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### **Skytop Demolition Leads Way to New Housing Development**

\$32 million investment to create hundreds of apartment homes at "gateway" area into Anderson.



Demolition at Skytop Pavilion was completed in October.

Demolition was completed last month at the former Skytop Pavilion shopping center, with a new 361-unit, four-story (with fifth-story alcoves) market-rate apartment building planned for the property.

Metropolitan Holdings from Columbus, Ohio, purchased the former shopping center this summer, with a focus on fulfilling a "strong unmet demand for new, high-quality rental housing choices," said Metropolitan Holdings CEO and founder Matt Vekasy. The former 125,000 square foot shopping center was demolished to make way for the new housing community.

"We are excited and ready to fill that need (for high-quality housing) while simultaneously supporting existing retail in the area and bringing additional retail to the site," Vekasy said.

Steve Sievers, assistant administrator for operations, said the final recommended use of the property per the Anderson Township Comprehensive Plan is a mixed-use development "that seeks to take advantage of the amenities in this area." Sievers said the site had been targeted by the township's economic development committee as a "key site" that had been in a blighted condition for years. Development will help support local businesses on and adjacent to the site, as well as those in neighboring communities such as Mt. Washington and Newtown.

"The shopping center had been in distress for a long time," Sievers said, and had lost more than 75 percent of its market value, or close to \$20 million since 2006, Sievers said. Apartments planned for the new development will include many one-bedroom apartments, studios and options up to three bedrooms. These options are "the type not currently found in the township and appealing to a wider spectrum of future residents," Sievers noted.

Three parcels in front of the property, namely Big Ash Brewing and the former Starbucks building, will remain and a new 12,000 square foot retail building is planned near the traffic signal.

Vekasy noted the site has an excellent location on Beechmont Avenue and is the "gateway" into Anderson Township from downtown Cincinnati. "With the proposed connection to the Little Miami River and bike trail, the site is going to provide terrific recreational opportunities for the residents who live in our community," he said. *(Continued on page 2)* 



Rendering of new apartments slated for construction at Skytop Pavilion site.



Entertainment District Upgrades Detailed



Comp Plan Update Sets Course for Future Change



Local Explorer Chronicles Prehistoric Finds Ready for Snow?

Here are Tips

Big Red Barn Gets Makeover

# **TOWNSHIP NEWS**

### Park and Ride Relocated During Site Redevelopment



Previous Anderson Center Station METRO station site.

Work on the luxury apartment community on Five Mile Road, Vantage at Anderson Towne Center, has begun and includes relocation of the METRO station and commuter parking. METRO riders are directed a couple hundred feet down, and across Towne Center Way, where spots are assigned to the temporary park and ride. The leased spaces are between Rancheros, the AMC Theater and TriHealth's parking garage on the Anderson Towne Center and TriHealth properties.

Busy Anderson Center event patrons formerly used the park and ride for large evening occasions. Overflow parking now is available at the TriHealth parking garage and a shuttle is provided by the township.

Work on the new apartment community is expected to take several years, according to Steve Sievers, assistant township administrator of operations. The township has entered into the temporary parking agreement until the end of 2023. Prior to the opening of the apartment community in 2024-2025, the park and ride located on the lower level of the Vantage development will be available for use.

"The new park and ride will be a win-win situation," said Sievers. "This facility will offer covered parking for METRO riders and provide a much more convenient overflow parking location for Anderson Center events," he added.

Hills Properties is developing the prime site into two four-story buildings above a three-story parking garage that tapers with the hillside, sloping from Towne Center Way to the north.

"This public-private partnership, which does not entail taxpayer dollars, will also add a new upscale apartment option, which has significant demand in the heart of our community," added Trustee Chair Josh Gerth. "This will fill a need and greatly add to the economic health of the township and school district. Also, it will help implement the Downtown Anderson Plan which has always included a residential component that will help with the vitality of the Anderson Towne Center and surrounding businesses," he said.



Vantage at Anderson Towne Center will include a new METRO station

#### Skytop New Housing Development (continued from page 1)

Vekasy said his company found the site a good investment due to many factors, including Anderson Township's reputation as a "really great, family-oriented community. Skytop Apartments will provide new, best-in-class rental housing options that can't currently be found in Anderson Township.'

Construction will begin January, Vekasy said. The anticipated timeline to complete construction is 22 months, he said.

"Skytop will offer more housing options to the township," noted Trustee Andrew Pappas. "It is a good sign that this underutilized parcel is now being redeveloped hopefully towards its full potential."

#### **Skytop Pavilion Fast Facts:**

2008- valued at \$22 million

2021- valued at less than \$5 million

Sold in 2016 for \$4.5 million

Some portions of the development were never finished and remained vacant since 1999

Anchor Remke Market departed the site in 2019

Source: Anderson Township

### **Entertainment District, California Area Improvements Detailed in Township Kellogg Gateway Study**

Anderson's collaborative planning project to enhance the Kellogg Avenue entertainment district with beautification elements, better signage, lighting and pedestrian upgrades is heading to reality.

Anderson and the City of Cincinnati have been working together since the beginning of 2020 to create a vision for this important gateway into Anderson Township. With an updated concept for the Kellogg Avenue Entertainment District and the California community, Planning and Zoning Director Paul Drury said both communities will benefit economically through enhancements to this important area of regional significance.

The plan was adopted by township trustees in October. Drury said the township will start implementation in 2022 on some of the basic recommendations while other projects may require additional study. "Continued coordination with local businesses, the City of Cincinnati, and local public partners will be key to the success of the plan," he noted.

Trustee Chair Josh Gerth noted, "Kellogg Avenue is the front door of Anderson and given the hundreds of millions invested down here privately, it's time we focused on how we can help tie it all together with landscape, hardscape, wayfinding and better infrastructure. The goal is not only to enhance what is there today but roll out the welcome mat for future economic development."



Rendering of a a welcome plaza concept at Coney Island entrance



Study suggests better signage and lighting, pedestrian upgrades and artwork can improve area.

#### Suggestions for upgrades to the area include:

- Gateway enhancements at the I-275 and Kellogg Avenue interchange, including a potential welcome plaza at the Coney Island entrance.
- Streetscape improvements including consistent treatments for lighting, signage, benches, trash receptacles, fencing and landscaping.
- More cohesive branding- addition of architectural features that unify the area.
- Wayfinding improvements.
- · Upgrades to the pedestrian and biker experience with consolidated bike lanes and better lighting for safety.

