



# **Village of Versailles Progress Report**

American Municipal Utilities



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## **Linda Milbourn Retires from Village After 30 Years of Service**

Linda Milbourn will retire from the Village effective August 1, 2010 after 30 years of service. Linda began her career in the Village's Utilities Office on February 6, 1980.

We thank Linda for her many years of service to the Village and wish her a healthy and happy retirement!

## **Lester Kueterman and David J. Subler Reappointed to Board of Zoning Appeals and Community Reinvestment Area Housing Council**

Versailles Village Council recently approved the reappointment of Lester Kueterman and David J. Subler to the Board of Zoning Appeals and Community Reinvestment Area Housing Council. The reappointments are for three year terms commencing on July 1st. We thank Lester and David for their willingness to continue to provide volunteer services to the Versailles community.

## **Water and Sewer Rate Increases to be Implemented with July Utility Billing**

With the utility bills to be issued at the end of July, water and sewer rate increases previously approved by Village Council will go into effect. The rate increases are needed to address Water and Sewer Fund Budgets that both reflect operating deficits for 2010. The projected Water Fund operating deficit for 2010 is \$17,133.00, while the projected Sewer Fund operating deficit for 2010 is \$40,962.00. The operating deficits are a result of increasing costs associated with operating the water and sewer utility services, coupled with declining revenues due largely to a reduction in consumption and associated sales from decreased business activity.

In reaching a decision to increase rates, the Finance Committee and Village Council reviewed the historical, and projected expenses and revenues related to the Village's water and sewer utility services which included past years' operations from 2005-2009, while projecting expenses and revenues for the years 2010-2014. Typical expenses incurred with providing water and sewer utility services include personal services, contractual services, operations & maintenance, and capital outlay requirements. An inflationary factor of three percent (3%) was applied to the expenses in projecting costs for 2010-2014. It was determined if the current rates charged by the Village for the water and sewer utility service are not increased, the expenses associated with providing the services will not be generating the required revenue to support both services.

It is important to note, the projected operating costs do not include any debt service payments associated with the Water Treatment Plant Project that was completed in 2006, or any debt service payments associated with the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project that is currently under construction. The debt service payments for the Water Treatment Plant and Wastewater Treatment Plant Projects will be made from the Income Tax Fund.

After considering various rate adjustment options and considering the economic recession, the Village Council approved an increase in water rates by 6% and an increase in sewer rates by 21.5% effective with the bills due August 10, 2010. These increases, based on the current projected revenues and expenses, are anticipated to keep both the Water and Sewer Funds from an operating deficit through 2011. The overall combined water/sewer rates net increase to the customer will be 11%. For an average residential water and sewer consumption, the proposed increases will result in the customer paying an additional \$15.22 per quarter or \$60.88 per year. Despite the proposed cost increase, the Village's overall water/sewer rates are comparable to a number of area communities.

The last time Village Council approved rate increases for the water and sewer utility services was back in 2006. Increasing rates is a last resort; however, Village Officials are committed to maintaining quality water and sewer services for the residents and businesses and feel the rate increases are necessary to carry out their fiscal responsibility in maintaining the utility funds from operating in a deficit status.

## **Village Council Approves 2011 Budget**

Versailles Village Council has approved the adoption of the 2011 Budget covering all of the local public service operations. The annual budget is broken down into categories which include the General Fund, Fire Fund, Police Pension Fund, Special Service Funds, Debt Service Funds, Capital Project Funds, and Enterprise Funds. The Village projects revenues in 2011 at \$12,490,490.00, while expenses for 2011 have been projected to be \$14,174,325.00. The projected 2011 beginning funds balance is \$9,964,411.64.

With the ongoing economic recession and declining revenues being experienced, combined with the capital projects identified for 2011, the Village is projecting a budget deficit, with expenses exceeding revenues by \$1,683,835.00. It is important to note, the budget deficit is largely a result of projected capital project expenses in 2011 at \$5,463,235.00. If it is decided by the Village Council to delay certain capital projects planned for 2011, the \$1,683,835.00 projected deficit can be reduced.

Any local resident who would like to have more information about the budgetary process undertaken by the Village, or anyone who would like to review the Village's operating budget, is asked to contact Fiscal Officer, Mary Ann Gump, at 526-3294. Mayor Subler and Village Council appreciate the continued support of citizens throughout the community as preparations are underway for another busy and progressive year in 2011.

