

# Tippeca *news*

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

## Holiday Lighting and Decorating Safety Tips

**A**ccording 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. ●

## Holiday Trash Pick-Up Schedule

**R**umpke 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. ●

## Board Openings

**T**he City is seeking citizens to serve on the following Boards.

- Board of Tax Appeals
- Board of Zoning Appeals
- Community Reinvestment Area Housing Council
- Parks Board
- Planning Board
- Restoration and Architectural Board of Review
- Tree Board

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 20, 2019. Applications and a complete description of the boards are available online at [www.tippcityohio.gov](http://www.tippcityohio.gov) or the Government Center located at 260 S. Garber Drive, Tipp City. ●

## What is Stormwater Runoff?

**S**tormwater (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. ●

**GIVING TREE** The Giving Tree is once again up at the Government Center and is ready to receive donations of hats, gloves, underwear and socks for local children. Please stop by and add something to our tree. Your generosity at this time of giving is appreciated. ●

## Government Center Closures

In observance of Christmas Day, the Government Center will be closed on Wednesday December 25, 2019. The Government Center will also be closed on Wednesday, January 1, 2020 in observance of New Year's Day. We wish you and yours a wonderful Holiday Season. ●



### Stay Informed!

Subscribe to receive City news updates by email at [www.tippcityohio.gov](http://www.tippcityohio.gov).



## Important City Contacts

**Automated Attendant/  
Direct Connect**  
(937)669-TIPP

**Police, Fire and EMS  
(EMERGENCY)**  
9-1-1

**Miami County Communications  
Center (Non-Emergency)**  
(937)440-9911

**Police (Non-Emergency)**  
(937)667-3112

**Fire and EMS (Non-Emergency)**  
(937)667-9199 or (937)667-1680

**Utility Billing**  
(937)667-8424

**Planning/Zoning**  
(937)667-6305

**Tax Department**  
(937)667-8426

**Engineering and Utilities**  
(937)667-6305

**Residential Refuse Collection  
(Rumpke)**  
(866)522-3712

**Service Center  
(Parks and Streets)**  
(937)667-8234

**City Manager's Office**  
(937)667-8425

**Clerk of Council**  
(937)667-8425

**Construction Notice Update**  
(937)667-6293

**Human Resources Generalist  
Joanna Pittenger**  
(937)506-3190