

# ANDERSON Insights

THE VOICE OF ANDERSON TOWNSHIP

DECEMBER 2022



## Recreation Corridor Emerges Along Little Miami River

**Anderson Township, park districts and private businesses increase investment in recreational amenities, while more visit and enjoy the river.**

A quiet change is evolving down by the Little Miami River in Anderson Township. Far from little used land sitting dormant, the area has become a **hot spot on weekends** as residents and visitors play pickleball, go lawn bowling, kayak, swim and cycle all along the river.

But according to Steve Sievers, assistant township administrator for operations, Anderson did not have an overarching goal to create a recreational corridor until recent years.

“A few years ago, we had an ‘Ah ha moment’ and realized the amazing corridor of activities in our backyard that, like our Entertainment District on the Ohio River, serve our residents and bring the region to our doorstep,” he said. “While investment in park improvements and trails was originally targeted to serve the needs of our residents, these changes become a catalyst in drawing visitors to the township,” he said.

“**Nationally, more than three in four adults seek high-quality parks and recreation when choosing a place to live,** and we’ve seen this here in Anderson,” he said. The importance of easily accessible recreation in communities has increased, Sievers said. This trend became more pronounced during COVID as indoor activities were curtailed and residents pivoted quickly and sought outdoor activities as an escape.

During COVID, Sievers said township and park officials were amazed by the increase in facility use along the river, with parking lots full of bicyclists heading to the trail, and the river dotted with kayaks and rafts. Clear Creek and Riverside parks bustled with activity, too.

Anderson Park District Executive Director Ken Kushner has shepherded his organization’s many investments in corridor development in the last two decades. The park district helped fund an Anderson portion of the Little Miami Trail in 2008, building part of the 78-mile pathway that was completed just this year. “The Anderson Park District is humbled to be a minor partner in this signature recreational project for the township, region and the state,” Kushner added.

In 2011 the park district bought the driving range and bar along S.R. 32, eventually building restrooms, and in 2016 installed pickleball courts, filled with players of all ages. Then in 2016 the Anderson Park District, Anderson Township and Great Parks of Hamilton County completed the Little Miami Trail from the Little Miami Golf Center to the foot of the Beechmont Avenue bridge by Speedway. This project allowed riders to further access the “king of Ohio paved trails.” **The trail is the fourth**

*(Continued on page 6)*



*photo courtesy Scenic River Canoe Excursions*

*Relaxing on the Little Miami Scenic River*



*Little Miami Scenic Trailhead on S. R. 32 by Speedway*

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# TOWNSHIP NEWS

## Hotel Study: Two Areas Examined for Future Development

**Although market uncertainties abound, study says potential for select service hotel here.**

Can Anderson Township support a hotel? A township-commissioned market study probed this question this summer as the study examined two possible sites in the township.

Anderson Township has not been home to a hotel since the days of El Rancho Rankin and AJ's Roadhouse, despite its bustling economy and population of about 45,000 residents, notes Trustee Chair Josh Gerth.

**“On top of a sizeable population, we have regional entertainment with Belterra, Coney and Riverbend, and an Eastside healthcare headquarters with the Mercy Hospital campus. Tens of thousands of cars travel past the four exits leading into Anderson Township on a daily basis,”** he said.

The study examined the challenges and advantages of a site potentially located on Kellogg Avenue (in the Entertainment District) and a possible development in “Downtown Anderson” near the Anderson Towne Center. HVS, the global consulting firm for the hospitality industry, undertook the study. In the end, HVS suggested both sites could work for an upscale limited or select-service property of about 100 rooms. However, each site brought its own set of challenges.

The Kellogg Avenue area, the study said, **offered proximity to riverfront entertainment venues (Riverbend, Belterra Park, Coney Island) with the potential of future restaurant and retail development.** Challenges, the study noted, included the seasonal nature of traffic on the corridor.

Downtown Anderson “may also be viable for hotel development,” the study said. Advantages include proximity to restaurants and shops in Anderson Towne Center, plus proximity to Mercy Health-Anderson Hospital and Anderson Center.

This area, however, does lack major employment centers that would create commercial hotel demand, and lacks visibility from I-275.



*Typical guestroom as represented in HVS hotel study*

At a national level, the hospitality industry is a major employer and thus heavily reliant on the cost and availability of labor, the study noted. **“Many hotels are experiencing labor shortages,”** it added. The report noted these contributing factors. “There is a high degree of uncertainty currently influencing the market and the economy,” it said.

The township’s Economic Development Committee and staff now will focus on distributing this information to potential hotel developers and also brokers.

**“At the end of the day, the proof is in the report** that we have commissioned,” Gerth noted. “We can give our opinions and others can weigh in, but nothing disputes the facts that are outlined in the HVS report. Our hope is that this report speaks directly to developers and investors out there looking for their next successful project.”



*Aerial view of possible hotel site on Kellogg Avenue, with Belterra Park Gaming on far left.*

## Key Little Miami Trail Link Completes Path Through Township



*The Little Miami Scenic Trail weaves through Beechmont Avenue and the S.R. 32 area. New hike-bike tunnel is at lower right.*

With the opening of the Beechmont Bridge Connector this past fall, pedestrians and cyclists **now cross the Little Miami River from Anderson to the Lunken Airport Trail, the Armleder Trail and the Little Miami Trail via a protected lane.** Separated by a concrete barrier on the bridge itself, the new \$8 million trail link makes access to exercise and fun that much easier, and safer, too.

However, besides just impacting local trail-users, the ambitious transportation project influences regional and statewide cyclists and walkers. It’s a project that took two decades to put together, involving local, regional and state organizations and jurisdictions, said Trustee

Chair Josh Gerth. “It’s a true example of **government collaboration** that will have a positive impact on more than 300,000 people,” he said.

The project was a partnership between the Ohio Department of Transportation, Great Parks of Hamilton County and the City of Cincinnati.

Anderson Township cyclist Brian Weaver said he appreciated the new Beechmont Connector link, in part for how it will protect users from harm. “With the connector, Anderson has just opened up a multitude of safer cycling opportunities for those who like to take 30+ mile long rides like myself,” he said. “It means a lot to me and the cycling community given the recent deaths of cyclists in Indian Hill and downtown.”

On a grand scale, this milestone project supports the **Ohio to Erie Trail, a 326-mile network of paths that weave through Ohio.** Riders visit charming small towns and bustling cities, travel across historic bridges and alongside old railroad lines converted to trails.

Tri-State Trails Project Manager Brad Bowers, who rode the Ohio to Erie Trail without the benefit of the new section this past summer said, “The Ohio to Erie Trail has something to offer for all Ohioans on this amazing tour through the Buckeye State.” As the connector was not complete when he undertook his ride, he and friends rode along U.S. 50 and Wooster Pike where conditions were “not ideal,” he said. “The connector is a much safer route, leading you to a more logical part of the Ohio River Trail.”

Next year, work begins on another link called the **Elstun Road Connector** which ties regional bike trails to a paved “hub” linking the redeveloping Skytop Apartments site in Anderson to Mt. Washington neighborhoods and several regional trails.



*New trail bridge over Little Miami Scenic River*

## Hillcrest Cemetery Ownership Moving to Township

### *Maintenance of abandoned historic African-American site fluctuated for decades.*

Hillcrest Cemetery, the historic African-American burial ground on Sutton Road, soon will have a new owner.

After years of neglect in its almost 96-year history, and virtually abandoned for decades at a time, Hillcrest's care will be taken over by Anderson Township.

The graveyard started as a beautiful, engaging site, with its rolling hills and abundant trees. Thousands are buried there, with actual numbers uncertain. Some gravesites at Hillcrest date back to the Civil War, the Spanish American War and World War I. The most recent burial took place in 1994.

Longtime residents may remember numerous volunteer work projects, Boy Scout efforts and the visit of a Miss America in 2000 to help promote a more stable future for the 14.5-acre cemetery. Since the 1990s, maintenance has been undertaken by Hamilton County Adult Probation and local volunteers.

The Coalition to Save Hillcrest Cemetery assumed ownership and maintenance for the veteran's cemetery in 2002. Soon, however, Anderson Township will take possession of approximately 11 acres of the burial ground, bringing the total of township cemeteries to six.

**Under Ohio law, once a cemetery property is conveyed to the township, the township must keep the site in repair and assume management for all its needs.** Anderson currently owns the following graveyards: Asbury Methodist Episcopal Cemetery, Clough Baptist Church Cemetery, Rose Hill Cemetery, Salem Methodist Churchyard Cemetery and Wolfangel Cemetery. (See page 5 for details and locations.) Vicky Earhart, township administrator, estimated costs for Hillcrest care would be about \$25,000 to \$35,000 annually.

The past 100 years of Hillcrest's history are a complicated story. From 1926 on, a variety of circumstances caused its decline. Those situations included ongoing questions over cemetery ownership, the loss of records in a 1959 fire, and its virtual abandonment in the decades following, leading to a state of perpetual disrepair.

