

TOWN CRIER

CENTERVILLE, OH

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Centerville plans to upgrade I-675/Wilmington Pike

City council approves the use of TIF



Motorists stream through the I-675 and Wilmington Pike interchange during rush hour.

Centerville City Council in December unanimously passed an ordinance to allow use of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) to finance long-term road and other infrastructure improvements in and around the I-675/Wilmington Pike interchange. Already a busy interchange, the area continues to grow and serves citizens from Centerville, Washington Township, Kettering, Bellbrook, Sugar creek Township and beyond. Ohio law requires that a TIF be located in the area that it will improve. Council made the decision to create a TIF at Miami Valley Hospital South because it is the largest undeveloped site in close proximity to the area that will be improved—the I-675/Wilmington Pike area. According to Greg Horn, Center-

ville city manager, Miami Valley Hospital South will continue to fully pay all property taxes associated with its campus. Horn said the hospital did not request the TIF and that no revenue from it will be utilized for on-campus improvements. "The addition of the hospital has been a tremendous asset to our community, providing health and medical services along with jobs and new development," Centerville Mayor Mark Kingseed said.

What is a TIF?

Tax Increment Financing is an economic development tool available to local governments in Ohio to finance public infrastructure improvements. TIFs have been successfully used hundreds of times throughout the state and nearly fifty times in Montgom-

ery County. The program works this way: A TIF district is established—in this case on the Miami Valley Hospital South campus. If property values in the TIF area go up because of new construction, the property tax collections based only on that increased value will be allocated to a separate fund. The fund will pay specifically for infrastructure improvements at the I-675/Wilmington Pike interchange. The TIF has no effect on taxes paid on any property outside the TIF area. The City estimates the future improvement project will cost \$40 million over the next 10–15 years and include improvements to the I-675/Wilmington Pike bridge, ramps and feeder roads near the interchange. While federal funds should cover most of the project, the City could be responsible for upwards of \$10 million. Once the improvements have been fully paid, the TIF will end and the full higher amount of the property taxes will go to the various taxing authorities. *Story continued on page 20.*

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Mayor Kingseed gives State of the City address

Centerville has no plans to raise taxes

Mayor Mark Kingseed delivered his annual State of the City address Feb. 13 at the Centerville Police Department. His key message focused on the City's efforts to preserve property values, improve efficiencies while controlling costs instead of raising taxes, and encourage private economic growth.

Kingseed told the audience Council is committed to preserving property values and cited the \$1.6 million street and sidewalk repair program, property maintenance ordinances and the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). He discussed the budget pressures the City faces, saying Columbus did "its worst" and all taxing authorities, including Centerville, "took a big hit" when the state cut the local government fund in half and eliminated the estate tax. Centerville will see an annual loss of \$1.5 to 2 million. Kingseed said the City has continued streamlining positions and over the past ten years reduced the number of full-time City employees from 196 to 163. The budget loss also forced Council to reduce funding to a number of civic groups like the historical society and Hithergreen Center. "These groups do great work and add value to our community," he said, "but we are simply unable to continue the same funding levels going forward."

Calling the 2012 budget a "very conservative, cautious document", Kingseed said Council cut costs and kept expenditures in line with revenue. As a result, Council is confident the City can continue to provide services without raising taxes.

There are encouraging signs on the economic development front as Kingseed cited Miami Valley Hospital South's expansion, the new Kroger Marketplace, and Bethany Lutheran Village and St. Leonard construction projects. The Dille property development should be underway soon, he added, and activity continues to increase in downtown Centerville and at Cross Pointe Center, especially with the addition of Earth Fare.

In order to promote growth and stability, Kingseed said the City must support the private sector. To that end, Council supported two economic growth initiatives: using Tax Increment Financing (TIF) to pay for roadway and other improvements at the I-675/Wilmington Pike interchange and annexing 96 acres in Washington Township. Kingseed called the TIF a strategic decision that will not only improve

the intersection but also spur development and create opportunity for the entire area. He emphasized that no taxing entity will lose any funding that it presently receives. Only additional taxes on future increases in property value on the TIF'd area will be deferred to pay for improvements. *(Additional information about TIF is on pages 1, 15 and 20.)*

Kingseed said when it makes sense, Council unanimously supports annexation, as it is the only way cities can grow. He cited Yankee Trace as an example of planned growth and said it annually provides more than \$8 million to the township, parks, schools and library. Annexation "does not hurt the township and it benefits the entire community."

Kingseed said by working together, Centerville and Washington Township can "achieve great results," citing the Austin Road development as an example of two entities joining together to create millions of dollars of development and hundreds of jobs. He said Council has had a longstanding offer to the township to enter into Joint Economic Development Districts (JEDD) to create similar projects, with no response. "The City is ready, willing and able to make this happen," said Kingseed, extending another invitation to township trustees. Kingseed concluded by saying that Council will do what is needed to ensure that Centerville has the necessary resources to provide services without raising taxes. "I am confident this City will continue to flourish and my colleagues and I are grateful for the opportunity you have given us to serve."

To read the full text of Mayor Kingseed's speech, go to ci.centerville.oh.us.



Mayor Kingseed reviews Council's goals during the State of the City address.

Centerville annexes land

In an effort to continue Centerville's growth and development, the City recently annexed 96.5 acres of undeveloped land northeast of Sheehan and Social Row roads located in Washington Township. Noting that cities can only grow through mergers or annexations, City Manager Greg Horn said City Council will continue to seek opportunities for future growth.

Ohio Revised Code requires that at least five percent of annexed property be contiguous to the city. When Yankee Development Group petitioned earlier this year for Centerville to annex a strip of land on Sheehan Rd. in the township, the action allowed the City to pursue further annexation.

Centerville City Schools, Washington Township and Montgomery County all own sections of the property. The Expedited Type 2 annexation Centerville requested does not require approval of public entities, only private property owners. Yankee Development Group also owns a portion of the land and agreed to the petition. Property owners do not change through annexation, only the governing jurisdiction.

Centerville City Schools owns about 30 acres of the land, where future plans include building a school.

City offices closed Memorial Day

Centerville City offices will be closed Monday, May 28, in commemoration of Memorial Day. Waste collection will be delayed one day throughout the week.

Welcome to these businesses
new to Centerville

VIP Pool Service
93 Westpark Rd.

Columbia Financial
55 South Main St.

Roll and Associates
6515 Centerville Business Pkwy.

Citywide Garage Sale set for May 3–5

Register your sale through April 20

Whether you're looking for some great bargains or want to clean out your house, the City of Centerville's annual Citywide Garage Sale should be on your calendar. Set for Thursday, May 3 through Saturday, May 5, the sales take place 8 a.m.–5 p.m. each day in neighborhoods throughout Centerville. This is the perfect opportunity to de-clutter your home or hunt for unexpected finds.

For each household participating in the garage sale, the City will provide one sign and advertising in a local newspaper. Addresses of participating households with a brief description of items for sale will be listed on the City's website.



City of Centerville Citywide Garage Sale 2011

Residents must register at ci.centerville.oh.us or use the form on page 20 of this publication and return it to the Centerville Municipal Building, 100 W. Spring Valley Rd. Fax registrations to 433-8221. Registration deadline is 9 a.m., Friday, April 20.

What you don't sell, you can have hauled away during Operation Clean Sweep, the week of May 7. All items should be placed at the curb by 7 a.m. on your regular waste collection day. Call 433-7151 or email information@centervilleohio.gov with questions.

Clean out your desk and medicine cabinet

Take part in Operation D.U.M.P.

While doing spring cleaning, take a look in your medicine cabinet and go through your desk and files. Keep only currently used medications with valid dates. Organize your files, keeping only the current bills, records and other paperwork you need.

Bring your expired and unwanted medications and old confidential papers to the Centerville Police Department, 155 W. Spring Valley Rd. for Operation D.U.M.P. (Dispose of Unwanted Medications Properly). This event is offered 9 a.m.–noon, Saturday, May 5. Drop-offs only accepted during this time.

Pills, tablets, and capsules should be removed from the bottle and placed securely in a Ziploc bag. All foil packaging and unopened pill bottles should be emptied and also placed in a Ziploc bag. Packages with leaks will not be accepted.

Confidential Material Destruction Inc. will collect any paper materials brought to their shredding truck. Place paper documents in a tub, box or bag. Upon collection, the items will be placed in a large receptacle for immediate shredding. This service is for residents and not businesses with bulk shredding needs. This is an annual event offered in conjunction with Clean Sweep Week. Call 433-7661 for further information.

Operation Clean Sweep in action May 7–10

Following the Citywide Garage Sale, Clean Sweep Week will be May 7–10. This is the week that residents may put out unlimited refuse to be collected at no extra charge. Keep in mind the same collection guidelines apply during Clean Sweep Week as other weeks. All items need to be placed at the curb by 7 a.m. on your regular collection day. No hazardous items (paint, oil, propane), concrete, rock, dirt, tree stumps, root balls, or vehicle parts (including tires) will be collected. Items such as carpet, wood, and countertops must be cut or broken down to four foot lengths so they can fit into trucks.

New in 2012 is the requirement that all mattresses be sealed in plastic. Bags are available for \$3 each at the Public Works Center. Contact Public Works at 428-4782 or publicworks@centervilleohio.gov for more information.

During Clean Sweep Week we typically collect about 5,000 pounds of metal (appliances, furniture and bikes) and about 350 tons of refuse that includes couches, tables, toys, carpet, and miscellaneous trash. The entire Refuse/Recycling and Street division staffs participate in this annual event. Several trucks will be out collecting items—keep this in mind if everything you put out does not get collected by the first truck.

SPRING CLEANING CHECK LIST



IS UNDERWAY!

The City of Centerville offers the following events to help you on your way to a clutter-free home. For more information, call 433-7151 or visit ci.centerville.oh.us

**UNTIL
APRIL 20**

Register your garage sale

**MAY
3–5**

*Shop for bargains at the
Citywide Garage Sale*

**MAY 5
9–NOON**

*Clean out medicine cabinet and take
old items to Police Department*

**MAY 5
9–NOON**

*Review old papers/other documents and
take to Police Department for shredding*

**MAY
7–10**

*Bulk item pickup on your regular
waste collection day*

Tax Office offers easy way to submit income tax information

Income Taxes due April 17

Save tax preparation time by using the City's free, online tax preparation tool. The secure system—available at ci.centerville.oh.us—walks you through the Centerville income tax form, downloads information about tax payments made during the year, and automatically calculates the tax liability or refund. To use the tool, you'll need the PIN printed on the income tax form mailed to you from the City. Print the completed form, attach W2s, and mail or bring it to the Tax Office at the Municipal Building.

Since the tool transmits residents' data directly to the City, the tax department no longer has to manually enter tax information. For residents entitled to refunds, you'll receive your refund check quicker.

