

ANDERSON Insights

THE VOICE OF ANDERSON TOWNSHIP

AUGUST 2024

Public Safety Levy to Appear on Fall Ballot

Current 2016 levy stretched three extra years to support township's emergency services as calls increase.



Anderson Township safety services are experiencing an increase in calls.

Anderson Township voters will see a public safety levy on the ballot when they go to the polls this fall on November 5.

After a year of discussion and research, Anderson Township Trustees voted at their July 18 board meeting to place a 3.3 mill levy before voters. The monthly increase in taxes based on a \$200,000 home for 3.3 mills is \$19.25. Trustees indicated the move was necessary to meet growing needs in public safety as calls for services in fire, rescue and law enforcement trend upward. At the same time, inflation experienced throughout all sectors has increased the cost of goods, services and salaries.

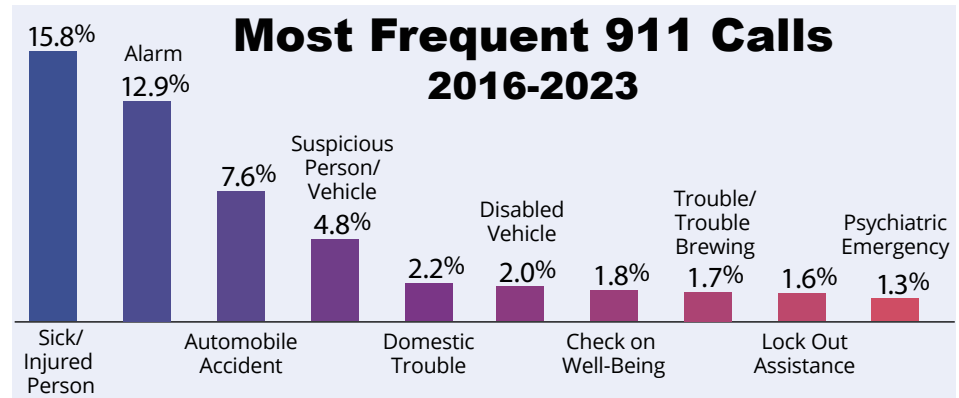
“It is important we keep our public safety services strong, and that is one of the most important jobs that trustees safeguard in townships,” said Dee Stone, trustee chair. “Unfortunately, we are limited by the Ohio Revised Code on how we can fund these services.

We have stretched our current levy as much as possible and used creative approaches to reducing costs and utilizing other limited revenue sources to supplement this budget,” she said. “However, eight years after our previous levy, which was targeted to last five years, we could not see another way to meet growing needs without coming back to voters.”

Fire Chief Rick Martin said his department has been facing changes in recent years, especially since COVID. **“Our older adult population is aging in place longer,** which has meant more demand for our EMS services and need for additional staff to ensure high-quality services and responsiveness,” he said. Also, increases in fuel, medications and employee benefits (the department has 72 employees) have been squeezing the budget, he said. Almost three-fourths of the nearly 6,400 runs in 2023 made by Anderson Township Fire and Rescue were in response to EMS calls. “Additionally, costs associated with recruitment and retention of personnel have increased, too,” he said.

The Hamilton County Sheriff’s Office also reports an uptick in calls for service in neighborhoods. Schools are fielding more demand for their school resource officers as the needs of the district population change, too. This past school year Anderson Township and the Forest Hills School District collaborated on

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Public Safety Levy

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funding a second school resource officer to cover the township's 10 schools in response to growing student changes. The township has funded the first officer since 2000.

Lt. Dave Downing, District 5 commander, said the sheriff's office has prioritized staying current with technological advancements in community policing and public safety, requiring additional resources. Advancements include in-car dash cameras, body cameras and technology that reads license plates.

Township Administrator Vicky Earhart noted that overall, the township's fiscal health is stable. However, as reappraisals occur, the effective millage decreases. The Public Safety Levy rate approved by voters in 2016 is now collecting 64% of the original amount, keeping collections stagnant.

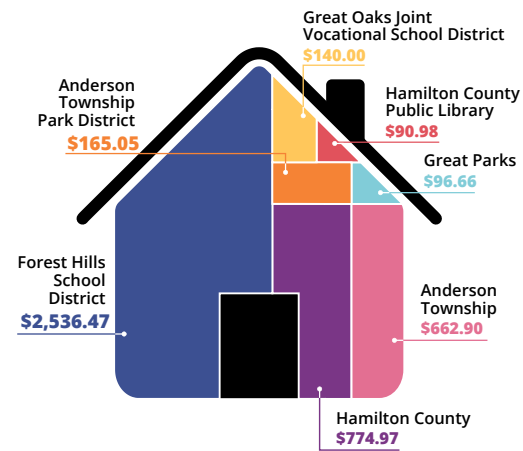
"We are very protective of the high quality of safety services we provide to our residents and the overall safety of our community," she said.

