

THE TOWNSHIP Scribe



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REO Speedwagon – The First Firetruck of Washington Township

By Stu Harris, Washington Twp. Trustee

As Washington Township Fire Department approaches its 80th year of service, it's remarkable to look back at how far we've come. Our first firetruck and today's modern engines are worlds apart in technology, yet they share one important thing in common: they both represent the dedication, growth, and spirit of service that define our community.

A Shiny Piece of History

Proudly on display in the Washington Township Administration Building is our very first firetruck — a perfectly restored, gleaming red beauty. Ordered in 1937, this REO Speedwagon truck was custom-outfitted by Seagrave, Ohio's legendary fire

apparatus manufacturer. The township paid \$4,541 for a "combination pumper with 500 gallons capacity and booster tank with 200 gallons," and also included:

- 800 feet of 2½-inch hose
- 200 feet of 1½-inch hose
- 7 pairs of rubber boots, fire hats, and coats
- 1 Fire Siren

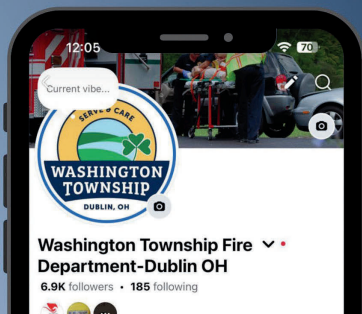
The Makers Behind the Truck

The base truck — the REO Speedwagon — was a light motor truck, a forerunner of the modern pickup, built by the REO Motor Car Company. Seagrave, the oldest

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FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Make sure you are following us on Social Media for all of the latest news, statistics, and WTPP happenings!



(REO Speedwagon - Cont.)

fire apparatus manufacturer in the U.S., operated in Columbus from 1891 to 1963 and assembled the vehicle with a pumper, a hose and ladders. Under Fire Chief Moffett's leadership, the truck carried seven firefighters, their turnout gear, and the equipment needed to battle blazes across the township.

In Service and in Action

The REO Speedwagon served our community for decades, including during the memorable Dublin Night Club fire in the mid-1960s near the Riverside Drive and State Route 161 traffic circle. For \$10 a month, the truck was originally housed in the Brown-Thomas Garage — roughly where the AC Marriott now stands — until our first fire station opened at 37 West Bridge Street in 1945.

Preserving Our Legacy

Thanks to the dedication of many, including modern firetruck builders Sutphen, Captain J.D. Hughes, and Fire Chiefs Emeritus Gene Bostic and Harold Shriver, the REO Speedwagon has been lovingly maintained. Today, it rests proudly in our Township Administration Building — a tangible link between our past and present, and a reminder of how our small-town firefighting roots have grown into the highly skilled, well-equipped department we know today.

Washington Township Receives Grant for New Polaris Ranger

Thanks to the generous support of Firehouse Subs,

Washington Township has received grant funding for a brand-new Polaris Ranger side-by-side vehicle.



This versatile utility terrain vehicle (UTV) will be an invaluable asset at major community events like the Dublin Irish Festival, Fourth of July celebrations, and The Memorial Tournament. Beyond special events, it will also play a key role in certain emergency situations, enabling crews to reach those in need quickly — particularly areas that are difficult for larger vehicles to access.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Paul Belle and his wife, Sheryl, proud owners of the local Firehouse Subs at Sawmill Place. Their generosity helps keep our community safe. Next time you're craving your favorite sub, stop by their shop — and support a business that gives back in a big way!



A Stylish New Ride for Safety in Dublin!

The Washington Township Public Education team is cruising into the community in style with our brand-new, all-electric Volkswagen ID. Buzz! This vibrant, head-turning vehicle isn't just easy on the eyes — it's a powerful new way to deliver an even more important message: safety first.

You'll see us out and about at local events, schools, and neighborhood gatherings, sharing essential fire safety and prevention tips. When the ID. Buzz rolls up, expect more than just a friendly wave — we'll bring along helpful resources, interactive demonstrations, and a team ready to answer your questions and keep our community safe.

So, Dublin, keep your eyes peeled. You never know when we might pop by — and we can't wait to connect with you!

Be on the Lookout – New Apparatus Coming Soon!

Exciting things are rolling into Washington Township this fall! In October, we'll be welcoming two new additions to our fleet—Engine 92 and Medic Squad 91.

