# CIVIC\*FORMIAMISBURG

## Water/sewer billing to become monthly



In response to preferences expressed by members of the community, the City of Miamisburg is making a change in its frequency of utility billing. Beginning Oct. 1, the usual billing for water, sewer and refuse will be sent monthly instead of quarterly. These bills will be dated the first of every month.

"This is a request we've heard more and more frequently in recent years, and we're pleased to implement it with City Council's support," Finance Director Jennifer Johns said. "There are a lot of moving parts in the changeover process, and we'll appreciate the flexibility and patience of residents as it unfolds."

Information about this transition was recently mailed to every water and sewer customer of the City. The following are some of the key issues to watch for:

#### Transitional billing

Currently, utility bills are sent to approximately one-third of the community every month, so every customer receives a bill every three months. The final quarterly bills were sent to the three cycles on July 1, Aug. 1 and Sept. 1.

The first monthly bill will be sent Oct. 1 as a transitional billing. It will be for water/sewer usage from the customer's final quarterly bill to Sept. 15, bringing all customers up to a consistent meter reading date. The refuse charge will vary, based on the cycle. Beginning with bills dated Nov. 1 and forward, meters will be read on or around the 15th of the prior month for water/sewer services, and refuse will be billed for the prior month.

Payment of the net amount will be due within 15 days of the billing date or the gross amount will be due 30 days after that, for a total of 45 days. This is the same payment time frame currently in use for quarterly bills. Monthly usage of 0-3 units will be billed at the City's minimum charge, which will vary based on the size of the water meter at a property. The minimum charge for a meter at a single-family residence will be \$63.07, including the refuse fee.

#### **Notifications**

Since bills will be sent every 30 days, reminder postcards will no longer be mailed when balances become delinquent. The last day to pay before disconnection will be printed on each bill as a notice.

During this transition, existing delinquent balances equal to or less than \$65 will be permitted to carry forward into the next month without interruption of services.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2024, however, ANY

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#### Electric rates reduced

The City of Miamisburg joined about a dozen other jurisdictions in the region this summer on a plan that provides residents and small businesses with lower electricity rates.

In a competitive bidding process coordinated by the Miami Valley Communications Council (MVCC), Energy Harbor was selected to supply electricity to participating households beginning Sept. 1 at a fixed rate of 6.57 cents/kilowatt hour (kWh). An option was also available to consumers who prefer electricity that comes from renewable sources. This choice was offered at a rate of 6.97 cents/kWh. By comparison, customers have recently been paying over 10 cents/kWh from AES Ohio, the default supplier in the Dayton region.

Miamisburg residents received a letter in July explaining the program and offering each household an opportunity to opt-out. If no action was taken by the deadline, that household was automatically enrolled in the Energy Harbor plan.

Aggregation is a process in which consumers join together as a group to

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## Did you know?

Even with the aggregation plan in effect, billing for electric service continues to be done by AES Ohio. Participants will see Energy Harbor listed as the supplier on their bill.

Fall 2023

## In this issue:



2 - City charter reviewed



6 - Leaf collection



7 - Riverfront Park update



### Mayor and City Council

Michelle Collins, Mayor 313-6793 Steve Beachler
At-Large 602-6367
<b>Ryan Colvin</b> At-Large
Mike McCabe 4th Ward
<b>Jeff Nestor,</b> Vice Mayor
At-Large
3rd Ward 859-0297 John Stalder
1st Ward 866-7172
Sarah Clark Thacker 2nd Ward
Clerk of Council 847-6456
City Administration offices and Council Chambers are located in the Robert H. Mears, Sr., Miamisburg Civic Center at 10 North First Street.

City Council meetings are held the first and third Tuesdays of each month beginning at 6 p.m. Meetings can be seen live on Spectrum Cable, channel 5.