There is no fee to use the tool. You may also use it to request an extension to file your Centerville tax return (it does not extend the time to pay any tax due). Your tax preparer may use this tool to determine any credits (estimate payments or credit carryovers) in your account if you provide your PIN.

The Tax Office staff is available for assistance either by phone, 433-7151, or in the Tax Office, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. There is no charge and no appointment needed.

2011 income taxes and 2012 first quarter estimated taxes are due April 17. You may drop your tax return and/or any payment in the box in the rear parking lot of the Municipal Building, 100 W. Spring Valley Rd.

City looking for seasonal employees

The City is hiring summer seasonal employees for the following areas:

The Golf Club at Yankee Trace

- Food Service: Restaurant and Banquet Servers, Bartenders, Hostess, Banquet Setup, Cooks, Dish Machine Operators
- Golf Operation: Clerk/Cashier, Outside Services, Beverage Cart Attendants
- Golf Maintenance: Laborers

Public Works

- Laborers

Benham's Grove

- Laborer
- Event Host

Administration

- Stage Manager for Sunday Concert series



Position schedules and pay rates vary by department. Visit ci.centerville.oh.us under Employment for details. Interested candidates should submit an application or resume indicating desired position, to City of Centerville Human Resources Dept., 100 W. Spring Valley Rd., Centerville, OH 45458, or email applications by March 30, 2012 to personnel@centervilleohio.gov. Applications may be obtained in person or online. The City of Centerville is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

EMPLOYEES ACHIEVE *career milestones* WITH CITY

Centerville honored 37 employees for their years of service during the annual Employee Recognition and Holiday Luncheon. Planning secretary Connie Myers, recently retired, was recognized for 35 years of service while City Planner Steve Feverston and Police Officers Daryl Wagner and Dan Osterfeld received 30-year awards. Wagner retired in November. Awards for 25 years of service were presented to Doug Filaseta of Building Inspection and Werner Boehm and C.J. Thrower from Public Works. "Many of our employees have dedicated their careers to serving the residents of Centerville," said Greg Horn, city manager. "We appreciate the talent and effort they bring to their respective positions."

OTHER HONOREES INCLUDED:

20 YEARS

Brad Kavalunas, Public Works
Bryan Sears, Police Department
Scott Thomas, Police Department

5 YEARS

Nadia Dexter, Police Department
Yvonne Perone, Police Department
C.T. Houser, Public Works
Tom Nugent, Public Works
Chris Sharp, Public Works
David Watts, Public Works
John Sliemers, Engineering Office
Bob Lindenschmidt, Code Enforcement
Kristen Gopman, City Manager's Office
Scott Ontjes, Information Technology
Julie Weaver, Clerk of Council's Office

15 YEARS

John Pridemore, Police Department
Ed Skinner, Police Department
Christine Smart, Police Department
Jim Stephenson, Police Department

10 YEARS

Randy Bishop, Benham's Grove
David Laird, Public Works
Adam Bennett, Police Department
Julie Gerspacher, Police Department
Aaron Nicley, Police Department
Bill Osmanski, Police Department

Sue Jessee, Benham's Grove
Diane Hammer, Yankee Trace
Ben Holmes, Yankee Trace
Pat O'Boyle, Yankee Trace
Jason Pajari, Yankee Trace
Diane Serruto, Yankee Trace

Centerville utilizes social media

Check out the City's website ci.centerville.oh.us for the latest news in Centerville. You can also "like" us on Facebook. Four City pages are available: City of Centerville, Benham's Grove, Centerville Farmers Market and The Golf Club at Yankee Trace. Go to facebook.com and search "City of Centerville, Ohio" or visit the Centerville website and click on Facebook under Quick Links.

Centerville now has a mobile app available for iPads, iPhones, Droids and Blackberry smart phones and you can follow us on Twitter. Go to ci.centerville.oh.us for more information.



Mayor to host Interfaith Breakfast

Centerville Mayor Mark Kingseed hosts the annual Interfaith Breakfast with area religious leaders at 8 a.m., Wednesday, March 21 at The Golf Club at Yankee Trace, 10000 Yankee St. Kingseed says the goal for the annual event is to "expand our dialogue on ways local government and local faith-based organizations might work together to meet community needs." All churches and other faith-based organizations in the City of Centerville and Washington Township should have received an invitation. For more information call Centerville Municipal Offices, 433-7151.

Scholarships available for local students

Two local education scholarships are targeted specifically at Centerville and Washington Township students. The John P. Kalamán Scholarship Fund, established in 1998 in memory of Centerville Police Officer John Kalamán, offers three scholarships totaling \$20,000. To date, more than \$180,000 has been awarded to 37 local students. The Americana Scholarship offers four scholarships for high school, two scholarships for college students, and four scholarships for middle school students, ranging in value from \$400 to \$1,200.

Kalamán scholarships are available to two students planning to attend a four-year institution, community or technical college, or trade school, as well for high school seniors planning to major in criminal justice, criminology, social work, psychology, political science, education, government service or forensics. An additional scholarship is available for employees and dependents of full-time or retired Centerville Police Department employees.

Kalamán scholarship applications are available in area high school guidance offices, at daytonfoundation.org or by calling 225-9955. Application deadline is Friday, March 23.

Americana scholarships recognize students for academic excellence and commitment to their community. High school seniors and college students up to age 21 must complete a personal interview, demonstrate involvement in community service activities and write a 500-word essay. Middle School students in grades six through eight must write a 250-word essay.

Americana application deadline is 5 p.m., Monday, April 16. Registration forms are at americanafestival.org or the Americana Festival Office, Town Hall Theatre, 27 N. Main St.

Volunteer at Yankee Trace

The Golf Club at Yankee Trace is consistently voted the #1 golf course in Dayton thanks, in large part, to the many residents who volunteer to help us achieve our goals. We are accepting applications to assist with customer service and course beautification. Benefits include complimentary golf and merchandise discounts. Call 438-GOLF for program details/schedule availability.



City to participate in Severe Weather Awareness drill

Statewide drill at 9:50 a.m., March 28

As part of Severe Weather Awareness Week, a statewide tornado drill will be conducted at 9:50 a.m., Wednesday, March 28. All Ohio counties will sound warning sirens and the Emergency Alert System will broadcast a test message. The Washington Township Fire Department will sound alarms in Centerville and Washington Township.

City of Centerville staff will take part in the drill as part of an ongoing effort to rehearse for potential disasters and critical incidents.

In case of a citywide emergency, tune your radio to WCWT, 107.3 FM for information.

Centerville offers a resident Emergency Preparation Guide, available on the City's website ci.centerville.oh.us, under Quick Links, or by calling 433-7151. For additional information on severe weather preparedness log onto weathersafety.ohio.gov or ema.ohio.gov.



Zoning Guide of Spring

It's Garage Sale season. The City permits one 3-day sale per quarter. Signs advertising the sale, including signage on vehicles, are not permitted off the property.

- Recreational vehicles, which include all trailers, can be parked in the driveway for three days per 7-day period for loading, unloading, cleaning, etc. Only one RV—parked over three days—is permitted per property. The vehicle must be parked on a hard surface on the side of the house with screening to the side. Maximum size is 8' wide x 12' tall x 30' in length.
- All vehicles parked in the driveway must be in safe running condition, have current license plates and be no larger than 8' x 8' x 20'.
- Weeds and grass may be no longer than 8 inches tall. Clean your yard of any downed tree branches and other items. Brush piles should be no larger than 2' x 2' x 4'—one per property. Please contact Public Works, 428-4782 for information on special pickups of brush. You may also drop off brush 8 a.m.–4 p.m. every Wednesday and 9 a.m.–noon every third Saturday at the Public Works Center, 7970 South Suburban Road.

Get the news before it's delivered

Receive the Town Crier electronically. To sign up, go to ci.centerville.oh.us, look under Quick Links, then click Town Crier or call 433-7151. Each quarter, the publication will be sent automatically to your email inbox—at least ten days before it is delivered to the doorstep. Electronic delivery of the newsletter not only gets you the news earlier; it also reduces the City's paper consumption, as well as printing and mailing costs.



would preserve an historical piece of Centerville; at almost nine acres, it was the last of the little farms; and she calls its location "an oasis in the middle of Centerville." In August 1991, Council purchased the property for \$660,000 and began working immediately on restoration, budgeting additional funds for construction, parking lot and other improvements. Smaller buildings were demolished and those remaining, the original home circa 1885, cottage (a former chicken house) and barn, needed significant work.

Council decided to name the property Benham's Grove, in honor of Joseph Benham, a local merchant who built the farmhouse and lived on the property in the 1880s; and recognized the last family to live on the homestead by calling the home the Gerber House.

Fresh off personal projects of building a home in Centerville and renovating the family barn in Tipp City, Beals volunteered to utilize those skills and serve as project chair for the Benham's Grove renovation. A committee formed with Judy Gilleland, assistant to the city manager, as project manager and Sharma Stone, a local designer, as

design coordinator. Other City staff worked on the project including Steve Feverston, who developed the site plan and Alan Schwab, who helped restore the barn and performed various repairs.

"We wanted to tie the design together with coordinating colors and themes throughout each building," says Beals. "The committee went to great lengths to be as true to the original home as possible." That included adding brick and stone walkways throughout the property. The "big reveal" would be a two-week designer show house scheduled for April 25-May 10, 1992.

Almost 30 designers and a dozen landscapers signed on to help create a bygone era. The event included a vendors' area, entertainment, the his-

In 1991 as hundreds of motorists drove past 166 N. Main St., few noticed the property, overgrown and in need of repair. But Centerville Council, eager to find a recreational spot where people could gather, had its eye on the property. "Council had been looking for ways to enhance our City," says former Mayor Sally Beals, a council member during that time. "We toured properties throughout Centerville, but once we saw the house and grounds, we knew this was the place." Beals credits Shirley Heintz, then mayor, with foresight to purchase a property for community events.

"Centerville had so many amenities to offer, we were just missing the recreational piece," says Beals. To that end, the ambitious council was developing plans for two other projects which would become part of the Centerville landscape: The Golf Club at Yankee Trace and the Amphitheater at Stubbs Park. "Council was working on all three projects at the same time," she says. "It was a very busy and exciting time for our community."

The N. Main St. property was perfect for many reasons, says Beals: originally part of the Aaron Nutt estate, it



Looking back...

Benham's Grove celebrates its 20th anniversary

BENHAM'S GROVE 20th ANNIVERSARY EVENT CALENDAR

Wednesday, April 18: Arbor Day Planting at Benham's Grove, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, April 25: Founders' Day Event: ceremonial ribbon cutting, 10 a.m. sponsored by the Friends of Benham's Grove.

Wednesday, May 2: Plant a Garden Spot Kick-off: Community volunteers may pick a garden to tend throughout the year.

