

ANDERSON Insights

THE VOICE OF ANDERSON TOWNSHIP

NOVEMBER 2023

Lifestyle Housing Renews Languishing Skytop Area



Skytop Apartment

In its long history, the area of Anderson Township now referred to as “Skytop” has taken on many forms. This longstanding crossroads at the intersection of Beechmont Avenue and State Route 32 is but a half mile from the township’s first settlement, the Garard/Martin Station which dates back to 1790.

In more recent history, this area has featured an array of shops and restaurants, and an iconic motel characterized by a giant plastic Santa on horseback.

Today, new life is coming to this area of Anderson Township, thanks to the investment by Metropolitan Holdings. The new 361-unit development called Skytop Apartments opened its doors this past summer. The rental community is designed with art-deco themes linked to other

Greater Cincinnati landmarks including Lunken Airport. Anderson Township leaders hope this new development will provide a more sustainable and prosperous future for Anderson’s westernmost gateway.

While retail development was the focus

in the last 25 years with the Skytop Shopping Center, no trace is found today of Biggs, Fashion Bug, Radio Shack and others retail stores.

Steve Sievers, Anderson’s assistant administrator for operations, noted the vitality of this western portion of the township has risen and fallen over time. The storied El Rancho Rankin Motel, once a point of pride for Anderson, operated for decades. Alongside the popular motel, a shopping center targeted motorists traversing the Beechmont Levee. However, the motel ultimately declined after air travel shifted from Lunken to Northern Kentucky in the 1960s and the facility was shut down in 1996 due to fire code violations.

In 1999, Jeffrey R. Anderson Real Estate demolished the motel and redeveloped the site into the 135,000 square foot Skytop Shopping Center and related outlots.

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Skytop Apartments opened this summer.

TOWNSHIP NEWS

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Eight Mile-Route 32 Project Winding Up

Final paving planned for 2024; new signal, traffic pattern ready this year.



Eight Mile Road and State Route 32 eastbound view in October.

Construction is winding up on a months-long project that began mid-spring and closed Eight Mile Road at State Route 32. The outcome of these ongoing improvements is to create a safer, less congested intersection. Work is expected to finish for the year in late November.

Construction on the \$4.7 million project which installed what the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) calls a “Green T” intersection has gone smoothly overall, said Assistant Administrator for Operations Steve Sievers. The project was not as disruptive as expected at the awkwardly-configured intersection.

Except for new asphalt and striping, the entire project was expected to be substantially complete this year, according to ODOT, which funded the improvements. At its conclusion in 2023, the project should be in its final driving configuration, with the traffic signal in place and working.

Improvements undertaken this fall included a landslide repair, paving, guardrails, and elevating Eight Mile Road, plus storm drain replacement on Route 32.

This key intersection on the eastern border of the township had been the site of numerous injury crashes over the years, with 39 incidents recorded by the Hamilton County Engineer’s Office at the intersection from 2017 to 2021.

“We are thankful ODOT is addressing this dangerous intersection. I think drivers and especially those unfamiliar with that intersection found the area hard to manage” said Trustee Chair Dee Stone. “Solving the problems of congestion and traffic flow with the Green T configuration will help motorists who travel into or across the northern part of Anderson Township.”

The Route 32-Eight Mile Road upgrade is just one of several improvement projects in this area, referred to as the Eastern Corridor. Several construction projects have caused traffic disruptions in the Eastgate area of Clermont County in recent years.

Work planned for next May or June on the Eight Mile-Route 32 intersection includes final paving, striping and final seeding if needed. No major traffic disruptions are anticipated.

More License Plate Readers Added to Local Crime Deterrent Measures

Township-funded cameras now provide monitoring at 10 additional locations to protect against theft, property crime.

Anderson Township recently joined a growing list of communities in Southwest Ohio and nationwide that are enlisting new technology to fight crime.

In recent months, Anderson added license plate reader devices to its toolbox of crime deterrent methods to help the Hamilton County Sheriff’s Office identify criminals.

Ten new license plate reading devices have been installed around the community. These capture a screenshot image of vehicles, including license plate numbers, and other features. This objective information can then be used by law enforcement to instantly create and deliver leads to combat crime, according to Lt. Dave Downing, commander of the District 5 Anderson Township substation of the Hamilton County Sheriff’s Office.

26 Vehicle Detection Units in Use

Ten readers were added to six devices introduced by the Sheriff’s Office District 5 Anderson Township in 2022, and 10 other devices funded by Great Parks of Hamilton County or the Forest Hills School District along property driveways, he said.

Unlike previous license plate readers installed on some sheriff’s cruisers, these license plate readers operate 24/7. Data collected is not available to the public, noted Township Administrator Vicky Earhart. Once information is gathered, it will be compared to a law enforcement “hotlist” and is part of nationwide network to solve crimes.

“Sensitive information is only accessible to law enforcement personnel for legitimate investigative purposes,” Downing said.

Captain Brian Stapleton noted that in the past year, “there have been 286 missing persons, warrants, stolen vehicles and stolen license plates identified in our patrol area (Anderson Township) using FLOCK cameras. Of those hits, 156 were for stolen vehicles or license plates.”

“Around 70% of all crime involves the use of a vehicle, so a license plate and vehicle details are often an investigator’s most useful piece of evidence,” said Connor Metz with Flock Safety, the provider of the technology. More than 225 police agencies have adopted this technology across Ohio, he added.

Cameras Valuable in High-Traffic Areas

“These cameras are most effective in areas with high traffic volume (like schools or shopping centers) and are a very valuable investigative tool,” Downing said. The FLOCK license reader cameras “are also useful for real-time patrol applications.”

“They are valuable for investigations after a crime involving a vehicle, especially when the description of the vehicle includes partial or no license plate information,” he said. “That would normally make tracking down the vehicle owner or operator very difficult.”

One example of the data being used to solve a crime involves a recent shooting in Sycamore Township. “Officers were able to identify the suspect vehicle using the FLOCK cameras based off the description given by the victim,” Downing noted.

Private businesses and homeowners associations can also partner with FLOCK and purchase cameras to add to the law enforcement database, he said.



FLOCK cameras help identification in hit and run incidents.

Devices Have Other Uses, Too

The devices also prove effective in helping locate missing adults and provide leads for Amber Alert searches, as well as slowing a growing trend of hit and run incidents, said Assistant Township Administrator for Operations Steve Sievers. Anderson Township will pay \$30,000 annually for the technology.

According to a RAND report issued in 2018, law enforcement agencies are adopting this technology quickly, with estimates noting more than 70 percent of agencies are using some form of the vehicle detection technology.

“This technology will be used retroactively-not proactively-it’s not used to give speeding tickets, etc.” said Trustee Chair Dee Stone. “With the safety parameters, it’s money well spent to search for missing persons or solve property crimes.”

Data collected can be used for investigations related to vehicles involved in a crime.

Brian Johnson Appointed New Fiscal Officer

Brian Johnson is the new fiscal officer for Anderson Township. He was appointed in September to fill the position when longtime Fiscal Officer Ken Dietz retired.