#### Contact Information

Contact Information		
<b>Mayor</b>		
<b>City Manager</b>		
<b>Engineering</b>		
<b>Finance</b>		
<b>Human Resources</b>		
Income Tax		
Mound Development Corp 865-4462		
Municipal Court		
Parks & Recreation 866-8999 parksandrec@cityofmiamisburg.com		
Planning/Development/		
Inspections		
<b>Prosecutor</b>		
<b>Public Works (</b> <i>water/streets</i> <b>)</b> 847-6635 publicworks@cityofmiamisburg.com		
Water Billing		
Main Switchboard 866-3303		
<b>TDD Only</b>		

#### City Administration

Keith Johnson City Manager
Emily Christian Assistant City Manager
Anthony Covington Asst. to the City Manager $$

Phil Callahan Law Director
Ryan Davis Parks & Recreation Director
Chris Fine Development Director
Gary Giles Public Information Officer
Valerie Griffin Public Works Director
Jennifer Johns Finance Director
Leslie Kohli Human Resources Director
Andrew Rodney City Planner
John Sedlak Police Chief
Bob Stanley City Engineer
Ben Trick Community Development Coord.

Brandon Barnett . Chief, Miami Valley Fire District

## **Public Safety**

EMERGENCY	9-1-1
Non-Emergency Service	225-HELP
	225-(4357)
Non-Emergency TDD	228-HELP
	228-(4357)
Police - General Info	847-6600
Fire - General Info	560-2152

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Civic Focus is published quarterly by the City of Miamisburg to provide valuable public information to residents. Managing Editor: Gary Giles Design: Julie Zolman

Printing: Think Patented

## Charter updates on November ballot



A citizen-led Charter Review
Commission studied the City's governing
document this year, as required by
the Charter itself, and forwarded its
recommendations to City Council
in August. Council accepted the
following recommendations and voted
unanimously to place them on the
ballot for voter consideration on Nov. 8:

<u>Section 3.10 Proposed Amendment</u> -Would add delivery of a special Council Meeting notice to City Council members via a verified email address as an option for the Clerk of Council.

Section 4.13 and 4.15 Proposed

Amendments - Would delete newspaper notices and replace them with notices posted in three public places as notification to the public about zoning public hearings (Section 4.13) and codification ordinances (Section 4.15). Notice on the City's website would remain unchanged.

Section 4.16 Proposed Amendments
- Would delete newspaper notices
and replace them with notices
posted in three public places as
notification to the public about the City
Council's adoption of ordinances or
resolutions and update the Certificate
of Publication attached to each
ordinance or resolution to reflect the

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All phone numbers (937).



## AROUND TOWN



## First City Beautiful Awards announced



The City Beautification Commission (CBC) has selected its first set of recipients for 2023 City Beautiful Awards, which recognize residents and businesses for the quality appearance of their property.

Listed here are the June and July honorees. Awards presented for August will be published in the next issue of *Civic Focus*. The Commission wants to express its appreciation to all the people who submitted nominations this year and encourage even more nominations in 2024. (*Please note: Properties are eligible for the award once every three years.*)

#### **JUNE**

The Clark Home
The Hoode Home
The Dube Home
The Witham Home
The Prenat Home
The Lewis/Dearth Home
The McGuire/Slacker Home
The Blair Home
The Cottrill Home
The Fleethil Home

The Cottrill Home
The Fields Home
The Lenski Home
The Werner Home
The Slattery Home
The Coleman Home
The Stalder Home
The Wilson Home

435 Montgomery Street 1378 Emily Beth Drive 1045 Umbreit Court 412 E. Linden Avenue 1374 Granite Peak Way 1329 Chrisman Landing 722 McGuire Street 1214 McKinlev Court 639 Gamewell Drive 707 Golden Arrow Court 317 Lawrence Avenue 1829 Kathy Lane 1889 Rosina Drive 1380 Belvo Estates Drive 703 Nettie Drive 667 Dunaway Street

#### **Renovation Award**

The Kling Home

#### **Business**

Tim Horton's US Bank

#### JULY

The Brown Home The Berhkimer Home The Ouderkirk Home The Brandenburg Home The Bittenbender Home The Bollinger Home The West Home The Witt Home The Reves Home The Slusher Home The Gebhardt Home The Huelsman Home The John Home The Witt Home The Howard Home The Edguid Home

#### Business

Dairy Queen

510 Jefferson Street

150 Monarch Lane 515 E. Central Avenue

430 Mound Avenue 1209 Warwick Drive 1320 Belvo Estates Drive 541 Dee Avenue 23 N. Fourth Street 804 Maple Street 841 Richard Street 1129 E. Lindsey Avenue 1973 Lord Fitzwalter Drive 1208 Lord Fitzwalter Drive 1904 Robin Hood Drive 1802 Sherwood Forest Drive 2170 Crosley Court 2179 Painter Place 709 Justin Court 2111 Carrington Lane