Wednesday, July 4: Americana Festival: Celebration complete with tours, entertainment and birthday cake.

Sunday, July 29: A Community Gathering Place Celebration: Join us 2-5 p.m. Couples are invited to renew their vows at 3:30 p.m. at the gazebo ceremony. Refreshments and entertainment will follow. The celebration continues at a Community Concert at Stubbs Park.

Friday, August 10: Dancing under the Stars: Sponsored by the Friends of Benham's Grove, enjoy dinner, cash bar, vendors, music and more. Tickets must be purchased for this event.

Sunday, November 18: Tree Lighting: Kick-off the holidays with this annual event, showcasing entertainment, festive decorations and twinkling lights.

Sunday, December 2 and Tuesday, December 4: Family Photo Day: Bring your camera and snap a family photo with picture-perfect decorations as your backdrop. Canned food donations requested in lieu of a sitting fee.

BENHAM'S GROVE RENTAL FEES

Facility/Seating Capacity	Weekday Rates (6-hr. Block)	Each Addtl. Hour	Weekends & Holidays (6-hr. Block)	Each Addtl. Hour
Entire Complex: 200 Nov. 15 through Apr. 15 Apr. 16 through Nov. 14	\$550 \$875	\$110 \$135	\$1300 \$1750	\$235 \$275
Gerber House: 70/120 Nov. 15 through Apr. 15 Apr. 16 through Nov. 14	\$375 \$500	\$60 \$75	\$750 \$1150	\$130 \$175
East Meeting Room: 24	\$140	\$30	N/A	N/A
Barn: 80 Nov. 15 through Apr. 15 Apr. 16 through Nov. 14	\$300 \$400	\$50 \$50	\$575 \$700	\$130 \$150
Cottage: 24	\$155	\$30	\$325	\$55

Gazebo: Limited availability with rental of one or more facilities.

Entire complex rental required for Saturdays, April 16 through November 14, and for guest count of 120 or more. Centerville residents and businesses receive a 20% discount off the facility rental fee. Additional hours are charged at the regular rate. Special weekday Business Rates are available for two-hour, four-hour and all day meetings and seminars ending by 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Discounts available for groups carrying the 501(c) (3) classification and groups needing a short-notice be-reavement facility. Benham's Grove is owned and operated by the City of Centerville. For more information call Benham's Grove, 433-1913 or visit benhamsgrove.com.



In celebration of its 20th anniversary, commemorative signs were added to the Benham's Grove property at 166 N. Main St. The new logo, placed at the entrance and on the Barn, will also be included on all literature regarding the community gathering place, located in the heart of Centerville.

torical society's tea, workshops and garden areas along with 1500 volunteers assisting in various capacities. So that they could be identified, Beals made aprons embroidered with the Benham's Grove insignia for the hosts and hostesses. More than 9,000 guests toured the grounds and buildings, each room beautifully decorated. Filled with over \$750,000 worth of furnishings, the show house was a huge success. "We loved the furniture and decorations, and although it wasn't practical to keep it all, we did select a few pieces to keep in each area," Beals says. Many of those furnishings remain in the buildings today.

Council members Brooks Compton, Mark Kingseed, Mark Beasley, Jim Singer, and J.V. Stone joined Beals and Mayor Heintz for the grand opening ceremonies.

Following the gala, Benham's Grove opened for private rental and community events. Jim Reppert, recreational services director at the time, helped get the fledgling facility off the ground. Judy Kunas was named Benham's Grove administrator a year later.

"Benham's Grove is everything we had hoped it would become," says Beals. Over the years, the "oasis in the middle of Centerville" has been the site for thousands of family celebrations and stayed true to the original premise of a community gathering place, hosting events like the Americana Festival, Christmas Walk and Tree Lighting. "We wanted people to have the flexibility of bringing in an elaborate catering service or serving Bill's donuts," Beals said. "The beautiful setting is always the same."

Rotary Club to celebrate 40th anniversary

Centerville Rotary turns 40 this summer. The club has been instrumental in service to the local community and Rotary International. In recognition of Rotary's international commitment to battling polio, the Centerville Club will make polio awareness and eradication a central part of the anniversary.

Centerville Rotary is known for service to local causes, notably education. Its hallmark event, the annual Pancake Breakfast, helps fund the club's efforts in areas including college scholarships for local high school students, support of the Food 2 Go program, and the contribution of dictionaries and Thesauri to local grade school students. The Centerville Club has established an impressive track record of contributing members to serve as District Governors for the southwest Ohio Rotary District 6670.

Centerville Rotary comprises people from the South Dayton area who care about their local and global community. From professionals to government leaders to small business owners and more, Rotary Club of Centerville includes members who bring experience, expertise and enthusiasm. For information contact Erich Eggers, club president, 438-0031 or visit centervillerotary.com.



Centerville VFW members and Col. Michael Gregoritsch, 2011 keynote speaker, at the Memorial Day ceremony.

Remember our country's heroes Memorial Day ceremony set for May 28

The City of Centerville's annual Memorial Day ceremony is 9 a.m., Monday, May 28 at the Veterans Memorial in Stubbs Park, 255 W. Spring Valley Rd. In case of rain, the event will move to the Centerville Police Department, 155 W. Spring Valley Rd.

The program includes the Centerville VFW Post 9550 Color Guard, the Washington Township Fire Department and Centerville Police Department honor guards and remarks from Centerville Mayor Mark Kingseed. The keynote speaker had not been announced by press time. For more information call 433-7151.

Night of original music planned

The Centerville Arts Commission sponsors the 5th annual Original Night at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 16 in the Centerville High School (CHS) Central Theater, 500 E. Franklin St. The event is free and open to the public.

This student-run concert showcases original pieces composed and performed by CHS students and features a variety of genres including jazz and classical. "This year's Original Night should bring more student diversity and talent than ever before," says David O'Connell, CHS junior and event organizer. "The name of the game has been expansion," he says. "We keep bringing in as many new faces as possible."



Original Night 2011

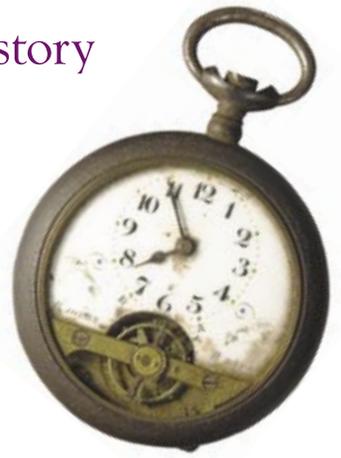
Arts Commission seeking sponsors for concert series

The Centerville Arts Commission has 16 entertaining concerts scheduled for the summer months and is offering businesses the opportunity to provide sponsorship support for the series. Last year almost 9,000 people attended Sunday concerts at Stubbs Park, 255 W. Spring Valley Rd. Sponsorships help the Commission keep the arts vibrant and accessible and are offered at six levels: diamond, platinum, gold, silver, bronze, and patron. For more information about sponsoring the series, contact Kristen Gopman, 433-7151 or visit ci.centerville.oh.us. Sponsorship deadline is March 31.

Learn about local history

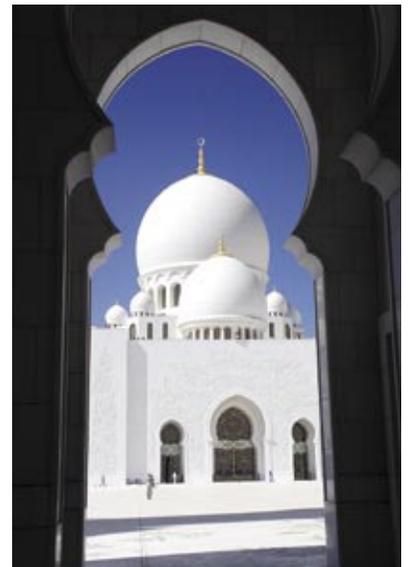
Join the historical society

Learn more about our community's rich history from the experts. The Centerville-Washington Township Historical Society is accepting members. Members receive advance ticket purchases for events such as; the annual luncheon, the monthly newsletter announcing tours of local historical sites, the Monthly Speaker program and other special events. Memberships start at \$25. For information, stop by the historical society, 89 W. Franklin St., call 433-0123 or visit ci.centerville.oh.us and click on links.



Middle East series to be presented

The Washington Centerville Public Library and Hithergreen Center with assistance from the Centerville-Washington Diversity Council are presenting a five-week series on the Middle East. The programs are offered 7-9 p.m. on consecutive Tuesday evenings, March 6-April 10 at Hithergreen Center, 5900 Hithergreen Drive. Presenters are professors and experts from local universities as well as community leaders noted for their expertise on the region.



- MARCH 6:** THE REGION
- MARCH 13:** ANCIENT TREASURES & HISTORY
- MARCH 27:** GENDER & SOCIAL ISSUES
- APRIL 3:** LAND OF TURMOIL
- APRIL 10:** FUTURE PROSPECTS, FEATURING A PANEL DISCUSSION BY ALL PRESENTERS OF THE SERIES

For information visit wclibrary.info/events or call 433-8091.

See your photo here

We're looking for photos of our favorite city...Centerville. Submit your pictures of our landscapes, parks, buildings, neighborhoods, and more. Selected photos will appear on the City website ci.centerville.oh.us, our Facebook pages and in this publication. Send photos to information@centervilleohio.gov.

Historical Society presents programs

The Centerville-Washington Township Historical Society presents the following programs held at Hithergreen Center, 5900 Hithergreen Dr. Refreshments are served at 6:30 p.m. and the programs begin at 7 p.m. Call the society, 433-0123 for more information.

**MAR
20**

Melinda Hicks-Mohler
Road to the Civil War

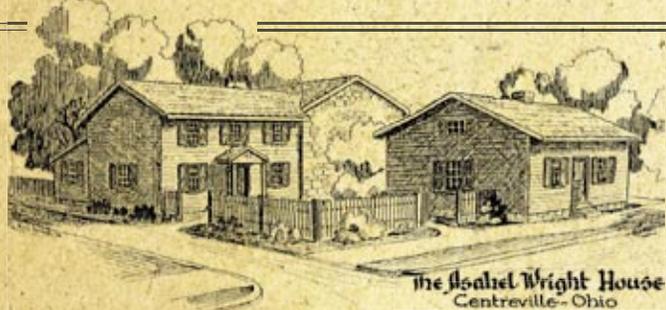
**APR
17**

Leon Bey
Movie Palaces and
Dayton Department Stores

**MAY
15**

Russ Kendrick
Origins of Design of 17th/18th Century
English and American Furniture





Wright brothers cycle to Centerville

by Steve Feverston, City Planner

"Just when we had climbed to the highest point of all possible hills we immediately found that it was succeeded by a much greater," wrote Wilbur Wright in a letter dated September 18, 1892 to his sister. The letter describes his and brother Orville's bicycling trek from their Dayton home to visit the place where their grandfather first settled when he came west. Their "bike" ride started south to climb the "classic heights of Runnymede" (Far Hills Avenue) to Centerville; little more than a two-lane road at the time.

