



The Town Crier

January 2010

Volume 14, Issue 1

Did You Know?



Effective January 1, 2010, the following pricing will be in effect for items sold by the Village:

COMPOST

\$12.00/ yard picked up
\$15.00/yard delivered

TOPSOIL

\$20.00/yard picked up
\$25.00/yard delivered

CRUSHED CONCRETE

\$6.00/ton picked up
\$10.00/ton delivered

Winter Utility Disconnection

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) annually issues a Winter Disconnect Order which regulates how and when electric and natural gas companies can disconnect heating services to those customers subject to disconnection. While this ruling does apply to investor-owned utilities, such as DP&L and Vectren, it does not apply to municipally owned and operated utilities, such as the Village of Minster's electric services. The Minster Village Council sets operating rules and guidelines for our municipal owned utilities and are not bound by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio; therefore Council may or may not choose to follow the rules established by the PUCO.

While the Village Council understands that rising heating costs are affecting nearly every commu-

nity household, the Village of Minster does not recognize the PUCO ruling to regulate utility disconnections. Service disconnections will continue according to current Village policy. Village Administrator Don Harrod said, "This was a difficult decision, but given the number of disconnect notices issued each month and the resulting total past-due dollar figure, it is in the Village's best interest to continue its utility disconnection practices on schedule."

Households facing Village utility disconnection are urged to contact the Utility Office to discuss payment options and assistance programs available to help with utility bill payment. There are several local and state programs that may be able to help. Here are a few of the local service agencies that may be able to help:

Sources Community Network Services

500 W. Wayne St.
Celina, OH 45822
419-584-1550

Helping Hands

c/o Agape Ministries, Inc.
1220 E. Spring St.
St. Mary's, OH 45885
419-394-8700

If you are an honorably discharged veteran:

Auglaize County Veterans Service Commission

209 S. Blackhoof St, Room 202
Wapakoneta, OH 45895
419-739-6750

Auglaize Co. Dept. of Job & Family Services

12 N. Wood St.
Wapakoneta, OH 45895
419-738-4311

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Find future meeting dates online at <http://www.minsteroh.com/calendar/Calendar.htm>



As we begin this New Year, many people are motivated for a fresh start and are making New Year's resolutions. The local branding initiative is also taking renewed steps forward in the New Year with an emphasis on enticing more community members to become involved in local organizations.

If your resolution is to become more community-oriented and

involved with local activities, you'll be glad to know that Minster has many exciting projects in store for 2010. As these projects begin to take shape, the branding committee and local organizations will be working closely with Village officials to try to provide input to make these projects more successful. Imagine the satisfaction of being involved, and seeing a project from start to finish!

The branding committee wants all members of this great community to know that their opinion and involvement can make a difference. There has never been a better time to make a commitment to your village by joining a local organization. If you are interested in obtaining a list of the organizations currently operating in Minster please send an email to: mquinter@nktelco.net.

Village of Minster

5 W. Fourth Street
P.O. Box 1
Minster, OH 45865

Administration
419.628.3497

Electric Department
419.628.2850

Parks & Recreation
419.628.3404

Police Non-Emergency
419.628.2378

Street Department
419.628.3404

Wastewater Treatment
419.628.2663

Water Department
419.628.2850

Utility Billing
419.628.2850

FOR THE LATEST NEWS

VISIT US ON THE WEB:

WWW.MINSTEROH.COM

Upcoming AOA Activities

February 4, 2010
RSVP

AOA Lunch Bunch
Youth Building—11 a.m.

February 10, 2010
AOA Movie
FJ Stallo Library—1 p.m.

March 4, 2010
RSVP
AOA Lunch Bunch
Youth Building—11 a.m.

March 10, 2010
AOA Movie
FJ Stallo Library—1 p.m.

Winter Snow Reminders

The first big winter snow storm of the season has been here and gone, but it's still early in the season so more snow is sure to make its way to Minster. Keep these snow-related tips in mind when the next snow storm occurs.

- Shoveling or blowing snow from sidewalks and drives onto the street not only makes for more work for property owner's when the snow plows travel back through and the snow ends up right back in the driveway, but

it also causes hazardous areas in the roadway.

- When cleaning drives, snow should be shoveled to the right of the driveway when you are facing the street. Then when the snowplow comes through minimal snow will be pushed back into your drive.
- Snow should also be removed, in a timely manner, from any sidewalks.
- When possible, remove

parked vehicles from streets and cul-de-sacs.

- Stay off of streets if at all possible.
- Shovel or blow snow from your drives and walks to areas away from public streets.
- Be patient and thoughtful. Village employees are out there working on your behalf. A little consideration and common sense can go a long way when weather conditions are difficult.

Four Seasons Park is THE Place for Winter Activities

Four Seasons Park is a wonderland for outdoor winter activities. From ice skating to riding down the sledding hill to cross country skiing or curling. Four Seasons is the place to be this winter!

Although there is loads of fun to be had there are several safety factors the Village considers before allowing various activities. For example, there must be a minimum of four inches of solid ice before any public announcement is made about opening the ice for activities. The ice depth is checked by drilling holes at several locations from the

edge of the bank to center pond. Please be advised, the ice is not checked on weekends, holidays or evenings so users should be aware that ice that was determined safe one day, may not be safe the next. Please refer to the signs posted around the pond for ice availability.

Remember that even when the pond is determined to meet the criteria for ice activities there are several key safety measures to remember:

- Never do ice-related activities alone.

- Do not gather in large groups on one spot on the ice.
- Do not be on the ice after dark.
- Warn other users of dangerous conditions.
- Make sure there is a rope, ladder, or pole available, which could be extended to a victim in an emergency.
- Dress appropriately.
- When it comes to ice, please remember one rule...**there is no such thing as safe ice!**

Historical Society Needs Your Help

"Remembering the 50's and the Korean War Era" is the next planned exhibit at the Minster Historical Society Museum. The Historical Society is now actively seeking items to use as a part of this display. All of these items can be either donated or put on loan for the duration of the exhibit.

Just what are they looking for? Surprise them! Period things or pictures related to school, sports, business, church, and ordinary things from the home. How about clothing, uniforms, shoes, music

toys or lunch boxes? Where is that letter jacket or sweater? Electronics from the 50's would be a nice addition to the exhibit. It's all those things we remember but haven't seen in a long time.

For the Korean War portion of the exhibit the Historical Society is looking for veterans names, rank, years spent and locations served during the time of the Korean War, along with pictures of the veteran in uniform. Uniforms and other war-related

memorabilia would also be greatly appreciated.

Another new project in the planning stages is a Minster Heritage Cook Book. The Historical Society is currently accepting recipes for this publication and will continue to do so until April. There will be many pictures as well as recipes from today's favorites and Grandma's classics. Start digging and bring them your prized casserole, award-winning cookie or just a family favorite recipe. Recipes can also be mailed to P.O. Box 51.