326 S. Main Street

#### Children's Performing Arts of MSBG

info@cpamburg.com



Young actors from CPAM take the stage this month. A story of love and acceptance between sisters, Frozen JR. expands upon the emotional relationship and journey between Princesses

Anna and Elsa. When faced with danger, the two discover their hidden potential and the powerful bond of sisterhood. With a cast of beloved characters and loaded with magic, adventure and plenty of humor, Frozen JR. is sure to thaw even the coldest heart!

Performances will take place at the Memorial Auditorium on Sixth Street. Show times are Sept. 15 at 7 p.m., Sept. 16 at 2 and 7 p.m. and Sept. 17 at 2 p.m.

Information on all CPAM activities can be found at cpamburg.com

#### Baum Opera House Assn.

Josh Fox, President

Bronwyn Peck, Executive Director (859-8120)

Located in the heart of historic downtown Miamisburg, the Baum Opera House is home of memorable public events, performances, weddings and much more. The following are upcoming public events and activities scheduled at Baum:

#### 200 Club

It isn't too late to join the fun and assist with the continued restoration of the Opera House. Purchase a 200 Club ticket to get entered into raffles each month through the end of 2023. Each ticket costs \$200, and only 200 will be sold. Cash prizes range from \$500-\$1,000. The big jackpot, however, will be for \$8,000 drawn during the week of Turkey Trot in November. Must be age 18 or older to enter.

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< "Water Bill" continued from page 1

previous balance will be subject to disconnection, and a delinquent fee of \$40 must be paid to resume services.

#### Sprinkler meters

Instead of receiving a separate bill twice a year for sprinkler accounts, usage will be reflected on each monthly bill as a separate line item and amount. From December through May, there will not be any minimum charge if there is no sprinkler usage during those months. Actual amounts used during this period, however, will be billed. From June through November, a minimum rate will be applied.

For billing inquiries, please email waterbilling@ cityofmiamisburg.com or call 847-6460. ★

< "Charter" continued from page 2

posting of the notices in three public places. Notice on the City's website would remain unchanged.

<u>Section 9.09 Proposed Amendment</u> - In instances when the City Council refers an ordinance or resolution to the electors for a vote of the public, this amendment would delete the newspaper notices and replace with notices posted in three public places.

The Charter Review Commission was comprised of residents David Best, Wayne Gilkison, Starr Markworth and Carissa Ross. Assistant City Manager Emily Christian and Law Director Phil Callahan served as advisors to the group.

#### Yaskawa growing

One of Miamisburg's largest employers is expanding.

Yaskawa America, a robotics manufacturer, has begun construction on a 190,000-square-foot addition to its facility located near Austin Landing. The \$22 million project will nearly double the size of the company's production space and result in 70 additional employees.

Miamisburg City Council approved a five-year job creation tax credit for Yaskawa, and economic assistance was also provided through grants from JobsOhio (\$300,000) and the Montgomery County ED/GE program (\$350,000).



## Miamisburg Library Notes

Need quality, comfortable meeting space? The Community Room at the Miamisburg branch of Dayton Metro Library can now be reserved at no charge for public use during library operating hours. The room is also available after hours for a flat rate of \$200. To check availability or make a reservation, call 463-BOOK (2665).

The Miamisburg branch is pleased to provide the following sample of program information for fall:

#### **Adults**

#### ESL Classes - NEW!

Sept. 16, Oct. 14, 28, Nov. 25, 10:30 a.m. to noon

Meeting an identified need in the community, this is a new offering that teaches English as a Second Language.

#### Breakfast Book Club - NEW!

First Wednesday of the month, 10 to 11 a.m.

A new morning gathering that provides friendly conversation, donuts, coffee and tea. Upcoming selections include:

October – "Lavender House" by Lev AC Rosen November – "The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue" by Victoria Schwab

#### Star City Book Chat

Fourth Monday of the month, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Books or audio books are available for each upcoming selection:

September – "Maybe You Should Talk to Someone" by Lori Gottlieb

October - "The Wrong Family" by Tarryn Fisher November - "The Paris Library" by Janet Charles

#### Estate Planning

Nov. 7, 6 p.m.

