

Galena Recognizes Miller's Service



Galena Village Mayor Thomas Hopper awards a Mayor's Proclamation for more than a decade of service to retiring Council Member Roberta Miller.

At the December Galena Village Council meeting, Mayor Thomas Hopper recognized Roberta Miller for more than a decade of service to the Village. Hopper said, "During 1983-1994, she assisted her husband in his duties as Mayor of the Village. She also served as the Income Tax Administrator and the Assistant Village Clerk. She was appointed to Village Council on January 3, 2000 and has served continuously as a Council Member until December 31, 2011." Hopper added, "Roberta has been a consistent public servant, acted on Village issues and legislation with forethought and consideration, and contributed greatly to the betterment of the Village and its people. On behalf of the Village of Galena Council, the Mayor of Galena recognizes Roberta Miller's outstanding character, dedication, and exemplary service to her community."

Miller said, "It was a hard decision not to run again. My heart is still with the Village. I will continue to live here and pray for the best for the Village."

At the end of the meeting, in her last action as a Council member, Miller moved to adjourn the December Council meeting.

Santa Visits Galena

The Recreation Committee reports that the Village's Tree Lighting ceremony and

Santa event both went very well. Parents who would like pictures of their child with Santa can visit <http://photobucket.com> and search for SantaGalena.



Local children enjoy cookies and a wagon ride while waiting to see Santa at Galena's annual Santa Comes to Town event.

Council Action

Council held second readings on personnel resolutions for 2012 employment. They also heard first readings of resolutions to hire the Delaware City Prosecutor for prosecutorial services and the Delaware County Code Compliance Department for residential building permits.

Council also passed a resolution opposing the Ohio General Assembly's plans to draft legislation to assume control of municipal income tax collection.

Several residents were in Council chambers to request that gun use be allowed in agriculturally zoned areas in the Village in order to better control agricultural pests such as deer and groundhogs. Last month, Council passed an ordinance making an exception to the Ohio Basic Code sections that prohibit discharge of weapons within municipal boundaries. The exception was made at the request of a property owner and allowed bow hunting only. The property owners agreed to submit a specific request in writing and Council will address the issue at the beginning of 2012 when they adopt the Ohio Basic Code for the year.

Village Hall

Village staff are moving forward with renovation plans for the Galena Village Hall (formerly the Galena United Methodist Church). Staff have developed an office plan and an extensive projects list, priorities, and a work calendar. Inspection

of the attic and roof rafters showed solid wood although gaps have allowed the shingle roof to fail. Priorities for the building include a new roof and improving ground drainage around the building. Both projects will remove dampness so the basement can be cleaned up.

Equipment has been removed from the future restroom location. Paneling and some carpeting is being removed.

Council held a second reading on a resolution to bid out construction to create an Americans With Disabilities (ADA) compatible unisex bathroom, improving safety of the basement stairwell, and improving the northern fire escape exit. A pre-bid meeting will be held at the Village Hall, 109 Harrison St., at 3 p.m. on Jan. 11, 2012. The project will be advertised for bids January 18-Feb. 1. The project should begin February 13 and conclude April 9.

Winter Weather

Trees have been trimmed that hang over the roads to avoid downed limbs this winter. The truck has been converted for winter use. Residents are reminded of the Village's Emergency Snow Ordinance. In the case of ice or two or more inches of snow in a 24-hour period, residents must move their cars off all Village streets in order to accommodate safer snow

Galena Dates

The following are Village Council and committee meeting dates as well as other local events. Village meetings are open to the public and are at 7 p.m. in the basement of the Municipal Building, 9 W. Columbus St., unless otherwise stated.

January dates are projected since Council has not yet adopted a 2012 Calendar of Events.

Jan. 3	Council Organizational Meeting
Jan. 6, 13	Trash Day
Jan. 16	Village Offices Closed, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan. 18	Zoning & Planning Commission
Jan. 20	Trash Day
Jan. 23	Council Meeting
Jan. 27	Trash Day
* = trash day moves to Saturday due to holiday.	

plowing. Those who don't, risk having their vehicles towed.

Property owners are responsible for maintaining their sidewalks in good order and usable by all. So, be sure to keep your sidewalks clear of snow, ice, and other debris. And, remember, snow from your driveway or sidewalk should not be placed in the road where it can cause a hazard.

Those property owners with new sidewalks should remember that the concrete requires a few years to cure and harden properly. You should not use any chemicals on them this winter to thaw ice. Using sand to add grit is OK.

Parks Equipment

Assistant Public Service Director Jeanna Burrell reports that the Village has received reimbursement from the Preservation Parks of Delaware County Community Parks Improvement Grant for the Miller Park playground equipment. The third phase of the train themed playground has been ordered for 2012 installation.

Staff met with a well drilling company to discuss options for finding a water source for the Ruffner Park ball field irrigation system. The company will investigate the viability of a well above the park.

Burrell is also moving forward with reducing the height of swing sets in both Miller and Ruffner parks and repairing equipment on the sets.