Brian Johnson

Johnson is both a CPA and an attorney, a graduate of the Salmon P. Chase College of Law at Northern Kentucky University. He currently is a senior manager at a trust tax return firm and has held positions at a national bank and national CPA firm. Additionally, he is a former Internal Revenue Service agent and he also served as an audit manager at the Ohio Auditor of State's Office performing audits on local governments. In this position he audited fiscal officer's work including work at the township level.

As a volunteer, Johnson served on the Anderson Township Board of Zoning Appeals prior to his appointment as fiscal officer.

As Township Grew and Changed, Fiscal Leader Adapted Over Decades

Anderson Township's fiscal office leadership has changed hands after two and a half decades. Ken Dietz retired from his public service career in September.



Fiscal Officer Ken Dietz, far right, retired this fall after 28 years.

During his tenure as fiscal officer (previously referred to as "township clerk,") Ken Dietz oversaw a period of growth and change in the township. As fiscal methods became more integrated into technology, Dietz kept the township finances in order, resulting in 13 successful two-year audits, passage of three public service levies which were stretched beyond their expected life, acquisition of 72 Greenspace properties and thousands of yearly fiduciary functions. Progress came in conjunction with "excellent management on the part of the elected officials, administration and the departments," noted Dietz.

Administrator Vicky Earhart said Dietz's management of the township's finances played a crucial role in maintaining cash reserves and a low debt burden which resulted in the township earning a top bond credit rating from Moody's Investors Service. "This top bond credit rating is important to economic development in Anderson and helps to fuel capital projects and enhanced services which add to the quality of life for residents," she noted.

Dietz added that during his decades of service, his office managed the township's more than \$50 million budget, payroll, quarterly and yearly reports, pension and

all issues related to township finance. His staff included two assistants.

In past years, Dietz served as a real estate consultant and negotiator, and he has been active in acquisitions of Greenspace properties for the township.

In 1995, Anderson Township's financial records were kept in handwritten logs. Dietz enabled technological changes which modernized the accounting system including recently outsourcing payroll.

"Over the years, the budget grew more complex along with the expanding services which were needed to keep Anderson one of the top-rated communities in the state," Dietz noted.

Trustee Josh Gerth praised Dietz saying, "He has hired and worked with incredible teams, kept our credit rating high, and delivered consistent results throughout his tenure...all while being a super nice guy."

What People Say:

I had the opportunity to work with Ken and observe his steadiness over more than 20 years. Ken was always the rock; smart, low-key and steady, all the traits you want in somebody who's handling your money

or the taxpayer's money. He was always there to keep our less-experienced elected officials on target.

The proof of Ken's great value to Anderson Township was highlighted by his bi-annual Ohio state audit performances. Ken Dietz has been a true public servant and a valued asset to our community!

- Russ Jackson, former township trustee



Former Trustee Russ Jackson, Township Administrator Vicky Earhart and Ken Dietz

I have known Ken Dietz for many years as associate and friend. Ken has always been a leader in all the positions he had held. Ken is the reason I became a fiscal officer in Springfield Township. He mentored me as

I was running for the position and provided wisdom as I was learning the position. Ken is one of the few people who will help those who ask or need help.

- Dan Berning, fiscal officer Springfield Township

I got to know Ken Dietz 20 years ago when we moved back to Anderson Township and I've had the distinct pleasure of working side-by-side with him over the last 10 years in my role as trustee. If I had to describe Ken in one word it would be: Gentleman. A true professional, he has dedicated decades to public service; the last 2½ focused on the fiscal well-being of Anderson Township."

- Josh Gerth, township trustee



Former Trustee Andrew Pappas, Trustee Josh Gerth and Ken Dietz.

Look for Spring Beautification at I-275 Interchange with Kellogg Avenue (Exit 72)

An ambitious transformation planned for the Kellogg Avenue Entertainment District started this year along the Interstate 275 exit 72 interchange.

Planned is a sweeping panorama of color and textured landscaping that will provide a welcoming "front door" to the entertainment area.

Discussions of ways to transform the area have been underway since 2020, said Planning and Zoning Director Paul Drury. All the plans are outlined in the township's Kellogg Avenue Gateway Study, which was adopted in 2021.

Scheduled improvements target beautification, upgraded signage and lighting, pedestrian improvements and crosswalks.

"These upcoming improvements to our Kellogg Avenue gateway will unify the district, as well as provide a more positive experience for the nearly 2 million visitors and guests who come to play and enjoy our riverfront amenities," said Trustee Josh Gerth.

The City of Cincinnati and Anderson Township collaborated on the \$3.5 million Kellogg Avenue Gateway Study with an eye on benefiting both communities and strengthening their economies, Drury said.

Landscape plans drew inspiration from the area's history which has included orchards and vineyards. Plantings will be set in structured rows of trees. Signage adjacent to the overpass includes visual references

to the Ohio River through the use of a curving blue line.

Funding and future maintenance for the \$6 million project is being drawn from Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds which are paid from property owners along Kellogg Avenue for capital improvements in the riverfront area.

The interchange project is one of four areas slated for improvements, Drury said. Further changes include streetscape upgrades from Waits Avenue in the California neighborhood in Cincinnati to the Belterra Gaming entrance. Plans for these areas are still in discussion.



Gateway improvements to the Interstate 275 interchange started this fall.

Skytop Area Over the Years *(Continued from page 1)*



El Rancho Rankin Motel in 1962; the motel closed in 1996.



Eccentric owner of El Rancho Rankin Motel, William Rankin Harrison



Skytop Shopping Center as seen in 2003.

However, within 10 years many vacancies arose in the center. By late 2018, Remke was the last major tenant of the center and it succumbed and closed its doors.

Due to the site's size and location, the

township's 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update identified this property as one of three key sites for Anderson's future. Plans called for a mixture of uses on the site, Sievers said. Soon thereafter, a proposal

was submitted to construct a multi-family community, complimenting the adjacent existing stores and restaurants and with a vision to draw new businesses to the area.

The depleted shopping center was razed in



The Road A-1 Union Bridge flood in 1913, near Skytop area was eventually replaced by the Beechmont Levee.

the fall of 2021, and by the summer of 2023, construction was completed on a portion of the initial units in the new Skytop Apartments.

"The township's first settlers came upriver to a site not far from the Skytop development," Sievers said. The river and later roadways and bridges in this area fueled the growth of the township, well into the 20th century. Access to transportation options and growing amenities, including bike paths and the river, once again promise to be key attractions for these new residents, Sievers said.

"As part of Anderson's overall plan to increase housing choices for all ages,

Skytop Apartments is a welcome new player who is part of the bigger picture of providing housing for a younger generation of Anderson residents, attracting age demographics that historically had few options in Anderson," noted Jeff Rosa, chair of the Economic Development Committee.

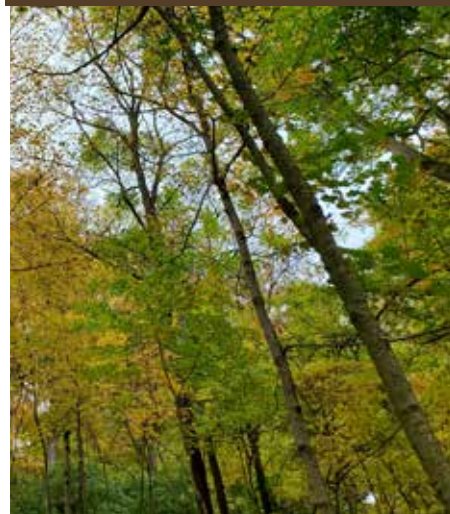
"We are so excited to welcome the new Skytop Apartments to Anderson," he said. "Anderson has needed more apartments, but to get a place like this is above and beyond our expectations," he said. Amenities include a resort-style pool with cabanas, a theater, fitness center, resident lounge, dog park and an outdoor kitchen, he added.

