

Opening Soon: Vantage at Anderson Towne Center Set to Be Key Part of Anderson's Future

The Vantage at Anderson Towne Center apartment community opens its doors this month, welcoming residents to Anderson's newest luxury housing development.

With 224 one- and two-bedroom apartments being prepared and an impressive list of amenities opening soon after, the apartment community will help redefine the core of Anderson Township.

Township residents and businesses have watched a hole being dug, then a building rise, over the last three and a half years. However, they might not remember the five years planning and preliminary work that preceded construction. These plans and exploration factored in the decision to change the future of a prime but underutilized township property.

Township Searched for Developer

Trustee Vice Chair Josh Gerth notes that the project to bring in HILLS Properties for this signature development included nearly a decade of hard work, negotiations, and creative problem solving involving a myriad of public and private entities. "Daily usage of the five-acre Anderson Center Station Park & Ride was dwindling and not the optimal use of a prime piece of township property in the community's heart," Gerth said, "especially with the investment interest we were seeing in the immediate area."

The township's Comprehensive Plan advocated for creating new housing options for current and future Anderson residents at Anderson Towne Center and surrounding area. Redevelopment of this property with a well-respected local developer just made sense, he said.



Rendering of Vantage at Anderson Towne Center

Public-private partnership development at the core of community helps to meet local housing and parking needs

"The development also will generate millions of dollars in new tax revenue and further transform the Anderson Towne Center area," he added.

New Life in Heart of Township

Michael Copfer, vice president of land acquisition for HILLS Properties, was a key person involved in planning and development of Vantage. He notes, "Vantage at Anderson Towne Center is really about completing the puzzle. We view Anderson Towne Center as the heart of Anderson Township, the hub of activity with great commercial and public spaces,"

he said. "By building Vantage, we are adding residents to make sure that this heart continues to beat strong."

Copfer said when the township started looking for ideas for the former Anderson METRO station, HILLS saw the opportunity to bring a "first-class trophy property" to the area.

HILLS partnered with KZF Design, the architect behind some Anderson Towne Center and nearby streetscaping and transportation enhancements, because they believed the development "needed to feel like a natural extension of what was already here. The design was intentional; we want it to blend seamlessly with the neighboring buildings, even down to the pool and amenity spaces," he noted.

"What set us apart (from other developers) was our commitment to keeping the

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TOWNSHIP NEWS



Interior renderings of Vantage at Anderson Towne Center



Vantage (Continued from page 1)

METRO park-and-ride while adding something that benefits the entire community-224 new luxury apartment homes. Not only do we retain the much-needed public parking, but we also add a taxable use to the property in addition to bringing residents with disposable income who will support the local businesses,” Copfer said. “We’re excited to see Vantage at Anderson Towne Center come to life and become a key part of Anderson Township’s future.” Steve Sievers, assistant township administrator for operations, sees the new property addressing the “rental by choice” demographic of empty-nesters being met while retaining Anderson residents who, for decades, had to move from the community as such housing options did not exist. “The development also will attract a younger population, perhaps not ready to purchase a home, to

Anderson, but this strengthens the rental feeder network of future home buyers,” he said.

Facility Helps with Parking

While the METRO facility will serve a public function, Anderson Township will use the lower level for overflow parking for Anderson Center. Sievers said this situation has the advantage in that the developer has constructed, at no cost to the township, a brand new sheltered parking area, part of which they will maintain. In contrast, the former 20-year-old park-and-ride facility was maintained by the township.

Gerth is optimistic that Vantage will be a significant part of defining the Anderson Township of the future. “Vantage is a shining example of collaboration and forward-thinking economic development which will keep communities like Anderson relevant and vibrant without burdening our taxpayers,” he said.

Anderson Initiates Push for Increased Curbside Recycling

Did you know Anderson Township has one of the area’s highest rates of curbside recyclers? According to statistics from Rumpke Waste and Recycling, a little more than 80% of Anderson homes have opted into curbside service, representing the highest curbside opt-in recycling rate for a township in southwest Ohio.

Anderson Township hopes to take its success one step further by reminding existing Rumpke residential customers with curbside service to join the recycling program, which is included in Rumpke’s monthly rate. Anderson is seeing a decrease overall in recycling in recent years and would like to push higher participation. Potential recyclers will be targeted through direct mailings sponsored by Rumpke and Anderson Township.

Anderson has history in targeting recycling. In 2017, Anderson Township worked with Rumpke to launch a program that increased its curbside residential recycling rate from about under 60% to more than 80% of households,” said Assistant Township Administrator for Operations Steve Sievers. At that time, residents paid a small extra fee to include recycling with their services.

Dean Ferrier, Rumpke’s municipal/public sector accounts manager, noted that

Anderson households now “do not have to participate in recycling, but it is included with your service at no additional charge.” Charges for Rumpke trash service and a recycling container cannot be separated.

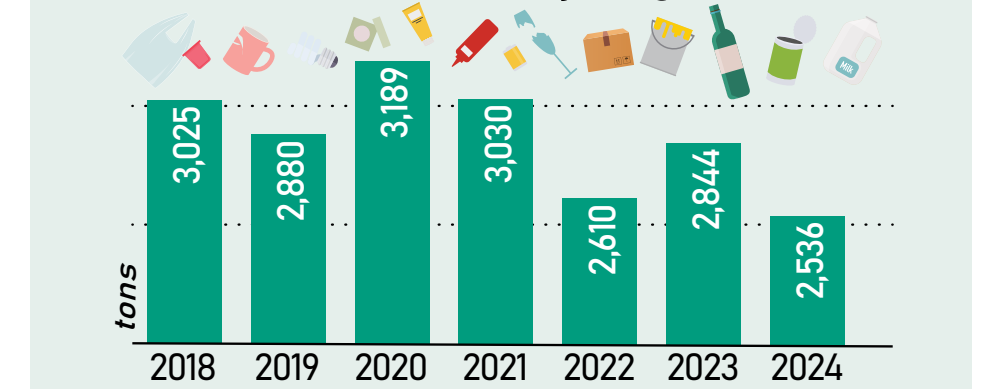
According to Rumpke, about 12,300 of their 13,700 Anderson customers have a recycling container.

Increasing residential recycling was an initiative in the township’s 2022 Comprehensive Plan. “It is a current target area for the Anderson Township Implementation Committee,” noted Trustee Dee Stone. “And we’d like to see all of our residents that use Rumpke recycle.”

