

ANDERSON Insights

THE VOICE OF ANDERSON TOWNSHIP

NOVEMBER 2024

Anderson Trails Milestone: 25 Miles in 25 Years

A long-term vision mixed with careful planning equals a program that brings economic, health and social benefits



The spine of the trails network, the Five Mile Trail, opened in 2007.

Anderson Trails, the township's multifaceted transportation program that links Anderson residents with places and people, has been connecting the community for 25 years.

The program encompasses trails, natural paths, crosswalks and sidewalks. Recently, it has expanded to include the construction of broader safety measures including pavement markings, pedestrian-activated crosswalk flashing beacons, bicycle improvements, widened roadways and berms.

The roots of the trails program lie in the desire for making Anderson Township more walkable, beginning with three "legacy" projects stemming from the township's bicentennial in 1993. Soon thereafter, the first sidewalk link was built on Clough Pike between Nagel and Eight Mile roads.

However, **Anderson Trails began in earnest in the late 1990s** when township



leaders, in collaboration with residents and volunteers, recognized the already vibrant and attractive bedroom community could be enhanced by developing a plan to link neighborhoods, businesses and other key destinations through sidewalks and trails, said Planning and Zoning Director Paul Drury. "It has since emerged as one of Anderson's signature attributes and one of its most popular programs, a partnership between the township, community, abutting property owners and other governmental agencies," he said.

The initial Anderson Trails Plan was approved in 1999, a year after township voters approved a road/hike/bike tax levy and the plan has been updated five times since then as projects are completed and

new opportunities arise. "It's a document 'not sitting on a shelf' waiting for someone to act on it," noted Steve Sievers, assistant administrator for operations. Instead, "It's a living, flexible document that has and continues to drive the township's transportation planning process."

"The plan provides a blueprint for key projects, therefore earning the most return on investment," said Sievers. This grassroots effort is entwined with ongoing suggestions from residents, evaluated by staff and community volunteers every few years as the plan is updated. A goal of the work also includes a commitment to improve all portions of the township, he said.

Walk outside your door in Anderson Township, and there's a good chance you're just minutes from an Anderson Trails link connecting you to neighbors, other residential areas, and community amenities. "It's hard to believe that most

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TOWNSHIP NEWS

Reminder: Most Neighborhoods Allow Parking on Only One Side of the Street

If you're hosting a big holiday party at your home this season, parking is probably the last thing on your mind.

But it might be a good reminder for your guests that most Anderson neighborhoods allow parking on only one side of the street due to safety service access needs.

Anderson Township instituted parking prohibitions about 20 years ago to provide safe pathways to homes during emergencies.

Anderson Township Fire Chief Rick Martin said that since those restrictions were instituted, Anderson Township has rarely encountered a problem bringing its emergency vehicles down neighborhood streets.

Signs detailing the parking restrictions are generally posted at the beginning of subdivisions. Two styles of "no parking" signs warn residents about the parking restrictions in Anderson Township.

"Our community is safer because our residents and guests park on only one side

of the street. We appreciate everyone's compliance, which helps ensure emergency service vehicles can quickly respond," said Martin.

He also noted that parking is always prohibited in the terminus or "ball" of a cul-de-sac street, a fact sometimes overlooked during garage sales and parties.



Township parking prohibitions include:

- No parking within an intersection
- No parking within 30 feet of a stop sign
- No parking in front of a public or private driveway

Public Works Director Eric Luginbuhl noted that snow removal also is easier when there are fewer cars on the street.

Martin also asks property owners to alert their guests and contractors of the appropriate on-street parking areas.

If you have parking questions, call 513.688.8400 ext. 4 or email info@AndersonTownship.org. Violations may be directed to the Hamilton County Communications Center non-emergency dispatch line at 513.825.2280 (24 hours/day, 7 days/week).

Junk Vehicles on Street Can Be Towed

Questions sometimes arise about cars parked on the street for an extended period of time. Deputy Brian Hayes said residents call the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office inquiring about this scenario on a regular basis.

"Regarding questions about cars parked on the street without moving (which we get quite often), as long as that vehicle is legally parked, we cannot remove it unless it meets all of the requirements for a junk/abandoned car. If the cars meet the criteria, they are considered abandoned junk vehicles."

Criteria for an abandoned junk vehicle are:

- Left for more than 48 hours on the street,
- Three years old or older,
- Be extensively damaged, including, but not limited to, missing wheels, tires, motor or transmission,
- Apparently inoperable,
- Having a fair market value of \$1,500 or less.



Please note, these criteria apply only to vehicles on the street. Cars in driveways or on private property are handled differently by the township through zoning enforcement.

Watch for Skimmers, Scammers and Other Scoundrels

Be aware of tricks to separate you from your personal information or money

Scammers' texting and email "phishing" communications are getting harder to distinguish from valid inquiries. Pretending to be your bank or a government agency, bad actors "phish" for personal information that could allow your important private details to become compromised.

However, phishing scenarios, while they are numerous, are not the only ways you can be defrauded. Detective Justin French, who covers Anderson Township for the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, said his office deals with many reports every year related to scams. While these cases are often difficult to prosecute, French said law enforcement can help you work with your bank or other institution if you are defrauded or scammed.

In a phishing scenario, scammers ask you to update or confirm your account by submitting your bank account number, Social Security number or password. It's easy to fall for the request, as the texts and emails seem to be coming from an official source. Often, an official logo or format is used to deceive. Callers may appear to be bona fide representatives and provide some personal information to gain trust.

Officials dealing with scams suggest people do not respond to unexpected requests for personal information.



Banks and the IRS will not request personal information over the phone or via email.

Matthew Broo, head of the Hamilton County Elder Justice Unit, protects senior citizens from fraud, scams and financial exploitation through his office's work. "Most calls we receive are about phishing by email," he said,

Prize money and false promises

Another reported scam involves the promise of prizes or money through sweepstakes, contests or the lottery. The scammer tells an unsuspecting person that to collect their winnings, an advance fee must be paid (through transfer or money order). You can tell the text or email is a scam if you have to pay to get your prize, or if someone says paying increases your chances of winning, Broo said. He advises to decline if they ask you to pay by wiring money, sending cash or paying with gift cards or cryptocurrency. These payments are hard to track, so that's

why scammers use them and it is almost impossible to get your money back, he said.

