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Talk of the Township

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Trustees: John McGraw ♦ Matthew Beamer ♦ Lloyd Acres
Fiscal Officer: Ron Campbell

Senior Services Learning Center: From Tai Chi to Taxes, and everything in-between

For more than 40 years, Clermont Senior Services has been providing and coordinating in-home and community-based services, enabling older adults to live independently for as long as possible. The organization also serves as an information and referral source for seniors, as well as their families and caregivers.

Clermont Senior Services provides adult day care; adult protective services; caregiver support; case management; home care; home repair; Lifelong Learning; Meals on Wheels; transportation; and housing.

The non-profit agency operates seven safe and affordable housing complexes for seniors throughout Clermont County, one of which is in Union Township. Features of these facilities include:

- ... On-site manager
- ... Secured entry doors
- ... Handicap accessibility
- ... Emergency pull cords
- ... Individually controlled temperature
- ... Smoke detectors
- ... Elevator
- ... Coin operated laundry
- ... Community room
- ... Outdoor patio
- ... Activities

But did you know that the Lifelong Learning Center located in the Union Township Civic Center is one of the busiest and most successful facilities operated by Clermont Senior Services?

“The Union Township Senior Center offers programing that promotes healthy lifestyles, an annual educational series, and informational and supportive events, as well as recreational programs,” said Brenda Dotson, manager of the facility.

“Programs are scheduled weekly, in a series of classes, and in quarterly and annual events,” Dotson said.

The list of classes/events is divided into five categories:

Healthy Lifestyles

- ... Yoga Stretch
- ... Strength and Balance
- ... Yoga, Slow Flow for beginners and intermediates

- ... Tai Chi
- ... Line Dancing
- ... Chair Volleyball
- ... Basketball
- ... Ballroom Dance

- *Dotson said that, as a Silver Sneakers approved site, the center offers three FLEX fitness classes for those covered by their insurance; however, these classes are also open to those not covered.*

AARP Programs

- ... Smart Drive Course
- *A recent change in the AARP Smart Drive scheduling will provide a class each month, which is nice for those seniors who would like a discount on their car insurance. Most agencies will quote a discount after they have taken this class.*

- ... Annual Tax Filing – Electronic

- *AARP volunteers electronically process simple tax returns (no business or complicated returns) each week during tax season, beginning the first Friday in February each year, and continuing through the second Friday in April. This service is available by appointment only, and the center begins taking appointments the first week in January.*



Educational Series

Each year, the center offers three or four educational senior-related seminars.

- ... Welcome to Medicare by the Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program
- ... Medicare Check-up
- ... Fraud Forum
- ... Aging related informational events (TBA annually)



Fine Arts

- ... Watercolor
- ... Creative Drawing
- ... Woodcarvers
- ... Crochet
- ... Quilting
- ... Basketweaving
- ... Floral Arranging

Under the Fine Arts category, Dotson said the floral and basket weaving classes are among the most popular and so a limit is imposed.

Recreational Programs

- ... Euchre
- ... Pinoche
- ... Bridge

Many programs and classes are available on a drop-in basis, with no need to register for the entire series. For instance, all the recreational programs, above, are simply come when you like. Some classes require registration for the series, as well as a fee, because the instructor must purchase materials in advance. It will be noted in the class catalogue if registration in advance is necessary and a phone number will be provided.

Some programs require fees, even if it's just on a drop-in basis, and others do not.

Many programs are repeated from year to year, but there are always new opportunities to whet your appetite.

For monthly schedules and quarterly catalogues that include dates, times and fees, please go to www.clermontseniors.com, where you will be able to download the catalogue and find more information. The Winter Catalogue, which covers January through April, will be available the second week of December. You can also call 947-7333 for more information or just stop in at Clermont Senior Services in the Union Township Civic Center. And don't forget to look at the monthly schedules, as these have programs that do not require registration or fees, or a time commitment, like book clubs, board games, etc.

Have your chimneys, wood burning fireplaces and stoves been safety checked for winter?

Wood burning fire places and stoves are to blame for many fires each year. You can reduce your fire risk associated with wood burning fire places, stoves and improperly installed, operated or maintained chimneys by adhering to a few simple steps.