Anderson Township Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee member Lindsay Griffis said they determined one way to help advance recycling was to remind Rumpke residential customers they already can recycle at their curb. “These Rumpke customers are already paying for this service,” she said. “We appreciate Rumpke working with us to target messages to these households.”

Other activities geared toward those living in condominium or apartment communities that may not have on-site recycling are in the planning stages.

Residential curbside recycling 2018-2024



One-Year Renewal Approved for Anderson Township's Electricity Aggregation Program

Anderson Township’s voter-approved electricity aggregation program, which provides a competitive group price for residents, will be renewed for one year. Anderson Township Trustees recently approved the renewal, which will start in June 2025. Since the program last renewed in June 2023, the average residential and small business account has saved almost \$300 compared with standard Duke rates.

Residents will see a new rate of \$0.0986/kWh and \$0.1015/kWh for 100 percent renewable energy. Rich Surace, chief operating officer of Anderson’s electricity broker, Energy Alliances, said energy markets currently are volatile because of supply and demand issues. “Data centers



and other big energy users are increasing the strain on the power grid, requiring more power generation,” Surace said.

“Cold winters have reduced natural gas storage to its lowest levels since 2022. This affects power prices because natural gas power plants are a major part of the country’s energy production,” he added.

More than 11,000 households are enrolled in the program, which began in 2017 after voters’ approval in 2016. Property owners may always opt out of the township’s plan without penalty by contacting Dynegy (888.682.2170) or the township’s broker, Energy Alliances (513.794.5555). The township does not receive revenue from the program.

A free website, energychoiceohio.gov, allows individual homeowners to compare prices on energy suppliers or options before deciding whether to participate in Anderson Township’s aggregation program.

Memories Made as Center of Community Changed

Mall Memories

Do you remember any of these stores? Woolworths, Mabley & Carew, Potter Shoe Store, and Hot Shoppe are some older shops that long-time township residents will remember at the Beechmont Mall.

Newer residents of Anderson may not even know there ever was a mall on the land that is today's Anderson Towne Center. It was just an empty field north of Beechmont Avenue from west of Wolfangel Road to Five Mile Road for many years. Before that, it was farmland, as was much of Anderson Township before the construction of I-275 and even Five Mile Road in the early 1970s.

In 1969, all that changed. The township was transformed with the building of Beechmont Mall, the first mall in this part of Greater Cincinnati and touted by its developer as "the finest in this part of the state in scope and facilities."

A New Challenge

Like many suburban communities, Anderson Township had no central downtown area. So, in the early 1970s, Beechmont Mall became the "hub" of Anderson. However, because of growth and available land to the east, retail offerings shifted to the Eastgate area. This and the lack of continuation of Five Mile



Beechmont Mall entrance in 1989



Car wash fundraiser



1969 Holiday flyer



1977 clearance sale flyer

"As a child, the culmination of a shopping trip with my mom was a dessert at the Woolworth coffee shop."

Jenny Rapien Kaepfner, 2007 Forest Hills Journal

Road to the northern part of Greater Cincinnati diminished Beechmont Mall's vitality over time.

Over the next few years, township trustees attempted, with little success, to encourage property redevelopment with various owners and investors. In 2002, the mall was sold to Victory Investments. A survey of residents that same year noted that the absence of a focal point in the township was a significant concern.

The Vision

Anderson Township and Victory Investments immediately began to discuss possible incentives for developing the mall property. Construction of a new shopping center to replace the mall began in 2003-2004. In 2005, the Anderson Towne Center was open for business. Highlights of this development (which maintained Macy's and Kmart) included the world's largest Kroger (at the time), a streetscape area, a new office complex on the former Thriftway site, and six out-parcels for future use along Beechmont or Five Mile.

As the town center was taking shape, the focus was on acquiring property to the



Anderson Days aerial view at Beechmont Mall

north of today's Towne Center Way. The site was being eyed as a potential site for a civic/government center and a mixture of other uses, including offices and restaurants. This vision was consistent with the township's original "Superblock" plan for township's center, dating back to 1990.

Anderson's 2003 acquisition of this property was key to facilitating the redevelopment of the former Beechmont Mall, including required stormwater detention (Anderson Lake). Further, it helped establish the "center" of the community. Anderson Township's investment in public infrastructure along Five Mile Road, construction of the Anderson Center Station Park & Ride and Anderson Center, led to additional private investment in medical and professional offices.

Major Five Mile Road corridor enhancements reinforced Anderson's "front door" from I-275. Soon thereafter followed the Anderson Center Station Park & Ride in 2005, Anderson Center in 2008, and the southern extension of the Five Mile Trail connecting to the Anderson Towne Center in 2009.



Anderson Center Station Park & Ride

"In its 'glory years' I can safely say that the mall was a regular destination for everyone in my family...as I got older, we headed to the mall often to fill in time between when school ended and when the bus left to take us to whatever game we were playing that evening."

Cindy Williams, 2007 Forest Hills Journal

Drive down Five Mile Road today, and you will see the latest addition to Downtown Anderson, an exciting contemporary development named Vantage at Anderson Towne Center. It will encompass 224 luxury apartments with a lower-level METRO facility, when completed in the coming months. Its addition puts a former tax-exempt property back into a tax-generating role, not to mention adding an upscale housing opportunity in the heart of the township.

Text by Tom Brown. Photos courtesy of Anderson Township.

TOWNSHIP NEWS

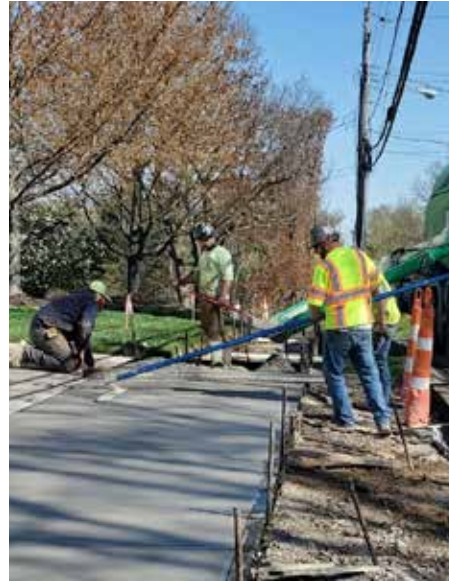
Clough-Wolfangel Sidewalk Link Planned for Spring

One new sidewalk link on the horizon for Anderson Township this spring is a path connecting Wolfangel Road and Clough Pike. A sidewalk from Beechmont Avenue to State Road was built in 2016 and the new expansion ties into that sidewalk.

The path is planned from the Delas Cove subdivision to the new Cross Creek subdivision, with a spur along Clough Pike to Clough Chase.