Wondering what to do to create a sustainable future to meet the needs of Hillcrest Cemetery has been a topic in the township for years. Multiple changes in ownership, the hilly expansive nature of the site, and neglect in day-to-day-maintenance resulting in erosion and gravesite damage all were part of the problem. The fact that many graves are unmarked and the official record of burials is extremely limited has all contributed to the complexity of the issue, according to Earhart.

Earhart has long been a proponent of finding a solution. She's worked on the issue for several decades, personally overseeing projects and helping raise funds for maintenance.

"Volunteers of every age and walk of life have worked diligently to restore honor and dignity to those interred at Hillcrest. The township

will be able to build upon those efforts and ensure ongoing maintenance for this historic cemetery when it assumes ownership in the coming months," she said.

As the season changes for this unique part of the township, **Anderson Township will provide some needed repairs and signage** for the area.

"We will likely do some significant repairs to the roadway and possibly install a small parking area (two to four cars) near the entrance," Earhart said. New signage will also be installed, with locations to be determined, she said. Already some projects have started: This summer, a storm pipe project undertaken by the township helped stabilize the sloping hillside. But more is needed in the future, Earhart acknowledges.

"While the road has been complicated and challenging, I think at the end of the day we can be proud that ultimately Hillcrest Cemetery will be maintained in a respectful condition, showing honor to our nation's finest," noted Trustee Lexi Lausten.



*With the help of Anderson Township and volunteers, the future of Hillcrest Cemetery looks more promising.*

## Other Historic Cemeteries Under Township's Care



*Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church Cemetery*

Six township cemeteries are now, or will soon be, part of Anderson Township's ownership maintenance responsibility. The latest include two historic cemeteries, Hillcrest Cemetery (Sutton Road) and Salem Methodist (Episcopal) Church at the corner of Sutton and Salem roads.

### **Asbury Methodist Episcopal Cemetery**

In the early 1820s, in the community of Mulberry Ridge (near today's intersection of Eight Mile Road and Beechmont Avenue), a Methodist Congregation was formed whose members met in the homes of the area. They later joined together in the schoolhouse on the Charles Hopper farm in 1827. In 1835, they built **Asbury Methodist Church**, on what was Five Mile Road. Today, that section near Asbury Road is known as Forest Road.

A cemetery plat was recorded in 1848, for 1.57 acres of land. That church is today's **Anderson Hills United Methodist Church**.

### **Clough Baptist Church Cemetery**

The **Clough Baptist Church** pioneer cemetery was established on the west side of Bridges Road in February 1802. The last church meeting was held sometime in 1839. Today, only the cemetery remains. Many stones lay flat on the ground.

### **Hillcrest Cemetery**

The historic **Hillcrest Cemetery** covers 14.5 acres of land, on gently sloping hills surrounded by forest. The entrance is located at 749 Sutton Avenue about a quarter mile south of Eversole Road. A private burial ground deed for African Americans was recorded in 1926, organized under the title of "Hillcrest Cemetery Association, Inc." In 1959, and again in April 1961, the Hamilton County Commissioners contracted for a total of 885 graves in Section 4, for U.S. military veterans. Some of the graves date back to the Civil War, and apparently from information on the gravestones it appears many of the veterans had served with units from other states.



*Salem Methodist Churchyard Cemetery*

### **Mt. Carmel or Rose Hill Cemetery**

**Rose Hill Cemetery** is on the north side of S.R. 32, just west of Moran Drive near the Hamilton-Clermont line. John Rose, a native of New Jersey, brought his family to the area in 1796. He had a store and an inn near this site and reared six children.

### **Salem Methodist (Episcopal) Churchyard Cemetery**

In 1805, Rev. Francis McCormick from Virginia started the Salem Methodist Episcopal Church, conducting services in his home. The present site at the southeast corner of Salem Pike at the intersection with Sutton Road was conveyed in 1817 to the church trustees. In 1968, it became the **Salem United Methodist Church**, now Anderson Hills United Methodist Church's Salem Campus. The church was listed in 1982 on the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service. Gravestones are the only remaining records for the earliest burials and some of these are now nondescript pieces. Anderson Township assumed responsibility for the cemetery in 2020.

### **Wolfangel-Anderson Township Cemetery**

A deed for the **Wolfangel-Anderson Township Cemetery** was first recorded in 1864, for .66 acres and platted for 66 lots. Many of these pioneer burials were of German descent. In 1923, the Wolfangel Family dedicated the cemetery to Anderson Township. The land adjacent to the cemetery was developed into residential subdivision in 1978 called Georgetown Village.

The cemetery may be accessed off Deaconsbench Court, via a driveway located between residences at 7254 and 7244.

**Plots are no longer available for sale at any township cemetery.** Only the Wolfangel and Salem Methodist Churchyard cemeteries remain active for burials.

*For more information see [AndersonTownshipOH.gov/225](http://AndersonTownshipOH.gov/225) for a "A Guide to Anderson Township Cemeteries."*

## Recreation Corridor *(Continued from page 1)*

longest paved rail trail in the United States and was recently recognized as one of the 25 best rail trails in the U.S. by *Outside Magazine*.

“There has been so much going on along there, percolating for 30 years, and some projects are finally getting completed in a lot of aspects,” Kushner said.

Ryan Merkle, owner and president of Scenic River Canoe Excursions on Round Bottom Road, has invested his time and resources creating fun on the river since 2007. In the last five years, his business has shown a 20 percent increase year over year. “I think use of the river is only going to evolve from here with bigger and safer accesses along the river. We want to preserve this diamond we have in our back yard,” Merkle said.

Great Parks took the lead among collaborating organizations who worked for decades to complete the Little Miami Scenic Trail, including the September opening of the Beechmont Bridge Connector. This last phase of the Little Miami Scenic Trail was a complex half-mile stretch, including a tunnel under S.R. 32 and a bridge extension that allows pedestrians to safely cross the Beechmont Levee. **It also allows trail users to safely travel from the Little Miami Scenic Trail to the Ohio River Trail for the first time**, noted Great Parks CEO Todd Palmetier.

However, improvements along the corridor are not complete. “Further upstream on the river, Great Parks is planning major improvements to the canoe/kayak launch at Bass Island,” Palmetier said. “This launch will improve both parking and access to the water, with an anticipated opening in later 2024,” he noted.

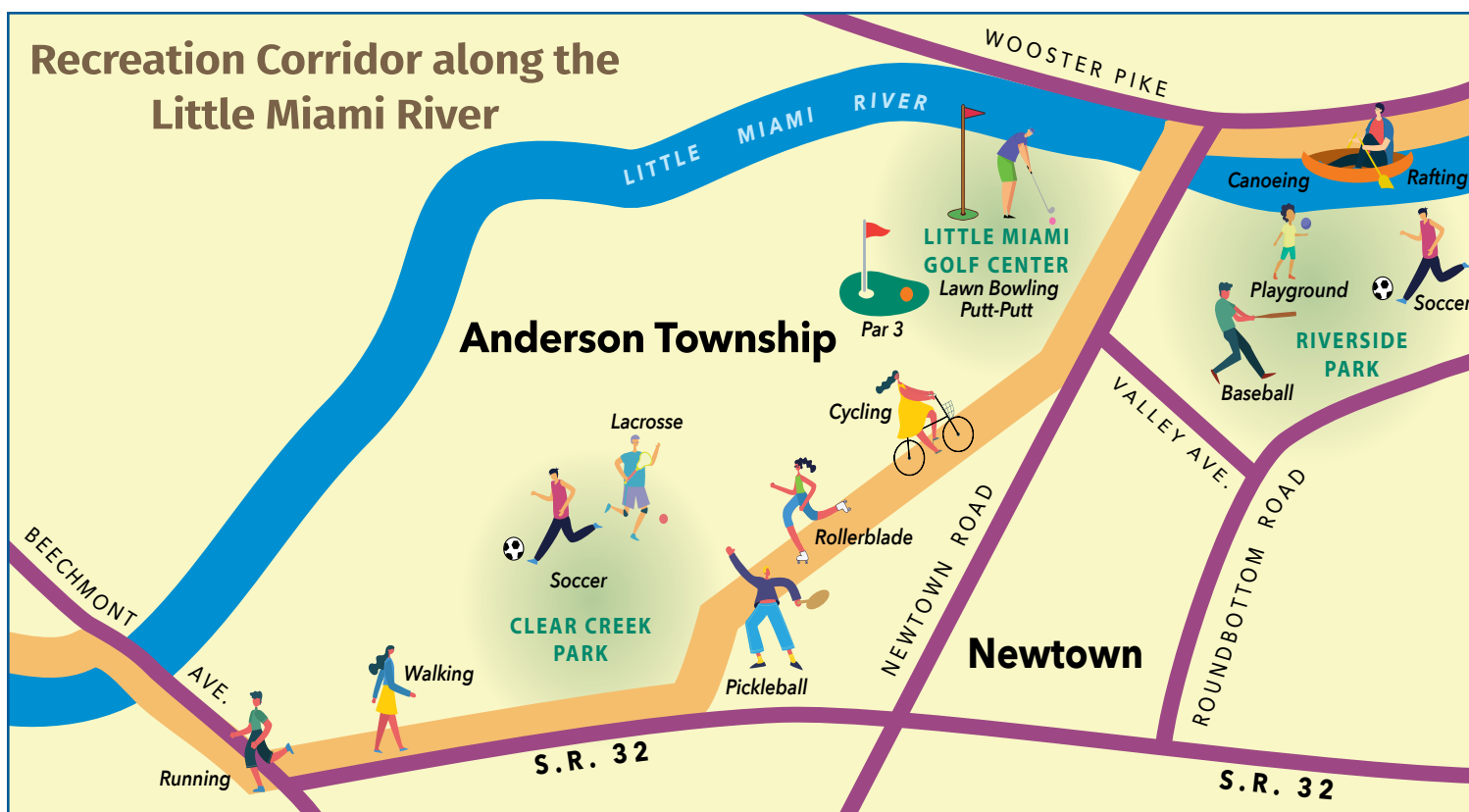
Off-road biking opportunities may be in the future as well, Palmetier said, with “early discussions” among several stakeholders. Those include the Cincinnati Off-Road Alliance, Anderson Township, the Anderson Park District, Cincinnati Parks and others who are exploring whether it would be possible to add natural surface trails near the paved Little Miami Scenic Trail.