Attendees will hear a broad perspective on the basics of planning, such as wills, powers of attorney, trusts and probate tax laws.

#### Teens

#### **PRISM**

Second

Thursday of the month, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

This time provides a positive, safe space without judgement for teens who share a common vision of equality. There will be time for discussion, learning, snacks and crafts.

#### Teen Hangout

Thursdays, 4 to 5:30 p.m.

The Community Room is reserved for teens to socialize, get creative, play games or just chill.

#### All ages/families

#### Dayton Ghosts and Legends

Oct. 3, 6:30 p.m.

Local author Sara Kaushal delves into chilling tales of the supernatural in the Dayton area.

#### Children

#### Reading Buddies

(age preschool thru grade 3)

Saturdays, 11 a.m.

In this program, trained volunteers spend time with any child who needs more reading practice. These Reading Buddies can read aloud to a child, listen to a child read or both.

#### Alebrije-Inspired Art

(grades 1-6)

Sept. 27, 4:30 p.m.

Celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month by learning about Alebrijes, Mexico folk art sculptures, then creating one of your own.

Stop by soon and meet new manager Cindy Woodruff. The Miamisburg branch library is located at 545 E. Linden Avenue. For more information about these and other programs, visit daytonmetrolibrary.org. Be sure to also follow Dayton Metro on social media. \*



## Stay vigilant for online and phone scams

Thousands of Americans fall victim each year to online and telephone scams. Victims of these crimes often lose a significant amount of money, compromise their personal and financial information, and are sometimes so embarrassed that they refuse to admit they have been victimized. Citizens should always be on alert for potential scams, but especially so during seasons where there is an uptick in spending and online purchasing.

The FBI reports that in 2021 the most common types of holiday scams were non-delivery and non-payment, with a combined estimated cost of around \$337 million.

One way to avoid non-payment scams, or scams in which you are the seller, is to work

through an established, reputable online marketplace that processes and clears credit card payments. This allows you to receive the buyer's money before you ship or deliver your item. If you happen to be selling an item in person, be sure to meet and make the sale in a public place and, again, consider using an app or some other way to electronically transfer the payment. This safeguards against things such as counterfeit money or stolen checks.

To avoid non-delivery scams, do your best to ensure that you are making purchases from a reliable source. It pays to read online reviews and feedback ratings. It might be best to avoid making big purchases from sellers with no history or a number of negative reviews. Helpful guidelines include:

- Be wary of continuing any transaction that is simple to start and keeps getting progressively more complicated.
- Avoid paying for anything with a direct wire transfer.
- Always assume that any seller who suggests you send them a pre-paid gift card with the PIN attached as payment is trying to steal from you.

In general, keep in mind that if something seems too good to be true, it almost certainly is. It is always better to walk away from a good deal than to eventually realize you have made a very expensive mistake. \*

## Fire Prevention Week in October



Fire Prevention Week is coming up Oct. 8-14, and the 2023 theme focuses on cooking safety.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Predictably, unattended cooking is the leading cause of these fires and related deaths.

The Miami Valley Fire District strongly encourages citizens to follow these safety tips while in the kitchen:

 Always keep a close eye on the food being cooked. For foods with longer cooking times, such as those that are simmering or baking, set a timer to help monitor them carefully.

- Clear the cooking area of combustible items and anything that can burn such as dish towels, oven mitts, food packaging and paper towels.
- Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove and keep a lid nearby when cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan and turn off the burner.
- Create a kid and pet-free zone of at least three feet (one meter) around the cooking area.

#### Fall safety

The change in seasons to fall brings a unique set of safety considerations. With that in mind, the Fire District presents the following essential fire and EMS guidelines to help ensure a healthy autumn for all:

Home fires - As temperatures cool, many individuals begin using heating appliances. Remember to keep flammable materials, such as clothing and curtains, at a safe distance from space heaters or fireplaces. Also, test smoke detectors, change their batteries if needed and develop a fire escape plan with your family.

