

Save the date of March 16 for St. Paddy's Day fun

Save the date for an evening devoted to green malt beverages, bagpipes and the wearin' o' the green as Columbia Township revises its second St. Patrick's Day festival.

Keep the time open for Irish entertainment and dance, food trucks and more festivities from 4-9 p.m. on Saturday, March 16, at the old fire station, at 6904 Murray Avenue, near Plainville Road.

The event is hosted by Connect Cincy in partnership with Columbia Township. Proceeds will be used toward the construction of the extension of the Little Miami Scenic Trail, at Newtown Road to the Mariemont Branch Library.

For more information, check out the township's website at ColumbiaTwp.org.



Important Phone Numbers in Columbia Township



Trustee President
David Kubicki
272-7870
dkubicki@columbiatwp.org



Trustee
Chris Kritikos
272-7871
ckritikos@columbiatwp.org



Trustee Vice-President
Susan Hughes
272-7872
shughes@columbiatwp.org



Fiscal Officer
Caroline Heekin
272-7867
cheekin@columbiatwp.org

Township Administration

Administrator
C. Michael Lemon
561-6046
MLemon@columbiatwp.org

Administrative Assistant
Kimberly Gray
272-7877
Kgray@columbiatwp.org

JEDZ Tax Administrator
Jane Fette
272-9954
JFette@fairfaxoh.org

Property Maintenance Code Enforcement
792-7256
columbia@sycamoretownship.org

POLICE PROTECTION—Emergency- 911

Columbia Township—
Non-Emergency
825-2280

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

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

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

Ridge Fire District accepts three-year contract renewal with Little Miami Joint Fire & Rescue

No new taxes for fire service in this area

Columbia Township's Ridge Fire District has approved a three-year contract renewal with the Little Miami Joint Fire & Rescue District.

After the merger of Golf Manor Fire Department into the Little Miami Joint Fire & Rescue District last year, Columbia Township's Ridge Fire District transferred the contract for services in 2018 with the Little Miami Joint Fire and Rescue District.

As the three-year contract was due to expire on December 31, 2018, negotiations began on whether to have the Ridge Fire District join Little Miami either as a member or to just renew the contract.

After much debate, the Columbia Township Board of Trustees decided to

pursue a contract renewal at this time rather than have the Ridge Fire District join as a member at this time. The township negotiated a three-year contract starting at \$385,000 for the first year. The second year will cost \$395,000, and the third year's fee is \$405,000 for services.

Administrator Mike Lemon noted that fire and rescue services will continue to the Ridge Fire District unchanged for the next three years and there will be no new taxes for fire service in the Ridge Fire District.

Columbia Township officials decided to renew the contract after recommending changes in revenue streams and structural organization to the Little Miami Joint Fire & Rescue District. If the recommendations

are pursued and implemented, the township will reconsider having the Ridge Fire District join Little Miami after the three years are up, Lemon said.



New township police vehicle receives \$15,000 donation

CBT contribution pays for more than half of police pursuit vehicle used by Hamilton County deputies

CBT, a newer Columbia Township business and large full-service industrial automation distributor, has donated \$15,000 toward the purchase of a new 2019 Dodge Charger Police Pursuit to be used for police patrols in Columbia Township. The cost of the new patrol unit is about \$28,000.

The township receives police services through a contract with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office and must purchase the vehicles used by deputies.

Trustee Vice-President Susan Hughes noted that the donation "will go a long way toward helping keep Columbia Township safe."



Recycling efforts net another award

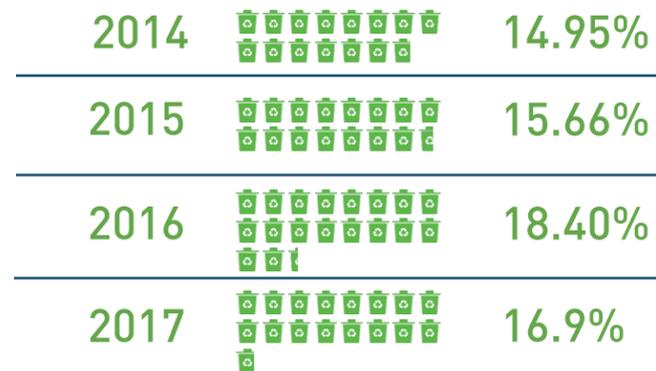
Township leads the way in recycling for second year in a row

Columbia Township residents continue their commitment to a green community, according to a recent award. The Hamilton County Recycling and Solid Waste District announced Columbia Township achieved the highest recycling rate of any Hamilton County township with a 16.9 recycling rate, which equals 261 tons of materials. Statistics were for 2017. The township also took home the same award in 2016.

