

## Koehler Hired for Maintenance



*The Village hired Levi Koehler as its new part-time maintenance employee.*

At the Village of Galena's February Council meeting, Council voted to hire Levi Koehler as the Village's part-time maintenance employee. He will work 10 hours per week flexibly scheduled to provide backup support for snow plowing, mowing, and other maintenance duties. Koehler grew up in the Galena area and is a Big Walnut graduate. He is an Army veteran who served with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division in Afghanistan where he assisted in construction of buildings, wells, and bridges. He has a variety of experience with heavy equipment, welding, surveying, and grounds keeping. Koehler is currently a part-time Otterbein University student.

## Winter Weather

Village Administrator Jeanna Burrell explained to Council that staff were monitoring storm drains as snow melted to ensure they were functioning properly. The Village had used 59 tons of salt by the end of January. The scarcity of salt statewide influences the 2:1 ratio of grit/salt mix which did not melt snow and ice as well during the frigid temperatures. Keeping up with the winter weather has been a challenge.

## Zoning & Development

The Estates at Blackhawk Phase C plat has been recorded at Delaware County and a new model home is being built.

The 90-day period to bring Sambuca Nursery into compliance with its new zoning classification expires at the end of March.

The Village is working with the Galena Commerce Center (former Galena Brickyard) on updating a 15 year-old development plan.

Four properties have been forwarded to the solicitor for legal action regarding property maintenance compliance.

## Equipment

Burrell reported that the Village's new leased copier has been installed and is working well. The previous copier was more than 10 years old and had become very unreliable in recent years.

Council reviewed estimates for a new tractor to replace an aging Kubota that is at least 20 years old. Council approved a three-year financing plan for a John Deere tractor.

## Fiscal Matters

Fiscal Officer Marty Mazzie reported that the 2011-2012 Audit was received from the State Auditor's Office and a post-audit conference will be held soon.

Mazzie showed Council income tax collection comparisons for the first period of 2010-2014 as well as interest income since 2005.

The Income Tax Committee met prior to the Council meeting to consider three cases where income taxes were not paid. All three applicants were current on their income taxes and the Committee recommended forgiving penalties and interest. Council approved the recommendation.

## Parks & Special Events

Council held a first reading on a management agreement for the Ruffner Park ball field with the Columbus Sharks.

The Village is reorganizing its special events. Journey Fellowship Church volunteers will assist Karin Underwood in organizing this year's Easter Egg Hunt. Roy Merchant and David Simmons will continue coordinating Memorial Day. New Council member Joe Stoll and

Genoa Baptist Church will coordinate the Ice Cream Social and plan to move the event to June. Melinda Simmons and Mary Brooks have volunteered to coordinate the Halloween Costume Contest. The Village is still looking for volunteers to coordinate Santa and the Tree Lighting which will most likely be combined into one event. Anyone interested should contact the Village office at 740-965-2484.

## Wastewater News

The frigid temperatures have caused several issues at the wastewater plant. The Village has completed its wastewater treatment improvements project with Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) funds. The projects included a new SCADA system and purchasing a generator and a bypass pump. The Village will begin making payments on a \$66,848 zero percent loan and can pay it off early with no penalty. The generator was utilized during the February 24 power outage.

Burrell discussed progress on an investigation into downtown sewer line grease problems. A letter was sent in January to the two downtown restaurants explaining the problem; the Village's authority under its sewer use ordinance; and, requesting grease trap cleaning receipts. Receipts have been received from one restaurant and the other was granted additional time. Lengthy discussion was held about how this expensive problem has been ongoing for years. Downtown lines had to be cleaned out on an emergency basis in May 2013 and already need cleaned out again.

## 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.

March 7 Trash Day  
March 10 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Sewer Bills Due  
March 14 Trash Day  
March 17\*\* Council Meeting  
March 19 Zoning & Planning  
Commission  
March 21, 28 Trash Days

Council asked staff to investigate and attempt to resolve the issue.

