

North Ridgeville

Community Connection

Quarterly newsletter of the City of North Ridgeville ~ April 2011

Last July the administration had to give an estimate to County officials of our 2011 budget. I don't really put a lot of credibility into that estimate because I know things can change in six months. Little did I know how complicated planning our budget would actually be by the end of February when we sat down with Council and hammered it out. But three significant things happened that leave us in the position of feeling our way through to the end of the year to see where we really are.

The first major impact was the renewal of our three union contracts with our police, fire and other employees. While negotiations are always tough, in the past, after one union settlement was reached the other two typically fell in line. This year we ended up with three different contracts with different terms and different lengths. The police contract is one year, the fire is two years and AFSCME is a three year contract.

Secondly, Ohio Senate Bill 5 was passed which can cause tremendous changes in our collective bargaining agreements. I believe that even the thought that SB 5 would be passed had an effect on getting our contracts settled. And while SB 5 might not become effective until November, or even never, the collective bargaining landscape has changed.

And finally, Governor Kasich's budget has been proposed. No one knows right now what the final budget bill will look like. But again, cuts into the Local Government Fund Revenues, elimination of the reimbursement of lost tangible property taxes (supposed to be replaced by the CAT tax, but that hasn't occurred either) will have a major impact on our end of the year numbers.

We are always conservative, and our employees made a huge sacrifice. SB 5 is not law yet and the State budget won't take effect until July 1, 2011, so I'm sure we will manage this year okay. Unfortunately, it is getting more difficult all the time to predict where our funding will be to maintain roads, fix sewers and pay employees. But, though times are tough, I still love my job, the employees I work with and the residents I serve. North Ridgeville is still an outstanding place to live, work and play. I am a very lucky person.



David Hillenkamp
Mayor

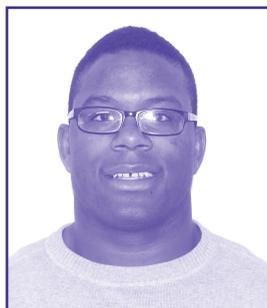
Meet the new City Hall employees who were recently hired, one to replace retired Chief Deputy Clerk of Council Paula Cope and the other to fill the vacant position of Program Supervisor.

Assistant Clerk of Council

Tara Maine graduated from Ohio State University in 2003 with a double major in political science and criminal justice and received a post-baccalaureate degree in paralegal studies in 2009. She has worked as a legal secretary for two law firms and as an office manager for one of those firms as well as a city clerk and paralegal for the city of Hilliard and as a program compliance officer for the Community Action Agency of Columbiana County. Tara loves the law which, along with her extensive background and many certifications, makes her particularly well suited as Assistant Clerk of Council.



Parks & Recreation Program Supervisor



Ryan Kirst is the second youngest in a family of twenty-five siblings who mostly reside in Mansfield, Ohio where they grew up. Raised in a Christian based home, he was taught that a healthy and fit lifestyle is important for a child. Because of this positive upbringing he was fortunate to be accepted by Ashland University where he graduated with a Bachelor of Sports Sciences Degree in Recreation in August 2007. He is very excited about plunging back into the field of Recreation and looks forward to the opportunity to join with Kevin Fougousse in making an impact in the community and generating renewed interest in the new classes and programs being offered. Ryan's love of Recreation as well as his contagious enthusiasm make him a welcome addition to our Parks and Recreation Department.



Pride Day

Pictured are residents and off-duty city employees who worked diligently to beautify our city parks on Pride Day 2010.



May 21, 9 AM to noon is a great time to take an active part in improving our community and our park district. Residents are encouraged to clean up, fix up, paint and spruce up our community in support of the annual Lorain County Pride Day Program. Interested organizations or individuals should contact Kevin Fougrouse, Director of Parks and Recreation, at 353-0825 or kfougrouse@nrldgeville.org. Also see the Community Calender on the back page of this newsletter for a listing of other Pride Day activities including the pancake breakfast and the Shred-It Truck. Don't miss out on your chance to beautify North Ridgeville and take pride in your community!

