



SPRING
2015

GIRL POWER!

High School Student Builds Her Dream at Symmes Park



Who says teens can't change the world—or at least Symmes Township?

Indian Hill High School freshman, Emma Beck, needed a community project as a key requirement to achieve her Girl Scout Silver Award. If she found the right one, something big and passion-driven, it could set the course for her success as a top-tier Girl Scout and touch many lives in the Symmes community.

The idea came to her in a moment of whimsy. "I was playing with our dogs, Toby and Bailey," said Emma. "And I thought it would be fun to have a dog party for all our neighbors' dogs."

And of course, with every party there has got to be games. "Just imagine all these healthy and happy dogs—and their

owners—running around and through obstacles in our front yard," she laughed. Her parents, Symmes Township Trustee, Phil Beck and Suzanne Beck, didn't blink. It was perfect.

For Emma, creating the obstacles wasn't a simple process. She did lots of dog agility research online and turned to many people for help, including her Dad. During all this planning, she began to think bigger—"Why not expand the project from our front yard to a much bigger area?" she said.

And that's when the dog run at Symmes Park became the focus of her project—"I just wonder if I could build a permanent dog agility course for the whole Township to explore and enjoy," she told me.

Her parents agreed. Phil dug out his tools and they got to work in the garage. "We loved watching Emma become a project manager," said Phil who has two other children, Nathan and Sarah. "We found the whole process to be inspiring and quite educational," he said. "I know more about dog agility courses than I care to admit," he laughed.

Emma started with a large list of obstacles and graphed the plans on paper for a tunnel, teeter-totter, tire jump, weave poles and adjustable jumps. She and Phil made make-shift models out of cardboard and scraps. Their first test was the big neighborhood dog-agility party in their front yard.

In the business world, it's called market

research. In a teenager's world, it's just a big party.

And there were lots of party-goers—plenty of well-heeled dogs and well-dressed owners came for the fun and the exercise; and, gave Emma the feedback she needed for the final Symmes Park project.

"My biggest challenge was to build something durable that would last much longer than the party—like forever," said Emma. "Building the dog obstacles for everyday use required more research and much better products."

She also had to make some major decisions on which obstacles would be the best for the community.

Emma turned to Bill Pitman and Dave Heider of the Symmes Township Service Department. They both helped her with the engineering aspects of each of the obstacles to ensure safety and resiliency, and settled on the best obstacles—a teeter-totter, weave poles and adjustable jumps. At the same time, she got a generous donation of PVC pipes and other materials from The Nelson Stark Company.

"I was so fortunate to get a great deal of support," said Emma. "I'm no expert, so finding and meeting all these people really made the difference."

"It was a brilliant idea and will truly make the park a better place for dogs and their owners," said Bill Pitman, Director of

IN THIS ISSUE:

- High School Student Builds Dog Agility Course
- Calendar of Events
- Township Reminders: Driveway Permits
- Community Contract for Trash and Recycling
- Volunteer Opportunities

- Generous Sponsorship Received for Park Events
- Horter Investment Management and Ten Thousand Villages Join Township
- Clerk of Courts Opens Office in Symmes
- Road Resurfacing Schedule
- Sump Pump Maintenance Issues

- The Great Symmes Egg Hunt
- Cleanup Days Changing Ways
- Symmes Honors Veterans
- Concerts in the Park
- Symmes Day
- Movie Night in the Park
- Saturday Morning Yoga

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



PHIL BECK



KEN BRYANT



JODIE LEIS

FISCAL OFFICER



CAROL SIMS

ADMINISTRATOR



BRIAN ELLIFF

GIRL POWER! (CONTINUED)

Public Works. “We hear stories of amazing teens doing great things every day—it was fun to see it in person and work with Emma.”

