

HIRAM COMMUNICATOR

DECEMBER 2017

"ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS WE PRINT"



*From All of Us, To All of You
Happy Holidays!*

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

The Planning and Zoning Commission did not meet in December. There was no new business to come before the Commission.

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK



Please join Mayor Bertrand and local elected officials as newly elected and re-elected area Council Members, Township Trustees and School Board members are sworn into office by 14th Congressional District Representative David Joyce. Light refreshments will follow the ceremony to be held at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, December 22nd at Hiram College's Koritansky Hall located at the corner of SR 305 & SR 700 in Hiram.

The Hiram community expresses their thanks to outgoing Councilman Christopher Cobb for his 4 years of service on the Village Council. Mr. Cobb's civic service extended to the Planning and Zoning Commission where he held a seat from 2006 to 2012, he was also a member of the now defunct Board of Public Affairs and still serves on the Fourth of July Committee. Thank you Chris!

FROM THE HIRAM FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Hiram Fire Department wants to wish you and your family a Safe and Happy Holiday Season, and offers the following suggestion to keep your holiday safe:

*When purchasing a live tree look for signs of freshness. A fresh tree is green. Needles will be hard to pull from branches when bent between your fingers. Fresh needles don't break if bounced on the ground, and a minimum number of needles should fall off. *To keep your tree fresh, cut off about two inches of the trunk to expose fresh wood for better absorption of water, keep stored outside the house till you're ready to decorate and keep the stand filled with water.



* When placing your tree, make sure it is kept away from sources of heat, like fire places or heat vents, and out of the way of traffic, * Check out your lights before placing them on the tree. Look for worn or frayed wires and broken bulbs. Make sure you do not overload extension cords. * Take care when using candles. Keep them away from flammable decorations. Place them where they cannot be knocked over or reached by children. Do not leave lit candles in an unattended room. * Make sure your smoke detectors are working properly. If you'll be traveling to visit family and not sure if they have smoke detectors, take one with you.

CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL

Christmas trees may be placed at the curb during the month of January for pick up by the Street Department. Please remove ALL lights, ornaments and garland or tinsel.

WINTER SIDEWALK CLEARING

From the Village Administrator – **Please be advised that per Village of Hiram Codified Ordinance 901.01 winter sidewalk cleaning and salting is the responsibility of the property owner.** The Street Department's primary concern is the plowing and salting of the Village streets. Although the Street Department has in the past cleared residential sidewalks it is not the Department's first priority or responsibility. Thank you.

FROM THE HIRAM POLICE DEPARTMENT



Teddy Bear Scam - The Hiram Police Department is warning the public about another attempt by scammers purporting to represent the Hiram Police Department. Someone has been soliciting area homes looking for donations for a Teddy Bear program, which claims to give stuffed animals to sick and needy children. The scanner then requests people's credit card numbers.

The Hiram Police Department stresses that we never solicit donations by telephone for the Teddy Bear or any other charitable programs. Residents are urged to contact charities directly, either by phone or via their websites to verify their validity. Any one contacted by such a caller is asked to call the Hiram Police at 330-569-3236.

Six Tips for Cyber Safety:

- 1. Keep software up to date:** Tech companies are constantly monitoring their software for weak spots or security breaches and often release updates to help fix those issues. Set up your devices for automatic updates.
- 2. Install antivirus software and a firewall:** Both are a great baseline in the battle against cybercrime; antivirus software detects malicious infections, while a firewall fends off outside access. Although a variety of free options exist, you may want to invest in a paid version that offers more updates.
- 3. Check web addresses:** Anytime you're providing financial information, such as credit card numbers, double check the web address; It should begin with "https" and display a padlock sign, meaning you are securely transmitting information. And remember, if you're using a public network, your information is more vulnerable.
- 4. Never click on suspicious links:** Cyber thieves are masters at creating emails that imitate trusted vendors and sites. If an email is asking to verify personal information, demanding money or promising a refund, visit the website directly or call its customer service line to check its legitimacy. If you hover over a hyperlink in an email, a phishing scam will often reveal an unusual URL or one with a slight misspelling.
- 5. Rely on two-factor authentication:** Another powerful tool that adds an extra layer of security to log-ins and helps discourage cybercrime is two-factor authentication. It requires a username and password for the first factor and another piece of personal information, such as a security question or a onetime code sent to your phone, as the second factor.
- 6. Don't send personally identifying information in email:** Never email your credit card information, Social Security number, driver's license number or other financial or identifying information – especially if your email is unencrypted. Email is an easy way for hackers to snatch sensitive information.