The new link also ties into proposed walking trails at Cross Creek and connects to the private drive next to Mercy Health-Anderson Hospital, thus connecting pedestrians to State Road, with access to the Anderson Trails network including the Five Mile Trail.

Planning and Zoning Director Paul Drury said a portion of this link was part of a zoning condition with Mercy Health's



parking expansion, the Cross Creek rezoning, and an alternate sidewalk agreement with Clough Chase.

More than 150 households, including existing and unbuilt homes, will benefit directly from the addition. The cost is estimated at \$505,000, derived from Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds. Clough Chase is contributing \$10,000 as part of an agreement not to construct a sidewalk on Clough west of Clough Chase.

The Anderson Trails program, now in its 26th year, is one of Anderson's most popular and innovative efforts. It provides residents with a network of paths and sidewalks crossing the township. In recent years, the program has also emphasized other safety features, such as marked intersections and crosswalk signals, and focused on providing safe passages around schools.

Go to AndersonTownshipOH.gov and search for "Anderson Trails 2023 Update" to learn more.

New Map Display Added to Heritage Center Arboretum

Anderson's historic Heritage Center Arboretum, at the corner of Forest and Eight Mile roads, is familiar to most Anderson residents as an inviting rental venue for weddings or parties.

In 2019, the township began the process to establish an arboretum at the site, which was eventually granted ArbNet accreditation as a Level 1 arboretum in December 2020.

At that time, the arboretum had a collection of 48 woody plants. With the help of Anderson Tree Committee volunteers, the display has since grown into a complete collection of 81 woody plants.

A map displaying the woody plants and their locations has been created to add more educational value to the arboretum. This display recently was installed on the outside east wall of the Heritage Center's historic home. Tree committee volunteer Joe Willging produced the map, and Wallace Dezign created the new display.



This new map display and the existing individual plant identification signs offer visitors an enjoyable self-guided educational opportunity. Each plant in the ArbNet collection has an identifying sign with a QR code that allows them to use their smartphone to access plant information.

"The dedication of the Tree Committee has been a critical component to the

success of the arboretum," said Trustee Chair Lexi Lausten. "Thanks to the efforts of these citizen volunteers, the arboretum not only offers a beautiful sanctuary of trees for the public and wildlife to enjoy, the signage and resources add an educational benefit as well." Search the collection by going to AndersonTownshipOH.gov under keyword "arboretum."

RENU Reports Increase in Meth Seizures

Hamilton County saw an increase in methamphetamine seizures last year, compared to 2023, according to annual statistics released by the Regional Enforcement Narcotics Unit (RENU). That unit operates within the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office.

According to Lt. Michael Tarr, investigation and intelligence division for the organized crime section, the biggest change from the previous year was an uptick in both seizures of mushrooms and methamphetamine.

Tarr noted, "Part of this sharp increase in mushrooms is due to the largest seizure to date by RENU agents in November of 2024. This resulted in an overall 377% increase in the seizure of mushrooms from 2023 to 2024."

"There was a 213% increase in methamphetamine seized by RENU agents from 2023 to 2024. RENU Agents seized a total of 96,229 grams of methamphetamine in 2024, the largest amount in the past five years," he said.

Cocaine, heroin, and hashish seizures increased in 2024 as well, Tarr noted. From 2023 to 2024, there was a 72% increase in the seizure of cocaine, a 1,699% increase in the seizure of heroin, and a 7,862% increase in the seizure of hashish.

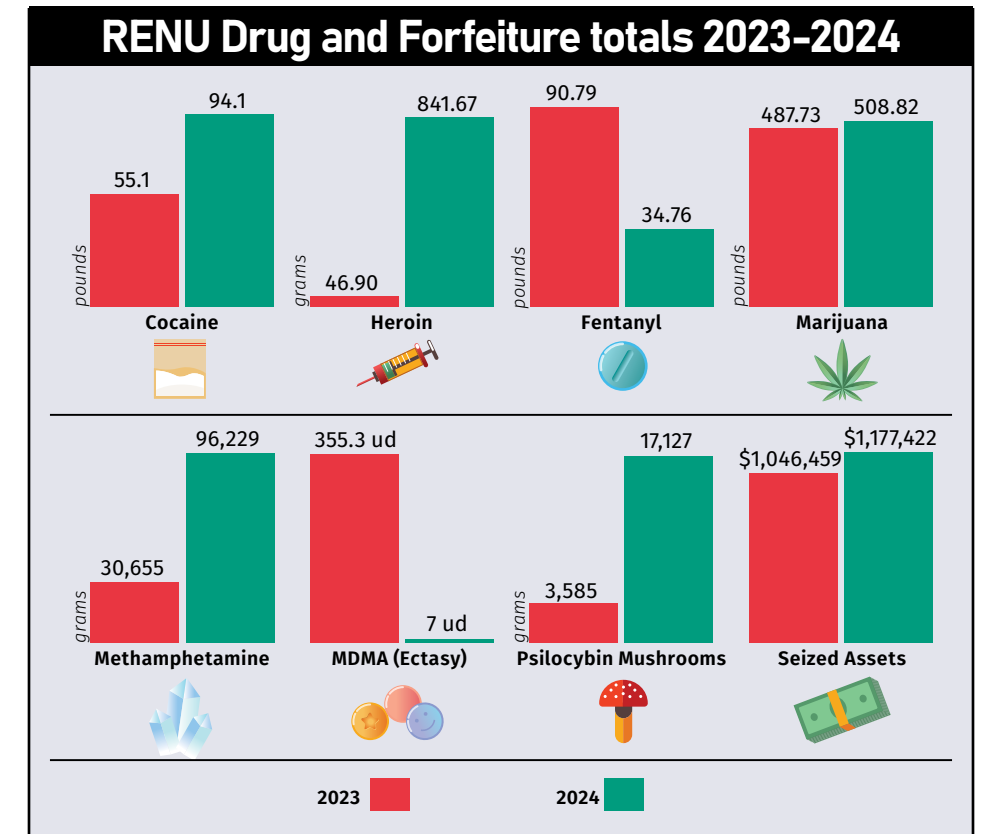
RENU agents seized a total of 42,673 grams of cocaine in 2024, the second-largest yearly seizure of cocaine in the past five years, he added.

Township funds specialized officer to investigate controlled substance trafficking in Hamilton County

For the past 12 years, Anderson Township has funded a dedicated officer on the RENU squad through Anderson's contract with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office. "Since then, the township has received

approximately \$360,000 of its investment through its share of forfeited drug trafficking-derived assets. The primary benefit is the reduction of illegal drugs and related activities in our community," said Vicky Earhart, township administrator.

