



MAYOR'S NEWSLETTER APRIL 2005



Happy Spring time! Another year has come and gone, and as we look forward into 2005 many things will be happening and changes made. Some things to look forward to is the local election (here come the rumors), re-birth of the Community Picnic, sidewalk markings and street construction. As always, I am sure we will have a few surprises along the way but, hey, what is life without a little variety?

This Newsletter is going to be a bit different. First, it's a little later because of breaking news. It contains information (that's not different), invocation, and an invitation. Now are you curious? Well, let's get started on our journey through North College Hill.

HERITAGE: It has taken me some time to realize that our City is all of a sudden made up of basically two kinds of citizens. I am referring to the relatively long time resident who has seen many changes (and may not be totally comfortable with that), and the relatively new resident who may not realize the rich heritage and traditions of the neighborhood in which they now live. The common bond between these two citizen groups is the fact that they now, are the people who make up NORTH COLLEGE HILL. Note, I said NORTH College Hill, not College Hill, not Mt. Healthy, not Finneytown or Colerain Township. We are who and what we are because of whom and what we have been. We all have an opportunity to keep building onto the foundations laid by our predecessors. The following little bits of our history may be familiar to some of us, and possibly not to others, so here is some of our past.

In the mid-1800's, N.C.H. was basically farmland. The Cary family owned a huge farm on the Northeast corner of Galbraith and Hamilton. You can still see the main house on Hamilton Avenue, namely Cary Cottage, across from St. Paul's Church. A few years later, a Jewish immigrant named Isaac Wise bought the farm on the Southeast corner of Hamilton and Galbraith. The farm comprised everything from the intersection east to Tarawa and south to approximately Oak Knoll. Rabbi Wise started the reformed Judaism movement from this farm and founded the Hebrew Union College now located in Clifton. In 1916, the Knollman Lumber Company started building homes in the southwest quadrant and named the streets after officers in the company. Perhaps you live on one such as Goodman, DeArmand, or Betts. Did you know that Savannah Avenue used to be a cow path along which farmers took cattle to market? One of the marketing slogans used to attract our forefathers to this area was to "come up on THE HILL, where the sun always shines". Thus, we got the nickname "Sunshine". Isn't it fitting that one of the cheers at our schools sporting events TODAY is "We are.....The Hill!" After the Korean War, a big boom started and N.C.H. grew like wildfire. Unfortunately, it grew so fast that sometimes things possibly worth keeping were swallowed up or torn down in the name of progress.



POLICE: Way back in 1916, when N.C.H. was just a village, a Police Department that consisted of one Marshall was established. Today, we have thirteen fulltime officers and are going to add another in May. We are also hiring two part-time officers in May. I am proud to say that this increase of personnel was made possible by your support of the earnings tax increase. We had hoped to have the officers in place sooner but, better late

than never. Eight part-time officers join our fulltime officers. All these people are out there trying to help us live our lives in peace and safety. If you see them, how about saying thanks? Also, a big welcome to part-time officers, Shaun Miller and Christy Mock. Bryon Roos is our newest fulltime officer appointed on March 21. Good luck to all of you and be safe.

Jan Apro and Ted Kahle, two of our long-time, part-time officers retired this year after giving our City a combined total of over 83 years of service. Thank you for all the years of service and dedication. Enjoy your retirement and best of luck in whatever you do.

As you may have heard, we had a rash of business break-ins shortly before Christmas. Thanks to cooperative efforts between the businesses and Police, several ideas were implemented in order to minimize the criminal

activity that was going on. I don't want to "jinx" us but we have had extremely little undesirable activity since we implemented our new procedures. Let's hope it continues.

It was yet another busy year for our Police Department in 2004. Our department responded to 16,758 details resulting in 1,387 arrests. That is a lot. Please remember our neighborhoods and our community can, and will be only as good as WE make it. If you see anything out of the ordinary, call the police. They really are there to help.



FIRE DEPARTMENT: As you know, our Fire Department is now manned around the clock, 365 days a year. That's a far cry from the first department that was a totally volunteer department started by citizens, some of whom mortgaged their own homes in order to equip the department. It is because of those pioneers that we can be proud of what we have and how far we have come. This past year our firefighters responded to 368 fire calls and 939 life squad requests.

