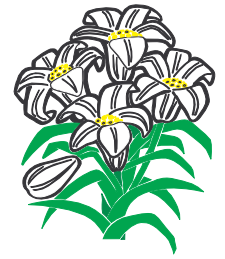


PIQUA Spirit



Spring 2009

SUMMER'S APPROACHING! 2009 PARKS & RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES



Enjoying a round of Golf at Echo Hills.

It is hard to believe, but summer is just around the corner. That means trips to the municipal pool, going to ballgames, playing 18 holes at Echo Hills and for many of the youth, summer camps. The Parks and Recreation Department is proud to be a part of these experiences.

On those hot summer days we all enjoy a dip in the pool, and what better way to get into that pool than down our 150' water slide. After some energetic play in the pool get out and bask in the sun while enjoying ice cream from the concession stand. Does this sound good to you? If so, mark your calendars! The Municipal Pool will be open for Memorial Day weekend and then open daily starting May 30th. Call us today to purchase your season pass. The memories will last a lifetime.

Continuing the annual tradition, we are offering three trips to see the Dayton Dragons play at 5/3 Field this season. Through a great partnership with the YMCA we are able to provide transportation allowing you to enjoy the game without worrying about traffic or parking. This year's games will be Thursday, June 4th, Tuesday, June 30th and Sunday August 2nd. There are a limited number of tickets, so reserve your spot today.

We welcome you for a relaxing 9 or 18 holes of golf at Echo Hills, whether that be the Links style front nine or the wooded, rolling hills of the back nine. If your time is limited and you want to work on your swing, come hit a bucket of balls at our driving range. We have something to offer players of all ability levels.



Kids having fun at the Piqua Municipal Pool.

You have spoken and we have listened. We are excited to announce that we are again offering a summer playground program at Mote Park this summer. Pick up a summer program guide for details on this program as well as other summer program offerings.

Brochures with information on classes and activities are available to pick up at the Parks and Recreation Office in the Municipal Government Complex, in the Chamber of Commerce building or can be downloaded from our website. Ideas for future programs are always welcome, so let us know if you have an idea for a program you would like to see offered. We hope to see you at one of our programs this year and look forward to serving you.

For more information on our programs, parks, or facilities call (937) 778-2085 or visit the City of Piqua website.



Members gather for a snack

The New Piqua Senior Center – A Community Collaboration

The Miami County YMCA in collaboration with Council on Rural Services, The City of Piqua Parks and Recreation and the Piqua YWCA are proud to offer the Piqua Senior Center Program.

The Senior Center Program is offered in the YMCA Youth Center, which is located across from the Piqua YMCA at N. Downing & W. High Streets. It is open from 9:00am - 3:00pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays for individuals 50 years and older. Those who are interested in joining can join the center for a quarterly fee of \$10. Membership to the Piqua Senior Center is included in YMCA membership. Membership to the Piqua Senior Center includes access to the drop-in activities, computers and programs. Most programs will be offered free of charge to members with some requiring an additional fee. If you haven't already visited the center, please come and see what we have to offer.

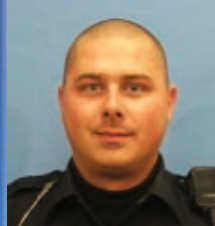


New Senior Center Ribbon Cut - Chamber Ambassadors (in red coats) flank key Center proponents (l-r) Frank Barhorst, Jean and Tom Strohmenger, and Tony Rego.

Meet....Piqua Police Neighborhood Liason Officers

The Piqua Police Department has established Neighborhood Liaison Officers to work with the Neighborhood Associations in the city. These officers attend neighborhood meetings and get to know the people involved. They are also assigned to problem solving strategies within their neighborhoods. They are a resource to the neighborhood citizens and also to other members of the police department looking for contacts within a neighborhood.

In 2009, the Neighborhood Liaison Officers are:



*Shawnee - Officer
Williams Weaver*

Shawnee – Officer William Weaver – Officer Weaver is a five-year veteran of the department. He is a native of Tipp City, Ohio. He has participated in several clean-up and social events in the Shawnee Neighborhood.

