

COLUMBIA FIRE LEVY ISSUE #2

When seconds count, we've been there and we'll continue to be there but we need your help. We need support this November 6, 2012 with the passage of our operational **renewal levy** for your fire department and emergency medical services.

Columbia Township Fire Department has 33 members consisting of 19 Paramedics, 2 Intermediate EMT's, and 12 Basic EMT's. The department also has 3 members on the Lorain County Hazmat (Hazardous Material) Team, 2 members on the Lorain County Dive Team, 4 members on the Lorain County Fire Investigation Team, and 1 member on the Lorain County Bomb Team. All members train every week on fire and/or rescue areas. Your fire station is equipped with two rescue squads, a 2001 model and a 2006 model. There are two fire engines, a 1997 Sutphen and 1987 Pierce; also a 1992 International with a 3500-gallon water tank and a 2012 multi-purpose vehicle.

We, as a department, respond to approximately 750 emergencies per year. As of February, our hours were extended so now your fire station is manned 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This means our approximate response time is 5 minutes from the station and support from our homes.

What does this mean to you and your neighbors? Here are a few facts from the American Heart Association and National Fire Protection Association to consider.

1. During cardiac arrest, brain death and permanent death start to occur in just 4-6 minutes. Cardiac arrest can be reversed within a few minutes with electrical shock to the heart, also referred to as defibrillation. Chances of survival are reduced by 7-10% every minute that passes without CPR and defibrillation. Little chance of survival is expected, after 10 minutes without these interventions.
2. A structure fire doubles in size every minute. The likelihood someone will die in a fire is almost 10 times greater when it spreads beyond the room in which it started which takes about 10 minutes.
3. How fast can a typical fire consume a home? From start to the first 5 minutes, 15% of a home can be destroyed; 8-10 minutes can destroy up to 50% of the home, and a fire burning for more than 16 minutes can destroy 100% of the home.

This renewal levy will continue to generate approximately \$318,000.00 per year and *will not increase your taxes.* The income received from this renewal levy goes directly to the operation of the fire department and emergency medical services. In addition to staffing, this renewal levy will support our Worker's Compensation, insurance, utilities, and training. This renewal levy also supports the purchases of needed medical equipment for the rescue squad, tools, firefighting clothing, and additional equipment needed for the operation of our fire department.

We thank you for your support in the past years and are looking for your support on Issue #22 on November 6, 2012.

Chief Raymond Anthony and
Members of Columbia Fire Department