



SPRING 2021

## RESIDENTS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF RECYCLING

### NEW ADDITIONS TO PROGRAM

Rumpke’s newest option for waste and recycling collection has been a huge success. The new lower rate of \$20.05/month for waste and recycling collection with bi-weekly pick-up has inspired hundreds of residents to take part and saved the Township money.

Residents and businesses are now able to recycle plastic tubs in Rumpke’s recycling program. This includes yogurt and sour cream containers, fruit cups and butter tubs. Containers must be clean and empty. Rumpke purchased new machinery to better sort the material.

“The goal of this initiative was to increase the rate of recycling at the curb by lowering the price and make it more convenient for the residents,” said Township Trustee Phil Beck. “We actually have been recognized for our commitment to recycling.”

## CELL PHONE RECYCLING

The Township has partnered with the Cincinnati Zoo to offer residents cell phone recycling. A collection box is in the lobby of the Township Administration building for your convenience.

“Recycling cell phones not only helps the environment, but also helps gorillas maintain a future in the wild,” says Township Trustee Jodie Leis. “That’s why we are partnering with the Cincinnati Zoo.”

According to research, cell phones contain an ore called Coltan, which is mined in endangered gorilla habitat in Africa. Loss of habitat and hunting are serious threats to the gorilla’s future. Reducing the demand for Coltan will help save these animals and their habitat.

## SUNFLOWER FIELD AT MEADE HISTORIC PRESERVE RECEIVES RECOGNITION

### VOTED ONE OF BEST IN CINCINNATI

Visiting a sunflower field is a beautiful way to celebrate the end of summer and the beginning of fall especially in Symmes Township. Our sunflower field at Meade Historic Preserve was voted one of the eight best by the website 365cincinnati.com.

“It is a beautiful way to celebrate summer’s last hurrah,” said Township Trustee Jodie Leis. “There’s a carved path and even a few Adirondack chairs to sit down, take a deep breath, and truly enjoy the beauty of it all.”



*The sunflower garden at the Meade Historical Preserve in Symmes Township has been a beautiful venue for everyone! It’s a wonderful place to walk and take in all the season has to offer. Be sure to bring your camera as this late bloomer holds nothing back and the sunflower fields make for a wonderful backdrop for family pics.*

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## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



PHIL BECK



KEN BRYANT



JODIE LEIS

## FISCAL OFFICER



JOSEPH GROSSI

## ADMINISTRATOR



KIM LAPENSEE

## SYMMES TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT ACHIEVES ISO 1 CLASSIFICATION

### RANKED ONE OF BEST FIRE DEPARTMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES

The Loveland-Symmes Fire Department is officially one of only 383 Fire Departments in the United States to receive ISO 1 Classification. There are 29,705 fire departments in the nation.

“An ISO fire insurance rating, also referred to as a fire score or Public Protection Classification (PPC), indicates how well-protected we are by the fire department,” said Township Trustee Ken Bryant. “We are proud of the LSFDD for working so hard over many years to accomplish this goal. And more importantly, and to keep all of us safe.”



### HOW IS THE ISO SCORE DETERMINED?

“To determine ISO rating for fire departments, the organization conducts a field survey and scores your department across four key areas using the Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS),” said Fire Chief Otto J Huber.

These areas include Emergency Communication Systems (10 points); Fire Departments, covering personnel, capabilities, training, equipment, etc. (50 points); Water Supply (40 points); and Community Risk Reduction (extra credit of up to 5.5 points).

### HOW DOES THIS HIGH ISO FIRE RATING IMPACT THE TOWNSHIP?

A good ISO fire rating brings added value and recognition to the Township. Here are a few examples:

**Lower insurance premiums:** This is dependent on individual carriers and policies.

**National recognition:** Like accreditation, a good ISO fire rating demonstrates a commitment to excellence as verified by a third-party review. “This coveted ISO rating clearly demonstrates that our team is doing what they need to be doing to help protect our community,” said Bryant.

