## **Spirit Newsletter**



Spring 2018









# FAREWELL TO COMMISSIONERS JUDY TERRY AND JOSEPH WILSON

The City of Piqua would like to thank both Commissioners Judy Terry and Joseph Wilson for their service to the Piqua Community as Ward 3 and Ward 4 Commissioners.

Commissioner Wilson served two different terms as City Commissioner and Commissioner Terry served as Commissioner for 11 years. During their tenure, Piqua advanced many new facilities and programs with the most notable being the \$22 million renovation of the Fort Piqua Plaza.

During their tenure, the City of Piqua received numerous awards and recognitions including Best Place to Live in Ohio, Best Small City Marketing Award for Piqua Placemaking Initiative, National Guard Support Award, Best Citizen Participation Award, Bike Friendly Community, Tree City USA Award, State Auditor Award of Distinction for Financial Reporting, GFOA Excellence in Financial Reporting and Playful City USA.

Because of the leadership provided to the City of Piqua, you made our community a better place for all!



### WELCOME COMMISSIONER KRIS LEE AND COMMISSIONER DAVE SHORT

The City of Piqua would like to welcome Kristopher Lee and David Short as Piqua City Commissioners

Congratulations to Commissioners Lee (Ward 3 Commissioner) and Commissioner Short (Ward 4) as they took their Oath of Office as Piqua City Commissioners on Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

Both Commissioners previously worked in Law Enforcement for the Piqua Police Department, with a combined total of over 45 years of service in the Department and expressed excitement to once again serve the community they live in.

We extend a warm welcome to our two new City Commissioners!



Kris Lee

## Dave Short

## NEW COMMISSION MEETING TIME

Piqua City Commission adopted a new begin time of 6:00 pm for Regular Piqua City Commission Meetings. These meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Per Piqua City Charter, there is one exception to this rule, with that being the first Commission meeting in January of each year and the start time for that meeting will be at 7:30 pm.

Also, all Piqua City Commission Worksessions are scheduled to begin at 6:00 pm and are scheduled as needed.

For additional information please contact the City Manager's office at 778-2051.

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Did you know if you have a water leak, turning off your master valve to the house shuts off all water to your home preventing less damage?

Did you know LED lightbulbs use 90% less energy?

Did you know you can pay your City of Piqua utility bill online through your checking or savings accounts with no additional fees?

Did you know electrical fires are different from other fires because they have a source of electricity that is still conducting electric current?

Did you know that grass clipping are not to be blown to curb or street?

Did you know that property owners are responsible for the care and maintenance of trees located in the tree lawn (area between the roadway and the sidewalk)?

Did you know a permit is needed from the Engineering Department prior to replacing any sidewalk or drive approach located within the public right-of-way?

Did you know it is the property owner's responsibility to maintain the curb and sidewalk in front of their property?

Did you know that at Echo Hills Golf Course you can donate a memorial tree or bench to commemorate a birthday or anniversary? This is a lasting tribute and helps beautify our City Golf Course. For more information call Chip at 778-2086.

Did you know that Echo Hills Golf Course opens March 1<sup>st</sup> and that memberships will be the same price as 2017? Visit <u>www.piquaoh.org/golfcourse</u> for prices and information pertaining to Echo Hills.

### **COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP DAY**

The City of Piqua is encouraging all residents, clubs, civic groups, churches and organizations to participate in the Piqua Community Clean Up Day on Saturday, April 28, 2018 from 8:30 am until noon. This annual event has been held the last seven years and continues to get bigger and better each and every year. Let's work together and give our public areas a nice spring cleaning!

Residents and groups are encouraged to contact Melissa Kinney at 937.778.2060 or via email at <a href="mailto:mkinney@piquaoh.org">mkinney@piquaoh.org</a> to register to participate in the Community Clean Up Day.



#### WITH GRATITUDE

The City of Piqua would like to thank Michael Thompson, Robert Bloom and Duane Novotny for their dedication and years of service to the City of Piqua as follows:

Journeyman Line Worker - Michael Thompson

Firefighter/Paramedic - Robert Bloom

Equipment Operator III - Duane J. Novotny, Sr.

Combined, they accumulated over 87 years of service with the City of Piqua. We wish Mike, Bob and Duane many happy years of enjoyment during their retirement and best wishes always.







