

ANDERSON Insights

FEBRUARY 2016

The Voice of Anderson Township

Redevelopment Begins New Phase in Anderson

Demolition of a portion of the former Kmart building is first step in changes planned for Downtown Anderson area.

The first sign of the upcoming dramatic transformation of our community's central core has begun with the long-awaited redevelopment of the Anderson Towne Center, as demolition of a portion of the former Kmart building was undertaken late last year.

In the next two years, more than a dozen public and private developments are scheduled for construction within a half mile of the Anderson Towne Center, designated "Downtown Anderson." Projects include the introduction of new retail and restaurant options, office developments, Mercy Health-Anderson Hospital's patient tower, road safety improvements, and sidewalk projects.

Within 24 months, more than \$165 million in private and public investment will significantly enhance this area, said Steve Sievers, Anderson's assistant administrator for operations. "While improvements will not be without disruption and disturbance, we hope customers and motorists in this area will be patient as these changes unfold. We believe the resulting transformation of this area will be well worth the impact."

The renovation of Anderson Towne Center will include a new freestanding Ovation theatre by Carmike Cinemas opening as early as late 2016. A portion of the Kmart remaining will be home to Crunch Fitness opening as early as summer 2016. Development plans also call for several other new retail and restaurant buildings to expand the Anderson Towne Center streetscape over this year and into 2017.

Redevelopment of the site, including Anderson Towne Center Kroger expansion, continues into 2017.

Trustee President Andrew Pappas applauded Anderson's efforts to support redevelopment, noting that, "The current investment in the township is a result of many years of solid decisions by township administration. Our staff does a great job of promoting Anderson."

"This is why we were named as one of the "WCPO Places to Watch in 2016," added Vice President Josh Gerth.

"The infusion of private investment to this area, in conjunction with the public improvements that are under way, is exactly what the township envisioned in our Anderson Plan and Downtown Anderson Plan," said Gerth. "We are thrilled to see this coming together and we are not stopping here."

(continued on page 2)



Anderson Towne Center redevelopment

inside



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New Station, New Responsibilities for Fire Department



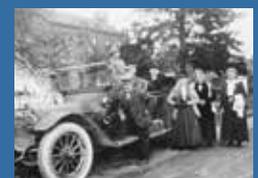
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Grant Received for Ohio River Trail Link



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Avoid the Dirty Dozen of Recycling



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Touring the Township in 1916

TOWNSHIP NEWS

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

Redevelopment *(continued from page 1)*

OTHER PLANNED BUSINESS DEVELOPMENTS

- **Anderson Towne Center Kroger:** Kroger plans a 50,000 sq. ft. expansion, making Anderson one of the largest stores in the nation. Completion is slated for summer 2017.
- **The Shoppes at Anderson Towne Center:** Kroger is also proceeding with an 18,000 sq. ft. development including restaurants and service businesses, at the corner of Beechmont Avenue and Wolfangel Road.
- **Anderson Professional Center Expansion:** Hemmer Management Group will expand the Anderson Professional Center and build a new three-level parking garage of 188 spaces.
- **Medical Office Building:** A new 42,000 sq. ft. office building, developed by Al Neyer, Inc., has been approved for construction in 2016 on the former Eastern Hills School of Hair Design site and adjacent property.
- **Mercy Health - Anderson Hospital Patient Tower and Renovations:** Significant change is evident at the Anderson Hospital site, with a \$74 million construction project currently underway and expected to wrap up in fall 2016.
- **One Anderson Place:** Plans have been submitted to construct up to 180 luxury apartment units on the north end of the Anderson Towne Center, near Anderson Center Station and Anderson Center. The proposal is under review.
- **Forest Hills School District:** The district continues design and construction on its nine schools after passage of a \$103 million bond issue in 2014. Construction is expected to be complete in July 2018.



Downtown Anderson Streetscape



New Anderson High School entrance on Forest Road

UPCOMING SIDEWALK AND ROAD PROJECTS

- **Continuous Flow Intersection:** This project will be substantially completed in 2016 to enhance traffic flow and safety, while accommodating pedestrians, at the busy corner intersection of Beechmont Avenue and Five Mile Road. The project is highlighted by relocated left turns lanes, roadway improvements, sidewalk installation and traffic signal adjustments using federal and state transportation grants.
- **Wolfangel Sidewalk Project:** Anderson will construct a sidewalk on the east side of Wolfangel Road in 2016, between Beechmont Avenue and State Road.
- **Beechmont Sidewalks:** As Beechmont undergoes changes around the Kroger expansion and at the intersection of Beechmont and Five Mile, sidewalk links are slated on the south side of the road between Forest Road and Shangrila Drive.
- **Towne Center Way:** The roadway around Anderson Towne Center will be reconfigured by Kroger to accommodate their store expansion in early 2016. Work will continue into 2017.
- **Downtown Anderson Streetscape:** An Anderson project scheduled for 2017 will provide roadway and streetscape improvements between the Anderson Towne Center and Asbury Road including new sidewalks, lighting, and traffic signals.
- **Wolfangel Road and Beechmont Avenue:** Wolfangel will be widened and a right turn lane will be added from Wolfangel to Beechmont by Kroger. A bus pull-off will be installed to improve traffic flow and safety in this area.
- **ODOT Safety Improvements:** A road improvements program funded by the Ohio Department of Transportation will complete safety improvements along the Beechmont Corridor from the Anderson Towne Center to the Clermont County border. The project includes modification and elimination of more than 25 driveways along the corridor.



The Shoppes at Anderson Towne Center

New Year Brings New Station, Responsibilities

Anderson Township Fire and Rescue kicked off 2016 with a move designed to save money and consolidate services for both Newtown and Anderson Township.

The change meant Anderson Township closed its aging Broadwell Road Fire Station and moved firefighter-paramedics to the spacious Newtown Fire Station on Main Street as department members began serving Newtown's fire and rescue needs. In November, Newtown voters paved the way for a change from Little Miami Joint Fire & Rescue District, which had been serving Newtown for 12 years.

Late in 2015, Newtown and Anderson worked out details of the \$575,000 a year contract that put Anderson firefighter-paramedics on the job at 7036 Main Street in Newtown. While the Broadwell Station is currently closed, the township is examining all options in relationship to the future use of this facility.

To Anderson Township Administrator Vicky Earhart, the move to supply services to Newtown made sense for many reasons, including sharing services to reduce costs for taxpayers in both communities.

