

CITYNotes

A PUBLICATION FOR THE CITIZENS OF SPRINGBORO

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2021

Preemptive Traffic Lights

Seconds matter when someone's safety is in question. The City of Springboro has partnered with Applied Information (AI) on two safety alert programs that utilize technology to help reduce emergency response times and provide speed warnings in a school zone.

A safety alert system that will allow emergency vehicles to arrive on scene as fast as possible has been installed in the traffic lights at S. Main and Mill streets, and St. Rts. 73 and 741. The preemption system combines cellular, radio transmission and GPS technology to give Clearcreek Fire District emergency vehicles a priority green light over the traffic lights in the other directions. The emergency vehicle's lights and sirens trigger the system, giving it a green light and causing the other traffic lights to turn red. This will expedite emergency response times and make it safer for first responders and the traveling public.

The second system installed by AI is TravelSafely, a free smartphone app that can be used while traveling in the school zone near Springboro Intermediate on S. Main Street. Once the app is activated, during school hours in the school zone area, drivers will receive an audible alert and message such as "school zone, reduce your speed."

The addition of these systems helps Springboro continue its commitment to providing a safer community and expanding technology systems throughout the City. Springboro was selected as a test site by DriveOhio and Applied Information, a leading developer of connected, intelligent transportation system (ITS) solutions designed to improve safety, reliability and mobility. Both programs are funded by DriveOhio and AI.



City Council Uses ARPA Funds to Cover Monthly Utilities Bill for Residents and Businesses

In May, the federal government passed another COVID-19 stimulus funding package—this one called “The American Rescue Plan Act,” provides federal dollars to communities across the country to assist their homeowners, businesses and communities with recovery from the pandemic.

Springboro City Council deliberated on the most direct, efficient and effective ways to utilize these federal dollars for their intended purpose of providing some immediate financial relief to the entire community. Council made the decision to utilize the ARPA funds to pay water, sewer and trash bills for the month of May for all 6200 Springboro residents and businesses in the amount of \$760,000.

Residents received a letter from City Manager Chris Pozzuto explaining the zero amount due for the month and asking them to consider using the savings to support Springboro businesses or a Springboro charity.

Response to the payment effort has been overwhelming! The City received more than 70 phone calls of appreciation and a few dozen thank you cards and notes on water bills. Several residents and businesses donated to the parks and/or library while one resident “paid it forward” and covered the entire past due balance on another account.

“We’re unaware of any other community doing something like this,” said Mayor John Agenbroad. “There were many ways we could have used the funds, like to purchase additional PPE or touchless restroom equipment in public buildings. Instead, we chose to give directly back to our residents and businesses. We’re glad we could make a difference.”





Give us 10 or 30, Springboro!

Take part in Walking & Biking Wellness Program

Our Springboro parks and roadways are home to numerous walking trails, bike paths and lanes. Take advantage of the amenities in your own backyard!

1. Walk 10 miles or cycle 30 miles in one month using a tracking app of your choice. There are plenty of free apps out there.
2. Take a photo or screenshot of the mileage completed. Selfies at the parks or around town are encouraged, too!
3. Complete the form available on our website, www.ci.springboro.oh.us, by the end of each month to be eligible for prizes.

All completed forms will be entered into drawing for prizes-- including one local restaurant gift card for every 20 entries.

This program started in May and more than 80 people have shared their mileage! You must be a Springboro resident to participate.



Artists Create Outdoor Living Areas Downtown

The City partnered with three downtown art gallery owners and two Springboro High School art students to create outdoor living areas in Historic Springboro. The artists painted an original design "rug" under each of the 12 benches located throughout S. Main Street. Artists included Shawna Hatton, owner of Chasing Light Art Studio and Gallery, Anthony Murrill of A. S. Murrill Art Gallery and Kim Loesche, owner and artist at Eve's Ink Tattoo along with Sydney Small and Amber McKinney, Springboro High School seniors. The artists were recognized for their creative contributions at the June 17 City Council meeting. Take a stroll through downtown and enjoy the various designs and beautiful colors!

