



The City of North Royalton, Ohio

News Around Town

Summer 2007

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Dear Residents:

This newsletter highlights some of the projects, people and businesses making a difference in North Royalton's quality of life, while updating you on the City's progress.

Thanks to the voters' support of Issue 114 last November, we are moving forward with many road and storm water improvement projects. My administration is addressing the "worst of the worst" roads first, and tackling flooding concerns with over \$5 Million in projects recommended by the Citizens' Flooding Oversight Committee Report.

I'm also excited to report that the citizens' vision for a Town Center is moving ahead nicely and will break ground sometime in 2008. You can read all about it below in the story "The Town Center District: It's Happening!"

As most of you know, due to term limits I will be leaving office later in the year. Rest assured, I am dedicated to leaving the City and its residents in the best possible shape and will work enthusiastically to ensure continuity during the transition.

Finally, as I reflect on my years as Mayor, I am encouraged by the progress we've made. Thanks to the hard work of many residents, dedicated department heads and staff, the City is better off than it was eight years ago. Nevertheless, much more work lies ahead if we are to maintain our momentum, and protect the community's strategic vision.

Have a safe and happy summer!
Sincerely,

Mayor Cathy Luks
mayorluks@northroyalton.org
440-237-4300

The Town Center District IT'S HAPPENING!

Town Center Project Developer
Close to Inking Retail Deals

- The Coral Company reaches deal on radio tower property
- Tax Increment Financing will cement "public/private" partnership
- City, Developer and Schools working on potential agreement to relocate radio towers to vacant school property



story on next page ...

The Town Center District IT'S HAPPENING!

continued from page 1



THE RESIDENTS' DREAM OF BUILDING A MIXED-USE downtown for the City of North Royalton is nearing reality. Yes, the City's chosen developer, The Coral Company of University Heights, Ohio, is close to signing several key "impact" retailers for the Town Center Project. If all goes as planned, the Town Center will break ground sometime in 2008 with a construction schedule of two to three years.



The so-called 'Radio Tower Property' is one of the highest—and prettiest—locations in all of Cuyahoga County.

In May, The Coral Company sponsored a booth at the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) Convention in Las Vegas to help sell North Royalton and the Town Center Project to regional and national retailers. Both Mayor Cathy Luks and Director of Community and Economic Development, Mike Kosdrosky, were on hand to participate in meetings with retailers to sell the City and its commitment to the project.

The proposed mixed-use Town Center will be developed on the virtually vacant, open-field parcel north of the City's cemetery between Ridge and State Roads. The nearly sixty-acre parcel in the heart of the City's central business district has been

home to various radio and television transmitter towers over the last thirty years. In fact, the so-called "Radio Tower Property" is one of the highest—and prettiest—locations in all of Cuyahoga County.

Once agreements are signed with key impact retailers, The Coral Company is planning to submit preliminary site plans to the City's Planning Commission and Architectural Review Board for review and comment. "We have a rare, if not once-

in-a-lifetime opportunity to change the way North Royalton will look for future generations to come," said Mayor Cathy Luks. "The vision for the Town Center is to provide a place for residents to go; a place that keeps our residents and dollars here; a place that does not exist today."

North Royalton residents overwhelmingly adopted the vision for the Town Center back in November 2004 through Issue 61. Just before that, the City's Master Plan had identified any future Town Center to be located on the Radio Tower Property, and advised public officials to:

...acquire control of these sites and solicit development proposals that are consistent with the vision established in the Central Business District Design Charrette. This concept calls for the creation of a higher density mixed use district that includes townhouse style residential development, multistory office, retail and an area devoted to civic uses. Such a proactive approach to encouraging redevelopment is also consistent with the goal of adding non-residential tax base in the City.

With the above goals in mind, Mayor Luks' Administration solicited development proposals in a nationwide search for a developer. After signing a Developers' Agreement with the City in late 2005, The Coral Company spent 2006 conducting due diligence, including market feasibility studies and site planning. Then in 2007, after completing the due diligence process, The Coral Company reached an agreement with the owner of the Radio Tower Property.

As part of the City's proactive approach in pursuing the successful completion of the Town Center Project, it also plans to leverage Tax Increment Financing (TIF). TIF is a public financing and economic development tool that was created in the State of California in 1952, which uses future gains in property taxes to help finance current permanent public improvements that will create those gains.

The City wants to use the new property taxes generated by the project to help pay for key project components, including the construction of a city hall, parking structures, and surrounding infrastructure improvements to Ridge, Royalton and State Roads. Better yet, no governmental unit forfeits existing taxes as a result of creating a TIF.

Without TIF, the City would not likely be able to attract large-scale private investment dollars into the Town Center in a way that conforms to the Master Plan's mixed-use vision. TIF is a funding tool that creates a genuine public-private partnership between the community (city and schools) and the private developer(s).

Finally, the City is working with The Coral Company and the School District to purchase 33 acres of vacant school property located off of Abbey Road. The property is currently zoned residential, but has been identified as an ideal site for the relocation of the radio towers. If an agreement can be reached, it would be a "win-win-win" deal, according to Mike



“The vision for the Town Center is to provide a place for residents to go; a place that keeps our residents and dollars here; a place that does not exist today.”

MAYOR CATHY LUKS

TCD Time-Line

2001

- Resident-led Master Plan Task Force Forms

2003

- Voters adopt Charter Amendment to require a Master Plan

2004

- Mayor Luks submits Master Plan to City Council
- City Council Unanimously adopts Master Plan
- Voters adopt Land Use Goals of the Master Plan — creating an opportunity for a new Town Center

2005

- Developers submit proposals for TCD
- Coral Company selected

2006

- Coral Co. conducts market feasibility and site plan
- Transportation & Pedestrian Study completed

2007

- Mayor Luks and Coral Co. meet with retailers at ICSC Convention in Las Vegas

Kosdrosky, Director of Development.

“It’s a great opportunity for all parties involved – the school district, the developer, and most importantly, the community. The impact of radio towers on this land will be much less than if it was developed residentially; which is important to this flood-prone area.”



Since 1987, The Coral Company has developed and managed real estate projects in excess of three million square feet. Coral is an unusual company in that it has expertise in both commercial and residential development. Its breadth of experience in complex redevelopment projects includes all aspects of real estate: office, retail, mixed-use, built-to-suit, and residential space. Working in concert with top community leaders, The Coral Company is able to creatively shape ways to meet the growing demand for retail services and residential neighborhoods.

For more information about The Coral Company and the philosophy and the passion that drives the company, please visit www.thecoralcompany.com.

North Royalton - OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Several new enterprises have been established over the last year, exemplifying North Royalton as a sought-after community.