A major reason the move made sense was the 2.8 mile distance from Anderson's Broadwell Road station to the Newtown Fire Station. In recent years, both stations posted fewer than 300 runs per year, compared to more than 2,000 runs out of Anderson's Beechmont Fire Station. Due to township budget shortfalls, staffing was reduced at the Broadwell Station in late 2014 and 2015.

Now, four full-time career firefighter-paramedics operate from the Newtown station and cover runs in Anderson and Newtown. In addition, Chief Mark Ober noted that Anderson Township Fire and Rescue brings the Village of Newtown more specialized services including technical rescue (including water and ice rescue), community education programs, and business outreach programs.



Newtown Fire Station 22 now serves Anderson and Newtown.



The moving crew from the Anderson Township Fire and Rescue Department.

Anderson Township provided all the personnel and equipment for Station 22. No new apparatus and equipment will need to be purchased, Ober said.

"This station upgrade and expansion of service in the Village of Newtown has provided a necessary enhancement of facilities for us. The station itself is a more livable, spacious facility accommodating our firefighters and apparatus needs for some time to come," noted Ober. "The response from Newtown residents and businesses has been fantastic. We're looking forward to meeting everyone and providing high-quality services in the village for years to come."

Anderson Center Tenant Sought for Office, Studio Space

Anderson Township is considering proposals from interested tenants to lease approximately 5,000 square feet of office and studio space at Anderson Center. This space is available due to the downsizing of Anderson Community Television operations. Remaining ACTV functions continue to operate at the center temporarily.

"The township is interested in exploring opportunities to bring a complimentary user to Anderson Center, and use the lease payments to help reduce the taxpayer's costs to maintain the facility," said Administrator Vicky Earhart. ACTV may continue to use part of this space in the future or relocate to another site, she noted.

"We believe this space presents a wonderful opportunity, and look forward to seeing what interest and opportunities may be suggested," said Trustee President Andrew Pappas.



For more information, visit the "News" section of the township's website at AndersonTownship.org, or contact Assistant Administrator for Operations Steve Sievers at 688-8400 or ssievers@AndersonTownship.org.

We Did It Again! Township Earns Ohio River Trail Grant

More good news has been announced regarding expansion of Anderson Township's network of hike and bike trails.

The community has received a planning grant of \$30,000 to conduct preliminary engineering for an approximately 4.3-mile segment of the Ohio River Trail.

This scenic multi-purpose trail which runs along the Ohio River is envisioned to travel from Cincinnati's Lunken Airport, east through Anderson, into Pierce Township and end in New Richmond.

The bike trail news comes on top of a planned spring opening of another bike trail segment in Anderson. That segment is the new 3.3-mile stretch of the Little Miami Trail which extends the over 70 mile-long trail from the Little Miami Golf Course along a route paralleling State Route 32, to the Great Parks of Hamilton County parking lot on State Route 32, next to the Speedway gas station.

Newly announced grant funds for the Ohio River Trail project will be supplied by an Interact for Health grant. The total cost of the project is expected to be about \$50,000, with Anderson Township providing the final \$20,000 to complete the preliminary engineering.



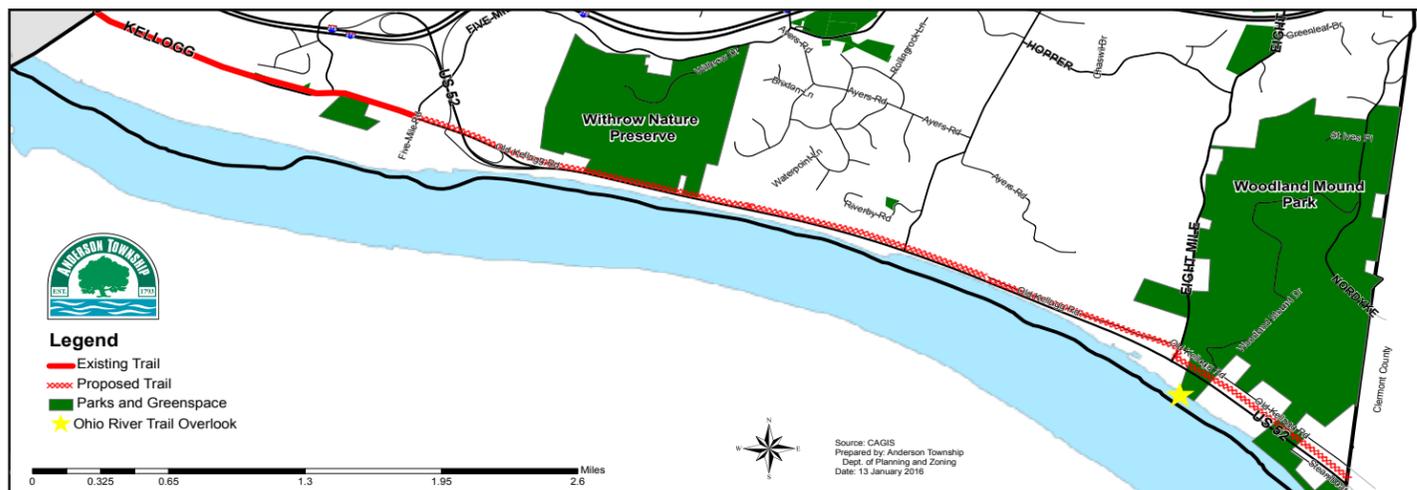
Residents are already enjoying a 1.5-mile segment of the Ohio River Trail, which was opened in 2012 and takes users on a scenic tour of Anderson's entertainment district from the Cincinnati/Anderson border to Five Mile Road. The City of Cincinnati is now designing the "missing link" of trail between Sutton Road and Lunken Airport, notes Planner Tom Caruso. The township's grant would facilitate design of the section of trail between Five Mile Road and Woodland Mound Park/Steamboat Bend Shelter at the Clermont County line.

Communities are working collaboratively to get the Ohio River Trail completed, notes Caruso. Anderson Township is partnering with Great Parks of Hamilton County, Clermont County Park District, Clermont County, Pierce Township and the Village of New Richmond to coordinate engineering for this trail. Anderson Township and the Clermont County government entities will fund the engineering of their own segments of the project, but hope to contract with one firm to reduce engineering costs and ensure compatible design, Caruso noted.

The proposed Ohio River Trail consists of 14 miles of multi-purpose trails and is part of a larger conceptual Ohio River Trail that starts in Pittsburgh, PA, travels through Ohio, Indiana and ends in Cairo, IL. Anderson Township has been studying and working on the project for more than 15 years as part of its multi-dimensional plans to increase its pedestrian-friendly network of sidewalks, bike routes and off-road trails.

