

Salem Lamplighter

Vol. 19 No. 2 April 2025



Salem celebrated Earth Day with two successful events: a Workday and an Expo! Volunteers at the Workday refreshed the garden for spring planting by laying new wood chips, assembling additional garden beds, and weeding the pollinator garden.

The Earth Expo was a success with over two hundred attendees from the school and neighborhood. Students showcased their talents through musical performances, robotics, and art displays. The new community pavilion was officially opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony during the Expo. SWACO and Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District presented interactive and educational activities. It was a beautiful evening celebrating making Salem a healthier and more connected community!

The pavilion is open to the public outside of school hours. If you are interested in reserving the space for an event, please email salemgardencollaborative@gmail.com.

Dates to note:

April 23: Community Gardening begins! Every Wednesday from 6-8:00 p.m. and Sundays 3-5:00 p.m., April through October, all community members are welcome to tend the garden, share the harvest, and connect with neighbors. No signup necessary—see you in the garden!

May 21: The Salem Garden Collaborative will host a Planting Celebration from 5-6:30 p.m. in partnership with Salem Elementary


Join the Salem Garden Collaborative!

by Stephanie Wheeler



School. Students will showcase their cultural garden projects and there will be free food and fun activities for all ages.

June 29: Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District will present their Community Backyards class from 3-4:00 p.m. Attendees will receive a voucher to purchase native plants, a rain barrel, or a composter. This is a kid-friendly event so bring your whole family!

Questions? Reach out at salemgardencollaborative@gmail.com. Let's grow something great together! 

Salem Civic Association Meetings

The next Civic Association meetings are **Tuesday, April 22** and **Tuesday, May 27**. Meetings are held at Salem Baptist Church on Sinclair Road at 7:00 p.m. All residents are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Salem Harvest Block Party: Join the Fun & Support Your Community!

As we gear up for another fantastic *Salem Harvest Block Party* this September (exact date to be announced), we are reaching out to our incredible neighbors and local businesses to help make this event a success!

The Salem Harvest Block Party is an annual tradition that brings our community together for a day of fun, food, and festivities. It's a chance to celebrate the season, strengthen neighborhood connections, and create lasting memories for all ages. From live entertainment and local vendors to kids' activities and delicious food, there will be something for everyone to enjoy!

How You Can Help:

- **Become a Sponsor:** We are currently seeking business sponsorships to help cover event costs and enhance the experience for attendees. This is a great opportunity to showcase your business while supporting a beloved community event.

- **Make a Donation:** Monetary donations are essential in ensuring we can provide high-quality entertainment, activities, and refreshments.

- **Join the Block Party Committee:** We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers who want to play a role in organizing this year's event. Your ideas, energy, and effort will make a huge impact!

Get Involved! Our *first planning meeting* will be held on *Wednesday, May 7th, at 7 p.m. at 946 Joos Ave.* Whether you're interested in becoming a sponsor, donating, or joining the committee, we'd love to have you there!

For more information about sponsorships, please contact **Heather Odenweller** at heatherode@gmail.com. For donations or volunteering, please contact **Laurel Hobden** at LaurelsBlends@gmail.com.

Stay tuned for the official event date announcement, and let's make this year's Salem Harvest Block Party the best one yet! 🍁

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Advertise in the Salem Lamplighter

Your ad in the *Salem Lamplighter* will be delivered to 1,000 residences and businesses in the Salem Civic Association area. The 2025 ad rate per issue for copy-ready ads is as follows: Business card size \$35; quarter-page size \$55; half-page size \$70; full page size \$90; full page copy-ready insert \$75. For further details or questions, contact Leslie Baab: lesliebaab@yahoo.com.



Salem Lamplighter

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Articles for the *Lamplighter* and Letters to the Editor are welcome and encouraged.

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Please Don't Feed the Deer — It's Not Helping

Feeding deer may seem like a kind gesture, but in urban and suburban areas like ours, it causes more harm than good to both the animals and our community.

Why feeding deer is a bad idea:

Increased Car Accidents:

Feeding deer encourages them to return to neighborhoods and cross busy roads more frequently, increasing their risk of being hit by vehicles. Deer-vehicle collisions can be deadly and costly.

Landscape Damage: Homeowners across Columbus spend thousands of dollars on landscaping each year, only to have flowers, shrubs, and trees damaged or eaten by deer. Feeding deer draws them into neighborhoods and gardens where they wouldn't naturally congregate in such numbers.

Higher Risk of Disease: Feeding encourages unnatural crowding, which increases the spread of serious wildlife diseases like *Chronic Wasting Disease* (CWD). This fatal neurological disease affects deer, elk, and other cervids, and has already been confirmed in wild deer in Ohio.

