Union Township, Clermont County

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Shor Park is dedicated
- Students get artsy
- Seasonal safety tips
- Vehicle storage
- Spotlight on Business: A&A Mower
- Glen Este senior wins Crime Stoppers award
- Snow and ice removal

Talk of the Township

Winter 2010
Volume 26

Trustees: Timothy Donnellon ◊ Matthew Beamer ◊ Robert McGee

Enjoy nature at Shore Park

The donation of land by an individual and the partnership between township and county have come together to offer the newest park in Union Township.

Dedicated Oct. 21, 2010, Shor Park is the newest addition to recreational facilities available to Union Township residents and visitors. Officially part of the Clermont County Park District, the 56-acre park is located at Tealtown and Schoolhouse roads in Union Township. The land was donated by Sylvia Shor in memory of her late husband, S. David Shor, and the park was partially funded by Union Township Trustees.

As part of the agreement, only five acres can be developed, and they already include parking areas. In the future, picnic shelters and playgrounds may be developed there. The rest of the acreage is dedicated to nature trails, woods and meadows, providing a setting where people can enjoy wildlife and a natural environment. Currently, the park boasts three walking trails and is the second park in the township to welcome dogs, a feature that makes Trustee Matthew Beamer proud.

"I'm very excited to have our second dog-friendly park in Union Township," Beamer said. "We certainly appreciate the partnership between Mrs. Shor, the Clermont County Park District, and the township. This park will benefit the residents of Union Township for many years to come."

Shor Park is located at 4659 Tealtown Road.

Spring is just around the corner ...

Well, not quite, but first-grade students all around Union Township are getting a jump on the warmer weather months by participating in Project Flower Pot, an effort to beautify the Mt. Carmel business district by dressing up the flower pots with their own art designs.

West Clermont's Amelia, Brantner, Clough Pike, Holly Hill, Merwin, Summerside, Willowville and Withamsville-Tobasco elementary schools, as well as St. Thomas More and St. Veronica schools, are participating.

You can see from the concentration on their faces that this is serious work for these St. Thomas More students, who started their art assignment Nov. 12.

The pots will be in place in the business district in spring, 2011.

Watch for more in the Spring, 2011, ***Talk of The Township.***

Warmest Holiday Greetings

from the

Union Township Board of Trustees

HOLIDAY HOME SAFETY TIPS

Winter has finally arrived, and, if you haven't already done so, you should take the time to prepare your homes to safely weather the season. The Fire Department recommends some safety tips to guide you through winterizing your home this holiday season.

By providing early warning of fire, smoke detectors add precious seconds that can make the difference between life and death. It is recommended that you install smoke detectors in hallways and in sleeping areas. Every floor of the home should have at least one working smoke detector on it. Check smoke detectors monthly to ensure that they are working properly and change the batteries every six months. Carbon monoxide (CO) detectors are also recommended for installation near sleeping areas. A second CO detector should be installed near the home's heating source to provide even more protection.

Candles are another cause for concern this winter season. Candles are quickly becoming popular accessories and should be cared for with safety in mind. Candle wicks should be trimmed to one-quarter inch and kept three feet from flammable and combustible materials. Candles should also be extinguished when they burn down to within two inches of their holders and should never be left in the care of children.

The winter months should be a joyous time of the year. Unfortunately, home fires increase during this time, often due to the misuse or misunderstanding of electrical devices. Typically, electrical fires are one of the leading causes of Christmas tree fires. Specific causes include overloaded outlets, misuse of extension cords, not turning off decorations when going to bed or leaving the residence, Christmas lights that are old and worn out, appliances or electrical cords that are not in good working order, and various other attributing causes. The use of multi-outlet strips is recommended in lieu of extension cords to satisfy your decorating needs.

Another cause of residential structure fires through the winter season is the discarding of fireplace ashes in combustible containers. Never dispose of ashes in trash containers. Always use a metal ash can and position the can away from the residence with a secure lid in place. This will eliminate the threat of smoldering ashes and avoid any possibility of fire with respect to discarded fire logs and ashes. Ashes from a wood burner or fireplace can regenerate for up to seven days. This occurs when cleaning out the appliance and introducing air into the embers of the ash pile.

In addition, wood burning stoves should have a 36-inch clearance from combustible surfaces. Always use a wood stove with a clean chimney and stove pipe, and keep a metal or glass screen in front of any fireplace opening. This will help prevent embers or sparks from reaching combustible materials while also preventing possible burns to occupants of your home. Only burn dry, seasoned wood and avoid slow burning, smoky fires in order to prevent creosote or soot build-up in the chimney. Never use flammable liquids to light or accelerate a fire and never store flammable liquids in an area where a stove is being used.

The Union Township Fire Department would like everyone to exercise caution and discretion this holiday season in an effort to promote fire safety.

Winter Month Vehicle Storage

With the holiday season upon us, many households across Union Township welcome friends and family members for food, fellowship and festivities. Parking may become an issue for many people, as the number of vehicles arriving for the festivities can exceed the area needed to park them. More often than not, many households find themselves with several vehicles that are driven on a regular basis and have trouble finding places to put them. While space may be limited, vehicles must be parked on paved driveway surfaces, and cannot be parked within front yard or grass areas on the property. The Union Township Zoning Resolution requires all vehicles be currently licensed and operational, unless stored in a completely enclosed structure, like a garage or pole barn.

The onset of colder weather also requires many owners to store recreational vehicles until warmer weather arrives. While some property owners elect to store their boats, recreational vehicles or campers off-site, others choose to keep the vehicles on their property. All boats, trailers, recreational vehicles, campers, and other similar vehicles that are stored on residential property must be currently licensed and operational. Additionally, property owners may park a maximum of one boat or recreational vehicle on the driveway, or alternatively, in the rear yard of any residentially zoned property, so long as that vehicle is located at least five feet from any side or rear property line. Disabled vehicles may not be stored on any residential property for more than 30 days, unless they are stored in a completely enclosed building as well.

If you have questions regarding off-street parking regulations, please contact the Union Township Planning & Zoning Department at (513) 753-2300, as the staff would be more than happy to answer any questions you might have.