Rendering of a landscaped overpass area on Kellogg Avenue

### Community Art Plan Suggests Ways to Keep Anderson Beautiful, Fun

#### Concepts include a sculpture tour, artwork along trails, a child-oriented Discovery Trail and a mural program.

Anderson Township's first-ever art plan aims to put public art at the center of the community's identity. After working with the public to gather ideas and vision the past nine months, the full plan will be ready for adoption next fall.

Having a plan in place to give direction to the township in this new emphasis is important, according to Planner Sarah Donovan. Once funding sources are identified, the township can begin to incorporate and use art elements as "transformational, unifying and representative of the spirit of the township and its residents."

"This plan is a first step in moving Anderson forward, so that this community becomes a place known for its creativity and dedication to exceptional public spaces," Donovan said.



#### A few of the strategies found within the plan include:

- » Partner with local organizations to launch a public mural program in Anderson;
- » Enhance Anderson's roadways through a variety of public art investments;
- » Invest in iconic public art throughout existing public spaces, including along the Anderson Trails system;
- » Host an annual sculpture tour and build a sculpture collection;
- » Create a Five Mile Discovery Trail, focused on active play and climbing.

"Having public arts in our community can help drive economic development and make our community more attractive to potential businesses and residents," said Trustee Vice Chair Dee Stone. "Plus it can inspire those of us that already call Anderson home."

The draft of the plan and appendix can be found at *AndersonTownshipOH.gov.* 



### **Comprehensive Plan Helps Set Course for Future Progress**

Anderson's formal look at its past, present and future comes every five years in the form of a Comprehensive Plan update.

This year, community members, township staff and other stakeholders spent several months reviewing progress made since the 2016 update. The committee also created new goals for the next five years to guide change in the township.

P.J. Ginty, township planner, said several broad themes emerged from this summer and fall's community discussions and surveys:

#### Township residents want to see, in no particular order:

- Creation of more community events
- Protection of natural resources
- Improvement of sidewalk connections

The 2021 Comprehensive Plan update still has a few more formal reviews before adoption. These dates are subject to change, so visit *AndersonTownshipOH.gov* to confirm.

- The township's Zoning Commission reviews the comp plan update at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 24 at Anderson Center.
- Anderson Township Trustees review the plan at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 17 at Anderson Center.
- The Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission is scheduled to review the plan at 1 p.m. Thursday, April 7 at 138 E. Court Street.

The Comprehensive Plan draft will be available at *AndersonTownshipOH.gov* in December.

### Federal COVID Relief Monies Slated for Infrastructure Upgrades

COVID-19 relief funds allocated to local governments have been awarded to Anderson for infrastructure improvement projects.

According to Administrator Vicky Earhart, about \$2.3 million recently granted to Anderson Township from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds will likely go toward improving water, sewer and broadband infrastructure. A second disbursement of \$2.3 million could be available in 2022, she said.

While project plans are in flux, Earhart said potential purchases and projects include:

- Retrofitting existing stormwater detention basins to enhance infiltration which improves water quality and recharges groundwater aquifers,
- Purchasing a street sweeper which will help to reduce the amount of debris that ends up in catch basins and therefore improve stormwater quality,
- Installation of pervious pavement lots,
- Extending broadband into areas of the township that do not currently have service.

"Our next step is likely going to be contracting with a consultant using State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to assist with the water quality items," she said.

Trustee Chair Josh Gerth noted that "while there is debate on whether or not this federal money should be doled out at the rate it was, the fact is that we did receive some and we are working to understand what we use given a fairly limited scope and definition of what it can be applied to."

"We're hoping to be able to use it for mitigation of retention/detention ponding and broadband technology, but all of this continues to be ever-changing," he noted.

The goal of the recovery fund is to support COVID-19 responses to stop the spread of the virus, support local public lost revenue, retain jobs and support public services.

"As we saw in the spring of 2020 when all students were learning from home, having access to the internet is imperative," said Trustee Vice Chair Dee Stone. "Making sure that the entire township has broadband access is a good use of these funds."





### Historic Sites Chronicled by Local Explorer

In 1960 a young Mt. Washington resident named Don Bogosian took his passion for hiking along the Little Miami woods and turned it into an endearing collection of information. His explorations inspired two books and the creation of a one-of-a-kind hand-drawn map of Anderson Township's historic and prehistoric sites.

Bogosian started collecting information mostly in the woods along the Little Miami and Ohio rivers. He would hear stories about a historic site that someone had seen and he would hike, ride a bike or take a canoe to a location and take notes on what he observed.

Everything from old building foundations, remnants of forgotten railroads and trails to early Native American ceremonial and village sites was discovered in his travels.

Notes and thorough research in books about previous archaeological surveys of Hamilton County and Anderson Township helped him tie the academic research to his first-person observations.

In 1967, Bogosian had been attending the Mt. Washington Centennial celebrations. Mt. Washington residents led by Marjorie Frame, Stephen Smalley and others began the formation of the Anderson Township Historical Society.

Bogosian soon joined the newly formed society so he could share his love for history and the information he had been collecting.

Bogosian overheard a comment from someone in the community proclaiming that, "There are no significant archaeological sites in Anderson Township."

He knew otherwise. He went to his new friends in the society and met with members of the Little Miami Preservation Society and shared his handwritten notes and map sketches.

The members of both the Anderson Township Historical Society and the Little Miami Preservation Society encouraged Bogosian to formally make his map and consolidate the information into a booklet entitled "Some Historic Sites on the Lower Little Miami River."

The actual process of making the map took six months matching sketches and notes to a municipal map created by the Regional Planning Commission of Hamilton County, Ohio.

That booklet sold in 1970 at one of the Anderson Township Historical Society's early Country Store events. It went out of print in 1990. A few digital scans are available through the society.

The original hand-drawn map has remained with Bogosian. A version that was created on an old blue line architectural map was stored at the society's offices. For the most part it remained a hidden treasure in the society's collection.

During a recent examination of society archives, the map was rediscovered. With the recent archaeological exploration along the Little Miami Scenic Trail at the Turpin dig site, there is renewed interest in this 54-year-old map.

The society's map was fading due to the nature of the copy technology used in the early 1970s. The original map will be scanned at high resolution so the historical society can preserve the information and also print a full size copy of the map to display at the history room.