Among their many responsibilities, RENU officers investigate criminal organizations and people who traffic controlled substances. They also assist local, state and federal law enforcement agencies when needed.



Want to Volunteer? Here Are Current Opportunities



If your 2025 resolutions include a commitment to "give back" by volunteering, consider a few of the ways you could join the Anderson Township volunteer community.

Anderson Township hosts an ongoing "Volunteer Corps" for individuals who want to help with township events. Options through the corps include assisting with the Anderson History and Garden Tour, the July 4th parade,

township cleanup events, the December Anderson Holiday Festival and other events and programs.

The opportunity is not only for residents; local businesses and their employees are also encouraged to volunteer to help with these longstanding activities.

Check out these options at AndersonTownshipOH.gov, keyword: volunteer, and contact the event's designated sponsor for more information.

TOWNSHIP NEWS

Two Trustees Serve Regional and Statewide Organizations

Two of Anderson Township’s trustees are not only leading in their own community but have taken on regional and statewide leadership commitments.

Anderson Township **Trustee Vice Chair Josh Gerth** is the elected president of the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI) Board of Directors for 2025.

The agency is a metropolitan planning organization that oversees the Cincinnati region’s federal transportation funds. The area covers eight counties in three states.

“Since joining the OKI Board a decade ago, I have been in awe of the collaborative approach of the over 100 OKI board members to improve the

quality of life and economic vitality of the region we call home,” said Gerth. “OKI is a national model for how a metropolitan planning organization can transform a region,” he noted.

Gerth also serves on the statewide Ohio Township Association Board of Directors.

Trustee Dee Stone continues her service on the Executive Committee of the Coalition of Large Ohio Urban Townships (CLOUT), an affiliate of the Ohio Township Association.

The group addresses problems, issues, and solutions facing large urban townships and advises the Ohio Township Association. Stone has served on the committee since 2022.



Anderson Township Trustees Josh Gerth and Dee Stone

Business Owners Queried Over State of Their Business’s Health

Are Anderson Township businesses thriving or struggling to stay afloat?

That is one of the questions Anderson Township and a township committee are asking business owners this spring.

The Anderson Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee and township staff are collaborating on a business survey to assess the community’s economic climate. The survey will be available online, as well as mailed to business owners, and responses will be accepted through April 28.

Topics include the quality of public services, workforce availability, employee retention, sales trends, perceived health of the business community, and the value of having an Anderson Township business location.

Survey respondents will be asked about the positives and negatives of doing business here, with suggestions for change.

Sarah Donovan, assistant director of the Planning and Zoning Department, said results could help guide future planning decisions and policies related to workforce development. “This is the fifth survey we



have distributed in the last 20 years,” she said. “The results are key to identifying and understanding trends, and help not only shape our planning recommendations, but how we can work directly with individual businesses to support their needs. We work to create appropriate infrastructure that supports our business community,” she noted. Those elements could include streetscaping, landscaping, the inclusion of sidewalks, lighting and more.

“Businesses in the township’s industrial, retail and office areas are urged to respond,” added Fiscal Officer Brian Johnson.

To learn more or participate in the survey, go to the “News” section at AndersonTownshipOH.gov.

New Anderson Center Station to Open This Summer

The “new version” of Anderson Center Station, now relocated at the Vantage of Anderson Towne Center development, is scheduled to open this summer.

The transit hub will offer 125 spaces on the lower level of the development, which will be used both for METRO bus riders and overflow parking for Anderson Center.

Features of the center include a climate-controlled waiting area, benches, restrooms and a water fountain. The park and ride center will be open during the hours that METRO runs, which are 5 a.m. to midnight.

The transit center will serve the four routes running in Anderson Township: 24, 30x, 75x and 81x. Bradley Mason, director of communications for METRO, noted, “We are thrilled to be part of the rebirth of Anderson Center Station and look forward to seeing the investment we have made to better serve the Anderson community.”

Tough Trees: Plant These Ornery Species for Urban Landscape Variety

Some trees defy landscaping wisdom. Some trees are survivors. They laugh at incorrect planting techniques, scoff at mulch volcanoes, mock bad pruning cuts, and smirk at poor maintenance practices. They ask for poor soil and they taunt droughts.

Sure, some of them are the usual suspects, but many are trees you probably don’t know. Here’s a guide to trees so ornery they’ll resist the worst hurled at them and be there to shade your children’s grandchildren!

Scott Beuerlein, an International Society of Arboriculture-certified arborist and member of the Anderson Tree Committee, notes that the right tree needs to be planted in the right location for success. Beuerlein has recently identified trees that can survive particularly awful urban and suburban sites with almost no care or maintenance.

Some trees are “ornery, like a junk yard dog,” he says, including Zelkova serrata and cultivars, Gingko, Bald Cypress and the Kentucky Coffeetree. These can survive the worst of the worst conditions, such as parking lot islands and city street tree sites.

Some trees can survive the worst of the worst conditions and do well.

Trees described as “Welterweight” can also be planted in low oxygen/low nutrient, compacted soils, although they might require slightly better conditions. “Mean Girl” trees are smaller, ornamental trees that have almost as much vim and vigor as the others. This group included Japanese Maples, a surprise entry.

For evergreens, the common roadside Eastern Red Cedar is a good choice

because it can withstand nearly impossible conditions. Although the species is not particularly interesting, several of its selections are worthy of inclusion in landscape settings. Lacebark Pine and Tanyosho Pine are more beautiful options, although they are slow growing.

Trees able to withstand a lot of neglect still require proper planting and must be watered through drought until they are established (usually a couple of years). A few cannot withstand long periods of flooded soil.

Being open to including non-invasive, exotic species in your palette gives more aesthetic options and lessens the worry of growing too many of the same species nearby.

Information provided by Scott Beuerlein and the Anderson Tree committee.

