**Upcoming Events**

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**Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off**

The Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) provides free Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) disposal services for all Franklin County residents.

Regular HHW drop-offs can be made at 645 E. 8th Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43201. Visit www.swaco.org for hours and a complete list of accepted items.

SWACO holds mobile collections around Franklin County each quarter. Dates for the mobile collection drives can be found by visiting www.swaco.org.

Used Oil • Antifreeze • Paint Thinners • Turpentine • Polishes • Drain Cleaners • Adhesives • Kerosene • Propane • Bleach • Insecticides • Vehicle Batteries • Pool Chemicals • Old Gasoline

**Trash collection and recycling is provided by RUMPKE.**

To set up service or for information, call 800-828-8717 or visit: www.rumpke.com.

Weekly collection is scheduled for Thursdays. Seniors receive a 10% discount at age 60+.

Curbside recycling includes:
- Newspaper, magazines, catalogs, telephone books
- Mail, computer paper, brown bags
- Paperboard (i.e. cereal boxes)
- Cardboard boxes (broken down into 3 x 3 ft. sections)
- Plastic and glass bottles and jars
- Aluminum cans, siding and gutters
- Steel soup, food and aerosol cans

**Plain Township Fire Department 21st Annual Open House**

The Plain Township Fire Department and the Firefighter’s Local 3850 invite you to the Fire Department’s 21st Annual Open House on October 7, 2018 from 10am to 4pm. Meet firefighters, explore fire engines and learn about fire safety in recognition of Fire Prevention Week.

The latest statistics from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) show that if you have a reported fire in your home, you are more likely to die today than you were a few decades ago.

“Today’s home fires burn faster than ever,” said Chief John Hoovler. “In a typical home fire, you may have as little as one to two minutes to escape safely from the time the smoke alarm sounds. Knowing how to use that time wisely takes planning and practice.”

Those statistics are behind this year’s Fire Prevention Week theme: *Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware.*

Through three simple calls-to-action, this year’s theme identifies basic but essential ways people can reduce their risk to fire and be prepared in the event of one:
- Look for places fire can start
- Listen for the sound of the smoke alarm
- Learn two ways out of each room

“People take safety for granted.” said Chief Hoovler. “Situational awareness is a skill people need to use wherever they go. No matter where you are, look for available exits. If the alarm system sounds, take it seriously and exit the building immediately.”

Visit www.nfpa.org or www.sparky.org for more information on fire prevention and safety.
Storm Water Tips

It is that time of year again—fall is here! Plain Township would like to remind you of the importance of preventing stormwater pollution while you make the most of the fall season. Stormwater is formed when rainwater makes its way into storm drains or runs off our properties directly into streams.

Leaves are falling, and their improper disposal poses a threat to our water resources. Leaves swept into the street can easily make their way into the nearest creek or stream.

Fall is the time for seeding and fertilizing your lawn. If excess fertilizer is applied, however, it cannot be absorbed by the soil and washes away with the rain.

Dispose of leaf litter and yard waste in a compost pile and never in the street or stream! You can shred yard and leaf waste to use as mulch or fertilizer for your yard and garden.

Do not use fertilizers immediately before a rainstorm, and do not apply them in excess. Always follow the directions on the bottle for safe application and disposal whenever you use a chemical product. Reduce outdoor and household chemical use as much as possible.

Yard Waste Guidelines

Plain Township Trustees are asking residents not to rake leaves, grass, or other organic refuse into the street or into a nearby ditch when doing yard work. These materials only end up blocking the drainage system. Furthermore, leaves and grass clippings reduce oxygen in the water (affecting fish) and add materials that would not otherwise get into the water system.

These extra leaves lead to clogged drains and ditches, increasing the possibility of local flooding during heavy rain events. Leaves and other yard waste are collected by Rumpke.

Yard waste is organic waste generated during regular household gardening and landscaping (grass clippings, leaves, twigs, branches, shrubbery).