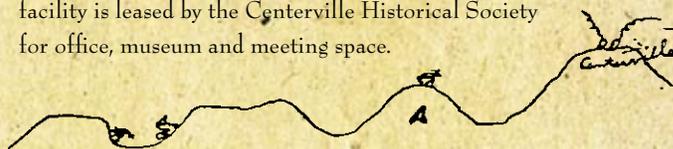
Wilbur included a sketch of their trek in the letter. They stopped at the top of a hill marked "A" (Far Hills at Loop Road) about three-fourths of a mile from town and met a farmer mowing hay along the side of the road. "We must be getting to the top of the world aren't we?" Wilbur asked the farmer. The farmer pointed to the "mountain" farther down the road and said "Centerville is the highest point in the County." The brothers knew they were close.

Wilbur and Orville's quest that day was to visit the home of Asahel Wright, their great uncle. Wilbur's letter indicates that their grandfather also "settled" there when he first moved into the area. Asahel lived in the

two-story limestone house that is now next to Graeter's Ice Cream. Local historians believe that he used the front building for his business of distilling liquors and oil of peppermint.

The Wright House, circa 1803, is one of the original homes in Centerville and one of thirteen remaining limestone buildings downtown. This unique treasure may have suffered a different fate if not for the efforts of City Council and many community volunteers. In the late 1970's, the house was in poor condition and close to demolition. From the roof to the floor boards and joists, the limestone house was deteriorated. The fireplace had been filled in and a second chimney was leaning. A lean-to addition on the front building was partially collapsed. Trash and debris was piled four feet deep throughout the house.

The City of Centerville purchased the property in January 1978 to prevent demolition of one of the truly historic limestone houses in downtown. City Council received a federal grant for its restoration, hired architect Robert Gaede and created a community partnership committee to oversee its restoration. Restoration work began in the summer of 1979 and lasted through 1983 with completion of the exterior and landscaping. Soon after, the Wright House became the first home of the International Women's Air and Space Museum. Today this facility is leased by the Centerville Historical Society for office, museum and meeting space.



The sketch is from Wilbur Wright's original letter in the Library of Congress, Manuscript Division.

Farmers Market opens in May

Bring your shopping list to the Farmers Market, near the intersection of St. Rt. 48 and Spring Valley Rd. Beginning in May, area farmers arrive each Thursday with fresh vegetables, fruit, bread, herbs, organic meat and eggs, jams, jellies, farmstead cheese, cut flowers, bedding plants, honey and more. All produce is locally grown; some is certified organic. Sign up to receive emails about the market at centervillefarmersmarket.com and visit the Facebook page for updates.

Hithergreen sponsors golf outing

The fourth annual Hithergreen Golf Outing is Monday, May 21, at The Golf Club at Yankee Trace. Proceeds from the four-player scramble go toward the operation of Hithergreen, whose mission is to enrich the lives of older adults in our community.

Following the outing, which includes contests and prizes, enjoy a buffet lunch and live auction. The entry fee is \$100. For registration or sponsorship information visit Hithergreen Center, 5900 Hithergreen Drive, call 435-2415 or log on to Hithergreen.org.

Hithergreen has more than 2,300 members, serves more than 325 people daily and offers over 125 education, recreation, health and fitness programs each year.

Summer concerts kick off in June

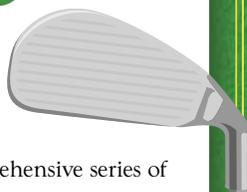
Get your lawn chairs and blankets ready for a summer of musical entertainment. Sponsored by the Centerville Arts Commission, almost 9,000 people attended last year's free concert series at Stubbs Park, 255 W. Spring Valley Rd. Look for a great mix of oldies, big band, country, Motown, and rock. Popular favorites such as Phil Dirt & the Dozers, Ticket to Ride, Parrots of the Caribbean and Dulahan are part of the lineup. We'll have the complete schedule in the next Town Crier.

Americana announces festival theme

"Celebrating Old Glory" is the theme of the 2012 Centerville-Washington Township Americana Festival set for Wednesday, July 4. Attracting approximately 75,000 people to the community, the day-long festival features a parade, car show, 5K run, street fair with arts, crafts and food, entertainment and fireworks. This non-profit event is supported entirely by community funding and donations. The Festival is seeking additional support from individuals and local businesses. For sponsorship information contact 433-5898 or americanafestival@sbcglobal.net.



GET YOUR SWINGS READY!



The Golf Club at Yankee Trace offers a comprehensive series of Leagues, Lessons and Clinics for golfers of all ages and levels.

Senior Men's League offers a Tuesday morning game for seniors 55+, beginning in May. Includes 18-holes, prize fund, emailed results and optional Skins Game.

Couple's League on Friday evenings, is for two playing partners of all levels, a different golf format each week is followed by awards ceremony and delicious buffet. Pay as you play. Sign up no later than two days in advance. \$30 per person, green fee, cart fee, dinner and prizes included.

Men's Leagues offer four eight-week sessions (\$200) and two six-week sessions (\$150). Fees include 9-holes, weekly prize fund and end-of-the-season awards banquet. Late afternoon tee times on Tuesday or Thursday beginning in April, June & August.

Women's Leagues offered Tuesday or Wednesday morning, or Wednesday evening. Each league is pay as you go. Reserve tee time one week in advance. Fees include 9 or 18 Holes, prize fund, emailed results, awards banquet and more.

Golf Lessons anyone? A wise man once said: *Golf is not like riding a bike, just because you've done it once doesn't mean you have it under control.* The Golf Club at Yankee Trace's PGA and LPGA Professionals can help you get the most of your game in the least amount of time. Golf instruction, available in private and group platforms, is ideal for beginners, intermediate, advanced and brand new golfers. The complete spring and summer lesson schedule will be posted March 12. Stop out, call the Golf Shop, 438-GOLF or visit yankeetrace.org for additional details.

Memberships offer variety of options

The Golf Club at Yankee Trace offers a golf membership to accommodate your busy schedule.

- ▶ **Unlimited Membership:** for the serious golfer interested in playing any day anytime.
- ▶ **Early Bird Membership:** unlimited golf anytime Monday–Thursday and Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Holidays before 8 a.m.
- ▶ **Weekday Membership:** unlimited golf anytime Monday–Friday
- ▶ **Junior Membership:** for golfers under the age of 18
- ▶ **Couples Membership:** a package price for couples who love their golf
- ▶ **Pre-Packaged Rounds Membership:** available in 10 or 25 prepaid discounted rounds and includes greens fee, golf car and range balls
- ▶ **Vintage Membership:** unlimited access on the Vintage course for adults and/or juniors for 9-Holes
- ▶ **Range Membership:** unlimited access to all practice facilities including the dual-ended driving range, short game area and indoor practice nets

Call 438-GOLF for fees and membership details.

Youth programs help develop golf skills

GIVE YOUR KIDS A HEAD START IN THE GAME. THE GOLF CLUB AT YANKEE TRACE HAS THE CLINIC, CAMP OR LEAGUE TO GET YOUR GOLFER READY FOR THE SEASON.

Designed for brand new or novice golfers, our one hour **Youth Saturday Morning Classes** focus on basic fundamentals that will last a lifetime. Classes are 10 a.m. the first Saturday of each month, unless it falls on a holiday weekend, and run four consecutive weeks for \$60 per month, April–September.

Ideal for juniors ages 6–12 new to the game, beginners or intermediate level golfers, **Youth Summer Camps** offer five days of instruction covering fundamentals along with skills challenges and ending with an on-course tournament. Each junior receives complimentary Nike golf shoes, glove, sleeve of golf balls and more. Camps are June 11–15 and July 9–13, 8 a.m.–10:30 a.m., \$150 per session.

Players Camp, for golfers ages 11–17, is geared toward the intermediate and advanced golfer. Comprehensive sessions include swing fundamentals; skills practice sessions and on-course instruction. Perfect for the junior interested in competing at the middle, high school or collegiate levels, the camp, June 25–29, is \$175 and includes video analysis, Nike golf balls, daily prizes, more.

For players ages 10–17 of all skill levels, **Youth Summer and Fall Leagues** offer playing experience with an introduction to competitive golf. These sessions provide on-course supervised play. The five-week leagues are \$150, and offered Monday or Wednesday, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.



MAKE PLANS TO JOIN US AT THE GOLF CLUB AT YANKEE TRACE RESTAURANT

Whether it's lunch, brunch, or a Friday night fish fry, Yankee Trace restaurant offers delicious fare for your family with a variety of entrees, sides and desserts in a warm and inviting atmosphere. And, with two special event buffets, your upcoming holiday meals are planned.

LUNCH: TUESDAY–FRIDAY, 11 A.M.–2 P.M.
SUNDAY BRUNCH: 10 A.M.–2 P.M.
 (Excluding holidays below) \$18.95 adults, \$8.95 children

FRIDAY NIGHT FISH FRY: 5–9 P.M.
 (Through April 6), \$12.95 adults, \$3.75 children

EASTER BUFFET, SUNDAY, APRIL 8
MOTHER'S DAY BUFFET, SUNDAY, MAY 13

Enjoy a buffet feast including roast leg of lamb (Easter only), baked Virginia ham, roast sirloin of beef, Seafood Newburg, vegetables, potato, salads, desserts and more. Three seatings available: 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 4 p.m. Prices are \$24.95 for adults, \$12.95 for ages 12 and under. Kids five and under eat free. Reservations required, call 438-3585.

Public Works gears up for construction season

Public Works has several projects on tap including the annual street program that provides repair and resurfacing work on various local roads. Improvements continue in the Black Oak South neighborhood, which this year will include Fenway Court.

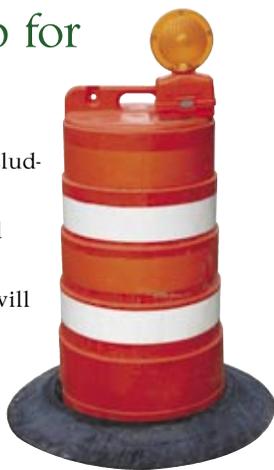
Improvements to the Concept East drainage ditch, begun last fall, will be completed in spring. A second phase of improvements is planned later this year.

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) will resurface State Route 48/Far Hills Ave. from I-675 northward into Kettering. Watch for road construction signs and plan for minor delays while this improvement is made.

ODOT also has a project to perform major rehabilitation of the bridge on Alex-Bell Road/SR 725 between Pelbrook Farm Drive and Penridge. The road will close on or about July 9 for 14 days to facilitate the work. A detour will be posted for all traffic. ODOT will post advance notice signs ahead of the actual road closure.