<https://spectrumnews1.com/oh/cleveland/news/2025/03/26/chronic-wasting-disease-deer-ohio-2025>

Disruption of Natural Behavior: Feeding deer interferes with their natural foraging habits. When deer become dependent on human-supplied food, it can weaken their survival instincts and increase their reliance on urban and suburban environments, which aren't designed to support them long-term.



Deer Noise Deterrents Aren't the Answer:


Some residents have considered installing noise-based deer deterrents, such as ultrasonic or motion-activated devices. Unfortunately, these are not reliable solutions. Deer can quickly become accustomed to repetitive sounds and learn to ignore them, especially if food or shelter is available. Even more concerning, these devices can create noise pollution that disrupts neighbors, pets, and other wildlife, reducing overall quality of life in our community without truly solving the problem.

What You Can Do Instead:

- Let wildlife remain wild by not feeding or attempting to interact with deer.
- Report any sick or disoriented deer to the ODNR to help track and manage potential outbreaks.
- Learn how to deer-proof your landscaping and safely coexist with urban wildlife.


For more information, visit:

- Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR): <https://ohiodnr.gov>
- Chronic Wasting Disease Info: <https://cwd-info.org>
- Ohio Wildlife Center: <https://www.ohiowildlifecenter.org>

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RATS!

Do you have a pest problem or a burning question for the Department of Health?

Join us at the **Salem Civic Association Meeting Tuesday, April 22 at 7:00 p.m. at Salem Baptist Church.**

We're kicking things off with a special guest speaker from the Columbus Department of Health to talk about rats—and all things pest- and health-related! The speaker will share resources and answer your questions about pest issues, public health, and more.

Can't make the meeting? Email your questions to salemcivicassn@gmail.com by Sunday, April 21, and we'll ask them on your behalf.

Look for Q&As from the meeting in the next issue of *The Lamplighter!* 

Speak Up for Your Community: Participate in the Columbus Police Survey!


**A message from Officer Daniel M. Yandrich
#2206, Community Liaison North Officer | 18
Precinct:**

The Columbus Division of Police is inviting you to make a difference in shaping the future of our neighborhood by taking part in the Community Survey! This survey, conducted every two years, is a vital opportunity to ensure that your voice is heard when it comes to policies, priorities, and improvements in safety and community engagement.

By sharing your thoughts, experiences, and ideas, you directly contribute to enhancing the relationship between the police and the community. Your

feedback helps shape the priorities of law enforcement in our area, ensuring they reflect the concerns and needs of our residents.

It only takes a few minutes to complete the survey, but your response will have a lasting impact on how our community is served. Whether you've had positive experiences or areas of concern, now is the time to speak up and make sure your voice counts.

Take the Survey Here: The survey can be found on our webpage, www.columbus.gov/police, on the right side of the page under *Community Engagement*. 

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Here's the 311!

by Renee Sammett

Have you ever seen a trash can rolling haphazardly across the street with a broken wheel and cracked lid? What about a discarded mattress in front of your neighbor's yard for the third week in a row? Have you ever wished someone would just come and make those eyesores disappear, but you feel like a tattletale for making a stink about it?

Well here's the 311*. Columbus 311 is *complaint* based. This means they don't go around looking for code violations. There is no code enforcement officer stalking the streets of Joos or Minerva looking for houses with grass a little too long or standing water in the old tires hiding behind your 1999 Toyota Celica. Great news! Because no one likes a "narc," right? *Wrong*. Code enforcement isn't some systematic operation with which to harass people whose lawn ornaments you don't like. Code enforcement is a really helpful free service that exists to make living in Columbus a great experience.


So what about those rain soaked mattresses and water collecting tires? Well for starters, it's important to know, if you wish to get rid of your old mattress, Columbus has a free bulk pickup service, but they don't just drive around looking for trash on the side of the roads. If you want your stuff to magically disappear, you must first schedule a bulk pickup with 311 through the app or their web page <https://www.columbus.gov/311-Customer-Service-Center>, and wait to take it out to the street until the day before your scheduled pickup.

Secondly, make sure you are following their rules—like all discarded mattresses will only be

picked up if they are sealed in a plastic wrap. There are also lists of items considered "unacceptable" waste, like construction materials and hazardous waste. (Please don't throw your plutonium away or leave it on the side of the road).

Lastly, you can call code enforcement to look into a matter for you. For example: those tires I told you about. West Nile virus is still considered a public safety concern and standing water is a breeding ground for mosquitoes and can pose a risk to our community. Calling 311 to look into issues of standing water (perhaps at an abandoned property or somewhere you can't get to) is a perfectly acceptable and commendable action to take. You might be saving someone's life.

