



FALL 2019

ROAD, SAFETY SERVICES & POLICE LEVIES ON SPRING BALLOT: THE FACTS

ROAD LEVY

What is the road levy? Is it new?

What will it be used for?

The road levy pays for all road improvements, capital purchases of equipment and the installation of sidewalks. This is an existing levy that will expire at the end of 2019. The existing .9 levy was last approved by voters in 2013 for a period of 7 years.

When will this issue come to the voters?

2020

What are the benefits?

It will continue to pay for road improvements in the Township.

What if it doesn't pass?

The Township will not have any more money to pave roads, buy equipment or install any more sidewalks.

How long will the levy money last?

7 years.

SAFETY SERVICES

What is the safety services levy?

What will it be used for?

The safety services levy pays for all safety services including police and fire expenses. There are two existing levies that will expire at the end of 2019. (1.5 & .5 mil levies that were approved in 2015.)

When will this issue come to the voters?

2020

What are the benefits?

The benefit of a safety services levy allows us to spend the money for both police and fire expenses.

What if it doesn't pass?

We will have to cut back on the current level of service provided by the Township related to both police and fire services.

How long will the levy money last?

If we renew this levy at the current level of 1.5 and .5 mills the money will only last another three years.

POLICE

What is the police levy? Is it new?

What will it be used for?

The police levy is used to pay for police services which include Sheriff Deputies, dispatching and building expenses. We have an existing 2.7 mil continuous levy that generates \$926,000.

When will this issue come to the voters?

2020

What are the benefits?

This will help to pay for the cost increases being passed on to us from Hamilton County.

What if it doesn't pass?

Services for police will have to be cut. We currently only have two full time cars 24 hours a day, 7 days a week plus two power cars 5 days a week. Power cars are not filled with overtime.

How long will the levy money last?

We do not generate enough money in the police levy to handle current costs. We currently pay 40 percent of the costs from the safety services levy to pay for the current level of services.

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES



PHIL BECK



KEN BRYANT



JODIE LEIS

FISCAL OFFICER



CAROL SIMS

ADMINISTRATOR



KIM LAPENSEE

STORYWALK® PROJECT INSTALLED AT MEADE PARK

The internationally acclaimed StoryWalk® Project completed installation at Meade Park this summer. StoryWalk® is an innovative and delightful way for children—and adults—to enjoy reading while being outside in a natural park setting.

Currently, we are featuring the story *Halfway Wild* by Laura Freudig. The story connects children, not to just feelings and emotions, but also to animals and the quirks and patterns of the natural world. 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.

The next story will feature the true story of Luce the Goose Searching for Love by local author Kay Bolin who will do a story reading with the Symmes Branch Library on September 19th. Check the Township website for updates.



TOWNSHIP & ARTWORKS DEDICATE MURAL

Symmes Township and ArtWorks had a dedication celebration in early August for the new mural on the park maintenance building located at the Home of the Brave Park. "The dedication ceremony celebrated the collaborative effort between the ArtWorks professional artists and the 50 Symmes Township residents who volunteered as mural painters," said Township Trustee Phil Beck. "Our new mural, which captures the historical highlights of Symmes Township, is a lasting and important improvement to our tremendous Home of the Brave Park."

HOME OF THE BRAVE PARK COMPLETES NEW IMPROVEMENTS

"Home of the Brave Park is in Phase II of its master plan to become one of the best parks in Ohio," said Township Trustee Phil Beck. "The improvements in this phase include the addition of dugouts, fencing, and bleachers around the existing baseball fields."

Each field now has irrigation to help the grass grow. Lighting and a scoreboard are installed around the larger field with extended utilities for a concession stand to be built in the future.

"We will continue to invest in our wonderful Symmes Township Park system," said Trustee Phil Beck. "It is a strategic priority for our Township to be a leader in the effective growth and innovation of green space."

NEW BUSINESSES

DI Training | 9573 Fields Ertel Road | Life is too short to put your hopes in another fad, another theory, another wall of mirrors and treadmills. They will inspire and drive you to be your best with a proven process to get you there. See <https://d1training.com>.

CityBird | 11309 Montgomery | They offer cage-free, all-natural chicken that is brined, dredged, and dropped into custom-built fryers and served with house made sauces. See www.citybirdotr.com.

Honor Yoga | Harpers Point | Honor Yoga is a beginner friendly yoga community offering classes, workshops, retreats, parties, and more. See www.honoryoga.com/harpers.

TOWNSHIP CROSSWALK SIGNALS

The Township has received requests from residents for pedestrian-activated crosswalk signals due to safety concerns. The Township conducted traffic studies at six different existing crosswalk locations to verify that the crosswalk signal enhancements are warranted.

