

# ANDERSON Insights

June 2020

THE VOICE OF ANDERSON TOWNSHIP

## Anderson Township: How We Are Coping During COVID-19

To say the events of the last several months have been unprecedented would perhaps be an understatement. COVID-19 has impacted each of you, our community and the world in ways that will forever change our lives.

The immediate impacts are many. Whether they are health-related from the illness, economic due to job loss or business closings, or social loss to the cancellation of long-anticipated celebrations, trips, or simple connection with family and friends, we know they are real. We hurt with you and our community.

It's difficult to try to shift the focus with these thoughts as the backdrop, but we hope this edition of *Anderson Insights* will help. Our goal in "speeding up" what is normally our summer edition is to help keep our community connected during this period of social or physical distancing.

**In this issue, you'll see stories related to COVID-19 responses locally including:**

- » Shifting operations of the Anderson Township Senior Center staff to serve seniors in a "virtual" world. Staff members also provided well-being checks. See page 17.
- » Collaboration with the Forest Hills School District, such as producing History to Schools videos for second grade students and supporting district needs and end-of-year celebrations on page 16.
- » Completion of the Anderson Parks RecPlex renovation in conjunction with the Anderson Park District on page 12, so that this renovated facility is ready to serve the community when distancing guidelines are minimized.
- » Coordination with the Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce, as outlined on page 16, including support of local businesses and dissemination of information to the business community from the state of Ohio, as well as surveying businesses to understand their needs during this emergency.

However, we also will touch upon the many wonderful things that continue in our community as we keep working towards our long-term vision for Anderson Township.



*During COVID-19, Marcia Cole from the Anderson Center Senior Center created chalk art encouragement and shared it on Facebook.*

Your township government has and continues to remain open for your calls, emails and Facebook messages, as do our doors at Anderson Center. We have modified our outreach to serve the community in unique ways. From enhanced communications in our social media efforts and accelerating this print edition of *Anderson Insights*, to birthday "drive-bys" with our Sheriff's and Fire and Rescue departments, we have focused on meeting needs. We continue to work with federal, state, county and other local governments, and our partners here in the Anderson, with nearly daily calls and video conferences to best serve and inform our community. We also continue conducting regular meetings with public involvement.

We will be here for you Anderson Township and we appreciate all that you are doing to take care of yourselves and each other.

On behalf of your Anderson Township Team – (left to right) Trustees Andrew Pappas, Josh Gerth, Dee Stone and Fiscal Officer Ken Dietz.



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\$2M

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NET LOSS IN REVENUE annually could exceed **\$2 MILLION**

### Township Braces for Revenue Reduction Due to COVID-19

The cost of COVID-19 on township government continues to rise, but some things are known thus far. Changes in government operations have created unplanned emergency costs in the past few months. At the same time, and perhaps most importantly, township leaders are preparing for anticipated reduced revenue in the future, with the majority of the decrease due to a drop in funds related to the collection of second half property taxes.

Township Administrator Vicky Earhart said she anticipates an approximate 10 percent reduction in revenue the township normally receives from property taxes, along with reductions in revenue derived from the state's Local Government Fund. Property taxes represent approximately 78 percent of the township's annual revenues, and about 16.7 percent of a property owner's tax bill is allocated to the township.

Further, with a significant reduction in vehicle miles traveled, gasoline taxes and citations, fees are projected to decline. "The cancellation of events and rentals of township facilities and properties (with renters receiving full refunds when the crisis started) have resulted in a reduction of about \$10,000 per month in rental revenue," she said. The net loss of all these sources of revenue could exceed \$2 million annually, she said, "but it all depends on how well the economy rebounds."

As of the second week of May, Earhart said the township's costs associated with COVID-19 exceeded \$112,000. Expenditures involved overtime costs, personal protection gear and disinfecting services. Administrators who normally worked from Anderson Center started working at home, and the township purchased equipment such as laptops and docking stations to facilitate the change.

"Some of the changes that have occurred are going to be long-term changes," Earhart said. "While we don't anticipate any change in our level of service, we are carefully watching our budget as we do things differently for a while."

"I think Anderson Township has weathered the storm remarkably well," added Trustee Chair Josh Gerth. "We have always been a nimble organization as far as government entities go and because of that we've been able to adapt efficiently and effectively. Our administration, emergency and public works teams have all stepped up in big ways."

"Our prior planning relating to emergency management has paid off during this crisis," Gerth noted. "I'm sure we will see some financial hit, but thankfully due to our fiscally responsible approach to our finances, Anderson should be in good shape to carry out our governing priorities with little or no interruption in the services we provide."



Anderson Township Trustees continued their regularly scheduled meetings during the COVID-19 crisis. This March meeting was convened via teleconference.

### Board of Township Trustees BOARD MEMBERS WELCOME YOUR CALLS!



JOSHUA S. GERTH **Chair**  
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(W) 688-8438  
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### Weigh in on Clough Pike Improvement Concepts



In a "virtual open house," residents asked to examine intersection options, potential safety projects and improvements to one of township's busy corridors.

For all those who travel Clough Pike, Anderson Township wants your opinion. After a 2019 Clough Pike traffic survey drew significant public response, Anderson Township hired consultant Stantec Engineering Services to study potential corridor improvements. The initial survey drew more than 800 responses, ideas and safety tips. Residents shared concerns about development impacts, traffic flow, pedestrian safety, signal timing and environmental effects.

Now nearing the end of a six-month study, Anderson Township has asked residents to share their thoughts about the study findings. Unlike the heavily examined Beechmont Avenue, the seven-mile stretch of Clough Pike had never been the subject of an in-depth examination until this year, according to Paul Drury, planning and zoning director.

As reduced face-to-face interaction still continues at Anderson Center, (the site of regular township open houses), planners have announced public interaction with the Clough study information will be hosted online. Four intersections, two depicted here in photos, will be under consideration. Intersections under discussion for improvements include Five Mile and Eight Mile roads, Newtown Road and Bartels Road.

Residents will be asked to select the preferred design alternative of those intersections. Also, Planner P.J. Ginty said, development of one project selected from the public comments received will be chosen for completion. Images will be online at Survey Monkey or at [AndersonTownship.org](http://AndersonTownship.org) and residents can choose their favorite option and leave comments online.

Consultants completed their traffic counts on Clough before travel slowed down in March due to the stay-at-home order. Twenty-one intersections, including Mt. Carmel-Tobasco Road in Clermont County, were monitored. Along with the traffic studies, traffic data from three recent years has been analyzed, he said. "What they found is that accidents along the corridor have dropped each year," Ginty noted.

#### OTHER FINDINGS INCLUDE:

- » More cars (19 percent of traffic) enter Clough Pike at Five Mile Road than any other intersection.
- » 16 percent of the traffic along Clough Pike originates from Clermont County.
- » No new traffic signals will be needed along the corridor for the next 20 years, according to the engineering consultant.

Bike and pedestrian facilities will be analyzed in coming weeks to determine future crosswalk improvements and new sidewalk connections along Clough Pike, Ginty noted.

Trustee Vice Chair Dee Stone encouraged residents to share their opinions after viewing Clough Pike intersection options in the online format. "We know Clough Pike is an area of concern, so we ask for your help so we can make sound decisions for improvements," she said.

Clough Pike is a county road, so Anderson is working with the Hamilton County Engineer's Office on the project.



Intersections of Clough Pike with Newtown and Bartels roads. Short and long-term plans are being developed.



Right turn lanes are being recommended at intersections such as Eight Mile Road approaching Clough Pike.

Source: Cincinnati Area Geographic Information System.

## Feedback Desired on Riverfront Gateway Project Ideas

**Online survey to gather public opinion regarding Kellogg Avenue transportation issues, safety, pedestrian access, aesthetics and more.**

A city-township project to enhance the Kellogg Avenue entertainment district gateway is moving ahead this spring, and now project developers want your thoughts.