Since 1999, Anderson has completed work on almost 20 miles of township sidewalks and trails to create connections between neighborhoods and destinations, trying to reduce reliance on vehicles for transportation and to encourage physical activity.

"This infrastructure creates a healthier and a more connected community that allows all residents to enjoy the many township amenities that make Anderson one of the premier communities in the southwest Ohio region," said Trustee Vice President Josh Gerth.



New Anderson Township Trustee Dee Stone Begins 4-Year Term



Anderson Township's new trustee, Dee Stone, took office January 1 to begin her four-year term as a member of Anderson's three-person Board of Township Trustees. She replaces longtime Trustee Russ Jackson.

Stone brings to her position a diverse perspective, including a law career, in the establishment of a non-profit foundation and her experiences in a variety of local volunteer organizations. She's a graduate of the University of Cincinnati with a BA in Communications, a business certificate and a law degree from the same school. Upon graduation she worked as legal counsel for IBM.

Stone also has served as a longtime volunteer, working as president of both the Turpin Hills and Fox Chapel Kindervelt chapters. She has been a member of the Forest Hills Council of PTA/PTOs for the past 11 years and she led the steering team that formed the Forest Hills Foundation for Education. Today, she serves as the executive director of that organization, which raises funds to

provide programming for all Forest Hills Schools. In the realm of non-profit work, Stone and her family started an organization that funds summer camp experiences for children with pediatric cancer.

Township transportation issues are one of the topics Stone said she would like to learn more about in upcoming months. She said she sees a need for more transportation options for both our senior citizens and younger people considering locating to Anderson Township.

"I'm interested in learning how we can attract young professionals to Anderson and more transportation options could make the area more attractive," said Stone.

Another area of interest includes township events, like the new Passport to Anderson event, a go-at-your-own-pace tour of some of Anderson's venues and treasured locations.

"I have lots of experience in event planning so being involved in creating events that allow our residents to come together is a natural fit," Stone said.

Cowan Graduates from Leadership Academy



Anderson Township Office Manager Betty Cowan has recently graduated from the Center for Local Government Leadership Academy. The six-month program covered topics from "Local Government 101" and different leadership styles to ethics, finances and communication. The academy focuses on building excellence in local government. Cowan has worked for Anderson Township since 1989.

Certification Earned by Hodson



Allison Hodson, a planner for Anderson Township, has been promoted to Planner II. She recently passed the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) test, a certification process in the planning profession. She has worked for Anderson Township since 2012. Anderson Township now has three certified planners on staff.

Comprehensive Plan Maps a Broad Vision for Anderson's Future

A big picture view of Anderson Township's future as a community is being considered this year, broaching topics such as the township's ongoing financial realities, housing needs and the community's transportation challenges.

The Anderson Township Comprehensive Plan update will create a broad plan and a vision for the community to use in outlining objectives for the next 20 years, a map that will guide current and future trustees and staff members as they face key decisions.

This process is Anderson's second update to a planning document that was first created in 2005. It addresses the long-term vision for Anderson by providing guidelines for social, economic and physical aspects of the community.



Areas under discussion include economic development, sustainability, infrastructure, township services, land use and development, natural and environmental resources, quality of life, housing and neighborhoods, and transportation.

In the years since the 2011 plan update, Anderson has created a series of more focused plans including a vision for the township's Ohio Riverfront Development, the ANCOR Plan and the most recent plan, the Downtown Anderson Plan. The updated Comprehensive Plan of 2016 will include these three smaller plans.

The update process will include participation opportunities for individuals interested in shaping the future of the township. To learn more, contact Paul Drury at 688-8400 or pdrury@AndersonTownship.org.

SAFETY SERVICES

Sign Up Now for CPR, First Aid Classes for 2016



Anderson Township Fire and Rescue Department offers cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR-lay rescuer) and basic first aid classes at the Beechmont Fire Station, 7954 Beechmont Ave., throughout the year. Additionally, six times a year the department provides health care provider classes geared towards the health care professional.

Classes are scheduled on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon. The cost for the lay rescuer CPR class is \$40, and the cost for first aid and health care provider class is \$50. Classes include a book and a two-year certification card upon completion.

HeartSaver Classes CPR/AED (lay rescue) are offered on the following dates; March 5, May 7, July 9, September 3 and November 5. Classes geared toward health care professionals are scheduled on the following dates: February 6, April 2, June 4, August 6, October 1 and December 3. On April 16 and November 12, the HeartSaver First Aid class is offered.

Special group classes can be scheduled for an additional fee. Contact the CPR voice mail phone at 688-8084 for details.

Charity Game Nets Fire Department Funds

A November fundraising basketball game hosted at Turpin High School netted about \$1,500 for the Anderson Township Fire and Rescue Department.



Funds were donated from the proceeds of an annual pre-Thanksgiving charity game, where Turpin High students take on local fire and sheriff players. The money was used to purchase carbon monoxide and smoke detectors for Newtown and Anderson residents in need.

To learn more about smoke or carbon monoxide detectors, contact Firefighter/paramedic Marvin Conley at 688-8093.

While You're Away, Enjoy Peace of Mind

Be assured of peace of mind while you leave your home when on your winter retreat or spring vacation. As a free service for Anderson Township residents, the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office offers a vacant home check. At your request, a deputy will inspect your home's physical security while you are out of town.

It takes only a few minutes to set up the service. A few days before you leave, enter all your information online. Go to AndersonTownship.org and click on the Sheriff's Office link under "Departments."

To sign up by phone, contact the Sheriff's Office at 474-5770 to request the check and provide security information.

Have security details ready such as an emergency contact, name of a key holder and more. When you return from your trip, email avhc@AndersonTownship.org or make a quick call to the Sheriff's Office at 474-5770 noting you have returned and to report any possible issues/concerns.

Secure Property and Valuables From Inside Vehicles

Protect yourself from thefts from vehicles by following a few simple tips. The Hamilton County Sheriff's Office notes that while a vast majority of property thefts from vehicles still occur in unlocked cars, an increased number of thefts in the township include forced entry into vehicles.

The most common reported items still being taken are purses, wallets, money, laptops, cell phones, iPods and iPod accessories, GPS units, tools and handguns (some loaded). A lot of this unsecured property resulted in multiple forced entry thefts from vehicles, notes Cpl. Dave Boiman with Hamilton County Sheriff's Office.

Keeping valuables out of sight is a deterrent in this kind of theft, Boiman said. Don't leave valuables in plain view, and don't just cover up items; instead, secure and remove your property.

