

# MACEDONIA MESSENGER

E-Bulletin Update of the City of Macedonia



**Mayor  
Don Kuchta**

Economic Development  
[dkuchta@macedonia.oh.us](mailto:dkuchta@macedonia.oh.us)

**Diana Johnson** 468-8322  
Administrative Executive  
[djohnson@macedonia.oh.us](mailto:djohnson@macedonia.oh.us)

**Mayor's Court** 468-8379  
Mary Ellen Foster, Clerk

**Council** 468-8341  
**Shane Barker**  
**Dave Engle, President**  
**Ken Martin**  
**Nick Molnar**  
**Peggy Spraggins, VP**  
**Jan Tulley**  
Josephine Arceci, Clerk

## Departments

**Building** 468-8360  
Mike Hlad, Commissioner  
**Finance** 468-8352  
Anna Marie Musson,  
Finance Director  
**Fire** 468-8339  
Tim Black, Chief  
**HR/Personnel** 468-8353  
Denise Mulhollen  
Personnel Administrator  
**Police** 468-1234  
Jon Golden, Chief  
**Recreation** 468-8370  
Angela Gmerek, Director  
**Service** 468-8324  
Jim Crevar, Director



## Mayor's Office

### Changes Are On The Horizon...



It's good to be back in my office and also be part of a town with an exciting future! Do we have some bumps in the road? Yes! But overcoming them is what makes us a true American city. **We just keep going...** This could very well be the week that the old railroad bridge across Rt. 82 comes down! It would never happen, yet it is! South Freeway Drive has not been paved since John Kennedy was president. It has been (as long as I can remember) a disgrace to our city. It will be completed early in July. We are close to constructing a bridge over the railroad tracks on Highland Road. This will become a life saving bridge. In the past there have been many accidents, some with fatalities involving neighborhood children. It will also be a time saving bridge. Goodbye to the backups and waiting for a train on the track. Also the nightmare of driving down Route 8 during rush hour.....now just a memory!

**Macedonia relies on City Income Tax more than anything to keeping this city running.** This is a roller-coaster ride with its ups and downs. We have been told that Graco will be losing at least half of their staff. However, we are setting up a meeting between the State and County to help one of our businesses expand! Wal-Mart will also be expanding as soon as the final drawings are approved. (An absolutely huge roll, **and also** a 4 inch stack of construction paper drawings).



***What does this all mean and how is it tied together?***

The more businesses we have...the better we can keep Real Estate Taxes down. Good infrastructure (roads and traffic flow instead of congestion) will make Macedonia more of a destination, and that improves the value of land and space. Property and office, or retail space, is always worth more when easily accessed.

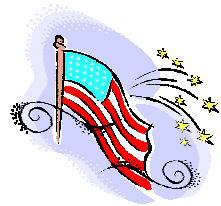


Right now a home with a value of \$100,000 pays the city about \$250 a year in Real Estate Tax. (About 8% of your total tax.) That is not even close to paying for the services you deserve. A home worth \$300,000 would pay three times \$250 @ \$750 a year...For police, fire, roads, and all of the City services. That has to be the best buy and bang for your buck ever!

I hope this helps explain how getting rid of congestion and improving roads and bridges will be putting money in your pocket as infrastructure improves. Keep that thought in mind as we struggle through it.

At this time I would like to extend to you and your family a wonderful, relaxing and safe Fourth of July.

***Mayor Don Kuchta***



***Message from Diana Johnson  
Mavor's Administrative Executive***



**ELECTRIC UPDATE**  
**FOR ALL NOPEC MEMBER COMMUNITIES**  
**June 16, 2009**

***Residents should be cautioned about signing with another supplier before they receive the NOPEC Opt-out notice, which Gexa plans to commence mailing in a few weeks.***

If you look closely at the percentages offered, our long-sought Gexa supply program for NOPEC residential and small commercial customers is superior to other competitive suppliers' recently announced and/or unsolicited offers. A quick look at the discount percentages tells the story - Gexa and NOPEC recognized that current market prices allow for healthy cost savings through June of next year, and we recognize that customers want more savings and want their savings sooner. Other suppliers have offered savings plans that extend longer but that have considerably lower savings during the period through next June. What these suppliers don't tell you is that they are using the savings that customers could have earned sooner to "subsidize" the savings in later periods. We don't think this approach gives the best value to our customers.

