

Community Update

Fall 2011



Five Rivers MetroParks GearFest

GearFest has grown beyond just gear and exploded into a multi-day event, featuring camping, competitions, regional music acts, high-flying demos, and much more! GearFest is the Midwest Outdoor Experience offering something for the budding weekend warrior to the hardcore outdoor enthusiast. With over 10,000 visitors during the 2010 event, GearFest is one of the largest festivals celebrating the

outdoor lifestyle in the Midwest. This event will be held from September 30th thru October 1st. Some of the activities that participants will be able to try are kayaking, canoeing, geocaching, fly fishing, and camping. There will also be a Youth Adventure Zone, GearFest Off Road 5K, live music, food vendors and a Yakima Beer Garden. For more information on the event please go to www.metroparks.org/GearFest/Home.aspx.

Save the Date: November 19, 2011

Saturday, November 19th the Shaker Board's 3rd annual Hometown Holiday in Riverside will be held starting promptly at 4 when Santa arrives at the Airway Shopping Center to open his Secret Shop. Children can shop for their loved ones with their own personal shopper. People are asked to bring non-perishable items to help stock the Riverside Food Pantry that will help those less fortunate in our community. There will be horse drawn carriage

rides and many organizations sharing information on how they continue to help our community. There will be enjoyable entertainment, generous businesses giving back to our community and the highlight will be the illumination of our courtyard Christmas Tree at dusk. An enjoyable family holiday tradition in Riverside—Yule Love It! For questions or to get involved with Hometown Holiday in Riverside, please email Lynn@RiversideChamber.com or call 477-3289.

Riverside Emergency Dispatching Moves to Huber Heights

In our continued efforts to maintain quality services while reducing expenses, the City of Riverside has recently entered into an agreement with the City of Huber Heights to provide emergency dispatching for Riverside Police and Fire/EMS services. Previously, Riverside had been utilizing the Regional Dispatch Center operated by the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office. Just like the Regional Dispatch Center, the City of Huber Heights is a nationally accredited dispatch center thereby assuring that the same quality of service will be provided. By moving dispatching service from the County to Huber Heights, Riverside is estimated to save more than \$300,000 over the next 24 months.

The change in dispatching services has been scheduled for 8:00 AM on Tuesday, October 4, 2011. For emergency calls, "911" will remain in effect and will provide you immediate contact with an emergency dispatcher. For non-emergency complaints or issues, the new contact number will be 233-2080.

Should you have any questions regarding the City's change in dispatching services, please feel free to contact me at City Hall.

Chief Mark Reiss



Carbon Monoxide Safety Tips

As the season gets cooler space heaters, furnaces, fireplaces, etc. will begin to be in use again. The Riverside Fire Department would like to remind you of some safety tips to consider when working with such appliances. Appliances such as furnaces, space heaters, clothes dryers, ranges, ovens, water heaters, charcoal grills, fireplaces and wood burning stoves produce carbon monoxide (CO) which is an odorless, colorless, deadly gas. Carbon monoxide usually is vented to the outside if appliances function correctly and the home is vented properly. Problems occur when a furnace heat exchanger cracks or vents and chimneys become blocked. Insulation sometimes can trap CO in the home.

When CO is breathed in by an individual, it accumulates in the blood and forms a toxic compound known as carboxyhemoglobin (COHb) which can cause headaches, fatigue, nausea, dizzy spells, confusion and irritability. Later stages of CO poisoning can cause vomiting, loss of consciousness and eventually brain damage or death.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission and the Riverside Fire Department recommend installing at least one carbon monoxide detector with an audible alarm near the bedrooms. If a home has more than one story, a detector should be placed on each story. Be sure the detector has a testing laboratory label.

The following is a checklist for where to look for problem sources of CO in the home:

1. A forced air furnace is frequently the source of leaks and should be carefully inspected.
 - Measure the concentration of carbon monoxide in the flue gases.
 - Check furnace connections to flue pipes and venting systems to the outside of the home for signs of corrosion, rust gaps, or holes.
 - Check furnace filters and filtering systems for dirt and blockage.
 - Check forced air fans for proper installation and to assure correct air flow of flue gases. Improper furnace blower installation can result in carbon monoxide build-up because toxic gas is blown into, rather than out of, the house.
 - Check the combustion chamber and internal heat exchanger for cracks, holes, metal fatigue or corrosion. Be sure they are clean and free of debris.
 - Check burners and ignition system. A flame that is mostly yellow in color in natural gas fired furnaces is often a sign that the fuel is not burning completely and higher levels of carbon monoxide are being released. Oil furnaces with similar problems can give off an oily odor. Remember you can't smell carbon monoxide.
2. Check all venting systems to the outside including flues and chimneys for cracks, corrosion, holes, debris, and blockages. Animals and birds can build nests in chimneys preventing gases from escaping.
3. Check all other appliances in the home that use flammable fuels such as natural gas, oil, propane, wood or kerosene. Typical appliances include water heaters, clothes dryers, kitchen ranges, ovens or cook tops: wood burning stoves, gas refrigerators.
 - Pilot lights can be a source of carbon monoxide because the by-products of combustion are released inside the home rather than vented outside.
 - Be sure space heaters are vented properly. Unvented space heaters that use a flammable fuel such as kerosene can release carbon monoxide into the home.

