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Spring 2015  
Volume 43

Trustees: **John McGraw** ♦ **Lloyd Acres** ♦ **Matthew Beamer**  
Fiscal Officer: **Ron Campbell**

## Historic Union Township / West Clermont Agreement

In back-to-back meetings Jan. 5, the Union Township Board of Trustees and the West Clermont Local School District board approved an intergovernmental agreement that allows them to enter into a contract to pursue an educational facility project.

In what Union Township Administrator Ken Geis called yet another facet to current booming commercial, retail, residential and infrastructure enhancements, this newest in the township's community building mission cements its commitment to the community at large and education in particular.

"This creates the opportunity to build a new school facility, invests the township in the success of the schools, and establishes a public private partnership among the Union Township Board of Trustees, West Clermont Local School District, the Union Township Community Investment Corporation (CIC) and private developers," Geis said.

The agreement will:

- ... Establish a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) on all non-tax-exempt properties in the project area for 30 years and dedicate the first \$2 million in new service payments to the school board
- ... Work with the school board to rezone 79 acres at Bach Buxton Road and Clough Pike for a new high school
- ... Hire and pay for a design build architect/engineer to work with the school board
- ... Reimburse the school board any amount greater than \$50,000 per acre for the purchase of the new school site
- ... Cooperate with the application of any grant in conjunction with the new high school site

Upon completion of the new high school, West Clermont will transfer the Glen Este High School campus property to Union Township for \$1. The school board will also waive time and any other notice requirements related to any TIF projects and will cooperate with and not oppose any Joint Economic Development District (JEDD) projects.

In his presentation to the Board of Trustees, Geis said the township began formalizing cooperation with the school district in 2002, leading to shared space in the new Civic Center in 2004 and establishing a framework to enhance the township through economic development using public tools. He believes a strong

partnership and collaboration with the school district will make a strong community.

"This is a continuation of the existing agreements we have with the West Clermont (Local) School District," Geis said. "The success of the community is related to the positive work by the school district and the township."

"This project comes at just the right time and is a huge relief to many, including our teachers and staff," said Dr. Keith Kline, West Clermont superintendent. "We sincerely appreciate our continued partnership with Union Township and, by working together as governmental entities, will now be able to provide West Clermont's young people with a first-class, 21<sup>st</sup> century education."

Chairman of the Union Township Board of Trustees, John McGraw, said this agreement "... represents an unprecedented level of cooperation for local government."

"The township's goal is to attract the best developments," McGraw said. "We need a strong school system to do that."

"This deal accomplishes both. This agreement has the potential to bring over \$250 million in new development to Union Township, making it one of the biggest developments in the region."

"As a trustee of Union Township, I am convinced this agreement and the economic impact it will have in our community is one of the most significant achievements in years," said Lloyd Acres, vice-chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Acres said he is energized about the collaboration between the township and schools.

"As a resident of the West Clermont school district and Union Township, I am excited about the possibility of having only one high school in our district," Acres said. "Bringing our high school students under one roof will make this district one of the top educational facilities in the Cincinnati area," Acres said. "Now is the time to do it."

"We have a unique opportunity to advance this project now that may never present itself in the future," Geis added.

On a more personal note, Township Trustee Matt Beamer, a graduate of Glen Este High School, echoed the sentiments of other locals.

*Continued on page 3*

# Scott Gaviglia sworn in as sixth Union Township Police Chief

At the Jan. 8 meeting of the Board of Trustees, Lieutenant Scott Gaviglia was sworn in as the sixth police chief of Union Township, effective immediately.

Gaviglia has been acting chief since the Nov. 29 retirement of Chief Terry Zinser.

As commander of the Operations Bureau, Gaviglia brings more than 21 years' law enforcement experience to the job, and, said Township Administrator Ken Geis, is a natural succession of command.

"Chief Gaviglia is an example of the 'work-product' of Union Township," Geis said. "He is the best possible candidate for the position because he has been trained in the Union Township fashion. He exemplifies the 'Pride, Progress and Professionalism' motto of the organization."

Prior to his joining the U.T.P.D. in 1997, Gaviglia was a probation officer with the Hamilton County Adult Probation Department, as well as a part-time officer with the City of Cheviot Police Department.

Within the department, Gaviglia served as a patrol officer, field training officer and community officer before being promoted to road patrol sergeant in 2002 and detective sergeant in 2003. In January, 2006, he was promoted to lieutenant, commanding the Operations Bureau.

Former Police Chief Tom Knox originally hired Gaviglia into the department.