**Community water supply is a priority:** Water supply is the single biggest contributor to lower scores.

**Training excellence:** “One area that boosted the score was our training program,” said Huber. “The PPC checklist wants 20 hours per firefighter per month, so adding the Fire Training tower and Blue Card command training improved our training score from 8.02 to 9.0.”

**Better communications:** Another score-boosting area for the team was communications. “Improved response systems like the fast car concept and the light preemption matters,” said Huber. “As the department gets busier over the years, we need to take all necessary steps to use technology to improve response time that would otherwise require additional staffing.”

**Personnel:** “We have improved our ISO fire rating – and reduced firefighter burnout—by ensuring our department maintains adequate staffing levels,” said Huber.

Symmes Township provides fire, rescue, and emergency medical services through a joint fire service agreement with the neighboring City of Loveland. The Loveland-Symmes Fire Department (LSFD) provides this service as a career fire and EMS department operating from four (4) stations strategically located throughout the township and the city. The LSFDD is dual accredited nationally through the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) and the Commission on Ambulance Accreditation (CAAS).

## **ROAD RESURFACING TIMELINE** *ON BUDGET—ON TIME*

This spring and summer, the Township will continue with the Road Resurfacing Program, which will also include curb repairs, catch-basin improvements, and other street improvements. The paving cycle—15-17 years per street—includes Kemperwoods Drive, Meadowbluff Court, Iron Leige Lane, Preakness Lane, Spiral Pass, Twilight Tear Lane, Calumet Way and Stablewatch Court. Residents will be notified by mail when the work will begin.

## **HONEYSUCKLE CLEARING**

The Township will be clearing honeysuckle and other invasive plants in various locations around the perimeter of the trail at Meade Historic Preserve.

“Invasive plants threaten these wooded natural areas and can form pure, dense thickets totally void of other vegetation,” said Township Trustee Jodie Leis. “We are diligently working on removing these species from our parks which will alter the look of the environment until the native species reestablish.”

Restoration may include replanting native species, or in many cases, the native species will re-establish once all the invasive plantation is removed.

## **TOWNSHIP BROADCASTING MEETINGS ON YOUTUBE**

The Township is now on YouTube and no longer broadcasting meetings on ICRC tv.

“It’s another way we can cut costs while keeping everyone informed,” said Township Trustee Ken Bryant. To subscribe to the channel, go to Symmes Township - YouTube.

## **CONTRIBUTE MORE TO OUR COMMUNITY BY JOINING A COMMITTEE**

The Symmes Township Board of Trustees is looking for volunteers to fill an important position on the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Residents interested in applying for this appointment can simply download the application from [www.symmestownship.org](http://www.symmestownship.org), or contact the Township office at 683-6644.

## **PARK VISITS UP 80 PERCENT** *OUR PARKS HAVE SET NEW ATTENDANCE RECORDS*

During this year of heightened stress, stay-at-home orders, and social distancing, the respite provided by simple things like a walk or run in the Township parks has proved to be more important than ever to residents.

“Our parks have really been a gift to all of us throughout this tough year,” said Township Trustee Jodie Leis. “Even through the cold winter months, families took advantage of sledding at Symmes Park; and subsequently, the Park was recognized as one of the best places to sled ride for families.”

Park visits this year were up 80 percent compared to last year and the trend continues. Summer hours are from sunrise to sunset and strictly enforced.

The dog park will remain closed until further notice.

## **YAPPY HOUR CANCELLED**

Yappy Hour will not be held this summer, due to the coronavirus. Hopefully, it will return next year.

## **MEMORIAL DAY WILL BE QUIET THIS YEAR** *VETERANS’ CELEBRATION CANCELLED*

Township residents will not be together for the annual veterans’ celebration at Home of the Brave Park.

