



SPRING 2020

IMPORTANT SAFETY SERVICES LEVY ON SPRING BALLOT

FUNDING FIRE, POLICE AND EMS

In the March primary election, Township residents will be asked to renew the current Safety Services Levy along with increasing the millage by 2.6 mills. This levy will provide funding for police, fire and emergency medical services (EMS) for the next five years.



“Unlike most cities that have an income tax to fund these services, the only funds that Symmes Township has to pay for these services are the funds we receive from the safety levies,” says Township Administrator Kim Lapensee. “

The Township receives no other funding for these services, but has found ways to lower the costs.

“As a township government we have chosen to participate in collaboration for fire, EMS, and police services through our contracts with the Hamilton County Sheriff and the Loveland-Symmes Fire Department, which save our residents hundreds of thousands of dollars,” said Lapensee.

The increase in the millage is necessary to cover the increasing cost of providing these services. The cost of the 1.5-mill renewal and 2.6-mill increase will cost a Symmes homeowner \$91 additional per year for \$100,000 of evaluation.

“Passage of this levy is critical for us to continue our ability to retain these services,” says Lapensee.”

IMPORTANT ROAD LEVY RENEWAL ON SPRING BALLOT

The road levy pays for road improvements, capital purchases of equipment, and the installation of sidewalks. “This is an existing levy that expired at the end of 2019. The existing .9 levy was last approved by voters in 2013 for a period of 7 years,” said Township Administrator Kim Lapensee. This will allow the Township to continue to pave roads on a 15-17 year replacement schedule.

SAFETY SERVICES FACT SHEET WHY THE INCREASE?

The Township does not bring in enough money in our current levies to support the level of service that is provided to the community. Each year the expenditures exceed the amount of revenue. For example, in 2020, the expenditures will exceed the revenue by \$928,988. The current balance in our safety services levy is estimated to be depleted by the end of 2022.

Where are the increased costs coming from?

The increases in cost to the Township that we will see over the next few years include:

Fire expenses Personnel costs will continue to increase 5% a year totaling 15% over the life of a three-year contract with the Loveland Symmes Fire Department.

Police expenses Personnel costs will increase 16% in 2020, 3% in 2021 and 3% in 2022, totaling 22% over the three-year contract with the Sheriff’s Office. The Sheriff’s Office costs continue to increase and those costs are now being passed onto us.

Dispatching expenses Dispatching costs have increased 21% over the last four years.

Aging infrastructure The Remington Fire Station is over 25 years old and will need an overhaul to meet the new standards for fire departments. The Safety Services Center is 14 years old and the mechanical systems will need to be replaced.

Capital expenses We have historically paid for fire and police equipment from our Tax Increment Financing District Fund (TIF). The TIF district collection period will come to an end in 2021, and we will need to start funding capital equipment purchases through the Safety Services Levy. The cost to replace an ambulance is \$300,000 and a fire truck can be as high as \$1 million.

ROAD FACT SHEET

What is the money used for?

It will continue to pay for road improvements, capital expenditures for equipment and sidewalk installation/ improvement in the Township.

How long will the levy money last?
7 years

Is there any increase?
No. This is a renewal.

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES



PHIL BECK



KEN BRYANT



JODIE LEIS

FISCAL OFFICER



CAROL SIMS

ADMINISTRATOR



KIM LAPENSEE

2020 CENSUS

SYMMES TOWNSHIP IS COUNTING ON YOU

By April 1, 2020, every home in the United States will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. The count is mandated by the Constitution and conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, a nonpartisan government agency.

“A complete and accurate count is critical for the Township because the results of the 2020 Census will affect community funding, congressional representation, and much more,” said Township Trustee Phil Beck.

Over the next decade, lawmakers, business owners, and many others will use 2020 Census data to make important decisions. The results will indicate where communities, including Symmes Township, need new schools, new clinics, new roads, and more services for families, older adults and children.

