



Volume 39 | Issue 4

## Ohio Supreme Court rules in favor of Centerville

The Ohio Supreme Court in October ruled in a 7–0 decision that the City of Centerville may utilize a tax-increment financing plan (TIF) to assist with the development of the 268 acres known as the Dille Property, located both north and south of I-675 at Wilmington Pike. This decision ended more than five years of legal battles waged by Sugarcreek Township against the City of Centerville, and reversed an earlier ruling by the Second District Court of Appeals.

The City of Centerville in 2006 met all legal requirements for an Expedited Type 2 annexation. Following Ohio law, 100 percent of the property owners at that time requested the land be annexed into Centerville. Since the land is located within both the City and Sugarcreek Township, it is subject to the taxes of each. Centerville, as a municipal corporation, maintains primary governing

responsibility. Once annexed, the property was to be developed potentially using a TIF.

TIFs are public financing tools, established by the state of Ohio, used to make public improvements to an area to create jobs and improve local economies. When property values in the TIF area increase due to new construction, the property taxes collected on that increased value are temporarily *Ruling continued on page 3.*

## Study shows inequity in services and taxation

*City residents carry load for townships*

The Greater Dayton Area Mayors and Managers Association recently commissioned a study by the University of Toledo Urban Affairs Center to examine the issue of services offered and tax equity between cities and townships in Montgomery County. While the study focused on Montgomery County, the same issues are present in other Ohio counties.

The study's findings report that 80 percent of Montgomery County residents live in cities or villages, yet they are excluded from many services provided by the state or county. According to the study, there is a built-in inequity for tax-paying city residents, as their tax dollars are subsidizing many of the services townships receive.

Following are excerpts from the University of Toledo Urban Affairs Center study: The sign along State Route 48 in Washington Township just outside of Centerville advertising new upscale apartments uses precious space to inform prospective purchasers "No City Tax." A

classified advertisement in the Dayton Daily News marketing professional office suites located in Harrison township, just outside of Dayton, declares "No City Income Tax!" in bold font.

On a snowy night in February snowplows pull out *Study continued on page 3.*



- 2 Crews Ready for Snow
- 4 Benham's Grove Celebrations
- 8 Photography Contest Winners
- 12 CPA Accepting Applications
- 15 Mayor's Message
- 16 Holiday Schedule



## Crews ready for snow season

One of the primary services Centerville provides each winter is plowing snow and spreading salt to keep roadways safe. To be as efficient and cost conscious as possible, Public Works is constantly striving to improve our operations. Prior to a winter storm event, we check weather forecasts to plan our attack. Several years ago Centerville added brine to our toolbox. Brine is a salt-water solution sprayed on dry roadways ahead of a forecasted storm. It forms a film on the roadway surface and helps prevent ice and snow from bonding to the pavement. Public Works trucks are outfitted with a wetting system. As the salt leaves the bed of the truck and flows to the salt spreader, it is sprayed with brine. Brine helps the salt melt faster, improving roadway conditions quicker.

Centerville is divided into six areas. During a winter storm event where snow and/or ice are accumulating on roadways, trucks outfitted with plows and salt spreaders are dispatched to each area. Priority streets—major roadways, hills, bridges, and emergency routes—are cleared first. Collector streets within each area are the second priority. Once priority streets are clear, crews begin clearing residential streets. However, as long as it's snowing, crews must focus on priority streets.

When clearing residential areas, crews make one pass in and one pass out to provide for two-way traffic. After first and second priority roads are completely clear, crews make a second pass through residential neighborhoods. Depending on the severity of the storm, crews may leave residential areas to concentrate on priority roadways and return when available to clear the residential streets.

### Residents can help expedite snow and ice removal:

- Remove parked vehicles from the street to avoid being plowed in.
- Pile snow on the left side of your drive (facing your house from the street) to avoid being plowed in.
- Don't plow snow from driveways onto public streets.

Centerville's Municipal Code requires property owners clear snow and ice accumulations from sidewalks "within a reasonable time, which will ordinarily not exceed 12 hours." Residents who live downtown or where children walk to and from school are asked to make special effort to clear sidewalks as soon as practical. City crews clear sidewalks at City-owned properties and gazebo bus stops.

For assistance with snow removal, call the City, 433-7151, for a snow removal resource list, including volunteers.

Public Works crews continue to work smarter to optimize storm operations. The safety of the traveling public is the first concern, and every effort will be made to provide the highest level of service to our residents. For more information call 428-4782.



## Police department employee to retire

Judy Kuhns enjoyed being a stay-at-home mom with three boys. However, in 1982, when her youngest son reached first grade, she decided it was time to go back to work and applied for a job with the City of Centerville. That position turned into a 30-year career with the Centerville Police Department, and will end with her retirement on December 31 of this year. Hired as a dispatcher, Judy worked in tight quarters at the police station, which at that time was located in the Municipal Building at 100 W. Spring Valley Road. There was a staff of 23, including four dispatchers, who answered four direct phone lines. All calls were handwritten and later typed into reports as there were no computers. The emergency phone system, 9-1-1, had not yet been introduced in the community. Flash forward 30 years and today the Police Department works in a state-of-the-art facility at 155 W. Spring Valley Road complete with the latest technology. There are now 51 employees, including six dispatchers.



Judy Kuhns

Promoted in 1997 to a newly created position of communications and records supervisor, Judy says technology has advanced their operations. "We have become more diversified in our responsibilities," she says. Additional dispatcher duties include handling public records requests, keeping the department's statistics on all calls, and maintaining records and requests, all while answering scores of phone calls each day. It's a high pressure job requiring many skills and multi-tasking, but according to Judy, the staff excels. "We have quality people and quality performance."

Judy and her husband of 43 years, Frank, plan to enjoy retirement by traveling to at least three other continents: Africa, Asia and Australia, as well as other destinations around the world. In addition to their three sons, the Kuhns have six grandchildren, and look forward to spending more time with their family.

## Rezoning referendum set for November 2013

The Montgomery County Board of Elections determined that the rezoning referendum, brought forth by a group called Social Row CPR, will appear on the November 5, 2013 ballot. Centerville voters will decide at that time whether to affirm or overturn Council's decision to rezone the area at Social Row, Sheehan and Paragon roads.

Centerville Council in July voted to rezone 64 acres north of Social Row Road, east of Sheehan Road and east of Paragon Road. The rezoning calls for the southern area's 25 acres to be developed as O-PD, Office Planned Development, with a NC, Neighborhood Center Overlay Zone classification, and the northern area's 38 acres to be developed as R-PD, Residential Planned Development, with a NR Neighborhood Residential Overlay Zone classification.

The Montgomery County Board of Elections has determined this ballot issue is estimated to cost the City \$20,800. A majority vote in November 2013 is necessary for the referendum to pass, and thereby negate the rezoning.

*(Ruling continued from page 1)* redirected to a separate fund to pay for infrastructure improvements in that area. Sugarcreek Township had asserted it was owed any new tax monies from the property. However, the decision, written by Justice Judith Ann Lanzinger, stated that since the township may still collect their share of taxes on the unimproved property and eventually from the improved property, "...the TIF enhances rather than interferes with the Township's ability to collect taxes."