“It’s sad—but safe—that we won’t be together to honor our veterans and celebrate Memorial Day,” said Township Trustee Phil Beck. “However, my hope is that we can still remember them in our hearts and look forward to next year’s event.”

According to Township historical records, there are over 500 veterans buried in Symmes Township cemeteries, some of which date back to the Civil War.

## HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTION

Symmestownship, the City of Loveland and the Loveland Sustainability Council will sponsor a Hazardous Household Waste Collection on Saturday, June 12th from 8:00-11:00am at Home of the Brave Park, 11605 Lebanon Road. For a list of acceptable items, please go to our website at [www.symmestownship.org](http://www.symmestownship.org).

## NEW BUSINESSES IN THE TOWNSHIP

**Care First Urgent Care** | 12065 Montgomery Road | Care First, in collaboration with Premier Health & Mercy Health, provides enhanced patient-care continuity while delivering quality healthcare. Go to [www.carefirsturgentcares.com](http://www.carefirsturgentcares.com)

**Rockbox Fitness** | 11928 Montgomery Road | Provides a personalized fitness approach that helps you crush your goals. Go to [www.roxkboxfitness.com](http://www.roxkboxfitness.com)



**Zip's Car Wash** | 12167 Montgomery Road | Provides a quick, safe, and gentle wash for vehicles and the environment. Go to [www.zipscarwash.com](http://www.zipscarwash.com)

**Clutter 2 Care** | 8703 Fields Ertel Road | A thrift store that changes clutter into hope for communities and throughout the world. Go to [www.clutter2care.com](http://www.clutter2care.com)



**Sycamore Chiropractic & Nutrition** | 9007 Fields Ertel Road | Safe and effective and affordable chiropractic care. Go to [www.sycamorechiro.com](http://www.sycamorechiro.com)

**Infocus Eyecare** | 9479 Loveland Madeira Road | The professional team at Infocus Eyecare takes great pride in offering the best vision care possible for the entire family. Go to [www.infocuseyecare.org](http://www.infocuseyecare.org)

## STORYWALK® UPDATE

If you haven't been to StoryWalk® yet, you need to check it out! StoryWalk® is a series of signs at the Meade Historic Preserve displaying pages of a children's book. Follow the story as you walk along the trail; it is a great way to keep your body and brain active and healthy!

This month, StoryWalk® will feature the book *Mother Bruce* by Ryan T. Higgins.

*Mother Bruce* is a fun little story of a grumpy bear who loves to cook eggs and is mistaken as the mother of goslings who were to be his next meal. The goslings are instantly attached to Bruce who tries, in very comical ways, to rid himself of his accidental dependents. After several attempts to regain his independence, he finally decides to embrace his newly formed family and make the best of it.

## FIREWORKS AT SYMMES PARK AND PHILLIPS PARK

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR JULY 4TH

"The Township is planning to work with the City of Loveland and the Loveland Symmes Fire Department again this year to provide fireworks on the holiday," said Township Trustee Ken Bryant. "Out of an abundance of caution, the event will mimic last year's celebration by offering two displays so residents can view from their backyard or car and social distance."

## YOGA IN THE PARK IS ON *Namaste!*

The Township will be offering free yoga classes again this year at Hopewell Meadows Park on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm and Saturday mornings at 9:00am from June through September. The classes are for everyone from the basic to the advanced student. A certified yoga instructor will conduct the free classes each week.

"We are so grateful for the generous sponsorship from Energy Alliances and Constellation New Energy," said Township Administrator Kim Lapensee. "It gives us the funds we need to continue this popular and healthy program."

Please check our website for more information.



## FIRE DEPARTMENT TO HOST SAFETY CAMP

### SAFETY + SCIENCE

The Loveland Symmes Fire Department has partnered with Strive Academy to host the **2021 Fire & Life Safety Camp** for children ages 5 to 7 years. The fun curriculum will “scientifically” explore the potential hazards around the home and school.

