

*Happy
Holidays*

from
The Union Township
Board of Trustees

Talk of the Township

Winter 2013

Trustees: Timothy Donnellon ♦ Robert McGee ♦ Matthew Beamer
Fiscal Officer: Ron Campbell

Congratulations

From left, Union Township Fiscal Officer Ron Campbell, Chairman of the Board of Trustees Tim Donnellon, Trustee Bob McGee, Assistant Fire Chief Mark Fyffe, Lieutenants Matt McHale, Travis Brown and Chris Goessl, Trustee Matt Beamer, and Fire Chief Stan Deimling



At their regular meeting Nov. 14, the Union Township Board of Trustees approved the following Fire Department promotions: Lieutenant Mark Fyffe to assistant chief, and Firefighter/Paramedics Travis Brown, Chris Goessl and Matthew McHale to lieutenant. In his introduction, Administrator Ken Geis called the firefighters the " ... best of the best."

Union Township Service Department: Caretakers of your community

Union Township Administrator Ken Geis is one of the biggest supporters of the township's employees, and that trust was borne out when the Service Department, the fourth of the township's departments to be so recognized, was accredited by the American Public Works Association (APWA) in 2011.

Geis has always maintained that the township's departments are only as good as their employees, and those employees were responsible for proving that some 311 management practices were up to the superior standards of the APWA. In the end, they were, making the township the first in North America to be awarded accreditation through the APWA and therefore the only township in the U.S. to have police, fire, communications and public works accredited

The primary role of the Union Township Service Department is "to improve and preserve the quality of life in our community by the pursuit of unparalleled services for our residents." To achieve this, the Service Department is responsible for the maintenance of all township roads, parks, cemetery, buildings and vehicles.

The Roads Division preserves 130 center-lane miles of public



roadways, including concrete curb and gutters. Maintenance encompasses drainage improvements, pavement resurfacing, patching of potholes, line-striping, treatment of snow and ice, installation and replacement of guardrails, and street and traffic control signs.

The Parks, Buildings and Grounds Division manages the maintenance, repair and beautification of four parks, township buildings, gateway areas, and landscaping on Ivy Pointe Boulevard.

The Fleet Maintenance Division is responsible for maintaining all service, police and administration vehicles.

Mt. Moriah Cemetery staff operates and maintains one of the most beautiful cemeteries in the area, with continual enhancement projects each year.

The Service Department also sponsors community outreach programs, such as Spring and Fall Junk Days, a Tree and Brush Voucher program, and a Christmas tree disposal service, in addition to participating in all township events.

Union Township is the most liveable community in Clermont County, and the Service Department is proud to be the caretaker of this growing and diverse community.

Cyberspace ...

What teens ...

and parents ...

should know

In 2010, Tyler Clementi, an 18-year old Rutgers University freshman with a passion for the violin, jumped to his death from New York's George Washington Bridge after fellow students streamed a sexually explicit video of him, taken in secret, over the internet.

Irish immigrant Phoebe Prince hanged herself two days before the winter cotillion dance at her school in Massachusetts after being viciously bullied on four different social media sites. She was just 15.

Following Ryan Halligan's suicide at age 13 in 2003, his father learned he had been relentlessly bullied at school and online since fifth grade.

And locally, 18-year old Jessica Logan killed herself one month after her Sycamore High School graduation. A nude picture she sent of herself to her boyfriend was distributed around the school, resulting in cyberbullying and bullying at school.

CYBERBULLYING

These statistics are growing every year. With the advent of social media, an aura of distance, both physical and metaphorical, allows the cyber bully a sense of anonymity and ease in stalking victims on the internet. This is not face-to-face, eyeball-to-eyeball. Fear of an actual confrontation or reprisal dwindles to nothing, and the bully is free to take his or her aggression out on a victim who feels there is no recourse and may not even know who his bully is.

This trend is not limited to teens. There are documented cases of adults posing as teens in order to stalk their victims, in some cases resulting in teen suicides.

