



THURSTON
OHIO

THURSTON LIVING

WHAT'S UP IN THE VILLAGE OF THURSTON



THURSTON
PROUD



VISIBILITY - "THE STATE OF BEING ABLE TO SEE OR BE SEEN."

So...what's up in Thurston these days?

Most of us survived the Christmas weekend blizzard and **FUHREEZZING** temperatures without too much incident! Unfortunately, there were a few of us who, despite attempts at protecting and maintaining warm pipes, had the inevitable gurgling of leaking water as they thawed. We had a rough weekend at the water plant due to tripped GFI switches that left our main line exposed to the below zero temps – and yup, it froze solid. With quick thinking, Scott Oliver called in as many resources as possible to resolve the matter and, at the same time, keep quality water flowing into the village distribution system. Over the course of 5 days, while contractors and techs worked on the immediate issues, he was able to run a fully automated system *manually* until the frozen elements could be thawed and everything brought back online. Whew –

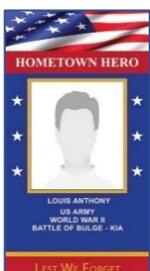
thanks, Scott! And yeah, you can rest assured procedures were put in place to make sure **that** won't happen again!

A new council year began with the organizational meeting of the Village Council January 4th. Check the minutes online!

Trash Rates : In the Summer of 2022 the Village Council requested proposals for village sanitation services. It had been five years since the last contract and, due to obvious increased expenses, rates have also increased. Council was able to extend the former rates by two years thru exercising a two-year option. However, that option expired and a new contract was required. Two companies bid on the contract and were within a dollar of each other. Council chose to continue with Local Waste for continuity of service and no interruption of billing cycles. The rate increase feels significant because the original rate from five years ago was so low. Current rates are now within the norm for sanitation services countywide.

Council member in focus - Robert Ortman

Robert has been a life-long resident of Thurston, except for eleven years during his military service, and he has served on council for several terms. He has served as the Thurston representative to the Regional Planning Commission the last two terms. Robert is an active member of the United Methodist Church and can be seen nearly every Tuesday and Thursday delivering meals to 15-20 residents in town who very much appreciate the great food!



Have a hero in the family? Thurston Council is exploring the opportunity to honor our military heroes, past and present, with a Hometown Hero banner program. Please contact the village office if you would like to honor your hero and we will provide you with information to make that happen!

Due to the weather that comes with Ohio winters there have been several calls to the office regarding increased bills. Remember that Thurston is one of the few municipalities in Ohio that provides a phone app that allows residents to watch their usage and even set alarms for various levels of use. Call the office for details!

WINTER COLD IS HERE

“Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow!” Living in Ohio and experiencing all four seasons - sometimes in a day! - makes for lots of fun – except when water lines get too cold, freeze, and then leak from the tightest, most inaccessible spot possible. We’ve all been there! Review these tips for avoiding frozen pipes:

Assess the Shape of Your Pipes - Age is a significant factor in whether pipes will burst. Generally, older pipes are more prone to bursting. If your pipes are nearing their expiration date, it is wise that you hire a plumber to have them replaced. Another crucial factor to consider is pipe material. Some piping materials like PVC, copper, and galvanized steel are not flexible, making them prone to bursting during winter. If possible, invest in polyethylene (PEX) tubing, which is highly flexible, is less likely to rupture when water freezes.

Let Your Faucets Drip - When water freezes, it expands and exerts a lot of pressure on your pipes. If not released, this pressure eventually causes your pipes to burst. Running water, even a small drip, creates friction, which produces a small amount of heat. This heat makes it harder for the water to form ice blockages, taking the pressure off your pipes and your plumbing system as a whole.

Open the Cabinets - Leave the cabinets under your kitchen and bathroom sinks open to keep warm air circulating around your pipes. The heated air will prevent ice from forming in your pipes and reduce pressure buildup that can rupture them.

Seal Cracks and Openings - The cracks in your home’s walls or foundation let in cold outdoor air, which speeds up the freezing process. Inspect the areas around your pipes for holes and cracks. Seal these holes with caulk to prevent drafts of air from leaking into your home. Do this for both the interior and exterior walls to prevent water from leaking into your home, which can quickly damage your home, especially during the winter months.

Manage your Heat - While the thought of leaving your heater on for long periods might not be appealing to you, it is still a much more affordable option than replacing burst or broken pipes. What’s more, you do not have to crank up your furnace to prevent pipes from freezing.

Drain Your Pipes - If you are taking a trip during winter, consider draining your pipes to prevent them from bursting. Shut off the main valve, then turn on all the taps in your home. Let the water flow until the pipes run empty.

Add Insulation - The attic, crawl space, and basement are the areas in your home most prone to the cold. One way to combat frozen pipes in these areas is to insulate their walls. Insulation helps prevent heat loss. This way, your home gets to stay warm throughout winter.

Ohio Basement Authority

Automatic payments (known as **ACH**) can be set up so you never have to worry about getting your water bill paid on time again. Sign up and we will apply payment to your bill from your designated bank account on the 15th of every month. Call the office for more information!

2022 Meeting Schedule

Thurston Village Council will meet on the **SECOND WEDNESDAY** of each month at 7:00 p.m.

The **Safety Committee and Service Committee** will meet on the **FIRST WEDNESDAY** of each month at 7:00 p.m.

The **Finance Committee and Records Committee** will meet as necessary. Meetings will be posted at least 24 hours in advance.

All meetings will be held at the Village Municipal Building, 2215 Main St., Thurston
Village residents are encouraged to attend all meetings!!

Office phone: 740-862-6003

Visit our website at www.thurstonohio.com

Village of Thurston
PO Box 188
Thurston, OH 43157