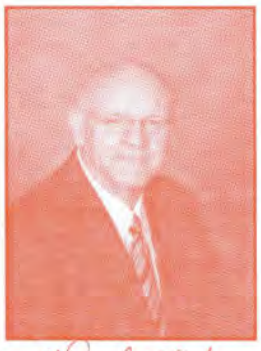
North Ridgeville

Community Connection

Quarterly newsletter of the City of North Ridgeville ~ October 2009

Mayor's Message...



D. David Nillock
Mayor

Although we have mentioned our water meter replacement project before, it is now becoming a reality and it is important that you know what is happening, why it is happening and when it will take place.

Early in 2008 it became painfully clear that we needed to address the water meters in the homes of our residents. These meters were installed up to 10 years ago. The batteries that allow these meters to send the meter reading to our meter readers as they drive by the homes were dying and needed to be replaced. We were looking at an extensive program requiring us to contact over 11,000 homes and arrange an appointment to enter a residence to replace their batteries.

We found in researching the replacement modules that we can replace the batteries and modules with a newer module that will last up to 20 years. We can also make them "wireless", meaning we would no longer have to physically read the meters (nor drive by to read them). They can be linked to a City Hall computer that will give us daily readings four times a day rather than once per month. We can now detect leaks, help people move in and out more easily and more accurately track water usage.

After bidding the project, Badger Meter Inc. was the low bidder and subcontracted the installation to Professional Meters Inc. (PMI) to do the actual installation. This will involve entering every residence in North Ridgeville and replacing the existing module. In a few cases they will have to replace the entire water meter. PMI installers will wear yellow shirts with a PMI logo, carry a City issued ID card, drive PMI identifiable vehicles and be fully authorized by the City to perform these upgrades. Still, if you have questions, please call our Utilities Department at 440-353-0841 to confirm the identity of an installer.

Full scale implementation will begin around October 23, right around the time you receive this newsletter. The meter upgrades will be concentrated in designated areas during a specific time period. A few weeks prior to updating the meters in your area, you will receive a post card from PMI asking you to call them to set up an appointment, at your convenience, to update your meter.

We ask for your cooperation in completing this major project in order to accomplish the required updating of every water meter in the City of North Ridgeville. This not only addresses the issue of replacing the batteries, but also makes our system more reliable and efficient. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the Utilities Department at 440-353-0841.

GARBAGE HOLIDAYS

Our current refuse hauler, Allied Waste, does not work on the following holidays:

New Years Day
Labor Day*
Memorial Day*
Thanksgiving Day
Independence Day
Christmas Day

Normal pick-up is always on Tuesday, however, pick-up is delayed one (1) day if a holiday falls on a Monday that week. In other words, *Memorial Day and *Labor Day are always on Monday, therefore, pickup will always be on the Wednesday after the holiday. The other holidays listed above will delay pickup only if the holiday falls on a Monday. All other Monday holidays are not observed by Allied Waste and pick-up will be the regular Tuesday.

CHIP Grant Program

The City of North Ridgeville recently received a $550,000 Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP) grant from the Ohio Department of Development. The grant provides for three (3) basic housing activities: $275,000 for Homeowner Rehabilitation on a city-wide basis with two (2) projects in targeted areas; $96,000 for Home Repair on a city-wide basis and; $69,000 for Downpayment/Rehabilitation Assistance with one (1) project in a targeted area. The balance of the grant provides for fair housing and administration. The grant must be completed by October 31, 2011.

All participants must meet the eligibility requirements and be within the income guidelines for the program. Applications will be available starting Wednesday, October 21, 2009, in the Treasurer's Office at the North Ridgeville City Hall located at 7307 Avon Belden Road, North Ridgeville, Ohio 44039 during regular business hours.

Engineering Projects

A material delivery delay will halt all work on the new connection to the 30 inch Avon Lake high pressure water main at the Lorain and Bagley Roads intersection until sometime in November. The underground vault required to house the pressure reducing equipment cannot be delivered to the contractor by the supplier until November. In the meantime, the contractor has closed the excavation and will re-open it when the vault arrives and he can finish.

Construction will begin, probably in late November, on the replacement of the Boulder Drive culvert located about 225 feet east of Lear Nagle Road. 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. Work is expected to be completed by early 2010.

Olde Towne Hall Improvements

North Ridgeville has qualified for a grant of $175,000 through the Ohio Cultural Facilities Commission for work to be done on our historic Olde Towne Hall on Center Ridge Road. The grant will be used to add a wheelchair lift to the west stairway, allowing handicap access to plays and other events on the second floor of the historic building. Restoration work will also include updating HVAC, handicap access throughout the building, masonry repairs and preservation, repairs to the roof, bell tower, fire escape and front entrance.

City crews and contractors hired through a separate grant secured by the Olde Towne Hall Players will improve plumbing, repair windows and usage of the space by the theater group. General painting is also planned.

We hope these improvements will encourage more residents to attend the great plays presented by Olde Towne Hall Players and visit our museum operated on the first floor by the North Ridgeville Historical Society. If you have not yet visited Olde Towne Hall, you are missing a gem of our community. Visit the museum. Attend a play. You are sure to enjoy the experience.