These state-of-the-art vehicles will enhance our ability to respond quickly, effectively, and safely to the needs of our community. We can't wait to put them into service and continue delivering the high-quality emergency response you count on.

Stay tuned for more details as we get closer to their arrival!

Charge into Fire Safety

Lithium-ion batteries power everything from smartphones to e-bikes, but if handled improperly, they can pose serious fire risks. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has shared three important tips:

Buy Only Listed Products

When buying a product that uses a lithium-ion battery look for a safety certification mark such as UL, ETL, or CSA. This means it meets important safety standards.

Charge Devices Safely

Always use the cords that came with the product to charge. Follow the instructions from the manufacturer. Buy new chargers from the manufacturer or one that the manufacturer has approved. Charge your device on a hard surface. Don't overcharge your device. Unplug it or remove the battery when it's fully charged.

Recycle Batteries Responsibly

Never throw lithium-ion batteries in the trash or regular recycling bins because they could start a fire. Recycle your device or battery at a safe battery recycling location. Visit call2recycle.org to find a recycling spot near you.

By following these simple steps, we can all help reduce the risk of battery-related fires and keep our community safer.



Toy Drive to Benefit Firefighters 4 Kids

December 1-22

We are collecting new, unwrapped toys at our four fire stations for Firefighters 4 Kids. Drop your donations off any time between December 1st and the 22nd at 6255 Shier Rings Rd., 4497 Hard Rd., 5825 Brand Rd., or 5750 Blazer Parkway. Thank you for your kindness and generosity!



Drive Thru Toy Drive

December 13, 10am-2pm @ Station 91

Supporting the Firefighters 4 Kids Toy Drive is easy and sweet. Drive through the equipment bay at Fire Station 91 (6255 Shier Rings Rd.) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on December 13 and get a sweet treat while firefighters unload your donations.



E-Bike Safety and Young Riders: A Growing Concern for Families and First Responders

In recent years, electric bicycles—commonly known as e-bikes—have surged in popularity among young people. They’re fast, fun, and often viewed as a modern, eco-friendly alternative to traditional bikes or scooters. But behind the thrill lies a growing safety concern. Our department has responded to an increasing number of serious incidents involving youth on e-bikes, many of whom are unaware of the risks or the rules.

E-Bikes Are Not Just Bicycles

Unlike pedal-powered bicycles, e-bikes can reach speeds exceeding 20 miles per hour – and some models go even faster. Ohio law classifies e-bikes into three categories based on speed and whether pedaling is required. Class 3 e-bikes, for instance, can reach speeds up to 28 mph and are not legal for anyone under 16 to operate. Unfortunately, many e-bikes are sold or gifted without explanation of these classifications, leaving young riders – and their parents – unaware of legal restrictions. Additionally, enforcement can also be inconsistent.

Dangerous Trends We’re Seeing

One of the most dangerous trends we’ve observed is “doubling”—two riders on a single e-bike, often with neither wearing a helmet. This significantly increases the risk of serious injury in the event of a fall or crash. Our department has responded to incidents involving:

- Riders thrown from bikes after losing control or hitting curbs at high speeds
- Severe head and facial injuries from not wearing helmets
- Collisions with vehicles due to inexperience and poor visibility

What Parents and Guardians Should Know:

E-bikes can be an exciting way for teens to get around, but they demand the same level of caution as any motorized vehicle. Here are key safety reminders:

- E-bikes are not toys. Their speed and weight require maturity, skill, and responsibility.
- No doubling. Most e-bikes are not built for multiple passengers, and riding two without helmets greatly increases injury risk.
- Know the law. Class 3 e-bikes are prohibited for riders under 16, and helmet laws may vary by municipality.
- Safety gear is essential. A properly fitted helmet, lights, and reflective clothing dramatically reduce the risk of injury.
- Supervise and set limits. Young riders should avoid traffic-heavy areas and stick to bike paths or parks whenever possible.

Community Safety Starts at Home

We urge parents to talk openly with their children about the responsibilities that come with riding an e-bike. Simple rules—always wear a helmet, never ride double, follow traffic laws—can prevent serious injuries.

What may seem like “just a quick ride” can quickly turn dangerous. Let’s work together to keep our kids safe, aware, and empowered to make smart choices on the road.



Celebrating the Promotion of Adam Smith to Assistant Chief

We are proud to announce the promotion of Adam Smith to Assistant Chief of the Washington Township Fire Department (WTFD).