Outdoors - Use caution when enjoying recreational fires. Always maintain a safe distance from structures, ensure a fire extinguisher is readily available, and never leave fires unattended. Be mindful of wind conditions that can cause flames to spread.

Halloween - Halloween features excitement, costumes and decorations. Ensure costumes are made of flameresistant materials and are highly visible. Place decorations away from heat sources and lighted candles. For trick-or-treaters, use flashlights, wear reflective clothing and inspect candy before consuming.

Yard maintenance - Leaf raking and yard work are common tasks during the season. Clear away debris, leaves and other potential fire hazards from around your home. Be cautious when using power tools and follow manufacturer's guidelines to prevent accidents.

Driving - Autumn weather can be unpredictable, so adjust your driving habits accordingly. Watch for wet leaves on the road, which can be as slippery as ice. Slow down, maintain a safe distance from other

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## STREET BEAT STOP



## Curbside leaf collection begins October 30

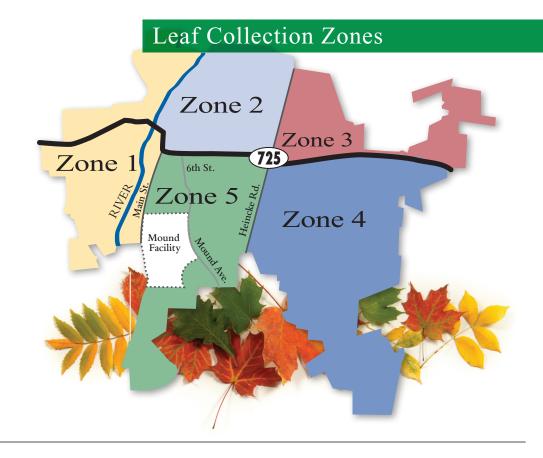
The Public Works Department will begin leaf collection on Monday, Oct. 30 and continue through Dec. 22. Residents having leaves after this date are encouraged to use composting or mulching as disposal methods. Although it is less environmentally friendly, leaves also may be bagged at that time and placed out with regular refuse for weekly collection.

Crews will once again use the zone collection system in which the City is divided into five collection zones. All leaf crews begin in Zone 1 and remain there until every street is passed once. Crews then move numerically through the remaining zones and work extended hours as needed during heavy collection periods.

A map of the zones is provided at right. Residents who wish to check which zone crews are working can call the City's Public Works Hotline 24-hours-a-day at 847-6454. To assist crews, please follow these guidelines:

- Rake leaves into the street gutters or as close as possible to the roadway, but be careful not to place them inside or on top of catch basins.
- Bagged leaves will not be dumped or collected by leaf collection crews.
- Since leaf pickup creates a fine dust in the air, plan to wash cars or hang laundry outdoors AFTER collection has occurred in your neighborhood.

- Make sure leaves to be collected are not under, between or around parked cars.
- Rake leaves as they fall, so they are ready for pickup when crews arrive.
- Keep grass clippings, tree branches and brush separated from leaves. Materials other than leaves clog the vacuum units and will not be collected.



< "Electric" continued from page 1

purchase a commodity, such as energy. MVCC hosted three open houses in July to present key information about the current initiative and answer questions from the public.

"This process created a significant buying pool of consumers with which to negotiate rates," City Manager Keith Johnson said. "It is projected that participating residents will save several hundred dollars per year with this plan."

The approved contract with Energy Harbor is for a 28-month period.

#### History lesson

Miamisburg voters gave the City the

authority to participate in aggregation programs about 20 years ago. Shortly thereafter, a program was made available for one winter heating season for natural gas service. When the market later stabilized, the program was discontinued because there was no substantial savings available through aggregation.





#### Holiday Service Schedule

**Thursday, Nov. 23:** City offices closed and no refuse collection on Thanksgiving Day.

**Friday, Nov. 24:** City offices closed. Rumpke will collect refuse for Thursday routes.

**Saturday, Nov. 25:** Rumpke collection of Friday routes. ★



## Roadway improvements completed near Kroger

Construction work on and around the Kroger site on Heincke Road is concluding. While the company recently opened its new fuel center and additional parking, the following related infrastructure improvements are also being completed:

- The length of the westbound right turn lane on State Rte. 725 was extended, and the turning radius at that northeast corner of the Heincke intersection was improved.
- General improvements to the site entryways, which included the reopening of the long-time entry/exit for traffic at the Mary Francis Court signalized intersection.
- Several large areas of Heincke are being milled and re-paved due to their deteriorated condition. That complete section of Heincke will be resurfaced after the completion of a water main replacement project currently being planned.