Anderson Township and the city of Cincinnati have kept their Riverfront Gateway Project on track this spring, despite changes arising in government operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During late winter and early spring, MSP Design and township leadership met with business owners in California and along the Kellogg Avenue entertainment district and gathered their ideas. They also walked the riverfront corridor.

Along with public suggestions, planners are creating a vision for the area, including wayfinding improvements, gateway upgrades at I-275 and Kellogg, streetscape and pedestrian upgrades and suggestions for traffic facilitation during peak events.

Since public gathering in large groups is still limited (due to COVID-19 concerns) Planning and Zoning Director Paul Drury said all public commentary on the design recommendations will be gathered through an online survey.

A draft with suggested improvements for the Riverfront District will be presented in video form online later this summer, and residents will again be invited to respond to ideas, Drury said.

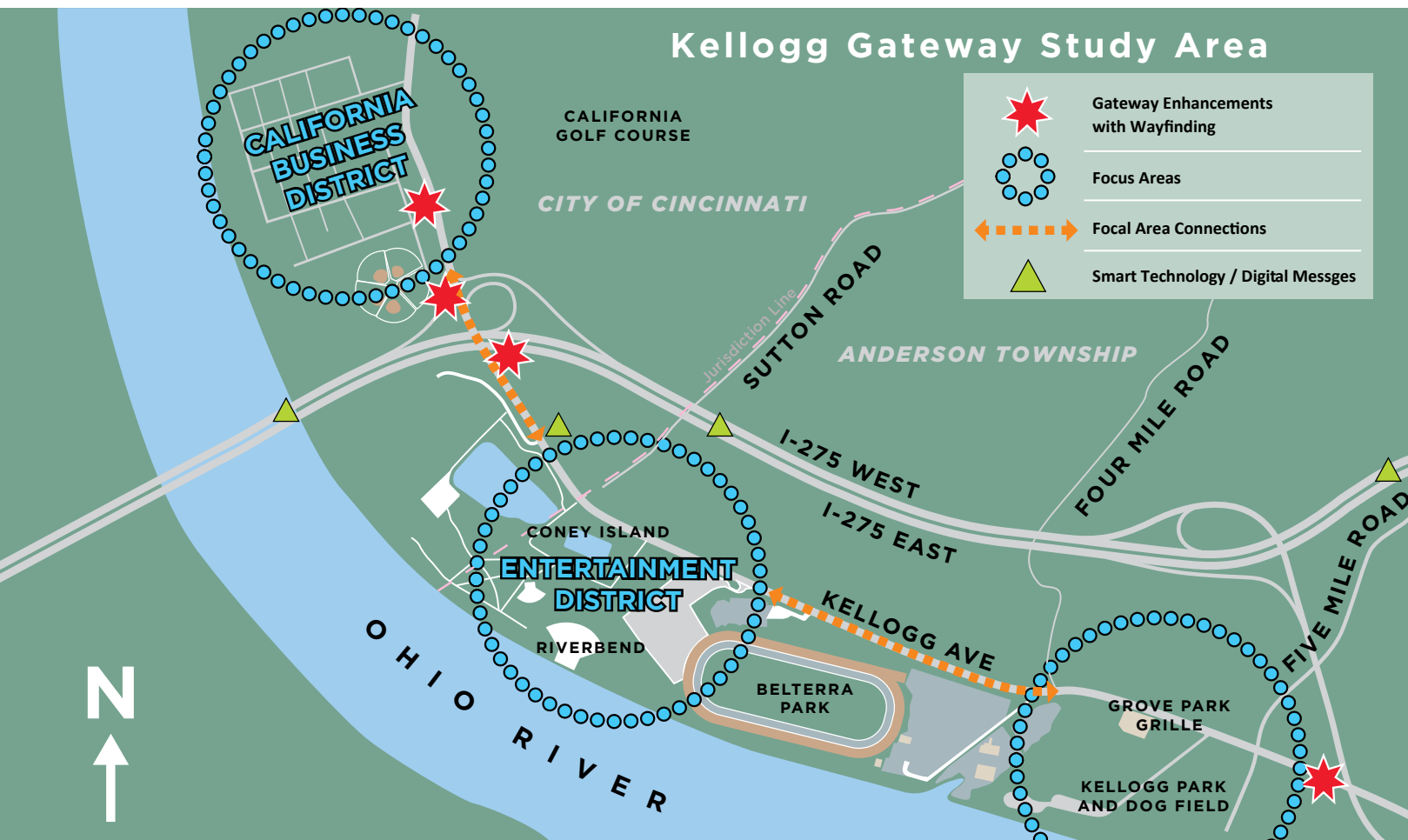
Check [AndersonTownship.org](http://AndersonTownship.org) for more information by mid-June.

Trustee Chair Josh Gerth said he was glad work on the project could continue this year, despite shutdowns on several fronts. "As the front door to the Anderson entertainment district, it's exciting to see we are moving ahead with this project," he said.

"This area has such a potential to both the city of Cincinnati and Anderson Township," said Drury. "There is a regional draw to the entertainment uses in the township, and a local draw to the small businesses in California. Both areas will benefit by recommendations of improvements to the area as a result of this planning study."



Study team assessing riverfront area on new section of Ohio River Trail.



## Economic Development Moving Forward Despite Crisis

### New Construction / Tenants / Expansions

- » CityBird Tenders (7893 Beechmont Ave.) – former Crazy Bowls and Wraps
- » East Cincinnati Fit Body Boot Camp (5210 Beechmont Ave.)
- » Mattress Solutions (8271 Beechmont Ave.)
- » Raising Cane's (7920 Beechmont Ave.) – Former Applebee's
- » Salem Shell Express Drive – Thru (former Clark Gas Station and Keegan's Seafood- 6685 Salem Road)
- » Sea of Smiles Pediatric Dentistry (1319 Nagel Road) – parking lot expansion.

### New Construction

- » One Anderson Place (1400 Towne Center Way) – New 165-unit independent / assisted/memory care residences and parking garage – in zoning review process
- » Reserves of Anderson (660 Four Mile Road) – 32-lot subdivision review process
- » Clough Chase (7488 Clough Pike) – 15-lot subdivision in review process (site work ongoing)
- » Harmony Senior Living (6201 and 6301 Clough Pike) – New assisted living and memory care facility – under construction
- » Stonegate Phase 3 – New 120-unit apartment community (7911 Stonegate Drive) – under construction

### Building Modifications / Tenants

- » Auto Mayor (8187 Beechmont Ave.) – tenant modification
- » Inspiring Hearts Learning Academy (8516 Beechmont Ave.) – tenant modification
- » MyEyeDr. (8315 Beechmont Ave.) – tenant modification
- » Kroger (7580 Beechmont Ave.) – building addition under construction
- » Bank of America (7765 Beechmont Ave.) – interior and exterior renovations under construction
- » Marco's Pizza (7755 Five Mile Road) – interior renovations under construction
- » The Financial Center (1139 Fehl Lane) – interior renovations under construction
- » Code Ninjas (7426 Beechmont Ave., Anderson Towne Center – former Cabinetry by Design) –interior modification under construction
- » Simply Power Yoga (7745 Five Mile Road– Five Mile Center) – interior modifications under construction
- » SEM Manor (1348-1350 Pebble Court) – interior and exterior renovations along with parking lot expansion - under construction



Stonegate Apartments are scheduled to be finished in the fall.



Anderson Towne Center Kroger expansion is slated for completion this winter.



Construction has begun on the Clough Creek stormwater basin on Clough Pike, west of Newtown Road. The soil is being utilized for the adjacent Harmony Senior Living development.

## Through Generous Donation, AEDs Provided for All Township Sheriff's Cruisers

*Lifesaving devices will be available soon to deputies who may be first on the scene of a sudden cardiac arrest.*

Law enforcement cruisers in Anderson Township will soon have a new lifesaving piece of equipment, thanks to a generous grant from a former resident.

