

PIQUA Spirit



SUMMER 2010

Economic Development Update

This year has been another challenging year for business growth in Piqua and around the country. While the recession has technically ended, companies large and small have been slow to rehire workers and invest in new equipment and facilities. But the City of Piqua, through the efforts of Grow Piqua Now, is working hard to help companies emerge from the recession ready to again start growing in our community.

There is good news to share. Earlier this year in our 2010 State of Economic Development Report we highlighted four local companies that invested in equipment, employees, and facilities: Harmony Systems, Hartzell Fan, Polysource and Winans Fine Chocolates & Coffees. This report also details Piqua's 2010 Work Plan and highlights the industries we target for growth.

We are also happy to share two other success stories this year: Evenflo and Trupointe Cooperative.

Evenflo, one of Piqua's major employers, announced it was going to be adding up to 50 additional employees over the next three years to its existing workforce of over 355 employees. It also plans to add \$1.5 million in new equipment to its facility to accommodate a planned increase in production of child safety seats. The company was awarded a 45% Job Creation Tax Credit from the State of Ohio for a five year term as a result of the company's project. The value of the tax credit is estimated at \$82,787 over the term, and the company would be required to maintain operations at the project site for at least eight years. Evenflo is a manufacturer and marketer of infant and juvenile products, including car seats, strollers, playtime products, safety gates, and infant feeding products.

Trupointe Cooperative plans to move into its new corporate headquarters on Looney Road later this summer. The company was created with the merger of two regional cooperatives, Advanced Agri-Solutions in Wapakoneta and Southwest Landmark in Xenia. Over the next 12-18 months, the company will invest nearly half a million dollars in the purchase and renovation of the former Social Security building and bring 10-12 senior-level executives to Piqua. Once the merger is complete, the company will have approximately 500 employees and serve over 4,300 cooperative members in Southwest and West Central Ohio.

While we are pleased with these announcements, we are not resting on our laurels. The City of Piqua, Grow Piqua Now, the Piqua Area Chamber of Commerce, and countless others are working hard to assist our businesses in any way we can, including visits to local companies through our BusinessFirst! retention and expansion outreach program, free business seminars, tax abatement programs, and other innovative financing and tax credit programs. To learn more about how your business can benefit from these programs, please visit the Grow Piqua Now website at www.growpiquanow.org.

It's Road Construction Time --



Construction season has arrived and is in full swing and as you can see, there are orange barrels popping up everywhere throughout the City of Piqua. A number of construction projects have already begun, with more scheduled for construction this summer. In keeping with the goals of the Plan It Piqua Comprehensive Plan Update, the City is improving the infrastructure so that we can provide the ability to move our people (motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists) throughout the city conveniently and safely.

Construction began on the Broadway Phase II Reconstruction Project (S.R. 66) the first of May. The project limits are Broadway (S.R. 66) from Lindsey Street to Washington Avenue. The reconstruction will include the installation of new storm sewer, sanitary sewer, fire hydrants, curb and gutter, sidewalk, and new asphalt roadway surface.

Finrock Construction Company Inc. of Covington, Ohio is the contractor for the \$876,000 project. Due to the road closure taking place on a State Route, the Ohio Department of Transportation has established an official detour for all through traffic via S.R. 48 and S.R. 185. The contract completion date for the Broadway - Phase II Reconstruction Project is December 31, 2010.

Work has also begun on the U.S. 36 bridges over Interstate 75 (I-75). The Ohio Department of Transportation is replacing the bridge decks on both of the U.S. 36 bridges over I-75. Also included in this project is the landscaping of all four quadrants of the I-75/U.S. 36 interchange.

The Contractor, Eagle Bridge Company out of Sidney, Ohio, will be completing the \$2.8 million dollar project in phases with the first phase being the crossover of the two thru eastbound lanes onto the existing westbound structure so the eastbound bridge can be rehabilitated. The second phase will close the westbound bridge to traffic and crossover the two thru westbound lanes on to the completed eastbound structure.

There will be two thru lanes in each direction maintained throughout the duration of the project. Pedestrian traffic will also be maintained throughout the entire project. The completion date for this project is August 15, 2011.

