



Poland Village Officials

Front Row From Left to Right-Mayor Ruth Z. Wilkes, Councilwomam Christine M. Yash, Clerk/Treasurer Linda Srnec, Councilman Peter Johnson.
Back Row From Left to Right-Solicitor Stuart Banks, Councilmen Richard Donnachie, John Dellick, Paul Alberty and Ben Cart.

POLAND VILLAGE

The Village of Poland is located within the northwestern portion of Poland Township. The 1990 census set the population of the Village at 2,992. Poland Village was incorporated on August 7, 1866, its form of government being established by the Ohio Revised Code. The Village is governed by the Mayor, Clerk/Treasurer, and six members of council. Public Officials are elected for four year terms. The Street Commissioner, the Street Tree Commissioner, the Chief of Police (Village Marshal), the Zoning Administrator, and the eight boards which involve citizens are appointed by the Mayor with the consent of Council. The Solicitor and Engineer are hired on a contractual basis by council. Poland Village Council meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 P.M. at the Village Town Hall, 308 South Main Street. The Village Village offices are open from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.--- Monday through Friday.

One of the most challenging areas for local government is that of zoning. A comprehensive zoning plan was adopted by council in 1978. Zoning issues are considered by the Planning Commission, Design Review Board, Exterior Maintenance Board, and the Board of Zoning Appeals. These boards all involve citizens in addition to a member of council. The Forest Board, which oversees the Poland Municipal Forest, the Hine Memorial Board which oversees the Village Green and cemetery, and the Records Commission also involve citizens volunteers in conjunction with a member of council.

The Village Street Department is responsible for the maintenance of approximately 15 miles of streets, as well as other properties owned by the Village. The Department consists of two full-time employees and occasional part-time help as needed. The Department equipment consists of a 1978 Ford 8000 dump truck, a 1984 Ford F-350 dump truck, a 1983 Ford Ranger pickup truck, a 1975 Ford 3500 back hoe, a 1994 Kubota mowing tractor, and a 1981 Fox leaf vacuum machine.

The Poland Village Police Department consists of four full-time and six part-time

officers. The Department is staffed 24 hours a day with dispatch services through the Mahoning County Sheriff's Department.



Poland Township Elected Officials
Front Row-Catherine Stacy, Connie Coloutes
Back Row- Jim Scharville, David Ludt

POLAND TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT

The Township form of government consists of three Trustees and a Township Clerk, who are elected for a four-year term. The terms are staggered so that each two years, either one Trustee and the Clerk, or two Trustees, are up for election.

The Township Board of Trustees is the overall governing body of the Township. They decide issues of Township policy, and are responsible for the expenditures of all Township funds and the hiring of Township employees.

The authority of Township government is limited only to those specific duties which are delegated by state law (Ohio Revised Code). Unlike cities and villages, townships do not have authority to pass laws, only resolutions.

Township Officials can act as community spokespersons, while bringing local problems to the attention of higher officials. The Township Trustees and Clerk do not hold regular office hours. They fulfill their duties on a part-time basis. However, because they live in the community, they are more readily available to their constituents.

Township government offers more personal service, more attention to individual needs and better understanding of local problems than any other unit of government.

The Township Administration Building is located at 3339 Dobbins Road. Office hours are weekdays, from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

ZONING DEPARTMENT

Since 1949 Poland Township has been a zoned community, to promote the health, safety, comfort, morals and general welfare of the Township.

The Township Zoning Inspector is appointed by the Board of Trustees and is responsible for keeping records of all applications for zoning certificates and the action taken thereon and is also responsible for the enforcement of all Township zoning regulations.

Zoning and nuisance complaints should be made in writing to the Township office. The Zoning Inspector investigates all such complaints and notifies violators to correct any violations within a set amount of time. Violations not corrected will be prosecuted through the County Courts of Common Pleas. In addition, the Zoning Inspector often works with the County Board of Health, the Ohio E. P. A., the Ohio Department of Resources, the County Prosecutor, the fire and police Departments.

The Zoning Department is divided into two boards; the Zoning Commission and the Board of Appeals. Both Boards consist of five members who are appointed by the Township Board of Trustees.

The Zoning Commission hears requests for zone changes, makes recommendations to the Board of Trustees and initiates changes to the zoning resolutions to promote the best interest of the public.

The current members of the Zoning Commission are: Attorney John Tomich; Dr. Daniel DeGenova; John Kulifay; Ted Sheffler and Donald Zimmermen and LaVern Casto as secretary. Paul Johnson resigned after serving twenty-five years on the board. Noreen Dornbrock served as secretary for over twenty-five years.

The Board of Appeals hears cases where it is alleged there is an error in any order, requirement, decision, interpretation or determination, made by the Zoning Inspector and grants Conditional Use Permits.

Residents considering improvements or alterations to their homes or business property should contact the Zoning Office at 757-0733 to discuss plans and determine if permits or approval by the Township is required. The office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 A. M. to 3:30 P. M.

