



1454 Rome Corners Road, Galena, OH 43021

## WINTER NEWSLETTER 2024

He didn't see his shadow. Early Spring!



### Noteworthy

#### **Offices Closed**

2/19 - President's Day

#### **Township Meetings:**

Trustee - 2nd Monday  
Zoning Commission - 1st Thursday  
Board of Zoning Appeals - 3rd Wednesday



*dates are subject to change check our [website](#) for the most current information*

**Please note: The March Zoning Board Meeting will be held on February 29th.**

Congratulations to newly-elected Trustee Paul Disantis who was sworn in at the December 11, 2023 Trustee Meeting. Trustee Disantis has served since his appointment in February of 2022; his current term extends through 2027. He continues to serve with Trustees Rod Myers and Mike Dattilo.



#### **Daylight Savings**

Sunday, **March 10th at 2AM**. Don't forget to push those clocks ahead by one hour.

**Your local Fire Department of BST&G recommends checking all fire and carbon monoxide detector to make sure they are in working order and replacing their batteries**



All Berkshire Township Public meetings are being streamed live on Youtube. You can tune in live or check out the video anytime after in our library.

[Link to Live Stream](#)

The **First Day of Spring** is Tuesday **March 19th**

### Township Highlights

#### **Neighborhood Strategies to spearhead comprehensive plan**

Berkshire Township has chosen Neighborhood Strategies to guide the Township and the Strategic Planning Committee in the review and implementation of a new comprehensive plan and zoning code. The committee is

comprised of members from each the Zoning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals and hand-selected community members representing the diversity of our township. The last comprehensive plan was finalized in 2017 and as anyone in this community knows a lot has changed and continues to change in our township. In 2017 there were just under 3500 residents and that number is over 6000 today. Growth and change are things we cannot change but with good planning we can help to keep the integrity of the Berkshire Township we know and love while striving to add to the community in a way that we will be proud of in the future.



Elford Construction who won the bid for our **Berkshire Township Maintenance Building Expansion** will break ground on March 18th. The new addition will be approximately 4,800 square feet and will include a drive through wash bay to aid in the upkeep of vehicles. The building will allow all equipment to be stored inside which in turn extends longevity and reduces chance for theft and vandalism. Other features will be a dedicated breakroom and file storage



At the January 8th Trustee Meeting there was a 3-0 vote approving the future **Berkshire Township Park Complex**. The open area across the parking lot from the township hall, will soon be home to a three-season pavilion, pickleball, tennis and basketball courts, inclusive playground and upgraded walking path. This will all be accented by the wildflower fields and nature path that were planted last fall and should be in bloom this Spring.

## Understanding Zoning Terminology

When filling out any of basic zoning applications you may run across terms that are not that familiar. Likewise, when you call in regarding certain road issues terms get referenced that may be confusing. Here are a few terms clarified:

**Right-of Way** - Corridors of land of varying dimensions (typically 30 - 150 wide) that accommodate civil services such as electric lines or storm drains.

**Easement** - A legal agreement with a landowner that permits access to the property. This may be to construct and operate facilities.

Easements and right-of-way are property rights, and recorded easement agreements are part of the effected real estate's title. Most are perpetual meaning they affect and apply to the new owner when a property is sold and transferred. Individuals should review these items before purchasing property or deciding to construct on their current property.

According to the Delaware County Engineer's website. "***Delaware County requires that any person, contractor, agency, company, utility, etc. wishing to perform work of any kind within the public right-of-way (R/W) of Delaware County and Township roads or easements obtain a permit before performing the work. This shall include the installation of driveways, drive pipes, the construction or reconstruction of road ditches, the installation or repair of utilities, road closures, etc, and/or occupying said right-of-way or easements for any purpose whatsoever***"

## No Parking Resolution

During the first Trustee meeting of 2024, on January 8th, the trustees approved a resolution to prohibit parking and to approve erection of signage stating such on Abby Way between North Galena Road and Lyle Court.



