

PIQUA Spirit



FALL 2009

Charter Amendments

On November 3, 2009, there will be 11 proposed Charter amendments on the ballot. These amendments were recommended by the Charter Review Committee, which consisted of Frank Patrizio (chair), Joe Wilson, Jim Garrity, Ben Hiser and Frank Barhorst. Stacy Wall, Law Director, was the staff advisor. The City Commission unanimously adopted the Committee's recommendations, which included charter amendments to be voted upon this November and in the spring and fall 2010 elections. The Committee reviewed every section of the Charter in public meetings with public comment being heard. The charter amendments for this November focus on the Initiative, Recall and Referendum provisions providing clarification to the process and the procedural requirements of the petitions. The ballot language is available at the Board of Elections or from the Law Director's office. The following questions will be on the November ballot:

Section 14: Shall Charter Section 14 be amended to eliminate the requirement that 10% of the electorate sign an initiative petition and instead require 500 signatures before a petition can be submitted to the City Clerk?

Section 16: Shall Charter Section 16 be amended to clarify that an initiative petition may be submitted within ten business days of final action taken by the City Commission?

Section 21: Shall Charter Section 21 be amended to eliminate the requirement that 10% of the electorate sign a referendum petition and instead require 750 signatures before a petition can be submitted to the City Clerk?

Section 25: Shall Charter Section 25 be amended to specify that the City Clerk's certification of a referendum petition include the Board of Elections having verified the signatures?

Section 27: Shall Charter Section 27 be amended to specify that a failure to list the registered voter's address will disqualify a signature on a petition, that the Board of Elections shall verify the petition signatures and that the Committee circulating the petition shall be no less than five nor greater than ten registered voters from the City of Piqua?

Section 28: Shall Charter Section 28 be amended to require the City Clerk to submit and the Board of Elections to verify the petition signatures and to clarify that the validity of the petitions must be determined within ten business days?

Section 29: Shall Charter Section 29 be amended to clarify that a petition may be amended within ten business days after receiving notice of its insufficiency?

Section 121: Shall Charter Section 121 be amended to require a recall petition to include 1,000 signatures from registered voters rather than 15% of the electors who voted in the last election municipal election?

Section 122: Shall Charter Section 122 be amended to require that the Clerk's certification of a recall petition require that the Board of Elections has certified the signatures?

Section 127: Shall Charter Section 127 be amended to restrict a recall petition being filed against a commissioner until one year after he takes office or one year after a recall where the commissioner was not removed after the election?

Section 135: Shall Charter Section 135 be amended to require a petition for a charter amendment to include 1,250 signatures from registered voters rather than 10% of the electors?

A yes vote means you are voting FOR the charter change. If you have any questions about the Charter amendments, please contact Law Director Stacy Wall at 778-2042.



Toone P's at the Ft. Piqua Plaza

Toone P's at the Plaza Restaurant

Toone P's at the Plaza is now open. The 3,500 sq ft. restaurant is a great addition to the Ft. Piqua Plaza, which houses the Piqua Public Library, Winan's, and the magnificent ballroom. The restoration of this building is sure to delight those dining at the new establishment. The restaurant is filled with character from days gone by and yet enhanced with modern updated features.

The menu at the restaurant will feature American fare with some "Floridian" which is a mixture of Floridian and Caribbean flavors and dishes. Mr. Dennis Black, Toone P's owner, said some of the most popular dinner items might be the ribs, beef tournedos and the seafood dishes, with additional sandwiches and dishes to satisfy their customers' wishes.

Congratulations to the Dennis Black family and welcome to Piqua!

Meet.....

Power System Director, Ed Krieger.

When Bill Sommer retired as Piqua's Power System Director on May 31, 2009, City Manager, Fred Enderle tapped Assistant Director, Ed Krieger to assume the top leadership role in the City's electric utility. Ed had worked under Bill's tutelage for over eleven years and is excited to have the opportunity to lead the Power System into the future.

Ed is the fourth Director to assume leadership of the electric utility, since the City had the foresight to create the Power System Director position in the late 70's.

Elmo Hastings was hired as the initial Power System Director in 1977. Dick Miller succeeded Elmo upon his retirement in 1986. When Dick retired in 1998, Power System leadership was passed to Bill.

