FEATURED STORY

THE RETURN OF WOODLAND LIGHTS

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Woodland Lights Returns

A beloved family tradition returns! The 29th season of Woodland Lights is back in Countryside Park featuring traditional favorites and adding a brand new attraction.

Visitors can stroll through 10 acres of sparkling lights and whimsical displays or take a ride on the Rieck Express train along a new path. Climbing aboard this colorful four car train that seats up to sixteen and take a scenic ride that winds past the Pollinator Garden and the vernal pond, creating a treasured new memory for long-time visitors. The train was partially sponsored through a generous donation from Rieck Services last year and 2021 will mark its maiden run at Woodland Lights as its sure to delight young and old alike.

As always, Santa will be tucked cozily by the fireplace in our historic log cabin, waiting for children to share their wish lists with him. Have your camera ready to take a photo with Santa or any of the costumed characters and animated vignettes you will encounter along the path.

A variety of amusements and concessions round out the month long celebration including a community favorite: Pet Nights. Pets are people too on select nights when they are invited to walk the festival and in the next Township Quarterly.

Tickets

Check online for advance ticket discounts. Tickets can be purchased in person at RedPlex East during business hours, nightly at the gate starting at 6 p.m., or online at www.woodlandlights.org/tickets.

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Friday-Sunday
November 19 through December 19
Nightly
December 20 through 30
Closed December 24 & 25

Hours
6-9p (Gate closes at 8:30 pm)

Location
Countryside Park
895 Miamisburg-Centerville Rd.
937-433-0130

“Whenuethink of the holidays you think of treasured traditions like Woodland Lights. Over the past 28 years it has become a leading attraction in the region and we could not be more pleased to have it back at Countryside Park. We hope everyone finds joy in this gift we give to the community each year and that joy follows them into the New Year and beyond.”

SCOTT PAULSON
Trustee President

Fire Prevention Week

In honor of National Fire Prevention Week, October 4-8, the Washington Township Fire Department is taking residents behind the scenes with virtual tours and live videos on social media. Throughout the week, families can participate in interactive challenges and games to win prizes and learn about fire safety.

The theme of National Fire Prevention Week is “Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety!” and helps to educate everyone about the different sounds that smoke and carbon monoxide alarms can make. Knowing what to do when an alarm sounds will help keep you and your family safe. Each virtual fire open house is on a different night and features various apparatus and equipment that are unique to that station. Families are invited to tune in one night, two nights, or all five. Videos can be accessed through the Washington Township Fire Department Facebook page and their YouTube channel. Video demonstrations will include the opportunity to ask any questions you might have from the firefighters who are serving our community around the clock.

Busi nesses are invited to breakfast

Washington Township invites businesses from the unincorporated area of the Township to breakfast on Tuesday, October 19. The annual Business Breakfast offers owners and managers the chance to network with fellow business owners, and receive information about the Township.

“Businesses are an integral part of our community,” says Trustee President Scott Paulson. “The past year and a half has been challenging on many levels for our local business leaders and this breakfast is a way to express our appreciation, share information, and learn more about how we can support their success.”

The breakfast takes place at RedFlex West, 965 Miamisburg-Centerville Rd. Doors open at 7:30a for networking and displays, followed by a complimentary catered breakfast and brief program. Businesses located in unincorporated Washington Township may register up to two staff members at wauingtontp.org/breakfast by October 12. To reserve table-top display space or provide raffle items, email raffledisplay@washingtontpw.org. Please note that business breakfast plans are subject to change at any time. Keep an eye on our website and social media pages for the most up to date information.

Spinne r Story

Generosity of event sponsors, led by the Sam’s Clubs of Washington Township, Beavercreek and North Dayton. Sam’s Club has been the festival’s Major Sponsor for ten consecutive seasons, including last year’s modified event. “The community spirit of local businesses shines bright at each Woodland Lights,” says Mark Metzger, Recreation Director. “But we are especially grateful for last year’s sponsors that did not withdraw their support when the traditional festival was canceled by the pandemic. We expect record attendance when Woodland Lights returns to Countryside Park this year, which will be a fitting tribute to those who make this community celebration possible.”

Sponsors for this year’s event will be recognized on social media and throughout the festival and in the next Township Quarterly.

Woodland Lights is back in Countryside Park featuring traditional favorites and that owners pick up any waste left behind.

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Public Service

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Community Events

The RedPlex is partnering with a variety of organizations this fall for fun, family-friendly happenings, from frights to lights. Town Hall Theatre is a stop on the Ghost Walk on Main Street on October 14 and Countryside Park becomes the new home of the annual Centerville Noon Optimist Haunted Trail on October 12 and 13 from 7-30p. Once the ghosts and goblins clear out, it’s a Race to the Holidays on November 7 at 1p at Schoolhouse Park and Woodland Lights from November 19-December 30, 6-9p. Details on community events can be found at www.washingtontwp.org/recreation.

