



# VILLAGE OF GAMBIER

## SPRING 2024

### A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR KESSLER

2024 is proving to be a year containing multitudes with leap year, Olympics, elections, eclipses, bicentennials, and the ever-looming prospect of the roundabout construction. All of us in Gambier will be impacted in various ways by all this activity on top of the day-to-day hustle and bustle of life on the hill. It promises to be an exciting time and one that will keep us all on our toes, but we need to be sure to pace ourselves. There will be plenty to do but it's important to rest and mindfully take stock of our surroundings.



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*...nurture the relationships in your life so as to better share all the excitement and activity that will race towards us, ready or not.*

While we will have formal opportunities to pause and come together such as the various celebrations planned for Kenyon's 200th year and our annual 43022 Day on April 27th, I nevertheless encourage you and mayorally extol you to take the time to enjoy the accidental encounters with neighbors and new friends that this village is perfectly suited for. Whether at the post office, bookstore, coffee shop, dog park, pocket park, or wherever you find yourself, take a breath and share a kind word with those around you. While Gambier is a truly miraculous place to live, work, and visit, it's the people that are the true treasures and we would do well to not let ourselves get so caught up that we lose sight of that.

As we go into the new year with hope, excitement, and maybe even occasional bouts of trepidation, remember that we are an ecosystem unlike any other and are still dependent on those around us. Make this a year to better know your neighbors, to make a new friend or two, and to nurture the relationships in your life so as to better share all the excitement and activity that will race towards us, ready or not.

It's my distinct honor to be starting off my second term as Gambier's mayor and I look forward to continuing to serve you all and helping to make this community truly one of the best in the world. Thank you for the opportunity and I look forward to facing all that 2024 brings with everyone who comes to this hill.

**Leeman Kessler, Mayor of Gambier, Ohio**

# Village Photo Gallery

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## GAMBIER IN GREEN

As spring greens up the foliage in the village, thoughts of warmer days and sunshine abound. In 2024 spring sunshine brings more than green leaves, it's bringing green energy to our operations.

The Village has added a new environmentally friendly vehicle to our maintenance team, a 2023 E 350 Transit Van. The van is fully electric and will be used by the utilities department. A charging station was installed at the Maintenance Building and plans are being made to install one at the Wastewater Plant.

Jedidiah Hendershott, one of the certificated operators at the Gambier wastewater treatment plant, turns on the solar panels that assist in providing green energy to the sewer treatment plant. The panels have been operating since last December and were purchased primarily with money the Village received through the American Rescue Plan Act.



## COMMUNITY GARDEN

The award-winning Community Garden will be blooming soon. The plots were all assigned March 1, 2024. We welcomed a few new gardeners this season. We can't wait to see what they'll grow. Added hoses will allow gardeners from the various sections the ability to water their gardens simultaneously. The maintenance team would like to remind you: Please be sure you turn the hose off at the spigot when you are done watering. This will help the new hoses last longer.



## NEW PARK BENCHES

Last fall work began on an improvement to the Community Park to make it more welcoming to all. The nature play area was created which includes new hills, tunnels, and slides. The village used park improvement funds to pay for the construction. This month new benches were added to complement the work and give much needed seating for those enjoying the park and trail. The maintenance team is pictured assembling the final touches and setting the bench.

# Village Photo Gallery

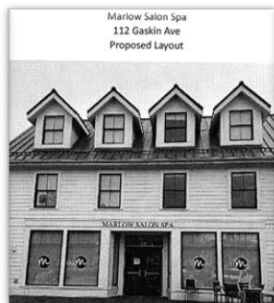
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## NEW BACKHOE

One of the Village's biggest investments in late 2023 was the new Case backhoe that replaced a 40-year-old model. The backhoe has already made many projects lighter and will save the Village thousands of dollars in equipment rental and labor over the coming year.

## COMING SOON, TWO NEW BUSINESSES



Gambier Planning Commission has approved a zoning certificate and conditional use for two businesses planning to occupy the area formerly known as Farr Hall.

Jesse Marlow, member of **Marlow Salon Spa LLC**, told the Planning Commission their business will be moving from their Mt. Vernon location to 112 Gaskin. He said the space will need to be modified before the move can be completed. The changes to the space include the addition of a washer/dryer area, shampoo bowls and a back room for a massage area. Sarah Marlow said the business hours would be from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Lisa Jacobs plans to open the **Birds of a Feather Bake Shop & Boutique** at 114 Gaskin. She told the Planning Commission that she prepares baked goods at the Woodward and would bring them into the new store for sale. She also plans to sell pre-made soups and salads as well as locally produced items such as maple syrup. Another part of her inventory will include the bird feeders and bird houses that she has made. Business hours are likely to be Sunday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



## WELCOME OUR NEW DEPUTY

We extend a warm welcome to Deputy Devon Fritz. He has been with the Knox County Sheriff's Department for 3 years and was assigned to Gambier. Deputy Fritz joined us early this year after 12 weeks of intense training. His traffic stops and responses are already positively impacting the many safety issues involved in navigating our pedestrian friendly community. Thank you, Deputy Fritz!