1. **Get an annual chimney check.** Have chimneys inspected annually, and cleaned as necessary, by a qualified professional chimney service technician. This reduces the risk of fires and carbon monoxide poisonings due to creosote buildup or obstructions in the chimneys.
2. **Keep it clear.** Keep tree branches and leaves at least 15 feet away from the top of the chimney.
3. **Install a chimney cap** to keep debris and animals out of the chimney.
4. **Choose the right fuel.** For burning firewood in wood stoves or fireplaces, choose well-seasoned wood that has been split for a minimum of six months to one year and stored in a covered and elevated location. Never burn Christmas trees or treated wood in your fireplace or wood stove.
5. **Build it right.** Place firewood or firelogs at the rear of the fireplace on a supporting grate using the top-down method.
6. **Keep the hearth area clear.** Combustible material too close to the fireplace, or to a wood stove, could easily catch fire. Keep furniture at least 36" away from the hearth.
7. **Use a fireplace screen.** Use metal mesh or a screen in front of the fireplace to catch flying sparks that could ignite or burn holes in the carpet or flooring.
8. **Install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.** Place detectors throughout the house and check batteries in the spring

and fall. When you change your clocks for Daylight Savings Time, remember to check your batteries.

9. **Never leave a fire in a fireplace unattended.** Before turning in for the evening, be sure that the fire is fully extinguished. Supervise children and pets closely around wood stoves and fireplaces.
10. **The CSIA (Chimney Safety Institute of America) recommends annual inspections performed by CSIA Certified Chimney Sweeps.** These chimney sweeps have earned the industry's most respected credential by passing an intensive examination based on fire codes, clearances and standards for the construction and maintenance of chimney and venting systems. The **National Fire Protection Association** also recommends that all chimneys are inspected on an annual basis.

IF A CHIMNEY FIRE DOES DEVELOP ...

1. Close off combustion air to the fireplace.
2. Get out!
3. Call 911!
4. **Make sure that the fire department is called for any suspected chimney fire so hidden spaces can be checked.** It is not uncommon for chimney fires to extend into walls and attics. Fires that have extended into wall, attic or void spaces may not be detected for hours.

DON'T FORGET ...

- ... Always have working smoke detectors!
- ... Carbon Monoxide (CO) detectors should be in any home that utilizes fossil fuels for heat (wood, gas, coal, etc.)!

TAKE STEPS TO BE SAFE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



With the holidays almost upon us, residents will be busy over the next few weeks with shopping, traveling, holiday parties and various other activities. It's a hectic time of the year for the police department as well. The holiday months bring out the best and occasionally the worst in us as communities all over the country tend to see an increase in theft, burglaries, robberies and

other types of property crimes. There are many ways to avoid becoming a victim of crime; a few simple steps taken could prevent you from becoming another statistic.

Shopping areas are always a hotspot for criminal activity during the holidays. While the Union Township Police tend to saturate these areas with patrols between Thanksgiving and Christmas, store patrons are still urged to be cautious and vigilant while shopping and traveling to and from their vehicles in parking lots.

Parking lots can be one of the biggest concerns for law enforcement. Not only are these lots the most susceptible to traffic accidents, they are typically where we see the most criminal activity. The following are some simple tips to keep you out of harm's way while conducting your holiday shopping:

- ... Keep purses and shopping bags off your shoulders while walking through parking lots.
- ... Put your purse in your vehicle prior to placing packages in the vehicle.
- ... If possible, park your cart and stand in between vehicles while loading and unloading and avoid the traffic aisles
- ... Do not turn your back on your purse or leave your purse unattended, even for a second, while in stores
- ... Avoid being distracted by other shoppers. Scammers will typically try to distract you while their accomplice grabs the purse out of your cart or the wallet out of your purse.
- ... Avoid allowing your credit card to leave your sight. If possible, have the store clerk run it in your presence.
- ... Always keep your head up while walking in parking lots and

be aware of your surroundings. Thieves typically target people who seem unaware and vulnerable.

