

MUNICIPALITY OF GERMANTOWN

Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Events

Now—January 31	Dog Tags on Sale
January 20	Martin Luther King Day, Municipal Office Closed
February 17	Presidents' Day, Municipal Office Closed
March 9	Daylight Saving Time Begins
April 20	Easter Sunday
May 11	Mother's Day
May 17 & 18	Community Garage Sales
May 26	Memorial Day, Municipal Office Closed

It's Coming *Weather We Like It or Not!*

According to the *Farmer's Almanac*, the Midwest is expected to have "piercing cold with normal snowfall" this winter. The average snowfall for the Dayton area is 12.3". We all know averages are just averages. In February 2013, we had record storms that dumped about 23" of snow on the area and pushed crews to the limit. We aren't hoping for a repeat of last year, but we are getting prepared for whatever comes our way! The Service Department began readying and preparing their trucks in late October. The City's snow removal effort involves many employees

from the Public Service Department and the Fire and Police Departments.

The shifts continue until all 24 miles of public streets have been plowed and/or treated with deicer materials as needed. Snow removal drivers work first to keep the priority streets clear before working on the local residential streets.

The goal is to make at least one pass on every public street within 24 hours after a winter storm has ended. Jonathan Moore,

Public Service Department Director, noted "every storm is unique and the plan for each storm is influenced by many factors such as type and amount of precipitation, temperatures, wind, the time of day, future weather forecast and duration of storm. As much as we want to meet our goal and follow our plan, sometimes storm conditions dictate what we do." Tips about how you can help speed up snow removal are included in this issue.



Don't forget your best friends tag! Dog Licenses will be on sale at the Municipal Building, second floor, until January 31. If you have any questions please call 855.7270.

Just a Click or a Call Away

Visit our website at www.germantown.oh.us or call the Municipal Building at 855-7255 for useful information, Board Meeting times and current events.





CodeRED Information Update

The CodeRED system is used to send critical communications from evacuation notices, water main breaks, boil advisories and missing child alerts.

If you are new to the area or have changed your phone number or address go to our website www.germantown.oh.us and enter your contact information, including multiple phone numbers and email addresses to ensure you receive notifications.

A Citizen's Snow Removal Guide for 2014

Help keep our snow removal program one of the best in the area by following these recommended guidelines during snow removal operations:

1. Please do not park cars on the streets. Park your vehicles in the driveway and don't allow vehicles to extend into the roadway. When cars are parked on narrow streets or on hills, we may not be able to clear snow from the street.
2. Be alert and drive with caution. Remember that winter storms create slick road conditions. Maintain safe distances between vehicles and decrease your normal driving speeds to allow for additional time to stop.
3. Expect some delays. Allow plenty of extra driving time for planned trips, errands and appointments.
It takes many hours to complete a first pass in a snow district. This can be even longer for heavy snowfalls or ice accumulations. Be patient.
4. Stay back at least 50' from the rear of plow trucks so rock salt spread will not hit your vehicle.
5. Children are attracted to snowplow trucks. Teach your children to stay away from the street when they see the trucks coming.
6. When shoveling your driveway, do not place the snow from your driveway back into the street. Allow space for snow removal vehicles to pile accumulated snow, especially in cul-de-sacs.
7. If you have tree limbs that hang over the roadway, please help us minimize damage to our trucks and allow for complete snow removal by trimming them back.

Do you have comments, questions or suggestions about the Germantown Municipal services?

Use the space provided at the right to express your thoughts. Sign your name if you wish and provide us your phone number if you would like a response. You can also contact us at our website at www.germantown.oh.us.

Resident Comment Card

Name _____ Phone _____

Clip this card and hand-deliver or mail to the Municipal Office, 75 North Walnut Street, Germantown, Ohio 45327.

We Need YOU!



MUNICIPAL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS- MAKE THE REAL DIFFERENCE!

We currently have openings on the Personnel Board, Board of Tax Appeals and Planning Commission. If you have lived in the Municipality for a year or longer and would be interested in serving on a Municipal Board, please contact the Municipal Office at 855.7255 or send a letter of interest to 75 North Walnut Street, Germantown.

What's the Fire Department up to?



Throughout the day, your Fire-EMS Department is busy doing a wide variety of things.

Fire-EMS crews are often engaged in many fire prevention activities. Crews visit businesses for fire safety inspections, allowing fire crews the opportunity to correct safety hazards before they become contributing factors to a fire. Preventing a fire from happening keeps our community safe and keeps businesses from losing revenue from fire loss. Inspections allow the firefighters to become familiar with businesses and provide the opportunity to engage the business community directly. Fire-EMS crews also spend time training. You may have seen some of your department's apparatus at various locations such as local parks, schools or businesses. You may have even seen crews at the Fire Station with the Quint's 75' ladder extended skyward or an Engine in the Middle School lot flowing water, focusing on pump operation training, or maybe the Rescue truck practicing vehicle extrication. Perhaps you've encountered an ambulance or fire truck on a residential street testing fire hydrants or merely having new crews become familiar with the district. Rest assured Fire-EMS crews are regularly engaged in a variety of training.