The County Engineer's office has a project to replace a culvert pipe on Overbrook Road north of Kings Arm Circle. The work is underway and will necessitate roadway closure. Local traffic will be maintained from the north down to the culvert. Access to the Fox Run apartments south of the culvert will be detoured using Oak Valley and Andrew roads. The County will post advance notice signs ahead of the actual road closure.

Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) funding has been received for two projects. East Spring Valley Road from South Main Street to Atchison Road will be repaired and resurfaced and Feedwire Road from Wilmington Pike to the I-675 overpass will be improved to accommodate planned development in the area.



March program to showcase home landscaping

Spruce up your yard with landscaping tips from an expert. Eric Sauer of CYP Studio Design presents "Re-landscaping Your Yard" 10:30 a.m., Saturday, March 17 at the Public Works Center, 7970 S. Suburban Drive. Sponsored by the City Beautiful Commission, the event is free and open to the public.

In addition to sponsoring workshops, City Beautiful Commission, a city volunteer board, recognizes homeowners for outstanding summer landscapes and holiday lighting displays. Call 428-4782 for more information.

The Commission is open to any Centerville resident interested in keeping Centerville beautiful. Applications may be downloaded at ci.centerville.oh.us or call 433-7151.



Get right of way permit before work begins

As warmer weather approaches, folks are eager to get outside and make improvements to their property. If your plans include work in the public right of way, you are required to have a right of way permit. This includes plans like connecting yard drains to the storm sewer system or replacing your drive approach with concrete, asphalt or pavers. The permit triggers an inspection to ensure the work is done properly and in accordance with City standards. Property owners are encouraged to hire contractors who are bonded with the City and familiar with City requirements. Call Public Works, 428-4782 or email publicworks@centervilleohio.gov.

As projects are planned, keep in mind that anything you place in the public right of way—pet fence, irrigation system, or landscaping—may be subject to removal when a public improvement project comes along.

Before you start digging, call for utility locations—it's the law. Ohio Utility Protection Service (OUPS) is a free service. Call 1-800-362-2764 with the location of your project. OUPS will contact member utilities like DP&L and AT&T to locate underground lines in the vicinity of your project. Utility companies will then mark their underground lines, so you'll know where to dig to avoid hitting a buried cable. For more information visit oups.org.



As lovely
as a
Tree



Spring Valley Academy third-graders Karsyn Williams and Hannah Shull take part in the tree planting ceremony during last year's festivities. ▲

Centerville's annual tree planting to celebrate Arbor Day will be held 10 a.m., Wednesday, April 18 at Benham's Grove, 166 N. Main St. Third grade students from Centerville area elementary schools will join Centerville Council to plant nine trees native to Ohio. This event commemorates Centerville's recognition as a Tree City USA, a designation the City has earned for 25 consecutive years. The public is invited.



Officer John Davis

Davis named Community Relations Officer

After more than 20 years on the road, Centerville Police Officer John Davis was ready for a different challenge. He has served the Centerville community as both police officer and detective while becoming certified in

several specialty areas including evidence technician, ASP instructor and technical traffic accident investigator, so when the Community Relations Officer position became available, he immediately wanted to apply for it. "With my background and training, I thought it would be a great fit," he says. Certified by the Ohio Police Officer Training Academy, Davis is an instructor for several areas of law enforcement including taser, defense tactics, radar and laser. He served as motorcycle officer for two years.

Davis starts in the new position of Community Relations Officer in the next few weeks. His responsibilities include managing the property room, checking in and maintaining evidence, and serving in a crime prevention role, coordinating the youth CSI camps, Neighborhood Watch, Business Watch and Citizens Police Academy. Davis will also help manage the department's volunteer program. Many of these duties had been covered by Officer Matt Dunn, whose rotation has ended and will return to road patrol. "Matt's done a great job of designing these programs," says Davis. "I'm looking forward to meeting new people and taking on different responsibilities. It's a great opportunity."

Originally from Miamisburg, Davis and his wife Lisa live in Springboro with their four children.

Davis says he's excited about this new chapter in his career. "The Centerville community is very supportive of the Police Department," says Davis. "I'm proud to work in this city."



Can't you read the sign? *Signs provide guidance to motorists*

Traffic control measures include traffic signs and signals as well as pavement markings. Signs are posted all around us as we drive, but how much do you know about regulatory signs? Red and white STOP and YIELD

signs are regulatory signs. Black and white signs are also regulatory signs. Regulatory signs tell the motorist something he must do—STOP, 'Do Not Enter', obey a posted speed limit, or 'No Turn on Red' to name a few. Stop and yield signs assign right of way at an intersection. Speed limit signs serve as a reminder about the legal speed limits on various roadways. "No Parking" signs detail where on-street parking is prohibited. Lane use, "One Way", and "Keep Right" signs provide direction to motorists. Failure to obey a regulatory sign could result in a ticket for breaking the law or, worse yet, a crash! These signs are placed to provide appropriate information and are legally binding. The Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (OMUTCD) is the guidebook used by public officials to post traffic signs. We are legally bound by the laws of the State and the OMUTCD provides us tools to provide a safe, efficient and uniform system to do so.

ROUND UP for the RODEO

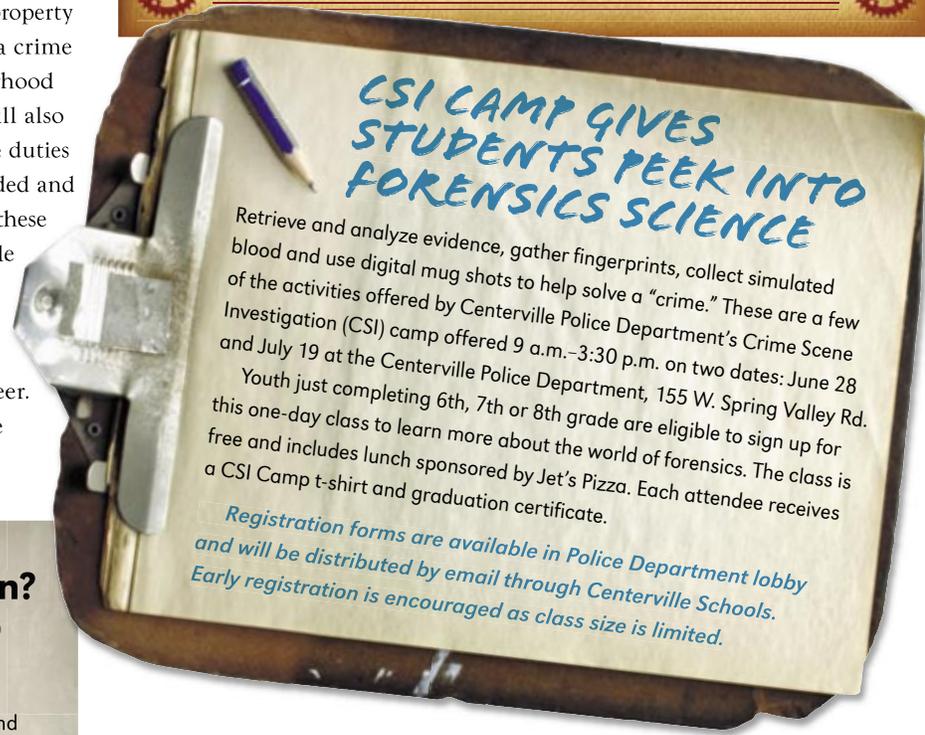
The Centerville Police Department, along with Miami Valley Hospital South and Centerville Noon Optimists, host the annual Bicycle Rodeo 9 a.m.–noon, Saturday, May 19, on the top deck of the parking garage at Miami Valley Hospital South, 2400 Miami Valley Drive.

Youth will have the opportunity to:

- Test cycling skills ★ Meet McGruff the Crime Dog
- Register bicycles against theft ★ Perform bike maintenance
- Check bicycle helmet fit ★ Receive new bicycle helmet if needed
- Participate in health/safety activities, giveaways and more

Children taking part in skills testing must bring a safe, operational bicycle and wear a bicycle helmet. Prizes—including several bicycles—will be given away throughout the morning.

Call 433-7661 for further information.



Give the Gift of Life

Kalaman Memorial Blood Drive is April 27

In 1998, Centerville Police Officer John P. Kalaman was killed in the line of duty. Unable to honor his request to be an organ donor, his parents began hosting an annual blood drive on John's birthday. Since that first drive 14 years ago, 3,623 units of blood, equating to almost 11,000 life-saving units, have been donated in John's memory.

The Officer John P. Kalaman Memorial Blood Drive will be held 9 a.m.–4 p.m., Friday, April 27, at the Centerville Police Department, 155 W. Spring Valley Rd.

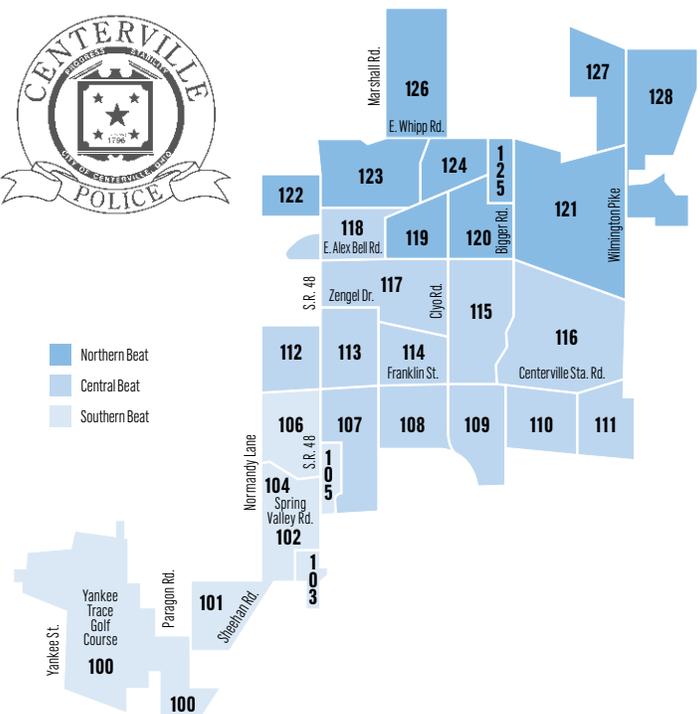
Donors must be 17 years old and weigh 110 lbs. A picture ID or blood donor card is also required. Schedule your appointment online at donortime.com or contact Paula Kalaman at 436-6920. Walk-ins are welcome.

