

WELCOME MAYOR KATHRYN (KAZY) B. HINDS

Kathryn (Kazy) B. Hinds took her Oath of Office as the Mayor and 5th Ward Commissioner for the City of Piqua on January 5, 2016 at the first City Commission meeting of the New Year.

Mayor Hinds and her family made Piqua their home seven years ago, and from the beginning, she and her family liked what they saw and experienced in our City. Mayor Hinds said she sees the glass as half full and prefers to look at all the positives Piqua has and to work up from that viewpoint.

Mayor Hinds has served on numerous committees and is a Piqua Government Academy graduate, has served on the City of Piqua Park Board, a member of the Piqua United Way, a member of the Housing Enhancement League of Piqua (HELP), Committee Member of Historic East End Piqua Master Plan, Steering Committee member of Piqua City Schools new facilities Planning



Committee, member of Piqua City Schools Levy Committee, Committee Co-Chair Safety Service Levy, Committee Chair for the Library levy, Committee member for Citizens for a Better Piqua, Chair for Positively Promoting Piqua, and a member of Piqua Rotary, Piqua Optimist Club, Piqua Arts Council, contestant with Dancing with the Piqua Stars, Co-Chair of Piqua Arts Council/Mainstreet Piqua, event Committee member for Big Brothers & Big Sisters, a volunteer for the Bethany Center, and volunteer for Girl's on the Run/Piqua and this listing goes on.

In 2015, Kazy took her involvement role in our community up another notch by deciding to run for the Piqua City Commission 5th Ward seat as well as the Mayoral seat.

Kazy states, "I want to try to bring our city together, to get people from all aspects of the city to work together."

The City of Piqua welcomes Mayor Hinds as their newly elected Mayor and thanks her for her dedication to the City of Piqua!

THE HOUSING ENHANCEMENT LEAGUE OF PIQUA (HELP) IS HERE TO HELP!

As citizens of Piqua, we all try to do the best that we can to keep up with the maintenance of our homes and property. There are times, though, that for a variety of reasons, many of them being financial, that we are unable to stay on top of the maintenance that is needed with our homes and property. In times like these, **HELP** could be just a phone call away.

Through **HELP**, Citizens for a Better Piqua is working to coordinate residents, businesses, civic and fraternal groups, churches, schools, neighborhood associations and other interested individuals that are interested in volunteering, to help a neighbor in

need. By offering to **HELP** with small projects such as snow removal, leaf raking and minor home repairs, those who are working together with the neighbor who is in need, can be about making Piqua the best that it can be!

Please know that as part of the **HELP** program, it is expected that the homeowner will work side by side with those who come to work on the needs that have been identified. Of course, the physical abilities of the homeowner will be taken into consideration, but **HELP** feels that it is important that the homeowner who is receiving the **HELP**, be part of the solution.

Upon the request of **HELP** a member of the **HELP** coordinating committee will meet with the homeowner. It will then be determined how the homeowner can assist those who will be providing the **HELP** that is needed to maintain the property and residence.

If you are in need of some **HELP**, please contact Resource Coordinator, Nikki Reese, Piqua Development Program Manager with the City of Piqua at 937-778-2062.



BICYCLING MEAN\$ BUSINESS

The Bicycling Means Business program is a joint initiative by the City of Piqua and Bike Piqua to promote and facilitate opportunities for local businesses to leverage community investment in bicycle friendly infrastructure. For information or to participate in any of the programs referenced, please contact Chris Schmiesing at the City of Piqua at (937) 778-2049 or cschmiesing@piquaoh.org.

Branded Bike Racks for Businesses



This program offers local businesses the opportunity to have a branded hoop style bike rack with their business logo and colors installed in the public right of way in front of their business.

How to Participate:

- 1) Business submits request to participate.
- 2) City identifies suitable location.
- 3) Business provides logo file.
- 4) Bike Piqua provides bike rack design proof and quotation for approval/acceptance by business.
- 5) Bike Piqua orders bike rack and City completes installation.

Bicycle Friendly Business Recognition

This program offers local businesses the opportunity to receive Bicycle Friendly Business designation from the League of American Bicyclists. The BFB designation is a great way to leverage the bicycle friendly movement in our community to attract new customers and promote employee wellness.

How to Participate:

- 1) Business request assistance with completing online application process.
- 2) Bike Piqua provides guidance on completing application process.
- 3) Business receives bicycle friendly feedback report and earns designation.
- 4) Business receives Bicycle Friendly Business recognition and promotion.



