

Quarterly Calendar

- April 23 Fishing Club at the NR Senior Center, 1:30-3:00 PM
- April 25 Spaghetti Dinner at the NR Senior Center, 5-7 PM (Everyone welcome)
- May 10 NR Fishing Derby at South Central Park, 8:00 AM-1:00 PM
- May 17 LORAIN COUNTY PRIDE DAY -



Chief Rick Miller, Firefighter Rick Knowlton and other Firefighters prepare to flip and serve pancakes on their day off to raise money for the Senior Center and Promote Pride Day.

Start the day with a hearty Pancake Breakfast at the NR Senior Center, flipping and serving by the Fire Department, 8-11 AM, adults \$5.00, kids under 12 \$3.00, family cap at \$15. (\$.50 cent coupon at the Shred-it Truck)

Shred-It Truck in the Sr. Center parking lot 10 AM-1 PM. (Coupons for \$.50 cents off the Pancake Breakfast available)

- May 24 Summer SPLASH PAD Kick-off, 1-4 PM, South Central Park
- May 26 Memorial Day Parade 10 AM, from Marc’s to the Middle School
- June 3 Summer Concert, “Kick’in Back”, 7-9 PM
- June 14 Movies in the Park - TBA
- July 1 Summer Concert, “Kick’in Back”, 7-9 PM
- July 3 Independence Day Celebration; Party in the Park at 4 PM, South Central Park; Fireworks at dusk
- July 12 Movies in the Park - TBA

Below are several pictures taken by resident Betsy Barker following the blizzard of 2008.



Icicles hanging off of City Hall



South Central Gazebo awash in a sea of snow



Trees heavily laden with snow

North Ridgeville Community Connection

Quarterly newsletter of the City of North Ridgeville ~ April 2008

Mayor’s Message...

2007 REAL ESTATE TAXES/ \$100,000 VALUATION

Cuyahoga County

Lakewood	\$2,487
N. Olmsted	\$2,287
Rocky River	\$2,047
Parma Heights	\$2,036
Parma	\$1,923
N. Royalton	\$1,923
Westlake	\$1,828

Medina County

Medina	\$1,730
Brunswick	\$1,631

Lorain County

Vermilion	\$1,770
Sheffield Lake	\$1,762
Oberlin	\$1,685
Avon Lake	\$1,671
Avon	\$1,634
N. Ridgeville	\$1,602
Sheffield	\$1,558
Wellington	\$1,483
LaGrange	\$1,474
Lorain City	\$1,434
Grafton	\$1,403
Elyria	\$1,382
Amherst	\$1,337

Source: The Plain Dealer 2007 Property Tax Guide

It is not uncommon for those of us in government positions to hear the lament of our constituents about how our taxes are too high, how our taxes are always going up, etc. And while we as individuals might agree that any tax is too much, we do know that in the end, it’s always the taxpayer that bears the cost, whether it is City, State or Federal government. But I thought it might be interesting to see how we actually stack up against surrounding communities and if indeed our taxes always go up.

Below is a table I acquired from the Lorain County Auditor. It shows a dwelling that in 1999 has a Fair Market Value of \$143,300 and a tax rate of 55.923633 mils, resulting in an annual bill of \$2,454.49. Eight years later, in 2007, the annual tax bill was \$2,471.32, an annual increase of only \$16.83! An increase, yes, but less than 1%, even though the value of the house increased by 8%. That’s because the tax rate actually decreased by 3.62 mils. The taxes actually decreased 3 times during the 8 years, including the final year, and the tax rate actually decreased 5 times during the 8 years.

Tax District 50 - North Ridgeville City/North Ridgeville CSD

Tax Year	Residential Tax Rate	Increase or Decrease in Millage from Previous Year	Full Year Tax	Auditor's Fair Market Value
2007	52.302973	-0.066053	\$ 2,471.32	154,300
*2006	52.369026	-4.290513	\$ 2,474.44	154,300
2005	56.659539	4.042617	\$ 2,770.37	159,650
2004	52.616922	1.104248	\$ 2,572.70	159,650
*2003	51.512674	-2.187136	\$ 2,518.71	159,650
2002	53.69981	-0.763267	\$ 2,501.14	152,080
2001	54.463077	1.538605	\$ 2,536.69	152,080
*2000	52.924472	-2.999161	\$ 2,465.02	152,080
1999	55.923633	0.840057	\$ 2,454.49	143,300

Note - The (*) asterisk next to the tax year represents a reappraisal year.

Source: Lorain County Auditor’s Office

As you can see, our taxes don’t really “always go up.” In fact, because of the growth in North Ridgeville the effective rate often goes down and sometimes actual taxes go down. Overall, when compared with other communities, both in Lorain County and surrounding areas, we are very competitive.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING RESIDENTIAL REFUSE/RECYCLING COLLECTION

Every week, nearly a dozen Allied Waste trucks invade the city to collect refuse and recyclables at approximately 11,000 residential homes. There are separate trucks sent to collect refuse and recyclables each week and from April through November, additional trucks are sent to collect yard waste. Truck pick-up times vary, so it is imperative for residents to have all refuse, recyclables and yard waste placed at the curb on collection day, Tuesday, no later than 6:00 a.m. Items should not be placed at the curb earlier than thirty-six hours before the day of collection. Check your development/association for stipulations they may have for your area.