TIF funds may pay specifically for infrastructure improvements in the TIF area, including road widenings, utility extensions and traffic signalization upgrades.

What should have been a straightforward process became entangled in court battles as Sugarcreek Township began legal proceedings against the City of Centerville.

"It is unfortunate that Sugarcreek Township has tied up this develop-

ment process for more than five years through litigation," said Greg Horn, Centerville city manager. "They have spent thousands of taxpayers' dollars. As the defendant in this case, we have been forced to do the same. However, we are pleased that the Ohio Supreme Court ruled unanimously in our favor and look forward to assisting Cornerstone Developers in bringing quality development and economic growth to our area."

A few days prior to the ruling, the City was notified that Cornerstone Developers, Ltd., part owner and developer of the former Dille property, withdrew its detachment request. According to Horn, City staff continues to meet with George Oberer, Sr. and George Oberer, Jr. and their staff on finalizing a development agreement. "The discussions have been productive and we are moving forward," said Horn.

*(Study continued from page 1)* of the County garage located in Dayton to spend a busy night plowing and salting the roads in Montgomery County's unincorporated areas. They will leave the roads in Montgomery County's 16 cities and three villages untouched. Though the residents of the incorporated areas pay the same taxes to the County as the residents of the unincorporated areas, they also pay their city or village income tax to hire crews to handle their plowing and salting needs.

This summer, crews from the Ohio Department of Transportation District 7 garage will perform road maintenance along the State Routes in Montgomery County. The State will halt its maintenance work whenever they reach the border of a city or village. The cities and villages must use their own resources to maintain those State Routes within their own borders.

At the municipal courts in Dayton, Kettering, Miamisburg and Vandalia, costs of operation and maintenance are borne by the residents of the host cities. The State requires that these courts serve townships in their districts, while the residents of these townships do not pay for this service. Is there any justification for requiring that those City taxpayers fund their own court, but not requiring the same of township residents?

While 80 percent of Montgomery County residents live in cities or villages, they are excluded from many services provided by the State or the County. Is it fair for them to have to pay full State and County taxes only to be forced to tax themselves to receive services that the State and County provide at no cost to Montgomery County township residents?

Most townships in Montgomery County are no longer exclusively agricultural or rural. They now compete with cities for residential, commercial, and industrial development. In their marketing efforts, townships frequently point to the absence of income taxes as an advantage to choosing their township as a location for residents and businesses. Are such low taxes made possible because their services are subsidized to a significant extent by the State, County and municipal neighbors?

Questions such as these prompted the Greater Dayton Area Mayors and Managers Association to ask the University of Toledo Urban Affairs Center to examine the issue of service and tax equity in Montgomery County.

According to the research, the annual subsidy provided by Montgomery County and the State of Ohio to the unincorporated areas (townships) is over \$14 million.

### State and county subsidies to townships in Montgomery County

#### Subsidy Type / Approximate Cost

County Road Construction, Maintenance, and Engineering	<b>\$10,376,000</b>
State Road Construction, Maintenance, and Engineering	<b>\$2,100,000</b>
Criminal Justice, Policing, and Legal Services	<b>\$1,450,000</b>
Municipalities within township Tax Charges	<b>\$780,000</b>
Planning Services	<b>\$160,000</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$14,866,000</b>



#### The study's recommendations include:

- Require Ohio townships to take responsibility for their own services in the same manner that Ohio municipalities do.
- Require the Ohio Department of Transportation to provide the same level of services in townships and municipalities.
- Eliminate the system that requires municipalities to fund local courts.
- Change the taxing and funding obligation when municipalities are located within townships. Municipal taxpayers should no longer pay property taxes to townships for general government services that they do not receive.
- If there is no legislative action regarding township roads, recommendations include changes in labeling roads as township or County, changes to the formulation and distribution of vehicle license fees, and changes to the allocation of Local Transportation Improvement Program funds.
- When contracts are created between the County and unincorporated areas for service delivery, such as the Sheriff policing certain townships, a mechanism for independent review and public examination must ensure that there is not a hidden subsidy provided through such contracts.

For more information contact your local, county or state representative. The full report is available on the City's website, [centervilleohio.gov](http://centervilleohio.gov).



# BENHAM'S GROVE

## Anniversary celebration comes to an end

Benham's Grove wrapped up its yearlong 20th anniversary celebration with several events. Following a community open house and vow renewal ceremony held in late July, the Friends of Benham's Grove hosted "Dancing Under the Stars." The fundraiser was held on the brick plaza, which was partially funded by the organization. Look for this event to be offered again in 2013.

The annual tree lighting ceremony illuminated the community gathering place throughout the holiday season. Hundreds of people visited the grounds, sang Christmas carols and toured the Gerber House. Two days in December were set aside for residents to have family portraits taken in the festively decorated house. Participants brought donations for Food 2 Go for this free event.

## Gathering place perfect choice for winter events

December is the perfect month to host an event at Benham's Grove. Twinkling lights, gorgeous holiday decorations and cozy fires are just a few of the reasons to hold your party there. It's a great venue for business getaways, too. For more information visit [benhamsgrove.com](http://benhamsgrove.com) or call 433-1913.



TOP: Friends of Benham's Grove members Karen Beal, Linda Brewster, Sue Pirie and Jan Prettyman at a fall membership party.

ABOVE: Amy Gerber (center) whose parents owned the property that would later become Benham's Grove, is presented with a photo from the grand opening in 1992, showcasing her with her mother, Dorothy Gerber, by Benham's Grove administrator Sally Blommel and staff member Randy Bishop, during an anniversary event.

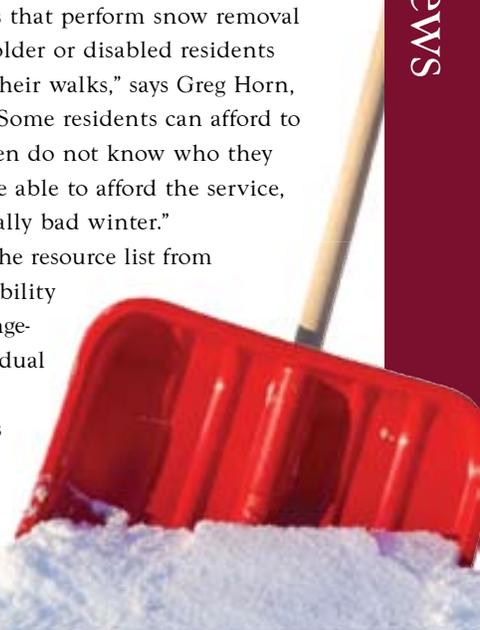


RIGHT: William and Julieanne Phillips took part in the vow renewal ceremony held in July. The Phillips celebrated 35 years of marriage on July 2. Mrs. Phillips is wearing her original wedding dress.

