

Quarterly Calendar

- ❄ January 19, 2009 City Hall **CLOSED** in observance of **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**.
- ❄ January 22, 2009 **State of the City** address by Mayor G. David Gillock at the North Ridgeville Education Center at noon. Contact the Chamber of Commerce for reservations at 440-327-3737.
- ❄ January 23, 2009 **Spaghetti Dinner**, 5 to 7 p.m. at the Senior Center, \$6.00 adults, \$5.00 Seniors, \$4.00 children under 10, \$1.00 desserts.
- ❄ January 28, 2009 **Fishing Club** meets at the Senior Center the 4th Wednesday of each month, 1:30-3:30 p.m.
- ❄ January 31, 2009 Quarterly 2008 Estimated **City Income Tax** payments due.
- ❄ February 16, 2009 City Hall **CLOSED** in observance of **President's Day**.
- ❄ February 20, 2009 **Spaghetti Dinner**, 5 to 7 p.m. at the Senior Center, \$6.00 adults, \$5.00 Seniors, \$4.00 children under 10, \$1.00 desserts.
- ❄ February 25, 2009 **Fishing Club** meets at the Senior Center the 4th Wednesday of each month, 1:30-3:30 p.m.
- ❄ March 8, 2009 **Daylight Savings Time** - clocks "spring ahead" one hour.
- ❄ March 25, 2009 **Fishing Club** meets at the Senior Center the 4th Wednesday of each month, 1:30-3:30 p.m.
- ❄ April 10, 2009 City Hall **CLOSED** in observance of **Good Friday**.
- ❄ April 15, 2009 **Income Taxes**, Federal, State and Local, are due.

Winter Weather Bashes

Weather permitting, the Parks & Recreation Dept. will have some winter fun making snowmen, sledding and snow painting. Enjoy some refreshments to warm up with by the fire on especially snowy Saturdays during January, February and March. Dates and times to be announced based on snow cover. Watch the cable access channel 12, the website: www.nridgeville.org, the digital sign in front of the Senior Center on Route 83 and the South Central Park sign. Fliers will be circulated at the schools on the Wednesday prior to the bash. Come join the fun!!

North Ridgeville Community Connection

Quarterly newsletter of the City of North Ridgeville ~ January 2009

Mayor's Message...

Recently, I attended a meeting to discuss the "Ohio Neighborhood Stabilization Program" (NSP) and what it means to North Ridgeville. First, a little background to explain the origination of the program is helpful.

As a result of the enactment of House Resolution 3221, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently awarded more than \$3.9 billion of NSP funds to states and communities across the country to address the nation's abandoned and foreclosed homes crisis.

In total, Ohio received an allocation of \$258,089,179, with more than \$116.8 million awarded to the State and the remaining funds awarded directly to Ohio cities and counties. The Ohio Department of Development's (ODOD's) Community Development Division and it's Office of Housing and Community Partnerships (OHCP) will administer the State's allocation.

Region 4, under the State Program, consists of Huron County, Lorain County and the Cities of Norwalk and North Ridgeville. Elyria and Lorain receive their own direct allocations. Region 4 is allocated \$2,376,372.

The award recipients may use these federal funds to improve neighborhoods by purchasing and redeveloping abandoned and foreclosed properties, establishing land banks, and demolishing blighted structures. The goal is to sustain property values and revitalize our neighborhoods by addressing those properties, therefore, the aim is to find groups or clusters of homes that can affect a neighborhood. I think, in North Ridgeville, we will see more individual residences that will ultimately be absorbed by increased housing demands. Our role might better be to use our enforcement powers, such as code enforcement and nuisance abatement, to keep these properties from doing harm to their neighbors while waiting for them to be absorbed by the market.

We are actively working on developing a data base of abandoned and/or foreclosed properties within the City. If you are aware of a vacant and uncared for home in your neighborhood, please call 353-0822 so we may work with the owner to bring the home into compliance. Some of the statistics being circulated are alarming at best. HUD has estimated there are 491 such structures in North Ridgeville. We believe there are several other vacancies within the community that are held by banks or other mortgagers that are not included in this number. It is estimated that foreclosure rates in several communities such as Elyria, Lorain and Sheffield Lake range from one in four to one in ten.