Michael Thompson

Robert Bloom

Duane J. Novotny, Sr.



## RESIDENCE PRIDE NOMINATIONS NEEDED

We need your nominations for the City of Piqua Residence Pride awards. When you are out and about in the City, please take notice of homes or businesses that have been improved, or those which have always been well-maintained and send us your nominations.

The process is very easy! Go to <a href="www.piquaoh.org">www.piquaoh.org</a>, at the top of the page click on the red tab that reads "Living in Piqua." From there you can click on "Residence Pride Committee" and email the address of the property you would like to nominate and tell us a little about why you made this selection. Another way is to click on "Residence Pride Award" and print out your nomination form. Just mail the form to us or drop in the Utility Office drop box or the City Manager's office. It's that easy!

Please help our Committee select five beautiful properties in the City of Piqua.

#### ZONING AND PROPERTY MAINTENANCE - DID YOU KNOW...

The City of Piqua has adopted community standards that are intended to promote and protect the public health, safety and general welfare of the city. Zoning and Building codes ensure all land and structure uses and improvements will be occupied, constructed and enlarged or altered in conformance with the regulations of the district in which the land or structure is located, in accordance with the comprehensive plan. Property Maintenance codes establish minimum requirements and standards for the maintenance of all residential and non-residential premises, structures, equipment and facilities. These standards ensure the adequate provision of light, ventilation, space, heating, sanitation, protection from the elements, life safety, safety from fire and other hazards, and the safe and sanitary maintenance of a property.

The *Citizen's Guide to Zoning and Building,* available online at <a href="https://www.piquaoh.org">www.piquaoh.org</a> - search for: citizen's guide to zoning and building. This guide provides additional zoning, building and property maintenance information and answers many common questions. Some of the more frequently asked questions, and the response to those questions, include...

- ➤ Do I need a permit to...? All uses and improvements are subject to review, and in most instances the approval of a permit is required prior to commencing with an improvement or use. The result of the permit process is certification that the improvements and use conform with local standards. Utility sheds, decks, driveways, garages, porches, and pool installations are all common residential projects subject to the issuance of permit. Please contact the Development Department at (937) 778-2049 and our staff will be happy to assist you with questions you may have about the permitting process.
- Is it okay to park my vehicle on the grass at my residence? No, parking on grass or dirt is not permitted.
- ➤ Is it okay to do repair a vehicle at my residence? A minor vehicle repair that can be completed on the same calendar day, is permissible. However, it is not permissible at any time for a vehicle to be in state of major disassembly, disrepair, or in the process of being stripped or dismantled. The painting of a vehicle at a residential property is prohibited.
- Can I use the driveway at my residence to store a vehicle for an extended period of time? A driveway may be used for the daily routine of parking a vehicle for a short period of time. The long term storage of a vehicle (automobile, trailer, recreational vehicle) on a residential driveway is only permissible when the driveway is located in the rear yard and the vehicle storage does not interfere with the access to a private garage or off-street parking space that the driveway provides. In no case is it permissible to park, store, or keep an inoperative or unlicensed motor vehicle on any premises.
- What are the rules concerning garage sales? Up to four (4) sales may occur at the same lot or location during any twelve (12) month period provided a period of at least six (6) weeks passes between sales, and no sales event last for more than three (3) consecutive days. Sales may be conducted only between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. and sale items are to be located on the private property and not placed upon any portion of the public sidewalk or within the public right of way.

