

April 2026



AUSTINBURG NEWS & VIEWS

Township Officials:

Township Fiscal Officer:

Kanda O'Dell – 216-409-0952
John Kusar – 440-275-0788 or 440-223-6511
Byron C Dutton II – 440-344-6433
Pete Haase – 440-344-6884 or 440-275-1537

Zoning Inspector:

Rob Lapuh - 440-812-0273 Office 440-275-1378

Fire Chief:

William Wilms

Road Personnel:

Mike Petro – Road Superintendent
John Luban – Roadman
Anthony Maleys – Roadman
Mike Petro, Jr. - Roadman

From the Desk of the Fiscal Officer

Hello everyone,

I'm pleased to share some highlights from 2025 regarding Township projects and funding.

This year, NOPEC awarded us two grants. The first, in the amount of \$500, supported our annual Township Cleanup Day. After applying for the grant and proceeds from scrap collection, the total cost for Cleanup Day was \$4,700.89. This event is offered free of charge to residents and provides a valuable opportunity to help keep our community clean.

The second NOPEC grant, totaling \$8,158.15, was used to install three new outdoor lights in the Township Park, improving safety and visibility for all who use the space.

We also completed paving on Forman Road with the assistance of an OPWC grant. The grant covered \$118,188.18, representing half of the total

Meeting Dates:

Township Monthly Meetings:

1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 7:30pm in the Town Hall. **Please try to come!**

Zoning Commission:

1st Wednesday of the month – 5:15pm in the Town Hall

Township Hall Phone – 440-275-1378

Township Garage – 440-275-3402

Website: austinburgtownship.org



project cost. Thanks to this funding, the Township was able to complete the project without taking on additional debt.

Fire Department payroll for the past year totaled \$20,715 for personnel. It's worth noting that call volume has already increased compared to last year. Maintaining our own Township Fire Department not only helps reduce residents' insurance costs but also ensures faster response times in emergencies.

As always, please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,
Kanda O'Dell
Austinburg Township Fiscal Officer

Hello friends and neighbors, and hello ... maybe spring? With above-average snowfall and cold temperatures, this winter seemed way too long! Despite the conditions, our roadmen were quite busy (and diligent) keeping our roads safe for travel. We were also fortunate to rise above salt delivery issues to keep enough on hand for adequate road treatment. I think it's safe to say, we made it through!

Last year's accomplishments included updating our park with concrete pads under the bleachers, installing three park lights, as well as updating old lights with the use of a NOPEC grant. We also removed six over-mature maple trees and replaced them with six young trees around the park area – a safety gesture for our residents utilizing the park. Final paving was completed on Forman Road with the help of an OWPC grant. We've been fortunate to receive such grants to improve our community! One more accomplishment includes the purchase of a commercial wood-chipper for general environmental clean-up throughout the year as well as storm damage mitigation.

This year's goals, with the help of another OWPC grant, include the replacement of storm drains on Mill Street (including the original outlet pipe on South Betts Drive to the creek), as well as overlay paving on North Forman Road from Clay Street to the Saybrook line. Another goal is to plan and complete the construction of a new salt storage bin in order to increase salt storage and availability in the case of another harsh winter ... think what we just went through. Finally, we hope to replace our smaller one-ton truck unit with an updated model to reduce maintenance costs and ensure the continuation of routine maintenance around our community.

As we move onward into 2026 and warmer weather (hopefully), our roadmen will be out and about completing the various road maintenance duties on their daily to-do lists, including ditching, mowing, cold-patching, etc. Please remember to be respectful of our hard-working township employees – slow down and give them space to work. Remember, patience, understanding and kindness go a long way! We all work hard to keep our community a great place to live! If you see any issues arise or if you have any general concerns, please call our office or attend a trustee meeting, held on the first and third Monday of each month. We always love seeing new faces and hearing the thoughts and concerns of our community members! Here's to keeping Austinburg thriving!

Be Well,

Pete Haase, Trustee



Hello Fellow Austinburg Residents,

Another winter has gone by. Unfortunately, it was an old-fashioned one. The Township Road Crew has done an excellent job keeping up with snow removal this winter. The township used over double the amount of salt on the roads as last winter.

Clean-up Day will be on May 9, 2026, from 8:00 am until noon at the township garage. We will not accept yard waste, hazardous waste or tires. As a resident, please take advantage of this opportunity to keep our township clean.

I would like to thank Mike Petro, our Road Superintendent, who is retiring this year after 30 plus years working for Austinburg Township. Throughout the years, Mike and his team have done an outstanding job maintaining our township.

Please remember as spring and summer comes to be careful on the roads and be mindful of our road department who will be maintaining and mowing our township.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to attend our meetings, or call any of the trustees. You can also reach us by email posted on our web site.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

John A. Kusar, Trustee, 440-223-6511



SUMMER MUSIC IN THE PARK

**Sponsored by Austinburg Church of Christ
Thursday Evenings July 23rd & 30th, August 6th
& 13th at 6:00pm in the Township Park.**

Bands to be announced.