"Per the township's planning efforts, we see this as an opportunity to create a new community at this key crossroads, one that not only supports nearby shops and restaurants, but those nearby in Mt. Washington, Newtown, Mt. Lookout and close areas that are only minutes from the site," Sievers added. It's also very convenient to Downtown and Cincinnati's eastern neighborhoods supplemented by significant access to public transportation, he added.

Matt Vekasy, founder and CEO of Metropolitan Holdings, noted, "We hope to meet the region's need for new, low-maintenance rental choices, as opposed to older rental housing stock that exists in the market. The arrival of new tenants will bring in disposable income to be spent on food and entertainment at local businesses."

"The Skytop community is yet another step by the township, working with Hamilton County and others, to facilitate positive redevelopment and housing opportunities. These efforts meet the needs of our township and implement the vision set forth in our Comprehensive Plan for this area," Trustee Josh Gerth said. "We're thrilled at the \$32 million reinvestment in this site and the ripple effect that this will have in the immediate and surrounding areas," he added.

Protect, Don't Encroach, Township Greenspace Property



Taxpayer-funded Greenspace in Anderson Township is one of the community's most valuable assets and a reason for pride among residents. More than 700 acres of protected land ranging from hilly hidden parcels to forested properties along roadways are included in the township's Greenspace portfolio.

Greenspace property improves the township's environmental quality and these natural areas provide green buffer and wildlife habitat between neighborhoods. They also are open to the public. No developed trails exist on Greenspace

property, but residents are welcome to explore these properties on foot if they enjoy winding through the woods or following deer trails.

How do you know where Greenspace is located? Greenspace properties are usually marked at property corners with 5-foot white Greenspace stakes. Many parcels also have roadside Greenspace signs and stakes.

"The residents that receive the most benefits from Greenspace are the fortunate homeowners who are immediate neighbors to these forever green areas," said

Greenspace Inspector Suzanne Clingman. "They are also the residents who can do the most to protect or destroy adjacent Greenspace. It is a homeowner's responsibility to know where your property line is and respect that line."

Unfortunately, **it is immediate neighbors who damage Greenspace** by ignoring property lines and extending their yards into Greenspace, she said. Some neighbors do damage with off-road vehicles, bicycles, or dumping or cutting of vegetation on the adjacent Greenspace property. "It is illegal to extend your yard or fence onto a

neighboring property or use neighboring properties for any activity without permission of the owner, whether that neighbor is a private property owner or a public property like township Greenspace," Clingman added.

Residents and especially neighbors of Greenspace properties **can help protect these areas by reporting misuse to the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office** by calling 911. It is helpful if you call right away while illegal activities are occurring, she noted.

Check out all the township's properties on a Greenspace map at AndersonTownshipOH.gov using key words: Greenspace map.

"Help to protect these forever green areas that define our community so that animals and humans can continue to enjoy these beautiful spots now and in the distant future," said Trustee Vice Chair Lexi Lausten.

For questions about Greenspace or the Greenspace program, contact Clingman at 513.688.8400 ext. 1190.

HISTORY NOTES

Francis McCormick-Anderson's Pioneer Preacher

The history of Anderson Township is rooted in the story of the nation following the American Revolution. If you know where to look, that history continues to speak to us today. The story of Rev. Francis McCormick is one that still resonates, and one that can give township residents pride.



The Rev. Francis McCormick

Much of what we know about McCormick comes from Mary Shinn (1885-1970), a township resident and descendant of McCormick. Shinn is pictured with the later Salem Church facility in a photo dated from 1908 on page 9.

As a 17-year-old Virginian, son of a well-to-do Virginia Presbyterian minister and landowner, McCormick stood silently with the Marquis de Lafayette and thousands of other Continental soldiers watching the surrender of Lord Cornwallis to General George Washington at Yorktown. It was 1781.

Young McCormick grew up in a home where the family altar and keeping the Sabbath was an important part of life. However, in a short time his father abandoned religion and built a whiskey distillery. Having grown up “wild and reckless,” he was bigger and stronger than most men at age 23. At that age as he was more than 6 feet tall and 240 pounds. McCormick had earned a reputation as a heavy drinker and “Sabbath breaker.” Soon

however, his marriage to Rebecca Easton and the appearance in Virginia of two Methodist circuit rider preachers would change the course of his life.

Methodism was new to America and, while attracting many, was strongly opposed by others. Along with his father, McCormick vehemently denounced the Methodists as they preached against his lifestyle choices. Although he prohibited his wife from attending their meetings, Rebecca went anyway and returned a “converted” woman. According to McCormick family history, when the young man attended one of the meetings with his wife, he became agitated, angry, and then alarmed. Soon he was convinced that despite his proud service as a soldier under Lafayette during the American Revolution, he was in fact a sinner in need of God’s forgiveness.

Of his experience at a meal held after a preaching service, McCormick said

I was quite charmed with the love, simplicity and union that prevailed. Surely, thought I, these are the people of God. Yet when the invitation was given, I went home angry. While miserable beyond expression, I went again.

Eventually, McCormick says, he surrendered himself to God.

...it appeared to me that all the wickedness I had ever committed stared me in the face.

Living in the midst of a hundred relatives, all enemies of the Methodists, how can I stand opposed by such a number. Then it appeared as though I heard a voice. “My spirit shall not always strive with man!” This had such an effect on my mind that I was resolved to make the trial, let consequences be what they might.

McCormick joined the “Methodist Society” in 1790 and was heavily ridiculed by his family for his “ranting about the sect from over the seas.” His father promised him a farm if he would give up his association with the church; then McCormick was disowned when he refused. Years later however, his dying

father asked his son who had “got religion” to pray for him.

In 1792 McCormick was given a license to preach. He and Rebecca moved to Kentucky in 1795 where the young man hoped to overthrow slavery and whiskey distilling. Two years later they departed Kentucky for Ohio, settling in the Little Miami Valley in the area soon to be named Milford, with a deed for 1,000 acres for services rendered in the War for Independence. He quickly built a cabin which served as his home and as the first Methodist church in the Northwest Territory. He and Rebecca were joined by family from North Carolina and friends from Kentucky, as well as by Rev. Phillip Gatch who had been tarred in Maryland for his Methodist principles.

After nine years, the McCormicks moved to Anderson Township, building a log church in 1810 at the present site of Anderson Hills Church-Salem Campus. The log church was visited by many itinerant preachers and families, some of whom traveled from as far away as 40 miles. The area became a small community which McCormick named “Salem” meaning “peace.”

In 1828 the log church was torn down so a new school and brick church could be built on the site. From his cabin window McCormick could look out on the little church which was the center of his life. He died peacefully in 1836.

As told by those present at his passing, his final words were “Glory, honor, immortality, eternal life.” He and Rebecca are buried in the Salem Episcopal Methodist Churchyard Cemetery in Anderson.