We have 29 firefighters/EMT's in our Fire Department. Again, this "round the clock" coverage would not be possible without your support of the earnings tax increase approved in 2003. Plan to attend the Firefighters Festival on July 1 & 2. It's a great time, so be there!



PUBLIC WORKS: Christmas is always a special time of year, and brother, was it ever this past year. The good part was that our guys did an outstanding job on the decorations around our City. We received numerous calls and comments regarding our City's appearance during the holidays and you may have noticed that we decided to leave the lights up through the month of January due to all of the requests. Once again, our guys outdid themselves. THEN, the snow came down, AND the ice, AND more snow, THEN more ice. Thirteen inches of snow and nearly four inches of ice later, we had a problem. Our crew takes extreme pride in how well they maintain

the streets during winter storms. Unfortunately, we couldn't keep up with what Mother Nature dumped on us this past season. During the worst storm in years, our guys worked from 7:30 A.M. on Wednesday straight thru until 9:30 P.M. on Thursday with little or no rest. I had the privilege of riding along with them for a little while on Thursday, and learned firsthand what they do and what they faced. I am in awe of their dedication to their job and I am prouder than ever of each one of them. During the night on Wednesday and early morning hours on Thursday, literally hours of time was lost due to the fact that dozens of cars had to be pushed and or towed out of the streets so that they could plow. It got so bad that they just had to stop assisting stranded motorists if they had any chance at all to clear the streets. I know it is maddening to have a snowplow come by your driveway after you shoveled just to drop a bigger pile of snow in front of your driveway. Believe me, these guys try like crazy to avoid that, but with that much snow, where do you put it? If you may have seen a truck with a plow on it parked in front of the City garage, that's because the transmission blew up on Thursday. We also broke a blade and blew a tire on one of the trucks. We couldn't get them fixed in a timely manner because all repair services were closed for the holidays. Thus, we were stuck (pardon the pun). Overall, our crew did a good job. JoAnn & I left the City on Christmas morning for a holiday vacation. Once we left N.C.H., the weather disintegrated quickly. God forbid we should ever have another storm like that but I learned the most important thing you can do to help our crew is to get your cars off the street. Put it in your driveway if at all possible. You cannot imagine how much time it takes to plow around cars. I REALLY HATE winter!

STREETS AND HIGHWAYS: Another winter of holes, sewer pipes and mud. This time the "lucky" winners are our neighbors on Meis and West Belmar. Yes, this project is well underway and rolling along despite the crummy weather. I know it has been really messy but the result will be worth it. As always, we really appreciate your patience and understanding.



We have compiled our list of projects that we are seeking funds for next year and they are Foxwood and possibly part of Bising near the football field and pool. How do we choose? Here is a quick overview. First, we look at need. Next, we determine how much traffic there is and how many households may be affected. If a street is “really” bad, it may get priority even if it doesn’t get a lot of traffic or have many houses on it. However, traffic is a big item. Finally, cost. Oh yeah, money always raises its ugly head. Seriously, the cost does come into play in that we always look at ways to get grants to help pay for the projects and if the project would even qualify for grant money.

You may be interested in knowing that since 1988, we have repaired or replaced 75% of the streets and sewers and have spent nearly \$5,000,000.00 in improvements using local road levy funds. If you include grant money, that figure increases to about \$12,000,000.00. AND, we are going to keep on rollin’.

The next street that will be replaced late this year or early next year will be Southridge Lane. The City has received a grant from the State of Ohio for this project. While we are doing Southridge Lane, we will also mill and pave Salmar Court. This will be possible with money from our road levy.

RECREATION: Welcome to the newest member of our Recreation Board, Al Long. Al is a graduate of Kentucky State University and is completing his studies at Salmon P. Chase Law School. We are thrilled to have Al on board and look forward to working with him.



The big discussion has centered on the pool. Obviously, everyone wants it to open. The challenge is how to do that economically. The results of our survey were resoundingly in favor of keeping the pool so we are exploring all possibilities to make that happen. It will, however, be at a cost. There are basically three options ranging from \$70,000 to \$300,000. I am going to recommend to Council to opt for the \$70,000 option, which “should” get us 3-5 years of service from the pool. However, I think for the future generations of citizens, we need to start serious planning for a completely new pool, deck, and support facilities. The existing pool has served us

well but it is nearly 60 years old. It is time to make a change for the betterment of the City. In case we cannot repair the pool relatively economically, we are exploring the possibility of having our pool patrons utilize a pool in a neighboring community while major repairs or a replacement is completed. More information will follow as it becomes available. Just say some prayers that we can find some juicy grants.