For more information and images from Bogosian's book visit www.andersontownshiphistoricalsociety.org.



Don Bogosian in the Anderson Township History Room with a map he created of Anderson's historic and prehistoric sites that he personally visited.



Details of the hand-drawn map pinpointing historic and prehistoric sites in Anderson.

### Summer Cleanup Produces Healthier Lake, Economic Benefit

The "Big Dig" cleaning up Anderson Lake this summer was a messy project by most people's standards, but efforts to eliminate sediment were completed in half the expected time, with much less impact to the grounds than anticipated.

"The cleanup of Anderson Lake was successful in many respects," said Township Administrator Vicky Earhart. "The work was finished in mid-summer instead of late fall, which allowed us to minimize lost time for rentals and use of Anderson Center."

Natural restoration of the site began immediately, and wildlife quickly returned, Earhart said.

After buildup of sediment over 14 years diminished the stormwater detention capacity of the facility, dredging of the lake began in June. The lake had lost nearly 25 percent of its holding capacity, affecting



#### Sanders Completes Leadership Academy



Jennifer Sanders, events coordinator for Anderson Township, recently has completed the Center for Local Government Leadership Academy. The academy focuses on preparing future government leaders by learning about management and leadership techniques. Classes are taught by government professionals, instructors from local universities and others.

Jennifer Sanders

Instruction also emphasizes building relationships between employees in neighboring jurisdictions.

stormwater control efforts in the area. With the sediment removed, Earhart said the lake will now hold more water during storm events.

The lake was built in 2007 to mitigate downstream flooding along Clough Creek. It holds thousands of gallons of water during a storm event from a more than 1,000-acre watershed.

Mark Magna, the facilities manager who oversaw the project, noted that more than 5,000 cubic yards of material was removed from the lake by Mark Haynes Construction, Inc.

Trustee Andrew Pappas noted the cleanup was a very complex project. "Our staff did an amazing job scheduling and managing this key project to minimize impacts to events at Anderson Center," he said. The limited impact to the center's grounds and quick pace of work on the project were significant given the scope of the work, Pappas added.

#### **Red Plum Opt-Out Options**

Some residents have asked how to opt out of Red Plum advertising circulars, which are delivered occasionally to your driveway.

To request opting out, go to save.com/mailing/delivery-options and fill out the form. It may take up to six weeks for mailings to stop.

### Long-Term Archaeology and History Project Begins in Anderson

Under the shade of white tents, on township Greenspace known as the Turpin Site along S.R. 32, several working crews and observers launched a long-term archaeology project this past summer.

This initiative, the Miami Valley Recollecting and Reconnecting project, hopes township-wide involvement will be part of revisiting and reexamining earlier excavations. It plans to facilitate the reestablishment of ancestral connections to the land, and to use immersive technologies to help bring the ancient past back to life, according to Dr. Rob Cook of The Ohio State University.

Recollecting began by re-examining an ancient house that had been initially excavated by The Harvard University in 1885. "We successfully located the corner portion of a house they had found and were able to locate several wall posts that had not been excavated. This was exactly what we hoped for, as it will allow us to date the house for the first time by submitting burned wood samples for radiocarbon dating," Cook said.

This method was not developed until the 1950s, so it could not have been done by Harvard's team, he said. "Dozens of other ancient houses located at the site, among other features that remain unexamined, will provide important new information for many years to come," Cook said.

Excavation of a historic foundation that once supported a structure built by the original Turpin family was also started. This structure was used as a barn and corn crib in the 20th century. Future digs will reveal if this was the original use.

"Hundreds of residents took advantage of the chance to see the dig in progress, ask questions and share memories. We look forward to future digs with even more public involvement." said Greenspace Inspector Suzanne Clingman.

Reconnecting began by reaching out to American Indian descendants of the people who once lived in the Little Miami Valley, as well as



3D image of the ancient house site excavated this past summer. (Photo: Joe Chambers)

descendants of the Turpins and other non-Indigenous families who arrived in Anderson in the early 1800s, Cook said. The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma was particularly involved. One tribal member worked on site each week and several tribal representatives visited during the field project. Additionally, Turpin descendants and other township residents have been contacted to share their family histories.

Extended Reality technologies are being used to better present the Turpin site as it was in the past. "A digital representation of the last Fort Ancient-era village to exist there around AD 1250 was recreated. Visitors used an iPad to interact with life-size visual elements like houses, cooking utensils, and animals - and could literally walk around the village - while at the same time they could see the dig team working to find another house in real time," Cook said.

As the project continues, extended reality technology will become part of a multi-sited exhibit to link together artifacts and records currently housed at Harvard Museum and the Cincinnati Museum Center with the site itself and descendants who now mainly live in Oklahoma.

Anderson Township plans to be an active participant in the project, providing access to the site, office space, and assistance with special events geared toward engaging the community, said Administrator Vicky Earhart.

Two events are planned related to the dig. On Feb. 19, 2022, a presentation is scheduled on the findings from this year's excavation and plans for the 2022 dig. A March 5, 2022 event will be a day-long experience. Call 513.688.8444 and reserve a time slot to bring any artifacts collected. Professional archaeologists will be on hand to help identify artifacts. Historians also will be collecting stories of memories about the Turpin site.

For current information, check out facebook.com/MVRR.OhioArcheology.



Aerial view of barn/corn crib foundation excavated this past summer.



#### Excavation this summer at the Turpin site.

### Anderson Township Welcomes New Businesses

#### **COMPLETED PROJECTS/TENANTS**

**Bank of America** 7765 Beechmont Ave.

Cabo Taco 7625 Beechmont Ave.

Fine Wine and Spirits 8435 Beechmont Ave.

**Inspiring Kind Bakery** 8006 Beechmont Ave.

**Inspiring Purpose Adult** Dav Program 7577 Forest Road

Musicologie 7120 Dunn Road

**SKI Boutique** 8315 Beechmont Ave.

**Wonderland Playground** 8253 Beechmont Ave.



Wonderland Playground



Inspiring Kind Bakery

#### **NEW BUILDINGS/TENANTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

Condado Taco 7877 Beechmont Ave.

