Mayor’s Message...

As I was working on this year’s State of the City address, I looked back to see what we had hoped to get done in 2009 and what we actually completed. I was somewhat surprised at the list of projects that were undertaken and accomplished by our great staff.

- We finally completed the application process and can proceed with the repairs and improvements to Olde Towne Hall. The chair lift will be installed this year along with tuckpointing, HVAC improvements, including air conditioning and other maintenance items to help preserve that fabulous landmark.

- The Lorain Road reconstruction continues with the section from Root Road to Honeycut now underway. Honeycut to Island Road is scheduled for completion late 2010 or early 2011.

- The Boulder Drive culvert will be replaced this spring. Bid openings were held January 13, 2010.

- The Case Road sewer project from Center Ridge Road to the lowest point on Case Road was completed.

- The sewer project on Dyke Road was completed with a new sanitary sewer, storm water sewer, water line and new road with curbs and sidewalks. After many years of frustration for those residents, it’s a tremendous improvement for that neighborhood.

- The City Master Plan has been updated and accepted by City Council.

- The Ohio Sports Park opened for business. That 67 acre fly ash pit is now an attractive, useful property providing recreation, jobs and revenue to the City.

- The City closed on an additional 22 acres of property adjacent to the Shady Drive Baseball Complex giving us room for needed expansion and parking.

- The Stoney Ridge and Center Ridge Roads intersection traffic light project was completed.

- A new ADA approved restroom facility is completed at the Shady Drive Baseball Complex.

- Our Police Department implemented a new motorcycle patrol.

- A pilot program for recycling was instituted for approximately 1000 residences. After a few initial bumps, after all that is what a pilot program is for, the plan seems to be working well in most cases. We have many more requests for expanding the program compared to complaints from those that are in the pilot.

- Five sanitary sewer T connections were replaced with connections that substantially improved the efficiency of the flow from those areas.

These are just a few of the projects that kept our staff busy during this year. Even in tough economic times, there is work to be done and it’s always exciting when we can make North Ridgeville a better place to live. Thanks for letting us serve you.
Engineering Updates

LORAIN ROAD - BAGLEY ROAD WATER LINE CONNECTION

All construction work has been completed on the 30 inch Avon Lake Lorain Road high pressure water main connection to the North Ridgeville Bagley Road water line. Water testing should be completed by the end of the first week in January and the system placed on-line after passage of the testing. This should increase the water pressure reliability in the southeast area of North Ridgeville, especially during the summer high usage months.

BOULDER DRIVE CULVERT REPLACEMENT

Bid will be opened on Wednesday January 13, 2010 for the replacement of the Boulder Drive culvert. The project will consist of replacing the existing undersized corrugated metal culvert with a larger concrete box culvert at a lower grade. Only one traffic lane will be maintained during the construction work, thus drivers will need to exercise caution in the area. It usually takes four to six weeks to complete the bid evaluation and award the contract. Work is expected to begin in March 2010 with completion by the end of July.

LORAIN ROAD RE-CONSTRUCTION PHASE 3A

Construction has begun on the next phase of the reconstruction of Lorain Road. This phase, called Phase 3A, extends from Root Road to Honeycut Drive. The project will consist of two lane concrete pavement similar to what was done on the east side of Root Road. Traffic will be maintained in both directions during the construction work but there may still be times when delays will be encountered. After completion of storm sewer, culvert headwall modifications and fire hydrant relocation, work will be suspended until March 2010. When work begins again, the first order of business will be the construction of the temporary pavement on the south side of Lorain Road. Work is scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2010.

LORAIN ROAD RE-CONSTRUCTION PHASE 3B

The City has been tentatively notified that in July 2010 we will receive funding for this last and final phase of the Lorain Road reconstruction. With this in mind, Council has approved the hiring of a consultant to develop the plans, specifications and bidding documents in early 2010 so we will be ready to begin construction shortly after we receive the award. Phase 3B extends from Honeycut to Island Road. The project will consist of two lane concrete pavement similar to what was done on the east side of Root Road. Traffic will be maintained in both directions during the construction work, but there may still be times when delays will be encountered.

Winter Road Safety

With the winter season upon us, the North Ridgeville Police Department would like to offer a few tips to help reduce your chances of being involved in a traffic crash. We would like to remind everyone to slow down and use caution when driving in inclement weather. Give yourself a little more time to reach your destination. Increasing the distance between your vehicle and other vehicles will allow more time to react and to stop safely. Although you may have an all-wheel drive or four-wheel drive vehicle, they require the same distance to stop as a two-wheel drive vehicle. Remember that overpasses and bridges have a tendency to freeze faster than the rest of the roadway, so be careful when crossing them.

