



# MUNICIPALITY OF GERMANTOWN

## Mark Your Calendars with Important Dates

<b>February 16</b>	<b>Presidents' Day, Municipal Office Closed</b>
<b>March 8</b>	<b>Daylight Saving Time Begins</b>
<b>April 5</b>	<b>Easter Sunday</b>
<b>April 15</b>	<b>City Income Taxes Due</b>
<b>May 9</b>	<b>Community Shred Day</b>
<b>May 10</b>	<b>Mother's Day</b>
<b>May 16 &amp; 17</b>	<b>Community Garage Sales</b>
<b>May 25</b>	<b>Memorial Day-Veterans Park Ceremony Municipal Offices Closed</b>

## 2014 INCOME TAX REMINDER **APRIL 15**

- The Municipality of Germantown has a mandatory filing per Ordinance 181, if you are age 18 or older.
- Tax returns for 2014 are due April 15, 2015. First Quarter declaration of estimated tax for 2015 are also due April 15, 2015.
- If you owe \$100.00 or more on your 2014 taxes you **MUST** make a declaration of estimated tax for 2015 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.

## Do-not-Solicit List

Any person who owns or rents property within the City limits may be added to the "Do Not Solicit List" at any time. This list will be provided to any licensed peddler, canvasser, vendor or solicitor and they will not be permitted to approach your property. At this time we are asking residents to please contact the City Office by calling 855-7255 / 855-7270, by visiting the City Offices –second floor, or by a written request that would include the property address, owner's

name. This would need to be sent to : "Do Not Solicit List", 75 North Walnut Street, Germantown, OH 45327. You may post a "NO SOLICITORS" sign yourself if you choose not to be on the list & still be undisturbed. If for any reason you would want to be removed from the "Do Not Solicit List" you will need to either call the City Offices or submit a written letter requesting the removal.



## Now Accepting Online Utility Bill Payments

We are now accepting credit cards (MasterCard, Visa & Discover) as a form of payment for your utility bills online. You can conveniently make your payment using the Municipal website at [www.germantown.oh.us](http://www.germantown.oh.us). Please note we will NOT accept credit card payments at the Municipal Building.



# Spring Community Wide Garage Sale

May 16—May 17

Bargain-hunters and those who enjoy finding a curbside deal are the target customers for the City of Germantown Community-Wide Garage Sale, set for Saturday, May 16, from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. and Sunday, May 17, from 1:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Registration is open for all households interested in participating. Households can sign up by calling 855-7270 or 855-7255 by May 8. There is no fee to participate. The City will publicize the event. A Garage Sale Treasure List, a complete listing of locations and the top three items at each sale, will be available at the Germantown City Website [www.germantown.oh.us](http://www.germantown.oh.us) on Friday, May 15.

## Help shape the future

The City of Germantown has eleven citizen boards and commissions on which residents help shape the future by serving, in an advisory capacity, to the Germantown City Council. Consider attending one or more meetings of the board or commission of your choice. Members

will welcome your presence and you will gain first-hand understanding of how residents can make a difference. The City is currently accepting applications for vacancies on the Personnel Board, the Board of Zoning Appeals, the Park Board and the Board of Tax Appeals. If your would be interested in serving on one of the

many boards please contact 855-7255 for more information.



## Without you we could not do it!

Thank you to all the residents that volunteer their time on our Boards and Commissions. Your presence at each meeting is very important to the City and it's future. Each of you make a difference!



### 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](http://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 or call 855-7255.

## Accessibility of Fire & EMS Apparatus to YOUR Emergency

Property owners should ensure that in the event of an emergency, responding police, fire or EMS vehicles are able to easily and quickly gain access to your home. Driveways, lanes, etc. should have an unobstructed width of 20 feet and an unobstructed height of 13 feet 6 inches to allow first responders in emergency apparatus adequate access. If low lying tree limbs or encroaching brush or shrubs limit the travel lane, impeding accessibility, emergency apparatus may be delayed or not able to reach you at all in your time of emergency.



### Reminder...

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday March 8. Don't forget to set your clocks forward an hour before you go to bed Saturday night. The Fire Department also encourages you to change the battery in your smoke detectors when you

## 911 EMERGENCY Calls Placed From Cell Phones

Citizens must be aware that cell phones are the least reliable means to get a definitive location from the caller.