# Village Events

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## APRIL 8, 2024 – ECLIPSE DAY

On **April 8, 2024**, Knox County will experience a rare total Solar Eclipse from **3:12-3:15 pm**. A total solar eclipse happens when the moon passes between the sun and the earth, completely blocking the sun. First contact as the moon begins to touch the sun's outline will begin just before 2 pm and cross fully by 4:27 pm. Many events have been planned in Knox County. Totality may not be visible in Gambier, but significant darkness will occur between these hours. If you are planning on viewing the eclipse, please wear protective eclipse glasses. Use caution, residents and visitors will be out and about that day for viewing and traveling to viewing areas. The Gambier Public Library has glasses available, and activities planned throughout the day. For more information, a list of local events, and where to maximize your eclipse viewing, visit <https://visitknoxohio.org/events/knox-county-solar-eclipse-2024>

## APRIL 26, 2024 - ARBOR DAY PLANTING

Tree Commission is planning an Arbor Day observance on **Friday, April 26, 2024**. This year's ceremony will be on the Brooklyn Street side of Wiggin St. Elementary as we will plant appropriate trees that will look nice and yet be easier for the school to maintain. The observance of Arbor Day is one of four annual requirements to maintain Tree City USA status. Gambier received word last month from the Arbor Day Foundation that our 2023 application was approved for the 17th consecutive year.



## APRIL 27, 2024 - 43022 DAY

43022 Day was such a success that the village has decided to make it an annual Spring event, a day of community celebration on the last Saturday in April. The gathering will take place downtown on Gaskin Avenue (the street will be closed between Wiggin and Brooklyn streets). The village invites you from **noon-2** for fellowship, food, live music, face painting and a chance to interact with village neighbors and students, alike. Any service club or student organization is welcome to set up a table at the event (contact the village offices to register). Any project suggestions can be forwarded to village officials.



Our hope is that villagers will spend the afternoon volunteering for community service projects. We hope you will join us to celebrate what makes Gambier such a great place to live!



# VILLAGE *of* GAMBIER

— INVITES YOU TO THE 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL —



# 43022 DAY

● SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024 ●

GASKIN AVENUE DOWNTOWN ● NOON-2PM

FOOD, LIVE MUSIC, FELLOWSHIP, GIVEAWAYS,  
COMMUNITY & STUDENT GROUPS, FACE PAINTING

Spring cleaning is upon us! Here is your guide to the services offered to help you spruce up.



## RUMPKE REMAINS RESIDENTIAL TRASH HAULER

Gambier Village Council approved a new one-year contract with Rumpke which began April 1. Bids were opened in February for residential trash hauling service and Rumpke, the past provider, was again the lowest bid. Their cost to the village went up to \$15.20 per household- the first increase in four years. Gambier is unique in that the village pays the cost of residents' regular trash hauling service as well as offering weekly curbside recycling. Service will remain on Fridays.

## MAY 2, 2024 - SPRING SHRED-IT DAY

**Spring Shred-It Day, 9AM- 3PM**

**FOR GAMBIER VILLAGE RESIDENTS ONLY**, Receptacles will be placed at the Community Center 115 Meadow Lane from **9 a.m. to 3:00 pm**. Please bring your boxes of paper to shred on **May 2, 2024** and they will be stored in a locked location until May 3<sup>rd</sup>, when Shred-It will come to shred them. Village staff will be on site to witness and monitor the shredding.

## MAY 4, 2024 - SPRING DUMPSTER DAY

**Spring Dumpster Day, 8A-12P.**

**FOR GAMBIER VILLAGE & COLLEGE TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS ONLY**, Dumpsters will be placed at the Village Maintenance Building on the South end of Meadow Lane from **8 a.m. to 12:00 noon**.

**Items should be separated as follows:**

1. Appliances, steel, and other metal items
2. Trash, i.e. items that do not fit the above description.

**Recycling items will also be collected on Dumpster Day. The drop-off bins are located at the Gambier maintenance Barn at 141 Meadow Lane year-round.**

**Please note that brush and small limbs can be brought to Dumpster Day.**

Dumpster Day is funded by and open to residents of the Village of Gambier and College Township **ONLY**. Please bring some form of identification showing your address.

