

## Council Organizes For 2012



*The Village of Galena's 2012 Council includes (front row, l. to r.) Mayor Tom Hopper, President Nancy Feole, David Simmons, (back row, l. to r.) Grace Piper, Chris Underwood, Rudy Rodriguez, and Paul Bolander.*

At the Village of Galena's January Council organizational meeting, Mayor Thomas Hopper was sworn in for his fourth term. Nancy Feole was sworn in for a new term and Council members elected her to serve as Council president. They also appointed Grace Piper to fill an open Council seat vacated when long-term Council member Roberta Miller did not seek re-election and no one ran for her seat on Council.



*Mayor Tom Hopper congratulates Grace Piper after swearing her into office to fill an empty Council seat.*

## Hopper Recognized

At the Village of Galena's January Council meeting, Council President Nancy Feole read a Proclamation recognizing Thomas Hopper as the longest serving mayor in Galena's history. Hopper has served the Village in several capacities for more than two decades. He was appointed to the Village Zoning and Planning Commission and served from 1987 through 1995. Then, he was elected to Village Council from 1996 through 1999. Hopper was appointed Mayor of the Village in January 2000 and was subsequently elected and has served continuously through the present. He has served on various Village committees,

serves as the Chairman of the Zoning and Planning Commission, and has represented the Village on community boards, notably the Delaware County Regional Planning Commission. On behalf of the Village of Galena Council, Feole recognized Hopper's outstanding character, dedication, and exemplary service to his community.



*Village Council President Nancy Feole (left) presents a Council Proclamation to Mayor Thomas Hopper (right) in recognition of being the longest serving mayor in Galena's history.*

## 2012 Business

Council reappointed employees for 2012 including Scott Jamison, public service director; Jeanna Burrell, assistant public service director; Sally Hopper, Zoning and Planning Commission clerk; Jeff Stokes, maintenance supervisor; Marty Mazzie, fiscal officer; and Michelle Dearth, assistant fiscal officer. Ken Molnar was reappointed solicitor.

Committees were appointed, a 2012 calendar was established, and Council passed temporary 2012 budget appropriations of \$1,011,395 with revenues of \$1,115,973. Mark Brooks was reappointed to a three-year term on the Zoning and Planning Commission.

## Village Hall

The Galena Village Hall renovation bids are being advertised, a pre-bid meeting was held, and bids are due Feb. 1. The project is not to exceed \$63,800 and will include creation of an Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) compatible unisex bathroom, improving safety of the basement stairwell, and improving the northern fire escape exit. Work should begin February 13 and conclude April 9. Staff have also taken measurements, looked at materials samples, researched materials costs, developed a safety plan, and developed a draft plan and budget for other exterior renovations and minor

## Galena Dates

The following are Village Council and committee meeting dates as well as other local events. Village meetings are open to the public and are at 7 p.m. in the basement of the Municipal Building, 9 W. Columbus St., unless otherwise stated.

\* = trash day moves to Saturday due to holiday.

\*\* = Council meeting moves due to holiday.

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|------------|--|
| Feb. 1     | 1 <sup>ST</sup> Quarter Sewer Bills Sent Out |
| Feb. 3, 10 | Trash Days                                   |
| Feb. 15    | Zoning & Planning Commission                 |
| Feb. 17    | Trash Day                                    |
| Feb. 20    | President's Day – Offices Closed             |
| Feb. 24    | Trash Day                                    |
| Feb. 27    | Council Meeting                              |

office projects. Priority items include replacing the roof and improving site drainage.

## Old Galena School

Big Walnut Schools Superintendent Steve Mazzi informed Council that the school district is discussing vacating its Galena administration building. Mazzi said the building needs costly renovations and is more expensive to operate than moving to other district buildings. Mazzi notified Council as a courtesy since there are significant income tax implications for the Village. Mayor Hopper expressed concerns that the building should not sit empty long-term without maintenance and wants the historical building preserved. The Village would like the building redeveloped with a new tenant.

## Ohio Basic Code

Council passed an ordinance approving the Ohio Basic Code as its codified ordinances. They also passed an exception to section 137.09E allowing discharge of weapons for varmint control within the municipality on agriculturally zoned properties of 40 acres or more. The ordinance applies to properties whose owners applied for the exemption prior to January 1 and who indemnify the Village regarding any claims or losses related to the discharge of weapons. The ordinance will expire at the end of 2012.

## 2011 Recap

This annual report recaps accomplishments of 2011 that included:

- The Village is renovating the Galena Village Hall (formerly the Galena United Methodist Church) with the goal of moving Council Chambers and offices there in 2012. The Village Hall was refinanced in a 20-year, \$405,000 Ohio Capital Asset Financing loan.
- The Miller Park train-themed playground was installed with Preservation Parks grant funding.
- Galena collaborated with multi-jurisdictional groups to complete the Hoover Scenic Trail between Plumb and Wiese roads and to plan for the East Bank Trail around Hoover Reservoir.
- A grant application is pending to complete the Ohio to Erie Trail along Galena's Brick Trail on the old railroad.
- Phase 2 reconstruction of Walnut St. and sidewalks from Holmes to High streets was completed.
- A grant application is pending for Phase 3 reconstruction of Walnut St. and sidewalks from High to Church streets. The plan is to use permeable pavers.
- The Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) energy audit in conjunction with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) and American Electric Power's GridSmart program reduced

energy consumption 23 percent saving \$3,800.