No stranger to Dublin, Smith has served the department for more than 28 years, starting as a part-time firefighter and steadily advancing through the ranks—most recently to Battalion Chief in 2019. His long-standing commitment, leadership, and dedication to the community have been hallmarks of his career.

A Message from Assistant Chief Smith

"There are two things that stand out most to me over the past 28 years.

The first is the amazing people who have served this department and the privilege I've had to work alongside them. From the older generation who laid the foundation for WTFD—building a reputation for being well-trained, forward-thinking, and progressive—to the new generation coming in with energy and passion, all have shared the mindset of doing the job the right way, treating people with respect, and honoring the traditions of the fire service.

The second is the way this community has continually reinvented itself—growing responsibly while staying relevant. Bridge Park is a great example of this, and with thoughtful planning for the future already underway, there are exciting opportunities and challenges ahead to ensure we always meet the community's needs."

Looking Ahead

Smith emphasized that succession planning will remain a top priority, ensuring the future leadership and culture of WTFD remain strong.

"I look forward to ensuring the Washington Township Fire Department continues to meet the needs of our ever-changing and growing community. I plan to continue working alongside Chief Donahue to achieve our goals and to help keep Dublin as safe as possible. Thank you all for your continued support!"

Please join us in congratulating Assistant Chief Adam Smith on this well-deserved promotion and in celebrating his ongoing dedication to the safety and well-being of our community.

Domain Transition to .GOV Effective January 1, 2026

As part of an effort to enhance cybersecurity for residents, businesses and other users of its online services, Washington Township is moving the domain for its website and email to a ".gov" top-level domain.

Effective January 1, the township's web address will be WTWPDublinOH.gov and township email addresses will end in @WTWPDublinOH.gov. The prefix to all email addresses will remain the same. For example, info@wtwp.com will now be info@WTWPDublinOH.gov.

Users are encouraged to update their contact lists and web bookmarks to the new domain, although the transition will be seamless. Emails and visitors to the current domain, wtwp.com, will be redirected automatically to the .gov address.

The .gov top-level domain is available only to official, U.S.-based government organizations and publicly controlled entities. The change to WTWPDublinOH.gov will help our residents and customers identify official, trusted information from Washington Township, Dublin, Ohio. Visitors to WTWPDublinOH.gov and recipients of an email from @WTWPDublinOH.gov can be confident that the content is authentic Washington Township government information.



New Community Safety Liaison: Megan Schiff

The Washington Township Fire Department is proud to welcome Megan Schiff as our Community Safety Liaison, a role dedicated to keeping residents safe through education, outreach, and prevention.

A Familiar Face with Deep Community Ties

Schiff is no stranger to Dublin. For eight years, she served as an official communications technician and 911 dispatcher with the Northwest Regional Emergency Communications Center (NRECC), answering calls for both Washington Township and the Dublin Police Department.

"I worked at NRECC for eight years, so I know the community well. I was always sitting, and now I get to bring that knowledge into this job and combine it with more face-to-face interaction."

Public service runs deep in Schiff's family. She is married to a first responder, is the daughter of a former fire chief, and has a sister working in law enforcement. "Being able to serve the public will always be my goal."

Educating and Protecting All Ages

Reporting to Fire Marshal Sam Parsons, Schiff will lead fire and all-hazard safety education for all age groups—from preschool safety talks to CPR training in schools. She'll also provide targeted outreach to senior communities, focusing on fall prevention and cooking-related fire safety.

Her CPR instruction stresses the importance of real-world readiness. "If an emergency happens in front of them, many people freeze. Having the training to step in—while on the phone with 911—can be incredibly helpful."

Smoke Alarms – A Life Saving Device



Smoke alarms are essential tools for protecting you and your family from the dangers of fire. They can be life-saving by alerting you to the presence of smoke, giving you precious time to react quickly and effectively. Because fire can double in size every 15 to 30 seconds, every second of warning matters.

Smoke alarms are designed to detect even the smallest traces of smoke, signaling the presence of a fire long before it becomes a major threat. Fires can occur at any time, day or night, so having working smoke alarms ensures continuous protection for your home or business.

To maximize safety, every home should have smoke alarms installed in every sleeping room, in hallways outside sleeping areas, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Alarms should be placed at least ten feet away from cooking appliances to help reduce false alarms. Ceiling placement is preferred, but if wall-mounted, alarms should be no more than twelve inches from the ceiling.

