

Mayor Mark A. Tyler
April 2009 – Kirtland Gazette Article

The 20th day of every month is always prominently highlighted on my calendar. It is the deadline for submitting my monthly article to The Kirtland Gazette, and it provides a good reason to pause and reflect upon how much has been accomplished since my previous article. I welcome this important opportunity to regularly share information with you. I hope you find it valuable and review the article as a way to stay informed of the latest news from the City of Kirtland.

STATE of the CITY ADDRESS

Keeping an open line of communication within the community is vital. Every February, I am invited to provide a State of the City Address to the Kirtland Kiwanis and the Willoughby Chamber of Commerce. The address provides a unique opportunity to provide an update on past, current and upcoming developments within the city. It also facilitates a forum for residents and business leaders to engage in interactive discussion. In an effort to reach all residents of Kirtland, I am including highlights of the speech in this month's article for the Kirtland Gazette.

CONSTRUCTION and SEWER UPDATES

I plan within the next few months to provide important updates pertaining to construction in Kirtland. On February 27th, we learned that the Rt. 306 sewer project will proceed without further delay and is being prepared for bid. We anticipate the project will be ready for construction to begin this fall. We look forward to this project not only serving a need within the community, but also providing opportunities for growth in the future.

In addition, the Rt. 306 and Rt. 6 intersection project is also ready to proceed. Contracts have been signed and, weather permitting, work is scheduled to begin as soon as this month. This project will lengthen the turn lanes in all four directions, increasing safety and eliminating a traffic backlog at peak times. Work that began last year to install new storm sewers will also be completed. The traffic lights have already been updated with new signalization technology that will allow safety vehicles to control the signals. Work is scheduled to be completed during the summer of 2009. The City of Kirtland and Ohio Public Works Commission are evenly splitting the cost of the \$800,000 project.

In 2010, 5.2 miles of Route 6, from the Willoughby Hills border to Chardon, will be resurfaced. \$1.2 of the \$1.5 million necessary to complete the project will be funded by ODOT, with the balance coming from the City's general fund.

RECYCLING IN THE NEWS

Our recycling program has been featured in the news. The News-Herald provided an article on Kirtland's curbside recycling program on February 26, 2009. It reviewed the factors the City considered in making the decision and provided comments from satisfied residents. On March 2, 2009, The News-Herald Editorial Board commended the City of Kirtland for taking action and making curbside recycling available to all residents. It appears that we may have been a source of inspiration for other cities, too. Since both articles appeared, we have been contacted by other communities that are considering implementing curbside recycling.

CAUTION: PHONE SOLICITATION

I want to offer a word of caution to all residents. It has been brought to my attention that residents have been receiving unsolicited phone calls from someone identifying themselves as a member of the Kirtland Fire Department. The City of Kirtland, including the Police and Fire Departments, will **NEVER**, under any circumstances, make phone calls to seek a monetary donation from its residents; however, there are valid organizations that will mention the general names of “firefighters” or “police officers” in their script in an effort to gain contributions for a charitable cause. Even in these cases the money does *not* go to your local police or fire departments. If you receive such a phone call, please contact the Kirtland Police Department at 440-256-3333.

BRUSH COLLECTION

Spring is in the air and, hopefully, the snow has ended. On April 6, the Kirtland Service Department will begin brush pick-up throughout the city. Brush should be placed at the edge of the road and not in the drainage ditches. Brush must be piled and is not to exceed a maximum of six feet in length. Brush is also not to exceed three inches in diameter. The program is intended to assist residents with the annual spring clean-up of branches and twigs that have come down from the inclement winter weather. The program is NOT intended to assist with clearing a lot or substantial clearing of trees on a lot. Unacceptable items include stumps, shrubs, and Christmas trees. The trucks will pass only one time through each ward, so please have your brush and tree limbs out by the date listed for your ward. To determine which ward you reside in, view the ward map on www.kirtlandohio.com. For more information, please contact the Service Department at 256-1234.

Dates for brush collection are as follows:

- Ward 2 – Week of April 6
- Ward 3 – Week of April 13
- Ward 4 – Week of April 20
- Ward 1 – Week of April 27

THE BRONZE EXHIBIT at HISTORIC KIRTLAND

Every month Kirtland area ministers and community leaders meet for lunch and to share information. It is an exceptional opportunity for constructive conversation and to promote unity within the community.

The March lunch was hosted by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints at Historic Kirtland. After lunch, we were invited to tour the bronze exhibit currently on display. This extraordinary exhibit called “The Healing Power of Jesus Christ” features the talents of artist, Angela Johnson. The story behind her inspiration is as amazing as her sculptures, depicting familiar Bible stories. Ms. Johnson, formerly an opera singer, briefly studied sculpture before becoming inspired to create these stunning pieces which capture the emotion and detail of the story they depict. The exhibit will be on display through May 15 and admission is free. The exhibit is open for viewing Monday through Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information, you may contact Historic Kirtland at 440-256-9805.

Finally, I send my best wishes for the celebration of Easter, Passover and the start of Spring!