- The Village received two renewed OEPA Permits to Operate its Wastewater Treatment Plants. A Permit to Install was also awarded for a geobag project. A Fine Screen project is in the design stages as well. The WWTP was refinanced in a 20-year, \$553,190 Ohio Water Development Authority loan.
- The Village participated in the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's Big Walnut Watershed Planning Partnership and its steering committee.
- Eight new homes and several accessory structures were under construction.
- Galena received a technical assistance grant from the Ohio Water Resources Council/Balanced Growth Ohio to rewrite its subdivision code into a low impact development code. A team of experts was assembled to assist in this ongoing process.
- Trinity Homes received a three-year extension for Phase D of the Estates at Blackhawk.
- The exclusive residential trash and recycling contract with Big-O Refuse was extended into 2012.
- The Galena Summerfest returned after a one-year hiatus and was a huge success.
- The Village's Special Events Committee sponsored the always popular Easter Egg Hunt, Ice Cream Social, Halloween Costume Contest, Tree Lighting, and Santa Claus events.

## Wastewater News

After a third ordinance reading, Council increased sewer use fees three percent. The next bill will be \$52.08 per month (\$156.23/quarter) for residential customers. Anyone doing automatic payments should adjust their payment amounts.

All materials have been ordered for the geobag (biosolids dewatering) project. It will cost approximately \$5,000 to start up and approximately \$3,000 to operate for the year. It should save the Village nearly \$10,000 this year. The fine screen preliminary design has been approved so a Permit to Install application can be submitted to the OEPA.

The Village has \$10,671 in overdue sewer bills including more than \$3,000 that will have to be written off due to bankruptcies. Liens have been placed to recover past due amounts on three accounts for \$1,598. Twenty-two accounts are one quarter past due equaling more than \$3,600. Past due letters resulted in seven payments.

First Quarter sewer bills will be sent out February 1. Since the Village bills quarterly to save customers money, paying on time is crucial. Be sure to pay your bills in a timely fashion to avoid late payment penalties, property tax liens, and other legal actions. The following applies for delinquencies:

- Upon one day of being delinquent, a ten

percent late charge will be assessed.

- Thirty days or more delinquent will result in a lien being filed, including administrative fees and costs, and a lawsuit may be filed to collect overdue fees.
- At 100 days past due, the sewer service will be terminated. Once terminated, the property owner will have to pay a reconnection fee as well as all past due fees.

There are several payment options:

- Mail payments to the Village of Galena, PO Box 386, Galena, OH 43021. Call us with any questions at 740-965-2484.
- Set up monthly sewer bill payments with no additional fees at the Delaware County Bank's Galena branch. Bring your sewer bill with you the first time.
- Set up automatic payments to have \$52.08 debited from your checking account at any bank on the 8th of each month. Forms are available in the Village offices and on the Village's web site under [local links/sewers](#). Remember that if fees increase, you need to contact your bank to authorize an increase in your automatic payments.

## Electronic News

The newsletter is available online or can be emailed directly to you by contacting [adminassistant@galenaohio.org](mailto:adminassistant@galenaohio.org).

## Village Contacts

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|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Village Offices</b>       | 740-965-2484   |
| <b>FAX</b>                   | 740-965-5424   |
| Thomas Hopper:               | <a href="mailto:mayor@galenaohio.org">mayor@galenaohio.org</a><br>965-1024         |
| Scott Jamison:               | <a href="mailto:servicedirector@galenaohio.org">servicedirector@galenaohio.org</a> |
| Marty Mazzie:                | <a href="mailto:fiscalofficer@galenaohio.org">fiscalofficer@galenaohio.org</a>     |
| Jeanna Burrell:              | <a href="mailto:adminassistant@galenaohio.org">adminassistant@galenaohio.org</a>   |
| Jeff Stokes:                 | <a href="mailto:maintenance@galenaohio.org">maintenance@galenaohio.org</a>         |
| web:                         | <a href="http://www.galenaohio.org">www.galenaohio.org</a>                         |
| <b>In an emergency, dial</b> | <b>911</b>   |
| <b>BST&amp;G Fire Dept.</b>  | 965-3841<br><a href="http://www.bstgfiredistrict.org">www.bstgfiredistrict.org</a> |
| <b>Big-O Refuse</b>          | 888-924-2446   |
| <b>Cable: Time-Warner</b>    | 800-617-4311   |
| <b>Columbia Gas</b>          | 800-344-4077   |
| <b>Del. Co. EMS</b>          | 833-2190<br><a href="http://www.delcoems.org">www.delcoems.org</a>                 |
| <b>Del-Co Water</b>          | 548-7746   |
| <b>Dog Warden</b>            | 368-1915   |
| <b>Electric: AEP</b>         | 800-277-2177   |
| <b>Galena Post Office</b>    | 965-2371   |
| <b>Health Dept.</b>          | 740-368-1700<br><a href="http://www.delawarehealth.org">www.delawarehealth.org</a> |
| <b>Immediate Urgent Care</b> | 101D W. Cherry St., Sunbury, 965-8305  |
| <b>Phone: Century Link</b>   | 800-407-5411   |
| <b>RITA (income tax)</b>     | 800-860-7482   |
| web:                         | <a href="http://www.ritaohio.com">www.ritaohio.com</a>                             |
| <b>Sheriff</b>               | 833-2800   |
| <b>Sunbury Post Office</b>   | 965-2471   |
| <b>Wastewater Plant</b>      | 740-602-1234   |
| Lift Station                 |  |
| <b>Emergencies</b>           | 740-972-8646   |