Chris and Kimberly Davis moved from New Orleans after Katrina to Kim's hometown to start their unique and popular Restaurant.

"We wanted to keep New Orleans in our lives and maintain a strong connection to its history and culture."

the time and they dated long distance throughout high school. While Kimberly was completing her degrees (psychology, management and sociology) at Kent State, Chris moved to Cleveland.

After Kimberly graduated, the young couple moved to New Orleans so Chris could finish school at Tulane University where he'd received a full academic scholarship and they could be closer to Chris' parents who had retired there. According to Kimberly, "it was also a way to experience a new city. While in New Orleans, I opened

and ran a restaurant/wine bar and we lived above Emeril Lagasse's original restaurant, *Emeril's*, located just outside the French Quarter."

In July 2005, Chris and Kimberly came back up to Cleveland to get married. What was about to happen next would change their lives dramatically. "We went back to New Orleans, worked for a week, then went on our honeymoon; two weeks afterwards, Hurricane Katrina hit," says Kimberly. "As the hurricane was headed toward the city, all our lives went on as usual. It was not until Sunday at 3 p.m. (the hurricane hit around midnight) that we actually decided to evacuate the city and at least get above sea level."

They packed their car with their dog, important papers and a few clothes. Once on the highway, they sat in slow-or-stopped traffic for eight hours, with black clouds roaring towards them. They headed for a city only 20 minutes outside downtown New Orleans where Chris' father ran a car auction. They arrived around 11 p.m. and helped board up the business' windows before the storm hit.

"We stayed at the auction through the night because there were no available hotel rooms anywhere near; afterwards, we were stuck there because that city had a mandatory curfew with all driving prohibited due to fallen debris and flooding. After four long days with no power or water, and running out of snack food and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, we decided to start heading north towards my family in Cleveland," said Kimberly.

They were finally able to go back to New Orleans in late November—3 months after Katrina. They drove down in a U-haul truck, hoping they could retrieve their belongings. "When we came upon our building, *Emeril's* had been completely looted and the front door to our building had been battered in from attempts to break in. Thankfully, they were unsuccessful; our front door was still locked."

Kimberly lost her job because the restaurant closed, and Chris could not attend Tulane because the university was temporarily shut down. "We had no choice but to quickly pack all our belongings into the truck and drive back to North Royalton," says Kimberly.

Soon after, they decided to take their futures into their own hands by opening a restaurant honoring New Orleans. "After having our life plans so drastically changed and being forced from a city we fell in love with, it was very difficult to just put New Orleans behind us," says Kimberly. "We wanted to keep New Orleans in our lives and maintain a strong connection to its history and culture."

The newlyweds opened the French Quarter Café in August 2006 at 5540 Wallings Road, the corner of Wallings and State, in the Discount Drug Mart Plaza. They offer breakfast all day, specialty soups, large fresh salads, unique panini sandwiches, New Orleans-style pizza, gourmet desserts, and a full coffee/espresso bar. Every Thursday, from 6 to 8pm, they host a classic car show with a live DJ playing 50's and 60's music.

For more information, please contact Chris or Kimberly at (440) 237-9966 or visit them online at www.FrenchQuarterCafeOhio.com

A little N'awlins!

French Quarter Cafe

Kimberly Davis was raised in North Royalton's Oakridge Estates. Her husband, Chris, is an east coast native. So how did two twenty-something Yankees from different parts of the country fall in love with the city of New Orleans (N'awlins as the locals say) and bring that love back to Ohio's North Royalton? It all started the summer Kimberly, a sophomore at Padua High School, met her husband-to-be, Chris, while vacationing in Myrtle Beach. Chris was living in Philadelphia, PA at



Train-ing Station

Imagination Station Enrichment Center

ALL ABOARD! That's what co-founders Cyndi Quinn and Monica Avramovich are saying as they sign up infants, toddlers and children for one of several specialized daycare programs at the new Imagination Station Enrichment Center in North Royalton.

Imagination Station is now offering pre-school, daycare, and summer camp services at its beautiful new facility at 13349 York Road, just north of Mr. Divots. The site is hard to miss. That's because Imagination Station resembles a classic train depot.

In addition to classrooms called Jungle Junction, Caribbean Corners, and Dalmatian Plantation, Imagination Station provides child-sized restrooms, a kitchen and separate children's dining area, an infirmary, and two age appropriate fenced-in playgrounds.



*Monica Avramovich and
Cyndi Quinn with Mayor Luks*

Cyndi and Monica's goal is to enhance the quality of family life in North Royalton by providing children with a clean, nurturing and healthy environment with high safety standards—including a card-swipe system to enter the building, security monitors, and a check-in window at the front door. "Originally our idea was to create the kind of daycare environment we wished we could have provided for our own children," says Cyndi.

Imagination Station delivers on its promise of promoting a cleaner, healthier environment with its state-of-the-art Bio-Fighter® Germicidal Ultraviolet Light system. This technology is part of the building's HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, Air-conditioning, and Cooling) system and is used to reduce biological contaminants and airborne germs.

For more information, call Imagination Station at (440) 237-6400 or visit their website at www.ImaginationStationEC.com.

More than Tomatoes

Romano's Farmers Market and Deli

FRANK ROMANO IS A FOURTH-GENERATION PRODUCE SELLER; his family started in the produce business back in 1912. Frank started working behind his parents' produce counter at Cleveland's historic West Side Market at age ten. Later, at twenty, he purchased his uncle's produce stand and went into business for himself, not far from mom and dad, an arrangement more complementary than competitive.



Last summer, after twenty-one years at the West Side Market, Frank moved his business into its more expansive location in North Royalton. The new Romano's Farmers Market and Deli is at 8875 Ridge Road, across from Carrie Cerino's Restaurant. It's a cheerful, barn-like 4,600 square-foot building. "The open rafters give it a warm, open, country look," says Romano.

Why North Royalton? Frank says "I like the area. North Royalton didn't have anything of this nature." In fact, Romano's Farmers Market and Deli specializes in more than just fresh produce. It offers a wide variety of choice deli meats, dairy products and cheese, and mouth-watering Amish products including fresh-baked pies and assorted jams and candies.

On any given day you go there, you might meet one of several Romanos busily stacking produce or making sandwiches. Frank's mother, Grayce, works several days a week behind the cash register. His wife, Kristine, is usually in the back office handling the books and paperwork. His sister, Vicki, runs the deli. And even Frank's two sons, Benny (11) and Joseph (15), work summers and Sundays. The only Romano family member not working at the market (at least for now) is Frank and Kristine's four-and-a-half year old daughter, Isabella. Sadly, Frank's father Joseph passed away last July on the same day Romano's Farmers Market and Deli was originally scheduled to open.