## **Notice to Village Property Owners with Sidewalk Assessments**

Any property owner who would like to pay off their special sidewalk assessment to avoid a 3% collection fee being charged by the Darke County Auditor's Office must do so by Friday, August 20th.

For additional information about your assessment, please contact Mary Ann Gump, Fiscal Officer, at 526-3294.

## **Village Issues Garage Sale Regulations Reminder**

Many residents throughout the community plan to hold garage or yard sales during this time of year. The Village does have regulations pertaining to these types of sales being conducted and would like to remind all residents contemplating holding such a sale to make sure they are in compliance with local zoning regulations.

Garage or yard sales may be held from 8:00 a.m. to sundown; providing that no sale extends for more than four consecutive days. There can be no more than two (2) garage or yard sales per household unit held on any such lot within the Village in any calendar year.

As with any type of sale, individuals like to advertise the location and dates by placing signs throughout the community. Village zoning regulations do permit for signs to be erected for the advertisement of sales. Garage or yard sale sponsors may display one non-illuminated sign not exceeding four (4) square feet in size, nor more than three (3) feet in height above grade or on the property where the sale is being held. Additional signs, such as off-premises advertising and directional-type signs may be used in conjunction with such garage or yard sales so long as they do not exceed four (4) square feet in size and not more than three (3) feet in height. When erecting advertising or directional signs, please note these types of signs are not permitted to be attached to trees, fences, utility poles, street signs, or other governmental-type signs. The Village will remove any signs that are erected in places where they are prohibited. All signs displayed in conjunction with any garage or yard sale must be removed within twenty-four (24) hours following the end of the sale.

It is always best to check on rules and regulations prior to the start of any sale to ensure the proper procedures are being followed. If you are considering holding a garage or yard sale in the near future and are uncertain of the local regulations, you are encouraged to contact the Village Offices at 526-3294 for more information.

## **Modern Mothers Club to Sponsor Community Garage Sales**

The Versailles Modern Mother Club will be sponsoring community garage sales on Wednesday, August 4th from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Thursday, August 5th from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Please check throughout the Village during these dates for participating garage sale locations. If you have questions, contact Holly McEldowney at 526-3126.

## **Towne & Country Players Entertainment Schedule for August**

The Versailles Towne & Country Players have announced the following entertainment schedule for the downtown Fountain Square in August:

August 6th - "Swing Era Big Band & Beyond"

August 13th - "Knot Fibb'n"

All entertainment events are scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. Make plans to attend these free events in August!

## **Farmers Markets to be Held in Downtown Fountain Square in August**

Farmers Markets will be held in the downtown fountain square on August 14th and August 28th from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Vendors are responsible for providing the necessary set up items and securing any necessary permits from the Darke County Health Department. For more information, please contact Mark Pax at 526-3226.

## **Village of Versailles Mosquito Fogging Scheduled for August 11th**

The Village of Versailles is scheduled to be fogged for mosquitoes on Wednesday, August 11th beginning at 9:00 p.m. The fogging should be completed by midnight. Residents with respiratory problems are encouraged to stay indoors and take other necessary precautions until the fog dissipates.

In case of inclement weather (rain, fog, high wind) on the evening of August 11th, the fogging will be rescheduled to the following night to begin at 9:00 p.m.

## **Versailles Ward Park Swimming Pool to Close for the Season**

The Versailles Ward Park Swimming Pool will close for the season on Sunday, August 29th.

The Village Council, Park Board, and pool staff wish to thank everyone for their support in making 2010 another successful year for the swimming pool!

## **Village Seeking Candidates to Fill Vacant Seats on Board of Zoning Appeals and Utilities Policies Committee**

The Village of Versailles is seeking candidates to fill a vacant seat on the Board of Zoning Appeals. The term on this seat will expire June 30, 2013. The Village is also seeking candidates to fill a vacant seat on the Utilities Policies Committee. The unexpired term on this seat will expire December 31, 2012. There is no compensation for either of these positions.

Anyone interested in serving on the Board of Zoning Appeals or Utilities Policies Committee are asked to contact the Mayor, Fiscal Officer, or Village Administrator at 526-3294.