Parents who are not on top of their teens' smart phone and computer activity may be surprised to learn that:

- 42% of teens with tech access report being cyberbullied over the past year
- Of the 69% of teens who own their own computers or smart phones, 80% are active on social media
- The average teen sends 60 texts per day—reducing face-to-face communication skills
- Teen texting rate is double the adult texting rate
- Girls 14 to 17 text more—100 per day
- 7.5 million Facebook users are under 13 years old (*Social Media Today* cites **5 million children under age 10 are Facebook users**)
- 81% of teens say bullying online is easier to get away with

Statistics from www.cyberbullyhotline.com

SEXTING

Often, cyberbullying is the result of teen sexting. Sexting is the act of sending sexually explicit messages, photographs or video, primarily between mobile phones and the internet. And, sexting is a growing trend among teens, even teens as young as 12 and 13 years old.

Officer Jim Brown is the UTPD school resource officer (SRO) assigned to Glen Este Middle and High schools. By Sept. 5 of this year, not even two weeks into the new school term, he had five cases of sexting involving middle and high school teens.

This should be shocking, but Brown said many of the parents he meets call sexting "kid stuff."

"It's not 'kid stuff,'" Brown said. "If these teens are not of age, they are looking at a variety of felonies, from distributing child pornography to tampering with evidence to intimidating a witness."

And, what's more, if the teen is underage, the phone belongs to the parent, who also could be charged.

"I don't want to see these kids ruin their lives, and so I tell them—these are felonies. If you are convicted, say goodbye to a good job, even

say goodbye to a job at McDonald's, say goodbye to college, to that scholarship, say goodbye to the National Honor Society," Brown said. "They just don't get it that once it's out there, it's out there for good."

Detective John Pavia handles juvenile and sex offenses for the township. His job takes over where Officer Brown's leaves off.

He has handled 19 cases which involved sexting. These cases include not only nude photographs but also use of a web camera or Facetime while in a state of nudity.

"Five of these cases involved an adult male and a female under the age of 16 meeting and engaging in sexual conduct," Pavia said. "Those males have been charged with Unlawful Sexual Conduct with a Minor."

In several of Pavia's cases, he followed the trail and found, in one instance, a juvenile sent a nude photograph to a boyfriend/girlfriend and eight other people had possession of that photo. In another case with the same scenario, he identified 12 other individuals who had a copy of the picture in their possession at one point.

"I have had juveniles as young as 11 sending nude photographs," Pavia said. "No matter the age, transmitting these photos is a criminal offense."

Like Brown, Pavia tries to impress upon teens that, once the photo or video is out there, you cannot get it back.

"I ask them how they would feel if, 20 years down the road, their own child finds that picture," Pavia said. "It is out there forever."

AND ONCE IT'S OUT THERE ...

"It can go sideways very quickly," said U.T. Police Chief Terry Zinser.

Zinser pointed out that newer trends, such as, "sexploitation" and "sextortion," are spreading like wildfire.

Just last month, a Southern California computer science student pleaded guilty to hacking the computers of Miss Teen USA and as many as 20 other young women.

Once the computers were hacked, Jared James Abrahams used the girls' webcams and took photos of them when they weren't aware. He sent e-mails to the women and told them he would publish the images on social media sites if they didn't send him additional pictures or undress for him. And if he didn't get a response, he made good on his threat.

Abrahams is accused of employing similar hacking tactics used by a Florida man who was sentenced to 10 years in prison last year after he broke into the personal online accounts of Scarlett Johansson, Christina Aguilera and other women and posted revealing photos and other material online.

According to Zinser, many teens panic and comply with the demands.

"They are terrified of the images getting out, especially to their parents," he said. "So they give in, sometimes even being blackmailed into sex to prevent the pictures getting out."

Zinser said experts cannot impress enough on parents how important it is to educate their children and monitor their online activities.

AND IF IT'S OUT THERE, WE CAN FIND IT, TOO

Brown tells the story of a series of bullying-type texts wherein the teen he was questioning had deleted his/her texts from the phone and just left the other party's texts.

"They think if they hit the delete button, it goes away. It all leaves a fingerprint. Phone providers, cell towers—it doesn't take long to get the information," Brown said. "If it's out there, we'll find it."

"As far as a string of threatening messages that go over the line, the courts don't care who went first," Brown said. "They'll prosecute both of them."

On Dec. 21, 2012, rumors began circulating about a threat of a shooting at Glen Este Middle and High schools.

"By 8 a.m., we knew who the student was," Brown said.

