

HIRAM COMMUNICATOR

DECEMBER 2020

“ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS WE PRINT”



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

The Planning and Zoning Commission did not meet December 1st. There was no new business to come before the Commission.

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.

HIRAM VILLAGE MEETINGS

During this time of pandemic Hiram Village council and committee meetings will be held either in the Village service garage (following social distancing protocol) or via Zoom.com. Check the Village website hiramvillage.org for meeting location updates. (Attendees of live meetings will be required to wear face masks.)

HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Ohio has experienced many warmer than normal days this fall. Though we may be ready for more seasonal temperatures, it’s still hard to think of the cold winter weather headed our way and the added financial pinch of high heating bills that will soon be a reality for all of us. Many in our community will find themselves in need of assistance paying those bills. **The Home Energy Assistance Program, HEAP, is available to help eligible Ohioans pay their home energy bill.** The benefit is applied directly to a customer’s utility bill or bulk fuel bill. The amount of the benefit is determined by the number of people in the household, the heating source, and the region of residence. **To find out if you are eligible for help with your home heating bills contact the Community Action Council of Portage County, Inc. at 330-297-1456 or the Home Energy Assistance Program at 1-800-282-0880, Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** You can also visit HEAP Ohio’s website for more information and application forms at www.development.ohio.gov.



PLEASE KEEP DOGS ON LEASHES

The Hiram Police Department would like to remind everyone that dogs are required to be on a leash when any park or unenclosed lands.

Per **Hiram Village Codified Ordinance 505.01(c)(1)** the following applies – “Keep the dog physically confined or restrained upon the premises of the owner, keeper, or harbinger by a leash, tether, adequate fence, supervision, or secure enclosure to prevent escape.”

To read the entire Ordinance please go to hiramvillage.org, click on the *Government* tab – *Ordinances - Part Five General Offense Code* and refer to *Section 505.01 “Dogs and Other Animals Running At Large”*.

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 suggestions 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.

INCOME TAX SEASON

Income tax season is quickly approaching and the Village Fiscal Office wants to remind everyone the **Regional Income Tax Agency, R.I.T.A.**, handles the Village’s income tax collections. The Village Fiscal Office no longer accepts or processes personal or business income tax filings. **Please mail your Village Income Tax filings to R.I.T.A., P.O. Box 477900, Broadview Hts, OH 44147-7900. For more information, forms and help, visit the R.I.T.A. website at www.ritaohio.com or call 1-800-860-7482.**

Please remember the Hiram Village income tax rate is 2.25% effective July 1, 2018 per Resolution 2017-25.

HOLIDAY CALENDAR

The Hiram Village offices will be closed on the following dates:

Christmas Holiday, December 24th & 25th
New Year’s Day, January 1, 2021
Martin Luther King Day, January 18, 2021
President’s Day, February 15, 2021