It's important to remember that all refuse must be contained in bags and/or cans and have sufficient wall strength to maintain physical integrity when lifted by the top. The cans should have a minimum capacity of twenty gallons or a maximum capacity of thirty five gallons and have handles of adequate strength for lifting. It is recommended that cans with lids be used. The weight of a container and its contents should not exceed fifty pounds.

Bulky waste items such as furniture, mattresses, stoves, washers, dryers and water tanks may be placed at the curb on collection day. Refrigerators, air conditioners or any other item that contains a chemical coolant must first have the Freon removed by a certified technician who will apply a sticker to the item for certification. Refrigerator or freezer doors must be removed as a safety precaution. Empty cardboard boxes should be broken down to smaller sizes and placed inside other larger boxes or tied and taped together for easy disposal. Construction debris, remodeling materials, auto parts, tires, dead animals, hazardous waste or other items not deemed to be regular residential refuse will not be collected.

Currently, a "Blue Bag" recycling program is in place for all of our residential customers. Glass, plastic and cans may be placed in the same blue bag, but newspapers must be placed in a separate blue bag. Please rinse all the containers and remove the lids and neck rings. Paper labels do not need to be removed from glass bottles or jars. Plastic milk containers, plastic bottles and containers that have the numbers 1 or 2 stamped on the bottom should also be rinsed out and may be recycled. Aluminum and steel cans should be rinsed out and should have any paper labels removed. Newspaper only should be placed in a separate blue bag and should not contain any magazines or glossy inserts. Please tie the blue bags securely to prevent them from opening.

Yard waste is collected and composted from the third full week in April through the third full week in November. Yard waste such as grass clippings, leaves, weeds, or garden waste should be placed in paper yard waste bags. The all-weatherproof bags can be left out in all climates for up to ten days without breaking down and are stronger than plastic. Be sure to buy "wet strength" yard waste bags for maximum durability, found at many local hardware and discount stores. All branches, twigs and tree or shrub trimmings must be bundled and tied with twine or string (no wire please), be less than four feet in length and weigh no more than fifty pounds.

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In 2008, the city will begin implementing a 900 home pilot study of an automated collection system. The study will include delivery of specially designed containers for the disposal of refuse/recyclables and possible program changes such as accepting magazines, glossy sale ads, junk mail, cardboard, etc. The specifics of the program are not yet determined, but those homes included in the pilot study will be given specific instructions and procedures prior to implementation. The outcome will allow the City of North Ridgeville to determine if this type of program will be beneficial for city wide use in the future.

Residents will be notified in advance of any major changes to the programs currently in place. Please be sure to read the notices at the bottom of your utility bill each month, watch for information in upcoming newsletters, visit our website at www.nridgeville.org or watch Local Government Access Channel 12 for future announcements.

If you have any questions, please call the Utilities Department at (440) 353-0841 and we'll be happy to assist you. City Hall office hours are 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Please leave a voice mail message if no answer or you may call Allied Waste customer service directly at (440) 458-5191 until 5:00 p.m. daily.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOMPLISHMENT

City Hall participates in a shredding recycling program to secure our offices and the environment. Recently the City of North Ridgeville was awarded a Certificate of Environmental Accomplishment for participating in Shred-it's shredding and recycling program for saving 45 trees from destruction in 2007.

THE SENIOR CENTER SCOOP

What is the North Ridgeville Office for Older Adults (Senior Center) and what does it have to offer? Plenty!

Activities start on Monday morning with "A New Wrinkle" exercise class, then we have crafts and quilting with Wanda Foy! A wonderful soup lunch is served at noon. Tuesday is line dancing (beginners/intermediate) with Ronnah Murray. Wednesday is our mid-week social with cards, bingo and a delicious lunch served at noon (still priced low at \$3.25). Thursdays we always have a special breakfast or luncheon - again, conservatively priced.

If you are independent, in your own home and 60 or over but need a little assistance, we offer transportation seven days a week. Our vans transport to the Senior Center for activities, doctor/dentist offices, shopping, special treatments, etc. We also provide a wonderful noon day meal to homebound seniors through our Meals-on-Wheels program. These meals are moderately priced at \$2.50, however, we do offer a sliding scale based on need. It's easy to sign up for these services. To register or for additional information, please call (440) 353-0857.

Our strongest need right now is Meals-on-Wheels drivers. It only takes about two hours of your time each week and is a very rewarding experience. If you know someone not involved with the Senior Center, if you would like to become more involved, or if you would like to volunteer, give us a call today at (440) 353-0829.