French said a common local deception involves a scammer posing as law enforcement, perhaps even using the correct name of someone working locally. The scammer targets an elderly person and asks for money for a bond for a grandchild who has "just been arrested."

However, even if the request sounds legitimate, "Law enforcement never asks for money," French said.

Skimming at the gas pump

Credit card skimmers occasionally pop up in Anderson, especially on gas pumps. "Tap to pay" has allowed scammers to pull a signal out of the air when credit cards connect to a wireless connection. He said a person may be waiting in line and have their card skimmed. French suggests staying aware of your bank account, using an RFID-blocking wallet, and staying on top of your credit score to stop or catch fraud.

Broo's office also deals with scams involving real estate, romance and home repair, among many others. The Elder Justice Unit offers a scam hotline at 513.946.SCAM to report current abuses. To learn more, visit ReportFraud.ftc.gov and IdentityTheft.gov.

Protect Your Storm Drains from Contaminants

Please do your part to keep our local waterways healthy by respecting the role of storm drains in our community.

Anderson's storm drains lead to the Little Miami River or the Ohio River. The storm drain system helps prevent flooding by diverting rainwater and melting snow off streets and into bodies of water. It also helps minimize the spread of debris and contaminants and protects drinking water quality. Additionally, diverting water off impervious structures mitigates soil and stream erosion.

What can go down a storm drain?
Water. Just water. Anything else is harmful.



Keep pollution out of storm drains by following these simple suggestions:

Remove leaves and yard debris from the storm drain so water can freely flow into the structure. Yard waste, grass clippings, fertilizers and pesticides not removed before washing down a storm drain cause excess nutrients to seep into the water as

those materials decompose. Similar nutrient imbalances happen when chemicals are dumped into storm drains.

Dog poop, trash, cigarettes, hazardous waste such as oil, unused paint or lawn care chemicals that go down the drain can all cause problems. Public Works Director Eric Luginbuhl notes, "We can all do our part to protect our water and help keep our neighbors' properties safe by only allowing water into the storm drains."

Fiscal Officer Brian Johnson added, "Protecting these streams from contaminants also is far more economical than the cleanup that can result from unintended or illegal pollution."

Anderson Trails Milestone *(Continued from page 1)*

of those links, which we take for granted, didn't exist years ago," Sievers noted. Besides the trails program, the township instituted subdivision regulations and zoning requirements years ago that have expanded the sidewalk network, Drury noted.

Economic Benefits

Quality communities are connected, according to Jon DeCurtins, a real estate agent for 16 years in Anderson. He sees the impact of all the connections built in recent years as homebuyers consider buying here. "More than ever, ride and walkability to the township's amenities (parks, schools, swim clubs, shops and dining) has become a high priority for homebuyers. The trails program has created access to these amenities and provided a much-needed outlet for outdoor recreation in Anderson Township," he said.

Another real estate agent selling in Anderson, Kerri Wolfangel, noted that like some of Anderson's key attractions, hiking trails and parks serve as "vibrant community hubs" where people gather and foster connections. They're factored in buying decisions for younger homebuyers, she noted.

"Beyond the social benefits, living near trails promotes a healthier lifestyle, encouraging residents to embrace outdoor activities, maintain an active routine, and reduce stress by staying connected with nature," she said. "Additionally, homes near these trails tend to see a positive impact on property values, as buyers are often willing to pay a premium for the accessibility to outdoor recreation and the enhanced quality of life it provides," she added.

"As a healthcare professional, I appreciate the effort Anderson Township has made to encourage a healthy lifestyle for all ages through its trails network," said Trustee Lexi Lausten. Besides improving mood and giving participants a mental health boost, walking or biking on the trails helps reduce the risk of chronic disease and strengthens overall health.

Neighborhood Islands?

But 25 years ago, Anderson Township could not generally be described as connected or safe to navigate on foot or a bicycle, as subdivisions with no sidewalks forced non-vehicular travel in the street.

Trails Program Includes:

PEDESTRIAN-ACTIVATED CROSSWALK SIGNALS



NATURAL PATHS



REGIONAL TRAILS



MARKED INTERSECTIONS



NEIGHBORHOOD SIDEWALKS



Trustee Chair Dee Stone remembers moving to Anderson more than 30 years ago. "The neighborhood I lived in felt like an island. It was wonderful, but it was isolated. There was nowhere to walk to," she said. "Since that time, because of the Anderson Trails plan, that neighborhood has been connected to Anderson Towne Center. From there, you can get to just about anywhere in our township."

Josh Gerth, township trustee vice chair, said Anderson's "sleepy suburban" bedroom community has transformed into a vibrant modern community due in part to the investment in the program.

"All of the trails we have put in, particularly in the last 15 years, have strengthened residential connections, physically and socially," he said. This collaborative process leveraged township funds with redevelopment and grants to make connections. "We have had hundreds of millions of dollars of commercial and residential development over the last 15 years, which has really fueled our ability through public-private partnerships to make some of these key pedestrian connections," Gerth noted.

"We are helping residents become more engaged and healthier," Gerth noted. Retrofitting the community has taken the township more effort and more planning, Gerth said, but the payoff is "we've made the community a better place by all this planning."

Key Anderson Trails Sidewalk Segments

Asbury Road

Clough Pike

Eight Mile Road

Forest Road

Little Dry Run/Hunley Roads

Nagel Road

Salem Road

State Road

Wolfangel Road



Local Enjoyment, Regional Connections

Anderson is home to a host of regional trails, with one connection leading to Lake Erie.

Those links include:

Ohio River Trail — The Ohio River Trail is a 14-mile trail linking the City of Cincinnati from Lunken Airport through Anderson Township to the Village of New Richmond.

Little Miami Trail — This expansive 78-mile trail connects to the Lunken Airport Trail and the Armlerder Park Trail and traverses north to Xenia, Ohio.