AREA	ROBBERIES			RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES			BREAKING & ENTERING			THEFT OF/FROM VEHICLES			OTHER PROPERTY THEFTS			CRIMINAL MISCHIEF/DAMAGE		
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102	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	
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115	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	
116	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	4	1	-	
117	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	1	-	
118	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	3	1	1	-	-	1	
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120	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	
121	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	3	-	1	1	1	
122	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
123	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	
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126	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	5	-	-	3	4	-	-	-	1	1	
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TOTALS	0	0	0	5	4	2	21	5	0	20	10	12	17	19	14	17	13	3

	RESIDENTIAL & BUSINESS BURGLARIES					
	RESIDENTIAL			BUSINESS		
	N	D	J	N	D	J
MONDAY-THURSDAY	3	6	1	11	-	-
FRIDAY-SUNDAY	1	1	-	4	-	-
UNDETERMINED	1	2	1	6	-	-
6 AM-6 PM	1	3	1	-	-	-
6 PM-6 AM	2	4	-	15	-	-
UNDETERMINED	2	2	1	6	-	-
FORCED	1	2	1	1	-	-
SHATTERED	3	-	-	4	-	-
UNLOCKED	1	-	-	6	-	-
KEY	-	-	-	-	-	-
PRIED	-	3	-	-	-	-
CUT LOCK	-	3	-	10	-	-
UNDETERMINED	-	1	-	-	-	-
OPEN	-	-	1	-	-	-
ATTEMPT	-	-	-	-	-	-
DOOR	1	3	1	4	-	-
WINDOW	3	1	-	-	-	-
GARAGE	1	-	1	-	-	-
UNDETERMINED	-	-	-	-	-	-
OTHER	-	5	-	17	-	-

Residential & Business Crime Statistics

Statistic Totals: Nov. 2011-Jan. 2012



Put a lid on it! Bike helmets save lives

In 2010, more than 51,000 Ohioans were injured by not wearing a bike helmet. Estimates indicate that 80-90% of children DO NOT wear bike helmets... do yours? In Centerville, cyclists under the age of 18 are required to wear a helmet. Helmets can significantly reduce the risk of head injury. Parents who set the example and wear helmets increase the likelihood of their children wearing helmets. So next time you go on a bike ride...put a lid on it.



November 21, 2011

Mayor Kingseed welcomed Pastor Chad Current of Living Hope Church to give the invocation.

Council accepted the resignation of David Blake from the Stormwater Drainage Task Force and thanked Mr. Blake for his service.

Board/Commission Appointments

- Dean Christolear was appointed to the Stormwater Drainage Task Force
- Merrill Durig was appointed to the Stormwater Drainage Task Force
- Kevin VonHandorf was appointed to the Stormwater Drainage Task Force
- Brad Thorp was appointed to the Board of Architectural Review
- Betty Lou Carney was reappointed as a member of the Arts Commission
- Jaime Garrett was reappointed as a member of the Board of Architectural Review

Council recognized the Centerville High School Golf team and coach Jason

Brandeberry for finishing second, Division I at the state tournament.



Members of the Centerville High School golf team were recognized by Deputy Mayor Doug Cline.

In housekeeping measures, Council:

Set for public hearing an ordinance declaring the improvement of certain parcels of real property to be a public purpose and exempt from taxation; establishing a Tax Increment Equivalent Fund...specifying the public infrastructure improvements directly benefiting the parcels and authorizing make-whole compensation payment to the Centerville School District.

December 19, 2011

Mayor Kingseed welcomed Bishop Zimmerman, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, to give the invocation.

Council accepted the resignation of Jim Teske from the Arts Commission and thanked him for his service.

Kettering Municipal Judge

Thomas Hanna administered the oath of office to Mayor Mark Kingseed, and Council members John Beals, Paul Gresham and Belinda Kenley.



The Honorable Thomas Hanna (far right) administered the oath of office to Centerville Council members Dr. Paul Gresham and Belinda Kenley, Mayor Mark Kingseed and Council Member John Beals during the December council meeting.

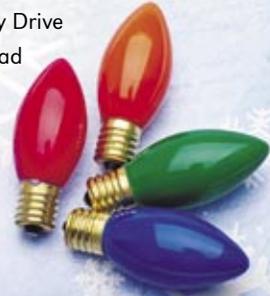
Jan Prettyman of City Beautiful Commission announced the 2011 Holiday Lighting Award winners. The following were recognized for outstanding outdoor displays:

Residential winners:

- The Ferrazza Family, 2558 Tedbury Ct.
- Robert and Mary Frances Downs, 7978 Southbury Drive
- David and Valerie Senkowski, 1107 Green Tree Road
- Sharon Sullins, 620 Clareridge Lane
- Heather and David Sprowl, 284 Linden Drive
- Steve and Renda Alexander, 560 Roselake Drive
- Kevin and Debbie Round, 1599 Olde Haley Drive

Business Pride Award winner:

- Archers Tavern, 9496 Dayton Lebanon Pike



Board/Commission Appointments

- Mary Pizza and Phillip McLaughlin were reappointed co-chairs of the Sister City Committee

In housekeeping measures, Council:

Approved the 2011-2015 Capital Improvement Program

January 23, 2012

Mayor Kingseed welcomed Pastor Chad Current of Living Hope Church to give the invocation.



Brooks Compton was elected deputy mayor. He has served on Council for 21 years.

Council elected Brooks Compton as deputy mayor for a two-year term. Mayor Kingseed thanked Doug Cline for serving as deputy mayor for the past eight years.

Board/Commission Appointments:

James Collins was appointed as a member of the Arts Commission

In housekeeping measures, Council:

Passed a resolution regarding zoning buffers for a proposed annexation of property containing 96.5 acres more or less to the City of Centerville, pursuant to the requirement of section 709.023 (C) of the Ohio Revised Code.

City Manager Greg Horn along with Dr. Steven Hinshaw, finance director, presented the City's 2012 revenue projections and appropriations. See the Annual Report beginning on page 16.



Mayor Mark Kingseed visited local restaurant The House of Kabab and talked with owner George Ephrem and staff on a recent episode of Centerville Business Today, the mayor's monthly government access program featuring local businesses.

► Serve your community

The City has openings on the following Council-appointed boards and commissions: City Beautiful Commission, Arts Commission and Sister City Committee. For application information, contact Debbie James at 433-7151 or djames@centervilleohio.gov or visit ci.centerville.oh.us, click Departments, then Volunteer Opportunities.



Mayor's Message from Mark Kingseed

Your City government took recent economic growth initiatives which have created some controversy. Frankly, newspapers don't always do a good job explaining what is really going on. The recent annexation of undeveloped land in Washington Township and the use of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) are good examples.

First, some perspective is in order. The state budget cuts have taken a heavy toll on all local taxing authorities. The City lost \$1.5 to \$2 million per year due to the elimination of the estate tax and cuts to the local government fund. The Township, Park District, Library and Schools have also taken significant hits.

This new economic situation makes it absolutely vital that the local taxing authorities not just hunker down and assume voters will continue to raise taxes whenever asked. The only real way out is to take steps to encourage the private sector to grow and to create new jobs—jobs which will provide economic security to our citizens and tax revenue to provide needed services. That is why the City has implemented the TIF and supported annexation of approximately 95 acres.

The creation of a TIF district to help pay for the needed improvements to the Wilmington Pike/I-675 interchange was a strategic decision which in the long run will create hundreds of jobs and opportunity for the entire area. In the case of the new

Centerville TIF, no governmental group will lose a single penny of the millions in property tax dollars they presently receive each year. But if property values for the small parcel of land (approximately 100 acres) covered by the TIF go up, the future increase in property taxes on that parcel will go to fund the infrastructure improvements until they are paid off. To use the Park District as an example, the District currently receives over \$4 million annually in property tax collections, and will continue to receive those funds. It is the potential extra taxes on the TIF'd land, estimated to be about 3/10 of 1% of the Park District's annual tax revenue, which will be deferred until the improvements are paid off. Everyone in this community is justly proud of our quality parks, library and other services which make this such a great place to live. The TIF will not change any of that.

The recent annexation is another example of your City government looking toward the future. Annexation, plain and simple, is how cities grow. No one is in favor of unplanned or excessive growth of our City boundaries but when it makes sense to do so, your City Council unanimously supports expansion. The only reason Yankee Trace, Bethany Village, St. Leonard or Miami Valley Hospital South are now in Centerville is because past Councils had the foresight to approve annexations.

The continued planned growth of the City is the reason we have not had to raise local income taxes for 32 years.

When annexed land is eventually developed, jobs are created generating local income taxes for our City. Because of development, the Township, Fire Department, Rec Center, Parks, Library and Schools will realize greater property tax revenue to provide the services we all cherish. Remember, when Centerville annexes land, it remains in both the City and Township, as Centerville is a part of Washington Township.

I hear from time to time concerns that the City is not cooperating with other entities or that it is acting selfishly. To set the record straight, every taxing entity benefits when we help stimulate economic growth. The fact is the City has had a longstanding open offer to the Township government to enter into Joint Economic Development Districts covering all undeveloped land in the Township. Under a Joint District, any new development

would benefit both the City and the Township and allow the Township to have a source of revenue, not from raising taxes on their residents, but by shared taxes on businesses attracted by our community. The Township Trustees have never been willing to join the City in this effort. If the Trustees are willing to cooperate with the City to support joint efforts to encourage growth which benefits both parts of our community, the door is always open. But quite frankly, in the absence of such cooperation, the City government will continue to do what we need to do to protect our citizens and ensure Centerville has the resources necessary to provide services without tax increases in the future.

Mark Kingseed

City of Centerville

100 W. Spring Valley Rd., Centerville, OH 45458



City Manager.....Gregory B. Horn

The Centerville Town Crier is a continuing effort to improve communication between you and your City officials. Comments or suggestions for future issues are welcome and should be directed to the Office of the City Manager. Council members welcome your calls and emails.

PublisherGregory B. Horn
EditorMaureen Russell Hodgson
Production.....Cox Media Group
Printing.....Mound Printing

Public Meetings at the Municipal Building

City Council..... 8 p.m., third Monday monthly
Board of Architectural Review..... 7:30 p.m., first Tuesday monthly
City Planning Commission 7:30 p.m., last Tuesday monthly
Centerville Arts Commission 7 p.m., first Wednesday monthly
Boards of Tax & Personnel Appeals
& Property Review Commission At the call of the chairperson

Public Meetings at the Public Works Center

7970 S. Suburban Road
City Beautiful Commission..... 7 p.m., first Tuesday monthly

Public Meetings at the Police Department

155 W. Spring Valley Road
Sister City Committee 7 p.m., first Tuesday monthly

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- Brooks A. Compton
Deputy Mayor, 885-5730
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bskenley@yahoo.com
- James E. Singer, 433-6922
jsinger@centervilleohio.gov

2011 Annual Report

From City Manager Greg Horn

2011 will be remembered as a time when the U.S. economy continued to struggle and our local economy looked for stability. Many Centerville residents and businesses continued to tighten their belts and rein in spending. Recent signs seem to indicate that the economy is beginning to gain ground, and the worst of the economic storm is hopefully behind us.

