



## Gahanna in the News

### RITA Woes Prompt City Income Tax Extensions

Original story by Lori Kurtzman, [The Columbus Dispatch](#)

After an hour of wasted time trying to pay his local taxes on Monday night, Kyle Clark figured he'd log back on to the website when it wasn't so busy.

So at 3:30 a.m. yesterday, he opened his eyes. He signed into his account with the Regional Income Tax Agency, paid what he owed the city of Ashville and went back to bed.

"No problems," Clark said.

Waking up in the middle of the night, it turned out, was one of the few ways to avoid the flurry of last-minute filings that slowed RITA's website to a crawl and choked the agency's phone lines.

Demand was so high - and service to keep up so lagging - that RITA, based in the Cleveland suburb of Brecksville, ultimately cut its frustrated users a break. The agency announced yesterday that local taxpayers



April 17, 2014

## Upcoming Events

**April 19, 2014**

Ward 1 Listening Tour  
9:00 a.m.

**April 21, 2014**

Council Meeting  
7:00 p.m.

**April 26, 2014**

Gahanna Cleans Green  
9:00 a.m.

won't face late-filing penalties or interest as long as their returns are postmarked or electronically filed by midnight on Monday.

In a news release, RITA said it was "facing the challenge of unprecedented demand for filing services" and had responded by increasing Internet bandwidth and phone coverage. The agency said about 10,000 tax forms had been filed electronically from midnight to noon yesterday, and that it was handling more than 200 calls and 100 in-person visits each hour.

"We are still determining the root cause(s) [of the problems], but can certainly identify an increase in volume as a contributing factor," RITA Executive Director Donald Smith wrote in an email.

RITA administers tax programs for 240 communities in Ohio, among them 13 in Franklin County and a handful of others in surrounding counties, including Ashville in Pickaway County. Local community officials who've long partnered with RITA said they've never experienced troubles like the ones that began as the weekend ended and the April 15 tax deadline approached.

In the past two days, residents have called, emailed and dropped by city buildings, wondering why RITA's website seemed locked up and its automated system was down. Most importantly, they wanted to know how they were going to pay their taxes on time.

"We're getting a lot of calls," said Gahanna spokeswoman Niel Jurist. "People are frustrated. But at the end of the day, we're doing our best to help alleviate some of those concerns."

Even before RITA's announcement, some cities, including Gahanna, Hilliard and Grandview Heights, said they would delay penalties against those who tried to file their taxes with RITA but couldn't. They also posted their own links to tax forms that had become nearly impossible to download from RITA's site. While no cities seemed eager to part ways with the tax agency, they did want answers and assurances that the problems will be fixed.

"We've got to look at that, talk about RITA ... find out why it happened," said Greg Tantari, Hilliard's deputy finance director. "We want our taxpayers to be happy."

**\*Editors Note:** *The City of Gahanna has extended the deadline for citizens to file their local income taxes until Monday, April 21, 2014. For more information, click [here](#).*

## Spring/Summer 2014 Gateway Program Guide



### Quick Links

- [City Website](#)
- [Mifflin Twp. Division of Fire](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Sign Up For Code Red](#)
- [Find a traffic crash report](#)
- [Search Legislation](#)
- [Find a job with the City](#)

### Get Connected!



City of Gahanna  
200 South Hamilton  
Gahanna, OH 43230

614.342.4000  
614.342.4100 Fax

Hours of Operation  
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
M-F  
[www.gahanna.gov](http://www.gahanna.gov)

## Votes Could Cultivate School Gardens

Original Story by Marla K. Kulman, [ThisWeek Community News](#)

The Ohio Herb Education Center in Gahanna needs votes.

Through Monday, April 21, public voting is occurring at [Facebook.com/seedsofchange](#) and [seedsofchangegrant.com](#) for a chance to receive one of two grants worth \$20,000 or one of 15 grants worth \$10,000.

Gahanna's Learning Garden project, an outreach program by the Ohio Herb Education Center, has entered the Seeds of Change grant program that is designed to enhance the environmental, economic and social well-being of gardens, farms, farmers and communities



**The Gahanna Learning Gardens**

**Help us GROW!**

The Gahanna Learning Gardens is an outreach of the Ohio Herb Education Center working to install school gardens in Gahanna Schools. The program is completely grant funded and we need your help!

Vote to help the Gahanna Learning Gardens win a \$20,000 grant from Seeds of Change.

**Voting is easy!**

Vote once a day April 1-21st by visiting: [seedsofchangegrant.com](#) and search for 43230 zip code

Let's work together to make Gahanna an even greater place to work, live, learn and play!

The grants will be awarded to organizations that help support and develop sustainable, community-based gardening and farming programs that focus on teaching people where their food comes from.

If Gahanna is awarded a grant, it would be used to purchase supplies for students to use in school gardens, a storage-shed purchase or construction, compost and plants.

"Each garden location will offer students the opportunity to learn about the environment, historical uses of plants, what can be made with plants, why plants and animals are so important, math in nature and where their foods come from," said Beth McCollam, parks-and-recreation public information coordinator.

People may vote once per day for the organization they believe most deserves a grant based on the organization's demonstration of how the grant would help it to achieve its goals.

Click [here](#) to read the full story. To cast your vote today, click [here](#).

## "Get to Know Gahanna"



Missed some City of Gahanna Update editions?

