



As we look ahead to a prosperous new year, it is also time for reflection. Miami Township set a course in 2021 for new development, better service and strong public safety.

New construction abounds. Tark, Inc., Homestead Village Active Living, the Arthritis & Osteoarthritis Center, Renegade Warehouse, Popeye's Chicken and Valvoline all broke ground in 2021 and plan to open in the next year. As they join our community, we continue to assist businesses already in operation through the new *Miami Township Marketplace*. These free videos allow us to put local businesses in the spotlight and will be continued in 2022. The Board of Trustees approved a new Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area for Austin Landing that will allow visitors to enjoy a new experience when they visit, and the Vienna Parkway extension was completed to give direct access to SR 741.

Completion of *The Plan* is expected in early 2022 to help set a course for the future, focusing on projects that you tell us are important. The comprehensive plan is available to review on our website. In June, trustees approved a resolution for Miami Township to join the GATEway Public Fiber Network that will provide more efficient internet connectivity speeds and better data storage at the Government Center. In September, we joined into an agreement with Point Broadband of Ohio to provide fiber-based internet service to residents.

The Board of Trustees made a commitment to our neighborhoods in August with the approval of the *Community Investment and Innovation Fund*. The board is working to identify how to best use up to \$1 million in funds to support neighborhood initiatives. We are also currently looking for members of a new Parks Advisory Board to help guide us in spending park funds. The deadline to apply is January 7.

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We await the announcement of a new Miami Valley Fire District fire chief after celebrating the retirement of Chief Matthew Queen in July. Thank you to interim Chief Andy Harp for leading the district these past months. The fire district starts the year on solid footing as voters passed a new levy in May to ensure continued strong services.

The Miami Township Police Department is beginning the new year with a new non-emergency dispatch phone number. You must now call (937) 296-2558 when needing to speak with an officer. The department received renewed CALEA accreditation in 2021 demonstrating its commitment to quality public service. National Night Out returned in 2021 with a bang, named the third best celebration in our category by the National Association of Town Watch.

Our Public Works Department continued its cooperation with the city of Miamisburg to get several streets repaved in 2021 and will continue the same program in 2022. It facilitated the repairs to Crains Run Road in July after a summer storm washed away a section of road. Crews also executed another success leaf collection program and are ready to tackle whatever winter may bring.

Our Finance Department is now using a new accounting system to better track our spending to ensure fiscal responsibility.

Miami Township is happy to assist you. Our offices are open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Call us at (937) 433-9969 or email contact@miamitownship.com. Happy New Year!

- Ronald L. Hess, Township Administrator