Members of the Zoning Board of appeals are: Verna Kness; Donn Strock; Cloy Stewart; Nick Sylvester and Margaret Biroshak

ROAD DEPARTMENT

The Poland Township Road Department has approximately 46 miles of roadway responsibility within its jurisdiction.

The administration of Roads and Highways is through Edwin Beach, Road Superintendent and his crew of six full-time employees. During the spring and summer months, potholes are repaired, culvert pipe is installed, road signs are replaced, berms and shoulders are mowed and ditches are cleaned and maintained, This usually begins in April, but is dependent on weather conditions and availability of materials. During the fall and winter months, the roads are plowed and slagged to keep them safe for travel and equipment overhauled for the up coming seasons.

The Road Department is also responsible for maintaining the two Township cemeteries, which require many man hours to keep the grounds well groomed and maintained for those private moments that mean so much.

Recent capital improvements have made the department a creditable, modern force in roadway maintenance.

A new Road Dept. building was built in 1993 using inheritance moneys. While under construction the roof collapsed causing a delay . The Road Dept. garage was built with the future in mind. It is large enough to house all of the road department trucks and equipment and still allow room to do any maintenance work on the equipment that is necessary.

Edwin Beach is Road Superintendent and Robert Zuccardi is Assistant Road Superintendent; The Road Crew also consist of: Anthony Tonday; Robert Swesey; Joseph Juillerat; Steve Cramer and Bill Hird.

RECYCLING CENTER

Jack Ackworth is the recycling coordinator. With a concern for the future of our environment Poland Township began a recycling program in the Spring of 1991, adapting a theme of "Working Together To Become A Part Of The Solution."

We cannot continue to just throw waste away because there is no "away." Each of us can reduce waste by reusing and recycling. In addition to extending the life of our landfills, recycling reduces disposal costs and saves energy and natural resources.

The Recycling Center is located near the Township Administration Building on Dobbins Road. The program accepts glass, beverage cans, tin cans, plastic containers, magazines, newspaper and corrugated cardboard.

POLAND MUNICIPAL FOREST



At the end of College Lane lies approximately 250 acres of wooded beauty. The original acres were a gift to the Village from Mrs. Henry Audobon Butler in 1935 with the stipulation that the forest be maintained as a natural wildlife preserve and bird sanctuary. Since that time, other donations and purchases have increased the Poland Municipal Forest to its present size. The woods have many foot trails throughout, enabling pedestrians, skiers, and equestrians to enjoy its beauty. In the spring wildflower season, Bluebell Trail is opened for vehicular traffic. In Bluebell Circle is the swinging Mauthe Bridge. At the intersection of McKinley and Butler Trails is a large rock marking the grave of "Rocky," the spotted horse of Karl Granger, a colorful local character, scoutmaster, and woodsman.



Cypress Tree

A Cypress (*Taxodium Distichum*, genus *Cupressus*) stands on a state-owned ditch about 300 feet west of Struthers Road on State Route 224 and reaches a height of 72 feet. The circumference at 4 1/2 feet above ground is 15 feet, 6 inches and the tree has a crown spread of 44 feet. Its 21-foot girth at ground level has an estimated age of 165 years.

This species of tree is native to areas from the States of Delaware south to Florida, west to Texas, and as far north as Missouri. It is a pinaceous conifer and is distinguished by dark green scale-like, overlapping leaves, bearing one-inch cones, and a hard durable wood, growing in a symmetrical shape.

Cypress trees are usually found where water is strong with lime, but is sometimes planted successfully on high dry land. Branches have been used as a symbol of mourning, stemming from their ancient use at funerals.

The Ohio Forestry Association awarded a total of 275 points to Poland's majestic bald cypress.

The Skopos Women's Club of Poland has passed a resolution to aid in the preservation of the tree.

There is concern that the tree may fall to progress if State Route 224 is widened east of Poland to the Pennsylvania line. The community is concerned and watching for damage done to the roots of the tree when water lines were put installed, in the summer of 1995.

RECYCLING

Until 1988, recycling activities in Ohio were conducted exclusively by civic and charity organizations and school booster groups seeking extra income for band and athletic uniforms or for special field trips. Usually, the only items collected were

newspaper, aluminum cans and glass bottles.

All of this changed, however, in 1988, when the Ohio State legislature passed House Bill 592 to address growing concerns from Ohio residents about the influx of out-of-state waste into their landfills. H. B. 592 toughened up operating regulations on sanitary landfills, restructured landfill fees to provide local and state revenue, established solid waste districts to regulate municipal disposal and, last but not most important, created municipal-based recycling programs to reduce the amount of waste produced at the source -- in the household.

Overnight, the face of recycling changed. Large recycling collection systems were established that enabled the collection of hundreds of tons of more material. The most common of these collection systems were: (1) the curbside collection, with the residents using special containers to sort their materials; and (2) the drop-off centers, where residents took their recyclables. In Poland Township, both curbside and drop-off options were offered to residents. Areas with dense housing received curbside collection while those living in more rural areas used the drop off center.

