

THE FAIRPORT BEACON

Fall/Winter 2015

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Timothy S. Manross
Mayor

Council
Anthony F. Bertone
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Stay Informed, Remain Involved

by Mayor Timothy S. Manross

Another summer season has ended too quickly, and we find ourselves in the midst of preparing for another winter.

Expenses continue to outpace revenues, and we are actively looking at multiple funding sources and will be communicating what those are to Council and residents. The men and women who serve our community from Service, Water, Fire, Police, Clerical, Senior Center, and Administration are the finest and continue to explore new ways to reduce expenses.

Please refer to an article on page three from the Lake County Department of Utilities. It is a brief explanation of our ongoing efforts and the steps necessary to address the flooding issues. This is one of the highest priorities on our agenda, and it is extremely important that you take an active role in the process. Questionnaires will be sent to those areas that have had the most severe problems. I cannot stress enough that these questionnaires need to be filled out and returned. The data gathered will allow the engineers to develop a robust and sustainable solution. Without your involvement we may never get this resolved. If you have any questions, comments, or ideas, please call the County Utility Office at 350-2070. It is important that you contact the correct people with your concerns and the County is the clearing house for those calls.

The proposed waterfront development is still proceeding. There have been several meetings with the Waterfront Advisory Board (WFAB) and great questions are being asked of both developers. As I've stated before, the WFAB is a public body subject to the Sunshine Laws of the State of Ohio. The board now has regularly scheduled meetings on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. at Village Hall. This is our Village and we want and need your input! I encourage you to attend a meeting, or email me at mayor@fairportharbor.org or give me a call at 440-413-0440 if you have a specific comment, concern or wish to express your support.

See you around town!



Adding Color to the Village

Over the summer months, you might have noticed a few sparks of color along High and Third Streets. Thank you to our businesses for their community pride in adding visual interest to some of our buildings. Also, a big thank you to Phil and Tony, owners of the Highwater Tavern,

for allowing us to use the side of their building for one amazing mural. Thanks also to Joe Pohl for donating the design, Derrek O'Hara for painting the mural, and Great Lakes Boatworks and the Fairport Harbor Tourism Council for making it all possible.

Announcing New Drop Box for Paying Water Bills

To make it more convenient for residents to pay their water bills, and in anticipation of our cold winters, the Village is installing a drop box on the northwest side of the Village Hall parking lot for water payments only. Beginning in the next few months, you will be able to walk or drive up to place your water bill payment inside the secure box. Be advised that only check payments will be processed; no cash or other bills will be accepted in the drop box. If you have any questions, please call Village Hall at 352-3620.



Leaf Pick Up Schedule

Leaf pick-up is provided by Fairport Harbor Service Department personnel. This service is for LEAVES ONLY. If there is yard waste or sticks in the bag, they will not be picked up.



October 12 to November 19

Mondays: streets north of Sixth Street, and west of Plum Street

Tuesdays: streets north of Sixth Street, and east of Plum Street

Wednesdays: streets south of Sixth Street, and west of Plum Street

Thursdays: streets south of Sixth Street, and east of Plum Street

Yard Waste

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

Economic Development News

by Kathie Pohl

This summer, we welcomed several new businesses to our downtown district. These include Serendipity Bulk Goods, The Pompadour and Beachcombers salon. AW Brick & Mortar has also recently opened a new artists shop in the Shetina building on Third Street. Several other new businesses are also in the works and will be announced once contracts have been signed.

Our vision for Fairport Harbor starts with making our downtown beautiful, vibrant and interesting. This can and should be a place where people experience shopping, the night scene, public art, live music, great eateries, galleries, museums, and water-related activities on the best beach around.

While our downtown spaces are being filled with services that will support our community and provide places for residents and visitors to shop, we are still very mindful that we have a lot of work to do to strengthen our economy. Income tax dollars generated by those who work in the Village are desperately needed to boost our budget and allow us to return our services to full strength. And we will continue to work on attracting those businesses that are critical to our future.

This past summer, we hosted the very successful Harbor Fest with assistance from our partners at Lake Health, the Lake County Visitors Bureau, Great Lakes Publishing, Lake Metroparks and the Fairport Harbor Lighthouse and Museum. Large, multi-day special events such as this serve to spotlight the Village and attract new visitors with money to spend, which in turn helps our local businesses.