Will the business extend to five generations? "Maybe," says Frank. "I did it for them—to give them an opportunity to work at a young age and appreciate the dollar, to appreciate hard work and how to work. Physical labor isn't a bad thing."

Romano's Farmers Market and Deli is open 7 days a week and will be celebrating their first anniversary in North Royalton in August.

For more information, call Romano's at (440) 237-7888.

Need some HELP fixing your home?

Low-Interest Home Improvement Loans Available through the Housing Enhancement Loan Program (HELP)

DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE to borrow money to repair or remodel your home or rental property at an interest rate 3% below the lowest rate a bank would normally offer you? Since 2006, over \$200,000 of home improvement loans in North Royalton has been approved through the County Treasurer's Housing Enhancement Loan Program, otherwise known as HELP.

Home improvement loans between \$3,000 and \$200,000 for single or two-family dwellings with market values of less than \$250,000 are available through participating banks. Tax-exempt property is ineligible. There are no income restrictions on borrowers, and both investors and owner-occupants are eligible.

Maximum loan terms are five years on loans less than \$12,500 and ten years on loans greater than \$12,500. Loan fees, including all closing costs, are capped at \$175.

Loan funds must be used to pay for alterations, repair, or improvement of a residence that protects or improves its basic livability and enhances the property's value. Code compliance work is permitted.

The City is required to monitor and verify your home improvement(s) and report back to the County Treasurer. To ensure compliance and proper use of funds, the City will require you to pull a permit and submit to on-site inspections.

To apply, please call or visit a participating bank: Fifth Third Bank, Huntington Bank, Key Bank, National City, Sky Bank, and US Bank.

If you have any questions please contact the City's Department of Development.

Properties for sale

York Alpha Industrial Park, Phase 2

INDUSTRIAL-ZONED LOTS ARE CURRENTLY FOR SALE in York Alpha Industrial Park, Phase 2. The privately owned 54-acre park has parcels available for sale ranging in size from 1.5 acres to 12 acres. Phase 2 is located approximately three miles east of Interstate 71.

Economic development incentives are available for certain types of businesses willing to commit to substantial new capital investment and job creation or retention within Phase 2.

For more information contact the City's Department of Development.



Induction Tooling, Inc.'s ribbon cutting ceremony. From left to right: Mayor Cathy Luks; Council Representative Lisa Uffman-Kirsch (Ward 6); Council Representative Denise Bobulsky (Ward 1); William Stuehr, President & CEO, Induction Tooling; Council Representative Don Willey (Ward 3); Mike Kosdrosky, Director of Development.



Induction Tooling, Inc.'s new 25,000 square foot high-tech manufacturing facility in Phase 2.

Department Contact Information

**MICHAEL KOSDROSKY
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
440-237-5484
comdev@northroyalton.org**

North Royalton Community Festival

*August 24-26, 2007
City Green*

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY! Enjoy a weekend of rides, stage entertainment, demonstrations, great food and good company. The Festival Parade steps off Sunday, August 26, at 3 p.m. See Festival Program with full details in the August 9 *Royalton Recorder*. Booth space available in the Exhibitors' Tent. Have a Product or Service you want to showcase? Call Chamber of Commerce for details at 440-237-6180.



Council-Led Ward Meetings

*City Hall
7pm*

- Ward 1 – July 10*
- Ward 2 – July 31*
- Ward 3 – September 11*
- Ward 4 – October 9*
- Ward 5 – October 30*
- Ward 6 – November 13*

CITY COUNCIL HOLDS RESIDENT WARD MEETINGS to help the public be aware of what their government is doing and encourage participation in the process. Ward meetings are informal, with ample time for questions and comments. Past guest speakers have included representatives from state and federally elected office holders, the Cleveland Metroparks, the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections and the Cuyahoga County Auditor's Office. In addition, the City's Police and Fire

Departments also provide monthly updates and programs on general safety issues. Jeanne Cilenti, Branch Manager of the North Royalton Library, will be the guest speaker at this year's remaining Ward meetings.

Council Committee Meetings

CITY COUNCIL HOLDS MONTHLY COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS to review and recommend to Council action to be taken on legislation. Most of the in-depth discussion regarding an item pending before Council takes place during these informal meetings. Council Committees: Building & Building Codes Committee, Finance Committee, Rules & Ordinances Committee, Safety Committee, Storm Water Committee, Streets Committee, Utilities Committee.

All meetings are open to the public. See the city website, the Royalton Recorder or call the Council office for a complete schedule of meetings.

City Council Contact Information

COUNCIL OFFICE:
LAURA J. HALLER
DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES
237-4260