So, to recap: Call 311 for help with issues like bulk pickup, dangerous intersections, infrastructure concerns, etc. With us as the eyes and ears of Columbus code enforcement, many improvements will be made to our community and the greater Columbus area. In this case, go ahead and complain! Just make sure to do it through your app!

*A play on the slang, "the 411," referring to the information hotline of the mid 1900s. It originated from the number one would call for directory assistance and evolved to mean any type of "scoop" on information. 



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Curious Salem

by Grace Freeman

920 East Lincoln Avenue

This is the conclusion of Curious Salem: 920 East Lincoln Avenue. Part 1 appeared in the February (and December) issues of the Salem Lamplighter.

Mary Jane Henson was next to testify, stating that Koch had admitted to the murders, and also to two other murders in the past, including one in Covington. She explained that she and Heise had been living together in Covington since June, and that Heise had been with her on July 1 and 2. She denied that Heise had scratches on his arms and hands on July 2, as proposed by the defense. She claimed that Koch gave her a wristwatch on July 2 when he arrived in Kentucky, which Tammy Malfe's father had previously stated had been a Christmas gift to the slain girl. She also admitted that Jack Heise had recently beaten her unconscious. Henson reiterated that Koch had admitted to the killings, and that Heise had been with her, and never mentioned any involvement.

Heise added that Koch had suggested robbing a Kentucky carryout store and murdering the man who ran it, but Heise talked Koch out of the idea, pointing out that there was no way to know if there was money there. Both witnesses stated that Koch discussed plans to flee to Canada or Australia. That was when Heise had called police in Columbus.

On cross examination, it was learned that Heise had been back and forth to central Ohio several times that June/July, though he claimed it was to see his estranged wife in Lancaster. He was questioned about \$50 he gave to his wife, which he claimed he had been given by his cousin, a Columbus Police sergeant. Heise denied the beating of Miss Henson, claiming that she took pills and fell down several times.

Janice Koch, pregnant wife of Billy Koch, testified for the defense. She stated that her husband was home the night of July 1 except for a business appointment, and home on July 2 until 10 a.m. It had already been established by others that the bodies were found on July 2, and the murders had taken place that morning or the night before. She stated that he got up and took his mother to work around 9, with one of the children, and took two of the children for haircuts, before receiving a call from

Heise who was in trouble with his wife, and needed Koch in Kentucky. She did admit that she didn't actually know that Heise called, but that her husband told her of it. She also said that her husband was at a place on Columbus' east side to sell an air conditioner—he bought and sold used air conditioners—but did not know where he bought them from even though she stated she was present when he purchased them. She denied that she had earlier indicated that she didn't know her husband's whereabouts on July 1 and 2.

Finally, Koch himself took the stand, and while he denied that he knew victim Robert Herron, stated that he had recommended Herron to a bondsman and went to Herron's home to attempt to collect \$400 that Herron owed the bondsman. Koch said Herron wasn't home, he spoke to Mrs. Malfe, and saw Tammy, who he took to a swimming pool with two other children. He claimed to have made plans with Mrs. Malfe for shortly before midnight at a restaurant, to arrange a painting job for Mr. Herron. He said he had other business appointments before that meeting, and also stopped by a bar. He claimed to have returned home when the restaurant owner wasn't available to discuss the painting job and fell asleep in a chair until the next morning when he took his mother to work at North American Aviation. He then received a call from Heise who needed money and went to Covington to loan him \$50. Koch claimed this was not the first time he had loaned Heise money,

After seven hours of deliberation, the jury found Koch innocent, freeing him to visit his now-two-day-old daughter at the hospital. The defense's argument that Koch had been framed appeared to have been successful.

Two months later, in November of 1965, Koch was set to appear in court for several charges of writing checks with insufficient funds. He failed to appear, and his bond was forfeited. Koch appeared to have fled Ohio, and the FBI was called on to help locate him. It was learned then that he was wanted by authorities in Georgia and California as well. Koch was finally taken into custody in New York state in March 1967, living under the assumed name of William Councell (Councell was his mother's maiden


BILLY EUGENE KOCH

Man Wanted Here Since Fall Taken into Custody in New York

name). He was wanted in California for a parole violation, and it was learned that he had been in prison in Alabama beginning in 1960 for assault with intent to murder and had escaped after being made a prison trustee.

Newspaper accounts don't make it clear how things ended up for Mr. Koch, but by 1966, ownership of the house on Lincoln had been transferred to his lawyers, and Mrs. Georgia Koch, mother of Billy, moved to Oregon, where she died in 1994. Billy died in 2003 in Arizona.