I am excited to be a part of the changes and growth in our Village, and fully recognize that timing, planning, communication and cooperation are all big parts in making the revitalization a reality.

Fairport Harbor is brimming with willingness, talent and a true sense of community. Folks are eager and passionate for the return of a vibrant community, and while we're still a long way off from realizing that vision, working together --- we CAN make it happen.

As I've said in the past, if it were easy, it would have been done long ago. What is important is that we stay the course, and not be distracted by those who may focus on the negative. There is so much positive in Fairport Harbor -- and THAT is the catalyst for our success!

Halloween Safety Tips from Fairport Harbor Police Department



- Plan a route in advance
- Wear comfy shoes
- Stay well lit
- Wear short costumes
- Avoid masks
- Use flexible props
- Walk don't run
- Use flashlights and reflective tape
- Check children's treats for tricks

Trick or Treat will take place from 6-8 PM on Saturday, October 31.



Fall Clean-up

It's always sad to see summer come to an end, when the days get shorter and the air becomes crisp. But now is the perfect time to get your yard ready for winter. Did you know that dumping your leaves and yard waste at or near a storm drain, ditch, or stream is considered stormwater pollution? Anything other than stormwater entering a storm drain or waterway is an illicit discharge. All stormwater flows directly to Lake Erie untreated and yard waste and leaves contain a high amount of nutrients, like phosphorus and nitrogen. When yard waste is dumped in the storm sewer system, those nutrients end up in Lake Erie. We have all heard about the Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) in Lake Erie and these type of nutrients help feed the HAB. Help us prevent HAB by properly disposing of yard waste and by following these tips:

- Compost your grass clippings and yard waste. Construct your own compost bin or purchase one. Be sure to place your bin away from any ditch or storm drain. The compost can then be used in the spring in your flower beds and gardens. Compost bins can be purchased through the Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District.
- Use a mulching mower. Mulched leaves and grass clippings make a great fertilizer for your lawn.
- Remember that fertilizer also contains nutrients. Perform a soil test and only fertilize when necessary; the best time is in the fall. Also, try to use a slow release fertilizer that does not contain phosphorus.

For more information, contact the Lake County Stormwater Management Department at www.lakecountyohio.gov/smd or (440) 350-5900.

Administrator's Report

by Rebecca Corrigan

We have a lot of projects underway to ensure you are all being served. The Village is working closely with the Lake County Department of Utilities on a study to identify storm sewers, sanitary sewers and private laterals. In cooperation, the Village received funding to assist income-eligible residents from Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds on proper sewer connections to their homes with foundation drains. These projects are Village-wide.

The bridge opened slightly ahead of schedule, we have made progress with Norfolk & Southern to address their grade crossings in the Village, and have received engineering feedback on progress with the "East End Storm Sewer Project." The Village has also been concentrating on the sustainability of the hillside on the northern tip of the Village and we are working out the details of the agreement with Lake Metroparks.

Wishing you all a happy fall and winter and if you would like to meet with me, please feel free to call anytime!

Easy Ways to lower your energy bills from Council of Smaller Enterprises



- Install programmable thermostats and set at 70 during the WINTER MONTHS when occupied and 62 when unoccupied;
- Insulate hot and cold water pipes;
- Replace furnace filters once a month;
- Decrease phantom usage, UNPLUG as often as you can, coffee pots, printers, cell phone chargers, etc.;
- Swap out your lighting and replace incandescent lights bulbs with CFLs or LED bulbs.

Lake County Utilities

The Lake County Department of Utilities (LCDU), the Lake County Stormwater Management Department (LCSMD), and the Village of Fairport Harbor will be working together on a joint investigation to reduce flooding in the Village during periods of heavy rain.

The purpose of the investigation will be to evaluate three separate systems: (1) the public sanitary sewers, (2) the private sanitary service laterals, and (3) the public storm sewers. Once the investigation is complete, specific recommendations will be given for improvements.

Lake County has met with the Fairport Harbor Village Flood Committee, the Mayor's Office, Village personnel and members of council to discuss the issue; and, although the investigation has not officially started, preliminary work has already occurred. For example, you may have seen the LCSMD working with a contractor along High Street, cleaning a section of storm sewer earlier in September. This storm sewer was found to be severely blocked by rocks and sand that limited its capacity to convey stormwater.

As the official investigation begins, the first step of the process will be to collect data from people within the Village. In the near future, residents and business owners will begin receiving surveys in the mail. Participation in completing the survey is highly encouraged so that information and understanding of the issues can be included in the investigation and considered for potential improvements.