Northparks – Officer Wil Benson – Officer Benson was raised in Miami County and has been on the police department for over fourteen years. A

veteran of the Unites States Air Force, he brings a variety of professional experience to apply to the city he calls home for himself and his family.

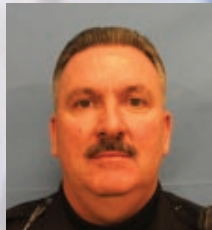


*Downtown
Officer Jim MacKellar*

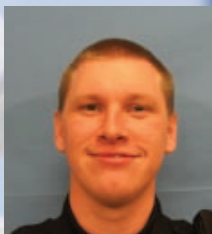
Downtown – Officer Jim MacKellar – A Piqua native, Officer MacKellar is approaching thirty years of service to the City of Piqua as a Police Officer. He has extensive experience in various capacities within the police department.

Southview – Officer Sean Stein – Officer Stein has been with the Piqua Police Department for over three years. He came to us from Kettering, and has

family and friends in Piqua and Sidney.



*Northparks
Officer Wil Benson*



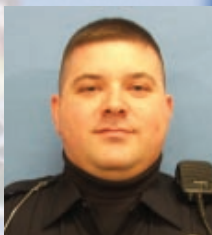
*Southview
Officer Sean Stein*

Southwest – Officer Jason Preston – The mostly recently formed neighborhood association is served by Officer

Preston, who established Piqua as his home after being hired by the Piqua Police Department

over five years ago. He is a veteran of the United States Army.

We encourage all citizens to get involved in their particular neighborhood association. We believe there is great benefit to residents working together to improve their neighborhoods.



*Southwest
Officer Jason Preston*

CITY COMMISSION

John Martin

Commissioner, 1st Ward

Home: 773-2778

Ward1comm@piquaoh.org

William Vogt

Commissioner, 2nd Ward

Home: 773-8217

Ward2comm@piquaoh.org

Thomas D. Hudson

Mayor & Commissioner, 3rd Ward

Home: 773-1977

Ward3comm@piquaoh.org

Julia (Judy) Terry

Commissioner, 4th Ward

Home: 773-3189

Ward4comm@piquaoh.org

Lucy Fess

Commissioner, 5th Ward

Home: 773-7929

Ward5comm@piquaoh.org



A Change of Pace – Spring's Coming!

With the dreary cold days of winter just about behind us, we know that spring can't be far away! Now is the time to think of planting a garden, flowers, and containers for porches and decks. There are some things that you can do now to ready your garden for the warmer days of spring.



Think of the areas around your home and yard. Where would a little color help? Sometimes just a small group of plants can change the look of a place. Start with the soil. Soil preparation begins with testing your soil to find out what pH level your soil is, as well as how much of various nutrients are in the soil. Taking the time to plant native or adapted plants and properly prepare your soil will reduce water use, save you money, and reduce the time spent on lawn and garden maintenance. Add fertilizer as needed following the package directions and work the soil with a shovel or spade. Rake to smooth and level the area. You might want to consider using a compost instead.

It's very important that the plants that you choose can grow successfully in this climate. When buying plants look for strong healthy plants. As we may experience late frosts, make sure the plants have been hardened off. That is, plants that have been slowly exposed to outdoor temperatures and wind. In addition to climate, you will need to consider the type of sunlight your garden area receives and how much light the plant varieties you are selecting require to grow.

Water your plants well before planting. Gently tap out plants from their packs and check the root system. If roots are tight, work the roots with your finger to stimulate them.

Dig a hole in the prepared area, place plant in and firm the soil around the plant. Water the newly planted area. New plants should be kept moist for the first ten days. Plants that wilt too often maybe stunted. An inch of water per week is needed. To conserve moisture in your planting beds, spread 1-2 inches of mulch over the soil.

By preparing before you plant, you will increase the chances of having a beautiful garden. Good luck and happy gardening!