Grants Assist Residents With Exterior Improvements

In the spring, the City offered a second round of Home Improvement Grants, allotting \$100,000 for residential assistance. This program, which started in 2019, provides grants for qualifying home improvements to residential property owners in the Royal Oaks neighborhood. Grants helped pay for preapproved exterior improvements, reimbursing the homeowner up to 50 percent of the cost of the project, up to \$10,000. The maximum grant is \$5,000. So far, 23 homeowners have applied and six have already received the grants for their completed projects.

Art Gallery To Showcase Elementary School Work And Fiber Art

While the pandemic kept many students from the classroom, Stephanie Roeder's art classes at Dennis Elementary School kept moving along! Enjoy her students' work on display during the month of August at the Performing Arts Center Gallery, 115 Wright Station Way.

The show includes mixed media, paintings, metal work and 3-D clay projects created by students in grades 2 – 5.

Fibershown'21 is coming to the Springboro Performing Arts Center during the month of September. This show will focus on modern traditional and art quilting, felting, weaving, mixed media and wearable art. FiberShow'21 is the idea of artist Cathy Jeffers, who shares that fiber arts is no longer a craft, but a serious form of artistic self-expression. Jeffers began working as a fiber artist



Artists Shawna Hatton, Kim Loesche and Anthony Murrill received City Council recognition for their downtown "rug" project.

in 2005. Her mastery of fabric work-- to create an image of people and animals along with her abstractions are now viewed in galleries and art museums across the country. The exhibit will run Sept. 1 – 30. The public is invited to a special, free event, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 25 to enjoy several presentations and hands-on activities including "Joining Raw Edges: The Stories They Tell," presented by Pat Sturtzel. Sturtzel works at the Kentucky Center's Arts Thrive Program (Arts in Healing) working with Veterans, Adults in recovery from substance abuse and older adults in assisted living facilities.

Gallery Hours: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday through Friday or by appointment by calling 937-748-5774.



Spring in Springboro photo contest judges and winners at the June show.

From Mayor John Agenbroad

As summer begins to wind down, it's a good time to reflect on the past few months. COVID restrictions were lifted in late May, allowing us to move forward 100 percent with a whole host of activities.

Our concerts are the highlight of the season, and this year we've welcomed a record 21,000 guests to our live shows at North Park! I'm very proud of the outstanding reputation we've built for providing quality entertainment in a safe and fun venue. Upcoming events at North Park include the Springboro Community Theatre's production of "Cinderella" the first two weekends in August, Bike the Boro/The Big Event on Sept. 4 and Boro BBQ Fest on Oct. 2.

Wright Station continues to grow! Luminous Nails, Jersey Mike's Subs and Cassano's have joined the Springboro Performing Arts Center, Warped Wing and Heroes Pizza at the development on St. Rts. 741 and 73. In July, we launched an outside entertainment area there. In addition to sponsoring live music, we've added picnic tables and other seating to the area which is a DORA (Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area) that allows patrons to carry alcoholic beverages in designated cups throughout Wright Station.

Along with City-sponsored events, Springboro is brimming with activities for the entire family! A few on tap include ARTFest on Main on August 25, Oktoberfest on Sept. 10 and 11, and monthly food truck nights and special shopping events in our Historic Downtown.

Thank you for the numerous notes, phone calls and messages regarding City Council's decision to use our American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) federal funds to pay the May water, sewer and trash bills for all our residents and businesses. So many of you "paid it forward" with the savings by supporting our parks, library, local businesses and non-profit organizations. What a wonderful and generous community!

Finally, I send warmest wishes to Carol Hughes on her retirement from the Springboro Chamber of Commerce. Carol has made significant contributions to our business community and we are grateful for her service.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Your City Council Members meet monthly on the first and third Thursday at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers to pass legislation and authorize budgeted expenditures related to the management and operation of our City, and the health, safety and welfare of our citizens. Here are just a few agenda items recently approved by City Council.

