

PIQUA Spirit



UNITED WE STAND

SUMMER 2008

**Government
STREETS**

**Health &
Sanitation**

Fire

Police

WASTE WATER

DEVELOPMENT

From the Office of the City Manager



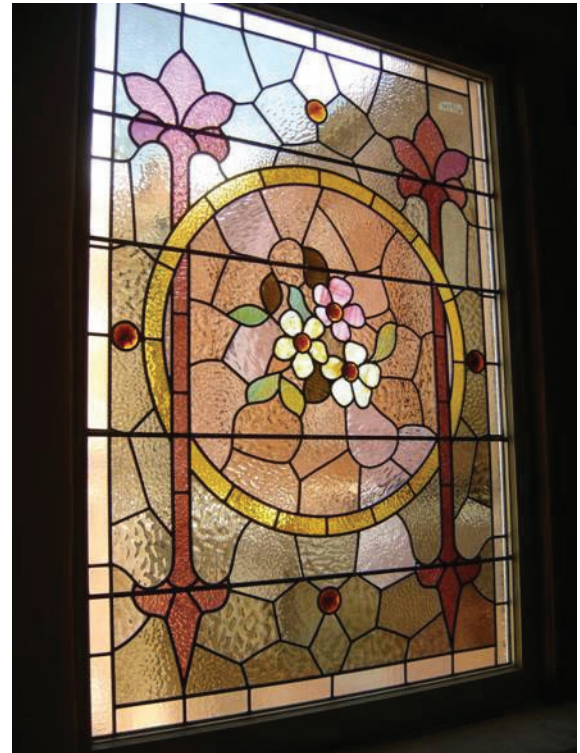
Fort Piqua Hotel Restoration Update

The Fort Piqua Hotel Restoration Project is headed toward completion. The final tasks are primarily finish work, i.e., the part that looks attractive. The contractors are working feverishly on jobs like painting walls, placing trim work around doors and windows, installing light fixtures and stained glass windows and soon they will be carpeting floors.

It is the finish work that allows a building to be restored to its historical authenticity. In areas like the ballroom where original paint colors can still be found, the original colors will be restored. In areas where the specific design has been obliterated, the rooms will be restored in accordance with what probably existed, based upon the period of time when it was installed.

Final items of work will also include rebuilding High Street in front of the hotel and installing streetscaping amenities in front of the building consistent with the rest of the downtown.

The grand opening ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, October 19. Building dedication activities will take place throughout the week including library tours, open house and a celebration banquet on Wednesday, October 22, to commemorate the original dedication ceremony from October 22, 1891. Entertainment at the banquet will be provided by the Glenn Miller Orchestra, accompanied by John Mills, presenting a tribute to the music of the world-famous, Mills Brothers from Piqua.



Stained Glass on Grand Stairway



Frame for Skylight to be Installed

Meet....

The Inspectors of the Health Department



(L-R) Shane Snapp, Chris Boeke and Devon Alexander

The Piqua Health Department employs three inspectors to carry out the duties of the department, including the promotion of public health, disease prevention, and citizen safety.

Devon Alexander has been with the city for one year as the Code Enforcement Officer. He has a Bachelors degree from Wright State University and is a certified Property Maintenance and Housing Inspector. Devon works to promote a positive image of the City by making sure that properties meet the minimum guidelines of the Property Maintenance Code.

Shane Snapp is a Registered Sanitarian (Health Inspector) for the City. He has a Bachelors degree from Wright State University and has worked for the city for two years. Shane works to promote the public health of the citizens through prevention of disease and the promotion of safety. Shane accomplishes this mission through education efforts and routine inspections of food operations, swimming pools, schools, etc.

Chris Boeke is also a Registered Sanitarian for the City. He has a Bachelors degree from Wright State University and has worked for the city for eight years. Chris shares his time between health inspections and code enforcement activities.

All three inspectors spend most of their time out in the community, making inspections, meeting with business owners, and consulting with property owners. The Piqua Health Department inspectors work to solve problems in the community and promote neighborhood revitalization. If you have an issue or a concern in your neighborhood, you may contact the Health Department at 778-2060.

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The New Civil Citation and the Process

The Piqua City Commission unanimously adopted a civil code to govern violations of the Property Maintenance Code, Zoning Code and Nuisance Code in December, 2007.