911 location information provided by different mobile phone carriers is very limited and can vary depending on conditions such as the weather. Mobile phone location is never guaranteed and may only display the tower that received the phone call which may be in a completely different jurisdiction. If you use a cell phone for a 911 EMERGENCY-**YOU MUST** provide the most accurate information possible to include:

Nature of the emergency

Definitive address with number, street name and what city, village or township the emergency is located.

Name of caller and phone number of caller so that dispatch can contact you in case of trouble by first responders in locating the emergency.

The call taker may have additional questions to ask to gain more information or provide assistance to the caller for their emergency.

Failure to provide correct address/location information may result in an unnecessary lengthy delay in arrival of first responders.



## Spring Cleaning Safety Tips

It may not feel like spring quite yet, but it is just around the corner and Spring Cleaning is too. This is a perfect time to remember these very important Fire Safety tips that may save your families lives in the laundry room.

Clean the lint filter on the clothes dryer before or after each load of laundry.

Remove lint that has collected around the drum.

Keep the area around your dryer clear of things that can burn, like boxes, cleaning supplies and clothing.

It takes just a few minutes each time you take a load of laundry out of the dryer!



## Keeping Fats, Oils and Grease out of the Sewer System

Fats, oils, and grease—FOG—comes from meat fats in food scraps, cooking oil, shortening, lard, butter and margarine, gravy, and food products such as mayonnaise, salad dressings, and sour cream.

FOG poured down kitchen drains accumulates inside sewer pipes. As the FOG builds up, it restricts the flow in the pipe and can cause untreated wastewater to back up into homes and businesses, resulting in high costs for cleanup and restoration.

Manholes can overflow into parks, yards, streets, and storm drains, allowing FOG to contaminate local waters, including drinking water. Exposure to untreated wastewater is a public-health hazard.

Communities spend billions of dollars every year unplugging or replacing grease-blocked pipes, repairing pump stations, and cleaning up costly and illegal wastewater spills. Excessive FOG in the sewer system can affect local wastewater rates.

So, keeping FOG out of the sewer system helps everyone in the community!

Following these *dos* and *don'ts* will help you and your neighbors avoid expensive sewer backups, plumbing emergencies, and rate increases to cover sewer maintenance and repairs, while helping protect water quality in your community.

- Scrape all food scraps into the trash, not the sink.
- Wipe pots, pans, and dishes with dry paper towels before rinsing or washing them. Then throw away the paper towels.
- Place a catch basket or screen over the sink drain when rinsing dishware, or when peeling or trimming food, to catch small scraps that would otherwise be washed down the drain. Throw the scraps in the trash.
- Rinse dishes and pans with cold water before putting them in the dishwasher. Hot water melts the fats, oils, and grease (FOG) off the dishes and into the sewer pipes. Later on in the sewer, the hot water will cool and the FOG will clog the pipes.
- Don't use a garbage disposal or food grinder. Grinding food up before rinsing it down the drain does not remove FOG; it just makes the pieces smaller. Even non-greasy food scraps can plug your home's sewer lines. So, don't put food of any kind down the drain.
- Don't pour cooking oil, pan drippings, bacon grease, salad dressings, or sauces down the sink or toilet, or into street gutters or storm drains.
- Don't use cloth towels or rags to scrape plates or clean greasy or oily dishware. When you wash them, the grease will end up in the sewer.
- Don't run water over dishes, pans, fryers, and griddles to wash oil and grease down the drain.

**Reminder: Garbage Disposals Do Not Prevent FOG**

## Germantown and German Township Community Shred Day **May 9**



We will be hosting a community Document Shred Day Saturday, May 9 for all Germantown and German Township residents. This event will be held from 10:00—Noon in the Municipal Building parking lot, 75 North Walnut Street. Bring all your personal/confidential documents that you would like to have professionally shredded.

Documents you may want to consider bringing:

- Old Paystubs (recommend to keep 1 year)
- Old Income Tax Documents (recommend to keep 7 years)
- Utility/Credit Card Statements (depends on what you have purchased on statement)
- Expired Credit Cards (destroy immediately)
- Receipts (keep as long as you own the major appliance/item)
- Books of old checks (recommended to keep 1 year)
- Medical Bills (recommend to keep 1 year)
- Anything that may have your Social Security Number or ANY personal information to avoid Identity Theft!

**FACT:**

Approximately 22,000 American individuals are victimized each day by identity theft that is roughly one victim every three seconds.