- ➔ **An ordinance** repealing and replacing the City's sign code, which addresses the regulation of signs in our community. The City completed an audit of the sign code using a consultant with extensive experience in sign regulation as well as input from City staff, businesses and other stakeholders in the community during the audit process.
 - Primarily, the sign code was revised to comply with changes in federal case law, specifically the content neutrality requirements decided by the U.S. Supreme Court. The court's decision requires that signs not be regulated by their content, but rather by their manner of construction, size and height and placement on a property or building.
 - Other changes to the sign code include making it more legible by adding graphics and tables to help users more easily

interpret size, type and placement restrictions, and making regulations pertaining to signs on buildings more flexible.

Overall, the new sign code does not substantially increase or decrease the amount of signage permitted.

- ➔ **An agreement** with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for a pass-through grant to fund the development of a 10-foot wide, multi-use, off road trail connecting E. Milo Beck Park to Clearcreek Park. This \$250,000 grant funding is available through Ohio Senate Bill 310 on a reimbursement basis. This project is part of the implementation of the Central Greenway recommendation in the City's 2020 Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan. Construction of the trail is anticipated in the second half of 2021.
- ➔ **A contract** for the design and engineering of the "Hazel Woods Trail Connector" consisting of approximately 1,000 feet of a multi-use trail and pedestrian bridge connecting Clearcreek Park and Hazel Woods Park. IBI Group submitted the best bid for this project at \$85,420.00. This project also further implements the City's Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan.



Historical Society representatives Mike Thompson and Christine Wellman along with Deputy Mayor Janie Ridd, Council liaison to the ARB and Matt Leedy, chair of the City's Architectural Review Board, present the award to Mr. Swain and his wife.

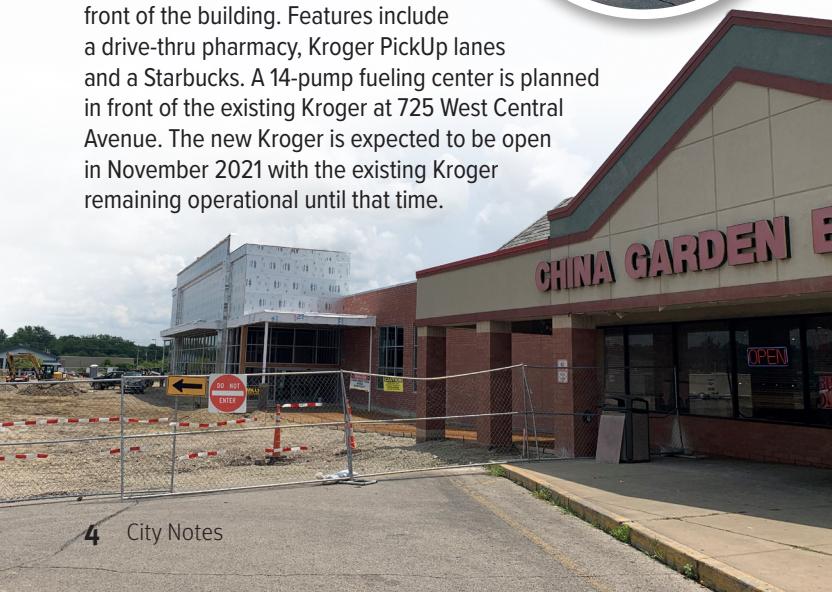
Mayor's Award for Preservation Leadership Presented

Mike Swain was recognized with a Mayor's Award for Preservation Leadership for his work with the Springboro Area Historical Society in developing two new collections for the society's museum at 110 South Main Street. Swain's collections include Native American artifacts dating to 10,000 to 13,000 years ago, many of which were found locally. His other collection is associated with local auto racing mechanic and racer Lee Izor including a micro midget racecar.