Anderson is committed to continuing its top-notch EMS services. In response to the steady increase in EMS calls since COVID, a fourth battalion chief was added to focus solely on emergency medical services, with the goal of improving patient outcomes. Statistics from the Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (CARES) indicated the 2023 overall survival rates for non-traumatic cardiac events were more than double the national average. The township has been tracking this statistic through the CARES program since 2021. (See back page for story.)

Townships are limited in their funding sources, and as a result, property taxes comprise over 78% of the township's revenue. Approximately 83% of that property tax revenue supports the township's fire and rescue department and sheriff's expenditures. "But public safety involves more than day-to-day emergency responses. These personnel are heavily involved in planning for and responding to natural or man-made disasters such as flooding, tornadoes and pandemics, all of which have impacted the township in the last eight years," Earhart noted.

"In addition to rising costs, we've been hit by some major tax-generating properties going tax-exempt," noted Trustee Vice Chair Josh Gerth. "For example, just between the purchase of TriHealth and Christ Hospital

Taxes Collected on a \$200,000 Market Value Property



medical offices by the very entities that occupy them, we've lost \$300,000 annually," he added. "This undermines our efforts to grow non-residential aspects of the community to reduce the tax burden on our residents. Added together, the properties that pay no property tax lowers our revenues over \$2.3 million."

Trustee Lexi Lausten said the levy decision to ask has been "weighed heavily."

"We know expenses are higher for most residents and any tax increase is cause for concern," she said.

Services a Public Safety Levy Covers

Fire, emergency and rescue services include:

- ◆ Advanced life support services, including cardiac, etc.
- ◆ 24/7 coverage for more than 44,000 residents plus visitors, with services operating from four fire stations. In 2023, the fire and rescue department responded to nearly 6,400 calls for service.
- ◆ Building review and safety inspections, disaster planning and emergency preparation.
- ◆ CPR classes, Stop the Bleed courses, blood pressure checks.
- ◆ Car seat installation.

Sheriff's Office contracted services:

- ◆ 24-hour law enforcement response initiated throughout township in five geographic beats. The department responded to more than 15,500 dispatches in 2023.
- ◆ Life safety programs, including education, school resource officers, traffic safety, narcotics and crime prevention.

TOWNSHIP NEWS

Sidewalk Construction Underway in Township



Anderson's construction season is in full swing, which includes several new sidewalk sections being readied for this year or next.

A new sidewalk is planned for **Wolfangel Road**, from Delas Cove to the new Villas of Cross Creek subdivision (south of Towerview Drive) and will begin taking shape next year. This includes a **link along Clough Pike** to the Clough Chase subdivision. With these improvements, pedestrians will have access to State Road via sidewalks and a natural trail through the Villas of Cross Creek subdivision and Mercy Health-Anderson Hospital property.

The final section of the **Elstun Connector**, Phase 2, is under construction. This link connects Beechmont Avenue and the Skytop Apartments into the Mt. Washington area to the Little Miami Scenic Trail.

The connector includes a **new bridge over Clough Creek**, which will allow bicyclists and walkers to access the regional network of hike and bike trails. Construction is slated to finish in mid-2026.

A new sidewalk also will be built this summer on **Voll Road**, north of Beechmont near Beech Acres Park, using Community Development Block Grant funds. This link will connect nearby subdivisions to a planned crosswalk of



Beechmont Avenue at Voll Road, and pedestrian improvements on Beechmont to link to the park. Improvements are in the planning stage for future construction.

Also scheduled are these pedestrian signal or crosswalk projects:

- A new pedestrian traffic signal on **Clough Pike** by Juilfs Park is slated for construction starting late this year, for completion in early 2025.
- **Four pedestrian-activated signals** will be introduced at intersections this summer:
 - Hunley Road near Royalgreen Drive,
 - Lawyer Road at Concordgreen Drive,
 - Eight Mile Road at Little Harbor Drive,
 - Little Dry Run by Wilson Elementary School.

"We're excited at the efforts of our staff, working with property owners, to introduce these safety and access improvements," said Trustee Lexi Lausten. "All these connections stem from our 2023 Anderson Trails Plan Update. The projects continue to demonstrate not only the townships' commitment to planning, but the collaborative energy resulting from citizens who provide suggestions that end up as part of the trails network."

Are Ohioans Driving Safer, with Fewer Distractions?

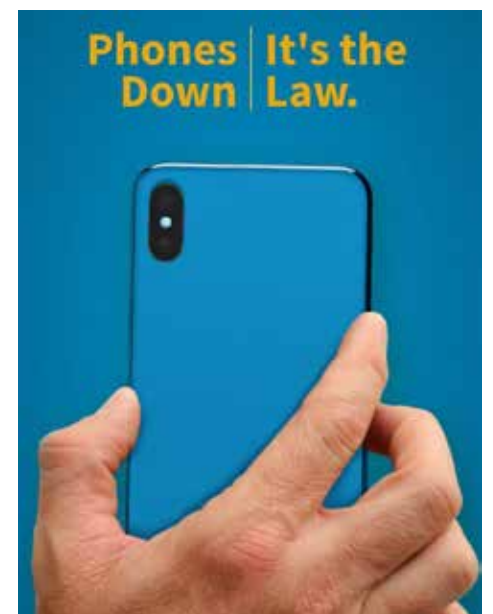
State and local distracted driving statistics show a strengthened new law is making a positive impact.