The house at 920 Lincoln was briefly owned by Larry and Arlene Parker in 1967 before they sold it to Kenneth and Nora Butcher. The Butchers lived in the house until 1984 and Nora remained in the home for several more years.

Ownership transferred a few more times, and in 1997, Alan Gravley and Stan Writesel purchased the home. They lived there until 1999, when they sold to Vanessa Hatcher. Jonathan Moore owned the home from 2001 until 2022, when the current owner, Caleb Degraaf, purchased the home. 



Billy Eugene Koch, sought by local authorities since last November, was taken into custody in a New York state resort area Tuesday night, it was learned Wednesday.

Koch, 38, who resided at 920 Lincoln Ave., was placed on the wanted list by the FBI after he failed to appear in County Criminal Court last November on six counts of writing checks without sufficient funds.

A MONTH earlier, he was acquitted on three first-degree murder counts by a jury.

New York state police and FBI agents picked up Koch on a federal warrant charging him with unlawful flight to avoid prosecution. He also reportedly is wanted by the State of California as a parole violator and the State of Alabama as an escapee.

State police at Ferndale, N.Y. said Koch was arrested at Sackett Lake, a ski resort in the Catskills.

SHERIFF STACY Hall said he was informed by New York State Police Wednesday that Koch was using the name William Cuncell at the time of his arrest. He said fingerprints established his true identity.

The sheriff also reported Koch was transferred to a federal detention center in New York City Wednesday and that he refused to waive extradition.

Fred Newsome Jr., assistant prosecutor, said he would prepare papers to take to Governor Rhodes and obtain a governor's warrant. The warrant will be taken to New

York City and the court there will decide whether Koch will be returned to Columbus for trial.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES did not know what effect the detainers from the other states would have on the local case. Koch has a lengthy criminal record.

He was first convicted of a

felony in 1947 in Richmond, Va. on a grand larceny charge. Five years later he was sentenced to Mansfield Ohio reformatory on two counts of forgery.

IN LOS ANGELES Koch was arrested for violating Dyer Act, which involves the transportation of a stolen vehicle across state lines.

In 1957, Koch was convicted on two counts of forgery and was sent to the London Prison Farm.

Then on May 27, 1960, Koch was sentenced to two years in an Alabama prison on a charge of assault with intent to murder at Tuscaloosa, Ala. He was made a trusty at the prison and escaped on December 30, 1960.

KOCH WAS indicted for the triple slaying last July 2 of three Linden residents. He later was acquitted on charges that he murdered Mrs. Ena Malfe, 42, her daughter Tammy, 11, and her brother Robert Herron, 43, all of 2940 Dresden St.

Currently, Koch is free on \$8000 bond pending extradition proceedings to Alabama. The local court forfeited \$2000 bond when Koch failed to appear for a trial last Nov. 22 on the bad check charges.

Malfe family headstone at St. Joseph Cemetery. Image courtesy FindAGrave.

Courtesy Columbus Dispatch, March 2, 1966



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Community Reminder: Have Your Say on the Future of State Route 161

by Heather Odenweller

The City of Columbus is moving forward with Phase 2 of the *Zone In* initiative, focusing on the SR-161/East Dublin-Granville corridor in Northland. This zoning update presents an exciting opportunity to reshape our community, bringing more walkable spaces, local businesses, and much-needed housing to the area.

Why is this important?

Walkable Spaces: Our neighborhood deserves spaces that encourage people to get outside and interact with their surroundings. Walkable areas are key to fostering a vibrant community where neighbors can meet, shop, dine, and enjoy the outdoors without relying on cars. More pedestrian-friendly spaces also contribute to better health and environmental outcomes, reducing traffic congestion and pollution. It's about creating a place where our community can thrive in a healthy and sustainable way.

Local Businesses: Supporting local businesses is essential to strengthening our economy and creating a unique identity for our community. With the right zoning updates, we can attract local shops, restaurants, and service providers to the 161 corridor. These businesses will provide convenience, create jobs, and enhance our community's character. Imagine strolling down a tree-lined street with coffee shops, bookstores, and eateries that reflect the spirit of Northland—this is what we're working toward!

Much-Needed Housing: As Columbus grows, so does the demand for housing. By supporting zoning updates that allow for more diverse housing options, we can help meet that need while maintaining the character of our community. This is about ensuring that families, young professionals, and retirees alike can find a place to call home, right here in Northland.


Make Your Voice Heard!