**Visit Austinburg First United Church of Christ on
Facebook to see band schedules.**

Hello Fellow Residents

Well, if you are reading this it means you also survived this brutally cold winter weather. The road department had their hands full this year, plowing was a weekly thing, we used about 350 tons of salt on the roads to set a record.

We are again having a clean-up day on May 9th from 8 to 12 at the township garage, the contains are delivered normally a few days earlier. We will be there Saturday morning to help unload your prized possessions into the dumpsters; we thank you for your support in keeping your community clean.

Some of the sad news is that UPS has closed their operation in Austinburg and after about 50 years of service, they will be missed.

Mike Petro, who is the road superintend is retiring after 30 plus years, he will also be missed. We were able to hire Mike's son Michael, who has worked for Trumbell Township for over 13 years, and who has a good working knowledge of roads and equipment. Be sure to welcome him to Austinburg.

The Zoning Board has been working very hard to update the zoning and make it current with the progress in the community. One of the issues that they are addressing is Solar and Wind energy. We need the residents' input if solar farms should be allowed on a large scale 50 Megawatts, this is not the home version and is regulated by the state.

We have two levies that are up for renewal this fall, one is a fire levy and the other is an operating levy. We have been trying to stretch your tax dollars, because we all are feeling the economic pinch. The road projects have been through issue 2 projects and we have gotten about 39 percent of the cost covered with a grant of Issue 2 money. This is how Forman Road has been completed. The next major project is Mill Street with storm water upgrade, also an Issue 2 project, spring of 2027.

If you have any questions, please reach out and ask, my wife says I am a pour mind reader, so let me know what is on your mind.

Your faithful servant. Thank You Byron Dutton



AUSTINBURG COUNTRY DAYS

August 28, 29 & 30, 2026

Austinburg Township Park

Live Entertainment & Fun for all ages.

Parade Saturday August 29th @ 11:00am

Find us on Facebook @austinburgcountrydays

*Live Bands, Magicians and Animal Show
Food Vendors * Crafters * Antique Tractor &
Car Show * Chinese Raffle * Kids Games
Beer Tent*



Fire Department Corner



Another year has come and gone, hope all is well with everyone. Your fire department has been getting busier year after year, last year having about 200 calls and running with a small roster of 20 people. We had around 50 motor vehicle accidents, 20 fires, 20+ false alarms, 70 good intent calls (lock outs, Carbon Monoxide, tree down, etc.), and multiple others.

We may sound like a broken record but PLEASE check your smoke detector and CO batteries. I am being honest after running on all of these calls, we had three fires at the beginning of this year between ours or mutual aid and only one working smoke detector in any of the homes! Please protect your family and check them now! If you need detectors please get ahold of us, we can get them.

Trucks, gear, hose, air packs, tools have been serviced, all in good working order, and ready to go as we have been checking over the winter. Reminder there is a burn ban for the State of Ohio has a burn ban between 6am and 6pm in March, April, and May, October, and November per State Fire Marshal.

Thank you to everyone for supporting your fire department, if we are out and about, please feel free to stop to ask about your tax dollars at work! Thank you and please be safe, if you have any questions, please call Chief Bill Wilms or Assistant Chief Todd Dutton.

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT HISTORY

(Much of this information was taken from a writing by Maxine Mooney Carleton, who lived in Austinburg for many years.)

In 1917 Austinburg had a major fire at the Women's Dormitory at Grand River Institute, which later became the Grand River Academy. Local residents formed a bucket brigade but were unable to save the building. By 1925 it was decided to put a bond issue for \$3000 on the ballot for fire equipment and housing. The issue might not have passed except for another blaze that broke at Swanson's General Store (the building at the NW corner of Rts. 45 & 307). This again was fought by local residents until neighboring fire departments could arrive and save the building.

At the next election the bond issue was passed with a vote of 100 to 35. A volunteer fire department of 12 men was formed, and the township purchased a shiny red Model T fire truck with a ladder, 12 pails, and three chemical tanks. For about a dozen years the fire company was a causal loosely knit group with no formal training, just a willingness to leave their work or their beds to rush to the scene of every township fire.

Ginny Seifert

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Austinburg Township
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Austinburg, Ohio 44010

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MEMORIAL DAY PARADE



Monday, May 25th 11:00am
Parade Route will begin at
College/Mill Street & Route 45.

Contact Kanda ODell (216) 409-0952 or
Marcy Hejduk (440) 812-7281 if you wish to
participate in the parade.

Service immediately following the parade in
the Township Park.

AUSTINBURG ANNUAL CLEAN-UP DAY

Saturday, May 9th
8:00am to 12:00pm
Austinburg Township Garage
1393 Route 45



Help keep our
Township
beautiful!!