

SPIQUA Spirit



UNITED WE STAND

FALL/WINTER 2008

Government
STREETS

Health &
Sanitation

Fire

Police

WASTE WATER
DEVELOPMENT

Reminiscences of a Rebirth

It was a cool, sunny, December morning as my son and I stepped on the old entryway of the old Orr-Statler Hotel. Our guide was a street department employee who agreed to take us through the building. His bright, smiling face made me feel welcome and somewhat at ease because he knew the building, and he wouldn't leave us to find our own way out. The front door was locked with a large, log chain and a pad lock that rattled through the old door hardware as he pulled the chain through to unlock the doors.

Loyal, our guide, looked like a miner because he was carrying two heavy flashlights like he was about to enter a mine. He said, "Do you have a light?" I thought to myself isn't what you have there enough? Then we stepped in..... I could see why he asked me this question. The absence of light was everywhere, and then Loyal looked at me and said, "How much do you want to see?" I nervously answered after looking at my 10 year old son, "I guess we would like to see it all." As we walked through the building, our light beams flashed here and there and our voices seemed to bounce everywhere in the moist, cold rooms. There wasn't much about the building that gave a feeling of comfort. It just seemed to be forbidding.

Just a few days earlier I had been hired to be the Construction Manager for the Orr-Statler Hotel renovation project. I looked at this project as an opportunity of a lifetime for me. I couldn't believe that I was going to be part of it. My first day to report to work was on January 2, 2007. I hadn't met any of the players and in the back of my mind I hoped that the team that was hired would be the sharpest I had ever worked with. After seeing the size and the extent of decay of

From the Office of the City Manager



*Fireworks Light Up Piqua Sky at Dedication
Photo by R. Christopher Haines*



Crowd Touring Plaza Day of Dedication



Residents and Visitors Tour



Crowd at Dedication Ceremony

the building I became more and more concerned with the scope of the project.

Days, weeks, and months passed. Finally, I stood back on Sunday, October 19, 2008 at 8:30 P.M., and watched as the street department employees shuffled the pavilion benches back onto the trailers in the cool night air. The much anticipated Grand Opening of the Fort Piqua Plaza had been a success! I locked up the building like so many other nights before. I peered over my shoulder and glanced at the "old girl", which had now been transformed into a majestic masterpiece. I just stood there. I couldn't believe how far the old building had come. The memory of that night will forever be in my mind.

It was a pleasure to be a part of such a project as this.

By Bob Graeser, Project Construction Manager

**Orr Statler Hotel
Ft. Piqua Plaza**

**Dedication - October 19, 1891
Dedication - October 19, 2008**

Meet....

Newest Members of Power Distribution Team



(Left to Right) Jim Boggess and Don Nash

The newest members of the Power System team are Jim Boggess and Don Nash. Jim and Don are in the final year of their four year lineworker apprenticeship. Before achieving journeyman status, Piqua lineworkers must complete the 4 year Power Delivery Program developed by Northwest Lineman College. Apprentices train for four months at American Electric Power's Groveport, Columbus center. Finally, the apprentices receive hands-on training working with the other twelve Piqua journeyman lineworkers maintaining Piqua's electric system.

Extensive training is required to prepare the lineworker for the hazards they face. Whether replacing a cross arm on a 13,200 volt line, climbing an 85' pole to replace an insulator or working in a manhole to repair underground cables, Piqua employees are trained to ensure their safety, while maintaining the reliable flow of power to Piqua customers.

Jim and Don both trimmed trees for Asplundh Tree Service before coming to work for Piqua.

Working near power lines and climbing trees eased the transition to their current position. They both enjoy helping citizens and knowing their hard work is appreciated, especially when restoring power after storms hit. Don and Jim graduated from Piqua High School. Don has been married to Jennifer for twelve years and has three children, Ethan, Emma and Eli. Jim has been married to his Angie for three years and they have a son, Blake. Don is active coaching youth sports, enjoys hunting and fishing. Jim also enjoys hunting and spending time with his family.

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CITY ADOPTS MANDATORY 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 carry forward 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.

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

Economic Development Updates

- City Staff once again participated in the European economic development mission from September 20 to 26 with our partners, the Dayton Development Coalition and the Troy Development Council. The group called on eight businesses throughout southern Germany with an interest in establishing business in the U.S. and in particular the surrounding Dayton area. The group also participated in a seminar in Offenburg, Germany educating the businesses on how to go about entering the U.S. market and locating a business or industry in the Dayton area.
- LWB/ISE, Inc. a Canadian-based metal stamping firm has purchased the 52,000 square-foot building located at 9100 Country Club Road. The company relocated its operations from Dayton to the Piqua facility at the end of October. The company currently employees 10 people and has plans for expansion in the future.