Tough Trees Can Thrive in Urban Locations

Ornery, Like a Junk Yard Dog

- Hackberry**
 - Windy City
 - Prairie Pride
- Hardy Rubber
- Ginkgo biloba
- Kentucky Coffeetree (males)**
- White Shield
- Osage Orange
- London Planetree
 - Exclamation
 - Suttneri
- Bald Cypress**

Tough Like a Wirey, Old Welterweight

- Trident Maple
- Gingerbread and Girards
- State Street
- Hot Wings
- Yellow Buckeye (species and cultivars)
- Sweetgum**
- Swamp White Oak and hybrids
- Japanese maples
- Don Egolf
- Chinese Fringetree
- Cornelian Cherry

Mean Girls (Beautiful but Brutal)

- Cornus x Venus
- Persian Ironwood**
- Ivory Silk
- Great Wall

Evergreen and Vicious

- Incense Cedar
- Rigid Juniper
- Eastern Red Cedar
 - Several Cultivars
- Southern Magnolia (Hardy cultivars)
- Tanyoshi Pine
- Lacebark Pine



Hackberry



Bald Cypress



Kentucky Coffeetree



Persian Ironwood

Check Permitting Rules Before Starting Some Home Projects

Sunshine and warm weather are returning, so perhaps it is time for a home improvement project! But before you start, make sure you know whether your project needs a permit from Anderson Township or Hamilton County.

Anderson Township regulates most improvements and expansions to

buildings. In addition, outside structures like fences, sheds, pools, decks, and more require a township zoning certificate.

Anderson can process your zoning certificate request within about two business days. A site plan is necessary. Fees vary depending on the structure. Apply at

Anderson Center, 7850 Five Mile Road, during workday hours.

Check out the easy reference guide on zoning certificates to ensure you have all the necessary info ready to apply. Go to AndersonTownshipOH.gov and search for Planning and Zoning for all the details.

NEWS & NOTES

CPL. MATT ALEXANDER NAMED OFFICER OF THE YEAR



Mathew Alexander

Cpl. **Matthew Alexander**, has been named by the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office District 5 substation as the Officer of the Year.

The designated Officer of the Year is an award presented annually by the American Legion Post 318. Alexander has worked for the county sheriff since 2005, serving at the Hamilton County Justice Center and then on road patrol. In 2016, he began working with the canine unit.

According to Sgt. Dave Downing with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, Alexander stands out for his strong work ethic and high performance in preventing and stopping criminal activity.

DAVID AMES IS FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR



David Ames

Firefighter-paramedic David Ames with Anderson Township Fire and Rescue has been named the Firefighter of the Year for 2025. The American Legion Post 318 in Anderson Township gives this award annually.

Ames, an Army veteran, has worked for Anderson Township for 10 years. He currently serves as the township's lead instructor for recruit classes and he has developed a physical fitness program used during recruit training.

Ames also serves as a Live Fire instructor for the fire and rescue department. Additionally, he serves on the Peer Support Team and the Safety Committee, and is a Stop the Bleed instructor. During emergencies, he works with the Hamilton County USAR team.

FIRE INVESTIGATOR AWARD GIVEN TO HERRLINGER



Bob Herrlinger

Assistant Fire Chief Bob Herrlinger has been voted the Fire Investigator of the Year for 2024, an honor given by the Hamilton County Fire Investigators Unit.

Herrlinger also recently achieved the elite membership status in the International Association of Arson Investigators, Certified Fire Investigator, a select group of internationally known fire investigators.

He was cited for his professionalism and commitment to seeking truth concerning fire causes.

CARLSON COMPLETES ELITE FIRE OFFICER PROGRAM



Brian Carlson

Battalion Chief Brian Carlson completed the Executive Fire Officer program last fall. The program is the U.S. Fire Administration's pinnacle program for preparing executive fire officers.

Carlson is one of 100 nationwide graduates in 2024. The program takes two years to complete and consists of four one-to-two-week residency classes at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland, and the completion of an applied research paper.

Carlson's paper was a qualitative study on the barriers to collaboration for fire protection in Hamilton County.

NEW ASSISTANT EVENTS COORDINATOR NAMED



Tina Kane

Tina Kane is Anderson Township's new assistant events coordinator. She is a former part-time event attendant who started in April 2024. As a graduate of the University of Cincinnati, Kane's background includes retail, recreation and event staff.

TWO FIREFIGHTERS EARN PARAMEDIC CERTIFICATION



Nicole Phillips

Two Anderson Township Fire and Rescue Department members have recently earned their Ohio paramedic certifications. Firefighters **Nicole Phillips** and **Zach Vondohre** recently completed the comprehensive 10-month paramedic training program and successfully passed the Ohio certification program. Phillips and Vondohre were two of the first group of six emergency medical technicians who were hired by the township in 2023. In a unique "on the job" training program, they completed their certification while working for Anderson Township.



Zach Vondohre



Township's Ambitious Annual Road Rehab Work Continues in 2025

Annual street rehabilitation on township roads continues on sections of 52 township roads.

This year's work includes removing existing asphalt and roadway resurfacing, as this is the second year in a two-year cycle to upgrade the roads. Last year, many of these roads had curbs replaced, drainage repaired, and damaged sidewalk blocks replaced.

Due to the volume of streets on which work was planned in 2024, curb reconstruction on some roadways continued through the winter. Work on the remaining roadways with concrete curbs will be wrapped up this spring. The resurfacing of all of the following roadways is planned to be completed by this fall.

Streets scheduled for rehabilitation projects include:

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Ackley Road | Grenoble Court | Ravenscrest Court |
| Anderson Manor Court | Gwendolyn Drive | Redmaple Drive |
| Ashgrove Drive | Grant Avenue | Regis Court |
| Bennettwoods Court | Hampton Place Lane | Riverby Road |
| Berrypatch Drive | Heart Court | Sacred Heart Lane |
| Brandonhill Court | Heatherwood Lane | Signal Hill Lane |
| Burns Avenue | Helston Court | Skytop Lane |
| Butlersbridge Court | Huntcrest Drive | Stoneleigh Lane |
| Cedarville Court | Kentucky View Drive | Shoreham Court |
| Concordgreen Drive | Kilkenney Drive | Spicewood Lane |
| Copperglow Court | Knightsbridge Drive | Stratton Drive |
| Crotty Court | Lawyers Point Drive | Timbercreek Drive |
| Eaglesknoll Court | Meadowcreek Drive | Towerview Lane |
| Eastdale Drive | Nitram Court | Turnberry Drive |
| Elderwood Drive | Oak Hollow Court | Wallingford Drive |
| Endovalley Drive | Pastoral Lane | Windhill Terrace |
| Foster Avenue | Plazaview Court | |
| Foxhollow Court | Pineterrace Drive | |



New Stoplight Coming Soon at Five Mile and Towne Center Way

A new stoplight located at Five Mile Road and the Vantage at Anderson Towne Center apartment community should be operating soon.

This additional traffic signal on Five Mile Road at Towne Center Way will improve the safety of truck and freight deliveries at the town center and METRO buses that frequent this location. The signal also will serve the 224 new households at the Vantage at Anderson Towne Center apartment community.