Kushner believes the Little Miami Scenic Trail **has changed the complexion of the Little Miami Scenic River area in Anderson Township.** “Parks are not isolated along the Little Miami River any longer. The bike trail has connected park properties belonging to, Anderson Parks, Newtown, Great Parks and Cincinnati Parks in a scenic recreational corridor,” he said.

“Beyond the many reasons why residents have moved to Anderson for years, **we’ve added two more with our riverfront investments,**” said Trustee Vice Chair Dee Stone. “Anderson now offers amazing outdoor recreation amenities unfolding on the banks of the Little Miami River as well as all the fun at our well-established Entertainment District on the Ohio Riverfront,” she added.



Pickleball courts at Clear Creek Park



# NEWS & NOTES

## New Township Employees Welcomed

### Public Works



Cory Price

**CORY PRICE** is Anderson Township’s new Public Works Department mechanic. He previously worked as head mechanic at Springboro City Schools, and most recently was the head mechanic for Clinton Massie Local Schools.

### Planning and Zoning



Chris Cavallaro

**CHRIS CAVALLARO** comes to his planning position from Colerain Township where he served as a code enforcement official. Previous to his work at Colerain, Cavallaro was a community planner in the Brewery District CURC in Over-the-Rhine. He earned his BA in urban planning from the University of Cincinnati.



Lauren Gleason

**LAUREN GLEASON** also is a new planner, hired in the late summer. She is a 2019 graduate from Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Arts and a double major in urban studies and international studies.

## Award for Snowplow Rodeo Winner



Harley Cruey

Public Works employee **HARLEY CRUEY** was the winner of 2022 Public Works Officials of Southwest Ohio Snowplow Rodeo this fall. Cruey finished first out of more than 60 drivers in a snowplow course competition. The competition included nine townships in Hamilton County and is conducted as an annual training exercise before the winter.

## Report Issues on Community Safeline

The Community Safeline is an anonymous, 24-hour voice mailbox available to the community to report safety concerns.

Anyone can call the safeline to report any illegal activities in the community including drug and alcohol use by minors, crimes, delinquent behaviors, etc.

**Dial 513.688.8098.** Callers can remain anonymous.

Report your concern or press “1” to be connected to the communications center to report an active event.

## Three Retire from Fire and Rescue



Tom Merrill

**TOM MERRILL**, a firefighter-paramedic, joined the department in 1995 and became a full-time firefighter with the department in 1997. Merrill’s primary focus was within the EMS Division of the department as a key member improving inventory control and reducing costs within the division.



Brad Parker

**BRAD PARKER**, a lieutenant, recently retired from the department after 27 years of service. He started as a volunteer in 1995 and spent 25 years as a career firefighter-paramedic. He was involved in fire training as a fire instructor and assisted with EMS operations.



Chris Pennington

**CHRIS PENNINGTON**, a firefighter-paramedic, joined the department in 1997 and became a full-time professional firefighter with Anderson’s emergency services in 1999. As an RN, Pennington assisted the EMS division in several roles which included being an EMS instructor and a primary participant in creating infection control and COVID-19 precautions, including ongoing review of COVID-19 policies.

## Three New Hires for Fire and Rescue

Three firefighter-paramedics have joined the ranks of the Anderson Township Fire and Rescue Department.



From left: Ethan Roell, Tyler Mirick and Joey Buttacavoli.

**JOSEPH BUTTACAVOLI** comes to the Anderson Township Fire and Rescue Department from the Woodlawn Fire Department. He received his paramedic certification from Cincinnati State University.

**ETHAN ROELL** has joined the Anderson Township Fire and Rescue Department after working with the Forest Park and Woodlawn fire departments. He received his training at Cincinnati State and Butler Tech.

**TYLER MIRICK** joins Anderson Township Fire and Rescue after being trained at the University of Cincinnati and Scarlet Oaks. He previously was a firefighter-paramedic with Goshen Township Fire and EMS.

# Township Names Speak of the Not Too Distant Past

*Sweetwine, Forestville, Cherry Grove, Fruit Hill looked different a century ago, but their names live on.*



Cherry Grove School-southwest corner Eight Mile and Beechmont



Hammer Carriage Shop-near Eight Mile and Beechmont in the Cherry Grove area



Kilduff General Store in Cedar Point



Fruit Hill Store-Clem and Mont Davis, 1925, near Beechmont and Salem



Samuel Hopper's Grocery Store and post office in Forestville



Forest House Hotel near Wolfangel and Beechmont in Forestville

**“Old Timers” of Anderson Township will remember a township that looked far different from the bustling suburban community we know today.**



Ohio Pike at Burney Lane in Cedar Point

Even as recently as the 1950s, as long-time residents may recall, Anderson's past was rooted in farming. Small reminders of that past are still around—a cemetery here, an old house there, or perhaps an old barn. But other telltale signs exist if one knows where to look.

Take, for example, your cell phone. Have you ever received a local call and the name “Fruit Hill” appeared on the screen? **That name, as well as other names like Sweetwine, Forestville and Cherry Grove, harken back to farming outposts in the 1800s** when locally grown fruits and vegetables sustained the people and the businesses that served them and were transported to markets in Cincinnati.

## Sweetwine

The area of **Sweetwine** was described in the *Rand McNally Atlas* of 1895 as having a post office but no railroad service. The Sweet Wine post office was along the Ohio River, near where Five Mile intersects Kellogg Road today. The surrounding country was “well adapted to the growing of grapes” and large quantities were shipped from Sweetwine. Sweetwine Lodge at Woodland Mound Park is a reminder of that era.

## Forestville

According to the 1895 *Rand McNally Atlas*, the estimated population of **Forestville**, located near today's intersection of Beechmont and Wolfangel, was 71 people. The Forestville post office was in a general store further out Ohio Pike, 12 miles east of Downtown Cincinnati. The area was known for “large quantities of fruits, berries, and vegetables, which found ready sale in the Cincinnati market.”

## Cherry Grove

On the eastern edge of the township, the **Cherry Grove post office** operated, 13 miles from Downtown Cincinnati. It was centered at today's corner of Beechmont and Eight Mile to the Clermont County line. Cherry Grove was described as “beautifully situated and surrounded by rich lands.” Large quantities of fruits, berries and vegetables were raised there also. Presumably cherry trees were grown as well.

## Cedar Point and Cluff Valley

Another area less well known to current township residents was **Cedar Point**. In 1915, this area consisted of a post office in the general store of John B. Kilduff located on the Cincinnati, Georgetown & Portsmouth Railroad (CG&P) and Ohio Pike, 10 miles east of Cincinnati. Today, this location is known as the corner of Beechmont and Birney Lane. A short distance away was Cluff Valley (Clough Pike). The Cluff post office was in the store of Jacob S. Kuhn, east of today's Berkshire Road. The 1887 directory described the land as “somewhat hilly but fertile.”

## Fruit Hill

The area of Ohio Pike (Beechmont Avenue) and Salem Road was known as **Fruit Hill**. Like adjoining locations, it had a post office and the Cincinnati, Georgetown & Portsmouth Railroad ran through it. Similar to all agricultural production in the township, Cincinnati was the primary market for the fruits and vegetables of Fruit Hill farms.

**Historic area names are still occasionally referenced, as they are used by the U.S. Census Bureau as “census designated places.”** These noted locations, like Mt. Carmel, aren't incorporated but have been geographic areas referenced for years.

As you travel its roads, think about Anderson Township's beginnings, and try to imagine the farms and homesteads that dotted the land. Farming communities were small, but their names still carry on, and legacies have helped today's Anderson Township.

