



VILLAGE OF GAMBIER

 WINTER 2023 

A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR KESSLER

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With the first frost and snowfall, Gambier is officially perched on the precipice of winter, and we are all bustling and preparing for the colder months ahead, the festivities and gatherings, and the quiet contemplation of all that's happened this year married with anticipation for next year.



We've seen a great deal of activity this year with the additions to our community playground, the sidewalk on Ward, and improvements to our village infrastructure to better serve residents and villagers. Our work isn't done so look forward to traffic safety improvements as well as preparations for the roundabout and Brooklyn Street pedestrian path next year.

Along with our traditional 4th of July and Halloween celebrations we have added 43022 Day to our recurring line up of community events and we're not done yet. Mark December 3rd in your calendar as Gambier introduces a winter festival - the Gambier Village Lights to ring out the old year. All of these events are made possible by our dedicated staff, council members, and volunteers who are determined to keep this village joyous and connected all year long.

Thank you to everyone, whether resident, worker, or visitor who transforms this village into the truly wonderful community it is. Keep safe and warm!

Leeman Kessler

For more news and events visit our website villageofgambier.org. Did you know you can attend our committee meetings by zoom? Under Upcoming Events, click the committee to see their agenda (once it's available) and zoom into the meeting using the provided link.

Village News



SWEET TREAT FOR TRICKSTERS

This year's Cider and Donuts at Pocket Park was a hit. Lines of Trick-or-Treaters and parents enjoyed hot cider and donuts from Branstool Orchard. Not only was the cider a great way to warm up on a chilly night, but the decorations also created many Family photo opportunities.



WARM WINTER WELCOME

Join us in welcoming Drew Emerson to our maintenance team. The College of Wooster grad and former United States Army Sargeant hopes to add his unique expertise to our hardworking team and community. A township resident since 2017, he enjoys snow skiing and walking his Labradors with his wife Katie. Welcome, we look forward to working with you, Drew!



Ohio EPA approves modified schedule at sewer plant

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency has approved a modified work schedule for the wastewater treatment plant that will utilize a full-time village employee while providing a significant cost saving.

Jeremiah Denuit passed his Class 1 Wastewater license and has been approved to work 20 hours a week at the Class II wastewater plant. Under the new schedule, the contract operator's requirements have been reduced from 20 hours a week to 10 hours a week.

Last year, Jeremiah passed his Class I water license and has been serving as the Operator of Record for the village's water distribution system.

REMINDERS: TAX FILING DATES

Individual taxpayers will have until Tuesday, April 16, 2024, to file and pay their 2023 municipal income tax return. Tax Day customarily falls on April 15th. But that Monday is Emancipation Day, which is recognized as a holiday in Washington, D.C. As a result, Tax Day has been pushed back until the following Tuesday.

Village News



GAMBIER CELEBRATES 16 YEARS AS A TREE CITY USA

The Arbor Day Foundation has awarded the Village its 16th consecutive Tree City USA award. Gambier Tree Commission members received the award at the Ohio regional conference in Grove City earlier this year.



To maintain a Tree City USA status, the village has to spend at least \$2 per capita on tree plantings and maintenance, have a publicized Arbor Day observance, have a tree ordinance and an active Tree Commission.

The Tree Commission is comprised Chair Jerry Kelly and members Christian Gunning and Keven Krumb. The 2023 Work plan has been submitted to the Foundation in the hopes of being awarded Tree City USA status again next April.

GOVDEALS AUCTION



Following a successful auction in the spring The Village will begin a new auction on 11/25/23. We have several surplus items that we will be featuring on auctions on the Gov Deals website through December 11, 2023. Items include a generator, playground equipment, bricks, a backhoe, and more. You can visit govdeals.com and search for Gambier to view and bid on all the items.



ELECTION NEWS

Mayor Leeman Kessler and Council members Morgan Giles and Alison Furlong were re-elected to four-year terms this month. They will be sworn in for their new terms at the Village Council reorganization meeting in January 2024.

Here is the current roster of elected officials:

MAYOR

Leeman Kessler (term expires 12/31/27)

VILLAGE COUNCIL

Rakia Faber (term expires 12/31/25)
Alison Furlong (term expires 12/31/27)
Morgan Giles (term expires 12/31/27)
Liz Forman (term expires 12/31/25)
Kaitlin Sockman (term expires 12/31/25)
Natalie Wright (term expires 12/31/25)



[GAMBIER VILLAGE LIGHTS](#)

Join us on Sunday, **December 3rd** from **6-8PM** on Gaskin Avenue.

The Village of Gambier hosts its first annual **Gambier Village Lights**. The Village of Gambier booth will feature Free Hot Cocoa, and HeadStart will have a booth for children to craft free ornaments. Mount Vernon High School Choir will kick off the event on the Middle Path steps singing holiday favorites. Entertainment includes Courtney DeCosky, Jeff Williams, Kelly Lauth, and the Kenyon Pealers. A wide variety of local vendors and crafters will be represented at this fun filled family event.

Idle Free Schools

Why Not Idle?

Car exhaust contains **air toxics**, which are known to cause cancer, respiratory effects, reproductive effects, birth defects or other serious health effects.



