



FALL 2021

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION MONTH

The goal of Fire Prevention Month – and the week of October 3rd – is to raise fire safety awareness and help ensure your home and family is protected.

“Fire Prevention week is the perfect time to educate and talk with your whole family about fire safety – include testing alarms, changing the batteries, or upgrading to 10-year sealed battery alarms, how to use a fire extinguisher, and plan an escape route in your home,” said Otto Huber, Fire Chief at Loveland Symmes Fire Dept.

Did you know?

- 3 of every 5 home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no working smoke alarms
- Carbon monoxide (CO) is the #1 cause of accidental poisoning in the US
- 60% of consumers do not test their smoke and CO alarms monthly
- Only 47% of people report having CO alarms in their home
- Just 43% of homeowners have an escape plan
- Unattended cooking is the #1 cause of home fires

Top Tips for Fire Safety from the Loveland Symmes Fire Dept:

1. Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas.
2. Test smoke alarms every month.
3. Talk with all family members about a fire escape plan and practice the plan twice a year.
4. If a fire occurs in your home, GET OUT, STAY OUT and CALL FOR HELP.

LIGHT UP THE TOWNSHIP

FOURTH ANNUAL SYMMES TOWNSHIP MERRY & BRIGHT LIGHT CONTEST

What would the holidays be without all the sparkle and magic of Christmas lights and enormous inflatable Santa’s?

It’s almost time for the annual holiday competition—*The Merry & Bright Light Contest* – and it’s never too early to start thinking about decorating your house for the holidays.

Pick a theme—any theme—and get started. Official judging will take place December 1st through December 15th. The winner will be announced on December 16th and awarded a \$50 gift card.



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BOARD OF TRUSTEES



PHIL BECK



KEN BRYANT



JODIE LEIS

FISCAL OFFICER



JOSEPH GROSSI

ADMINISTRATOR



KIM LAPENSEE

WONDERFUL WALKS IN SYMMES

VISIT OUR HISTORICAL MURAL

“If you haven’t seen the colorful mural of Symmes Township history, take a walk by the park maintenance building at the Home of the Brave Park,” said Township Trustee Phil Beck. “The one-of-a-kind painting is the collaborative work of ArtWorks professional artists and the 50 Symmes Township residents who volunteered as mural painters. “It is another beautiful landmark in Symmes.”



STORYWALK® AT THE MEADE HISTORIC PRESERVE

When Township Trustee Jodie Leis conceived the idea to bring the internationally acclaimed StoryWalk® Project to the Meade Historic Preserve, she never dreamed it would be so popular. “StoryWalk® is such a great way for children — and adults — to enjoy reading while being outside in a natural park setting,” said Leis. “We have been overwhelmed by its success.”

The current feature is Wild Symphony by Dan Brown. Laminated pages from the children’s book are displayed along the path within the park. As you stroll down the trail, you’re directed to the next page in the story.

MEADE TRAIL

In celebration of the fall season, the Meade Trail will be decorated for the month of October. “The Township did this last year in place of the cancelled Fall for Symmes, and it was so popular that we decided to continue it this year,” said Trustee Jodie Leis who did some of the decorating herself. “Check out our floating pumpkins, scarecrow displays, spooky graveyard and more!” said Leis.



FALL FOR SYMMES

AN EVENING OF EXCITEMENT!

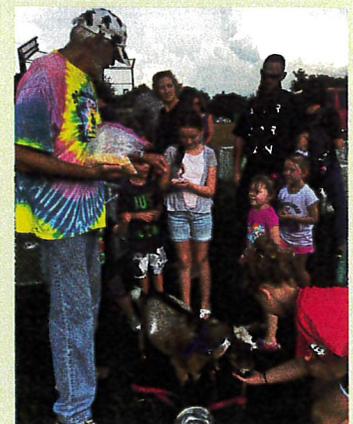
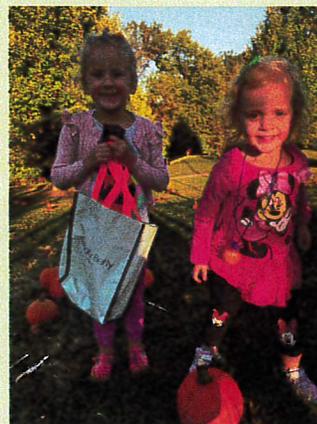
Date: Friday, October 1, 2021
Time: 5pm-9pm
Place: Symmes Park, 11600 Lebanon Road
Cost: Free



“The annual festive evening celebration includes pony rides, petting zoo, pumpkin patch, hay maze, hayrides, crafts, games, and a lighted haunted trail,” said Trustee Jodie Leis.

