



Tom Donnelly Named Versailles Area Chamber of Commerce “Citizen of the Year”

During the annual Versailles Area Chamber of Commerce Banquet held at the Stillwater Riviera on January 23rd, Tom Donnelly was named “Citizen of the Year”.

Tom has been and remains very active in the community. He is a retired Versailles School teacher, has written numerous articles for *The Versailles Policy*, is involved with the Friends of Hole Field, the Diamond Club, and the Friends of the Versailles Performing Arts Center. During his time teaching at Versailles Schools, he started several organizations for the students including “The Tiger”, “Senior Salute”, and the Power of the Pen program. He was also a bus driver, athletic director, track meet worker, and also coached several sports including basketball, track, and football. He was also involved with more than 20 years of drama productions.

Tom moved to Versailles in 1970 with his wife, Jan, who passed away in 2011. Tom and Jan raised three children; Karen, Ben, and Jill. He is now the grandfather to five grandchildren and continues to live his life as a journalist, educator, mentor, and volunteer to the community he has chosen to call home for more than 40 years.

Please join the Versailles Area Chamber of Commerce in extending congratulations to Tom Donnelly on being bestowed this very prestigious and well-deserved honor!

Village Council Approves Plans for Safe Routes to School Phase II Project

As a result of action exercised by the Village Council, the Village of Versailles, during 2012, will be the recipient of another Safe Routes to School infrastructure improvements project. Upon being presented with design plans prepared by the Village’s engineering services firm, Choice One Engineering, Village Council approved the Safe Routes to School Phase II Project; a project that is identified in the Versailles Safe Routes to School Travel Plan.

The costs for the project will be paid for with a Safe Routes to School grant awarded to the Village by the Ohio Department of Transportation. The \$147,859 grant, plus ten percent contingency in the amount of \$14,785, will cover 100% of the construction costs associated with the Safe Routes to School Phase II Project up to a total of \$162,644.

The plans for the Safe Routes to School Phase II Project propose the construction of sidewalks beginning at the south property line of 680 South Center Street and proceed south along the west side of Center Street to the school driveway across from Cambridge Drive. The improvements will also include drainage improvements, retaining walls along certain sections, driveway approach repairs, and the seeding of disturbed lawn areas. There will also be crosswalks installed at the Stevenson Drive, Elmwood Drive, and Hickory Drive intersections.

Prior to the Safe Routes to School Project being started, the Village, by separate contract, will be having a section of existing water main replaced that has become deteriorated. The water main line replacement cost is estimated to be \$94,755 and will be paid from the 1/2% income tax revenues.

In preparation of bidding out the Safe Routes to School Project, Village Officials will be holding meetings with property owners along the South Center Street project area to explain the scope of work to be carried out, the impacts to the property owners, and the timeline to complete the projects.

Development of the local Safe Routes to School Projects began in 2008, when the Village of Versailles was awarded a \$6,000 grant from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) to prepare a Safe Routes to School Travel Plan for the Village. The goals of the Safe Routes to School Travel Plan are to provide a safer walking and biking environment for all elementary and middle school students through education and encouragement of students, providing engineering solutions for safety deficiencies, and evaluating the Travel Plan on an annual basis.

The local Safe Routes to School Travel Plan Committee consists of David Vail, Versailles Schools Superintendent; Jeanne Osterfeld, Middle School Principal; Brenda Braun, Elementary School Principal; Kim Ware, Parent Advisory Group; Terry Johns, Recreational/Bikeway Trail Liaison; Mike Berger, Village Council; Kim Custenborder, Village Council; Mark Humphreys, Police Chief; Dane Nagel, Utilities Superintendent; Randy Gump, Village Administrator; and Justin Yoh, Ohio Department of Transportation.

Village and School Officials appreciate the continued support from the citizens as infrastructure improvements identified in the local Safe Routes to School Travel Plan are being completed to improve the safety for students and pedestrians traveling to and from the Versailles Schools.

CSX Completes Safety Gate Improvements at Steffin Street Railroad Crossing

As a result of the recent installation of railroad crossing safety gates by CSX at the Steffin Street railroad crossing, the Village of Versailles now has every main active railroad crossing within the Village protected with flashing lights and safety gates. The Steffin Street crossing safety improvements were ordered in November 2010 by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio to be installed by CSX Railroad. The crossing safety improvements were completed at a cost of \$236,000, with the funds for the project coming from federal gasoline tax dollars.

Back in 1999, as part of an effort to put together a report to provide information on grade crossing separations and improvements needed to alleviate safety problems and congestion, the Ohio Rail Development Commission circulated a Grade Separation Study Survey among communities throughout Ohio. The Village of Versailles participated in the 1999 survey. The survey was seeking local information on the number of active railroad lines; the amount of increased rail activity over the past two years, anticipated future increases in rail activity, the number of grade crossings in the community, and if there is a need for a highway/rail crossing grade separation in the community.

