PIQUA Spirit

UNITED WE STAND

FALL 2007

From the Office of the City Manager

Government
STREETS
Health & Sanitation
Fire
Police
WATER
DEVELOPMENT

Hotel Update: The Next Step

The warm summer days have not slowed down the hotel progress. Rather, the hotel is continuing at an ambitious tempo. The project is now converting from the engineering and construction phases to the architectural phase. The project will be "taking on a feeling of a newly constructed building", said Mike Baxter, the project manager from Tuttle Construction. He added, "the unknowns are done and the project is kicking into the next gear." In order to achieve this step, the contractors have completed many tasks.

Work Progressing - Administration Office, Library in Basement

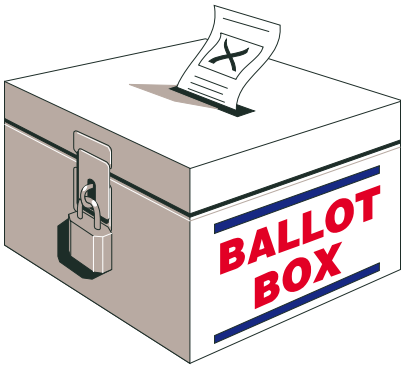
The basement has been the site of amazing transformation. The mechanical systems (fire protection, electrical, HVAC, and plumbing) are being installed and tested, and iron workers are firming up the floor joints. Most excitingly, the once dirt covered floors are now covered with concrete. Additionally, the northeast stair tower and the north elevator shaft have been completed.

Furthermore, the exterior work on the building has been finished. Over 1,300 of the more than 800,000 bricks have been replaced on the Hotel.

Work Coming Along in Ballroom/Banquet Facility.

The upper floors have also seen a dramatic change. Several new stairwells have been built and have been relocated throughout the building. The northwest tower staircase is fully constructed and usable. A new roof will soon be in place to replace the old porous membrane. As the new roof is constructed, the light well in the middle of the hotel will be filled in to utilize its space. The light well once provided air circulation and light to hotel guests. The most eye-opening renovation is in the ballroom. After 79 years of being held captive by additional rooms, the ballroom has been liberated. In 1928 the ballroom was vacated by the owners to make 8 more rooms.

As we move into winter, the cooler weather will not deter the progress of the hotel. During the next couple months the windows will be re-installed to keep out Jack Frost. Also, the contractors will be expanding the mechanicals to the upper floors, and as each floor is finished, dry wall will be put into place. In 1891 the hotel was constructed for $125,000.00, and thanks to the generosity of the citizens, Piqua will soon add a 14 million dollar shining jewel to the world. The hotel is scheduled to be finished by next fall.



City Commission - How Are City Commissioners Elected?

The City of Piqua is divided geographically into five wards for the election process. The concept expressed by the City Charter is to ensure that each member of the City Commission resides (for at least one year) in his/her ward.

Any City Commissioner may act on behalf of residents in any ward throughout the city. Once elected, all Commissioners have identical powers and responsibilities exercised on behalf of all Piqua citizens. For this reason, **all** Piqua voters can choose from **all** the candidates from each ward that has a seat open for election.

This November 6th, there will be three seats (four year term) for City Commission in wards 1, 2 and 5 on the ballot. The Mayor will also be elected to a two year term of office.

Meet.... Stacy Wall

Stacy Wall, Law Director, is a native of Dover, Ohio. Stacy graduated from Ohio Northern University in 1995 with a Bachelor's Degree in philosophy and political science. She continued her Education at Ohio Northern University School of Law, where she received her Jurist Doctorate in 1998. Following graduation she went to work for the City of Norwood as the Assistant Law Director, in which her duties were very similar to her current duties. She then became an Assistant City Solicitor for the City of Cincinnati where she was a prosecutor, advisor to the City Council and defended the City in litigation. Most recently, Ms. Wall was a litigator for the law firm of Green and Green, in which she focused on employment law and municipal law. As a recent example, Stacy was heavily involved in the residency litigation, which impacts all municipalities.

Stacy became the first full time Law Director in the City of Piqua when she was sworn in at the June 18th City Commission meeting. As the Law Director, Stacy is responsible for representing the City in civil matters, issuing legal opinions and advising the City Manager, the City Commission and the department heads, boards and commissions. She also serves as the prosecutor for the City in a myriad of cases far spreading from traffic violations, outstanding utility bills, to preliminary hearings for felonies. In addition to all of these duties, she serves on many staff committees.

On a more personal note, Stacy and her husband Rich, who is a Piqua native, have been married for 10 years. They have three children. In her spare time she enjoys walking, and spending time with her family, which includes soccer and baseball games and various other activities.

CITY COMMISSION

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Frank H. Barhorst
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Julia (Judy) Terry
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Frank J. Patrizio
Commissioner, 5th Ward
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Ward5comm@piquaoh.org

Plan It PIQUA
Preserve the Past — Empower the Future

COMMUNITY PLAN TAKING SHAPE

The plan for how to implement the community's vision of an ideal Piqua is beginning to take shape. Maintain small town characteristics while taking advantage of strategic growth opportunities - That is the overarching theme heard from the citizens of Piqua. In response to this charge, the Plan It Piqua steering committee has been working diligently with the planning consultant hired by the city to develop the goal for each of the plan elements.