The Mayor's Award honors those providing leadership and service in support of historic preservation or supporting projects and activities that have substantially increased public understanding and awareness of historic preservation in the Springboro area. The awards are coordinated by the Architectural Review Board, a City Council-appointed board that protects Springboro's historic landmarks and promotes local history education.

Kroger Construction Making Progress

A new Kroger is under construction at 624 W. Central Avenue. Contractors are mobilizing in the rear and interior of the former Kmart to redevelop the building as a new 90,298-square foot Kroger. The building shell will remain with additions to include a new entrance and redesign of the front of the building. Features include a drive-thru pharmacy, Kroger PickUp lanes and a Starbucks. A 14-pump fueling center is planned in front of the existing Kroger at 725 West Central Avenue. The new Kroger is expected to be open in November 2021 with the existing Kroger remaining operational until that time.



Wright Station Offers Live Music, New Businesses

Development continues at Wright Station, the City of Springboro and Mills Development partnership at the intersection of state routes 73 and 741.

Jersey Mike's Subs opened last month in the building along St. Rt. 73, joining Luminous Nails, which celebrated its grand opening in early July.

Cassano's also opened in its new location. The pizza restaurant is just south of its old spot on St. Rt. 741. The new 5,000 sq. ft. facility also includes space for an additional tenant along with ample parking.

Since 2019, Mills Development has completed over 50,000 square feet of development and construction at Wright Station.

Stop by Wright Station and enjoy a free outdoor concert! Each week the City offers a great show in the park area near Warped Wing. The lineup includes country, rock, oldies, swing and more! The DORA (Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area) allows patrons to carry alcoholic beverages in designated cups throughout Wright Station, which also offers free Wi-Fi. Visit the City website, www.ci.springboro.us or Facebook page for details.



City to Host Business Appreciation Golf Outing

Business owners and managers are invited to participate in the third annual Business Appreciation Golf Outing on Tuesday, Sept. 14 at Heatherwoode Golf Club. The complimentary event includes golf, lunch, door prizes, practice balls and more. Contact Greg Shackelford, greg@cityofspringboro.com or 937-748-4355 for more information.



Springboro Police Officer, Teacher and Student Win DARE Awards

Springboro brought home the hardware from the Ohio School Resource Officer/DARE State Conference in June. School Resource Officer Aaron Nicley received her five-year teaching award from DARE Ohio and a five-year Professional SRO ranking from the Ohio School Resource Officer Association. Springboro Intermediate teacher Machelle Morgan received the 2021 Educator of the Year Award from DARE Ohio for her assistance in the DARE classroom and dedication to the students in Springboro. Sierra Wilson received the 2021 DARE Ohio Scholarship. Congratulations to all!

Aaron Nicley received a 5-year service award from the DARE Ohio program.



Ralph Turner from Eastlake Police Department and Springboro Sgt. Don Wilson congratulate Machelle Morgan on her award.



Be a Good Neighbor, Keep Fido On a Leash

Sunny summer days are upon us and we love seeing our furry friends and their owners out and about enjoying our great parks and neighborhoods!

Please remember that Springboro has a few rules with respect to our four-legged friends.

1. Do not allow your dog to roam freely. Dogs should be confined to your property or walked on a leash.
2. If you and your dog like to enjoy a day at the park, please keep in mind that dogs must be on a leash and kept under control. Dogs may not run at large on any park property.
3. All pet owners are responsible for cleaning up after their pets.

Following these simple rules helps keep our parks safe and enjoyable for everyone.

Take advantage of Logan's Bark Park, our dog park located in Hazel Woods Park. It provides a fun place for dogs to run and play within a fenced area.

Wherever you walk your dog, please practice neighborly courtesy by cleaning up any dog waste. Help keep Springboro clean and beautiful!



Be Prepared For Emergency Situations



National Preparedness Month is recognized each September to promote family and community disaster planning now and throughout the year. As our nation continues to respond to COVID-19, there is no better time to be involved. Prepare for an emergency event that could cause you to be self-reliant for three days without utilities and electricity, water service, access to a grocery store or local services and possibly without response from police, fire or rescue.