**Kentucky Fried Chicken** 7857 Beechmont Ave.

Harmony at Anderson 6201 and 6301 Clough Pike

#### **NEW SUBDIVISIONS UNDER SITE DEVELOPMENT**

**Anderson Valley** Markley and Dunn Road – 36 lots **Carriages of Coldstream** 

Ayers Road - 26 lots

Hummingbird Court Eight Mile Road – 16 lots

**Reserves of Anderson** 660 Four Mile Road - 32 lots

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





JOSHUA S. GERTH Chair (C)513.833.3010 jgerth@AndersonTownshipOH.gov

R. DEE STONE Vice Chair (W)513.688.8438 dstone@AndersonTownshipOH.gov

Harmony at Anderson (under construction)

Condado Taco (under construction)

Skytop Apartments 5218 Beechmont Ave.

Vantage at Anderson Towne Center 7832 Five Mile Road

Meadows of Mt. Carmel 3464 Mt. Carmel Road - 11 lots **View at Coldstream** Ayers Road – 7 lots



ANDREW S. PAPPAS Trustee (W)513.688.8628 apappas@AndersonTownshipOH.gov



**KENNETH G. DIETZ** Fiscal Officer (W)513.688.8400 ext. 1107





# Winter Weather 101: Know Your Snow Stuff

### Snow Emergency Levels Explained

Under Ohio Law, the Hamilton County sheriff has the responsibility to monitor snow conditions and to declare a "Snow Emergency" when it has been determined that use of highways/roadways by motorists is a threat to maintaining the public peace.

#### **Snow Alert Level One**

Roadways are hazardous with blowing and drifting snow. Roads may also be icy. Motorists are urged to drive very cautiously. No roadways are closed but unnecessary travel is discouraged.

#### **Snow Advisory Level Two**

Roadways are hazardous with blowing and drifting snow. Roads may also be very icy. Only those who feel it is necessary to drive should be out on the roads. All employees should contact their employer to see if they should report to work.

#### **Snow Emergency Level Three**

Ice, blowing and drifting snow has created extremely hazardous road conditions. Low visibility, extremely low temperatures, and worsening road conditions have caused the closing of all or certain county roads to all but emergency and essential persons. No one should be on roadways unless absolutely necessary.

All employees should contact their employer to see if they should report to work. Those traveling on the roads may subject themselves to arrest.

#### Snow Removal a Team Effort Here

Did you know that not all Anderson roadways are maintained by Anderson Township?

- Anderson Township manages more than 120 miles of mainly subdivision streets,
- Hamilton County maintains 73 miles of through township roadways including Clough Pike, Salem Road, Eight Mile Road and more.
- The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is responsible for state or U.S. highways totaling 20 miles in Anderson, including S.R. 32 (Batavia Road), S.R. 125 (Beechmont Avenue), U.S. 52 and Interstate 275.

During the winter, ODOT contracts with the Hamilton County Engineer's Office to remove snow on Beechmont Avenue and Batavia Road.

### Cul-de-sacs, Snow Removal and You

Anderson Township is home to more than 475 cul-de-sacs on its more than 120 miles of roadways. These cul-de-sacs present a number of challenges during snow removal efforts.

The township's road crew consists of just 10 plow drivers who work hard to keep our roads clean. In trying to clear the most snow as quickly as possible and to safeguard main roadways, hills and curves are cleared first and cul-de-sacs are passed by.

Under normal conditions, cul-de-sacs are not plowed until after a storm has passed. Crews return to the cul-de-sacs and try to avoid piling up snow in driveway areas, mailboxes and fire hydrants. Sometimes it is not possible to avoid creating a pile of snow. Your understanding is appreciated.

Please do not plow, shovel or blow snow into the roadway. These situations can impair safety for drivers and also hamper the township's road crew.



### **Don't Come Up** Short in the Cold

Have you updated or created your own winter safety kit for your car and home? If not, now is a good time to get that chore off your list before the snow starts blowing.

#### Have these items on hand:

- Rock salt or other environmentally safe products to melt ice on walkways. The Environmental Protection Agency
- offers a list of recommended products.
- Sand to improve traction.
- Snow shovels and other snow removal equipment.
- Sufficient heating fuel and/or a good supply of dry, seasoned wood for your fireplace or wood-burning stove.
- Adequate clothing and blankets.
- Flashlights and batteries.
- Several days of necessary medications.

Learn more at *hamiltoncountyohioema.org*/ assembling-an-emergency-supplies-kit.

#### Winter Storm Watch or Warning?

A Winter Storm Watch means be prepared. Winter Storm Watches are issued when conditions are favorable for a significant winter storm event (heavy sleet, heavy snow, ice storm, heavy snow and blowing snow or a combination of events.)

A Winter Storm Warning means take action. A Winter Storm Warning is issued for a significant winter weather event including snow, ice, sleet or blowing snow or a combination of these hazards. Travel will become difficult or impossible in some situations. Delay your travel plans until conditions improve.









# **Stay Out of Harm's Way This Winter**

Tips for safety from Anderson Township Fire and Rescue Department

#### **Candles**

Three of every five candle fires start when a flammable object such as fabric, furniture or when bedding comes in contact with a candle.

Avoid the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep. Use candle holders that are sturdy and won't tip over easily.

#### Smoke detectors

Make sure your smoke detectors are working. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Having a working smoke alarm gives you early warning so you can get outside quickly.



#### **Portable and space heaters**

A variety of portable heaters are available for retail use and they come in a variety of fuels or heat sources. Make sure your heater carries a label that shows it is approved for your intended use.



Place heating devices at least three feet away from combustibles, including draperies, paper, furniture, bedding and clothing. Turn off space heaters when not home, and check for frays or hot spots on cords.

#### **Button Batteries**

The small batteries, also called coin batteries, are getting more popular every year, particularly in toys. However, once swallowed by a curious toddler, the batteries can do serious internal damage. Be vigilant to make sure children do not have access to these batteries. They are also found in remote controls, greeting cards and hearing aids.

#### **Holiday Decorations**

Many home fires associated with holiday decorations emerge from items too close to a heat source. A dry live Christmas tree is nothing but kindling when sparks fly.

#### **Chimney Fires**

Anderson Township Fire and Rescue personnel make about a half dozen calls every year for chimney fires. Before you light your first indoor fire, have a chimney sweep come out and inspect and clean your chimney. A chimney fire can easily turn into a structure fire especially with an older chimney.