PRESIDENT **ROBERT STEFANIK**
582-2955

WARD 1 **DENISE BOBULSKY**
237-8988

WARD 2 **VINCE GENTILE**
237-3242

WARD 3 **DONALD WILLEY**
237-5277

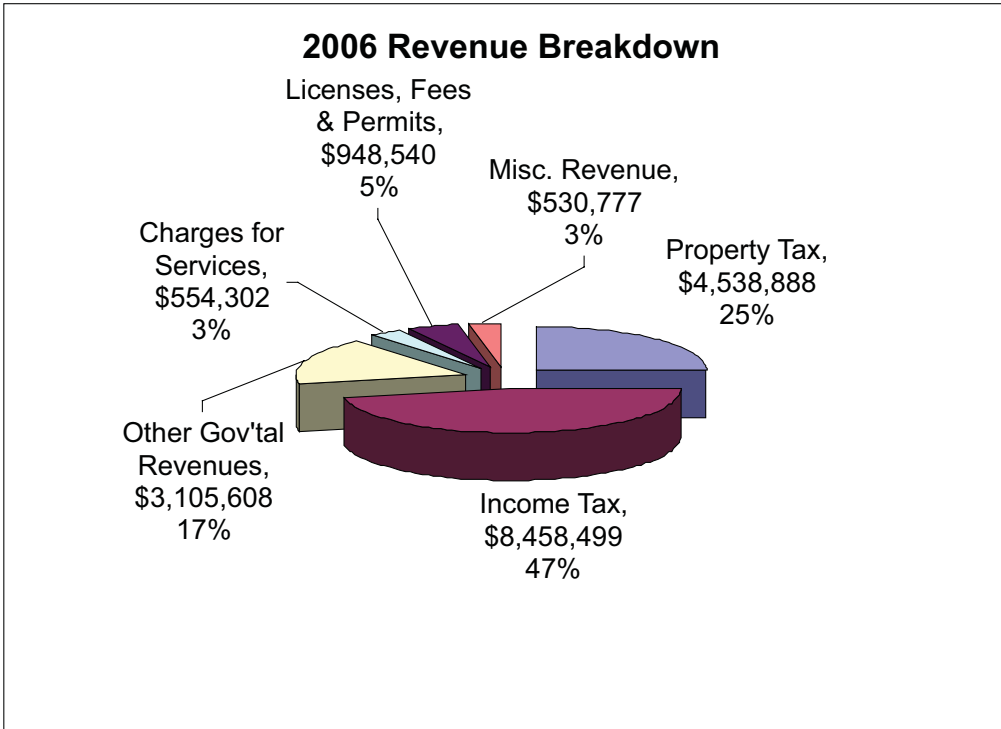
WARD 4 **KURT McKEE**
237-7519

WARD 5 **LARRY ANTOSKIEWICZ**
877-9394

WARD 6 **LISA UFFMAN-KIRSCH**
582-8855

Finance Department

The Finance Department is responsible for accurately record and processing all receipts and disbursements, and all assets and liabilities of the City. Additionally, the department keeps an accurate accounting of all fixed assets and oversees the annual physical inventories. All purchase orders are generated by the Finance Department. All personnel and payroll issues are also handled within the department. At the direction of the Mayor, the Finance Department prepares the annual budget with input from each department. The annual budget is approved by Council and amendments are proposed several times throughout the year. The Finance Department is responsible for overseeing the annual budget.



Revenues: VARIOUS SOURCES PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE CITY:

Income Taxes – The largest source of revenue for the City. Income tax revenues are used to fund the safety forces, rubbish and recycling efforts, the streets department, storm water projects, senior services, as well as the general government functions of the City. All residents over 18 years of age must file a city tax return, whether they owe taxes or not. Effective January 1, 2007, residents voted to increase the income tax rate to 2% with a corresponding increase in the credit to 100% up to 1.25% of taxes paid to a resident's work community.

Property Tax	Income Tax	Other Gov'tal Revenues	Charges for Services	Licenses, Fees & Permits	Misc. Revenue
\$ 4,538,888	\$ 8,458,499	\$ 3,105,608	\$ 554,302	\$ 948,540	\$ 530,777

Property Taxes – Taxes collected from property owners, both individual and business, based on the assessed value of the property. For residential property owners, the rate was 1.9% for bills paid in 2006, and 1.85% for bills paid in 2007.

Other Intergovernmental Revenues – The combined funding received from other governments. These can be grants, shared taxes, etc.

Charges for Services – The combined funds collected by the various departments of the City (excluding Wastewater) for fees paid.

Licenses, Fees & Permits – Funds received for issuing licenses and permits; fines received from the court

Miscellaneous Revenues - This category reflects all other revenues received by the City (interest income, sale of assets, etc.)

Department Contact Information

KAREN FEGAN
FINANCE DIRECTOR
440-582-6234

CITY OF NORTH ROYALTON
Summary of Revenues - 2006

	Property Tax	Income Tax	Other Gov'tal Revenues	Charges for Services	Fees & Permits	Misc. Revenue	Total
01 General Fund	999,703	7,375,626	1,166,981	248,034	891,186	490,423	11,171,953
03 DARE Trust Fund	-	-	1,700	-	-	-	1,700
04 COPS Grant Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
05 Enforcement & Education	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
06 Drug Law Enforcement	-	180,126	-	-	-	-	180,126
07 Police Facility	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
08 Law Enforcement Trust	-	-	69,627	-	-	5,954	75,581
09 EMS Levy Fund	-	-	223,968	-	17,451	350	242,779
10 Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund	-	-	1,202,043	301,098	2,700	-	1,505,841
11 SCMR Fund	710,777	-	-	-	-	-	710,777
12 State Highway Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13 Income Tax Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 Police Levy Fund	-	386,008	-	1,980	-	-	387,988
16 Fire Levy Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17 Recycling Grant Fund	-	-	97,462	-	-	-	97,462
19 OOA Fund	1,189,789	351,571	-	3,190	3,775	-	1,548,325
21 General Bond Retirement Fund	850,114	-	121,964	-	-	-	972,078
36 Court Computer Services Fund	-	-	85,940	-	-	-	85,940
37 Community Diversion Fund	-	-	33,526	-	-	-	33,526
61 Police Pension Fund	358,411	165,168	-	-	-	-	523,579
62 Fire Pension Fund	-	-	38,363	-	-	-	38,363
Totals	215,047	-	18,000	-	-	-	233,047
Check Figure	215,047	-	23,017	-	14,680	-	252,744
	4,538,888	8,458,499	3,105,608	554,302	948,540	530,777	18,136,614

- Notes:
1. Non-governmental revenues such as note proceeds and transfers-in were not included.
 2. Capital Project, Enterprise, and Agency Funds were not included.
 3. GBRF, Income Tax Fund, Police Pension and Fire Pension were included so total income and property taxes would be reflected.

Interesting Facts from the Finance Department

North Royalton Sewer Rates

Did you know that City sewer rates in North Royalton were decreased in 2001 and that there has not been a rate increase since? In fact, the last sewer rate increase was almost ten years ago. In 1998, residents were paying \$51.31 per thousand cubic feet, or mcf. In 2001, the rate was reduced to \$47.31 per mcf, and has remained constant ever since.

Property Taxes

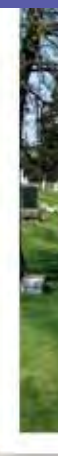
Did you know that 78% of the communities in Cuyahoga County have a higher effective residential property tax rate than the residents of North Royalton? Property taxes can be estimated by multiplying the market value of your home by 1.85%. For example, if your home's market value is \$100,000, then your estimated annual property taxes will be \$1,850 (\$100,000 x .0185).

Regionalism

North Royalton has been on the leading edge of regionalism by being a member of the Regional Income Tax Agency since 2001, the only regional council of governments formed to collect taxes in the country.