Ohio's "Phones Down" law went into effect in October 2023, making it illegal to use or hold a cell phone or electronic device in your hand, lap or other parts of the body while driving. While some exceptions are allowed, drivers can be cited with a violation for dangerous behavior.

Overall, the state has shown a **significant decrease in distracted driving** in just one year. Ohio Traffic Safety Office statistics gathered from a telematics service showed an 8.6% decrease a year after the inception of the new Ohio law, said Judy Converse, public information officer for the Ohio Traffic Safety Office.

"Other states have not seen this much of a change," she said. The telematics company estimated this drop in distracted driving prevented 3,600 crashes, 2,000 injuries, 17 fatalities and \$144 million in economic damages, she added.

In Anderson Township, the District 5 substation Commander Lt. Dave Downing reports that crashes involving distracted driving are also decreasing. From January to May 2024 only two auto accidents were reported involving distracted drivers, Downing said. That's compared to 26 distracted driving crashes in 2021, 16 in 2022 and 13 reported in 2023 occurring in Anderson Township.



Welcoming Gateway Completed for Key Economic and Entertainment Area



Aerial view of I-275 Exit 72 interchange project

A dramatic project that transformed the township entrance at the Kellogg Avenue Exit 72 interchange at I-275 is complete. As part of the project, plantings and hardscape features are adding a welcome beauty to Anderson Township.

The \$3.5 million project also included an additional safety feature, with upgraded LED lighting for pedestrians, cyclists and motor vehicles that use the interchange. With the implementation of this project, Josh Gerth, trustee vice chair, said the board of trustees thinks it is important to remind residents of how this project came to fruition.

The vision to develop a gateway along US 52 and Kellogg Road dates to 2013 when the Ohio Riverfront Plan Update was

approved after several public hearings. Gerth noted that financing for the project comes from the township's Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds. TIF funds in essence are tax dollars collected on select newly developed or redeveloped properties. These funds must be used on **capital expenses that benefit the properties making the TIF payment**, he noted.

TIF funds previously funded other improvements around the township including the Anderson Lake and Anderson Center campus, sidewalks and trails, streetscape and safety improvements along major roadways, township roadway resurfacing and safety services vehicles. Anderson's popular spine of its bike-hike network, the Five Mile Trail, also was built

with TIF funds. In addition, the Anderson Parks RecPlex, purchased and upgraded by the township in 2019, was a beneficiary of the TIF program.

"TIF is an economic tool used in our community since 1994," noted Tammy Disque, the township's director of finance.

"Long-term strategic planning enables the township to make these capital improvements. The tax liability for TIF properties is no different from non-TIF properties. However, the township receives a larger percentage of the tax payment for TIF properties which allows for project financing," she said.

"Recently the board of trustees began the process to extend this arrangement for another 30 years," Gerth noted.

Estimates indicate more than 1 million people visit the Entertainment District annually, "certainly one of the busiest entertainment areas in the region," Gerth said. "This is our front door, and our responsibility is to implement the decade-long plan we've been saving for, as well as show existing and future investors in the district that we thank and welcome them," Gerth said. "We want to show the millions who visit and drive by that we are proud of our community. This project mirrors what other successful townships (i.e. West Chester) have done and the return on those investments have been proven," he said.

One large TIF property is the Belterra Park Gaming facility on Kellogg Avenue. It was redeveloped approximately 10 years ago and generates more than \$2.7 million in TIF revenue to the township each year. Prior uses of these TIF funds from Belterra Park included the resurfacing of Kellogg Avenue in 2018 and completion of the Ohio River Trail from Sutton to Salem roads in 2021. TIF funds will be used for maintenance of the interchange project and any future improvements to the Entertainment District suggested through the gateway study.

Non-TIF expenses in the township include:

- ◆ Salaries and benefits
- ◆ Tools and repairs: tactical radios, medications, supplies, uniforms, fuel, etc.
- ◆ Legal fees
- ◆ Senior center expenses

Funds collected through this TIF must be used for improvements serving the Ohio Riverfront, including economic development projects enhancing the entertainment district, noted Fiscal Officer Brian Johnson. Funds cannot be used for salaries and operating expenses, he added. "This is an incredible tool to do special projects that we would never be able to do and the best part is we can do it without any additional cost to our taxpayers," Johnson noted.

A second popular question about the interchange improvement broaches the use of TIF funds at this junction, which is

managed by the Ohio Department of Transportation. "Between Belterra Park and the Riverbend Music Center (and formerly Coney Island), the township is home to several tremendous regional entertainment destinations," said Trustee

Chair Dee Stone. "Communities dream of attracting these kinds of major venues, and we already have them here," Stone added.