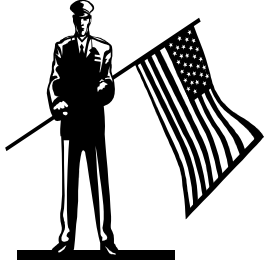
Don’t forget to sign up for girls’ softball. Sign-up sheets are available at the Municipal Building. Also, the 2005 Fishing Derby will be held on Sunday, June 26th at Lake Nina on Pippin Road. Registration starts at 9:30am; Derby starts at 10:00am. NCH residents ages 3-15 will be competing. Refreshments will be available and there will be prizes for all.

TAX/FINANCE: Tax collections for 2004 exceeded \$1,900,000! Thanks to all those residents who voted to raise the rate by ½ %. It has made a very positive difference in collections. The staff is actively pursuing delinquent taxpayers, so please check with the tax department to be sure you are up-to-date. Being cited to court is a tough way to find out!

Seriously, folks, the collections are right on target to hit close to \$2,000,000 in 2005. That is exactly the number we predicted when we asked for the increase back in 2002. You have really come through in funding your Fire Department and increasing manpower in the Police Department.

For those of you who haven’t visited us recently, we are now located in the Municipal Building, 1704 W. Galbraith Road, just across the side street (Kumler) from the main City Hall building. That building is also home to the Post Office and offices for the Safety-Service Director, Mayor, Property Maintenance Officer, Public Works Director, and Building Inspector.

VETERANS: We have never had this topic before but it occurred to us that we should say something about our local citizens that are serving our Country in the War. First, a HUGE WELCOME HOME to veteran Gary Carpenter, returning from Iraq. He is back in N.C.H. safe and sound and we are all thankful for that. I'm not sure, but I have the feeling that there are several of our citizens away in the service. If you know of anyone from North College Hill or West College Hill, please call Tracy at the Municipal Building (521-7413) and give us their name and address and we will forward a copy of the Newsletter to them. They will be able to pick up on some local news and we can call the newsletter an "International Publication".



It is a tradition in our City to honor those who have given their lives during the various wars by posting their pictures at City Hall. If any of you know anyone who has died in the line of duty since Vietnam, please let us know. The Historical Society also is interested in this and any other information regarding our veterans.

Finally, a citizen came up with a great idea for our Memorial Day Parade, but we need your help. If possible, we would like to have veterans from previous wars, to be Grand

Marshalls of the parade and have them ride in a car whose vintage corresponds to the years of his or her service. It would be really cool to do it, so please help us out. Call Tracy at the Municipal building with any information. The parade will take place on Saturday, May 28th. It will start at the old Thriftway, head north on Hamilton, up Centerridge to LaBoiteaux and return to Galbraith, and end at City Hall. Let's really turn out this year for our Veterans!

BITS AND PIECES:

◆ Due to the increased caseload in Mayor's Court, Mark Basil, our current Law Director, will be getting some much-needed help without affecting our general fund expenses. Scot Ritter, our former Law Director, has agreed to help out and will be working Mayor's Court from now on. A big thank-you to Scot; it's great to have him back!

◆ We all hated to see Steve West resign from Council but he moved out of town to take care of his ailing parents. It was that kind of caring that made him a great Council member. Good Luck to Steve and his family. We do have some good news about his replacement. George Snyder has taken Steve's place on Council. You may remember that George served for 12 years as our Auditor and 8 years as council member. His love for the City has not diminished as he agreed to once again serve in public office. Welcome George!

◆ Congratulations to all of our local students and student athletes for your achievements this year. I am pleased to announce that the Girls Varsity Basketball team placed 3rd in the Miami Conference Scarlet Division! Our young ladies certainly made their mark on the courts this year! We should be proud of all our students; I know I am. I think our young men and women are second to none so let's let them know by supporting as many activities as possible and getting involved at the schools. Congratulations to the graduates this year, I am sure you will make us proud.



◆ **WE ARE CHAMPIONS!!** What a great year. On March 19, our young men won the Ohio State High School Division III Boys Basketball Championship. Congratulations to them all and other congratulations to our own O.J. Mayo. He was named Mr. Basketball in the state of Ohio.