Unable to handle the increasing volume of material, the familiar small mom and pop recycling centers went by the wayside and were replaced with highly technical recovery facilities that could process post-consumer waste products with more speed and better marketing techniques. Demand for more material from manufacturers and increasing technical advancement to turn old products into new products also expanded the number of items - specifically steel cans and plastic bottles, which residents could recycle. By 1995, material recovery facilities were accepting magazines, catalogs, phone books, and numerous grades of plastic with promises of more to come.

Recycling, however, was not just sorting, collecting and processing. Established recycling programs brought on massive education programs in schools, continual public awareness programming, and promotional campaigns that rewarded residents for their efforts, such as giving away grocery gift certificates.

In only eight years, residents in Ohio embraced the concept of recycling as a means of improving the quality of their environment for their children and grandchildren. Residents recognized that responsibility for waste reduction and planning was everybody's problem and that just complaining about out-of-state waste was not the total solution. Each citizen now had the opportunity to be involved in predicting the future needs for solid waste management in their area.

GRID-ADDRESS SYSTEM

Around 1975 county officials were attempting to create a grid-address system throughout the county. In September 1975, the county changed the name of S.R. 170 to Youngstown Road. S.R. 170 is known as Youngstown-Poland Road from Youngstown to the Poland Village limits, as Main Street in the Village, and as Youngstown-Pittsburgh Road from the southern limits of Poland Village to the Pennsylvania state line.

Renaming of the highway State Route 170 was protested by Springfield and Poland township residents, claiming that the Youngstown-Pittsburgh Road nomenclature is historic.

On Monday, September 30, the Mahoning County Commissioners rescinded their resolution and S.R. 170 is still Youngstown-Pittsburgh Road in Poland and Springfield

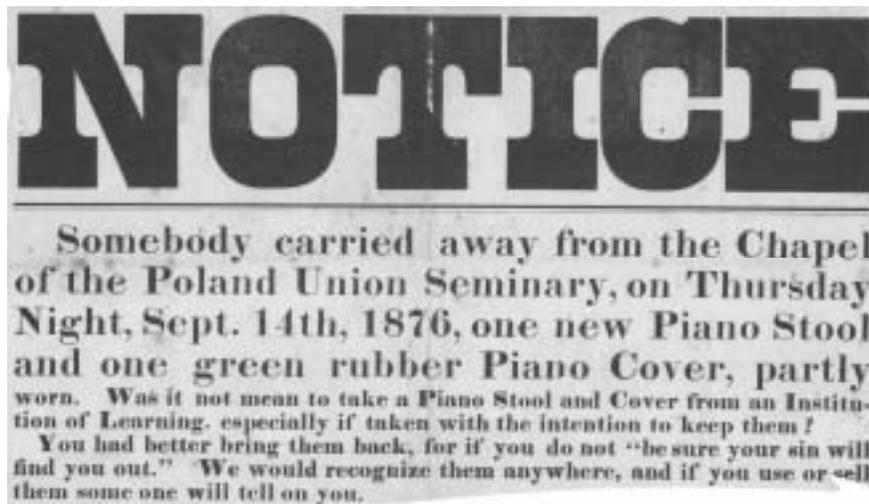
Townships.

Note: The names of Youngstown-Poland Road and North and South Main Street were not changed either.

The Morning Dispatch

H. M. Fowler, Editor
Canfield, Ohio
Friday Morning, Aug. 8, 1878

Twenty-two years ago or thereabouts, the dry goods and notion store in Poland, belongs to James McClelland, was robbed of several hundred dollars' worth of goods, and the iron safe carried away. The day following the safe was found in the big woods on the hill between the Cole hill and Lowellville. It had been blown open and the money and valuable papers were gone. Suspicion rested on Wheeler Cole and his brother, first name now forgotten. The Cole boys got wind of an intended arrest and left this part of the country. A few days later a man named Whetstone found a portion of the goods near Lowellville and returned them to McClelland, receiving a portion of the reward offered for their recovery. The proof was so positive that the Cole boys had engaged in the robbery that a brother, William Cole paid McClelland for the goods stolen that were unrecovered. Last Sunday the remains of Wheeler Cole was buried in the Cole cemetery in Poland township. It is reported that the body was sent from Texas by the other missing brother, and that Wheeler Cole died of strangulation, having engaged in obtaining other people's horses at night.



Original newspaper article

BLIZZARD OF 1996

December 19, 1995 was the beginning of the blizzard of 96. Over the first twenty-two hours, 11.6 inches of snow fell. Snowplows worked around the clock, people shoveled the wet heavy snow trying to keep their driveways open so they could go to work. Schools were closed just before the regular Christmas closing, many businesses closed early and games, meetings and many activities were canceled. To the children's delight, it snowed for 15 straight days. Sleds were dusted off, snowmen and snow forts were built.

That proved to be just the beginning. The next big storm hit the area on January 2 and 3. This storm was snow and sleet and delayed the opening of schools after the long holiday. Temperatures were below normal and the wind chill was at times -24 degrees. It was a long, very cold, wet winter.