



The Meigs Street Messenger



February-March, 2009

In this Issue:

- Meet Commissioner Brown
- Bayfront Walkway Project
- State of the City Address
- New City Website!
- STS Increases Services
- Sign up Now—Yard Waste Program
- Eliminate Lead-Based Paint Grant
- Festival Sponsorship
- Water Intake Study
- Sewer Rehabilitation Project
- Fire Safety Tips
- Recycling & Go Green Efforts
- Mills Creek Golf Course Opening
- Winter Recreation
- Drug Tip Hotline
- Special Programs & Events

This newsletter is provided to city residents and businesses in our continuing efforts to provide objective, factual information which is totally absent from political issues or concerns. We encourage you to share your thoughts and/or questions about information contained in this newsletter.

City Manager's Office

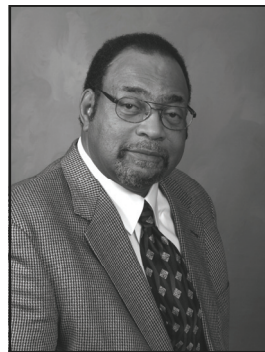
419.627.5844

kkresser@ci.sandusky.oh.us

www.ci.sandusky.oh.us

Commissioner Brown Appointed Annual State of the City Address

On December 12, 2008, Pervis D. Brown, Jr. was appointed to replace the seat vacated by Dennis Murray, Jr. on the Sandusky City Commission. Mr. Brown will fulfill the remainder of this term which will expire on December 31, 2009.



Pervis D. Brown, Jr.
pbrown@ci.sandusky.oh.us
419.625.8136 Home

Pervis Brown is a lifelong resident of the Sandusky area and is a graduate of Perkins High School. He served as a Sergeant in the United States Air Force, majored in Business Management at the BGSU Firelands Campus, and has 35 years of management experience and an extensive record of public service.

Pervis and his wife, Sandra L., are the parents of two sons and one daughter, and own and manage rental properties.

Commissioner Brown was named as liaison to the Downtown Design Review Board, the Fair Housing Board, the Housing Board of Appeals and is an alternate liaison for the Audit/Finance Committee. He is also the liaison to the city's Law Department.

Bayfront Paper District Walkway

The Bayfront Paper District Walkway is under contract with Hoty Builders from Sandusky, Ohio, and includes the waterfront property surrounding Chesapeake Lofts on Shoreline Drive. Work began in January and the project completion date is June, 2009.

New sheet piling will be installed along the east side of the property, across from the Jackson Street Pier. The armor stone work will be finished off on the north side of the property and a new concrete walkway will be constructed to allow pedestrians to walk along the waterfront where access has not been available in the past.

We are very excited about completing this phase of The Paper District project and are looking forward to the beautification of this area.

By City Manager, Matt Kline

On Thursday, February 26, Sandusky City Manager, Matt Kline, will be giving the annual State of the City address to the Sandusky Rotary Club. This address will be taped and aired on Cable Channel 81 for the public's benefit on:

Thursday, February 19 at 7 p.m.

Sunday, February 22 at 3 p.m.

Monday, February 23 at 7:30 p.m.

City Website Upgraded

We are proud to announce that a new look has been created for the City of Sandusky's website: www.ci.sandusky.oh.us.

The site was upgraded from the previous version which has been online since 2005 and originally designed by Pabodie Design Studio of Huron, Ohio. The website has a whole new look and is more user-friendly than ever before.

We invite you to visit the site and explore its content. We hope that you can easily navigate through the links to various city services and departments.

Daily updates will continue to be made by staff in the City Manager's Office. Suggestions may be directed to Kelly at 419.627.5844 or via email: kkresser@ci.sandusky.oh.us.

We also appreciate the incredible photography provided by Robert Myer of Sandusky. This is a wonderful addition to the website and we are grateful that Mr. Myer agreed to allow us the use of these photographs in the creation of the new site.

STS Puts A SPARC in the Community

The Sandusky Transit System (STS) is pleased to announce a new transportation route in the Sandusky/Perkins area beginning March 16. The new route is named SPARC, Sandusky Perkins Area Ride Connection, and is designed to provide an easy way to get to work, shopping, entertainment and more.



... Continued on Page 2

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SPARC is a one-hour loop service beginning with scheduled stops in several Sandusky neighborhoods. After traveling eastward on Perkins Avenue, SPARC continues south on Milan Road to Kalahari Waterpark before returning north again on Milan Road. Commercial and retail stops along SPARC include Kroger Plaza, Perkins Plaza, Crossings Shopping Area, Kalahari Waterpark, Walmart Plaza, the Meijer/Great Wolf area and the Sandusky Mall.

Fares will be only \$1/ride and hours of operation are 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Evening hours will provide much needed transportation as STS has not been able to offer service beyond 6 p.m. for the past two years. Rides do not need to be scheduled ahead making our riders' time more flexible. Just be at the stop and hop on SPARC!