Text by Tom Brown. Some photos from Anderson Township Historical Society collection.

List of references as cited by author Mary Shinn:

“History of the Methodist Episcopal Church”
 “Daniel’s History of Methodism”
 “Howe’s Historical Collections of Ohio”
 Recollections of relatives



A lithograph of Salem Church in 1862 as it appeared in the magazine Ladies’ Repository.



Mary Shinn photographed herself in front of Salem Church in 1908. The church building was built in 1865.



Francis and Rebecca McCormick are buried in the cemetery at the corner of Sutton and Salem roads in Anderson Township.



A lithograph of Salem Church in 1862 as it appeared in the magazine Ladies’ Repository.

Historical Society Office Open for Township Research

Want to delve into local genealogy or research an event related to Anderson Township? The Anderson Township Historical Society’s research facility is open on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and by appointment.

Historic documents, photos and displays are stored at 6550 Clough Pike, the home next to the Miller-Leuser Log House.

Archivist Melanie Woodworth, who manages the society’s collections, said the organization is **working to make their materials more accessible to the public.**

“Our collections are available for prospective research, personal or scholarly study or for local organizations,” she said. Resources include artifacts, historic photographs, maps, cemetery records,

newspapers genealogy records, house histories, and a wealth of material on local history.

For more information call 513.231.2114 or email president@AndersonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org.

NEWS & NOTES

Maddy Kelly New Event Lead



Maddy Kelly

Maddy Kelly is the new event lead for Anderson Township Events. She is an Anderson High School graduate and attended the University of Cincinnati and Cincinnati State Technical and Community College. Her career experience includes work in customer service, event coordination and logistics.

New School Resource Officer Named



Jeremy Dwyer

Enforcement Officer Jeremy Dwyer is the new school resource officer assigned to Anderson Township's 10 schools. He joins Cpl. Ryan Wolf of the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office who has served as the township's only school resource officer since 2021. Wolf filled the position previously held by school resource Officer Bob Goettke who served as the resource officer since the inception of the program.

Dwyer has served as a deputy with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office for 23 years, working in road patrol since 2015. He has served as a mentor to new officers and has been frequently utilized as a field training officer. Dwyer also has worked off-duty additional security at schools and sporting events in Anderson and has coached youth sports.

Call 911 in Emergency

Township residents are urged to call 911, not fire stations, when an emergency or other assistance is needed. Fire Chief Rick Martin said residents have been calling the township's four fire stations when they are in need of assistance. "Please dial 911 instead of the fire stations with such calls," he said.

Bike Repair Pump, Fix-It Station Introduced on Five Mile Trail



New Five Mile Trail bike fix-it station

If you've ever been unprepared for a flat tire while riding on a bike trail, you know that situation is highly inconvenient. A new safety addition recently made available to users of the Five Mile will help riders solve some bike maintenance problems.

Anderson Township recently installed a bike air pump and a fix-it station at the Five Mile Trailhead on Newtown Road on the 2.5-mile paved trail. A \$3,000 grant was provided through a Hamilton County Public Health grant given to WeTHRIVE! communities and schools. The township has been a WeTHRIVE! community for more than eight years.

The bike repair station and the pump are available at no charge to users. A second fix-it station also is located on the Ohio River Trail along Kellogg Avenue.

Stuff the Medic Unit Toys Accepted Until Dec. 2

Want to help out a child in need?



Stop by the Beechmont Fire Station, 7954 Beechmont Ave., and drop off a new, unwrapped toy for the annual Stuff the Medic Unit Toy Drive. Sponsored by the Anderson Township Fire and Rescue Department, the program distributes the contributions to Inter Parish Ministries in Newtown.

A medic unit will be decorated and stationed outside Anderson Township's Beechmont Fire Station.

Drop off toys at any of the locations:

Station 6
7954 Beechmont Ave.

Station 10
6211 Salem Road

Station 22
7036 Main Street (Newtown)

Station 101
6880 Hunley Road

Township Residents Diverted 2,928 Tons of Trash

In 2022, Anderson Township residents diverted 2,928 tons of material from going to the landfill! Residents saved resources, conserved energy and reduced pollution by recycling.

Recycling efforts in Anderson Township:

- Conserved enough energy to power every home in Anderson Township for nine days.
- Reduced more air pollution than if every household member in Anderson Township rode a bicycle to work for eight weeks.
- Saved 22,386 trees from being harvested.

In Anderson Township, recycle your yardwaste for free at the Bzak Landscape yardwaste drop-off site, at 3295 Turpin Lane (off State Route 32 in Anderson Township).

The county-sponsored site accepts yardwaste seven days a week. Some restrictions apply; no commercial trucks are accepted. Hours are weekdays 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday



11 a.m. to 5 p.m. through December 3. Hours are reduced after December 3. Call 513.271.0900 for details.

'Anderson Township 101' Offered in February Class



Explore the fundamentals of the organizations that make Anderson Township run in a one evening class called "Anderson Township 101."

The discussion is set for 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2024, at Anderson Center, 7850 Five Mile Road. Topics

include township operations including trustee roles, emergency response (police and fire fundamentals), planning and zoning and volunteer opportunities.

To register for this free event, visit AndersonTownshipOH.gov after January 3 for registration details.

Open Burning Prohibited in Most Circumstances

Did you know? Current state and EPA regulations prohibit open burning in suburban areas in most circumstances.

Fire Chief Rick Martin with Anderson Township Fire and Rescue explains that burning releases toxic fumes. These fumes, along with the spores that are released when they catch fire, cause many with allergy problems to have trouble breathing.

Although many are tempted to burn during the fall, Martin noted open burning is prohibited because pollutants released by the burn make it more difficult to meet health-based air quality standards. Burning household waste is one of the largest known sources of dioxin in the



Burn barrels are not allowed by law.

nation. Health problems including respiratory illnesses, nervous system damage and kidney and liver damage are linked to air pollution issues.

Legal cooking fires, such as barbecues and chimineas, are considered a recreational fire and are permitted. While permitted under EPA and state regulations, Martin reminds residents to make sure not to light these fires close to combustible materials such as siding and wood decking.

Details about how to apply for an open burning permit for large properties can be found online at AndersonTownshipOH.gov. A fee is charged to apply for the permit.

NEWS & NOTES

Second Resource Officer Added to Township Schools

Officers patrol Anderson's 10 campuses and provide safety and security of facilities, informal counseling.



Cpl. Ryan Wolf and Deputy Jeremy Dwyer

A second school resource officer covering Anderson's 10 school campuses has been added this year.

Although Anderson Township previously funded 100% of expenses associated with the original school resource officer position, the township and Forest Hills Local School District are dividing funding of the new dedicated position.

The two specialty officers from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office share duties in covering the nine schools in the Forest Hills Local School District and Immaculate Heart of Mary School. In total, this school population includes more than 7,000 students.

Lt. Dave Downing, the commander of the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office District 5 substation, said, "I am very excited for the new school resource officer. It has been impossible for one officer to give adequate attention to all of the schools in the school district."

"A school resource officer is an important position first and foremost to provide for safety and security of the facility," Downing noted.

"Unfortunately, safety risks in schools have evolved beyond tornado and fire drills to much more sinister threats," he added.