Columbia Township is unique among townships as it provides curbside recycling and trash collection through a resident contract. Also, the township offers seasonal leaf, brush and Christmas tree pickup for residents.

To support recycling, the community operates its own yard trimmings compost facility which reduces waste going to the landfill. In 2017, the township's recycling efforts conserved enough energy to power every home in the community for 10 days.

The county's recycling and solid waste district returns funds to the township through the township's recycling efforts; thus, it helps to get the percentage higher and higher.



Limited wood chip, leaf compost available this year

Free recycled materials in short supply; residents must call township to sign up

Columbia Township will again provide free compost and wood chips delivered to your home three times a year, but this year supplies are very limited.

That according to the township's road superintendent, John Servizzi. Servizzi notes that the free recycled materials will be available on a first come-first served basis. Residents are asked to call the township at 561-6046 to get on the list. "Once we're out, we're out," he said.



Delivery dates again are the first Monday of April, May and August. No other dates will be included in the free service. Residents will be called before delivery to verify the request, Servizzi said.

Reminder dates and signup will be announced on the township's website, www.columbiatwp.org.

State program propels several street upgrades in 2019 and beyond

An Ohio program that provides financing for public infrastructure improvements will be used in Columbia Township for upgrades to three streets.

This year and over the next two years, the State Capital Improvement Program (SCIP) will provide interest-free loans for improvements to Maphet Lane, Ebersole Avenue and Hill & Dale Drive. Estimated cost for Maphet and Eversole is \$1,448,000. Cost estimate for Hill & Dale is \$1,824,000.

The state will contribute half the cost of each street and the township will pick up the other half through the 30-year interest-free loans.

Work on Maphet and Ebersole is expected to begin this summer. According to Administrator Mike Lemon, work on Hill & Dale won't begin until at least 2020 after Cincinnati Water Works completes a water main project.

Uncertain time frame for Opening of Columbia Township's medical marijuana dispensaries

Although a few of Ohio's chosen medical dispensaries selling medical marijuana have opened, the two planned sites located in Columbia Township are not yet open. In fact, as of press time, no sites in Hamilton County were open and no information regarding opening of the three county sites had been released.

Columbia Township's two sites are: Care Med Associates, 5149 Kennedy Ave. and Pharmacann Ohio LLC, at 5445 Ridge Road. The state-sanctioned program had set a date allowing dispensaries to open in September 2018. However, that



timeline was pushed back due to delays by certified growers. The medical marijuana program in Ohio is controlled by the Ohio Medical Marijuana Control Program. The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy and the Ohio Department of Commerce govern

implementation of the program. Trustee President David Kubicki reiterated that once the township's two sites open, Columbia Township will see economic benefits that could allow the township to upgrade infrastructure and

beautification projects through increased tax revenue from the businesses.

Strict rules govern patients who wish to purchase medical marijuana. Patients with one of 21 qualifying conditions and their caregivers can register on the state's online registration system. Patients must visit one of 336 physicians certified to recommend medical marijuana. Doctors will explain the benefits and risks of medical cannabis and information about the case will be certified by the doctor. Patients can designate up to two caregivers who can purchase and administer the product. There is a fee to register.

Open checkbook platform details Ohio government transparency Township's spending details available through OhioCheckbook.com

Financial transparency for spending in Columbia Township, and many other state government entities, is available online through the *OhioCheckbook.com*, powered by OpenGov.

Through this online platform, citizens may search local and state financial details in an intuitive, interactive platform. Questions such as "How much did the government spend in total

on street lights," or "How much does it cost to pick up leaves," can be answered by searching this easy-to-use-digital format.

Yearly expenditures and information broken down into time periods or specific categories can be accessed on this site. Graphs, charts and data comparisons detail how taxpayer money is being spent. Info at: www.ohiotreasurer.gov.



Good neighbor reminder

Be a considerate neighbor and please blow do not blow snow from your sidewalks or driveway into the streets. That request comes from Road Superintendent John Servizzi who is trying to keep citizens safe.

"Most of the time streets are cleared of snow and the salt applied to the street is not enough to handle the additional snow from the snow blowers," he said. "The additional snow can bond to the roadway and become a sheet of ice if temps stay below freezing. This could become a very dangerous condition for maintenance crews and residents."