With funding from the Eileen Ayer Trust, Anderson Township plans to buy 24 automated external defibrillators (AEDs) that will be available in cruisers used by Hamilton County Sheriff's Office personnel. Although vehicles operated by members of the Anderson Township Fire and Rescue Department are equipped with the devices, deputies sometimes are first on the scene. Now, the trained deputies will be able to start potentially lifesaving measures on someone who has suffered a sudden cardiac arrest while fire and rescue teams are on their way.

Chris Kasperczyk, battalion chief for Anderson Township Fire and Rescue, noted that "There are times the sheriff's department gets there before us," he said. "It might be a minute, or a couple minutes, but that time can make all the difference for us," he said.

"An AED is going to work when it senses a shockable rhythm. When the AED senses a shockable rhythm, it can be used to defibrillate the heart with the goal of the heart's natural pacemaker taking over and restoring a normal rhythm," he said. With statistics



showing every minute counts when it comes to a cardiac arrest, adding AEDs to cruisers could be a significant improvement for patients who are not breathing and whose heart has stopped beating. "Every minute someone's heart isn't pumping, and the patient is not breathing, the chance of survival decreases by seven to 10 percent. The sooner you can get the AED on someone, you then have the ability to still find them in a shockable rhythm to restore a normal heart rate."

Kasperczyk said the department makes about 40 cardiac arrest calls a year. Each AED unit costs about \$2,200 and should last for eight years.

The Eileen Ayer Trust was established by former resident Eileen Ayer who died in 2018. Funds donated by Ayer through the trust also are being used to provide new services and programming to the Anderson Township Senior Center.

"We are grateful for the donation received from the Ayer family," said Trustee Andrew Pappas. "I can't think of a more impactful way to give back to our township than potentially saving the lives of the very residents that make up our community."

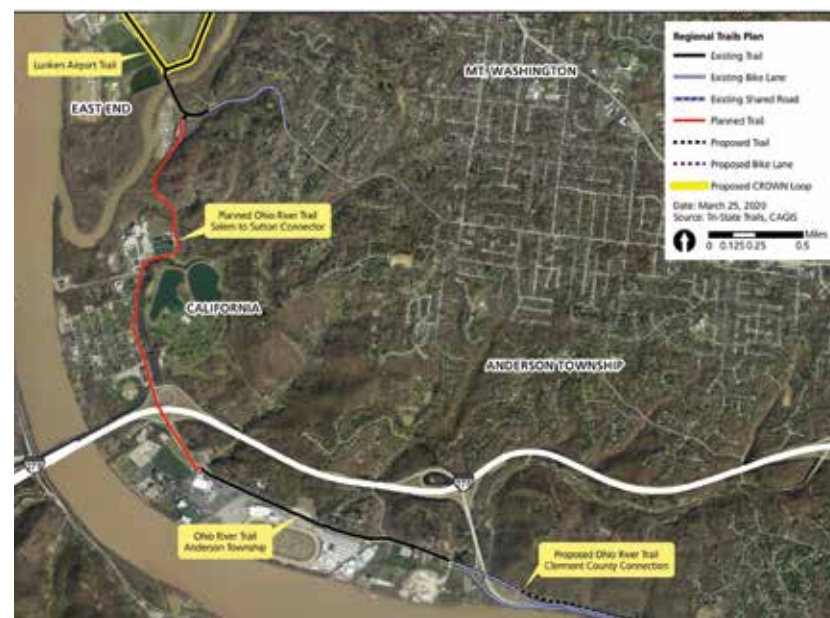
## Ohio River Trail Connection Could Be Ready for Fall Ride

*A new 2.2-mile bike trail connection linking Lunken Airport to Anderson's Entertainment District could be complete by November.*

The long-planned Ohio River Trail extension project is a city of Cincinnati undertaking. It made the news several years ago when the city announced it was going to back away from the project (and a \$923,000 federal grant). Anderson Township joined an effort to fund the project's gap with a \$100,000 donation; other communities and organizations also contributed to keep the project on track.

The project now under construction includes the Cincinnati portion of the 16-mile Ohio River Trail project, running from the Lunken Airport Bike Trail, through Anderson Township to New Richmond. "It's a critical component in the regional network of bike trails," noted Planner Brad Bowers.

The project traverses through city limits, connects two regional trails in Anderson Township, as well as the Cincinnati's planned Oasis Trail and Great Parks of Hamilton County's Armlerder Park Trail. Completion is estimated by late this year.



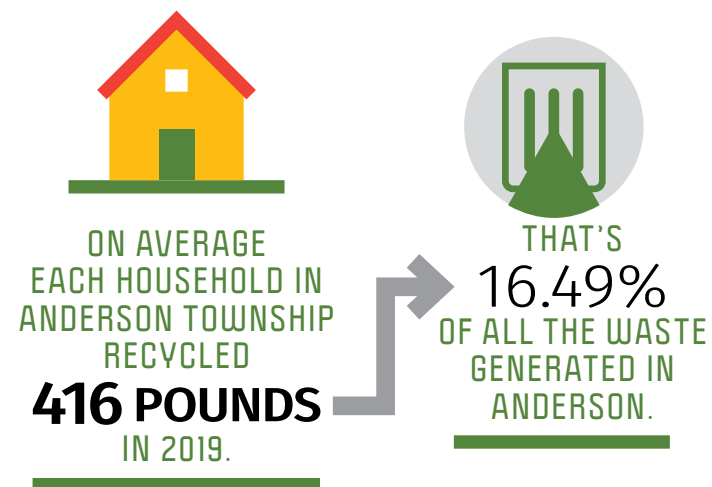
## One Can at a Time: Residents Recycled 3,250 Tons in 2019

In 2019, Anderson Township recycled 3,250.49 tons of metal, glass, plastic and paper. Residents saved resources, conserved energy, and reduced pollution by not sending these items to the landfill.

### TOWNSHIP RECYCLING RESULTS 2019

Last year residents:

- » Conserved enough energy to power every home in Anderson Township for 13 days.
- » Reduced more air pollution than if every household in Anderson Township rode their bicycle to work for nine weeks.
- » Saved 27,834 trees from being harvested.



Unfortunately, Simple Recycling, which offered curbside textile recycling to Anderson Township residents since 2017, just announced they are closing their Cincinnati market. This means there will be no curbside recycling of the orange Simple Recycling bags. Also, the textile recycling drop-off box at the 24/7 Anderson Township Recycling Center will no longer be accepting donations.

Please check [AndersonTownship.org](http://AndersonTownship.org) for any further updates.

Anderson's 24/7 Recycling Center at 7950 Beechmont Ave. (next to the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office District 5 substation) is still open to recycle glass, paper, cardboard, cans and plastic bottles and jugs. Go to [AndersonTownship.org](http://AndersonTownship.org) for more information.

## Electricity Aggregation's Program Lower Rates Start in June

Anderson Township residents enrolled in the voter-approved electricity aggregation program will see a rate decrease starting with their July Duke Energy bill.

Anderson Township Trustees approved the extension of the program earlier this year. A rate contract renewal with Dynegy Energy Solutions means the lower rate will continue for the next three years. Rates approved are \$0.0498/kWh for regular energy and \$0.0508/kWh for 100 percent renewable energy.

### TRASH PICKUP REGULATIONS ADJUSTED

During the evolving coronavirus situation, Rumpke trash hauler has requested residents follow these rules to keep workers safe during curbside pickup:

- » Bag all trash. This reduces employee exposure to items like used tissues and other personal hygiene products. (Please note, this is a new request from Rumpke during the COVID-19 epidemic.)
- » Place trash at the curb the night before scheduled service.
- » Recycling items should be placed loose in the recycling bin. Remember, items like plastic trash bags and grocery bags, tissues, napkins and paper cups aren't accepted.