In other roadway updates:

#### Riverview Avenue

Engineering design is complete, and construction bid documents are being

prepared for the S. Riverview Avenue roadway improvement project. Work will include storm drainage improvements, sidewalk, curb and gutter installation and asphalt repaving of S. Riverview from Linden Avenue to Lower Miamisburg Road. The City is currently in the process of contacting the owners of property that will be affected by construction to discuss work agreements and easements. Work is expected to begin in 2024.

#### Miamisburg-Springboro Road

Construction on Miamisburg-Springboro Road related to the Aberdeen subdivision is complete. Work included installation of a northbound right drop turn lane and widening to accommodate a southbound left turn lane at the main subdivision entrance. Residential home construction continues in the final phase of the development.

#### State Rte. 741

Roadway improvements were completed on State Rte. 741 north of Habitat Boulevard at the Chamberlin Crossing subdivision entrance. Widening included installation of a northbound right drop turn lane into the subdivision. Engineering design is currently underway on roadway improvements that would provide future entryway road access at the east side of the existing Habitat Boulevard signalized intersection. Construction will be done in the future as the subdivision approaches final build-out.

#### Sidewalk, Curb and Gutter

As Civic Focus went to press, crews from RA Miller Construction mobilized and began work on the City's annual sidewalk, curb, and gutter program. Areas of concrete on this year's four streets (Elwyn Place, Evans Avenue, Lea Castle Drive and Merry John Drive) have been marked for removal and replacement. Overall completion of work, including site restoration, is expected by the end of the year.

#### I-75/State Rte. 725 interchange

Plans have been revised for this previously announced project by the Ohio Department of Transportation. While ODOT still intends to implement safety upgrades at the ramp areas, the major redesign of the interchange has been removed from the plan. Work is scheduled to begin in 2024. Questions on any of these projects may be directed to the Engineering Department at 847-6531. \*\*

## Riverfront Park update



The Riverfront Park Improvement Project remains on track for completion next spring.

Work during the summer featured earth moving and infrastructure work on the site. Parks and Recreation Director Ryan Davis said completion of those aspects will trigger the beginning of construction this fall on some major elements of the future park, such as the amphitheater and large playground area.

Large parking lots on the north and south ends of the park were paved in August, opening up new spots for downtown visitors. Stay up to date at PlayMiamisburg.com/projects. \*

#### Finance Award

The City of Miamisburg has again earned the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. This award is presented by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada and is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. \*

< "Baum" continued from page 3

#### **Monthly Euchre Tournaments**

The next editions are Sept. 16 and Oct. 7. Cost is \$20 per person. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., with games beginning at 7 p.m. Must be age 18 or older to enter.

#### MMA Adventure Bingo Nov. 4, 1 p.m.

Come out and support the Miamisburg Merchants Association at this event.

The Baum Opera House is located at 15 S. First Street. Look for us on Facebook or at baumoperahouse.org. ★

### ECRWSS Residential Customer



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vehicles and be alert to changing road conditions.

Health and wellness - As temperatures drop, it is essential to prioritize your health and wellness. Dress appropriately for the weather, including wearing layers, and ensure your home heating systems are properly maintained to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

EMS awareness - In case of emergencies, call 9-1-1 immediately. Provide accurate information to the dispatcher and follow their instructions until help arrives. Ensure your house number is clearly visible to aid emergency responders in locating your residence quickly.

Safety is a collective effort. Look out for your neighbors and report any potential safety hazards to the appropriate

authorities.

The Miami Valley Fire District is committed to the well-being of our community throughout the fall season and beyond. Questions about any of this material may be directed to District headquarters at 560-2152. \*

## New Faces



**Jen Brandt**Parks & Recreation Dept.



**Emily Reichert**Parks & Recreation Dept.



Michael Thomas
Parks & Recreation Dept



## Retirement



Lane Hughes
Public Works Department