

**Jeffery Jim "Jeff" Ashley**, son of Paul E. (1910-1974) and Marie I. (Martin) (1921-1969) Ashley, was born 1 August 1946, Michigan. His father and mother were married 20 June 1941, Henry County, Ohio



and moved to Ingham County about the time of Jeff's birth.

During Jeff's teenage years he lived with guardian William T. Fry (1913-1984) who raised prestigious registered Black Angus cattle and was also a well-known authority on antiques.

*1965 Okemos Tomahawk, page 117*

**JEFFREY ASHLEY**  
**"Jeff"**  
 Chorus, 1  
 FFA, Treasurer, 1,2, Vice-President, 3, President, 4, Regional Treasurer, 4, District Vice-President, 4  
 Football, 4

Jeff lived on the Fry farm and was highly involved in 4-H and Future Farmers of American.

He graduated in 1965 from Okemos High School and went on to further his education at Lansing Community College and then graduated in 1994 from Western Michigan University with a bachelor's degree, majoring in law enforcement.

*Lansing State Journal, January 20, 1963*

*Lansing State Journal*  
*April 4, 1984*

**FRY, WILLIAM T.**  
 Perry

Age 70, died April 2, 1984. Born April 24, 1913 in Lansing, Mi. Mr. Fry was a former Vice President of Decker & Co. and was an expert on antiques, giving lectures and appraisals on the subject. He was the beloved guardian of Jeff & Billy Ashley of Okemos; beloved uncle of Betty Lou Hawkins of Boston and Ben Hutchinson & family of the Lansing area. Funeral services will be Thurs., 10 a.m. at the Gorsline-Runciman Lansing Chapel with the Rev. John D. Carson, Associate Minister of the Plymouth Congregational Church officiating. Interment at Mt. Hope Cemetery. The family will receive friends at the funeral home Wed. from 2-4 & 7-9 p.m.

**Jeff Ashley**

**Okemos Youth Boasts 54 Livestock Awards**

By **BETTY SCHULTZ**  
 (Journal Teen Writer)

Jeff Ashley, Okemos High School sophomore, has won 54 prizes for livestock at fairs in the last three years. Most recent was an exhibit of wool which placed first and second at the International Livestock Show last November. Jeff began at age five to raise pets. In pens outside his home, he has kept 27 kinds of animals. Raccoons, skunks, ducks, chickens, flying squirrels, guinea pigs, white mice, turtles and, pigeons inhabited Jeff's menagerie. Since 1959, he has lived at Newtondale farm, 3440 Okemos Road. On this 179 acre farm, Jeff does chores before and after school. He receives wages which will pay for his college expenses. "I care for the 100 head of cattle, 30 sheep, and three horses. I also clean the nine barns," Jeff said. "During summer and fall hay, wheat, corn and oats are harvested." He works with and learns from veterinarians when they come to the farm. Jeff's experiences at Newtondale have led him to consider the veterinarian field as a future profession. Delivering calves has kept Jeff up nights. "Offspring can be regulated, though, as to the time of year. The cows at Newtondale this year gave birth in summer," Jeff said. He has raised sheep, various breeds of cattle, horses, and wool for county fairs. "I like livestock best because the animals provide food and produce offspring. Livestock can be shown to win prizes," Jeff noted. "Livestock projects are generally carried out for three years.

Calf, heifer, then cow are shown," he explained. Besides trophies and rosettes, premiums are awarded to livestock champs. For steers shown in 1959, Jeff received 80 cents per pound. Market prices are about 28 cents per pound. Jeff is a member of the Okemos 4-H and OHS Future Farmers of America Club, of which he is treasurer. Because this is his second year in FFA, he is known as a "charter farmer." First year members are called "greenhands." Jeff takes agriculture class at school where he can work on projects. At Newtondale, he is now raising 12 sheep and 8 cattle for future fairs. Collecting guns and padlocks also interests Jeff. His 12 guns include antiques, pistols, shotguns and rifles. Jeff's 110 padlocks are equipped with keys. He finds his locks at antique shops.

**Your Paper Boy**



*1965 Okemos Tomahawk, page 22*

**Industrial Arts, Agriculture Departments Teach**



Senior Jeff Ashley and junior Dave Williams attach truck to a tractor in preparation for planting wheat.



RADAR SET — Lansing Charter Township police Cpl. Jeffery Ashley aims radar screen (above) and then takes speed checks on the meter inside the patrol car. (State Journal Photos by Gene Hashley)

### Station Cash Register Stolen

A cash register containing at least \$100 in small bills was reported missing from the Frankford Standard Station, at Grand River and Clippert, Lansing Township police said today. Cpl. Jeffery Ashley who investigated the theft said the register was taken about 2:30 p.m. Tuesday when the two employees at the station were working away from the office area.

Lansing State Journal, Sept. 13, 1971

## Burglars Loot Labor Newspaper

A break-in at the Lansing Labor News, 402 Clare, was reported to Lansing Township police about 6:30 a.m. today. Police said about \$4,000 worth of equipment was taken.

EARLIER, AT 3:30 a.m. Sgt. Jeffery Ashley and Deputy Robert Nichols arrested a 17-year-old youth they caught stealing wheels and tires from a car parked in front of Joe's Bar.

Officers also found several bags of what they believed to be marijuana in the youth's possession. He is in the Ingham County jail awaiting issuance of a warrant.

Lansing State Journal, Sept. 24, 1971

### Policeman graduates

Lansing Township Police Lieutenant Jeff Ashley has become the first township police officer to graduate from the FBI's National Academy at Quantico, Va.