"He was a probation officer for Hamilton County," Knox said. "He sent out letters to neighboring police agencies asking for help in trying to locate a probationer. In my 40 years in police work, I had never heard of such a thing."

Knox said he called Gaviglia and was told his response was the only one the young probation officer had received. Knox was so impressed with Gaviglia's perseverance that he asked to meet. He then talked Gaviglia into putting an application in to the U.T.P.D.

"This man is the right person for the job," Knox said. "He has always been the right man for the job. His way of putting 'A' before 'B' told me he was going places, and at this time and in this place, he is the right man for that position."

Gaviglia has a BS in Criminal Justice, with a minor in Business, from the University of Cincinnati, and an MBA from Indiana Wesleyan University.

He completed the Southern Police Institute's Administrative Officer course, is a certified Law Enforcement Executive, and



Chief Gaviglia was presented his Chief's Badge from former Police Chief Terry Zinser, and the Eagles from former Police Chief Tom Knox. From left, Knox (4<sup>th</sup> U.T.P.D. chief), Gaviglia and Zinser (5<sup>th</sup> U.T.P.D. chief)

graduated from the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command.

"Lieutenant Gaviglia is extremely well-educated and very capable of leading the Union Township Police Department,"

Zinser said. "He's very knowledgeable of federal, state and local laws as well as the U.T.P.D.'s policies.

"Above all, he is experienced in the Union Township Police Department

way of providing professional law enforcement services to its citizens. He has proven to be an asset to Clermont County as

a whole. He is a progressive thinker, and that will benefit us all," Zinser said.

Among other honors, Gaviglia was the recipient of the prestigious *Safety and Justice Award*, given by the Clermont County Chamber of Commerce during its Salute to Leaders banquet in 2012.

Gaviglia said he intends to keep the Union Township Police Department on the same path of professionalism that has been established by the chiefs before him. He believes that law enforcement is somewhat at a crossroads.

"Policing during this time in our nation's history is challenging," he said. "However, with the department's commitment to community-oriented policing and outreach, I truly believe there is no obstacle we cannot overcome together.

"It is important to ensure the U.T.P.D. continues to meet the high expectations of the citizens of Union Township and to continue to explore ways to remain as effective and efficient as we are today," Gaviglia said. "We will always maintain an open line of communication between the department and our citizens."

The education, training and experience go a long way toward making an outstanding police officer, Knox said, but there is something more that elevates the profile to exemplary.

"He is a good human being," Knox said. "He is the kind of guy you really want in that position."

Chairman of the Board of Trustees John McGraw agrees.

"I am excited to have Chief Gaviglia on board as our police chief," McGraw said. "In order to run the best police department, you need top leadership and Chief Gaviglia brings integrity and leadership to the job. I think we have the best police chief in the region."

## Union Township Fire Department urges homeowners to make smart choices when installing smoke alarms throughout their homes

Working smoke alarms throughout the home increase the chances of surviving a fire

In an effort to reduce the number of fatalities in home fires, the Union Township Fire Department recommends that homeowners make sure they have the appropriate number of working smoke alarms in their homes, and to make sure they are installed for proper operation and maximum efficiency.

*Smart Choices for Smoke Alarm Placement*, an education initiative supported nationally by the International Association of Fire Chiefs, encourages homeowners to understand smoke alarms and think strategically about their placement.

“Smoke alarms have been proven to increase the chances of survival by giving the residents additional time to get out of the house,” explained Union Township Fire Department Assistant Chief Mark Fyffe “However, many residents do not have the appropriate number of working smoke alarms in their homes, which leaves them under-protected. This is a major issue because the home is the place you are most likely to die in a fire, as 85 percent of all fatal fires occur in a residence. That’s close to 2,650 people losing their lives in the United States each year as the result of a fire in their homes.”

Installing smoke alarms throughout the home increases the chances of surviving a fire, added Assistant Chief Fyffe. Additionally, installing alarms strategically enables residents to maximize the benefits of different alarm features and reduce nuisance alarms that can tempt people to forego protection.

**On average, families have less than three minutes from the time the first smoke alarm sounds to escape a fire. The sooner an alarm is heard, the more time there is to respond.**

“The most important thing is to ensure that there are working UL-listed smoke alarms on every floor of the home, in hallways, in living areas, inside bedrooms and outside of sleeping areas,” Assistant Chief Fyffe “It is also important to remember that smoke alarms do not last forever. Smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years and tested monthly. New batteries should be installed in spring and fall.”

