



SPRINGBORO

CITY NOTES

A semi-annual newsletter produced by the City of Springboro

Spring-Summer 2007

FROM THE OFFICE OF MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

After using approximately 2,400 tons of salt this season, we are all eager to say goodbye to winter and hello to the much anticipated, beautiful spring weather. This year's winter weather was a hurdle for all of us. We certainly appreciate the many inconveniences tolerated by our residents, which is why everyone will receive a credit toward their trash bill in April due to the interruption in trash service the week of February 12. But enough about the past, as we have much to look forward to this year.

City Council met for their annual goals meeting on January 27 to discuss and prioritize future City goals. Three major initiatives were targeted for 2007, strategic planning, land use planning, and the new City building project. City Council has scheduled a Strategic Planning Session on Saturday, May 5 from 8:00 AM-5:00 PM at Heatherwoode Golf Course. The City hired a strategic planning services consultant who presented a report to City Council earlier this year regarding the status of our Strategic Plan and recommendations to revise and update the plan. The City's Strategic Plan, created by a group of citizens, staff, and City Council in the mid-1990s provided the City with a vision, and defined a path to follow that vision. City Council will sit down with citizens, staff members and the consultant to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the Strategic Plan and refine or redefine the overall plan for the next five to ten years. The City will also begin the process of updating our Comprehensive Land Use Master Plan. The City's land use plan was adopted by City Council in 1998 to provide a guide for land use in the City. This plan has been an extremely effective tool in assisting our staff, Planning Commission, and City Council in making important land use and development decisions.

In addition to the planning initiatives mentioned above, City Council will review proposals and select an architectural firm to design a new City building. Anyone who has had the opportunity to visit our current building at 320 W. Central Avenue, would most likely agree that we have outgrown the space dramatically and are limited in many ways by the age of the building. Although we have tried our very best to bridge the difficulties created by the lack of space and gaps in

technology, we have reached the limit. It is no longer cost-effective or efficient to continue expanding by moving into modular trailers for supplemental office space and police quarters. It is safe to say that the existing building has presented difficulties for quite some time and is not reflective of the community. The initial plans for the new building include using the existing site plus City owned property to the east and west of the current building. We are very excited about the prospect of a new, more adequate space and new possibilities for providing day-to-day services to our residents. Of course, these initiatives along with the other goals City Council has established are only accomplished by the great team work of our volunteers, citizens, staff and partnerships within the community.

Several City-sponsored events have been held or will be offered over the spring and summer: The City hosted Springboro's business community at the Business Appreciation Breakfast on Thursday, April 12, at Heatherwoode Golf Course. The annual Arbor Day Celebration, sponsored by the Tree Authority, was held on Saturday, April 21, at North Park with a memorial tree planting ceremony. Look for details in upcoming editions of the local newspapers or on the City website. Memorial Day will be observed on Monday, May 28 with a parade on S. Main Street marshaled by Mayor John Agenbroad. The Concerts in the Park series, sponsored by the Park Board and held at North Park on Tuesday evenings in July, will continue. Look for concert details and information inside this newsletter.

The City Council and Staff would like to thank the residents of Springboro for their continued support and we wish all of you the best of health and happiness. Have a great summer!!!

Mayor and City Council

UTILITIES AND REFUSE INFORMATION

Please remember that when a holiday falls on a Monday or Tuesday, trash pickup occurs on the following Wednesday. The 2007 holiday trash pickup schedule for Springboro is as follows:

Memorial Day – Wednesday, May 30
Independence Day – Normal Tuesday pickup
Labor Day – Wednesday, September 5
Thanksgiving – Normal Tuesday pickup
Christmas – Wednesday, December 26
New Year's Day – Wednesday, January 2

Any deviation from this holiday pickup schedule will be posted on the City's website: www.ci.springboro.oh.us.

As of June 29, 2007, a local landmark of sorts will be closing for the final time – the drive-thru window at the City building. A decision has been made to close the drive-thru to allow the utility supervisor and front desk staff more opportunity to serve our residents by focusing on telephone, on-line and electronic payments. Thank you for your understanding.

ON-LINE UTILITY AND TAX PAYMENTS

Always striving to provide more efficient services to our residents, the City now accepts on-line and telephone payments for water, sewer and trash bills and tax payments.