Lt. Ashley, 34, has served on the township department for 11 years and currently commands the township department.

Jeff in 1980 became the first Lansing Township police officer to graduate from the FBI's National Academy at Quantico, Virginia. He was promoted to Lansing Township Chief of Police in 1981, a position he held until retirement in 1999.

# Lansing Township to get police chief

By CLARENCE A. CHIEN  
Staff Writer

Controversy-torn Lansing Township may soon have its first police chief in Command Officer Lt. Jeff Ashley.

Ashley, 34, was nominated by the township public safety committee Tuesday. He has been with the township police department for 12 years.

The position of top police officer had been filled by former Superintendent James Stornant, who resigned this month before pleading guilty on a misdemeanor gun charge June 2.

STORNANT WAS named head of the police department in 1971. Later, he was named public safety director — heading both township police and fire operations — then appointed superintendent in 1976. The title of public safety director was apparently dropped when Stornant became superintendent.

Since the superintendent is responsible for all township operations and, in effect, supervises all departments, that made Stornant the top police officer, officials told residents.

In late May, a residents' group that has protested since mid-Janu-



Lt. Jeff Ashley

ary about how the township is operated, confronted the township board on exactly who was in charge of the township police department.

THE RESIDENTS charged that

township police detectives were not reporting to Ashley, but to Stornant. They also asked why there was no township police chief, but there was a fire chief. Ashley and Fire Chief Kenneth Preston have the same responsibilities and the same \$25,361 annual salary, but different titles.

After Stornant resigned, the board voted to establish the police chief's position.

Trustee Phil Pittenger, the committee member who nominated Ashley, said appointing Ashley police chief would "clearly define a chain of command and communication" in the department and make operations "more business-like."

"Basically, Jeff Ashley had been doing the job of police chief under a different title," Pittenger told the 15 residents in attendance. "I have full confidence in Jeff to run the department."

AFTER JOINING the township police department as a patrolman in July 1969, Ashley became a corporal eighteen months later, and, after a year, was promoted to sergeant. About 6½ years later, Ashley was promoted to his current position.

Last year, Ashley attended the FBI National Academy for police command officers. He has two associate's degrees, one in law enforce-

ment, the other in liberal arts, from Lansing Community College and is working on a bachelor's degree in business management through an LCC program.

"I always run the department, but this action clarifies exactly where I stand," Ashley said, declining to comment about his working relationship with Stornant.

"It is time now to get to the job at hand," Ashley said. "There has been a feeling among my people that things have been in turmoil (recently)."

Trustee Robert Robinson, the committee's chairman, echoed Ashley's comments about getting to the "job at hand. We're moving forward, not worrying about the past," Robinson said.

ASHLEY'S NOMINATION will be discussed during the board meeting Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the township hall, 3209 W. Michigan.

The board will also consider whether the township should return to a full-time supervisor form of government and eliminate the superintendent's position. Filling the vacancies of Supervisor Frank Sudac and Trustee Cecil Farris, who resigned a week after Stornant in the wake of the residents' protest, is also on the agenda.

In 1969 Jeff's only child, William Allen "Bill" Ashley, was born. Bill graduated from Okemos High in 1987, died in 1995 and was interred Glendale Cemetery, Okemos. Jeff and Bill's mother divorced. Jeff later married Patricia (Dalton) Ellison.

After retiring as a Police Chief, Jeff accepted an assignment with the United Nations. He served three tours of duty as Station Commander for the United Nations Mission in Kosovo. Finally, he was a popular "guest speaker" at VFW's and service clubs, and pursued his passion for history, antique's and fishing.

Jeff succumbed to cancer 22 September 2019.

Jeff was personal friend to all his classmates and a professional, well-respected police officer. He left this world in better shape than he found it – we are eternally grateful.

**Sherrie Paty Barber, Okemos Class of 1966  
Okemos Alumni Association**

*Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte, Michigan  
Obituary for Jeffery Jim Ashley*

Jeffery Jim Ashley of Charlotte passed away on September 22, 2019, at the age of 73, after bravely battling cancer with courage and dignity. He was a graduate of Okemos High School, Lansing Community College, Western Michigan University and the National FBI Academy.



Jeff retired in 1999 after a 30-year law enforcement career with the Lansing Township Police Department. After his retirement he served three separate missions as a UN police officer/station commander for the United Nations Mission in Kosovo. An avid outdoorsman, fisherman, antique collector and history buff, Jeff also had a special interest in history and artifacts of the Civil War.

Jeff is survived by his wife, Patricia Ashley; stepsons, David (Juli) Ellison and Matthew Ellison; grandsons, Sebastian Eaton-Ellison and Max Ellison; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Paul and Marie Ashley; son, William Ashley; sisters, Mary "Chris" McClean (OHS 1959) and Lynn Hayes-Maceroni (OHS 1967); brother, Paul Ashley (OHS 1960); and guardian/mentor, William Fry.

A special thank you to Jeff's doctor at the University of Michigan, Paul Loren Swiecicki, MD, for providing Jeff with outstanding care, support and friendship.

A visitation will be held from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 2, 2019 at Pray Funeral Home, 401 W. Seminary, Charlotte, MI. A memorial service will be held at 3:00 p.m. following the

visitation. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Head and Neck Molecular Monitoring Fund. Please make checks payable to "University of Michigan" and send to Michigan Medicine Office of Development, 1000 Oakbrook Dr., Suite 100, Ann Arbor, MI, 48104. You may also call 734-764-6777 to make your gift. Pre-addressed envelopes will be available at the visitation.