Residential sewer bills are \$53.64/month (\$160.92/quarter). 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. Sewer billing is on the following calendar:

| Bill Sent | For Quarter      | Bill Due |
|-----------|------------------|----------|
| Feb. 1    | Feb./March/April | March 11 |
| May 1     | May/June/July    | June 10  |
| Aug. 1    | Aug./Sept./Oct.  | Sept. 10 |
| Nov. 1    | Nov./Dec./Jan.   | Dec. 10  |

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:**

- Drop-off payments at the Village Hall, 109 Harrison St. during office hours Mondays-Thursday, 8 a.m.-4p.m. or in our 24-hour drop box on the building.
- 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 \$53.64 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 at [www.galenaohio.org/forms/autowithdraw.pdf](http://www.galenaohio.org/forms/autowithdraw.pdf). Remember that if fees increase, you need to contact your bank to authorize an increase in your automatic payments.

## Village Tax Levy

The Village will have a four-year, two-mill replacement property tax levy on the May ballot. The current two-mill levy expired Dec. 31 but will continue to be collected in 2014. The Delaware County Auditor estimates the cost to homeowners would be \$70 per \$100,000 of home valuation. The levy would generate \$37,903 per year in critical operating funds for the Village.

## Delaware General Health District News

Council heard from Shelia Hiddleston, Delaware General Health District

(DGHD) Commissioner. She gave an update on the Health District which conducted a community health assessment in 2012 and is drafting community health goals from the information gathered. Hiddleston said the District is one of only a few in the state that have applied for accreditation.

She also discussed the 0.7-mills renewal operating levy on the May ballot explaining that DGHD provides essential services that prevent disease, promote health and protect Delaware County residents from a variety of illnesses and injuries.

Some of the essential services the Health District provides are fee-based such as inspections of restaurants, tattoo parlors, swimming pools, and safe water. However, there are many more that are provided without a fee such as communicable disease investigation and follow-up; education to children and youth related to healthy diets, lifestyle and activity; and, fall assessments for the elderly. Through the clinic services, prevention programs, environmental health inspections, and more, the DGHD staff show a dedication that goes above and beyond their core duties. These essential services are made possible by you, the Delaware County voter, when you support the DGHD levy.

As this year marks the end of the 10-year public health levy, Hiddleston said DGHD is proud to say that the existing health levy has been at the same millage (0.7 mills) since 1984. It is a well-known fact that the population of the Health District has tripled during that time, which includes close to 170,000 residents that DGHD serves. The levy funds represent a little more than 50 percent of the revenue for the Health District, with a cost of \$19.20 annually per \$100,000 property valuation.

On May 6, voters will be asked to continue the health levy for another 10 years to ensure that these services and many more continue. The levy is a renewal and will not increase your current taxes. If you have questions, please call Health Commissioner Shelia Hiddleston at 740-203-2002.

## Big Walnut Nature Club

The Galena Nature Club recently changed its name to the Big Walnut Nature Club. Many people wondered if they had to live in Galena to join the club so the broader name should be less confusing and more encompassing.

Water levels in Hoover Reservoir remain high which presents challenges for nest box and platform maintenance.

Several nature programs were discussed and plans are being made for spring and summer events.

If you want to make a difference in nature, attend the next meeting on March

20 at 7 p.m. at the Galena Village Hall. For more information, contact Jeanna Burrell, 740-965-1914, [burrellj@embarqmail.com](mailto:burrellj@embarqmail.com).

## Galena "Days Gone By"

March 1st, 1 PM

The Galena Historic Foundation is holding a storytelling event March 1st at the Galena Village Hall, 109 Harrison St., at 1 p.m. They will document and record stories told by Galena residents of Galena "Days Gone By". There will be a Silent Auction during the event as well as light refreshments. Please bring any old Galena pictures, memorabilia, or stories you may have of your Galena "Days Gone By." For more information, contact John Bland at [jwbslb@embarqmail.com](mailto:jwbslb@embarqmail.com) or 965-2081.

## Pretty For Prom

- **Free** prom dresses
- March 8, 9AM-1PM
- Journey Fellowship in Galena (70 N. Walnut St. - former Galena School)
- "Boutique" atmosphere with hair and makeup artists on hand for suggestions, accessories (jewelry, purses, and shoes), minor alterations while you wait, and light refreshments.
- Check it out at <https://www.facebook.com/events/452911091501612/>

## Electronic News

Get our newsletter by email by contacting [administrator@galenaohio.org](mailto:administrator@galenaohio.org).

## Important Contacts

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