A school resource officer serves as the first line of defense in any sort of active threat to safety and will provide accurate information to responding officers in any kind of emergency, he added. The officer also provides a critical eye for security risks that others might not immediately detect.

Keeping a safe learning environment for the students and staff through presence, patrols, building assessments, and training drills is the focus of the officer, he said.

Steve Burgess, executive director of the Ohio School Resource Officers Association, said most Hamilton County school districts employ at least one school resource officer. These sworn law enforcement officers are responsible for safety and crime prevention in schools and work closely with school administrators to create a safer environment.

While these specialized officers can make arrests like other officers, Burgess noted these resource officers serve as informal counselors in the schools and help manage crises. In his own career as a school resource officer, Burgess said he helped many students undergoing personal drama, becoming both a friend and mentor to students experiencing hardship.

Anderson Township has historically funded the officer since it launched the resource officer pilot program in the 2001-2002 school year. Funding for the new officer includes the cost of the officer plus vehicle, equipment and transportation expenses. The township will cover the cost of the vehicle and gas, plus other equipment expenses, while the schools will cover the cost of the officer's salary and benefits.

Trustee Chair Dee Stone noted that while the second officer is filling a gap in needed services, she believed the schools could use even more support.

"We are thrilled to support this additional school resource officer, who serves as an overall role model, mentor, law enforcement professional and emergency manager in our schools," said Township Administrator Vicky Earhart. "This program is of utmost importance in helping keep our kids safe at school."

Business Updates in Anderson Township

Under Construction/Renovation

Acute Hearing Anderson
7695 Beechmont Ave.

ALL iN GOLF
8184 Beechmont Ave.

AmeriStop
7864 Beechmont Ave.

Animal Care Center
8094 Beechmont Ave.

Body Alive
8315 Beechmont Ave.

Chic Nails
7738 Beechmont Ave.

Currito
7870 Beechmont Ave.

Fusian
7860 Beechmont Ave.

Milk Jar Café
7860 Beechmont Ave.

Skytop Apartments
5220 Beechmont Ave.

Vantage at Anderson Towne Center
7832 Five Mile Road



Vantage at Anderson Towne Center

New Business

Early Bird Resale
7198 Beechmont Ave.

Extra Space Storage
7900 Beechmont Ave.

OrthoCincy
7910 Beechmont Ave.

Peach Cobbler Factory
7578 Beechmont Ave.

Stretch Lab
7466 Beechmont Ave.

Wandering Monsters Brewing
8251 Beechmont Ave.



OrthoCincy



Early Bird Resale

Keep Storm Sewers Clear of Leaves, Debris This Season



With leaves and debris all around us this time of year, homeowners are encouraged to occasionally check storm drains on their property or the roadway. Please ensure they are flowing freely.

Why is this important? Clogged drains can lead to ponding water, or worse, flooding. If storm sewer drains along the street edge are impeded, water can back up into your yard, home or driveway.

What are public storm drains? Storm drains are sewers visible from the street most often along a curb line or ditch.

Anderson's Public Works Department Director Eric Luginbuhl notes that leaves jamming up storm drains are a common cause of basement and yard flooding.

Additionally, clogged storm drains affect streams and rivers in the area. "The storm drains flow directly into waterways, which can be affected by leaves and debris that is sucked along the large pipes," Luginbuhl said. Eventually, too much phosphorous coming off of leaves causes potentially dangerous algae bloom, turning the water green and smelly. "This also lowers oxygen levels in the water, which is bad for plants and animals," he said, especially if the waterway is also used for recreation. Also, when colder weather arrives, this can lead to water freezing in these areas.

Board of Township Trustees BOARD MEMBERS WELCOME YOUR CALLS!



R. DEE STONE Chair
(W) 513.688.8438

dstone@AndersonTownshipOH.gov



J. LEXI LAUSTEN Vice Chair
(W) 513.688.8628

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(C) 513.833.3010

jgerth@AndersonTownshipOH.gov



BRIAN JOHNSON Fiscal Officer
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bjohnson@AndersonTownshipOH.gov

Senior Center Membership Growing, Engaging Members



yoga Silver Sneaker classes, available to all. Members earned their black belts in Taekwondo as a part of the Better Balance, Safer You program and broke boards with their bare hands to show their newly learned skills. Pickleball, dance fitness and line dancing provided ways to exercise and meet new friends. Individuals at varied levels of physical ability are invited to participate in the health and wellness offerings through the center.

Members of the Anderson Township Senior Center had many opportunities to meet new people and develop connections this year. Outings to the Cincinnati Art Museum, LaComedia, The Cincinnati Pops and a Reds game were all enjoyed, as well as monthly visits to area restaurants.

The Anderson Township Senior Center continues to grow in membership, programs offered, and smiles!

Daily attendance and senior center membership both are on the rise. In 2023 alone, the center's membership grew from 631 to 808, a 38% increase. Total membership has increased significantly in the last five years, from the 421 members in 2018 compared to 811 this year, a 92% increase in membership.




Claire O'Connell, activities manager, sees many positive trends emerging at the center. "We have a very engaged membership," said O'Connell. "Members are active, independent, and ready for the many activities available to them each day."

In 2023, programs centered around three areas: education, health and wellness, and socialization. Members had an opportunity to attend an average of 27 activities per week. Anderson Township Advisory Committee member Steve Long, noted "The Senior Center is making great strides in meeting aspirational goals of 'Active, Healthy Aging.'" He said these goals are attained through existing programs, plus new efforts including pickleball, events targeting brain health, and intergenerational activities.

Educational speakers engaged members in a wide variety of topics in 2023.

Fun Facts about Anderson Township Senior Center

The Anderson Township Senior Center is experiencing a 38% increase in membership this year.

 <p>Daily Attendance has increased from 51 in July 2021 to 95 in July 2023.</p>	 <p>The number of lunches served monthly has increased from 618 in July 2022 to 1034 in July 2023.</p>	 <p>Members range in age from 51 to 102 years old.</p>
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Coffee With a Cop and CPR training involved community partnerships with Anderson's first responders. Reds fans enjoyed visits from George Foster and Marty Brennaman. Astronomer Dean Regas shared stories from outer space. In addition, area physicians shared information on brain health, spine care and arthritis treatments. Technology education and assistance was offered with a weekly Tech Table and visits from Turpin High School students. A garden club, photography club and even a Fantasy Football league were formed to share information with other members.

This year health and wellness continued to be a focus, with daily fitness sessions, including cardio, strength and balance and

Parties at the Senior Center included Opening Day, Mardi Gras, a Toga Party, a Derby Party, Noon Year's Eve, were a hit among members with music, a special lunch, dancing and camaraderie.

"As one of the most active senior centers in the Cincinnati area, our members enjoy the opportunity to enrich their mental, physical and social lives," said O'Connell. "Because the Anderson Township Senior Center is committed to continue to provide programs to meet the needs and interests of our growing membership, ATSC was the place to be in 2023, but there will be much more in 2024!"

For membership information, call 513.474.3100 or stop by 7970 Beechmont Ave., for information and a tour.

2023 Beautification Awards Announced

Beautiful spaces abound in Anderson Township, and a few special spots recently have received awards recognizing the visual appearance of a property.

