

# Etna In-Focus

April 17, 2023  
Volume 1, Issue 1



## Township Meetings

### Board of Trustees

The Trustees meet on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 6:00 p.m.

### Zoning Commission

The Zoning Commission meets on the second and Fourth Tuesdays of the month at 6:00 p.m.

### Board of Zoning Appeals

The Board of Zoning Appeals meets on the Fourth Tuesday of the month or as needed..

## “Etna In-Focus” Newsletter

*Etna In-Focus* is the name of our new Etna Township newsletter.

Bringing special emphasis and attention to our township is the reason for the name *Etna In-Focus*. The purpose of this newsletter is to present insights about our Administration, convey information to residents on our accomplishments, provide updates on new personnel, and highlight the best of our township.

We will endeavor to publish this newsletter bi-annually. Selection of articles are done at our discretion. If you would like to make specific suggestions about content, feel free to send an email with your specific content suggestions to [etnatownship@etnatownship.com](mailto:etnatownship@etnatownship.com).

## \$2.6 Million for Etna-Pike Street Project

As reported in January by the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (“MORPC”), Etna Township is expected to receive \$2.6 million in federal money for the township’s Pike Street improvement project. While the project is on a preliminary list, we expect to receive the full funding.

Every two years, MORPC solicits projects to receive federal transportation funding in its transportation planning area. Of the 23 central Ohio road projects, MORPC sought to identify “projects with the greatest regional impact for these limited resources” said senior planner Tom Graham. On the August 2022 list was “Etna-Pike Street (Licking County Transportation Improvement District) — \$2,684,877.”

Bill Lozier, the Licking County Transportation Improvement District Projects Director, said the township will contribute additional money for the \$3.3 million project, which will improve Pike Street from Ohio 310 east to the Etna United Methodist Church.

The scope of the work for the roughly 1-mile stretch includes reconstructing the pavement, adding curbs and gutters, creating parking lanes, adding a sidewalk on the south side, and a 10-foot multi-use pathway on the north side. The improvements will all be done within the existing right-of-way, Lozier said.

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## Etna Township Administration



**Rozland McKee-Flax**  
President—Board of Trustees  
Current Term:  
1/1/22 – 12/31/25



**Jeff Johnson**  
Vice President—Board of Trustees  
Current Term:  
1/1/20 – 12/31/23



**Mark Evans**  
Board of Trustees  
Current Term:  
1/1/22 – 12/31/25



**Julie Varian**  
Fiscal Officer  
Current Term:  
4/1/20 – 3/31/24

### Secretary

A seasoned professional, Laura Brown has been the Etna Township's Board of Trustees Executive Secretary for nineteen (19) years.

While her responsibilities are many, Laura's work has been substantial in leading our front office and supporting the work of the Trustees. She also handles all email correspondences, and phone inquiries.

Laura's work helps all Trustees accomplish the mission, tasks, and purposes of the Board.

## List of Accomplishments of the Board of Trustees

This month marks the one-year anniversary of President McKee's tenure as President of the Board of Trustees. The Board is putting points on the board and making Etna a great place to live, play, and raise our families.

During the last year, here is a quick list of ten (10) impressive achievements that were realized (or are being realized):

- 1) \$2.6 Million from MORPC for the Pike Street Project
- 2) Refugee Road Pataskala/ Etna Project
- 3) Hired a highly qualified full-time Administrator—Nita Hanson
- 4) Union Contract for Road Crew with Steel Worker Union
- 5) Approved raises for Employees/Job Description
- 6) Closed on the purchase of the new Etna Township Community Park (100+ acres)
- 7) Seeking a final proposal with EMH&T for the new Etna Township Community Park
- 8) Purchased two (2) Sheriff cruisers
- 9) Conducted Etna Community Fireworks 2022—Labor Day Weekend
- 10) Finalized the new Employee Handbook

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*"The Board is putting points on the board and making Etna a great place to live, play, and raise our families."*

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## Etna's Fallen Son, First Lt. Fred G. Bragg, Jr.



1967 while serving as artillery forward observer with an artillery company on a search and destroy mission near the Cambodian border in the Central Highlands.

When his company was surrounded and the company commander was killed, Lieutenant Bragg immediately took command and directed extremely deadly artillery fire on the insurgent forces. He bravely moved among his men, giving encouragement and

regrouping them into a more secure defense although he was fully exposed to intense mortar and automatic weapons fire.

Seriously wounded, he continued to direct air strikes on the advancing enemy until a mortar round destroyed his only remaining radio. Staying in the open, he poured round after round of deadly fire into the advancing enemy force. He gave his life while bravely leading his men in the face of overwhelming odds.

First Lieutenant Bragg's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty, at the cost of his life, were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



*Nita L. Hanson, Esq.*

## **Nita L. Hanson Hired As New Administrator**

A former litigation associate in Dinsmore & Shohl LLP's Columbus office and recognized in Columbus CEO's Best Lawyers, Nita Hanson is now our Administrator. Our first Administrator in seven (7) years, Hanson will bring competence, candor and stability to the office as Administrator. She began on April 3rd.