The City of Centerville, thanks to longstanding conservative financial practices and its diversified business base, fared better in 2011 than many local municipalities. Income Tax revenues were up 5% from 2010. City Council has no plans to raise taxes.

As we deal with state budget cuts, Council has had to make difficult staffing and funding decisions. Today the City operates with 33 fewer employees than it did 12 years ago. The D.A.R.E. program was eliminated however, two School Resource Officers continue to be assigned to the elementary, middle and high schools. Funding for Hithergreen Center, Centerville Washington Township Historical Society, Americana Festival, Centerville Washington Township Diversity Council, South Metro Chamber of Commerce and Dayton Development Coalition, organizations that the City has traditionally supported, has been reduced.

We begin 2012 continuing the momentum from last year's unique business growth. St. Leonard opened the Franciscan Center, a \$29 million state of the art wellness center. The largest Kroger Marketplace in North America opened on S. Main Street. Earth Fare, a healthy supermarket, opened in the fall and added vigor to Cross Pointe Center. Bob Ross Auto completed a business expansion. From specialty shops to restaurants to large companies, our diverse businesses bring growth and vitality to Centerville.

Our City is positioned well for the future. Already this year, St. Leonard opened San Damiano Residence, a \$14 million assisted living and memory support center, bringing 60 new jobs to its campus. Miami Valley Hospital South (MVHS) is putting the finishing touches on a \$51 million expansion that includes a five-story bed tower, and last fall broke ground on a cancer center set to open January 2013. Bethany Village is redeveloping nine cottages; this \$1.9 million project will be completed by end of year. Other businesses continue to invest and re-invest in the area by offering new products and services. To ensure we're getting the best value for your money, we'll continue to work smarter, consolidate where it makes sense and be conservative with spending.

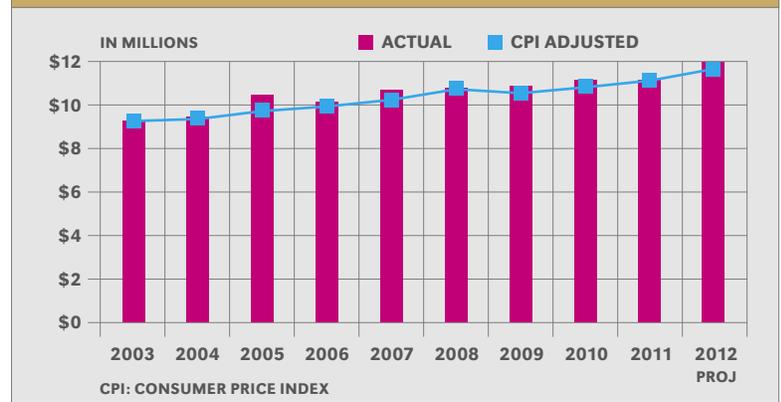
I conclude by thanking all of our residents who volunteer so much of their time to keep Centerville a truly great place to live and work.

► Threats to revenue sources

Centerville, and all other Ohio cities, townships and villages face serious threats to revenue sources. Last year the State legislature voted to eliminate 83% of our state revenue from three sources:

- 1 Tangible personal property tax (TPPT) and electric utility deregulation reimbursements will be eliminated July 1, 2012
- 2 Estate tax will be eliminated January 1, 2013
- 3 Local government funds will be reduced 50% by July 1, 2013

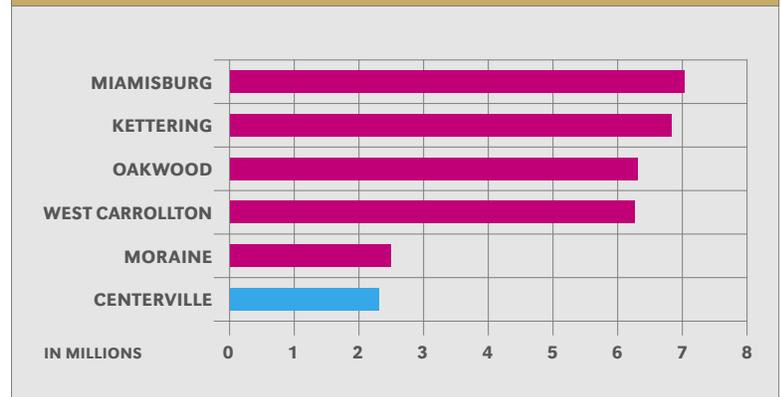
INCOME TAX REVENUE



INCOME TAX RATE FOR SOUTH SUBURBAN CITIES



PROPERTY TAX RATE FOR SOUTH SUBURBAN CITIES



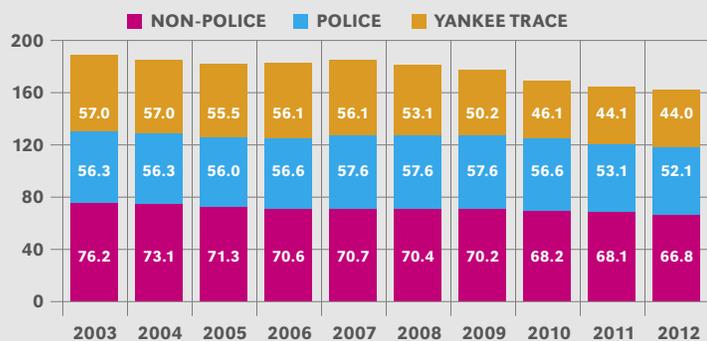
Yankee Trace Impact: a \$280 million development

Yankee Trace has been a huge asset to the community. The Property Tax revenue generates millions of dollars ANNUALLY:

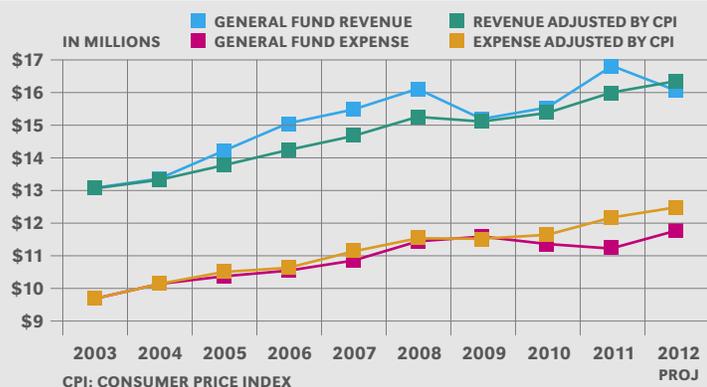
Centerville Schools	\$4,314,649
Montgomery County	\$1,668,286
Washington Township	\$558,585
Sinclair Community College	\$313,403
Centerville-Washington Park Dist.	\$281,379
City of Centerville	\$230,155
Washington-Centerville Library	\$229,938

In 2011, City Council paid the remaining debt from the Vintage 9-hole course, lowering the outstanding Yankee Trace debt from \$12,205,000 to \$9,785,000—or a reduction of 20%—and saving over \$1 million in future interest payments. The debt is expected to be paid off in 2025.

STAFFING COMPARISON (FULL-TIME EQUIVALENTS)



GENERAL FUND REVENUE/EXPENSES VERSUS CPI



PROPERTY TAX VALUES TRIENNIAL UPDATE



- Centerville ended 2011 with a cash balance of \$17,591,246.
- Benham's Grove new brick plaza adds to the ambiance and usefulness of this community gathering place.
- Building Inspection Office added plumbing to inspection services.
- The "Annual Financial Report: Summary" was recognized for the second time with the Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting award, and for the 11th year, the City earned the Certificate of Achievement of Excellence in Financial Reporting (CAFR) from the Government Finance Officers Association.
- Montgomery County Water Services completed a new water main on South Main St. from Franklin St. south to Tuxworth Ave.
- Miami Valley Risk Management Association gave the Pinnacle Award to Centerville for 100 percent safety compliance. The Golf Club at Yankee Trace and the City's volunteer program were included in the evaluation.
- The Police Department, a designated Flagship Agency by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), continued to be a leader in community relations with programs such as Citizens Police Academy, Youth CSI Camp and National Night Out Against Crime.
- Police Officer Adam Bennett received the Kalaman Officer of the Year Award.
- Officer Brad Eshler and Sgt. Joe Lavigne received the Police Department's Lifesaving Award for their actions at the scene of a crash.
- Police Chief Bruce Robertson received the Ohio Association of Polygraph Examiners Richard O. Arther Award.
- Public Works Department received honors for creative leaf pick up in the "Build a Better Mousetrap" competition from the Ohio Local Technical Assistance Program.
- Public Works completed automation of the City's residential refuse collection program.
- Public Works began a brush drop-off program each Wednesday and every third Saturday at its facility on S. Suburban Road.
- The National Arbor Day Foundation named Centerville a Tree City USA Community for the 25th consecutive year.
- For the seventh consecutive year, The Golf Club at Yankee Trace was named Best Golf Course in Dayton by activedayton.com readers.
- Centerville has four official Facebook sites: City of Centerville, Benham's Grove, Centerville Farmers Market and The Golf Club at Yankee Trace.
- Mayor Mark Kingseed continued working with businesses, hosting the annual Business Breakfast and Centerville Business Today, a monthly cable program featuring local businesses.
- Centerville added a mobile app for smart phones, a Twitter page and a QR Code.

2011 Highlights

- Earth Fare, the healthy supermarket opened at Cross Pointe Center.
- Miami Valley Hospital South opens a five-story bed tower in a few days and the Cancer Center is expected to open in January 2013.
- Kroger opened the largest Marketplace in North America.
- St. Leonard cut ribbons for the Franciscan Center in 2011 and San Damiano Assisted Living and Memory Support Center in January.
- The municipal earnings tax rate of 1.75 percent has not been raised since 1981.
- No increase in Centerville's municipal property tax rate. In fact, at 2.35 mills, Centerville has one of the lowest rates in the Dayton area.



2011 Financial Overview

Centerville received more than 75% of its income from three sources—taxes (income, property and inheritance taxes), Yankee Trace fees and waste collection fees.

- Total revenue (excluding internal transfers) for 2011 was \$25,451,603.
- Income tax revenue, the largest single source of revenue for the City, was up 5% from 2010. Income tax revenue was generated from employee withholdings, taxes on the earnings of Centerville businesses and taxes paid by individuals.
- Our municipal property tax rate remained at 2.35 mills, the second lowest in the county. The Centerville municipal government realized 3 cents from every property tax dollar collected. Of the balance, 57 cents supported the school district; 22 cents were allocated to Montgomery County; the remainder was allocated to the park district, Sinclair, the library and Washington Township.
- 2011 expenditures (excluding internal transfers) totaled \$25,803,332.



