

THE FAIRPORT BEACON

Spring 2015

220 Third Street, Fairport Harbor, Ohio 44077
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www.fairportharbor.org

Timothy S. Manross
Mayor

Council
Anthony F. Bertone
Douglas T. Harrison
Jerry Hites
Verne M. Horton
Jeff McKinney, II
Frank J. Sarosy



Welcome to Spring!

by Mayor Timothy S. Manross

It looks like winter is finally over but the bitter cold really took a toll on our roads. Please know that we are prioritizing the necessary road repairs with the funds that we have.

In previous newsletters, I have discussed our need for economic development and Kathie Pohl has been very busy fielding calls and chasing down leads. There is a lot of activity but so much is in the planning stages that we are unable to talk about anything specific right now.

That said, I want to make you aware of a major project that dramatically impacts our Village. The Fairport Harbor Port Authority and the Village entered into land lease agreements with the Lake County Ohio Port & Economic Development Authority to develop the land at the bottom of Lighthouse Hill. This is the beginning of the fulfillment

“I want to make you aware of a major project that dramatically impacts our Village.”

of the Coastal Development Plan that was proposed in 2005. A feasibility study was just completed by the Lake County Visitors Bureau to gauge interest in five Lake County sites as suitable locations for hotels. One of the five identified was Fairport Harbor and it is being considered for the development of a Hotel/Conference Center similar to Geneva Lodge, or a Hotel /Water Park, such as Great Wolf Lodge. The Village remains in full control of what the development will ultimately be and to ensure that, we have established a Waterfront Advisory Board consisting of two members of Village Council, two members of our Port Authority and a member of the public. This board will give regular updates to the Village Council and Fairport Harbor Port Authority to keep us abreast of the plans as they progress. If the proposed development does not fit with our overall vision, it will not happen. It is important to note that all the data has not yet been gathered so there are no firm plans in place.

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A New Image for an Historic Village

As we mentioned in the previous newsletter, the Cleveland Foundation is making it possible for us to update our image and create new marketing materials to promote the Village as a waterfront destination, and a great place to locate a business. The market-

ing efforts include a fresh, new logo, which is making its first appearance in this newsletter. Other rebranding changes will follow, including a new website, a Village Facebook page, and improved signage to better direct visitors into our Village.



We're Open for Business

Efforts are underway to begin marketing Fairport Harbor as the next Great Lake's waterfront destination. This will involve increasing our tourism marketing, but also advertising that is designed to attract more businesses to the Village. Part of those efforts include hosting a Downtown Open House to bring prospective businesses into town to show them what a great location we have for restaurants, pubs, boutiques, and art galleries. Community volunteers are working together on this one day event to showcase available downtown spaces

and provide prospective businesses the opportunity to tour available properties and network with existing business owners.

The Downtown Open House is being planned for Thursday, June 4 from 4-7 p.m. to coincide with the opening day of our Waterfront Concert Series. We will also host one or more Spring Clean-Up Days in May to get our storefronts in top shape. If you would like to volunteer to help with the Clean-Up, please call Village Hall and we'll put you in touch with the Committee Chair.

Fairport Harbor Police Department Important Village Ordinances

Please Cut Your Grass

Section 521.05 of the Village Ordinances requires the owner or person responsible for the property to keep their yards free from uncontrolled growth and noxious weeds. Uncontrolled growth means all grasses and/or weeds growing at a height of six inches or more.

Responsible parties will receive only one notice of violation per calendar year. Refusal to address the violation, or a second offense occurring within the calendar year, will result in the issuance of a summons. A violation is a minor misdemeanor with a maximum fine of \$150 plus court costs.

Section 311.01 prohibits any person from depositing grass clippings or leaves into the street.

Be a Responsible Dog Owner

The owner (or keeper, harbinger, or person in charge or control) of any dog, must keep it on a leash when on any public street, sidewalk or property. Section 505.01 also prohibits owners from allowing their dogs to run at large (unaccompanied by the responsible person).

Section 505.08 of the Village Ordinances prohibits a pet owner (keeper, or harbinger) from allowing that animal from defecating on public property or private property not owned by the owner of the animal, unless that person immediately removes all feces deposited by the animal. This is a minor misdemeanor punishable by a maximum fine of \$150 plus court costs.



