

February 2015



Newsletter

Web Site & Email Problems

The Village's web site was down and email inoperable Jan. 21-28 due to a domain name issue. After extended troubleshooting, both are operational again. We apologize for any inconvenience. If you attempted to email during that time, you will need to send a new email.

Special Merger Meeting

Village Council hosted a special meeting on January 13 to discuss a merger petition to be circulated by Berkshire Township residents. A large crowd attended to learn the facts about the merger petition.

Mayor Tom Hopper opened the meeting providing a timeline overview of the merger discussions which he first became aware of in October 2014.

The Village invited Susan Stanton and Shawna Burkham to present their reasons for circulating a petition to merge the township with the village. Both spoke at length and answered questions.

The crowd made it clear they were not in favor of the merger. Council members thanked Stanton and Burkham for attending but explained that they did not appreciate the secretive, unilateral methods used and felt bullied. Mayor Hopper said the Village would welcome an open discussion but that filing merger petitions was not necessary for that discussion to begin. The Village has maintained that they prefer a public forum on the issue so residents can be informed before signing a petition.

The petition would place a ballot issue before voters to seat a merger commission with five Berkshire Township and five Village of Galena residents. The Village provided names of eight residents for the commission by Stanton's deadline of November 10. They include Ron Lehman, Mark

Brooks, Stan Swisher, Dave O'Neil, Heather Adams, Deborah Georgiton, Neil VanVorrhis, and Terrie Bradley. During the meeting, Stanton claimed she never received the names but the Village clarified after the meeting that the names were emailed to the address Stanton provided on her business card. She also said she was not invited to the meeting, but the same email was used for the invitation.

Ten percent of voters from the unincorporated part of Berkshire Township (110) and ten percent of voters from the incorporated portion of Berkshire Township, the Village of Galena, (23) are needed to sign the petition. The petition would be submitted to the Delaware County Board of Elections.

Developers obtained a temporary restraining order in November to prevent the filing of the petitions. They also sued Burkham, Stanton, the Village, and the township. Mayor Hopper explained that the Village has been forced to use taxpayer dollars to defend itself. The lawsuit was later dropped.

If voters seat a commission, the board begins meeting to decide how the new government entity would be structured.

At points in the meeting, Stanton and Burkham said they were not going to pursue the merger petition but by the end of the meeting would not comment on their plans.

At previous Berkshire Township Trustees meetings, Bill Holtry had stated that the merger was not a township issue. At the January 15 Berkshire Township Trustees meeting, new trustees chairman Rod Myers declared the merger issue dead and said the township would no longer discuss it.

At their January 26 meeting, Council passed a motion to send a letter to State Senator Kris Jordan and State Representative Margaret Ruhl advocating for changes to Ohio Revised Code 709.45, the statute authorizing the current method for creating a merger. Council disagrees with the ability of a

minority to usurp the authority and hamper the functioning of a municipal government.

Council Mulls Withdrawal From Township

At their regular January meeting, Galena Village Council held a second reading on an ordinance to withdraw from Berkshire Township. Village Solicitor Ken Molnar said he is still researching the details of the process and is attempting to hire special counsel with expertise in the matter.

The Village is still entirely part of the township and its residents pay property taxes to the township. Implications of withdrawal could include the Village gaining ownership of the Galena Cemetery and the township paying the Village approximately 20 percent of the township government's net worth.

Molnar said if the Village passes the ordinance to withdraw, the final decision would be at the County Commissioners' discretion. Council asked

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 Galena Village Hall, 109 Harrison St., unless otherwise stated.

Holiday changes

* = trash day moves to Saturday;
** = Council meeting changes.

Feb. 2	1 st Quarter Sewer Bills Sent Out
Feb. 6, 13	Trash Days
Feb. 16	President's Day – Offices Closed
Feb. 18	Zoning & Planning Commission
Feb. 20	Trash Day
Feb. 23	Council Meeting
Feb. 27	Trash Day

for the measure after becoming frustrated with the unilateral decision by two township residents to pursue a merger petition.

Jamison Lawsuit Dismissed

Delaware County Common Pleas Judge Duncan Whitney dismissed the entire lawsuit filed by Scott Jamison against the Village. Jamison filed an appeal of the court's decision.

Council Action

Council passed ordinances enacting the Ohio Basic Code as the Village's codified ordinances and passed an exception that allows hunting on large agricultural tracts within the Village. Owners must apply to allow hunting on their property. Otherwise, it is forbidden to discharge weapons inside a municipality.

Council held a first reading on an agreement for the Columbus Sharks to manage the Ruffner Park ball field.

