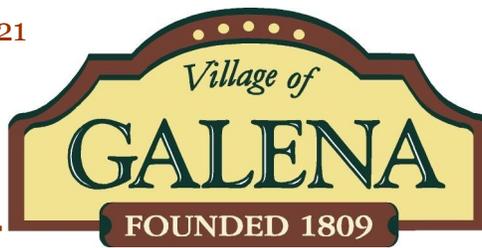


# March 2015



# Newsletter

## Galena Hires Special Counsel

At their February meeting, Village Council hired Special Counsel Eugene Hollins to advise them on the issues of the merger and withdrawing from Berkshire Township. They held a third reading and tabled an ordinance to withdraw from the township pending legal advice.

Delaware County Auditor George Kaitsa addressed Council to clarify tax income from AEP's Vassell substation. Questions arose after some Council members and the mayor attended a recent Berkshire Township Trustees meeting and were told about tax income from AEP and adding Northstar to the Berkshire Landing Joint Economic Development District (JEDD) and Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district. Kaitsa clarified income to Berkshire and Trenton townships as well as BST&G and Big Walnut Schools saying the school district was able to ask for less in their tax levy due to the AEP income. He also discussed New Community Authority (NCA), JEDD, and TIF funding mechanisms.

## Council Actions

Council approved a resolution hiring Coldwater Consulting to conduct a storm water Inflow and Infiltration (I & I) Study to determine how storm water is entering the Village's sewer system.

Council passed a resolution at the request of the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) approving U.S. Bike Route 50 running through Galena. ODOT is preparing to purchase and post signs designating the route.

Council held a second reading on an agreement for the Columbus Sharks to manage the Ruffner Park ball field. They held a first reading on a resolution to designate Delaware County to handle commercial building inspections for the Village. They are currently inspected by the state and residential

building inspections are handled by the county.

## Healthy News



Delaware General Health District Commissioner Shelia Hiddleson discussed the District's priorities in addressing food insecurities, overweight/obesity, access to healthcare, depression/suicide, and substance abuse. She also discussed the new Ohio household sewage system rules that went into effect in January.

## Snow, Trails, & Equipment

Village Administrator Jeanna Burrell noted that the winter had been mild until February and that Village maintenance staff have devoted many evening and weekend hours to keeping Village roads, sidewalks, and trails cleared. There have been a number of mechanical issues with the Village's dump truck requiring repairs.

The Village is working through details with the City of Columbus and Delaware County on the Galena Brick Trail project.

In preparation for spring, the Village is replacing an old mower and are also looking to replace an older truck, both of which need expensive repairs.

## Fiscal Matters

Fiscal Officer Marty Mazzie noted that letters went out with sewer bills reminding everyone that fees increased. Residents are reminded to contact their banks to adjust automatic withdrawal amounts. First quarter sewer bills are due March 10.

Letters also went out to landlords reminding them they are required to notify the Village of new tenants.

Mazzie summarized income tax receipts that have increased from \$266,880 in 2012 to \$331,296 in 2014. The changes reflect new homes being occupied and more residents being gainfully employed.

## Code Compliance

Under the Code Compliance report, Mark Brooks was sworn in for a new three-year term on the Zoning and Planning Commission. Delays in the demolition of the substandard house at 24 Front St. were discussed. Council approved a recommendation from the Zoning and Planning Commission to waive and refund several patio fees while the Code Compliance office works to clarify Zoning Resolution language and fees. Property owners are reminded to clean up their properties and be sure vehicles are licensed to avoid property maintenance violations.

## Special Events

The Village's Easter Egg hunt will be organized by Journey Fellowship on April 4 at 1 p.m. at Ruffner Park.

Volunteers are needed to organize this year's Ice Cream Social in June.

## 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 6	Trash Day
March 10	1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr. Sewer Bills Due
March 13	Trash Day
March 18	Zoning & Planning Commission
March 20	Trash Day
March 27	Trash Day
March 30**	Council Meeting

## Wastewater News

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.

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

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](http://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.