... If you have credit and debit cards, check activity frequently over the holidays to make sure there are no unauthorized purchases that have been made. Report any unauthorized activity to police. Most financial institutions require a police report to credit any illegal transactions.

Traffic aisles can be particularly dangerous. We have seen incidents where offenders will drive down the traffic aisles and target females carrying their purses loosely on their shoulders. The passenger will then grab the purse as they drive by, creating a potential dragging situation for unknowing victims.

Home security can be equally important over the holidays. When traveling for a week or even an extended weekend, make sure to let the police department know you're away. The **Vacation Checklist** is a free service the Union Township Police Department provides where an officer will check your home periodically while you are away. Keep lights on a timer if possible and keep all blinds closed. Stop mail and newspaper deliveries. Nothing says you're out of town more than the same lights being on inside your house for several straight days or newspapers piling up in your yard.

Keep all valuables out of your vehicles or at least out of sight. Most thefts and car break-ins are crimes of opportunity and are not planned out. If a potential thief sees something he wants and it's readily available via an unlocked door, he will take it. Keep your doors locked at all times. Avoid keeping your garage door opener in your vehicle. Access to your car usually leads to access to your home and many homes are burglarized in this fashion. Finally, if you have garage or porch lights, use them. Replace burned out bulbs. Thieves like to operate in the dark. A well-lit house usually leads a potential thief to another house or car more vulnerable to a break-in. When possible, leave cars parked in a well-lit driveway and not out on the street where access to them can be easier.

Taking a few simple precautions can help you avoid becoming another victim. Have a safe and happy holiday season.

The Union Township
Board of Trustees

wishes you

*Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year*



Winter weather: Why rock salt is harmful

Winter weather traditionally means cold weather and the possibility of ice and snow. It can be a real problem as we work to clear our driveways and sidewalks. During the winter months, keeping ice and snow build-up under control is necessary for safety and performing daily activities such as going to work and school. However, there are some methods that are harmful to our environment.

Rock salt (sodium chloride) is generally spread over paved areas where ice builds up. Although rock salt does eventually do the job, it is very damaging to some metals, concrete, asphalt, vegetation, lakes, ponds, and drinking water. There are alternatives to rock salt that do not harm our environment.

Two alternatives to rock salt that are not threatening to our environment are *calcium magnesium acetate (CMA)* and *calcium chloride*; both are less corrosive than rock salt to some metals, concrete, and asphalt. They are also less harmful to vegetation and actually work to strengthen the soil, stimulating plant growth where rock salt kills vegetation and strips the soil of necessary nutrients.

Rock salt is harmful to both surface water (streams,



lakes, ponds) and groundwater (the source of drinking water). In the unlikely event that CMA and calcium chloride ever reach groundwater, they would only slightly increase water hardness, whereas rock salt is damaging to aquatic life and poses a threat to public health.

A great way to stay ahead of the problem of layers of snow or ice is to shovel at least a walking path on sidewalks and clear two pathways for tires on the driveway. This allows the surfaces below to receive the heat from the sun and warm to a temperature that makes it more difficult for snow and ice to accumulate.

If chemicals are needed, use them conservatively and keep in mind that what goes down the storm drain and into the ground also goes directly into lakes, ponds, streams, and groundwater.

For more information please contact the Service Department at 753-2221 or the Clermont County Stormwater Management Department at 732-7880. You can also visit the Stormwater Management Department's website at www.clermontstorm.net.

NOTICE

Because of new equipment added in 2017, the Union Township Post Office has resumed international mail and APO/FPO mail to military bases.

Post Office hours are:

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday

NEW ON UTTV!

TIM'S TECH TALK FOR SENIORS

Just what is "The Cloud?" Want to learn more about your Apple-ready new car? How can I get the most out of my iPhone? Tune in to *Tim's Tech Talk for Seniors* on UTTV channel 15. Send your comments or suggestions for topics to: gdimario@union-township.oh.us



Bulletin Board

U.T.F.D. to offer CPR classes

Each year, the Fire Department offers free Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and AED classes to the public. All classes are from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays, and are held in the Queen City Room, Civic Center, 4312 Aicholtz Road. The dates for the 2018 CPR classes for adult, child and infant CPR education are Jan. 13; Mar. 3; May 12; July 21; Sept. 8; and Nov. 17.

