

Two Appointed to Hamilton County Water District Task Force

Proposed increase for townships questions by local officials and other communities

Administrator Mike Lemon and Trustee President David Kubicki have agreed to serve on the Hamilton County Water District Task Force, a group that studies and makes nonbinding recommendations to the city and county about determining future water rates between city and non-city customers.

In recent months, a conflict erupted over determination of water rates. Proposed different rates between city and county residents serviced by the Cincinnati Water Works caused a stir. In August, the issue led to the issuance of a temporary restraining order stopping water rate hikes for Hamilton County townships. The order was issued before new rates went into effect in September.



Cincinnati City Council had passed an ordinance in June that authorized water rate hikes for townships by 18 percent. Township residents already pay a higher rate for city water, i.e. rates are 25 percent higher than those people living inside the Cincinnati city limits.

“The proposed increase is unjustified, especially when the water to municipalities being served by Cincinnati Water Works, at a lower rate than the township proposed rate, must traverse townships to receive the same water,” said Lemon.



David Kubicki



Mike Lemon

Township Administration

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POLICE PROTECTION—Emergency- 911

Columbia Township—Non-Emergency
825-2280

City of Cincinnati—Non-Emergency
765-1212
www.cincinnati-oh.gov/cpd

Hamilton County—Non-Emergency
825-1500 www.hcso.org

FIRE PROTECTION—Emergency- 911

The Little Miami Joint Fire & Rescue District
271-3636

Station 1 Wooster Pike
271-3636
http://lmfr.org

Station 2 Wiehe Road
531-2022
http://lmfr.org

Deer Park—Silverton Joint Fire District
791-2500
www.dpsjfd.org

the Voice

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Voters to Decide in November on Township's Waste Levy Renewal Ballot Initiative

A three-year waste levy renewing the township's current levy for garbage collection and leaf and brush disposal is up for voter approval on November 6.

The Columbia Township Board of Trustees approved placing the 5.1 mill waste levy on the fall ballot in July. Renewing the levy would cost each household 51 cents per \$100 home valuation for a period of three years, the same rate as the last three years.

Columbia Township was one of the first townships in Hamilton County to offer

a waste levy, noted Administrator Mike Lemon. That means residents do not have to contract individually with a trash hauler or worry about paying the monthly bill on time, thus a lower group rate is negotiated, he said.

Also, unlike most townships, Columbia Township offers a brush removal service year-round, and leaf removal in the fall as part of the levy.

The township contracts with Rumpke for once a week residential pickup. One large item per week is allowed (such as furniture or appliances). Recycling is also included.



Police Protection Contract Renewed with Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

Columbia Township will continue to provide police and safety services to its residents through a new contract with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department. Police services for the township operate out of the District 4 substation located in Silverton.

Costs of the new contract will be approximately \$2.6 million over three years.

Besides the daily patrols, services available to Columbia Township through the sheriff's department include:

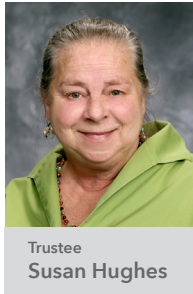
- Criminal Investigation Section,
- Organized Crime/RENU,

- Auto accident investigation,
- Bomb Squad and helicopter assistance.

The contract renewal will provide continued services at the current level but may be increased in the future as warranted.



Our community is growing together in different ways



It was a beautiful summer here in Columbia Township! Now that the kids are back in school and we've all returned to a normal schedule for the most part, I wanted to highlight a few things we're focusing on moving forward.

A main priority for all the trustees is to create an economic environment that will incentivize business owners to put down roots right here in Columbia Township. Over the last few years we have seen a flurry of economic activity in our community, and it is our goal to continue this success. There are many success

stories we can point to—Cincinnati Belting and Transmission (CBT), Fifty West, the new Panera, and other small businesses that have chosen Columbia Township as their home. In our minds, this is just the beginning.

Our township motto is "Growing Together." I feel that we've all grown together in the last few months and years. We are a unique community to be sure, especially if you look at just our geography alone. Yes, we have a lot of differences and many of us identify with our specific neighborhood. But I feel a movement in our community—we all fall under the same umbrella. **We are all part of Columbia Township. I am proud to be a part of that, and I hope you are too!**



New community events sponsored by Columbia Township are bringing unity.