Ed has over twenty-four years of experience working in the electric utility industry, previously having spent thirteen years at The Dayton Power & Light Company. At DP&L, Ed worked in a variety of areas, including engineering, operations, marketing and customer service. This experience has allowed him to thrive in his roles with the City of Piqua.

Ed graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering Technology from the University of Dayton in 1987. He later earned a Master's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Dayton in 1995.

Ed has been married to his wife, Barb for over nineteen years. They currently live in West Milton, where Ed was raised. They have two sons, Nick and Kyle and a daughter, Katelyn. Nick is 22 and works at Total Quality Logistics in



Cincinnati. Kyle is 16, a member of National Honor Society and plays offensive guard on Milton-Union's varsity football team. Katelyn is 12, also an excellent student and is running cross-country for MU middle-school.

"Our success as an electric utility can be directly attributed to our employees. Piqua was recently awarded Diamond certification (100% Score) under the American Public Power Association's RP3 Program. Piqua was one of only three municipalities to receive this award of over 2,000 systems in the country. The RP3 Award recognizes utilities with superior reliability, safety, system improvement and workforce development programs. Bench-marking ourselves against our peers allows us to provide our customers with the best and most cost-effective service possible," emphasized Ed.

Dispose of Your Leaves at the City Compost Facility...FREE!

In an effort to assist residents with their leaf pick-up, the City will allow residents to dispose of their leaves free of charge. Starting on October 19th through December 18th, residents may take their leaves to the City Compost Facility, should residents not wish to wait on their scheduled leaf pick-up date by City crews. Residents may contact the Street Department to schedule a time to take their leaves to the Compost Facility.

Normally, the cost to dispose of leaves is \$10 per truck or trailer load. But in an effort to assist residents as well as City crews, this fee will be waived during this time period. The more residents that participate in this program, the more beneficial it will be for residents and City crews. This will allow residents to remove their leaves at their convenience, which will free up parking spaces in residential areas, keep leaves from collecting in storm sewer systems, and allow City crews more time to work on street related issues.

The City is hoping to get a multitude of residents to participate in this new program, which is a win-win for all involved. All leaves collected will be composted and sold next spring and summer as compost for gardens and flower beds. It is a very nutrient rich product that resembles top soil. The City has been composting leaves, and making mulch at this facility since 2003. All leaves brought to the facility must be free of brush, bushes or any type of wood. Those may also be taken to the Compost Facility for a nominal fee. The facility is located on Piqua-Troy Road, approximately a mile and a half south of Garnsey Street.

For questions or scheduling please call the Street Department at 778-2095.

CITY COMMISSION

John Martin

Commissioner, 1st Ward

Home: 773-2778

Ward1comm@piquaoh.org

William Vogt

Commissioner, 2nd Ward

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Thomas D. Hudson

Mayor & Commissioner, 3rd

Ward

Home: 773-1977

Ward3comm@piquaoh.org

Julia (Judy) Terry

Commissioner, 4th Ward

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Ward4comm@piquaoh.org

Lucy Fess

Commissioner, 5th Ward

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Ward5comm@piquaoh.org

ANNUAL LEAF PICK-UP

City crews will begin leaf pick-up the end of October and continue through the beginning of December. Leaf pick-up crews will cover the City three (3) full rounds, plus additional coverage, as needed in areas with a heavy concentration of leaves.

To help provide efficient pick-up, citizens are asked to rake leaves with regard to the following:

- Rake leaves to the curb line. On streets with no curbs, rake leaves to the edge of the asphalt.
- Keep leaf piles free of stones, cans, trash, sticks, etc. These items can damage the vacuum equipment.
- Do not rake leaves to the alley, or boulevards.
- Make sure leaves are not piled under, between, or around parked cars.

Leaf Pick-up Hotline – 778-2092

A recorded message will be updated each day, describing the location in which crews are working. Please call the hotline to receive schedule information.

Those with questions or requiring additional information pertaining to this program are advised to contact the Street Department at 778-2095.