The specific locations include: Humphrey at Pinto, Humphrey at Mistymorn, Humphrey at Hopewell, Hopewell at Gateway, Union Cemetery at Lebanon and SR 126 at Lincoln.

“Even though these six locations cross Hamilton County roads, it is a priority for Symmes Township to lobby for approval to install appropriate safety features for our residents,” said Trustee Phil Beck.

NEW SIDEWALK INITIATIVES

Based on resident input to the Trustees, the Township is working on the design phases for three separate sidewalk projects:

- Hopewell Road from Humphrey to the I-275 bridge
- Union Cemetery from Antietam to the Meade Park entrance
- Enyart from Donwiddle to Terwilligers

“Symmes Township is grateful for the significant communication and guidance we have received from the residents, and the continued coordination efforts as these projects move forward from concept to design to right-of-way to construction,” said Trustee Phil Beck.



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

2020 CENSUS

Please Participate—You Count!

Each decade the United States Constitution requires that the U.S. Census Bureau take a count—or a census—of America’s population. This information is vital for our community and communities across the country. It determines how many representatives each state receives in Congress, and is used to redraw district boundaries.

Communities rely on the census statistics to apply for and receive grants; and, to plan for a variety of resident needs including new roads, schools and emergency services. Businesses use census data to determine where to open new retail shopping and other professional services.

“It is very important that ALL Symmes residents participate in the 2020 Census,” said Trustee Phil Beck. “If any resident has a question regarding the Census, contact the Symmes Township administration office or any of the three Symmes Trustees at 683-6644 or email klapensee@symmestownship.org.”

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.



OPERATION SANTA

An Evening of Celebrating and Giving

When: Saturday, December 7, 2019, 5:00-8:30pm

Where: 3 routes with many stops throughout the Twp.

Cost: Optional contribution of toys or money

Benefits: Local Charities

Santa and his helpers will make their annual visit through most Symmes Township neighborhoods on Saturday, December 7th starting at 5pm. In keeping with tradition, the event will be held on a Saturday evening to avoid conflicting school activities, and to allow for more fun.

In the spirit of giving, the Township encourages residents to help Santa fill his big bag with new, unwrapped toys or cash gifts for local charities.

ROUTE #1 (Arrival Times & Locations)

5:00 p.m.	United Methodist Church (Camp Dennison)
5:30 p.m.	Morgans Trace & Farmcourt
5:55 p.m.	Arabian & Roan
6:10 p.m.	Walnutridge Court
6:25 p.m.	Stablehand & Steeplechase
6:45 p.m.	Withers & Cummings Farm
7:05 p.m.	Gateway & Solon
7:25 p.m.	Bainwoods & Hopewoods
7:40 p.m.	Shadyside & Stonecrest
8:00 p.m.	Kempergrove & Oakvalley

ROUTE #2 (Arrival Times & Locations)

5:00 p.m.	Shadowglen Drive
5:20 p.m.	Chatham Woods & Windy Hill
5:40 p.m.	Riveroaks & Brentmoor
6:00 p.m.	Willow & Foxgate
6:20 p.m.	Richland Park & Waters Edge
6:40 p.m.	Near 10103 Plantation Pointe
7:00 p.m.	Stonebridge & Farmstead
7:20 p.m.	Meadowknoll & Colebourne
7:40 p.m.	Bentcreek & Streamside
8:00 p.m.	Somerset & Carter Grove
8:20 p.m.	Symbola & Kosine

ROUTE #3 (Arrival Times & Locations)

5:00 p.m.	Paulmeadows & Heritage
5:20 p.m.	Patrilla & Kemperwoods
5:40 p.m.	Pemmican Run & Birchbark
6:00 p.m.	Iron Liege & Calumet Way
6:20 p.m.	Cypresspoint & Nathanshill
6:45 p.m.	Symmescreek & Symmesknoll
7:00 p.m.	Pinewood & Retview
7:20 p.m.	Terwilligersvalley & Terwilligersridge
7:40 p.m.	Donwiddle & Souffle
8:00 p.m.	Loveland Trace



SIPPIN' IN SYMMES

Wine Tasting, Food and Fun at Meade Park

When: Saturday, September 21, 2019, 6pm-9pm

Where: Meade Park

Cost: \$40/per person

Proceeds support NEST/Little Miami River Chamber Alliance

Register: www.lmrchamberalliance.org

Wine comes first for the first Sippin' in Symmes Wine Tasting—with three hours to swirl, sip and sample local wines while experiencing the southern charm, beauty and hospitality of Meade Park.

“We wanted to show-off the southern charm and ambiance of Meade Park by having a signature social event on the property,” said Township Trustee Jodie Leis. “It’s the perfect venue for so many community events, especially a festive evening with friends and food and of course, the wine.”