Built Environment
Preserve Piqua's small town feel through well balanced growth that mixes land uses, retains open space, and creates an inviting appearance using landscaping, attractive entrances, and community landmarks.

Community Services And Facilities
Support community improvements that build strong family neighborhoods, community pride and maintain high quality community services and facilities, including its school system, public safety, health care, recreational opportunities, cultural activities, technology and youth and senior services.

Economic Development
Enhance Piqua's local economy through policies and programs that attract progressive new industries, increase the number of high paying jobs with benefits, retain existing small businesses, develop a strong workforce, increase the number of quality of life amenities, and contribute to a vibrant downtown.

Housing
Promote a diverse and quality housing stock to meet the needs of all residents, and enhance the housing supply through programs and policies that encourage homeownership, promote home maintenance, and support the responsible upkeep of all properties.

Implementation
Support and encourage neighborhood associations, widespread civic involvement, good communication between citizens and local government, and encourage strong leadership and effective intra-government cooperation to engender pride among Piqua residents.

Natural Environment
Celebrate Piqua's natural amenities by developing the waterfront and enhancing public access to the river corridor, and work to create new parks, trails, and tree planting initiatives throughout the City to further contribute to the community's quality of life.

Redevelopment
Revitalize Piqua through initiatives that encourage redevelopment or reuse of existing structures, and implementation of building codes in an effort to contribute to a reduction in building vacancies.

Transportation
Develop and maintain a convenient, safe and efficient transportation system that effectively accommodates pedestrians, bicyclists, automobiles and public transportation.

Utilities
Provide cost effective, customer responsive and reliable municipal utilities with a focus on improving aesthetics and promoting responsible use of available resources while also planning for the future.

For the most current information available concerning the Plan It Piqua comprehensive planning efforts to date visit www.planitpiqua.org.

Did You Know ?

Facts About the City and Its Operations

- **Remember the City's website address, www.piquaoh.org. For a wide variety of information on city services, programs, press releases, job information, full agenda packets of each regularly scheduled City Commission meeting, photos of city projects (Hotel Renovation and Co. Road 25-A road reconstruction, 'Plan It Piqua') and information about current happenings in your City's government.**
- **Still time to register to vote in the November 6th election. The deadline to register to vote is October 9th. In order to register, applicants must fill out a voter registration card. Voter registration cards can be found at the Flesh Public Library, License Bureau by the northeast entrance at the Miami Valley Centre Mall, and on line at http://www.sos.state.oh.us. Remember when you go to vote, take a form of I.D. showing your address (list on state website or where you register).**
- **Questions about Fair Housing? The Miami County Fair Housing Committee handles all local housing discrimination matters for Piqua. The City's Fair Housing Coordinator, Bill Lutz (778-2062), blutz@piquaoh.org, can assist individuals in the initial stages of filing a complaint.**
- **Piqua's public transit needs are served by the Miami County Transit Service throughout the entire week. Prescheduled rides (preferably 24 hours advance) can be arranged by calling toll-free 335-RIDE (7433).**
- **City utility customers can pay Piqua Utility bills automatically. It's free to all through the safe and convenient BillPayer 2000 program (automatic payment from your checking account). To apply, simply contact the Utilities Business Office at 778-2000.**
- **The City has organized a speakers bureau for school groups, community service and any other group. Speakers can be provided if you have a topic or individual in mind, or if you are simply looking for a program we can do. Contact Andy Burner in the City Manager's Office at 778-2054 or e-mail him at aburner@piquaoh.org).**
- **The city has its second neighborhood association. The Southview Neighborhood Association adopted by-laws and had its 1st formal meeting on July 10. Leaders and members are busy with projects to bring residents together and improve their neighborhood in partnership with the City. The boundaries of Southview are Wood to South and S. Main to College. Contact President Jim Vetter (778-1696) for information and Frank Barhorst (773-468) to become a member.**
- **Remember Time Warner has relocated APTA, Access Piqua TV Association, our local public access cable channel from channel 10 to channel 5. Nothing on APTA has changed except its relocation to channel 5.**

Upcoming city dates of note

- ***Now*** - Echo Hills Golf Course memberships and gift certificates for rounds of golf on sale (good birthday and Christmas presents!). Call 778-2086 for information.
- October 30, 6-8pm - City Beggars' Night
- City Leaf Pickup: October 29-Dcember 15. Call 778-2095 for Hotline information.
- November 29-December 15 - ***Victorian Christmas***, sponsored by MainStreet Piqua
- December 1, ***Christmas on the (Johnston) Farm***, Holiday Dinner & Murder Mystery, sessions at 4 & 7pm, sponsored by Ohio Historical Society. Call 773-2522 for more information or to make reservations.
- December 7, 6 p.m. – ***Christmas On the Green***, sponsored by MainStreet Piqua
- December 4 - ***Holly Jolly 5K***, 10am, ***Run Holiday Parade***, 2 pm and ***Community Tree Lighting Ceremony***, 4 pm, all sponsored by MainStreet Piqua
- Youth Ballet - Jan 3, 2008-March 21: Lessons for new, beginning, and intermediate dancers 5-12 year olds on Wednesdays at Mote Park. Cost $25-40. Call 778-2085 to register or for more information.