Fiscal Officer Marty Mazzie noted that closing the 2014 books and opening the 2015 books has consumed significant resources. She said the Annual Financial Report is available for review.

Under the Code Compliance report, the substandard dwelling at 24 Front St. is slated for demolition. The property has been subject to long-term violations because it has not been properly maintained. The Village is awaiting a demolition date.

Mayor Hopper updated Council on meetings he attended including a League of Women Voters meeting at Berkshire Township to discuss funding mechanisms such as Joint Economic Development Districts and New Community Authorities.

Sewer I&I Study

Jim Turner and Kristen Risch, of Coldwater Consulting, made a presentation to Council about their proposal to conduct a storm water Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) Study for the Village. The study is part of a plan to address Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's (OEPA) concerns about flows that exceed the Village's wastewater treatment plant permit.

Coldwater plans to install five flow meters around the Village's sewer system in April to determine where high flows originate. The study is the first step in determining how excess storm water is entering the Village's sewer system. Council held a first reading on a resolution to hire Coldwater.

Bus Stop

The new Delaware Area Transit Agency (DATA) bus route from Sunbury to Westerville began operating January 5th. Riders can catch the bus on the northeast corner of the Village Square headed south to Westerville at 7:21 a.m., 10:01 a.m., 12:24 p.m., and 2:56 p.m. and heading north to Sunbury at 8:02 a.m., 10:41 a.m., 1:01 p.m., 3:35 p.m., and 6:06 p.m.

Routes run from the Sunbury Kroger to the Galena Square then the Genoa Township administration building; the Meijer on Polaris Parkway; Ohio Health on Polaris; and, Giant Eagle in Westerville. Then the route returns north to the Genoa building, the Galena Square, and finally the Sunbury Kroger.

Routes will run Monday through Friday, 7:15 a.m. to 6:13 p.m., and also run from Sunbury to Delaware. Fares are \$.50-\$1 depending on age and monthly passes are available. Buses feature wheelchair access.

For more information, contact DATA at 740-363-3355 or visit www.ridedata.com.

Big-O Trash & Recycling Prices

It was noted that Big-O Refuse did not increase fees as planned in 2014 so the rates for residential trash and recycling collection services for 2015 will stay the same at \$49.30 per quarter with senior citizens at \$46.30 per quarter.

Residents surrounding Galena may also avail themselves of these prices by contacting Big-O at 1-888-924-BIGO (2446).

Council Organizes for 2015

At the Village of Galena's January 5 Council organizational meeting, Council elected Dave Adams to his

third year as Council president. Committee representation was determined and Council affirmed Mayor Thomas Hopper's selection of Mark Brooks to serve another three-year term on the Zoning and Planning Commission.

Employees reappointed included: Jeanna Burrell, Village administrator and deputy zoning inspector; Marty Mazzie, fiscal officer; Michelle Dearth, assistant fiscal officer; Josh Cherubini, maintenance supervisor; Dave LaValle, zoning inspector, property maintenance official, and floodplain administrator; Sally Hopper, Zoning and Planning Commission clerk; and, Levi Koehler as maintenance employee and code compliance assistant. Employees received a 1.5 percent increase.

Ken Molnar was reappointed solicitor. Professional Package Plant Services' contract was renewed to manage the Village's wastewater treatment system.

Committees were appointed and Council passed temporary 2015 budget appropriations with revenues of \$1,565,583 and a budget of \$1,128,732. The Village increased

Important Contacts

Village Offices	740-965-2484, FAX 740-965-5424 web: www.galenaohio.org
Jeanna Burrell:	administrator@galenaohio.org
Josh Cherubini:	maintenance@galenaohio.org
Thomas Hopper:	mayor@galenaohio.org 740-965-1024
Dave LaValle:	codecompliance@galenaohio.org
Marty Mazzie:	fiscalofficer@galenaohio.org
In an emergency, dial	911
BST&G Fire District	740-965-3841 www.bstgfiredistrict.org
Big-O Refuse	888-924-2446
Cable: Time-Warner	800-617-4311
Columbia Gas	800-344-4077
Del. Co. EMS	833-2190, www.delcoems.org
Del-Co Water	740-548-7746
Dog Warden	740-368-1915
Electric: AEP	800-277-2177
Galena Post Office	740-965-2371
Health Dept.	740-368-1700 www.delawarehealth.org
Immediate Urgent Care	740-965-8305 101D W. Cherry St., Sunbury
Phone: Century Link	800-407-5411
PUCO	614-466-3292, 800-686-PUCO (7826) www.puco.ohio.gov
RITA (income tax)	800-860-7482, www.ritaohio.com
Sheriff	740-833-2800
Sunbury Post Office	740-965-2471
Wastewater Plant	740-513-9943
Lift Station Emergencies	740-972-8646

sewer use fees 1.5 percent for 2015 bringing single residential fees to \$54.45/month.