*Text by Tom Brown; photos from the archives of the Anderson Township Historical Society.*

## 'Snow Team' in Anderson Covers 120 Miles of Roads

**But some main roads are county's responsibility.**

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



## Snow Removal in Cul-de-sacs More Challenging for Plow Drivers

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. Snow crews return to the cul-de-sacs and try to avoid piling up snow in driveway areas, mailboxes and fire hydrants. Sometimes it is unfortunately not possible to avoid creating a pile of snow. Your understanding is appreciated.

## Take Action or Take Care? Know Different Terminology for Storms

*Can you identify the difference between a storm watch or a storm 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.



## Have You Checked Your Safety Kit Lately?

*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 task completed as you get serious about winter preparation. Here are suggestions for necessities provided by the Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency:

■ **ROCK SALT** or other environmentally safe products to melt ice on walkways



■ **SNOW SHOVELS** and other snow removal equipment



■ **ADEQUATE CLOTHING** and blankets



■ **SAND** to improve traction



■ **FLASHLIGHTS** and **BATTERIES**



■ **SUFFICIENT HEATING FUEL** and/or a good supply of dry, seasoned wood for your fireplace or wood-burning stove



## Winter Reminder: Know Snow Restrictions

**Be ready for snow and weather-related emergencies this season.**

Hamilton County offers this reminder about the different levels of snow advisory and related emergency alerts:

**SNOW ALERT LEVEL ONE:** Roadways are hazardous with blowing and drifting snow. Roads may also be icy. Motorists are urged to drive very cautiously. Unnecessary travel is discouraged.

**SNOW ADVISORY LEVEL TWO:** Roadways are hazardous with blowing and drifting snow. Roads may also be very icy. Only those who 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 travel 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.

To view the state's weather-related road closures and restrictions, visit the Ohio Department of Transportation's traffic website at [www.ohgo.com](http://www.ohgo.com).



On very rare occasions Anderson Township also may issue a snow emergency, but this would only restrict parking on township roadways. Whenever snowfall is forecasted, the township requests motorists not park on the street, if possible.

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.

Your effort to follow these guidelines greatly assists the township's Public Works ability to safely and more efficiently treat roadways and clear snow from roads.

## Carbon Monoxide Safety:

### Know the Facts

Carbon monoxide (CO) is well known as an **odorless, colorless gas**, otherwise undetectable to the senses. It can cause poisoning and even death when undetected.

Anderson Township's Fire and Rescue Department reminds residents that the beginning of the heating season is a good time to have your fuel-burning appliances inspected. Why now? It's because carbon monoxide is produced when fuel is burned, including wood and gas.

**"Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning can include nausea, headache, dizziness, shortness of breath, altered mental status and loss of consciousness,"** said Lt. Doug Eagan. Poisoning can occur within minutes if exposed to a high concentration of carbon monoxide, he added. The township's safety service providers responded to 20 calls related to carbon monoxide last year alone, according to Assistant Chief Bob Herrlinger.

The U.S. Fire Administration and Anderson Township's Fire and Rescue Department recommend placing a CO detector in a central location outside sleeping areas and every level of your home. Herrlinger suggests residents check the batteries on those detectors when you examine your smoke detectors, twice a year.



Also recommended: yearly inspections of your fuel burning appliances including gas and oil furnaces, gas water heaters, gas or kerosene space heaters, gas dryers, ranges and ovens. **Additionally, check out fireplaces, wood stoves, flues and chimneys (check for blockages and cracking.)**

"Over 150 people die in the US each year from CO poisoning," Herrlinger said. "Don't become a statistic- keep your appliances in good working order."

# Thank You! Local, Regional Sidewalk Resident Suggestions Important Part of Building Trail Plan

Anderson Township residents love their trails. So, when township leaders recently asked for ideas about ways to further interconnect township paths and new sidewalks, members of the public had a lot to say.

Ideas flowed in for the five-year update of Anderson's guiding planning document for the Anderson Trails Plan, drawing some 35+ suggestions from the public.

"We're definitely seeing enthusiasm and use of our trails and sidewalks," said Trustee Vice Chair Dee Stone. "Our residents appreciate the opportunity to bike or walk in their own community," she added.

In the past two or more decades, the township has added 22 miles of trails. Many of those links connect neighborhoods and link to schools, parks, shopping areas and other destinations, said Steve Sievers, assistant township administration for operations. "Through careful planning we are becoming a more interconnected community."

The award-winning Anderson Trails Plan, approved in 1999, has undergone five updates thus far. Supported by efforts of the volunteer Transportation Advisory Committee, the township advances connections through sidewalks, trails, bike routes, natural paths, striping, signage, and widened berms, Planner Chris Cavallaro noted. This year's update will be finalized next year.

"We are appreciative of our enthusiastic residents who are helping us identify ways we can strengthen our trails' connectivity by using tax dollars in the most impactful manner," said Stone.



## Summer Sidewalk Connections Completed

As Anderson Township undertakes its five-year update to the Anderson Trails Plan, it also finished construction on several significant links this year.



A sidewalk on a portion of **Holiday Hills Drive and Clough Pike** was completed in August. The new link connects subdivisions on the north side of Clough east of Eight Mile Road to Muskegon Drive and the Summit Estates neighborhood.

Students at Turpin High School, Mercer Elementary School and those living in the Turpin Hills area enjoying the completion of the **Bartels Road** sidewalk to link Clough Pike with Newtown Road, and destinations in this area.

A quarter mile of **Paddison Road** has a new sidewalk, from Beechmont Avenue to Woodridge Drive. This link is part of a key north-south connection in the Anderson Trails Plan.



As part of a resurfacing project, the Ohio Department of Transportation added a small section of sidewalk and crosswalk on S.R. 32 to link the **Turpin Lake** neighborhood to the Little **Miami Scenic Trail**.



Near **Nagel Middle School**, a small section of sidewalk and curb ramp were relocated at the entrance to the school. The upgrades provide enhanced safety for pedestrians, while also improving visibility for vehicles turning right exiting the school.

## Funding Approved for Newtown-Clough Area Road Changes

**Grant to help build new turn lanes to relieve traffic congestion, complete sidewalk connections.**

Anderson Township soon will begin design for improvements for another project on Clough Pike. A new grant was provided which will address mitigating traffic delays and safety concerns to the busy Clough Pike-Newtown Road area, a high-priority project for the township.

More than \$363,000 was awarded to construct left turn lanes from eastbound Clough Pike to Newtown Road and westbound Clough Pike to the Woods of Turpin apartments. The OKI Regional Council of Governments award was announced this fall.

The township's 2021 Clough Pike Transportation Study identified the area around Turpin High School-Mercer Elementary School as a high-priority project, due to heavy pedestrian presence and weekday traffic congestion.

Also funded is completion of the sidewalk in the area. The new sidewalk will run west from the current terminus at Newtown Road to that which was built with Harmony Senior Living. The sidewalk will resume on the other end of the Harmony property and connect to Copperleaf Drive.

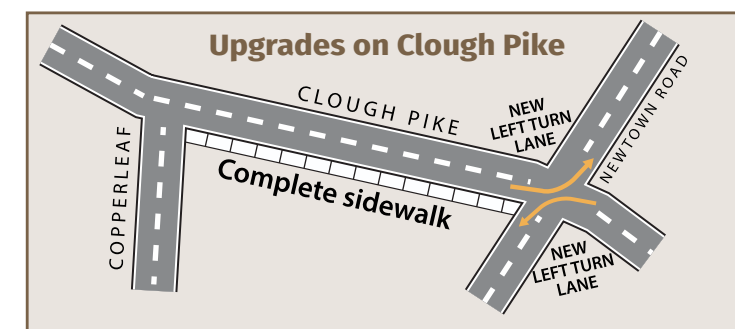
This final section completes the sidewalk running between the Clough Pike Historic District and the Turpin Hills neighborhoods. A summer 2022 project completed the Bartels Road sidewalk connection up to the Five Mile Trail.

Steve Sievers, assistant township administrator of operations, said engineering work will begin next year, with a project start projected for 2025. Anderson will provide a match of \$463,000.

Thus far, the push to enhance Clough Pike for all modes of transportation has led to changes along the busy corridor. In 2021 traffic signal timing in between Five Mile and Eight Mile roads was coordinated and pavement markings and crosswalks also were added.

A section of sidewalk also was recently completed near Muskegon Drive, and design soon will begin for a sidewalk on the north side of Clough between the YMCA and Eight Mile Road, plus an improved crosswalk of Clough at Juilfs Park/Endovalley Drive.

Anderson has worked hard to get Clough projects underway, noted Planning and Zoning Director Paul Drury, "Once again this shows how Anderson Township local government plays a vital role in these projects, quickly putting into place actionable due diligence to determine the projects move forward in a timely manner," said Trustee Chair Josh Gerth.



## Overhaul of Eight Mile-S.R. 32 Intersection Underway

Preliminary work started this fall on a **two-year project** that aims to reduce congestion and improve safety at the Eight Mile Road intersection with S.R. 32.

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) placed lane restrictions at the intersection to prepare for the project. Improvements involve a three-way intersection, a new center turn lane and a new traffic signal. The intersection overhaul project will not be complete until 2024.