**No Hazardous Waste items will be collected.**

## ELECTRONICS RECYCLING



Co-hosted by Kenyon College, electronics recycling takes place the **first Saturday of every month from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Drop off is located near the dog park in a shipping container. There is a charge of \$20 per CRT monitor or flat-screen television over 32" and \$40 per rear projection and other larger televisions. Drop offs for most other items are free of charge.



# PUBLIC NOTICES

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## ROUNDAABOUT

### **SPECIAL INFORMATIONAL PUBLIC MEETING APRIL 22, 2024, at 7 pm**

A special meeting at the Community Center is set for April 22, 2024, at 7pm. Up to date information about the upcoming Roundabout will be shared. This session is designed to answer your questions about the roundabout and will be led by Mayor Kessler and Village Administrator Wise. You may submit questions ahead so that we can seek appropriate answers from ODOT via email to [mayor@villageofgambier.org](mailto:mayor@villageofgambier.org) or [villageadministrator@villageofgambier.org](mailto:villageadministrator@villageofgambier.org) or you may ask the questions live at the session.

**Note: This meeting is informational and only the roundabout project will be discussed.**



Preliminary field work has begun on the roundabout planned this year at the intersection of State Routes 229 and 308. Ohio Department of Transportation indicated at their pre-construction meeting that message board signs announcing the closure of that intersection will be in place two weeks prior to construction. The \$3.2 million project includes the construction of a single-lane roundabout with a pedestrian crossing as well as a shared use path along SR 308 to the Ward/Wiggin Street intersection.

The closure starts **May 28, 2024**, and goes through November 1.

For updates on this project and others, follow Village Council discussion in the minutes at the link below <https://www.villageofgambier.org/minutes-and-agendas>

### Water Rates Rising for the first time since 2017

Gambier Village Council approved raising water rates beginning with the June billing. The five percent increase mirrors the same percentage increase that Mt. Vernon imposed upon Gambier last year. It's the first increase in water rates since 2017.

The 2023 **Annual Financial report** has been completed by the Village of Gambier and is available for public inspection on the Village of Gambier's website (<https://www.villageofgambier.org/fiscal-officer>) or at the office of the Fiscal Officer, 115 Meadow Lane, Gambier OH.

### Village of Gambier Income Tax DUE April 15

Individual taxpayers will have until Monday, April 15, 2024, to file and pay their 2023 municipal income tax return. Taxpayers do not have to wait until April to file their returns. If you have already had them prepared the Gambier Tax Office is open for assistance Monday -Thursday 8:00am until 4:00pm and Friday 8am until 2:00pm or you may leave them in the drop box at the rear of 115 Meadow Lane. You can also call the direct line at 740-427-2051 or email your questions to [taxadministrator@villageofgambier.org](mailto:taxadministrator@villageofgambier.org)

### CORPO Recommends 99,200 for Village Engineering Work

Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization recommends awarding the village \$99,200 in engineering funds to design a way to connect the Kokosing Gap Trail with Wiggin Street via Duff and Acland. There is a public comment period that must be submitted by **5 p.m. April 19**. To submit public comments in support of the project, e-mail [CORPO@morpc.org](mailto:CORPO@morpc.org) or send regular mail to Mary Turner, Senior Planner, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, 111 Liberty St., Suite 100, Columbus, OH 43215.

### Short Term Rental Conditional Use Annual Renewals Due

Gambier's new zoning code enacted in 2023 limited short-term rentals (stays less than 30 days) to village residents or non-resident owners who had already established a short-term rental in Gambier.

The new code requires those operating short-term rentals to file for an annual renewal.

The renewal application will be a fillable form available online at [www.villageofgambier.org](http://www.villageofgambier.org) or applicants may pick one up in the office. The applicant will be required to attach additional materials. Applications may be submitted in person at the office, via mail, or email to [utilityclerk@villageofgambier.org](mailto:utilityclerk@villageofgambier.org) or [villageadministrator@villageofgambier.org](mailto:villageadministrator@villageofgambier.org)

To find the application on our website, navigate to the home page>quick links>forms> planning and zoning.

The applications must contain the following documentation:

- 1) Proof of residency – a recent utility bill or similar document stating their name and their village address.  
Non-residents granted certificates will need to supply a recent utility bill listing the address for the Gambier property and additionally supply updated contact information for themselves and/or the LLC.
- 2) A notation of how or where their guests are notified of rules regarding occupancy and off-street parking.
- 3) Proof of Compliance:
  - a. Short-term rental properties must maintain a minimum of \$250,000 in liability insurance on the subject property.  
(Please provide evidence of insurance with application).
  - b. ALL SHORT-TERM RENTALS MUST PAY KNOX COUNTY LODGING EXCISE TAX.  
(Please provide evidence of current payment/registration).