# **COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

### Brain Health a Focus for Township's Senior Center

Brain Health is critical for healthy, active aging. The Anderson Township Senior Center is taking this component of health seriously with a new focus on brain health and memory.

Monthly talks in the Brain Health Series address specific critical efforts as defined by groups like the Global Council on Brain Health. Topics during the first program year include exercise, nutrition, skill enhancement (including games), stress management and relaxation. "We are involving dozens of members weekly in exercise and we hope Brain Health talks like these only reinforce the reasons we do what we do here at the center," said Claire O'Connell, program manager.

Members experiencing dementia and their care partners are now able to enjoy monthly Memory Café time. This is a casual, enjoyable hour together, including social time at the center plus an activity. "With socialization being such an important part of brain health, efforts like Memory Café make such a difference," said Shannon Braun, director of the Center for Memory Support & Inclusion for Episcopal Retirement Services. "Anderson Township should be proud of how the staff, volunteers and community have responded to this need."

The first three Memory Café sessions have been successful and fulfilling for volunteers, staff and participants alike, O'Connell said.

Making these events happen is a community-wide effort. The steering team includes center staff and advisory team volunteers, local Parish Health Ministry volunteers from St. Timothy's Episcopal Church and Mt. Washington Presbyterian Church, along with Braun.

"With dementia now affecting more than one in nine Americans who are 65 or older, it is a significant issue that the Anderson Township Senior Center is providing education and also sharing avenues for putting it into action," Braun said.



### **Center Membership Renewal Open**

The Anderson Township Senior Center continues to grow, both in numbers and diversity of activities. Currently more than 525 members participate during weekday activities. Membership for 2022 is now open. Application forms are available at the center, 7970 Beechmont Ave. Anderson residents pay \$15 per person or \$25 per couple yearly. Non-residents are charged \$40 per person or \$65 per couple. All attendees now must be members. For more information go to *andersontownshipoh.gov/senior-center*.

For details about brain health and memory matters, visit the center at 7970 Beechmont Ave., call 513.474.3100 or go online: *AndersonTownshipOH.gov/senior-center/brain-health.* 

### Passport Services Return to Anderson Library After Renovation

Lots of changes have occurred at the Anderson Branch of the Hamilton County Public Library system these past couple of years; a new drive-thru outside that's open 1-5 p.m. on Sundays when the inside of the branch is closed, plus a new look inside. But some familiar things have returned, including the study pod and passport services.

The study pod is back in place and ready to reserve, as are the study and meeting rooms. To reserve, go to *cincinnatilibrary.org/services/meeting-study-rooms*.

Passport assistance is by appointment only. Also, customers need to provide their own 2-inch-by 2-inch photo. The library currently is not providing photo services.

#### Other documents applicants need are:

- A completed DS-11 application for a U.S. passport, in black ink or typed
- Proof of U.S. citizenship
- Proof of identity
- Your Social Security number (but it's not necessary to have your card)
- Passport photo
- Fees

The Department of State has been experiencing delays in processing passports, so starting the paperwork as soon as possible is highly recommended. For further details on how to get a DS-11 form, go to *cincinnatilibrary.org/services/passports/.* 

#### The branch also is getting back to regularly scheduled adult programming:

Try it Out Tuesdays, an adult DIY craft at 7 p.m. the last Tuesday of the month; a Cozy Mystery book club at 7 p.m. the last Wednesday of the month; Yoga with Gina Belew starts back one Thursday per month at 5:30 p.m. December 9 (days and times may change in 2022). Reserve your spot in the events calendar at *cincinnatilibrary.bibliocommons.com/events* . Contact the Anderson Branch Library at 513.369.6030.

## **Explore Anderson Parks with Self-Guided Activities**

The Anderson Park District now offers Outdoor Adventure Activities, self-guided activities geared for the whole family. These activities encourage you to explore the parks on your own. Visit anytime between dawn and dusk.

Check out StoryWalk<sup>®</sup> and read a children's book while enjoying a leisurely walk on a beautiful day. The StoryWalk<sup>®</sup> books and locations vary by season.

Do your children like to practice their Ninja skills? Currently, there are Playground Ninja Courses at Veterans and Riverside Parks. Print or look at the instructions on your phone and have your children follow the directions. Once the course is completed, print the completion certificate.



## **Forest Hills Schools Achieved Notable Honors in 2021**

The Forest Hills Local School District, serving Anderson Township and the Village of Newtown, once again opened its doors to kick off a new school year for the district's 7,375 students. The 2020-21 school year was not without considerable challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, Forest Hills students and staff prevailed, overcame challenges, and this school year began with a host of notable accolades.

Forest Hills School District educators and families pride themselves on ensuring students achieve the highest level of academic excellence and that goal is evident by the accomplishments earned by learners. In September, the National Niche Report ranked FHSD as an "A+" district; the district's educators rank in the top 1 percent nationwide.

From elementary schools to high schools, Forest Hills continues to earn high honors. *U.S. News and World Report* ranked Anderson High School and Turpin High School among the top 4 percent in Ohio. Both high schools earned the Governor's Thomas Edison Awards for Excellence in STEM education. Nagel Middle School is ranked 13th Best Middle School in the Cincinnati region and is once again named a "school to watch" by the Ohio Department of Education. The district's elementary schools are ranked among the top elementary schools in the Greater Cincinnati region.





#### Combine screen time with green time in several ways.

- Use your camera to complete a photo scavenger hunt at Juilfs Park, Veterans Park and W. M. Johnson Hills Park. Be sure to leave items undisturbed where you find them.
- Complete a Geocaching Adventure Lab. One focuses on Anderson Parks playgrounds and the other contains little-known facts about the parks. To participate, download the Geocaching Adventure Lab app.
- According to Geocaching.com, there are 4,012 geocaches around Cincinnati and 19 of those are managed by the Anderson Park District. The park district has a geotrail that consists of a geocache at eight parks. Find all eight and collect the code words to be eligible to buy a geocoin. Download a passport from the park website. Download the free geocaching app and visit *Geocaching.com* for information about how to get started.

Enjoy the outdoor adventure packets and coloring pages.

For details about these activities and to find new ones periodically, visit *andersonparks.com/outdoor-adventure-activities*. Email photos from your adventures to *Marketing@AndersonParks.com* and tag the parks on social media.



