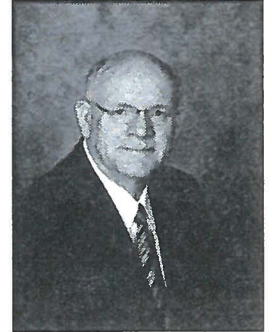


# Community Connection

Quarterly newsletter of the City of North Ridgeville ~ January 2011

## Mayor's Message...

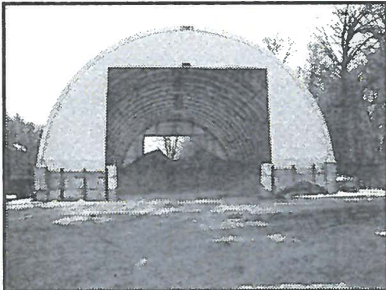
I hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday season and wish each and every one of you a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. My message will be brief as I work on gathering the events, the challenges and the victories for 2010 in preparation for my State of the City address to be given January 20.



*Mayor David Hillenkamp*

Inside you will see an article on our new leadership in the Police Department. While we look forward to working with Chief Freeman and Captain Garrow, I want to mention the many employees that retired in the last few months after numerous years of successful service to the City. These include Chief Rick Thomas, Captain Allan Dent and Lieutenant Barry Accorti of the Police Department; Firemen Tom Schultz, Gene Kleinholtz and Lou Simonyi; Rick Zett, Water Department; Jeff Tate, Service Department Foreman; Mark Francis, Assistant Superintendent of the French Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant; Larry Griffith, City Engineer and Rita Taylor, IT Department Supervisor. We thank them for their many years of service and wish them all the best in their retirement.





Mayor Dave.



## Winter Safety



The winter season brings safety challenges to our City employees and residents as well. Here are a few tips to help avoid injury during the winter months:

-  Stay back at least 100 feet when following a snow plow or salt truck. Drivers cannot always see a vehicle when it follows within 100 feet.
-  Keep sidewalks clear of ice and snow. City Ordinance 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 walking to/from school depend on a clean walkway.
-  When snow fall exceeds two inches, a SNOW BAN is in effect and NO PARKING is permitted on any City street in order to allow snow plows to pass.
-  Residents are reminded not to push, blow or shovel snow into the street which could lead to a potential safety hazard.

We, along with many citizens who expressed their gratitude, are very proud of our Service Department and commend their hard work and dedication. Let's all of us strive to help them by following these suggestions.

# Police Department Introduces New Command



Michael W. Freeman has been appointed Chief of Police, taking office officially on January 24, 2011 following the retirement of Chief Richard Thomas, a 32 year veteran with the North Ridgeville Department.

Chief Freeman is a sixteen year veteran and during that time has amassed an impressive body of work. He has served as a patrol officer, D.A.R.E. officer, Field Training Officer, detective, hostage negotiator, patrol supervisor, evidence technician, Computer Voice Stress Examiner, Shift Commander, Field Training Coordinator and Auxiliary Police Advisor.

He has consistently been awarded accolades for his superior duty performance and his personnel file is replete with letters of commendation and thanks for time after time extending himself and providing true excellence in service to the community. Among his awards are the Police Service Award, Safe Driving Award, two Meritorious Service Awards and the Educational Achievement Award. In 1998 he was nominated for the Veterans of Foreign Wars J. Edgar Hoover Law Enforcement Award.

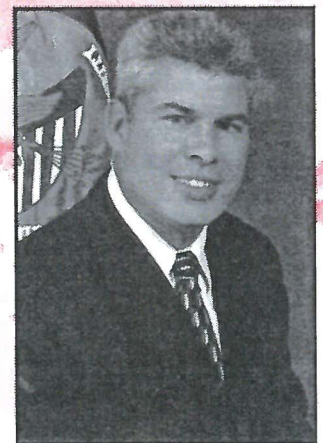
Chief Freeman is a graduate of Kent State University where he earned his B.A. in criminal justice. He is also a graduate of Northwestern University's School of Staff and Command and Ohio's Police Executive Leadership College.

Married and the father of four, this very busy officer enjoys spending time with his family and dabbling in landscaping and yard work. A gifted athlete and superb golfer, he also enjoys hitting the links and the occasional pick-up game of basketball.

Please join us in welcoming Chief Michael W. Freeman. We wish him well in his new career as Commander and Chief of the North Ridgeville Police Department.

Edward M. (Marti) Garrow became a member of the North Ridgeville Police Department on November 27, 1989. He will be filling the position as Captain with the retirement of Captain Allan Dent on February 23, 2011.

Marti graduated from Cuyahoga Community College in 1989 with an Associate Degree in Law Enforcement. After completing his basic police training, Marti was assigned to the patrol division where he received both department recognition and awards from Mother's Against Drunk Driving for his substantial efforts at removing the drinking driver from North Ridgeville's streets. He has served on the Crisis Management Team tactical unit, with the Lorain County Drug Task Force, as a patrol supervisor, a field training officer, a driving instructor and a certified traffic accident reconstructionist, patrol shift commander and commander of the Detective Bureau.



In addition to numerous letters of commendation, Marti has been awarded the Police Service Award, the 15 year Safe Driving Award, the Educational Achievement Award and the Physical Fitness Award for sustained superior performance on the department's physical fitness test. In 2005 he was selected to attend the prestigious FBI National Academy.