The City of Piqua will also be completing a street resurfacing program this year in addition to an in-house paving program. Tentatively, Washington Avenue between North Street and Broadway (S.R. 66) has been identified for the Street Resurfacing Program. In conjunction with the Street Resurfacing Program, the City will also be contracting out for all of the concrete work associated with upgrading the handicap ramps along the resurfacing corridor to meet ADA requirements. The in-house paving program will consist of the City of Piqua Street Department performing patching/repairs to multiple streets throughout the City.

Please make every effort to proceed with caution through all construction zones. By slowing down and watching out for road crews and equipment, we can all do our part to help prevent accidents and save lives.



PIQUA SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS *Update*

In the spring of 2009 the City of Piqua, Piqua City Schools and Piqua Catholic School officials organized a Piqua Safe Routes to School team and launched a local Safe Routes to School initiative. The formation of the local Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) team marked the beginning of a collaborative effort involving citizens, City and School officials, and representatives from the State that has returned positive results for the community. To date the SRTS team is responsible for having successfully secured grant dollars to fund the first annual Piqua celebration of International Walk to School Day - which took place in October of 2009 and is scheduled to occur again October of 2010 - and for having gained approval of a funding request to allow for the preparation of a Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) School Travel Plan document.

The process of preparing the School Travel Plan document will assist the community in understanding what obstacles currently exist that make it difficult for children to safely walk or bike to and from school. When the document is complete, it will provide a plan for making infrastructure improvements and establishing programs that remove those barriers. Through the on-going cooperation and support received from Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) representatives and the citizens of Piqua, the SRTS team has already completed the first six steps of the School Travel

Plan development process. The remaining steps require support from ODOT engineers to complete the plan development process. It is anticipated the entire plan development process will be completed by late summer of 2010. With the completion of the School Travel Plan document, Piqua will become eligible to apply for up to 2 million dollars in federal funding that can be used to implement infrastructure improvements and programs necessary to enable more children to safely walk and bicycle to and from school.

Ultimately, SRTS programs can result in a reduction in traffic congestion, and improvements in the public health and the environment, all of which make the community more livable for everyone!

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City Employees Receive Certification for Water and Wastewater Departments

On May 11 and 12, 2010, the City of Piqua had six individuals taking their prospective exams with the Ohio EPA for certification. In the Underground Utilities Division, Kevin Grogean, Scott Cromes, Alan Miller and Brad Bynum all passed the Water Distribution II examination for certified operators. In the Water Plant Division, Logan Fessler received his Water Plant Operator I certification. In the Wastewater Division, Robert Bateman received his Wastewater Plant Operation II certification.

This certification does not come without sacrifice by all these individuals. They have taken extensive training from a provider that specializes in these areas. Most have attended class once per week for 15-18 weeks and then took the examination given by the Ohio EPA.

The 1st level of certification is a job requirement for the City of Piqua.



Left to right: Robert Bateman-Wastewater II, Logan Fessler-Water I, Scott Cromes-Water Distribution II, Alan Miller-Water Distribution II and Kevin Grogean-Water Distribution II. Not pictured: Brad Bynum-Water Distribution II.

Events & Dates

July 31 ~ Car Show - Fountain Park
Registration from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm
(Call 778-2085 for more information)

July 31 ~ Van Dell's Performance - Hance Pavilion
7:00 pm (Call 778-2085 for more information)

August 8 ~ Dayton Dragons Game
Bus leaves Mote Park at 2:30 pm
(Call 778-2085 for more information)

August 22 ~ Municipal Pool closes for the season

September 4-6 ~ Piqua City Open Tennis Tournament
(Call 778-2085 for more information)

September 4-6 ~ Piqua Heritage Festival - Johnston Farm

September 18 ~ "Go Red Goes North"
Edison Community College - 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
(Call 937-853-3111 for more information)

September 25 ~ Dancing in the Moonlight & Cruise In
5:00 - 9:00 pm (Call 773-9355 for more information)

September 25 ~ Moonlight Stride & Ride
7:30 pm (Call 773-9355 for more information)

October 27 ~ Downtown (Mainstreet Piqua) Trick or Treat
5:00 - 6:00 pm (Call 773-9355 for more information)

CHARTER AMENDMENTS

On November 2, 2010, there will be 10 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. The Committee reviewed every section of the Charter in public meetings with public comment being heard. The ballot language is available at the Board of Elections or from the Law Director's office.

