

Spring 2016



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**Fairfield  
Township  
Administration  
Building**

6032 Morris Road  
Fairfield Twp., Ohio 45011

513.887.4400  
Fax 513.887.4405



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## New Energy Aggregation Program to ensure residents best rate packages

In the November 2015 election, Fairfield Township voters passed an energy aggregation initiative by margins of 58 to 42 percent. The vote began a process that gives the Township authority to seek electric and natural gas rates from energy distributors for all residents interested in participating in the program, resulting in more favorable rates.

The energy aggregation program is a technical process that will take about four months to initiate. The first step after voters' acceptance is to certify the Township with the Public Utilities Commission so that it can represent residents to seek more favorable group energy rates.

The certification stage began with two public meetings explaining the program to residents. The next step is to gather rate information from suppliers and contact residents by mail with the information and an opportunity to opt out if they desire.

### How do I sign up?

Residents are automatically included in the program, unless they opt out. *(Residents not served by Duke Energy, who are in arrears on energy bills or who receive public assistance with energy payments are not eligible.)*

### How much will I save?

Actual rates cannot be determined until proposals are

submitted to the Township under the energy aggregation process. A neighboring township, as an illustration, has recently completed its aggregation program that saves residents nearly 18 percent off electric rates and more than 20 percent on natural gas rates. *(It is important to note that these discounts apply to the actual cost of electricity or natural gas. Discounts do not impact distribution rates, which remain constant with or without aggregation.)*

### What happens after getting the official program notice?

Once residents receive their notice of the aggregation programs, they will have 21 days to opt out, if they desire, by returning a postcard, calling a toll-free number or signing onto a website. Residents will otherwise automatically be included in the program and will not need to take further action to be included in the program.

### When will new rates begin?

New, lower rates will begin one or two billing cycles following enrollment. There will be no disruption in service.



### Can I keep budget billing?

Yes, all special billing options with Duke Energy, such as budget payment plans and check-free automatic bank withdrawals will remain available.

### Will I receive two bills?

No, residents will receive just one bill from Duke Energy. The energy aggregation rates and actual rates will be indicated on the bill.

*Energy Alliances Inc., based in Sycamore Township, is the energy aggregation consultant Fairfield Township engaged last year to assist in managing the two voter approved aggregation programs. Large commercial and industrial companies have negotiated better rates for decades and Energy Alliances was one of the first energy advisors to help governments realize this potential. Energy Alliances helps manage 43 different aggregation programs in Ohio representing 200,000 homes. Questions regarding Fairfield Townships energy aggregation program can be directed to Energy Alliances Inc. at 794-5555.*

# Program marks 9th year Annual Clean Up Day planned April 30

Fairfield Township's annual Spring Clean Up Day is planned Saturday, April 30, with volunteers gathering at 8 a.m. to begin their pre-determined assignments. Lunch is provided beginning at 11:30 a.m. by fellow volunteers who prepare quick meals for those participating in the event, which ends at 3 p.m. This year marks the ninth year that the annual clean up effort has been conducted.

## Volunteers being organized for community projects

Each year, a growing army of volunteers participate. Individuals, families and groups are encouraged to contact Robert McIntyre at 785-2266 ([rmcintyre@fairfieldtwp.org](mailto:rmcintyre@fairfieldtwp.org)) to register for the event. Volunteers will be required to complete a waiver form to participate. Those registering by the close of business on Friday, March 25, will receive a commemorative t-shirt to be distributed during an

organizational meeting and safety review about a week before the event. Also supplied will be safety vests, garbage bags and gloves.

## Home projects encouraged

Residents are encouraged to participate by cleaning up their own property. Debris, some of which is not usually accepted, can be dropped off, including old

tires, and vehicle fluids and batteries.

Operations will again be centralized at the area just north of the Fire Station at 6048 Morris Road.

**Identification is required to demonstrate proof of residency.** This event is for residential disposal only, so no contractors, please.

## 6048 Morris Road Drop-off

This one drop-off location eliminates confusion so participants can safely dispose of all materials at one place. Spring Clean Up Day will accept the following materials:

**Debris:** Residents (*ID required*) can bring materials and debris (*no garbage, please*) to the highly visible area on the north side of the Fire Station at 6048 Morris Road.

**Tires:** Residents (*ID required*) can drop up to 10 passenger car tires (*sorry, no truck tires*). Tires must be removed from rims and dry on their interior.

**Vehicle Fluids:** Residents can drop off vehicle fluids, such as

*The Clean Up Starts at Your House!*

**Televisions/Computers:** *These items are not accepted during Fairfield Township's Clean Up Day, but are included in special programs conducted by the Butler County Solid Waste District. (see below)*

## Other ongoing programs:

Please note that paint and household "hazardous" wastes will not be accepted this year. Such items as pesticides, herbicides, varnish, stains, lacquers, acids, pool chemicals and fluorescent bulbs will not be accepted during this year's Spring Clean Up.