This is our chance to help guide the future of the 161 corridor. The *Zone In* Phase 2 initiative is seeking input from all community members. Your voice matters in shaping how this part of Northland evolves, so be sure to visit

columbus.gov/zoningupdate to review the proposed changes and submit your feedback. The public comment period closes on May 10, so don't wait!

Additionally, public hearings will take place on **April 14 and May 28 at 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. in city council chambers, 90 W Broad St**—mark your calendars and attend to make your voice heard in person!

We need your input to ensure that the future of 161 reflects the needs and desires of our community. However you feel about the zoning changes, take a moment to get involved and share your thoughts. Let's make sure Northland grows into a place where everyone can live, work, and play.

Together, we can shape a vibrant future for 161—let's make it count! 



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Special Guest Speaker at May SCA Meeting: Franklin County Dog Warden

Join us for the Salem Civic Association's **monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.**, held at **Salem Baptist Church**. We're excited to welcome a special guest speaker from the Franklin County Dog Shelter and Adoption Center!

The Dog Warden will be joining us to speak on several important topics relevant to pet owners and neighbors alike, including:

- 🐾 **Stray dog awareness.**
- 🐾 **Handling aggressive dogs and dog bites,** including how and when to report incidents.

🐾 **Dog licensing requirements** and an overview of Ohio's vicious, dangerous, and nuisance dog laws in Franklin County.

🐾 **Free obedience classes** and other helpful resources available to dog owners.

There will also be time for Q&A, so bring your questions and concerns. This is a great opportunity to learn more about how we can keep our pets and our community safe.

We hope to see you there! 📍

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What is Missing?

by Rae Kirkbride

There seem to be a lot of things missing “out there in the public.” There is a term that my parents’ generation used to use a lot and that’s *Common Courtesy*, so I’m going to talk about that. Let’s define it first: “Common courtesy is politeness that people can usually be expected to show. It is a respectful act or remark that can make the world a better place.” Webster (remember that name?) defines common courtesy as “politeness that people can usually be expected to show.” So both definitions use the word “expect” and that word often brings with it a negative connotation. But it doesn’t have to. Expectation is part of common courtesy. Think of that thing we used to hear about all the time growing up—the Golden Rule: Treat other people as you want to be treated. Well, that sure sounds simple enough, but we know it is not. It does take some effort. Sometimes a *lot* of effort. And I think it’s important to remember that the Golden Rule doesn’t say to treat others how we want to be treated *when they are nice to us first*. So let’s give it a try.

We can start small. I can think of things that I consider common courtesy that I don’t see much anymore. Let’s throw out some examples.

1. When driving a car on a street with parked cars—instead of racing ahead so that guy coming at you can’t get through first, pull behind the parked car, wave or flash your lights and invite them to come through first. And please don’t be the second, third, or fourth person behind the invited car that believes the person waving has more time than you do and thus you all speed through, leaving that person annoyed.
2. When someone *does* invite you to go first, a simple smile and nod of the head to say ‘thanks’ or a cheerful wave goes a long way.
3. In the grocery store, when the person behind you has two items and you have a cart full, how about a friendly, “Please, you go first.”
4. Age/Sex/Race do not matter when someone can use a hand. “Let me get that door,” “You dropped your phone, let me get it for you.” Little things like that can go a long way.
5. ‘Please’ and ‘Thank You.’ I’ve noticed we don’t hear those words like we used to. They help others feel important and appreciated.
6. Dog walkers—I promise you, your neighbor does not appreciate it if you don’t clean up after your pooch, and I also promise you that they *do* appreciate it when you take the responsibility to clean up. They remember who you are on both occasions.
7. Eye Contact—not the creepy kind, just eye contact and a smile when you pass someone walking on the sidewalk or see a neighbor watering flowers.
8. You fill in the blanks from here.

This clearly is not an exhaustive list, and I bet in just reading this article twenty things came to mind that might irritate you that you’d consider a *lack* of common courtesy. So maybe jot those things down on a piece of paper and decide 1) I’m not going to do the things to others that irritate me, and 2) I’m going to try just *one* thing that might bring joy to someone I see today. It’s about starting small and heading in the right direction. Will we change the world overnight? Of course not. We will make a difference. As little as it may seem—we will make a difference! So let’s start small. What can you do today to make a positive change in someone’s world? 💡

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TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

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☐ \$10 Senior 62+

☐ \$20 Business/Organization

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☐ Feral Cat Program

☐ Food Bank

☐ Lamplighter Newsletter

☐ Neighborhood Events: Annual Garage Sale, Block Party, National Night Out

☐ Operating Costs

☐ Thanksgiving Dinners

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☐ Block Party

☐ National Night Out

Term & Condition

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More Info

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