## City looking for volunteers to help elderly residents

The City of Centerville is compiling a list of individuals, groups, and organizations willing to volunteer to assist elderly and disabled Centerville residents with snow removal. The list is maintained by City staff and available to residents. The City also maintains a list of individuals and companies that perform snow removal for a fee. "There are many older or disabled residents who are unable to shovel their walks," says Greg Horn, Centerville city manager. "Some residents can afford to pay for the service, but often do not know who they can call. Others may not be able to afford the service, especially if it is an unusually bad winter."

Once residents receive the resource list from the City, it is their responsibility to make the necessary arrangements. Any group or individual interested in volunteering or listing a business for this service, or would like to receive the resource list information, is asked to call City Offices, 433-7151.



## BENHAM'S GROVE 2013 RENTAL RATES

FACILITY	WEEKDAY 2013	WEEKEND & HOLIDAY 2013
<b>ENTIRE COMPLEX</b>	<i>Non-Peak: Nov 15-Apr 15; Peak: Apr 16-Nov 14</i>	
Non-Peak:	\$575	\$1350
Peak:	\$900	\$1825
<b>GERBER HOUSE</b>		
Non-Peak:	\$400	\$800
Peak:	\$525	\$1200
<b>BARN</b>		
Non-Peak:	\$325	\$625
Peak:	\$425	\$750
<b>COTTAGE</b>	\$165	\$350
<b>EAST MEETING ROOM</b>	\$150	N/A
<b>GAZEBO</b>	<i>Available as part of rental of one or more facility</i>	
Gazebo: 2 Hr. Rate	\$100	\$200
<b>BRICK PLAZA</b>	<i>\$1000 for each client renting the Complex who uses the brick plaza, tent is provided.</i>	
April 16-Nov 14		
For Ceremony (Rain Plan)	\$100	\$200

### WEEKDAY BUSINESS RATE (BEFORE 5 P.M. MONDAY-FRIDAY)

	2 HOURS	4 HOURS	ALL DAY
<b>COTTAGE</b>	\$90	\$135	\$225
<b>GERBER HOUSE</b>	\$160	\$255	\$425
<b>BARN</b>	\$125	\$185	\$325

*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 bereavement facility. Benham's Grove is owned and operated by the City of Centerville. For additional information call Benham's Grove, 433-1913 or visit [benhamsgrove.com](http://benhamsgrove.com).*

### Friends of Benham's Grove announce board

The Friends of Benham's Grove recently announced the 2012-2013 board, including June Ovington, president, Sandi Rachal, vice president, Cate Renner, treasurer, Jan Prettyman, recording secretary, Patricia Fleissner, corresponding secretary. For membership information, call 433-1913 or visit [benhamsgrove.com](http://benhamsgrove.com).

### Communications outlets keep you updated

Check out the City's website [centervilleohio.gov](http://centervilleohio.gov) for the latest news in Centerville. From the website you can "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. Centerville also offers a mobile app available for iPads, iPhones, Droids and Blackberry smart phones and a Twitter page, @CentervilleOH, both accessible from the website.



## Welcome to these businesses that have applied for occupancy permits since August 1

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Zebra Girl Boutique</b><br>288-A N. Main Street  | <b>Pure Barre Dayton</b><br>62 W. Franklin Street |
| <b>Bart's Car Store</b><br>6950 Loop Road           | <b>Raise Your Brush</b><br>165-A N. Main Street   |
| <b>AutoSpot Used Cars</b><br>895 E. Franklin Street | <b>Metta Yoga Studio</b><br>60 N. Main Street     |
| <b>Palm Beach Tan</b><br>1055 S. Main Street        | <b>Superior Countertops</b><br>104 Westpark Road  |
| <b>Dent Magic</b><br>7993 Clys Road                 |   |

## Volunteer stays involved in community

"I like being involved in my community," says Cindy Monter Clay. The former Centerville City Schools teacher has been on the go since retiring in 2003, after 30 years of teaching, most of which were at Cline Elementary.



Cindy Monter Clay

An active member of the Centerville Sister City Committee since 1989, Cindy has held several leadership positions as well as coordinated many trips for the committee. She's already making preparations for two separate visits from the people of Bad Zwischenahn, Germany, one of Centerville's Sister Cities. A group of high school students will visit in March and immediately following, a group of adults will make the trip in April.

The Centerville committee will host both groups, coordinating special activities and events. She has also traveled with the Centerville committee, visiting Bad Z three times over the years.

In 2004, Cindy and her husband, Kendall, participated in the Centerville Police Department's Citizens' Police Academy (CPA). "We enjoyed it so much, we decided to join the alumni association." As CPAA members, the Clays have driven decoy cars, assisted with CSI camp and helped with other events.

A member of the Centerville Civic Women's Club, for several years every July 4th Cindy helped check-in vendors at the Americana Festival. Last year she decided to get more involved, and is now putting her organizational and administrative skills to work as the executive assistant in the festival's office.

The Clays enjoy traveling and plan to leave for an African cruise in early December. In the past seven years Alaska, Greece, Russia and Amsterdam are just a few places they've visited. "We like being on the go," says Cindy, "but I always enjoy coming home."

## Register your pooch

Ohio law requires that dogs older than three months be licensed. Residents may purchase a 2013 Montgomery County dog license December 1 through January 31 for \$20 at the Centerville Municipal Building, 100 W. Spring Valley Road. If you purchased tags last year, the county will mail the registration renewal to your home.

## *a Grand Time* FOR SENIORS

Hithergreen Center offers "A Grand Time," a grand and great-grandparent program for members and their families, 5-8 p.m., Tuesday, December 11, at the center, 5900 Hithergreen Drive. A professional photographer will take family portraits. Each registered member receives a 5"x7" individual portrait and an 8"x10" family portrait. Children will have the opportunity to decorate a photo matte, assisted by Hithergreen artists. Along with activities, wellness classes will be offered to address health topics relevant to today's youth. Registration is \$10 for members and \$12 for non-members.

Registrants are asked to bring an 11"x14" frame. The Hithergreen photography club will matte and frame each portrait, which can be picked up December 17. For more information, call Kara Ware, 435-2415.

*at Hithergreen Center*

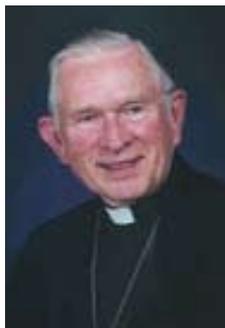
## == Recycle those gift boxes ==

During the holiday season, waste collection and recyclables tend to be heavier than normal. Recycle as much as possible—gift boxes, wrapping paper, and cardboard packaging are all recyclable. Remember you can put out an unlimited amount of recyclable material. Your recycling container should be clearly marked and placed on the opposite side of the drive from your refuse container. This helps the driver readily identify refuse from recyclables. Christmas trees will be collected through January 11. Place your tree at the curb. City crews will collect them in a separate truck. Christmas trees are chipped and turned into mulch for use on City properties. For more information on recycling visit [centervilleohio.gov](http://centervilleohio.gov), for questions about waste collection, contact Public Works, 428-4782 or [publicworks@centervilleohio.gov](mailto:publicworks@centervilleohio.gov).