### RECYCLE YARD WASTE- AVOID THE LANDFILL

Tree limbs and brush piling up on your property? Anderson Township has a free yard waste recycling center that's open every day.

Keep your yard looking beautiful and recycle your leaves, brush and miscellaneous yard waste for free at Bzak Landscaping (3295 Turpin Lane). Hours are weekdays 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Yard waste is turned into mulch through this free county program, a division of the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services.

No commercial vehicles, please. Some restrictions apply. Visit [HamiltonCountyRecycles.org](http://HamiltonCountyRecycles.org) or call 946-7766 for yard trimmings guidelines.



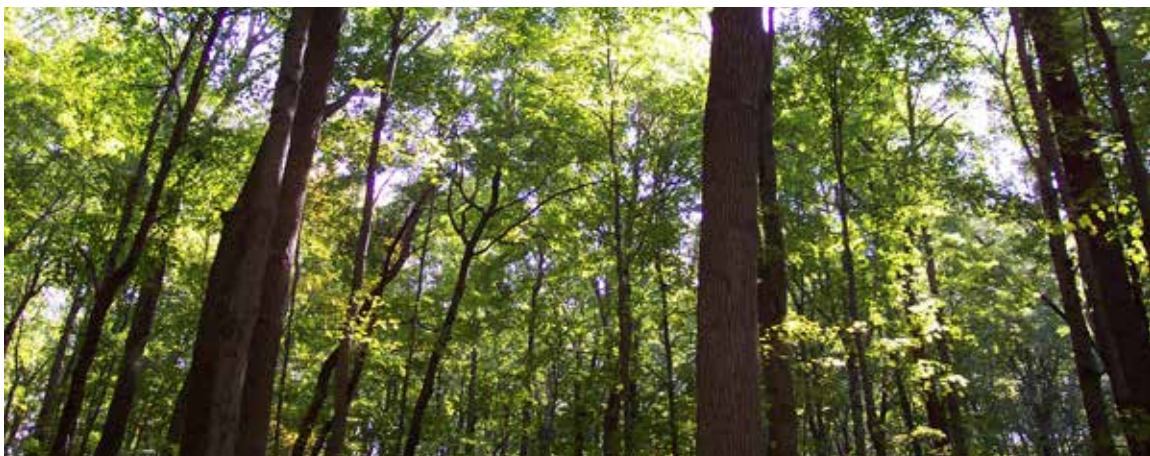
Bzak Landscaping yard waste dropoff site

# 30 YEARS OF GREENSPACE

## PROTECTED PROPERTIES PROVIDE IMPORTANT HABITATS

In three decades of operation, Anderson's Greenspace program has acquired nearly 700 acres of diverse natural areas. These properties scattered throughout Anderson protect woodlands, wetlands, meadows and streams. Each of these habitats helps to improve the quality of life in Anderson Township for human and wild residents alike.

Enjoy an easy summer stroll surrounded by birds, butterflies and wildflowers. Just east of the intersection of State Route 32 and Clough Pike is the entrance to a 109-acre Greenspace with an old road that is perfect for a quiet walk. Park in the paved area near the gate (please do not park on the bike trail) or in the lot next to Speedway for a longer walk on part of the bike trail to the gate. It's a perfect place for a natural getaway.



## Ohio Study Finds Townships Most Cost Efficient

**Which form of local government is most efficient, therefore saving taxpayers money?**

The answer, according to a 2019 study commissioned by the Ohio Township Association, is that townships are more economically vital, work more efficiently and show greater fiscal responsibility than other units of government.

That conclusion comes from international demographic researcher Wendell Cox who conducted an initial study on the same topic for the Ohio Township Association in 2012. Cox returned last year to follow up and verify his initial findings for the township organization. His first study was commissioned to verify whether a “bigger is better” perspective (which prevailed about a decade ago) that urged consolidation of small government units for the purpose of efficiency actually made good on that concept.

The report, “Spending, Taxing & Borrowing Less” used data collected by the state’s auditor’s office in 2015 to conclude that no matter the location of the population in the state, Ohio townships are providing essential services with fewer employees than larger governments. The “close to the people” nature of township government was determined to provide more direct oversight of financial and administrative matters. That means, the study said, “better and more rapid decisions in response to changing needs.”

“It does not surprise me that this study confirms what I’ve been witness to over the last seven years,” said Trustee Chair Josh Gerth.

“My observation is that township government is both efficient and effective, focusing on the most important things a government should focus on,” Gerth said.

“This study should also remind everyone that ‘best practices’ are not just for the business community and should be applied to government where they can,” he said.

Here’s a summary of some of the report’s findings:

### EFFICIENCY OF TOWNSHIPS

Smaller governments in Ohio, particularly townships, spend less per capita and are less likely to be placed under fiscal distress, Cox noted. Except for local government units with fewer than 1,000 residents, per capita expenditures of townships were less than half of those of municipalities in every population category, except in the designation of 1,000 to, 2,499 residents. In that category expenditures were 49.3 percent less.

### FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY OF TOWNSHIPS

The first report in 2012 found that financial distress was much less common among the state’s smaller municipalities. It also noted that financial distress in townships was even more rare. The 2019 study confirmed the earlier study’s findings.

In local governments, employee compensation represents the largest expenditure category. According to a 2015 U.S. Census Bureau survey of local government wages, township employee wages per capita are two-thirds less than those of municipalities for general function. This factor helps townships’ sustainability.

### ECONOMIC VITALITY OF TOWNSHIPS

One conclusion drawn from the study is that Ohio is poised for a bright future, as efficient townships are saving taxpayers money. Data demonstrated lower taxing and spending from townships compared to their municipal counterparts. With their large inventory of land, lower tax rates and lesser expenditures, townships in the future will be well-positioned for growth. Townships were found less likely to have long-term debt, the study noted.

Based on the 2010 Census, about four million Ohioans live in a township, which is about one-third of the population. Ohio has 1,309 townships, a form of government that predates Ohio’s establishment of state government.

## Public Meetings

All meetings normally hosted at Anderson Center are now being conducted via telephone or video conference. The public is invited to participate. In-person meetings will resume at some time in the future. To find out more, go to [AndersonTownship.org](http://AndersonTownship.org) and check out meeting information.

Board of Township Trustees *(Times and dates subject to change with notice)*

**Interim Meeting:** Thursday, June 4 • 2 p.m. • **Regular Monthly Meeting:** Thursday, June 18 • 5:30 p.m.

**Board of Zoning Appeals**  
Thursday, June 4 • 5:30 p.m.

**Tree Committee**  
Monday, July 13 • 7 p.m.

**Anderson Township Senior Center Advisory Committee**  
Thursday, June 18 • 2 p.m.  
Meets at Anderson Township Senior Center  
7970 Beechmont Ave.

**Greenspace Advisory**  
Meets as needed

**WeTHRIVE! Anderson Committee**  
Wednesday, June 17 • 5:30 p.m.

**Transportation Advisory Committee**  
Tuesday, July 7 • 6:30 p.m.

**Economic Development Committee**  
Tuesday, July 28 • 3 p.m.

**Zoning Commission**  
Monday, June 22 • 5:30 p.m.

# Local Photos, Illustrations Help Tell Us Who We Were Long Ago

Illustrations and photos from many decades ago remind us how the residents of Anderson Township over the years may have spent some of their time. One of the earliest published depictions of Anderson is a drawing of the prosperous farm of Jacob Markley overlooking the Ohio River along today's Five Mile Road.

Take a close look at the details. Two steamboats travel along the river, animals are grazing in the fields, several carriages are travelling along the river road, men are working with teams of horses in the fields and by the large barn, the hillsides are fields planted with crops. You'll see trees growing near the houses and along the bank of the river - a very busy scene some 143 years ago.