Homeowners should especially make sure they have alarms in every bedroom or just outside bedrooms, in hallways. According to a recent report by the U.S. Fire Administration:

- ... More than half (55 percent) of all home fire fatalities occur in the bedroom.
- ... More than a third (35 percent) of the victims were asleep at the time of the fire.
- ... Half of all home fire fatalities occur between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., when most people are asleep.
- ... Placing smoke alarms in bedrooms as well as in hallways could increase a family’s escape time by up to 15 minutes, according to the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

## Union Township/West Clermont Agreement

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“There is so much history with the two schools (Glen Este and Amelia high schools), and sports teams? It is true – there is a rich history of these schools and programs, which we should never forget, like the bell games, floats, parades, football stadiums, track events and the educational achievements,” Beamer said.

“That said, I feel it is now time to move forward, with a new chapter for our community, for the future,” he said. “If not now, when?”

Beamer praised the Union Township and West Clermont boards for moving forward in such a positive way.

“The likes of this partnership have never been seen before, to my knowledge,” he said, “nor has the total investment in the community. Now is the time to be the shining community upon a hill!”



## Bulletin Board

### U.T.F.D. to offer CPR classes

The Union Township Fire Department will offer *Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Emergency Cardiovascular Care (ECC) classes* on the following Saturdays: May 16; July 11; Sept. 19; and Nov. 7. Each class is from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. These classes are free to the public. To register, please visit <https://www.osmanager4.com/advcustomerlanding.aspx?co=1&cid=1446101>, or simply go to the Union Township website: [www.union-township.oh.us](http://www.union-township.oh.us) and find CPR Sign-Ups under Quick Links on the right.

### Save the Date—Service Department

*Spring Junk Days* are tentatively scheduled for 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, April 27 through May 1, and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 2. Items can include furniture, clothing and appliances such as refrigerators and air conditioners. Items that cannot be accepted are tires, batteries, used motor oil, paints, hazardous waste, yard waste, home oil tanks and insulation. Participants must show proof of residency.

The annual *Lantern Lighting Ceremony* is tentatively set for 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19, at Mt. Moriah Cemetery.

For more information, please contact the Service Department at 753-2221.

### Save the Date—Police Department

Two *Women’s Self-Defense classes* are set for 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 4, and Saturday, April 18, in the gym at the Union Township Center.

The annual *Safe Communities Neighborhood Watch Presentation* will be from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, in the Queen City Room at the Civic Center.

*Police Night Out* is set for Monday, Aug. 3, at Veterans Memorial Park, Clough Pike and Glen Este-Withamsville Road.

The annual *Citizens’ Police Academy* will hold its first class on Tuesday, Aug. 18.

***Many of these dates are tentative. Please check your local media closer to the dates for specific information on the classes and how to register.***

## A message from the Chairman of the Board

At our regular meeting on Jan. 8, the Union Township Board of Trustees voted 2-1 to change the format of how we present our quarterly newsletter. The Trustees voted to stop mailing the newsletter and instead we will offer the newsletter online, on our website at [www.union-township.oh.us](http://www.union-township.oh.us).

Since I was the trustee who made the motion to remove purchase orders to pay for the newsletters, I will explain the reasons for my decision.

The main reason was cost. The amount requested for the newsletter was \$18,000 for postage to mail it and \$28,500 for printing. This comes to \$46,500 per year. I believe our township can make better use of your tax dollars. With the loss in almost \$2.5 million per year in revenue from the State of Ohio, we have to be fiscally responsible and find new ways to balance our budget.

Look for many cities and townships to put tax levies on the ballot this year to solve funding gaps. At Union Township we want to avoid a new tax levy.

The newsletters will still be available online for viewing. However, I have agreed to continue mailing them to anyone who requests that we do so. If you or anyone else wants it mailed we can do so. We can also leave copies at the Civic Center and the local library for anyone to pick it up. We can also email the newsletter to anyone who wants it. Unfortunately I think many newsletters ended up in the trash without being read. I made a campaign promise to change how we communicate and deliver our newsletter. I found most people I talked to agreed. Many people get their news and information online and would rather the township save money and "go green" by saving paper. We live in an electronic age. More people get their news online than ever before. Newspaper circulation continues to shrink. More people pay their bills online. Mail delivery continues to decline. I think it is time we move our township forward with new technology. With electronic technology we can communicate news and information as it happens, not wait for it to be mailed 4 times a year. I would like to see us use Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and other electronic forms of communication. We should be able to send out alerts and important information via smart phones. We will also continue to send out press releases to be printed in local newspapers.