Frank Romano and Family



Cit



Memorial Park

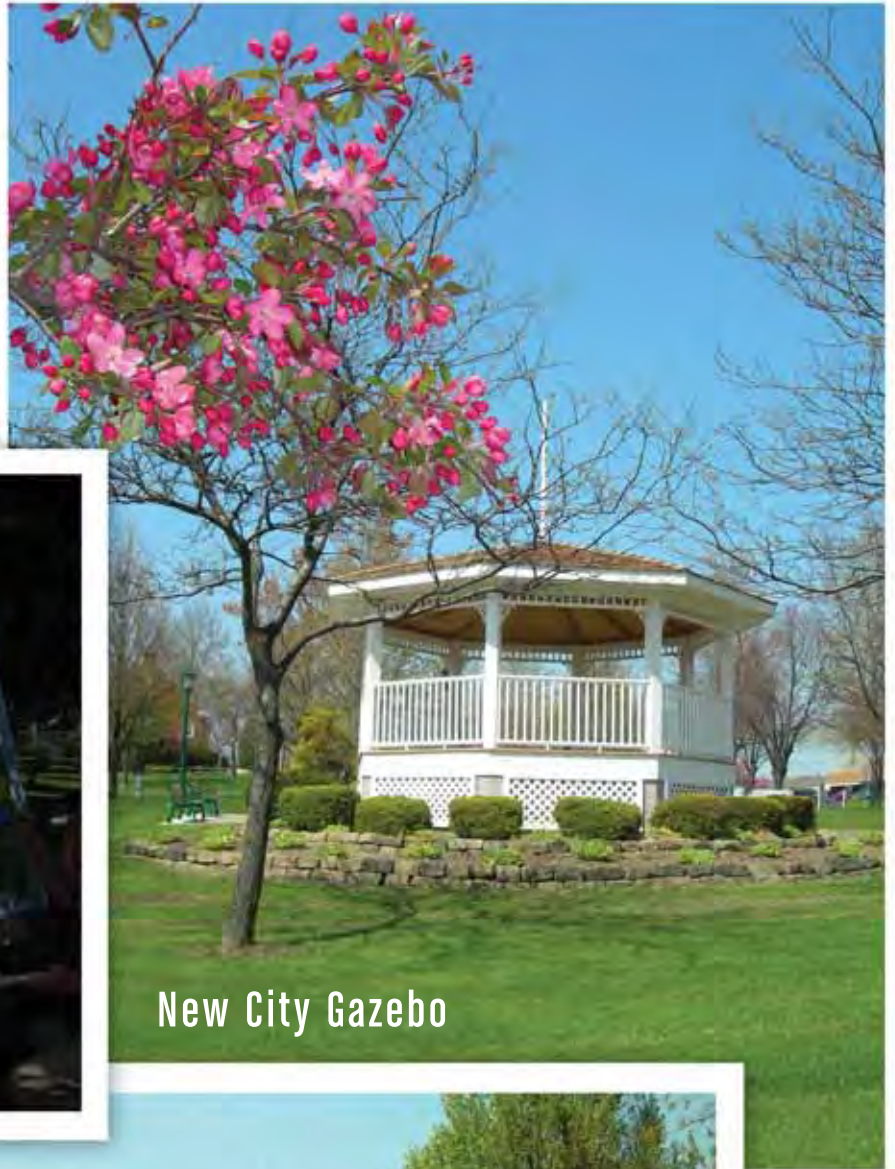


Memorial Park Playground





Historic North Royalton Cemetery



New City Gazebo

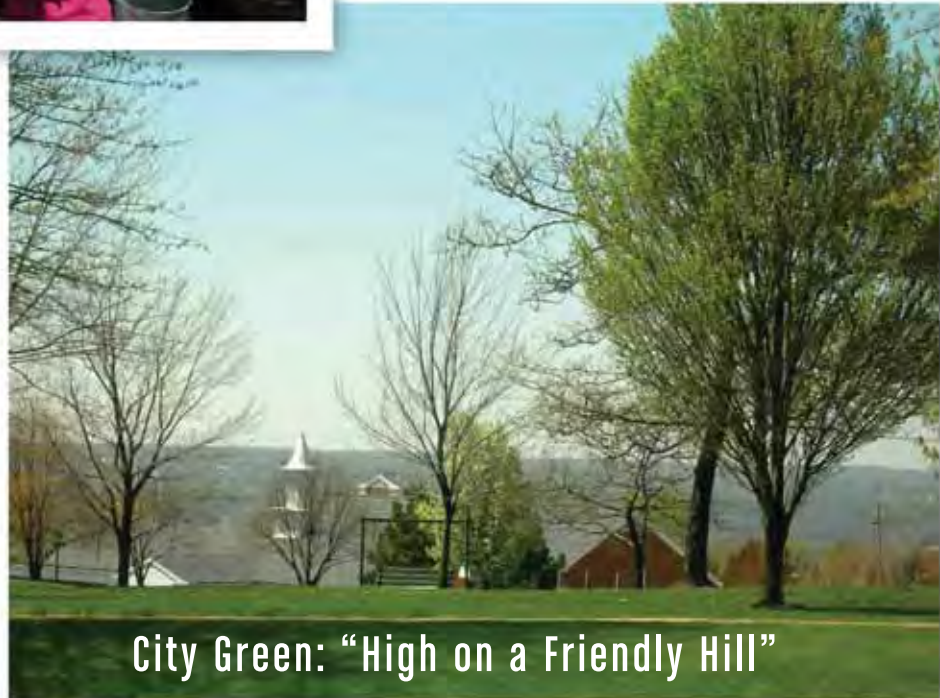


Community Mural Project

Rock Pond



Fire Station No. 1



City Green: "High on a Friendly Hill"

Police Blotter and Tips

THE NORTH ROYALTON POLICE Department, located at the corner of 82 and Bennett, is a 24-7 operation staffed with full-time police officers, dispatchers, and support personnel. Within the department, specialized divisions, handle projects and programs including investigation, education and enforcement.

State-certified corrections officers run the full-service jail facility. In addition, volunteer police reserves supplement police services by performing bailiff duties and supporting road patrol.

Finally, the Animal Control division enforces animal-related laws, deals with complaints about domestic and wild animals, and maintains a shelter for animals available for adoption.

Summer news and notes

From the Detective Bureau:

Since the beginning of June, we have seen a dramatic increase in thefts from unlocked vehicles parked in apartment building and condo parking lots as well as home driveways. Thieves are rifling through cars during the night and stealing valuables including wallets, I-Pods, cash and computers. TIP: Lock your cars even if your neighborhood appears safe.

From the School Resource Officer:

Safety Town classes are currently in progress at Valley Vista School. Classes, which are 2 hours per day for 9 days, include a wide variety of topics, including gun safety, pedestrian safety, 911 usage, Stranger Danger and fire safety (with the Fire Department). Approximately 350 pre-kindergarten children will attend Safety Town this month with a last day tour of both the Police and Fire Stations. TIP: Register with school personnel as part of the kindergarten sign-up process.



From Road Patrol:

An action plan has been implemented to help reduce traffic accidents, especially those caused by failure to maintain assured clear distance. Speed limits are being strictly enforced, especially in the center of town, where a majority of these accidents have occurred. TIP: Follow posted speed limits.

From the Traffic Unit:

Summer travel can be aggravating, unless you're aware of road closings and detours ahead of time. The repaving of Wallings Road, from Ridge to the Broadview Heights line is continuing. In July, the culvert bridge on Edgerton, east of State Road, will be repaired, resulting in the closing of Edgerton, from State to Broadview, for 60 days. In addition, Edgerton from W. 130th to Bennett and from Ridge to State will be repaved, causing delays; and Drake repaving from W. 130th to Bennett will be starting soon.

