers, and not Postal customers, will be funding employer obligations. And the Postal Service could hold rates steady for the upcoming years.



Parkman Trustees Survey
PO Box 688
Parkman OH 44080

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Nancy Wheelock
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MEMORIAL DAY SCHEDULE

Events Begin at 9:00am, Monday, May 30

1. Band plays "Star Spangled Banner" – Flag raising by Scouts at Overlook cemetery flag pole.
2. Special announcements and introductions by Township Trustee(s).
3. Placement of Memorial Wreath – Boy Scouts.
4. Annual Tribute to a Parkman Veteran – Richard W. Giles, deceased; Presentation of plaque honoring Richard L. Stanchak by members and friends of the Giles family.
5. Address by Father Burkley, St. Edward's Parish
6. V.F.W. presentation and salute.
7. Band plays "Taps."
8. V.F.W. leads parade to square.
9. At square, Boy Scouts raise flag.
10. Band plays "Star Spangled Banner."
11. Move to Lower cemetery.
12. V.F.W. presentation and salute.
13. Band plays "Taps."
14. Special announcements and observance declared concluded.



DO YOU HAVE EMAIL?

How about getting your *Parkman Paragraphs* on-line? Drop Lynn Komandt an e-mail at heeler2000@hotmail.com. You'll need to provide your name and mailing address, along with your e-mail address. When an issue is mailed, you'll get an e-mail with *Parkman Paragraphs* as an attachment, so you'll get it faster than if mailed. You'll need Acrobat 5.0 or higher to download. This will save a little postage and printing cost for the Township.



AS I LOOK BACK (continued from page 8)

looked like I had the symptoms of rheumatic fever and that I should stay in bed for the next three months. I was nine years old and school had just ended, so all the summer of 1948 I spent upstairs in my bedroom until school started in September. Many of my friends came to see me. We spent time listening to radio programs or playing board games. I was always happy to have visitors.

Sometime during my elementary years the school board decided to change the appearance of the school. They had the front door removed and built a large double story addition in the front of the school. This added new class rooms where teachers had more room and classes were not as crowded. My eighth grade class was in this new section.

There were only twelve in my class. Two of my best friends were Bobby Sitko and Barbara Moss. The other boys that I spent a lot of time with were Dale Komandt, Kenny Soltis, Robert Kovacks, Willie Amolsch, David and Donnie George, Jimmy Hansel, Eugene Sitko, and Robin and Tom Gotham. There were only five of us that went on to high school. The seven Amish children did not go on. When I got out of eighth grade I had to make a choice. Would I follow my friends to Southington High School or go to Middlefield High School? It was a hard decision, but because my dad worked at Johnson Rubber Plant at that time, I could sometime ride to school with him. I chose Middlefield. I missed my Parkman friends but could still see them on weekends so it wasn't too bad. As I look back, I realize I made the right decision, as my high school years were some of the best years of my life.

Editor's Note: A former Parkmanite, Jacque lives in Vernal, Utah, with his wife May. They come back to Parkman only occasionally. Join us next issue for Jacque's continuing saga.

ROAD DEPARTMENT RUMBLINGS

from Tom Evers, Superintendent

The three most important items of road maintenance are drainage, drainage, drainage. The top two factors affecting road life are traffic loads and water. The Expert's Road Drainage Rule is "Keep the water off your road, out of your road, and away from your road."

The road dust problem we have from time to time is a problem we all face. The biggest factor, other than residents' complaints, is the dust that blows away. That dust is the binder that holds the stone together, which in part, forms the road surface. Studies have shown that for each vehicle passing over the road daily, as much as one ton of aggregate per mile is lost each year.

And that leads me into traffic counts. For example: Newcomb Road has 1400 vehicles daily. That equals 1400 tons of aggregate per mile (1400 tons x 2.82 miles) which equals 3948 tons of aggregate lost per year! Other traffic counts:



Shedd Road (paved)	970 vehicles daily
Patch Road	210 vehicles daily
Nash Road	200 vehicles daily
Agler Road	120 vehicles daily
Hobart Road	110 vehicles daily
Owen Road	70 vehicles daily
Bradford Road	50 vehicles daily

A LITTLE HISTORY ABOUT TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT

Submitted by Kevin O'Reilly

edited from Carl M. Broberg's Local Government in Ohio

Local government in Ohio is comprised of five types: counties (88), cities (251), villages (689), townships (1309), public school districts (612), and special purpose districts (such as airport, park, and public transportation authorities). (This information is believed to be correct as of November 2004).

In 1785, the Continental Congress of the United States created townships in the Northwest Territory to assure orderly settlement of the areas which would later become Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and part of Minnesota. The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 called for State, County and Township governments, the latter two as a compromise because Northern states favored county government and Southern states favored township government.