Wastewater News

Council held a second reading in December on a resolution for an annual three percent sewer fee increase from \$50.56 per month (\$151.68/quarter) to \$52.08 per month (\$156.23/quarter). Increases are needed to cover increasing maintenance costs and to pay down long-term debt on the sewer plant.

First Quarter sewer bills will be sent out February 1. Since the Village bills quarterly to save customers money, paying on time is crucial. Be sure to pay your bills in a timely fashion to avoid late payment penalties, property tax liens, and other legal actions. The following applies for delinquencies:

- Upon one day of being delinquent, a ten percent late charge will be assessed.
- Thirty days or more delinquent will result in a lien being filed, including administrative fees and costs, and a lawsuit may be filed to collect overdue fees.
- At 100 days past due, the sewer service will be terminated. Once terminated, the property owner will have to pay a reconnection fee as well as all past due fees.

There are several payment options:

- Mail payments to the Village of Galena, PO Box 386, Galena, OH 43021. Call us with any questions at 740-965-2484.

- Set up monthly sewer bill payments with no additional fees at the Delaware County Bank's Galena branch. Bring your sewer bill with you the first time.
- Set up automatic payments to have \$50.56 (\$52.08 if the fee increase passes on Jan. 3) debited from your checking account at any bank on the 8th of each month. Forms are available in the Village offices and on the Village's web site under [local links/sewers](#). Remember that if fees increase, you need to contact your bank to authorize an increase in your automatic payments.

Trash/Recycling

Beginning in January, residents will pay \$51.66 per quarter for exclusive residential trash and recycling services with Big-O Refuse. Side door service will be \$52.66 per quarter and senior citizen service will be \$48.66 per quarter.

Free Treecycling

Mulch 1st is once again offering free treecycling. Ask how you can recycle your live tree after the holidays and receive a free gift from Mulch 1st. Contact them at 965-6482 to check their hours or visit www.mulch1st.com. Take your tree to 725 Kintner Parkway in Sunbury.

Winter Safety

- excerpts from the Delaware County Emergency Management Agency Winter 2011 Newsletter.

This is the perfect time to think about personal preparedness with the onslaught of winter's wrath just around the corner. Snow, ice, extreme cold and high winds can cause water pipes to burst, treacherous driving conditions, downed power lines, power outages, communications disruptions, ice dams on roofs and in gutters, and many other issues. These hazards make preparedness exceptionally important. With just a little effort and time, you can be well prepared by doing the following:

- Ensure that your roof is in good shape and gutters are clean.
- Ensure that your attic is properly insulated.
- Have your heating system and chimneys inspected by a professional.
- Have smoke and CO detectors in your home with fresh batteries.
- Do not overload outlets and circuits.
- Ensure that space heaters are positioned so they will not be knocked over and are away from flammable materials and are not left unattended.
- Make sure you have plenty of blankets, flashlights, and batteries, a battery-operated radio, warm clothes, and enough food, water, and medications for 72 hours. Don't forget about planning for the specific needs of children and

pets!

- Make sure you have cash on hand as ATMs may not have electricity or may be empty.
- Do not burn Christmas trees in your fireplace or woodstove. This can cause chimney fires!
- Do not run generators in your home, garage (even if detached), crawl space, or any other enclosed space.
- Make sure your generator is NOT connected to grid power. Electricity which is "back fed" to the grid can electrocute electric company personnel.
- If you have trouble calling to check on family members using a cell phone during an outage, try texting instead.
- Ensure that your vehicle is mechanically sound, all fluids are at correct levels, and your battery has been tested.
- Good brakes and tires with ample tread make a huge difference on icy and snowy roads.

For more information about CO and CO detectors, visit

www.weathersafety.ohio.gov. For more information about smoke detectors, visit www.usfa.fema.gov. For more on the winter newsletter, visit www.delcoema.org.

Electronic News

The newsletter is available online or can be emailed directly to you by contacting adminassistant@galenaohio.org.

Village Contacts

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Jeanna Burrell:	adminassistant@galenaohio.org
Jeff Stokes:	maintenance@galenaohio.org
web:	www.galenaohio.org
In an emergency, dial	911
BST&G Fire Dept.	965-3841 www.bstgfiredistrict.org
Big-O Refuse	888-924-2446
Cable: Time-Warner	800-617-4311
Columbia Gas	800-344-4077
Del. Co. EMS	833-2190 www.delcoems.org
Del-Co Water	548-7746
Dog Warden	368-1915
Electric: AEP	800-277-2177
Galena Post Office	965-2371
Health Dept.	740-368-1700 www.delawarehealth.org
Immediate Urgent Care	101D W. Cherry St., Sunbury, 965-8305
Phone: Century Link	800-407-5411
RITA (income tax)	800-860-7482
web:	www.ritaohio.com
Sheriff	833-2800
Sunbury Post Office	965-2471
Wastewater Plant	740-602-1234
Lift Station	
Emergencies	740-972-8646