METRO buses will pick up and drop off patrons on the lower level of the development, the redeveloped Anderson Center Station Park & Ride. The new public parking area will serve Anderson Center events overflow parking needs.

The \$350,000 project was mainly paid for through SORTA's Transit Infrastructure Fund grant program. That county program was funded by a voter-approved measure passed in 2020. Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds reserved for capital improvements will contribute to Anderson Township's stoplight project.

Signal coordination is planned with the nearby traffic signal to the south on Five Mile Road, which services the Anderson Towne Center and Five Mile Center.

Board of Township Trustees BOARD MEMBERS WELCOME YOUR CALLS!



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SENIOR CENTER NEWS

Support of Brain Health a Key Component in Senior Center's Vision

The Anderson Township Senior Center is actively promoting ways to maintain and improve the quality of life for its senior members. One way is by emphasizing optimal brain health.

Brain health has several components and can be improved through lifestyle choices, exercise, good-quality sleep, mental stimulation and stress management.

Anderson Township Senior Center offers a monthly **Brain Health and Memory Matters** program, hosted on the third Tuesday from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

The April 15 meeting covers Mind Games, including a session of games that stimulate thought and puzzles that can help keep memories sharp. Brain specialist **Patricia Faust**, who wrote the book *The Boomer Brain*, will visit the center.

Faust notes that Boomers “can still change our brains. We can prevent dementia and Alzheimer’s,” she said. “There is so much fear about dementia. Many people in this age cohort believe that it is too late. Lifestyle accounts for a 70% risk of dementia, and lifestyle can reverse the risks, too.”



Other resources on brain health and Alzheimer's

Alzheimer's Support: Third Wednesday at 7-8:30 p.m., at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 7820 Beechmont Ave. Facilitators are Judy Chamberlain and Sandy Hickman. Register at 800.272.3900.

Caregiver Support Group: First Thursday at 6-7:30 p.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 7820 Beechmont Ave. RSVP to Angie at 513. 672.3834 or ahomoelle@ccswoh.org.

Caregiver Support Group: Second Thursday at 5 p.m. at Arden Courts, 6870 Clough Pike. Call 513.233.0831 for details.

Addressing what happens to your brain as you age and recovering those aging losses is part of the center's mission. “Learning how to live a healthy lifestyle will improve brain function,” Faust said. The brain “ages based on the lifestyle that you lead.”

A monthly innovative experience targeting center members experiencing dementia and their care partners is found in the center's **Memory Café**. This casual hour together is hosted from 10:30-11:30 a.m. on the first Tuesday of the month at the senior center. The event includes social time and an activity.

Shannon Braun, director of the Center for Memory Support & Inclusion for Episcopal Retirement Services, will speak at 10:30 a.m. May 20, at the senior center about resources and communication.

If interested in these programs, contact the senior center for membership information at 513.474.3100.

While center members are active and independent, many attendees are caregivers interested in learning about dementia.



Renderings of Bass Island Park improvements

New and Revamped Businesses Dot the Township

Now Open

Anytime Fitness
7721 Beechmont Ave.

Consume
8320 Beechmont Ave.

Gracie Barra Brazilian Jiu Jitsu
8315 Beechmont Ave.

Nectar Markets
7713 Five Mile Road

The Cheesecakeery
8144 Beechmont Ave.

Wayfair Outlet
8666 Beechmont Ave.
(Inside Staples)

Coming Soon

7 Brew Coffee
7743 Beechmont Ave.

Anderson Carryout
8006 Beechmont Ave.

Contrast Studios
7426 Beechmont Ave.



The Cheesecakeery



Wayfair Outlet inside Staples

River Access Upgrades Underway at Bass Island Park

The popular Bass Island Park on Newtown Road in Anderson Township, a destination for paddlers entering and exiting the Little Miami National Scenic River and Little Miami Scenic Trail users, is undergoing improvements that will benefit both water sports enthusiasts and pedestrians.

Construction started last November on improved river access at the site. Planned upgrades include an expanded parking lot, restroom facilities, a designated walkway to the riverbank, and a vehicle loop which will be used for loading and unloading equipment while providing a safe and accessible path to the river. According to information from Great Parks, the upgrades are intended to reduce rogue trails created by users that lead to bank erosion and damage to the riverbank ecosystem.



Great Parks CEO Todd Palmetter noted the upgrades will expand capacity and improve the ability of more people “to access this treasured resource.” The project's goal is to provide a user-friendly river entrance point that is accessible to all users and protects the ecosystem by reducing uncontrolled points of entry.

In conjunction with improvements, Great Parks plans to undertake a 13.5-acre restoration initiative of forest and riparian zones upstream of the project area.

The Bass Island parking lot will be closed to the public during construction.

The Little Miami Scenic Trail will remain open as much as possible but may be closed temporarily during construction. Project completion is expected by the end of the year.

For further details, go to greatparks.org/about/projects/bass-island-upgrades.

CONNECT

Take to the Streets on April 26 for Annual Cleanup Event

After a long winter, Anderson Township focuses on getting back in shape via a community cleanup called the **Great American Cleanup**. For a few hours in the morning on Saturday, April 26, you and your volunteer friends can help Anderson Township become a cleaner version of itself.

Anderson targets its Greenspace properties and roadway berms from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Volunteers are welcome to participate in all or part of the event.

Children also are welcome with adult supervision, as there are locations for all ages and abilities.

If you cannot come that day, organize a group or come alone on a day and time that works best for you. The township provides some cleanup supplies.

To preregister a large group, contact Planner Stephen Springsteen at 513.688.8400 ext.1180 or email him at sspringsteen@AndersonTownshipOH.gov.



**SATURDAY, APRIL 26
8:30 A.M. - NOON**

Dispose of Unneeded Prescription Drugs on April 26



Are unneeded prescription drugs cluttering up your bathroom medicine cabinet? Anderson Township and the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office team up to host a free program addressing this problem through the Drug Enforcement Agency.

Safely eliminate unwanted pharmaceuticals and over-the-counter drugs so they will not be disposed of in ways that impact the environment. Bring expired or unwanted medicine to the annual Drug Take Back

Day, hosted from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 26, at Anderson Center, 7850 Five Mile Road.

Several items are not accepted, including liquids, aerosols, inhalers, needles and bottles. To dispose of pills and tablets, place them in a zip-lock-style bag.

For more information, contact Deputy Brian Hayes at 513.688.8400 ext.1191 or bhayes@AndersonTownshipOH.gov.