Last year, only 25 percent of school districts provided face-to-face instruction which included Forest Hills. This year, the district is providing the same high-quality instruction in safe environments that continue to make the health and well-being of students a priority. New Chromebooks have been provided for each student ensuring all students remain at the forefront of technology and have the necessary tools for academic success. None of the Forest Hills School District's achievements are possible without the collective efforts of students, staff and families.

# **HOLIDAY WASTE RECYCLING GUIDE**

Be Clean and Green This Year



## New Child ID Program Launched Via App

Law enforcement in Anderson Township and the FBI are collaborating to keep kids safe. The Hamilton County Sheriff's Office District 5 urges parents to take advantage of a child ID app that stores vital information about your child right on your mobile device.

The FBI Child ID App provides a convenient place to electronically store your child's photos and other important information. You can show the photos and provide physical identifiers such as height and weight to security or law enforcement on the spot. Using a special tab on the app, you can email the information to authorities with a few simple clicks.

Parents can import all the necessary data on their own, but if they wish to also upload their child's fingerprints onto the smartphone, contact Deputy Brian Hayes at 513.688.8618 or *bhayes@AndersonTownshipOH.gov* to schedule an appointment.

This app is available for download through the iTunes or Google Play stores. An important note: all data resides solely on the owner's device, unless you need to send it to the authorities. Providers' terms of service will detail the security of applications stored on your smartphone.

### 'Stuff the Medic Unit' Holiday Toy Drive Underway

Anderson Township's Fire and Rescue Department continues its "Stuff the Medic Unit" effort through December 4. The ambulance is stationed outside of the Beechmont Avenue Fire Station, 7954 Beechmont Ave. Donations are being sought for Inter Parish Ministry in Newtown.

To participate, stop by with a new, unwrapped toy and place a donation in the ambulance. Toy donations also may also be dropped off at Station 22 (in Newtown, 7036 Main Street), Station 10 (6211 Salem Road) and Station 101 (6880 Hunley Road).







## **Giving Locally Reaps Community Benefits**

No need to look far when you consider where to invest your resources that are designated for charity.

These Anderson Township non-profits take your donations and turn them into local programs, projects and events. Consider these organizations for your end-of-year giving. All gifts are tax deductible.

### **Anderson Township Betterment** Commission

The Anderson Township Betterment Commission is a 501 (c)(3) organization that promotes efforts to enhance the quality of life for Anderson Township residents, business owners and institutions by

providing support to community organizations, events and other activities.

Projects or services in which the Betterment Commission have historically supported included the Anderson Township Senior Center, Anderson Township Veterans Memorial, Anderson Independence Day Parade, and Anderson Township safety services.

For more information contact Steve Sievers at 513.688.8604 or ssievers@AndersonTownshipOH.gov.

### Anderson Foundation for Parks and Recreation

The Anderson Foundation for Parks and Recreation is the fundraising

ANDERSON FOUNDATION for Parks & Recreation

arm of the Anderson Park District. Its mission is to provide a direct and positive impact on the community by perpetuating parks and recreation through philanthropy, volunteer engagement and advocacy.

The Foundation for Parks has a long history of adding play features to the Anderson Parks including picnic pods, tennis courts, and family swings at Juilfs Park and pickleball courts at Clear Creek Park. A recent investment includes the MariMac Outdoor Classroom at W. M. Johnson Hills Park. Current fundraising efforts are in support of covers for ball diamond dugouts and a renovation for the Veterans Park playground. To learn more, visit FoundationforParks.org.

#### **Forest Hills Foundation for Education** The Forest Hills Foundation for

Education raises funds to cultivate resources and create opportunities



FOREST HILLS FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATION

years, the foundation has raised more than \$2 million.

Tax revenue and state funding alone cannot provide everything needed for a world-class educational experience.

#### This year the foundation is focused on:

- Student health and wellness,
- Access to innovative initiatives, no matter which school attended,
- Experiential STEM programs for students to be creative in a team-focused approach.

To learn more about the organization's initiatives and how you can get involved, visit FHFE.org.

### Anderson Area Chamber of **Commerce Foundation**

The Anderson Area Chamber Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization that funds three business scholarships given to Anderson, Turpin and McNicholas high schools. Each school is responsible for selecting a graduating senior that plans to study business or a related course of study in college.

The foundation also offers educational and leadership initiatives primarily through the Accelerate Anderson Leadership Academy. The academy focuses on leadership development, networking and teaching individuals how to contribute effectively to their community. Contact Matt Owen, executive director, at 513.474.4802 or matt@andersonareachamber.org.

### Anderson Township Historical Society

The Anderson Township Historical Society's mission is to preserve and collect historical records and artifacts related to Anderson Township and educate about the township's original frontier way of life. The society receives no local, state or national funding and is entirely based on the work done by volunteers.

A new project is the Anderson Township Historical Society Urban Farm on Bartels Road.



The Urban Farm provides a place for the community to interact with the natural world, explore sustainable farming, and rediscover the agricultural history of Anderson Township.

> Donations currently are invested in restoring the 100-year-old barn on the Urban Farm property. To donate, contact Nick Gressle at 513.680.4771.

## Leaf Removal: Don't Blow It!

#### Storm drains are for water runoff, not leaves and yard debris.

You may have a ton of leaves to deal with this season. But if you have been blowing your leaves into the street and down the storm drain, you've blown it!

Leaves should not be raked or blown into storm drains. Storm drains connect runoff water to natural waterways and are harmed by leaves and debris that flow into the sewer system.

Leaves can clog the pipes and cause street flooding, as well as decay and send nutrients into the waterways that can be harmful for fish and other species. Unlike the drains in your home, the water that runs off into the storm drains does not receive treatment. That means pollutants or contaminants enter directly into the natural streams, rivers and lakes around you.

Public Works Director Eric Luginbuhl asks residents to monitor their storm drains and keep them from clogging. "Stormwater drains are not a trash can for your leaves or yard debris," he said. "A clogged drain on your street could result in flooding to your or your neighbor's property.'

## **Enforcement of Temporary Sign Rules Clears Visual Clutter**

Signs grab your attention, call for action and inform. But too many of them, set in locations that obstruct or cause distraction, can be a safety problem for a community and counteract beautification efforts.

Yes, temporary signs (including political yard signs) are allowed here, but there are rules surrounding their use.

However, the need to monitor the number of signs on a property and their locations increases prior to any election, due to an uptick in citizen complaints.