The results will also inform how hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding are allocated to more than 100 programs, including Medicaid, Head Start, block grants for community mental health services, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as SN.

The results of the census are used to draw congressional and state legislative districts, which helps determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives.

What about privacy?

The Census Bureau is not permitted to publicly release your responses in any way that could identify you or anyone else in your home. The answers you provide are used only to produce statistics. You are kept anonymous.

For more information contact the Township administration office or the Symmes Trustees at 683-6644.



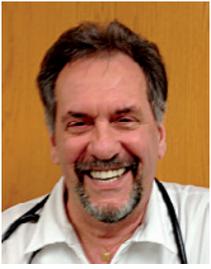
RESIDENTS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF RECYCLING

Rumpke’s newest option for waste and recycling collection has been a huge success. The new lower rate of \$19.05/month for waste and recycling collection with bi-weekly pick-up has inspired hundreds of residents to take part and saved the Township money.

“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 Administrator Kim Lapensee. “We have had an overwhelming response to the new program.”

Lapensee and Township Trustees would like every resident to take advantage of this opportunity. New larger recycling bins will be available for free through Rumpke, and the term runs through August 31, 2020. To sign up call Rumpke directly at (800) 828-8171 or online at Cincinnati.market@rumpke.com. Senior rates still apply if you are over 65 years of age.

Recycling dumpsters are available at the Symmes Township Administration building for those residents who live in condos or apartments.



NEW FISCAL OFFICER: JOSEPH C. GROSSI IN HIS OWN WORDS

What are your important goals as the new fiscal officer?

- Establish transparency in the operations of the fiscal office.
- Institute a cooperative working relationship with all other entities of the Township government.
- Reverse practices of the current fiscal officer that have resulted in wasted taxpayer dollars.
- Wherever possible, identify areas of waste and assist in implementing changes that give our taxpayers more bang for their buck.

What do you see as some of the challenges for the Township in the next five years?

Our current trustees, administrator and employees of Symmes Township have done an admirable job of making this community an enviable place to live. Since this is my first endeavor in an elected local government position, I have much to learn before I can recognize and contribute to enhancing the high standards that have already been set.

What did you do prior to this that prepared you for the role?

I think I possess sound basics that I developed in a 52 year career as a small animal veterinary practice owner.

What are you most excited by in this new position?

I'm excited about the opportunity to improve and 'pay forward' the great benefits that have been afforded to me by living in Symmes Township. I enjoy a challenge.

EARTH DAY CHALLENGE

On Earth Day—April 22, 2020—the Township is challenging all residents to go an ENTIRE day without using a single use plastic—e.g. water bottles, paper coffee cups, plastic bags, disposable utensils, coffee capsules etc.

“Together we can make our Township—and our world—a lot more environmentally savvy, conservative and mindful,” said Township Trustee Jodie Leis.

The event will be held in conjunction with Hamilton County Parks. “You don’t have to wait until Earth Day to get started,” said Leis. “It’s a step in the right direction for all of us.”



NEW SIDEWALK INITIATIVES

Based on resident input to the Trustees, the Township is continuing to work on three separate sidewalk projects: Hopewell Road from Humphrey to the I-275 Bridge, Union Cemetery from Antietam to the Meade Historic Preserve entrance, and Enyart from Donwiddle to Terwilligers.

“To date, we have repaired over 6000 linear feet of sidewalk and curb, paved 3.7 miles of roads, and rebuilt or repaired 30 catch basins,” said Bill Pitman, Director of Public Works.

Pitman also added that their crew has completed extensive work on storm drains and pipes.

“Approximately 150 feet of storm drains and pipes have been replaced, and approximately 600 linear feet cleaned with approximately 1,000 linear feet of video inspection.”

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

NEW BUSINESSES IN THE TOWNSHIP

Risen Day Spa | 11356 Montgomery Road | Your go-to beauty center for the finest in essential oils and lots more. For information, call (513)238-9943.