Don't Forget: Leaf Pickup Starts Soon

One of the great things about living in Columbia Township is its leaf removal program

It's that time of year! Get your leaves ready so road crews can start picking them up.

Columbia Township's leaf removal service is expected to start beginning the second or third week of October, depending on how quickly leaves decide to fall this year. Once the service starts, plan on seeing a road crew on your street within seven to 10 business days until the service ends on December 22.

"Most townships and other municipalities in the Cincinnati area cannot offer a service such as this one due to budget constraints," said Road Superintendent John Servizzi. "This is one of those amenities that makes living in Columbia Township a really great option."

Roads crews are expected to cycle through the township at least seven times before the end of the season. If you miss your scheduled pickup day, crews will circle around again within two weeks.

No special pickups will be scheduled, Servizzi said and changes to the pickup rotation schedule will not be honored.

As part of the township service, team members will blow the sidewalk and street in front of your home on both sides of the street during their scheduled pickup.

To help make the process go as smoothly, Servizzi provides the following tips:

- Place leaves as close to the curb as you can. Placing leaves in the roadway creates a safety hazard and could be a factor in an auto accident.
- As much as it is possible, do not park in front of piles of leaves. Please leave the area in front of your home open until road crews pass on by.

To determine when the road crew will be in your neighborhood, go to ColumbiaTwp.org and check details.



Around the Township- News in Your Neighborhood

New Street Sweeper in Operation

After 19 years in service, Columbia Township's faithful street sweeper has retired.

The township recently purchased a new Schwarze A-4 street sweeper to replace the elder model. "Our previous Schwarze A-4000 sweeper was in need of almost constant repairs," noted Road Superintendent John Servizzi. "This new sweeper has some of the latest technology in the street sweeping industry including onboard cameras, stainless steel hopper, dust control, vibrating hopper for dumping and an additional water tank," he said.

"Columbia Township provides some of the best services in Hamilton County to our residents," he added, "and street sweeping is one of them."



Panera Bread to Open in Spring 2019

Construction continues on a new Wooster Pike Panera Bread, scheduled to open in spring 2019.

Owner Covelli Enterprises, the largest franchisee of Panera Bread, has announced the Columbia Township location will include a drive-thru and patio, plus an updated floor plan.

"Construction is moving at a quick pace," note Township Administrator Mike Lemon. "We're glad to see quality additions to our Wooster Pike business district and we are excited to see more on the horizon," he said.



Panera Bread building under construction

Paving Projects Completed this Fall

This fall, several Columbia Township curb and road upgrades were made as part of the township's ongoing efforts to keeps its inventory of roads in good repair.

Roads that underwent improvements and paving included Lucille Drive, Donald Drive, Kenoak Lane and Monardi Circle.

The township routinely engages in a process designed to inventory and analyze its 10.4 miles of roads. The process categorizes all roads in four categories from "Good" to "Very Poor." Each year the township funds about \$400,000 worth of road repairs, according to Administrator Mike Lemon.



Radar Speed Signs Urge Drivers to Take it Slow

With just a little blinking visual reminder, speeding drivers are urged to slow down. The outcome is: roads are safer.

That's what's been happening at the four locations where Columbia Township has erected permanent speed sign displays this summer and fall, say township officials.

Four signs total, one on Roe Street, one on Ashley Oaks Street in the Williams Meadow subdivision, one on Monning, plus one in the Ridgewood subdivision, now have these traffic calming devices doing their job 24/7.

"It's hard to miss these display signs, which provide 'driver feedback' sharing just how fast drivers are going," noted Trustee President David Kubicki. "We are glad we made the investment to encourage safe driving in a few of the township hot spots where drivers tend to not observe speed limits."

Public safety officials can track all sorts of factors with the new signs, said Administrator Mike Lemon. Information is available regarding the time of day when speeding occurs, what day of the week drivers tend to speed, traffic volume and the speed of the car can be monitored. Graphs can create a simple display of all these factors.

Lemon said he's seen an increase in awareness of speed areas and efforts to reduce them, information which has spread on social media and in social circles. "We have seen speeds diminish but not have not completed full analysis yet for details," he noted.



Important Phone Numbers in Columbia Township



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