Portable concrete barrier walls now align the shoulder and right-turn lane of westbound S.R. 32, between the right turn taper of Eight Mile Road and the drive to Makers Church, east of Hickory Creek Drive.

The left lane of S.R. 32 west is closed between Beechwood and Eight Mile roads. It will be open near the approach to the Eight Mile Road intersection for left-turn movements to Eight Mile south.

**This unusual intersection often is the site of slowdowns and near accidents**, resulting in indecision or confusion for drivers turning from or onto Eight Mile Road. A number of crashes have also been logged at the site in the last decade.

The installation of a what planners call a 'Green T' intersection will allow westbound S.R. 32 traffic (coming down the hill) to flow continuously. It will bypass a new traffic signal when traveling straight. All other traffic movements will be maintained by the new signal. A center turn lane also will be installed.



Construction started this fall on the S.R. 32 intersection upgrade.

ODOT is funding the \$4.6 million project through their safety grant program.

**Eight Mile Road is scheduled to be closed at S.R. 32 for approximately four to six months in the summer-fall of 2023.** Additional updates on this schedule will be shared via Anderson Township's Facebook page and also in *Anderson Insights*. For more information and an overview of the project, visit [publicinput.com/N4648/](http://publicinput.com/N4648/)



Historic Anderson Township Heritage Center Arboretum



Anderson Center

## Host Your Special Gathering with Anderson Center Events

Looking for a special place to host an important event? Anderson Township offers unique spaces that make your event stand out, all close to home!

The team at Anderson Center Events ([AndersonCenterEvents.org](http://AndersonCenterEvents.org)) will help you choose the best room or space for your next baby shower, business meeting, birthday party or other important celebrations or functions. Getting connected and gathering options is easy. Take a tour of the township event venues, check out the events website or discuss your needs with one of the township's events coordinators.

"We want to be an asset to the community, from small business meetings to informal club gatherings to beautiful, large-scale weddings," said Matthew Szekeresh, assistant events coordinator. "We want people to come together, work, live and celebrate in Anderson Township."



Sites include two options, with the largest venue being Anderson Center at 7850 Five Mile Road. The multipurpose facility is home to a 223-seat performing arts theater, two conference rooms, upper and lower atriums, and a community meeting room that can host receptions for 150+. All spaces are available for public or private events.

The historic Anderson Township Heritage Center Arboretum at the corner of Eight Mile and Forest roads is a unique space. This warm and charming venue can be used in multiple ways and boasts beautiful outdoor surroundings. The Heritage Center Arboretum hosts up to 45 people for a sit-down dinner. Larger events are possible outside, including tented wedding receptions of up to 150 people.

For more information about renting with Anderson Township, contact Jennifer Sanders, events coordinator at 513.688.8444 or [jsanders@AndersonTownshipOh.gov](mailto:jsanders@AndersonTownshipOh.gov).

## Public Meetings

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

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

**Regular Monthly Meeting:** Thursday, Jan. 19, 5 p.m. • **Interim Meeting:** Thursday, Feb. 2, 2 p.m.

### Anderson Township Senior Center Advisory Committee

Thursday, Jan. 19, 2 p.m.  
Meets at Anderson Township Senior Center  
7970 Beechmont Ave.

### WeTHRIVE! Anderson Committee

Wednesday, Feb. 15, 6 p.m.

### Zoning Commission

Monday, Jan. 23, 5:30 p.m.

### Board of Zoning Appeals

Thursday, Feb. 2, 5:30 p.m.

### Transportation Advisory Committee

Wednesday, Feb. 8, 6 p.m.

### Tree Committee

Monday, Jan. 9, 7 p.m.

### Economic Development Committee

Thursday, Jan. 24, 3 p.m.

## Anderson Township Welcomes New Projects

### New Businesses

#### Embrace Family Chiropractic

5216 Beechmont Ave.

#### Heaven Sent Care

1060 Nimtzview Road, Suite 215

#### Stridas

8315 Beechmont Ave.

### New Tenants Under Construction

#### Crumbl Cookies

7625 Beechmont Ave.  
*(former Mathnasium)*

#### Fusian

7860 Beechmont Ave.  
*(former Kuhl's Hot Sportspot)*

#### OrthoCincy

7910 Beechmont Ave.  
*(former Fresh Thyme Market)*

#### Vicki's Salon

8439 Beechmont Ave.

#### Yummy Bowl

7578 Beechmont Ave.  
*(former Kroger liquor store)*

#### D1 Training

8315 Beechmont Ave.



Yummy Bowl



Crumbl Cookies

### New Apartments Under Construction

#### Skytop

5218 Beechmont Ave.

#### Vantage at Anderson Towne Center

7832 Five Mile Road



Skytop



Vantage at Anderson Towne Center

## BOARD OF TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES BOARD MEMBERS WELCOME YOUR CALLS!



**JOSHUA S. GERTH** *Chair*  
(C) 513.833.3010  
[jgerth@AndersonTownshipOH.gov](mailto:jgerth@AndersonTownshipOH.gov)



**R. DEE STONE** *Vice Chair*  
(W) 513.688.8438  
[dstone@AndersonTownshipOH.gov](mailto:dstone@AndersonTownshipOH.gov)



**J. LEXI LAUSTEN** *Trustee*  
(W) 513.688.8628  
[llausten@AndersonTownshipOH.gov](mailto:llausten@AndersonTownshipOH.gov)



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



# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

## Park Programs Aren't Just For Kids!

Winter means more time indoors. Get out and **socialize with others or learn something new this year** through the many options found in Anderson Park District's adult programs.

Interested in art and culture? Have lunch at the RecPlex and enjoy a speaker from the Cincinnati Art Museum. Or, if you've decided to finally get all those family photos organized, take a class learning new skills that will help get the project going. The experts from PhotosFinished will make the process a breeze!

Personal safety is a big topic for women working or living alone. Take the opportunity to practice techniques to feel confident protecting yourself in the Women's Self-Defense session. If you've always thought about strumming along to music, master songs on the ukulele or guitar just for fun!

Many fitness options provide a great winter outlet to encourage wellness and flexibility. Anderson Park District's fitness programs abound including: Cardio/Strength Training, Pilates, Tai Chi, Yoga and Men's Basketball. If you miss your backyard summer activities, grab a cooler and join a cornhole league. All programs, classes and leagues are pre-registration and may fill up quickly. Register early! For details and to register, visit [AndersonParks.com](http://AndersonParks.com).



## Anderson Library Serves a Variety of Needs

**Apply for your passport, encourage children to play and learn this winter.**

As the weather turns cooler, it's an excellent time to come indoors at your Anderson Township Branch Library.

If you're planning a trip out of the country soon – or even next summer – it's the perfect time to apply for a passport to beat the next-summer rush and not worry about State Department backlogs. And you can do that at the library.

Passport applications are accepted by appointment only on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Call the branch at 513.369.6030 if you have questions or to schedule an appointment. There's also more information on the library website at [CHPL.org/passports](http://CHPL.org/passports).



*Winter children's programs include singing, crafts and hands-on exploration.*

**Looking for ways to connect your kids to others?**  
*Check out these upcoming winter opportunities at the library:*

### Storytime: Movers and Shakers

Monday, Jan. 23, 10:15 to 10:45 a.m.

Children ages 1-4 and their parents will shake it together!

Sing, dance and enjoy music, movement and fun.

### Curious Kids Club

Tuesday, Jan 31, 4-5 p.m.

Explore science, technology, art, engineering and math in a fun and hands-on way while using your imaginations. For ages 6-12.

Capacity is limited, so please sign up.

### Try-It-Out Tuesdays

Tuesday, Jan. 31, 7-8 p.m.

Try out a new craft during the last Tuesday of each month! Registration required. Registration opens January 10.

To register or view more offerings, go [CHPL.org/events](http://CHPL.org/events).

## School District Tackles Litter Through Township Program

In a new initiative spearheaded by elementary school administrators, all Forest Hills School District elementary buildings are participating in the **Adopt a Roadway program**. Elementary students, staff and families will help pick up litter and clean up several roads throughout the community through this new partnership with Anderson Township.

"This is a great opportunity to get out in our neighborhoods and provide a service to our communities," Forest Hills Superintendent Larry Hook said. "Not only does our community benefit from extra efforts to keep Anderson Township beautiful, our students, staff and families benefit from the chance to spend time together and volunteer for a worthwhile cause."

This effort is meant to educate students about the importance of giving back to their community and also provides an additional opportunity for district schools to continue building connections with the different neighborhoods they serve.

"We are grateful to have a school community that is so willing to roll up our sleeves and take the time to clean up our beautiful neighborhood," Sherwood Elementary Principal Dan Hamilton said. "Projects like this are such a good reminder of what makes Forest Hills a wonderful place to live."

Students and families are also able to use these opportunities to learn more about sustainability and environmental topics. For example, it can take more than 1 million years for a glass bottle or rubber tire to decompose. Litter can also be dangerous for pets, wildlife and humans.



The Adopt a Roadway program is a **WeTHRIVE! Anderson Committee** initiative, with supplies provided by Anderson Township and bag pickup provided by the **Public Works Department**.