## Pastor from Montgomery bus boycott to speak at Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast

The only white minister to participate in the historic Montgomery, Alabama bus boycott will speak at the Centerville-Washington Diversity Council's annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast on January 21, 2013 at The Golf Club at Yankee Trace. Rev. Robert S. Graetz, Jr., a Lutheran minister, led an all-black congregation in Montgomery during the 1950s. At the age of 27, he became a leader of the civil rights movement, associating closely with Dr. King, Rosa Parks, Ralph Abernathy and other civil rights pioneers.



Rev. Robert S. Graetz, Jr.

A personal friend of Rosa Parks, Rev. Graetz became secretary of the Montgomery Improvement Association, an organization founded to organize and support the boycott, a pivotal event in the U.S. civil rights movement. For his support of the boycott, Rev. Graetz and his family suffered several episodes of harassment. Bombs were planted at his home on three occasions.

This will mark the 13th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast sponsored by the Diversity Council. The breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m. Tickets are \$15. For reservations call the City of Centerville, 433-7151. For program information, call Kara Ware, 435-2415.

The mission of the Diversity Council is to bring together governments, schools, businesses, media, faith and ethnic communities, organizations and individuals to promote multicultural relations and address issues of diversity. The council comprises nearly 60 representatives from community organizations as well as a cross section of various races, ages and physical abilities. For membership and event information call Jackie Curl, 433-0152, or visit [cwtdiversity.org](http://cwtdiversity.org).

## Americana Festival looking for volunteers

The Centerville Washington Township Americana Festival is looking for volunteers to help plan the daylong event on July 4, 2013. A hometown tradition, the festival welcomes more than 75,000 people to our community. Below is a list of festival committees. Responsibilities include maintaining participant databases, contacting new participants and executing the event. Contact the Americana Festival, 433-5898 or [info@americanafestival.org](mailto:info@americanafestival.org) for more information.

- Arts & Crafts
- Auto Show
- Entertainment
- Food Concessions
- Information Systems
- Logistics
- Marketing
- Radio Communications
- Miss Americana Pageant
- Office Administration
- Parade
- Publicity/Photographer
- Spirit of Americana decorating contest



Americana Festival

## Bulbs for beginners

The Centerville City Beautiful Commission offers these easy tips, from the Wall Street Journal, to make your garden brighter.

### Plant a bulb in five easy steps:

- Check bulbs for shriveling or mold before buying.
- Pick your location. Tulips do fine in some shade, but prefer at least six hours of sunlight a day. If you have clay soil, improve drainage with some peat moss or compost.
- Dig a hole about six inches deep or three times the bulb's height.
- Place bulb in the hole pointy end up, so roots grow down easily.
- Water thoroughly.

A couple of other tips: Deer love tulips. Plant daffodils nearby, which deer don't seem to like so much.

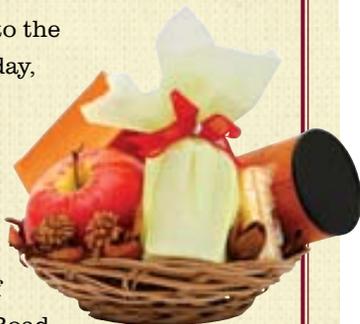
To encourage blooms to return, don't cut back the foliage. Let it die naturally.



## Pick up seasonal items at Farmers Market

Bring your holiday shopping list to the Winter Farmers Market on Thursday, December 20. Market hours are 2-5 p.m. Vendors will have just what you need for holiday meal preparations, as well as one of a kind gift baskets.

Located near the intersection of State Route 48 and Spring Valley Road, there's plenty of free parking. Visit the Facebook page and [centervillefarmersmarket.com](http://centervillefarmersmarket.com) for updates.



# BEYOND POINT AND SHOOT CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED *Winning photos on exhibit*

## Winning photographers

### People's Choice Winner:

Michael Stahl, Fireworks (*Dayton CityFolk fireworks*)

### Adult Black/White Winner:

Ajay Jindal, Silence before the Storm (*Outer Banks, NC*)

### Adult Black/White Runner Up:

Jason Baldwin, Unfinished (*Dayton, OH*)

### Adult Local Winner:

James Davis, Tomatoes (*Washington Township, My Kitchen*)

### Adult Local Runner Up:

Luis Otero, Let His Light Shine Through You in Victree (*Washington Township, Washington Church Rd.*)

### Adult Places Winner:

Amanda Loomis, Fall Colors (*Cuyahoga National Park*)

### Adult Places Runner Up:

Luis Otero, Fallen Beauty (*Caesar's Creek*)

### Adult People Winner:

Jane Young, Love (*United States*)

### Adult People Runner Up:

Libby VanZino, The Aviator (*Red Stewart Airport, Waynesville, OH*)

### Youth Black/White Winner:

Rebecca Lewis, Don't let me fade away (*United States*)

### Youth Black/White Runner Up:

Brianna Brewster, Morning Dew (*Cox Arboretum*)

### Youth Local Winners (TIE):

Andre Banerjee, It's a Bee's life (*Centerville*) and  
Rupal Jindal, A Child's Colorful Life (*Washington Trace in Centerville*)

### Youth Local Runner Up:

Emma Workman, Purple Daze (*Washington Township*)

### Youth Places Winner:

Brianna Brewster, The Crossing (*Franklin, OH*)

### Youth Places Runner Up:

Jared Kofsky, Nightfall at the Bridge (*Matamoras, PA*)

### Youth People Winners (TIE):

Leighanna Hornick, Curiosity (*Centerville*) and  
Jeen Na, Loves Me, Loves Me Not (*Stubbs Park*)

### Youth People Runner Up:

Kristin Lotthammer, Vigilance (*Springboro*)

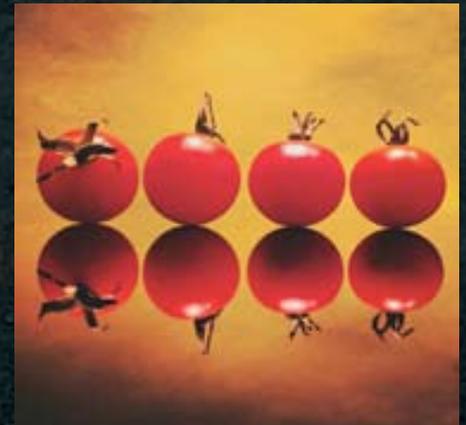
The Centerville Arts Commission and the Washington-Centerville Library announced the winners of the Beyond Point and Shoot digital photography contest during a reception held in October at the Centerville Art Gallery. A panel of local photographers including Arts Commissioner Kera Estep, Gary Kunze and Jerry Huffman selected the winning photos using the following criteria: Use of Lighting, Use of Color or Contrast, Creativity, and Perspective/Framing.

More than 180 photographs were entered in four subject categories; People, Places, Locally Taken (Centerville and Washington Township), and Black and White, with two age categories: Youth (17 and younger) and Adult (18 and older). In addition, an online contest was held for People's Choice on the library's website, with 778 votes cast in that category.

The winning photographs are on exhibit through December 31 in the Art Gallery at the Centerville Police Department, 155 W. Spring Valley Road. The Gallery is open 24 hours a day and exhibits may be viewed anytime day or night. All exhibits are free and open to the public.