All the Trustees hope that this year takes on more significance. “It’s one of the first events on the Township calendar where the community can come back together and celebrate the season,” said Leis.

Due to COVID restrictions, refreshments will not be served. The public is welcome to bring their own food and beverages.



OPERATION SANTA 2021 | SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4 — *Please note that all times are approximate.*

ROUTE 1	
ARRIVAL TIME	LOCATION
5:00 PM	MORGANS TRACE & FARMCOURT
5:20 PM	ARABIAN & ROAN
5:40 PM	WALNUTRIDGE COURT
6:00 PM	STABLEHAND & STEEPLECHASE
6:20 PM	WITHERS & CUMMINGS FARM
6:40 PM	GATEWAY & SOLON
7:00 PM	BAINWOODS & HOPEWOODS
7:20 PM	SHADYSIDE & STONECREST
7:40 PM	KEMPERGROVE & OAKVALLEY
8:00 PM	SOUTHPORT LANE (MEET IN CUL-DE-SAC)

ROUTE 2	
ARRIVAL TIME	LOCATION
5:00 PM	SHADOWGLEN DRIVE
5:20 PM	CHATHAM WOODS & WINDY HILL
5:40 PM	RIVEROAKS & BRENTMOOR
6:00 PM	WILLOW & FOXGATE
6:20 PM	RICHLAND PARK & WATERS EDGE
6:40 PM	NEAR 10103 PLANTATION POINTE
7:00 PM	STONEBRIDGE & FARMSTEAD
7:20 PM	MEADOWKNOLL & COLEBOURNE
7:40 PM	BENTCREEK & STREAMSIDE
8:00 PM	SOMERSET & CARTER GROVE

OPERATION SANTA

AN EVENING OF CELEBRATING AND GIVING

Date: Saturday, December 4, 2021

Time: 5:00-8:30pm

Place: Three routes with many stops throughout the Township

Cost: Optional contribution of toys or money

Benefits: Dragonfly Foundation

Santa and his helpers will make their annual visit through Symmes Township neighborhoods on Saturday, December 4th starting at 5pm.

“In the spirit of giving, we hope that everyone will fill ‘Santa’s big bag’ with new, unwrapped toys or cash gifts to the Dragonfly Foundation,” said Township Administrator, Kim Lapensee.

The Dragonfly Foundation, a local nonprofit, helps pediatric cancer patients and their families find strength, courage, and joy. The organization’s programs provide emotional, relational, practical, and individualized support to patients (ranging in age from birth to age 40) and their siblings/offspring and parents/caregivers.

ROUTE 3	
ARRIVAL TIME	LOCATION
5:00 PM	PAULMEADOWS & HERITAGE
5:20 PM	PATRILLA & KEMPERWOODS
5:40 PM	PEMMICAN RUN & BIRCHBARK
6:00 PM	IRON LIEGE & CALUMET WAY
6:20 PM	CYPRESSPOINT & NATHANSHILL
6:40 PM	SYMMESCREEK & SYMMESKNOLL
7:00 PM	PINEWOOD & RETVIEW
7:20 PM	TERWILLIGERSVALLEY & TERWILLIGERSRIDGE
7:40 PM	DONWIDDLE & SOUFFLE
8:00 PM	LOVELAND TRACE
8:20 PM	SYMBOLA & KOSINE

SIXTH ANNUAL GREAT HOLIDAY LIGHT CHALLENGE

RECYCLE THOSE OLD HOLIDAY LIGHTS

The Loveland Sustainability Council is hosting **The Great Holiday Light Challenge**, a friendly competition between Symmes and Loveland to see who can recycle the most holiday lights between November 26th through January 31st. The drop-off site for Symmes residents will be at the Township Administration building.

“Since its inception, this project has diverted over 2,000 pounds of lights from the landfill and supported the Great Parks of Hamilton County,” said Trustee Ken Bryant. “It is also an important sustainability endeavor that has made a tremendous impact on the environment.”

