

# Village of Castalia

SPRING 2022

## Yard Waste/brush Pick Up Begins 4/4/22

Gysan's Lawncare will again pick up within the Village of Castalia on the **1st and 3rd Monday of each month**. The yard waste must be **placed curbside by 7AM on those Mondays**. This free service to residents is for yard waste paper bags, small trash cans loaded less than 40 lbs. clearly marked "YARD WASTE" and small tree limbs and sticks placed in paper bags, cans or bundled with twine.

**Dropping off yard waste at the village garage is PROHIBITED!!!**

## Open Burning in the Village

**According to the Ohio EPA** (web address for additional information):

**Not Allowed:** Any open burning of yard waste, garbage, refuse

**Allowed:** Barbeques, campfires, small fire pits with fires no larger than 2ft high x 3 feet wide using clean, seasoned firewood.

Ohio EPA: <https://epa.ohio.gov/static/Portals/47/facts/openburn.pdf>

## Road Levy on May 3rd Ballot and Village Questions

Presently the Village has a 1 mil road and bridge levy, which generates \$15,668 a year. The May 3rd ballot offers a new, additional road levy for roads (pot holes, crack sealing, new pavement, etc.) for five (5) years that will generate \$50,000 per year. The 2.75 mills will equate to \$96/yr. for a \$100,000 home value. We feel that this levy, in addition to money saved utilizing the Erie County Sheriff Dept. instead of the Village Police Department, will provide opportunity to begin addressing road conditions. We hope the following information helps you better understand our challenges in making needed repairs.

**"How are my taxes used?"** Of the taxes a Village resident owe, only 14.8% goes to the Village, the remaining 85.2% goes to the schools, county levies, and fire and EMS services. For example if you owe \$2,000 in property taxes just under \$300 reaches the Village. The first half of 2022 the Village collected \$70,000 in property taxes, and expects \$140,000 for the year. Add to it other tax dollars from the State of Ohio, Erie County, sales tax, gas tax, and misc. fees, the annual revenue is a little over \$275,000 to operate, maintain, and improve the Village.

**"What does it cost to pave a road?"** In 2021 the Village paved Winkel Court. The narrow alley section behind the Main Street business cost over \$24,000 to grind, mill, and overlay. Contrary to rumor the Village did NOT pay for the adjoining parking lots, Mr. Winkel paid for it. An emergency repair on Adams Street cost over \$25,000 to grind, mill, and overlay. Council has prioritized roads for repair based on condition and traffic volume.

Council applied for an Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) grant for the past 3 years. In December a preliminary approval was received. Final approval is expected at the end of June, the end of Ohio's fiscal budget year. The grant would cover about 50% of the nearly \$300,000 price tag. For which the Village would pay the remainder. *Continued on back*

## Village of Castalia Website

At long last the Village of Castalia has a website, [www.villageofcastalia.com](http://www.villageofcastalia.com). The website is still a work in progress, that will continue to grow and offer the latest information about council decisions, as well as, become a resource for village residents.

## 2022 Village Council

*Mayor, Kevin J. Nemitz*

*Council President Jim Johnson*

*Council Vice President, Silas Nicholson*

*Georgia Artrip*

*Jacob Smith appointed Jan 2022*

*Barbara Weyer, appointed Feb. 2022*

**Village Council Meetings are the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 6:00PM in the Village Hall. Village residents are welcome to attend**

## Village Residents Needed!!

There will be a Village Charter Review Committee formed in the near future. A minimum of five (5) Village electors are needed to serve on the review committee. If interested please contact the Mayor or Fiscal Officer.

**Mayor: Kevin J Nemitz**

**(419) 366-0667**

**[Kevnemitz@gmail.com](mailto:Kevnemitz@gmail.com)**

**Fiscal Officer: Kathy Niehm**

**(419) 366-0631**

**[KNiehm.castalia@gmail.com](mailto:KNiehm.castalia@gmail.com)**



**“Where is all the tax money Castalia saved from disbanding the police department?”** In 2019 Castalia paid approximately \$160,000 toward funding a police department. The cost included salaries, benefits, car maintenance, gas, training, etc. In 2020 the Village paid over \$75,000 towards the police department before it was disbanded in mid-summer. An agreement was reached with Erie County Sheriff to cover the remainder of 2020. For 2022 the Village is paying a little over \$40,000 to the Sheriff for police coverage, which is generated from an existing police levy. The Erie County Sheriff Dept. maintains a substation office inside Village Hall.

In 2021 the Village realized a considerable savings from not having an independent police department. The following are a list of projects completed last year:

- Grind, mill, and resurface Winkel Court
- Repair, grind, mill, and resurface a small portion of Adams Street
- Cleaned numerous storm sewers
- Replaced 4 catch basins

It was the first time in years the Village addressed problems with underground infrastructure, which cost \$20,000, and looks to clean 10 more storm sewers and repairing or replacing catch basins in 2022. These maintenance items are necessary to help alleviate flooding within homes and in the Village.

Recently a sink hole was discovered on Main Street which requires repairs between \$8,500-14,000 to fix. Because the repair is underground we don't know if repairs are needed under the entire width of the road or if just the north lane, hence the price range. The repair will NOT close Main Street. Traffic will be maintained with a temporary traffic light. This repair will occur in the coming weeks. Council is presently working on obtaining estimates for road repairs and upcoming paving projects.

**“Why doesn't Castalia have a maintenance person?”** At the beginning of 2021, for the first time since 1946 the Village was without a maintenance person for over 4 months. In April 2021, Council voted to contract mowing and yard waste pick up with two local lawn services. After a review of the Village maintenance department it was determined the costs to maintain or replace aging equipment, wages and benefits (minimum of \$50,000/yr.) outweigh the cost of contracting mowing, yard waste pick up and snow removal. Council currently is under discussion on how to handle the smaller maintenance issues and if hiring a part-time, an as needed maintenance person on retainer, or another option that hasn't yet been considered makes the most sense.

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