Please know that NOPEC and Gexa are working to deliver substantial savings for the period beginning July 2010 through May 2011. You should also know that no matter what arrangements NOPEC and Gexa make for this later period, NOPEC customers will have received the benefit of accelerated and higher savings during the period through June 2010, and that regardless of what arrangements Gexa and NOPEC make on your behalf for the period of July 2010 through May 2011, NOPEC customers will never pay rates higher than the rates offered by their utility companies for Standard Service Offering (SSO).

***Residents should be alerted that if they sign an agreement with another supplier they may not be able to take advantage of the 2009 NOPEC 12 % discount.***

**Contact: Leigh Herington  
Executive Director  
NOPEC  
31320 Solon Road  
Solon, OH 44139  
440.248.1992**



## ***City Council***

### ***Changes to Macedonia's Floodplain Map***

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently re-examined flood zones and developed detailed, digital flood hazard maps for Summit County. As a result, FEMA has revised the location of the identified special flood hazard area in Macedonia, the area that was once referred to as the 100-year floodplain. The changes in Macedonia's floodplain map affect about 100 property owners. ***Those affected received a letter about the changes. If you did not receive a letter, your property has not been affected by the changes.*** The full text of new Ordinance No. 30-2009 relating to flood regulations and entitled "Special Purpose Flood Damage Reduction" is on file in the office of the Clerk of Council. The map may be obtained from the City Engineer.

***Section 909.04 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Macedonia is hereby amended June 11, 2009 to read as follows:***

**909.04 Noxious Weeds.**



(a) It is hereby determined that noxious and/or uncultivated weeds and grass growing at a height in excess of eight inches or higher, upon any improved property within the City after the first day of May of each year are a public nuisance. For purposes herein, property which has constructed upon it, or in proximity to it, any building or similar structure used or intended to be used as the domicile of persons or as a place of business where persons reside during working hours, or any property in a residential subdivision to which is extended any improvement required by the Subdivision Regulations, shall be considered improved property.

(b) The Clerk, no later than the first of June of each year, shall cause notice on the City's webpage and cable station of this regulation that requires that all owners of improved property, in the City, to regularly remove the weeds and cut the grass growing upon their properties during the ensuing months of the year, by maintaining the grass and any cultivated weeds below a height of eight inches on the entirety of any improved property and removing any and all large piles or accumulations of cut grass and weeds from said property.

(c) Should any weeds or grass defined above be found on any improved property within the City, after the foregoing notice has been made, the Building Commissioner shall cause a written notice to be served by regular mail or personal delivery upon the owner, lessee, agent or tenant having charge of such land, notifying him that the weeds and grass are growing on such lands and that they must be cut or destroyed within seven (7) days after the service of such notice. If the address of such owner lessee, agent or tenant having charge of the lands is unknown, it shall be sufficient to publish such notice once in a newspaper of general circulation in the City, and/or on the City's webpage. If the owner, lessee, agent or tenant having charge of the lands fails to comply with the above notice, the Building Commissioner shall cause all weeds herein and grass to be removed and/or cut Thereupon, the expense of all necessary work, including but not limited to cutting, mowing, raking and applying weed killer, shall be billed to the property owner by regular mail or personal delivery and, upon his failure to reimburse the City this amount within thirty days thereafter, written notice shall may be made to the County Fiscal Officer advising of the City's action with a statement of the charges for the services, including all services referred to above, the fees of the officers who made the service, the notice and return, and a proper description of the premises, and a request that all such costs and fees be entered upon the tax duplicate and a lien upon such lands from and after the date of the entry which shall be collected as other taxes and be returned to the Municipality according to law. In the alternative, direct legal action may be taken by the Director of Law to recover these expenses.

(d) After two such written notices within the same calendar year are served by the Zoning Inspector upon the owner, lessee, agent or tenant having charge of such land, the City will assess a \$100.00 fine upon the owner, lessee, agent or tenant having charge of such land for each subsequent infraction. Each day that the improved property is not brought in compliance with

this section, following the issuance of the requisite notices to the owner, lessee, agent or tenant, shall constitute a separate infraction.