## Why You Should Consider Recycling

~Recycling one glass jar saves enough electricity to light a conventional 50 watt bulb for four hours or an eleven watt compact florescent light bulb for 20 hours. Therefore, if you recycle ten glass jars, that will save enough energy to power a conventional light bulb for 40 hours or a compact florescent light bulb for 200 hours.

~Recycling a stack of newspapers just three feet high will save one tree. Therefore, if you recycle four Sunday papers each month, you will have saved four trees per year.  
~Recycling five plastic soda bottles yields enough fiber for one extra large t-shirt, one square foot of carpet or enough fiber fill to fill one ski jacket. Therefore, if you recycle

14 plastic bottles per week, that would be enough fiber to make 145.6 t-shirts per year.  
~Recycling a single aluminum can saves enough energy to power a television for three hours. Therefore, if you recycle 12 cans per week, you saved enough energy for 36 hours of television viewing.

~It takes a 15-year-old tree to produce 700 grocery bags.  
~Disposable diapers last centuries in landfills. An average baby will go through 8,000 of them.



## Congratulations **W**inners!



Winners of the City Beautiful Commission's Decorating Awards:

Fall Landscape Award Winner ~ The Flory Home at 149 West Market Street

Halloween Decorations Award Winner ~ The Harrison Home at 80 Hillcrest Drive

Christmas Decorations Award Winners ~ The Johnson Home at 10 Wetz Lane & The Blankenship Home at 1301 Kern Drive

Thank you to all the nominees and winners for your hard work and beautiful displays!

## The Benefits of Mulch

Mulching is essential to the survival of your landscape during a drought. Mulch will reduce the amount of water that evaporates from your soil, greatly reducing your need to water your plants. Mulch improves the quality of your soil by breaking up clay and allowing better water and air movement through the soil. Mulch provides nutrients to sandy soil and improves its ability to hold water. Mulch acts as an insulating layer on top of soil, keeping it cooler in the summer. Roots like that! Mulch keeps weeds down, and the weeds that do grow are much easier to pull. Gardeners like that!



### Mulch Like You Mean It

Before applying mulch, remove weeds and water thoroughly. This will help you get the most benefit from your new mulch. Replace the grass under trees with mulch to minimize competition for water and nutrients. This mimics the way trees grow in nature. Keep mulch 6-to-12 inches away from the base of trees and shrubs. Apply 2-to-4 inches of mulch in all planting areas. Finer mulches (sized a half-inch or smaller) should be applied no more than 2 inches deep. Coarser mulches, such as large bark chips, can be applied 4 inches deep.

### Shopping for Mulch

Mulch is available by the bag or in bulk. Bulk mulch is measured in cubic yards. You can calculate the volume of mulch you need by multiplying the area (in square feet) by the depth (fraction of foot, not inches), then dividing by 27. The following table will guide you:

**Cubic Yards Needed for Depth of Mulch**

Square Footage	2 inches	3 inches	4 inches
200	1	2	2.5
500	3	5	6
1000	6	9	12
1500	9	14	19
2000	12	19	25

### Drought-Tolerant Plants

Consider planting drought-tolerant plants in your landscape. You may want to consult with your local nursery for a complete list of plants that would suit your landscape. Just a few are: Flame Maple, Ginkgo Trees, Japanese Tree Lilac, Green Mountain Boxwood, Sea Thrift, Lamb’s Ear, Coneflower, Mexican Blanket Flower and most ornamental grasses. Happy Planting!

## Floodproofing Tips for Homeowners

The weeks leading up to spring are a good time to prepare for spring rain storms and their potential to cause flooding problems in your home. While homeowners can’t control the weather, there are certain steps that can help prevent flooding.

Consider these tips to help floodproof your home this spring:

- Direct all downspouts away from the foundations.
- If you own a sump pump ensure that discharge pipes are free and clear and above swale flow lines. Swales are channels or ditches around the house graded to convey storm water from rooftops to the nearest storm water inlet.
- Consider adding soil or make grading changes to the ground around the foundation to direct water away from the home’s foundation.
- Keep gutters and downspouts clear of any debris. This should be done in the spring and in the fall. You may want to consider consulting a professional to prevent accidents.
- Inspect the home’s foundation walls for cracks. You may consider consulting a professional for an expert opinion.
- Annually clean out basement drains.

## Rumpke Holiday Schedule

**February 16-President’s Day**  
No Delays.

**May 25 – Memorial Day**  
No Collection on Memorial Day.  
Schedule for entire week will be delayed one day.

