

City Lifeline

Municipality of Germantown

Est. 1804

Spring/Summer 2011

Pop. 5,547

Mark Your Calendars for Our Up Coming Events

May 8	Mother's Day
May 21 & 22	Community Garage Sale
May 30	Memorial Day
June 18	Saturday Night Out
July 4	4 th of July Parade:
July 9	Antique Fire Apparatus Show
July 16	Saturday Night Out
July 21	Ford Retractable Show
August 20	Saturday Night Out

2010 Census Report

The official numbers are in and according to the 2010 Federal Census, Germantown is now a City. Our population is now 5,547 which is an increase from the 2000 Census numbers of 4,993. We would like to thank all the Residents for taking the time to fill out the Census Report.

Spring is Here Don't Forget to Mow!

Please keep in mind that by Ordinance grass and weeds cannot be over 6 inches tall in the Municipality. Also, please remember that all branches on trees and shrubs which overhang onto a public street or sidewalk must be trimmed. The trees and shrubs that overhang the stop signs must also be trimmed back for all our safety. If you need to report anyone who is not complying with the Ordinances please contact the Municipal Office at 855-7255 or National Inspection Corporation at 428-7622.

The Municipal Offices will be **Closed** the following Days:

**Memorial Day-May 30
4th of July -July 4**

Useful Phone Numbers

Water Department -855-7260

Tax Department -855-7258

Police Department (Non-Emergency)-
855-6567

Village Managers Office -855-7255

Village Building -855-7270

Clerk of Council/Zoning -855-7255

National Inspection Corp.-428-1622

Mayor Landis -855-6411

Council Members:

Steve Boeder -855-7689

Terry Johnson -855-7328

Lynn Koogle -855-3282

Mike Kuhn -855-0467

Ed Schwaberow -855-4950

Brian Wafzig -422-3687

Stormwater

Spring Tip

Lawn Care

• Remember to manage your lawn fertilization to minimize the number of applications made, especially in the spring, and to minimize the amount of “P”, or phosphate, used. This will have a positive effect on the streams in your watershed. Consider using phosphate free fertilizer on your lawn.

• Remove grass cuttings and excess granular fertilizer and herbicide/pesticide materials from paved surfaces. Avoid fertilizing immediately before rain storms.

• If you live near a waterway, use phosphate free fertilizers. Consider building a rain garden to capture and filter runoff as much as possible. Don't throw yard waste along the banks but rather plant grasses to help stabilize the soil, prevent erosion and create a buffer zone.

Pollution reporting.

• Call The Municipal Office at 855-7255.



Water Tip

Tap or Bottled Water?

Let's say you drink the recommended 64 ounces of water a day, all from bottles. That's 24 half-liter bottles every six days. Even at bargain prices, that comes to more than \$400 a year. If you choose a stylish name brand – that figure can soar to thousands of dollars a year.

But the water from your own tap? It costs just a fraction of a penny per day. Based on averages from the American Water Works Association a day's worth of water costs only 0.001 cents. So if you drink your 64 ounces daily, you spend just 51 cents – per year!

Pick Up After Your Pets

To reduce disease and unwanted nutrients in our environment, be a responsible pet owner and clean up after your pet. Use a plastic bag and put the pet waste in the sanitary sewer or in the trash - not in the storm drains.

Picking up after your pets results in:

- A cleaner and safer yard for your children and their friends to play in.
- A cleaner, safer environment in the outdoor areas where you walk your dog.
- Control of flies which can spread disease.
- Protection of the waterways in your area, as well as those downstream.

Pet waste can introduce serious problems.

Salmonellosis, a bacterial infection, Toxocariasis (roundworms) and Toxoplasmosis, are diseases that can be transmitted from pet waste to humans. Pet waste should not be considered fertilizer on your yard. Excess nutrients over stimulate the growth of algae and nuisance weeds which can lead to an imbalance of plant growth in our water bodies. Pet waste decay in waterways depletes the oxygen in the water which can be hazardous to aquatic life.



Keep Our Storm Drains Clean.