The educational and entertaining event will be held at Home of the Brave Park on June 14-17 from 9:00am-11:30am. The cost is \$40 per participant. Kids must reside in Symmes Township or the City of Loveland. To register please go to [www.striveacademy.org](http://www.striveacademy.org).

## ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

The Loveland Sustainability Council will be holding an electronics recycling drive for residents in the Loveland area on Saturday, April 17th from 1:00-4:00pm at Loveland Public Works, 10980 Loveland Madeira Road.

There will be a small charge to drop off CRT computer monitors and televisions. Only cash will be accepted.

Please note that you must have 45140 zip code to participate. For more information, contact the Loveland Sustainability Council at [LovelandSustainabilityCouncil@gmail.com](mailto:LovelandSustainabilityCouncil@gmail.com).

## YARD WASTE DROP OFF

The Township has renewed their partnership agreement with Irvine Wood Recovery to collect yard waste from residents May 1 - October 31, 2021 at their headquarters located at 110 Glendale Milford Road, Miamiville.

The hours of operation are weekdays from 8:00am-5:00pm and Saturdays from 8:00am-Noon, weather permitting.

The following guidelines apply:

- Yard waste in commercial vehicles or from commercial establishments cannot be accepted.
- No large trailers or trucks larger than pickups will be allowed.
- No pallets, boards, nails, fence, or wire accepted.
- No stumps, root balls, or cattails.
- Yard waste must be free of any debris/trash.
- No bricks, stones or soil accepted.
- No food materials.
- All children must stay inside vehicles.

Please note that this service is for Symmes Township residents only. Residents will be asked to show proof of residency, i.e., driver's license or current utility bill.

## LIBRARY TO HOST STORY TIME

The Symmes Township Branch Library will hold a story time open house at the Meade Historic Preserve on April 22nd from 10:00am to noon. Stop by for a short story time, fun games, and snacks while enjoying the beautiful park setting. Social distancing guidelines will be in place.



## CLEANUP /ONE STOP DROP RECYCLING DAY | SATURDAY, MAY 15

Symmes Township and the Loveland Sustainability Council are sponsoring a “One Stop Drop” collection site for recycling all your unneeded stuff on Saturday, May 15th from 9:00am – 3:00pm at Home of the Brave Park, 11605 Lebanon Road.

This one-day event will offer residents a convenient and responsible way to get rid of trash and other items that they may not need anymore. **To adhere to social distancing policies and keep everyone safe, residents will be required to wear a mask and unload their own items.**

### Participants include:

**GOODWILL** - Bikes, dishes, glassware, toys, games, clothing, books, flat screen TVs and monitors. *No* furniture, large appliances or construction/building supplies are being accepted at this time. For information call 771-4800 Ext. 6273.

**MATTHEW 25 MINISTRIES** - Usable latex paint.

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY CINCINNATI RESTORE** - Appliances, TVs, lighting, doors & windows, plumbing supplies, hand & power tools and flooring.

**LOVELAND SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL** - Empty plastic bags and wraps (i.e. retail, produce, newspaper, dry cleaning, and paper towels).

**SYMMES TOWNSHIP** - Trash, tires, car batteries, scrap metal items and used motor oil. *No old appliances with freon will be accepted this year due to a change in EPA guidelines.*

## SIDEWALK PROGRAM UPDATE

The Township finished work on two sidewalk projects in 2020--Hopewell Road from Humphrey to Solon and Enyart Road from Donwiddle to Terwilligers.

“The only remaining project in our initial plan is Union Cemetery from Antietam to the Meade Historic Preserve entrance,” said Township Trustee Phil Beck. “But there will be more projects in the future.”

The Symmes Township Sidewalk Program is based on pedestrian safety, proximity to schools, library and Township parks, connectivity to Township neighborhoods and grant availability.

## 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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## SYMMES TOWNSHIP CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Visit us online for current news and events at [symmestownship.org](http://symmestownship.org).

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