For the past five years, Symmes Township has won the competition with Loveland.



NEW GRANTS PROGRAM

The Township will be applying for some very important and lucrative grants. Joseph Grossi, Fiscal Officer of the Township explains below:

TOWNSHIP STIMULUS PROGRAM

The Township Stimulus Program is a one-time program providing federal funding to townships for sidewalk, roadway, and culvert projects. The allocation for this program will be administered by the Ohio Department of Transportation. The total funding available for this project is \$8 million with a funding limit of \$250,000 per project.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (ARP)

ARP provides \$350 billion for states and local governments. Symmes Township's share is \$784,899.69 now and \$784,899.69 a year from now. The eligible uses include:

- Public health expenditures
- Replace lost public sector revenue
- Provide premium pay to essential workers
- Invest in water, sewer, storm sewer and broad band infrastructure

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)

Hamilton County will receive \$3.5 million from the Federal Government. The County can accept or reject applications for funds. Projects must benefit low to moderate income areas. Some approved uses of the funds:

- Housing rehabilitation (Restoration of the historic Meade House would qualify.)
- Acquisition of real property
- Demolition of blighted structures
- Public facility improvements (ADA approved)
- Infrastructure

"As a general protocol, Symmes Township always attempts to leverage outside matching funds to accomplish many of our planned township infrastructure projects" said Trustee Phil Beck. Trustee Ken Bryant agreed and stated "Symmes Township has some of the lowest tax rates in the southwest Ohio region, and yet, our standard of living is among the very best. This is achieved, in part, to aggressive grant applications and having a "ready list" of projects waiting for supportive funding."

UNION CEMETERY SIDEWALK CONSTRUCTION NEAR COMPLETION

Township residents can walk on more new sidewalks along Union Cemetery Road. Another phase of the sidewalk project is close to completion – Union Cemetery from Antietam to the Meade Historic Preserve entrance.

"Now neighbors from Shenandoah Trace, Antietam Drive, Thistlehill Drive, Woodwind Drive and Millstone Court can enjoy the walking route that connects to the Meade Historic Preserve, Home of the Brave Park and Symmes Park," said Trustee Jodie Leis.

The innovative half-mile long sidewalk design incorporates 12 individual storm water catch basins to funnel water into 1400 linear feet of storm drain.

"Engineers overcame two challenges along the Union Cemetery Road "S" curve – the challenging terrain and a visibility issue," said Trustee, Phil Beck. "To ensure pedestrian safety, the sidewalk was built a safe distance from the road and a new retaining wall helped with the terrain."

Symmes sidewalk program is based on pedestrian safety, proximity to schools, library and Township parks, connectivity to Township neighborhoods and grant availability.

"This important development was funded with Tax Increment Financing funds with no additional cost to the taxpayers," said Trustee Ken Bryant.

COMMITTEE NEWS:

CONSIDER JOINING A COMMITTEE

The Board of Trustees are looking for members/alternates to serve on the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Zoning Commission. "These are very important civic roles in our Township," said Trustee Ken Bryant. "The work impacts the future of the Township."

The Board of Zoning Appeals reviews applications for zoning variances, conditional use, and appeals. The Board meets the first Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Administration Building.

The Zoning Commission reviews zone change requests for recommendation to the Board of Trustees and approves final development plans. The Commission meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Administration Building.

The Board of Trustees are also looking for members to serve on the Finance & Audit Committee and Beautification Committee.

The Finance & Audit Committee meets quarterly to review Township budgets. The Beautification Committee meets, as needed, to discuss ways to enhance entryways in Symmes Township.

If anyone is interested in serving on one of these committees, please call the Township office at (513)683-6644 or email Kim Lapensee at klapensee@symmestownship.org.