10 Easy Things You Can Do To Keep Our Storm Drains Clean.

1. Recycle your used motor oil. Never put motor oil down storm drains.
2. Pick-up and properly dispose of leaves and grass clippings.
3. Use a garbage can for your trash. Recycle reusable material.
4. Sweep your walk, or driveway, back into the yard with your trusty broom.
5. Use your pesticides and other lawn chemicals sparingly.
6. Choose water-based paints such as latex. Wash brushes in your sink with water. If using paint thinner, reuse and recycle it.
7. Fix oil, radiator, and transmission leaks in your car.
8. Go to the car wash or wash your car in the grass.
9. Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces; consider a rain garden to capture runoff.
10. Never put any type of grease (kitchen or automotive) down ANY drains.

Recycling with Rumpke

These are the items that may go into your Rumpke Recycling bin:

- Newspapers and mixed papers: Newspapers with glossy inserts, magazines, catalogs, telephone books, paperboard (cereal boxes), junk mail, corrugated cardboard (flattened 2' x 2' pieces).
- Plastic Bottles and Jugs: All plastic bottles and jugs including milk, soft drink, shampoo, and detergent bottles. Please remove all caps or lids and rinse out.
- Glass: Bottles and jars (all colors).

- Aluminum & Steel Food Cans: Aluminum cans, steel soup and food cans and empty aerosol cans, Cans may be crushed and lids may be placed inside the cans to conserve bin space.
- Gable-Top cartons, Drink & Juice Boxes: Paperboard cartons containing milk, juice, non-dairy creamers, fabric softener and egg substitutes.

Rumpke will not provide collection service on Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day. If your collection day falls on or after the holiday, service will be delayed by one day for the remainder of the week with Friday residents being serviced on Saturday.

For bulk pick-up please call 461-0004.

“Shop Germantown”

“Shop Germantown” isn’t just about where you spend your retail dollars. It applies equally to a great array of service businesses. From accountants and lawyers, to plumbers and builders, to dentists and physicians and a whole lot more, these are all businesses that form an important part of Germantown’s growth. They invest in the community, create local employment opportunities, pay property taxes, and provide valuable services for the residents of Germantown. Many also play a vital role in supporting great community events by sponsoring, donating and volunteering. “Shop Germantown” isn’t just about sales tax dollars. There are many other ways in which businesses give to the community. Every local business - retail or service -deserves your support. As you support those businesses, you also support the Germantown community and everybody benefits. Make the decision to “Shop Germantown” for all your retail and service needs.



Solicitor Regulations

Solicitor's must carry a valid solicitor's permit at all times and show it to any resident or officer of the Municipality should they request to see it. Solicitors operating without a permit are subject to arrest. If you ever feel threatened by a solicitor, close the door and call 911.

Regulations:

- Solicitors may not solicit at residences or businesses that have a 'No Solicitors' or 'No Trespassers' sign.
- Solicitors may solicit between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. only.
- Only the main entrance of a residence may be solicited.
- Solicitors must tell each person from whom they are soliciting their name and the name of the business or organization that they represent.
- Solicitors must immediately leave a residence or business upon the owner's request.

Get to know your Council Members. Steve Boeder and Brian Wafzig.

I am one of three Council members who completed their first year on Council in 2010. So far, through this experience, I have learned that the Council must deal with a host of issues from budgets to personnel to zoning. I want to say thanks to the Mayor, other Council members and Village Manager for giving me the insight into the issues facing the Village. As a resident, I was not aware of the efforts made to make decisions on issues facing the Village. Among our accomplishments in 2010 were the hiring of a new Financial and Public Service Director, selecting a new Village Engineer, completing the new water tower, passage of the Property Maintenance Code and producing a workable budget. However, the appointment of citizens to boards or committees impressed me the most. While the Council and Village employees are paid, volunteers serve because of their interest in helping the Village. Their service is invaluable. I would encourage all residents to look at opportunities to become involved in Village activities. To me, it is a source of great satisfaction. If interested, talk to a member of Council or the Village Manager.