Final Super Saturday of 2021

October 9 – 10a to1p

The Final Super Saturday event for 2021 is scheduled for October 9 from 10a to 1p and will include document shredding and drug drop off for residents of Centerville/Washington Township. Our website offers full information at washingtontwp.org/supersaturday.

Document Disposal

Public Works Building
8190 McEwen Rd.

Drug Drop Off

Fire Headquarters
8320 McEwen Rd.

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A variety of amusements and concessions round out the month long celebration including a community favorite: Pet Nights. Pets are people too on select nights when they are invited to walk the holiday path with their loving owners. Please be sure they are leashed, people-friendly and that owners pick up any waste left behind.

The train, lights and displays of Woodland Lights are powered by the
Employee Awards of Excellence

Six employees have received Washington Township’s Employee Award of Excellence for outstanding contributions to the Township. Recipients are nominated by their peers and their efforts reflect the type of important activities employees undertake every day, according to Township Administrator Jesse Lightle.

The Award of Excellence was created in 1987 to recognize employees who have exhibited exceptional performance. Full-time recipients receive framed proclamations, $275 and an extra three days of vacation. Part-time employees receive framed proclamations and $450. All have their names inscribed on plaques at four Township buildings. The following summaries are based on excerpts from nominations made by township staff:

**JOSH KING**
Public Works
Nomination for his excellent leadership skills, his perseverance and for setting an example as a strong role model in the department.

**KEN RUNYAN**
Fire Department
Nomination for his positive influence on fellow staff and for implementing knowledge sharing and best practices amongst the crews.

**CHRISTIE CERO**
Recreation
Nomination for providing superior customer service and for covering multiple recreation positions throughout the pandemic.

**MEGHAN WHEELER**
Fire Department
Nomination for her proactive initiative and professionalism when interacting with the public and fellow staff.

**MARIANA JONES**
Fire Department
Nomination for her insistence on performing every task and training in the highest quality manner without seeking recognition.

**DEPUTY JEFF WALLACE**
MC SO
Nomination for his clear communication, enthusiasm for the job and thorough knowledge of law, policy and procedure.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Special storage and office warehouse condo provider, StorageUSA, has been approved to build a new facility on Washington Church Rd. A total of 24 garage warehouse units would be constructed, complete with electricity, internet and plumbing. The project is anticipated to begin construction within the next year.

OLD SCRATCH PIZZA ADDS PATIO

The Washington Township location of Old Scratch Pizza has expanded its dining options with a new outdoor patio. Located in front of the restaurant, the 700 square foot patio has space for approximately ten tables for diners who prefer to enjoy their pizza outdoors.

PUBLIC SERVICE

A Day in the Life of a Leaf Collector

As the air turns cooler and the leaves begin to change, Public Works crews are preparing for the start of another leaf season. Leaf collection is a relatively short season, typically taking place over the course of six to eight weeks, requiring crews to work quickly to ensure all the leaves are collected before winter moves in and they have to turn their attention to snow and ice safety.

Crews consist of three Public Works staff. One drives the truck, one operates the vacuum and one walks behind the vacuum to sweep up leftover leaves and debris. Crews make repeated passes through neighborhoods, allowing multiple opportunities for residents to rake leaves to the curb throughout the fall.

7:00am: Staff arrive at the Public Works building on McEwen Rd. to begin prepping the industrial-size vacuums for a day of leaf collecting. Crews will collect leaves at residences located on 146 miles of streets in the unincorporated area of Washington Township.

7:30am: The first crews set out for the morning. Each industrial-size vacuum takes an average of one hour to fill. After the vacuum is full, the crew will drive the vacuum to a local company where the leaves are dumped and turned into mulch. They will then return to the neighborhood and continue collecting throughout the day.

“Each neighborhood is different”, says Public Works Director Mike Wanamaker. “Some neighborhoods have an abundance of mature trees while some of the newer developments don’t have many yet. Also, the weather is unpredictable and we never know when the leaves are going to drop. Sometimes it happens gradually throughout the fall and the crews will stay consistently busy while other times all the leaves will drop at once and, when necessary, crews might work overtime trying to get everything collected.”