Five Mile Trail — The "spine" of the Anderson Trails program connects the Anderson Towne Center area to Turpin High School, with connections north and south, east to west.



School Safety Enhanced by Trails Program

"Anderson Township has enhanced safety and connectedness around elementary schools through the Anderson Trails program," said Bob Buck, director of elementary teaching and learning for the Forest Hills School District.

"By establishing the bike-and-walk-to-school program and implementing safety improvements, the district has encouraged families to engage in physical

activity and strengthen their bonds with our community," said Buck. Particularly in the Ayer and Wilson communities, the number of students walking and bicycling to school has greatly increased, he noted.

"These initiatives have not only promoted healthy lifestyles but have also enhanced the overall safety and well-being of Anderson Township," Buck added.



TRAILS SNAPSHOT

TOWNSHIP TRAIL INVESTMENTS 1999-2024

\$2.5 million—Township's 1998 Road/Hike/Bike Levy

+

\$10.9 million—Anderson Township TIF Funds (For Capital Projects Only)

+

\$11 million in federal/state/local grants

Total Expenses

\$25 MILLION



Original trails plan adopted in 1999, with five subsequent plan updates, the most recent in 2023

All Anderson Trails program paved links are **handicap accessible** and accommodate bicycle riders



Longest sidewalk constructed: Five Mile Trail (2.75 miles)

AWARDS:

- **Frank Ferris Outstanding Plan** in 1999 and 2005, from the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission

- **Outstanding Community Planning Award** in 2007 from the Ohio Planning Association



NEWS & NOTES

Anderson's Co-Op Program a Win All the Way Around Students gain experience and learn about local government while the township taps into cost-effective new ideas

Starting in 2011, real-life job experience gained by working in Anderson Township government has helped dozens of University of Cincinnati college students jump-start their careers.

Since then, Anderson Township has partnered with the university to hire nearly 40 co-ops, each spending about four months in the planning and zoning department "learning through doing."

The co-op program has provided numerous benefits to students. At the same time, the experience-based learning program has also benefited Anderson Township in many ways, said Paul Drury, planning and zoning director. "It introduces cutting-edge ideas and new technologies or applications to our long-range and day-to-day operations," he noted. "It also introduces students to careers in government and planning, with many returning for a second term," Drury added. "As a bonus, we hired four full-time students as planners when vacancies arose. We knew them, and they knew us, so they hit the ground running," said Drury.



Co-ops help with sign removal and zoning issues

"Our staff, across our departments, also have learned and greatly benefited from working alongside these talented students," he added.

Assistant Planning and Zoning Director Sarah Donovan was one co-op hired by the township. Donovan graduated from the University of Cincinnati in 2017 and was immediately hired. "Being in the co-op program allows you to try different jobs before you graduate into the workforce," she said. "I tried the private sector, non-profit and local government with the

township and realized that local government was where I wanted to start my career," she added.

"Now I can show students how every day at the township can be a little bit different and the long-term benefits of working with our residents," Donovan said.

Fiscal Officer Brian Johnson noted that using students has been cost-effective. "The use of co-ops comes at a much lower cost to the township than hiring another full-time professional planner," he said.

In a typical rotation, co-ops may learn about filing for a zoning certificate or variance or walk alongside an employee enforcing township zoning regulations. They learn about project management and assist with planning for sidewalks, new developments, township committees, the annual tree program and seasonal events.

"There is certainly much more in between," Drury added. "These students have simply been instrumental in implementing the plans and programs sought by our community," he said.

Basic Rules of Extension Cord Safety Explained

Tis' the season to get sparkly! But if those bright holiday lights involve multiple extension cords daisy-chained together, take heed!

Nationally, about 3,300 home fires occur annually because of misuse of extension cords, which can overheat and cause fires. Locally, Anderson Township Fire and Rescue has reported several fires possibly connected to inappropriate cord usage.

Do you have a cord taped to the ground or stapled to a wall? That's a no-no. How about a cord that runs outside through the snow or water? Also, not a good idea. What about an extension cord delivering power to more than one appliance? Yep. That's not a suggested use either.



Suggestions for safety:

- An extension cord is a temporary solution that is not meant to extend your household's electrical needs for a long time. Don't substitute extension cords for permanent wiring.
- Ensure the extension cord or temporary power strip you use is rated for the products to be plugged in and marked for indoor or outdoor use.
- Do not overload extension cords or allow them to run through water or snow on the ground, or run through walls, doorways or ceilings.
- Heavy reliance on extension cords indicates you have too few outlets to address your needs. Outlets can be installed where you need them to remove this risk.
- Multiple extension cords do not belong chained together. Plug them directly into a mounted electrical receptacle.
- Check cords for fraying or loose wires. Do not use a cord that feels hot or is damaged.

Baker Retires After 30 Years of Service



Brad Baker

Firefighter-paramedic Brad Baker has retired after 30 years of service with the Anderson Township Fire and Rescue Department. During his career, he received five awards as "Firefighter of the Year," one of which was a statewide honor.

During his tenure, Baker became a car seat technician and a member of the EMS bike team. He also was the EMS supply coordinator and filled roles in public

education. Additionally, he served as CPR program coordinator and an instructor in first aid and cardiac training programs.

Baker was a community assistance coordinator who helped Anderson's senior community by developing a local program to aid older individuals. He also received a Shriners award in 2007 for his part in rescuing two people from a structure fire.

Graves Retires After 20 Years



Rob Graves

Public Works Department Leadman Rob Graves retired after 20 years working with Anderson.

He began his Anderson Township career in 2004,

starting as a maintenance worker and ending as a leadman. His job included upkeep of township property, snow removal and repairing township infrastructure. Graves also cleaned up after several natural disasters in Anderson and assisted in other communities in need, including a tornado cleanup in Goshen.

New Hire for Public Works



Alan Pangburn

Alan Pangburn is a new maintenance worker for the Public Works Department.

He served as a seasonal employee for the past four years and also worked for Hamilton County for eight years. Pangburn's background is in equipment operation and tree care.

Daniel Joins Traffic Safety Section



John Daniel

Deputy John Daniel is a new member of the traffic unit for the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office District 5. He served with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office since 2022. He also worked nearly a decade with the Xavier University Police Department in a variety of roles.