For more information on any of the Mainstreet Piqua events, please contact Lorna Swisher at 773-9355.

Pouring concrete for Pier Cap - Part of Bridge Replacement Over Rush Creek.

County Road 25-A Construction Update

The widening of County Road 25-A will soon be slowing down for the season. However, the Contractor, R.B. Jergens out of Vandalia, Ohio will continue working on pavement excavation throughout the winter, depending on the weather. The work to be finished yet this year includes the completion of the new bridge over Rush Creek, the installation of new sidewalks, curb and gutter, new drive approaches, completion of the new 20" water main installation and the new storm sewer installation and placing the base course and intermediate course of asphalt. Traffic will continue to be maintained during the winter months on the new intermediate course of asphalt with temporary pavement markings being installed to assist the drivers.

Next spring's work will include finishing the installation of sidewalks, curb and gutter and drive approaches. The traffic signal installation at the intersection of CR 25-A, Sherry Drive and Industry Park Drive will also take place at this time. The anticipated project completion date is July 31, 2008.

Update: Renew Piqua... Partners Making Piqua Better!!

The City of Piqua's *Renew Piqua* Program and its partners have been busy painting houses and improving properties throughout the summer. Our partners throughout the community are many and varied. In this article we'll focus on just those who have volunteered to paint the homes of elderly and disabled. We'll discuss our other partners who have made a real difference in Renew Piqua's efforts in the January issue of the *Spirit*.

The Renew Piqua program has identified homeowners that need volunteer groups. Most times they are elderly and disabled and all do not have the financial resources needed. Projects for the volunteers include painting, minor exterior repairs and simple exterior cleanup projects. As a volunteer group, you can make a difference in someone's life,

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Volunteer Group - City Employees & City Commissioners Paint

help improve the appearance of a neighborhood and also team build with your group.

Many volunteer groups not only paint, but do other things that makes a real difference to the property, neighborhood, and the spirit of the homeowner. This year, the Second Baptist Church, painted a house and the garage, mulched flower beds and planted flowers, and replaced a door for the program eligible resident. The church used volunteers from not only their congregation, but another Piqua church, Spirit Life Church, and other people from Dayton. The church obtained donations of labor and equipment from Four Star Tool Rental and Zaccheaus Construction. The homeowner said "They treated me so well and with great respect personally and for my property. I can't begin to express my appreciation."

Another homeowner, who painted his house with family members and some friends, was amazed and thought it looked like a brand new house. People stopped and remarked how good the house looked. Others have made other improvements to their home seeing the results of Renew Piqua, as well as the many other neighborhood revitalization initiatives that have occurred throughout the city.

Currently, we have 12 homes that need painted and several with minor exterior repairs, thus the need for volunteer groups. If your church, business, service organization or group of friends can help, please contact Andy Burner at 778-2054 or e-mail him at aburner@piquaoh.org to help *renew the housing stock and renew the spirit of Piqua.*

INTERNET SAFETY – PIQUA POLICE HELP EDUCATE CITIZENS

Dr. Parry Aftab

On March 27th, the City of Piqua received a visit from one of the world's leading experts on cyber crime, Internet Privacy, and Internet issues involving children. Dr. Parry Aftab is the executive director and founder of wiredsafety.org, the foremost Internet Safety and Resource Organization in the world and has been a featured speaker throughout the world. She has been featured in Readers Digest, People Magazine, TV Guide, Newsweek, U.S. News & World Report, Biography Magazine, Cosmopolitan, Glamour, Seventeen, Family Circle and Ladies Home Journal, among others. She is widely considered to be the "leading expert on Cyber-Crime in the United States" according to the Boston Herald.

Deputy Chief Tom Christy invited her to Piqua after hearing her speak about Internet Crime and Children at the Ohio Attorney General's Annual Conference. The Piqua Juvenile Education Fund underwrote the cost of her visit.

In a single day, Dr. Aftab met with students, police officers, school staff, and parents. Her presentations addressed parental responsibilities, police investigations, and student awareness. She advocated awareness and prevention strategies that can be implemented by parents and the schools and she discussed investigation strategies that can be used by the police.

The Piqua Police Department will expand upon Dr. Aftab's visit by developing additional educational programs for students, parents, and teachers.

Piqua Spirit **is a quarterly newsletter from the City of Piqua. The purpose is to keep you informed about what is happening in your City.**

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Articles and photos by City Staff

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Your comments and questions are welcomed.

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