

Community Update

Winter 2011



Winter Safety

The snow season is upon us and City crews will be plowing snow through residential subdivisions and major thoroughfares in the priority listed below:

- 1. Major Thoroughfares**
- 2. Key Intersections/Interchanges**
- 3. Bridges**
- 4. Hills**
- 5. Culvert Overpasses**
- 6. School Crossings**

Please be aware that during a snow event, all cars parked on the street should be removed so that the snow plow can clear the road. Cars that are parked on the street create additional obstacles and can restrict visibility for our crews plowing the streets. Please remember to use extreme caution when traveling during

hazardous conditions and to slow down when going around service vehicles, snowplows, and waste collection trucks.

Plowed snow can build-up along the roadway leading into driveways; wherever practical, we will attempt to keep the snow build-up to a minimum. Unfortunately, the crews will not be removing plowed snow from in front of driveways. When you are shoveling, please remember to not shovel the snow into the roadway.

Winter is very hard on roadway surfaces. Temporary patches can be done in the wintertime until a more permanent repair can be made in the spring. If you notice potholes, please contact our Services Department at 233-1801 with the location.

2012 Dog Licenses on Sale

Montgomery County Dog Licenses are to be renewed annually between December 1st and January 31st. Ohio law requires dogs over three months of age to be licensed. If you obtain a dog after January 31st, you are required to immediately license your dog in order to comply with Ohio law. In order to address the over-population of dogs, the fee for dogs not spayed or neutered has increased for 2012. The spayed or neutered dog license cost

remains the same, \$20.00 (no proof is required if your dog is already spayed or neutered). Unaltered dog licenses are \$24.00. Licenses may be purchased at the County Auditor's office, the Animal Resource Center and other authorized agents around Montgomery County. The application form is available online at www.mcoho.org/dogs and can be printed out and sent to Karl L. Keith, Montgomery County Auditor, Dog Licensing, 451 West Third Street, Dayton, OH 45422 with the licensing fee. Please call 937-225-4314 for more information.

To the Citizens & Businesses of Riverside:

As this year draws to a close, it gives us an opportunity to reflect back on 2011; the challenges we've faced, the opportunities we've seized, as well as what the future holds in 2012. While so much has occurred over the last 12 months, I would like to highlight for you a few key items.

Overall economic conditions continue to be a concern to not only you but to us here at City Hall. Since 2007, total revenues to the City have declined by nearly \$2.14 million as a result of increases in regional unemployment, decreases in the taxable value of property, and cuts by the State in pass-through revenues to local governments. And while the City has continued to find ways to reduce spending, we here at City Hall are still impacted by price increases related to fuel, petroleum-based products like asphalt, and utility rates.

Despite these current conditions, there are promising trends about the future of our community. Based on data recently released by the U.S. Census Bureau, the City's population grew by 7% over the last ten years. Additionally, the median home value increased by just over \$13,000 and median household income increased by almost \$2,500 over that same ten year period. These are all signs that Riverside is a growing community in the region.

Community development continues to be a priority with the City removing 34 abandoned housing units from Laws Mobile Home Park as well as razing three other homes in the City in 2011. The City will also be moving forward with the razing of ten more vacant or blighted structures in 2012. All this work has been completed with minimal investment from the City due largely to the use of federal Community Development Block Grant funds.

Furthermore, the City continues to make progress in its economic development efforts. The City has recently submitted a \$3 million grant request to construct a three-story office building in the Center of Flight. In partnership with the State of Ohio and the Miami Valley Conservancy District, the City is working to acquire property along the Great Miami River, without the use of local tax dollars, to improve recreational and economic opportunities in the City.

Finally, the City continues to work at improving infrastructure throughout the City. The City is waiting to hear from the State on a grant to help with the estimated \$3.5 million cost of repaving Harshman Rd. from the north City limit to Route 4. The City is also working with the State and Mad River Local Schools to acquire over \$1 million in grants to improve pedestrian access to Mad River Middle School and Beverly Gardens Elementary School. Finally, the City is working with Montgomery County to provide for over \$150,000 worth of heavy maintenance and paint stripping on several streets within the City for 2012.

It is my hope that having shared with you some of the key efforts the City is undertaking, you will see that even in these trying times your government is working hard to make the City of Riverside the best community we know it can be. Rest assured that, with your help as citizens and business owners, our efforts at positively advancing our great City within the region will continue into 2012 and beyond.

Respectfully,
Bryan RH Chodkowski,
City Manager



Free Assistance with Foreclosure

CountyCorp, a local non-profit development agency serving Montgomery County, offers free assistance to homeowners in these situations in Montgomery County. The HomeSaver Program was developed in partnership with the Montgomery County Recorder's Office and provides private counseling sessions to determine the best approach or program to help keep families in their homes.

In addition to foreclosure intervention for families facing mortgage delinquency and default, CountyCorp can work out viable alternatives to foreclosure or a timed, dignified transition into alternative housing.

Clients receive budgeting and credit expertise that can help them take advantage of programs like the Home Affordable Refinance Program (HARP) or they may be better suited for court approved foreclosure mediation. CountyCorp's Mediation Referral Program is a unique collaboration with the Montgomery County Courts Mediation Department and the Montgomery County Treasurer's office. They work with you through the whole process and attend the mediation. CountyCorp's clients participated in 211 mediations in the last 12 months that resulted in 183 households retaining their homes. In total, last year 526 clients took advantage of these programs and services from CountyCorp.