"This interchange, while technically just outside of the township, helps us to put our best foot forward and shows once again,

another example of how we have collaborated with our neighbors in the California Business District, some of whom are Anderson Township residents. We needed to put our best foot forward with this improvement as so many other communities have done," Gerth said.

"This area has long been neglected and was actually uninviting," Stone noted. But cooperative work with the City of Cincinnati, the Ohio Department of Transportation and the Hamilton County Engineer's Office has resulted in a memorable entryway into Anderson Township, Cincinnati and the state of Ohio," Stone added.

"Part of the focus of the Kellogg Gateway Study in 2021 was to help expand seasonal and year-round business opportunities along the riverfront," noted Planning and Zoning Director Paul Drury. "These interchange improvements not only celebrate what's there, but they will help emphasize various opportunities for new development along the Kellogg corridor."

"By making these improvements, we are telling people we are open for business, and we are open to serving more people who shop, dine and spend money in Anderson, and may ultimately choose to live in our community," Gerth said.

New Traffic Signal Slated for Five Mile and Towne Center Way

The intersection of Five Mile Road and Towne Center Way, next to the Vantage at Anderson Towne Center apartments, will see a new traffic signal soon.

Assistant Administrator for Operations Steve Sievers said the new signal serving Anderson Towne Center will address truck and business traffic and will enhance safety for those vehicles. The township's new METRO bus park and ride facility is slated to operate in the lower level of the Vantage apartments development in early 2025.

The project's cost is about \$335,000, which will be paid for mostly through SORTA's

Transit Infrastructure Fund grant program, stemming from a county sales tax approved by the voters in 2020. Anderson Township will pick up a 10% match provided through Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds reserved for capital improvements.

The new signal will be coordinated with the traffic light just to the south, which services the Anderson Towne Center and Five Mile Center. The project also includes related modifications to expand the left turn lane for southbound Five Mile Road.

Construction is projected to be complete by late this year.



Anderson Welcomes New Businesses, Residential Growth

Now Open

Asadero Mexican Bar and Grill
7500 Beechmont Ave.

Animal Care Center, Anderson
8094 Beechmont Ave.



Better Blend
7761 Five Mile Road

Cleaner Concepts Dry Cleaners
7723 Beechmont Ave.

Gyrolicious Grill
6665 Salem Road

New Residential Developments Under Construction

Nagel Village
1357 and 1349 Nagel Road - Eight duplexes, one single-family unit, total 17 units

Coming Soon

Waxxpot
7747 Five Mile Road

Wing Stop
8140 Beechmont Ave.

Villas of Cross Creek
1949 Wolfangel Road - 35 lots

HISTORY NOTES



Celebration of new Mt. Washington bus fleet, 1935

Mt. Washington: Anderson's Next Door Neighbor

Our township has several major access points, the most significant of which is Mt. Washington, the easternmost neighborhood of the City of Cincinnati. Mt. Washington has a history that is worth knowing because it provides a fuller understanding of Anderson Township's origins and growth.

When a small group of settlers stepped off a flatboat on the shore of the Ohio River at the mouth of the Little Miami River in 1790, a new chapter of the township's history began.

The settlers included John Garard, Joseph Martin, and the Rev. John Corbly Jr. who intended to purchase large tracts of land originally surveyed as part of the Virginia Military Survey within Anderson Township. The land was granted as payment to Revolutionary War soldiers from Virginia.

This first settlement was a large defensive structure named Garard's Station. Stephen Sutton arrived at Garard's Station in 1793. He built his log home, which still stands today in Mt. Washington, in 1795 on the hill above the Little Miami River. Along

with others, these were the founders of today's Mt. Washington.

As Anderson residents know, Mt. Washington is today a prospering community of homes and small businesses; however, it wasn't always that way. In its early days, Mt. Washington was a quiet rural community of productive family farms, as was Anderson Township.

In time, businesses sprang up, mostly along Ohio Pike (Beechmont Avenue) to serve the needs of both rural communities.



The suspension bridge over the Little Miami River at Beechmont Avenue, under construction about 1874.



Stephen Sutton log house, c. 1915 built in 1795



The Mt. Washington water tower under construction in 1939. It went into operation in 1940.



Mt. Washington School, 1870-1932



Wolff home, Beechmont Avenue and Corbly Road



Members of the Ebersole family of Mt. Washington, around 1900

In 1846, John L. Corbly, grandson of the Rev. John Corbly mentioned earlier, subdivided and sold much of his land, one of the original tracts, and a post office was established. Another subdivision of Corbly land was made in 1849. In 1867, Mt. Washington became an incorporated village. The incorporation took in a small part of what was known as the Bland Survey. Within the Bland Survey but outside of incorporation was Salem Village, the site of Rev. Francis McCormick's Methodist church at the corner of Salem and Sutton roads.

The remaining portion of that tract east of the church was purchased by Vincent

Shinn. Shinn was an admirer of James Birney, an ardent abolitionist and candidate for U.S. president in 1840 and 1844. Shinn called the road Birney Lane that ran to Markley's Mill.