20th Annual Growers, Gardens & Homes Tour

Save the date of Saturday, May 21 for the 20th Annual Growers, Gardens & Homes Tour to be held throughout the city. Thirteen locations will be featured during this year's self guided tour of garden centers, housing communities and related retail businesses featuring merchandise and ideas to make your home and yard more beautiful. The event is from 9 AM to 5 PM. Spend the day or a couple of hours. Many businesses will have special events, discounts and give-aways. Brochures, featuring all locations, will be available in late April or check the website www.nrchamber.com or call the Chamber of Commerce/Visitors Bureau Office at 327-3737.

10th Annual City Wide Garage Sale Days

One of the summer's biggest events, plan to attend or participate in the city wide sale days beginning on Wednesday, June 15 from 6-8 PM and then Thursday, Friday and Saturday, June 16, 17, and 18 from 9 AM - 6 PM. Participants may pick one day or all of them to have a sale. For treasure hunters, there will be new sales added each day. Register June 1-10 at a cost of \$5.00 which includes a laminated sign, balloons, website and printed listing. Come into the Chamber of Commerce/Visitors Bureau office, 34845 Lorain Road. Hours are Monday thru Thursday from 8 AM - 4 PM and Friday 8 AM until noon.

Backflow Prevention Requirements

Your private irrigation system or in-ground swimming pool is required to be fitted with an ASSE 1020 or 1013 Backflow Prevention Device that ***must be tested at the time your system is installed and every 12 months thereafter, even if the system is not in use.*** A state certified person must test backflow devices. Most local plumbers have personnel who can perform this test if your contractor has no one certified on staff. Please obtain a copy of this completed test for your records and submit a copy to the Engineering Department. This is not the contractor's responsibility, however, some will submit the test to the city on your behalf. To be safe, please confirm with Engineering that this has been done.

When choosing a contractor, be sure they are familiar with these backflow prevention requirements before signing an agreement. Also, for your protection, verify through the North Ridgeville Building Department at 353-0822 that your contractor is currently registered with the city before agreeing to any work. The Backflow Prevention Program, as described by Ohio Administrative Code 3745-95-02(a) and North Ridgeville Ordinance 1046.22, can be found online at the City of North Ridgeville website: www.nridgeville.org. If you have any further questions regarding backflow prevention, please contact the North Ridgeville Engineering Department at 353-0842.

Improving Drainage in North Ridgeville

As I am sure a lot of residents of North Ridgeville are painfully aware, our city was subjected to a “Perfect Storm” early Monday, February 28. While all the conditions that contributed to this event are too many to address here, I will touch on just a few of the most significant. There was a significant deposit of snow with a water equivalent of one to two inches of rain that was melted very quickly by an incoming warm front. The very same warm front that began to fill our system with snowmelt brought with it considerable rain estimated in the range of two and one-half to three inches. A third issue was that the soil’s ability to absorb precipitation is considerably less in the wintertime due to alternating frozen and saturated conditions. Lastly, all this took place very rapidly and created, essentially, a “traffic jam” of water.

While it is important to understand that even best designed and maintained storm systems can be overwhelmed when subjected to events like this, we are still working to improve our system in order to minimize flooding no matter what nature throws at us. I have been researching complaints which my office received as well as listening to feedback from residents at council meetings. I have spent several days in the field personally walking our drainage infrastructure and searching for ways to improve the system. More often than not, it is discovered that there is no design/maintenance problems and the flooding occurred simply because Mother Nature dumped more on us than the system was designed to handle. That being said, I have found some situations that cause some concern.

I personally walked Robinson ditch and studied drawings of the area going back to 1967. After fully assessing the issue it was decided that a thorough cleaning of Robinson ditch from Debbie to Lear Nagle was a step towards improving the drainage in that area. Another point of concern was where Robinson crosses Pitts Blvd. The capacity of the pipes in this area is being studied and improvements are being investigated further.

We did inspections along Faulkner ditch beyond the city limits and into Avon. We contacted Avon officials regarding maintenance issues we discovered and made sure they were corrected.

We continue to police the developed areas within the riparian setbacks and work with property owners to remove any items which could be carried downstream and cause blockages in the event of heavy rains.