Factory Floor at New Piqua Business, LWB/ISE, Inc.
Photo by Mike Ullery

- *Grow Piqua Now* is working with Economic Development Organizations across western Ohio to recruit new businesses to the region. One of the consortium's latest initiatives will take regional representatives to Texas and Virginia to visit six businesses looking to locate in the northern Miami Valley.



"Ballroom" Photo Courtesy of Mike Underwood Photography

- 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 Ginger Charles or Jennifer Bruster at (937) 773-8871.

Upcoming city dates of note

- ◆ **Now** – Echo Hills Golf Course memberships and gift certificates for rounds of golf on sale (good birthday and Christmas presents!). Call 778-2086 for information.
- ◆ **Now – December 19** – City Leaf Pickup. Call 778-2092 for Hotline information or 778-2095 for those with questions.
- ◆ **December 3 - December 20** – *Victorian Christmas*, sponsored by MainStreet Piqua
- ◆ **January 5, 2009** – Fitness Classes starts. Details – Parks and Recreation Winter/Spring Brochure or on our website.
- ◆ **January 7** – Youth Ballet for ages 5+ – Three levels to match skill level.
- ◆ **January 20** – Youth Self Defense – Registration: Tuesday, January 20th, 6 pm at Mote Park Community Center. Sponsored by MainStreet Piqua. Please contact Lorna Swisher at 773-9344 for more information.
- ◆ **February 6** – Daddy Daughter Date Night. Details – Parks and Recreation Winter/Spring brochure or on our website
- ◆ **February 23** – Young Magicians, Ages 12-18 – Basic magic skills
- ◆ **March 1** – Golf Course opens for regular play.
- ◆ **March 9** – Change your clocks (Spring forward) – Daylight Savings Time begins
- ◆ **March 19** – Decorative Garden Planters seminar – Make lightweight concrete planter to showcase flowers
- ◆ **April 4** – Brunch with the Easter Bunny – Join the Easter bunny for fun, food and activities. Advanced registration required.

Call 778-2085 for information and registration on all Parks & Rec. programs

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.

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).

Piqua Area Group Workcamps - Completed

The effects of Piqua Area Group Workcamps will continue years into the future. More than 332 local volunteers spent more than 6,000 hours preparing the homes and the community for the *Piqua Area Group Workcamps*. The program had 258 teens and adults from Christian churches in 9 states including Massachusetts, Wisconsin, and Florida working July 19-25. They rehabbed 34 homes, 26 in Piqua and the remainder in Bradford, Pleasant Hill, Shelby County and Troy. Our community was simply stellar in welcoming these visitors with signs in front of their businesses, restaurants offered free or discounted meals, and passersby stopped or slowed down to thank or talk with the crews at work sites. Countless others types

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PARKS & REC PROGRAMS – DON'T MISS THESE!!

The Parks and Recreation Department is happy to announce that we are expanding our program offerings. Our new programs have received great response and we are looking forward to another great year of serving you. We will continue to offer the outstanding programs we have run in the past with several new programs being added. There are programs for all ages and all skill levels so make sure you see what we have to offer. We will be offering, Parent - Tot Programs, Youth Special Interest, Family Events, Fitness & Wellness, Adult Special Interest and more.

Our programs focus on self-enrichment, family togetherness and social interaction as well as fitness and wellness. Youth programs including our Parent-Tot Programs and Father/Daughter Date Night foster family togetherness and social interaction, while classes in drawing and magic foster creativity. Our adult and senior programs including cooking and gardening offering challenges for the mind, while Firm and Tone and Yoga offer challenges for the body. There really is something for everyone.

Details can be found in and on our website.

The Parks and Recreation Winter/Spring, 2009 brochure contains information on classes and activities. They are available at the Parks and Recreation Office in the Municipal Government Complex (2nd Floor), at the Chamber of Commerce or can be downloaded from our website www.piquaoh.org. Call 778-2085 for information or to register for classes or events. 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.

The Calendar of Events found in this issue of the Spirit has all the offerings dates and information listed.

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of support were provided and the community financed the entire cost.

The teen and adult advisors, who each paid \$399 to come to Piqua to work, provided more than 7,100 hours of free labor to brighten up the homes for those eligible home owners. Not only did they paint and make other improvements, but did little chores that the residents could not do. They shared their life experiences and Christian faith with one another. Lifelong friendships were made.

Now, the houses have been rehabbed. Great partnerships and collaborations in the community have been formed and strengthened. In years to come, these relationships established and strengthened through the Piqua Area Group Workcamps will benefit the entire community.



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
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