Originally Mt. Washington could only be reached from Cincinnati by fording the Little Miami River at Flinn's Ford. In 1836, a wooden bridge was built closer to today's Beechmont Levee. A suspension bridge replaced it in 1876. The result was easier access to and from Mt. Washington and Anderson Township, greatly improving the ability of farmers to transport produce into the Cincinnati market.

Although in 1900 Mt. Washington consisted of only about 800 residents, the City of Cincinnati recognized its potential for growth and in 1911 the village of Mt. Washington was annexed. Street names that were already in use in the city had to be changed as a result. For example, Beacon had been Cherry, Beechmont had been Ohio Pike, and Berkshire had been Bogart.

The annexation enhanced the distinction between the identities of Mt. Washington and the township. As the saying goes, good fences make good neighbors, but even without fences Anderson Township and Mt. Washington continue to be good neighbors with a shared history and mutual commercial dependence.

TOWNSHIP NEWS

Know Ohio's Open Burning Laws



Stringent regulations govern burning of all types in Ohio. While recreational cooking fires such as barbeque grills and chimineas are permitted, open burning of trash and yard debris is another story.

Open burning refers to any time you light an outdoor fire without a chimney or a stack. That means burning refuse in a burn barrel or burning tree limbs in an open pile is illegal here.

Open burning is a problem because it releases many kinds of toxic fumes.

Anderson Township Fire and Rescue conducts many runs every year related to complaints about burning in neighborhoods. In a recent 16-month period, the department answered 44 complaints about outdoor fires.

Information from the Anderson Township Fire and Rescue Department

Leaves and plant materials send millions of spores aloft when they catch fire. The spores cause many people with breathing difficulties to have problems.

Health-based quality air standards are also jeopardized by pollutants released by open burning, especially near or in large population centers. Gases released by open burning can also corrode metal siding and damage paint on buildings.

Burning household waste produces many toxic chemicals and is one of the largest known sources of dioxin in the nation. Pollution related to open burning has been linked to several health problems including asthma, respiratory illnesses, nervous system damage, liver damage and other disorders.

“Because Anderson is largely a suburban community, we ask our residents to think of others and their health needs before lighting an outdoor fire. Please follow all

What Open Burning is NEVER allowed?

- ◆ **Garbage**- waste created in the processing of handling, preparing, cooking or consuming food
- ◆ **Materials containing rubber, grease and asphalt** or made from petroleum (tires, car parts, plastics)
- ◆ **Dead animals**- unless approved for control of disease by a governing agency.

open burning restrictions and recycle or compost your yard waste instead of burning it,” said Assistant Fire Chief Bob Herrlinger of the Anderson Township Fire and Rescue Department.



Christmas (Tree) in Summer?

Do you own a beautiful large evergreen tree that could serve as the focus of Anderson’s annual holiday tree lighting event in December?

Organizers of the Anderson Holiday Festival (planned this year for December 7) are looking for the donation of a tree to

be used as a Christmas tree at Anderson Towne Center. The town center will cover expenses to move the tree in November.

If interested, contact Steve Sievers at ssievers@AndersonTownshipOH.gov or 513.688.8604.

‘Great Trees’ Bring Beauty to Township

Four outstanding trees in Anderson Township have been named winners of the annual “Great Trees” awards. Awards are sponsored by the volunteer Tree Committee.

Any tree on private or public property is eligible if the respective property owner is agreeable to the nomination. Awards are given on Arbor Day each year.

Stephen Springsteen, Anderson Township planner, said the program aims to draw attention to Anderson’s beautiful and diverse tree inventory, plus recognize one of Anderson’s strongest and most well-known assets.

Winners are as followed:

- **Shade Tree**-A Pin Oak at 699 Cedar Knolls Court
- **Evergreen**-A Vanderwolf Limber Pine at 2375 Titian Drive
- **Ornamental Tree**-A Golden Rain on 7602 Athenia Drive
- **Fall Color**-A Sassafras tree at Beech Acres Park

To nominate a tree, go to AndersonTownshipOH.gov to download a form, or send an email to Joe Willging at JPWillging@gmail.com. If your tree flowers or is otherwise at its best before you get your nomination form in, please take photos for review by the committee.

Tree nominations can be made year-round, and the committee currently is accepting nominations for the 2025 Great Tree Awards. The deadline for the 2025 Great Tree Award submission is February 3, 2025.



EVERGREEN TREE:
Vanderwolf Limber Pine
at 2375 Titian Drive



ORNAMENTAL TREE:
Golden Rain at
7602 Athenia Drive



SHADE TREE: Pin Oak
at 699 Cedar Knolls Court



FALL COLORS TREE:
Sassafras at Beech Acres Park

Board of Township Trustees ELECTED OFFICIALS WELCOME YOUR CALLS AND EMAILS!



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NEWS & NOTES

New Hires Named in Fire and Rescue Department

Three firefighter-paramedics recently completed training with Anderson Township.

The new employees are:



Craig Belcher

CRAIG BELCHER formerly worked for the Pierce Township Fire Department, as well as Little Miami Joint Fire and Rescue.