Family gatherings were opportunities for memorable images and often photographers would be hired to come to take group portraits. On May 13, 1896, the Durham family hosted a picnic celebration to observe the 100th anniversary of Joshua Durham's arrival in the area. Five children of his descendants Aquilla and Harriet Durham posed for the camera. Newspaper coverage of the day spoke of much feasting and merrymaking. After the William Burnes family moved out to a farm on Birney Lane in 1907, their relatives and friends from Cincinnati came out to visit. Thanks to the interurban railroads that ran through Anderson in the early decades of the 1900s, it was possible for the city dwellers to make a day trip to the countryside as a special event.

*Images from the collections of the Anderson Township Historical Society Text by Janet Heywood, research chair, Anderson Township Historical Society*

By 1900, there were a few stores on today's Beechmont east of the intersection with today's Wolfangel. In 1915, Henry Dunn operated a grocery and tobacco shop there that was famous for his homemade ice cream, a real treat on a summer's day. A photo from about 1918 of William A. Smith of California, Ohio, depicts a new company truck delivering ice and coal. The image appears to have been taken in the summer, so it was likely ice he was planning to deliver to local families.

Churches were centers of community activities year-round. Thanks to a well-preserved photograph, children can be seen gathered for Children's Day in June 1924 at the Clough United Brethren Church at Clough and State. All appear to be in their best Sunday clothes. Doesn't every girl dream of a large white bow for her hair?

As the decades passed, more families owned their own cameras to preserve family events. In about 1930, the Leuser children who lived in the log house on Clough Pike near Bartels Road posed for a graceful image in their front yard. From 1948, a day with a family's young puppies has been preserved. In those days, having a hound dog as a family pet, watchdog and hunting companion was common and homes were waiting for the pups.

Today, thanks to mobile phones and other ways to create images and videos, our lives can be recorded in great detail. Think what insights, treasures and possibly amusement future viewers will find in being able to see how we are living today and surviving the challenging times of spring 2020.



*This handsome illustration was published in 1877 in the Illustrated Atlas of the Upper Ohio River and Valley by the Titus, Simmons & Titus Company of Philadelphia.*



*Harry Dunn at his combination confectionery, tobacco shop and grocery on what is today's Beechmont Avenue was famous for his homemade ice cream.*



*In 1948 James Heywood, his daughters and a neighbor watched new puppies gobble up a meal at their home on Burnes Avenue.*



*Children's Day was celebrated at the Clough United Brethren Church, then at Clough Pike near State Road in June 1924.*



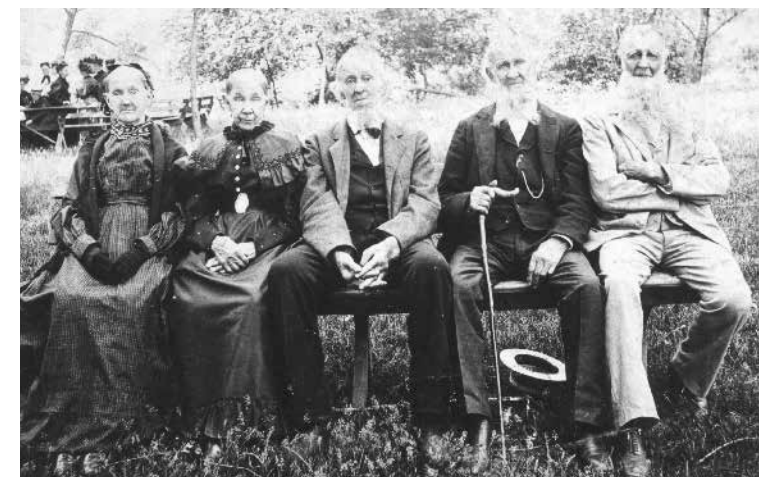
*The William Burnes family hosted day trips on to their farm in Anderson for their family and friends from Cincinnati in about 1910.*



*The Leuser children and friends posed at their log house on Clough Pike in about 1930.*



*William A. Smith offered deliveries of ice and coal.*



*On May 13, 1896 the Durham family celebrated the 100th anniversary of the arrival of their ancestor Joshua Durham in the area. Five children of Aquilla and Harriet Durham posed for the camera. The Cincinnati Enquirer reported that the family celebrated with feasting and merrymaking.*

# NEWS & NOTES



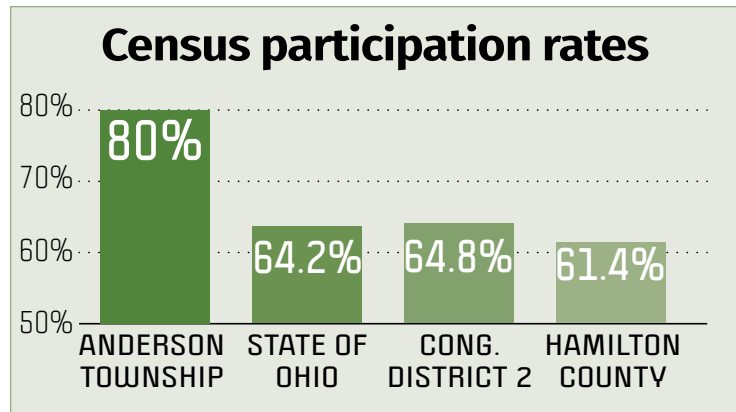
## Do Your Part in 2020 Census Count

Have you done your part yet? If you have not submitted your 2020 Census response yet, your participation is still needed.

In fact, folks working on the 2020 Census continue to urge everyone to participate by taking just 10 minutes to complete the 2020 Census form. Your responses are important in determining the allocation of billions of dollars in our communities which could be funneled into emergency response, school lunch programs, highway construction and community mental health services.

As of May 12, Anderson Township residents have posted a participation rate of 80 percent, which is among the highest in Cincinnati, and is the highest participating township in Hamilton County.

"Although our percentage of census respondents is good, we would like it to be higher. Census numbers are used to help determine the distribution of hundreds of billions of dollars in federal and state



funding," said Trustee Vice Chair Dee Stone. "Now more than ever, these funds will be important for the future of our community."

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, there have been a few changes in the operational response of the 2020 Census.

The last day to respond has been changed from July 31 to October 31. The bureau also has postponed its door-to-door non-response operation.

It's easy to respond. Go online, fill out a hard copy or make a phone call. For details, go to: [2020census.gov](http://2020census.gov).

## Two Firefighter/Paramedic Retirements Announced

Firefighter/paramedic Pat Hancock and Firefighter/paramedic Bill Storm with the Anderson Township Fire and Rescue Department have retired.

Hancock started with the fire department in 1995. He served 16 years as a lieutenant and helped with public education activities.

Storm started with Anderson Township Fire and Rescue in 1993 and served as a firefighter paramedic his whole career.

His extra duties included helping with public education through the History to Schools program, the Life Safety Clown Brigade and other fire department programs.



Pat Hancock



Bill Storm

## Deputy Brian Hayes Assigned to New Crime Prevention Duties

Deputy Brian Hayes with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office has been assigned as the new crime prevention officer for Anderson Township. He takes the place of Cpl. Dave Boiman who retired this spring.

Hayes has worked with the sheriff's office since 2000. Before his new assignment, Hayes was the Anderson Park District's contract deputy. He also served as a corporate security manager for American Financial Group and in the U.S. Army as a military policeman.

Hayes now oversees the township's 111 Neighborhood Watch groups, plus 19 church watch groups, eight real estate watch groups and 10 business sectors working with the watch program.



Deputy Brian Hayes

## Anderson Parks RecPlex Renovation Almost Complete



Once Anderson Park District functions are back to normal, the good news is the district will be enjoying a renovated indoor recreational space. The Anderson Parks RecPlex renovation, started in January this year, is scheduled for completion by the end of June. This collaborative effort was undertaken by Anderson Park District, Anderson Township and the Forest Hills School District; their efforts created the plan and funding that now adds new vitality to the 51-year-old building.

The RecPlex project is heading toward completion per schedule and within budget, according to Mark Magna, facilities manager. Funds for the \$2.7 million project are derived from Tax Increment Financing monies that come from new development.