Although we can debate the cause of this problem, we can't argue its existence. Please help us to do what ever we can to maintain the great neighborhoods we have and persevere through these tough economic times.



Mayor G. David Gillock

CITY BASEBALL/SOFTBALL WEEKEND REGISTRATION

will be held at the SENIOR CENTER for ages 5-18 on
Fridays, March 6 & 13, from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. and
Saturdays, March 7 & 14, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Holiday Spirit at City Hall



Every year many of our City Hall employees donate \$2 per Friday to participate in Dress Down Day (Business Casual Day). Although donations may be made throughout the year for special causes, most of the money is accumulated to donate to Community Care at Christmas. In this time of recession, Community Care is more in need than ever so they may help the less fortunate. This year, thanks to several generous donations by individuals and the faithful City Hall employees who donated every week, June Yost was presented \$1,275.00.

Many of these same employees participate in Community Care's "Adopt a Child" program, providing holiday joy to 28 children who may not receive any other gifts. In addition, our North Ridgeville Senior Center has an "Adopt a Senior" program which many join in to offer small gifts, making 21 seniors happy.

Thank you to the kind City Hall employees who gave so generously.



Spotlight On Excellence



They wear the same thing everyday, but no one really seems to notice. Although they were not born in this country, they have adapted well and most citizens would not know they are dealing with a foreigner. They tend to be a happy go lucky group for the most part, but are somewhat territorial. They spend hours upon hours patrolling in a cruiser, but none of them can pass our driving course. While most officers attend the police academy for 16 to 18 weeks, they are done in 10. They can be great ambassadors of good will for the city, or single minded predators when a threat is present. Their dining etiquette leaves much to be desired, yet they are always seeking to please. They never cost a minute of overtime, but their medical bills can at times be costly.

They are, of course, the North Ridgeville Police Department K-9's, Duc (pronounced Duke), Sinta and Rambo. All three are Belgian Malinois from the Netherlands. Night and day, rain or shine, they are here working with Patrolmen Stewart, Larkin and Sabo respectively. They help to make our officers and our city a safer place to live and work. Thanks guys.



K-9 Duc



K-9 Sinta



K-9 Rambo

Let It Snow

Winter weather brings many challenges to our residents and our City employees as well. Here are a few tips to help avoid injury and/or inconvenience.

- ❄ When snow fall exceeds two inches within 24 hours, a SNOW BAN is in effect and No Parking is permitted on any City street to allow snow plows to pass.
- ❄ Stay back at least 100 feet when following a snow plow or salt truck. Drivers cannot see a vehicle following closely behind them.
- ❄ Keep sidewalks clear of ice and snow. City Ordinances 660.04 and 660.05 require sidewalks to be cleared within a reasonable time, ordinarily not to exceed 12 hours after a snow storm. School children depend on walks to be kept clear for walking to and from school.
- ❄ Pushing or depositing snow from private drives or parking lots into the streets or across the street onto a tree lawn is not allowed per City Ordinance 660.04. It creates a hazard for neighbors and those traveling City streets.
- ❄ Residents should pile snow to the left side of their drive (looking from street) so plow trucks do not push their freshly shoveled snow back into their clean drive.
- ❄ Do not allow children to play in or on snow drifts near streets or roadways!

Common sense and extreme caution should get us through another northeast Ohio winter without incident!

City Income Tax Info

The 2008 fourth quarter estimated taxes are due **JANUARY 31, 2009.**

In addition, 2008 final returns and postcards will be mailed by **JANUARY 31, 2009.**

City income tax forms are available at the City's website: www.nridgeville.org.

The Tax Department will complete your city tax return if you have W-2's only.

All information must then be submitted to the office by **MARCH 15, 2009.**

A billing computation will be mailed to you indicating the tax due.

Filing due date is **APRIL 15, 2009.**

MasterCard or Visa debit/credit cards accepted.

Office hours are Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

For additional information call 353-0846.

North Ridgeville Parks & Recreation

Spring/Summer Brochure for 2009 will be mailed to residents the beginning of April.