No Spring Cleanup – New Ways To Dispose Of Bulk Items

The City of Piqua Sanitation Department continues to pick-up bulk items on a weekly basis. Yet, the City of Piqua will not be sponsoring a special, city-wide special Spring Clean-Up program this year. Most bulk items, including furniture and appliances, can be placed out for pick-up with the regular weekly trash any week. The department asks that no more than two (2) bulk items be placed out at one time and that the items are placed in the same location as the regular weekly trash pick-up.

Construction and demolition debris is not acceptable anytime by the City. These items may be transported by citizens to the Miami County Transfer Station located on CR. 25-A south of Piqua.

Brush and trimmings continue to be picked up any week, if it is tied and bundled. The bundles may not be larger than 6 feet in length or 24 inches in diameter.

If you have any questions regarding refuse pick-up, please contact the Sanitation Dept. at 778-2060.

MANDATORY TAX FILING REQUIREMENT

Piqua City Commission passed an ordinance on November 3, 2008 regarding Piqua City income tax. Effective January 1, 2009, every resident 18 years of age and older living inside the city limits of Piqua is required to file a city income tax return due April 15th of every year.

Other changes also effective January 1, 2009 are as follows:

- Losses from federal schedules and other sources reported for federal income tax purposes cannot be used to offset qualifying wages and other income.
- Net operating losses are no longer allowed as a carryforward and all accumulated previous losses are no longer deductible.
- Gambling losses are only deductible if they are supported by an independent and verifiable statement containing a person's name, address, date, and amount.
- Amounts of less than \$5.00 shall not be collected, refunded or credited.
- Employers are required to remit withholding on a monthly basis if the tax liability for the previous year equals or exceeds three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00).
- All withholding payments are due on the 15th of the month following the end of the month or quarter.
- A copy of all issued 1099-Misc forms need to be submitted to the City of Piqua by February 28th.

Remember that it is *your responsibility* to assure that the required filings are done, not that of your tax accountant, tax preparer or anyone else.

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact the Piqua Income Tax Department at (937) 778-2009 or incometax@piquaoh.org.

Upcoming City Dates of Note

- ◆ Now: Registration has begun for Dayton Dragons (Cincinnati Reds Affiliate) Baseball Game Trips - Games on June 4, June 30, August 2. For Information call the Recreation Dept. at 778-2085.
- ◆ Now: Registration begins for Summer Adult & Youth Tennis Clinics. For information, call 778-2085.
- ◆ Now: Youth Tennis Team (ages 5-10), June 17-August 5. Call 778-2085 to register.
- ◆ Now: Recreation Summer Youth Camps, June 15-August 7. For information, call 778-2085.
- ◆ Now: Sale of Swimming Pool Memberships begins. For information call 778-2085.
- ◆ April 15: City Income Tax filing deadline (see article in this issue of the Spirit)
- ◆ May 1: Registration begins for Jr. Golf Program – starts June 10. Call Echo Hills Golf Course (778-2086) for more information.
- ◆ May 15, 5-9 pm: 15th Annual “*Taste of the Arts*”, sponsored by Mainstreet Piqua. Call 773-9355 for more information.
- ◆ May 16: “*Spring Stride & Ride*”, walk or bike the Path – Mini bicycle maintenance seminar at 9:30 am before event - sponsored by Mainstreet Piqua (773-9355).
- ◆ May 23-25: Swimming Pool opens & open daily for summer on May 30
- ◆ August 1: Car Show, Rte. 66 Roadside Park. Registration: 9am-Noon & Show: Noon-4pm
- ◆ **PLEASE NOTE THAT WEEKLY REFUSE COLLECTIONS PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET RID OF LARGE ITEMS SINCE THERE IS NO SPRING CLEANUP THIS YEAR – SEE ARTICLE THIS ISSUE.**



Shawnee Pump Station

The Shawnee Pump Station reconstruction project will be completed in the first half of 2009. The original structure, which was built around 1919, is getting a complete overhaul. The only part of the structure that will remain is the wet-well, and the lower level concrete walls.