Bike Piqua Member Business

This program offers local businesses with the opportunity to promote their business directly to the cycling community by offering discounts to members of local cycling advocacy groups.

How to Participate:

- 1) Business submits request to participate.
- 2) Business offers Bike Miami Valley/Bike Piqua members discounts on products or services.
- 3) Bike Miami Valley/Bike Piqua membership card references participating businesses and promotes business to cyclists.

For more info please visit <http://www.bikemiamivalley.org/> and select Membership Discounts under the Resources menu tab.



Piqua Recreational Trail Wayfarer Program



This program offers local businesses with a limited opportunity to be listed on wayfinding signage installed and maintained along the recreational trail system. This program is designed to guide trail users to local service establishments that provide bicycle service/repair, food, retail, entertainment, or tourism services.

How to Participate:

- 1) Business submit request to participate.
- 2) City reviews request and determines eligibility.
- 3) Business provides logo file.
- 4) City provides proof and quotation for approval/acceptance by business.
- 5) City orders sign and completes installation.

CITY COMMISSION

John Martin

Commissioner, 1st Ward

Home: 773-2778

Ward1comm@piquaoh.org

William Vogt

Commissioner, 2nd Ward

Home: 773-8217

Ward2comm@piquaoh.org

Joseph Wilson

Commissioner, 3rd Ward

Home: 778-0390

Ward3comm@piquaoh.org

Julia (Judy) Terry

Commissioner, 4th Ward

Home: 773-3189

Ward4comm@piquaoh.org

Kathryn (Kazy) Hinds

Mayor & Commissioner

5th Ward

Cell: 570-2758

Ward5comm@piquaoh.org

JEREMY SEXTON RETURNS

After more than a year-long deployment for Capitol Protection, Jeremy Sexton returned to work in his position of Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator on November 16, 2015. Jeremy was deployed with the Ohio Army National Guard Unit 1-174th ADA RGT (Avenger) stationed in Cincinnati Ohio. A welcome home ceremony was held on November 10, 2015 in Fairfield, Ohio attended by Dave Davis, Wastewater System Superintendent and Elaine Barton, Human Resources Director. A luncheon at the Wastewater Plant was held on November 16th in his honor. Jeremy has been employed by the City of Piqua since September 2013. He has been a member of the Ohio National Guard since 2003. We welcome Jeremy "home" and thank him for his service to our country.



NEW OPTIONS TO PAY YOUR CITY OF PIQUA UTILITY PAYMENTS ONLINE

Tired of writing checks? Now you have the option of paying your City of Piqua utility bill online with your checking, savings or credit card!

MasterCard, Visa or Discover Card are now accepted in our Utilities Department for your convenience. Pay monthly or sign up for our EZPay to your monthly bill deducted from your checking, savings or credit card.

- ✓ No enrollment or monthly fee
- ✓ No more checks to write
- ✓ Make payments from the convenience of your computer at www.piquaoh.org

For more information contact the Utility Billing Office at 937-778-2005.

NEW WATER TREATMENT PLANT CONSTRUCTION

The City of Piqua broke ground on January 28th 2015 for the new water treatment plant. Since that time, Peterson Construction has been hard at work. Over 6,500 yards of concrete have been poured and all of the piping below the slab has been installed.

Peterson has also been working on the new pumping station that is located in the roadside park on State Route 66. That facility will pump the untreated water to the new plant. Two well chambers have been completed at that site and work will soon begin on the building itself. New gates have also been installed at the Swift Run Lake screen chambers.

J&J Schlaegel Inc. has been busy installing the lines that will connect the new

plant to the raw water pumping station and the finished water lines to the distribution system.

All work is scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2017.



CITY OF PIQUA WATER TREATMENT PLANT UPDATES

The ongoing water crisis in Flint Michigan with lead in the drinking water and the numerous reports of harmful algae across Ohio has brought a lot of fear and questions regarding water quality nationwide. The City of Piqua Water Treatment Plant follows strict EPA guidelines to ensure that the citizens of Piqua have safe drinking water.

The Ohio EPA requires the City to test for lead and copper every three years in our distribution system. Due to many years of being in compliance with EPA standards, our testing was reduced from yearly, to every two years, to what is now, every three years. Should we ever fall out of compliance, we would be required to once again test more frequently.

Last year, 2015, was our year for testing. As required by the EPA, we collected 30 samples from different points throughout the city. These sites included homes with both lead and copper plumbing. All samples collected were once again well in compliance with EPA standards. In addition to this required testing, we also run copper tests once a month on our finished water leaving the plant as well as one sample from our distribution system. These samples have always been within EPA standards as well.

