

June 2015**Newsletter**

Township Issues

At their May meeting, Galena Village Council again discussed several issues related to Berkshire Township. Village Administrator Jeanna Burrell reported that she and Mayor Thomas Hopper met with Berkshire Township Trustees Chairman Rod Myers and Township Administrator Jeff George to discuss the Galena Cemetery. Myers asked the Village to consider splitting costs at the cemetery for the rest of the year and training staff on cemetery operations. The township does not segregate income and expenses between its two cemeteries and was unable to provide Galena Cemetery budget information in time for this Council meeting. Since there was no information to review, there was nothing for Council to discuss at this time.

Burrell asked Myers to demonstrate the township's commitment to its taxpayers within the Village by reinstating the Village's portion of Dustin Road in the township's Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) grant application to resurface Dustin Road. The township included the Village's portion of the road in its OPWC application last year and covered Galena's match since Village residents pay the township \$16,000 annually in taxes. Burrell felt this was a great show of collaboration and inter-governmental cooperation. The application was not funded last year and the township is resubmitting the application without the Village's portion. Myers stated that the trustees would consider the Village's request.

The Village had requested State Representative Margaret Ruhl investigate the state's merger law. The Village was concerned with the part of the law that allows someone to use the law to interfere with a municipal government's ability to operate while waiting on a merger commission to act. The process can take several years and removes annexation ability during that time. Galena felt it was the subject of a hostile takeover attempt and was

used as a pawn in a 2014 process to stop annexations to the Village of Sunbury. Ruhl investigated and relayed that this merger law has never actually been used in Ohio, therefore she opted not to pursue the issue further.

Galena's Council acted to again table township withdrawal legislation.

Special Events

The Village's Memorial Day services will be May 25th at 1 p.m. starting on the Village Square and progressing to the Galena Cemetery.

The June 7th Ice Cream Social has been cancelled since no one volunteered to coordinate the event.

Village Streets

Burrell has gathered information from the Delaware County Engineer's Office about safety at the Walnut St./S. Galena Rd. and State Route 3 intersection. The Village has advocated for a stop light at the intersection for years. Big Walnut Schools Superintendent Steve Mazzi contacted Burrell recently about his concerns with the intersection. She has also discussed the issue with Representative Ruhl who is investigating through the Ohio Department of Transportation.

Burrell is also discussing approaches to curb speeding in the Village with the sheriff's office. All Village streets have a 25 miles per hour speed limit.

Bids came in lower than expected on crack sealing and striping around the Village Square.

Final design is in process for the Walnut St. Phase 4 project in preparation for an OPWC application. Due to concerns with the brick section of Walnut St., the section from Church to Harrison streets will be asphalt. After some design revisions are made, the Village will talk with property owners in the affected area.

The Village has repaired its street lights and notified AEP to repair theirs. Homewood Corporation and Maronda Homes have been contacted repeatedly

about repairing lights that are still under their control.

The final home constructed in the Walnut Creek development has been completed and sold. A walk through in the development occurred and a punch list for corrections is being developed prior to the Village accepting the streets, sidewalks, storm and sanitary sewers, and street lights from Maronda Homes.

Grant Projects

The Galena Brick Trail project will be advertised for bids soon.

The Village is also working on final architectural design for the Galena Village Hall restroom project. Delaware County awarded the Village a Community Development Block Grant for more than \$100,000 to remodel its unisex restroom and a storage room into male and female restrooms that are Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant. A lower level ADA unisex restroom will also be added.

Biennial Audit

Fiscal Officer Marty Mazzie has been providing documents to the State

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.

June 5	Trash Day
June 7	Ice Cream Social - CANCELLED
June 10	2nd Quarter Sewer Bills Due
June 12	Trash Day
June 17	Zoning & Planning Commission
June 19	Trash Day
June 22	Council Meeting
June 26	Chipper Day, Trash Day

Auditor's Office for the Village's biennial 2013-2014 audit and auditors will be onsite in June.

Code Compliance

Mudflats Bar and Grill's trial period for offering music on its deck has been extended to July 15.

Sambuca's Italian Greenhouse has appealed its zoning violation to the Fifth District Court of Appeals where oral arguments will be heard on June 9th.

Subdivision regulation revisions are progressing.

The Village has a *Property Maintenance Code* and homeowners are expected to keep their property in acceptable condition. The purpose of the Code is to prevent blighting conditions which can negatively affect the entire community. Owners are expected to keep grass and weeds cut, buildings and fences painted or in good repair, and junk off premises or stored in a building. Unlicensed and disabled vehicles are to be removed or stored out of sight inside a building. All properties are inspected on a regular basis by the Village and any found to be substandard are issued a Notice of Violation and given time to remedy the violation. Failure to comply may result in a court summons and possible fines. It is in the best interests of all properties owners to keep their property in good condition.

Seven property owners were sent property maintenance violation notices. Three older violation cases have been forwarded to the Village Solicitor for legal action.

Legislation

Council held a second reading on a resolution to revise the mayor's compensation prior to the next term. First readings were held on legislation related to Summerfest, the July 4th Flea Market, Preservation Parks Community Parks Improvement Grants, and creating a building department in order to change commercial and industrial building inspections from state jurisdiction to Delaware County.

Wastewater News

Second quarter sewer bills are due June 10. Letters were sent to proper-

ty owners with delinquent sewer accounts. Council voted to place liens on four properties with significantly past due sewer bills.

Residential sewer bills are \$54.45/month (\$163.35/quarter). Quarterly billing saves customers money, so 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.

Bill Sent	For Quarter	Bill Due
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

Delinquencies can result in:

- 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 740-965-2484 with any questions.
- 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.

Chipper Days

The Village offers a free chipping service on the last Friday of each month, May through October. Check out information on our web site for details of what is acceptable: <http://www.galenaohio.org/link.html#trash>.

Rain Gardens

Learn how to create your own rain garden at a free program 2 p.m., June 20, at Coldwater Consulting, 46 W. Columbus St. For more information, contact BWNatureClub@gmail.com or visit www.BWNatureClub.webs.com.

Flea Market

The Galena Historic Foundation will hold a Flea Market July 4th at Miller Park. Applications for booths are available at the Galena Village Hall, by contacting Dave O'Neil at oilcityo@columbus.rr.com or 740-965-9913, and under the Galena Historic Foundation at <http://www.galenaohio.org/link.html#orgs>.

Summerfest

Summerfest is August 22 and there are still opportunities to be sponsors and vendors. Contact GalenaSummerfest@gmail.com for more information or check out details at www.GalenaSummerfest.com. Follow the progress on booking entertainment on their facebook page.

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
Waste Management	866-797-9018
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
Newsletter	Join the email distribution list by emailing administrator@galenaohio.org
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