A 15-year old girl was arrested for inducing panic and tampering with evidence. She told authorities that she created the Facebook post to see what would happen.

Hundreds of concerned parents flooded the police department with calls and about half the middle school students were kept home.

While the threat was not real, school authorities, parents and students, and law enforcement cannot ever take that chance.

“It’s not always what is said but what is heard,” Brown said.

THE DANGERS CAN BE SUBTLE

The popularity of social networking can be almost an addictive thing. Look around you at a restaurant or mall, and most teens you see are walking, even with friends, with their heads bowed and their thumbs moving like lightning over their smart phone keyboards.

While social networks have a place in our society, too often they are a breeding ground for online predators, identity thieves, and malicious behavior.

Teens put out all kinds of personal information they would not ordinarily tell strangers, yet that is precisely what they are doing. Being a member of an online social network can feel both safe, in its numbers, and lonely, in its isolation.

Experts, including psychiatrists and law enforcement, believe the first step in protecting your children is to talk with them about online safety. And just as you monitor where your child goes after school and on weekends, Brown said you should monitor your child’s online whereabouts, too.

“It is a parent’s right and responsibility to monitor his child’s online activity,” Brown said. “Don’t worry about being their BFF. Be a parent.”

Pavia said smart phones and computers are where kids connect. It is up to parents to educate their children on what is appropriate and what is not.

Pavia advises know who your kids’ social media friends are. Go through their text messages from time to time. Instruct your children to use privacy settings. Ask them to think before they type. Teach them not to open spam or e-mails from people they don’t know. Show them how to use blocking features. If they are gaming with strangers, make sure they are not sharing personal information.

Make sure they know that, once they hit “send,” they can’t take it back—whether it’s words, pictures or videos.

Pavia said a good resource for parents, teens and educators is www.NetSmartz.org, an educational arm of the National Center of Missing and Exploited Children. You will find internet safety information on blogging, cell phones, children as victims, cyberbullying, e-mail, IM and chat rooms, and gaming. Other topics include identity theft, inappropriate content, predators, revealing too much, sexting, social networking and webcams.

SOCIAL MEDIA? REALLY?

Dr. Alex Lickerman wrote in *Psychology Today* that the difference between online relationships and interactions with people in the physical world is vast. While it is nice to have the capability to connect to people we’d otherwise not encounter (and many of them, at that), it is the substitution of online relationships for physical ones that can become dangerous. As Lickerman points out, LOL is no substitute for hearing real people laugh in the joy of a moment.

Interactive dialogue that occurs real-time in face-to-face meetings is more likely to result in positive outcomes and deeper understanding. We learn how to read body language and expressions. We learn how to resolve conflict. We learn empathy.

The sometimes robotic nature of online communication may make confrontation easier, because you don’t have to deal with the emotion, but the outcome can be so much worse.

The lack of personal connection and empathy make it easy to send difficult messages. We are blocked from registering the negative emotional responses such messages elicit, giving us

Dear Gregory,

Merry Christmas! You are now the proud owner of an iPhone. Hot Damn! You are a good & responsible 13 year old boy and you deserve this gift. But with the acceptance of this present comes rules and regulations. Please read through the following contract. I hope that you understand it is my job to raise you into a well rounded, healthy young man that can function in the world and coexist with technology, not be ruled by it. Failure to comply with the following list will result in termination of your iPhone ownership.

I love you madly & look forward to sharing several million text messages with you in the days to come.

