Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Grant!

We are pleased to announce that the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation has awarded the Plain Township Fire Department a grant for $18,009.00 to purchase a Medical all-terrain vehicle (ATV) and trailer.

The addition of a Medical ATV will enable the Plain Township Fire Department and Central Ohio Strike Team to improve lifesaving capabilities by functioning as a patient transport and equipment mover during community special events, support wide area search and rescue, provide transport to and from Incident Command during disasters, and improve response time for disaster assessment.

Thank You,
Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation!

Plain Township Fire Department 19th Annual Open House

The Plain Township Fire Department and the Firefighters Local 3850 invite you to the Fire Department’s 19th Annual Open House on October 9th from 10 am to 4 pm. Meet firefighters, explore emergency equipment, and learn about fire safety.

This year’s theme is “Don’t Wait Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years”.

“Time and again, I’ve seen the life-saving impact smoke alarms can have in a home fire, but I’ve also seen the tragedy that can result when smoke alarms aren’t working properly,” says Chief John Hoovler of the Plain Township Fire Department. “That’s why we’re making a concerted effort to educate residents about the importance of smoke alarms and that smoke alarms save lives”.

Age matters when it comes to your smoke alarm. Check the manufacture dates on your smoke alarms today!

- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or sooner if they don’t respond properly.
- Test alarms at least monthly by pushing the test button.
- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home. This way, when one sounds, they all do.
- Make sure everyone in the home knows the sound of the smoke alarm and understands what to do when they hear it.
- If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Go to your outside meeting place.
- Call the fire department from outside the home.

To learn more about smoke alarms and fire safety visit NFPA’s Web site at www.firepreventionweek.org and www.sparky.org/fpw.
US EPA Encourages Homeowners to Maintain Septic Systems

Nearly one-fifth of American households depend on septic systems to treat their wastewater and failure to maintain a septic system can lead to backups, malfunctions and early failures that can result is costly repairs. The EPA's SepticSmart programs educates homeowners about the proper system care and maintenance all year long. [www.epa.gov/septicsmart](http://www.epa.gov/septicsmart)

Yard Waste Polluting Our Waterways

Did you know it’s harmful to deposit organic material like leaves and grass onto a streambank, in a storm drain, or into the stream itself.

Leaves will naturally fall into the water, but as homeowners, we should be mindful not to upset nature’s balance. Leaves, grass clippings and pet waste should never be dumped in or even next to a creek, ditch or pond.

Yard waste (grass clippings, leaves, plant debris, etc.) is the 2nd largest category of all discarded trash. When these materials are put into the stream, they begin to decompose and use up the critical, life-giving oxygen in the water. As a result these streams can become unsightly and release a foul odor. Furthermore, this excess debris can obstruct flow and clog downstream culverts, leading to localized flooding and erosion problems.

Yard waste should be composted, or set out with the trash according to your community’s yard waste pick-up guidelines. Pet waste should always be bagged and placed in the trash.

Election Day will be here soon

Below are guidelines to ensure that political signs comply with Plain Township zoning regulations. No permits are required.

Plain Township Zoning Resolution
Section 425.03.9 - Political Signs.

a) No political sign shall be posted in any place or in any manner that is destructive to public property upon posting or removal.

b) No political sign shall be posted in a public right-of-way nor shall any such sign be posted on a utility pole.

c) Candidates for public office, their campaign committees, or other persons responsible for the posting of campaign material on public property are responsible for removing those campaign materials following the election.

Firefighters for Kids Toy Drive

The Plain Township Fire Department and the Firefighter’s Local 3850 invite the community to participate in the annual Firefighter’s for Kids toy drive. The Firefighters for Kids program accepts new unwrapped gifts, gift cards, and monetary donations. The program serves families of Plain Township and central Ohio.