A 23-year resident of Etna Township, she believes that her experience as a paralegal and commercial litigator makes her uniquely qualified to work closely with the trustees. A humble but highly-qualified person, Hanson opined "much of what I do is dealing with people who are in emotional, financial disputes with each other." She continued, "I really think I'm uniquely suited to deal with some of the difficult personalities and difficult situations that the township has found itself in."

By way of background, Hanson joined Dinsmore & Shohl as an associate in the litigation department in 2012. Prior to joining Dinsmore & Shohl, Hanson practiced in the Dublin office of Standley Law Group LLP. In 2019, she was a Pro Bono Award recipient from the Legal Aid Society of Columbus, Columbus Bar Association and the Columbus Bar Foundation.

Hanson has a breadth of knowledge and experience in complex litigation, including the formation and implementation of specific strategies in trial in both state and federal courts in Ohio, and around the country. Hanson dedicates a significant amount of time to the Columbus Bar Association, where she serves on the Certified Professional Ethics Committee, considering ethics grievances filed against local attorneys.

In addition, she was in the 2011 class of the Dublin Leadership Academy and was selected as a member of the 2012-13 class of the Ohio Women's Bar Foundation Leadership Institute. Hanson earned her law degree from Capital University Law School, where she received the 2012 Alumni Award for being named the Graduate of the Last Decade, and her bachelor's degree in leadership from Bellevue University.

### **Board Appointments**

Welcome to the new members of the Joint Economic Development District ("JEDD") Board. Thank you for volunteering your time.

The JEDD is a public body organized and existing under the provisions of the Ohio Revised Code, Sec. 715.72.

The new Chair of the JEDD 1, 2, 3, 4 and 7 is Necol Washington.

Trustee McKee is a new appointee for JEDD 1, 2, 3, 4 and 7.

John Kennard is a new appointee for JEDD 4 only.

Jackie Katz is a new appointee for JEDD 1,2,3 and 4.

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Welcome to the new members of the Joint Economic Development Zone ("JEDZ") Board. Thank you for volunteering your time.

JEDZ levies an income tax under the provisions of the Ohio Revised Code, Sec. 715.691.

This will facilitate new or expanded growth for commercial or economic development, and create and preserve jobs and employment opportunities.

The new members for JEDZ 1 and JEDZ 2 are Trustee McKee, Necol Washington, and Jeff Haygood.

## Etna History

Located in the southwestern corner of Licking County, OH in what was known as the "Refugee Lands," Etna Township was established in 1833, one of the 25 townships of Licking County.

The town of Carthage, since called Etna, was laid out by Lyman Terrell in 1832. Lyman Terrell first named the Village Carthage but when he was told that it was the highest point between Jacksontown and Columbus he renamed it Etna after the famous volcano in Sicily.

The township is governed by a three-member board of trustees, who are elected in November of odd-numbered years to a four-year term beginning on the following January 1st.

## Next Phase of the Refugee Road Project Approved

A collaboration between the township, city, county, and developers to widen Refugee Road to three (3) lanes from Mink Street to Etna Parkway with roundabouts at each intersection, the Refugee Road Project was approved by Etna Township Trustees on October 1, 2022 and Pataskala City Council on October 3, 2022.

Etna Township Trustees unanimously approved a second intergovernmental agreement ("IGA") for the Refugee Road Project with the City of Pataskala and Licking County Transportation Improvement District

Phase one of the project covered the design portion of the project. The Second phase of the IGA is acquiring right-of-way acquisition.

The cost of the project has been split into thirds between the township, city, and developers and any grant funding they could obtain from the project. They have secured \$610,000 in grants and \$2.6 million from developers contributions. The project is estimated to cost approximately \$9.6 million. The Licking County Commissioners have agreed to contribute \$1 million as a stop-gap if the project costs rise above \$10 million.

The right-of-way work has begun.

## Etna Town Hall

PO BOX 188  
81 Liberty Street  
Etna, OH 43018-0188  
Tel: 740-927-7717

Email:  
etnatownship@etnatownship.com

Zoning Office Email:  
etnatwpzoning@etnatownship.com

## Etna Garage

1145 South Street  
Etna, OH 43018  
Tel: 740-927-8866

Email: Roads@etnatownship.com



L to R: Ray Lewis, Garrett Clark, and Dean Slone of WIN Waste Innovations

Dozens of WIN Waste Innovations and community volunteers teamed up with the Dawes Arboretum to remove litter from a local stream on Earth Day. The team collected 2,000 pounds — a full TON — of waste from the stream, including antique sewing machines and other long-lived castaways. "Cleanup events let us get out of our trucks and offices and get really deep into the community where we work and live," says WIN Waste General Manager Ray Lewis. "Knowing that we helped remove potential pollutants from the ecosystem and restore a water source that many depend upon is a great feeling."