There will be various wine stations, music, food, and more. The true highlight of the evening will be the magic of Meade Park with its gardens, mansion, trails and StoryWalk® trail.



FALL FOR SYMMES

An Evening Of Excitement!

When: Friday, October 4, 2019, 5pm-9pm

Where: Symmes Park, 11600 Lebanon Road

Cost: Free

The annual festive evening celebration includes pony rides, petting zoo, pumpkins patch, hay maze, hayrides, crafts, games, and a lighted haunted trail.

“There’s always something going on in Symmes is my new motto,” says Trustee Jodie Leis. “We have such beautiful venues—especially our park system—that make every special event unique and festive.”

The Friday nighttime event makes the haunted trail a lot more captivating in the darkness with luminaries lighting the way.



DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
SEPT. 2	HOLIDAY	OFFICE CLOSED	
SEPT. 2	WATER PARK CLOSURES FOR THE SEASON	HOME OF THE BRAVE PARK	
SEPT. 21	SIPPIN' IN SYMMES	MEADE PARK	6:00-9:00pm
SEPT. 28	YOGA ENDS	HOPEWELL MEADOWS PARK	
OCT. 1	PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST BEGINS		
OCT. 4	FALL FOR SYMMES	SYMMES PARK	5:00-9:00pm
OCT. 14	HOLIDAY	OFFICE CLOSED	
OCT. 15	PARK SEASON ENDS		
OCT. 31	HALLOWEEN	TRICK-OR-TREAT IN SYMMES TWP.	6:00-8:00pm
OCT. 31	PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST ENDS		
NOV. 28 & 29	HOLIDAY	OFFICE CLOSED	
NOV. 29	THE GREAT HOLIDAY LIGHT CHALLENGE BEGINS	TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION BUILDING	DROP OFF ANYTIME
DEC. 1-14	MERRY & BRIGHT LIGHT CONTEST	THROUGHOUT SYMMES TOWNSHIP	BEGINS AT DARK
DEC. 7	OPERATION SANTA	VARIOUS NEIGHBORHOODS	5:00-8:30pm

PICTURE THIS! *Township Photo Contest*

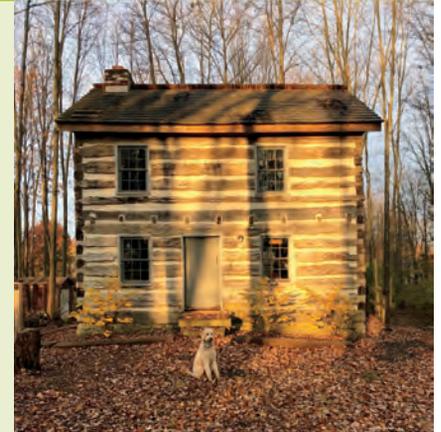
The second annual Township Photography Contest will be held from October 1–31.

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 Trustee Jodie Leis. “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 & 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.



'Picture This' 2018 Winner

LIGHT UP THE TOWNSHIP

4th Annual Symmes Merry & Bright Light Contest

What would the holidays be without all the sparkle and magic of Christmas lights and enormous inflatable Santa’s? How about a rooftop supporting a red sleigh?

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 14th. The winner will be announced on December 17th and awarded a \$50 gift card.



2018 Winners

4TH 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 29th and January 31st. The drop-off site for Symmes residents will be at the Township Administration building.

Since its inception, this project has diverted over 1500 pounds of lights from the landfill and supported the Great Parks of Hamilton County. It is also an important sustainability endeavor that has made a tremendous impact on the environment.

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

HOW WILL YOU RECEIVE SEVERE WEATHER & EMERGENCY WARNINGS?

Alert Hamilton County/Smart 911

Alert Hamilton County is the official emergency notification system used by Hamilton County to communicate with community residents during emergencies. The state-of-the-art mass notification and warning system has the ability to contact residents via text message, email, home phone, cell phone or work phone.



This is a FREE, safe, and secure system.

Sign up now to receive free alerts via text message, email, and/or voice message—the website sign-up enables you to choose from more than 40 alerts, ranging from severe weather to evacuation: www.alerthc.org.

Smart911 allows users to provide key information to 9-1-1 call takers and first responders BEFORE an emergency happens. You can add vital information, such as information about members of your household, medical details, disabilities, address and property details, as well as emergency contact information and communication preferences.

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.**

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE

The Board of Trustees has decided not to adopt a Property Maintenance Code at this time after reviewing negative feedback from residents.

Sign up to Receive Township News Via Email

The Township will be utilizing Constant Contact which is an email automation tool that will allow us to send monthly news and updates to residents. If you are interested in subscribing, please email your contact information to lfelter@symmestownship.org.

PRSRRT STD
US POSTAGE
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