



# City of Pataskala Quarterly Newsletter

## Mayor:

- Steve Butcher

## Council Members:

- Bryan Lenzo (At-Large)
- C. Bernard Brush (At-Large)
- Merissa McKinstry (At-Large)
- Pat Sagar (Ward 1)
- Miike Compton (Ward 2)
- Miike Fox (Ward 3)
- Dan Hayes (Ward 4)

## City Administrator:

- Tim Boland, AICP  
740-964-2416  
tboland@ci.pataskala.oh.us



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City's website: [www.ci.pataskala.oh.us](http://www.ci.pataskala.oh.us)

## Message from the Mayor

In December the Pataskala Police Department completed another successful Warrant Round-up Program. The objective of this program is to assure those who have failed to appear in Court are brought before Mayor's Court Magistrate, Kip Kelsey. Our goal for this recent round-up was to serve almost 50 warrants to those individuals who have violated the laws and ignore the orders of the Court.

Efforts like this help send a message that we have no inten-

tion of turning a blind eye to those who disregard the judicial system. Additionally, we won't be part of being unfair to those who do the right thing and take responsibility for their actions by appearing in Court and completing the Court's Orders. I am proud of the positive changes and progress that your Mayor's Court has made in this community during the past 5 years. Ten years ago, City Council decided to eliminate the City's Mayor's Court program due to financial losses

it suffered. When I was elected Mayor, I set about to convince Council to re-establish the Mayor's Court. I believed, and it was a fact, that we could reduce our enforcement overhead while making our residents safer by having a local court. Further, I knew we could do it without losing money. I want to recognize Magistrate Kip Kelsey, Law Director Rufus Hurst, Mayor's Court Clerk Tonia McFerin, and our Police

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## Message from the City Administrator

2012 is here and it promises to be a year of opportunity for our community. The City is at a threshold in many areas of improving the quality of life and your City government is working hard to proactively address the needs of the community:

### Economic Development

Economic Development, the growth and health of our business sector of our local economy, is extremely important for the overall well-being of our City. The City has no full-time economic development director. Therefore, the City has taken the step of becoming a member of the "Grow Licking County" Community Improvement Corporation (CIC). This investment assures the City's participation in and receiving the benefits of being promoted as part of this county-wide economic development program.

Job growth in commercial and industrial development is the most effective way to grow revenues for our City. Such growth would more fairly distribute the tax burden, which is currently heavily weighted towards residents, to a more equitable sharing with a growing business sector creating jobs and generating income tax.

The CIC is the only such economic development organization in the County. The CIC provides value to the City in the form of membership, a full-time economic development director at the CIC promoting Pataskala, marketing of our City and development sites, and being part of an economic development strategy on a County-wide scale. The CIC is a tool to help the City attract job creating investment to our community.

### Roadway Infrastructure

Currently, City Council is reviewing the Roadway Asset Management Plan (RAMP) to determine roads to be reconstructed, repaired and resurfaced in 2012. The RAMP is a comprehensive analysis of the condition of each public street in the City. From that assessment, roads have been assigned to different priority categories. While there are many more roads in the critical level category than funds available to address these roads, the RAMP provides the City with a plan for long term progress on our infrastructure.

I am pleased to report that improvements to Kennedy Road and Stonemast Loop are scheduled to be completed in the spring. This summer, work will also begin on the replacement of McIntosh Bridge.

### Mayor's Court Briefing

#### TAKING BLOOD/ ALCOHOL TEST VS RE- FUSING IF ARRESTED FOR OVI

As a Magistrate, I am not permitted to give legal advice. However, I will attempt to give a brief overview of a complicated area of the law by setting forth the ramifications of either option.

