



Tippecanews

A monthly summary of municipal affairs and activities



Be Prepared for Power of Summer Storms

Summer can bring a variety of weather. From tornadoes and thunderstorms to wind shears and flash flooding, severe weather can change rapidly and have ramifications on the power industry.

So what do you do in the case of a summer power outage?

Firstly, every family should have a disaster kit on hand in case of an emergency. Disaster kits should contain nonperishable food, drinking water, flashlight, battery-operated radio or television and extra batteries. Kits should be customized to meet the needs of your household and reevaluated at least once a year.

If you own a generator, make sure it is rated for the amount of power you will use and connected properly to avoid overloading or stressing the unit. If you own a portable generator, don't connect it to your home's electrical system. Use a heavy-duty exterior-use extension cord to connect your appliances and equipment directly to the outlets in the generator. If you have a stationery generator, make sure a licensed electrician has installed a UL-approved transfer switch to prevent generator power from feeding into the power lines and harming unsuspecting line-workers and others.

Remember to never run a generator inside your home or garage, or near entryways or open windows. Per the American Red Cross, the primary hazards to avoid when using a generator are carbon monoxide poisoning from the engine exhaust, electric shock or electrocution, and fire. Be sure to properly and diligently follow the directions supplied with the generator.

If there is a downed line outside your home, you should consider it energized unless you can clearly see both ends are cut. If a line is down and you don't know how to contact the power company, call 911.

If your meter comes loose after a storm, do not tamper with it yourself. Not only is it illegal, but it's extremely dangerous.

If your refrigerator was without power during an outage, make sure to throw out any unsafe food. You should discard any food that has been exposed to temperatures 40°F for two or more hours. When in doubt, throw it out.

And remember, if you're without power on a hot day, make sure to drink plenty of water whether you feel thirsty or not. ●

2016 Miami County Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off

In 2016, the Household Hazardous Waste drop-off program will run weekly, from April - October, every Wednesday from 9 am - 1 pm at the Transfer Station. Please note that there are costs to residents for this program of \$1/pound. They are located at 2200 North County Road 25A in Troy. Hazardous waste generated from any commercial/industrial process will NOT be accepted at these events.

For more information contact Miami County Sanitary Engineering at (937)440-3488. ●

Memorial Pavers

The City of Tipp City is currently accepting orders for Pet/Memorial Stones. Bricks will be installed in the Kyle Dog Park, but aren't just for dogs. Stones can be purchased for cats, fish, snakes, rabbits, hamsters, or any other beloved pet. The tan bricks are 6" X 6" and are available for \$20 per paver. Bricks may contain up to 3 lines of print, 20 characters per line, including spaces. Applications are available at the Tipp City Government Center, Tipp Monroe Community Services or online at www.tippcityohio.gov. Checks are to be made payable to the City of Tipp City. Questions regarding this program can be directed to the Service Department at (937)667-6305. ●

Boards and Commissions Vacancies

The City of Tipp City currently has openings on the following boards:

- *Board of Zoning Appeals* - 1 opening
- *Planning Board* - 1 opening
- *Restoration and Architectural Board of Review* - 1 opening

If you are interested in serving or wish to learn more about any of these boards, please visit our website www.tippcityohio.gov and go to the City Government section. You may also contact the Clerk of Council at (937)667-8425 or via email at batesj@tippcity.net for additional information. ●

Tips for a Water-Wise Yard and Garden

During the rainy spring season it seems odd to “worry” about a drying garden problem, but not too long from now (two months?) it will be a typical hot, dry, Ohio summer, and we will be concerned about the lawn and garden getting too dry. Landscape watering is one of the biggest users of water, but there are a number of easy ways to save on the water bill and still maintain a beautiful yard and garden:

- 1. Install a rain barrel and catch water from the downspouts.** Not only is rainwater free, it is not chlorinated and therefore a better option for plants. Rain barrels have become more popular in recent years, come in a variety of sizes with lids to prevent mosquitoes, and are easy to use. Most home improvement places carry them.
- 2. Aim your downspouts toward the lawn (or a rain barrel), not the pavement.** Many homes come with the downspouts aimed onto driveways, or straight into underground pipes and out to the street or storm drains; this shoots the water quickly away from garden or lawn and it causes “shock loading” of the storm drain system and the rivers.
- 3. Add compost or similar organic matter to your soil.** Adding at least one inch per year enhances the water-holding capacity and improves soil texture and composition.
- 4. Plan ahead of time.** Group your plantings into high, moderate, and low water-using zones; take advantage of your yard’s natural characteristics.
- 5. Apply mulch to the garden surface.** Mulches reduce water evaporation, erosion and weed growth while enhancing the look of your garden.

6. Mow up your leaves and lawn debris and leave it on the lawn.

While it may require two mowings to make the leaves and pruning debris small enough to fall in amongst the leaves of grass, it will add “compost value” to the soil surface and thereby assist in retaining scarce rainfall during the hot summer months.

7. Water before 10 AM. Watering in the heat of the day means more evaporation and less water for the lawn. Afternoon or evening watering may also promote lawn diseases.

8. Minimize the addition of fertilizers and pesticides. Extra fertilizer increases water consumption and phosphorous-containing products that run off into the storm drains where they feed the weeds in our rivers. Check how much your lawn needs; many home improvement stores carry soils self-test kits for under \$20, less than the cost of the wasted fertilizer! When fertilizing, take care to avoid throwing any on sidewalks, curbs, or streets because all of it will go straight into the creeks and rivers with the next rainfall.

9. Consider the best type of grass and plants for your yard. Some grass types need more water than others. Fescues tend to require less. Ask your grass seed supplier which choices will need less water and maintenance. There are also grass types that need less mowing while still looking good.

10. Reduce the size of your mowed grass areas. Consider using more low-maintenance area plantings of perennials or groundcovers. Let the hedges and border planting spaces get a little wider and reduce the area to be mowed. Choose water-thrifty perennials that are native to Ohio. Use low-maintenance area plantings and groundcovers to round your corners to make for faster mowing and less trimming.

11. Mow high. Set your mower blade at three inches, or higher. Taller grass helps prevent weed growth (and the use

of weed killers!). Additional grass height shades the surface of the soil better and thus reduces its temperature and the evaporation of water from the soil in mid-summer. It may seem counterintuitive, but taller grass needs less mowing, partly because of it having fewer weeds and because taller grass makes the unevenness of the surface is less obvious. Try it!

12. Aerate your lawn every few years. Aerating is a simple process that extracts soil cores and strews them over the lawn surface to stimulate grass root growth, enhance oxygen levels, build surface loam, and loosen soil to increase the penetration of water and nutrients. Aerators can be rented at lawn and hardware stores.

By the way, all of these practices are better for the streams because they reduce lawn water loss, shock stream loading, and fertilizer runoff. •



IMPORTANT CITY CONTACTS

**Automated Attendant/
Direct Connect 669-TIPP**

**Police, Fire and EMS
(EMERGENCY) 9-1-1**

**Miami County Communications
Center (Non-Emergency)
440-9911**

Police (Non-Emergency) 667-3112

**Fire and EMS (Non-Emergency)
667-9199 or 667-1680**

Utility Billing 667-8424

Planning/Zoning 667-6305

**Engineering and Utilities
667-6305**

**Refuse Collection (Waste
Management Inc.) (866) 695-3433**

**Service Center (Parks and Streets)
667-8234**

City Manager’s Office 667-8425

Clerk of Council 667-8425

**Construction Notice Update
667-6293**