Renovations include a new ceiling, upgraded restrooms, new HVAC systems, lighting, windows and doors.

A ribbon cutting to officially open the facility will be announced later this year.

## Speaker Series Presents Suicide Prevention Counselor

The program manager for a suicide prevention program called Adapting for Life is the next speaker presented in the Anderson Mental Health Collaborative.

Stacey Hoffman manages the Cincinnati Children's Hospital suicide prevention program and will speak at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 15 at Anderson Center, 7850 Five Mile Road. The program serves more than 60 area schools. Hoffman is a licensed counselor with an MA in clinical art therapy and M.Ed in clinical counseling. For more information, go to the organization's Facebook page: Anderson Mental Health Collaborative.

## Red Plum Opt-Out Possible

Anderson Township sometimes receives complaints about non-solicited advertising thrown on driveways of residential property.

Red Plum mailers can be stopped by simply sending an email. Deactivate your account by sending an internet message with the request to [Cmדתon@valassis.com](mailto:Cmדתon@valassis.com). To make a request by phone to cancel delivery, call 731-1200.

**CHECK OUT [ANDERSONTOWNSHIP.ORG](http://ANDERSONTOWNSHIP.ORG) FOR THE LATEST TOWNSHIP NEWS AND EVENT CHANGES**

## Increase Seen in Stolen Vehicles, Thefts from Unlocked Cars

Thefts from unlocked cars in Anderson Township are on the rise in recent weeks, according to reports from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office.

Deputy Brian Hayes, the crime prevention officer for Anderson Township, said "We have seen an uptick in cars stolen from here in Anderson, as well as cars that were stolen from the city of Cincinnati then 'dumped' here in our community. On all of these occasions, the cars were left unlocked, with the keys inside them," he said.

Additionally, Hayes notes a surge in thefts from unlocked vehicles parked at township residences in the early morning hours. Check out the Sheriff's District 5 Facebook page (Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, Anderson Twp. District 5) for videos of local criminal incidents.

Anderson residents can also check crime hot spots or specific criminal incidents through an online crime map tracking tool.



The free crime mapping tool is available through the LexisNexis Community Crime Map. Go to: [communitycrimemap.com](http://communitycrimemap.com).

The Sheriff's District 5 is thus far the only district utilizing this database.

Many common criminal offenses are listed, he said, such as burglary, alcohol and drug offenses, theft from motor vehicles and more. Users can also view locations of registered convicted sex offenders.

Hayes provides these tips to help deter criminals who might be targeting your vehicle.

### TIPS TO DETER A VEHICLE BREAK-IN

- » Use outside lighting at night. (Concentrate on entrances/exits/ parking areas.)
- » If you park outside of the garage, try to park under outside lighting.
- » Lock your vehicle; use your vehicle alarm.
- » Park your vehicles inside the garage and lock them while inside. Do not leave valuables in plain view; secure belongings inside the house or in the trunk.
- » Never leave your vehicle keys anywhere inside the car.
- » Do not keep your garage door opener inside the car.

"Take advantage of security camera systems," said Hayes. "These products have gotten so much more inexpensive and are very easy to install. Security video footage has proven time and again in being an invaluable tool for investigators, as well as for homeowners."

## Roadway Projects Fill Construction Schedule for 2020

For the past 15 years, Anderson Township has prepared a master list of road projects that affect local transportation.

### Here's what's on the docket for this year:

#### Hamilton County Engineer's Office

- » Bridle Road-Little Dry Run to Eight Mile Road; roadway resurfacing summer 2020

#### Greater Cincinnati Water Works

- » Batavia Road near Signal Hill Lane; water main replacement summer-fall 2020

#### City of Cincinnati

- » Ohio River Trail- Salem to Sutton; projected completion fall 2020

#### Ohio Department of Transportation

- » I-275-Northern Kentucky east of I-471 to U.S. 52; bridge repair, roadway resurfacing and guardrail repair project projected completion summer 2020

- » Beechmont Avenue-Mt. Washington to Clermont County; resurfacing, handicapped ramps, new striping pattern spring 2020-projected completion fall 2020

- » I-275-Ohio 32 interchange south to U.S.52; installation of single mode fiber optic cable summer 2020- summer 2021

#### Duke Energy Corporation

- » Round Bottom Road from Ohio 32 to Broadwell; instal natural gas line spring- summer 2020

- » Corbly Road; replacement of poles spring-summer 2020

- » Clough Pike- (Turpin Hills); half a mile reconductor and pole replacement as needed, summer- fall 2020

- » Elstun Road; replacement of transmission poles spring 2020



Beechmont Avenue grinding and repaving



## Repairs Ongoing During Bi-Annual Paving and Curb/Sidewalk Cycle

Fourteen township streets scheduled for updates with new curbs/gutters; next year same streets are paved.

Anderson Township follows a two-year cycle for upgrades to its township roads that need new curbs/sidewalks. The first year the township replaces sidewalks in the area when new curbs are installed. The next year, road crews return to repave.

“By bundling sidewalks with curb improvements, we get the best price on concrete per square foot,” said Public Works director Eric Luginbuhl. “We perform our sidewalk maintenance at the same time as curbing to add to the square footage discount we receive when bundling concrete prices.” After this cycle, in year three, the township updates the neighborhood with new signage, and residents are offered trees as part of the township’s forestry program, he said.



### Curb replacement projects are scheduled on the following streets this year:

- |                  |                                     |                     |                  |                  |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Stonehouse Lane  | Dunview Court                       | Shawnee Trace Court | Ropes Drive      | Saddleback Drive |
| Eglington Court  | Heatherglenn Drive                  | Indian Trace Court  | Court Ropes Lane | Shadowslope Lane |
| Blackthorn Drive | Asbury Hills Drive (west of Asbury) | Turpin Hills Drive  | Lengwood Drive   |                  |

## Township Road Maintenance Under Way with Road Rejuvenator Application

Anderson Township’s inventory of roads is important to maintain but can also be a costly part of the township’s overall budget.

That’s why the township conducts a road condition assessment every three years, the most recent occurring in 2019, to stay on top of problems emerging on this investment.

Another way the township maintains this investment, which Public Works Director Eric Luginbuhl estimates to be around \$150-200,000 a year on the township’s pavement management program, is through special product applications.

Reclamite is a petroleum emulsion product that extends the life of asphalt pavement at a cost-effective price. It rejuvenates road surfaces and has been found to prolong pavement life as much as six years. One advantage of the product is that it minimizes disruption, meaning you and your neighbors can drive on the roads quickly.

In addition, 11 township streets will receive a micro surface overlay application this year. This seals the existing pavement, provides high skid resistance and fills in minor ruts. “This emulsion product is one of the most cost-effective pavement maintenance tools on the market today,” he said. They also will be treated with a surface product called Micro Surface/Onyx that eliminates dust and improves texture.

Road maintenance and repairs on Anderson’s 122 miles of roads are partially funded with proceeds from a 1-mill road levy, which was voter approved in 1998.

### Streets for Micro Surface/Onyx:

Aletta Drive	Rosetree Drive (partial)	St. Edmunds Drive
Foxtrail Lane	St. Ives Place	St. Thomas Court
Farmsworth Court	Stonington Road (partial)	Twelve Oaks Court
Maidstone Court		
Northwich Drive		

### Streets scheduled for rejuvenator this year include:

Bretton Drive	Dunwoodie Drive	Ginger Lane - partial	Lamplite Court	Sebright Lane
Cablecar Court	Hidden Hills Drive	Goldengate Drive partial (excluding hill)	Longbow Court	Shangrila Drive
Candlemaker Drive	Hidden Point	Gratham Way- partial	Luwista Lane	Strathburn Court
Cobblestone Court	Finsbury Court	Hawkstone Drive	Rudgate Court	Stutley Court
Coldstream Woods Way	Flaxen Court	Hidden Glen Drive	Presidio Court	Ticonderoga Court
Coral Sea Drive	Flintshire Court	Kennebel Lane	Telegraph Court	Woodsedge Drive
Deaconsbench Court	Fossway Court	Kingsway Court	Queensway Lane	
Donnington Lane	Gammell Drive			



Pavement Rejuvenation



Micro Surfacing



# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

## Forest Hills Delivers More Than High-Quality Education During the Pandemic

When Governor Mike DeWine's school closure mandate went into effect March 16, Forest Hills School District launched a comprehensive remote learning plan that continued through the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic year and into summer school.

