

HamiltonTownshipOhio.org

Please Don't Feed Feral Cats
Cats and kittens are cute, but stray and feral cats living in the township can create a problem and spread diseases. Well-meaning animal lovers compound the problem by feeding, watering and providing shelter for the felines. According to the Franklin County Public Health Department, pet food left outside for a wild cat can attract other animals including mice, rats, raccoons, skunks and opossums. Water bowls can turn stagnant and provide an excellent breeding habitat for mosquitoes.

Animal waste/feces from stray or feral cats can create odors and attract insects and most wild felines are not vaccinated against rabies, which is a health risk.

“On Belford in Hamilton Meadows there are a couple of houses where people left the property and abandoned the cats. At one time, there were 15 to 20 cats living in the area,” said township Trustee Chris Hann. “People have been feeding and watering them and it’s creating a real problem. “A child could get bit or scratched by a feral cat and people are complaining. If you want to rescue a cat, fine, but please be responsible and take it to a vet to get it vaccinated and spayed or neutered.”

All dogs, cats and ferrets must be vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian or registered veterinary technician. It is the law.

According to Franklin County health regulations, people can be cited for violating the following regulations: All exterior property and structures must be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition; be free from any accumulation of animal waste and/or animal feces; kept free from trash/tall grass/weeds in order to prevent infestation (rodents, vermin and insects) and maintained to avoid the accumulation of stagnant water, which can provide a mosquito breeding habitat.



Trash Tips

Thinking about placing large items out at the curb for pick-up by your local trash hauler, Republic Waste Service? Are you in the process of cleaning up your yard and have a few tree limbs to discard or did you just install new floor covering and want to get rid of that shag green carpet?

Here are a few tips to ensure the process works for you and Republic employees picking up your home and yard waste.

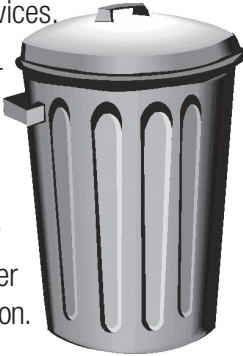
“Mattress and box springs should be wrapped in plastic to avoid the transference of bed bugs,” said Terry Thompson, Republic area manager for municipal services.

Residents are asked to wait until the township’s collection day on Wednesday to place discarded bedding, carpets (rolled and tied in four-foot-long bundles) and upholstered furniture at the curb by 7 a.m.

“If it gets wet due to rain or snow, the driver may be unable to lift it,” continued Thompson.

All tree branches and limbs must also be tied in bundles no more than four feet long. All other material should be bagged, boxed or bundled for collection. Contact the Republic Waste local office at 614-308-3000 for information on disposing of other large and/or bulky items, to place your service on a vacation hold or other service-related questions.

Residential collection may be delayed due to the following holidays: Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year’s Day. As a general rule, holidays push residential pickup schedules back one day with regular schedules resuming the following week.



Thinking of Building? Better Call Zoning

If you are planning on making a room addition, installing a new fence, replacing your siding or tackling any other large-scale home improvement project, make sure you check with the Franklin County Zoning Department before swinging a hammer.

That carefully-designed media room you are looking forward to could be a little too grand for the size of your parcel or the privacy fence you want to put up could encroach on your neighbor’s property.

Perhaps all you need is a permit, but if you don’t ask, you could run the risk of spending a lot of money to build, only to be told it needs to come back down.

“The laws have changed,” said Hamilton Township Road Superintendent Don Smith, “as of April 13, 2010. If you are thinking of building on your lot, please call Franklin County Zoning before you build anything.

“It will save you a lot of trouble in the future. People have been fined or made to take down what they have built, like

fences and buildings that are too big or tall for the lot size.”

The county is responsible for enforcing zoning laws throughout the township. For further information, call 614-525-3094, fax 525-7155, visit www.franklincountyohio.gov/edp or contact Paul Eberts, zoning officer, at 150 S. Front St., FSL Suite 10, Columbus, Ohio 43215.



HOME FIRES

- Half of home fire deaths result from fires reported between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. when most people are asleep. Only one in five home fires were reported during these hours.
- One quarter of home fire deaths were caused by fires that started in the bedroom. Another quarter resulted from fires in the living room, family room or den.
- Three out of five home fire deaths happen from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.
- In 2013, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 369,500 home structure fires. These fires caused 2,755 deaths, 12,200 civilian injuries, and \$7.0 billion in direct damage
- Home fires killed an average of eight people every day in 2013.
- Cooking equipment is the leading cause of home fire injuries, followed by heating equipment.
- Smoking materials are the leading cause of home fire deaths.
- Most fatal fires kill only one or two people. In 2013, 12 home fires killed five or more people resulting in a total of 67 deaths.
- During 2007-2011, roughly one of every 320 households had a reported home fire per year.

SMOKE ALARMS

- Three out of five home fire deaths in 2007-2011 were caused by fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.
- Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires in half.
- In fires considered large enough to activate the smoke alarm, hardwired alarms operated 93% of the time, while battery powered alarms operated only 79% of the time.
- When smoke alarms fail to operate, it is usually because batteries are missing, disconnected, or dead.

FIRE FACTS

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS



FIRE EXTINGUISHER SAFETY

Using a fire extinguisher can be challenging. For safe use on a small fire perform the following steps, using the PASS method.

P A S S

Pull the Pin at the top of the extinguisher. The pin releases a locking mechanism and will allow you to discharge the extinguisher.

Aim at the base of the fire, not the flames. This is important - in order to put out the fire, you must extinguish the fuel.

Squeeze the lever slowly. This will release the extinguishing agent in the extinguisher. If the handle is released, the discharge will stop.

Sweep from side to side. Using a sweeping motion, move the fire extinguisher back and forth until the fire is completely out. Operate the extinguisher from a safe distance, several feet away, and then move towards the fire once it starts to diminish. Be sure to read the instructions on your fire extinguisher - different fire extinguishers recommend operating them from different distances. **Remember: Aim at the base of the fire, not at the flames!**

DO NOT put yourself at RISK! The Fire Department gives hands on demonstration on fire extinguisher use, at NO CHARGE. This outreach program demonstrates how to use fire extinguishers safely and effectively. For demonstrations, please contact us at (614) 491-1042 or (614) 491-1050.



Canine Control in Public

If you are out walking your dog—whether on a trail in the township park, along the sidewalk in Hamilton Meadows or in any other public place—please remember a canine does not have opposable thumbs and cannot pick up after themselves, but you can and should.

Your dog may be your family member, but practice proper pet care and carry a plastic bag to pick up after Fido and properly dispose of the waste. There are no specific dog waste laws in Franklin County, but a pet owner can be cited for littering by the county’s Environmental Crimes Task Force and be subject to a fine of \$500 and up to 60 days in jail if convicted.

Pet owners need to maintain reasonable control of their canine while in public places. Letting your dog run up on someone else’s lawn because they smell something interesting is not maintaining control, it’s trespassing. The maximum penalty for losing “reasonable control” is \$150 for the first offense and \$250 and 30 days imprisonment for subsequent offenses.



Just a reminder . . .

- In order for us to get to your home quicker in the event of an emergency, please use address signs or reflective numbering.

• Thank you for your continued support!!
• The Hamilton Township Fire Department

