

PIQUA Spirit



Summer 2009

TOONE P AT THE PLAZA RESTORATION UPDATE

On the east side of the Fort Piqua Plaza, the last of the 1891 architectural elements still remain. The old brick, joist and plaster from yesteryear are the last components to begin to fade into the past. Construction has begun on the last portion of the Plaza. Toone P's at the Plaza renovation began in May of this year and is scheduled to be complete by August of this year.

With Tuttle Construction as general contractor, they are leading the charge in completing the work of the 3800 square foot restaurant space.

Toone P at the Plaza's dining area will have the old original marble and coffered ceilings that once graced this portion of the building. It will be restored with some of the artisans that transformed the hotel project to what we see today. Poplar wainscot paneling, drywall and plaster will be added to melt the old and new into a seamless transition that match the historical duplication requirements, yet still keeps the construction practical.

The dining room will accommodate over sixty patrons, with additional seating to be added for outside dining. The seating is a mix of booths and tables that will give the restaurant a more private type of dining experience.

This last piece of the Plaza project promises to be another vital component that will enhance Piqua's downtown historical area. The completion of the project this summer will finalize the hopes and dreams many residents carried for over ten years. Because of the dedication and financial efforts of many people of the community, this dream will be come to fruition. Visit the restaurant after completion and enjoy the atmosphere and excellent food.

FORT PIQUA PLAZA BANQUET AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Now open, the Fort Piqua Plaza Banquet and Conference Center is a state-of-the-art facility located on the fourth floor of the newly restored Fort Piqua Plaza.

The Banquet and Conference facility has been specifically designed for business meetings and small conferences as well as wedding receptions and showers, class reunions and other special occasions that deserve a uniquely handsome setting.

Groups from 30 to 350 can be accommodated in various rooms throughout the building, all of which are attractively decorated and equipped with everything you will need to make your event a complete success.



"Ballroom" Photo Courtesy of Mike Underwood Photography

Facility Options

- Historic Domed Banquet Room - a beautifully decorated room; 30 foot vaulted ceilings, intricate stenciling, stained glass windows and a magnificent crystal chandelier (Can accommodate groups of up to 150 people)
- West Banquet Room - a beautifully decorated large banquet room (Can accommodate up to 200 people). This room can be combined with the Domed Banquet Room (For groups of up to 350 people).
- Turret Room - a beautiful view of downtown Piqua and richly decorated (Can accommodate up to 48 people). Suitable for business meetings as well as small gatherings, this space is truly gorgeous.
- Two small meeting rooms – with drop-down video screens and can be set up according to your specific needs (can accommodate up to 30 people each).
- Board Room - located on the North side of the building and is fitted with a large Board table, high-back chairs and flexible audio and visual capability. This room is perfect for business presentations and formal meetings.

Food and beverage catering service can be provided for the entire Banquet and Conference facility from a large catering kitchen in close proximity to the banquet spaces.

If you are interested in learning more about the Fort Piqua Plaza Banquet and Conference Center please call Jennifer Bruster at (937) 773-8871.

Meet....Bill Murphy

Assistant City Manager/ Economic Development Director

The City of Piqua is pleased to announce that William P. Murphy has been named Assistant City Manager/Development Director. In this position, Bill will be responsible for assisting the City Manager in the overall management of the City. He will have primary responsibility for managing the economic development program, including the planning and development functions of the City. Bill holds a bachelor's degree and a Master of Urban Administration from Wright State University. Bill comes to the city from the Cincinnati USA Partnership where he was employed as the Director, Regional Business Information Center. In this position, he was responsible for managing data, regional asset inventory and relationships to generate prospect lists of businesses to target for expansion or relocation to Cincinnati.



Bill began his career with DPL as a Customer Service Representative/Energy Auditor and finishing as Regional Development Manager. In this role, Bill managed a \$2 million growth incentive program and coordinated seven retention and expansion programs with local communities and universities. He then went to Baltimore, Maryland as the Manager, Investor Relations for the Downtown Partnership of Baltimore. Bill returned to Dayton as Vice-President of Marketing and Communications for the Dayton Regional Development Alliance. In this position, he implemented a \$600,000 marketing campaign with regional and national advertising public relations firms, including measurement of deliverables, budgeting and outreach initiatives. Bill's public sector experience includes the cities of Fairborn and Middletown. In Fairborn, he served as Community Development Director managing a department budget of nearly \$1.5 million including the Community Development Block Grant

and a staff of ten employees. During his tenure, he secured \$850,000 in state grants. Bill was employed as the Economic Development Director for the City of Middletown administering economic development programs including enterprise zone and tax increment financing districts. In this position, he secured \$2,600,00 in state grants. Bill has unique blend of public and private experience necessary to accomplish the unified goals of the City and Grow Piqua Now. He has the knowledge and experience to work with local businesses to address their needs and to help them grow. He also possesses the knowledge and networks to attract new business to the area and deal with the various layers of government and public/private development organizations necessary to facilitate the continued development of the City of Piqua. Bill has indicated his excitement in joining the Piqua City Team.