Appliance Factory/Mattress Kingdom | 9093 Fields Ertel Road | The nation’s largest discount appliance and mattress retailer for overstock products. Go to www.appliancefactory.com.

Vibe Fitness | 10480 Loveland Madeira Road | A state-of-the-art, 6,000 square-foot facility that offers high-quality equipment, group classes, personal training, nutrition counseling and meal planning. For information, call (513)535-0926.



THE GREAT EGG HUNT IS A SWEET TREAT

The Great Symmes Egg Hunt kicks off at 11:30am on Saturday, April 4th at Home of the Brave Park. The family event will have face painting, games, candy, the ‘egg-citing hunt,’ and a visit from the Easter Bunny beginning at 10:45am.

The egg hunt is for children ages 10 years and younger. A section for handicapped children will also be provided.

For information, go to www.symmestownship.org.



What? The Great Symmes Egg Hunt **When?** Saturday, April 4th, 11:30am
Where? Home of the Brave Park **How Much?** FREE! **Who?** Children 10 and under

HONEYSUCKLE CLEARING

The Township will be clearing honeysuckle in various locations around the perimeter of the trail at Meade Historic Preserve. Honeysuckle is an invasive species that out competes and shades out desirable native woodland species and can form pure, dense thickets totally void of other vegetation.

CLEAN-UP DAY: ONE STOP DROP

Symmes Township and the Loveland Sustainability Council are sponsoring a “One Stop Drop” collection site for recycling all your old stuff on May 16th from 9:00am to 3:00pm at Hopewell Meadows Park. Below is a list of items that will be accepted.

GOODWILL

Furniture
Glass wear
Toys/games
Clothing, shoes, coats
Books
Flat Screen TVs & computers

MATTHEW 25 MINISTRIES

Usable latex paint

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Cabinets
Light fixtures & ceiling fans
Doors
Hardware & tools

SYMMES TOWNSHIP

Tires
Used motor oil
Car batteries
Appliances
Metal items

Please note that hazardous household waste will not be accepted.

CELEBRATE MEMORIAL DAY TOGETHER

HONOR THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVE OUR COUNTRY

On Friday, May 22th, Township residents will have the opportunity to join with their family and friends to honor our veterans and celebrate Memorial Day together.

Home of the Brave Park will host the evening of remembrance for those who sacrificed and died in our nation’s service.

“It is quite the honor and humbling experience to be at this presentation each year,” said Township Trustee and event chairman Phil Beck, who will also be on hand to introduce the speaker.

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



What: Memorial Day Celebration

When: Friday, May 22th
7:00pm-8:00pm

Where: Home of the Brave Park

How Much: FREE

CONTRIBUTE MORE TO OUR COMMUNITY BY JOINING OR IMPROVING A COMMITTEE

The Symmes Township Board of Trustees is looking for volunteers to fill important positions on the Board of Zoning Appeals, Finance and Audit Committee and the Beautification Committee.

Residents interested in applying for one of these appointments can simply download an application from www.symmestownship.org, or contact the Township office, 683-6644.



DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
APRIL 4	THE GREAT SYMMES EGG HUNT	HOME OF THE BRAVE PARK	11:30AM
MAY 14	STORYTIME WITH THE LIBRARY	MEADE HISTORIC PRESERVE	TBD
MAY 16	CLEANUP DAY	HOPEWELL MEADOWS PARK	9:00AM-3:00PM
MAY 22	SYMMES HONORS VETERANS	HOME OF THE BRAVE PARK	7:00PM
MAY 25	MEMORIAL DAY		OFFICE CLOSED
JUNE 3	YOGA BEGINS	HOPEWELL MEADOWS PARK	SATURDAYS 9:00AM WEDNESDAYS 6:30PM
JUNE 4	YAPPY HOUR	SYMMES PARK BARK PARK	6:30PM
JUNE 12	BUTTERFLY RELEASE/STORYTIME WITH LIBRARY	MEADE HISTORIC PRESERVE	10:30AM
JULY 2	YAPPY HOUR	SYMMES PARK BARK PARK	6:30PM
JULY 3	INDEPENDENCE DAY		OFFICE CLOSED
AUGUST 6	YAPPY HOUR	SYMMES PARK BARK PARK	6:30PM

YOGA IN THE PARK *Namaste!*

The Township will be offering free yoga classes 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 Trustee Jodie Leis. “It allows us to promote health and fitness in our community.”