◀ St. Leonard recently opened the memory support and assisted living center, along with a wellness center.

Ohio State Government Contacts

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Ohio Senate, 10th District

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Looking Ahead To 2012

On January 23, 2012, the Centerville City Council unanimously adopted the 2012 Municipal Budget. Total projected resources are \$49,781,977, which includes a 2011 carry-over of \$17,591,246. Expenditures for 2012 are budgeted at \$32,399,364, leaving a projected year-end balance of \$17,382,613.

In 2012, Centerville plans to invest \$3,893,015 in capital improvements throughout the City, of which \$2,385,634 (6%) is being funded from other sources, such as grants. Projects include \$1,170,000 for street and sidewalk repairs; \$779,228 for police, street and refuse vehicles and equipment; and \$270,550 for buildings and improvements.

Centerville continues to invest in infrastructure

Our staff has worked to receive federal and state funds to help cover the costs of roadway improvements. Four projects have been preliminarily approved, and indications are that some may start as early as this year. Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) projects:

- E. Spring Valley Rd. Resurfacing from South Main St. to Atchison Rd.
- Feedwire Rd. Improvement from Wilmington Pike to the I-675 overpass

Federal programs:

- Wilmington Pike/I-675 Short-term Improvements, include funding for an Interchange Modification Study (IMS), adding turn lane/minor widening
- Centerville Gateway Enhancement Phase II, continuing the entrance area into the City near Loop Road and St. Rt. 48

City maintains services while implementing innovative programs

- Over the last 10 years, Centerville has worked to accomplish more with fewer employees, and without a change in services. For example, in 2002, the City employed 76 full-time employees (non-police). Currently, the City employs 67. In 2000, The Golf Club at Yankee Trace employed 66 full-time employees. Currently, Yankee Trace employs 44. We reviewed staffing in the Police Department, consolidated through retirements and eliminated the D.A.R.E. program. In 2002, the Police Department employed 56 full-time employees. Currently, the Department employs 52.
- In Public Works, one full-time position became vacant and was not filled. Additionally, hours for the City's building inspectors and switchboard operators were reduced or consolidated with other positions.
- With the full implementation of the Automated Residential Refuse Program, two full-time positions were eliminated, and staff reassigned to fill other department vacancies.
- Health Savings Account offerings now cover about 80% of our employees and their families.

The City of Centerville is always vigilant about spending taxpayer dollars; however, 2011 presented special challenges. The City continues to reinvest in infrastructure, refusing to put off needed repairs and upgrades. Centerville has and will continue to be conservative with spending as we address the impact of the financial crisis.

Cost Reductions & Efficiency Improvements

Staff

- Reduced staff levels and redesigned positions over the past ten years
- Reduced hours in areas where workload has declined because of economy
- Expanded HSA Health Insurance Program
- Purchased Life, Health and Dental Insurance through co-ops and pools
- Reduced departmental overtime Citywide
- Staggered Public Works' four-day schedule to limit overtime and callouts



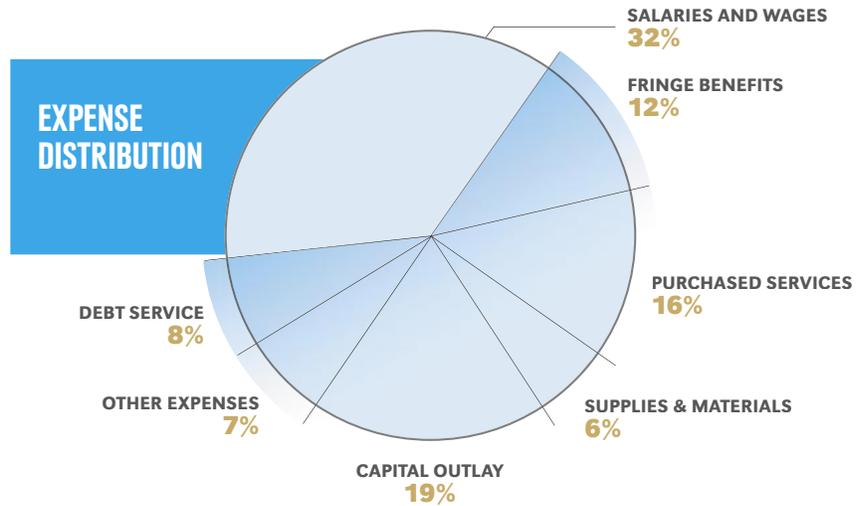
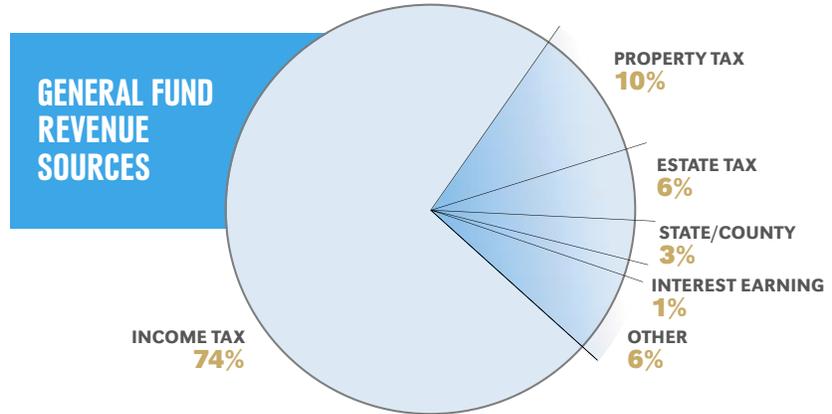
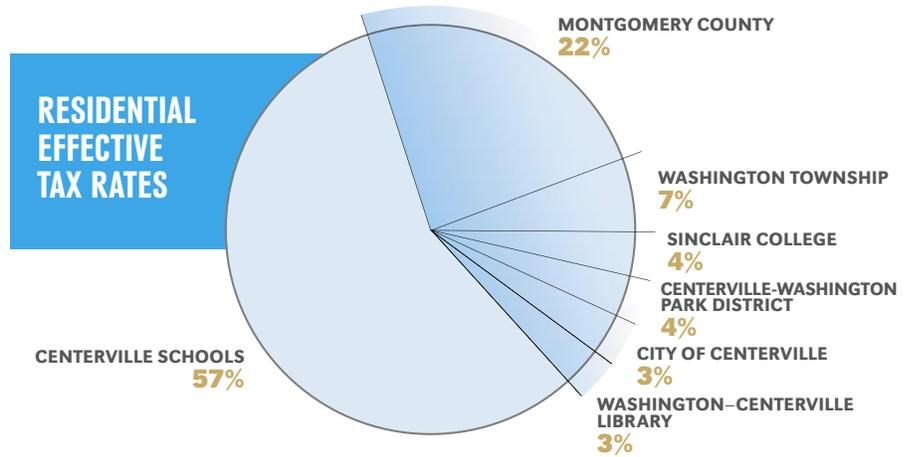
Kroger Marketplace held its grand opening celebration in November 2011.



Bob Ross Auto added Fiat to its lineup and expanded the Mercedes-Benz facility with a new façade.



Miami Valley Hospital South has two projects underway: the bed tower will open in early March and the cancer center is set to open early next year.



Vehicle Fleet Savings

- Installed automated truck wash system to increase life expectancy of vehicles
- Postponed some replacements scheduled
- Purchased Hybrid vehicles where practical
- Utilized smaller, more fuel-efficient vehicles
- Significantly reduced number of take-home vehicles

Energy Savings

- Energy Star Partner
- Increased usage of programmable thermostats and lighting controls
- Utilized energy-saving concepts in Public Works Center
- Monitor and chart all monthly utility usage
- Take advantage of energy rebate offerings

Miscellaneous Savings

- Reduced size of newspaper ads and legal notices, referencing City website for details
- Eliminated all out of state conferences and travel for staff
- Re-evaluated existing vendor contracts for competitiveness
- Increased resale values by selling surplus City vehicles at auto auctions
- Increased emphasis on grantsmanship for new projects
- Leased space on Police Department communications tower and leased tower site at Public Works Center
- Utilized co-op services for salt, street striping and office supplies
- Implemented automated refuse service
- Expanded use of volunteers
- Pretreated streets with brine to reduce snowplow operator callouts and salt usage



100 West Spring Valley Road
Centerville, Ohio 45458

ci.centerville.oh.us

CONTACT INFORMATION

- Municipal Offices.....433-7151
- Police & Fire Emergency.....9.1.1.
- Police Non-Emergency433-7661
- Fire Non-Emergency 433-3083
- Public Works Center 428-4782
- Drug Hotline 433-6590
- Yankee Trace Golf Shop.. 438-GOLF
www.yankeetrace.org
- Yankee Trace Restaurant .. 438-3585
- Benham's Grove 433-1913
www.benhamsgrove.com
- Asahel Wright House
& Visitor Center.....291-2223
- Hithergreen Center.....435-2415

The Town Crier is a
publication of the
City of Centerville



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CITYWIDE GARAGE SALE REGISTRATION MAY 3-5, 8 A.M.-5 P.M.

- The City will advertise your garage sale and provide you with one sign for **FREE!** (*Signs must remain on your property.*)
- All forms must be returned by **9 A.M., FRIDAY, APRIL 20**
- *Print information below and return form to:*
**City of Centerville, 100 W. Spring Valley Road,
Centerville, OH 45458**
- Registrations may be faxed to 433-8221. Register online at ci.centerville.oh.us beginning March 12.
Call 433-7151 for more information.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Neighborhood: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Items For Sale: *(No more than 100 characters)* _____

(Continued from page 1)

What other entities are impacted?

The Centerville City School District will not be affected and will continue to receive all property tax funds per state law. The Washington-Centerville Library, Centerville Washington Park District and other taxing bodies including the City, which rely on property taxes, could see an opportunity loss of \$20,000 to \$25,000 per year during the life of the TIF. "All of these taxing bodies will continue to receive every penny in property taxes they are currently receiving from the hospital land," said Kingseed. The TIF will not divert any existing tax dollars from the library and further, will not divert any future tax dollars the library is expecting from its recently passed levy.

The new development made possible by infrastructure improvements should lead to hundreds of new jobs and increased property values throughout the entire area, he added.

Long-range planning

According to Kingseed, Centerville City Council approved the ordinance because "we need to do everything we can to enhance economic development in our community." He noted that without funding for the I-675/Wilmington Pike interchange, property and roads along the area would not be fully developed nor would property values increase, leading to the loss of new job opportunities and growth.

Kingseed noted that local entities provide outstanding services, and because of the economic climate, all taxing bodies must be creative and do more with less. He said City Council must be proactive and take the steps necessary to keep Centerville a quality community. "The best way and, in fact, the only way to grow out of this recession is to help the private sector create jobs. The TIF process is a very effective tool to that end." For more information, contact Centerville City Offices, 433-7151.