Moxley Retires from Fiscal Office Role, Arnold New Fiscal Office Manager



Michelle Moxley

Michelle Moxley retired this summer as Anderson Township's fiscal officer manager. She started in 2019 as a part-time Fiscal Office clerk and assumed the manager role in April 2023.

Taking her place is Katie Arnold, a former part-time Fiscal Office clerk who started with Anderson Township in February 2023.

The Fiscal Office manager handles vendors, bank deposits, purchase orders, payments, credit cards and more.



Katie Arnold

Planner Named for Planning and Zoning Department



Eli Davies

Eli Davies, a recent Miami University graduate, is the newest Anderson Township planner in the Planning and Zoning Department. He earned a BA in urban/regional planning and political science, a minor in statistics, and a GIS certificate.

Davies interned at the City of Oxford's City Manager's Office and the Massachusetts State Senate in Boston.

LeGault New Assistant for Events



Michelle LeGault

Michelle LeGault is Anderson Township's new assistant events coordinator.

LeGault has more than a decade of experience working with nonprofits and

more than 20 years of experience in communications. Most recently, LeGault worked for Xavier University, coordinating events for an endowed center on the university's campus.

She graduated from Grand Valley State University with a bachelor's degree and Eastern Michigan University with a master's degree.

Heileman Promoted



Keith Heileman

Keith Heileman is Anderson Township's new leadman for the Public Works Department. Starting in 2009,

Heileman worked for three years as a seasonal employee before being hired full-time as a maintenance worker. He moved up the ranks to equipment operator before taking on the leadman position.

Township Job Openings Online

Go online to AndersonTownshipOH.gov to view current employment opportunities for Anderson Township.

HISTORY NOTES

Winter a Century Ago Includes Snow, Sports and Play

Photographs from years past give hints on how Anderson Township residents coped

The winter of 1917-18 was one for the record books with more than 3 feet of snow, lasting into March. A photo on page 9 shows Mr. and Mrs. Van R. Johnson waiting for a passenger train car to Cincinnati. Two interurban electric railways crossed at this point on Beechmont Avenue. You can see the intersecting wires overhead in the image.

The C.G. and P. line operated in Anderson from 1877 to 1935, carrying both passengers and freight. These tracks ran cross country and crossed Beechmont at Forestville. A branch of the Interurban Railway and Terminal Company also ran through Anderson in 1903-1918 on tracks along Beechmont/Ohio Pike out to Bethel. The Johnson family home was the house on the left, today the location of Frisch's. If you kept a horse and sleigh, snow-covered streets were not an obstacle.

Freezing temperatures meant that ice could be harvested from local ponds, supplying the iceboxes of the early 1900s. Frozen ponds also allowed for sports and play. We are fortunate to have images taken at a pond once located southwest of the intersection of Beechmont and Birney, behind what is now Guardian Angels School. This pond supplied water to the original St. Gregory Seminary and was known as "Seminary Pond" to local residents. These images are a reminder of many ponds that once dotted this farming community.

The photos also provide clues about winter clothing of the early 1900s. One close-up photo of a fashionable lady shows that a fur muff and wrap were just the thing for a cold day. Snow means building snowmen, of course, and we have a photo of one made for a WCKY radio contest by the Leuser family, who lived in the log house on Clough Pike for many decades.

This article originally appeared in the fall 2015 Anderson Insights. Text by Janet Heywood, photos courtesy of the Anderson Township Historical Society.



Sleigh of the Langdon family of Mt. Washington. Dr. Langdon used the sleigh to reach patients when snow covered the ground. Photo about 1910.



Cutting ice on "Seminary Pond." Photo about 1900.



Skating on "Seminary Pond." Photo about 1910.



Waiting for the railway on snow-filled Beechmont Avenue in the winter of 1917-18. The house on left is the location today of Frisch's.



Dressed for winter, Bessie Johnson Davis posed at a house on Beechmont Avenue near Collinsdale Avenue. Photo about 1915.



Snowman at the Miller-Leuser Log House on Clough Pike. Photo about 1940.

WINTER FOCUS

Know the Facts on Snow Emergency Advisory Levels



Snow and weather-related emergencies are on the horizon

Hamilton County uses snow advisory levels and related emergency alerts to help residents determine whether to drive in winter weather.

SNOW ALERT LEVEL ONE:

Roadways are hazardous with blowing and drifting snow. Roads also might be icy. Motorists are urged to drive very cautiously. Unnecessary travel is discouraged.

SNOW ADVISORY LEVEL TWO:

Roadways are hazardous with blowing and drifting snow. Roads may also be very icy. Only those who think it is necessary to drive should be out on the roads. All employees should contact their employer to see whether or not they should report to work.

SNOW EMERGENCY LEVEL THREE:

Ice, blowing and drifting snow has created extremely hazardous road conditions. Low visibility, extremely low temperatures, and worsening road conditions may have caused the closing of all or certain county roads to all but emergency and essential persons. No one should be on roadways unless absolutely necessary. Employees should contact their employer to see if they should report to work. Those traveling on the roads may subject themselves to arrest.

Have You Checked Your Car's Safety Kit Lately?

The Hamilton County Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency suggests having these items on hand for emergencies:

- Rock salt or other environmentally safe products to melt ice on walkways. The Environmental Protection Agency offers a list of recommended products.
- Sand to improve traction
- Booster cables and windshield brush/scraper
- Extra socks, mittens, gloves and hats
- High-calorie non-perishable foods and water
- Cell phone adapter/charger
- Snow shovels and other snow removal equipment
- Adequate clothing and blankets
- Flashlights and batteries



Follow Township Guidance During Snow Events

Anderson Township may issue a snow emergency under extreme conditions, but this would restrict parking only on township-maintained roadways.

Whenever snowfall is forecasted, the township requests motorists not park on the street, if possible. This helps expedite efforts to treat roadways and ensures the safety of Public Works drivers.