Special traffic details will be conducted in North Royalton as well as several other cities this summer, including the Over-the-Limit, Under Arrest patrols in late summer and the DUI checkpoints during the holidays. TIP: Some drivers who were wearing their seat belts were rewarded this month: 25 sets of tickets to the Cleveland Grand Prix were given out as a thank you for buckling up.

Department Contact Information

POLICE CHIEF

PAUL M. BICAN

440-237-8686 NON-EMERGENCY

FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE DIAL 9-1-1

Survival and Sharing

ON MAY 1ST AND MAY 2ND, the North Royalton Fire Department conducted advanced level “survival training” for our firefighters. Specialists from the State of Ohio Fire Training Academy and the Bowling Green State University Fire School spent two intense days here demonstrating techniques, tactics and skills to save the Firefighters’ lives should they become trapped, lost, or entangled in hostile fire conditions.

The key element of survival is “escape” and the Firefighter may have to chop or kick a way through walls or doors, bail out of a room head first through a window, or descend a ladder using grab techniques to slow down their fall. While it sounds like practice for “stuntmen” these skills may mean life or death, and the trainees were enthusiastic despite a few bruises and sore muscles. This type of training is unusual because it focuses on survival for the rescuer—something we don’t usually think about.



Community Emergency Response

A community emergency response team (CERT) was established in North Royalton following the terrorist attacks in 2001. Along with many communities in Cuyahoga County, North Royalton organized the CERT to support the City's safety forces. Presently, over 150 North Royalton CERT members have received formal training that enables them to respond to emergencies in our city.

Members of the North Royalton CERT are all volunteers, who receive uniforms and training from the City and the North Royalton CERT Foundation. The North Royalton CERT always needs more volunteers. Anyone interested in the North Royalton CERT may contact City Hall at 440 237-4300. Information can also be found on the North Royalton CERT website, www.northroyaltoncert.org.

Camp Cheerful

On June 12th Firefighters Urich and Sary attended a “Fresh Air Camp” at Camp Cheerful. Camp Cheerful, located on 55 acres in the Strongsville Metroparks, is Ohio’s first Special Needs camp. “Fresh Air Camp,” in its 7th year, is designed for children who are dependent on ventilators for breathing assistance. The camp has a different theme day each year. Last year children rode in hot

air balloons; this year, local fire departments displayed fire equipment and vehicles. The children spent the day with approximately twenty firefighters, trying on gear, sitting in vehicles, shooting water from a hydrant and sitting around talking with firefighters about their careers and experiences. There was lunch in the afternoon and a pool party followed.

Department Contact Information

MICHAEL FABISH, FIRE CHIEF
440-237-4315 NON-EMERGENCY
FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE DIAL 9-1-1
OR 440-237-7989
CERT (C/O MAYOR’S OFFICE) 440-237-4300

Sports & General Info

Football

FALL FOOTBALL

Southern Hills (tackle) Youth Football
Registration:
Mike Knotek @ (440) 885-5417
Larry Spies @ (216) 398-8331

FLAG FOOTBALL

Contact: Coby @ (216) 244-2280

Soccer

NR SOCCER CLUB

Curt Keaton, Soccer Registrar
Phone: (440) 582-9681
Website: www.nrsc.net

Swimming

OAKRIDGE ESTATES SWIM CLUB (OESC)

Red Cross Swim Lessons: July 16 - July 27, 2007
Dolphins Swim Team: season in Southwest Swim
League runs from Memorial Day to end of July.
For more information: www.oakridgepool.com

OESC OFFERS FREE RED CROSS SWIMMING LESSONS

to North Royalton residents based on financial need. There are open slots available this summer. Residents must be at 150% or below 2007 Federal Health and Human Services poverty levels to qualify for swimming lessons. For more information and an application form, contact Todd Althouse at 237-6623.

www.oakridgepool.com

Department Contact Information

**DIRECTOR OF RECREATION
ED SWIM, 440-237-5646**

**RECREATION BOARD MEMBERS:
CHRISTINE RAGONE, RUSSELL WELLS
CATHY BICAN, SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE
ROBERT STEFANIK, COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE**

Special Event

Annual 5K Bear Run

Sunday, November 4,
2007
Memorial Park House
Registration: 8:30 a.m.
Race Begins: 9:00 a.m.



Danny Bartinelli of the North Royalton Cubs 12u travel team, helps his team in a game at Independence.

Baseball

NR BASEBALL BOOSTERS

2007 Registration has ended. For 2008 Baseball Registration Information go to www.nrbb.org
Memorial Park Pavilion Rentals



Summer Pavilion Rental

*The North Royalton Memorial Park
14600 State Road*

Two large covered pavilions can be rented for picnics, family reunions, etc., for a fee of \$50. Pavilion #1 is located near the upper playground area; Pavilion #2 is near the lake. Each pavilion has electricity, grills and a number of picnic tables. Memorial Park also has a large playground area, tennis courts, and a skatepark. There is plenty of parking and a new snack bar. Call the Mayor's Office at (440) 237-4300 to check availability.

North Royalton Office on Aging

North Royalton's Senior Center is vibrant and active, offering activities such as exercise classes, computer classes, line dancing, movies, and trips.

THE "ROYAL ESCAPES" TRAVEL PROGRAM is offering trips this summer and fall to Carousel Dinner Theater, Nautica, Cuyahoga Valley Railroad, Presque Isle Casino, Greektown, Branson, and more.

Our RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) volunteers are enthusiastic and contribute in many ways, including the Ohio Reads program, CERT, advocacy; they also use their talents creating articles for hospices, nursing homes, cancer centers, and children's homes. We always welcome volunteers, and ask you to consider joining us!

Retaining independence is a key issue for seniors living alone, and transportation is essential. North Royalton offers free senior transportation to its residents who are 65 and up. We now have two part-time van drivers and offer transportation for grocery shopping and medical appointments (within a limited area). Just call our office at (440) 582-6333 to schedule a pick up.

Additional programs are available to North Royalton's seniors. Someone from Medicaid comes here on the first and third Tuesdays each month to help seniors with paperwork without going to their Cleveland office. Seniors can also arrange for a free 20 minute consultation with an attorney (by appointment; held the second Tuesday of each month).

The North Royalton Office on Aging can also assist with most types of government programs such as the Homestead Exemption (property taxes), Water & Sewer Homestead Exemption, HEAP, Medicare & Medicare Part D (prescription drug plan), etc. If you have a question on a topic, give us a call; if we cannot



Retaining independence is a key issue for seniors living alone, and transportation is essential. North Royalton offers free senior transportation to its residents who are 65 and up.

help you, we will refer you to the correct agency or individual who will be able to help.