Although the facility was still operational, time had passed it by and was due for some serious upgrading. The new facility will all be below ground, and has been equipped with the latest technology to operate without any manpower. The station is equipped with two 50 horse power pumps which can each pump 5,000 gallons a minute. The station is automated so that when the water level in the wet-well reaches a certain level the gate to the river will close and the pumps will start until the wet-well is at a safe level. The new automated system will also notify personnel should there be any problems with the pumps. The station also is equipped with a generator for any power failures that may occur.

This is a great improvement for the City of Piqua, and should eliminate any flooding problems for the residents of Shawnee.

YOU'VE GOT BILLS, WE'VE GOT “BILLPAYER 2000”

Important Information for City Utilities Customers

BillPayer 2000, an automatic bill payment service for your City Utility Bills, will save you money and make your life easier!

We would like to encourage all of our residents – and businesses – to take advantage of **BillPayer 2000** – it is now “**Free**” of charge.

Automatic payments from your checking or savings account have the following benefits:

- You can say goodbye to checks and stamps.
- You still receive a bill in the mail each month.
- Your bill is paid on the due date each month automatically.
- The program is “Free of charge”
- You can cancel at anytime.

Please contact **BillPayer** at 1-800-837-2000 to sign up today or if you have any questions.

For your convenience and savings, we need your assistance in obtaining regular meter readings. Regular readings of your meters are the best way of detecting problems that could result in high bills. If you are not home on the scheduled reading date and your meter is located inside your home, the meter reader will leave a card for you to read the meter. You may:

1. Use our website at www.piquaoh.org to enter your meter reading by clicking on “E-Gov Services”.
2. Phone our office and use our automated meter reading service.
3. Return the meter reading card to our office.
4. Provide us with a key to obtain future meter readings.

To further assist this process, there are a few easy steps you can take to assist the meter readers gain access to your meters outside:

- 1) Please trim around your water box regularly.
- 2) Do not place items or mulch on your water box.
- 3) Keep a clear path to your meter.
- 4) Keep your pets away from meter readers on meter reading days.

Thank you for your assistance as we serve you!



*Harry Bumgarner
Economic
Development Director*



*Andy Burner
Deputy Assistant
City Manager*



*Gary Connell
Fire Chief*

Retirements – Time for the City to Honor Retirees and Look to the Future

The past six months have meant many changes for the City of Piqua’s management team. In August 2008, Chief Wayne Willcox retired as Chief of Police. Chief Willcox had been with the department for over 36 years, having been promoted to Chief in 2005. Bruce Jamison was promoted to Chief of Police in December 2008. Chief Jamison has been with the department for over 22 years, most recently as Deputy Chief. In September 2008, Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Meckstroth retired after 31 years of service. Public Works Director Tom Zechman also retired in September 2008 after almost 23 years of service. Fire Chief Gary Connell retired in February 2009. Chief Connell had been with the department for over 33 years having been promoted to Chief in 2000. Promotion of the next Fire Chief is to take place by the end of April. Assistant City Manager and Development Director Harry Bumgarner retired in March 2009 after having been with the City for three years. Finally, Deputy Assistant City Manager Andre Burner will retire in June 2009. Andy has been with the City for more than 31 years. These individuals represented a combined total of over 157 years of experience with the City. Their vast knowledge is not easily replaced; however, many employers both public and private are facing this very same situation of “baby-boomers” retiring from the work force.

These retirements also have provided an opportunity for us to look at how we are doing business and restructure some of our functions to better address the communities needs and/or provide services in a more economical manner. In anticipation of these retirements, the City has also developed a succession plan to address the needs of the city due to these integral vacancies. Developing employees internally will mean a much smoother transition in the years to come. The City is currently addressing the training needs of managers and supervisors to prepare them for these new roles. The City thanks the retirees for their years of dedicated service and loyalty to the City and wishes them the very best in all of their new adventures.



*Jeff Meckstroth
Asst. Fire Chief*



*Wayne Willcox
Police Chief*



*Tom Zechman
Public Works
Director*

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.

CITY MANAGER

Fred Enderle

DEPUTY ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER

Andy Burner

Andy Burner

Articles and photos by
City Staff

Design and Layout by
Preferred Printing Company

Your comments and questions
are welcomed.

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