To help township crews clear the streets, please avoid plowing, shoveling or blowing snow into roadways. These situations can impair driver safety and hamper township, county and state plow drivers as they clean the roads. This also creates liability for the property owners as this situation can cause a dangerous scenario for those traveling.

A state website offers weather-related road closures and restrictions. Visit the Ohio Department of Transportation's traffic website at ohgo.com.



Be Ready To Take Care of Yourself During a Disaster

In a disaster, it is best to be prepared to take care of yourself and your family for at least three days. Assembling supplies in an emergency preparedness kit will help! Consider keeping a kit at home, at work, and even in your vehicle, so that you are prepared wherever you are.

What Do You Need in an Emergency Preparedness Kit?

- Non-perishable food items
- Water-at least one gallon per person per day
- Manual can opener
- First aid supplies
- Copies of important documents (birth certificates, licenses and insurance policies.) Be sure also to include recent photos of family members, pets and household items of value. Consider keeping a copy of these documents on a password-protected USB drive.
- Any special items for family members, such as infant formula, eyeglasses and medications
- Change of clothing
- Sleeping bag or blanket
- Battery powered radio
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Whistle
- Waterproof matches
- Comfort items (toys, books, puzzles and games)
- Extra house keys and car keys
- List of contact names and phone numbers
- Food, water, fuel and dry wood, and supplies for pets

Find details at hamiltoncountyohioema.org.

Tips for Heating During Winter

Firefighters with Anderson Township Fire and Rescue offer some winter safety advice to help prevent fires and other fire-related dangers



Keep anything that can burn at least three feet from all heat sources including fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators, portable heaters or candles.



When disposing of fire ashes, place them in a metal container and cover them tightly. Do not place it in a plastic trash can.



Do not burn charcoal indoors. Charcoal gives off lethal amounts of carbon monoxide.



Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate a fire.



Keep space heaters at least three feet from bedding, drapes, furniture or other flammable materials.



Make sure the fireplace fire is out completely before going to sleep.



Place the space heater on a level, hard, nonflammable surface; do not place on rugs or carpets or on top of tables or counter tops.



Turn the space heater off when you leave the area. Do not leave a space heater on while sleeping.

TOWNSHIP NEWS

Use and Store Lithium Batteries Correctly

Lithium-ion batteries cannot be combined into the recycling stream; must be recycled at special stations

Lithium-ion batteries help your life run more efficiently, powering tech products such as smartphones, laptops, tablets, cameras and more. However, if mistreated or damaged, their volatility can lead to big problems.

Anderson Fire Chief Rick Martin offers a few words of caution when dealing with lithium batteries as he observes an increasing number of fires associated with the products. “Lithium-ion batteries are inherently safe, but accidents, improper use or improperly assembled batteries are subject to a rare situation called ‘thermal runaway,’” he said.

“Thermal runaway is caused by the battery overheating, physical damage to the battery, or an electrical fault within the battery. When this occurs, there can be an intense release of energy in the form of heat and flammable/toxic gases, potentially resulting in a sudden, intense fire event.”

Rumpke urges residents not to throw lithium batteries in the trash or in recycling bins due to their volatility.

Martin noted that a local lithium battery fire occurred when a battery charger in a basement caught fire. “A smoke alarm detected the fire. However, as it was in a remote location, a fire like this can get a substantial start before it is detected,” he said. “This is similar to lithium-ion fires in a garage (where a lot of lithium-ion batteries are both charged or stored) and a location where smoke detectors are relatively rare due to the environment. The fire that ensued was substantial.”

Hamilton County Resource’s Solid Waste Manager, Michelle Balz, noted that **Rumpke and the Cincinnati Recycling and Reuse Hub have partnered on a pilot project** to collect lithium-ion batteries at fire stations. The closest collection site is at the Cincinnati Fire Department Lunken Station 18, 478 Wilmer Ave. in Cincinnati. Some businesses will take them for a small service fee.

An up-to-date recycling and reuse search engine also details locations where residents can recycle lithium-ion batteries. Visit hamiltoncounty3source.org for details.



Suggestions for safe use include:

- Be sure to use the cord/power adapter and charger made specifically for that device; do not interchange batteries/chargers.
- Follow the manufacturer’s instructions on charging, storing and keeping batteries out of direct sunlight.
- Make sure the system has the UL (Underwriter’s Laboratories) mark.
- When charging, make sure the charging unit is on a hard surface that is not likely to support combustion (e.g., counter top, tabletop, floor, metal shelving, etc.)
- If a battery starts to change shape, emit smoke, or if an odor or noises are detected from the battery, discontinue use, move the device to the outside to a hard surface away from any combustible items (if safe to do so), and call 911 immediately.
- Lithium-ion batteries are sensitive to physical damage; do not use them if a deformity is noticed.



Two Properties Recognized as ‘Beautiful Spaces’



The residential winner of the **2024 Beautification Award** is **1006 Burns Ave.** The award is given annually by Anderson Township to recognize a property’s visual appearance.



This year’s commercial winner of the Beautification Awards program is the **Family Motor Coach Association at 8291 Clough Pike.** The Anderson Township Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee selects the winners.

‘Stuff the Medic Unit’ Outreach Runs Through December 7



Want to help a child in need? The Anderson Township Fire and Rescue Department continues its holiday tradition of “stuffing” a medic unit full of toys and non-perishable foods to help Inter Parish Ministry in Newtown.

This year’s outreach continues through December 7. Stop by the Beechmont Fire Station, 7954 Beechmont Ave. (Station 6), and donate a new, unwrapped toy for the drive. A medic unit will be decorated and parked outside the station.

You can also drop off toys at any of the other locations: 6211 Salem Road (Station 10), 7036 Main Street in Newtown (Station 22) and 6880 Hunley Road (Station 101).

“Each year our firefighters look forward to the collection drive because it is another way we can interact and give back to the Anderson and Newtown communities,” said organizer Lt. Doug Eagan.

Trustee Vice Chair Josh Gerth urged residents to stop by one of the fire stations to donate, “so we can help those around us who are struggling to make ends meet in a difficult economic time.”

Board of Township Trustees BOARD MEMBERS WELCOME YOUR CALLS!