Townships: Spelled out in the Northwest Ordinance as 6 miles square (except in the Western Reserve where they are defined as 5 miles square), townships continue today to be responsible for road maintenance, police protection, and settlement of disputes over partition fences. They may also provide fire protection, ambulance and emergency medical services, cemeteries, street lighting, trash collection and disposal, hospitals, parks and playgrounds, water supply, waste water disposal and zoning.

Townships may not change their own form of government in any way. They have no control over construction or urban development laws including:

- subdivision regulations
- road construction standards
- water and sewer regulation
- urban sediment rules
- storm water or drainage regulation
- building standards and codes



Townships are run by three elected Township Trustees and a Clerk. Parkman's trustees are Kevin O'Reilly, Alan Wilson and Lucinda Sharp-Gates. Parkman's clerk is Nancy Wheelock. Regular business meetings are held at the Community House on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm.

FIRE DEPARTMENT JOURNAL

from Paul (Wayne) Komandt, Chief

Spring and Fall are the times of the year when people think of cleanup. I wanted to inform you of the "Open Burning" regulations in Ohio. Anytime you light an outdoor fire, you are "open burning," and certain restrictions apply in **all** cases.

1. No open burning can take place within 1000 feet of an inhabited building of the property where the fire is set.
2. The fire cannot obscure the roadway or railroad tracks or airfields.

Some materials can never be burned in Ohio:

1. Materials containing rubber, grease and asphalt or those made from petroleum. For instance: tires, cars or car parts, plastics, plastic-coated wire.
2. Garbage: any waste created in the process of handling, preparing, cooking or consumption of food.
3. Dead animals.
4. No waste generated off the premises.

Open burning is permitted for certain purposes, but fires must be kept to a minimum size for the intended purpose:

1. Cooking for human consumption.
2. Heating tar and smudge pots.
3. Welding and acetylene torches.
4. Warmth of outdoor workers and strikers.
5. Ceremonial fires (5' x 5' for 3 hours with prior notification)
6. Firefighter training, poison and explosive disposal, management of wildlife or agricultural areas, or to control disease or pests (with prior written permission from the EPA).



Parkman is in what is called an unrestricted area, and as such, the following may be burned:

1. Agricultural waste, to include fence posts and scrap lumber, but not buildings.
2. Landscape waste.
3. Land-clearing waste.
4. Residential waste.

Even in an unrestricted area, the rules of what can never be burned and rules governing all open burning apply. Therefore, you can never burn dead animals, garbage and tires. And you can never do it within 1000 feet of an inhabited building off the premises.



WHERE ARE YOU?

If you called 911 for an emergency, could our Fire Department find you in the dark, in the rain? During an emergency, time is precious. Make it easy for us to find you.

Your house number should be visible in the yard of your house, not on the other side of the road on your mailbox. Our large green signs make that happen. And for only \$10. That \$10 goes to help the Fire Department replace and restock necessary supplies for our ambulance and fire trucks.

If you'd like a sign for your home or business, please call Dale Komandt at 548-5636, or contact any fire fighter. We'll need the digits of your house number and a phone number or address to deliver the sign. It takes about a week for us to complete.

Parkman Paragraphs - Your Township Newsletter

June 2005



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AS I LOOK BACK

By Jacque Yost

My elementary school years were lots of fun. Having gone to second through eighth grades, I saw many changes take place in the school. My mother taught fifth grade and her friend Elizabeth Stoll taught sixth grade. I think Jean Giles taught a class at that time also. A couple of names, John Wentmore and A. J. Crockett come to mind as principals of the school during those years. I attended the elementary school from 1946 through 1954. Parkman was a high school in my early elementary grades but later lost its status as a high school.

I remember once attending a big coronation of Queen of the High School where Paula Cone was crowned queen. I was really proud to be an attendant representing my class. Living next door to the school had its advantages. Every weekend local men's basketball teams in the area would play in the gym. I could go over and watch the games. Sometimes they would let me go up in the balcony and keep score by turning the tin sheets that had numbers painted on them. It was fun watching Richard Soltis, Joe Soltis, Connie Testa, & Boone Farley play ball. In spring and summer I could watch the baseball games that were played on the field across from my home. My dad and I use to sit out in the front yard and watch the games.

One day Rich Soltis hit a wicked line-drive foul ball that came across the street and hit the left side of my face. Dad took me to see Dr. Chirelli (I'm not sure about the spelling) about the injury. The doctor said that everything was OK with my face but during the examination he noticed some black & blue spots up and down my legs. After further testing he informed my dad that it

(continued on page 5)