"We consider ourselves to be an innovative school district and our remote learning plan is a reflection of that," said Scot Prebles, superintendent. "While rapidly redesigning our classroom instruction, it was equally important to put the proper support in place to help all students feel engaged and secure during this time."

Forest Hills embraced creative ways - from music practice via video conference to digital spirit weeks - to provide balance between remote learning and the student experience. As mental health and wellness is a top priority of the district, counselors utilized video messages, a #MentalHealthMatters social media campaign, virtual office hours, and a collection of digital wellness resources for this stressful time.

"Whether it's during the remote learning period or when we're physically in school, we always want our students to know we care for them and we are here for them," said Betsy Ryan, director of teaching and learning.

Collaborations between the district and community partners helped ensure that students had what they needed at home to be successful remote learners. Forest Hills distributed nearly 800 laptops to



students during the closure and a telecommunications company provided free internet to families in need of assistance. In partnership with the Forest Hills Foundation for Education, the district distributed nearly 1,000 Power Packs containing shelf-stable food items and toiletries to local families. Additionally, more than 5,000 boxed student lunches were provided by the district's food service department by early May.

As the district begins to make plans for the fall, administrators say they will continue to be guided by the mandates and decisions made by DeWine. While several scenarios are being discussed, one thing is certain-Forest Hills will remain committed to providing high-quality learning opportunities and the critical resources needed to support all students.

"We are in this together," said Prebles. "Our goal to meet the needs of all students does not change during a crisis, and I am incredibly grateful for the community's support during this time. However, as a school district, we are also eager to see our students back in classrooms-when it is safe to do so."

## Support Community by Shopping Local, Chamber Says

Small businesses are the backbone of our community and now as they reopen for business, the community must support them, said MarLisa Isgro, director of membership services for the Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce.

"During these difficult times, buying local helps keep our community strong," she said. Many local restaurants and retailers are modifying their business models to make it safer to continue to serve you by offering curbside pick-up and delivery options.



New CityBird Tenders on Beechmont Avenue

### In addition to shopping online, other ways to support local businesses from the comfort of your home include:

- » Engage with them on social media. Like, comment, and share posts from your favorite local businesses to help them reach potential new clients.
- » Leave a review. Now is a good time to share some kind words about the local businesses you frequent and use often. Take a moment to give five stars to your go-to lunch spot, favorite boutique, neighborhood dry cleaner, the house painter from last summer, your marketing guru, etc.

"Please consider how you might support one of our great local businesses by purchasing merchandise or a gift card to be used at a later date," Isgro said.

When you shop locally, 75 percent of the money stays in the community, reinvested with business-to-business local spending, Isgro said. In contrast, shopping with a big box/national chain means only 40 percent of the money stays in the community.

## Senior Center Connects, Adapts During COVID-19 Crisis

Senior citizens in the Anderson Township area have found themselves subject to physical isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic, including missing the camaraderie of seeing one another at the Anderson Township Senior Center building. The good news? Though physically away, members are still connected to their senior center friends.

Right from the onset of the stay-in-place orders, phone calls began to all 450 members, placed mostly by senior center staff and advisory team members. Most senior center members reported family or close friends were supporting them effectively (with follow-up calls frequently resulting in longer conversations with folks still reporting they're doing fine.)

When it became clear that this would be a lengthy time away from "business as usual," the staff and advisory team became proactive. Weekly emails sharing resources along with contact phone numbers and websites were first. Then the Zoomin' video conferencing commenced!

Daily "coffee hour" times began in early April using Zoom technology. With the Zoom connection, even some seniors without computers could call in and connect. "People enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with their friends, hear jokes, sing songs, receive weather reports, share tips about grocery shopping and more," said Claire O'Connell, activities manager.

Classes also began again in early April, using Zoom. Supported by staff and volunteers, senior center members used the online resource to exercise, meditate, work on balance and self-defense techniques, learn about history and more.

"Members love seeing each other on-screen during internet Zoom sessions and interacting again with their friends, even if from a distance," O'Connell said.

"We're so grateful to Cincinnati Area Senior Services and the families, friends, and volunteers who are supporting our members at this time," said Administrator Vicky Earhart. "We look forward to the day when we can welcome everyone back to the center. In the meantime, we thank those that have virtually welcomed us into their home."



Claire O'Connell, activities manager at the Anderson Township Senior Center, participates in a Zoom meeting with other members.

## Digital Collections, Library Resources Available Online

As this edition of *Anderson Insights* readies to go to press, the folks at the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County would love to share exciting summer events coming up. As of now, though, it is uncertain as to what will happen in the next few months.

Some branches may be open in the next few weeks for drive-thru service and curbside service. For further details on gradual reopening information, go to [cincinnati.library.org/covid19/](http://cincinnati.library.org/covid19/).

But what is known for sure is that the library's digital collections and resources are available to you no matter what. You don't have to stay at home to enjoy eBooks, eAudiobooks, virtual storytimes, and more. Log in while on vacation, commuting, or stuck inside on a rainy day.

Plus, My Librarian offers year-round assistance with small business concerns, job searches, filing for unemployment, computer and database assistance, and more.

Also, the library is hosting the Quilts for a Cause project. Create cloth squares that will be sewn into a quilt(s) for the Library Foundation to auction off to benefit critical library services and programs, like Homework Help and summer learning activities for youth.

For more information, reach out to the library's Virtual Information Center which is set up to answer questions at 369-6900.



## RESOURCES FOR YOU:

### Quilts for a Cause

Details: [blog.cincinnati.library.org/Blog/quiltsforacause](http://blog.cincinnati.library.org/Blog/quiltsforacause)

### My Librarian

Details: [blog.cincinnati.library.org/Blog/mylibrarian](http://blog.cincinnati.library.org/Blog/mylibrarian)

### Virtual Storytimes & Activities

Details: [youtube.com/user/CincinnatiLibrary/featured](https://youtube.com/user/CincinnatiLibrary/featured)

## How to Achieve Optimum Tree Health Through Correct Mulching Practices

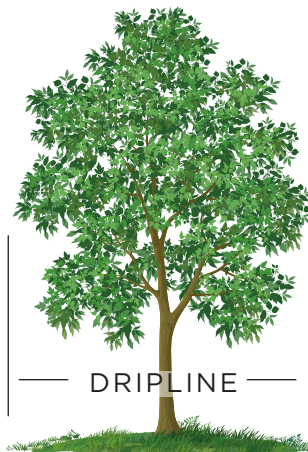
**Proper annual mulching is one of the best things you can do to care for your trees.**

Mulching is one of the most beneficial acts you can do for the health of a tree, but too much of a good thing can be harmful.

Mulching promotes healthier root growth and is important because suburban soils have little organic matter, are tightly compacted, and are poorly drained and aerated. These suburban conditions often result in shallow, less extensive tree root systems.

**Two key terms to understand are dripline and root zone.**

- » The dripline is an imaginary circle that encompasses the tree to the tree's longest branch.
- » The root zone is the area within the dripline extending to at least two feet below the ground. Most urban trees have three-fourths of their root system in this area.



Trees growing in suburban environments compete with grass growing over the root zone. This grass contests with trees' roots for oxygen, water, and nutrients. It also reduces the vigor of the tree by as much as 30 percent. Additionally, mowing over the root zone can also cause damage by compacting the soil.