This new service is possible through a \$100,000 transportation grant by the Ohio Department of Transportation. Additional funding is provided by other local groups including the Sandusky/Erie County Community Foundation, the Department of Jobs & Family Services and Serving Our Seniors. If SPARC is successful, STS will be able to offer more scheduled routes for the community. This will not only make it easier for our current customers to ride, but there will be increased transportation available to everyone.

Yard Waste Collection & Disposal Program



Residents within the corporate limits of the City of Sandusky may elect to opt into a weekly, curbside **Yard Waste Collection** program for the low cost of \$8 per month.

The contract period runs from April 1—December 31 each year and residents can sign up at any time. The charges for this

program will be shown as a separate line item on the participant's water/sewer bill. To sign up for this program, please call the Horticultural Services Division at 419.627.5879.



Lead-based Paint Hazard Control

Lead poisoning causes irreversible health effects including reduced IQ and attention span, hyperactivity, impaired growth, learning disabilities, hearing loss, insomnia; health, intellectual and behavioral problems. High levels of poisoning can cause mental retardation, coma, convulsions and even death. Children under age six are affected the most due to their rapidly growing bodies. Pregnant women are also at risk because lead ingested by the mother can be transmitted to the unborn fetus. Unfortunately, housing-related health hazards are not found until after the illness develops.

Erie County has received a \$3 million HUD **Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control** grant. With these monies, our primary goals are to protect families, especially those with children less than six years of age, from lead poisoning and eliminate lead-based paint hazards in the County's housing stock.

The program will provide funding for the direct reduction of lead hazards in 220 owner-occupied and rental homes through interim controls or abatement. The Erie County Health District will be providing blood screenings for children; job training sessions will be held, and; information will be provided to homeowners, landlords and do-it-yourselfers on how to provide a lead-safe environment while working on homes.

A number of public meetings will provide information to homeowners, landlords and tenants regarding this program as follows:

Wed., February 11, 5 p.m.—7 p.m.

Erie County Commissioners Chambers
247 Columbus Avenue, Sandusky

Wed., February 18, 5 p.m.—7 p.m.

Berlin Township Hall
12101 State Route 61, Berlin Heights

Mon., February 23, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Vermilion Ritter Library
5680 Liberty Avenue, Vermilion

Tues., February 24, 5 p.m.—7 p.m.

Bay View Village Hall
304 East Bayview Drive, Sandusky

Wed., February 25, 5 p.m.—7 p.m.

Castalia Village Hall
126 Main Street, Castalia

Thurs., February 26, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Milan Village Hall
11 South Main Street, Milan

2009 Festival Sponsorship

The Parks, Recreation & Horticultural Services Division is looking for sponsors to host special events scheduled for this year.

These events include the North Coast Animal Expo, the Northern Ohio Racing Expo, the Sandusky Bay Antique & Flea Market and the "Boo at the Bay" Pumpkin Festival. The sponsors name and logo will be listed on promotional materials for the event including programs and signage at each event. In addition, sponsors will be credited in all radio, television and newspaper advertisements and live broadcasts. Complimentary booth space is



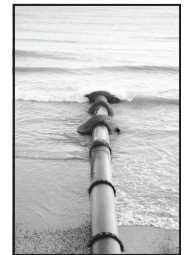
provided for all sponsorships of \$500 or more.

Please contact Judy or Michele at 419.627.5886 to learn more about these

sponsorship opportunities.

Water Intake Study

Big Island Water Works (BIWW) currently experiences source water quantity and quality issues with the present Lake Erie intake and emergency Sandusky Bay intake.



These issues are caused by frazil ice formations on the intakes, mussel infestation, poor source-water quality in Sandusky Bay and the physical size of the existing intake.

The goal of the study is to develop an intake improvement plan that provides a reliable source water capacity with the best available water quality. The study will begin this winter and be completed by the end of summer. MWH Americas, Inc. will perform this study.

Sewer Rehabilitation

The City will clean and rehabilitate many sewers this summer and fall. The rehabilitations will involve slip-lining the sewers to seal leaks or offset joints to prevent inflow and infiltration into our sewer system.

The biggest part of the project will be cleaning and spot repairing the interceptor sewer. This interceptor collects a large portion of the sewage treated at the city's Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Check Your Smoke Alarms!

Since Thanksgiving 2008, twenty-four people have lost their lives in fatal fires in Ohio. More than 200 fire fatalities have occurred in the United States during the same period.

In Ohio

On December 6, five people, including four children, died in an apartment fire in Columbus. Investigators were unable to determine whether or not smoke detectors were present and functioning. Two people died and another two were severely injured in a December 10 fire in Sylvania Township. Investigators were unable to find evidence of working smoke detectors.

In the United States

On Christmas Eve, four died in a house fire in Mount Sterling, Kentucky. All of the victims were children and officials cannot be certain whether smoke alarms worked.

Four adults and three children died in a southwest Philadelphia home the day after Christmas when gasoline was used to fuel a kerosene heater. There were no working smoke alarms in the home.