Township's Community Garage Sale Day Set for Saturday, May 3

Mark your calendar for the annual **Community Garage Sale Day**, set for Saturday, May 3.

Buy, sell or browse at participating home sales all around the township on this day. A list and interactive map of all garage sale sites is available online at AndersonTownshipOH.gov.

Advertise your sale for free on the township's website by contacting Betty Cowan by April 30 and providing your address and start and stop times. Contact her at bcowan@AndersonTownshipOH.gov.



Summerfair Returns May 30-June 1

The annual Summerfair celebration of visual and performing arts returns to Coney Island from Friday, May 30, to Sunday, June 1. The popular event includes more than 325 juried artists from around the country who share their talents.

This three-day festival includes local music on an acoustic stage, food vendors, and special activities. Cost is \$10. For details, times, volunteer information and ticket prices, go to Summerfair.org.



Photo credit: Megan Coffey of Game Day Communications

Remember Those Who Served During Memorial Day Ceremony



MONDAY, MAY 26, 11:45 A.M.

Fallen veterans and those who have served in the armed services are honored and remembered during the annual **Anderson Township Memorial Day Bell Ceremony**.

The Anderson Township Veterans Memorial Committee hosts this solemn remembrance at 11:45 a.m. on Monday, May 26. It takes place at Anderson Center's South Plaza, the site of the township's veterans memorial.

Names of deceased members of the armed forces will be read during the ceremony. Sign in by 11:45 a.m. if you wish to have your loved one's name read during the ceremony. The event starts at noon.

Annual Garden Tour Boasts of Blooms and Beauty

If you are craving a touch of beauty, mark your calendars for Anderson's annual celebration of home gardening- the **Anderson Garden and History Tour**. This year's free event is set for 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, June 8 at many households around the township.

Featuring both long-term mature landscaped gardens and green spots where gardeners are just getting started, the event also includes open houses at some of Anderson's historic buildings.

The self-guided event is easy to follow on the detailed map that shares the features of each location.

A flyer outlining this year's gardens will be available after May 16 at AndersonTownshipOH.gov or for pickup at Anderson Center, 7850 Five Mile Road.

Interested in sharing your beautiful space as a part of the tour? Contact Sarah Donovan at 513.688.8400 ext. 1181 or email her at sdonovan@AndersonTownshipOH.gov to discuss your garden.



**SUNDAY, JUNE 8
10 A.M. - 4 P.M.**

Beautification Awards Add New Pollinator Category

Home gardens and commercial landscapes that inspire all can be nominated for consideration in Anderson Township's annual beautification awards.

This year, a new award category focused on the use of native and pollinator-friendly plants has been added.

Other categories for the awards include residential and commercial citations. In the residential category, look for unique care in the front yard. Commercial nominations can consist of newly constructed or existing businesses that work hard to maintain the property's visual appearance.

Let us know what catches your eye! Send nominations to Sarah Donovan at sdonovan@AndersonTownshipOH.gov or 513.688.8400 ext. 1181. The deadline for nominations is June 2. Find more details at AndersonTownshipOH.gov.



CRITERIA FOR THE NEW AWARD INCLUDE:

- Beauty and appeal of the nominated space (can be part of a yard or space)
- Use of native and pollinator-friendly plants (working toward 50% natives in the nominated space)
- Reduction of invasive species, such as honeysuckle, in preparing the space
- Nominated space must be at least partially visible from the street and at least one year old

History Room Tells Part of Anderson's Story

Anderson Township's rich history, from prehistoric times to today, is on display each weekday in Anderson Center, in the dedicated Anderson History Room.

The room is a collaboration between Anderson Township and the Anderson Township Historical Society. It is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and there is no admission fee. Tours are self-guided.

Displays, photos and artifacts tell the story of early settlement of eastern immigrants

Learn more about the township's evolution from the Paleo-Indian occupation (14,000 B.C.-8,000 B.C.) through later native American occupation and to more modern times. Displays, photos and artifacts tell the story of early settlement of eastern immigrants from about 1790. Part of the room contains a portion of the corn crib salvaged from a structure constructed in the early 1800s and later moved to the corner of SR 32 and Clough Pike.

The history room is on the lower level of Anderson Center, 7850 Five Mile Road.



Corn crib illustration



Anderson History Room

20 Years of Parade Fun! Get Your Entry Ready



Want to create fun summer memories? Anderson Township is already planning for the 20th Annual Independence Day

Parade, set for Friday, July 4, and we're looking for creative new entries!

Applications for parade entries open on April 21. The 10 a.m. parade follows the same path as in previous years, starting at the Anderson Township Operations Center, 7954 Beechmont Ave., and ending at the Anderson Towne Center.

Parade registration forms can be accessed at Anderson Center, 7850 Five Mile Road or on the township's website, AndersonTownshipOH.gov (under the "News" section). To volunteer, contact Steve Sievers at 513.688.8604 or ssievers@AndersonTownshipOH.gov.



Anderson Day Returns

Save the date for a day of fun and community celebration as the Anderson Day Festival returns to Beech Acres Park. The event is set for at 4 p.m.-10 p.m. Saturday, July 26.

The festival packs six hours with music, food, drinks and fun for the entire family with games, rides and entertainment. Rozzi Fireworks tops off the celebration with a memorable display, starting at 10 p.m. Admission and parking are free.

Check for updates at AndersonParks.com.



Run the Beechmont Bolt Before July 4 Parade

This year's 20th Anniversary Anderson Township Independence Day Parade opens with the third year of a one-mile Beechmont Bolt run down Beechmont Avenue before the parade.

Don't miss your chance to jog down Beechmont Avenue, free of vehicles!

The Beechmont Bolt experience is an official run, open to all ages. The event starts 15 minutes before the parade at 9:45 a.m. Half of the entry proceeds will be donated to Anderson and Turpin high school athletes. Only runners can participate in the run (no walkers) and no



strollers or pets, as the race must be completed on time to allow the parade to proceed. Participants must sign up in advance-no sign-up is available on July 4. More information at AndersonTownshipOH.gov in the "News" section.



Have Fun- Volunteer at July 4 Parade!

Join the volunteer team of the Anderson Township Independence Day Parade to help make this year's parade a special celebration for Anderson residents.

Volunteers are needed for approximately four hours on the day of the parade. Duties could include crowd control, staging and registration. Contact Steve Sievers at ssievers@AndersonTownshipOH.gov or 513.688.8604 to sign up.