1. When an officer has probable cause to arrest a driver for OVI (operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs), that officer can confiscate the offender's drivers license on the spot. This is called an Administrative License Suspension or ALS. The officer will then request the driver to submit to a blood/alcohol test (usually a breathalyzer) and explain the ramifications of refusing. If the driver does submit to the test, the ALS suspension is for 90 days with possible limited driving privileges after 15 days of the offense. If the driver refuses the test, the ALS suspension is for

1 year with possible driving privileges after 30 days of the offense. The ALS suspension can be terminated earlier if the driver either pleads guilty to, or is found guilty of, the OVI charge. By doing so, the OVI suspension penalty replaces the ALS penalty. If a person took the test and was found NOT guilty of the OVI or the case was dismissed, the ALS is still terminated at that time. But if the driver refused the test, the ALS suspension will remain in effect for the balance of the 1 year even if the driver was found NOT guilty. Those who hold a CDL (commercial driver's license) and had a previous refusal within 20 years will be disqualified from exercising their commercial privilege for life even if the vehicle used was not commercial.

2. The OVI statute has two types of violations. One is based on a person's driving ability being impaired as a result of being under the influence of alcohol. The other is driving with a blood/alcohol

level at or above the legal limit (.08%), regardless of driving ability. In order to get a conviction under the impairment section, the prosecutor must prove that the defendant was under the influence of alcohol as demonstrated by their driving ability (or lack of it). For a charge under the blood/alcohol section, the prosecutor only needs to prove that the testing was administered properly and the test results were above the legal limit. Although I am discussing alcohol in this article, be advised that drugs of abuse also come under the OVI statute.

3. Regardless of which section of the OVI statute a person is convicted under, the penalties are the same.

Jail: minimum of 3 days (72 hours), maximum of 180 days. \*

Fine: minimum of \$375, maximum of \$1075.

License suspension: minimum of 6 months, maximum of 3 years.

Points: 6 points on BMV record for 2 years.

If a person has had more than 1 OVI conviction or refusal within the past 6 years, the penalties become increasingly harsher.

\* Note: If a person has either a high blood/alcohol test (.17% or more) or has had a prior refusal within the past 20 years, the minimum jail term is 6 days.



If you have questions about snow removal in Pataskala, contact BJ King, Public Service Director, at 740-927-0145 or

### WASTE MANAGEMENT



#### Stay Safe During Winter Season!

With the winter season upon us, Waste Management would like to remind our customers to shift their driving sensibilities into cold weather mode. Remember the roads are slick and the commuting hours darker.

Winter ice, snow and rain make roads more hazardous for commuters, utility crews and waste removal crews. These conditions call for more attention to safe driving and walking to avoid accidents, and not blocking snow narrowed streets with refuse and recycling containers. Slowing down, taking more time to reach your destination, and watching out for other vehicles are simple ways to avoid winter accidents.

We hope all motorists and homeowners will think ahead as to what winter means for weather conditions and crowded roads. We at Waste Management remind our drivers to be mindful of winter conditions. It takes everyone's diligence to keep our roads safe.

Waste Management requests our customers to keep their collection containers out of roadways that may already be narrowed by snow banks. If you have any questions about waste removal during winter storms, please contact Waste Management Customer Service at 1-800-343-6047.

*Message from the Mayor  
Continued*

Officers for being responsible for the operations of our Mayor's Court.

I also want to point out that Pataskala was honored in December by US Congressman Pat Tiberi. Each Christmas Congressman Tiberi highlights a landmark in the 12th congressional district that represents life in Central Ohio. This year he chose the Pataskala Old Town Hall which now houses the Pataskala Police Dept and the Sterling Theater for the front of his Christmas Card. The card was mailed to hundreds of Ohio, and US residents and business leaders. It provided information about this wonderful

1916 building that was placed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1983. I am proud that this community has elected to save this historic and valuable building after a complete engineering review showed that it was a sound structure. This building is a million dollar plus asset which we couldn't afford to replace and couldn't afford to lose. The City restored the basement foundation, installed dehumidifiers, replaced the worn out windows in the first floor Police Dept, and replaced the former boiler heat system with a central HVAC system. All the windows and repairs to the Sterling Theater have been accomplished through local donations, not your tax dollars, by a group of local citizens committed to saving this important asset.

These efforts have not gone unnoticed by Central Ohio newspapers, radio and TV news reporters as well as Business First who have all done numerous stories about the positive community efforts to make a difference in Pataskala. As future opportunities to support activities at the Sterling are scheduled I encourage you to get involved.