1:00pm: One of the residences in the neighborhood has raked their leaves in front of a storm drain. Crews are able to collect the leaves but it’s an important reminder that blocking a storm drain not only contributes to water pollution but can also cause a flooding hazard if heavy rainfall were to occur before the leaves were picked up. At another residence, a car is parked directly on top of a large leaf pile. Crews are unable to collect those leaves as the storm drain. Crews are able to collect the leaves but it’s an important reminder that blocking a storm drain not only contributes to water pollution but can also cause a flooding hazard if heavy rainfall were to occur before the leaves were picked up. At another residence, a car is parked directly on top of a large leaf pile. Crews are unable to collect those leaves as the storm drain.

3:00pm: Crews return to the Public Works building to clean the equipment and prepare for the next day. It’s late November and the forecast is calling for a light frost tomorrow morning. The crews know that this means leaf collection will be slow in the morning as the moisture makes the leaf piles heavy and the frost has to be cleared from the vacuums periodically. Nonetheless, with only a couple weeks left in the season, crews will continue working hard to collect leaves from all roadways before making the switch to snowplow equipment.

CALANDER

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK
October 4-8

SUPER SATURDAY
Two free services, document shredding and medication disposal, will be offered to residents.
October 9

HAUNTED TRAIL
October 12 & 13

TRUSTEE MEETINGS
Usual meeting times are 6:30p on the first Monday of the month and noon on the third Monday, unless otherwise noted. Meetings are held at the Government Center, 8200 McEwen Rd.
October 18 November 1
November 15 December 6
December 20

BUSINESS BREAKFAST
October 19

RACE TO THE HOLIDAYS
November 7

BLOOD DRIVE
Visit our website for information on where the drive will take place and how to schedule an appointment.
November 18

WOODLAND LIGHTS
November 19 - December 30
**A Look Back: Summer at the RecPlex**

New and long-standing traditions brought family and friends together again after more than a year of separation and isolation. Over the course of two days in May, families participated in a wide array of challenging activities in Countryside Park for the annual Family Adventure Days. The Reck Express, a trackless train, made its inaugural run to the delight of passengers.

Three pop up Play events were a huge hit with families. The Family PJ Party featured games, a dance party, a marshmallow “pillow fight” and a movie in the theater for parents and children dressed in their favorite PJs. The Doggie Ice Cream Social treated four-legged family members with a romp in the park and a swim in kiddie pools before they lapped up pet-friendly bacon cheddar ice cream and met K-9 Max of the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office. Pet People and SICSA passed out goodie bags, prizes and treats to four-legged family members with a romp in the park and a swim in kiddie pools before they lapped up pet-friendly bacon cheddar ice cream and met K-9 Max of the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office. Pet People and SICSA passed out goodie bags, prizes and treats to ever were Earth Joy Tree Climbing, Bounce Ohio, Touch-a-Truck, Gamermunch Laser Tag, COOL on Wheels and Kona Ice. As a grateful parent said, “Camp is wonderful and the camp staff are so dynamic. Thank you for all that staff is doing to ensure a great and fun summer for the kids.”

Senior center pandemic restrictions were the last to be lifted by the state this summer. By then, summer camp was a long-time fan favorite of younger patrons and this year was no exception. Over 1,000 campers took part over ten weeks with seven different camps challenging and entertaining campers ages 5-14. Crafts, gym games, outdoor play, swimming, kayaking and rock climbing were the ingredients for a fun and educational experience, while multiple onsite “field trips” were “wired” on the cake. On hand to make the camp experience sweeter than ever were Earth Joy Tree Climbing, Bounce Ohio, Touch-a-Truck, Gamermunch Laser Tag, COOL on Wheels and Kona Ice. As a grateful parent said, “Camp is wonderful and the camp staff are so dynamic. Thank you for all that staff is doing to ensure a great and fun summer for the kids.”

**TOWN HALL THEATRE GOES LIVE**

It’s been a long wait but theatre productions are live again! If absence makes the heart grow fonder then the 2021-22 season is sure to be a sellout. Auditions for Dorothy in Wonderland will be held January 6, 6-9p and January 8, 2-4p. Peggy the Pintsized Pirate, October 22-24

Julie B. Jones – Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!, December 4-20

Princess Who? - February 4-6

Dorothy in Wonderland, March 4-20

Mary Poppins, May 6-22

Being closed for a year and a half took a toll on theaters across the country, including Town Hall Theatre. Staff were re-assigned to temporary RecPlex positions during the shutdown but other theater-related costs continued. The Township was able to recoup those expenses through the “Shuttered Venue Operator’s Grant Program” of the Small Business Administration, while a Culture Works grant is helping to put performances back on stage again.

“These grants have been a tremendous help not only in keeping theaters solvent during the pandemic but by bringing them back to life again”, says Mark Metzger, Recreation Director. “What a night it will be when a live audience returns to our theater again on October 22!”