Annual Report

The Village's annual report recapped 2014 accomplishments and events that included:

- ◆ A new John Deere tractor with front end loader, fork lift, and broom attachments was leased.
- ◆ A lower level Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) entrance to the Galena Village Hall was completed with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds through Delaware County. CDBG funds were also awarded for 2015 to add ADA restrooms.
- ◆ The Village's four-year, two-mill replacement property tax levy failed on the May ballot but passed by one vote in a recount of 114-113 on the November ballot.
- ◆ The State Auditor's Office performed the 2011-2012 audit.
- ◆ 2014 is the third year in a row that the Village did not have to utilize reserve capital outlay funds and came in under budget.
- ◆ Phase 3 of the Walnut St. reconstruction project was completed as a permeable brick road with new sidewalks.
- ◆ Sections of curbs and sidewalks on the square and Park St. were replaced.
- ◆ The January-March winter weather included lots of snow and ice with many hours spent plowing. Galena used 60 tons of salt/grit during the 2013-2014 winter.
- ◆ 2014 started in a deep freeze affecting the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP).
- ◆ A new chemical building with new electric, plumbing, and dosing pumps was installed at the WWTP.
- ◆ Heavy rains and a flood affected WWTP treatment and high flow levels causing Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) violations. The Village was placed on the OEPA Significant Non-Compliance List. After three months violation free, Galena was removed from this list. Coldwater Consulting was selected to conduct an Inflow and Infil-

tration Study in April 2015.

- ◆ Ongoing rainy weather for most of the spring and summer necessitated a great deal of time to keep up with mowing and weeding.
- ◆ The June flooding damaged the ball field batting cages, fence, and safe surface under the slides and clay, mulch, and gravel were washed away.
- ◆ Park, trail, and historical signs; picnic tables, and ball field clay were acquired with a Preservation Parks grant.
- ◆ The Village continued its habitat improvement efforts with invasive species control, forestry improvements, creating brush pile habitat, and establishing riparian buffers.
- ◆ Muth Roofing reroofed the Ruffner Park shelter house and pump house with a green metal roof.
- ◆ We were awarded a trail grant from ODNR to improve the bridge deck and pave the Galena Brick Trail from Dustin Rd. to Holmes St. Preliminary engineering was completed.
- ◆ Ohio to Erie Trail wayfinder signs were installed from an Ohio to Erie Trail Fund grant.
- ◆ Levi Koehler was hired as a part-time maintenance employee and a part-time code compliance assistant.
- ◆ Code compliance staff worked through the property maintenance code violation process on 16 properties and eventually filed against two property owners in Delaware City Municipal Court. Those properties and several others were brought into compliance. Two substandard buildings were demolished with another scheduled for demolition.
- ◆ The Village has 29 new residents, seven in new homes. The final homes in Walnut Creek are nearing completion. Phase C of the Estates at Blackhawk was platted and a new model home was built.
- ◆ Public hearings were held and development plan amendments were made for the Galena Commerce Center, Mudflats Bar and Grill, Arrowhead Golf Course, and a new retail business at 39 Middle Street.

- ◆ Zoning staff worked with Sambuca Italian Greenhouse to bring the property into compliance through rezoning and creation of a development plan. Once the rezoning was in place, the rental house that had been converted into a commercial store had to be brought into commercial code compliance. A violation was filed after the property remained out of compliance with its new development plan. The owner appealed and the Zoning and Planning Commission upheld the violation. The owner filed an appeal in court and the court turned down the appeal.
- ◆ The Village was sued along with other parties by developers over a Berkshire Township and Galena merger proposal by two township residents. A temporary restraining order was issued to stop the petition and the lawsuit was later dropped. The Village is opposed to the merger.
- ◆ Village representatives have attempted to stay up to date on outlet mall traffic impacts at S. Galena Rd. and SR 3.
- ◆ In December, the judge dismissed the entire lawsuit filed by Scott Jamison against the Village. He has appealed the court's decision.
- ◆ A huge thanks goes to special events volunteers including Karin Underwood, Jerry Funston, Journey Fellowship, Joe Stoll, Genoa Baptist Church, Roy Merchant, Dave Simmons, Melinda Simmons, and Mary Brooks.