Reservations are required and must be made online. Registration becomes active one month prior to each class. To register, go to the Sign-Up link under Quicklinks at www.union-township.oh.us. If you need information about the class, e-mail: sbavaro@union-township.oh.us, or please call 513-752-3215, ext. 3215. **PLEASE NOTE THIS NUMBER IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY—NOT FOR REGISTRATION.**

Service Department

Residents may drop off their Christmas trees behind the Union Township Service Garage at 4312 Glen Este-Withamsville Road, from Monday, Jan. 1, through Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2017. Signs to the designated drop-off area will be posted.

SAVE THE DATE

Police Night Out will be from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 2, 2018.

Watch local media and Facebook for more information on these events.

Union Township: Always on the move

Union Township has some exciting projects that are completed or nearing completion as our calendars turn the page to next year. These projects include a variety of residential developments such as the luxury apartment complex Echelon, Savannah Ridge by Redwood Properties, Clover Group senior apartments, M/I Homes' new subdivision Estrella, and skilled nursing facilities, Triology Health Services and Siena Gardens.

Perhaps the most exciting project is the completion of the new West Clermont High School. This campus includes a new state of the art facility to accommodate 2,600 students and provides a safe, innovative, and technologically advanced learning environment for the students of Union Township. It also includes Mercy Health-Plex, which offers students and residents a full-service fitness and athletic club and activities.

In addition to the high school, Summerside and Willowville Elementary schools will be constructing new buildings on their existing sites to further enrich the generations of students ahead.

Other exciting projects ongoing in the township include Crossroads Eastgate at Jungle Jim's, the opening of Burlington Coat Factory at 32 East, Mount Carmel Brewing Tap room expansion and the future construction of a La-Z-Boy Showroom.

While out and about in the township, don't forget to stop and have a snack at the many new restaurant locations or expansions, including: Abby Girl Sweets, Dominos, CiCi's Pizza, Red Sesame BBQ, Snappy Tomato Pizza, Tropical Smoothie Cafe and Rapid Fired Pizza.

In the last year, other exciting new businesses have opened in Union Township, providing a myriad of goods and services that are easily available to our community and beyond. These include:

- ... Bentley's Pet Stuff
- ... Carter's
- ... Hand & Stone Massage
- ... Lady of Sun
- ... Mike's Express Car Wash
- ... Payless Shoes
- ... Positive Leaps
- ... Remax Go Beyond
- ... Sleepfitters
- ... Slice of Stainless
- ... Steinmart
- ... Torrid Plus Size Fashion
- ... Verizon

Union Township is devoted to the economic development and the sustainability of our community. New development is constantly being implemented to promote high quality growth within the area. As always, feel free to stop by the Planning and Zoning Office at the Civic Center to view the preliminary plans for these new developments or call us at (513) 753-2300 for more information about zoning regulations in our township.



Union Township Board of Trustees
 John McGraw
 Matthew Beamer
 Lloyd Acres
 4350 Aicholtz Road.
 Union Township, Ohio 45245

Union Township, Clermont County

Monthly Meetings

Trustee	2nd & 4th Thursday	7 p.m.
Zoning Commission	2nd Wednesday	7 p.m.
Board of Zoning Appeal	1st Thursday	7 p.m.

Contacts

EMERGENCY NUMBER

911

Trustees & Administration http://www.union-township.oh.us	752-1741
Fiscal Officer	753-2216
Planning & Zoning Department	753-2300
Fire Department http://www.utfire-ems.org	528-4446
Police Department http://www.utpd.org	752-1230
Service Department www.union-township.oh.us/service	753-2221
Post Office	947-7330
UTTV	947-7336

Don't forget to make the Union Township U.S. Postal Service Contract Unit your one-stop shop for all your postal needs. Stamps, envelopes, packages, priority mail, express mail. Conveniently located on the lower level of the Civic Center.

Stop in and see us today!!



We're on the web!

www.union-township.oh.us