With an increase in forced entries and some vehicles and interior areas being rummaged through to possibly obtain personal information to steal or sell for identity theft, it appears now that a proper course of action is to utilize garages and park (secured) vehicles inside at night, Boiman said.

To learn more about this crime of opportunity and other safety tips, go to AndersonTownship.org, click on Departments, then Sheriff's Office, and look on the left hand section "Safety Initiatives," including information on "theft from auto."



Anderson Continues to Address Heroin Problem

A regional heroin abuse problem is being targeted in several ways, including funding a narcotics unit deputy and involvement in the issue by local leadership.

Since June 2013, Anderson Township Trustees authorized funding a Hamilton County Sheriff's Regional Narcotics Unit (RENU) officer to help deal with the problem. Other townships also have joined with Anderson to help combat the epidemic.

This year Trustee Vice President Josh Gerth is taking a leadership role with Much in Common, a forum of government leaders assembled by Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber of Commerce.

The forum was organized to address common concerns all government entities face in the Tristate, Gerth said. In 2016, the focus will be on heroin and the problems faced by communities due to the heroin epidemic.

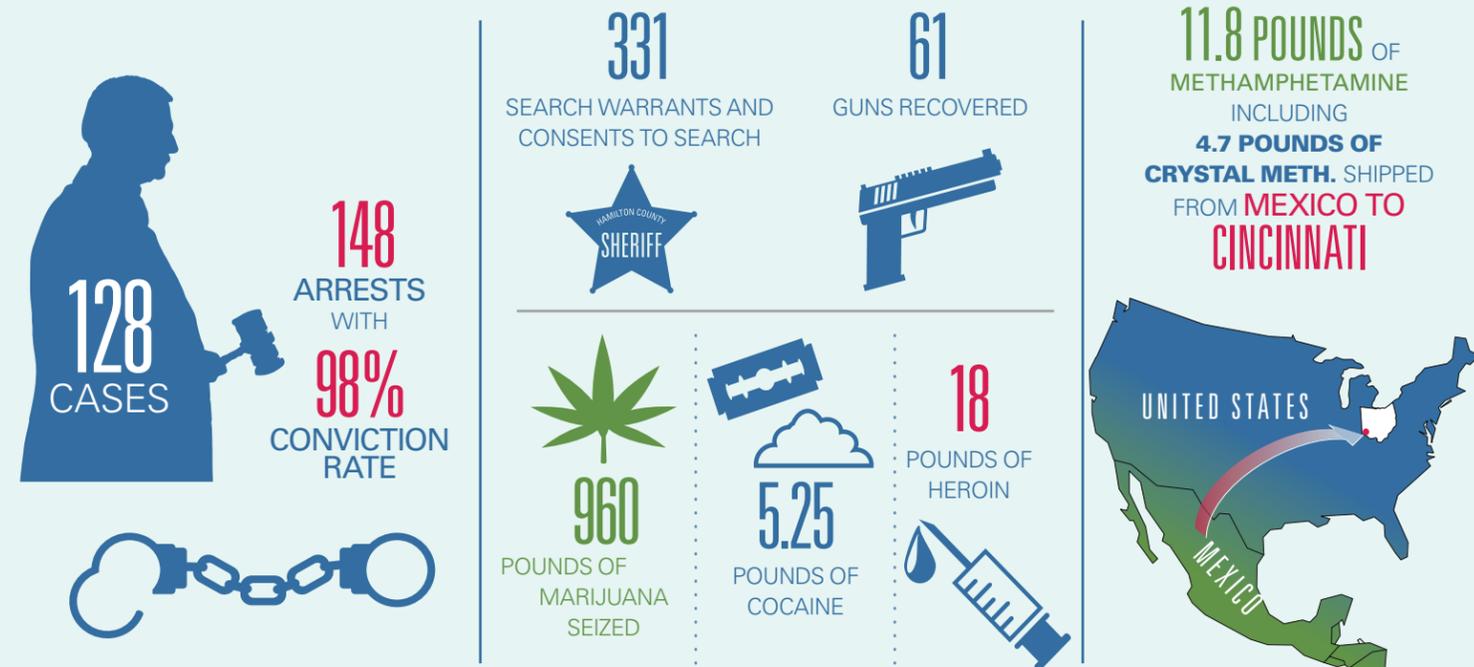
"I can't think of anything more important that brings us all together more than this topic," Gerth noted. "The heroin problem affects just about everything we as government officials do, from public safety, health and human services to economic development. None of us are immune, or in other words we all have much in common when it comes to this topic."

While Anderson Township for years has equipped first responders with a medicine that counters the effects of a drug overdose, the township recently received 22 free doses of Narcan, (naloxone) which is used to treat heroin overdoses (and other life-threatening conditions as well). Funding came from the Hamilton County Public Health District. The organization provided Anderson Township Fire and Rescue with more than \$1,200 worth of the medication, which also can be used to counter the effects of an overdose of painkillers.

Anderson Township Fire and Rescue Department Chief Mark Ober said while statistics do not show specifically what Narcan has been used for in previous years, (whether a heroin overdose or a prescription pain killer overdose), it is interesting to note that in 2014 the drug was administered 48 times. In 2015 that statistic increased to 82 times. Each dose normally costs the department about \$57.

"As part of the Hamilton County Heroin Coalition, we continue to partner with local hospitals and work towards a solution to reduce this epidemic," said Ober.

DRUGS IN HAMILTON COUNTY



2015 statistics from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Regional Narcotics Unit, which includes Anderson Township

RECYCLING

Dropoff Recycling Program to Offer More Locations

A collaborative effort between Anderson and the Forest Hills School District will provide more parking for new administrative offices and increase neighborhood recycling options.

Anderson Township residents are known for their recycling efforts throughout Hamilton County, as evidenced by a recent award as for the Best Township Recycling Rate in 2014, based on recycling tonnages. This success has been fueled partly by its popular 24/7 dropoff recycling center on Beechmont Avenue.

Anderson Township officials hope to build on this success and also accommodate the Forest Hills School District as a new neighbor to the township's Operations Center by offering new locations across the community.

Forest Hills recently purchased the building at 7946 Beechmont Ave., which is directly in front of the township's recycling center. The Beechmont Avenue building currently houses Coldwell Banker West Shell and Cheviot Savings Bank offices.

School administrators will move from their Forest Road location to the new Beechmont location, with transportation, food service and maintenance taking over the school's previous administrative offices.

To accommodate parking needs of school administrators who will be housed at the new location, Anderson Township agreed to move its 24 Rumpke recycling bins to allow for more parking spaces, which will actually present more recycling options for residents.

