

Brimfield Township Newsletter Special Edition - January 2016

Issue #4 – Police Protection Replacement Levy on March 15, 2016 Ballot *Moving Brimfield Forward!*

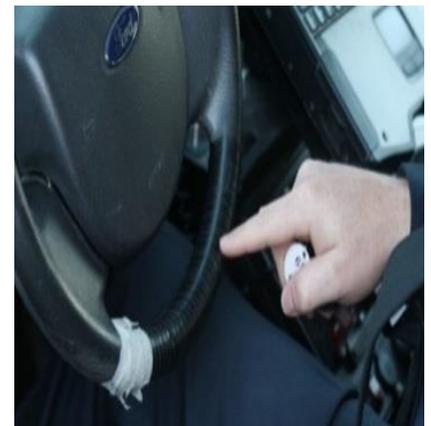
The Brimfield Board of Trustees approved placing a Police Protection Replacement Levy on the March 15, 2016 ballot. **Issue #4**, a 2.9 mill tax, replaces the 3-mill police levy approved by voters in 1987 after the department was formed. That 29-year-old levy has been reduced over the years to a 1.3-mill levy and produces about \$310,000 a year. If approved by a majority of voters, this replacement levy will generate an additional \$355,804.00 per year for a total revenue of \$665,422.00 for the police department. Homeowners of a \$100,000.00 home currently pay \$41.40 per year. The replacement levy will cost the homeowner of a \$100,000.00 home an additional \$5.05 per month.

Why is a replacement levy needed?

- 1) Starting in 2013, the State of Ohio cut the Local Government Fund, significantly reducing funding available to all local communities, including Brimfield. In 2014, the state of Ohio also began phasing out the Estate Tax and completely eliminated it in 2015.
- 2) Due to new State of Ohio regulations for impound lots, the amount collected from BPD's impound lot has declined by about \$50,000.00 in the last 3 years. Funds collected from the impound lot were used to purchase new police cars and equipment.
- 3) Cruiser video camera systems and mobile data computers all need upgraded within the next 5 years. These items are critical for officer safety.
- 4) Police cars are in need of repair and replacement. Many of these cars are over 5 years old with over 100,000 miles.
- 5) Beginning in 2015, the State of Ohio significantly modified the formula for reimbursing police departments for costs associated with drug prevention education programs resulting in significant funding cuts for the School Resource Officer and D.A.R.E. programs.
- 6) A lack of funds has resulted in significant cuts in training in recent years for BPD staff. In 2015 virtually no funds were available for police officer training, and the current funding situation mandates 2016 will be similarly scarce. At the same time, the 2015 [President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing](#) and [The Ohio Task Force on Community-Police Relations](#) reports shined a national and state spotlight upon the critical importance of law enforcement training. Our officers need and deserve continuous, quality training to perform their job duties in a safe and effective manner.

"After a year of significant financial challenges and change, we have developed a responsible long-term plan to 'move forward' and we need your help!"

Police Chief Roy E. Mosley III



- 7) The Brimfield Police Department ended its membership on the Portage County Drug Task Force several years ago. Because Brimfield has easy access to Akron, Canton, Youngstown and Cleveland, our township becomes a stop-over for drug dealers, manufacturers and users. The Portage County Drug Task Force is comprised of representatives from Aurora, Ravenna, Streetsboro, Garrettsville, Hiram, Kent, the Portage County Sheriff's Office, U.S. Homeland Security, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, and the Portage County Prosecutor's Office. Working together, the joint staffing and equipment resources of the regional county drug task force will allow for more in-depth investigations in our community.



What Has Been Done

- 1) SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS REDUCED:** Brimfield previously operated with 2 full-time police officers assigned exclusively to the schools during the school year. Due to State of Ohio funding cuts and our own staffing needs, the SRO Agreement between Brimfield and the Field Local School District was amended in 2015 and 1 officer is now assigned to our schools.
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- 2) CRUISER FLEET REDUCED:** Three high mileage police cruisers were removed from our cruiser fleet in 2015 due to high maintenance costs. Those cruisers were sold and the money used to subsidize the budget for needed repair costs for our other police cars.
- 3) TRAINING SLASHED:** BPD made significant cuts in officer training.
- 4) CALEA ACCREDITATION DISCONTINUED:** Due to the high cost, the department had to withdraw from the prestigious CALEA accreditation program.
- 5) STAFFING CUTS:** Two (2) police department vacancies created in early 2015 due to a retirement and a resignation were not filled.
- 6) WAGES FROZEN:** Wages for BPD personnel have been frozen since 2014.
- 7) K-9 TEAMS REDUCED:** The funding situation dictated that the number of K-9's be reduced from 4 teams to 2 teams.
- 8) MATERIALS & SUPPLIES DELAYED OR NOT PURCHASED:** Materials and supplies were either delayed for purchase throughout the year, or not purchased at all. Nearly \$2,000 was spent out-of-pocket by BPD command staff to obtain materials and supplies for the police department last year.
- 9) BPD OFFICERS' FIREARMS REPLACED AT NO ADDITIONAL COST:** The duty firearms used by officers were aging and in need of replacement parts and repairs. Negotiations with a state firearms provider allowed a trade of these older weapons and replacement of all BPD officer duty firearms with new firearms and ammunition at no additional cost.
- 10) VOLUNTEERS IN POLICE SERVICE (VIPS) IMPLEMENTED:** The police chief implemented a Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) opportunity and trained 2 volunteers in late 2015 to help with basic office/clerical tasks, at no additional cost
- 11) RADIO COMMUNICATIONS PROJECT IMPLEMENTED:** Capt. Adkins researched in-car repeater systems for BPD to reduce the cost of radio service contracts with AT&T. This one-time project approved by the Board of Trustees for 2016 will result in an annual savings of approximately \$51,000.00.