**Did you know...**Property owners are responsible for installation/replacement of culverts located under their driveways, or in the city-owned right-of-way along the front of their properties. To install or replace a culvert, you are required to receive a right-of-way work permit from the City. Contact Public Service Director BJ King, at 740-927-0145 for permit information.

**The Park Board is looking for gardeners to adopt the flowerbeds in our community parks!!!**

**All ages welcome!!!**



**What Should Pataskala Look Like in 20 Years?**  
Pataskala has changed a lot in the last 20 years. What would be its best future in another 20 years? This spring the City will begin a Community Wide Visioning process.

The City will conduct a series of sessions to gain the thoughts of the entire community about what direction the City should take and to merge them into a common Vision. Please watch for announcements and participate whenever you can!



**Home Repair Assistance Available for City of Pataskala Homeowners**

Through funding provided by the Ohio Department of Community Development, the City of Pataskala still has money available to assist its residents with home repairs. The City has secured a \$500,000 Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP) grant for Fiscal Years 2010 through 2012 and eligible homeowners living in the City of Pataskala may apply for financial assistance to assist with emergency repairs or home rehabilitation.

These funds may be used to repair or replace your roof,

update plumbing or electrical systems, or replace your heating system. Homeowners may receive a grant for up to \$5,000 to make those needed but expensive repairs.

If your home is in need of rehabilitation, you may qualify for a forgivable loan for up to \$30,000 to repair or replace all major systems in the home including roof, plumbing, electrical and structural and additionally will address lead-based paint if present. The loan is made at zero percent interest and requires no monthly payments.

To qualify for the CHIP housing assistance, applicants

must own their home and live inside the City limits of Pataskala. Homes must be valued under \$160,000 and households must be income eligible. For further eligibility information and to learn more about the program, please contact the City Planning and Zoning Director, Dianne Harris, at 927-2168.



The dedication of the City's new Cross Town Leisure Trail was held on Saturday, December 3rd. Above, residents take part in the inaugural walk on the Cross Town Line.



Mayor Butcher addresses the crowd at the Cross Town Line Trail Dedication Ceremony.

## PARK BOARD

Welcome to 2012!!! While the weather outside may be frightful, the Park Board has been hard at work planning for the coming Spring and Summer activities and improvements. Local nonprofit groups will again be hosting multiple recreational opportunities. Look for spring signups of youth soccer, softball and baseball. Additionally, if you made a New Year's resolution to get fit or just have fun, join up for adult soccer or adult softball. And fortunately for us all, the Ladies of Four Town LaSertoma will again be serving up Walking Tacos and the "world's best grilled cheese sandwiches" soccer Saturdays in April and May.

Improvements to our parks, sponsored by the hosting organizations, include two new junior soccer fields at Freedom Park, new baseball diamonds and softball improvements at Foundation Park, and on the horizon, the reopening of the Pataskala Pool. The Park Board is also planning for additional trails and facility improvements and a park activity website calendar. Information and links regarding these organizations and their recreational programs can be found on the Park Board webpage at the City of Pataskala website.

As the snow thaws and we all come out of hibernation, keep in mind that our community parks are kept clean and tidy by a variety of local groups and individuals. Please do your part by disposing of litter in the dumpsters, keeping to the designated trails, and reporting any vandalism or dumping that you witness to the Pataskala Police. While our community parks are not supported by an operating levy, we can all do our part by monitoring and assisting with their preservation. For the enjoyment of all, please keep dogs on a leash, and remember pets are not permitted on the groomed, "manicured", areas of our parks, specifically the soccer, softball and baseball fields and the antique power show tractor track.

If you have made a resolution to become involved in your community, please consider joining the effort to keep our parks and parkland thriving and enjoyable. Contact your Council Representative or the City Administrator to sign up, submit suggestions or volunteer, or attend a Park Board meeting the second Tuesday of every month at the City Administration Building.

### **SOME OF THE PROJECTS THE BOARD IS WORKING ON IN 2012...**



Replacing Mulch at the Playground  
at Karr Park



Repairing Damaged Signage  
at Conaway Trail



Planning for a Trail to  
Freedom Park