It is a violation to drive with windows obstructed, including ice, snow and frost. For your safety and the safety of others, please take the time to ensure that your vehicle windows are clear of these obstructions. Check the pressure of your tires to ensure they are properly inflated. Make sure your vehicle is equipped with either snow or all season tires and check the tire tread. Your vehicle’s tread should not be less than 1/16th of an inch. Finally, we would like to also remind everyone that a parking ban will be in effect when snowfall exceeds two inches. Please comply with the law as this will allow snow plows the ability to clear the roadways for safe travel.
CITY INCOME TAX INFORMATION

The 2009 fourth quarter estimated taxes are due January 31, 2010. Also, the 2009 final returns and postcards will be mailed January 31, 2010. 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 only have W2’s and if you submit the information to the office by March 15, 2010. A bill will be computed and mailed to you indicating the tax due. Filing due date is APRIL 15, 2010.

The Tax Department accepts MasterCard or Visa debit/credit cards. For additional information call 440-353-0846. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 AM - 4:30 PM.

SHADY DRIVE BASEBALL COMPLEX IMPROVEMENTS

Work is progressing on a Handicap Accessible Restroom near the south ball diamonds at the Shady Drive Baseball Complex. This project was funded with a CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) grant the City received for Fiscal Year 2008. The restroom will be operational in time for the 2010 baseball season.

CITY BASEBALL / SOFTBALL REGISTRATION

Sign up at the Senior Center, 7327 Avon Belden Road on Fridays, March 5th and 12th, 7 - 9 PM, Saturdays, March 6th and 13th, 10 AM - 2 PM. Registration taken at the Park & Recreation office beginning Monday, March 15th, 8 AM - 4:30 PM; Monday through Friday.

Quarterly Calendar

- January 14  Super Thursday Luncheon at the Senior Center. Serving at 12 noon, $5.00 per person. Entertainment from John Kowalski! Reservations needed by calling 353-0828. (Super Thursday Lunch will now be held the second Thursday of the month.)
- January 18  CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY.
- January 20  Free Blood Pressure Checks at the Senior Center from 9 AM - 12 noon. Walk-ins only.
- January 21  State of the City Address by Mayor David Gillock at the North Ridgeville Education Center at 12 noon. Contact the Chamber of Commerce at 327-3737 to reserve your seats.
- January 23  Winter Weather Bash at South Central Park sledding hill for fun in the snow, 1 - 3 PM.
Quarterly Calendar

January 27  Fishing Club at the Senior Center 1:30 - 3 PM. All welcome. Refreshments served.

January 28  NEW! Women’s Brunch at the Senior Center serving at 10:30 AM. Still bargain priced at $2.50. Reservations needed by calling 353-0828.

January 29  Spaghetti Dinner served 5 - 7 PM at the Senior Center. Everyone welcome. Carry-out available. $6 adults, $5 seniors, $4 children 10 and under, dessert $1, soda pop .50 cents.

February 2  Tax preparers from AARP available every Tuesday until April 13. Reservations required by calling 353-0828. Free of charge.

February 4  Grief to Hope Group meets 1 - 3 PM at the Senior Center with a special program “Humor: Promoting Health, Hope and Healing.” No reservations needed, refreshments served.

February 11  Super Thursday Luncheon at the Senior Center. Serving at 12 noon, $5.00 per person. Valentine’s Day theme, entertainment provided by Steppin’ Out Female Choir. Reservations needed by calling 353-0828.

February 12  Second Annual “Twilight on the Ridge” Dance, music provided by John Kawalski at the Senior Center. Tickets $6.00 per person on sale January 19. Dancing from 5 - 7 PM, refreshments provided.

February 15  CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF PRESIDENT’S DAY.

February 17  Free Blood Pressure Checks at the Senior Center from 9 AM - 12 noon. Walk-ins only.

February 20  Winter Weather Bash at South Central Park sledding hill for fun in the snow, 1 - 3 PM.

February 24  Fishing Club at the Senior Center 1:30 - 3 PM. Everyone welcome. Refreshments served.

February 25  Women’s Brunch serving at 10:30 AM. Cost $2.50, reservations required. Call 353-0828.

March 2  Senior Health Fair from 10 AM - 1 PM. Local health care providers and special screening available. Free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

March 14  Daylight Savings Time Begins - Turn your clocks forward one hour and check your smoke alarms.

March 20  Winter Weather Bash at South Central Park sledding hill for fun in the snow, 1 - 3 PM.

March 27  Rotary Easter Egg Hunt, 2 PM start at Ranger Stadium, N. Ridgeville Middle School.

March 29  Computer Classes 1 - 3 PM at the Senior Center. First class, “Basic Microsoft Word 2003”, additional classes to follow. Fee $42 per class. Call Shelly at 353-0835 for info or to register.

April 2  CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF GOOD FRIDAY.

April 15  Income Taxes are due - State, Local and Federal.