Anderson Township plans to close the dropoff recycling center on Beechmont and relocate the recycling bins to school sites. Specific locations and details will be announced this spring.

"No other changes to the township's current recycling efforts, including adjustments related to which items are acceptable to be recycled, are expected," said Public Works Director Richard Shelley.

Steve Sievers, Anderson's assistant administrator for operations, noted the township made the accommodations to welcome the schools to the site. "We believe having our offices side by side will even further continue our collaborative relationship," he said.

"This change will make the sites closer to neighborhoods and hopefully more accessible to our residents, while also providing the opportunity to enhance recycling education and awareness into the school curriculum," Sievers added.

Sievers noted the district and township discussed other parking options, including the adjacent Pinnacle Plaza Shopping Center. However, Fitworks will be redeveloped into a Fresh Thyme Farmers' Market in 2016, and it is projected that much of the parking area between that location and Applebee's will be needed for Fresh Thyme and additional space in the center that is currently vacant, he said. The township recently received plans from Fitworks, which will move to the to the Beechmont Retail Center (next to Dollar General and near Arthur's) in the coming month, Sievers said.

Look for an announcement about specific sites for the new recycling dropoff centers soon.



Anderson Township Recycling Center

High Recycling Rate Earns Township a County Award

When it comes to using those red and green recycling bins, Anderson residents have no problem sorting their trash and recycling each week.

This effort paid off in an award for the township recently, as Anderson achieved the highest recycling rate of any township in Hamilton County with a 14.97 percent recycling rate. The township received the **Best Township Recycling Rate Award** from the Hamilton County Recycling and Solid Waste District, based on recycling practices during 2014.

Like many townships, Anderson Township residents subscribe individually for curbside recycling, which usually results in a low participation in curbside recycling, noted Michelle Balz, assistant solid waste manager of the Hamilton County Recycling and Solid Waste District. However, what's unique in Anderson is that nearly 60 percent of residents subscribe for curbside recycling (one of the highest subscription rates in the county), she said.

Another reason Anderson achieves a higher recycling rate than most townships is the presence of one of the largest recycling centers in Hamilton County, with 24 containers picked up three times per week. This recycling center is currently located behind Coldwell Banker West Shell, 7946 Beechmont Ave.

Anderson also wraps up its recycling campaign each year at the recycling center by providing a 30-yard container utilized for additional recycling from wrapping paper and other holiday recyclable trash.



Recycling Bin's Dirty Dozen

Please Keep These Materials Out of Recycling Bins



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

New Superintendent now on Board at Forest Hills Schools

Forest Hills Schools welcomed their new superintendent Scot Thomas Prebles in January, a lifetime educator who has superintendent experience in two of Ohio's highest performing districts. He left a position as superintendent at Brecksville-Broadview Heights City Schools (Cleveland-area suburbs) to take the lead in Forest Hills.

In his three decades in education, Prebles also has served as the Granville Exempted Village Schools superintendent; the director of secondary education and high school principal for



Worthington City Schools; and as a teacher, coach and high school principal with Edgewood City Schools, Kings Local City Schools and Wilmington City Schools.

"I am excited by this opportunity to serve Forest Hills as superintendent and work collaboratively with parents, students, employees and the Board to ensure that all FHSD students are engaged in learning and that residents are engaged in our district," said Prebles, who earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Miami University.

Beat the Winter Blues at Anderson Senior Center

Discover the fun that Anderson Senior Center offers with a wide variety of events and activities that help beat the winter blues. Here are a few tips:

- 1. Keep active** – Anderson Senior Center has exercise options for all abilities including Tai Chi, tap dancing, yoga, line dancing, strength and balances. Exercise has been proven to decrease symptoms related to dementia.
- 2. Keep warm** – The senior center is always warm, with hot coffee and tea available every day.
- 3. Eat healthy** – A hot balanced lunch is served daily between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. for a suggested donation of \$3.

- 4. Take up a new hobby** – The senior center offers Spanish classes, wood carving, and oil and water color painting classes.
- 5. Socialize** – There are friendly faces all around the senior center, with trips and tours to major events and museum exhibits. Extended travel is available, too. Transportation is offered to and from the center if needed.
- 6. Volunteer** – The center is a great place to serve. Deliver Meals on Wheels, help with parties or special events. An active mind and body decrease depression and improve mood. Program details: www.andersontownshipseniorcenter.com.

Upgraded Website Launched by Anderson Area Chamber

A new streamlined and easier to navigate version of the Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce website has recently launched to serve the local community and Chamber members.

Shopping local benefits everyone in many ways, and the Chamber website helps residents learn about neighborhood businesses offering useful resources.

A comprehensive list of all the community-minded local businesses that support the Chamber is available at the site: AndersonAreaChamber.org. Visitors can search by business name, owner or category.

An added plus to the Chamber website is the addition of one of the area's most comprehensive community calendars. Many local businesses and non-profits list upcoming events and programs on the site for additional exposure at no charge. Chamber meetings and programs are listed including Party on the Plaza concerts.

Another helpful feature is the employment opportunities directory which allows local businesses that are members to list any job openings that they might have for free. On the flip side, local job seekers can search the listing to see if there are any opportunities that interest them. Contact information is listed, or a link to apply is supplied on the listing.

Drone-Free Zone: Don't Operate Them in Anderson Parks

If you've recently purchased or received a drone or a remote-controlled aircraft, make sure you know where you are allowed to operate it.

In the Anderson Parks, no person can use or operate any radio-controlled or other remotely-controlled aircraft, including drones and other unmanned aerial vehicles, or any other similar device in any park or facility.

To learn more about safe and responsible operations of unmanned aircraft systems, drone enthusiasts can visit knowbeforeyoufly.org.



Groundbreaking of Anderson Center and Lake.



One of many Chamber of Commerce ribbon cuttings hosted during the tenure of Russ Jackson.



Anderson Township Trustees mid-1990s.

Jackson Honored for 20 Years of Service, Noted Contributions

Anderson residents as well as state, county, and local officials turned out at the Anderson Township Trustees' December meeting to recognize Russ Jackson.

In a proclamation issued by U.S. Representative Brad Wenstrup, Jackson was praised for using "his business acumen to help steer Anderson Township towards economic success."

Early in his tenure, Jackson supported aggressive action on behalf of the board to improve the township's zoning, planning and development functions to better meet needs expressed by citizens' groups and the business community. Jackson said he liked to "think outside the bureaucracy," a tactic that played a role in shutting down the former El Rancho Rankin, an unlicensed business that had significant building and fire code violations.