Michael Stahl, Fireworks



James Davis, Tomatoes



## 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 [centervilleohio.gov](http://centervilleohio.gov), our Facebook pages and in this publication, the Town Crier. Send photos along with your contact information to [information@centervilleohio.gov](mailto:information@centervilleohio.gov) or call 433-7151.



Glass artist Jim DeLange's work will be on display at Art at the Trace.

## Art at the Trace set for February 9

*Featured artist works with glass*

Celebrate the arts at the eighth annual Art at the Trace, 6–9 p.m. Saturday, February 9 at The Golf Club at Yankee Trace, 10000 Yankee Street.

Sponsored by the Centerville Arts Commission, local artists offer a selection of work on display and available for purchase. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. The evening's featured artist is glass artist Jim DeLange, and the event offers an elegant buffet of hors d'oeuvres and live music.

Go to [centervilleohio.gov](http://centervilleohio.gov) after the first of the year for further details.



## German Sister City group to visit Centerville

The Centerville Sister City Committee is pleased to announce a group of adults from Centerville's sister city of Bad Zwischenahn, Germany, will visit Centerville April 13-16, 2013. Following their visit, the group plans to tour the U.S. for a week.

Host families are needed, and you don't need to speak German. If you are interested, please call Debbie James, Clerk of Council, 433-7151.

## Arts Commission looking for sponsors

*Free concerts welcome thousands*

Thousands of community members spend their Sunday summer evenings being entertained by the talented performers at the Summer Concert Series. The City of Centerville and the Centerville Arts Commission will again provide a great lineup of free concerts this summer at Stubbs Park Amphitheater, 255 W. Spring Valley Road. The Arts Commission is offering businesses the opportunity to provide sponsorship support for this series. Sponsorships help the Arts Commission keep the arts alive and vibrant, while supporting the economic vitality of our community. There are five levels: platinum, gold, silver, bronze, and patron.

Talented musicians and performing artists have entertained audiences for over twenty years as each concert season has attracted an average of 15,000 attendees. This year's schedule will have a great mix of oldies, classical, big band, country and rock. Businesses interested in sponsoring the series should contact the City of Centerville, 433-7151, or download a sponsorship application at [centervilleohio.gov](http://centervilleohio.gov). Sponsorship deadline is March 31, 2013.

## LIBRARY SPONSOR WRITING CONTEST FOR TEENS

*Teens in grades 7-9 who live or attend school in Montgomery County can win \$3,000 in the Dottie Yeck Good Life Award Writing Contest at Washington-Centerville Public Library. The contest opens for online entries March 1. Check for details beginning in February at [wclibrary.info/gla](http://wclibrary.info/gla).*



## Pursue wellness at Hithergreen Center

Wellness is an active process of becoming aware of and making choices toward a more successful existence. It includes not only optimal physical health but fitness in all areas of life. By that definition, Hithergreen Center is a mecca of wellness activities—from exercise classes to educational programs to artistic pursuits... plus so much more.

With a new year right around the corner, now is the time to consider what choices you will make in 2013 to improve your well-being. How do you plan to actively improve your life after the ball drops in Times Square on New Year's Eve?

One of your choices might be to join Hithergreen Center. Annual dues are \$60 for residents of Centerville and Washington Township. Better yet, if you make your commitment by the end of the year, you will save \$10. For more information call the center, 435-2415, or visit [hithergreen.org](http://hithergreen.org).

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY sets programs for 2013

The Centerville-Washington Township Historical Society offers the following programs for the first quarter of 2013. All programs are held at Hithergreen Center, 5900 Hithergreen Drive. Refreshments are served at 6:30 p.m., and the programs begin at 7 p.m. Call the society, 433-0123, for more information.



**Jan 15, 2013**  
**Hank Backmann**  
 Emie Frazee & the Pop Top Can

**Feb 19, 2013**  
**Larry Marple**  
 Theodore Roosevelt Charges

**Mar 19, 2013**  
**Melinda Mohler**  
 Mysteries of History from Colonial and Antebellum Periods



Hithergreen Center offers classes for all interests.



# YANKEE TRACE NAMED BEST COURSE IN DAYTON FOR EIGHTH YEAR

For the eighth straight year, The Golf Club at Yankee Trace in 2012 was awarded the "Best Golf Course in Dayton."

Open seven days a week, year-round, stop by the Golf Shop, 10000 Yankee Street, call 438-GOLF, or visit yankeetrace.org for information about leagues, outings, rates, lessons and the latest in golf merchandise.

**Club Repair** – Change those worn and slippery golf grips. A slick grip causes you to instinctively hold the club tighter leading to loss of distance in every club. Drop off your clubs at the Golf Shop and our PGA staff will professionally install the latest and greatest golf grips within 24 hours, or order your favorite grip, and we'll have it priority shipped for quick turnaround.

**2013 Golf Outings** – The Golf Club at Yankee Trace is the perfect venue to host a golf tournament or outing. We specialize in fundraisers, corporate events and traveling groups. All of your guests will receive 18 or 9 holes of championship golf, practice balls, a prize fund and the best customer service in the business. Reserve an outing for as few as 16 golfers and receive a complimentary sleeve of Nike golf balls for each participant.

## Yankee Trace Gift Cards

Purchase for any dollar amount in the Golf Shop or online at yankeetrace.org. Gift Cards may be redeemed for Golf, Merchandise, Lessons, Memberships, Practice Balls, and Food and Beverages.

## Two Great Gift Card Specials

**2013 Ten Weekday Rounds of Golf Gift Card: \$350**

*Valid Monday – Thursday*

**2013 Ten Anytime Rounds of Golf Gift Card: \$450**

*Valid Every Day*

## Annual Memberships

2013 Memberships introduced December 10, 2012

## Golf Instruction Holiday Packages

Off-Season Tune Up – FOUR thirty-minute lessons: \$120

Off-Season Work Out – EIGHT thirty-minute lessons: \$200

*Lessons Available December through April*

## Holiday Merchandise Sale

Valid through December 24

All in-stock Golf Clubs, Fine Men's & Women's Golf Apparel and Golf Accessories marked down for great savings

FREE Gift Wrapping while you wait

See our coupon on page 16

**SANTA**  
*Brunch*  
Sunday, December 9 and 16  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Join us for Brunch and a visit with Santa  
Santa Claus visits 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Reservations strongly recommended  
Adults \$18.95 / 12 and under \$8.95

YANKEE TRACE  
*Off Season*  
**Golf Shop Off Season Hours**  
9 a.m. – 5 p.m. every day  
*Excludes Christmas Day and New Year's Day*

**Off-Season Specials**  
Indoor Practice Facility  
Open December - March  
\$7 per day  
\$45 per month  
\$85 for the entire off-season

THE GOLF CLUB  
*Yankee Trace*  
CITY OF CENTERVILLE

YANKEE TRACE RESTAURANT HOURS  
THROUGH DECEMBER 31

**LUNCH**  
MONDAY – FRIDAY: 11 AM–2 PM  
SUNDAY BRUNCH: 10 AM–2 PM  
COUNTER SERVICE AVAILABLE AFTER 2 PM  
AS WEATHER PERMITS.