The Village's response pointed out a variety of concerns which exist with the railroad tracks being present in Versailles. Historically, the Village has experienced several railroad crossing accidents. The presence of the railroad tracks in Versailles has taken the lives of thirteen citizens dating back to 1986. The railroad crossings are heavily used on a daily basis, and with the increased vehicular and train traffic over the years, the exposure to vehicular/train accidents has increased.

The Village had been successful in achieving the installation of safety crossing gates and signals at the North West Street, North Center Street, and Second Street crossings. The previous gate and signal upgrades have been a proven successful safety measure in maintaining public health and safety, as there have been no recorded vehicular/train accidents since the safety gates have been installed at the three railroad crossing locations.

Village Officials recognize and understand the importance of the rail transportation system to the Ohio economy, but also understand the importance of maintaining public health and safety for the citizens of Versailles. The Village's goal, after the 1999 survey and report, was to achieve having safety gates installed at every railroad crossing within the Village. As a result of the cooperative efforts put forth by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Ohio Rail Development Commission, CSX Railroad, and state and local officials, the Village's railroad crossing safety gate improvements goal has been achieved. Village Officials appreciate CSX Railroad's commitment to complete and maintain safety improvements at the railroad crossings located throughout the community.

Village Council Organizes Committees and Representative for 2012

During their January 11th meeting, Versailles Village Council began the New Year by electing a Council President Pro-Tempore, along with Mayor Subler announcing committees and representatives for 2012. Council Member, Jeff R. Subler, was re-elected as the Village Council President Pro-Tempore for 2012.

In other reorganizational action, Mayor Subler announced his appointment of Council committees and representatives for 2012. Appointed to the Finance & Audit Committee are Chairperson Todd Dammeyer, Tony Rose, and Mike Berger. Appointed to the Street & Safety Committee are Chairperson Jeff R. Subler, Todd Dammeyer, and Kim Custenborder. Appointed to the Personnel & Policies Committee are Chairperson Kent Paulus, Tony Rose, and Kim Custenborder. Appointed to the Facilities Committee are Chairperson Kim Custenborder, Jeff R. Subler, and Kent Paulus. Appointed as representative to the Planning Commission is Jeff R. Subler, representative to the Cemetery Board is Mike Berger, representative to the Park Board is Kim Custenborder, and representative to the Tree Commission is Kent Paulus.

Village Implements Updated After-Hours Utility Services Emergency Contact Numbers

The Village of Versailles has implemented updated **after-hours** utility services emergency contact numbers for residents and utility customers to become familiar with when in need of assistance with Electric, Water, and Sewer utility service problems. **After-hours** is defined as needing assistance Monday through Friday before 8:00 a.m. or after 5:00 p.m. and all day on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.

If you are calling to report an **after-hours** emergency electric service problem, please call **459-2584** for assistance. If you are calling to report an **after-hours** emergency water or sewer service problem, please call **423-0652** for assistance.

If you are calling to report an electric, water, or sewer service problem during normal business hours Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., please call 526-3294. If you call this number **after-hours**, you will receive a recording providing you with the two **after-hours** numbers listed above (**459-2584 for electric service and 423-0652 for water or sewer service**).

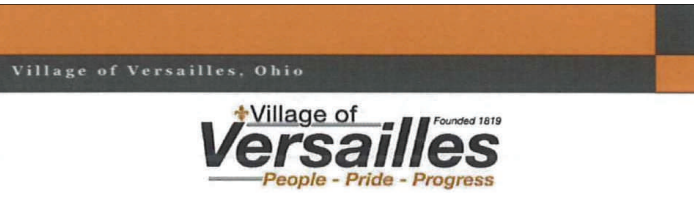
Darke County Building Regulations Department to Require Re-Roofing Inspections Effective February 6, 2012

Effective February 6, 2012, the Darke County Building Regulations Department will require a permit for all re-roofing work. Ice protection will also be required. The permit will require two inspections; the pre-inspection of existing roof (condition and number of layers of existing roof), and the final inspection when the work is completed.

For more information regarding these new re-roofing regulations, contact the Darke County Building Regulations office at 547-7379.

Annual Municipal Activities Report Available

The Village's 2011 annual Municipal Activities Report is now available. Anyone wishing to obtain a copy of the annual report may do so by contacting the Village Offices at 526-3294. Copies are also available online at www.versaillesohio.cc under the Downloadable Forms section.



After Hours Emergency Contact Information
Electric Service Problem
459-2584
Water or Sewer Service Problem
423-0652