CITY COMMISSION

John Martin

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Commissioner, 2nd Ward

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Thomas D. Hudson

Mayor & Commissioner, 3rd

Ward

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Julia (Judy) Terry

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Lucy Fess

Commissioner, 5th Ward

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RESIDENCE PRIDE AWARDS

Piqua citizens:

We need your nominations for Residence Pride awards! You may nominate a home, rental or a business that has been improved or one that has always been well maintained. Maybe you may have noticed a neighbor who has helped someone else with an exterior home improvement project that deserves recognition? We encourage you to submit a nomination to the Residence Pride Committee.



The Residence Pride Award is based on the following criteria:

- Property appearance
- Landscape appearance
- Helpful neighbor in regards to landscape or home improvement project
- Home improvements-general clean-up of a property
- Business owner/landlord property

Please help our Committee select five beautiful properties in the City of Piqua! We need your nominations!

Nomination forms are available on the City's website at www.piquaoh.org, the Municipal Government Complex in the City Managers office, or the front Reception Desk. Nominations or questions may also be emailed to: residencepride@piquaoh.org.



Don & Norma Emery

726 Caldwell Street

Spring 2009 Residence Pride Award

RENEW PIQUA

Once again this year the City will be sponsoring Renew Piqua, a program aimed to help homeowners paint and fix up their homes. The program is designed to help homeowners who cannot afford to paint or fix minor problems on their homes by providing the needed supplies to get the job done. For homeowners who cannot do the work themselves, then the City will also attempt to find volunteers to help with the project. The program has proven to be very successful and rewarding for all involved.

To date the Renew Piqua program has helped over 50 homeowners paint or repair their homes. To keep that spirit alive again this year, the City is asking homeowners who may need assistance to apply for the program. Applications can be found on the website www.piquaoh.org, in the Development Office (201 W. Water St.), or you may call Bill Lutz at 778-2062 for more information about applying.

The City is also seeking support from groups who wish to donate their time to help with the project. If your group would like to participate, please contact Amy Welker at awelker@piquaoh.org or by calling 778-2060.

The Renew Piqua program has been completely funded by donations and grant support. To continue this valuable program, the City is accepting donations as funds are very low for this year. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation, please send to Renew Piqua, c/o Amy Welker, 201 W. Water St., Piqua, OH 45356. Any support you give will directly impact citizens of Piqua.

INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT STUDY

The Plan It Piqua 2007 Comprehensive Plan Update noted, “public perception is that there are a number of unwarranted traffic signals in town”. In response to this concern the City Commission authorized Kleingers & Associates of West Chester, Ohio, to conduct an Intersection Improvement Study.

The study focused on twenty-seven intersections thought to include unwarranted traffic-control devices. As part of the study, the consultant was asked examine the existing conditions of each intersection and to solicit public comments. Many of the public comments received recognized the undesirable side effects unwarranted traffic control devices may cause - *excessive delays, disobedience of signals, increase in accidents, diversion of traffic to inadequate alternate routes* - and the perpetual operation and maintenance costs, and inconvenience to the public, inherent to traffic-control devices. After careful study of the existing conditions found and public comments received, Kleingers & Associates advanced a number of recommendations for consideration.

The recommendations included retaining and upgrading the existing traffic signal at those intersections best served by a traffic signal device, and in some cases the Study recommended interconnecting traffic signals to better coordinate the movement of traffic along certain corridors. It was recommended that traffic signals be removed at several locations and be replaced with a two-way or four-way stop. The Study also suggested that “curb bump-outs” be constructed at certain intersections to “shorten the pedestrian crossing distance and to provide a visual indication to motorist [on the approach street] of the need to stop.”



Illustration of curb bump outs.

To view all of the Intersection Improvement Study recommendations, and which intersections were examined as part of the Study, visit http://www.piquaoh.org/intersection_improvement_study.htm.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS INITIATIVE

Recently, city of Piqua officials met with representatives from Piqua City Schools and Piqua Catholic Schools to discuss the merits of developing a local Safe Routes to School program. After meeting with Ohio Department of Transportation representatives to learn more about the initiative, city and school officials were convinced the program could be of value to the Piqua community.

Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) is a national initiative with support for the development of local level programs coming from the individual states. The initiative aims to enable community leaders, schools and parents, to encourage more children to safely walk and bicycle to and from school. The program ultimately seeks to reduce traffic congestion, and improve public health and the environment, making communities more livable for everyone.



Join with us this fall for the kickoff of the Piqua SRTS program as we celebrate international Walk to School Day! More information coming soon.

Upcoming City Dates of Note

- **July-October: Piqua Community Farmers Market – Thursdays from 3:00 - 7:00 PM (thru October 1) at Canal Place-Between Ash & High Streets-Sponsored by Mainstreet Piqua**
- **July 4: Fourth of July festivities & fireworks at Fountain Park**
- **July 9, 16, 23 & 30: Downtown Brown Bag Lunch Series – Thursdays from 11:45 PM - 1:00 PM - Sponsored by Mainstreet Piqua**
- **July 13-17: Tennis Camp – Ages 5-8 from 9:00 - 10:15 AM, Ages 9-12 from 10:30 AM - Noon at Fountain Park. Call 778-2085 to register or for more information**
- **July 17 & 18: Annual Sidewalk Sales - Downtown Piqua-Sponsored by Mainstreet Piqua**
- **July 18: Dancing in the Country Moonlight from 6 - 9 PM – Sponsored by Mainstreet Piqua**
- **July 18: Great Miami River Cleanup – Call Jeff at POWW to volunteer 615-9398**
- **July 20-24: Self Defense Camp – from 1:30 - 3:30 PM. Call 778-2085 to register or for more information**
- **July 27-31: Science Camp – from 1:00 - 4:00 PM. Call 778-2085 to register or for more information**
- **August 1: The 5th Annual City of Piqua Parks & Recreation Car Show, Roadside Park, St. Rte. 66 – Registration from 9:00 AM – Noon. Call 778-2085 for more information.**
- **August 2: Dayton Dragons Trip – Dayton Dragons vs. Burlington Bees, \$13.50 per person, bus leaves Mote Park at 2:30 PM. Call 778-2085 for more information.**
- **August 3-7: Woodworking Camp – from 1:00 - 4:00 PM. Call 778-2085 to register or for more information.**
- **August 14: Fall Recreation Program Guide release. Information on youth programs, adult fitness, family events and adult special interest programs. Pick up a program guide at the City Building or at the Chamber of Commerce. Downloadable guides are also available at our website www.piquaoh.org.**
- **August 23: Pool closes for season.**
- **September 5-7: Piqua City Open Tennis Tournament – Call 778-2085 for more information.**
- **September 13: Piqua Triathlon. Call 778-2085 for more information**

In Memory of Jerry Henderson

Jerry Henderson was a dedicated employee of the City of Piqua for 15 years. During the last 5 years of his career, he worked in the Parks & Recreation Department. Jerry loved working outside maintaining the parks.

On December 26, 2008, Jerry lost his courageous battle with cancer. In his memory, a gray dogwood tree was planted on May 29, 2009 at French Park.

Those present at the planting are *(left to right)*:

Yzenna Pour, Briana Saunders, John Pour, Kara Henderson, Theresa Henderson, Brian Brookhart and the family pet Cash.



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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Your comments and questions
are welcomed.

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LATEST ADDITION TO LINEAR PARK



In case you haven't heard, the latest addition to Linear Park is completed and open for use. This 3-mile segment of trail starts at Lock Nine Park and heads south to Peterson Road. The path follows the riverbank on the west side of the river behind the Power Plant. Path users will then cross the river and come out near the Wastewater Plant. The path continues south through a wooded setting on the east side of the river and ends just short of Peterson Road.

This \$600,000 project was a joint effort with The City of Piqua and the Miami County Park District. The funding for the project was made possible, in large part, by a \$400,000 Clean Ohio Fund grant administered through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The path crosses property owned by the City of Piqua, The Miami Conservancy District and Piqua Materials. Special thanks go to these entities. Without their cooperation the project would not have been a success.

This section of the path is not only a key component to the City of Piqua's trail system, but is also part of a larger regional trail effort, the Great Miami River Recreational Trail. Once complete the Great Miami River Recreational Trail will connect Piqua to Troy, Dayton and even Cincinnati to the south and there are efforts to continue the trail north as well. The Miami County Park District is currently finalizing plans for the Peterson Road crossing, a parking facility at Peterson Road and section of trail leading to Eldean Road.



Whether you are a walker, runner, biker, or skater, we hope you will take advantage of this great feature. Get active!



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