The civil code adopts a civil citation as an alternative remedy available to the code enforcement officer. Without the civil code, the only remedy available was for the homeowner to be cited to criminal court where the consequences involved a criminal conviction and a maximum penalty of \$1,000 and/or six months in jail. Realizing the criminal process can be time consuming and the ultimate goal is code compliance, a civil process has been adopted. This process is handled administratively and does not result in a criminal conviction or carry the possibility of jail time. A property owner will receive a notice of a code violation, including a time frame to correct the violation. If the violation is not corrected within the given time frame, a civil citation will be issued. The citation grants an **additional** amount of time to correct the violation. With the exception of nuisance violations of weed, grass and trash, if the violation is corrected within the time frame given on the citation, the fine is **\$0** and the goal of compliance has been achieved. If the violation has not been corrected within this additional time frame, the fine is \$150 for a first violation.

The City is seeking compliance and the civil process provides an incentive for compliance as well as more flexibility to work with the homeowner. If you have any questions about the civil process, please contact Law Director Stacy Wall at 778-2042 or Health Director Amy Welker at 778-2060.

Did You Know? Facts about City Operations

- ✓ **E-Gov Services** is a new city service found on-line at www.piquaoh.org ("Quick Links" section) designed to provide citizens with better access and ease of communicating, as well as obtaining information online. This quick and easy service tool features currently available are: Action Line, Online Documents, Subscriptions and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ). More services and features are in the process of being added.
- ✓ Certain property owners may qualify for some tax abatement on the property improvements made on residential, commercial & industrial property. For more information, please call Development Program Manager William Lutz at 778-2062.
- ✓ **Renew Piqua** provides free paint and supplies to lower income homeowners in Piqua. This includes both those who can paint their own home and those elderly and disabled who do not have the support group (family, friends, church members, etc.) to paint. Funding is all private – no City money is used. Applications are available around town, City offices, city web site, etc. Call Andy Burner at 778-2054 or e-mail him at aburner@piquaoh.org for details.
- ✓ It's planned that about 275 teenagers and adults from around the nation will be rehabbing about 40 homes in the Piqua area from July 21-25 – all FREE to the homeowner. Group Workcamps is a 31-year old national organization that sponsors 70 camps a summer in the nation. Co-sponsors of the Piqua Area Group Workcamp are six churches: Family of Grace Methodist, Freedom Life Ministries, St. Boniface Catholic, St. Mary Catholic, 7th Day Adventist, Upper Valley Community, and the City of Piqua. Please welcome and thank any of these young people who are here to help our citizens and to develop their Christian faith through service. Anyone who wishes to learn more about the Program can call Andy Burner at 778-2054.
- ✓ A City Speakers Bureau (City employees) is available 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 simply want to know more about your city's government. Contact Andy Burner in the City Manager's Office at 778-2054 or e-mail him at aburner@piquaoh.org for details.
- ✓ Need to communicate a suggestion, complaint or just have a question about your city government? Call, e-mail, or meet with the Mayor, any City Commissioner, City Manager, department head or a staff person. Telephone numbers and e-mail addresses are listed in the Spirit, as well as on our web site. Many times such matters can be resolved rather quickly by such a communication.



Workcamp crew saying Farewell to homeowner

Neighborhood Services City Health Department Protects Citizens

The City of Piqua provides resources every day to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of citizens. On a typical day, a family in Piqua may encounter multiple situations that could be hazardous if preventative measures were not taken. For example, is the food you are eating safe? Is the air safe to breathe? Is the swimming pool safe to swim in? Behind the scenes, inspectors from the city are concerned about these public health issues and are working to prevent unsafe conditions that may affect citizens.

Staff from the Piqua Health Department inspect a wide variety of businesses and institutions to safeguard the community from harm. Nearly all types of food sold in the city are inspected for safe handling, including food from restaurants, grocery stores, drive-thrus, vending machines, mobile units, catering operations, and festivals. Health Inspectors also inspect public swimming pools including, the YMCA, Municipal pool, Tecumseh Woods, and hotel pools. In addition, inspectors also investigate animal bites, inspect tattoo operations, mobile home parks, and school buildings, and as well as provide education on public health issues.

During the summer months, inspectors also see an increase in nuisance type situations that can be harmful to the public. These situations include excessive garbage not properly disposed of, accumulation of animal waste, and poor living conditions. These property issues can be harmful to the occupants of the property and any neighboring occupants by attracting rodents or insects, causing odor problems, and promoting the spread of disease.

The general welfare of the community is a concern for the city staff along with public health and safety issues. In an effort to promote the city of Piqua, inspectors also focus on the improvement of neighborhoods. The existing housing stock is a valuable asset to the community. City inspectors work to ensure that properties are maintained according to city codes, do not negatively affect neighboring properties, and positively contribute to the overall health of the neighborhood.