This year's beautification winners were cited in two categories-commercial and residential. The WeTHRIVE! Anderson

Committee sponsors the beautification awards annually to recognize individuals and businesses that do an excellent job keeping Anderson beautiful!

Look for information next spring on the township's 2024 beautification program.

2023 Winners By Category:



Residential
1466 Wolfangel Road



Commercial
St. Timothy's Episcopal Church
8101 Beechmont Ave.



Commercial
Gruelle Dempsey Orthodontics
1163 Fehl Lane

Volunteer Committees Support Quality of Life

Behind the scenes in Anderson Township, a group of volunteers are working on projects that make our community a better place. Committee member responsibilities include decisions about local transportation improvements, trees and the tree canopy, quality of life issues and health and wellness, plus the direction of the Anderson Township Senior Center.

New this year is the "Event Corps" for volunteers interested in a specific event or project. To learn more about this opportunity, go to AndersonTownshipOH.gov under keyword: volunteer.

Residents who served in 2023:

Economic Development Committee

Julie Bissinger
Amy Broghamer
Chris Corrado
Jeff Cowan
Michael Doenges
Duane Donohoo
Stephen Feagins
Derek Garrison
John Halpin
Nicole Hunter
Phillip Kiley
Elizabeth Maier
Katie McCabe
Don O'Rourke
Matt Owen
Zach Peterson
Jeff Rosa
Jake Huber
Kyle Brogan

Greenspace Advisory Commission

Ronald Edgerton
Paul Braasch
Russ Romme
Rick Voss
Suzanne Clingman

Greater Anderson Township Betterment Committee

Ronald Edgerton
Amy Broghamer
Katie McCabe
Dee Stone

Senior Center Advisory Committee

Susan Ward
Barbara Bodnarik
Sherry Burnside
Demetria Choice
Robert Chriicosta
Marcia Cole

Abbe Lackmeyer
Steven Long
Kate Nessler
Sarah Celenza
George Zabrecky

Transportation Advisory Commission

Jeni Berreth
Stephen Feagins
Peg Fenner
Brian Gay
Jamie Grubert
Joe Hice
Pinky Kocoshis
Ken Kushner
Jay Lewis
Mike Niehaus
Karen RingswaldEgan
Paul Sheckels
Paul Sian
Karl Sieber
Ken Vincent
Viki Beck
David Rose

Tree Committee

Bruce Berno
Bob Buck
John Halpin
Carol King
Timothy Kloppenborg
Jim Rombke
Sonia Shively
Ron Trenkamp
Rick Voss
Joe Williging
Chris Specht
Karen RingswaldEgan
Chris Pfetzer
WeTHRIVE! Anderson Committee
Viki Beck
Matt Chaffin
Stephen Feagins
Peg Fenner
Andrea Granieri
Lindsey Griffiths
Lauri Jacob-Hetzer
Ken Kushner

Anne Miller
Mary Nicholson
Karen Schwamberger
Karl Sieber
Susan Wheatley
Jim Willis
Kevin Sian

Board of Zoning Appeals

Steve Haber
John Halpin
Jeff Nye
Paul Shekels
Paul Sian
Scott Lawrence
Brian Johnson

Zoning Commission

Brian Elliff
Jonathan Gothard
Ben Henson
Jay Lewis
Anne McBride
Michael Doenges
Brandon Guyer

WINTER FOCUS



Winter Reminder: Know Snow Restrictions

It's bound to get snowy soon enough, so take a minute to review township's advisory information.

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 one should be on roadways unless absolutely necessary.

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

To view the state's weather-related road closures and restrictions, visit the Ohio

Department of Transportation's traffic website at 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 onto 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 crews' ability to safely and more efficiently treat roadways and clear snow.

Snow Removal in Cul-de-sacs More Challenging

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

The township's road crew consists of just 10 plow drivers who work hard to keep

our roads clean. In trying to clear the most snow as quickly as possible and to safeguard main roadways, hills and curves are cleared first and cul-de-sacs are passed by.

Under normal conditions, cul-de-sacs are not plowed until after a storm has

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

Take Action or Take Care? Know 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.

Snow Removal on Beechmont, State Route 32, May Look Different This Year



Many Anderson Township residents recognize that when the snow starts blowing, the 123 miles of township streets, (those that are posted with a 25 mph speed limit) are generally cleared quickly and efficiently. It's a source of community pride for residents who have lived here long enough to compare Anderson's clear streets to other community's snow-covered roads.

Township residents and businesses also have been fortunate to experience a high level of service from the Hamilton County Engineer's Office, which maintains more than 70 miles of higher trafficked county or state roadways that connect our community.

However, this winter could be different on the township's two state roadways- Beechmont Avenue (State Route 125) and State Route 32. In the past, these roadways have been maintained by the Hamilton

County Engineer's Office, under an agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT).

Steve Sievers, assistant administrator for operations, noted that due to staffing shortages and other factors, the Hamilton County Engineer's Office is no longer able to provide this service for the county. Unfortunately, ODOT is experiencing many of the same issues, so they're looking at options, he added. The priority areas of ODOT during winter storm events are wider roadways such as interstate and divided highways, including Interstate 275 and US 52 in our area.

To solve the problem, ODOT has even asked if Anderson Township could assist with snow removal services on Beechmont Avenue and Route 32 in the township, Sievers said.

However, Anderson faces the same staffing issues as the county and the state, Sievers added. In addition, township equipment is designed to manage lower speed, smaller roadways, and those maintained year round by the township. In addition to personnel shortages, the township does not have the salt capacity or vehicle storage area to do the job, he noted.

"We don't have the ability to ramp up and take on an additional 53 lane miles of roadways (which is about a 20% increase), said Eric Luginbuhl, Anderson Township Public Works director. "Even if we did, this leaves us with a conundrum where we would sacrifice the ability to clear our own roadways," he said.

"Anderson Township is hopeful ODOT will be able to maintain their high level of service, whether on Beechmont Avenue, State Route 32, I-275 or US 52 in the township," Luginbuhl said.

"The upcoming winter will certainly be a transition period for ODOT, as they adjust to this new arrangement," noted Luginbuhl. "While we're hopeful this adjustment will be short in nature, we're urging motorists now to plan for what may lie ahead," he added.

"It certainly won't be like past winters," Sievers added. "This adjustment likely means drivers will need to allow more time to reach a destination, as ODOT works through this change not only in Anderson Township, but in nearby communities in our part of the county," he said.

'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 about 20 miles in Anderson, including State Route 32 and Beechmont Avenue, U.S. 52 and Interstate 275.



WINTER ROUNDUP

Mailbox Damaged During Snow Clearing? Township's Policy Explained



Accidents occasionally happen during snow plowing, so what happens if something occurs.

If your mailbox is damaged when roads are being cleared of snow, what happens?

Anderson Township works with residents to repair mailboxes that are damaged through road maintenance and snow clearing activities on township roadways.

Township-maintained roadways are generally those posted for a 25 mph speed limit; mailboxes eligible for compensation are those that were properly installed before road maintenance/plowing.

"The Public Works Department asks residents to check their mailbox to make sure it is ready for winter and complies with US Postal Service standards," said Public Works Director Eric Luginbuhl. In addition, residents should make sure the

mailbox can withstand heavy snow thrown by passing plow trucks. Typical repairs include replacing loose hinges or resetting the posts, Luginbuhl said.