1. It is my phone. I bought it. I pay for it. I am loaning it to you. Aren’t I the greatest?
2. I will always know the password.
3. If it rings, answer it. It is a phone. Say hello, use your manners. Do not ever ignore a phone call if the screen reads “Mom” or “Dad”. Not ever.
4. Hand the phone to one of your parents promptly at 7:30pm every school night & every weekend night at 9:00pm. It will be shut off for the night and turned on again at 7:30am. If you would not make a call to someone’s land line, wherein their parents may answer first, then do not call or text. Listen to those instincts and respect other families like we would like to be respected.
5. It does not go to school with you. Have a conversation with the people you text in person. It’s a life skill. *Half days, field trips and after school activities will require special consideration.
6. If it falls into the toilet, smashes on the ground, or vanishes into thin air, you are responsible for the replacement costs or repairs. Mow a lawn, babysit, stash some birthday money. It will happen, you should be prepared.
7. Do not use this technology to lie, fool, or deceive another human being. Do not involve yourself in conversations that are hurtful to others. Be a good friend first or stay the hell out of the crossfire.
8. Do not text, email, or say anything through this device you would not say in person.
9. Do not text, email, or say anything to someone that you would not say out loud with their parents in the room. Censor yourself.
10. No porn. Search the web for information you would openly share with me. If you have a question about anything, ask a person – preferably me or your father.
11. Turn it off, silence it, put it away in public. Especially in a restaurant, in the movies, or while speaking with another human being. You are not a rude person; do not allow the iPhone to change that.
12. Do not send or receive pictures of your private parts or anyone else’s private parts. Don’t laugh. Someday you will be tempted to do this despite your high intelligence. It is risky and could ruin your teenage/college/adult life. It is always a bad idea. Cyberspace is vast and more powerful than you. And it is hard to make anything of this magnitude disappear – including a bad reputation.
13. Don’t take a zillion pictures and videos. There is no need to document everything. Live your experiences. They will be stored in your memory for eternity.
14. Leave your phone home sometimes and feel safe and secure in that decision. It is not alive or an extension of you. Learn to live without it. Be bigger and more powerful than FOMO – fear of missing out.
15. Download music that is new or classic or different than the millions of your peers that listen to the same exact stuff. Your generation has access to music like never before in history. Take advantage of that gift. Expand your horizons.
16. Play a game with words or puzzles or brain teasers every now and then.
17. Keep your eyes up. See the world happening around you. Stare out a window. Listen to the birds. Take a walk. Talk to a stranger. Wonder without googling.
18. You will mess up. I will take away your phone. We will sit down and talk about it. We will start over again. You & I, we are always learning. I am on your team. We are in this together. It is my hope that you can agree to these terms. Most of the lessons listed here do not just apply to the iPhone, but to life. You are growing up in a fast and ever changing world. It is exciting and enticing. Keep it simple every chance you get. Trust your powerful mind and giant heart above any machine. I love you. I hope you enjoy your awesome new iPhone. Merry Christmas!

xoxoxoxo
Mom

Continued from page 3

the illusion we're not really doing harm.

Lickerman suggests balancing time on the internet with time spent with family and friends. A Happy Birthday Facebook post is no alternative to imparting good wishes with a heartfelt hug.

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Officer Brown estimates that on any given day, there are somewhere near 1,700 cell phones on the Glen Este Middle and High school campus. That makes for a lot of cyber activity. Experts agree that there are many, many benefits and dangers in the world of cyberspace, but both

Brown and Detective Pavia are working to make that frontier safe for your children, just as they work to make their physical world safe.

One mother in Massachusetts gained a degree of notoriety when her iPhone contract to her 13-year old son went viral last Christmas. Janell Burley Hofmann, a mother of five, put considerable thought into addressing all the points for smart phone usage that she wanted to guide her son, Gregory.

Hofmann leads community programs, teaches parenting workshops, and writes a column for the *Huffington Post*. The iPhone contract, which she presented to her son with his gift, is part of a forthcoming book and is reprinted on page 3 with her permission. Contact her through her website at www.janellburleyhofmann.com.

First aid kits belong in homes, autos and businesses

In 2012, the Union Township Fire Department responded to a total of 1,793 fire calls and 5,862 medical emergency calls. EMS calls number more than three times the total number of fire emergencies.

Including Chief Stan Deimling and Assistant Chiefs Gary Auffart and Mark Fyffe, the department has a total of 53 firefighter/paramedic/EMTs on staff to get immediate medical aid to residents and businesses in the township and the Village of Amelia.

While your fire department is the first responder in any medical emergency, the department and the American Red Cross recommend always keeping a well-stocked first aid kit around. To be prepared for emergencies:

- Keep a first aid kit in your home and in your car
- Carry a first aid kit with you or know where you can find one
- Find out the location of first aid kits where you work

First aid kits come in many shapes and sizes. You can purchase one from the Red Cross Store or your local American Red Cross chapter. Your local drug or big box store may sell them. You can also make your own. Some kits are designed for specific activities, such as hiking, camping or boating.