The Fire-EMS Department also responds to calls for service-not all of which require the use of lights and sirens. Investigative calls for smoke in the area, or assistance to an elderly person who has fallen and is not injured and only needs help getting back to their feet, are some examples where crews respond to lend a hand. So, if you see an ambulance or fire truck on the road and the emergency lights are not activated and the sirens not wailing it may be personnel en route to one of the many non-emergency dispatches.

Your Fire-EMS Department is also very involved in public relation activities. Annually the department fields requests for appearances at daycares, church activities, block parties and other community sponsored events. Crews make every effort to get out and fill these requests, meeting the citizens and providing public safety messages. During the month of October the Fire-EMS Department tries to visit every kindergarten, first and second grade classroom with a fire safety message for the youngsters in our community. It's something the firefighters really enjoy doing. The men and women of your Germantown Fire-EMS Department take great pride in serving their community. While the emergency call volume shows the department is very busy, personnel are engaged in many other community activities. So if you run into a Fire-EMS crew out in the community, say hello and ask them what they are up to. Don't be surprised if they say, "nothing much-busy as usual." They are working hard to prepare, prevent and protect you!

MUNICIPALITY OF GERMANTOWN

Don't Become a Victim -

Protect Your Assets

It's a fact, you are the key holder to your bank and credit card accounts, and you are the first line of defense to protect your hard earned assets. Each year, we see dozens of people who are defrauded. Far too often, once the cash is gone, it is difficult to find out who the perpetrator was, let alone get the money back. One unfortunate trend we have seen is that folks who are of retirement age and older are oftentimes the target of thieves and unscrupulous business practices. So to that end, here are a few rules to help protect your cash.

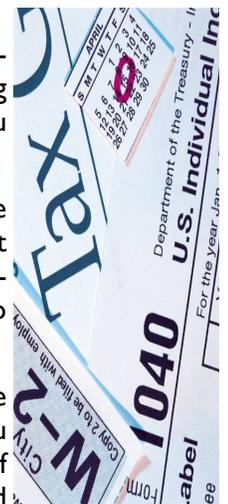
Rule #1 - Never give out any personal or account information to someone who calls you on the phone, or who comes to your door. Far too often callers are able to obtain both bank account and credit account information just by making a phone call to a potential victim. These people will claim to be from charities, medical supply companies, or bill collectors. They might even claim to be a family member, or from your bank. The end result of all of these calls is the caller will ask for account information from your credit card or bank account. You should never, ever give out this type of information over the phone. Door-to-door sales are another area where residents may be vulnerable. A person will come to your door and tell you that your roof is in dangerous disrepair. You are then talked into giving these thieves, disguised as repairmen thousands of dollars with little-or-no work being done. If you are not sure your house needs repair, call a certified repair person, or ask a family member to help you find someone to do the repairs if they are actually needed. The yellow pages are a great resource to find someone who is "in the biz." Again, see Rule #1.

You are all capable of giving to the charity of your choosing, of buying common household products and medical supplies, or seeking the help of a trusted family member or friend if you are faced with a situation you are unsure of or that makes you feel uncomfortable. Trust your instincts. Remember, you are the first line of defense in protecting your assets. Remember Rule #1, never give out any bank account or credit card information to anyone over the phone or at your front door. And what about Rule #2 you ask. That one is easy. Refer to Rule #1.

2013 INCOME TAX

- The Municipality of Germantown has a mandatory filing per Ordinance 181, if you are age 18 or older.
- Tax returns for 2013 are due April 15, 2014. First Quarter declaration of estimated tax for 2014 are also due April 15, 2014.
- If you owe \$100.00 or more on your 2013 taxes you MUST make a declaration of estimated tax for 2014 and pay quarterly.
- If you paid taxes to other cities and are claiming a credit please be sure to attach a W-2 that shows the wage taxed, tax withheld and city name so that we can allow the credit. We will not accept a W-2 that has Total or Various cities in Box 20 of the W-2. Cities must be itemized showing wages and amount withheld. We do not give credit for school tax.
- Business loss cannot be used to reduce W-2 wages.
- Please sign your return.
- The Municipality is no longer able to fill out Municipal tax forms.

If you have question please contact the Municipal Tax Office at 855-7258.



We would like to thank Mayor Ted Landis for 26 years of dedicated service to our Community. He served 6 years as a Council Member and 20 years as Mayor. Over the years he has attended approximately 624 Council Meetings, countless Board Meetings and performed several hundred weddings. He has done an exceptional job and will be missed by many.