Property Valuation Changes

Owners of real estate in the City of Riverside should have recently received notice of a change in property value from the Montgomery County Auditor's Office. The County Auditor is required to update the value of all the property in Montgomery County every three years. The latest update was completed in July, 2011 for the City of Riverside and consisted of dividing the 8,832 real estate parcels in the City into 27 neighborhoods, of which 22 were residential and 5 were commercial. Statistical procedures were then applied to the parcels in each neighborhood and the new property values were derived.



Code Enforcement

The City of Riverside Code Enforcement Department is working through another productive season of active enforcement. These efforts have resulted in hundreds of properties being maintained to a community acceptable standard that otherwise might go unattended. Since May 1st of this year the City of Riverside has abated noxious weeds and high grass at 215 properties city-wide and facilitated the clean up of 64 properties with excessive debris and outdoor storage. In addition 206 inoperable vehicles have been addressed by the City and removed in the same time period. Because of the presence of unoccupied homes in residential areas, occurrences

In-Home Help Available for Seniors

Are you a senior or caregiver who needs some help at home? One call to the Area Agency on Aging can get the information or services you need.

Learn about programs offered through the agency that provide services for seniors in their homes (PASSPORT and ComCare) or in an assisted living facility. Request a free assessment in your home so that agency staff get the best understanding of your individual care needs.

Of the 27 neighborhoods identified by the County Auditor, two had an increase in value, two remained the same, and 23 decreased in value. This resulted in a decline in property values for the City as a whole of approximately 6 percent. For the sake of comparison, the amount of decline in the other communities located in Montgomery County ranged from approximately 2.5 percent to approximately 15.6 percent, while the decline for the entire County was approximately 7 percent.

If you do not agree with your new property valuation or have other questions, you may contact the County Auditor's office at 225-4326 to schedule an informal appointment to discuss the issue.

of high grass, unattended yard debris and inoperable vehicles sometimes follow. To help keep these occurrences at as low a level as possible, the City has relied on the partnership of our citizens to inform us of those properties that we may not identify in routine patrol. Please never hesitate to alert the City of Riverside of conditions that you feel fall below the acceptable standard of this community for property maintenance. Your voice is always valued and your call is confidential. We simply would not be able to deliver this level of code enforcement throughout our City without the vigilance and attentiveness of our citizens.

Don't make a decision until you know your options. Call 223-HELP (4357) to speak with a nurse or social worker trained to answer your questions and help you explore your long-term care options. You may also visit the agency website at www.info4seniors.org.

The Area Agency on Aging, PSA 2 is an independent, private, non-profit corporation that supports seniors and caregivers in nine counties of west central Ohio.

Side Notes

Beggar's Night

The City of Riverside will celebrate Beggar's Night on Monday, October 31, 2011 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. During this time we remind residents to pay close attention to children on and around the roadways. It is always helpful to have your residence well lit for visitors. Please remember these few tips listed below as your children head out to gather treats:



- Trick or treat only in familiar areas
- Don't enter a strangers house
- Stick to well lit areas
- Carry a flashlight, glow stick, or wear reflective tape
- Parents remember to inspect all treats
- Do not cross the street between cars, cross the street at the corner

Fire Prevention Week '11

The Riverside Fire Department is requesting the help of our local 4th graders to get the word out about the Fire Prevention Week 2011 slogan, "Protect Your Family From Fire". Submission criteria and deadlines can be obtained from your child's school or the City of Riverside offices. We will be displaying submitted artwork around the city, with outstanding artwork receiving recognition from City Council and dinner with the firefighters.

Leaf Collection/Pick-up

Proper disposal of yard waste is tremendously important in order to prevent water pollution problems. Please do not place leaves, grass clippings, or other yard waste materials on the street, in drainage ditches or catch basins.

Community Update

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► City Council Meetings

Council Work Sessions are held on every first and third Thursday of the month at 6pm located at 1791 Harshman Road.

Council Meetings are held on every first and third Thursday of the month at 7:30pm located at 1791 Harshman Road.

► City Administration

City Manager
Bryan R.H. Chodkowski

Director of Finance
Robert Gillian

**Director of Planning
and Economic Development**
Robert Murray

Director of Public Services
Mitch Miller

Acting Fire Chief
Robert Turner

Chief of Police
Mark Reiss

► Elected Officials

Mayor
William R. Flaute

Council Members
Beverly Campbell
Mike Denning
Steven C. Fullenkamp
Shirley Reynolds
Edward Schock
Michael Smith

VISIT US ONLINE:

www.riverside.oh.us

► Important Numbers

Waste Collection333-4800
(City of Dayton)

Water & Sewer 781-2688
(Mongomery County)

Police & Fire Dispatch225-4357

Area Two Court 496-7231

EMERGENCY..... 9-1-1