The schools are responsible for cleaning sections of the corresponding streets: Ayer Elementary and Forest Road, Maddux Elementary and Rosetree Lane, Mercer Elementary and Newtown Road, Sherwood Elementary and Paddison Road, Summit Elementary and Northport Drive, and Wilson Elementary and Little Dry Run Road.

## Senior Center Bustling During Winter Months

**Enjoy art projects and crafts, history and more this season.**

Interesting and enjoyable activities are not lacking during the cold winter months at Anderson's senior center.

**Artists find the winter months a great time to share their talents.** Many artists at the center work in a variety of methods, including oil and watercolor painting, woodcarving, quilting and other needlework.

During the November senior center open house, artist Frank Huguélet and other oil painters created a beautiful detailed mural of Anderson Township. Visitors watched the artists as they worked. The finished painting will travel to the different Anderson Township buildings for the public to see.

**Themed activities are planned for both January and February.** In January, the subject is "It's All Greek to Me!" featuring speakers on Greek mythology and the constellations named after the gods and



goddesses. Members can enjoy the film "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" and sample Mediterranean food items, as well as make a name tag using the Greek alphabet. In February, the theme is "I LOVE \_\_\_\_." Whether members love the ballet, reading, shopping, animals, music or Elvis, there's something for everyone.

### Are you a member of the Anderson Township Senior Center?

Membership is open now for 2022-2023 and allows individuals 50 and older to enjoy the wide variety of activities offered at the center.

Membership stands at more than 600, an increase of 22 percent since last year. In the last five years, the center has enjoyed tremendous success, with membership increasing 79 percent. Dues remain the same as last year: \$15 for Anderson Township residents and \$25 a couple. Individuals not living in Anderson may become members: \$40 for a single and \$65 a couple. Call the center at 513.474.1300 during weekdays 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## Eye See You! Cameras Deter Illegal Recycling Dumping



Anderson officials hope to keep the free 24/7 recycling center open for residents. To ensure this service continues and to reduce costly illegal activity, the township has installed cameras at the site adjacent to the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office District 5 headquarters.

The popular recycling center is a convenience not only to residents, but area businesses and those who travel Beechmont Avenue, noted Trustee Lexi Lausten. Due to its popularity, oftentimes bins are at capacity. Recycling trucks empty 18 bins three times a week, the most allowed for the service.

"We are proud to host the largest recycling center in Southwest Ohio," notes Lausten. "We appreciate users helping us to continue this amazing service that is open to everyone."

Township administrators ask that recycling center users help, by following the guidance for what can be recycled at the site and reporting possible illegal activity to the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office at 513.474.5770.

Anderson's 24/7 recycling center on Beechmont Avenue does not take couches, construction materials, garden equipment, plumbing fixtures or windows. It is dedicated to recycling paper, glass, cans and other items approved by Rumpke Services, Inc.

Unfortunately, sometimes the center turns into a dump spot for unwanted items like the products noted above. In turn, the township, at taxpayers' expense, must dispose of these unrecyclable products that could instead be put out at a regular curbside pickup.

For more than 25 years Anderson Township has offered a free recycling center. Last year the busy site provided an outlet for more than 3,271 tons of refuse in one year alone. Through this service, tons of products are kept out of the landfill. To learn more about what can be recycled, go to [AndersonTownshipOH.gov/community/recycling](http://AndersonTownshipOH.gov/community/recycling) or check out page 19. Note: An extra-large recycling bin is added during the holiday season when garbage increases about 25 percent.

## Food Storage Strategies Help You Save, Reduce Food Loss

According to the *USDA National Retail Turkey Report*, the cost per pound of turkey is up 79 percent from 2021 (\$1 per pound to \$1.79 per pound) *What can you do to reduce waste and save money into the new year? Here's the answer:* Make a shopping list, shop your pantry before heading to the store, and store food safely.

Check out these tips from Hamilton County's "Wasted Food Stops With Us" campaign:

Use the refrigerator door for items that don't easily spoil, like soda or pickles. Temperature changes encourage bacterial growth and spoilage. Keep meat, dairy and eggs off the door.

Freeze leftovers in shallow containers. Temperature changes encourage bacterial growth. Cooling down hot foods quickly will prevent spoilage.

Store dairy items in the middle of the fridge, where the temperature is the most consistent.

Compost your inedible food scraps.

Hamilton County Resource continues its mission to address food waste through educating people about shopping local, composting and more. Visit [wastedfoodstopswithus.org](http://wastedfoodstopswithus.org).





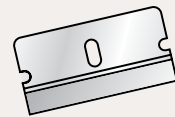
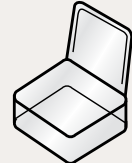



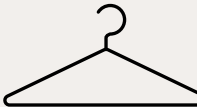






## Stay Green: Recycle Right into the New Year

As the volume of trash grows during the period between Thanksgiving and New Year's, it is even more important to make sure you are recycling right!

Michelle Balz, the solid waste manager at Hamilton County Resource, encourages county residents to know your recyclables.

Two of the most concerning non-recyclable items that Rumpke deals with at their processing plant are lithium ion batteries and plastic bags that end up in the recycling stream. Batteries can cause fires and the plastic bags get caught in the recycling sorting process, causing delays.

Please note, the following items **may not** be put in the co-mingled recycling stream, either at the Anderson Township Recycling Center or at curbside:

 glass and metal lids that have been separated from their larger containers	 garden hoses	 razor blades	 clamshell plastic
 lithium ion batteries	 liquids	 ammunition (including spent rounds)	 coat hangers
 plastic bags	 hazardous materials	 light bulbs	 Styrofoam
 disposable paper products (tissues, plates, bowls or cups)	 needles	<i>Learn more about acceptable recycling items at: <a href="http://rumpke.com/for-your-home/recycling/acceptable-items">rumpke.com/for-your-home/recycling/acceptable-items</a>.</i>	

## More Outdoor Work? Yard Waste Site Open Weekdays in Winter

Drop off your residential yard waste for free in Anderson Township, even during the winter.

Bzak Landscaping at 3295 Turpin Lane (corner of S.R. 32 and Turpin Lane) is open throughout the year to accept your tree branches, brush and yard waste. Winter hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays.

Trim brush and tree branches into lengths of four feet or less. Brush must be no larger than 12 inches in diameter. No commercial establishments accepted or trucks larger than pickups or trailers.

This service is for Hamilton County residents only. For more information, visit [hamiltoncounty3source.org](http://hamiltoncounty3source.org).



## Enjoy the New Year Responsibly: Don't Drink and Drive

While you celebrate the New Year this year, the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office (District 5) in Anderson offers a friendly reminder: Don't operate a vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

"The holiday season is here and as a result people will be celebrating more than ever," said Deputy Brian Hayes of the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office District 5. "However, if celebrating involves the use of alcohol, please be mindful of just a few of the damaging risks a person can face if convicted of driving under the influence."

Hayes noted that from 2017 to 2021, deputies in Anderson Township made 330 arrests for OVI (Operating Vehicle Impaired). During the same time period, the Ohio State Highway Patrol made 276 OVI arrests in the township.



"Even a small amount of alcohol can affect driving ability," Hayes said. "Be a responsible driver and don't risk it."

### A short list of consequences include:

- Cause injury or death to you, or another person
- Cost you employment opportunities
- Face insurance cancellation, or higher insurance rates
- Cause harm to your family and relationships
- Cause financial difficulties
- Incur time in jail

## Citizens Academy Class Open for Summer Session

**Interested in learning more about community policing and how local law enforcement functions?**

The Hamilton County Sheriff's Office District 5 is hosting a 12-week Citizens Academy that provides an inside look at being a sheriff's deputy.

Classes focus on education, service demonstrations and off-site tours of the Hamilton County Justice Center, plus the firing range, Hamilton County Coroner's Office, aviation units and more.

The class is tentatively scheduled to begin June 21, 2023 and run consecutive Wednesdays from 5-8 p.m. Classes are mostly scheduled at Anderson Center, 7850 Five Mile Road.

Applications can be completed online at [AndersonTownshipOH.gov](http://AndersonTownshipOH.gov) (search Sheriff's Citizens Academy) or picked up in person at the District 5 substation, 7954 Beechmont Ave. in the lobby, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays or during open hours at Anderson Center, 7850 Five Mile Road.

Info: Deputy Brian Hayes at [bhayes@AndersonTownshipOH.gov](mailto:bhayes@AndersonTownshipOH.gov).



## CPR, First Aid Training Help Upgrade Your Skills

Improve your first aid and CPR skills in 2023 or take a refresher course through Anderson Township's Fire and Rescue Department.

The **HeartCode BLS class** is a go-at-your-own pace experience.

The program allows students to self-direct their learning on resuscitation, regardless of location, and students finish the curriculum on their own time schedule. The online portion is completed first, then students complete a hands-on skills session with a firefighter/paramedic at a fire station in Anderson.