Marti Garrow is married and the father of four robust sons. We welcome him and wish him well in his career as Captain of the North Ridgeville Police Department where he will be second in command.

Also retiring after 32 years of service is Lt. Barry Accorti. We wish Chief Richard Thomas, Captain Allan Dent and Lt. Barry Accorti many years of happy and healthy retirement.

In addition to the new command officers, many other fine officers will fill the vacancies these promotions have created. The following officers will be promoted over the next few months:

Sgt. (Lt.) Vince Abt  
Sgt. (Lt.) Kevin Jones  
Sgt. (Lt.) Anthony Lee

Ptln. (Sgt.) Adam Freas  
Ptln. (Sgt.) Dean Mraz  
Ptln. (Sgt.) Leroy Medina  
Ptln. (Sgt.) Corey Sabo

All of these promotions were made following rigorous testing, both written and psychological. These gentlemen were the highest ranking candidates for their new positions. North Ridgeville has long had an award winning and prestigious police department and we look forward to many more years of the same.

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## **City Income Tax Information**

The 2010 fourth quarter estimated taxes are due by January 31, 2011. The quarterly tax can be paid online with UBILL. Please visit the city's website for further information.

The 2010 final returns and postcards will be mailed on January 31, 2011. City income tax forms are available at the city's website: [www.nridgeville.org](http://www.nridgeville.org).

The Tax Department will compute your city income tax return if you have only W2's and submit the information to the office by March 18, 2011. A bill will be computed and mailed to you indicating the tax due, if applicable. The Tax Department accepts MasterCard or Visa debit/credit cards.

**FILING DUE DATE FOR 2010 TAX RETURNS: APRIL 18, 2011, to correspond with the IRS deadline.**

For additional information contact the Income Tax Department at 440.353.0846, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

### **DID YOU KNOW?...**

All residents who have attained the age of 18 are required to file a North Ridgeville Municipal Income Tax return each year.

The city income tax rate is one percent (1%).

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## **North Ridgeville Baseball/ Softball Registration**

Parks and Recreation announces that sign up for the 2011 season will be held at the Senior Center on the following dates:

*Thursday, February 3, 2011 from 6-8 PM*  
*Thursday, February 10, 2011 from 6-8 PM*  
*Saturday, February 12, 2011 from 9 AM - 1 PM*

Following these dates, registration will be at the Parks and Recreation office until the March 4th deadline.



## Quarterly Calendar



January 20 STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS by Mayor David Gillock at the North Ridgeville Education Center, 5490 Mills Creek Lane at noon, catering by Tom's County Place. Cost is \$25.00. Contact the Chamber of Commerce at 327-3737 to reserve your seats.

MEN'S BREAKFAST at the Senior Center, only \$2.50 serving at 9 AM. RSVP at 353-0828. (Meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month.)



January 25 BOARD OF DRAINAGE AND FLOOD CONTROL at 7 PM in the CityHall Conference Room.



January 26 FISHING CLUB at the Senior Center 1:30 - 3:00 PM. All welcome. Refreshments served. (Meets the 4th Wednesday of each month through winter.)



January 27 WOMEN'S BRUNCH serving at 10:30 AM. Cost \$2.50, reservations required. Call 353-0828. (Meets the 4th Thursday of each month.)

BOARD OF ZONING AND BUILDING APPEALS at 7 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall.



January 28 SPAGHETTI DINNER served 5 - 7 PM at the Senior Center. Everyone welcome and carry-out available. \$6 adults, \$5 seniors, \$4 children 10 and under, dessert \$1.00 and pop .50 cents.



February 7 CITY COUNCIL at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.



February 8 PLANNING COMMISSION, 7 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.



February 10 SUPER THURSDAY LUNCHEON at the Senior Center. Serving at 12 noon, \$5 per person. Valentine's Day theme, entertainment provided by Steppin' Out Female Choir. Reservations needed by calling 353-0828. (Meets the 2nd Thursday of each month.)



February 21 CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED in observance of President's Day.



February 22 CITY COUNCIL at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.



February 24 BOARD OF ZONING AND BUILDING APPEALS at 7 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall.



March 1 HEALTH AND INFORMATION FAIR free and open to the public from 10 AM to 1 PM at the Senior Center. Representatives of NOPEC, Lorain Co. Office on Aging, Blood Pressure Services, Golden Buckeye, LifeLine, Homestead Exemption, CHIP Program and a podiatrist as well as other invitees will answer questions regarding resident's concerns. Refreshments will be served.



March 7 CITY COUNCIL at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.



March 8 PLANNING COMMISSION, 7 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.



March 13 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME begins, SPRING AHEAD! Turn clocks forward one hour.



March 21 CITY COUNCIL at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road



March 24 BOARD OF ZONING AND BUILDING APPEALS at 7 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall



March 31 PANCAKE BREAKFAST at the Senior Center. Serving at 9 AM.



April 4 CITY COUNCIL at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.



April 11 SENIOR DANCE with John Kowalski providing the music at the Senior Center. Sponsored by the Abbewood and the Wesleyan. Tickets \$2 per person at the door and dancing from 2 - 4 PM. Refreshments provided.



April 12 PLANNING COMMISSION, 7 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.



April 16 ROTARY EASTER EGG HUNT, 2 PM start at Ranger Stadium, North Ridgeville Middle School.



April 18 INCOME TAXES - Federal, State and Local Income Tax is due today.

CITY COUNCIL at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.



April 22 CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED in observance of Good Friday.