

# Tippecanoe news

A monthly summary of municipal affairs and activities in Tipp City, Ohio

## Holiday Lighting and Decorating Safety Tips

**A**ccording to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission approximately 12,800 people are treated each year in hospital emergency rooms from injuries related to holiday lights and decorations including falls, cuts, and shocks. Additionally, an estimated 300 home fires involve Christmas trees annually.

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Use only holiday lights with an Underwriters Laboratory (UL) safety certification label.
- To prevent short circuit and overloads, make sure light sets are fused. UL listed sets rated 120V are always fused.
- Replace any string of light with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of mini light sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in-bulbs. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of LED strands to connect.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not for both.
- Ensure that all outdoor lighting and equipment are certified for outdoor use and that they are plugged into ground fault circuit interrupter outlets.
- Avoid stringing holiday lights along aluminum siding, which can conduct electricity.
- Always stay clear of power lines.
- Fasten holiday lights securely to buildings and trees to prevent damage from wind.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Always test the lights on a non-flammable surface for 15 minutes. If they start to melt, smoke, or overheat, throw the string away.
- If using a live Christmas tree, make sure it is watered, and prevent the lights from coming into direct contact with the branches.
- If using an artificial tree, make sure it is made from fire retardant material.
- Never use lights on metallic trees.
- Do not exceed the manufacturer's guidelines on how many strings of lights can be safely connected together.
- Turn off lights while you are sleeping or away from home. Consider using an automatic timer.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.
- Never put real candles on live or artificial trees. ●

## TAX FACTS Did You Know???

**T**he Tipp City income tax code requires all Tipp City residents age 18 and older to file an annual income tax return. Residents who are 16 or 17 years of age are also required to file if their income is not subject to Tipp City tax withholding by their employer, or if their income is subject to a municipal income tax at a rate less than 1.5 percent. Tipp City residents who are retired, permanently disabled, or have any other form of disability that keeps them from working, can be exempted from filing the annual return by completing a Certification Form. Certification Forms are available at the Government Center in the Income Tax Department or online at [www.tippcityohio.gov](http://www.tippcityohio.gov). Questions can be directed to the Tipp City Department of Taxation at [crosss@tippcity.net](mailto:crosss@tippcity.net) or by calling (937)667-8426 Monday through Friday from 8 am to 5 pm. ●



## Board Openings

The City is seeking interested citizens to serve on the following Boards:

**Board of Tax Appeals**

**Planning Board**

**Board of Zoning Appeals**

**Restoration & Architectural Board of Review**

**Parks Board**

**Tree Board**

Citizens wishing to be considered for appointment for any of the Boards listed must complete an application and submit to the Clerk of Council by December 22, 2017. Applications and a complete description of the boards are available online at [www.tippcityohio.gov](http://www.tippcityohio.gov) or the Government Center located at 260 S. Garber Drive, Tipp City. ●

## Home Safety Reminders

**H**eroine and the opioid addiction is a problem we hear about in the news on a daily basis. Most people realize the area around Dayton, Ohio is one of the country's epicenters for this crisis, but what a lot of people don't think about is all of the other crime that accompanies the problem. Property crimes and even some violent crimes are frequently committed to pay for the habits of those addicted to these drugs.

Tipp City is a very trusting community and that makes us a great place to live, but in some ways it also makes us an easy target for someone looking to steal the things we all work so hard for. Desperate people will do desperate things, so here are a few tips to help keep both you and your property safer.

- Remove valuables from your car whenever possible. If you must leave valuables in the car, keep them out of sight
- Lock your car doors when you are both in and out of your car
- Lock the doors to your house – even when you are home (Yes, people will walk right into your house)
- Know your neighbors
- Be aware of your surroundings and people who seem out of place
- Report suspicious people and events to the police department

It may seem silly that such simple things can keep you from becoming a victim, but most drug users are looking for easy targets and do not want to draw attention to themselves. Until a way is found to curb this terrible heroin/opioid epidemic, let's all do our part to keep from becoming crime victims. ●

## Government Center Closures

In observance of Christmas Day, the Government Center will be closed on Monday, December 25, 2017. The Government Center will also be closed on Monday, January 1, 2018 in observance of New Year's Day. We wish you and yours a wonderful Holiday Season. ●

## Holiday Trash Pickup Schedule

**R**umpke will not provide service on the following holidays. During the weeks that these holidays occur, collection will be delayed one day.

- New Year's Day
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving Day and the Friday after Thanksgiving
- Christmas Day

Service will occur as scheduled on all other holidays. Rumpke will retrieve Christmas tree refuse during the first two weeks of January with your regular refuse pickup. ●

## Safety Spotlight

**E**lectric space heaters are the only unvented space heaters safe for inside use. All others need to be vented for use in home or used outside the home in a ventilated area. In selecting an electric heater, buy only a UL-approved unit with an automatic tip-over shut-off switch. Keep it on a level surface away from foot traffic. It should also be located at least three feet away from household combustibles such as drapes or bedding. ●

## City Council Opening

**T**he City of Tipp City is seeking applicants to fill a vacancy on Council. Applicants must be electors of the City of Tipp City. Council meetings are held the first and third Mondays of each month. Interested citizens should submit a resume and letter of interest to Janice M. Bates MMC, Clerk of Council, 260 S. Garber Dr., Tipp City, Ohio 45371. ●

## Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is once again up at the Government Center and is ready to receive donations of hats, gloves, underwear and socks for local children. Please stop by and add something to our tree. Your generosity at this time of giving is appreciated. ●



## Important City Contacts

**Automated Attendant/**  
**Direct Connect**  
(937)669-TIPP

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

**Miami County Communications Center (Non-Emergency)**  
(937)440-9911

**Police (Non-Emergency)**  
(937)667-3112

**Fire and EMS (Non-Emergency)**  
(937)667-9199 or (937)667-1680

**Utility Billing**  
(937)667-8424

**Planning/Zoning**  
(937)667-6305

**Tax Department**  
(937)667-8426

**Engineering and Utilities**  
(937)667-6305

**Residential Refuse Collection (Rumpke)**  
(866)522-3712

**Service Center (Parks and Streets)**  
(937)667-8234

**City Manager's Office**  
(937)667-8425

**Clerk of Council**  
(937)667-8425

**Construction Notice Update**  
(937)667-6293