We are reviewing ditch crossings on private property city wide. I have no issues with property owners installing ditch crossings in order to utilize the property, but the crossings cannot diminish the capacity of the ditch. I have discovered some private ditch crossings that I suspect are undersized and will need to be addressed.

In addition to looking at the storm water system, we are planning on making improvements to a sanitary manhole at Ridgeview and Drake to reduce the chance of backups.

We are making every effort to provide you with the best performing infrastructure possible. Even in these times of shrinking budgets, we are planning on spending nearly \$200,000 dollars beyond the regular day to day maintenance on the above mentioned improvements. Thank you for your patience and understanding with regard to this very difficult situation.



Scott Wangler P.E.
City Engineer

The new City Engineer, Scott Wangler, hit the ground running when he came on board last fall. With record snow and then record rainfall on top of that, he has had a crash course in North Ridgeville storm water management. Above he explains what has been done and what the city continues to do in our effort to work diligently toward reducing flooding throughout the City. Please join us in welcoming him to North Ridgeville and wishing him every success as City Engineer.



Community Calendar



April 29 SPAGHETTI DINNER - at the Senior Center, 5-7 PM. **Everyone Welcome!** \$6 adults, \$5 Seniors, \$4 Children 10 and under, \$1 desserts, .50 pop. Take-out available.



May 3 ELECTION DAY - Exercise your right to vote!



May 8 MOTHER'S DAY



May 9 SENIOR DANCE - with John Kowalski, 2-4 PM. Admission \$2. Light refreshments.



May 14 FISHING DERBY - at South Central Park, 8 AM - 1 PM. Open to youth 18 years and under. Derby is FREE, \$5 donation to Aluminum Cans for Children will be accepted. Bring your own pole and bait.



May 21 PRIDE DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST - at the Senior Center with the North Ridgeville Firemen. Serving 8:30-11 AM; Adults \$5.50, Seniors \$4.50, kids \$3 and capped at \$20 per family. Discount tickets can be picked up at the Senior Center or the Shred-it Truck that morning.

SHRED-IT DAY - at the Senior Center, 9 AM - noon, rain or shine. Truck provided for quick and easy disposal at NO COST.

PRIDE DAY - City-wide clean-up! To volunteer call Kevin at 353-0825.

GROWERS, GARDENS, AND HOMES TOUR - by the Visitor's Bureau, 9 AM - 5 PM. Call the Chamber of Commerce at 327-3737 for further information.



May 30 CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED - in observance of Memorial Day.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE - 10 AM, from Marc's to the Middle School.

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY - at Ranger Stadium immediately following the parade.

SPLASH PAD - open Memorial Day thru Labor Day, 10 AM - 8 PM at South Central Park.



June 7 CARFIT PROGRAM - at the Senior Center, 10 AM - noon, FREE. Call 353-0828 for an appointment.



June 13 SENIOR DANCE - with John Kowalski, 2 - 4 PM. Admission \$2. Light refreshments.



June 15-18 CITY WIDE GARAGE SALE - Contact the Visitor's Bureau at 327-3737 for details.



June 19 FATHER'S DAY



July 3 INDEPENDENCE DAY - Party in the Park, 6 - 8 PM. **FIREWORKS AFTER DARK.**



July 4 CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED in observance of Independence Day.



July 21 CAR SHOW & BREAKFAST - at the Senior Center, 9 - 10 AM; 353-0828 to RSVP for the breakfast; 353-0835 to RSVP as car participants.

SENIOR CENTER NOTES

MEN'S BREAKFAST at the Senior Center the first and third Thursday of the month, serving 9 AM; to RSVP call 353-0828.

SUPER THURSDAY LUNCH the second Thursday of the month at the Senior Center (\$5) serving at noon. RSVP at 353-0828.

WOMEN'S BRUNCH at the Senior Center the 4th Thursday of the month, serving at 10:30 AM. Call 353-0828 to RSVP.

A NEW BEGINNING (a bereavement support group) at the Senior Center the second Tuesday of each month. Refreshments served at 11:45, program at noon. Reservations preferred at 353-0828.

SENIOR NEWSLETTER - Call 353-0828 for an updated Senior Newsletter with all Senior Center activities.