The website has information about this event and many others at www.symmestownship.org.

YAPPY HOUR FOR THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

Yappy Hour is back for another run. This event, which is free, is perfect for dogs and their owners to play, talk and make new friends. The group will meet the first Thursday of the month from 6:30pm to 7:30pm at the Symmes Park Bark Park beginning June 4th.

BUTTERFLIES EVERYWHERE

CELEBRATE THE NEW BUTTERFLY RELEASE AT MEADE HISTORIC PRESERVE

On June 12th, Symmes Township will have its most unique event to date, a Butterfly Release at the Meade Historic Preserve! The beautiful and educational event will be held in conjunction with the Symmes Branch library.

The event, which begins at 10:30am, will feature a book by local author Mary Ann Falter, *Butterfly Grandma: Monarch!* which will also be displayed in StoryWalk® for the month of June.

The story includes the Monarch butterfly lifecycle and the names and pictures of nectar and host plants. The author’s grandchildren contributed many of the illustrations in this children’s book, including the cover. The photographs used were taken by the author in her own butterfly garden. “It is a funny, informative, educational story that will leave the readers wanting to get busy planting their very own monarch butterfly garden,” said Township Trustee Jodie Leis.

Leis also wants the event to highlight the importance of butterflies to the environment. “I want to encourage others to build their own pollinator gardens in collaboration with the building of the pollinator garden at Meade Historic Preserve.” Butterflies are not only fun to watch but they serve a critical purpose as well. “They help pollinate over 75% of the world’s flowering plants which helps strengthen the beautiful environment of Meade Historic Preserve,” said Leis.

For more details, please check our website at www.symmestownship.org.

TOWNSHIP PROPOSES CHANGES TO LAND USE PLAN

The Regional Planning Commission held an open house with the Land Use Committee on January 13th to receive input on changes to the Land Use Plan.

“All the important feedback we received at the open house will be reviewed by the Land Use Committee this spring, said Township Administrator Kim Lapensee. “The updated plan will then be presented to the Board of Trustees for review.”

“The Board of Trustees will hold a Public Hearing for additional input before a final determination is made, said Township Trustee Ken Bryant.

The updated details are included on the Township’s website at www.symmestownship.org under news/entry/township-proposes-changes-to-land-use-plan-258/.

ROAD RESURFACING TIMELINE

ON BUDGET—ON TIME

This spring and summer, the Township will continue with the Road Repaving Plan, which will also include curb repairs, catch-basin improvements, and other street improvements. The paving cycle—15-17 years per street— includes:

Applejack Ct.	Terwilligersridge Ct.
Appleseed Dr.	Terwilligersvalley Ln.
Redcloud Ct.	Terwilligersview Ct.
Terwilligershill Ct.	Terwilligerswoods Ct.

SUMMER VACATION PROTECTION FOR YOUR HOME

If you are heading out of town this summer and would like the police to keep a watchful eye on your house, call Deputy Jones at the Hamilton County Sheriff’s office at 683-3444 or call the non-emergency number at 677-7000. Also, if you see any suspicious activity, please report it to our non-emergency dispatch at 677-7000.

STREET LIGHT REPAIR

If you see a street light that is not working, please use this website address to request a repair: www.duke-energy.com/customer-service/request-light-repair-ky-oh.

PRSRRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #5645
CINCINNATI, OH