Donations may be dropped off at the fire station up until December 24, 2016. Visit [www.firefighters4kids.com](http://www.firefighters4kids.com) to apply for assistance.
Fire Department Uses Software to Improve Cardiac Arrest Survivability

Plain Township Fire Department has made High Performance CPR a training priority. Two components of High Performance CPR include performing chest compressions at a rate of at least 100/minute and minimal interruptions in compressions. There is a direct correlation to rate of compressions and survivability, and research suggests that for every five second pause in compressions, survivability decreases 18%.

As part of the fire department’s EMS performance improvement process, every cardiac arrest is reviewed by the EMS Coordinator. After a cardiac arrest event, paramedics transmit data from the heart monitor to a software program called Code-Stat. This allows the coordinator to see the rate of chest compressions and identify any long pauses in compressions. With this data the “CPR Fraction” is determined. CPR Fraction is the amount of time compressions were performed during the arrest. PTFD’s goal is 90%. The rate goal is 100 – 120 compressions per minute.

A “CPR Report Card” is then generated and sent back to the crews so they can see exactly how they performed and identify opportunities for improvement. We’re always working to be the best.

PEAK-TIME FIREFIGHTERS HIRED

Plain Township welcomes new firefighter paramedics Alissa Witkowski and Maxwell Newton. Alissa and Maxwell were hired to work a peak-time shift on weekdays 7 am to 7 pm. This represents a new opportunity to provide emergency responders when they are needed the most. Half of all emergency runs in Plain Township and New Albany occur during these peak hours Monday through Friday. The community’s population doubles from 11,000 residents to 22,000 during these hours including the school and business campuses.

Ms. Witkowski received her bachelor’s degree from Otterbein University and comes to Ohio from Salem, Michigan. She has worked as a firefighter at Clinton Township and the Village of Millersport. Alissa is an equestrian enthusiast and enjoys the outdoors.

Mr. Newton received his bachelor’s degree from Denison University and comes to Ohio from Readfield, Maine. He has worked as a firefighter at Lancaster, Granville and Clinton Township. He enjoys playing golf and baseball and volunteers for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

Thanksgiving Day Safety

NFPA’s latest cooking estimates show that there were 1,550 cooking fires on Thanksgiving in 2013, reflecting a 230 percent increase over the daily average. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of these fires.

Here are NFPA’s top five tips for cooking safely this Thanksgiving:

- Remain in the kitchen while you’re cooking, and keep a close eye on what you fry! Always stay in the kitchen while frying, grilling or broiling food. If you have to leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove. Regularly check on food that’s simmering, baking or roasting, and use a timer to remind you that you’re cooking.
- Keep things that can catch fire such as oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels and curtains away from the cooking area.
- If you have a small (grease) cooking fire on the stovetop and decide to fight the fire: Smother the flames by sliding a lid over the pan and turning off the burner. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled. For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.
- If you’re cooking a turkey using a disposable aluminum pan, consider doubling up and using two pans to avoid a puncture, as dripping turkey juices can cause an oven fire.
- Be alert when cooking. If you’re sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don’t use the stove or stovetop.

Check out our Thanksgiving fire safety tips and recommendations for safe cooking all year long.

Smoke Alarm Safety

Smoke alarms are an important investment in your family’s safety. But you have to test them to make sure they work. It takes just a minute and you will sleep better after you do.

Here is how:

1) Let your family members know you will test the alarm.
2) Push the test button on the alarm. On most alarms it is the only button.
3) Does the alarm activate?
   - YES – It works.
   - NO – Change the battery or get a new smoke alarm.

Test your smoke alarms every month. It is an easy way to show your love. Remember to replace your smoke alarm every 10 years.
Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off

The Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) provides free Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) disposal services for all Franklin County residents.

Regular HHW drop-offs can be made at 645 E. 8th Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43201. Visit www.swaco.org for hours and a complete list of accepted items.

SWACO holds mobile collections around Franklin County each quarter. Dates for the mobile collection drives can be found by visiting www.swaco.org.

Used Oil • Antifreeze • Paint Thinners Turpentine • Polishes Drain Cleaners • Adhesives Kerosene • Propane • Bleach Insecticides • Vehicle Batteries Pool Chemicals • Old Gasoline