Whether you buy a first aid kit or put one together, make sure it has all the items you may need:

- Include any personal items such as medications and emergency phone numbers or other items your health-care provider may suggest
- Check the kit regularly
- Make sure the flashlight batteries work
- Check expiration dates and replace any used or out-of-date contents

The Red Cross recommends that all first aid kits for a family of four include the following:

- 2 absorbent compress dressings (5' x 9')
- 25 adhesive bandages (assorted sizes)
- 1 adhesive cloth tape (10 yards x 1 inch)
- 5 antibiotic ointment packets (approximately 1 gram)
- 5 antiseptic wipe packets
- 2 packets of aspirin (81 mg each)
- 1 blanket (space blanket)
- 1 breathing barrier (with one-way valve)
- 1 instant cold compress
- 2 pairs non-latex gloves (size: large)
- 2 hydrocortisone ointment packets (approximately 1 gram each)
- Scissors
- 1 roller bandage (3 inches wide)
- 1 roller bandage (4 inches wide)
- 5 sterile gauze pads (3' x 3')
- 5 sterile gauze pads (4' x 4')
- Oral thermometer (non-mercury/non-glass)
- 2 triangular bandages
- Tweezers
- First aid instruction booklet



In the event of an emergency, having a first aid kit nearby can often make a difference, even while your paramedics are on the way.



Christmas Tree Disposal

Union Township residents may drop off their Christmas trees from Wednesday, Jan. 1, through Friday, Jan. 31, at the Service Department Complex behind the Union Township Police Department, 4312 Glen Este-Withamsville Road. Service Department staff will be available to assist with unloading trees from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Outside normal business hours, and in the event no one is available, there will be a design-

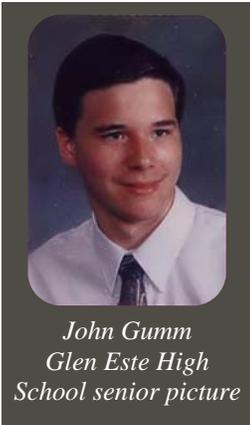
nated drop-off area. Please contact the department at 753-2221 with any questions.

Women's Self-Defense Classes

The dates for the Police Department's Women's Self-Defense classes are to be determined in January and February. Any women over 18 who have an interest should e-mail Officer Mike Mills at jmills@union-township.oh.us and they will be notified when dates are determined.

Bulletin Board

Noteworthy



John Gumm
Glen Este High
School senior picture

John Gumm Glen Este High School 1993

You hear about people taking extraordinary measures to overcome a fear, but in John Gumm's case, the effort to combat his terror turned into such a lifelong love that it is the only career he would consider.

"I was terrified of thunderstorms when I was a kid," the WKRC-TV meteorologist said.

As a joke, an older cousin locked him out of the house once when a storm was coming, and Gumm said that solidified the fear.

In trying to determine the cause of the fear, the boy grew curious about the way storms

formed and behaved.

"The more I learned, the less I was scared," Gumm said. "I then transformed from being a kid scared of storms to being a storm chaser."

Yes, you read that right. John Gumm became a storm chaser. While at Valparaiso University in Indiana, he helped create one of the largest storm chasing groups at any college in the country. The Valparaiso University Storm Intercept Team (VUSIT) continues to operate today.

"The goal was to get hands-on experience with severe weather and to help the warning process," Gumm said. "Safety was always a top priority, so we never had a close call with tornadoes. However, some softball-sized hail once gave us a good scare in Oklahoma."

Gumm said his scariest experience was chasing tornadoes in the Texas panhandle.

"Visibility was low on this day and there were tornadoes dropping from the sky all around us, but we couldn't see them. Thankfully, we got out of there before getting too close to one," he said.

Gumm was on-scene during the third most devastating hurricane in U.S. history.

Though it had weakened to a Category 3 storm before it hit landfall in August, 2005, Hurricane Katrina still claimed 1,200 lives as its intensity sent a huge storm surge into the Mississippi, southeast Louisiana and Alabama coasts. At its height, Katrina stressed the levees in New Orleans to the point of failure, resulting in flooding of up to 20 feet covering 80 percent of New Orleans.

At the time, Gumm was working for WWL-TV, the CBS affiliate in New Orleans.