Steve Boeder
Council Member

The conclusion of 2010 marked the end of a very promising year for the Village of Germantown. In January of last year, Village Council met to draft a list of goals we hoped to accomplish throughout 2010. With the addition of three new council members, our goals seemed large yet our staff, our budget, and our resources remained small. They say that government at the local level is the most reactive and efficient and while that is true, even local government takes time to make changes. Looking back on 2010, it is easy to reflect on what we didn't accomplish, either because of lack of funding, a lack of time, or both. Several streets need resurfacing, water mains need replaced, and portions of the Village sewer system need modernized. Even though every goal was not completed, it is most constructive to look at what was accomplished, and use this list as a catalyst to continue that progress in 2011. This past year the Village made significant strides that, although not always visible to the public, will improve the quality of life for our residents. A few highlights include:

- In both 2010 & 2011 we have passed a balanced budget with a healthy surplus.
- The new Village website is complete.
- The Village has hired three new employees, a new Finance Director, Director of Public Service and a new Village Engineer.
- The new Village water tower is now operational.
- Thanks to the tremendous support of our residents, we successfully funded our Fire/EMS Department through the passage of the levy in May.
- In an effort to improve communication with residents, we began a quarterly Village newsletter.
- The financial audit that began in 2009 is now complete.
- Our Fire/EMS Department began the First Emergency First program.
- Council passed a revised Property Maintenance Code.
- Saturday Night Out was reinvigorated in downtown Germantown.
- We have completed renovation of the Hillcrest Sewer Lift Station, as well as multiple improvements to other Village lift stations.

As you can see, we made significant progress in 2010. The Village staff and many volunteers have all helped to make this past year so successful. In early 2011 we will again set a list of priorities for the year, and I expect this year to be even more successful than the last. I encourage residents to volunteer, attend Council meetings, and give any Council Member or Village Staff a call if you have questions or concerns. We cannot fix everything, but local government has the ability to implement changes and produce results faster than any other level of government. If you have a local issue, we can likely find a local solution.

Brian Wafzig
Council Member

Tornado Safety Tips

Do you know the basics of tornado safety? A tornado **WATCH** means conditions are favorable for tornadoes to develop. A tornado **WARNING** means a tornado has actually been sighted, seek shelter immediately!

- **At Home** - The safest place to be during a tornado is underground, preferably under something sturdy like a work bench. If your home does not have a basement or cellar, go to a small room in the middle of the house. The more walls between you and the outside, the better.
- **In Your Automobile** - Tornadoes can toss cars, even large trucks, around like toys. Never try to outrun a tornado. If you see a funnel cloud or hear a tornado **WARNING** issued on the radio or by siren, get out of your vehicle and seek a safe structure or lie down in a low area with your hands covering the back of your head and neck; keep alert for flash floods.
- **At Work or School** - Be aware of emergency shelter plans in office buildings and schools you frequent. If a specific shelter area does not exist, move into interior hallways or small rooms on the building's lowest level. Avoid areas with glass.

Safety Tips from the Fire Department

The Germantown Fire Department recommends this list of Do's and Don'ts for fire safety.

DON'T...

- Overload circuits and extension cords. Appliances and space heaters should be plugged directly into the outlet.
- Walk away from food cooking on your kitchen stove. If you must leave the kitchen, even for a moment, turn off the stove and remove the pot from the burner.
- Put fireplace ashes in a paper or plastic bag or box. Instead, store them in a heavy duty metal container with a tight-fitting lid. Put the can outside and away from any structure, including your deck or porch. Let ashes cool for at least four days. Cool ashes can be spread on your gardens to help plants grow.

DO...

- Keep fire hydrants near your home clear of snow, leaves, and other obstacles so they can be easily located.
- Check your smoke detectors monthly. Only a working smoke detector can save your life.
- Replace the batteries in your smoke detectors twice a year. When you change your clocks for Daylight Savings, change your batteries.
- Replace smoke detectors more than ten years old with a photoelectric or a dual-sensor model.
- Install smoke detectors on each level of your home and sleeping areas. Sleep with your bedroom door closed.
- Develop an escape plan with your family. At least twice per year, have an escape drill, including a nighttime drill. If your home has two levels, consider an escape ladder.
- Install a carbon monoxide detector if you have any appliances or devices that have a flame—stove, water heater, furnace, fireplace, etc. Follow the manufacturer's use and installation recommendations.
- For inside your home, buy an emergency alert weather radio.