Portable Space Heaters

- Purchase electric space heaters that bear the mark of an independent testing laboratory such as UL, ETL, CSA, etc.
- Place space heaters at least 3' away from anything that can burn including furniture, people, pets and window treatments.
- Turn off space heaters before leaving a room or going to sleep.



- Supervise children and pets at all times when a portable space heater is in use.
- Use kerosene heaters only where permitted by law. Use the recommended grade kerosene and never use an alternative fuel. Kerosene heaters must be fueled outside.

- Never use space heaters to dry clothing or blankets.

Fireplaces & Wood Stoves

- Have a professional chimney sweep inspect chimneys annually for cracks, blockages and leaks; have them cleaned and repaired as needed
- Open flues before fireplaces are used.
- Burn only seasoned hardwood – not trash, cardboard boxes or Christmas trees because these items burn unevenly, may contain toxins and increase the risk of uncontrolled fires.



“More than 180 people lost their lives in fires in Ohio last year, and working smoke alarms could have made the difference between life and death. There should be a functioning smoke alarm protecting every single person in Ohio.”

Ohio Fire Marshal Mike Bell

kindling, bedding and clothing at least 3' away from fireplaces and wood stoves.

- Use sturdy screens or doors to keep embers inside fireplaces.

• Install at least one smoke alarm on every level of your home and inside or near sleeping areas.

• Keep young children away from working wood stoves and heaters to avoid contact burn injuries.



Recycle Containers

The City of Sandusky offers three recycle drop-off locations (list below) for residents. These can be utilized for glass, plastic, aluminum and paper products and are available 24-hours a day.

City Service Center, 1024 Cement Ave.

Greenhouse, 420 Elm Street

(Temporary location)

Kiwanis Park, 2227 First Street

Mills Creek Golf Course Celebrating 70 Years of Great Golfing Experiences!

Mills Creek Golf Course is scheduled to open on Sunday, March 15th and the first event is the Chilly Open Golf Scramble on Saturday, April 4. This is a 9-hole scramble and the cost is \$40/foursome. Contact the Clubhouse at 419.627.5803 for more information about this event. . . and others!



Drug Tip Hotline

The Sandusky Police Department established a Drug Tip Hotline in 2007 to allow persons to anonymously report



suspicious drug-related activities. Information can be taken by telephone or email and is used to begin surveillance activities and ultimately

make arrests for illegal activities associated with the sale or use of drugs.

Since its inception, use of the hotline has enabled SPD Officers to receive valuable information that has led to arrests and seizures of narcotics.

We encourage you to contact our Drug Tip Hotline to report suspicious activities you feel may be drug related. The email address is drugtips@ci.sandusky.oh.us and the telephone number is 419.627.5980.

Help us to help you in reducing crime and drug activities!

Greenhouse Open

The City Greenhouse is open to the public between 8 a.m.—3 p.m., Mon.—Fri. to escape the harsh winter weather. Stop in to sit in a rocking chair and enjoy the tropical feeling in our palm room, the water fountain and a short walkway. We continuously look for volunteers so if you are interested in helping out, please talk with the staff at the greenhouse!

Winter Recreation

Ice skating is now offered at both Wightman Wieber Park and Lions Park! The tennis rinks at both of these locations were flooded early in 2009 and will remain available for ice skating, so long as weather permits.

The Sled Hill at Mills Creek Golf Course is also available, as weather permits, for those willing to brave the elements. All are welcome. There are some benefits to the cold weather!





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SPECIAL PROGRAMS & EVENTS MARCH—APRIL, 2009

Sunday, March 15

Mills Creek Golf Course
Season Grand Opening
*Celebrating 70 Years of
Great Golfing Experiences!*



Sat., April 4
11 a.m.

Easter Egg Hunt
Washington Park Gazebo

Sat., April 4

Chilly Open Golf Scramble at
Mills Creek Golf Course
Call 419.627.5803 for more information

CITY OFFICES CLOSED *Friday, April 10 for Good Friday
at 12 p.m.*

Happy Easter!



City Commission meetings are held the 2nd & 4th Monday of each month in the City Building, 222 Meigs Street, 1st Floor Conference Room at 5 p.m. They are televised on Buckeye Cablesystem, Channel 81, on the day of the meeting at 8:30 p.m., again the next day at 5 p.m., and finally, on the following Monday at 7 p.m.

Go Green Sandusky Event

On Saturday, April 25th, the City of Sandusky will host a *Tire Recycling Collection*, an *Open House at the City Greenhouse* and an *Arbor Day Celebration!*

Look for details about these events in the April-May, 2009 edition of The Meigs Street Messenger.

Public Input Meetings for Sandusky Bay Pavilion

The City of Sandusky's Recreation Board will host two public input meetings for the purpose of discussing potential replacement properties for the Sandusky Bay Pavilion, formerly Surf's Up Aquatic Center.

Both meetings will be held in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall, 222 Meigs Street, Sandusky. They are scheduled for:

Monday, February 2

Wednesday, February 18

Both meetings begin at 6 p.m.