To make a payment on-line, simply go to the City's website at www.ci.springboro.oh.us.

When making a payment by phone, you will be asked to input a Bureau code (listed below) to make your payment.

The charges for each of the services are outlined as follows:

Utility Payments - Bureau code 7489721

Online: credit card only
Fee: 4.0% of payment amount

Telephone: e-check or credit card
Phone number: 1-866-549-1010
Fees: credit card: 4.0% of charged amount
e-check: \$3.00 flat fee

Tax Payments - Bureau code 7489701

Online: credit card only
Fee: 2.5% of payment amount

Telephone: e-check or credit card
Phone number: 1-866-549-1010
Fees: credit card: 2.5% of payment amount
e-check: \$3.00 flat fee

PARKS AND RECREATION NEWS

Springboro has been named Tree City USA again this year. We will also be recognized with the Growth Award from the National Arbor Day Foundation for our proactive stance on legislation for Emerald Ash Borer infestation and the work that was accomplished by a local Eagle Scout Sean Leahy. Sean was able to locate, identify and map the Monarch Trees within the City in 2006.

Ash tree removal along Public right-of-ways continues. Twelve ash trees on South Main St. have been removed and replaced. During the last week of March, ash trees were removed from the median strip on Tamarack Trail in front of North Park. And soon trees will be removed in front of Tractor Supply on State Route 73. All ash trees are being replaced with Maples and thorn-less Locusts. This effort is part of the EAB management plan that was adopted by City Council in 2006 in response to the statewide infestation of the Emerald Ash Borer. Information about the City's EAB efforts can be found on the City website at www.ci.springboro.oh.us.

A new restroom and shelter is to be constructed on the west end of Community Park in the latter part of this summer. There will be some disturbance at Community Park, but construction is scheduled to start after baseball season is complete.

A new pedestrian bridge was constructed at North Park on the walking path behind the amphitheater. Asphalt is to be installed as soon as the weather permits connecting the bridge with the paved walking trail.

The paving of the gravel parking lots at Clearcreek Park will continue this year. Last year, the eastern portion of the parking lot near the concession stand was paved. This summer, paving on the northern portion of the parking lot near the concession stand will begin - in two sections - with the eastern portion paved this year and the western portion paved in 2008.

Shelter reservations were at an all time high in 2006 and we are looking at another big year for 2007, if the weather cooperates! To make a shelter reservation at North, Clearcreek or Community parks, please contact Lois at 748-4343.

On February 15, the Park Board presented a master plan for a new park that will be taking shape in Springboro over the next several years. E. Milo Beck Park, on Lower Springboro Road, was purchased in 2004, with proceeds from the Clean Ohio Grant Fund, to help protect open space within Ohio. Per the grant requirements, the City will develop E. Milo Beck as a

“passive park”- that is to say there are restrictions against placing ballfields, soccer fields, etc., on the property.

In keeping with the spirit of the grant, the Park Board has decided to enhance many of the wonderful amenities the property already has in place – namely the views of the lower portion of the property and the creek that runs along the southern border of the park. The master plan calls for a scenic overlook to be constructed adjacent to where the existing house sits, an observation tower, new walking trails, picnic shelter and a pedestrian bridge to traverse Clear Creek. In a few years, this park should evolve into one of the true gems of the Miami Valley.

“DOG” DAYS OF SUMMER

Just a friendly reminder that Springboro does have a few rules with respect to our four-legged friends. Dogs must be confined to your property or walked on a leash. Do not allow your dog to roam freely.

If you and your dog like to enjoy a day at the park, please keep in mind the following rules:

- 1) All pets brought onto park property must be on a leash no more than eight feet long and shall be kept under control at all times.
- 2) No person shall permit animals of any kind to enter upon or run at large on park property.
- 3) No person shall permit any animal to be tied to any tree or plant or other object on park property. Damage to park property caused by an animal shall be the financial responsibility of its owner.
- 4) Persons shall clean up after their pets and must carry a device for this purpose. For your convenience, the Park Board has provided bag dispensers at several locations in North Park. Persons failing to clean up after their pet may be denied future park access with their pets.
- 5) Don't let your dog indulge themselves in your neighbor's yard or in the public right-of-ways and streets. Please practice neighborly courtesy and responsible pet owner etiquette. Springboro wishes you and your pets a safe and happy summer and thank you for your cooperation. Last, but not least, please keep Springboro clean and beautiful.