Because of their developing lungs and higher breathing rates, **children are more susceptible** to air pollution.

If many vehicles are idling at once, for example in school pick up/drop off areas, a "hot spot" of exhaust pollution can be created.

Monitoring at schools has shown **elevated levels of air toxics** during the afternoon hour coinciding with parents picking up their children.

Idling Facts



The chemicals from exhaust are harmful and can make **asthma** worse.

Most people waste 1-2 entire tankfuls of gas every year by idling.

Ford Motor Company says: "Avoid idling more than 30 seconds because excessive idling can actually **damage your engine.**"

Idling more than 10 seconds uses more fuel than restarting the engine.

Manufacturers assure that frequent restarting won't harm an engine.

What can you do?

If you are going to wait more than 10 seconds, turn your vehicle off.

It's as **simple** as that.

Pledge to not idle unnecessarily anywhere, anytime.



Reducing idling at schools can **reduce children's exposure** to toxic vehicle exhaust.

For more information: visit www.epa.gov/region8/air/idlefree schools.html

**Turn the Key,
Be Idle Free!!**

GAMBIER PUBLIC LIBRARY



Hours:

Monday through Thursday 10am-7pm

Friday 10am-5pm

Saturday 10am-2pm

Sunday Closed

GAMBIER COMMUNITY LIBRARY
115 MEADOW LANE, GAMBIER



CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS MAKE AND TAKE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH, 2023
FROM 5:00 P.M. TO 7:00 P.M.

IN THE GYM DOWN THE HALL FROM THE LIBRARY
COME TO OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT
MAKE AND TAKE.

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED,
REGISTRATION BEGINS MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH, 2023
FOR ALL AGES

(740) 427-2665 WWW.KNOX.NET



GAMBIER COMMUNITY LIBRARY
115 MEADOW LANE, GAMBIER

ADULT GINGERBREAD CONTEST



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7TH, 2023

Make your own gingerbread creation, then drop it off at the Gambier Community Library. Winners will be announced at 2:00 P.M. December 7th. Prizes will be given out for first, second, and third place.

No supplies provided.
Registration is required.
Registration begins Monday, November 20th, 2023

(740) 427-2665
WWW.KNOX.NET



MORE 2023 MILESTONES

Gambier Improvement projects completed in 2023

As the year comes to a close, it's time to reflect on infrastructure improvements, vehicle and equipment upgrades and other operational changes the village made in 2023.

The biggest improvement, in terms of dollars alone, was the Ohio Department of Transportation awarding Gambier the Highway Safety Improvement Program grant to build a shared use path from the Ward/Wiggin Street intersection down to and including the roundabout at SR 229/308. The exact amount of the grant isn't known yet, but the estimate is that the path for non-motorized traffic will cost about \$331,000.

ODOT has combined the shared use path project with the roundabout to save time, money, and inconvenience to the public. The roundabout, scheduled to be constructed next summer, will likely cost more than \$2 million.



The largest infrastructure improvement in 2023 done with mostly village funds was the nature play area project at the community park. The \$141,000 project that includes hills and tunnels provides a more interesting play area for children. Slides have been ordered to complement the hills and are scheduled to be installed in the spring. Kenyon donated the topsoil for the park which helped reduce the overall cost.

A sidewalk project shelved in 2015 was completed with a slightly different path in 2023. The \$127,000 sidewalk constructed along parts of Ward, Brooklyn and Kokosing streets was done without sacrificing any trees in the public right of way.

The sidewalk contractor also made \$30,000 in stormwater improvements by improving drainage along a section of Ward and W. Brooklyn streets.



Improvements were made in emergency preparedness as a bigger generator has been installed at the Community Center. The 40 KW generator will now provide backup power to all the rooms in the building. A new generator was installed at the maintenance facility improving the ability for the maintenance workers to respond to a power outage.

Ohio Emergency Management Agency reimbursed the village more than \$11,700 in eligible expenses that Gambier experienced during the June 2022 derecho.

Three new vehicles were purchased in 2023. The biggest investment was the new Case backhoe that replaced a 40-year-old model. A new dump truck purchased in 2022 arrived this summer to replace a 20-year-old model. Finally, a new police cruiser was purchased this year to replace the seven-year-old model.

Important Dates and Events

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monday, November 27, 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 pm
Village Committee Meetings

Monday, December 4, 7:00 p.m.
Village Council Meeting

Tuesday, December 19, 7:30 p.m.
Planning and Zoning Commission

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thanksgiving Break, November 23-24
Village offices Closed



Village Lights, Sunday, December 3, 6-8 pm

Christmas, Monday, December 25
Village offices Closed

New Years Day, Monday, January 1, 2024
Village offices Closed

Martin Luther King Jr. Day January 15, 2024
Village offices Closed

R.C. Wise, Village Administrator
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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
740-427-2073 fax
www.villageofgambier.org

Season's Greetings 



Gambier House (B&B)—gambierhouse.com
107 E. Wiggin Street

Kenyon Bookstore—740-427-5652
106 Gaskin Avenue

Kenyon Inn—740-427-2202
100 W. Wiggin 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

Wiggin Street Coffee—740-233-3009
101 E. Wiggin Street