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TOWNSHIP NEWS

Volunteers Give Back Locally to Benefit Many Projects

Volunteers make Anderson Township an even better place to live! Township trustees appoint these committees for a specific purpose and have a one-year term. While committee nominations are closed for 2025, keep in mind these opportunities for next fall when nominations will be open for positions available in 2026.

Five committees operate on a one-year term:

- **Anderson Township Greenspace Advisory Committee**- The Greenspace Advisory Committee works to protect and acquire Greenspace throughout the community.
- **Anderson Plan Implementation Committee** -This year, this new committee has assessed the 50 initiatives of the adopted Comprehensive Plan Update. Four project initiatives have been identified: recycling, mobility, walkway and green corridor connections, and workforce development.
- **Anderson Township Senior Center Advisory Committee**- This committee ensures the senior center continues to foster a creative and intellectually stimulating environment that enhances the lives of Anderson seniors.
- **Anderson Tree Committee**-The Tree Committee promotes and manages healthy, safe and appropriate trees along township streets and on public grounds or roadways, and makes recommendations for Anderson Township's tree planting program.
- **Greater Anderson Township Betterment Committee**- This non-profit committee facilitates behind-the-scenes activity to support community-wide improvements and projects.



Two committees operate on a five-year term, with one-year alternates:

- **Zoning Commission**-The Zoning Commission hears cases that involve modifying the Anderson Township Zoning Map or the Anderson Township Zoning Resolution.
- **Board of Zoning Appeals**-This committee reviews appeals to the township's Zoning Resolution and other development-related applications.

More information on existing committees can be found at AndersonTownshipOH.gov/government/committees.

Thank you to the following township residents who have participated in giving back locally through township committee participation this year:

Greenspace Advisory Commission	Implementation Committee	Phillip Kiley	Senior Center Advisory Committee	Ron Trenkamp
Paul Braasch	Viki Beck	Jay Lewis	Julie Bissinger	Rick Voss
Ronald Edgerton	Amy Broghamer	Elizabeth Maier	Sherry Burnside	Joe Williging
Brian Johnson	Katie Buchmann	Ann Miller	Sarah Celenza	Board of Zoning Appeals
Russ Romme	Matt Chaffin	Dan O'Rourke	Marcia Cole	John Halpin
Rick Voss	Kevin Comerford	Zach Peterson	Abbe Lackmeyer	Greg Heimkreiter
Greater Anderson Township Betterment Committee	Michael Doenges	Jeff Rosa	Steven Long	Scott Lawrence
Amy Broghamer	Duane Donohoo	Karen Schwamberger	Mary Nicholson	Jeff Nye
Christy Cauley	Stephen Feagins	Paul Sheckels	Susan Ward	Paul Sheckels
Ronald Edgerton	Peg Fenner	Paul Sian	George Zabrecky	Paul Sian
Katie McCabe	Brian Gay	Cynthia Sieber	Zoning Commission	Janet Baker
Dee Stone	Andrea Granieri	Karl Sieber	Bruce Berno	Michael Doenges
	Lindsey Griffiths	Susan Wheatley	John Halpin	Brian Eliff
	John Halpin	Jim Willis	Carol King	Jonathan Gothard
	Joe Hice		Timothy Kloppenberg	Ben Henson
	Nicole Hunter		Chris Pfetzer	Jay Lewis
			Jim Rombke	Anne McBride

Holiday Recycling Made Simple

As the volume of waste increases by up to 25% during the holidays, reduce trash going into landfills by recycling wrapping paper, cardboard, packaging materials and more.



Christmas trees and holiday greenery can be dropped off for free at Bzak Landscaping, 3295 Turpin Lane.. Visit: Bzak.com.

Used Christmas lights can be recycled at Woodland Mound Park or any Lowe's or Home Depot store.



The Anderson Township 24/7 recycling center at 7954 Beechmont Ave., next to the sheriff's District 5 office, provides additional recycling containers during the holiday season to accommodate extra materials.

An up-to-date recycling and reuse search engine also details locations where residents can recycle lithium-ion batteries. For more information, visit hamiltoncounty3source.org.

Some holiday party recyclables to consider:



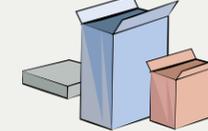
Plastic bottles, jugs, tubs and cups



Metal cans (aluminum, steel, tin)



Glass bottles and jars (any color)



Dry food paper boxes



Pizza boxes



Broth, juice and milk cartons



Paper grocery bags

Donate Locally and Enjoy the Benefits in Your Community

Support local programs and projects with donations to Anderson Township non-profits. Consider these organizations for your annual tax-deductible giving and enjoy the benefits around you.



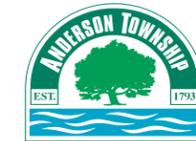
The **Forest Hills Foundation for Education's** raises funds to cultivate resources and create opportunities to prepare all Forest Hill School District students to be successful. The foundation continues focusing on student wellness, innovation, and experiential opportunities in 2024 and 2025. Follow the foundation on Facebook: foresthillsfoundation or at fhfe.org.

The mission of the **Anderson Township Historical Society and Urban Farm** is to preserve the area's history, encourage youth to embrace history, bring the past to life and provide Anderson Township with experiences and places to gather, learn and grow. Ongoing projects include maintaining and renovating eight buildings and 10 acres of land. Donations: Contact Dani Speigel at 513.405.8089 or AndersonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org.



The Anderson Township Betterment Commission

promotes efforts to enhance the quality of life for Anderson Township residents, business owners and institutions by providing support to community organizations, events and other activities. Investments include the Anderson Township Senior Center, Anderson Township Veterans Memorial, Anderson Independence Day Parade and Anderson Township safety services. Info: Steve Sievers at 513.688.8604 or ssievers@AndersonTownshipOH.gov.



The **Anderson Foundation for Parks and Recreation**, a dedicated 501(c)(3) organization, is committed to fundraising for the Anderson Park District. Alongside them, **The Friends of Anderson Parks**, a community-focused group, is driving support of Anderson Parks and Recreation through philanthropy, volunteer engagement and advocacy. The groups focus on transformative park projects,

including dugout shades at Beech Acres and Veterans parks, playground improvements at Veterans Park, and the Red Barn Shelter at Juilfs Park. Info: foundationforparks.org/friends-of-anderson-parks.