**Lay rescuer CPR classes and CPR and health care provider classes** are hosted from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. Off-site certification classes are available with an additional fee. The cost for the lay rescuer CPR



class is \$40, and the cost for the CPR and health care provider class is \$50. Classes include a book and a two-year certification card upon completion.

A simplified version of CPR, called **Hands-Only CPR**, is a new way to quickly learn the basics without requiring an in-person class. The process can be learned in a few minutes and does not require mouth-to-mouth breathing. While this training does not offer a certification, it can be just as effective as traditional CPR.

Course information can be found online at [AndersonTownshipOH.gov](http://AndersonTownshipOH.gov) or by contacting Lisa Farrar at [lfarrar@AndersonTownshipOH.gov](mailto:lfarrar@AndersonTownshipOH.gov) or 513.688.8620.

## New Boat for Ohio River, Thanks to FEMA Funds

While the majority of Anderson Township's fire and rescue calls for service are on dry land, some also occur on six miles of the Ohio River and nine miles of the Little Miami Scenic River.

According to Anderson Fire and Rescue Chief Rick Martin, **the township's role has been expanding to include more presence on the river**, especially during river events and big concerts. Other duties involving the Anderson Township Fire and Rescue crews include fire operations on the river and more work in river rescue and recoveries.



*A new boat with upgraded options will help emergency crews in their service on the Ohio River.*

To help serve alongside other water-based emergency responders, the township applied for and was granted \$256,605 toward the purchase of a new boat for service on the Ohio River. Funds were awarded from the Port Security Grant Program, through the Department of Homeland Security and distributed through the Federal Emergency Management Agency. This boat will not be used on the Little Miami Scenic River due to debris encountered and depth of water.

"The Port of Cincinnati, running from Markland Dam (in Florence, Ky.) to Meldahl Dam (in Chilo, Ohio) is the second largest inland port in the United States, relative to the amount of cargo that passes through the port," said Martin.

Anderson will provide a 25 percent match for the boat purchase. However, this will result in a cost savings for the township as a 2004 boat was already scheduled to be replaced in 2022, noted Fiscal Officer Ken Dietz.

**Upgrades will provide for the department's expanded roles on river support. Radar for night operations, plus thermal imaging will be available on the new vessel**, Martin said. The boat also will include a fire pump for firefighting on other boats or shore areas inaccessible by vehicles.

To protect crew members, the boat will be equipped with an enclosed cockpit, with features safeguarding personnel from chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear events, Martin said. The new craft's aluminum hull provides more resistance to damage than the fiberglass and air-chamber boat being replaced, Martin said.

While the Anderson Township Fire and Rescue Department does not operate a dive team, the new watercraft could be used as a platform for dive operations of other teams if necessary, he added.

## Federal Grant Provides Free Smoke, Carbon Dioxide Alarms

Dual-purpose smoke and carbon dioxide alarms will be purchased for distribution in Anderson Township and Newtown through funding from a recent federal grant.

The Federal Fire Prevention and Safety Grant Program awarded Anderson Township \$23,571 for the alarms, **which will be distributed by township firefighters during "neighborhood blitzes."**

Anderson Township Fire and Rescue Chief Rick Martin notes that three out of five home fire deaths were caused by fire in properties with no smoke alarms or in a home where a smoke alarm failed to operate. National Fire Protection Association statistics say 80 percent of children who die in home fires were killed in homes without alarms. Also, information from the National Safety Council reports that nearly 300 people die each year as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning.

**Firefighters will be making home visits to determine detectors are installed in the correct locations and in working order.**

To request a safety review, contact Assistant Chief Bob Herrlinger at 513.688.8400 ext. 1470 or [rherrlinger@AndersonTownshipOH.gov](mailto:rherrlinger@AndersonTownshipOH.gov).



## 2022 Was A Productive Year for the Township, Thanks to Help from our Citizen Committees and Volunteers

Anderson Township is home to talented and dedicated residents who volunteer their time for a wide variety of organizations and efforts.

Nine volunteer committees provide extra energy and manpower to support the initiatives brought forth by Anderson Township Trustees and staff.

“We as a community are fortunate to be a beneficiary of this volunteer goodwill, as more than **110 individuals work closely with staff and advise the Board of Anderson Township Trustees** on key policy decisions,” said Vice Chair Dee Stone. Volunteer activities range from bettering the township’s transportation system to encouraging local economic development.

**The activities of these committees over the last year include:**

### Anderson Township Betterment Commission

Supported the following initiatives and programs through ongoing administrative, fundraising and program support:

- Anderson Township Senior Center
- Anderson Township Fire and Rescue Department
- Independence Day Parade

### Economic Development Committee

- Reviewed and offered recommendations on the Kellogg Plan.
- Working to attract hotel locally, plus updating the 2019 Hotel Feasibility Study, possible sites and outreach mechanisms.
- Updated potential key sites for new development/redevelopment.
- Assessed workforce needs and trends with strategies for growth.

### Greenspace Committee

- Assisted with potential acquisition of three properties, which could add nearly 100 acres to add to the Greenspace program.
- Coordinated a public education campaign about Greenspace.
- Supported work on the Walls Greenspace property on S.R. 32 to learn more about prehistoric cultures previously living on the Turpin site.

### Senior Center Advisory Committee

- Grew senior center membership by 17 percent in one year.
- Offered new programs utilizing new technology- hybrid programming and movie night.
- Increased daily attendance.

### Transportation Advisory Committee

- Advised trustees on transportation of goods, services and people throughout the township and region.
- Participated in adoption of the 2022 Anderson Comprehensive Plan update, in particular the mobility section of the plan.
- Updating the Anderson Trails Plan, a guide for improvements.

### Tree Committee

- Planted 72 trees and provided Great Trees Awards to four properties.
- Guided improvements at the new Heritage Center Arboretum.
- Organized tree planting for more than 160 eligible homeowners.

### We THRIVE! Anderson Committee

- Hosted the Great American Cleanup with more than 50 participants.
- Expanded Adopt a Roadway program and hosted Garden Tour.
- Compiled recycling facilities information.



The Anderson Garden Tour is sponsored by the WeTHRIVE! Committee.

### Board of Zoning Appeals

- Hosted public hearings and rendered decisions on more than 30 applications in 2022.
- A majority of public hearings focused on residential and commercial variances and conditional uses.



The Board of Zoning Appeals hears zone change cases and more.

### Zoning Commission

- Heard 14 cases in 2022. Applications primarily involved zone changes, Planned Unit Developments, and Community Unit Plans.
- Hosted public hearings and approved the 2022 Comprehensive Plan.

The public is welcome to attend any citizen committee meetings. Schedules are posted on the calendar at [AndersonTownshipOH.gov](http://AndersonTownshipOH.gov) and in *Anderson Insights*.

## Voters OK Gas Aggregation Option in November Election

**Township trustees now free to examine if aggregation program good for Anderson residents.**

Anderson Township voters gave the go-ahead to township trustees on Election Day this year to form a gas aggregation program.

The “yes” vote means trustees now are free to create an aggregated buying group to purchase natural gas with the goal of providing stable prices and money-savings over time. Trustees will move ahead with the buying group only if they determine rates are favorable for township residents.



certification as a governmental aggregator through the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, public hearings and public bids. The earliest any program could begin would be mid-year 2023, according to Administrator Vicky Earhart.

Not all homes in the township have natural gas. Of the township’s approximately 18,000 households, 13,500 have gas. Of those, 8,500

are using Duke Energy as their supplier and would be enrolled in the program if it moves ahead.

If the township approves the program, residents are not obligated to participate, Earhart noted. Residents can opt-out with no penalty by simply making a phone call.

Information will be sent by mail as the program moves closer to a start date. Check [AndersonTownshipOH.gov](http://AndersonTownshipOH.gov) or the township’s Facebook page for updates.

Energy Alliances Inc. is the contact point for questions about the program and its implications for residents. Call Energy Alliances at 513.794.5555 Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or leave a voicemail after hours.

## Township’s Tree Planting Efforts Post Banner Year

**Tree canopy preserved locally through program that adds trees after road construction.**

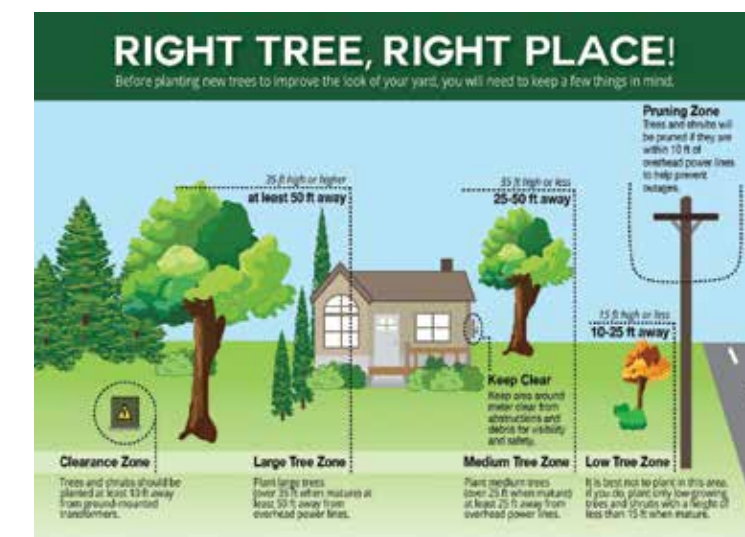
The Anderson Township Tree Committee continues to preserve and add to the township’s tree canopy through its planting program undertaken each fall.