Many smoke alarms are hardwired with a battery backup. These alarms are often interconnected, meaning if one alarm sounds, all alarms in the home will activate. Even hardwired alarms require backup batteries that should be replaced twice a year. Sealed battery smoke alarms contain a non-replaceable battery with a ten-year lifespan. It's important to know whether your alarms have sealed batteries or replaceable ones.

All smoke alarms should be tested monthly using the test button. Make sure everyone in your household recognizes the sound of the alarm. In addition, every family should have and practice an escape plan. Smoke alarms should be replaced if they are more than ten years old. You can find the manufacturing date on the back of each unit.

The Washington Township Fire Department is available to answer any questions you may have about your smoke alarms. We can also assist with battery changes or alarm replacement if needed. For more information, please contact the Fire Prevention Bureau by calling the Washington Township Fire Administration Building at (614) 652-3920.

Classes and Programs

Register at wtwp.com

Red Cross Babysitting (Blended Learning)

This course educates young individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to safely and responsibly give care for children and infants. This class helps participants develop leadership skills, learn how to develop a babysitting business, keep themselves and others safe, help children behave, and learn about basic child care. This class includes a Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED certification as well. Students will receive a link to take the pediatric first aid and CPR part online before the class (2 weeks before class). Babysitter's Training and skills sessions for pediatric first aid & CPR will be in-person. Please bring a lunch to class.

Ages: 11-15

Date: Saturday, January 10

Time: 9am-3:30pm

Location: Washington Township Administrative Offices • 6200 Eiterman Rd, Dublin, OH 43016

Fee: \$60 (Township/Dublin residents), \$65 (non-residents)

Registration is required: wtwp.com/classes-programs/classes/



Infant CPR for Expecting & New Parents

If you are expecting or adopting a child, have a newborn at home, or will be babysitting your new grandchild, this class is for you. React quickly with the knowledge and skills that can help a baby if they are choking or need CPR. Although this is an American Heart Association course, you will not receive a completion card. Our certified car seat technician will also offer tips on properly securing your child's car seat.

Ages: 18 and up

Date: Monday, November 3

Time: 5:30pm-6:30pm

Location: Washington Township Administrative Offices • 6200 Eiterman Rd, Dublin, OH 43016

Fee: Free

Registration is required: wtwp.com/classes-programs/classes/

Free Hands-Only CPR

This course is for anyone who wants to learn CPR, but does not need a course completion card to meet a job requirement. It is ideal for community groups, parents, grandparents, caregivers, and students. Topics include:

- Adult, child and infant CPR and AED.
- How to help a choking adult, child, and infant.

Ages: 12 and up

Date: Wednesday, October 27 or Monday, February 9

Time: 5:30pm-7:30pm

Location: Washington Township Administrative Offices • 6200 Eiterman Rd, Dublin, OH 43016

Fee: Free

Registration is required: wtwp.com/classes-programs/classes/

CPR & AED Certification

Learn CPR and how to use an automatic external defibrillator, or AED. Developed by the American Heart Association, this class addresses pediatric and adult CPR, recognizing and relieving a choking victim, recognizing the signs of a heart attack, and how to use an AED. This class is not for healthcare providers.

Ages: 12 and up

Dates: Monday, November 10, December 1, or January 12

Time: 5:30pm-7:30pm

Location: Washington Township Administrative Offices • 6200 Eiterman Rd, Dublin, OH 43016

Fee: \$35 (Township/Dublin residents), \$45 (non-residents)

Registration is required: wtwp.com/classes-programs/classes/

Clean up after your dog

Dogs are cute, but their poop is not! It's your job as the dog owner to clean up after your pets. Dog poop is not fertilizer. People often believe that leaving dog waste to decompose in the yard is good for the lawn, but the truth is that dog poop is toxic for your grass and can be an environmental pollutant. In addition, dog waste carries bacteria & diseases that can quickly spread. As a common courtesy to your neighbor and the community, please be a responsible pet owner and clean up after your dog.

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Station 92
4497 Hard Road

Station 93
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Station 95
5750 Blazer Parkway

Administration

6200 Eiterman Road
Dublin, Ohio 43016
614.652.3920
M-F 8:00 am-4:30 pm

Administrator
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