If the properly installed mailbox along a township roadway has been damaged during winter snow clearing, call the Anderson Township Public Works Department at 513.688.8400, ext. 4.

Please note:

- Improperly installed mailboxes, such as those which were supported by weak or rotten materials, are the responsibility of the homeowner to repair.
- The township will not replace damaged mailboxes due to snow or slush pushed

from a plow truck, but they will be refastened if possible.

- Mailboxes damaged due to Anderson Township's equipment making physical contact with the mailbox will be replaced at the expense of Anderson Township, but again, only if they were properly located and installed.

"It is important to note that mailbox repairs will not occur until current snow operations are finished," Luginbuhl said. However, if a mailbox is damaged by contact with a township truck or plow, and the homeowner chooses to replace it before snow removal is completed, the township will provide reimbursement for the damaged mailbox upon inspection. Also, Anderson Township is not responsible for damage along roadways maintained by the county or state, he added.

Mailboxes are one of the only objects allowed by law to be placed in the public road right-of-way, which is about 10 feet or so next to the roadway and owned by the township. Mailbox construction and location must conform to the rules and regulations of the U.S. Postal Service.

For information on US Postal Service mailbox standards, go to: usps.com/manage/mailboxes.htm.

Sheriff's Office Offers Active Shooter Training



The Hamilton County's Sheriff's Office District 5 offers training that could help save lives in the event of an active shooter situation.

The **Run. Hide. Fight. program** helps equip workplaces, houses of worship and daycares if an emergency incident occurs. Hamilton County Sheriff's Office Deputy

Brian Hayes teaches a class which instructs participants how to react during an active shooting situation.

For active shooter training details, contact Hayes at bhayes@AndersonTownshipOH.gov or 513.688.8618.

New Street Sweeper Keeping Township Clean

Anderson's new street sweeper hit the streets this spring and now is doing its job sweeping and cleaning streets and catch basins along the township's 123 miles of roadway. Its route also includes more than 3,400 catch basins.

The township received American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds during COVID, and about \$263,000 was used to buy the sweeper, the first such sweeper the township has ever owned.

Eric Luginbuhl, Anderson's director of public works, said keeping Anderson's

streets clean has multiple benefits besides aesthetics. Street sweepers help improve water quality by collections of coarse small particle street dirt and smaller pieces that contribute to nutrient pollution when swept into waterways. "Rainwater runoff pollutants contribute to waterway issues and water toxicity," he said. The township plans to use the sweeper year-round, as well as before and after large public events such as the Independence Day parade.

The sweeper will not be used to clean leaves or debris swept into the streets.



Brush Up on Lifesaving Skills with CPR Classes



Need to learn more about lifesaving CPR or first aid? Anderson Township Fire and Rescue offers a variety of classes to fit your needs. Whether you are a healthcare provider seeking certification or if you just want to be ready for an emergency, check 2024 classes schedules.

An abbreviated **non-certified CPR class** called Family and Friends CPR provides an opportunity to learn how to recognize and treat cardiac arrest, use an AED and help choking victims. Family and Friends CPR classes are scheduled the first Saturday of the month. Cost is \$20.

Other **certified CPR classes** are available as well, including BLS Healthcare Provider and Heartsaver CPR/AED/First Aid.

All CPR classes are hosted at 7954 Beechmont Ave. (Fire Station 6). Course descriptions can be found at AndersonTownshipOH.gov. keyword: CPR.

Call Lisa Farrar at 513.688.8620 for questions or to schedule a class.

Know the Facts on Your Sump Pump

A sump pump helps keep your basement dry and is a good investment for homeowners to help avoid a flooded basement. Located in the lowest part of your basement, sump pumps are installed to automatically turn on if the sump area in the basement starts filling with water.

However, a sump pump can't just discharge this water to anyplace on your property or offsite onto a neighbor's property or the public roadway, which was allowed in previous years.

Hamilton County details regulations regarding where water can be released. All water from sump pumps must be discharged on your property and 15 feet away from the property line, or directly connected to the storm sewer. This prevents water directly impacting a neighbor or being discharged onto the roadway where it can create a hazard, especially in the winter.

Here are **few commonly asked questions** about sump pumps with answers from Hamilton County Public Health:

Where can a sump pump discharge?

Sump pumps may discharge to a natural ravine, gully, roadway ditch or storm sewer at least 15 feet from any property line on the same property as the pump. They may not discharge into a paved or unpaved street road, alley, parking lot, building sewer or sanitary main sewer line.

What about permits?

Installation or replacement of sump pumps both require a permit and inspection.

How do you get a permit?

Call the Plumbing Division at Hamilton County Public Health at 513.946.7854. A printable permit application also is listed at on hamiltoncountyhealth.org.

Who obtains the permit?

Your contractor will obtain the permit.

Eric Luginbuhl, Anderson's director of Public Works, reminds residents that cold weather can cause icy conditions in a situation where the sump pump is draining directly onto a sidewalk, into the right-of-way and street. "This is a dangerous situation for drivers and walkers in the right of way," he said. "Plus, this icy condition can cause damage to the curb and costs taxpayer money and resources to resolve this with salt, labor and more frequent repairs."



AROUND ANDERSON



Citizens Academy participants visited the Hamilton County Coroner's Office/Crime Lab.



FallFest 2023 hosted a trick-or-treat event in the Anderson Towne Center.



Sherwood Elementary Walk/Bike to School Day



Emergency Services Day

Fall Tree Planting Program Underway

Cooler weather in Anderson Township means, for one thing, it's time to plant trees. Right now, the township's tree planting program is in full swing, providing free trees to residents whose streets or curbs have undergone routine maintenance this year.

Anderson's Tree Committee supports the program, which aims to enhance the community's tree canopy through offering trees. From 2009 through 2022, Anderson has funded and planted 892 trees in neighborhoods around the community.

Eligible residents have a choice of seven different kinds of trees, either small,

medium or large. In 2022, 159 residents requested the free trees, which were planted this spring and also will be planted in late fall this year.

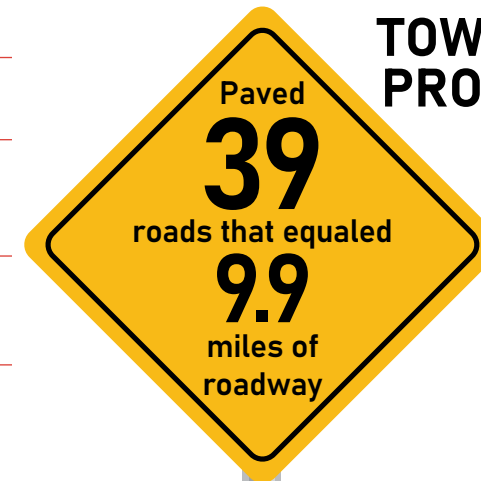
"The popularity of this great program continues to grow as residents understand the benefits of trees that include reducing stormwater runoff, cooling air temperatures, increasing property values, and improving mental health," noted Trustee Vice Chair Lexi Lausten.

The tree addition numbers for 2023 should be on par with previous years, with 150 homeowners looking to add a tree to their yard, she said.