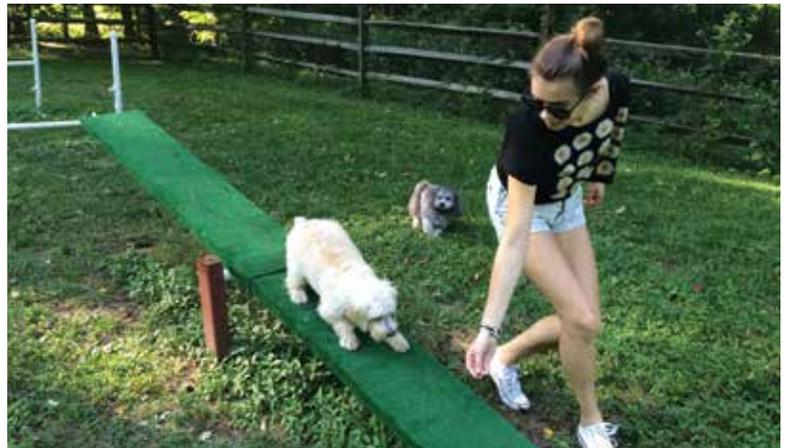
The entire project from start to finish took a little over a year. As you can imagine, there is not a lot of time in a teenager’s world, especially Emma’s. As a fifteen year old, she is well-entrenched in Indian Hill High School, runs track, plays piano, takes voice lessons, and is rehearsing for the Acting Up young performers’ community theatre presentation of *Legally Blonde*.

Despite all these activities, Emma said that this project was huge for her. “I think it will make people happy and keep their dogs healthy,” she said. “It’s a good feeling to know that I started something that might just last forever.”

High school students are accomplishing incredible feats,

performing selfless acts, and making great things happen. They’re athletes, musicians, volunteers, entrepreneurs, scientists, and inventors, but what they share is that they’re role models to us all.

The next time you visit the dog run at Symmes Park, think of Emma Beck, an inspiring young woman who shared her dream with all of us. And has many more to go.



ENERGY ALLIANCES AND INTEGRYS ENERGY MAKE GENEROUS DONATION

The Township received a generous donation in the amount of \$4,000 from Energy Alliances and Integrys Energy Services to continue our Saturday Morning Yoga and Movie Nights in the Park.

“This will be our third summer for yoga at Hopewell Meadows Park” said Township Trustee Phil Beck. “The sponsorship makes all the difference and helps us sustain great park events.”

The sponsorship will also support Movie Nights at Home of the Brave Park—two great evenings with family-themed movies.



TWO NEW COMPANIES JOIN TOWNSHIP:

Township Trustee Phil Beck and Fiscal Officer Carol Sims join Drew Horter from Horter Investment Management for a ground breaking ceremony for their new office location at 11726 Seven Gables Road and staff from Ten Thousand Villages, a Fair Trade Retailer at The Shops at Harper’s Point, for ribbon-cutting ceremonies.

CLERK OF COURTS OPENS OFFICE IN SYMMES TOWNSHIP

Tracy Winkler, Clerk of Courts, will be opening a new satellite office in Symmes Township at 12139 Royal Point Drive. Office hours will be Monday–Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with the potential for additional hours as the office expands. This new location will service the northeast section of Hamilton County. The office will initially limit services to processing auto title transfers only. However, future plans include acceptance of passport applications and payment of traffic tickets.

In addition, fees for title transfers currently being lost to other counties will now be captured by the Symmes Township office. With this location's convenience to the Kings Auto Mall, a brisk business in title transfers is expected. A counter specifically designated for car dealers will be available.

STREET REPAVING SCHEDULE

Beginning in late May (when the Township's school bus traffic decreases), the Township will continue executing the Road Resurfacing Plan, which will also include curb repairs, catch-basin improvements, and other street improvements. The paving cycle for all Township streets is approximately 15–17 years. The streets planned to be included in this year's program are:

- Bettyray Drive
 - Brentmoor Drive
 - Crestfield Court
 - Hawthorn Woods Court
 - Riveroaks Drive
 - Riverwalk Lane
 - Vicksburg Drive
-

TOWNSHIP TIGHTENS BUDGET WITH TWO CLEANUP DAYS

In order to reduce costs and improve Township efficiency, there will be two Clean Up Days this year instead of the usual three. Both of the Clean Up Days will be held at the conveniently located Hopewell Meadows Park from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 16th and Saturday, July 18th.

As in the past, the Township will accept trash, tires, appliances, old furniture, car batteries, computer equipment and used motor oil. There will be no charge for tires or appliances containing Freon this year. Please note that hazardous household waste will not be accepted.