- Where can I install signs advertising a garage sale at my residence? A sign up to four (4) feet in height and six (6) square feet in area may be located on the property where the garage sale is taking place. Temporary signs are prohibited on vacant lots, public right of way, or public land. This includes the area between the public sidewalk and the street curb, medians and boulevards, ditches along uncurbed roadways, park grounds, city facilities, and other public spaces. Signs erected within these areas or affixed to a utility pole, tree, fencing or other object within the public right of way or on public land are subject to removal without prior notice.
- Where on my lot can I install a swimming pool? All swimming pools, hot tubs, or spas, and mechanical equipment and deck areas incidental to the swimming pool, hot tub, or spa, regardless of whether it is permanent or temporary, may only be located in a rear yard, and must be setback a minimum distance of ten (10) feet from any side or rear lot line. Swimming pools, hot tubs, or spas with a surface area greater than 150 square feet (more than 13' 9" in diameter) must setback not less than ten (10) feet from the house and be completely enclosed by a fence or structural barrier with a minimum height of at least 48 inches and self-latching lockable gates. All swimming pools, hot tubs, or spas must be setback a minimum horizontal distance of ten (10) feet to any overhead utility line, and a minimum horizontal setback distance of five (5) feet to any underground utility line, and no swimming pool, hot tub, or spa may be located within a utility easement.
- How many pets am I allowed to have at my residence? The adopted community standards allow for the keeping of not more than two (2) dogs, cats, or other household pets which are over the age of six months on or in any residential lot or building. The sale, boarding, or breeding of dogs, cats, or other household pets or the keeping of agriculture or exotic animals at a residence is not permitted.

How can I resolve a dispute with my landlord? Ohio statutes protect residential tenants from unfair treatment by their landlords, and also protect landlords from the unreasonable demands and inappropriate actions of their tenants. The Miami County Fair Housing office has produced a guide book that provides general information about residential landlord and tenant rights and responsibilities in Ohio <a href="http://piquaoh.org/download/fair-housing-landlord%20">http://piquaoh.org/download/fair-housing-landlord%20</a> tenant rights responsibilities booklet.

To report a concern or determine if a permit is required, or to seek additional information concerning Property Maintenance, Building or Zoning codes, please contact the Development Department at (937) 778-2049. Citizens are encouraged to use the Citizen Action Line <a href="https://piquaoh.org/citizen-action-line/#form/9894">https://piquaoh.org/citizen-action-line/#form/9894</a> to report suspected violations of Property Maintenance, Building or Zoning codes. By reporting suspected violations, you will be alerting the Code Compliance Coordinator to the concern and prompting an inspection that will initiate the notification and abatement process necessary to remedy the situation.

### JULY 4TH FAMILY FUN!!

The Piqua 4th Fest is back and in a new location!

Downtown Piqua 12:00 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.



We need your help to fill this day with special memories! If you would like to participate in the 2018 Piqua 4th Fest, vendor information sheets and applications can be found at <a href="https://piquaoh.org/piqua-4th-fest/">https://piquaoh.org/piqua-4th-fest/</a>. Applications will be accepted until June 4, 2018.

For questions please contact Brittany Van Horn at bvanhorn@piquaoh.org or 937-778-2037.

#### **New Activities:**

Painting of the Snow Plows Pop - Up Splash Pad Cornhole Tournament Kids Zone Presented by...



#### **Calendar of Events**

#### 23rd Annual Routes for Roots Workshop

Sponsored by Miami County Historical & Genealogical Society

Saturday, March 24, 2018

Ft. Piqua Plaza Conference Center 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Piqua, Ohio

Advance Registration by March 10th - \$20.00 Walk-ins - \$25.00

For more information, contact: Wendy Watson - 937-701-3047 or email gspbeagle@gmail.com

#### **Downtown Cleanup Day**

April 28th 8:30 am - Noon Contact - City of Piqua 778-2060

#### Taste of the Arts

May 11th 5 pm - 9 pm Contact - Mainstreet Piqua 773-9355

## Piqua Community Farmers Market

May 31st - September 20th 3:30 pm - 6:30 pm Contact - Mainstreet Piqua 773-9355

#### Rock Piqua Rock n Roll Car Show

June 23rd Contact - Mainstreet Piqua 773-9355

#### Piqua's Johnston Farm & Indian

Agency hosts various events throughout the year.
For more information on events please visit:
www.johnstonfarmohio.com

#### CITY COMMISSION

#### **John Martin**

Commissioner, 1st Ward Cell: 570-4063 Ward1comm@piquaoh.org

#### William Vogt

Commissioner, 2nd Ward Home: 773-8217 Ward2comm@piquaoh.org

#### Kris Lee

Commissioner, 3rd Ward Home: 773-2959 Ward3comm@piquaoh.org

#### **Dave Short**

Commissioner, 4th Ward Home: 773-2516 Ward4comm@piquaoh.org

#### Kathryn (Kazy) Hinds

Mayor & Commissioner 5th Ward Cell: 570-2758 Ward5comm@piquaoh.org



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