As your trustee, I appreciate and want your input. Please attend one of your township meetings and voice your opinion. We meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 7 p.m. You can also email me at [jmcgraw@union-township.oh.us](mailto:jmcgraw@union-township.oh.us). I look forward to meeting you in person and hearing your ideas and comments. It is with you that we will move our township forward into the future.

John K. McGraw, Union Township Trustee

***You may also go to the Union Township website and send a message to Administration under "Contact Us."***

**[www.union-township.oh.us](http://www.union-township.oh.us)**

## Mt. Moriah to install first columbarium

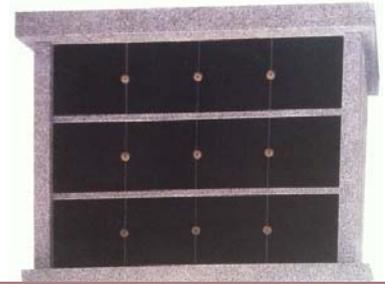
In keeping with burial trends in the 21st century, as well as the aesthetics of Mt. Moriah Cemetery, its first columbarium will be installed within the next month.

According to Wikipedia, a columbarium is a place for the respectful and usually public storage of cinerary urns (urns holding a deceased's cremated remains). The term comes from the Latin *columba* (dove) and originally referred to a compartmentalized housing for doves and pigeons called a dovecote.

Although early columbaria were often built partly or completely underground, today's columbaria can be either free standing units or part of a mausoleum or other building.

Mt. Moriah's first columbarium will be a free-standing unit located on the eastern side of the cemetery, adjacent to the cremation scattering garden. The columbarium will accommodate 24 urns within the inside of the structure. Urns will be the responsibility of the family members and must not exceed 11" x 11" in total dimension. Only one interment will be allowed within each slot of the columbarium.

Mt. Moriah Cemetery staff already have had more than a dozen inquiries of interest. For more information, please call the cemetery office at 752-1773.



**This columbarium is similar to the one that will be installed at Mt. Moriah Cemetery. The Mt. Moriah columbarium will have spaces for 24 urns.**

### P.D. NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH SEMINAR APRIL 22

The Union Township Police Department will host its 7<sup>th</sup> annual Safe Communities presentation at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, in the Queen City Room of the Civic Center, 4350 Aicholtz Road.

This presentation is a great way to get valuable information out to the public on the latest crime trends we are dealing with in society. Also included will be information on what to expect when reporting crime, what to look for in the community, how to avoid being a victim of crime, and valuable tips on crime-proofing your home.

In addition, the presentation will include instructions on starting up and maintaining a Neighborhood Watch and working with the police on sustaining it.

All attendees will also be given the opportunity to sign up for the Safe Communities e-mail list and receive various updates throughout the year on issues and crimes affecting the township and outlying jurisdictions.

This class is free to Union Township residents, as well as citizens who work in the township.

Register for the class by contacting Lieutenant Tony Rees at the U.T.P.D., 753-2247.

Don't miss this opportunity to take the first step in learning how to protect your family and neighborhood! Looking forward to a safe and happy spring!



Union Township Trustee John McGraw likes to go hiking. In the recent past, he has come upon RAPTOR Inc., by the Cincinnati Nature Center, and, in his words, come to understand what "... a real asset it is to Union Township and the whole Cincinnati region."

McGraw became so captivated by the work the organization does to rescue and treat wild birds that he wanted to use the township newsletter to spread the word.

"The whole community needs to know about this," McGraw said. "We need to make more people aware of what RAPTOR does for these birds. I wanted this in the newsletter because it reaches a lot of people."

RAPTOR has grown into its mission over the last 40 years or so. Read the history below, and to learn more about what you can do to help, call 513-825-3325.

## History of RAPTOR Inc.

### *Rescue, Rehabilitate, Release and Educate* Beginnings

In the early 1970s, Scott Adamson and Jim Williams started a raptor rehabilitation group named The Southwest Ohio Raptor Rehabilitation Clinic (SWORC). The Hamilton County Park District allowed them to operate out of the garage located behind the house at Farbach-Werner Nature Preserve. Scott and Jim financed the entire operation out of their own pockets and what donations they could obtain. Two veterinarians donated their time and facilities at little or no cost. Several cages were obtained from local research centers and they built others. Many birds were treated and released during this period. Several non-released birds became educational birds, including the famed Barred Owl "Henry" and the infamous Great Horned Owl "Lazarus."

