

Mayor Mark A. Tyler
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Happy Groundhog Day! For over 100 years, the month of February has begun with great anticipation and a question that only one highly skilled and furry forecaster can answer. Unfortunately, for 96 of the last 110 years, he has given us an answer we would rather not hear – six more weeks of winter. We can only hope that our local expert, Dilbert, at Penitentiary Glen, will predict an early spring filled with sunshine and warmer days!

January 2009 brought not only bitter cold temperatures and lots of snow, but also the start of the new city wide solid waste and curbside recycling program with Waste Management. My office has received a wealth of feedback from residents. For most residents, this change meant a substantial savings and great convenience with a return to curbside recycling. I am pleased to know that so many residents welcomed and appreciated our efforts on their behalf.

The results of the survey from all single and dual family homes in the spring of 2008 were overwhelmingly in support of re-instituting the curbside recycling program. Once the competitive bid process was complete, the city began working closely with Waste Management to facilitate a smooth transition in services. This was a significant undertaking as we worked to inform all residents of the process and worked through a few unexpected issues. We appreciate your patience and will continue to work diligently with Waste Management to address any resident concerns. If you did not receive the information included with delivery of all carts, please visit our website at www.kirtlandohio.com. Additional information and pick-up schedules for solid waste and recycling are available in PDF format.

Another change that is quickly approaching is how TV stations will broadcast their signal. Beginning February 17, 2009, all full power TV stations will only broadcast in digital. Those subscribing to cable or satellite service or who have a digital ready TV will not be affected. However, all others will need to purchase a converter box to continue receiving a TV signal.

The federal government set aside funds to help citizens defray the cost of purchasing a converter box. Over 46 million coupons were issued for \$40 off the price of a converter. A converter can range in price from \$40 to \$80. Only 18 million of the coupons have been redeemed. Coupons were to be used within 90 days or expire. Funding for coupons has run out prompting a waiting list. As coupons expire and are not redeemed; new coupons will be issued to those on the waiting list. Coupons are being mailed on a first-come, first-serve basis. For additional information or to add your name to the waiting list, please visit www.dtv2009.gov

Finally, the Kirtland Planning and Zoning Commission is accepting applications for a new member. Joe Petrus, who has admirably served since January of 1995, has retired from the Commission. The City of Kirtland is grateful for Mr. Petrus' fourteen years of dedicated service.

The Planning and Zoning Commission reviews and approves plats for the subdivision of land. The Commission also reviews and approves other zoning uses, as specified by ordinance, and makes recommendations to City Council with regard to land use and zoning.

The Commission consists of five members, all of whom must be registered to vote in the municipality, and do not hold another public office. The members are appointed by the Mayor, subject to confirmation of City Council, and serve a term of five years. The Planning and Zoning Commission meets the second Monday of each month; additional meetings or work sessions are scheduled on occasion.

In other news, the City of Kirtland has two very good reasons to celebrate! First, the Kirtland Kiwanis celebrated their 50th Anniversary on January 29th. They have been dedicated to serving the community through support of projects that have demonstrated a meaningful need. Beneficiaries of their support include scholarship recipients, programs within the Kirtland Schools, and the senior citizens of our community. Kiwanis is also responsible for the long standing tradition of the annual Strawberry Festival. We congratulate them on achieving this milestone and offer our appreciation for all that they contribute to our community!

In addition, Golden Living Center – Western Reserve Nursing Home was selected by the Centers for Medicaid & Medicaid Services to receive the government's new 4 out of 5-Star rating. Evaluations are based on health inspection results, quality measures and staffing measures. Out of the thirteen nursing homes in Lake County, only three have a 4 out of 5-Star rating. Congratulations on this notable accomplishment!

Individually and collectively, 2009 will offer us reasons to celebrate being residents of "The City of Faith and Beauty". May we all be grateful for the spirit and faith which fills this community!