JANUARY 1 THROUGH APRIL 1

**LUNCH**  
TUESDAY – FRIDAY: 11 AM–2 PM  
SUNDAY BRUNCH: 10 AM–2 PM

**DINNER**  
FRIDAY FISH FRY: 5–9 PM, STARTING JANUARY 11

# BE ON ALERT WHEN TRAFFIC LIGHTS ARE OUT

Rain, winds and lightning have struck. The power is out. This scenario creates safety concerns for all. For motorists, a common concern occurs when power is out at a traffic signal—and there is no red, yellow or green indicator. This is commonly called a ‘dark signal’. According to the Ohio Revised Code Section 4511.132 when a signal is malfunctioning—“fails to clearly indicate the assignment of right of way”—traffic in all directions must stop before entering the intersection. Treat the intersection as a multi-way stop and yield the right of way to other motorists in the intersection. In the case of a malfunctioning signal, local law enforcement and/or Public Works officials are likely aware of the problems and have contacted the appropriate parties to restore power and fix the problem. In the meantime, motorists are encouraged to travel with caution through the intersection and treat the malfunctioning signal as a multi-way stop. Failure to do so may result in a citation.

Centerville just installed a battery back-up system at the State Route 48 and Alex-Bell signal. In the event of a power outage at this location, the back-up will kick in and there will be no interruption in the traffic signal’s operation. Over time, back-up systems will be added to several other major intersections in Centerville.

## Fall projects completed, spring projects planned

The City completed the annual street program project with repair and resurfacing on the following streets: New England Avenue, Applecreek Road, Sheldon Drive, Ambridge Road and Fenway Court. In addition, ODOT completed resurfacing on State Route 48/Far Hills Avenue north of I-675 and into Kettering.

Two drainage projects were completed. One included a project to clean and re-grade a portion of the Concept ditch and a second project included re-grading a portion of the roadside ditch on Alex-Bell Road east of Marwyck.

Work has started on Paragon Road to improve the road south of West Spring Valley. This is a Washington Township project with Centerville providing funding for the portion in Centerville. The road will be closed until the middle of next year to facilitate the work.

East Spring Valley Road from South Main to Atchison Road will be repaired and resurfaced with some concrete work already done and the remainder of the concrete repair and resurfacing to be completed next spring. In conjunction with the resurfacing project, Montgomery County Water Services will be replacing an aging water main ahead of the resurfacing. Centerville received Ohio Public Works Commission grant funding for a portion of the roadway project.



## Keep drainage ditches clear

There are numerous neighborhoods within Centerville that have open drainage ways that play an important role in the storm water drainage system. Some ditches are unimproved, meaning they are naturally occurring creeks, streams or swales that carry storm water that flows from the surrounding land just as it did before the land was developed. In other locations there are improved drainage ditches, constructed at the time the land was developed, to carry storm water run-off from the surrounding land. Typically an improved drainage way is one that has shaped, stabilized channels with concrete or vegetative slopes/bottoms that were constructed with the recorded development. Whether there is an unimproved or improved drainage ditch in your neighborhood, there are laws to provide for its maintenance.

In 2010, the City updated its policy for ‘the care and maintenance of drainage ways’, to define maintenance responsibilities. Essentially, private property owners who have a drainage way on their property are responsible to inspect and maintain it. This includes mowing, weeding, removing brush or other vegetation, re-

moving obstructions including fallen limbs, and policing to make sure nothing is dumped in the ditch. The City will participate in the major maintenance of drainage ways if they are improved and in an easement. Major maintenance generally includes removal of silt, repair or reconstruction of concrete channel, re-shaping a channel, repair or replacement of a headwall, and any channel stabilization work such as installation of rip rap to alleviate severe erosion concerns.

If you have a drainage way across or along your property, take a look at it every now and then as you are responsible for its care and maintenance. If you have installed a fence to separate the drainage way from the rest of your yard, make sure you have access for maintenance purposes. In periods of heavy rain, these drainage ways will carry heavy storm water flows. If they are not maintained properly, you may experience flooding on your property or cause problems for a neighbor. The City’s Property Maintenance Code and Municipal Code outline specific requirements and potential penalties for failure to comply. Contact Public Works, 428-4782 or [publicworks@centervilleohio.gov](mailto:publicworks@centervilleohio.gov) for more information.

## Citizens Police Academy accepts applications

The Centerville Police Department's winter Citizens Police Academy class is forming. Take advantage of this free opportunity to learn more about your local Police Department and its operations. This 12-week program runs 6:30–9:30 p.m. every Wednesday, January 16 through April 3, 2013.

Participants will hear from several Centerville Police Officers as they discuss topics including: Laws of Arrest, Use of Force Continuum, Firearms, Polygraph, Domestic Violence, Drug Enforcement, Professional Standards, Internal Affairs, Traffic Collision Investigation, OVI Enforcement, Crime Scene Investigations, and S.W.A.T. Each student will have the opportunity to experience firing a weapon and participate in hands-on evidence collection scenarios. Students are given a rare opportunity to ride with a Centerville Officer to learn about their responsibilities in our community. Applications are available in the Police Department lobby at 155 W. Spring Valley Road or at [centervilleohio.org](http://centervilleohio.org), under Departments, click Police. For more information, contact Officer John Davis, 433-7661.



The Police Department's newly awarded cruiser will be soon on the road.

## Police department awarded new cruiser

In recognition of its education and enforcement efforts during the "Click it or Ticket" and "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaigns, the Centerville Police Department was awarded a new 2013 Ford Interceptor Police cruiser. The Ohio Department of Public Safety and Office of Criminal Justice Services recognized the Centerville Police Department for its commitment to increase safety belt usage and decrease impaired driving in Ohio. The cruiser will be on the road by the end of the year.

## ICE AND SNOW *...take it slow!*

Take it slow and easy when driving on snowy roads. Centerville and neighboring communities will have crews working to keep roads clear and safe. Motorists can help, too. Here are some tips provided by the Ohio Department of Transportation.

### KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Know the latest driving conditions. Visit [buckeyetraffic.org](http://buckeyetraffic.org) or sign up for ODOT Twitter updates for the Dayton area.
- Clear snow and ice from your vehicle's windows, lights and signals.
- Make sure tires, wiper blades, lights and other vehicle functions are working properly.
- Give extra time to get to your destination.

### TAKE IT SLOW

- Watch for black ice. Roads that seem dry may actually be slippery and dangerous. Use caution when approaching intersections, off-ramps, bridges or shady areas... all can be hot spots for black ice.
- Reduce speeds and increase distance between vehicles. Remember a four-wheel drive vehicle can still slide on icy roads.
- Brake early, brake slowly, brake correctly and never slam on the brakes.
- Don't use cruise control and avoid abrupt steering maneuvers.

### DON'T CROWD THE PLOW

- Snow plows travel well below the posted speed limit. Be patient and give them room to work. Try not to pass the plow. Watch for sudden stops or turns.
- Watch for blind spots. The plow driver's field of vision is limited. If you can't see the plow's side mirrors, the driver can't see you. Stay two to three car lengths behind the plow.
- Beware of snow clouds. Snow plows often create clouds as they clear the roads, often reducing your ability to see.