For more information, or to talk to a client representative, call 937-531-7032.

Transportation Available to Riverside Seniors

Riverside Seniors in cooperation with Wesley Community Center would like area Seniors to know about transportation for seniors age 60 and over to 8 of the 20 sites for senior nutrition in the Montgomery County. They make an average of 1087 trips per month to transport seniors from their door to the door of the hosting nutrition program. The Wesley Community Center asks only that seniors contribute \$0.35 each way for the trip. The Senior Gems of Wesley Community Center is one of the eight sites to which Wesley Transportation takes seniors. For more information from the Wesley Community Center, please call 937-263-3556 or visit www.wesleycenterdayton.org. For more information from the Riverside Seniors, please contact Connie Cole at 937-256-8518.

Fireplace Safety

Once again it is time for snow filled days and cold winter nights where many people use fireplaces, wood stoves and other fuel-fired appliances as primary heat sources in their homes. Unfortunately, many people are unaware of the fire risks when heating with wood and solid fuels. Heating fires account for 36% of residential home fires in rural areas every year. Often these fires are due to creosote buildup in chimneys and stovepipes. All home heating systems require regular maintenance to function safely and efficiently.

The Riverside Fire Department encourages you to practice the following fire safety steps to keep those home fires safely burning. One way to ensure that your warm fire doesn't turn into a blaze is to keep fireplaces and wood stoves clean. Chimneys and wood stoves should be inspected and cleaned annually by a certified chimney specialist. As well as keeping the interiors clean, the area around the hearth should be kept clear of debris, decorations and flammable materials.

To ensure that the fire receives enough air to ensure complete combustion and keeps creosote from building up in the chimney, the glass fireplace doors should be left open while burning a fire. The glass doors should be closed when the fire is out to keep the air from the chimney opening from getting into the room.

Most glass fireplace doors have a metal mesh screen which should be closed when the glass doors are open. This mesh screen helps keep embers from getting out of the fireplace area. If you do not have a glass fireplace door, the metal mesh screen should be used at all times.

It is important to use only seasoned hardwood instead of soft, moist wood which will accelerate creosote buildup. When building a fire, logs should be placed at the rear of the fireplace on an adequate supporting grate. A fire should not be left unattended and should be extinguished before going to bed or leaving the house.

Protect the Outside of Your Home

- Place stacked firewood outdoors at least 30 feet away from your home.
- Keep roof clear of leaves, pine needles and other debris.
- Cover the chimney with a mesh screen spark arrester.
- Remove branches hanging above the chimney, flues or vents.

Protect the Inside of Your Home

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home and inside and outside of sleeping areas. Test them monthly and change the batteries at least once a year. Consider installing the new long life smoke alarms.
- Provide proper venting systems for all heating equipment.
- Extend all vent pipes at least three feet above the roof.

Remember, fire safety is your personal responsibility...Fire Stops with You!

Vacant City Council Seat

Beginning January 1, 2012 there will be a vacant seat on the Riverside City Council for a term ending December 31, 2013. For consideration of appointment to the position, those interested must submit their resume and/or letter of interest no later than January 4, 2012. Send to: City of Riverside, Attn: Clerk of Council, 1791 Harshman Road, Riverside, Ohio 45424.

Boards and Commissions Openings

Applications are being accepted to fill open positions on the Health and Safety Commission and the Property Maintenance Appeals Board. Please submit all applications to the Clerk of Council, City of Riverside, 1791 Harshman Road, Riverside, Ohio 45424. You may download a copy of the application from our website www.riverside.oh.us. All applications will be submitted to Council as they are received.

Christmas Holiday Waste Collection

There will be no delay in waste collection due to the Christmas Holiday falling on Sunday. Please have all items set at the curb for your normal waste collection pick-up.



Holiday Scam Safety

The Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office would like to warn you about some of the top scams of the holiday season.

- 1 Phony gift cards:** be cautious about buying gift cards through classifieds or auctions. Instead, buy gift cards directly from a merchant or authorized retailer.
- 2 Check electronics purchases:** criminals buy an electronics item, open it and then fill the box with an equivalent weight of rocks and put the package back together. Then they return the box to the store as an unopened item. Most retailers won't take responsibility. Be sure you have the merchandise you paid for before you leave the store.

- 3 Watch your purchases closely as they are rung up.** If you're not watching carefully, you may overpay. The scanning machines can be scammers.
- 4 Online auction scams:** "buyer beware" when dealing with these nameless, faceless, salespeople that could disappear at any time. Pay for items using PayPal so you can cancel the transaction if you don't receive the merchandise or if you don't receive what you ordered.
- 5 Watch your wallet:** when shopping in crowded stores it could be very easy to walk away from your wallet or purse in a shopping cart. A thief can easily steal your wallet or purse so be careful to keep your wallet or purse in a safe place while shopping.

The above alert is part of the Montgomery County Prosecuting Attorney's initiative to help our citizens become aware of ways they can avoid becoming a victim, or stopping criminal activity that may be occurring. If you would like additional information, please contact Sarah Schenck, Supervising Attorney, Fraud and Economic Crimes Unit at 937-225-5757. If you would like to receive scam alert updates electronically, please send your e-mail address to: newsletter@mcpo.com to be added to the Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office distribution list.

Community Update

Winter 2011



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

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

Police & Fire Dispatch **233-2080**

Area Two Court **496-7231**

EMERGENCY **9-1-1**