The LCDU, LCSMD, and the Village remain committed to working together to address issues that affect the residents of Fairport Harbor.

Rules for Municipal Income Tax to Change in 2016

by Jane Anthony, Fiscal Officer

Sweeping changes to the administration of municipal income tax take effect on January 1, 2016. However, the municipal tax return that will be filed in the early months of 2016 will continue to follow the current tax laws.

The changes to the tax laws are courtesy of the Ohio General Assembly's passage, and Governor Kasich's signing into law, of Substitute House Bill 5. From the Village government's point of view, this means that the Village must adopt a new municipal income tax ordinance no later than December 31, 2015 to be effective for tax years beginning after January 1, 2016.

From a taxpayer's point of view, this bill insures:

- The municipal income tax rate will NOT change, but the calculation of taxable municipal income and thus the amount of taxes may change.
- A uniform definition of taxable income for resident and nonresidents;

- Required exemptions from taxable income for all municipalities;
- Certain forms of income that must be included in the income tax base of an individual;
- Establishes a uniform definition of residency for all municipalities;
- Establishes uniform filing requirements, uniform refund deadlines, and uniform procedures for issuing determinations of income tax liability;
- Establishes the role and authority of municipal tax administrators and local boards of tax review.

The Village Tax Ordinance will be drafted during October and early November and will then need to be approved by Village Council. Once approved, it will be added to the Village website. In the meantime, if you have questions concerning this new law, please email me at Fiscalofficer@Fairportharbor.org.

Spring Forward, Fall Back – Daylight Savings Time Ends

On November 1, remember to turn your clock back one hour. It's also a good time to check the batteries in your Smoke Detector.



In the News

Congratulations to Fairport Harding High School on being named Ohio Lottery's Partners in Education School of the Year. The celebration was also an opportunity to honor the district's achievements, including a performance index growth that made the district the most improved in the State of Ohio over the past five years.

Congratulations to Park Cofield and his cast and crew on the success of "SISU is in the Heart," an original play that made its debut earlier this month. The production was based on actual stories about the Village. The next performance will take place in Finland.

Village Directory

Fairport Harbor Village Hall
220 Third Street
Fairport Harbor, Ohio 44077
(440) 352-3620

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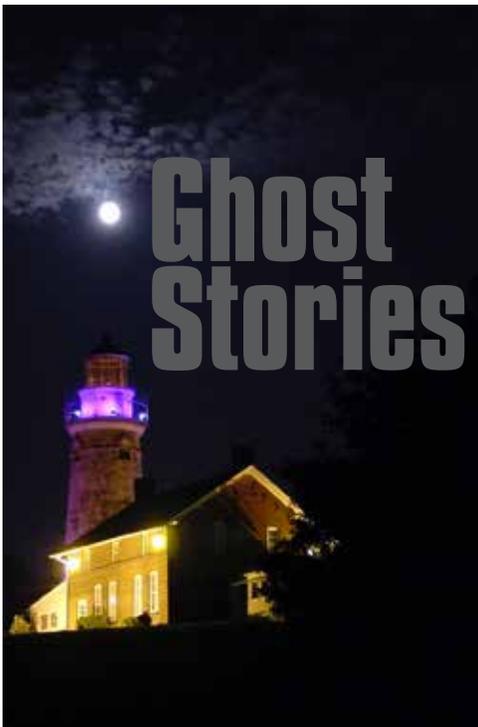
Village Council Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of the month at the Fairport Harbor Senior / Community Center, 1380 East Street.



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

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Upcoming Events

October 26 7-9 PM, Ghost Stories and Evening Tour

Fairport Harbor Lighthouse & Museum
Advance tickets required. 354-4825

October 31, 5 PM, Halloween Costume Contest for Fairport Harbor Youth – Preschool through Sixth Grade

Veterans Memorial Park
Sponsored by Fairport Harbor Police Department
For more information contact FHPD at 352-3620.

October 31, 6-8 PM Trick or Treat

December 5, 11 AM to 4 PM
Harbor Holidays and a Day with the Grinch

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

November 4 is Election Day - REMEMBER TO VOTE!

VILLAGE OFFICES CLOSED

November 11 - Veterans Day
November 26 - Thanksgiving Day
December 25 - Christmas Day
January 1, New Year's Day
January 18, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day