"After it became apparent the hurricane would move our way and could turn into a monster, I was on-air for 12 hours straight," Gumm said. "All day I was advising people to leave as soon as they could. I told them it would be the worst hurricane in modern times and the entire



city was at risk."

During all this, Gumm's wife, Jennifer, called him at 10 p.m. to let him know their first child was on the way. Gumm's boss told him to leave and Connor was born just 24 hours before the hurricane hit.

"Since the hospital was potentially in the path of the worst part of the storm, we were forced to evacuate by car with my son, who was just 16 hours old," Gumm said. "I changed my first diaper in the back of an SUV in Laurel, Mississippi, on the fringe of the storm."

The Gumms were on their way to his sister-in-law's home in Nashville. Because their home in Louisiana had suffered damage, Gumm chose a different path and was hired by Local 12 in October, 2005.

Gumm credits the West Clermont Local School District as being pivotal in giving him the encouragement and confidence to follow his dreams.

"They always told me as a kid living in the United States, we had opportunities to do anything and be anyone we wanted to be," he said. "The education offered by the district prepared me to compete with students from the best schools across the nation and get accepted to a top-rated university in order to turn my dreams into a reality."

And he now has a second career hat to wear: software developer.

"Since my days at Brantner Elementary, I have always been interested in computers and software," Gumm said.

He coupled that interest with his love of meteorology and, with a friend, launched an application called *WeatherGeek Pro*, for the iPhone, iPad and android devices.

"Instead of being geared toward the general public, this app is designed for people like me who make the forecast. In fact, many meteorologists across the country use it as a tool to develop their forecasts," Gumm said.

The program has raw data which meteorologists and storm chasers need in order to do their jobs on a daily basis.

"In December, we will also begin to develop apps for businesses around the country, including some locally," Gumm said. "We hope to continue to expand our company (www.g3cubed.com) in the years ahead," he said.

Everything Gumm does professionally, from weather forecasting to weather software development, is actually geared toward teaching.

"It's funny. I never actually planned to go into television," he said. "I actually wanted to work for the National Weather

Service."

He said a hiring freeze forced him to look at other options, landing him his first television job in Rock Island, Illinois.

"But at the end of the day, the greatest part of my job is helping people," Gumm said. "My Hurricane Katrina experience was the ultimate in being able to use my skills to save lives."

He still keeps many of the e-mails people wrote to thank him after that storm. And he says he does the same thing here in Cincinnati, especially during tornado season.

"I like to help people understand weather and why it does what it does," Gumm said. "I really enjoy going out and visiting schools and teaching kids more about the science of meteorology. All of these things are quite rewarding."

John lives with his wife, Jennifer, children Connor and Macy, and 15-year-old Bichon Frise, Calvin, in Northern Kentucky.

Until last year, his grandmother still lived in Union Township, and his mother lives in Batavia.

"I have many friends who still live there and I visit frequently," Gumm said. "I will always consider Union Township to be home!"

Union Township Board of Trustees
 Timothy Donnellon
 Robert McGee
 Matthew Beamer
 4350 Aicholtz Road.
 Union Township, Ohio 45245

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Monthly Meetings

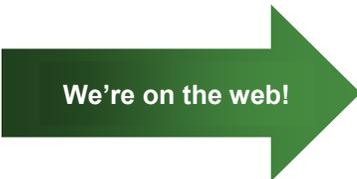
Trustees	2nd & 4th Thursday	7 p.m.
Zoning Commission	2nd Wednesday	7 p.m.
Board of Zoning Appeals	1st Thursday	7 p.m.

Contacts

EMERGENCY NUMBER	911
Trustees & Administration http://www.union-township.oh.us	752-1741
Fiscal Officer	753-2216
Planning & Zoning Department	753-2300
Fire Department http://www.utfire-ems.org	528-4446
Police Department http://www.utpd.org	752-1230
Service Department	753-2221
Post Office	947-7330
UTTV	947-7336

Don't forget to make the Union Township U.S. Postal Service Contract Unit your one-stop shop for all your postal needs. Stamps, envelopes, packages, priority mail, express mail. Conveniently located on the lower level of the Civic Center.

Stop in and see us today!!



We're on the web!

www.union-township.oh.us