2023 Construction Checklist

-  Elstun Road Sidewalk - Completed
-  Rambling Hills Sidewalk - Completed
-  Lawyer and Little Dry Run Sidewalk - Completed
-  Kellogg Gateway Improvements started in the fall
-  State Route 32 and Eight Mile Road Almost complete with final upgrades in May-June 2024



TOWNSHIP PROJECTS



Public Meetings

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

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

Interim Meeting: Thursday, Dec. 7, 2 p.m. • **Regular Meeting:** Thursday, Dec. 21, 5 p.m.

Board of Zoning Appeals

Thursday, Dec. 7, 5:30 p.m.

Zoning Commission

Monday, Dec. 18, 5:30 p.m.

Anderson Township Senior Center Advisory Committee

Thursday, Dec. 21, 2 p.m.

Meets at Anderson Township Senior Center
7970 Beechmont Ave.

Tree Committee

Monday, Jan. 8, 2024, 7 p.m.



Summer road maintenance program



Elstun Avenue sidewalk



Lawyer Road sidewalk

CONNECT

Celebrate the Season at Anderson Towne Center on December 2

Holiday magic returns to the streetscape of Anderson Towne Center, 7500 Beechmont Ave., on Saturday, Dec. 2 with the **Anderson Holiday Festival**. Special seasonal events take over the center from 4 to 6 p.m., along with Santa, entertainment and festive activities for the whole family.

Santa makes his debut at 4:15 p.m. on a township fire engine and then visits with children. Kids' activities will include crafts, games, a holiday passport, and interaction with entertainers such as jugglers and elves. Enjoy outdoor entertainment from local organizations on multiple stages and more.

Finally, gather around the tree at 6 p.m. for the annual tree lighting ceremony.

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



Anderson Holiday Festival

Get in the Holiday Spirit with Seuss and Santa at the Parks



Visit with Santa

Get in the holiday spirit with a wacky retelling of the classic "Christmas Carol" story in **"A Seussified Christmas Carol."** This performance is intended for a seated audience ages 4 and up. Register in advance; space is limited.

Santa Claus is making a special visit to Anderson Parks! This outdoor family event gives your child time to enjoy an individual chat with Santa before taking those treasured holiday family photos.

Participants bring their own camera to capture this special occasion. Park staff will lend a hand taking photos.

This event requires families to register online and reserve a time for their visit.

The performance is set for 6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1 at the Anderson Parks RecPlex, 6915 Beechmont Ave. Tickets are \$5 for residents and \$10 for non-residents.

Multiple families are scheduled in each time slot. A text will be sent when it is time for your family to visit with Santa. All children (including infants) in the photo must be registered. Register in advance; space is limited.

Visit with Santa is set for Friday, Dec. 8. at Juilfs Park Shelter, 8249 Clough Pike. Time slots begin at 4 p.m.

Price is \$15 per child and \$8 per infant (six months and under).

Enjoy Neighboring Holiday Events: Winterfest, Holiday Walk

Mark your calendars for the annual **Mt. Washington Holiday Walk**, along with the lighting up of the downtown water tower. The event is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 25 starting at 3:30 p.m. in the Mt. Washington business district on Beechmont Avenue between Corbly Road and Mears Avenue.

The event begins with the Santa Parade along Beechmont, followed by family-friendly activities all over downtown. Visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus, or enjoy holiday foods, entertainment and more until 6:45 p.m. when the tower lighting ceremony brightens up the evening sky.

Winterfest in Newtown is hosted the weekend after Anderson's Holiday Festival and promises a wide range of activities.

Set for Saturday, Dec. 9, Winterfest 2023 is scheduled from 4- 8 p.m. along Newtown's downtown on Church Street and ends with a bang with Rozzi's fireworks planned for the event.

Enjoy photos with Santa, festive holiday foods, a Christmas shopping village

showcasing local craft vendors, local school choirs, and more fun for the whole family. For all the details, go to NewtownWinterfest.org.



Mt. Washington Holiday Walk

Traffic note: Church Street will be closed between State Route 32 and Valley Avenue from 2 p.m. to approximately 9 p.m. that Saturday.



Newtown Winterfest

EVENTS

Le Jeune Dance-The Nutcracker
Anderson Center Theater
7850 Five Mile Road
Thursday and Friday,
Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec 2, 2 and 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 3, 2 p.m.
Tickets: lejeunedance.com/tickets

Performing Arts, Inc.-
White Christmas the Musical
Anderson Center Theater
7850 Five Mile Road
December 11-17
Information, times and tickets:
performingartsinc.net

Ben Levin's Holiday Review
Anderson Center Theater
7850 Five Mile Road
Thursday, Dec. 21, 7 p.m.
Tickets: BenLevinPiano.com

Beechmont Players-American Son
Anderson Center Theater
7850 Five Mile Road
Friday and Saturday, Feb. 2-3, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 4, 2 p.m.
Friday and Saturday, Feb. 8-9, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 10, 2 p.m.
Tickets: \$20, seniors (60) and active military, \$18
Info: Beechmontplayers.org

Anderson Township 101
Anderson Center
7850 Five Mile Road
Tuesday, Feb. 13, 6-8 p.m.
To register: AndersonTownshipOH.gov
after January 3.

Le Jeune Dance- Paquita
Anderson Center Theater
7850 Five Mile Road
Friday, Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 24, 2 and 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 25, 2 p.m.
Tickets: lejeunedance.com/tickets



Anderson Insights

the Newsletter of Anderson Township

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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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Anderson Township, Ohio

Reduce Risks of Lithium-ion Batteries—Keep Them Out of Landfill

Usage of lithium-ion batteries is becoming more common in numerous tech products, powering laptops, cameras, smartphones and more. They also are common in e-bikes and e-scooters.

But these generally safe products also have a downside in that if they are damaged or mistreated, or if there are defects, a fire can break out.

Anderson Township has seen three fires that were possibly related to either lithium-ion batteries or their charging systems, according to Assistant Fire Chief Bob Herrlinger with Anderson Township Fire and Rescue. "It is an issue that is affecting every community."

If not used correctly, these batteries can explode, creating a fire that is difficult to control. The battery's volatility causes issues for waste management companies, said Molly Broadwater, Rumpke corporate communications manager.

Michelle Balz, solid waste manager with Hamilton County ReSource, reminds residents to "never throw lithium-ion batteries or devices

containing lithium-ion batteries, like cell phones, in the trash or curbside/drop off recycling. When compacted, they can ignite and set the material around them on fire."

She suggests HamiltonCountyReSource.org to search for a special recycling outlet that will safely dispose of those products.

Rumpke experiences fires in both collection vehicles and facilities from lithium-ion batteries incorrectly placed in trash or recycling containers each year, Broadwater said.

"Lithium-ion batteries don't belong in curbside containers—and most people don't know how to properly handle them," she said.

In 2022, Rumpke logged 115 fire events at its recycling facilities, Broadwater said. "While not all have been caused by lithium-ion batteries, a large portion was tracked back to batteries," she added. The company also logged 154 truck fires last year. Rumpke is partnering with the Cincinnati Recycling & Reuse Hub to set up **battery collection points** at local fire stations. The **closest location to Anderson Township** is the Cincinnati Fire Department at Lunken Airport, 478 Wilmer Ave.

