

Use 'Smart911' to Share Vital Information Before an Emergency

A new countywide mass notification system recently implemented has made it easier for residents to stay up-to-date and ready for any emergency.

The free Alert Hamilton County (AlertHC) system announced this spring by the Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) and Homeland Security provides more than 40 alert options. This customizable plan includes notifications such as flooding, hazardous weather, evacuations, tornado warnings, heat watches and air quality alerts.

Now, Alert Hamilton County has paired with the emergency communication capability, Smart911, which allows users to share vital information with 911 call takers and first responders before an emergency happens. With Smart911, users can create a safety profile that includes information such as: people living in the household, pictures of household members, pet information, medical information, and even home access information.

Information provided is completely private and secure. Smart911 is a

nationwide system, ensuring a person's safety profile is accessible to all 911 Communications Centers that subscribe to Smart911.

Sign up for both Alert HC and Smart911 at www.alerthc.org.



Important Phone Numbers in Columbia Township



Trustee President
David Kubicki
272-7870
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Trustee Vice-President
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Trustee
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Fiscal Officer
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Township Administration

Administrator
C. Michael Lemon
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Administrative Assistant
Kimberly Gray
272-7877
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JEDZ Tax Administrator
Jane Fette
272-9954
JFette@fairfaxoh.org

Property Maintenance Code Enforcement
792-7256
columbia@sycamoretownship.org

POLICE PROTECTION—Emergency- 911

Columbia Township—
Non-Emergency
825-2280

Hamilton County—
Non-Emergency
825-1500 www.hcso.org

City of Cincinnati—
Non-Emergency
765-1212
www.cincinnati-oh.gov/cpd

FIRE PROTECTION—Emergency- 911

The Little Miami Joint Fire & Rescue District
271-3636
Station 1 Wooster Pike
271-3636
<http://lmfr.org>
Station 2 Wiehe Road
531-2022
<http://lmfr.org>

Deer Park—Silverton Joint
Fire District
791-2500
www.dpsjfd.org

Approved Medical Marijuana Dispensaries Expected to Be Plus for Columbia Township

Sites approved on Kennedy Avenue, Ridge Road could open in September

Last month when Ohio announced the chosen medical dispensaries picked out of more than 350 applications, two sites in Columbia Township were on the approval list. In fact, the township has two of only three sites that will operate in Hamilton County.

The two sites approved in Columbia Township are: Care Med Associates, 5149 Kennedy Ave. and Pharmacann Ohio LLC, to operate at 5445 Ridge Road.

According to a current timeline established by the state of Ohio, the dispensaries could operate starting September 8, 2018. Due to the short cultivation time required for growers to meet this date, some believe this timeline may not be met.

Administrator Mike Lemon said the decision to approve medical marijuana

dispensaries in the community was not taken lightly. "Our trustees approached the decision to allow medical marijuana dispensaries here with caution, processing the issues of safety and economic benefit before making a decision to permit dispensaries." More than 350 firms across the state submitted applications to obtain a license to sell medical marijuana, with 56 approved statewide, he said.

"Safety is a top concern when it comes to regulating dispensaries," said Trustee Chris Kritikos. Restrictions apply including restraints on proximity to a school, church, playground, public park or community addiction service provider. "Operational guidelines are very stringent to assure products are only dispensed to state-registered patients with a prescription from a state-certified doctor,"

he said.

The trustees' other concern was economic impact, Lemon said. "When it comes to economic impact, this has the potential to generate significant net benefit," he said. A single dispensary is projected to show more than \$1 million in sales in its first year, generating significant revenue for the township.

"This will provide us with a new, consistent revenue stream which will allow us to engage in vital infrastructure and beautification projects necessary to improving our community," said Trustee Susan Hughes.

"To have not been involved in the process of trying to secure a medical marijuana dispensary would have been an enormous missed opportunity for us. Dispensaries would have still popped up all over the region, without Columbia Township receiving a penny of financial benefit," said Trustee President David Kubicki.

The Ohio Medical Marijuana Control Program was established in September 2016 with a two-year timeline set for getting medical marijuana growers under contract and authorizing a limited number of vendors to distribute the product. The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy and the Ohio Department of Commerce govern the implementation of the program.

"I can speak for our whole team when I say that we are excited to see the positive impact this project will have on Columbia Township," said Kubicki.



Investment in Community: It's What We Do



Trustee
David Kubicki

Investment is something we all do in order to succeed in our personal lives. We invest our time, our money, and our emotion in the things we care deeply about to see a return on investment that improves our future.

As Columbia Township Trustees we do the same thing for our community. Investment in our community is the

foundation that lies beneath every decision we make. This includes everything from filling potholes, to community hosting events, to improving street signs, and being an ambassador for our township to bring in new, thriving businesses. I'm proud to say we have been able to invest a lot in our community in recent months and we're just getting started.

That's the thing about investment: it never ends. We are always looking for new avenues of revenue and development for Columbia Township, as well as continuously providing

top-notch basic services every day that maintain a community that we're proud to call home.

Columbia Township is flourishing into an exciting and vibrant community. The feeling is tangible when I talk to residents and neighbors in all corners of our community.

We want to keep investing in Columbia Township. And ultimately, we will keep investing in you, because the residents make Columbia Township what we are today.



New Radar Signs Increase Safety, Slow Speeders

Neighborhood hot spots where people often put their pedal to the metal are being addressed by Columbia Township, with the purchase of four permanent radar speed signs

Today's distracted drivers will find it hard to miss these speed display signs, which give driver feedback and "your speed" messages that help calm the roads. According to Administrator Mike Lemon, these speed signs have been shown to be effective in slowing drivers immediately through the visual reminder.

