

Community Update

Summer 2011



Summer Roadway Safety

This time of year it is common to see roadway repairs and maintenance activity in the right-of-way. The City would like to remind all motorists to use caution when approaching and driving around construction workers, waste collectors, and



other maintenance activity in the right-of-way. If you see any roadway safety issues, such as potholes, damaged or missing street signs, or debris in the right-of-way; please notify City Hall at 233-1801 or email servicedept@riverside.oh.us.

Storm Water Awareness

In an effort to alleviate the threat of localized flood problems, the City would like to remind residents to not place yard waste in the streets, drainage ditches or catch basins. Many grass clippings contain herbicides and insecticides and the organic matter decays and strips aquatic habitats of oxygen. The placement of leaves, grass clippings or debris on stream

banks kills all the soil-holding vegetation thereby creating a loss of topsoil through wash-out and opens the ground for further erosion. To help prevent these effects, collect any leaves and grass clippings and place them in either containers or bags for disposal with your regular trash. To learn more, visit the Ohio EPA's website at www.epa.state.oh.us.

To the Citizens & Businesses of Riverside:

With the change of the seasons come and gone, the weather will continue to improve allowing all of us to spend more time outdoors. Many of us will spend this time visiting with neighbors, watching or participating in organized athletics, and working in and around our yards on those projects which the winter held at-bay. With the start of the Spring weather, the City of Riverside begins its active enforcement of zoning and property maintenance code compliance.

The City's approach to code enforcement is one which is multi-faceted with a goal of setting and maintaining a standard for all properties within Riverside. Through a cooperative effort that involves the Planning & Economic Development, Public Services, and Police departments; the City's staff is continually reviewing the 9,000—plus properties in the City to make sure that our neighborhoods are attractive to all our citizenry.

Code enforcement has several benefits that have a positive impact on all property owners in the City. In addition to increasing the aesthetic appeal of Riverside; several studies on the issue have clearly demonstrated that code enforcement also helps to maintain existing property values, increases property re-sale value, encourages home-ownership, and helps to deter criminal activity within neighborhoods.

While the City continues work on many levels at addressing zoning and property maintenance code issues, we could always use another partner in our efforts. If you know of a house in your neighborhood where the grass might need to be cut, where a car or trailer might not have been moved for some time, or property that is just vacant and in need of some basic maintenance—give us a call or send an email. Information can be left anonymously or if you would like for the City to follow-up with you on the progress of your concern, the contact information you provide will be held in confidence.

The City of Riverside remains dedicated to improving our community and enforcing zoning and property maintenance codes is just one more way to accomplish this goal. Through our partnership, we will continue to elevate our community in a way that all residents and businesses can support.

Respectfully,

Bryan RH Chodkowski
City Manager



Summer Weather Safety

It is once again the time of the year for barbeques, camping, and enjoying the outdoors. Although this is the season for days filled with warm weather and sunshine, severe weather can also be common. Three of the most common forms of severe weather during the summer months are; thunderstorms, tornadoes, and flash flooding.

One of the best things you can do is to have a plan in the event of severe weather and review that plan with your family. Here are some tips to remember in the event of severe weather.

When thunderstorms are in the area:

- Postpone outdoor activities if thunderstorms are imminent.
- Move to a sturdy building or hard-topped car. Stay away from tall objects such as towers, fences, telephone poles, and power lines.
- Avoid using the phone unless it is an emergency.

If caught outdoors and no shelter is nearby:

- Find a low spot away from trees, fences, and poles.
- If you are in the woods, take shelter under the shorter trees.
- If you are boating or swimming, get to land and find shelter immediately.

Remember, if you can hear thunder—you are close enough to be struck by lightning.



In the event of a tornado, here are some safety rules to follow:

- In a home or building, move to the basement or smallest interior room on lowest floor.
- Stay away from windows.
- Do not try to outrun a tornado in your car; instead, leave it immediately for a safe shelter.
- If caught outside, lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands to protect from flying debris.

In the occurrence of a flash flood, we advise:

- Avoid walking, swimming, or driving in flood waters.
- Stay away from high water, storm drains, ditches, ravines, or culverts. If it is moving swiftly, even six inches deep can sweep you off your feet.
- If you come upon flood waters, stop, turn around and go the other way.
- DO NOT let children play near storm drains.