## 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.

## Owl Prowl

Join the Big Walnut Nature Club and Preservation Parks of Delaware County for Owl Prowl Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. Local birding enthusiast Charlie Bombaci will present a program on owls at the Galena Village Hall.



Then, at 8 p.m., head over to Preservation Parks' Char Mar Ridge Preserve at 7741 Lewis Center Rd. for a hike led by Preservation Parks' Rich Niccum to call in owls. Recommended for children 7 and older who can be patient and quiet while calling the owls. Dress for the weather and wear boots. It will be a great evening to get out in nature and learn the calls of our nighttime birds.

For more information, contact [bwnatureclub@gmail.com](mailto:bwnatureclub@gmail.com).

## Days Gone By

The Galena Historic Foundation is holding its second annual storytelling event at 1 p.m., March 7, at the Village Hall. They will document and record stories told by Galena residents. Guest speaker David Simmons will highlight his "Days Gone By" and speak about Galena's history. Simmons is a longtime resident, Council member, and Ohio Historical Society employee.

There will be a silent auction and light refreshments. Bring old Galena pictures, memorabilia, and stories of your Galena "Days Gone By."

## Bluebirds

The Big Walnut Nature Club is teaming up with Wild Birds Unlimited of Westerville to offer Backyard Bluebirds at 6:30 p.m., March 10, at the Galena Village Hall.

Ohio Bluebird Society experts Darlene Sillick and Paula Ziebarth

will discuss the basics of managing your backyard habitat for native cavity nesting birds such as Eastern Bluebirds and Carolina Chickadees. You'll learn about attracting birds, good nest box design, habitat, and monitoring requirements. Darlene and Paula will recommend the best placement for nest boxes in your yard if you email photos of your yard before the program to [customerservice@wbwesterville.com](mailto:customerservice@wbwesterville.com).

The program is free but donations will be accepted toward purchasing wood for local bluebird trail nest box kits. Wild Birds Unlimited will bring a pole/baffle setup and bluebird, chickadee, wren, and other nest boxes for display. Those attending will receive a discount coupon good at the Westerville store, 720 N. State St., Westerville, 43082.

A variety of links about bluebirds and nest box plans are available at the Big Walnut Nature Club's web site at <http://bwnatureclub.webs.com/resources> and at Wild Birds Unlimited's web site at <http://westerville.wbu.com/content/show/47737>.

## Important Contacts

<b>Village Offices</b>	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> 740-965-1024
Dave LaValle:	<a href="mailto:codecompliance@galenaohio.org">codecompliance@galenaohio.org</a>
Marty Mazzie:	<a href="mailto:fiscalofficer@galenaohio.org">fiscalofficer@galenaohio.org</a>
<b>In an emergency, dial</b>	<b>911</b>
<b>BST&amp;G Fire District</b>	740-965-3841 <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, <a href="http://www.delcoems.org">www.delcoems.org</a>
<b>Del-Co Water</b>	740-548-7746
<b>Dog Warden</b>	740-368-1915
<b>Electric: AEP</b>	800-277-2177
<b>Galena Post Office</b>	740-965-2371
<b>Health Dept.</b>	740-368-1700 <a href="http://www.delawarehealth.org">www.delawarehealth.org</a>
<b>Immediate Urgent Care</b>	740-965-8305 101D W. Cherry St., Sunbury
<b>Newsletter</b>	Join the email distribution list by emailing <a href="mailto:administrator@galenaohio.org">administrator@galenaohio.org</a>
<b>Phone: Century Link</b>	800-407-5411
<b>PUCO</b>	614-466-3292, 800-686-PUCO (7826) <a href="http://www.puco.ohio.gov">www.puco.ohio.gov</a>
<b>RITA (income tax)</b>	800-860-7482, <a href="http://www.ritaohio.com">www.ritaohio.com</a>
<b>Sheriff</b>	740-833-2800
<b>Sunbury Post Office</b>	740-965-2471
<b>Wastewater Plant</b>	740-513-9943
<b>Lift Station Emergencies</b>	740-972-8646