While Hamilton County sheriff's deputies have undertaken patrols on current roads where people tend to speed, Lemon said ultimately that approach came up short. "To respond to citizen complaints about speeders, we decided to purchase these radar speed signs, which generate a plethora of information about driver habits," he said. "Evidence shows speeders will slow down up to 80 percent of the time when alerted by a radar sign, with a typical speed reduction of 10-20 percent."

Now township officials and deputies

can monitor several different factors including the speed of the car, time of day when speeding occurs, what day of the week speeding historically occurs, the volume of traffic at a given location and even generate graphs of information that help track safety efforts, Lemon said.

Two radar signs have already been installed: one on Roe Street and the other on Ashley Oaks Street in the Williams Meadow subdivision. The Ridgewood subdivision will receive two signs in upcoming weeks.

Thus far Trustee Chris Kritikos said he was pleased with the information the township has gathered and the potential effect the signs will have over time help slow down traffic on residential streets. "For the safety of children and to prevent accidents, we believe this will be a good investment in our community," said Kritikos.



More Fitness Options Slated for Little Miami Bike Trail Extension Project

Once it's finished, residents can get fit, have fun with planned canoe, kayak access point and fitness equipment installed along trail



Columbia Township residents have indicated they are looking forward to the upcoming construction of the extension of the Little Miami Scenic Trail, at Newtown Road to the Mariemont Branch Library.

More amenities for the trail are also in the works. Expanded fitness options now under discussion for the bike path extension include two other outdoor fun options: a canoe and kayak access point along the Little Miami River at Newtown Road adjacent to the bike trail and placement of fitness/exercise equipment along the path.

This 1.6-mile bike trail project being discussed runs through the Wooster Pike Business District. Columbia Township has appropriated \$100,000 toward the first phase of the project, hoping to kickstart its construction this year, according to Trustee President David Kubicki. Great Parks of Hamilton County will undertake and manage the project.

"Adding fitness equipment to this

bike path creates even more exercise options in a natural setting that help residents mix up their health routines," said Trustee Chris Kritikos. "This is a great multi-use option for expanding the usability of this bike path for young and old alike."

Funding could involve private and public monies, according to Administrator Mike Lemon. Columbia Township will contribute to the kayak/canoe access point and the fitness equipment projects, he said.

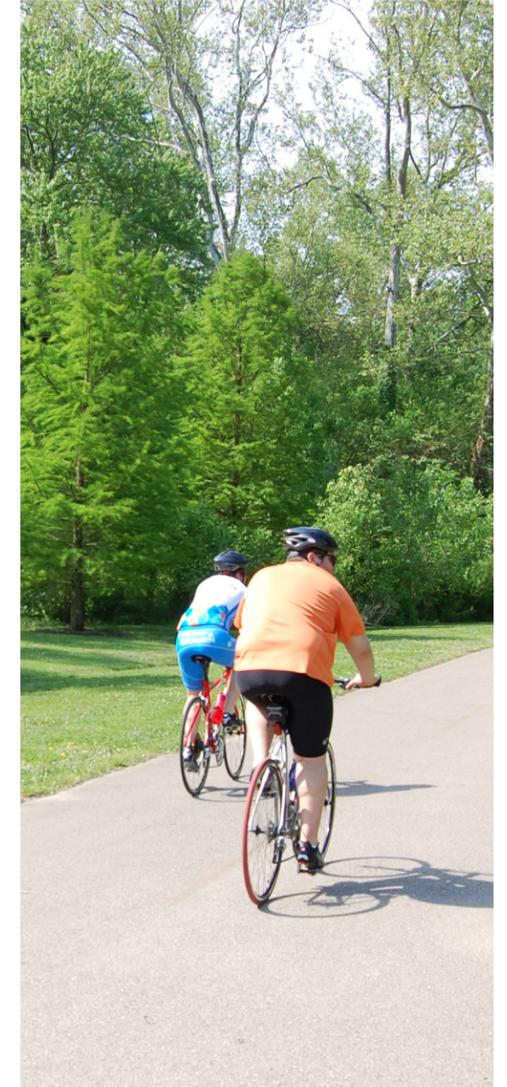
According to Jack Sutton, director of Great Parks of Hamilton County, a summer public meeting is being planned for area residents to review and comment on the proposed connector trail. As of press time, that meeting had not been set.

Sutton noted that Columbia Township and Great Parks currently are working on the engineering design and permitting for an approximately 1,000-foot extension of the trail connector from Newtown Road to Ashley Oaks Drive and the 50 West Production Works building.

Sutton also said the Ohio Department of Natural Resources is currently reviewing the proposed project in accordance with its regulatory responsibilities related to the State Scenic Rivers statute. The Little Miami River has been designated both a State and National Scenic River.

Phase Two of the project, which could begin in 2019, includes a path extension farther along the Little Miami River behind Kroger's, which emerges

by Miami Run (by McDonald's). The trail will then travel up the hill along a path by Wooster, and end at the Mariemont Branch Library.



Gas Aggregation Program Supplier Changes

You can still save money through electric, gas aggregation programs

Columbia Township's gas and electric aggregation programs are now served by one supplier, Interstate Gas Supplier.

For the past six years, the township has offered negotiated electric supply prices for township residents and small businesses through Interstate Gas

Supply. It has successfully been used to lower the bills of many residents and offers one of the lowest rates in Duke's service area.

Now the township's gas aggregation program which can reduce gas costs is offered through Interstate Gas Supply.

To become a member and take

advantage of savings associated with both aggregation programs offered to Columbia Township residents, contact Interstate Gas Supply at 1-800-280-4474. For questions or concerns, call the township's consultant, Eagle Energy, at 251-7283. There is no risk to you to join.