Germantown Aquatic Center Information

ALL PASSES MUST BE PURCHASED AT THE MUNICIPAL OFFICE

Prior to June 1, 2011

Residents - Municipality or Township

Single - \$45.00

Family of 2 - \$80.00

Family of 3 - \$100.00

Family of 4 - \$115.00 (\$15.00 for each additional after 4)

June 1, 2011 - End of Season

Residents - Municipality or Township

Single - \$45.00

Family of 2 - \$80.00

Family of 3 - \$100.00

Family of 4 - \$115.00 (\$15.00 for each additional after 4)

Daily Admission - \$5.50 per person

\$2.50 ages 3-4, 2 and under are free

\$2.00 Senior Citizen

We also offer:

Babysitter Pass - \$25.00

Senior Pass - \$25.00 (over 62 years of age)

Swim Lessons - Resident - \$30.00

Pool Party - 2 Hours - \$185.00

3 Hours - \$250.00

If more than fifty (50) people - \$35.00 extra

Concession stand open for an extra \$40.00

Daycares - \$2.50 - per person including Chaperones

Replacement Pass - \$5.00

Call 855-7270 or 855-7255 for more information.

You May Need A Building Permit...

The “home improvement” season is here and projects need to be done. Please take note that an application for zoning compliance must be obtained before any structure can be built, altered or added to. Some structures will also require a building permit. This includes fences, sheds, pools, decks, and all accessory structures.

We are here to make your building experience as simple as possible. For more information, contact the Zoning Department between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at 855-7255.

Before You Start That Project, Call!

Spring marks the start of digging season, so the Ohio Utilities Protection Service (O.U.P.S.) is encouraging homeowners to call before they dig to prevent injuries, property damage and inconvenient outages.

Every digging project, no matter how large or small, necessitates a call to 800-362-2764 or 8-1-1. Installing a mailbox, putting in a fence, building a deck and laying a patio are all examples of digging projects that require a call to O.U.P.S. before starting.

Visit www.oups.org for more information about the call before you dig process.

Have a fun and safe summer!



This document, meeting minutes and other information about the Municipality of Germantown are available on our web site at www.germantown.oh.us or at the Municipal Offices. If you are a Time Warner Customer you can also watch our Council meetings and get other useful information on your Channel 5.

The Municipality of Germantown

PWS ID #5701012

Drinking Water Quality Report For 2010

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INTRODUCTION

The Municipality of Germantown Water Department has prepared the following report to provide information to you, the consumer, on the quality of our drinking water. Included within this report are general health information, water quality test results, how to participate in decisions concerning your drinking water, and water system contacts.

Any person wishing to comment on water quality or the operation of the water system is encouraged to do so by attending the Village Council meetings that are held the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month beginning at 7:00 p.m. Additional information concerning Council meeting dates can be obtained by contacting the Clerk of Council at 855-7255.

Our water quality meets or exceeds all of the standards that are set forth by the State of Ohio and the United States Environmental Protection Agency. To obtain additional information please contact Jonathan Moore, Director of Public Service, at 855-7255.

WHAT'S THE SOURCE OF YOUR DRINKING WATER?

The Municipality of Germantown Water Department obtains the public drinking water supplies from the Great Miami Valley Aquifer System associated with the Great Miami River Basin. The Municipality currently uses four (4) production wells to draw water from the aquifer for treatment at the water plant.

WHAT ARE SOURCES OF CONTAMINATION TO DRINKING WATER?

The sources of drinking water both tap water and bottled water includes rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases radioactive material and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include: (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; (B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming; (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses; (D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems; (E) radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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Drinking Water Quality Report For 2010

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WHO NEEDS TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infection. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. Those listed below are the only contaminants detected in your drinking water. For a complete list, contact Jonathan Moore, Director of Public Service at 855-7255.

We have a current, unconditioned license to operate our water system.

Listed below is information on those contaminants that were found in the Municipality of Germantown drinking water.

Contaminants (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range of Detection	Violation	Year Sampled	Typical Source of Contaminants
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	2.60	N/A	No	2010	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (mg/l)	4	4	.97	0-1.41	No	2010	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead (ppb)	0	AL=15	<5.0	<5.0-8.42	No	2010	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Copper (ppb)	1300	AL=1300	156	<50.0-867	No	2010	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
TTHM (ppb)	80	80	6.26	N/A	No	2009	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
HAA5	60	60	1.5	N/A	No	2009	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Total Chlorine	4	4	.7	.2-1.5	No	2010	Water additive used to control microbes

0 of 20 samples was found to have lead levels in excess of the Action Level of 15 ppb.