NEW BUSINESSES IN THE TOWNSHIP

The Detail Station | 8821 Chapel Square | Provides professional detailing services including interior/exterior, ceramic coating, paint correction, paint touch ups. Visit www.detailstationcincy.com

El Rancho Grande | 11928 Montgomery Road | Offering the best of Mexican food. Visit www.elranchogrande.info

Koi Hibachi & Sushi | 8520 East Kemper Road | Menu designed for fast takeout or dine in. Visit www.koihibachisushiexpress.com

Animal Eye Institute | 11851 Mason Montgomery Road | Excels at the diagnosis, surgery, and medical treatment of eye disorders for companion animals (dogs and cats), large animals (horses, llamas, cattle), exotic and pocket pets. Visit www.animaleyeinstitute.com



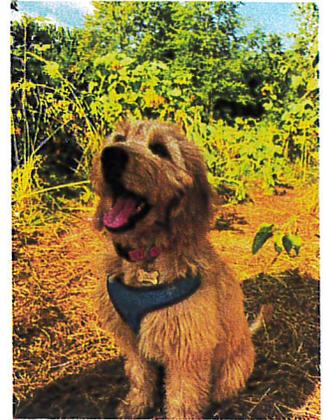
Lemons & Limes Boutique | 11910 Montgomery Road | Fresh picked fashion, accessories, and gifts. Visit www.lemonslimesboutique.com

PICTURE THIS!

TOWNSHIP PHOTO CONTEST

The fourth annual Township Photography Contest will be held from October 1st through October 31st.

Participants should submit images that best depict Symmes Township's beautiful topography, dynamic people and vibrant community life. This includes everything from parks to streetscapes; landmarks to children; or even dogs to sports activities.



"It is a great time of year to get out and take photos," said Township Administrator, Kim Lapensee.

"Beautiful and heart-felt pictures make us feel something special, and tell a story about the community we live in."

Enter high resolution digital photos in a .jpg or .gif format to lfelter@symmestownship.org. Include your name, address, telephone number, valid email and location of photo. Participants may submit up to three photos each. Photos not taken in Symmes Township will be disqualified.

Prizes: First Place - \$100 gift card of their choice, 2nd place - \$50 gift card of their choice, 3rd place - \$25 gift card of their choice and Honorable Mention (Youth) - \$25 gift card of their choice.

HAMILTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE UPDATE

VEHICLE THEFTS ON THE RISE

According to the Sheriff's Intelligence Unit, there has been a regional uptick in both vehicle thefts and thefts from vehicles in the first two quarters of 2021.

"While Symmes Township has not seen as dramatic an increase in these types of offenses as some other locations it is something we continue to monitor," said Lt. Mike Tarr. "One thing that is very clear is that the vast majority of them have involved unlocked vehicles."

According to national research, most vehicle thefts and thefts from vehicles are crimes of opportunity and can be easily prevented. Here are a few tips to make sure that you don't become a victim:

- **No matter what the reason** – a quick trip into the gas station, running into a restaurant to pick up a carry out order, dropping something off at your neighbors – never leave your vehicle unattended with the engine running. Thieves monitor areas or locations where this tends to occur and can enter your vehicle and be gone in seconds.
- **Lock your vehicle** whenever it is parked or unattended and make sure all windows, including the sunroof, are closed.
- **Remove all valuables** – phones, purses, bags, and laptops – from your vehicle, or make sure they are locked in the trunk and hidden from view.
- **Whenever possible park in well-lighted areas** and/or areas with lots of pedestrian traffic.
- **Activate your vehicle's security system.**
- **If you see suspicious activity, report it.**

"The deputies assigned to Symmes Township are just as concerned about the increase in vehicle thefts as its residents and they are happy to investigate any situation," said Trustee Ken Bryant.

HELP THE ROAD CREWS THIS WINTER SEASON

- **Park vehicles off the street.** Driving a plow is challenging enough. Imagine having to steer around parked cars on a slippery street.
- **Remove items,** such as basketball hoops and garbage cans from the street/public right-of-way. This will enable plow operators to clear the roadway more efficiently.
- **If possible, wait until the plow has passed** before shoveling the area of a driveway near the street. The snow must be pushed to the side of the road, which also includes driveway entrances.
- **Do not deposit snow into the street** when using a snow blower or shoveling a driveway. This will require additional attention by road crews on their next pass and can create an unexpected hazard on an otherwise cleared street.

JOIN OUR NEWSLETTER LIST

If you want current news about everything going on in our Township, please subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter. It includes timely information about the community. Go to our website and sign up today.

PARK UPDATE

Beginning on October 16th, Township parks will be open for public use from 8:00am until dark.

IMPORTANT EMERGENCY REMINDER

If you have a non-emergency issue—e.g. broken streetlight—please do not call 911. The Township gets billed for every call to this emergency lifeline. Instead, just call 513-677-7000 for assistance

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