- NO trunks, stumps, logs, plastic bags, pots, food waste, rocks, dirt or pumpkins.
- Weight: Each bag, bundle, container, or item should not exceed 50 pounds.
- Branches: Cut to 4 ft. or shorter. Tie into bundles (no wider than 2 ft.) with string or twine.
- Loose Material: Place in biodegradable bags or rigid containers marked “Yard Waste.” Do not line with plastic bags.
- Holiday Trees: Remove decorations then cut trunk and limbs to 4 ft. or shorter. Tie into bundles with string or twine.

Consider Composting

Fall is a great time to restore soil health in your yard. It’s also a perfect time to start a compost pile with the raked-up yard waste! A compost pile started in the fall will ensure there’s enough time for the pile to be ready come spring. Flower beds and vegetable gardens will benefit from the addition of organic matter due to stimulated microbial activity.

For additional information on how and what to compost, visit the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) guide: http://epa.ohio.gov/portals/47/facts/citizens_guide_to_composting.pdf.

Fire and Police Team Up to Save Lives

Plain Township Fire Department recently partnered with the New Albany Police Department in developing Rescue Task Force (RTF) training.

A Rescue Task Force is comprised of two Firefighter/Paramedics and two police officers who enter an active threat scene to provide immediate life-saving procedures (e.g. controlling bleeding, opening airways, and covering open life-threatening chest wounds). The medics provide the medical support while the police officers protect the medics.

Lessons have been learned from the tragedies of Columbine, Sandy Hook, and other mass human violence events. Victims with life-threatening injuries can bleed to death with-in minutes. Plain Township Firefighter-Paramedics, teamed with the New Albany Police Department and other agencies can save lives!

Recently the PFMD and NAPD conducted a joint training exercise at the Plain Local- New Albany Schools to practice these life-saving procedures. Both agencies are planning another joint active event threat exercise at a local New Albany business in October.

Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!

The theme for fire prevention week this year is, Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out! The Plain Township Fire Department encourages every resident to plan and practice a home fire escape plan. “Developing and practicing a home escape plan is like building muscle memory,” said Fire Chief John Hoover of the Plain Township Fire Department.

Home escape planning is one of the most basic but fundamental elements of home fire safety, and can truly make the difference between life and death in a fire situation.

A home escape plan includes working smoke alarms on every level of the home, in every bedroom, and near all sleeping areas. It also includes two ways out of every room, usually a door and a window, with a clear path to an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole, or mailbox) that’s a safe distance from the home.

For more information on making a home fire escape plan visit the National Fire Protection Association www.nfpa.org public education, basic fire escape planning. If you have questions about your home fire escape plan contact the Plain Township Fire Department, prevention department at 644.855.7370.

Thanksgiving Day Safety

Here are NFPA’s top five tips for cooking safety this Thanksgiving:

• Remain in the kitchen while you’re cooking, and keep a close eye on what you fry! Always stay in the kitchen while frying, grilling or browning food. If you have to leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove. Regularly check on food that’s simmering, baking or roasting, and use a timer to remind you that you’re cooking.

• Keep things that can catch fire such as oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels and curtains away from the cooking area.

• If you have a small (grease) cooking fire on the stovetop and decide to fight the fire: Smother the flames by sliding a lid over the pan and turning off the burner. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled. For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

• If you’re cooking a turkey using a disposable aluminum pan, consider doubling up and using two pans to avoid a puncture, as dripping turkey juices can cause an oven fire.

• Be alert when cooking. If you’re sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don’t use the stove or stovetop.

Election Day will be here soon

Below are some guidelines to ensure that political signs comply with township zoning regulations. No permits are required.

Plain Township Zoning Resolution Section 425.03.9 Political Signs

a) No political sign shall be posted in any place or in any manner that is destructive to public property upon posting or removal.

b) No political sign shall be posted in a public right-of-way nor shall any such sign be posted on a utility pole.

c) Candidates for public office, their campaign committees, or other persons responsible for the posting of campaign material on public property are responsible for removing those campaign materials following the election.

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