Trash Violations

Residents may place their trash on the tree lawn after 5 PM of the evening prior to trash collection. Trash receptacles must be removed from the curb within 12 hours of trash collection. Violations of Section 521.08 are a minor misdemeanor punishable by a maximum fine of \$150 plus court costs.

Curfew/Summer Vandalism

The Village of Fairport Harbor has a curfew for persons under the age of 18 that reads:

"No child twelve years and under shall be upon the streets or sidewalks during the period from darkness to dawn, and no child between the ages of thirteen and sixteen



years shall be upon the streets or sidewalks between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., and no child between the ages of sixteen and eighteen years shall be upon the streets or sidewalks between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 6:00 a.m., unless accompanied by a parent, guardian or some responsible person over the age of eighteen years, or a member of his family eighteen years or older, or unless he has a legitimate excuse therefore."

Violators can expect to receive a visit to Lake County Juvenile Court. Parents who allow their children to violate the curfew are also subject to sanctions under this ordinance and can be charged with a fourth degree misdemeanor, which carries a maximum penalty of 30 days in jail and/or a \$250 fine plus court costs.

The Police Department is serious about enforcement as curfew violations can be related to property vandalism. Please help keep the Village safe and looking sharp by knowing where your kids are and have them follow the curfew guidelines.

Contact Us

I encourage you to call or email us and it can be kept confidential. If you are not certain whether the activity is something we need to know about, but it has "caught your attention," we should be made aware of it.

The Fairport Harbor Police Department is located within the Village Hall at 220 Third Street.

Although Police Officers patrol the community around the clock, the office is not staffed 24 hours a day. Officers are dispatched by Lake County Central Communications, which is located on Garfield Road in Mentor. The Lake County Sheriff's Department supervises Central Communications. The Village contracts with Central Communications to provide police

and fire dispatching services, as well as 9-1-1 services.

If you need an officer to respond to a complaint, call 9-1-1 or (440) 354-3434. These two numbers will connect you directly with a Dispatcher who will send a Police Officer. DO NOT CALL Village Hall or the Police Department's non-emergency number.

If you need to ask a question from the Police Department Administration, need Court information, or would like to set up a visit from the Police Department for your organization, call the NEW non-emergency number (440) 352-3150.

You can also email the Police Department at police@fairportharbor.org or email Chief Kish at chief_kish@sbcglobal.net.

Welcome to Spring!

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I want to thank both our Port Authority and Council for their vision and leadership in this endeavor. The revenue generated from a project like this will result in increased tax dollars, and the creation of many jobs. The benefits to the Village will be significant. Please feel free to attend a Council meeting held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at the Senior Community Center, and consider attend-

ing the advisory board meetings. All are open to the public and subject to Sunshine Laws. Remember this is our Village, and we all have a say in how it transforms and develops.

Finally, I want to publicly thank Dave McGuirk for his years of service to our great Village. Dave will be missed and his shoes will be hard to fill. We all wish him a happy retirement!

We are all in this together, Tim

From the Administrator

Good people of Fairport Harbor ... as I prepare to end my time here as Village Administrator, I thank you for the wonderful experiences over these past 5-1/2 years. Mayor Manross and your Village Council are poised to help the Village reach its maximum potential as the premiere commercial, residential and tourist destination in Lake County. I wish you the very best as you prepare to face the opportunities in the coming years.

Sincerely, David McGuirk

New Event to Feature the Tall Ship Madeline

July 11 and 12

This summer, travel back in time while staying close to home as we host a special Harbor Fest, a two-day maritime festival. Activities are centered on the Madeline, a 92-foot tall ship that's a reconstruction of the original schooner by the same name that was built here in 1845.

Tours will be available both days from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for children 6-12, and include both a deck tour of the schooner and entrance to the Fairport Harbor Lighthouse & Marine Museum.

Entertainment includes traditional sea shanty singers and story tellers, with songs and tales of nautical lore. Other family-friendly activities will take place on the beach, including a professional sand sculptor, boating and kids' activities. The event closes on Sunday evening with a performance by the U.S. Air Force Band of Flight followed by fireworks.

The Madeline was built by the Maritime Heritage Alliance, whose purpose is to sail



Picture by Edgar

The original Madeline was built in Fairport in 1845.

around the Great Lakes so people can experience a slice of maritime history.