In 2014, the City of Toledo reached a water crisis with the formation of a harmful algal bloom at their intakes to their water treatment plant. The water was deemed unsafe for consumption for approximately 72 hours. Upon hearing of this situation, the City of Piqua took it upon itself to become proactive in the testing for harmful algae in our reservoir system and the Great Miami River.

Since that time, Piqua has applied for and received grant money from the Ohio EPA for training and testing equipment so that we may do our own testing at the water treatment plant. Although not yet mandated by the EPA, last year we conducted weekly tests

to ensure that we were not having harmful algal blooms in our waterways. At no time in 2015 did we detect any harmful algae in any of our three water sources.

The Ohio EPA is in the process of creating a monitoring schedule that will go in effect in 2017. With that schedule we will then be mandated to test for harmful algae as well as test for cyanotoxins. (Cyanotoxins are toxins that are produced from harmful algal blooms.) We will continue our own weekly testing in 2016 and then follow the guidelines as set forth by the EPA when they become active.

The new water treatment plant will incorporate granular activated carbon filters into the treatment process. These filters will greatly improve our treatment process as they will allow us to remove many organics and atrazine from the raw water that our current treatment facility does not allow us to adequately due to its age and infrastructure. These filters have also been deemed by the EPA as the best and most reliable treatment process to remove cyanotoxins from the water.



City of Piqua Calendar of Events

The Fort Piqua Plaza Wedding Showcase

Sunday, January 31, 2016
The Fort Piqua Plaza
308 N. Main Street
Piqua, OH

Autograph Session with Ohio State Buckeyes:

Saturday, February 13, 2016
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Miami Valley Centre Mall

#90 Tommy Schutt – Signing from 1:00 - 3:00 pm
#70 Chris Fong – Signing from 1:00 - 3:00 pm
#50 Jacoby Boren – Signing from 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Presidents Day-City Offices Closed

Monday, February 15, 2016

Miami County Historical & Genealogical Society Meeting

Tuesday, February 16, 2016
Piqua Public Library Louis Room
116 W. High Street
Piqua, OH
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

You are invited to join the Miami County Historical & Genealogical Society for its program featuring renowned Lincoln historian and author Scott Trostel. Mr. Trostel will be presenting, *"The Lincoln Inaugural Train"*, and will be detailing the train route, the events and assassination plots during this epic journey to Washington.

The program is free and open to the public. More details are available on the MCHGS's Face Book page or contact Stephanie Winchester at 937-307-7142.

Income Tax Returns – City of Piqua Taxes Returns are due on or before Monday, April 18, 2016

Office Hours – Monday – Friday 8AM-5PM
For assistance with any income tax questions or help filing a return, please contact the City of Piqua Tax Department at (937) 778-2009, located at 201 W. Water Street, Piqua, OH 45356. This is a free service and no appointments are necessary, but please come prepared with all documents. Forms and filing tips are available in our office or on our website at www.piquaoh.org.

PIQUA - WE ARE A BIKE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY!

Piqua recently joined eighteen communities in receiving their first "Bicycle Friendly Community" designation through the League's Bicycle Friendly America Program. The Bicycle Friendly America program recognizes states, communities, universities, and businesses for their efforts to create a bicycle-friendly environment.



A Bicycle Friendly location is described as a place that welcomes bicyclists and makes bicycling safe, comfortable, and convenient for people of all ages and abilities. The program is voluntary, and interested parties submit an application to request consideration for recognition. After reviewing the application and visiting the community, the League offers feedback to inform the applicant of the findings of their evaluation and to suggest the next steps as they move forward with efforts to become a bicycle friendly destination. If the League decides the progress to date is worthy of recognition, they offer an Honorable Mention or recognize the community with a Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum, or Diamond Bicycle Friendly designation.

Piqua winning the Bronze Bicycle Friendly Community designation from the League of American Bicyclists rightly recognizes the ongoing efforts by groups like Bike Piqua and others to cultivate safe cycling opportunities and a bicycle friendly culture in our community. Local businesses are encouraged to support the bicycle friendly movement in our community by joining the City of Piqua Municipal Government Complex and other local businesses in applying for a Bicycle Friendly Business designation for their business. To learn how to complete the application process visit <http://bikeleague.org/business>.



Piqua Municipal
Government Complex
201 West Water Street
Piqua, OH 45356

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PIQUA, OH 45356
PERMIT NO. 266

Residential Customer
Piqua, OH 45356