

Trains, Trains, and More Trains

Railroads have been a part of Carlisle since its earliest beginnings. The town began its transformation from a rural settlement with the expansion of the CH&D railroad to the area in the mid-1800s. The Carlisle Station was an important stop along the rail line that brought not only passengers to the town, but also transported freight in and out of the surrounding area. Although the Carlisle Station no longer exists, it seems as if Carlisle is still a stop along the rail line. Over the past few months, the amount of stopped or slow moving trains has dramatically increased leaving many to wonder what in the world is going on with the trains? Staff at Town Hall have been talking with officials from CSX and the State Rail Commission to seek answers to this question.

WHY DOES THE TRAIN STOP AND/OR SLOW THROUGH CARLISLE?

The answer to the basic question is actually quite complicated. There are several reasons why the trains either travel very slowly through town or simply stop. Below is a summary of the most common reasons for slow or stopped trains:

- Location of 2nd rail line: There is a 2nd rail line called a “side rail” on the CSX line that starts just north of Franklin-Madison Rd and ends between Beachler Rd and Central Ave/SR123. This side rail is used as a passing/staging lane for trains to travel through town. Trains stop on this side rail to allow for trains farther down the line to pass or to wait on crews to report for duty. Trains will reduce speed on the main line if there is a train on the side rail in order to pass safely. Trains may also stop completely on the main line to allow a train to move to the side rail before it can continue its journey through town. When this occurs, we may experience back-to-back slow trains. One train moves slowly through town as it passes the train stopped on the side rail. The 2nd train then moves slowly as it picks up speed from a stopped position to move from the side rail back to the main line.
- Railroad employees are prohibited from working beyond 12 hours per the Federal Railroad Administration. In practical terms, this means that a train must stop when the employee has reached 12 hours of work—no matter where they are on the rail line—in order to switch out crews. CSX attempts to schedule these shift switches in areas that will create minimal issues to communities. But this sometimes cannot be avoided due to traffic on the rail lines thus creating temporarily blocked crossings.
- Traffic backup farther down the line. Trains are subject to traffic backups if there are issues anywhere on the rail line. Trains cannot quickly start and stop. If there is an issue down the line, a train may need to slow or stop completely to allow for enough distance between the two trains.

WHAT CAN THE VILLAGE DO TO FIX THIS SITUATION?

- Unfortunately, there is very little that the Village can do to prevent the trains from traveling slowly or even stopping on the tracks; and ticketing the train has minimal impact. In order to ticket the train, the police officer must first locate the engineer to serve the ticket. Even then, tickets issued by local jurisdictions are aggressively fought by the rail companies and are typically thrown out of court.
- CSX is aware of the issues facing Carlisle residents and has acknowledged that they are working on correcting a variety of track scheduling issues from the Carlisle area up to Lima. In general, a slow or stopped train is money lost for the company; therefore, it is in their best interest to keep the trains moving too.

1-877-TELL-CSX (1-877-835-5279)

CSX has asked everyone to call this number to report train issues. This will help them keep track of when problems are occurring so that they can improve their scheduling. The more phone calls, the better. The old saying “the squeaky wheel gets the grease” definitely applies to Carlisle. We want to make sure that the needs of Carlisle residents are not overlooked by CSX as they attempt to streamline their processes.

Carlisle Town Hall Welcomes New Employees

Carlisle Police Department



Mayor Randy Winkler swore in Carlisle's newest police officer - Taylor Armstrong - during the June 13th Council meeting. Officer Armstrong was previously employed as a corrections officer at Butler County Jail, a bailiff in Franklin Municipal Court, and as a Reserve Police Officer with the City of Franklin. The department is excited to have Officer Armstrong join the ranks as she brings a wide range of law enforcement experience as well as intimate knowledge of our community.

Income Tax Department

On June 30th, Sherry Barnes retired as Income Tax Administrator. Mrs. Barnes employed by the Village for nearly 15 years and will be greatly missed by both staff and Carlisle residents. Although it will be a daunting task to replace a long-term employee, Dinee Kier, our new Income Tax Administrator, is excited to learn the duties of the position and utilize her many years of experience in business and office management in her new role with the Village.

Finance Department

Ryan Rushing was sworn into office as the new Village Finance Director on June 19th. Ryan will be taking over the duties from Julie Duffy who was recently promoted to the role of Village Manager. Ryan was previously employed by Wright State University and the Greene County Treasurer's Office - where he worked in the delinquent taxes and assessment collection unit. A 2016 graduate of Wright State University, Ryan is currently working on a Master's Degree in Public Administration at the University and expects to graduate in 2018.

Carlisle Fire Department

The Carlisle Fire Department recently promoted two of its members to officer positions. On May 23rd, Dana Wysong was promoted from Lieutenant to Captain's rank, and Brad Allen was also promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. Fire Chief Holbrook proudly introduced the officers at the May 23rd Council meeting and stated that the department is excited to welcome them into their new leadership positions.



Carlisle Railroad Days - August 18th and 19th

The Carlisle Railroad Days is set to return this year on August 18th and 19th. This community event will be held at the Carlisle Baseball Fields on Fairview Drive. For event information or to rent a booth, please visit the events Facebook page—Carlisle Railroad Days 2017.

Event Information:

Friday, August 18th: 4pm to 10pm

Saturday, August 19th: 10am to 10pm

Free Event Shuttle Service Provided by Franklin Township



Pick up/Drop off Location:

Franklin Township Administration - 418 Fairview Drive

Shuttle Times:

Friday, August 18th: 6pm to 10pm

Saturday, August 19th: TBD to 1pm and 6pm to 10pm



Check the Carlisle Railroad Days 2017 Facebook page for event schedule updates