Over the years, Jackson supported the adoption and implementation of approximately 15 plans including the township's first Comprehensive Plan, the nationally-recognized Beechmont Corridor Plan and the award-winning Anderson Trails Plan, among others.

In recent years, those plans led to increased economic development as well as the "centering" of our community through the design and construction of Anderson Center, Anderson Center Station, the Five Mile Trail, and Five Mile Streetscape improvements.

Jackson devoted countless hours to the preservation of Greenspace within the township serving as a member of the Greenspace Advisory Committee and ensuring that more than 700 acres of property will remain in a natural state. He also was recognized for his stewardship of taxpayer dollars and fiscal conservatism.

Jackson originally took office on January 1, 1996, when, in an homage to his father, long-term Hamilton County Sheriff's Officer Russell L. Jackson, Sr., he took the oath of office before former Hamilton County Sheriff Simon Leis, Jr. Jackson completed his service to the community on December 31, 2015.



Jackson worked to restore Hillcrest Cemetery and brought in Miss America Heather French in 2000 to provoke attention to the issue.

Promotions and a Retirement in Fire and Rescue Department

Anderson Township Fire and Rescue has promoted two of its members to new positions. Lieutenant Bob Herrlinger

Bob Herrlinger



Brad Moore



has been promoted as the new battalion chief of shift 2 and will oversee operations and EMS. With this, Firefighter/paramedic Brad Moore has been promoted to lieutenant. They started their new positions December 18.

Battalion Chief Fred Buop recently retired from the Anderson Township Fire and Rescue Department. He first began as a volunteer in 1982, and later joined the Air Force and trained as a firefighter/medic. In 1993 Buop rejoined Anderson's department as a fulltime career member, eventually rising to lieutenant and battalion chief rankings.

Fred Buop



Buop is a graduate of the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association Executive Fire Officers Program. He also managed the EMS Division, working as an instructor during his tenure. Other services he performed include streamlining EMS supplies, acquiring EMS grants and working on the Community Service program.

HISTORY

Touring Anderson a Century Ago

Turn back the clock and imagine riding around Anderson by car 100 years ago.

United Brethren Bishop George Mathews (1848-1921) decided to tour his boyhood home with his family in 1916 and brought a photographer.

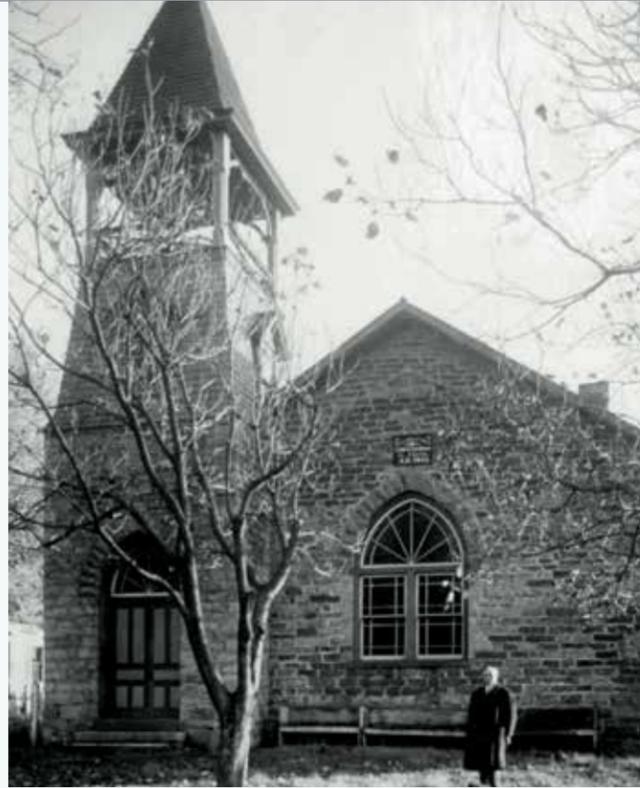
They traveled by automobile, a rare sight at that time. One of their stops was at the blacksmith shop on Clough near Berkshire. The sign advertised "R. Wiley, General Blacksmith, Horseshoeing a Specialty." Blacksmiths were an important business in this farming community. Just a few years later E. Ayer opened the first Ford dealership on Beechmont and the evolution of car dealers and repair services of today began.

Rev. Mathews posed by the house built by his father John Mathews at the corner of Asbury and Ayers where he and his nine brothers and sisters grew up. They visited the Anderson District #13 school on Beechmont near Salem. The district schools offered eight grades. It would not be until 1929 that the township built a central school at the corner of Beechmont and Forest that included high school classes. George Mathews had shown an early talent for learning. Family history recalls that he left on horseback at 16 in 1865 to attend Otterbein University.

The Mathews family attended the church that we know today as Five Mile Chapel. The 1916 photo shows the sign "Five Mile Chapel, United Brethren in Christ, A. D. 1844."

The group stopped at the site of the 12 Mile House on Kellogg, one of several hotels in the township that once catered to riverboat traffic. This hotel was owned by Joseph Prudent, a Frenchman who arrived in 1852. In the mid-1800s Prudent was among the local farmers cultivating grapes for wine in the area known as Sweetwine. The hotel business succeeded, but the vineyards did not. Today, the area remains an entertainment district.

A century has passed since the Mathews family trip. As the township population grew from some 2,500 to more than 43,000, many changes occurred to the local scenery, but if you look for reminders of the past around the township, they can be found.



Known as Five Mile Chapel today, the stone church at 6977 Five Mile Road dates to 1844. Photo 1916.



Fruit Hill School, Anderson District school #13, at Beechmont and Salem. After the consolidation of the district schools in 1929, the building was used for stores until being replaced by an office building in 1979. Photo 1916.



The group visited the busy blacksmith shop on Clough near Berkshire. This building was razed in 1986. Photo 1916.



The boyhood home of George Mathews, built by his father in about 1840. This house, greatly remodeled, still stands at the corner of Asbury and Ayers.



The George Mathews party posed at 7024 Salem Road. Notice the surface of the unpaved road, more suited to wagons and carriages than the new automobiles. Photo 1916.



The 12 Mile House was a hotel once located on Kellogg east of Five Mile Road along the Ohio River. Today the ramps of U.S. 52 and Kellogg run about where the building was located. Photo 1916.

Photos from the collections of the Anderson Township Historical Society. Text and research courtesy of Janet Heywood.