SUMP PUMP SAFETY

The Hamilton County Health Department regulates sump pump discharge, and according to the agency's requirements, sump pumps may not discharge water onto roads. The Health Department regulations note that sump discharge into a natural ravine, gully or a local storm sewer is the best option.

“Unfortunately, some residents are having sump pump maintenance issues, and the sump water is then redirected to the downspout discharge line, which then goes straight to the street. In the winter months, sump pump discharge can form hazardous ice conditions on the public road,” said Bill Pitman, Director of Public Works.

Not just a winter problem, in the hot summer months, the misdirected discharge can cause a build-up of slippery moss and attract mosquitoes—another health and safety concern. Please be sure to keep current on your sump pump maintenance schedule and make sure that any new installation or repair does not discharge water into the street. For a wealth of information, visit Hamilton County Public Health online and search “sump pump.”

TOWNSHIP REMINDERS: DRIVEWAY PERMITS

Permits and inspections are required by the Symmes Township Service Department for driveway construction, open pavement cuts and excavation within a public right-of-way. Applications for all permits—driveway, open pavement, and right-of-way—are available online and need to be filled out and returned to Bill Pitman, Director of Public Works, in person or by email at bpitman@symmestownship.org. There is a \$50 fee for each permit. Cash or checks are accepted.

SUMMER FUN, FREE PARK EVENTS

Symmestown Parks Come Alive This Year with Many Special Events

If you are looking for fun this summer, you'll find it all in the Township's Parks. The selection is getting better this year with the addition of several events. "Our parks have something for everyone, no matter your interests or the time of the year that you choose to visit," said Township Trustee, Jodie Leis. "With almost 200 acres of public parks offering walking trails, a memorial, a historic log home museum, a fishing lake, sports fields, picnic shelters and a fantastic variety of playgrounds, it's the best ticket in town."



CELEBRATE MEMORIAL DAY

What: Symmes Honors Veterans
When: Friday, May 22nd at 7 P.M.
Where: Home of the Brave Park
Cost: FREE

Honor the Men and Women Who Serve Our Country

On Friday, May 22nd, Township residents will have the opportunity to join with their family and friends to celebrate Memorial Day—a day of remembrance for those who sacrificed and died in our nation's service. The Home of the Brave Park Veteran's Memorial will be the location once again for this annual Township event honoring those who have defended our right to freedom.

According to Symmes Township Fiscal Officer and Cemetery Sexton Carol Sims, there are 467 veterans in the Symmes Township cemeteries, some graves which date back to the Revolutionary War.

YOGA IN THE PARKS!

S-T-R-E-T-CHHHHH and Breathe

If you're looking for some flexible summer plans, Hopewell Meadows Park is the place to be. Saturday Morning Yoga will be back for a third season starting June 6th through August 29th. A certified yoga fit instructor will conduct the free classes on Saturday mornings during the summer. No experience is necessary! (A special thanks to Energy Alliances and Integrys Energy Services for their generous sponsorship of this community healthy event).

SYMMES DAY IN THE PARK

What's summer without a Park festival? Enjoy a fun day at the Home of the Brave Park on Saturday, June 20th with your family and friends from 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The Rusty Griswolds will perform their awesome 80's music, and there will be plenty of great food, lots of children's activities and a beautiful fireworks display at dark. Proceeds will benefit Honor Flight Tri-State. Check out the Symmes Township and Loveland Symmes Fire Department websites for more updates and details. The event is made possible courtesy of the Loveland Symmes Firefighter Association.



MOVIE NIGHT IN THE PARK

Family Fun Under the Stars

Take a step back in time and drive-in to Home of the Brave Park for movie night. This year the Township will be showing *Big Hero 6* on Friday July 17th and *Cinderella* on Saturday, August 8th. You can bring the whole family and even get the kids to dress up as their favorite characters for lots of fun photos. The movies will begin at dark and under the stars. Check our website for more information. (Thanks to Energy Alliances and Integrys Energy Services for their generous sponsorship of this family event).

CONCERTS IN THE PARK

It's Live!

How about some live music to finish your weekend? On two summer Sundays, July 19th and September 13th, Symmes Park will host evening concerts with popular bands at the amphitheater, courtesy of the Loveland Symmes Firefighter Association.

- Sunday, July 19th: Social Hermits performs from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday, September 13th: Big Trouble Blues performs from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.