Scott was hired as the director of the Lake Erie Science and Nature Center, near Cleveland, Ohio, and relocated his family. The cost of operating SWORC was becoming too much for Jim to handle on his own and the decision was made to form a non-profit organization to carry on the work. The new organization was incorporated in 1978 as RAPTOR Inc. RAPTOR is an acronym for the Regional Association for the Protection and Treatment Of Raptors.

### RAPTOR Inc. formed

With the birth of RAPTOR Inc., a new board was created, with Bill Moring serving as the first president. The RAPTOR operation was moved to Bill Moring's residence in College Hill. The late Charley Harper, local wildlife artist extraordinaire, designed and donated the distinctive RAPTOR logo that is still used today. RAPTOR Inc. grew to several hundred members and became a respected organization for the treatment of and education about birds of prey in the Greater Cincinnati area, treating over 200 birds per year.

Volunteers completed the move to Covered Bridge, as the new facility was named. Cages were built and the house was rented to a caretaker who was responsible for feeding the birds during the week. For the first time, there were large flight cages and plenty of room for freezers for food. Bird care was managed from a central location and there was housing for the resi-

dent birds used for educational programs. As RAPTOR became a more mature organization, thousands of injured raptors were admitted and treated. Also, hundreds of educational programs were provided to the community.

In 1991, RAPTOR took part in the Peregrine Project, working with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) to re-establish the Peregrine Falcon in the Greater Cincinnati area. Peregrine falcon fledglings were hatched in captivity in Minnesota and then relocated to a hack box atop the Cincinnati Commerce Building downtown. RAPTOR volunteers monitored the young birds as they eventually struck out on their own. Peregrines continue to nest and feed their young from the nest box downtown and have sufficiently re-established themselves to be removed from Ohio's threatened and endangered species lists.

In 2002 there was a sudden outbreak of the West Nile Virus, a disease spread by mosquitoes. This was particularly devastating to Redtailed Hawks and Great Horned Owls with 117 birds being admitted between July and September with suspected infections. Local populations of these birds were significantly impacted. Fortunately, the bird populations have rebounded.

In 2005, RAPTOR purchased property adjacent to the Cincinnati Nature Center in Union Township to serve as the future site for a new raptor center. This was a considerable leap for the all-volunteer organization and, while the exact plans were not yet determined, at least the location of the next headquarters of RAPTOR Inc. was now known. The new property consisted of a large red barn located on nearly eight acres of land.

### RAPTOR Today

In 2010, thanks in part to a large private donation, RAPTOR was able to begin conversion of the red barn into a new headquarters for the organization and center for rehabilitation activities. All new caging was constructed, including multiple flight cages, the largest being 16 x 16 x 140 feet – large enough for eagles. RAPTOR moved into the new facility in March, 2012.

RAPTOR continues to serve the greater Cincinnati area, rehabilitating injured birds of prey and providing education programs to the public on raptors and their contribution to the ecosystem. With room to expand on the current property, in the future RAPTOR Inc. plans to offer a facility that is open to the public where people can visit to view and learn about raptors.

RAPTOR maintains a volunteer organization to support its activities, including coordination and pickup of injured raptors, rehabilitation and release of injured raptors, care and feeding of RAPTOR's education birds, outreach educational programs, and maintenance and enhancement of RAPTOR's facilities.

RAPTOR Inc. continues to be governed by a 9-member Board of Trustees with day-to-day operations managed by RAPTOR's executive director, Cindy Alverson. RAPTOR Inc. is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization and is funded through paid educational programs, RAPTOR memberships, grants, and donations. RAPTOR Inc. looks forward to continuing to serve the community through its mission of education and rehabilitation of birds of prey.

For more information, visit [www.raptorinc.org](http://www.raptorinc.org), call 513-825-3325, or email [raptor@raptorinc.org](mailto:raptor@raptorinc.org).

Union Township Board of Trustees  
 John McGraw  
 Lloyd Acres  
 Matthew Beamer  
 4350 Aicholtz Road.  
 Union Township, Ohio 45245

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Union Township, Clermont County

**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**

<b>EMERGENCY NUMBER</b>	<b>911</b>
Trustees & Administration <a href="http://www.union-township.oh.us">http://www.union-township.oh.us</a>	752-1741
Fiscal Officer	753-2216
Planning & Zoning Department	753-2300
Fire Department <a href="http://www.utfire-ems.org">http://www.utfire-ems.org</a>	528-4446
Police Department <a href="http://www.utpd.org">http://www.utpd.org</a>	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](http://www.union-township.oh.us)