The North Royalton Senior Center serves many people in many different ways. We are located in the Deaconess Perry Center Apartments, 13500 Ridge Road (the brick building just north of Bennett). Stop by, or call us at (440) 582-6333 and let us know how we can best serve you.

Department Contact Information

DEBBIE DUFFY
DIRECTOR
dduffy@northroyalton.org
440-582-6333

Engineering Department assesses, designs, and plans remedies for problems and needs for roads and stormwater sewers (not wastewater). The Engineering and Service departments work closely together to plan and execute solutions.

Road Work

THE DREADED 'ORANGE BARREL' has been popping up all over town. No one wants to be inconvenienced by construction, but our aging infrastructure always needs repair or replacement, and additional revenues allocated via Issue 114 have made possible several major road and storm water improvement projects long overdue.

OAKRIDGE DRIVE

The Oakridge Drive resurfacing included removal and replacement of the aging asphalt pavement, as well as measures to better manage storm water drainage. Deteriorating concrete curb and gutters were replaced. A section of the roadway was lowered to capture storm water, and more roadway catch basins were installed. The temporary turnaround was permanently removed. The City Service Department will complete the pavement repair of Forest Court this summer, and Oak Knoll Court will most likely be repaired in 2008.

WALLINGS, DRAKE & EDGERTON ROADS

While existing pavements can be torn out and replaced, these measures are expensive and disruptive. Instead, Wallings, Drake and Edgerton roads will be rehabilitated this year via "cold in-place recycling": existing asphalt pavement will be used (recycled) to create a stronger stabilized base for adding a new asphalt surface. Our City, Strongsville, and Cuyahoga County used this same construction method in 2006 on West 130th with good results. In addition to the new roadways, some storm

water drainage improvements will be made. These measures should provide roads that are smoother and that will last.

STATE/ WALLINGS INTERSECTION

The State and Wallings Intersection Improvement Project was completed summer/fall 2006 using \$1.5 million of



before



after

Ohio Public Works Commission ('Issue 2') financing. The State / Wallings project widened the intersection and installed new upgraded storm sewers, involving right-of-way acquisition for State Road left turn lanes and major utility relocation above and below ground. Thanks to carefully coordinated manage-

ment by the Engineering and Service departments, with the cooperation and patience of many adjacent businesses, the project was completed on schedule and within budget.

Though this project did require disrupting west-bound traffic on Wallings for five months, the alternative was a two-year construction schedule with two separate, costly, utility relocations. Furthermore, the State/ Wallings intersection improvement not only resolved a traffic issue, the new storm water infrastructure is yielding positive results per design.

OTHER IMPROVEMENTS

Over the last several years, Engineering also oversaw over \$6 million of other intersection improvements: Royalton at State; Royalton at Ridge; Royalton at Bennett; and Royalton at York. These projects received new roadway pavement, replaced and improved infrastructure, as well as new and replacement storm sewers—measures that improved drainage, and ease of travel through the center of town.

STORM WATER IMPROVEMENTS

Unfortunately, the hills, creeks and wooded greenbelts defining North Royalton's scenery are problematic at times, so storm water improvements have been a City priority for many years.

Storm water retention and detention basins in residential and commercial areas are designed and constructed to control rain storm events by capturing large and intense rains, and then releasing the runoff at a controlled rate. The Engineering Department inspects and enforces codes at all 133 known retention/detention facilities, to assure that these basins function as designed. However, continued preventive maintenance of these basins by their owners needs to be routine and ongoing.

STORM WATER IMPROVEMENTS PLANNED:

Chesapeake Estates - a new regional storm water control basin to reduce storm water flows thru Chesapeake Estates and thereby reducing other downstream flows—including the Delsy, Hawley and Lynn Drives neighborhood (designed and awaiting the Army Corps of Engineers permit).

Pamela/Parkdale - corridor will get a new storm sewer system and new pavement overlay.

Royal Valley Subdivision - normal water surface elevation of the middle storm water retention basin has been lowered for additional storage volume.

Huntington Close subdivision is receiving new storm sewer catch basins and related pavement replacement to better control surface drainage.

The Goodman Drive area will receive a new culvert headwall for improved flow efficiency and preventing soil erosion.

Gregory Lane, Hawley Drive and Maple Lane are now under design and planning for drainage improvements (culvert upgrades and regrading of topography).

Cady Road will see improvements to the storm drainage and ditching.

Cedar Estates will get major storm sewer upsizing and pavement repairs. Lengths of the Biro ditch will be cleaned.

TURNPIKE ISSUES

The City continues to work with the Ohio Turnpike Commission (OTC) on an action plan and mitigation project to address storm water concerns partially caused by the Turnpike's third lane addition. The mitigation

project is focused on improving control of storm water in the general Bennett Road area south of the Turnpike. The OTC cleaned their ditch along North Akins and to York (behind Royal Park Condominiums).

Six homeowners have been working with the City and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to voluntarily have their homes acquired and then demolished because of repeated and documented major flooding damage. These residences include three on Abbey, one on Akins, and two on Edgerton.

COOPERATION

Many of the new storm water and roadway projects will require the cooperation of individual residential property owners to allow work to be performed. For example, cleaning the Biro Ditch will require the authorization of many property owners because this drainage channel is almost entirely on private property. Some owners of property that do *not* experience flooding caused by ditch overflow will be asked to cooperate with neighboring property owners who *are* experiencing flooding. The City will always seek written permission prior to performing improvements, and will restore all disturbed areas. Each project is being done to help all City residents and businesses and improve property values. The Engineering Department studies all projects carefully and will try to achieve the goals while cooperating with other involved stakeholders, minimizing disruptions, and restoring all disturbances once projects are done.

SPECIAL ORANGE BARREL ALERT:

- The Edgerton Road Reconstruction Project will be done in two phases: half in 2007 and half in 2008.
- This summer, Cuyahoga County Engineers are replacing the bridge over the East Branch of the Rocky River with a new structure, closing the roadway from State to Broadview for 60-days.

Department Contact Information

CLARK MERDES
CITY ENGINEER
cmerdes@northroyalton.org
440-582-3001

Service Department

Since passage of Issue 114 last November, the Service Department has been working to accomplish major concrete projects, to increase storm sewer maintenance, and to continue catch basin repairs/rebuilds, street patching and other projects throughout the City.

A NEW WALK-BEHIND CONCRETE saw we purchased for major in-house road repairs this year has proven more cost effective than outsourcing work to outside contractors. Street repairs scheduled for 2007 already completed are various areas in Bunker Estates, Goodman Circle horseshoe and Royalton Heights Subdivision. Work has begun in areas of Oakridge Estates, and we expect to complete all sites scheduled for this year.