THE GREAT SYMMES EGG HUNT

When: Saturday, March 28th at 11:30 A.M.

Where: Home of the Brave Park

Who: Children 10 and under

Cost: FREE

Sweeten the Season

The Great Symmes Egg Hunt returns to Home of the Brave Park on March 28th. The family event will have the usual favorites including face painting, games, candy, the “hunt,” and a visit from the Easter Bunny. The Symmes Township Historical Society will sell refreshments. To avoid last minute traffic, come a little early and enjoy fun events beforehand.

The most popular attraction from last year—a “colorful” obstacle course—will return again. The children will run through an obstacle course while very colorful powder cascades on their clothing. Children should dress in old, white clothing!

For more information, see the website or call the Township office at 683-6644.

IMPORTANT DATES TO KNOW

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
MAR. 28	THE GREAT SYMMES EGG HUNT	HOME OF THE BRAVE PARK	11:30 A.M.
MAY 16	CLEANUP DAY	HOPEWELL MEADOWS PARK	9 A.M. – 3 P.M.
MAY 22	SYMMES HONORS VETERANS	HOME OF THE BRAVE PARK	7 P.M. – 8 P.M.
MAY 23	WATER PARK OPENS FOR SEASON	HOME OF THE BRAVE PARK	OPEN DAILY: 11 A.M. – 7 P.M.
MAY 25	HOLIDAY	OFFICE CLOSED	
JUNE 6	SATURDAY MORNING YOGA BEGINS	HOPEWELL MEADOWS PARK	9 A.M. – 10 A.M.
JUNE 20	SYMMES DAY IN THE PARK	HOME OF THE BRAVE PARK	2 P.M. – 10 P.M.
JULY 3	HOLIDAY	OFFICE CLOSED	
JULY 17	MOVIE NIGHT IN THE PARK	HOME OF THE BRAVE PARK	APPROX. 9 P.M.
JULY 18	CLEANUP DAY	HOPEWELL MEADOWS PARK	9 A.M. – 3 P.M.
JULY 19	CONCERT IN THE PARK	SYMMES PARK	6:30 P.M. – 8 P.M.
AUG. 8	MOVIE IN THE PARK	HOME OF THE BRAVE PARK	APPROX. 8:45 P.M.
AUG. 29	SATURDAY MORNING YOGA ENDS	HOPEWELL MEADOWS PARK	9 A.M. – 10 A.M.
SEPT. 7	HOLIDAY	OFFICE CLOSED	
SEPT. 7	WATERPARK CLOSSES FOR SEASON	HOME OF THE BRAVE PARK	
SEPT. 13	CONCERT IN THE PARK	SYMMES PARK	6:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.
OCT. 9	FALL FOR SYMMES	SYMMES PARK	5 P.M. – 9 P.M.

GO ONLINE - www.symmestownship.org for more news and events.



COMMUNITY-WIDE CONTRACT FOR TRASH AND RECYCLING SERVICES?

Looking For Your Viewpoint

In December, the Board of Trustees asked residents to provide input on the possibility of the Township entering into a community-wide contract for waste and recycling services. The potential program benefits include better pricing, logistics, and increased recycling rates.

“What is attractive about a community-wide waste and recycling service contract is the potential for lower monthly bills, even with the added recycling service,” said Township Trustee, Phil Beck.

The priority for the Trustees is to get a large amount of feedback from Township residents before any Request for Proposal (RFP) would be issued.

“We really want to make a concerted effort to reach as many people in the community as we can,” said Trustee Ken Bryant. “We have only heard comments from a handful of people so we have more work to do.”

You can email your comments to lfelter@symmestownship.org. You can also view the current compilation of comments by visiting the Symmes Township website and search “Waste & Recycling” or go to “Symmestownship.org/news.aspx”.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Township has plenty of fun events planned this year and subsequently needs lots of volunteers to make them all happen! Are you a student who needs to complete your community service hours? Do you like to volunteer on a regular basis and play an important role in community events?

This is a great opportunity to complete your requirements or just be part of something that makes our community a great place to play! If you're interested, talk to Luanne Felter at lfelter@symmestownship.org or call 683-6644 x303.

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CINCINNATI, OH
PERMIT NO. 4160

