

## Holiday Events



The Delaware County Bank's Galena Branch was bustling with activity for Galena's Tree Lighting event. There were lots of cookies to share with neighbors and plenty of time to catch up with everyone. We enjoyed illustrated stories on the square as the snow began to fall. Candle light made singing carols extra special and then there was a collective "awe" when the tree was lit. Even as the snow became quite heavy, many families enjoyed hay rides around the Village.

Families also came to see Santa and share Christmas wish lists. They enjoyed a petting zoo and hay rides also.



*Kailynn Cautela, granddaughter of resident Katie Cautela, arrived in style to see Santa and his petting zoo.*

## 2010 Recap

Public Service Director Scott Jamison provided an overview of 2010 events for the Village of Galena's Council members at their December meeting.

### Parks

In parks news, Jamison recapped the completion of the Kane's Crossing Bridge and Walnut Creek Trail over Big Walnut Creek. The Village received a \$25,000 Preservation Parks grant in 2010 and nearly \$41,000 for 2011 to purchase two phases of train themed playground equipment for Miller Park. The equipment will be installed in 2011. The funds have also allowed installation of concrete under the bleachers and a batter's cage at the Ruffner Park Jeff Dutiel Field of Dreams. An infield sprinkler system was installed and a water well will be drilled for the system in 2011.

The Village participated in development of a portion of the Ohio to Erie Trail, the Hoover Scenic Trail, south of town. Staff is working with the Delaware County Friends of the Trail (DCFT) on writing a Clean Ohio grant application to complete another portion of the trail along Dustin Road including improving the Village's Hoover Scenic Walkway and bridge across Little Walnut Creek, through Miller Park, and up the Brick Trail. Mary Kerr, from DCFT, was in Council chambers to discuss the application that would provide 75% of the funding for the project. The Delaware County Commissioners will administer the project. The application seeks \$365,857 from the Clean Ohio Fund with local matching funds of \$50,000 from Preservation Parks of Delaware County, \$50,000 from Delaware County, \$11,000 from DCFT, and \$11,000 from Galena.

### Roads

An Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) grant allowed reconstruction of Walnut St. from State Route 3 to Holmes Street. A grant was also received for reconstruction of Walnut Street from Holmes to High streets. Water and gas line relocations, storm sewer upgrades, and sidewalks were completed but reconstruction had to be delayed until Spring 2011 due to the unexpected discovery of wire mesh under the road and delays caused by other projects. A Phase 3 grant application was submitted to the OPWC but was not funded.

Columbia Gas relocated a line on Columbus St. for the Little Walnut Creek Old 3C Highway Bridge replacement

handled by the Delaware County Engineer's Office. The project kept the road closed from May through August and resulted in the cancellation of the Village's Summerfest.

### Wastewater

In his wastewater treatment update, Jamison explained that the Walnut St. lift station has experienced ongoing failures and needs repairs. The Village also moved to in-house sewer billing this year.

The Village joined the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's Big Walnut Watershed Planning Partnership and serves on its steering committee.

### Zoning

In zoning news, a two-year extension was granted for Homewood Corporation's Miller Farm preliminary development plan. Sales of existing homes in the older part of the Village have increased. The Village's Master Plan was completely updated, public hearings were held, and the plan was adopted.

### Budget

Jamison reported on budget issues. The Building 1829 (old Galena United Methodist Church) and sewer plant have been financed with bonds. Fiscal Officer Marty Mazzie is researching refinancing options for when the bonds come due in early 2011 including an Ohio Water Development Authority loan application for the sewer debt.

### Income Tax

A two percent replacement levy was passed by the voters in May. It will bring

## 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.

Jan. 3	Council Organization Mtg.
Jan. 7,14	Trash Days
Jan. 11	RITA Subpoena Day at Village Offices
Jan. 19	Zoning & Planning Commission
Jan. 21	Trash Day
Jan. 24	Council Meeting
Jan. 28	Trash Day
Feb. 1	1st Qtr. Sewer Bills Sent Out

in \$35,890 per year beginning in 2011.

Mazzie has worked with the Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) on correcting tax collections from residents who do not live or work in the Village. RITA has refunded approximately \$31,000 in 2010 to people that it erroneously collected from. This has dramatically impacted the Village's budget.

Lori Gischel, from RITA, attended the December meeting to address Council's concerns. Gischel explained that many companies collect the taxes from their employees not realizing they do not live within the Village's municipal boundaries. RITA has been working with Mazzie to correct the situation. Gischel also explained that another difficulty is that many businesses are no longer carrying profits due to the poor economy.

RITA sent out letters in November to non-filers giving them an opportunity to file or correct information if they no longer live or work in the Village or are retired. Those who don't correct their situation will receive subpoenas to complete their income tax returns with RITA personnel at the Village offices on January 11.

Check the Village's web site to see a map of the municipal boundaries so you know whether you live or work within the Village and therefore owe income taxes. Having a Galena mailing address does not necessarily mean you live in the Village. Check with your employer to be sure taxes are being paid to the appropriate entities. The Village does not have a reciprocal agreement with other entities so, if you live here but work somewhere that also has an income tax, you owe taxes in both locations.

## Snow Removal

At the beginning of 2010, the Village truck saw extensive use with nearly 100 tons of road salt used. It takes two hours to make one pass through all Village streets during a normal snow fall.