- Make a family emergency communication plan and include your pets.
- Identify an out of town emergency contact to coordinate information with family/friends.
- Keep an emergency kit wherever you spend time: home, car, work, etc.
- Download the FEMA app and set up local alerts.
- Check information news from local radio, TV or social media and take action.
- Practice your preparedness plans with a drill or exercise.
- Take time to learn lifesaving skills – such as CPR and first aid, check your insurance policies and coverage for the hazards you may face, such as flood, earthquakes, and tornadoes.
- Consider the costs associated with disasters and save for an emergency.
- Know how to take practical safety steps like shutting off water and gas.

Emergency preparedness information is available at www.ready.gov.



Artist Anthony Murrill met Blue, the inspiration for the "rug" he painted on S. Main Street. Blue is the Springboro Police Department's comfort dog.



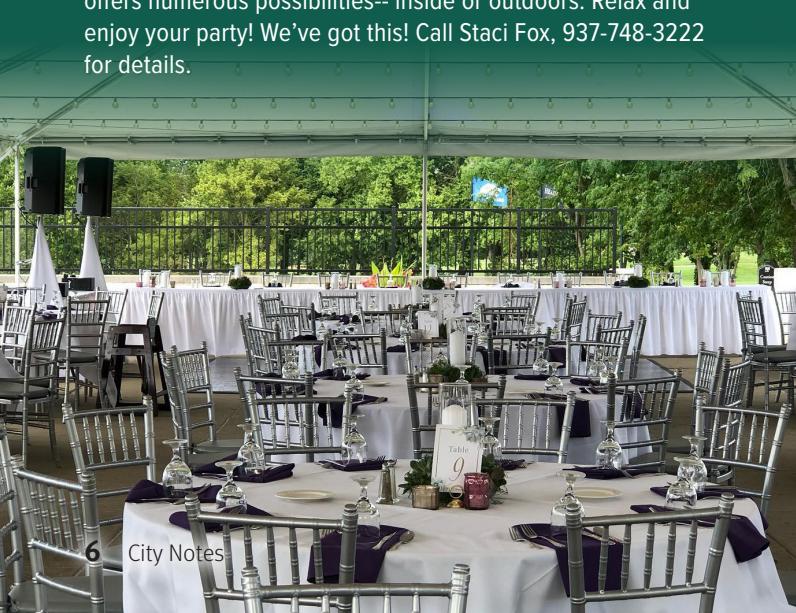
Heatherwoode is a Premier Public Course

Owned and operated by the City of Springboro, this championship golf course boasts breathtaking views at every hole. The challenging golf course will bring you to Heatherwoode, and the outstanding customer service and amenities will keep you there. Amenities like professional club fitting, memorable special events and banquets and fun evenings out are a hole-in-one, every time.

Treat yourself or your group to a fun, exclusive, personalized experience. Heatherwoode is rated one of the best club fitting facilities in Ohio. Utilizing Foresight GC Quad launch monitors, the staff can analyze 200 high-speed photos through impact of your swing. The Heatherwoode golf pros don't work on commission--their focus is finding the right shaft and head to help you play better golf. Look for the best prices on all of the hottest new equipment from all major brands. Contact Matt Cole, 937-748-3222, to schedule your fitting.

Spend your Wednesday evenings at the Heatherwoode clubhouse for Party on the Deck through August 11. Live music, a great selection of bourbon and cigars and delicious food make for an entertaining evening! Visit www.golfheatherwoode.com or call 937-748-3222 for details.

Take away the stress of planning your next special event. With two lovely banquet rooms, a covered deck and spacious outdoor pavilion overlooking the golf course, Heatherwoode offers numerous possibilities-- inside or outdoors. Relax and enjoy your party! We've got this! Call Staci Fox, 937-748-3222 for details.



