

# THE TOWNSHIP **Scribe**



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## Answering the Call when Disaster Strikes

When disaster strikes, firefighters are one of the first responders to reach the scene. Whether there are injuries, a fire, or a natural disaster hits, firefighters are there to help.

Washington Township firefighter Kristen Hunt is one of those firefighters who is there when disaster strikes. For the last five years, Hunt has been a member of the Ohio Task Force One Urban Search and Rescue team (OH-TF1). She has been on five deployments including Hurricane Florence (2018), Hurricane Dorian (2019), Dayton Tornado (2020), and Miami Surfside Condominium Collapse (2021). Her last deployment happened in December 2021, when a tornado struck Western Kentucky producing severe catastrophic damage in numerous towns, including Mayfield, Princeton, Dawson Springs and Bremen.

“Once there were reports of 70 people still missing and a bunch of building collapses, I had a feeling that we could be going,” said Hunt. “I had to get a hold of my family, chief, everybody, because once you say you are going you can’t back out. We worked for three straight days from 8am – 8pm.”

OH-TF1 is based in Dayton, Ohio and proudly serves our state and nation as one of its top urban search and rescue teams. Ohio Task Force One has 215 team members representing 72 agencies across the state. The team was deployed December 12, 2021 and immediately commenced search operations in areas Southwest of Mayfield, KY. When crews arrived, Hunt said there was nothing left.

(continued on next page)



## Change the Clocks, Change the Batteries

Daylight Saving Time begins on **Sunday, March 13** when clocks will “spring forward” one hour. After you set your clocks, locate your home smoke alarms and add a fresh battery to each. If your home has no smoke alarms, purchase and install them. Most are installed with two screws and include a 10- year battery.

## Answering the Call when Disaster Strikes (cont.)

"The damage was just wow," said Hunt. "This had to be a town that is a little smaller than Sunbury and there was absolutely nothing left. The precise path it took, the damage was significant. From my front porch to your front porch, your house is gone and mine still has Christmas decorations in the front yard. That's the part that was amazing. Many of the buildings were just destroyed."



Hunt has been a firefighter for Washington Township since 2007. Before that, she worked as a firefighter at Central Ohio Joint Fire District in Centerburg and then went to Porter Kingston Fire District, where she still works now, and started to teach rescue classes. It is there that she found her love for the technical side of firefighting in the rope and water rescue. Hunt says you can easily train for hurricanes and tornadoes since these types of natural disasters you know what kind of rescue you will need to provide. However, the condominium collapse in Miami, Florida in 2021, was something that was totally different.

"We got down there 10 days after it happened and went right to work," said Hunt. "I worked the night shift from midnight to noon. The first night we went in, the half of the building was still standing. We were just working on top of the pile just pulling stuff off from and doing a lot of heavy equipment work. I remember stopping and looking up at one point and thinking... if this thing goes, we are not going to make it."

OH-TF1 rescue team manager Brett Beach says Hunt is the exact type of person you need on a team when it comes to disasters. Miami Fl. was a situation the team can't train for. The weather, heat, the sounds, the smells, the exertion and the emotional toll all played a part in the mission. Beach says Hunt was always in the right position, insured the team had exactly the tools they needed and worked hard on the whole deployment.

"Kristen has a passion and is such a hard worker," said Beach. "In Miami, she was a tremendous asset to the task force. She had all our tools organized so the team could do what they needed to do. She was always in thick of things and is super smart. Her work there is one of the many reasons she was promoted to Rescue Squad Officer on the task force."

When interviewing Hunt for this story, I asked her how do you do it? How do you face the danger and uncertainty when many other people would turn or run the other direction?

"Some of it is definitely hard," said Hunt. "But it's also more like... well here we go. Here is what we've got to do. It's what we are trained to do."