If you have questions regarding the city's efforts to promote public health please contact the Health Department at 778-2060.



City Inspector Assessing Nuisance Complaint



Sanitarian Inspects Restaurant Facilities

CITY LONG RANGE FINANCIAL PLANNING

Piqua City Commission, in early 2008, adopted new goals that included "Improving Organizational Effectiveness" and "Improving the City's Financial Stability." Since then, the Commission along with the City Manager and staff have been meeting to work on our Long Range Financial Plan.

Long Range Financial Planning is working to align the City's financial resources with our long term service goals. The process combines financial forecasting with strategic thinking and planning for the future. During the process, we gather information, analyze challenges and opportunities, decide on and implement a plan of action, later evaluating the action taken.

City Commission work sessions have been held in 2008 to learn about city departments and their operations. Topics addressed were revenue enhancements, expense reductions, and most recently, core services. Each department was asked to prioritize the core services they provide to citizens, organizations and other departments as well as identify the frequency and reason for the service provided. This information will be used in the Long Range Financial Planning Process.

Watch for more work sessions as the City Commission and Staff continue to explore ways to better serve our citizens efficiently and effectively.

A New Neighborhood Association is Born Together, Problems Can Be Solved

Take a neighborhood association, add one neighborhood liaison police officer, and what do you get? You get the most effective crime prevention partnership possible.

The Northparks Neighborhood Association is the city's newest neighborhood association and they immediately partnered with the city to address issues in their neighborhood, including crime and nuisances.

Officer Wil Benson, the Northparks Liaison Officer, works with the members of the association on neighborhood problems. The problems can be crime related, but in many cases, the problems center around quality of life issues, such as unruly juveniles, trash complaints, and property maintenance complaints. Officer Benson will help evaluate the problem and then identify a solution to the problem. Sometimes the solution involves other city departments, but in many cases, Officer Benson can address the problem by focusing police resources.

The neighborhood associations have been very effective in partnering with the police, as far as crime is concerned. In Northparks, residents and police working together have solved thefts, arsons, and drug crimes. The residents know that the police depend upon their reports of suspicious or unusual activity. In the past six months, six search warrants have been executed in Northparks as a result of this cooperation.

Upcoming city dates of note

- ◆ July 4: Fourth of July festivities and fireworks, Fountain Park.
- ◆ July 10, 17, 24 & 31: Mainstreet Piqua's "Brown Bag Lunch" series, 11:45 a.m., Municipal Govt. Complex Fountain Plaza (corner of Wayne & Water Streets)
- ◆ July 10, 17, 24: Piqua Civic Band concert series, 7:00 p.m., Hance Pavillion
- ◆ July 11-12: "Downtown annual Sidewalk Sales", sponsored by Mainstreet Piqua
- ◆ July 12: "Great Miami River Cleanup", 4th Annual – Call Jeff at POWW to volunteer, 615-9398
- ◆ July 12: "Dancing in the Moonlight", sponsored by Mainstreet Piqua, 6-9 pm
- ◆ July 19: 4th Annual City of Piqua Parks & Recreation Car Show, Rte. 66 Roadside Park
- ◆ July 24: (Thursday) & August 18 (Monday): Trips to Dayton Dragons (Reds Minor League team). Call 778-2085 for details.
- ◆ July 30: (Wednesday), 7:30 pm, **City Hall in the Park**, Ann M. Das Park
- ◆ August 8-9: Music Warehouse presentation, "Anything Can Happen" 7:00 p.m. (gates open), Hance Pavillion
- ◆ August 21: US Air Force Band, "Music in the Park" last of series (Piqua Arts Council), 7:00 p.m., Hance Pavillion
- ◆ August 27: (Wednesday), 7:30 pm, **City Hall in the Park**, French Park
- ◆ August 30-September 1: Heritage Festival, Johnston Farm (Piqua Historical Site)
- ◆ September 8: "Business Appreciation Day Golf Outing", Echo Hills Golf Course. Details, call 778-8198
- ◆ September 24: (Wednesday), 7:30 pm, **City Hall in the Park**, Lower Mote Park
- ◆ September 27: "Cruise In with Moonlight Bike Ride", sponsored by Mainstreet Piqua, 7-10 pm
- ◆ October 19: (Sunday), Time TBA- Grand Opening Ceremony, Ft. Piqua Hotel Restored
- ◆ October 19-25: Building dedication activities & Tours of Ft. Piqua Hotel Restoration
- ◆ October 22: (Wednesday), Time TBA- Ft. Piqua Hotel Celebration Banquet



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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
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**Design and Layout by
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**Your comments and questions
are welcomed.**

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