He was certified as a paramedic through the Cincinnati (State) paramedic program. Additionally, Belcher is certified in hazmat and as a fire safety inspector.

RYLAN CHILDS joins the township fire and



Rylan Childs

rescue department after working for the Milford Community Fire Department and Goshen Township Fire and EMS. He is a graduate of Cincinnati State and Butler Tech and is

also certified in hazmat, ice rescue and rope operations.

WESLEY HARTOIN comes to Anderson



Wesley Hartoin

Township's fire and rescue department after experience in the Milford Community Fire Department. He graduated from Cincinnati State Technical and

Community College. His certifications include fire safety inspector, fire apparatus operator and swift water technician.

Safety Comes First at Safety Services Day

Don't miss a kid's paradise of fun at the Anderson Township Emergency Services Day! It's a day set aside for kids to learn about safety and explore props and equipment at the Beechmont Fire Station.

This year's event is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 5. Personnel from Anderson Township Fire and Rescue and the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office will be on hand to educate and answer questions.

The safety day features several new events, including a visit from the University Hospital Mobile Stroke Unit and Goldfish Swim School, which will be teaching water safety.



Returning are a variety of safety services vehicles and the fire department mascot Lt. Big Ben.

"It's always a great day to see kids enjoying being at the firehouse, plus learning all about safety and jobs that are performed every day in Anderson Township," said Lt. Firefighter-paramedic Doug Eagan.

Other activities at the safety event include:

- Use a fire extinguisher simulator to see what it feels like to put out a fire
- Roll out in real fire gear for a photo shoot
- Climb on a water rescue boat, a fire engine, a ladder truck or check out the inside of an ambulance
- Knock down a simulated fire with a real fire hose in the windows of the Flame House
- Test your abilities with an agility course.

For details, visit AndersonTownshipOH.gov.

Pedestrians: Walk This Way to Safety

Anderson's network of bike/hike sidewalks and marked intersections has created a safer community for bicyclists and pedestrians.



As safety is a "two-way street" involving awareness of all parties, are you following these safety tips to ensure safety on the Anderson Trails network?

- Cross in the crosswalk if one is provided and use push buttons to activate the walk button. (Some signals provide pedestrians with lead time before vehicles have a green light.)
- Do not enter the crosswalk if the countdown timer has begun.
- When the light changes, the vehicles will have the right of way.
- Always check for traffic and use caution before entering a crosswalk. Regardless of the right-of-way, the car always wins.

- Unplug and tune in! Walking while distracted by media can be disastrous for you and others.
- Remember, if no sidewalk exists, always walk facing traffic, and ride a bicycle with traffic.

Reminders provided by the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office District 5.

Township Works to Address Local 'Sign Pollution'

It's a sign of the times, well, that signs of all kinds are popping up on telephone poles, affixed to internet infrastructure and on corners throughout neighborhoods.

While some signs are legally placed, illegal temporary signs in front of businesses or "sidewalk spam" show little indication of slowing down, especially during the spring and summer months, noted Planning and Zoning Director Paul Drury.

"Temporary signs are allowed under township policy, but the problem is that many signs placed illegally not only counteract our longstanding beautification efforts, but they cause an obstruction or distraction which can be a safety problem for drivers," Drury noted.

"In the 1990s, citizens had asked the township to clean up rules regarding signs. From large signs on Beechmont Avenue to banners and message boards across the community, residents indicated controls were necessary," Drury said. Those early guidelines have been tweaked over the decades, but the rationale remains the same, he said.

At certain times of the year, including in election season, staff easily spends several hours a day dealing with temporary sign issues, said Sarah Donovan, assistant planning and zoning director. During election season, that time could be increased because of added sign complaints.

Last year, Anderson took down 871 illegal temporary signs, which was more than normal. Most years average about 350 signs that are removed. "The impact of reduced sign clutter compared to Anderson and other communities is noticeable," said Trustee Chair Dee Stone.

Signs are not governed based on the message or content, be it commercial, political, etc. They are only regulated based on size and location, Donovan said. The township is responsible to monitor more than 200 miles of Anderson roadways.

Township residents may place signs on their own private property, or another person's private property with the property owner's permission. Setback rules apply and signs must not be placed in the right of way.

Check with Anderson Township for specific placement details.

Rules for use of temporary signs:

- Temporary signs cannot be placed on public property or in public rights-of-way, attached to utility poles, or located in places where placing a sign creates a safety hazard.
- Temporary signs placed on public property may be removed by Anderson Township and stored until the sign is retrieved. After about 30 days the sign will be discarded.

A quick guide lists detailed information at AndersonTownshipOH.gov under the Planning and Zoning Department.



Vacant House Check Offers Peace of Mind



Leaving town soon? The Hamilton County Sheriff's Office offers a free vacant house check program to all Anderson residents and property owners.

Online signup is now available and will be logged on weekdays. Forms submitted during a weekend will not be added to the checklist until the following business day. Property owners also may submit a vacation check request by calling

513.474.5770 or may visit the District 5 station at 7954 Beechmont Ave. from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays.

