

Tippecanoe news

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

Holiday Lighting and Decorating Safety Tips

According 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. ●



Safety Spotlight

Electric 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. ●

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Holiday Trash Pick-Up Schedule

Rumpke will not provide service on the following holidays. During the weeks that these holidays occur, collection will be delayed one day for those serviced the day of the holiday and after the holiday.

- New Year's Day
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- 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. ●

Giving Tree

In light of COVID-19, the Government Center has made the difficult decision not to install the Giving Tree in 2020. We hope to bring this giving opportunity back in 2021. Until then, we ask that you make donations to the charity of your choice. ●

Government Center Closures

In observance of Christmas Day, the Government Center will be closed on Friday, December 25, 2020. The Government Center will also be closed on Friday, January 1, 2021 in observance of New Year's Day. We wish you and yours a wonderful Holiday Season. ●

Board Openings

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

Board of Tax Appeals

The Board meets as needed to hear appeals filed by citizens concerning tax assessments. Members are appointed by City Council for one-year terms expiring December 31st.

Board of Zoning Appeals

The Board of Appeals shall have the appropriate powers and duties as prescribed by Section 153.25 and 153.26 of the Flood Damage Prevention Regulations, section 154.052(M), 154.078(H), 154.103, and 154.175 through 154.180 of the Zoning Ordinance and such other duties as may be required or prescribed by the City Council.

Community Reinvestment Area Housing Council

The Community Reinvestment Area Housing Council shall make annual inspections of properties within the community reinvestment area for which an exemption has been granted under R.C. Section 3735.67. The Community Reinvestment Area Housing Council shall also hear appeals under R.C. Section 3735.70.

Planning Board

In accordance with Charter Section 8.02, the Planning Board shall make recommendations to the City Manager and Council on all matters affecting the physical development of the municipality, shall be consulted on the comprehensive plan and the implementation thereof as provided in Charter Sections 8.03 and 8.04 and shall exercise all other responsibilities as may be provided by this Charter or by ordinance or resolution for the protection and improvement of the health, morals, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the City. Planning Board Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm.

Restoration and Architectural Board of Review

The Restoration Board shall have the powers and duties as provided in Section 154.052 (H), 154.052(K), 154.052(L), and any other power or duty delegated by any other sections of the Tipp City Code of Ordinances, or any other power or duty delegated by the City Council.

Appeals from decisions made by the Restoration Board shall be made to the Board of Appeals in accordance with the standards of section 154.052(M) and section 254.151 through 154.155 of the Tipp City Zoning Code. Restoration Board Meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm.

Tree Board

It shall be the responsibility of the City Tree Board to study, investigate, and counsel; develop or update annually, and administer a written plan for the care, preservation, pruning, planting, replanting, removal, or disposition of trees and shrubs in parks, along streets, and in other public areas. The plan will be presented annually to the City Council, and upon their acceptance and approval shall constitute the official comprehensive city tree plan. The Board, when requested by City Council, shall consider, investigate, make finding, report, and recommend upon any special matter of question coming within the scope of its work.

Citizens wishing to be considered for appointment for any of the Boards listed must complete an application and submit to Janice Bates, Clerk of Council by December 18, 2020. Applications and a complete description of the boards are available online at www.tippcityohio.gov or the Government Center located at 260 S. Garber Drive, Tipp City. ●

What is Stormwater Runoff?

Stormwater (or polluted runoff) is rain or melting snow that flows over the ground. In urban or developed areas, stormwater runs over pavement and parking lots, picking up oil and other pollutants before flowing into a nearby river or stream. In more natural areas including forests and wetlands, stormwater can soak into the ground, or be stored and filtered.

Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants. Anything that enters a storm sewer is discharged untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water.

Polluted stormwater runoff can have many adverse effects on people, plants, animals, and fish.

- Sediment can cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to grow, and can destroy aquatic habitats.
- Excess nutrients can cause algae to die. When algae dies, they sink to the bottom and decompose, which removes oxygen from the water. Fish and other aquatic organisms can't exist in water with low dissolved oxygen levels.
- Bacteria and other pathogens can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards.
- When washed into waterbodies, debris such as plastic. ●



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