## When disaster strikes, Kristen Hunt and the rest of OH-TF1 is there to help.



## Only Rain Down the Storm Drain

Did you know what goes into storm sewers ends up in the nearest body of water? Storm drains connect directly to streams and rivers. Keep everything except water from entering storm drains. Even natural material like leaves and grass clippings can have harmful effects on aquatic ecosystems. Help keep our lakes, ponds and streams clean, disposing these materials in their proper place.

## Avoid a House Fire while On Vacation

Vacations should be relaxing and a time for adventure. If you are planning to be away from your home for days or weeks, it's important to ensure your home is taken care of while away. Fire safety is often the last thing people think about while prepping for a vacation, but it's vital to ensure that you have a home to come back to.



Here are some simple and easy tips to help avoid a house fire while on vacation:

- **Unplug key appliances as these can pose fire safety risk while away**
- **Check smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to make sure they are working**
- **Make sure your home doesn't look vacant. Consider temporarily suspending mail and deliveries**
- **Put a light on a timer inside the home to ensure your home doesn't look vacant**
- **Purchase a fire safety box and store all of your most precious valuables and important documents for added protection**
- **Turn off your main water supply**
- **If you are a resident of the City of Dublin, sign up for their house watch program with Dublin Police**



## Following in his Father's Footsteps Evan DeGiralomo Promoted to Lieutenant

Evan DeGiralomo has been around the fire service all his life. He grew up in the firehouse as his father, Lenny DeGiralomo, retired from the Washington Township Fire Department (WTFD) as a Captain in 2012, after 38 years of service. Following in his father's footsteps has always been something Evan wanted to do, and that journey continued when he was promoted to Lieutenant in January 2022.

"Ever since I started in the fire service, I had aspirations on being promoted," said Evan. "When I learned I would get that opportunity, I felt an awful lot of pride. I am proud to serve on the same department that my father did, and honored to potentially follow the same career progression."

Evan started as a part-time firefighter with WTFD in 2009 and became a full-time firefighter in 2012. He originally pursued a career in education, but soon realized his love for the fire service and helping others outweighed his fulfillment in education. While working with the WTFD, Evan has sat on several committees to help improve the department. He serves on the employee communications committee, safety committee, peer review committee and works to help with the department's accreditation process.

"I see it as the more involvement that you have with department functions, the more impact you can have on making the department better," said Evan. "This in turn provides better services for the general public."

Providing that high quality of service for the public is what Evan will strive for in his new role as Lieutenant for the one unit crew at Station 92. He plans to run a good, cohesive, and effective crew, but most importantly, he wants his crew to be like family.

"It's been tough since COVID-19 precautions started, but I am a big fan of having firefighters' families in to visit at the firehouse," said Evan. "I want them to feel welcome in the firehouse, just like I always did when I was a kid."

Evan and his wife Erin have one daughter named Grace (4), and a baby boy born in February 2022 named William.





## Drowning: It can Happen in an Instant

Swimming is great exercise, as well as a fun way to spend time together as a family. However, it only takes a moment for a child or weak swimmer to drown in home pools, oceans, lakes, rivers, and streams. In the time it takes to reply to a text, check a fishing line or apply sunscreen, death and injury from drownings can occur.

Here are some important swimming safety tips you should be aware of before you head out to the pool or beach:

- Always swim in a lifeguarded area
- Never swim alone
- Learn swimming and water safety skill
- Maintain constant supervision
- Children, and inexperienced swimmers and all boaters should wear U.S. Coast Guard approved life jackets
- If you have a pool, secure it with appropriate barriers
- Know how and when to call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number

## Retirements and Promotions

Congratulations to all our retirees and to those who have been promoted. We wouldn't be who we are today if it weren't for those who came before. Thank you all for your service.

### 2021 Promotions

Payton Senter – promoted to FT Firefighter  
Loren Queen – promoted to FT Firefighter

### 2022 Retirements

Mike Altomare – Fire Marshal – 7 years  
John Nichols – EMS Manager – 33 years  
Jerry Kaltenbach – Firefighter – 29 years  
Gene Miller – Firefighter – 25 years

## Welcome New Trustee Stu Harris

Stu Harris, a Dublin resident for over 30 years, is the newest Washington Township Trustee. Harris was officially sworn in on January 11, 2022.