EVENTS

APRIL

Forest-Aires Women's Chorus - Encore! 2025 "Motown"

Anderson Center Theater
7850 Five Mile Road
Friday, April 25, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 26, 11 a.m.
Saturday, April 26, 4 p.m.
Tickets: \$15 at theforestaires.org

Drug Take Back Day

Anderson Center
7850 Five Mile Road
Saturday, April 26, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Not accepted: liquids, aerosols,
inhalers, needles or plastic/glass
bottles. Place pills and tablets inside
a zip-lock-style bag for disposal.
Info: Deputy Brian Hayes at
513.688.8400 ext. 1191 or
AndersonTownshipOH.gov



Great American Cleanup

Great American Cleanup

Anderson Center
7850 Five Mile Road
Saturday, April 26, 8:30 a.m.-noon
Info and signup: Stephen Springsteen
at 513.688.8400 ext. 1180 or
sspringsteen@AndersonTownshipOH.gov



Memorial Day Remembrance

MAY

Beechmont Players- Working

Anderson Center Theater
7850 Five Mile Road
Friday-Saturday, May 2-3, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 4, 2 p.m.
Thursday-Friday, May 8-9, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 10, 2 p.m.
Tickets: \$20; Students, seniors (ages 60+)
and active military, \$18 at
Beechmontplayers.org

Miller-Leuser Log House Tours Resume

6550 Clough Pike
Sunday, May 4, 1-4 p.m.
Free

Forest Hills 5K

Nagel Middle School
1500 Nagel Road
Saturday, May 10, 8:30 a.m.
Details: fhfe.org

Music on the Farm Series

Anderson Township Historical
Society Urban Farm
2550 Bartels Road
• Saturday, May 10
• Saturday, June 21
• Saturday, July 19
• Saturday, Aug.16
For times and details, go to
AndersonUrbanFarm.com.



Anderson Township Farmers' Market

Anderson Township Historical Society Plant Sale

Miller-Leuser Log House
6550 Clough Pike
Saturday, May 11, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Info:
AndersonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org

Anderson Township Farmers' Market Opening Day

St. Timothy Church
8101 Beechmont Ave.
Saturday, May 17, 9 a.m. to noon
Market runs through October 4
Info: Facebook.com/AndersonTownshipFarmersMarket

Community Wide Garage Sales

Various locations across township
Saturday, May 3, time varies
Sales listed on AndersonTownshipOH.gov.
Have your sale listed in an interactive
map app by contacting Betty Cowan at
bcowan@AndersonTownshipOH.gov
by April 30 with your information.

MAY

Lejeune Dance- Snow White

Anderson Center Theater
7850 Five Mile Road
Friday, May 23, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 24, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 25, 2 p.m.
Tickets: \$20; \$15 seniors 65+ and
children 10 and under.

Memorial Day Remembrance and Bell Ringing Ceremony

Anderson Center South Plaza
7850 Five Mile Road
Monday, May 26, 11:45 a.m.
Info: Jennifer Sanders at 513.688.8444
or jsanders@AndersonTownshipOH.gov

Summerfair

Coney Island, 6201 Kellogg Ave.
Friday-Sunday, May 30-June 1
Info and tickets: summerfair.org



Summerfair artwork

Anderson Fireman's Festival

Belterra Park, 6301 Kellogg Ave.
Friday, May 30 and
Saturday, May 31, 5-11 p.m.
Info:
Andersonfiremansfestival@gmail.com
or FB: Anderson Fireman's Festival

JULY

Anderson Township Independence Day Parade and Beechmont Bolt

Friday, July 4
Run starts at 9:45 a.m., Parade starts at 10 a.m. on Beechmont Avenue at
Operations Center, 7954 Beechmont Ave.
Info: AndersonTownshipOH.gov-parade
Run: exceleratead.com/beechmont-bolt



Beechmont Bolt

JUNE

Anderson Community Band Concert

Anderson Center Theater
7850 Five Mile Road
Sunday, June 1, 3 p.m.
Info: John Fecker, 513.207.8506 or
andersoncommunityband.org
Free

Archaeological Dig-Miami Valley Recollecting and Reconnecting

Anderson Township Greenspace on
State Route 32 and Clough Pike (Use
bike trail parking next to Speedway)
June 2-June 27, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. week-
days-open to the public
To volunteer:
miamivalleyrecollections@gmail.com
Facebook: [mvrr.ohioarcheology](https://www.facebook.com/mvrr.ohioarcheology)

Anderson Garden and History Tour

Variety of locations throughout
township
Sunday, June 8, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Free, self-guided tour.
Brochure online after May 16 at
AndersonTownshipOH.gov



Anderson Garden and History Tour

Summer Used Book Sale- Anderson Township Library Association

Nagel Middle School
1500 Nagel Road
Friday, June 20, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Saturday, June 21, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday, June 22, noon-3 p.m.
Info: cincinnati.library.org/about/atla



Anderson Township Library Association used
book sale



Anderson Day Festival fireworks

Anderson Day Festival

Beech Acres Park
6910 Salem Road
Saturday, July 26, 4-10 p.m.
Fireworks at 10 p.m.



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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Facebook:
Anderson Township, Ohio

Ayers Road Reconstruction, Safety Upgrades Continue Through Fall

Significant improvements to Ayers Road are planned for this year, including widening travel lanes and creating a paved and unpaved shoulder on this township road.

This former farm road has been improved over the years, with some upgrades undertaken in 2019. This spring, Anderson Township began improving the portion of Ayers Road from Asbury Road east into Riverview Estates, starting with the relocation of utility and water lines, which will continue into late April. Two-way traffic will be maintained during this work.

The \$1.5 million project is funded by Anderson Township Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds, which are generated solely from new community development.

Roadway construction will continue through the fall. At some points during construction, only one lane of traffic will be permitted on a portion of Ayers. A temporary traffic signal will then manage traffic. When this occurs, the

one-lane area will be limited to a segment of the project to minimize motorists' delays. According to Assistant Administrator for Operations Steve Sievers, access to emergency vehicles will not be hindered.

Sievers noted that traffic will be disrupted for drivers who rely on Ayers Road. Residents will receive a mailing in the spring of 2025 outlining a more definitive construction schedule, and updates will be posted on AndersonTownshipOH.gov and shared on Anderson Township's Facebook page.

"Anderson Township appreciates the patience of motorists and residents as we advance this much-needed safety improvement for the area. This improvement will significantly improve access to existing and planned residences," said Trustee Chair Lexi Lausten.

For information, contact Eric Luginbuhl at eluginbuhl@AndersonTownshipOH.gov or 513.688.8400, ext. 4.



Ayers Road improvements