## As winter weather approaches, the Centerville Police Department recommends motorists keep the following safety items in your car:

- ✓ Flashlight with fresh batteries
- ✓ Blanket
- ✓ Flares
- ✓ Small shovel
- ✓ Boots
- ✓ First aid kit
- ✓ Jumper cables
- ✓ Ice scraper
- ✓ Small bag of sand



## Before you leave for your destination...

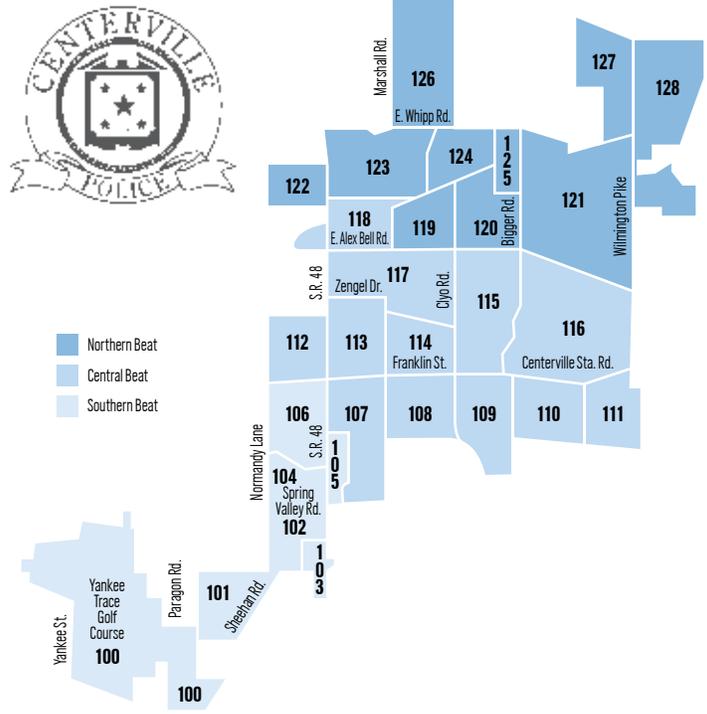
1. Check tires (tread/inflation)
2. Check maintenance and keep your vehicle in good running condition
3. Keep fuel tank full
4. Know where to tune the radio or TV for road safety information

AREA	ROBBERIES			RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES			BREAKING & ENTERING			THEFT OF/FROM VEHICLES			OTHER PROPERTY THEFTS			CRIMINAL MISCHIEF/DAMAGE		
	A	S	O	A	S	O	A	S	O	A	S	O	A	S	O	A	S	O
100	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	2	-	-	
101	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	
102	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	
103	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	-	-	-	
104	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
105	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	2	3	4	3
106	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
107	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	2	2	1	3	-	1
108	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	5	2	-	-	1	-
109	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
110	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-
111	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
112	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	1	-
113	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	1	-	1	-
114	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
115	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-
116	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	3	-	1	-	1
117	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
118	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	1	-	-	-
119	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
120	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	2	-
121	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	4	-	-	1	2	2	11	1	-
122	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
123	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	1	1	-	2	-
124	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
125	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
126	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	1	-	10	-	-	2	-	-
127	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
128	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	1	0	0	4	2	1	0	2	0	16	14	5	24	34	24	30	9	14

RESIDENTIAL & BUSINESS BURGLARIES						
	RESIDENTIAL			BUSINESS		
	A	S	O	A	S	O
MONDAY-THURSDAY	3	1	-	-	1	-
FRIDAY-SUNDAY	1	1	1	-	-	-
UNDETERMINED	-	-	-	-	-	-
6 AM-6 PM	1	2	1	-	-	-
6 PM-6 AM	3	-	-	-	2	-
UNDETERMINED	-	-	-	-	-	-
FORCED	1	-	1	-	1	-
SHATTERED	-	-	-	-	1	-
UNLOCKED	-	2	-	-	-	-
KEY	-	-	-	-	-	-
PRIED	-	-	-	-	-	-
CUT LOCK	-	-	-	-	-	-
UNDETERMINED	-	-	-	-	-	-
OPEN	3	-	-	-	-	-
ATTEMPT	-	-	-	-	-	-
DOOR	-	1	1	-	2	-
WINDOW	1	1	-	-	-	-
GARAGE	3	-	-	-	-	-
UNDETERMINED	-	-	-	-	-	-
OTHER	-	-	-	-	-	-

## Residential & Business Crime Statistics

Statistic Totals: August-October 2012



## Child seat checks available

Ensure your infant or toddler seat is properly installed in your vehicle. Child safety seat checks are offered by the Centerville Police Department by appointment. Install your seat before arriving at the Police Department. Your vehicle must be roadworthy and have seatbelts/anchor system in the rear seats. Ideally, your child should be present, however expectant parents are encouraged to bring infant seats for inspection. This is a free service for anyone living or working in Centerville. Call 433-7661 to schedule an appointment.



**August 20, 2012**

Mayor Kingseed welcomed President John Ward, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, to present the invocation.

Judi Hetzer was administered the oath of office as a City Beautiful Commission member by Mayor Kingseed.

Jan Prettyman of the City Beautiful Commission presented Vannah Nantz, DDS, 70 West Franklin St., with the August Business Pride Award.

Winners of the August Summer Landscape awards were recognized.

**September 17, 2012**

Mayor Kingseed welcomed Dorna Momtaz of the Baha'i Faith, to present the invocation.

**Presentations:**

Robbie Thornhill, president of the Centerville Lions Club, promoted the upcoming 5K Run/Walk and Pancake Breakfast on October 13.

Patty Kraft, member of the City Beautiful Commission, recognized all of the Summer Landscape award winners. Each resident received a stone marker.



City Beautiful Commission members joined Council and landscape award recipients for a reception following the Summer Landscape awards presentation.



As a three-time landscape winner, Beverly Steinbicker was recognized with the Mayor's Award.

Beverly Steinbicker received the Mayor's Award, for being recognized three times as a Landscape winner. The Commission hosted a reception for the winners and Council, immediately following the presentation.

Council proclaimed September 2012 as World Alzheimer's Awareness Month in Centerville, and September 29, 2012 as national Public Lands Day in Centerville.

**Appointments:**

Marlene Orendorf was reappointed as a member of the Arts Commission.

**October 15, 2012**

Mayor Kingseed welcomed Pastor Kirk Lithander of Fairhaven Church, to present the invocation.

An appeal filed by Dan Wilson of Centerville Climate Storage against a decision rendered by the Planning Commission denying three variances for property located at 115 Compark Road was withdrawn by the applicant.

State Representative Jim Butler gave an update on pending legislation.

Centerville-Washington Park District Director, Carol Kennard, and President, Bill Williams, presented an update on the park district's activities and plans.

Bonnie Sekely was given the oath of office as a City Beautiful Commission member by Mayor Kingseed.



Bonnie Sekely takes the oath of office as a City Beautiful Commission member during the October meeting.