## ODOT/Delaware County Engineer's Office Road Construction



Last year's Delaware County Roads Construction Guide highlighted two projects on the plan within Berkshire Township. Both projects were delayed but are slated to be on the schedule for Spring/Summer

First up will entail the widening of US 36/SR 37 and Galena Roads with left and right turn lanes and a new traffic signal.

The second; and larger more involved project, is to replace the bridge carrying US 36/SR 37 over I-71. This bridge project is a preservation project to keep the bridge safe and passable for the public. The new tentative start will be this Spring with the project to be completed by year end 2024.

The full list of projects posted to date can be found on this link to the [The Engineer's website](#)

## Vote 2024



## Primary Elections 2024

The 2024 Presidential Primary will be held on Tuesday March 19th. Polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. February 20 is the deadline to register to vote if you'd like to participate in the Presidential Primary. In person absentee voting will begin on February 21st.

Anyone who will be 18 by the Presidential Election on November 5, 2024 may vote. This means those 17 years old may vote if they will be 18 by the November 5th date. If you are not registered to vote you can do so at The Delaware County Board of Elections, any public library, public high schools and a variety of other venues. You may also register online. Please check the [Delaware County Board of Elections page](#) for further information. This is a partisan primary where voters choose the candidates they prefer for a political party to nominate in the general election. In addition to the presidential primary race there will be other items for the voters consideration. The board of elections is expected to have sample ballots by the week of February 5th.

## It's Tax Season

### Filing you 2023 Tax forms

January 31st is the typical deadline for receiving your tax documents. If you receive via mail you may see those documents a few days later. If you don't receive your appropriate forms check to see if they are available on line or contact your employer or financial institution to inquire.

There are many options for help when preparing your taxes. Software programs such as TurboTax will walk you through your tax preparation and even offer online chats for questions and advice on

filing correctly. If your taxes are straight forward and you don't want to buy special programs, a great resource is online at [www.delawarelibrary.org/taxes](http://www.delawarelibrary.org/taxes). This site has all the most up to date information on an easy-to-use webpage including links to IRS Free File and Ohio Department of Taxation I-File sites. Additional help can be found at AARP Foundation Tax-Aide at the Delaware County Library Orange Branch on rotating Fridays starting February 9th offering free tax preparation assistance. Call (614) 450-2529 to schedule an appointment.

Watch for scammers. The IRS will never initiate contact with taxpayers by email, text message or social media to request personal or financial information. Visit [www.IRS.gov](http://www.IRS.gov) to learn further red flags of a scam and how to know if its the IRS really contacting you.

## Berkshire Township does not have an income tax.

While Berkshire Township does not have an income tax, it does have two Joint Economic Development Districts (JEDDs). A JEDD is an agreement with municipality and a township that allows the township to administer the municipality's income tax over a designated area. The city of Delaware collects the tax for JEDDs on our behalf should you work within its area. No resident currently resides within a JEDD. The City can be reached at 740-203-1229 or you can visit their [website here](#).

Any specific questions should be directed to those who complete your tax returns.

## Local/Community Events

### Delaware Black History Month Celebrations

Mainstreet Delaware hosted a Black History Month scavenger hunt this past Friday. If you missed the event, you can still have fun by grabbing a copy and working the hunt on your own. You can [download here](#) and enjoy a fun filled learning stroll through downtown Delaware.