A major purchase through this year's budget is a new Vac-Con Truck with camera equipment that will enable the Service Department to do maintenance of the City's storm sewer system on a regular basis, something that has been difficult to do with out-of-date equipment. The equipment will be used to determine blockages through

storm lines and problems causing sinkholes.

The Service Department was able to purchase a mini-hydraulic excavator and trailer, used for cleaning and clearing retention basins the City is responsible for maintaining; this should mitigate flooding incidence.

The Service Department reminds residents (per City Ordinance No. 1022.05a) that each owner must keep any ditch, culvert, sewer, natural or other watercourse on their property free of all debris, vegetation, etc. so as not to impede the drainage of water. Weekly maintenance would greatly help minimize flooding.

The Service Department is preparing the bidding process to get main and secondary roads striped; needed work was delayed because of limited funds in 2006.

Department Contact Information

**SERVICE DIRECTOR
WILLIAM "SKIP" MAYER
440-582-3002**

Wastewater Department

During the last few years, the Wastewater Department has initiated several projects designed to lower operating costs, improve system integrity, and alleviate flooding issues:

1. A formal inflow and infiltration program. We purchased flow metering in 2005, and started formal flow testing within the sanitary main system. Collecting and evaluating flow data during wet weather has helped pinpoint many problem areas.

When available, compost is free to residents of North Royalton. Residents (who must first register with our personnel and have proof of residency) can obtain up to two yards of compost material per household.

After collecting data, we test and inspect the system using closed circuit television inspections, manual inspection of manholes, and selective dye testing of residences and businesses. With these methods, we have narrowed down and repaired some of the direct causes for flooding. Significant findings and repairs were made in the State Road/Wallings Road area in 2006, and improvements continue.

2. A new backup emergency pumping system was added to the "A" wastewater treatment plant to improve the integrity of the pump station that handles incoming flow in this highly populated district. The systems for both wastewater treatment plants are now being examined for further improvements and possibly complete refurbishment with improved pumping and controls.

The Building department is responsible for code enforcement for all new construction—both non-residential and residential structures.

CODES ARE UPDATED TO THE NATIONAL STANDARDS every two or three years by the State of Ohio Board of Building Standards (as of July 1, 2007, *Ohio Building Code, 2007 Edition* for non-residential buildings; and *Residential Code of Ohio, 2006 Edition* for residences). For code info, see: www.com.state.oh.us/dic/dicbbs.htm (Ohio E-Codes); and the City’s zoning code at www.northroyalton.org (Code of Ordinances). We enforce other related codes mandated by the Federal government: the *Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guideline* (ADAAG) and the *FEMA Flood Plain Code*.

PERMITS

Obtaining a permit is not difficult. For example, when a contractor wants a building permit for a new house, we first perform a plan review for zoning and building

code compliance. If the plans comply with zoning and building codes, we issue a permit for construction. During the various construction phases we perform on-site inspections to insure compliance with approved plans. When the project is completed appropriately, a Certificate of Occupancy is issued attesting that the new building meets the minimum standards of current building codes for life safety.

Obtaining a permit for non-residential construction is basically the same process. Applicants in doubt about procedures should call us; our staff can help answer any questions about the permitting process.

Through zoning and building code enforcement, the Building Department is ensuring a safer environment for everyone.

Department Contact Information

RITO ALVAREZ
BUILDING COMMISSIONER
440-582-3000

3. The City continues to operate a biosolids composting facility which produces a high quality (Class A), humus-like material without detectable levels of pathogens. This compost can provide organic matter and nutrients to the soil, improve soil texture, and elevate soil cation exchange capacity—all characteristics of a good organic fertilizer—that can be applied to gardens, food and feed crops, and rangelands.

When available, this compost is free to residents of North Royalton. Residents (who must first register with our personnel and have proof of residency) can obtain up to two yards of compost material per household. Residents are advised to check for availability of material before coming to the site at 10789 Royalton Road. Call our Administrative Offices at (440) 237-5010 ext.14, or check details on the northroyalton.org web site.

4. The Wastewater Department has a highly effective and aggressive sanitary-main cleaning program: in 2006 we completed a three-year cycle for all the City’s mains; this

is a significant improvement over past operations and is at or ahead of industry standards. We provide additional cleaning of trouble areas more frequently.

5. The Wastewater Department continues to investigate ways to operate more efficiently and reduce costs. We reduced composting costs significantly by replacing purchased sawdust with free ground wood chips from local landscaping companies, then contracting services to grind material to usable size. Other cost reductions will be announced on the City’s web site.

Department Contact Information

SUPERINTENDENT
CHARLES JOHNSON
440-237-5010
EXTENSION 14 FOR COMPOST AVAILABILITY



2007 Municipal Elections Preview

Ohio law requires regular municipal elections to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in each odd-numbered year. North Royalton's regular municipal election will take place on Tuesday, November 6, 2007. All city offices will be on the ballot this fall, including Mayor, President of Council, and all six Ward Councilpersons.

Non-Partisan Elections

Article 17(b) of the City Charter states: "The ballots used in all elections provided for in or under this Charter shall be without party mark or designation of any sort." In other words, North Royalton candidate elections are non-partisan.

Office of Mayor

Article 4(a) of the North Royalton City Charter states: "The Mayor shall be elected for a term of four (4) years and shall serve until his or her successor is elected and certified. Beginning with the election to be held on November 7, 1995, no person shall hold the office of Mayor for a period longer than two (2) consecutive terms or eight (8) consecutive years, whichever is longer."

Because of term limits, North Royalton will have a new mayor assuming office before the end of 2007.

Primary Elections for Mayor and President of Council

Article 17(e) of the City Charter states: "Candidates for the office of Mayor and President of Council shall be nominated at a non-partisan primary election to be held on the first Tuesday in October prior to the regular election in November. In case there shall not be more than two (2) persons who shall have filed petitions as provided for in this Charter, then said persons shall be the candidates at the regular Municipal election and the primary for the particular office shall not be held."

In other words, if more than two candidates file to run for the Office of Mayor or President of Council, a non-partisan primary election will be held on Tuesday, October 2, 2007. The two persons receiving the most votes in each race will then face off against one another on Tuesday, November 6, 2007.

If you want to be a candidate for Mayor or President of Council in 2007, the filing deadline is July 19, 2007. If you want to be a candidate for one of the six City Council Ward seats, the filing deadline is August 23, 2007. For more information please contact the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections at (216) 443-3200 or www.boe.cuyahogacounty.us.

City of North Royalton
13834 Ridge Road
North Royalton, OH 44133

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