The Anderson Area Chamber Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that funds business scholarships given to Anderson, Turpin and McNicholas high schools. The foundation also supports educational and leadership initiatives focused on deepening connections within the Anderson area while developing leadership and professional skills. Contact the chamber at 513.474.4802 or info@andersonareachamber.org.

Trustee Chair Dee Stone encourages township residents to support local organizations with influence. "There are so many quality organizations taking the lead in Anderson Township," she said. "Your support for these groups strengthens the community as a whole."

Support the Local Tree Canopy by Planting in Your Yard



Anderson Township Greenspace

More than 100 years ago, Ohio's land was almost totally covered with trees, with 95% of its land forested. By the 20th century, however, the tree cover was down to 10%.

Today, 30% of the state is covered by trees. With the need for infrastructure, farms, and cities, there is little chance Ohio could

return to 95%, but could Ohio increase its tree canopy to 35% or 40%?

Yes. If every homeowner planted one tree (or a bush if there is no room for a tree), Ohio's green canopy would significantly improve.

Yard Waste Recycling Site Open in Winter

If your fall outdoor cleanup chores are unfinished, your yard waste can still be recycled during the colder months.

Anderson Township's yard waste recycling site is located at Bzak Landscaping. Starting December 5, the service, operated through Hamilton County Environmental Services, is available weekdays only from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Drop your tree limbs (4 feet long or less), yard waste, leaves and more for free at 3295 Turpin Lane. Certain restrictions apply. Call 513.271.0900 or visit bzak.com/yard-waste-programs for more detailed information.



How do you choose what tree to plant?

Whatever choice you make will impact the tree canopy and the animals in your environment.

Consider what kind of animal you would like to draw to your yard. Some animals are generalists in what they eat. For the generalists, choose a tree that supports many species. The native North American species of the oak, willow, cherry, plum and birch each support more than 400 animals and insects. Perhaps if you plant one of these, more birds will come as your tree grows.

Some animals are specialists in what they eat and where they lay their eggs. One specialist is the zebra swallowtail butterfly. The zebra lays eggs only on pawpaws. Other species of swallowtails look for tulip trees, black cherry and sassafras. If you want to promote a specific bird or butterfly, find out what plants they like and plant one! Better yet, have your children or grandchildren choose a bird or butterfly to support and research together.

By planting and caring for one more tree or shrub in your yard, you can help support the tree canopy in Ohio, along with birds and butterflies. *Happy planting!*

Submitted by the Anderson Township Tree Committee.

Township's Electricity Program Does Not Solicit Door-to-Door

Anderson Township's electricity aggregation program, operating since 2014, does not solicit new business via door-to-door salespeople. Some residents have received door-to-door solicitations by individuals claiming they were working with Anderson Township or Duke Energy. To clarify, neither Anderson Township nor its broker, Energy Alliances, conducts electric aggregation business door-to-door.

Energy Alliances handles the township's electric aggregation program. For further information, contact Energy Alliances at 513.794.5555 or energyalliances.com.

New Businesses Call Anderson Home

Now Open

The Ohio Barbecue Store
7691 Beechmont Ave.

By Golly's
8112 Beechmont Ave.

Euphoria Smoke Shop
8460 Beechmont Ave.

Cincinnati Color Company
7755 Five Mile Road

Wingstop
8140 Beechmont Ave.



The Ohio Barbecue Store



Wingstop

Coming Soon

Family Jiu Jitsu
8315 Beechmont Ave.

Anytime Fitness
7721 Beechmont Ave.

Contrast Studios
7426 Beechmont Ave.

VetCheck
8240 Beechmont Ave.

The Economic Veterinary Initiative
5214 Beechmont Ave.

Wayfair Outlet (Inside Staples)
8666 Beechmont Ave.

Beware of the Invasive Bamboo Plant



Controlling bamboo's growth can be overwhelming. Eradicating an existing grove can take years of effort. The best control is not to plant it in the first place.

Unfortunately, more and more bamboo is springing up around Anderson. As a result, the township has received more inquiries about conflicts between neighbors when bamboo from one yard invades a neighbor's yard. "It has even been found invading a few of our Greenspace properties," notes Greenspace Inspector Suzanne Clingman.

There are hundreds of species of bamboo, most from other countries and very few native to the United States. Bamboo is generally divided into running and clumping types depending on the structure of their runners, which are called rhizomes.

The bamboo plants identified around the township are mostly running type species, which are extremely invasive, Clingman said. "Their runners will quickly grow into neighboring yards or natural areas. If left uncontrolled, bamboo will eventually form groves so dense that nothing else can grow."

One species found in the township, Yellow Groove Bamboo (*Phyllostachys aureosulcata*), which is native to China, is listed as a noxious weed by the Ohio Department of Agriculture if it is allowed to grow onto a neighboring property, Clingman said. Bamboo is technically a grass, "but in the case of this species, it creates a lawn of horrors, growing 25 feet tall with stalks 3 inches in diameter, and its runners can grow up to 3 feet in a day if there is no other plant competition. It can be a nightmare to eradicate once it is established," she said.

Clumping-type bamboo spreads more slowly, but these can also be very aggressive if not maintained.

"When seeking privacy, you and your neighbors will both be better off with plants other than bamboo," Clingman noted. Look for alternatives like the ones listed below. Plants from either list would be good choices to create beautiful easily controlled privacy borders, she added.

Local native plants:
Elderberry
Downy Arrowwood
Hazelnut
Bladdernut

Other good plant choices:
Arborvitae
Laurel
Highbush Cranberry
Yew
Boxwood

Free Meeting Rooms Available to Non-profits



To support the work of local non-profit organizations, Anderson Center Events offers professional meeting spaces that non-profits can reserve at no charge.

“Township trustees recognize that offering meeting space at no cost is one way the township can give back to those who volunteer their time for the good of our community,” noted Township Administrator Vicky Earhart.