Harris gains his experience as a Trustee after being a member of the Dublin School Board for the past 16 years, where he collaborated with the Township and the Washington Township Fire Department on several projects.

He says his goal as Trustee is to maintain the Township's "professional standards" concerning the more than 6,000 annual service calls to the township's four fire stations and employ his fiscal experience to protect the funds generated by the Township's fire levies. He also wants to have the Township keep pace with the City of Dublin, with regard to the services. He believes education and training are key functions for the fire department to be successful in protecting the community.

Harris currently teaches at Franklin University and is a board member for Tolles Career & Technical Center. Harris and his wife, Alison, have two sons, Jacob and Nick.



## Severe Weather Awareness Week

As severe weather season approaches, take some time during Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week, March 20-26, to put together a safety plan with your family, friends or household. Planning ahead will lower the chance of injury or death in the event that a tornado or severe weather strikes.

### Be Informed. Make a Plan. Build a Kit.

The National Weather Service confirmed that Ohio had 20 tornadoes in 2020.

# Classes

### Community Garden

Join our friendly group of community gardeners who grow food at the corner of Cosgray and Rings Roads. For a fee of \$40 (residents) or \$50 (non-residents), you can grow all the fruits and vegetables you like within a 12'X14' area. Gardeners share a water tap and small storage shed. Reserve your plot on our web site through our "classes" link on [wtwp.com](http://wtwp.com).

### Red Cross Babysitting

This course educates young individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to safely care for children and infants. This class helps participants develop the leadership skills, learn how to develop a babysitting business, keep themselves and others safe, help children behave, and learn about basic child care. Please bring a lunch to class. We kindly ask that everyone to follow local COVID-19 protocol.

**Ages:** 11-15

**Date:** Saturday, April 16 or Wednesday, June 8

**Time:** 9am-3pm

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

**Fee:** \$45 (Township/Dublin residents), \$50 (non-residents)

### CPR for Teens

Do you need CPR training for your summer job? Learn CPR and how to use an automatic external defibrillator (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. We kindly ask everyone to follow local COVID-19 protocol.

**Ages:** 12-17

**Date:** Thursday, June 16

**Time:** 9-11:30am

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

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

### Wetsuits & Way-cool Trucks

Bring your family, friends, youth group, or neighborhood play group for a morning of fun! The Washington Township Fire Department will have a variety of activities to help make your summer safe!

- Tour Sparky's fire safety house
- Watch a fire department's dive team demonstration in the Recreation Center pool (11am)
- Learn about bike safety.
- Check out our fire truck and medic.

**Date:** Friday, June 24

**Time:** 10 am-noon

**Location:** Dublin Community Recreation Parking Lot by amphitheater

**Fee:** Free!

### Citizen Fire Academy

The Citizen Fire Academy (CFA) is a school like no other. Firefighter/Paramedics will show you some of the tools and techniques they use as emergency responders. You'll get the chance to climb, cut, smash, carry, crawl, hang suspended, pull, and push your way through several firefighting, EMS, and rescue techniques. There is some lecture, but most class time is dedicated to demonstrations, tours, "gearing up," and getting firsthand experience (if you choose). The CFA will be held this fall. Check our website; [wtwp.com](http://wtwp.com) for dates & how to apply.



# Classes

## College Safety Prep

Dublin Police Officers and Washington Township Prevention Bureau will help prepare students to be safe at college. Campus fire safety is important for students and parents to learn. Fire Inspectors will talk about various fire safety tips, what students should take with them, and things to check for at college housing. Dublin Police will talk about personal safety tips including: basic personal safety, safety while driving, parking lot awareness, sexual assault prevention, and social media. Parents and/or students are welcome.