Wastewater News

Beginning February 1, sewer bills will increase 1.5 percent. Residential sewer bills are \$54.45/month (\$163.35/quarter). **Be sure to update your account at the bank for automatic withdrawals of the new amount.**

Since the Village bills quarterly to save customers money, paying on time is crucial according to the following calendar. Pay your bills in a timely fashion to avoid late payment penalties, property tax liens, and other legal actions.

<u>Bill Sent</u>	<u>For Quarter</u>	<u>Bill Due</u>
Feb. 2	Feb./March/April	March 10
May 4	May/June/July	June 10

Aug. 3 Aug./Sept./Oct. Sept. 10
Nov. 2 Nov./Dec./Jan. Dec. 10

Action for delinquencies are applied:

- Upon one day delinquent, a ten percent late charge will be assessed.
- Thirty days or more delinquent will result in a lien being filed with 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.

Payment options include:

- Drop-off payments at the Village Hall, 109 Harrison St. during office hours Mondays-Thursday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. or in our 24-hour drop box.
- 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 \$54.45 debited from your checking account on the 8th of each month. Forms are available on our web site at www.galenaohio.org/forms/autowithdraw.pdf and in our offices. If fees increase, be sure to contact your bank to authorize an increase in your automatic payments.

Galena Historic Foundation

The Galena Historic Foundation would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year!

Thank you to all the Galena Historic Foundation members and officials for their involvement and participation throughout the year in 2014. We would like to personally thank John and Sharon Bland; John Bricker, Gene Fuller, Dave and Melissa O'Neil; Dixie Rice, Jane Jackson, Darrel Gagne, and Dave and Heather Adams for their volunteer efforts throughout the year. Thank you to the Village of Galena for your continued support.

We would also like to thank all the individuals and businesses who

donated items for our museum. The foundation will continue to be working on the museum and getting all the memorabilia organized and recorded.

We will be hosting our "Storytelling" event again in 2015. Look for the date in the upcoming newsletters. We would love to invite everyone to attend.

The foundation always greatly appreciates any donation whether it is an artifact from Galena's history or a monetary donation. *All donations are tax-deductible!*

Stagecoach Stops in Delaware County

The Powell Liberty Historical Society invites county residents:

Program: "Stagecoach Stops in Delaware County"

Speaker: Local Historian, Brent Carson

Date: Monday, February 9, 7 p.m.

Location: Liberty Township Hall, 7761 Liberty Rd., Powell



Owl Outing

Join the Big Walnut Nature Club and Preservation Parks of Delaware County for a program on Owls Feb. 28 at 7 p.m.

Local birding enthusiast Charlie Bombaci will present a program on owls at the Galena Village Hall.

Then, we'll head over to Preservation Parks' Char Mar Ridge Preserve on Lewis Center Rd. for a hike to call in owls. It will be a great evening to get out in nature and learn the calls of our nighttime birds.

Become a Weather Spotter

Delaware and Union counties will host another joint Weather Spotters Course this year. Weather spotters are important because they provide critical information that helps mitigate the limitations of observing systems, such as radar. The information observed and collected by spotters helps the National Weather Service (NWS) issue more timely watches and warnings. This helps the NWS staff fulfill their mission of

"protecting life and property." The course will be taught by an NWS meteorologist.

The course will be held February 19th at 7 p.m. at Buckeye Valley West Elementary School, 61 N. 3rd St., Ostrander, OH 43061. This course is free, open to the public, and pre-registration is not required.

For more information, contact Sean Miller at 740-833-2180 or sean@delcoema.org.

Job Openings

Anomatic Corporation in Johnstown is expanding and will have many openings for hourly positions. Anomatic is a leader in stamping and anodizing of aluminum parts. Apply online at <http://www.anomatic.com/company/careers> and choose the entry-level Racker position.

For more information, contact Emily Young at 740-522-2203 ext. 2125 or emoore@anomatic.com.

Tax Assistance

The Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) will offer free taxpayer assistance at their Worthington office, 760 Lakeview Plaza Blvd., Suite 400. Hours are Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturdays, March 7, 14, 21, and 28, 8 a.m.-noon. No appointment is necessary but assistance is on a first come, first served basis so wait times may vary.

For more information, contact RITA at 1-800-860-7482.

Dialing Changes

With the new 220 area code overlay for the 740 area code, you will have to dial **area code + telephone number** or **1 + area code + telephone number** beginning March 21.

Beginning April 22, new phone numbers may be assigned the 220 area code.

Existing phone numbers and costs for calls do not change. There is also no change in dialing 211, 311, 411, 511, 611, 711, 811, or 911.

Electronic News

Get our newsletter by email by contacting administrator@galenaohio.org.