CONCERTS IN THE PARK

Warmer weather is creeping up on us. That can only mean one thing – the Summer Concert Series at the North Park Amphitheater can't be far behind! For this

season, the Springboro Park Board has scheduled a great music lineup, with programs ranging from Rhythm & Blues to Rock & Roll. All concerts are on Tuesday nights, start at 7:00 p.m., and are free to the public. So if you want to spend an enjoyable night out with your family, please join us at North Park for the following concerts:

- July 10 – II Juicy – Rhythm & Blues Band (Won Cincinnati Blues Festival competition)
- July 17 – The Johnny Mack Super Big Band
- July 24 – The Rebel Set – Americana Rock & Roll
- July 31 - TBD

Any update to the schedule will be posted on the City website at www.ci.springboro.oh.us.

POLICE BEAT

Springtime is a busy time for the Springboro Police Department. During the winter months, officers spend time completing annual training requirements, and normally the activity levels are lower. Although an occasional winter storm with numerous accidents can be taxing, the steady stream of requests for service is normal during the summer months.

This time of year, officers are preparing to make patrols with bicycles, providing police services in the City parks, and transitioning from activities involving school and school sports to those activities that require their attention while school is out for the summer.

Spring is always an interesting time to be a police officer. The weather is much more conducive to getting out of the police vehicle and interacting with community friends and neighbors. And people are just happy to be out and about after the cold and dark of the winter months.

Unfortunately, this springtime feeling gives way to the dog days of summer where the heat increases interpersonal conflict and causes crime in a number of categories to increase. That is why this is an important time to remember those crime prevention tips we have heard many time before.

1. While vacationing during these months, arrange for a daily visit by a friend or trusted neighbor to check your house for damage, change what lights are activate, keep the lawn mowed and the home with that “lived in” look.
2. Don't leave delivered newspapers or mail to accumulate as an invitation that no one is home.

3. Keep shrubs and bushes near the windows and other entry points of your home well trimmed to eliminate hiding spots for prowlers and unwanted guests.
4. Don't leave younger people alone without some adult influence and accountability. Without parental oversight, many young people are susceptible to temptations or peer pressures during the long summer days.

The members of the Springboro Police Department visit many block parties or neighborhood gatherings during the summer. All they need is an invitation. For other requests, please feel free to contact the department for any of your safety needs.

PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS

Roadway Improvements

East Street Improvements

The fifth of six improvement phases for East Street will be constructed this summer. The improvements will be completed between East Market Street and East State Street. Improvements will include pavement widening, new curb and gutter, sidewalk, storm sewers and a new 8" water main.

Lower Springboro Road Improvements

Improvements on the south side of Lower Springboro Road will be completed this year. The work will be completed between Village Drive and Cambridge Drive. The improvements will include pavement widening, the installation of curb and gutter and sidewalk.

Lytle Five Points Road Improvements

The next phase of improvements to Lytle Five Points Road will take place near the intersection of Lytle Five Points Road and Country Club Lane this summer. The improvements will include pavement widening, new curb and gutter, sidewalk and the installation of storm sewers. The last phase of improvements to Lytle Five Points Road will be near the intersection of Lytle Five Points Road and Sycamore Springs Drive. This phase cannot be completed until the Sycamore Springs Subdivision and The Springs Subdivision are connected. The entire intersection will need to be closed in order to re-profile the road to provide better sight distance and driving control.

Yankee Road Sidewalk

W. G. Stang has completed the installation of a five-foot wide sidewalk along Yankee Road that connects the Brookside and Laurel Glenn subdivisions.

2007 Street Resurfacing

Deteriorated or damaged curb, sidewalk and driveway aprons will be repaired as a part of the 2007 Street Resurfacing Program.