ANDERSON EVENTS

Tree Planting at Bauer Preserve



Jack-O-Lantern Walk



Photos courtesy of Jim Mohrfield

Fire and Rescue 75th Anniversary



Passport to Anderson



Anderson Township Tree Lighting



Veterans Day



Photos courtesy of Jim Mohrfield



Photos courtesy of Leslie Rowe





2015 VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are the lifeblood of many activities connected to Anderson Township! Thanks to these folks who served on committees in 2015.

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Sandra Coleman
Nancy Downs
Josh Eastlake
Mark Ginty
Jim Graef
John Halpin

Township Volunteers Support Committees that Better the Community



Transportation Advisory Committee



Betterment and Beautification - Garden Tour



Street Tree Committee



Adaptable Coyotes Can Live in Harmony with Humans

Anderson Township residents have reported seeing coyotes while out on walks on the Anderson Trails network, or in Greenspaces around the community.

Residents can learn how to live in harmony with these adaptable animals. Coyotes generally are out at night or dawn/dusk, so if you walk the trails, bring a whistle to scare them off or deter them with noise or a walking stick.

While coyotes will attack small mammals and mainly wild animals, they may occasionally go after small dogs or cats. Be aware and keep your pets under control during the dusk and dawn hours as a precaution.

To deter coyotes on your property, remove all attractants such as garbage and pet food before nightfall.

Deputies from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office are not authorized to handle the removal of coyotes. This is a service that must be contracted with a licensed nuisance trapper. If a coyote is presenting a problem on your property, call the Division of Wildlife at 1-800-WILDLIFE (945-3543) or visit wildlife.ohiodnr.gov to find a local trapper.

Local Crime Info Online

Wondering if there have been break-ins in your neighborhood? Learn more about local crime, hot spot crime locations and the nature of local criminal offenses in a new online tool provided free by the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office.

The RAIDS Online program lets residents easily search for criminal offenses and view nearby criminal activity broken into specific criminal categories. Check out the AndersonTownship.org website to find out more. Search for key word: RAIDS Online.

History Room in Anderson Center Tells Anderson's Story

Plan a visit to the History Room at Anderson Center this winter for a view of the community's rich heritage. Illustrated with maps, images and artifacts, the room documents Anderson's evolution from the time of the first people who arrived as the glaciers receded to our busy modern times.

Through March, the Anderson Township History Room features a special photo exhibit titled "Old School Days," including views of Anderson schools from the 19th century to the 1940s. In April and May when the History to Schools program brings Anderson second graders to visit the center, the special photo exhibit focuses on transportation in the township from horses, wagons and trains to cars and trucks.

The History Room is a joint project of Anderson Township and the Anderson Township Historical Society. Volunteers from the historical society staff the History Room.

The History Room at Anderson Center is open all year round on Wednesdays and Sundays 1 to 4 p.m., and Tuesdays 6 to 8:30 p.m. It is closed on holidays. Group tours can be arranged by calling 688-8400.

For information on the Historical Society, call 231-2114 or connect via the web at AndersonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org.



Learn about the history of Anderson through photos, hands-on exhibits and displays at the History Room in Anderson Center.

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688-8400

info@AndersonTownship.org

AndersonTownship.org

AndersonCenterEvents.org

Facebook:

[Anderson Township, Ohio](https://www.facebook.com/AndersonTownship)

Government Services at Anderson Center:

Administration and
Fiscal Office

Planning and Zoning

Public Works

Fire and Rescue

Hamilton County
Sheriff's Office

Help Support Diverse Urban Tree Canopy

If you use your quiet winter months to do a bit of spring and summer planning for your garden and yard, here are a few suggestions from the Anderson Township Street Tree Committee regarding what trees to plant.

The committee offers this list to help create a diverse urban tree canopy in Anderson, notes Joshua Eastlake, committee member. He said the committee also suggests avoiding a few “overplanted” trees, including the Callery Pear and Maple species, when choosing trees for your property.

Small (15-30')

Carpinus caroliniana - American Hornbeam/Blue Beech
 Chionanthus virginicus - White Fringetree
 Parrotia persica - Persian Ironwood
 Viburnum lentago (tree form) - Tree Form Nannyberry
 Viburnum prunifolium (tree form) - Tree Form Blackhaw

Medium (30-50')

Maclura pomifera 'White Shield' - White Shield Osage Orange (fruitless/thornless)
 Ostrya virginiana - Eastern Hophornbeam

Large (50'+)

Celtis x 'Magnifica' - Magnifica Hackberry
 Celtis occidentalis - American Hackberry
 Cercidophyllum japonica - Katsura Tree
 Cladrastis lutea (kentukea) - American Yellowwood
 Gymnocladus dioica - Kentucky Coffeetree
 Liriodendron tulipifera - Tuliptree/Yellow Poplar
 Quercus bicolor - Swamp White Oak
 Quercus imbricaria - Shingle Oak
 Quercus macrocarpa - Bur Oak
 Quercus phellos - Willow Oak
 Quercus shumardii - Shumard Oak
 Sassafras albidum - Sassafras
 Taxodium distichum - Bald Cypress



Eastlake notes that a good choice for Anderson residents would be oak species. Large, mature oaks have also been demonstrated to sequester massive amounts of carbon (air pollution), modulate temperatures, cut down on noise, and provide critical wildlife cover/habitat as well as several other important “ecosystem services,” Eastlake notes.

An explosion of White-tailed deer, which feed selectively on oak seedlings/saplings are preventing oaks from regenerating themselves in local wooded areas. “We need to help the oaks as much as we can in this area,” he said.

Sheriff's Office, Anderson Offer Tool for News Exchange

A new online information-sharing website now connects the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office with more businesses and residents in an effort to provide safety information and township crime reports.

Nextdoor for Public Agencies is a social media platform used to increase communication and enhance established connections in 104 Neighborhood Watch groups that operate in Anderson Township.

Cpl. Dave Boiman of the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office said the tool enhances communications on topics of mutual concern, but will not replace individual watch contacts in each group or personal relationships.

Nextdoor provides police agencies a platform for disseminating emergency preparedness advice, information exchange about topics of public interest and also valuable crime prevention tips. Sheriff's Office members cannot see any content on a neighborhood website except for the direct replies to Sheriff's Office posts.

To learn more or explore this communications tool, go to nextdoor.com or access details on the AndersonTownship.org site under keyword search: Nextdoor.