Visit www.ready.gov for more information on being prepared for weather related events.

Construction and Home Improvement Safety

Home improvement and construction projects usually start as the weather gets warmer. Here are some tips to check off before you begin:

✓ If your improvement or construction project requires any digging in the ground, please call the Ohio Utilities Protection Service at 1-800-362-2764 before you begin.

✓ If your project includes placing an underground improvement, such as an irrigation system, or a fenceless pet barrier in the public right-of-way, please remember the following:

- Personal improvements within the right-of-way are at your own risk. Should the City or a public utility make improvements in the right-of-way and damage or destroy the personal im-

provements of a property owner, the financial responsibility for replacing/repairing the damaged personal improvements rests with the property owner and not the utility or City.

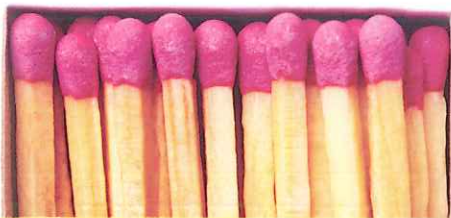
- While the width of public right-of-way varies, a general rule of thumb is that the right-of-way is typically the area between the outside edge of the sidewalk on one side of the street to the outside edge of the sidewalk on the other side of the street. If there are no sidewalks in your neighborhood, look for the utility (telephone poles, fire hydrants) furthest away from the road as these are typically placed on the edge of the right-of way. For specific information about the right-of-way limits near your property, please feel free to contact City Hall at 233-1801.

Open Burning

It is that time of year when many people like to enjoy an outdoor cooking fire. The State of Ohio Fire Code allows campfires and outdoor fireplace equipment, whether for cooking food for human consumption, pleasure, religious, ceremonial, warmth, recreational or similar purposes, ONLY if the following conditions are met:

Most complaints are due to fires creating offensive smoke and odor. Any open burning that creates offensive or objectionable smoke or odor emissions or a fire hazard shall be prohibited and extinguished.

If you have any questions or concerns about open burning, please contact the Riverside Fire Department at 233-1801.



- Fires are fueled with clean, dry, seasoned firewood, natural gas or equivalent, or any clean burning fuel with emissions that are equivalent or lower than those created from the burning of seasoned firewood
- Cannot be used for waste disposal purposes
- Shall be three feet or less in diameter and two feet or less in height
- Shall be at least 25 feet from a structure or combustible material
- Fire shall be constantly attended until extinguished
- Extinguishing equipment shall be provided

Riverside Farmers' Market

We Need Your Help! If you think a farmers' market would be a good idea for Riverside—we need your help!

Volunteers are being sought to assist in the starting up and operation of the Riverside Farmers' Market.

Contact Jim Wellman at 416-1819 for more information.



Side
Notes

Board and Commission Openings

There is currently one vacant seat on the Planning Commission and one vacant seat on the Parks & Recreation Commission. Anyone interested in filling these positions please submit your application or letter of interest to: Clerk of Council, City of Riverside, 1791 Harshman Road, Riverside, Ohio 45424 or councilclerk@riverside.oh.us. A copy of the application can be downloaded from our website at www.riverside.oh.us. Deadline for applications is July 7th.

Water Main Repairs

With Spring finally here, the time has come for permanent repairs to be made on those pesky water main breaks from the winter season. These repairs will soon begin and are scheduled to continue through mid-September. If a repair near you has not been completed by the end of Summer, please contact the Service Department with a specific street address where the temporary patch is located to help us insure that a permanent repair is made before the next winter season is upon us.

Community Festival

Don't Forget! The Riverside Community Festival takes place this August 26th, 27th & 28th at Shellabarger Park across from Saville Elementary School, 5800 block Burkhardt Road. For more information regarding the Festival, call Brenda Long at 245-9478.

Festival Hours:

Friday, August 26, 5–10 p.m.

Saturday, August 27, 11 a.m.–10 p.m.

Sunday, August 28, 11 a.m.–5 p.m.



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

Bill 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 Collection **333-4800**
(City of Dayton)

Water & Sewer **781-2688**
(Montgomery County)

Police & Fire Dispatch **225-4357**

Area Two Court **496-7231**

EMERGENCY **9-1-1**