



The Town Crier

March 2010

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Did You Know?



Only 38% of people in America are eligible to donate blood and of those only 8% do. Locally, the American Red Cross is having a Blood-mobile on April 19th from noon until 6pm at the Minster Knights of Columbus Hall on Main Street.

Appointments are suggested, but walk-ins are always welcome. To schedule a donor time call: 1.800.448.3543.

To learn more about the donation process visit: <http://www.redcrossblood.org/>

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

Saving Energy While on Vacation

Summer is few short months away and it's a great time to take a vacation to just get away from it all. It is important to remember however, that—unless you take action—the appliances and electronic devices in your home will not get a break and your next month's energy bill may be business as usual. Before you leave on your next trip, follow these simple steps to help minimize energy consumption in your empty house and maybe save a few dollars for your next vacation.

Water Heater—Unless you have a tankless unit, your water heater will keep on running (and costing you money) to keep the water warm until you get back. Turn down the setting to as low as possible to reduce this "standby" heat loss while you are away.

Refrigerator—Your refrigerator is one of the biggest energy users in a typical home. If you are leav-

ing for a short period of time, change the refrigerator thermostat to a higher setting, 38 degrees for the refrigerator, 5 degrees for the freezer. For longer trips (such as four weeks or more) consider emptying your refrigerator and unplugging it.

Air Conditioner—There is no need to keep your house cool while you are sitting on the beach hundreds of miles away. Turn off your air conditioner or set the thermostat to 85 degrees or higher. To avoid coming home to an overheated house, use a programmable thermostat and set it on vacation mode to re-cool your house shortly before your expected return.

Lights—Turn off all lights in your home before you leave. You may wish to maintain an outdoor or indoor light for nighttime security. Consider installing a timer. This will limit the illumination to only a few hours a day and help

to make it appear as if someone is at home.

Electronics—There may be a "phantom load" haunting your empty home (and costing you money) while you are away. Turning off electronic devices is a good energy savings strategy, but remember, digital displays and instant-on features consume energy while they're plugged in. Unplug all electronic devices while you are away.

Dehumidifier—Make sure that you're not running your dehumidifier in the continuous mode, it could be costing you up to \$30/month. Depending on your needs, consider turning it down or off.

Visit <http://www.energydepot.com/AmpOhioRes/index.asp?key=18> to learn what your appliances cost to operate.

Count Down to Census Day

Census Day is April 1, 2010. Census forms are in the mail and should be received by nearly 130 million U.S. addresses this month! Make sure to complete and return your Census questionnaire right away. Those households failing to return the short census form by mail will be personally visited by Census workers to obtain a completed questionnaire.

The Census Bureau does want to remind citizens that:

- The Census Bureau does not initiate communication nor will they request detailed personal information through email.
- The Census Bureau does not send email requesting PIN codes, passwords or similar information for

credit cards, banks or other financial accounts.

- It takes less than 10 minutes to complete.
- Federal law protects the personal information you share during the census.
- The U.S. Constitution requires a national population count of U.S. residents every 10 years.

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

Spring Compost Reminders

The Village Compost Facility is available to all residents as a place to deposit yard wastes. This facility is regulated by the Ohio EPA and there are restrictions on the site and the debris that can be deposited.

The following items can be accepted at the compost site:

- All leaves, flowers, shrubbery trimming, grass and other vegetation
- Tree branches and brush

Each item above has a designated

pile and all deposited materials should be separated accordingly.

Items that can not be accepted:

- Plastic bags
- Construction materials
- Demolition materials

If you bring your grass clippings and other yard waste to the compost site in a plastic bag, please be sure to bring the bag home with you. Persons found disposing of



this type of material at the site are subject to a fine of up to \$500 and/or imprisonment for up to six months.

The Ohio EPA also requires that the Village account for materials leaving the site; therefore, residents must have prior approval to remove the composted materials. The purchase price for the composted material is \$12.00 per scoop. Delivery is available for an additional \$3.00 per scoop. Contact Carl Wuebker at 419.628.3404 to arrange for compost material removal.

Summer Event Planning Nearly Complete

With Spring quickly approaching the Parks & Recreation Department is already gearing up for another action-packed season of events. Again this year, the Villages of New Bremen and Minster will be pooling their resources to bring summer concerts to the area.

Plans are also underway with the F.J. Stallo Memorial Library to keep the kiddies entertained too!

Here is just a quick sampling of the many events planned to date:

- April 24th—Major Leagues Baseball Pitch-Hit-Run competition for 7-12 year olds.

- May 15th—the third annual Bock & Rock festival sponsored by the Minster Civic Association.

- June 13th—Spitting Image—identical twin brothers who love to sing and entertain

- June 27th—John Salamon's "Touring Rock N Roll Piano Show" - a non-stop, fun-filled, high energy performance.

- July 18th—Mary Knapke presents "Music of Yesterday".

- August 1st—Bill Foley Trio Band will be back to entertain us with 50s, 60s and 70s classics.

- August 15th—Simple Harmony will take us on a musical trip of the U.S.—old time stuff from a fabulous trio.

- August 29th—The Back Porch Swing Band—a swingin' rhythm and old time flavor will be sure to have you dancing in the park.

Don't forget the Active Older Adults (AOA) events going on throughout the summer as well!

FOR THE LATEST NEWS

VISIT US ON THE WEB:

WWW.MINSTEROH.COM

Upcoming AOA Activities

April 1, 2010
RSVP

AOA Lunch Bunch
Youth Building—11 a.m.

April 7, 2010
AOA Movie

FJ Stallo Library—1 p.m.

May 6, 2010
RSVP

AOA Lunch Bunch
Youth Building—11 a.m.

May 12, 2010
AOA Movie

F.J. Stallo Library—1 p.m.

Home, Garden & Trade Show Scheduled for March 28th

The Southwestern Auglaize County Chamber of Commerce and WCSM are proud to present the 2010 Home Garden & Trade Show on Sunday, March 28, 2010. The event will be held at the Auglaize-Mercer County South YMCA branch on Wuebker Road, just off State Route 66, from noon until 4 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

There will be dozens of exhibitors on hand with live demonstrations and lots of free samples. Minster

businesses included in the exhibitor lineup are:



- Cornerstone Rehabilitation
- Minster Bank

- Heritage Manor Nursing Center
- Western Ohio True Value Hardware
- Schwieterman's Pharmacy
- Wagner's IGA
- Schmiesing Refrigeration
- Arrowhead Golf Club Park

Many other businesses from the Golden Triangle and beyond will also be participating in this fantastic event. Come find out what's new this Spring!