The following streets are included in this year's program:

- Bayberry Drive (from Springwood Dr. to east of Clearview Dr.)
- Black Pepper Court
- Glenluce Court
- Heatherwoode Circle (from Balcomie Way to Heatherwoode Boulevard)
- Sharts Road (from S.R. 73 to Pleasant Valley)
- Southridge Court
- South Pioneer Boulevard (from S.R. 73 to Victory Drive)

Sanitary Sewer Improvements

Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion:

Building Crafts, Inc. is completing the final few items for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion. The plant began processing wastewater through the new oxidation ditches in late July 2006. The old SBR tanks have been converted to Activated Sludge tanks. Building Crafts is in the process of finalizing the Odor Control System and Centrifuge Unit. Miscellaneous landscaping and fencing will be completed this spring.

Yankee Road Sanitary Sewer Phase II

The second phase of the Yankee Road Sanitary Sewer Project will be constructed this summer. The new sanitary sewer eliminates the Brookside lift station, and also alleviates any possible capacity issues within the Sycamore Springs subdivision.

South Main Street

V&S Bowman has completed the installation of a new sanitary sewer main along the east side of South Main Street (S.R. 741) crossing Clear Creek. The new sewer main replaced an existing lift station by creating a siphon beneath Clear Creek. The existing lift station has been deteriorating over the last few years and had required frequent maintenance.

Water Infrastructure Improvements

Yankee Road 12" Water Main Extension

Rhule Excavating has completed the installation of a 12" water main along Yankee Road from the City Corporation Limit to Springs Boulevard. This water main extension provides another loop for the water system and eliminates a dead end line.

Pennyroyal Road - State Route 741 Water Main Improvements

The final section of a 16" water main will be constructed between the eastern end of Deer Trail Drive and S.R. 741. This work will be completed after Pennyroyal Road is widened in conjunction with the Village Park Development.

Factory Water Main Replacement

The old 4" and 6" cast iron water mains along Factory Road from South Main Street to Catalpa Drive will be replaced later this year with a new 12" ductile iron water main. Replacing the deteriorated main will reduce the amount of water main breaks in this area.

BUILDING OR REMODELING PERMITS

Any resident wishing to remodel, build or add on to any structure must first obtain a permit from the City of Springboro Building/Zoning Department. This would include the construction of decks, fences, patio covers, enclosures, accessory buildings, installation of irrigation systems, etc. Any remodeling project to existing houses such as finishing a basement, or any unfinished area in a home, requires building plans to be filed with the City along with a building application. Applications may be obtained at the Building/Zoning Department offices at 220 East Mill Street or downloaded from the City website www.ci.springboro.oh.us.

Please contact the Building/Zoning Department at 748-9791 for any other information that you may require.

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS

Residential Building Permit applications have fallen over the past few years. Through March of this year, only 13 new single-family residential home permits have been applied for. The number of building permit applications issued since 2000 is as follows:

| Year | Residential Building Permits |
|------|------------------------------|
| 2000 | 305 |
| 2001 | 256 |
| 2002 | 280 |
| 2003 | 276 |
| 2004 | 204 |
| 2005 | 141 |
| 2006 | 74 |

EMERALD ASH BORER (EAB) SEMINAR

On Tuesday, May 8, 2007, from 7:00p.m.-9:00p.m., Wendi Van Buren of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources will be hosting an educational and informational seminar regarding the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) at the Heatherwoode Golf Course Clubhouse, located at 88 Heatherwoode Circle.

Ms. Van Buren will be providing information to attendees regarding Ash Tree identification, EAB identification and proper tree disposal information per regulations issue by the State of Ohio.

The seminar is free and open to the public.

CODE RED EMERGENCY ALERTS

The most important function of local governments is to protect the safety of people and property within their jurisdiction. For the past year, the City of Springboro has been utilizing a telephone calling system named CodeRED, to alert residents to impending danger or other critical events.

Luckily, there has been no need to utilize the system for any major natural disasters, but so far, the City has initiated four CodeRED phone calls to contact residents about water main breaks in certain areas of town and to ask residents to remove their cars from the roadways during the most recent heavy snow event.

When CodeRED phone calls are initiated, the number "999-911-9999" will be displayed on the caller ID. When phones are answered, a real voice will be on the other end detailing an emergency or any pertinent information, and will provide any instructions necessary for residents to react properly to the emergency at hand.

When you see the numbers 999-911-9999 on your caller ID, please do not hang up the phone – it is important information that you need to hear!

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