Performing Arts, Inc.
 Anderson Center, 7850 Five Mile Road
Into the Woods – Tuesday, Feb. 2, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 6, 6 p.m.
Jungle Book – Friday, Feb. 5, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 6, 3 p.m.
 Tickets: \$12
 Information: 257-4482

Beechmont Players - Death Takes a Holiday
 Anderson Center, 7850 Five Mile Road
Friday and Saturday, Feb. 19-20, 8 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 21, 3 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 26, 8 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 27, 3 and 8 p.m.
 Tickets: \$15; Seniors 60 and up and active military: \$13
 Info: 233-2468 or BeechmontPlayers.org

Clermont Northeastern Drama - "Schoolhouse Rock Live, Jr."
 Anderson Center, 7850 Five Mile Road
Friday, March 4, 7 p.m.
Saturday, March 5, 2 and 7 p.m.
 Tickets: \$10
 Info: Dee Thompson at 625-1211 ext. 263

Anderson Community Band
 Anderson Center, 7850 Five Mile Road
Sunday, March 20, 7 p.m.
 Free
 Info: John Fecker at 207-8506 or andersoncommunityband.com

Adult Egg Hunts (ages 18 and up)
 Riverside Park All Weather Fields
 3969 Round Bottom Road
Thursday, March 24, 7 p.m.
 Hunts: 1: Golden Hunt (50 and over),
 2: Partner Hunt, 3: Adult Scramble
 Tickets: Sales start at 6 p.m. and will stop five minutes prior to each hunt.
 Cost: \$2 per hunt, per person
 Info: 388-4513 or AndersonParks.com

Youth Egg Hunts (ages 17 and under)
 Riverside Park All Weather Fields
 3969 Round Bottom Road
Saturday, March 26, 10 am-noon
 Hunts: Youth hunts are divided into four age-designated areas
 Tickets: Sales start at 9:30 a.m.
 Cost: \$2 per hunt, per person
 Info: 388-4513 or AndersonParks.com



Forest-Aires-Encore!
 Anderson Center, 7850 Five Mile Road
Friday and Saturday, April 22-23, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 24, 3 p.m.
 Tickets: \$13 adults; \$12 seniors and children
 Info: Carole at 232-7504 or forestaires.com

Drug Take Back Day
 Anderson Center, 7850 Five Mile Road
Saturday, April 23, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 Free; no liquids, needles or aerosols accepted
 Info: Cpl. Dave Boiman at 688-8400 or dboiman@sheriff.hamilton-co.org

Great American Cleanup
 Anderson Center, 7850 Five Mile Road
Saturday, April 23, 8:30 a.m. - noon
 Info: Allison Hodson at 688-8400 or ahodson@AndersonTownship.org

Ongoing Events

Anderson Township History Room
 Anderson Center, 7850 Five Mile Road
Open year-round: Tuesdays 6 - 8:45 p.m.
Wednesdays and Sundays: 1 - 4 p.m.
 Sponsored by the Anderson Township Historical Society and Anderson Township
 Info: 688-8400 or AndersonTownshipHistoricalSociety.org

Anderson Indoor Farmers' Market
 Anderson Center Station, 7832 Five Mile Road
Saturdays 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. starting April 18
 Info: Nancy Downs at 688-8400 or AndersonFarmersMarket.org

The township does not endorse the purposes and policies of any renter or user of facilities at Anderson Center, Anderson Center Station, Anderson Senior Center, the Anderson Township Heritage Center or any other township-owned facilities.



Anderson Insights
 the Newsletter of Anderson Township
 Anderson Center
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Public Meetings

(Times and dates subject to change with notice)

Board of Township Trustees

Regular Monthly Meeting
 Thursday, Feb. 18, 6 p.m.

Interim Workshop Meeting
 Thursday, Feb. 4, 2 p.m.

Betterment & Beautification Committee
 Thursday, March 10, 4 p.m.

Board of Zoning Appeals
 Thursday, March 3, 5:30 p.m.

Economic Development Committee
 Tuesday, March 22, 3:30 p.m.

Greenspace Advisory Committee
 Contact Ronald Edgerton at 231-5642
 Meets as needed

Street Tree Committee
 Monday, March 14, 7 p.m.

Transportation Advisory Committee
 Tuesday, March 1, 7 p.m.

Zoning Commission
 Monday, Feb. 22, 5:30 p.m.

All meetings are held at Anderson Center.

Making the Connection: Little Miami Scenic Trail Extension a Welcome Addition

Did you notice something going on last fall along State Route 32?

This work was for construction of the Little Miami Trail, one of the newest additions to Anderson Township.

The trail project, which stretches from the Little Miami Golf Center in the Village of Newtown, through Anderson Township and to the Beechmont Avenue/Ohio 32 ramp, is an extension of the Little Miami Scenic Trail, one of the longest paved trails in the United States. Beginning in Springfield, Ohio, the trail currently winds for miles through Ohio towns and along portions of the Little Miami River. It is a major destination for hiking, biking, running or just experiencing nature and Ohio culture.

Development began on the 3-mile extension project in June 2015, thanks to \$1.94 million in federal funding and a \$1 million state grant. Construction was made possible through Great Parks of Hamilton County partnerships with Anderson Township, the Ohio Department of Transportation, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Anderson Township Park District, and other state and local governments and organizations. The project is scheduled to be complete by spring 2016 with a grand opening anticipated May 21, so check for updates regarding what day the trail will be open for public use.

“The continuation of the trail is a significant milestone for the Cincinnati Tristate region as we connect communities and trail systems together,” notes Great Parks Executive Director Jack Sutton. “One of those community connections includes our parks, Great Parks’ Little Miami Golf Center, the Village of Newtown’s Robert W. Short Park and Anderson Township Park District’s Clear Creek Park.”

“The trail continuation brings the Little Miami Scenic Trail a ‘stone’s throw away’ from connecting to the City of Cincinnati,” says Great Parks Engineer

Kevin Brill. In fact, following completion of the extension, focus will then be placed on a proposed pedestrian bridge to be constructed over the Little Miami Scenic River. The bridge would complete the connection of the Little Miami Scenic Trail to the City of Cincinnati’s Lunken Loop Trail, Otto Armelder Memorial Park and Recreation Complex, and the Ohio River Trail, which continues west into Cincinnati. Currently the trail is 78 miles.

“I anticipate the trail will become a highly popular trek for many of Anderson’s walkers and bicyclists once it is open this year,” said Anderson Township Planner Tom Caruso. “It’s a beautiful stretch of trail which will provide more transportation and recreation opportunities for our region.”

“It is wonderful to see the Little Miami Scenic Trail being expanded. Having it come through Anderson Township makes our community more desirable for those seeking an active lifestyle,” added Trustee Dee Stone.



Little Miami Scenic Trail Extension