Street Levy at Work

The Street Levy Fund is received from a voted tax for the construction, reconstruction, resurfacing and repair of roads and bridges. Projects funded by this levy are to be used in long term projects lasting at least five (5) years. Our City has benefitted from these levy funds through the purchase of asphalt and concrete portions for projects such as the widening of the Rt. 83/Sugar Ridge intersection; the Phase 3 Lorain Road Widening Project; partial and full depth grinding and resurfacing projects like Lear Nagle, north and south of Center Ridge. Additional projects have been the replacement of concrete pads and curbs and crack sealing materials to protect and prevent our road foundation from deterioration. This levy funds our street painting and striping, indicating school zones, edge lines, and center lines. Our Service Department has been able to develop an in-house side street resurfacing program and has purchased an asphalt roller and a towable air compressor to repair concrete and asphalt streets; however, street levy funds cannot be used for salaries and wages. The current levy is 1.9 mils.

Indoor Batting Cages Break Ground

Work has begun on the new steel structure to house indoor batting cages, a pitching mound and storage facilities at the Shady Drive Complex. The North Ridgeville Baseball Boosters are working with the City Parks and Recreation Department and Don Mould's Plantation, a North Ridgeville based contractor on the project. Discussions regarding this construction were in development for approximately three (3) years as the Boosters realized the need for an indoor facility which would prevent problems such as vandalism and inclement weather. The Boosters were able to purchase a 50' by 100' structure. Completion is anticipated for this fall.

Community Calendar

October 22	Super Thursday Lunch, Senior Center at noon. Reservations required at 353-0828
October 23	Spaghetti Dinner serving from 5-7 p.m. at the Senior Center. Adults $6.00, Seniors $5.00, children 10 and under $4.00, desserts $1.00 additional.
October 24	Flu Shots given by Lorain County General Health District from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the N.R. Education Center, 5490 Mills Creek Lane. H1N1 (Swine Flu) may be available.
October 29	Combined Breakfast at the Senior Center at 9 a.m. Reservations required at 353-0828.
October 30	Tots Trick or Treat beginning at 1 p.m. at the Senior Center, 7307 Avon Belden Rd. for pre-school age children. For info call Parks & Recreation at 353-0880.
October 31	Trick or Treat 6-7:30 p.m. Please watch our for ghosts and goblins!
October 31	3rd Quarter Estimated Taxes Due and may be paid on U-Bill. Visit the City's Website at www.nridgeville.org to enroll, view or pay your bill. For assistance call 353-0846.
October 31	Rock'in Hallowsoirée at Bullfrog's Café 5 p.m.-2 a.m. costume contest, raffles, Corn Hole tournament, music by The Green & The Shams. Fund raiser for a new NR Skate Park.

Community Calendar

November 1	Daylight Savings Time ends at 2 a.m. Be sure to check your smoke alarm batteries!
Nov 1 - Dec 2	Holiday Food Drive donation boxes at City Hall, Parks & Rec office and the Senior Center. Please bring non-perishable food items weekdays, 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. All donations are distributed to Community Care.
November 3	Election Day - Exercise your right to vote!
November 11	Veteran's Day - City Hall will be closed.
November 15	A Thanksgiving Feast for the Dogs, South Central Park, 3-5 p.m. Buffet $6 per dog or $4 with donation to an attending pet charity. All food made especially for dogs. Proceeds benefit the proposed North Ridgeville Dog Park.
November 22	Firemen's Pancake Breakfast at the Senior Center, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., benefits the IAFF.
November 26	Thanksgiving Day - City Hall will be closed.
November 27	Day after Thanksgiving - City Hall will be closed.
Dec 1-Dec 21	Christmas Toy Drive donation boxes at City Hall, Parks & Rec office and the Senior Center. Please drop off new toys weekdays, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. All donations will be distributed to Community Care.
December 5	Holiday on the Ridge 9 a.m. Kick off the holiday season by visiting the many locations throughout the City. Open to the public, some craft shows charge entrance fee.
December 5	Tree Lighting Ceremony and Visit with Santa at South Central Park Gazebo at 5:00 p.m. Join Mayor Gillock, local scouts and school choirs. Santa will be visiting and collecting food and toys for Community Care at the Community Cabin from 5:30-7:00 p.m.
December 15	Holiday Luncheon at the Senior Center, serving at noon. Reservations required at 353-0828.
December 19	Breakfast with Santa at Lear North Elementary School, 8 a.m.-10 a.m. Cost TBA. Gift presented to first 200 children. Proceeds to benefit new South Central Park exercise trail.
December 24	Christmas Eve - City Hall will be closed.
December 25	Christmas Day - City Hall will be closed.
January 1, 2010	New Years Day - City Hall will be closed.
January 16, 2010	South Central Park Sledding at the sledding hill at 1 p.m. Sledding, snowman making, snow painting and hot chocolate to warm up with.
January 21, 2010	State of the City Address by Mayor David Gillock at the N. R. Education Center, sponsored by the N. R. Chamber of Commerce. Call 327-3737 for tickets and further information.
January 22, 2010	Spaghetti Dinner serving from 5-7 p.m. at the Senior Center. $6 adult, $5 senior, children 10 and under $4.00, desserts $1.00 additional.