**Ages:** College Students & Parents

**Date:** Wednesday, July 27

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

**Time:** 6-7:30pm

**Fee:** Free

## Food & Personal Care Products Drive – To Benefit Dublin Food Pantry

We're collecting non-perishable, unexpired, unopened food and personal care items to benefit the Dublin Food Pantry. Items in high demand include cans of condensed soup, ramen noodles, oatmeal packets, regular sized pancake mix & syrup, rice or pasta side dishes, laundry detergent, individual toothbrushes, deodorant, and toilet paper. Drop your donations off at the Township Administration Building (6200 Eiterman Rd. Dublin) in the entryway marked Town Hall (please do not drop off donations at the Fire Stations). Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

**Date:** May 1-May 15

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

## EMS Week (May 15-21)

**Preregistration is required for all programs. Register at [wtwp.com](http://wtwp.com)**

### Free 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's 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.

To accommodate the maximum number of people in the space we have available, we will have only a few tables and chairs available for those who need them, so please wear comfortable clothes suitable for activities on the floor. We kindly ask everyone to follow local COVID-19 protocol.

**Ages:** 12 and up.

**Date:** Monday, May 16

**Time:** 5:30pm

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

**Fee:** Free!

Registration begins April 1 for residents and April 10 for non-residents.



## Until Help Arrives

If you are ever involved in or witness a traumatic accident, will you know what to do until first responders arrive? This course will walk you through each step: how to recognize that there is a problem, how to assess the surroundings, what information is most important to share on your 911 call, and the care you can administer until law enforcement and or fire/EMS arrive. This class is suitable for ages 13 and up and will include lecture, demonstrations and hands-on skills practice. Parent/guardian must accompany (and be a registered participant) 13-16 year olds. We kindly ask everyone to follow local COVID-19 protocol.

**Ages:** 13 & up (ages 13-16 need to be accompanied by a parent/guardian)

**Date:** Tuesday, May 17

**Time:** 6-9pm

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

**Fee:** Free

## 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 offer tips on securing your child's car seat. We kindly ask everyone to follow local COVID-19 protocol.

**Ages:** 18 and up.

**Date:** Wednesday, May 18

**Time:** 5:30 pm

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

**Fee:** Free!

Evening car seat appointments will be available. Visit our website to schedule at [wtwp.com](http://wtwp.com)

## School Safety Presentation

Chuck Collier, retired Dublin Police Officer/School Resource Officer, and current Coordinator of Safety & Security for Dublin City Schools, will discuss various safety related topics and answer your student safety concerns and questions. Social media, active shooter, and safety drills are just some of the topics he will discuss. We kindly ask everyone to follow local COVID-19 protocol.

**Time:** 5:30-6:15pm

**Date:** Thursday, May 19

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

**Fee:** Free!



## AED Consultations

Do you have an AED? Do you know how to use it? Do you want to buy one? Do you have questions about the device? Our Safety Educator will make a complimentary onsite AED consultation to the residents of Washington Township and City of Dublin. We can check your existing AED, show you how to use it, or assist you in selecting, setting up and choosing the right location for your AED. Please call 614-652-3920 to arrange your site visit or complete the AED consultation form on our website ([wtwp.com](http://wtwp.com)).

Washington Township  
6200 Eiterman Road  
Dublin, Ohio 43016



## Washington Township

### Board of Trustees

**Stu Harris**

sharris@wtwp.com

**Charles Kranstuber**

ckranstuber@wtwp.com

**Jan Rozanski**

jrozanski@wtwp.com

### Fiscal Officer

**Joyce Robinson**

jrobinson@wtwp.com

### Fire Stations

**Station 91**

6255 Shier Rings Road

**Station 92**

4497 Hard Road

**Station 93**

5825 Brand Road

**Station 95**

5750 Blazer Parkway

### Administration

**6200 Eiterman Road  
Dublin, Ohio 43016**

614.652.3920

M-F 8:00 am-4:30 pm

Administrator

**Eric Richter**

Fire Chief

**Alec O'Connell**

Human Resources Manager

**Catherine Grossman**

Communications Manager

**Melanie Amato**



[www.wtwp.com](http://www.wtwp.com)



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