In an ideal world, Town Hall Theatre renovations would have been completed before a return to the stage but manufacturing delays meant postponing the reopening to next year. “Postponing for another year was not an option for us or the community,” says Metzger.

Replacing the seats, flooring, curtains and marquee, and installing a chair lift and accessible seating, is now planned for next summer when performances are normally on hiatus. A portion of these renovation costs are covered by a Community Development Block Grant, with matching funds from the Centerville Washington Foundation. Corporate contributions to date have come from Rickes Services, Buck Run Commercial Doors and Sunshine Commercial Cleaning.

During the next year the community has the unique opportunity to help with renovation expenses not yet funded by naming a seat in honor or memory of an individual, family or business. For more information on how you can help preserve an historic community treasure visit townhalltheatre.org.

One request that could not be accommodated given limited resources was the return of a small, constrained fitness room to RecPlex West. Many active older adults had transitioned to using the expanded fitness room at the main center while the Enrichment Center was closed, contributing to the decision to remain focused on one fitness room for all ages in the RecPlex complex.

In addition to fitness offerings, educational and recreational activities are added monthly to complement the core activities that older adults wanted to see return after shutdown, including bingo, cards, games and crafts. It is expected that daily meals and Sinclair College for Lifelong Learning classes will resume in January and enrichment programming will be back to its peak, pre-pandemic schedule. Staff are all needed to maintain and expand programming at RecPlex so if you or anyone you know is interested in a fun and rewarding position, please visit www.washingtonhw.org/recreation.

**RECREATION**

**UPCOMING**

**BEGGAR’S NIGHT**

Beggar’s Night for Washington Township, including Centerville, takes place 6 to 8p Sunday, October 31, rain or shine. Parents should assess the weather and decide if it’s appropriate for their child to participate. Beggar’s Night takes place at the same date and time every year, as set by the Greater Dayton Mayors and Managers Association and its member cities. By adopting the same time, local jurisdictions increase the likelihood that motorists will be aware and use caution.

**FALL RECREATION PROGRAMS**

“New and different are accurate descriptors for what lies ahead at the RecPlex,” says Addie Weaver, Sr. Recreation Supervisor. “We are very excited about the new programs you’ll see across the board this fall, from fitness classes to enrichment activities for youth, adults and older adults.” Some of the new sports and fitness programs include SWIMIN’ dance fitness for adults and flag football and floor hockey for youth. Youth can also enhance their mental skills with the new CASANSTEM classes while all ages can learn to be actors, stage managers, or costumers in theater classes. Older adults will find an abundance of original offerings as a new senior and adult enrichment supervisor brings a fresh approach to programming. Check out the Explore Guide of www.washingtonhw.org/recreation and click, “Explore our Programs” for details on all the RecPlex has to offer this fall. Find something you like? Simply click the title or number and be linked to registration. It couldn’t be easier.
Kettering Court Offers New Programs

The Kettering Municipal Court (KMC) provides justice services for misdemeanor traffic and criminal cases, handles arraignments and preliminary hearings for felonies, and hears civil complaints up to $15,000 and small claims complaints up to $6,000. KMC serves the residents of Washington Township, Centerville, Kettering and Moraine. The office is responsible for managing and safeguarding the public records for court cases handled by KMC and is responsible for collecting and distributing fines, fees and costs related to these cases, and the technology supporting these services. New initiatives are being offered at the KMC with the goal of improving Court services and access to justice, giving many a fresh start, all while saving taxpayer funds. The Court will offer a court fees and fines amnesty week, landlord/tenant mediation, record sealing assistance, a customer service center for information on assistance and legal resources, and an alternative to traffic citations.

Court Fee/Fine Amnesty Week: Anyone currently owing either court costs and fines or both, can receive a fifty percent Amnesty discount on them during the KMC’s Amnesty Week from Monday, Oct. 18 to Friday, Oct. 22. To take advantage of the Amnesty period, visit the Clerk of Court’s office at Kettering Municipal Court, 2325 Wilmington Pike, Kettering, Ohio 45420, from Monday to Friday, 8:30a to 4:30p or call 937-296-2461. Fifty percent of the court costs and fines must be paid in full to be eligible for the remaining to receive Amnesty.

Clerk of Court Partnership: Kettering Clerk of Court Rob Scott and Montgomery County Clerk of Courts Mike Foley have partnered to offer a Help Center providing legal information and access to programs and resources. The Center does not provide legal advice. Residents can utilize this free service on the second and third Monday of every month from 9 to 11a at the Kettering Municipal Court. More info is at www.courthouse2you.com.

If you need more information or have other concerns, feel free to contact Kettering Clerk of Court Rob Scott at 937-296-2461, rob.scott@ketteringoh.org or visit ketteringmunicipalcourt.com.