0 of 20 samples were found to have copper levels in excess of the Action Level of 1300 ppb.

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If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Municipality of Germantown is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential or lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical and mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

DEFINITIONS

Maximum Contaminate Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLS are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available pretreatment technology.

Maximum Contaminate Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Parts per Million (ppm) or Milligrams per Liter (mg/L) are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per million corresponds to one second in a little over 11.5 days.

Parts per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms per Liter (ug/L) are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per million corresponds to one second in 31.7 years.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which water system must follow.

Range: The lowest to the highest values for all samples tested for each containment. If only one sample is tested, or no range is required for this report, then no range is listed for that contaminant in the table.

The "<" symbol: A symbol which means less than. A result of <5 means that the lowest level that could be detected was 5 and the contaminant in that sample was not detected.

N/A: Not applicable/available



OPEN BURNING REQUIREMENTS FOR RECREATIONAL FIRES

The Ohio Fire Code is the minimum standard for fire safety in the State of Ohio. These rules are promulgated and adopted by the Ohio Division of State Fire Marshal and become statewide law that the Municipality of Germantown must comply with. In addition, the Ohio Administrative Code regulates open burning activities and is enforced by the Ohio EPA and locally by the Regional Air Pollution Control Agency.

Germantown Fire-EMS receives many requests for information related to open burning requirements. The most common request is for information concerning the requirements for having a recreational fire within the Municipal limits.

OHIO RULES AND LAWS DEFINE A RECREATIONAL FIRE AS:

An outdoor fire burning materials other than rubbish where the fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, barbecue grill or barbecue pit and has a total fuel area of 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height for pleasure, cooking, religious, ceremonial, warmth or similar purposes.

The Ohio Administrative Code contains additional provisions for open burning within restricted areas that apply to the Municipality of Germantown, because of our population and the fact that we are located within an incorporated area. **These rules state yard waste materials may not be burned at any time.**

Residents may have a recreational fire subject to the following rules and regulations:

- The only material that can be burned is clean dry wood as a fuel source.
(No rubbish or yard waste or other prohibited materials defined by OAC may be burned at anytime).
- If the fire is contained in an approved container such as an outdoor fireplace, barbecue pit, etc. the fire must be at least 15 feet from a structure or combustible materials.
- For an open fire not contained, the fire must be at least 25 feet from a structure, wood fence, neighboring structure or combustible materials. Conditions that could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet of the fire must be eliminated prior to ignition of a fire.
- **The fire must be constantly attended while burning and must be fully extinguished if it is not attended.**
- A portable fire extinguisher with a minimum of 4A rating or garden hose, bucket of sand or other suitable means for extinguishing the fire must be provided.
- **The fire must not create an offensive or objectionable condition that interferes with the neighboring residents' use and enjoyment of their property. If this occurs, Germantown Fire-EMS is required to order the person responsible for the fire to extinguish the fire or extinguish it itself.**
- **Germantown Fire-EMS is required to extinguish fires, which create hazardous conditions.**

A very common complaint from neighbors is when recreational fires are not conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations, or when the environmental conditions cause the smoke to migrate off the property into the residence of neighboring property. Persons with chronic breathing problems may be affected by these conditions.

Another issue that occurs associated with recreational fires is noise and disturbance to the surrounding neighborhood when conducted during late evening hours. This is a police matter and will be dealt with by Germantown Police Department.

If Germantown Fire-EMS orders you to extinguish your fire due to non-compliance with the rules and regulations, or the fire creates an offensive or objectionable condition, you are bound by Ohio law to comply with the request. Failure to do so may result in you being charged with violation of the open burning regulations.

You may also refer to the following for additional information on open burning:

Regional Air Pollution Control Agency
www.rapca.org

Ohio Fire Marshal's Office
www.com.ohio.gov/fire/

Ohio EPA
www.epa.state.oh.us

Ohio EPA-Open Burning
www.epa.ohio.gov/dapc/general/openburning.aspx