We All Depend On Clean Water To Survive

There are many statistics, examples and scientific data that we could talk about when it comes to how important our water quality is, but simply put:

1. Every one of us depends on clean water to survive.
2. Clean water keeps us healthy and polluted water can make us sick.
3. Getting existing clean water from underground or a river is cheap and easy for us.
4. Paying to have pollutants cleaned out of our water is super expensive and inconvenient.

So simply put, if we keep our groundwater and rivers clean then we can stay healthy, save money and keep life simple!

Practice Water-friendly Lawn Care

- Never put any chemicals on your lawn before or right after a rain. Your lawn care company shouldn't either!
- Weed mechanically to reduce or avoid chemical use.
- Do a soil test before fertilizing your lawn. Don't get talked into spending money on services you might not even need.

Protect Storm Drains

- Remember that storm drains go straight to the river and not to the treatment plant.
- ONLY allow clean rain to go down them and not oil, paint, grass clippings, leaves, sticks or anything else.

Watch Your Salt Use in Winter

Salt is very damaging to our water and never goes away. It only accumulates in our water and soil year after year.

- Try using organic versions or use sand instead of salt.
- Be safe but use salt as sparingly as you can or try to avoid using it if possible.

Replace the Plastic

- Use refillable bottles instead of buying bottled water.
- Pack your lunch in containers instead of baggies.
- Buy products that have minimal packaging.
- Use reusable diapers instead of the disposable kind whenever possible.
- Use reusable or cloth grocery bags.

Leaf Pickup Starts In October

Look for Springboro trucks to start with leaf pickup beginning in mid-October. The full schedule will be available in the next issue of City Notes and on our website, www.ci.springboro.oh.us.



Scavenger Hunts Planned Throughout Fall

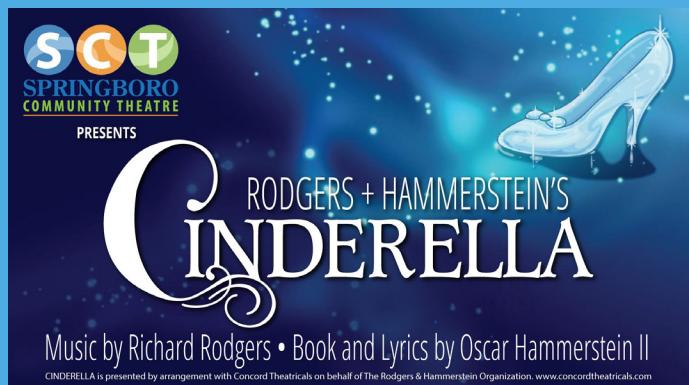
“Back to Cool” is the theme for our August scavenger hunt and “Fantastic Fall” is the theme for September. Clues will be posted on our Facebook page on August 18 and September 22 for five lucky winners to find a Springboro cinch sack filled with goodies, hidden in a few of our parks!

If you find the prize pack, please post a photo with the item on your social media with #StayConnectedSpringboro.

Since May, 15 bags have been found in various Springboro parks.



One of the prize bags was found by the Sunshine Campers in June at Community Park.



Live Theater Is Back!

Springboro Community Theatre presents Rodgers and Hammerstein’s “Cinderella” at 7:30 p.m. August 6-8 and 13-15 at North Park Amphitheater. This is a free performance. No tickets necessary.

After an 18-month hiatus due to the pandemic, the theater comes back to the Performing Arts Center with “Puffs”. Performances are Sept. 10 -12 and Sept. 17-19. Visit www.borototheatre.org for ticket information.



Oktoberfest is September 10 & 11

Bring the family to Oktoberfest at the Springboro United Church of Christ on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 10 & 11. The church on Mill Street invites you to enjoy authentic German food, entertainment, kids’ activities, biers and wines. There’s plenty of games, polka music, dancing and fun on tap for all. For more information, visit www.oktoberfestspringboro.org.