Soil compaction reduces the amount of air (pores) between soil particles. These pores are where the roots grow and get necessary water and nutrients. Lawnmower and weedeater contact with the tree trunks are one of the leading causes of small tree death.

**When placing mulch:**

- » It is important that no mulch, compost, or soil be placed against the trunk flare of the tree, which is where the roots flare out from the trunk. This protects the tree trunk from fungi and other damaging organisms.
- » Use the "Donut" method instead of the "Teepee" or "Volcano" method.
- » Ideally, every tree should be mulched to the dripline. Any tree less than 10 years of age should be mulched to the extent of the dripline to ensure proper development.
- » Shredded hardwood bark mulch is best because it enriches the soil as it breaks down.
- » The optimum mulch depth is two to three inches. Add one inch of new mulch to the mulch bed annually.

Proper care of the area around your tree is a critical factor in its long-term health.



Credit: Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry and the Anderson Tree Committee, which is focused on providing educational resources to support sound tree management practices.

## Nominate Beautiful Commercial, Residential Spaces



Skyline Chili is a previous winner in Anderson's beautification awards program.

See a beautiful blooming flower bed at your neighbor's house while you are out and about? Or notice a local business that is helping to keep Anderson beautiful? Consider nominating them for the 2020 Anderson Township Beautification Awards.

This year there are two categories up for consideration, residential and commercial. In the residential category, look for unique care to the front yard. Commercial nominations can include newly constructed or existing businesses that maintain the visual appearance of the property.

Nominations can be sent to Sarah Donovan, at [sdonovan@AndersonTownship.org](mailto:sdonovan@AndersonTownship.org) or 688-8400, ext. 1181. The awards are given by the WeTHRIVE! Anderson committee. Deadline for submissions is June 28.

## EVENTS AND CANCELLATIONS

Please note, as of press time, all events listed were still in a state of flux due to COVID-19 restrictions. For current information, see the phone number or website listed with each scheduled event.

### JUNE

June 14 - Anderson Garden and History Tour. CANCELLED  
See [AndersonTownship.org](http://AndersonTownship.org) for a virtual tour.

### JULY

July 4 - The Anderson Township Independence Parade. CANCELLED  
July 24-26 - Greater Anderson Day. CANCELLED

### AUGUST

The Anderson Township Library Association has postponed the annual June sale. Currently, the association has tentatively rescheduled it for August. Learn more on Facebook at [facebook.com/andersonATLA/](https://facebook.com/andersonATLA/), or check [cincinnati.library.org/support/atla.html](https://cincinnati.library.org/support/atla.html) for updates.

### SEPTEMBER

Tuesday, Sept. 15 - The Anderson Mental Health Collaborative presents a speaker on suicide prevention at 6:30 p.m. at Anderson Center, 7850 Five Mile Road. To confirm go to Facebook: Anderson Mental Health Collaborative.

### ONGOING EVENTS

For information on the Party on the Plaza Concert Series, check out [AndersonPartyonthePlaza.com](http://AndersonPartyonthePlaza.com) to determine if the event is cancelled or not.

As of press time, the Anderson Township Farmers' Market was scheduled to be in operation Saturdays from 9-11:30 a.m. The market is hosted at St. Timothy's Church parking lot, 8101 Beechmont Ave.



A few new policies have been instituted at the market due to the COVID-19 situation. The first 20 minutes of market time is dedicated to elderly and compromised customers. Customers should bring their own bags. See [AndersonFarmersMarket.org](http://AndersonFarmersMarket.org) for more information.

Open Houses at the Miller-Leuser Log House on Clough Pike. The log house is closed until further notice. Check the Anderson Township Historical Society website, [AndersonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org](http://AndersonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org) for updates.



### Tim Ingram Retires After 27 Years as Hamilton County Health Commissioner



Tim Ingram

Tim Ingram, longtime health commissioner for Hamilton County Public Health, retired in February after 27 years on the job. He joined the agency in 1993, after serving seven years as public health administrator in Clermont County.

Hamilton County Public Health serves more than 480,000 residents of southwest Ohio.

The agency is responsible for immunizations, TB and sexually transmitted disease control, substance abuse, food service inspection and licensing, water quality, emergency preparedness and more.

Ingram lent his experience to numerous health-related boards and commissions, both local and statewide. He is a current member of Ohio's Infant Mortality Commission and serves as vice-chair of Ohio's Public Health Futures Committee, an organization dealing with improvement of the planning process of Ohio's local public health system.

Greg Kesterman, the agency's assistant commissioner for environment health services, has been named the interim health commissioner.

### Ted Hubbard Leaves Hamilton County Position After 38 Years in Transportation



Ted Hubbard

After 38 years overseeing and interacting with transportation improvements in Hamilton County, County Engineer Ted Hubbard retired in February.

Hubbard served for 19 years as chief deputy in the Hamilton County Engineer's Office, and then was elected Hamilton County engineer, a position he held for eight years. Eric Beck, former deputy engineer, is the new county engineer.

Hubbard was awarded County Engineer of the Year in 2017 by his peers in the County Engineer's Association of Ohio. During that time, he held the office of secretary-treasurer of the Hamilton County Transportation Improvement District. Projects involving Hubbard's leadership include completion of the Cross County Highway, Colerain Avenue, Montgomery Avenue, Fields-Ertel and Winton roads, and the Continuous Flow Intersection on Beechmont Avenue.

"Ted Hubbard has shown extraordinary leadership to the county, working with complicated tasks and community challenges, all the while acting with diligence and professionalism in his office," said Trustee Vice Chair Dee Stone.



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 Anderson Center  
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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  
 688-8400

[info@AndersonTownship.org](mailto:info@AndersonTownship.org)

### Administration and Fiscal Office

### Planning and Zoning

### Public Works

### Fire and Rescue

### Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

### Anderson Township Senior Center

7970 Beechmont Ave.  
 Anderson Township  
 Ohio 45255  
 474-3100

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

**PUBLISHER**  
**Vicky Earhart**

**EDITORS**  
**Steve Sievers**  
**Nancy Caine**

# Surge of Trail Use During COVID-19

During the COVID-19 stay-at-home order, one amenity that has not closed down but instead is actually thriving is Greater Cincinnati's trails network. A quick look outside on a sunny day in the past two months shows that Anderson's sidewalks are alive with an influx of walkers, runners and bike riders.

"We don't have the numbers regarding usage, but our Anderson Trails system and that of Anderson and Hamilton County parks, have been busy, providing a respite for those seeking some fresh air," said Steve Sievers, assistant administrator for operations. "During the shutdown, the township's 25+ plus miles of sidewalks and trails took a more primary role in people's exercise routine."

The regional organization that collects daily trail usage data for Greater Cincinnati's regional trail network, Tri-State Trails, measured just how different this year's trail usage is compared to last year. In a three-week period, four of five trails normally counted experienced a surge in usage over last year.

"During the first three weeks of quarantine, trail usage was up a total of 30 percent compared to this time last year. Some trails are seeing double and triple their normal traffic," noted Wade Johnston, director of Tri-State Trails at Green Umbrella.

While data was not specifically collected for the portion of the Little Miami Scenic Trail that runs through Anderson Township and Newtown, the Loveland portion of the Little Miami Scenic Trail experienced an overall 141 percent surge in usage over the three weeks.



Planner Brad Bowers said he was encouraged to see so many residents seeking out trails in the township and enjoying green spaces close to home. "Seeing residents enjoy the township's trails network throughout the COVID-19 crisis truly demonstrates how essential active transportation and recreational options are for our residents," noted Bowers. "Hopefully some of the folks using trails and sidewalks for the first time in response to being cooped up at home choose to make them a regular part of their weekly rhythms."

For more information about trails throughout the Tristate area, including an interactive trails map and trail closures, visit [tristatetrails.org/find-a-trail/](http://tristatetrails.org/find-a-trail/).