The primary focus of the Committee was Section 3, which establishes the wards of the City. Everyone was in agreement that the wards are greatly disproportionate due to the growth in the City and the wards need redrawn based on an equitable balance of the population. Furthermore, to prevent the current problem, the wards would be redrawn, if needed, every ten years in accordance with the census. Additionally, Sections 5, 66 and 68 need amended to reflect emergency management operations given that the mayor in the City's form of government does not receive the necessary specialized training to operate the city in times of an emergency. The following questions will be on the November ballot:

Section 3: Shall Charter Section 3 be amended to redistrict based on population beginning with the 2010 census and every ten years thereafter?

Section 4: Shall Charter Section 4 be amended to change the meeting night for the first meeting to be held in January from Monday to Tuesday?

Section 4: Shall Charter Section 4 be amended to clarify that the Commission may meet in executive session to discuss the employment of any City employee?

Section 5: Shall Charter Section 5 be amended to eliminate the authority of the mayor to take command of the police department in time of emergency?

Section 6: Shall Charter Section 6 be amended to eliminate the vice mayor being paid the mayor's salary during absences of the mayor?

Section 8: Shall Charter Section 8 be amended to specify reasons when a commission member may be expelled from City Commission?

Section 32: Shall Charter Section 32 be amended to require that an employee who is to be laid off, suspended or removed receive written notice?

Section 33: Shall Charter Section 33 be amended to clarify that Commissioners may communicate with employees although they cannot direct their activity?

Section 41: Shall Charter Section 41 be amended to require the director of law to have five years of experience as a practicing attorney rather than two years?

Section 66: Shall Charter Section 66 be amended to eliminate the mayor's responsibility in an emergency with regards to the command of the police department?

Section 68: Shall Charter Section 68 be amended to eliminate the mayor's responsibility in an emergency with regards to the command of the fire department?

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.

City of Piqua Parks & Recreation Car Show

The City of Piqua Parks and Recreation Department will host their 6th annual Car Show. The event will take place on Saturday, July 31 at Fountain Park. Registration is from 11 AM – 2 PM with the Judge Awards taking place at 5:30 PM.

The entry fee of \$10.00 includes tickets for two cash drawings and two free tickets to see "The Van-Dells" in concert at the Hance Pavilion at Fountain Park, which will begin at 7:00 PM.

During the car show there will be door prizes, 50/50 drawings, the top 30 specialty trophies, dash plaques to the first 150 registrants, "oldies" music and much, much more!

For more details, call Commissioner Bill Vogt at 937-773-8217 or the Parks and Recreation Department at 937-778-2085.

All proceeds benefit the Piqua City Parks, so come out and enjoy a great day at the Park on Saturday, July 31st.

In Memory of Sharon Jackson

Sharon Jackson passed away on Wednesday, April 21, 2010 following a short illness. Sharon was employed as a Records Clerk in the Police Department. Sharon began working for the City of Piqua in September 2002. Sharon was the "official greeter" for



City employees at the City building as she occupied the desk in front of the windows on the ground floor. Sharon could always be counted on to welcome everyone with a wave and a smile to begin the day.

Sharon loved crossword puzzles, Boyds Bears, classic movies, and golfing with her husband, Marty, who survives. Sharon was a dedicated employee who will be greatly missed by her fellow co-workers.

Spring 2010 Residence Pride Recipients

The Spring Residence Pride Awards were announced on May 4, 2010 this year. The Residence Pride Committee members met and selected award winners from the nominations received. The recipients were:



Gene Hill	Rebecca &	Scott &	Dennis &	Clifford &
701 S. Wayne St.	Dennis Latham	Stacey Miller	Cindy Penrod	Joyce Smith
	451 Young St.	912 Boone St.	701 Boone St.	447 Young St.

Please look around your neighborhood or while driving through town take notice of homes that have been improved, beautiful landscaping or a home that has always been well maintained and nominate that house!

Nomination forms are available on the City's website @www.piquaoh.org or stop by and pick one up at the Municipal Government Complex at the front desk or in the Administration office. You may also nominate multiple homes!

The Committee looks forward to receiving your nominations for the Summer/Fall awards.

NOTICE

Please check city website or call Utilities Office for outstanding utilities before purchasing a property.

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

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Your comments and questions
are welcomed.

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