Historical Society Has Ice Cream, Tours And Adventure On Tap!

See why Springboro’s early roots laid the foundation for making this community nationally recognized as a Historic Underground Railroad Site. The museum, at 110 S. Main St., is open every Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Upcoming events include:

Ice Cream Social

Enjoy a good old fashioned Ice Cream Social complete with all the toppings! Sunday, August 15, 2 - 4 p.m. at the Null House, located on Heatherwoode Golf Course at 544 Heatherwoode Circle. Admission is free.

Night at the Null – Paranormal Experiences

Built in 1798, the famed Null House is full of history and, maybe, some ghosts! Join the society and their resident ghost hunter to investigate this historic building. The event begins at 9 p.m. and ends at the stroke of midnight. Limited to eight guests for each date: Aug. 28, Sept. 26 and Oct. 24. Tickets are \$50 per person and available on Eventbrite – Night at the Null. Must be 18 or older to attend.

Underground Railroad Tours – Historical Tours

Between 1815 and 1864, Springboro was considered one of Ohio’s busiest stops on the Underground Railroad. As home to 27 documented safe houses-- more than any other Ohio community-- the society offers free guided walking tours of many of these sites still located within historic downtown. Tours offered the fourth Saturday of each month at 11:30 and 1:30 and limited to 10 people. RSVP a tour at EventBrite – Underground Railroad Tours.

ARTFest on Main

Spend the day at ARTFest on Main on Saturday, August 28 in Historic Springboro. Sponsored by the Springboro Arts Council, this juried, fine arts show will welcome more than 80 artists to S. Main Street. In addition, there’s music, beer and wine tents, food trucks, entertainment and children’s activities. Visit www.ArTfestOnMain.com.



City Notes

City Notes is a publication of the City of Springboro
Chris Pozzuto, City Manager

Please direct comments and questions to:
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maureen@cityofspringboro.com

Mayor and Council

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440 Queensgate Road

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Public Works 937-748-0020
Utility Department 937-748-4343
Tax Department 937-748-9701
Building & Zoning 937-748-9791

www.ci.springboro.oh.us
askus@cityofspringboro.com



Bike the Boro and The Big Event planned for North Park

Free cycling event and kids' activities set for Saturday, Sept. 4

The City of Springboro hosts the 8th annual Bike the Boro and Big Event 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 4 at North Park, 195 Tamarack Trail. Bike the Boro features 2-, 10- and 16-mile rides, giving cyclists of all ages and levels the opportunity to ride throughout the City. Bicycle helmet giveaways and helmet fittings along with exhibitors including bike shops and bicycle education will also be a part of the event. This is a free event, however registration is encouraged. Course maps and registration are available at ci.springboro.oh.us.

The Big Event festival includes bounce houses, climbing wall, Springboro Police, Clearcreek Fire and Warren County SWAT and K-9 demonstrations, equipment and vehicles. Miami Valley Hospital CareFlight will land at noon. Free face painting, sno-cones and cotton candy. For more information, visit www.ci.springboro.oh.us.



City Offices will be closed on Monday, September 6 in observance of Labor Day.

Barbeque, Bands and Beer!

4th annual BBQ Fest is Oct. 2

The City of Springboro's fourth annual Boro BBQ Fest is set for noon – 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 2 at North Park. Enjoy live music from Fleetwood Gold tribute band, Locking Up Otis and Stranger, delicious barbecue and other food trucks along with free kids' activities including bounce houses and entertainment. Beer sales benefit Springboro UCC. Free admission.

The tasty lineup of food trucks includes Smokin' Barrels, JD's Twisted Pig, Smokin' Double D's, El Meson, Craves, Winks Treats, Lilia's Outside Cafe and Kona Ice. Bring your own seating for concert area.



Trick or Treat Night is October 31



Look for ghosts and goblins to come knocking at your door trick-or-treating 6 – 8 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 31. Most area communities have agreed to hold the event on Oct. 31 for the next several years.