The Delaware County Historical Society will host Understanding black history through black music part 2 on Thursday, February 22nd from 7-8:30 p.m. This event builds on last years event, is free to the public but does require a ticket. [Details at this link](#)

SourcePoint will host their black history event on Sat. Feb 24 from 3-5 p.m. at 800 Cheshire Road This year's theme is, "African Americans and the Arts." The keynote speaker is Dr. Jason Rawls, an educator with over two decades of teaching experience and a leader of the Hip-Hop education movement. [Free mobil tickets available](#)



**Ohio**  
TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE  
APRIL 8, 2024  
**SAVE THE DATE!**  
In 2024, a total eclipse will go through Ohio. Start planning for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!  
[Eclipse.Ohio.Gov](http://Eclipse.Ohio.Gov)

The last total solar eclipse visible in Ohio was in 1806, the same year that our township was founded. The upcoming total solar eclipse will present in Ohio on April 8, 2024 beginning at 3:08 p.m. with the final exit of the Moon's shadow from the state at 3:19 p.m. We sit on the Southern limit of the total eclipse. Planning resources and event details can be found at the [Delaware County 2024 Solar Eclipse Page](#).



In 2024, Women's History Month celebrates the theme Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. The theme recognizes women who speak up and are leading change in their fields.

**In the Kitchen with Nelle**

Soups made Simple Feb. 2nd 6:30-7:30

What's for Dessert Feb. 16th 6:30 - 7:30

**Movies for Grown Ups**

Feb. 8th & Mar. 14th

**Family Movie Nights**

Feb. 9th & Mar. 8th

**Nelle's Homesteading - Baby, Pet and Farm sitting**

Feb. 27th 6:30-8 (\$10)

**Eclipse Program**

Wed. Feb. 28th 6:30-8

**AARP Foundation Tax Aide**

Fri. Feb. 16th 9-3 Fri. Feb. 1st, 15th, and 29th 9-5

Call (614) 450-2529 to schedule an appointment

Check out the Website for details




**SAMBUCA'S**  
Valentine's Day  
MAKE AND SIP WORKSHOP  
STRING ART  
SAT. FEB 10TH 11AM-1PM  
ALL MATERIALS INCLUDED!  
\$25EA  
GUESTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PURCHASE ANY FOOD OR DRINKS THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO ENJOY DURING THE WORKSHOP FROM OUR MARKET.



**SAMBUCA'S**  
Herb Seed Starting Workshop  
Wednesday Feb. 28th 6:30pm  
\$35 ALL MATERIALS INCLUDED!

Sign up for Workshops Here

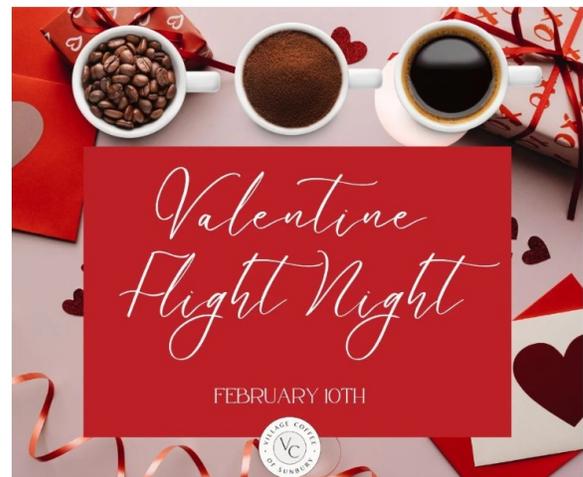


Mainstreet Delaware's Chocolate Walk is a ticketed event which entitles ticket holders to collect sweet treats from noon - 6:00 p.m. Sat. Feb. 10th at participating downtown Delaware locations. The event is limited to 250 participants. [Grab your tickets here.](#)



Marvin's Room by Scott McPherson  
Shows start February 2 running weekends through February 28th at 8:00 PM or 2:00 PM

[www.curtainplayers.org](http://www.curtainplayers.org)



Sat Feb 10 2024 at 05:00 pm  
**Village Coffee Sunbury** welcomes you in for Flight Night - Each flight serves approximately two people and includes four 6oz drinks and four petite desserts.  
(Tickets Here)

**Please check our township website for current event schedule along with general information and forms.**

[Visit our Website](#)

Berkshire Township | 1454 Rome Corners Road, Galena, OH 43021

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