A Caring, Community Policing Department

Even during this financially critical time and with a shortage of officers, the Brimfield Police Department continues to give back to the community in so many ways.



Thanksgiving and Christmas Fill-A-Cruiser

Using volunteers, our Brimfield Township Police Department continues to hold their Thanksgiving and Christmas Fill-A-Cruiser events each year to benefit the Brimfield Community Cupboard.

Shop With A Cop

Each year, our officers and volunteers take children chosen by their teachers to Applebee's for breakfast then shop for family members for Christmas.



Safety School



Every August, the Brimfield Police and Fire Departments organize a week long Safety School for children entering kindergarten in the Field School District teaching them about street, car, bike and bus safety, fire safety, stranger danger, animal safety and more.



Senior Breakfasts & Senior Check



The Brimfield Police Department not only helps with children's programs, they also value our senior citizens. Twice a year, the Brimfield Police Department hosts a breakfast for our senior citizens at a local restaurant.

BPD also checks on our senior citizens. For those enrolled, the BPD maintains a list of each senior citizen, their address, phone numbers and emergency contact information on file.



Coffee With A Cop

Twice a year, the Brimfield Police Department teams up with Rubber City McDonald's in Brimfield to host *Coffee with A Cop*, a chance for the community to meet our police officers for coffee, conversation, and to ask questions.

Car Seat Safety Check

The Brimfield Police Department has two (2) certified car seat safety inspectors and offers free infant and child car seat installation and safety inspections by appointment.



BPD Cares For Our Four-legged Residents, Too



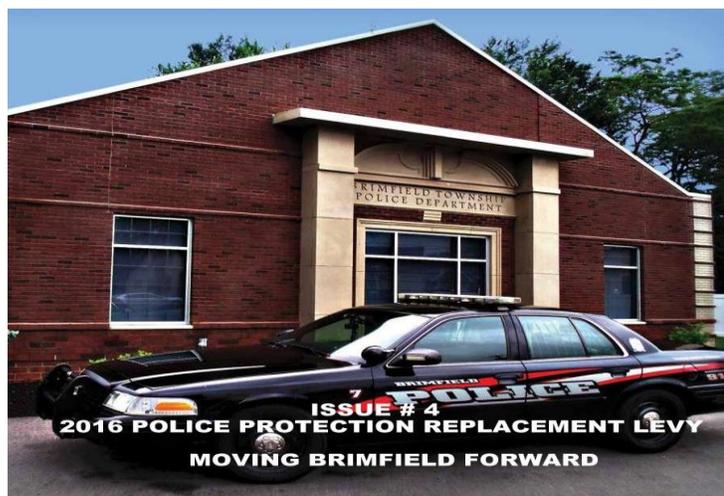
Our Brimfield Police Officers also keep an eye out for our four-legged family members as well. You will find many photos like these of lost pets posted to BPD's Facebook page. This little guy is the latest lost pup who found care and comfort at the Brimfield Police Department until his owner was found.

What Is At Risk If Issue #4 Fails

- **POLICE OFFICER LAY-OFFS/STAFFING CUTS:** Not only will the 2 vacancies created by retirement and resignation remain unfilled, there will be additional police officer and staffing cuts.
- **SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO) POSITION ELIMINATED**
- **FURTHER REDUCTION OF K-9 UNITS**
- **INSUFFICIENT FUNDING AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE QUALITY TRAINING**
- **REDUCTION OF D.A.R.E PROGRAM**
- **REDUCTION OF COMMUNITY PROGRAMS**

"...if this does not pass it's not going to be a matter of taking a scalpel to our budget, it's going to be a matter of taking a chainsaw to it."

Police Chief Roy E. Mosley III



Please visit: www.bpdmovingforward.com for more information.