**Appointments:**

Joyce Ray-Brown was appointed to the Property Review Commission.

**SUMMER LANDSCAPE WINNERS**



► **Serve your community**

The City has openings on the following Council-appointed boards or commissions: City Beautiful Commission, Arts Commission and Sister City Committee. For application information, contact Debbie James, 433-7151, or [djames@centervilleohio.gov](mailto:djames@centervilleohio.gov) or visit [centervilleohio.gov](http://centervilleohio.gov), click Departments, then Volunteer Opportunities.



## Mayor's Message from Mark Kingseed



Third grade students from Cline Elementary School visited City Offices in October. Classes from Incarnation, Weller and Driscoll elementary schools also toured Centerville departments in the fall, learning about local government and meeting city officials and staff members.

As we approach the Christmas season, this time of the year is always meaningful because it is the time to give thanks for what has already happened (both the good and bad things), and to reflect on what is to come.

It may seem odd to give thanks for "bad things," but my own belief is that we learn much more when things do not turn out as we wish. If we pay attention, we can discern what "not to do next time" when business, political, or personal decisions cause problems. And, even if we have to deal with illness or loss, many times this makes us appreciate our loved ones even more and helps us focus on the important things in life.

When I reflect on the past year, I believe we have made great progress. On the plus side, we finally can see the end game on the Dille property saga. Six years ago, the City agreed to the request of the Dille property owners to annex into the City. We did this because we wanted to make sure the property was developed properly and that the necessary roadwork was adequately planned and implemented. We also accepted the annexation because we knew the future development could help secure the City's financial future without having to increase taxes. We worked hard to reach a settlement with the Sugar creek Township government, but they chose to pursue litigation instead. With the re-

cent unanimous Ohio Supreme Court decision in the City's favor, we are in sight of our goal. Our perseverance paid off, and I am absolutely confident that in the future, the Cornerstone of Centerville development on the former Dille land will be an enhancement to our community and area, which will have been worth the effort and wait.

On the negative side, I think I personally should have done a better job communicating with other public entities relating to our decision to institute tax increment financing (TIF) to help fund the future improvements on the I-675/Wilmington Pike interchange. I am confident our decision to use the TIF was the right one, but more extensive outreach to the other entities might have prevented this issue from becoming so disruptive. The lesson I take from this episode is that we need to do a better job talking with the other governmental entities in advance of our decision. I am not naïve, and it may well be that we will frequently "agree to disagree." At the end of the day, we will have to do what the interests of the City require, but it is always better to keep the lines of communication open.

Looking to the future, our biggest challenge in the City government is to cope with the continuing cuts in State government funding without having to raise City income taxes. When the State cut the Local

Government Fund by 50% and eliminated the tangible personal property tax and the Ohio Estate Tax, the City lost over \$2.5 million dollars from our annual budget. And now, under the guise of "tax uniformity," some of the State representatives are proposing changes in how local income taxes are administered, which could cost our City another \$700,000 per year. We can handle our own finances quite well, but this continued tinkering by Columbus is self-serving and very destructive. The State government takes credit for "cutting taxes," while those of us at the local level that actually have to provide services such as police and road maintenance are left holding the bag. This shell game has to stop.

The City is being very conservative and prudent in our 2013 budget, and I guarantee we will do everything possible to keep expenses in line and to foster private economic growth.

So as long as the State ceases its efforts to cut our funding, I am confident we will not need to go to the voters to seek an increase in the local income tax. And, if we can ever convince the Township government to work with us to set up Joint Economic Development Districts, I am confident we can grow this area in a way which benefits both the City and the Township.

In conclusion, I am optimistic with where we are in your City government. We have held the line on spending and have done what we can to encourage a business-friendly and growth-oriented environment. We will continue to do so. As always, we thank you for the opportunity to serve.

I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a great holiday season!

*Mark Kingseed*



100 West Spring Valley Road  
Centerville, Ohio 45458

[centervilleohio.gov](http://centervilleohio.gov)

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

- Municipal Offices.....433-7151
- Police & Fire Emergency .....9.1.1.
- Police Non-Emergency.....433-7661
- Fire Non-Emergency..... 433-3083
- Public Works Center ..... 428-4782
- Drug Hotline..... 433-6590
- Yankee Trace Golf Shop ..438-GOLF  
[www.yankeetrace.org](http://www.yankeetrace.org)
- Yankee Trace Restaurant...438-3585
- Benham's Grove ..... 433-1913  
[www.benhamsgrove.com](http://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.



Please recycle  
this publication.



PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
DAYTON, OH  
PERMIT #214

## 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.

Publisher.....Gregory B. Horn  
Editor.....Maureen Russell Hodgson  
Production .....Red Wagon Workshop  
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

### Members of City Council

C. Mark Kingseed  
Mayor, 885-1865  
[breitenbu@aol.com](mailto:breitenbu@aol.com)

Brooks A. Compton  
Deputy Mayor, 885-5730  
[bcompton@mccmlawyers.com](mailto:bcompton@mccmlawyers.com)

John J. Beals, 433-6492  
[john-beals@sbcglobal.net](mailto:john-beals@sbcglobal.net)

Douglas C. Cline, 438-0257  
[DCline169@gmail.com](mailto:DCline169@gmail.com)

Paul M. Gresham, 885-3401  
[pedi10@aol.com](mailto:pedi10@aol.com)

Belinda H. Kenley, 974-1549  
[bskenley@yahoo.com](mailto:bskenley@yahoo.com)

James E. Singer, 433-6922  
[jsinger@centervilleohio.gov](mailto:jsinger@centervilleohio.gov)

## YANKEE TRACE BONUS COUPON

**Bring in this Coupon and Get an Additional 10% Off**  
Any in-stock merchandise in the Golf Shop



Coupon valid through December 24, 2012.  
Sale items included. Must present coupon.

## City offices and waste collection schedule set for holiday season

City offices will close in observance of the following upcoming holidays:  
Monday, December 24 and Tuesday, December 25, Tuesday, January 1 and Monday, January 21.

The regular City Council meeting, normally scheduled for the third Monday of each month, will be postponed until Monday, January 28 at 8 p.m. in Council Chambers.

City Offices will be open Presidents' Day, Monday, February 18. Waste collection will be on the regular schedule. Call 433-7151 or visit [centervilleohio.gov](http://centervilleohio.gov) for more information.

Refuse and recycling collection schedules will be modified for the holiday season. In observance of Christmas and New Year's holidays, collection schedules will be adjusted the weeks of December 24 and 31 as follows: If your regular collection day is Monday, collection will be on schedule. Tuesday through Thursday collections will be delayed one day—Tuesday routes will be collected Wednesday, Wednesday routes collected Thursday, and Thursday routes collected Friday. Christmas trees will be collected through January 11. City crews will collect trees at the curb with a separate truck. Christmas trees are chipped and turned into mulch for use on City properties.

In observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Monday, January 21, collection will be delayed one day. Have your items at the curb by 7 a.m. on your collection day.

**CHECK OUT  
WHAT'S HAPPENING  
IN CENTERVILLE**