Check out previous editions [here](#)



## City News & Events

### Ohio Safe Room Rebate Program Offered by Ohio EMA

*Deadline: April 18, 2014*

Homeowners interested in constructing a tornado shelter may be eligible to receive a rebate for purchase and installation of safe rooms through the Ohio Emergency Management's (EMA) Ohio Safe Room Rebate Program.



Residents selected for the program are eligible for a rebate up to 75 percent of the cost to install or construct a safe room - up to a maximum of \$5,250. To apply for the Ohio Safe Room Rebate Program, homeowners have until 5 p.m. April 18, 2014 to register on the Ohio EMA [website](#).

For more information about this program, click [here](#).

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### **Best Rates Available Now for Pool Memberships & Camp Enrollment!**

*Early Bird Registration Deadline ends April 25, 2014*

Gahanna Parks & Recreation has lots of exciting activities going on this summer, so don't miss out! Now is the best time to register-Early Bird rates are available through April 25.

## Aquatics



- One membership for 2 pools!
- Be one of the first 500 households to purchase your membership and receive a free 5-visit bonus pass!

## Summer Camp Experiences



*Registrations taken until all spots are filled!*

- Jump Start Traditional Camp @ Friendship Park (ages 6-12)

- Camp Friendship @ Hannah Park (ages 5-12)
- CORE @ Friendship Park (ages 12-14)

Visit the Parks & Recreation page at [www.Gahanna.gov](http://www.Gahanna.gov) and click on 'Aquatics' or 'Camp' for more details, including swim lessons and pool activities.

### Yoga for Active Adults



Looking for a way to regain balance and reduce stress in your life? Try Yoga!

Join our very experienced yoga teachers who have years of instructional knowledge ready to share in a variety of yoga programs offered through Parks & Recreation. In addition to Hatha Yoga for Beginners and Experienced yoginis and Slow Flow Yoga, additional workshops include Yoga for Kids, Aromatherapy Yoga Workshop and Centered-Yoga Workshop. Adults may also enjoy Urban Zen, a newer trend that includes gentle movements, restorative yoga poses, aromatherapy, soothing breath awareness, reiki and meditation.

Not for you? Try our low-impact, drop-in fitness classes at The Center, 480 Rocky Fork Blvd. These classes include Wabi®, low impact aerobics and Zumba and beginning and advanced line dance.

Visit the Adult Programs page in the latest [Gateway](#) or give us a call at 614-342-4250 to register.

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**Gahanna Cleans Green**  
Saturday, April 26, 2014



**PAPER SHREDDING**

**ELECTRONICS RECYCLING**

**GAHANNA CLEANS**

**GREEN**

**SATURDAY**

**APRIL 26, 2014**

**9:00<sub>AM</sub> - 1:00<sub>PM</sub>**

**CITY HALL PARKING LOT**

**200 S HAMILTON RD**

**FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD RECORDS SHREDDED**

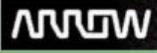
**COMPUTER AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES RECYCLED**

**FOOD OR MONETARY DONATIONS ACCEPTED FOR GRIN**

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 614-342-4090 OR [SHARON.MONTGOMLRTY@GAHANNA.GOV](mailto:SHARON.MONTGOMLRTY@GAHANNA.GOV)

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FOR  
DONATING THEIR SERVICES FOR THIS EVENT:

 **OHIO MOBILE SHREDDING**  
for Privacy, Security and Compliance

 **NOW**

**Herb Day**  
Saturday, May 10, 2014



# HERB DAY

HERB & PLANT SALE · LOCAL VENDORS · SPEAKERS

**Saturday, May 10, 2014**  
**9am-4pm**  
**Creekside District, 117 Mill St, Gahanna**  
OhioHerbCenter.org · 614-342-4380

#### Speakers

10am **Three Local Medicinal Natives That Deserve a Second Look**  
*Dawn Combs, Mockingbird Meadows Herbal Health Farm*

12pm **Wicked and Weird: Stories and Cautionary Tales**  
*Debra Knapke, The Garden Sage*

2pm **Herb Walk with United Plant Savers**  
*Erika Galentini, United Plant Savers*

#### Demonstrations

11am **Lavender, Tarragon, and Thyme: Better Living through Cooking with Fresh Herbs**  
*Mark Kopp, The Golf Depot*

1pm **Homemade, Healthy Herbal Snacks**  
*Dawn Combs, Mockingbird Meadows*

3pm **Sweeping Up the Leftovers: Herbal Whisk Brooms**  
*Janell Baran, Blue Owl Garden Emporium Herb Farm*

PRESENTED BY:



**OhioHerb**  
Education Center



**CITY OF GAHANNA**  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

## Community Events

**Bike Rodeo**  
Saturday, April 19, 2014

# Bike Rodeo



**Consider Biking welcomes all Gahanna elementary students to attend the *Safe Routes to School* Bike Rodeo.**

LOCATION: Middle School South, 349 Shady Spring Dr.

DATE: Saturday, April 19

TIME: 1 PM

WHAT: Bicycle safety instruction  
Poster contest to promote biking and healthy living  
Bicycle One will provide a mechanic to check bikes  
Helmet fitting  
Bicycle obstacle course, and other fun games

*Bring your bike and helmet for some fun on your bike and learn all about safe riding!*