To sign up for the service, visit AndersonTownshipOH.gov and search for vacant house check.

Change of plans can be submitted by email or by phone at 513.474.5770.

Home Address Signs Offered Through Fire Department

In a critical situation at home, will emergency responders easily identify your residence? Ensure your home is found quickly through reflective signage offered by a program sponsored by the Anderson Township Fire and Rescue Department.

Address signs for mailboxes are being sold by the department and offered in two

options. The two-sided signs are reflective and visible during both day and night. These signs are preferable over curb markings, which can be obscured by parked vehicles or snow.

To learn more or to order go to AndersonTownshipOH.gov and visit the "News" section.



Anderson Independence Day Parade



Best Neighborhood or Organization-Sponsored by Anderson Towne Center-Trail Life Ohio 0520 and American Heritage Girls 0316



Best Float-Sponsored by Kroger-Anderson Township Historical Society



Best Patriotic-Sponsored by Riverbend- Anderson American Legion Post 318



Best Business-Sponsored Mt. Washington Care Center-Musicologie Anderson



Most Spirited-Sponsored by Mercy Health-Anderson Youth Football and Cheer



Beechmont Bolt Run



History to Schools



Garden and History Tour



Memorial Day Remembrance



★ ★ ★
Thank You

Major sponsors: Anderson Township, Anderson Park District, Anderson Towne Center, Anderson Township Little League, CORE Resources, East Side Democratic Club, East Side Republican Club, Gray's Towing, Mercy Health-Anderson Hospital, Mt. Washington Care Center, Riverbend Music Center, Saint Gregory the Great (GA, IHM and St. John Fisher) and Vantage at Anderson Towne Center.

Supporting sponsors: Anderson American Legion Post 318, Anderson Hills Plumbing, Center Bank, Christ Hospital, Cushman & Wakefield, Dunkin', Forest Hills Local School District, Forestville Baptist Church, Jersey Mike's Subs, Kingston Development Group, LaRosa's, Pinnacle Plaza, TriHealth and Wake Plumbing.

TOWNSHIP NEWS

Healthy Aging Happens at the Senior Center



“Where Healthy Aging Happens!” is the motto of the Anderson Township Senior Center. This healthy aging focus is only intensifying at the senior center, with a particular emphasis on brain health.

“Brain health is a huge issue, especially worldwide,” notes Brain Health & Memory Matters advocate Steve Long. “With communities like Anderson Township focusing on the specific pillars of brain health now, the ‘worldwide dementia tsunami’ will hopefully be smaller.”

What is the good news according to Long? “Anderson Township residents have an exceptional brain health community available through the work of the Anderson Township Senior Center. The center is growing increasingly strong in this area,”

Long added. Efforts are augmented by Meals on Wheels, Council on Aging, Giving Voice, Episcopal Retirement Services, Caregiver Assistance Network and Alzheimer’s Association, among others.

Since 2020, senior center leadership has initiated a programming change focusing on brain health pillars: exercise, nutrition, challenging the brain, social connection, restorative sleep and managing stress. Staff members, a strong Senior Center Advisory Committee, plus friendly and effective volunteers have made this happen, Long said. A recent grant of \$35,000 from Hamilton County Public Health has energized efforts even more, notes Claire O’Connell, activities manager.

Efforts to support the brain pillars include:

- **Social connections:** Staff, front desk volunteers and cafeteria crew members promote friendly interactions.
- **Exercise classes:** Classes were expanded and provided free for several months.
- **Lunch attendance:** Attendance has almost doubled, helped by increasing food quality and more center activity.
- **Brain stimulation:** 30 members recently completed a book study on 100 Days to a Younger Brain.
- **Speaker series:** Speakers have always been popular; now the offerings are augmented with the monthly brain health series talks on brain pillar topics.

- **Brain challenge opportunities:** Opportunities include woodworking, painting, exercise classes/groups, better balance/safer you, dancing classes, technology assistance, creative groups and more.

Sound interesting? Stop by the Anderson Township Senior Center at 7970 Beechmont Ave. for a tour on weekdays 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.. Call 513.474.3100 for details or questions. Membership is open to individuals age 50 and older.

Bike Registration Program Begins in Anderson Township

An average of 175,200 bikes are reported stolen in the United States annually, according to the FBI. An estimated 54% of bikes stolen are never reported.

To prevent this type of crime, as well as return bikes that are recovered back to their rightful owners, Hamilton County Sheriff’s District 5 Crime Prevention Officer Brian Hayes has instituted a new bicycle registration program for Anderson Township residents.

Once you enter your information online, you will be issued a unique decal that will be used for identification purposes.

Visit AndersonTownshipOH.gov and search for the keywords “bike registration” to get started.



