



June 30, 2010

Dear Resident,

It has been some time now since I have updated you on village matters and now is certainly an appropriate time to do so in advance of our picnic. That picnic will take place from 5-8pm on Sunday, July 11<sup>th</sup>. This year it will return to the village hall site and we will have the usual food, drinks and entertainment. We have already received several positive RSVP's and we anticipate the usual crowd of around 300. So please take a moment to call Marcine (440/247-6106) and let us know that you will join us this year.

I am pleased to report that we have now completed the installation of the City of Cleveland water lines throughout most of the village. We have several residents who have signed up for accessing this city water and paid their tap-in fees. We anticipate several more tap-ins over the next couple of years plus a couple of main line extensions to serve some of the private communities off County Line Road. For some of our residents access to this excellent water system has been a Godsend.

Our village remains fiscally sound but at the moment we are drawing off of our reserves to help fund operations due to the decrease in interest on deferred estate taxes and interest earned on those reserves. This has caused us to remain conservative in our planned expenditures over the next couple of years to insure at all times an adequate cushion in those reserves to address any emergency or unanticipated expense. Thus our road program for Fairmount Blvd. upgrades is on hold for awhile. We will, however, complete the engineering for these modest upgrades (which will not materially change the character and appearance of this road) in order to be in a position to access grants that may become available through additional stimulus funds or other government sponsored sharing arrangements.

In response to my request, Council has created a Charter Review Commission that is now in the process of reviewing our charter for any appropriate refinements. This has not occurred in over twenty years in the village and it is good to periodically conduct such a review. So far the deliberations have not given rise to any major adjustments that would materially change our operations but there are some items that need attention to put us in full compliance with current law. The Commission will make recommendations to Council at the July Council meeting and Council can put amendments on the November ballot with a super majority vote.

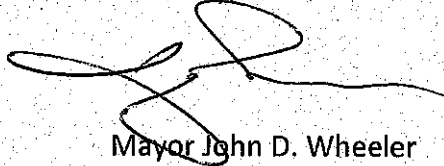


You may have read about the village's participation with three of our neighboring communities in a study conducted by Baldwin Wallace on the potential for sharing services to create more efficiencies. The report confirmed what I believed to be the case for our village. Since we already share many services including Dispatch, EMS and Fire there does not exist the potential for significant further savings unless we participated in a regional police force. I am well aware that the vast majority of our residents have no interest in a regional police force so long as we can continue to afford the excellent coverage we currently enjoy. So I have not participated any further in the on-going deliberations on shared services taking place in some of our neighboring communities. And speaking of our police force, I am pleased to announce that we have promoted Sgt. Barry Hendricks to Lieutenant and we are now operating at full force with 11 fulltime and 4 part time police officers.

The fact we are living in a somewhat rural environment is confirmed by the fact more of our residents are reporting contacts with coyotes. While this can be alarming, state wildlife experts counsel us that we have little to worry about in regard to our personal safety. The coyote is here to stay, and we must do our best to learn to cohabitate with it. Our advice is to not let your dogs run free, especially if you are in wooded and/or preserved properties. Make enough noise to let coyotes know you are in the area. They generally avoid contact with humans. Also, minimize potential food sources by securing your garbage and removing outdoor pet food dishes. Much more information can be found on one of the many web sites that deal with coyotes and their behavior.

See you all at the picnic on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John D. Wheeler', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mayor John D. Wheeler