In the case of ice of two or more inches of snow, residents must move their vehicles off all Village streets to accommodate safer plowing. Those who don't, risk having their vehicles towed.

Remember, each property owner is responsible for keeping their sidewalks maintained in good order and safely usable by all. Be sure to keep your sidewalks clear of snow, ice, and other debris. Snow from your driveway or sidewalk should not be placed in the road.

Those property owners with new sidewalks on Walnut St. should not use any chemicals on them this winter to thaw ice. Using sand to add grit is OK.

## Tree Disposal

Mulch 1st will accept Christmas trees free after the holiday. You may drop them off at 725 Kintner Parkway in Sunbury.

Call them at 965-6482 for hours or more information or visit them at [www.Mulch1st.com](http://www.Mulch1st.com).

## Recycling

It's always exciting to get new electronic gifts, but what to do with your old ones is always a challenge. Cell phones and peripherals may be taken to the Columbus Zoo, Sims Recycling, Delaware County Victims Services, the Delaware General Health District's Friends For Life or the Delaware County Sheriff's Office. Electronics are accepted at Sims Recycling and Best Buy. For computer recycling locations, visit [www.ohiodropoff.com](http://www.ohiodropoff.com). Senior citizens (ages 60+) can call Keep Delaware County Beautiful at 740-368-1700 for free computer and appliance pick up.

Be sure to break down and recycle your gift boxes and paper.

## Sewer News

Council held a third reading and passed a revised sewer use ordinance to allow sewer service termination and eviction via the court system for non-payment. Village Solicitor Ken Molnar summed up the ordinance as "Either you pay or you lose service." The other residents should not have to foot the bill for more than a dozen residents who aren't up to date on their sewer bills. The ordinance requires new homes to have sewer shut-off valves. It also adds that costs associated with termination and reconnection will be paid by the property owner. Proceedings to terminate one property owner's sewer service will be filed with the court in January. Other efforts include filing property liens and garnishing wages for overdue customers.

Council also held a first reading on an ordinance to increase sewer fees 25 percent. The ordinance proposes raising residential rates from \$40.45 per month or \$121.35 per quarter to \$50.56 per month or \$151.68 per quarter.

When the Village purchased the sewer plant from Delaware County in 2005, the County kept the tap fees from the Village's three new developments. Tap fees are meant to be used for capital expenditures and debt reduction and sewer user fees are meant to cover operating expenses. Half of the sewer income pays for sewer system repairs and maintenance.

Public Service Director Scott Jamison said the user fees were too low to begin with and the Village has only increased fees twice, six percent each time, since owning the plant. The Village still carries the debt on purchase of the original plant and on the new plant design. Jamison said that the Village has no reserve funds and is experiencing equipment failures that have to be repaired.

The Ohio Rural Community Assistance

Program (RCAP) recently analyzed Galena's sewer income and expenditures. RCAP recommended raising the sewer fees 25 percent. Galena missed out on an Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) grant for \$194,000 because local fees were too low. OPWC offered a zero percent loan that Council agreed to pursue. Council also discussed annual cost of living increases to keep pace with rising costs.

First quarter sewer bills will be sent out Feb. 1. Payment is due March 10. 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 \$40.45 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](#).

Public Service Director Scott Jamison reports that grease was cleaned from sewer lines on 900 feet of Walnut St. as well as West and Columbus streets.

## Electronic News

The newsletter is available online or can be e-mailed directly. Contact [admin assistant@galenaohio.org](mailto:adminassistant@galenaohio.org) to be added.

## Village Contacts

**Village Offices** 740-965-2484  
**FAX** 740-965-5424  
Thomas Hopper: [mayor@galenaohio.org](mailto:mayor@galenaohio.org)  
Scott Jamison: [servicesdirector@galenaohio.org](mailto:servicesdirector@galenaohio.org)  
Marty Mazzie: [fiscalofficer@galenaohio.org](mailto:fiscalofficer@galenaohio.org)  
Jeanna Burrell: [adminassistant@galenaohio.org](mailto:adminassistant@galenaohio.org)  
Jeff Stokes: [maintenance@galenaohio.org](mailto:maintenance@galenaohio.org)  
web: [www.galenaohio.org](http://www.galenaohio.org)

**In an emergency, dial 911**  
**BST&G Fire Dept.** 965-3841  
**Big-O Refuse** 888-924-2446  
**Cable: Time-Warner** 800-617-4311  
**Columbia Gas** 800-344-4077  
**Del-Co Water** 548-7746  
**Dog Warden** 368-1915  
**Electric: AEP** 800-277-2177  
**Galena Post Office** 965-2371  
**Health Dept.** 740-368-1700  
[www.delawarehealth.org](http://www.delawarehealth.org)

**Immediate Urgent Care,** 101D W. Cherry St., Sunbury, 965-8305  
**Mayor Tom Hopper** 965-1024  
**Phone: Century Link** 800-407-5411  
**RITA (income tax)** 800-860-7482  
web: [www.ritaohio.com](http://www.ritaohio.com)  
**Sheriff** 833-2800  
**Sunbury Post Office** 965-2471  
**Wastewater Plant** 740-602-1234  
Lift Station  
Emergencies 740-972-8646