EVENTS

Check Out Farmers’ Market Schedule for End of Season

Anderson Township Farmers’ Market is open from 9 a.m. to noon every Saturday through October 5 at the St. Timothy Church parking lot, 8101 Beechmont Ave. The schedule for the rest of the season is as follows:

- August 10: National Farmer’s Market Week, Salsa Contest
- August 31: Hamilton County Park Visit
- September 14: Fire Truck Visit Day
- September 28: The Great Pumpkin Day
- October 5: Customer Appreciation and Chili Day-Last day of the market

For details on vendors and more, visit Facebook:

facebook.com/AndersonTownshipFarmersMarket



AUGUST

Beechmont Players- Moonlight and Magnolias
Anderson Center Theater
7850 Five Mile Road
Thursday, Aug. 8, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Aug. 9, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 10, 2 p.m.
Tickets: \$20, students and seniors \$18 at BeechmontPlayers.org

Music on the Farm Summer Series
Anderson Township Urban Farm
2550 Bartels Road
BluMillion
Saturday, Aug. 17, 6-9:30 p.m.
Clough Valley Boys
Saturday, Sept. 21, 6-9:30 p.m.
For details visit AndersonUrbanFarm.com.
Event sponsored by the Anderson Township Historical Society and the Anderson Urban Farm.



Music on the Farm Summer Series

SEPTEMBER

A Fair of the Arts
Beech Acres Park, 6910 Salem Road
Saturday, Sept. 21, 4-8 p.m.

Enjoy original works of art including jewelry, stained glass, painting, photography and ceramics. Check AndersonParks.com closer to the event to see a complete artist list. This year’s live music includes the Clark Jenkins Duo at 4 p.m., followed by Jake Speed and the Freddies at 5:45 p.m. Admission is free. Food and drinks are available for purchase. Info: AndersonParks.com.

Senior Health and Wellness Expo
Anderson Center, 7850 Five Mile Road
Tuesday, Sept. 24, 4-7 p.m.

The Anderson Township Senior Center hosts a Senior Health and Wellness Expo. Enjoy a time of fun and learning at the expo, filled with exhibitions and demonstrations, speakers, samples, music and more. Attendees include area aging agencies, Meals on Wheels, Pro Seniors and others. For more information visit AndersonTownshipOH.gov/senior-center.

OCTOBER

Emergency Services Day
Beechmont Fire Station (Station 6)
7954 Beechmont Ave.
Saturday, Oct. 5, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Free

Anderson Township Trick or Treat
Thursday, Oct. 31, 6-8 p.m.
Little ghosts and goblins will be strolling through Anderson’s neighborhoods.

NOVEMBER

Anderson Township Urban Farm Harvest Fair and Holiday Market
Anderson Township Urban Farm
2550 Bartels Road
Saturday, Nov. 2, noon-6 p.m.
Suggested \$5 per person donation, \$10 per family. Info: AndersonUrbanFarm.com

Beechmont Players- Fun Home
Anderson Center Theater
7850 Five Mile Road
Friday, Nov. 8, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 9, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Nov 10, 2 p.m.
Thursday-Friday, Nov. 14-15, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 16, 2 p.m.
Tickets: \$20, students and seniors \$18 at BeechmontPlayers.org

Ongoing Meetings
Anderson Township Trustees meet every first and third Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at Anderson Center, 7850 Five Mile Road. Call 513.688.8400, ext.1101 to confirm.



Anderson Insights

the Newsletter of Anderson Township

Anderson Center
7850 Five Mile Road
Anderson Township, OH 45230

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ANDERSON TOWNSHIP MISSION STATEMENT

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

Government Services at Anderson Center

7850 Five Mile Road
Anderson Township
Ohio 45230
513.688.8400

info@AndersonTownship.org

Administration

Anderson Township
Senior Center

Finance

Fire and Rescue

Hamilton County
Sheriff's Office

Planning and Zoning

Public Works

Fiscal Office

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

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Cardiac Survival Stats Show Township Doubled National Average

Cardiac outcomes have improved since 2021 through new program.



Firefighter-paramedic cardiac training

Statistics are in and it's good news for township residents on the medical emergency front. Anderson's EMS teams are delivering high-quality care in surviving a non-traumatic cardiac event.

This is reflected in survival outcome statistics, which registers patient outcomes in cardiac arrest. Survival rates for patients treated by the Anderson Township Fire and Rescue Department were more than double national averages, coming in at 22.6% compared to a national average of 10.2%.

Trustee Lexi Lausten applauded the efforts of the township EMS team in improving cardiac event outcomes. "Anderson Township Fire and Rescue is keeping its focus on excellence, with higher survival rates equaling actual lives saved of residents in our community," she noted.

EMS Battalion Chief Chris Kasperczyk said in 2021 the department joined a program called CARES (Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival) which allowed the department to "identify opportunities for quality improvement leading to increased cardiac arrest survival."

Staff members introduced changes to their operational procedures for cardiac arrests. "By creating clearly defined roles and obtaining further training, their cardiac arrest management knowledge and skills for resuscitation of adult and pediatric patients has significantly improved," he said.

"Our personnel are the reason we've made improvements. They have spent considerable time training and have embraced the new approach," Kasperczyk said.