Butler County's Solid Waste District offers ongoing programs throughout the summer to help residents dispose of such items as paint, household "hazardous" waste, unwanted televisions, computers, tires, household batteries, Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs (CFLs), and Freon filled appliances. Visit [www.butlercountyrecycles.org](http://www.butlercountyrecycles.org) and click on "Special Collections" for information.

**Fairfield Township  
Fire Department  
OPEN HOUSE**  
**Saturday  
March 19 • 2-4 pm**  
(Following the Easter Egg Hunt)  
**Fire Headquarters  
on Morris Road**  
Emergency Equipment • Displays • Medical Helicopter

# Smoke detectors coming to your door!

Fire deaths in Ohio are on the rise, so local safety officials are mounting a door-to-door effort to make sure residents have working smoke detectors. Fire officials will visit homes in select areas on Sunday, March 13, to provide free smoke detectors and batteries to ensure every home has the life-saving devices.

The effort is a partnership of the Fairfield Township Fire Department, Hamilton Fire Department, Ohio Fire Marshal's Office, and the Red Cross. Aiding in the effort will be members of the Fairfield Township Fire Corps and about 35 volunteers visiting from the University of Minnesota Service Learning Program.

Beginning at 8:30 a.m. on March 13, volunteers will canvas the Five Points area and Fourth Ward in Hamilton to install free smoke detectors or replace batteries in existing detectors.

The Red Cross has provided the program with 1,000 smoke detectors, necessary tools for volunteers and installation training. Local restoration company 859 Board-Up has donated 500 9-volt batteries to update existing devices.



While the March 13 door-to-door effort will not include the entire Township, officials are hoping to visit other parts of the Township in future efforts. Residents who are interested can contact the Red Cross at 579-

3003 to receive a free smoke detector or fresh batteries.

The March 13 effort is part of a statewide "Safe & Sound" initiative. "Safe" refers to preventive measures aimed at preventing fires, such as following manufacturer's instructions for heating equipment, not overloading electrical outlets, safe use of candles and checking for

potential fire risks. "Sound" is representative of the phrase "sound the alarm," which promotes the use of smoke detectors and pre-planning a fire escape plan with two ways out of a house.

## Fairfield Township Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 19

1:00 - 2:00 pm

Morris Road Park

Hunts for ages up to 10 years or 4th grade

## Fairfield Township *Elected Officials*



**Shannon Hartkemeyer**  
Trustee President  
887-4400 x2019



**Joe McAbee**  
Trustee  
887-4400 x2020



**Seat Vacant**  
Appointee to be  
Announced



**Nancy Bock**  
Fiscal Officer  
785-2290

## *Trustee Meetings*

Meetings: 2nd & 4th Wednesdays  
Township Administration Bldg. • 6032 Morris Road  
Regular Meeting at 6 pm



6032 Morris Road • Fairfield Township 45011

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# Around the Township

## Bock & McAbee earn victories in November

Fairfield Township's Fiscal Officer Nancy Bock and Trustee Joe McAbee were elected to office during last November's general election. Ms. Bock has been the Township's Fiscal Officer since \_\_\_\_\_. Mr. McAbee returns to the position, having served as Trustee for \_\_\_\_ years previously. Congratulations to each in their election.



## Zoning Commission and Zoning Appeals vacancies

The Fairfield Township Zoning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) have vacancies in need of interested residents. Interested residents ready to serve their community should contact Julie Vonderhaar at [jvonderhaar@fairfieldtwp.org](mailto:jvonderhaar@fairfieldtwp.org) for information or to apply.

## New businesses opening in Fairfield Township

Over the past several months, several new businesses have opened in the Township, demonstrating a thriving, robust economy. Among those investing in the community:

- Hobby Lobby
- AAA Self Storage
- Discount Tire
- Carle's Hair Salon
- Heartland Dental
- Trenton Tactical
- Fire House Subs
- Starbucks (renovation)



## Get that permit BEFORE starting summer project

Zoning and building permits are required for many building projects in the township, including:

- All new construction projects (Commercial & residential)
- New commercial occupancy

- Remodeling (wall movement, electric, plumbing and/or other structural changes)
- All additions
- Accessory buildings & structures (detached garages, sheds, decks, above & in ground pools, fences, gazebos)
- Signage (permanent and temporary)

For a detailed list or information, call the Zoning Department at 785-2265.

## Thanks Mail Carriers!

If you are getting timely delivery of your *Fairfield Township Times*, thank your Mail Carrier. A lot of work goes into the preparation of each issue, but the most important work is getting the publication into your mailbox in time for events to be well publicized. Mail Carriers on at least 17 routes, some with more than 800 stops, carry the publication for delivery. **Thanks to each Mail Carrier who wrestles with the bins and stacks of this newsletter to ensure timely delivery to every postal stop in the Township!**