Every year, residents who live on streets that have undergone a street or road project in the past year are eligible to obtain a tree purchased and installed by Anderson Township. “Residents make a commitment to water the tree and the township does the rest,” said Anderson Township Planner Lauren Gleason.

This year proved to be a banner year for the fall program as the township received more than 160 requests for the trees, according to John Halpin, Tree Committee chair, which is double the rate of previous years.

A few tree options provided to property owners are the Black Gum Tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*), Sterling Silver Linden (*Tilia tomentosa*), and Paperbark Chinese Maple (*Acer griseum*).

The Tree Committee has organized a spring planting schedule, (weather and availability permitting), so come summer you’ll see many new trees in Anderson Township.



### Emergency Services Day



### Trick or Treat at Anderson Towne Center



### Bike Rodeo



### Urban Farm Harvest Fest



# Community Benefits Derive from Local Generosity

## Why not invest your charitable resources in causes close to home?

Five Anderson Township non-profit organizations turn your donations into local programs, projects and events. Consider these organizations for your annual tax-deductible giving.

### Anderson Township Betterment Commission

The Anderson Township Betterment Commission promotes efforts to enhance the quality of life for Anderson Township residents, business owners and institutions by providing support to community organizations, events and other activities.



Projects or services in which the Betterment Commission have historically invested in include the Anderson Township Senior Center, Anderson Township Veterans Memorial, Anderson Independence Day Parade and Anderson Township safety services. Recent donations have included memorial tree plantings and benches on public property.

For more information contact Steve Sievers at 513.688.8604 or [ssievers@AndersonTownshipOH.gov](mailto:ssievers@AndersonTownshipOH.gov).

### Anderson Foundation for Parks and Recreation

The Anderson Foundation for Parks and Recreation is a 501(c)3 non-profit and is the official philanthropic partner of Anderson Parks. 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 parks foundation has a long history of positive impact throughout the Anderson parks. Playground projects funded in part by the foundation include: Beech Acres, Juilfs, Laverty and Veterans parks. Other parks projects include picnic pods, tennis courts, family swings at Juilfs Park, the pickleball courts at Clear Creek Park, and the MariMac Outdoor Classroom at W. M. Johnson Hills Park.

The Anderson Foundation for Parks and Recreation most recently funded the covers for ball diamond dugouts at Veterans and Riverside Parks and a new shelter at Juilfs Park. These projects were made possible through the generosity of many donors.

To learn more or get involved, visit [FoundationforParks.org](http://FoundationforParks.org).

### Forest Hills Foundation for Education

The Forest Hills Foundation for Education's mission is to raise funds to cultivate resources and create opportunities to prepare all Forest Hill School District students to be successful.



With the generosity of the community last year, the foundation has already funded an additional full-time therapist and provided more than \$100,000 in teacher grants that directly affect classrooms in all nine schools. The foundation continues its focus on student wellness, STEM and experienceship opportunities in 2022 and 2023.

Follow the foundation on Facebook: [foresthillsfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/foresthillsfoundation) or at [fhfe.org](http://fhfe.org).

### Anderson Township Historical Society

The Anderson Township Historical Society and Urban Farm's mission is to preserve the history of the area, encourage youth to embrace history, bring the past to life and to provide Anderson Township with experiences and places to gather, learn and grow.



The Urban Farm was created in 2018 and has since developed into 70 community gardens where plots can be rented each season.

The society has recently completed a successful fundraising campaign to renovate a 100-year-old barn on the Urban Farm property.

Ongoing projects include the maintenance and renovation of eight buildings and 10 acres of land. Donations can be made on the website: [Andersontownshiphistoricalsociety.org](http://Andersontownshiphistoricalsociety.org) or by contacting Nancy Krueger at 513.478.7480.

### Anderson Area Chamber Foundation



The Anderson Area Chamber Foundation is a 501(c)3 charitable organization that funds business scholarships given to Anderson, Turpin and McNicholas high schools. Each school is responsible for selecting a graduating senior who 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. Accelerate Anderson focuses on deepening connections to the Anderson area while developing and growing skills as a leader. Accelerate members participate in educational sessions, community classrooms and candid conversations with community leaders. Contact the chamber at 513.474.4802 or [info@AndersonAreaChamber.org](mailto:info@AndersonAreaChamber.org).

# Anderson Insights Brings Local News to You

## From Anderson Township Trustees:

*Anderson Insights*, the township's comprehensive newsletter published three times a year, is an excellent way to stay current on all things related to Anderson Township government. Funded out of the township's general fund, the newsletter covers events, township projects, new business, safety matters and local issues that affect your life. Also included is information about other organizations' programs serving our community.

So why a printed newsletter? Though in this day and age the township also taps into use of its website and Facebook page to distribute timely information, *Anderson Insights* is the most transparent way to communicate with residents. It is delivered to every home and business in Anderson Township and ensures those who do not receive their information via the internet have access to township news. This is especially important with the lack of a community paper covering Anderson Township. Also, residents and businesses have repeatedly commented how *Anderson Insights* helps keeps them informed and it's a key tool in welcoming new residents.

We hope you enjoy our winter edition. Anderson Township Trustees and staff members wish you good health in the New Year and look forward to continuing our high level of public services to our valued residents and businesses in 2023!



From left Trustee Lexi Lausten, Trustee Chair Josh Gerth and Vice Chair Dee Stone.

## CONNECT

### JANUARY

**Performing Art, Inc.-Annie Kids and Seussical Jr. and Disney Descendants the Musical**

Anderson Center Theater, 7850 Five Mile Road  
January 22-28

Times and details: [performingartsinc.net/anderson](http://performingartsinc.net/anderson)  
Tickets: [performingartsinc.net/ticketing](http://performingartsinc.net/ticketing)

### FEBRUARY

**Beechmont Players-Our Town**

Anderson Center Theater, 7850 Five Mile Road  
Friday and Saturday, Feb. 10-11, 8 p.m.

Sunday, February 12, 3 p.m.  
Friday, February 17, 8 p.m.  
Saturday, February 18, 3 p.m.  
Tickets \$20; students, seniors, active military \$18.  
[beechmontplayers.org/ticket-information/](http://beechmontplayers.org/ticket-information/)

**LeJeune Dance-Raymonda**

Anderson Center Theater, 7850 Five Mile Road  
Friday and Saturday, February 24-25, 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday and Sunday, February 25-26, 2 p.m.

Tickets: \$25  
Info: [lejeunedance.com/tickets/](http://lejeunedance.com/tickets/)

## 2023 EVENTS

### APRIL

**Great American Cleanup**  
April 22

**Drug Take Back Day**  
April 29

### MAY

**Anderson Township Garage Sale Day**  
May 6

**Memorial Day Bell Ceremony**  
May 29

### JUNE

**Anderson Garden Tour**  
June 11

**Bike Rodeo**  
June 17

### JULY

**Independence Day Parade**  
July 4

**Anderson Day**  
July 29

### OCTOBER

**Emergency Services Day**  
October 14

**Anderson Towne Center Trick or Treat**  
October 29

### NOVEMBER

**Veterans Day Celebration**  
November 11

### DECEMBER

**Anderson Holiday Festival**  
December 2

(Events subject to change)



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

#### Administration and Fiscal Office

#### Planning and Zoning

#### Public Works

#### Fire and Rescue

#### Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

#### Anderson Township Senior Center

7970 Beechmont Ave.  
Anderson Township  
Ohio 45255  
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

[AndersonTownshipOH.gov](http://AndersonTownshipOH.gov)

# Kellogg Avenue Upgrade Starts With Interchange Improvements

Projects geared to **beautify and transform the I-275 Exit 72** gateway to Kellogg Avenue are in the works for construction this summer.

The Kellogg Gateway Study, adopted in 2021, created a number of goals to enhance Anderson's Entertainment District. In 2023, the beginning of this makeover process begins.

Sweeping plantings are outlined in the upgrade to provide colorful displays, while new LED lighting will create safety and interest on the underside of the overpass at the interchange.

The interchange project is the first of four targeted areas for improvements. Future projects focus on the goals of upgrading safety, traffic flow and the

appearance of the corridor. Those projects include **potential traffic modifications, enhanced drop off/pick up areas, improved lighting and crosswalks, more uniform signage, landscaping, trees, art elements and more.**

Planning and Zoning Director Paul Drury said the township is seeking bids for the projects. He said he was hopeful traffic impacts would be minimal for the intersection upgrades.

The Kellogg Gateway project is a collaborative venture involving Anderson Township, the City of Cincinnati, the Hamilton County Engineer's Office and the Ohio Department of Transportation.



Rendering of suggested upgrades to interchange off I-275 South to Kellogg Avenue