



Community Newsletter

ROSSTWP.ORG

Summer 2025

ROSS TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

A Legacy of Service and Growth

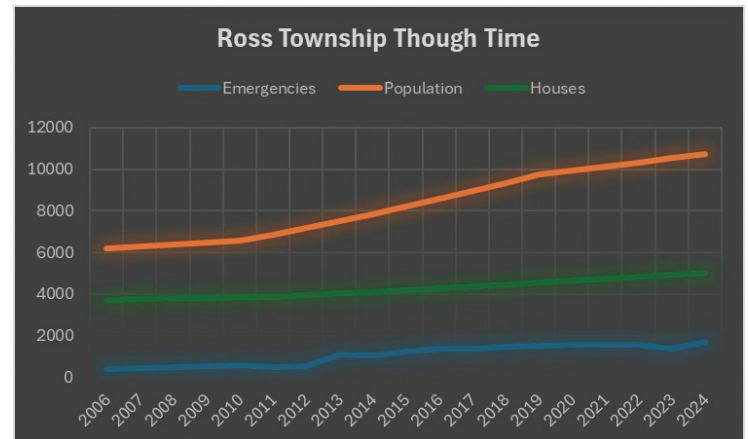
The Ross Township Fire Department is committed to providing the highest level of emergency services to our community. Today, the department responds to nearly **2,000 calls annually**, conducts over **200 life safety inspections**, provides nearly **1,000 hours of community fire prevention education**, **transports around 800 residents to hospitals**, and has **saved the community nearly \$2 million in property loss** due to fire. The department provides Advanced Life Support (ALS) services, ensuring residents receive the highest level of pre-hospital care with paramedics trained in advanced airway management, cardiac monitoring, and life-saving interventions. Additionally, the department is equipped to handle **fire suppression, technical rescue operations, hazardous materials response, and disaster preparedness efforts** to meet the evolving needs of the community.

Since its founding in 1917, the Ross Township Fire Department has continually evolved to provide the best possible service. Over the past 20 years,

the community has grown by approximately 1,200 homes, resulting in a nearly 4,000-person increase in population, nearly doubling the community's size. This growth has significantly increased the demand for emergency services. For many years, the department relied on a dedicated group of volunteers to answer emergency calls.



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ROSS TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT (CONT.)

However, as work and family commitments increased, it became more difficult for volunteers to balance their personal lives with the demands of emergency response. This decline in volunteer availability led the department to introduce part-time professional firefighters to ensure adequate staffing during peak hours.

As time went on, the challenge of retaining part-time personnel grew due to increased competition from other departments offering higher wages and better benefits for full-time positions. Many part-time professionals moved on to full-time careers elsewhere, making it difficult to maintain a stable workforce. In response, the department made the critical decision to hire full-time personnel to fill these gaps and ensure reliable emergency response for the community.

Despite these challenges, the Ross Township Fire Department remains committed to providing the very best service to the community while maintaining strong fiscal responsibility. The department has operated without any increase to its operating budget for the last 10 years, even as the costs for equipment, services, and—most importantly—our employees have steadily risen. Being fiscally responsible, Ross Township Fire Department has applied for and received almost \$400,000 in grant monies since 2014. Previous levies approved by the voters have been subject to a “roll back”; by law, levies cannot generate more dollars than in the first year of passage resulting in a reduction of the costs to residents each year. As both the population and the number of emergency responses have increased, the Ross Fire Department continues to maintain an outstanding record of fiscal responsibility which has enabled



the department to achieve more with less, without compromising the quality of service.

In November, the department will place a new 6.5 mill levy on the ballot. This proposed levy is necessary to generate sufficient revenue to sustain the department into the future and ensure its continued fiscal stability. If passed, the new levy would **replace** the two existing fire levies, which would **immediately be rescinded**. This change would simplify the department's funding structure and ensure long-term stability with a single, consolidated levy. The net result would be an increase of approximately \$375 annually—or about **\$1.03 per day**-- for a home valued at \$300,000—an investment in the safety and well-being of the entire community.

The Ross Township Fire Department has planned carefully for the future, balancing the community's needs with financial prudence. This levy represents a critical step forward to ensure the department can continue its mission—to Save Lives, Protect Property, Protect the Environment, Provide the Best Service Possible, and Treat People Nice. As the community grows, the department remains steadfast in its dedication to adapt, improve, and deliver the best possible service to every resident it serves.

STAY UP TO DATE!

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WHAT'S AHEAD FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

As we continue to move into the warmer months, we're excited to share a few key events and initiatives coming your way:

- **National Night Out** – Mark your calendars for this year's National Night Out in **early August** as we bring together first responders and neighbors for an evening of fun, safety education, and community spirit.
- **Fish with a Cop** – We're bringing back our annual *Fish with a Cop* event! This family-friendly favorite is a great opportunity for kids to spend time with local officers and enjoy a relaxing day outdoors. Stay tuned to our social media for dates and details!

- **Welcoming Our New K9** – We're thrilled to introduce the newest member of Ross Police Department, our K9, at the **end of July!**

- **Supporting Investigations** – The Ross Township Police Department is continuing efforts to solve crimes through **cash reward programs** and partnerships with **Crime Stoppers**. If you have information that could help an investigation, you may be eligible for a reward while remaining anonymous.

We're looking forward to a safe and engaging season with our community!



Please be courteous to your neighbors. This time of year many folks get out and run, walk and play. Sidewalks are meant to keep pedestrian traffic safe. Blocking your sidewalk with a motor vehicle is not only hazardous but illegal, per the Ohio Revised Code. Please be a good neighbor when parking in your driveway.

ROSS TOWNSHIP ROAD DEPARTMENT

The Ross Township Road Department consists of 3 employees with an average experience of 14 years. The department maintains 48 miles of roadway with no levy funding and is able to "do a lot with a little".



Pictured: Road Superintendent Paul Bulach, Adam Davis and Jeff Clark



4055 Hamilton Cleves Road
Fairfield, Ohio 45014

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ROSS TOWNSHIP CONTACTS

TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES:

Keith Ballauer W 513-863-2337x113 C 513-646-9242

Russell A. McGurrin W 513-863-2337x110 C 513-413-8840

David M. Young W 513-863-2337x114 C 513-262-0713

FISCAL OFFICER:

Julie Joyce-Smith
W 513-863-2337x112

ADMINISTRATOR:

Laurie Kile
W 513-863-2337x111

NON-EMERGENCY:

Police Chief Robert Gerhardt W 513-863-2337x130

Fire Chief Chris Johns W 513-863-3410x150

Road Superintendant Paul Bulach W 513-863-2337x180

Police Department W 513-863-2337
4055 Hamilton Cleves Rd.

Fire Station #1 W 513-275-1463
2565 Cincinnati-Brookville Rd.

Fire Station #2 W 513-863-3410
1308 Ross Millville Rd.

SCHOOL NUMBERS:

Ross Local Schools

District Offices 513-863-1253

Morgan Elementary 513-738-1986

Elda Elementary 513-738-1972

Ross Intermediate School 513-868-4550

Ross Middle School 513-863-1251

Ross High School 513-863-1252

Private Schools

Stephen T. Badin High School 513-863-3993

St. Joseph Elementary 513-863-8758

St. Peter in Chains 513-863-0685

Queen of Peace Elementary 513-863-8705

OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS:

Butler County Building & Zoning 513-887-3205

MRAA 513-738-1392

Rumpke 800-828-8171

EMERGENCY DIAL 911