Why monitor the signs? Regulations related to the use of these signs "help address safety and aesthetic issues," notes Planning and Zoning Director Paul Drury. "The goal of our sign regulations is not to limit free speech or personal expression, but to control signs to a degree so they do not create visual safety hazards and also degrade our community's character by overuse on a property." Many signs end up on private property without an owner's consent, in the public right of way, or on public property such as Greenspace, so the township resolution also helps in these situations, Drury said.







Here are Anderson's basic rules related to the use of temporary signs:

placing a sign creates a safety hazard.

sign will be discarded.

• Temporary signs cannot be placed on public property or in public

rights-of-way, attached to utility poles, or located in places where

• Temporary signs on public property may be removed by Anderson

Township and stored until the sign is retrieved. After 30 days the

• Signs are permitted on private property with the property owner's

is usually 10 feet from the pavement edge or curb, Anderson's

ago, in advance of a Supreme Court ruling that prohibits sign

Last year, the township responded to 818 illegally placed signs. Drury

regulations based on the content or message.

Township's Zoning Resolution was updated more than 15 years

permission. They must be set back out of the right-of-way, which



noted that the township does not have "sign police." "Our township planners are also cross trained and serve as our zoning inspectors. We have very limited staff and signage enforcement," he said. "With only several hours a week to devote to this effort, we cover the nearly 200 miles of roadways in Anderson Township. This takes time and energy away from planning and enhancement efforts," he added.

A Temporary Signage Quick Reference Guide is available online. Go to Anderson Township OH.gov and click on the Planning and Zoning Department and then the Zoning Brochures link to temporary signage.

For more information or to report violations, contact 513.688.8400 ext. 3, or info@AndersonTownship.org

### HOMEARAMA<sup>®</sup> 2021













### WE THRIVE! BIKE RIDE





### **ANDERSON TOWNE CENTER TRICK OR TREAT**





### WALK TO SCHOOL DAYS









### **Urban Farm's Signature Red Barn Under Renovation**

Project will help restore one of township's longstanding buildings, reminiscent of community's agricultural history.



Anderson's historic Urban Farm barn, a centerpiece of the organization's six-acre property, is getting a re-do. By spring, the barn will be repainted, repaired and spruced up so it can weather the next 100 years.

Built before 1900, the barn serves as an informal outreach center for educational and social activities of the Anderson Township Historical Society's Urban Farm.

The Urban Farm property, located on Bartels Road adjacent to Turpin High School, was purchased by the historical society in 2005. However, according to project engineer Don Perry, no meaningful use for the site was formulated until 2018 when volunteers began clearing the land for the Urban Farm. "From that time on, the property was revolutionized," said Perry.

Perry said the barn has been cleared out and now needs attention for it to be standing a century from now. "The paint has started to fail, and we have a lot of siding that has rotted," he said. Other planned upgrades included improved electric, new doors, a cistern and roof repairs. Perry believes once the barn is renovated, it uses can include housing visiting animals on the property and continuing a variety of educational and social outreaches.

Lexie Stevenson has been an active volunteer on the farm project in recent years. She notes, "Although we've only been working on it for three years, we've accomplished a great deal, and it has so much potential," she said. "The focal point is that wonderful old barn. We envision it as a place to host classes, workshops and other events. A space to play music and make art. And most importantly a place where people can feel connected to the history of our agricultural past, right in modern-day Anderson Township."

"It needs more work than we can do ourselves to ensure that it is usable and safely preserved for many years to come," she said.

"This barn is one of last remaining vestiges of our farm community," Perry said. Very few are still standing that were built during the township's pioneer era, Perry added.

Not too long ago, about 40 percent of the land in the township was used for agriculture; today, that figure is around 4 percent," Perry noted.

The project's cost is estimated at \$50,000. For information visit AndersonUrbanFarm.com.



Digging a trench off the barn, date unknown.



Historic photo of red barn

## NEWS & NOTES Salt Conveyor Purchased **Collectively By Municipalities**

Anderson Township and seven Cincinnati-area communities have purchased a new salt conveyor, continuing a collaboration that has lasted many years.

A new 75-foot stainless steel conveyor is jointly owned by Anderson Township with Amberley Village, the cities of Madeira and Springdale, and Deerfield, Miami, Sycamore and Symmes townships.

A salt conveyor is the tool used by public works departments to move salt into the salt dome. Anderson's previous conveyor was 30 years old and had been loaned to other jurisdictions for many years, eventually reaching a point of non-repair, according to Eric Luginbuhl, Public Works director. Cost of the equipment was about \$70,000, which was split among the participating municipalities, saving each community considerable tax dollars.

#### **Unmasking Addiction During COVID-19**

Unmasking addiction during COVID-19 is the topic of the next Mental Wellness Speaker Series. The presenter is Dr. Joel Sprunger, PhD, an assistant professor and licensed clinical psychologist in the Addiction Sciences Division of the UC Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Neuroscience in the UC College of Medicine.

> The meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8 at Anderson Center, 7850 Five Mile Road

The presentation will discuss addiction during COVID-19, including background on addiction and what it has looked like during COVID-19. Strategies to help also will be explained.

Information regarding an overview of the types of treatment programs available (inpatient and outpatient) and treatment approaches (medication and behavioral) will provide an idea of what to expect from different places and help link people to the right level of care.

### **Public Meetings**

**Board of Township Trustees** (Times and dates subject to change with notice) Interim Meeting: Thursday, Dec. 2, 2 p.m.. • Regular Monthly Meeting: Thursday, Dec. 16, 5 p.m.

**Board of Zoning Appeals** Thursday, Jan. 6, 5:30 p.m.

**Zoning Commission** Monday, Jan. 24, 5:30 p.m.

WeTHRIVE! Anderson Committee Wednesday, Feb. 16, 6 p.m.

**Tree Committee** Monday, Jan. 10, 7 p.m.

### **Beautiful Spaces Cited in Township Contest**

Anderson's WeTHRIVE! Committee has announced two winners of beautification awards for 2021. Awards are given annually to businesses that have implemented an outstanding landscape design that enhances the community. Residential gardens are cited for their effort in beautifying the curb appeal of the home.

Gold Star at 7716 Beechmont Ave won the outstanding commercial landscape design award for 2021.

The winner of the private residential garden landscape design is the home of Ellen and Bryan Berman, 767 Maidstone Court.