City of Piqua's Water is Safe

In late August, the New York Times ran a story alleging that Piqua's water is dangerous due to the use of atrazine. Atrazine is a herbicide that has been used for 50 years primarily by farmers for corn and sugar crops to fight weeds. The City's source of water is currently surface water. The water is treated and regulated at all times by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). There have been no reports from the EPA regarding high levels of atrazine in the treated water that our consumers receive. There have been three reports that have shown a spike in the atrazine level in the raw water or the water before it has been treated and produced. These spikes occurred in 2005. The level of atrazine is measured in parts per billion (ppb), which is measured at a level of 2 seconds in 31.7 years. Again, the reports were for the raw water. The City's treated water has met and continues to meet the EPA's requirements. The City's treated water has not had any negative reports other than for the occasional turbidity, which means that the water is cloudy. Turbidity requires the boil advisories that the City implements. Finally, the EPA has done studies on atrazine, which do not conclude that it causes any known harmful risks. For more information, please visit www.piquaoh.org or www.epa.gov.

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 3rd, there will be two seats open (four year terms for each) for City Commission in Wards 3 and 4 and they will be on the ballot. The Mayor will also be elected to a two-year term of office.

Calendar of Events-October – December 2009

- October 12: New Start Financial-Recreation Program. Call 778-2085 for more information
- October 15: Regional Business Showcase. Piqua Area Chamber of Commerce Program. Call 773-2765 for more information.
- October 16: Schools Out! – Recreation Program. Call 778-2085 for more information
- October 20: Halloween Treats – Recreation Program. Call 778-2085 for more information
- October 20: Fall Hay Ride- Recreation Program. Call 778-2085 for more information
- October 28: Downtown Trick or Treat at 5:00 PM - Mainstreet Piqua Program. Call 773-9355
- October 29: Trick or Treat in the City of Piqua from 6 PM-8 PM
- November 3: Election Day
- November 9: Their Space, Parents Guide to Social Networking websites – Recreation program. Call 778-2085 for more information
- November 13: Schools Out! – Recreation Program. Call 778-2085 for more information
- November 18: Scrapbooking – Recreation Program. Call 778-2085 for more information
- December 2 – 12: Victorian Christmas – 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM @ Appletree Gallery-405 S. Mainstreet
- December 3: Christmas Surprise Gift Making – Recreation Program. Call 778-2085 for more information
- December 4: Christmas on the Green from 6 PM – 9 PM – Mainstreet Piqua Program. Call 773-9355 for more information
- December 5: Christmas with Characters and Cookies. – Recreation Program. Call 778-6753 for more information.
- December 5: Holly Jolly 5K Run at 10:00 AM-Mainstreet Piqua Program. Call 773-9355 for more information.
- December 5: Downtown Piqua Holiday Parade at 2:00 PM-Mainstreet Piqua Program. Call 773-9355 for more information.

In Memory of Rich Stahl

Rich Stahl was a dedicated employee of the City of Piqua for 23 years. Rich began working for the City of Piqua in the Power Distribution Department on October 27, 1986. His entire career was devoted to the Power Department to a job that he loved, which served the citizens of Piqua.

On May 27, 2009, Rich lost his courageous battle with cancer. We will miss his strength and dedication to his job as well as his wonderful sense of humor.



National Preparedness Month

September was National Preparedness Month. Everyone from emergency services to the business community to the citizens need to be prepared for a catastrophic event. This includes simple items such as changing batteries in smoke detectors to the more thoughtful preparedness such as having escape plans and an emergency preparedness kit. The City of Piqua communicates with Miami County in case of such an event but also has been preparing internally by developing escape plans in case of fire and plans for a tornado and by training all of its management and personnel in key areas such as the City's utilities on how to operate during an emergency. Preparedness month is to raise the individual's and the communities' awareness on what it means to be prepared in the case of a tornado, wind storm or other catastrophic event. For more information you may contact Police Chief Jamison or Fire Chief Maggert or the State of Ohio's Emergency Management Agency. The Ohio Department of Safety is encouraging all citizens to be READY for an emergency and visit www.ready.ohio.gov for more information. For a list of recommended items for an emergency kit, you can go to www.ready.gov/america/getakit/index.html.

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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Fred Enderle

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Your comments and questions
are welcomed.

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