◆ Thanks to all the coaches, players, cheerleaders, parent volunteers, and whoever else helped with this year's Boys Basketball Team. I had the privilege of meeting all the young men and can truly say they are a class act. I have to admit, this year was fun being Mayor.

◆ You may have noticed the "murals" on the Municipal Building. Thanks to Will Basil for his designs and Mrs. Mulcahy's advanced art students for sharing their talents.



◆ We are having the “Adopt-A-Basket” program once again for 2005. For \$30 you can “adopt” one of the flower baskets along Galbraith Road. In addition to helping buy the flowers and maintain them throughout the summer, your name (or special dedication) will be engraved on a plaque outside of City Hall. Call Tracy at the Municipal Building to be a part of the program.

◆ The Mayor’s Ball on April 16, 2005 at Clovernook Country Club again sold out for the tenth straight year. A huge Thank-you to Clovernook, and in particular, general Manager Mike Meckes for keeping your Mayor on track. The original date of March 19 just happened to be the date of the State of Ohio Basketball Championship game. Thanks to Mike, Clovernook generously offered to change the date in order to avoid a potential conflict. So, we did. We can now celebrate the Championship at the Ball. Thank you Mike, for being community minded.

◆ Once again, Brenda England of Underground Treasures will be “decking out” your Mayor for the Ball. It’s nice to leave it to a “professional” to help me look my best!



◆ A great program has started in N.C.H. The City, Business Association, Clovernook Elementary School, and our Police Department have teamed up to offer a women’s self defense program. Here is the best part; it’s FREE. Not only that, but free babysitting is provided, courtesy of the N.C.H. Business Association. We have openings in April and May so sign up soon. Call 521-7171 for information. Registration forms are available at the Police Department and the Municipal Building.

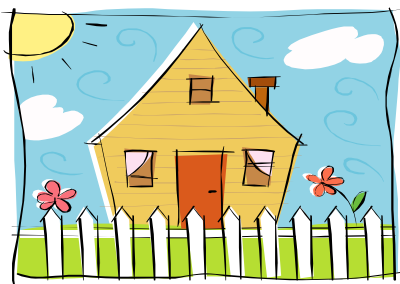
◆ Speaking of businesses, please shop local if at all possible.

◆ We are still working on the Hamilton and Galbraith corners. There is some movement toward development but it is slow and maddening. It is much like waiting for winter to end.



◆ Mark your calendars for May 7th. Clovernook Elementary is having a special Carnival. The theme is “Bring the Community Together”. Sounds like a great idea to me! The City is also planning a community picnic and Regency Village is planning an ice-cream social (dates pending). All of these celebrations will need many volunteers to make them a success. Please contact City Hall to lend a helping hand and be a part of a positive community event.

◆ The Great American Clean-up will be held on Saturday April 23rd from 10:00 am–1:00 pm. This is a great opportunity for citizens to pitch in and help beautify N.C.H. There will be door prizes and refreshments too! It is also a great way for students to earn credit for volunteering for school, scouts, and clubs.



◆ Watch for programs sponsored by the “One Block at a Time” program. This program is an effort to promote community pride and develop positive relationships among neighbors. If your block is interested in being involved, please call Tracy at 521-7413. We will attempt to get you more information via the Hilltop Press as it becomes available. So, watch the paper.

Well, that should fill you in for now. I hope that we were able to tell you some facts about our City that you did not know or had forgotten. The people who settled and developed North College Hill gave all they had



to help it grow into a City of which their children, grand children and great-grand children would be proud. Some mortgaged their homes to build firehouses and buy equipment. Others voted for bond issues to build schools, swimming pools and parks so children and adults could enjoy the benefits of living in N.C.H. They made sacrifices for the future citizens they would never know. That's us. They were proud of their City and responded likewise.

They helped each other when the need arose and molded strong neighborhoods. Now it's our turn. To the long time citizens, I invoke you to remember and celebrate the things that made us who we are today. I also ask you to share those memories and attributes with our newer citizens. To our newer citizens, I invite you to take up the torch and carry it on into the future . It is now your City to guide, to protect, and to grow for future citizens you will never know. To all of us, it is our turn to start acting like the good neighbors I know we can be. Remember, **WE ARETHE HILL!** Thanks!

Just a Thought: "Dignity does not consist in possessing honors, but in deserving them"
-Aristotle (384-322 B.C.)