Non-profit groups are invited to host up to 12 free meetings each year at Anderson Center, 7850 Five Mile Road, in one of two private rooms: the Large Conference Room or the Lower-Level Meeting Room.

Both rooms are fully furnished and can be equipped with projectors and laptops upon request. “They are the perfect spaces for hosting board meetings, staff training or other small events of 35 people or fewer,” noted Events Coordinator Jennifer Sanders.

“Anderson residents will utilize this community building, and we are grateful that many organizations continue to use it regularly for their work,” noted Trustee Lexi Lausten.

Reservations for 2025 are already underway, so if your non-profit group is interested in taking advantage of this opportunity, contact Anderson Center Events.

For more information on reserving a meeting space with Anderson Township, contact Sanders at 513.688.8444 or jsanders@AndersonTownshipOh.gov. Additional images and details for all the event spaces available through Anderson Township can be found online at andersoncenterevents.org.

CONNECT

Enjoy Annual Anderson Holiday Festival on December 7

Anderson’s Holiday Festival returns to Anderson Towne Center on Saturday, Dec. 7, with plenty of cheer to ring in the season.

The streetscape of Anderson Towne Center is transformed into a sparkling walkway when Santa visits, combined with local entertainment and activities for children.

This annual family-friendly event begins at 4 p.m. Santa arrives on a township fire engine at 4:15 p.m. and is scheduled for personal “consultations” until 5:45 p.m. Children’s activities, including crafts, games, and a holiday passport, line the walkway. Tractor rides around the center also are available.



Anderson Holiday Festival

The sounds of the season will fill the air with outdoor entertainment from local organizations performing on multiple stages. The evening concludes with the lighting of the tree at 6 p.m. Anderson Towne Center businesses provide

refreshments or participants can patronize local restaurants in the area.

The Anderson Towne Center is at 7500 Beechmont Ave. Check for further details at AndersonTownshipOH.gov.

AROUND ANDERSON



Emergency Services Day



Senior Health and Wellness Expo



Newtown Winterfest Adds 5K Run

Newtown’s annual Winterfest, set for Saturday, Dec. 14, kicks off this year at 2 p.m. with a new 5K race. The day of festivities includes a 4 p.m. Winterfest Parade, with Santa and Mrs. Claus,

plus food trucks, craft vendors and carriage rides.

Fireworks light up the winter sky at 7:30 p.m. For details, go to newtownwinterfest.org.



Newtown Winterfest

EVENTS

DECEMBER

Anderson Holiday Festival
Anderson Towne Center
7500 Beechmont Ave.
Saturday, Dec. 7, 4-6:30 p.m.

**Le Jeune Company-
The Nutcracker**
Anderson Center Theater
7850 Five Mile Road
Thursday and Friday, Dec. 19-20, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 21, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 22, 2 p.m.
Tickets: lejeunedance.com/tickets

JANUARY

The Ultimate Elvis Show
Anderson Center Theater
7850 Five Mile Road
Friday, Jan. 3, 7-9 p.m.
Tickets: eventbrite.com

FEBRUARY

Beechmont Players- Eleemosynary
Anderson Center Theater
7850 Five Mile Road
Friday-Saturday, Feb. 7-8., 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 9, 4 p.m.
Thursday-Friday, Feb. 13-14, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 15, 2 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 22, 2 p.m.
Tickets and info: Beechmontplayers.org

**Le Jeune Company-
La Bayadère Ballet Suite & New Works**
Anderson Center Theater
7850 Five Mile Road
Saturday, Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 23, 2 p.m.
Tickets: lejeunedance.com/tickets

MARCH

Anderson Community Band
Anderson Center Theater
7850 Five Mile Road
Sunday, March 23, 3 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 23, 2 p.m.
Free. Ticket info: 513.207.8506



Anderson Insights

The Newsletter of Anderson Township
Anderson Center
7850 Five Mile Road
Anderson Township, OH 45230

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ANDERSON TOWNSHIP MISSION STATEMENT

To provide services which protect
and enhance the quality of life
in our community.

Government Services at Anderson Center

7850 Five Mile Road
Anderson Township
Ohio 45230
513.688.8400

info@AndersonTownship.org

Administration

Anderson Township
Senior Center

Finance

Fire and Rescue

Hamilton County
Sheriff's Office

Planning and Zoning

Public Works

Fiscal Office

Anderson Insights represents
a continuing effort to improve
communication between you
and your township officials.

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AndersonTownshipOH.gov

Facebook:
Anderson Township, Ohio

Speed Signs Help Calm Traffic



Have you ever found yourself driving a little too fast? For more than 15 years, Anderson Township's portable speed study trailers and pole-mounted speed signs have helped serve as visible reminders to keep local drivers' speed under control.

The Hamilton County Sheriff's Office utilizes three speed-study trailers to raise awareness of drivers' speeds and collects data in areas noted as "speed-prone." Six other pole-mounted speed signs are also rotated periodically to remind drivers to slow down if their speed exceeds the limit.

Deputy Brian Hayes said residents often call with complaints about streets where they perceive speeding is occurring. When that happens, his department will deploy the speed study trailer, which is a visible reminder to motorists. The units also collect data about speeding and provide data on other traffic factors.

"The speed trailer captures the data, but sometimes we find out speeding is not a real concern along a road," he said. Information from the speed trailers can be broken down into time of day, speed and time, which

could help deputies target an area with excessive travel speeds at certain times of the day. The signs also detect the percentage of vehicles that slow down.

After confirming a problem, Hayes said the pole-mounted speed signs are rotated to areas where they are very effective at slowing down motorists. The whole process gives the sheriff's office up-to-date information. In most cases, the signs calm traffic.

One advantage of the signs is that they provide drivers with real-time feedback so they can compare their speed with the posted speed limit and adjust immediately.

"People speed," said Trustee Lexi Lausten. "It's probably one of the biggest complaints we get out here, and that's not unique to Anderson. But the township is working to do what it can through this program, which reminds residents to keep their eye on the speed limit."

Speed or traffic issues can be directed to the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office District 5 substation at 513.474.5770. Neighborhoods can request a portable sign to help traffic calming efforts.