The event is sponsored by the Fairport Harbor Heritage Foundation,

Fairport Harbor Historical Society, Lake Metroparks, Lake Health and Great Lakes Publishing. More details to come in the Summer newsletter.

In The News

Fire Department

It's easy to receive emergency notifications from the Fairport Harbor Fire Department. Just go online and complete the form at www.911cellular.com/community-alerts/The-Village-of-Fairport-Harbor. If you don't have internet access, just call the Fire Department at (440) 352-3620, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Yard Waste Pick-Up begins April 1

Tony Scheiber's Hauling will pick up bagged yard waste on the first and third Mondays from April 1 through December 1.

Water Department/Fiscal Office

Window Hours

The window hours for the Water Department and Fairport Harbor Fiscal Office are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Payments can be made anytime; just drop in the mail slot in the Water Department office door, located in Village Hall.

Fiscal Report

by Jane Anthony, Fiscal Officer

Have you ever felt uneasy when you've overspent? That's exactly how we feel. In 2014, the Village had revenues of \$3.4 million and expenses of \$3.8 million, resulting in a deficit of \$346,000. This year, we project our overall revenues at \$3.6 million and our expenses at \$3.7 million. As we have done in the past, we will dip into our reserves to cover the projected deficit spending. This follows a pattern over the last four years where our expenses have grown by nearly \$1 million, while revenues increased by only \$370,000.

This is not to say that we are fiscally irresponsible; we're not! But the reality is that in spite of carefully watching our spend-

ing, our expenses are simply growing at a much faster rate than our income.

The increase in our expenses can be largely attributed to the high cost of maintaining an aging infrastructure. Add to this the increased costs of materials and revenues that remain flat, and it's easy to see why economic development is critical to our future financial health.

There are some exciting projects on the horizon, but in the meantime, we will continue to be good stewards. If you have questions, we encourage you to visit the Fiscal Office and review the revenues and expenditures. We need to work as a team to insure the success of our Village. Remember, we are all in this together!

Village Directory

Fairport Harbor Village Hall
220 Third Street
Fairport Harbor, Ohio 44077
Village Administrator
Fiscal Officer, Jane Anthony
(440) 352-3620

Mayor

Timothy S. Manross
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Council

Verne Horton, President, (440) 417-8178
Anthony Bertone, (440) 358-0862
Douglas Harrison, (440) 357-9094
Jerry Hites, (440) 479-3494
Jeffrey McKinney II, (440) 392-6194
Frank Sarosy, (440) 223-7172

Village Council Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of the month at the Fairport Harbor Senior / Community Center, 1380 East Street.



Fairport Harbor Village Hall
220 Third Street
Fairport Harbor, Ohio 44077
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Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
fairportharbor.org

Another Vacant Property Sells

Gary Harris and his daughter, Gillian, are the new owners of the DeNora property on East Street. According to Gillian, “My family and I are excited to be part of the Village of Fairport Harbor and our objective is to make the best use of the building, while serving the best interests of the Village.”

The Harris’s have begun removing equipment and other materials from the 65,000 square foot building located on just over four acres. The couple met with Mayor Manross and Economic Development Director Kathie Pohl in February to review ideas for the property, which is zoned Neighborhood Business.

Discussions on the future development of the property are expected to continue. In the meantime, if you have questions or suggestions, feel free to send an email to harrisjgillian@gmail.com, or kathiepohl@fairportharbor.org.

As we begin the revitalization of our community, we continue to remember our past. Beginning with this issue, our newsletter will be called “The Fairport Beacon” named in honor of our long-time local newspaper.

Fairport Harbor Calendar of Events

April 12

Lake Health Running Series 10/20 Mile Drop

Register at lakehealthrunning.com

May 3

Great Lakes GRG 12 (VW Car Show) 1 to 6 p.m.

May 23

Running for Rainbow’s Kids

For registration information, call (440) 354-4525.

May 30

Just Run Lake County 5K, Health in the Harbor

June 4

Downtown Open House 4 to 7 p.m.

June 4 – August 20

Waterfront Concert Series on Lighthouse Hill Thursdays, 7 to 9 p.m.

June 5

Dual Lighthouse Tours (Advance Registration Only)

June 6

Fairport Harbor Westwater Lighthouse 90th Birthday Open House

12 to 4 p.m.

June 20

Village Art Festival 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.