Both winners received a yard sign for display.



767 Maidstone Court- residential winner



Gold Star Chili- commercial winner

#### ALL MEETINGS ARE HOSTED AT ANDERSON CENTER 7850 FIVE MILE ROAD (513.688.8400 EXT. 3) UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

#### **Anderson Township Senior Center Advisory** Committee

Thursday, Jan. 20, 2 p.m. Meets at Anderson Township Senior Center 7970 Beechmont Ave.

Transportation **Advisory Committee** Tuesday, Jan. 4, 6:30 p.m.

Economic **Development Committee** Tuesday, Jan. 25, 3 p.m.

# EVENTS



### Season's Best Found at Anderson Holiday Festival

Family fun and holiday magic go hand-in-hand on the streetscape of Anderson Towne Center on Saturday, Dec. 4. That's when the Anderson Holiday Festival returns to the center, along with Santa, entertainment and seasonal festivities.

The event kicks off at 4 p.m. and Santa arrives at 4:15 p.m. on a township fire engine; he'll be scheduled for personal "consultation" during the evening. Gather around the tree at 6 p.m. for the annual lighting ceremony. In the meantime, children's activities line the walkway including crafts, games and a holiday passport.

Other events include wagon rides through the center's streetscape area. Ring in the season with outdoor entertainment from local organizations on multiple stages.

Anderson Towne Center businesses provide refreshments during the evening or participants can patronize one of several restaurants in the towne center area.

Anderson Towne Center is at 7578 Beechmont Ave. For more details visit the "News" section at *Anderson TownshipOH.gov.* 







# CONNECT

### NOVEMBER

**Clermont Northeastern High School-** *Moana Jr.* Anderson Center Theater, 7850 Five Mile Road THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, NOV. 18 AND 19 AT 7 P.M. SATURDAY, NOV. 20, 2 AND 7 P.M. Tickets: \$10 at the door.

#### DECEMBER

Anderson Holiday Fest Anderson Towne Center Streetscape

SATURDAY, DEC. 4, 4-6 P.M. Tree lighting at 6 p.m. and other activities throughout the event. Info: *andersontownecentercincinnati.com* 

#### LeJeune Dance- Nutcracker

Anderson Center Theater, 7850 Five Mile Road THURSDAY - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9-12. Visit *LeJeuneDance.com/Tickets* for time and ticket information.

Performing Arts, Inc.- The Addams Family,

Into the Woods and Elf Anderson Center Theater, 7850 Five Mile Road DECEMBER 14-19 Tickets: \$12 online at *pai.seatyourself.biz* or \$15 at door if still available.

### JANUARY

Live Comedy Improv- Benefit for Cincinnati Big Brothers/Big Sisters Anderson Center Theater, 7850 Five Mile Road FRIDAY, JAN. 7, 7:30 P.M.

Ages 12 and up. Tickets: 513.295.8711

**Performing Arts Inc** -High School Musical 2 Jr., Jungle Book Kids and Broadway Showcase Anderson Center Theater, 7850 Five Mile Road

JAN. 23-30 Tickets: available at *pai.seatyourself.biz* 



Anderson Community Band

### FEBRUARY

#### **Beechmont Players-** The Odd Couple - (female version) Anderson Center Theater, 7850 Five Mile Road

FEBRUARY 4-12 Tickets: \$20 Seniors 60 and up and active military: \$18. Info: 513.233.2468 or *BeechmontPlayers.org*.

## **Recollections & Reconnections in the Miami Valley***2021 and Beyond*

Anderson Center, 7850 Five Mile Road SATURDAY, FEB. 19, 10 A.M.

**LeJeune Dance-** *La Esmeralda Ballet Suite* Anderson Center Theater, 7850 Five Mile Road

FRIDAY, FEB. 25, 7:30 P.M. SATURDAY, FEB. 26, 2 AND 7:30 P.M. SUNDAY, FEB. 27, 2 P.M.

Tickets: \$20, \$15 for 10 and under and seniors over 65. Info: *lejeunedance.com/tickets* 

### MARCH

#### **Reconnecting Your Archaeological Collections** Anderson Center, 7850 Five Mile Road

SATURDAY, MARCH 5 STARTS AT 10 A.M. APPOINTMENTS THROUGHOUT THE DAY Reservations at 513.688.8444 to share artifacts and stories.

#### Anderson Community Band Concert

Anderson Center Theater, 7850 Five Mile Road SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 7 P.M.. Free. Info: John Fecker at 513.207.8506 or *andersoncommunityband.com*.

**CNE Theater-** *Little Mermaid* Anderson Center Theater, 7850 Five Mile Road THURSDAY-SATURDAY, MARCH 17-19, 7 P.M. SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2 P.M.

Tickets: \$10 at the door.



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 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 513,474,3100

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

> PUBLISHER Vicky Earhart EDITORS Steve Sievers Nancy Caine

## **Plan Your Garden with Pollinators in Mind**

#### A well-maintained, healthy garden is one that is also a well-planned garden.

In the depths of winter is when much of garden planning should be undertaken. This is the time to review your growing area, listing out those annuals and perennials that either need to be replaced or managed.

Once you have this task completed, it is also time to plan when you are going to order new plants and/or flowers. With ongoing worldwide shipping issues, ordering early is becoming even more important. Seed vendors are behind in shipments due to overwhelming demand and supply chain issues. Many seeds you purchase for home planting are from Europe, South America or Asia. If you plan to order seeds and/or plants, do so early. Expect long wait times for delivery four to eight weeks.

Also, the world's pollinator population is dwindling. Not only honeybees, but numbers of all bees, hummingbirds, butterflies, birds and bats are on the decline. Pollination is crucial for about 50 percent of all fruits and vegetables eaten. For example, Almond trees are 100 percent pollinated by insects, mostly honeybees. Without proper pollination, almond production would be slashed up to 60 percent of possible yield.

Take pollination into account when planning your 2022 garden. Consider selecting flowers, shrubs and/or trees that are pollinator friendly. When given a choice, always choose native over non-native plants.





A list for spring, summer and fall blooming plants can be found at the Plant for Pollinators website, *cincinnatizoo.org/horticulture/plant-for-pollinators*.

-The Anderson Tree Committee

Anderson Township's URL has changed. The new Internet address for Anderson Township government is **AndersonTownshipOH.gov**.