# GAMBIER PUBLIC LIBRARY



## Hours:

Monday through Thursday 10am-7pm

Friday 10am-5pm



Saturday 10am-2pm

Sunday Closed



## Eclipse Day Celebration

On **April 8**, The Community Library will celebrate the eclipse. All are welcome to join in the sun, moon, and stars themed games, snacks, stories, and crafts. Eclipse glasses are available while supplies last.

## Earth Day Celebration



Everything is coming up sunny on Earth Day in the Gambier Public Library. Sunflowers are one of the most loved flowers. Did you know their blooms follow the sun? You can pick up a sunflower **April 22** and read about these fascinating flowers during regular library hours.

## Family Story Time

Every Tuesday at **10:30 am** and **4:00 pm** we create one story and one craft but a lot of fun experiences. Two time slots mean double the fun! We have expanded our story time to reach more children in the community, with great success. Pick your time slot and visit us for weekly adventures.



## Take and Make Crafts

If you and your child love crafts, you can also take advantage of the monthly take and make craft. Come in anytime and pick up your craft, available while supplies last. They make great rainy-day activities. We enjoy seeing pictures of these crafts. Stop in and show off your children's or even your own creations. Just ask for a craft bag at circulation. Enjoy!



## Check Out More Books and More Fun

New stories abound inside the library and outside on the storybook trail. April showers bring **May** fan favorite Family Bingo with lots of prizes.

Our **Summer Reading Program** bubbles up in June.

You don't want to miss the special games, stories, prizes, and crafts. Wednesday mornings feature an all-star ★ lineup of guests, including the Bubble Lady, Columbus Zoo, and the Works. Drop in the library for dates, times, and details and get your bubble wands ready for summer magic.

# Important Dates and Events



Randy Wells, Village Maintenance Team, Celebrates 25 years with the Village!

Thank you, Randy, for all your hard work through many changes here in the Village.

If you see him out and about, congratulate him on a job well done!

## EVENTS, COUNCIL, AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

**Monday, April 8, 2:00 pm- 4:30 pm**  
Solar Eclipse

**Tuesday, April 16, 7:30 pm**  
Planning and Zoning Commission

**Monday, April 22, 7:00 pm**  
Special Public Information Meeting outlining Roundabout Project

**Thursday, April 26, 10:00 am**  
Arbor Day Planting at the Wigin Street Elementary

**Saturday, April 27, 12:00 pm- 2:00 pm**  
43022 Day Celebration

**Monday, April 29, 5:00 pm**  
Committee Meetings

**Thursday, May 2, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm**  
Shred-It drop off for shredding on May 3

**Saturday, May 4, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm**  
Spring Dumpster Day and Electronics Recycling

**Monday, May 6, 7:00 pm**  
Village Council Meeting

**Tuesday, May 21, 7:30 pm**  
Planning and Zoning Commission

**Monday, May 27 Memorial Day**  
Village Offices Closed

## VILLAGE CONTACTS

### Village Staff

**R.C. Wise, Village Administrator**  
**CELEBRATING 5 YEARS OF SERVICE**

740-427-2063  
villageadministrator@villageofgambier.org

**Diane Steinmetz, Fiscal Officer**

740-427-2051  
taxadministrator@villageofgambier.org  
clerk-treasurer@villageofgambier.org

**Norita Hissong, V.A. Assistant/  
Utility Clerk**

740-427-2061  
utilityclerk@villageofgambier.org

**Maintenance:**

**Jeremiah Denuit**  
**Josh Miller**  
**Randy Wells**  
**Drew Emerson**

**After Hours Emergency**  
740-397-3333

**Gambier Community Center**

115 Meadow Lane  
Post Office Box 1984  
Gambier, Ohio 43022  
740-427-2671  
[www.villageofgambier.org](http://www.villageofgambier.org)

### Area Businesses

**Campus Auto & Tire—740-233-3015**  
101 W. Brooklyn Street

**Gambier Deli—740-233-3031**  
110 Gaskin Avenue

**Gambier House (B&B)—**  
**[gambierhouse.com](http://gambierhouse.com)**  
107 E. Wigin Street

**Kenyon Bookstore—740-427-5652**  
106 Gaskin Avenue

**Kenyon Inn—740-427-2202**  
100 W. Wigin Street

**The Rogan House (B&B) - 740-427-3203**  
401 Chase Avenue

**The Village Inn—740-427-2112**  
102 Gaskin Avenue

**Village Market—740-427-2801**  
109 Chase Avenue

**Wigin Street Coffee—740-233-3009**  
101 E. Wigin Street

**The Weather Vane—740-427-3636**  
**Women's Clothing Store**  
103 Scott Lane