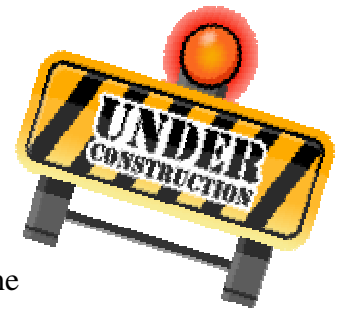
(e) If the property owner does not pay these fines within a period of thirty (30) days, the City may file a lien against the subject property with the County Fiscal Auditor. Such amount shall be a debt of the person to who assessed until paid and, in case of delinquency, may be enforced as delinquent City property taxes or by a suit against such person by the City, County, or subsequent property owner who paid off such lien.

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## ***Building Department***

### ***Construction Updates***

**ROUTE 82:** After about a century, the old railroad bridge is being demolished in order to widen Route 82. Concrete is being poured on the south side of the road. Please drive safely through the construction zone.



**SOUTH FREEWAY:** Base Course Asphalt is complete and the drive aprons are being poured. Surface course will follow next week.

### **ZONING ISSUES:**

*If you have not read in the newspaper or heard by word of mouth, the Noxious Weed Ordinance (909.04) has been amended by City Council.*



**There is now a \$100 fine** for high grass once you have been cited twice for Noxious Weeds. The Building Department asks that you please be a responsible homeowner and maintain your property.

## ***Safety tip from the Building Commissioner***

### ***Make a Safe Exit!***

During a home emergency such as a fire, it's important that all occupants are able to get out – and emergency personnel are able to get in – as quickly and easily as possible!



#### ***Safe exit paths and passages:***

- ⚡ Keep hallways clear of obstructions.
- ⚡ Do not block or obstruct emergency escape windows and exit doors.
- ⚡ Make sure all family members know how to unlock and open windows and doors.
- ⚡ Be sure window security bars release from the inside in case of an emergency.
- ⚡ Develop and practice a fire escape plan.

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, it takes less than 30 seconds for a small flame to burn completely out of control and turn into a major fire. Within minutes, a house can fill with thick, black smoke and become engulfed in flames. Building safety codes designate minimum window and hallway sizes so occupants will be able to get out in case of emergency, and provide access for first responders to get in. ***Contact the Building Department for more information 330-468-8360.***

***Mike Hlad, Building Commissioner***

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## ***Fire Department***

### **Ohio Fireworks Information**

*What types of fireworks can be legally discharged in Ohio?*

Trick and novelty fireworks (also known as exempted 1.4G fireworks) include items such as sparklers, snaps, glow snakes and smoke bombs. In general, these can be sold anywhere in Ohio and can be used anywhere in the state. However, some local communities have passed laws that prevented these from being sold or used.

*What types of fireworks are illegal to discharge in Ohio?*

#### ***1.3G Fireworks***

These are also known as display or exhibitor fireworks and include items such as aerial shells that are fired from mortars. They can only be sold by a licensed manufacturer, wholesaler, exhibitor or, under limited circumstances, out-of-state shippers. These fireworks can only be discharged by a licensed exhibitor in accordance with Ohio laws regarding exhibitions.

#### ***1.4G Fireworks***

These are commonly referred to as consumer fireworks. They include items such as firecrackers, bottle rockets, roman candles and fountains. Only a licensed manufacturer or wholesaler can sell these items. Anyone over the age of 18 may purchase these items, but must sign a form certifying that the purchaser will transport the fireworks outside the state of Ohio within 48 hours (72 hours for non-residents). **These fireworks cannot be discharged legally in the state of Ohio.**

*What are the dangers of using fireworks?*

**All fireworks are inherently dangerous.**

**Consumer fireworks (1.4G) cannot be discharged legally in Ohio.** For those who choose to use novelty items, the State Fire Marshal's Office urges extreme caution. While legal, these can still pose serious health problems, including severe burns, injuries to the hands, eyes and face, and even blindness or hearing loss. For example, sparklers burn at up to **1800 degrees**, hot enough to melt gold. The risk of severe burns is real. In addition, puncture-type injuries to the eye are not uncommon. Also, most fireworks require a source of ignition, creating other hazards associated with supplying children with matches or lighters. **The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to attend a show by a licensed exhibitor.**



*Chief Tim Black*

## *The Silverdonian Connection*

*The Silverdonians of Macedonia are a group of senior citizens that meet the first Monday of each month at Macedonia City Hall. They gather in the Community Room to share an afternoon of good friends, good food and hopefully some good speakers or a movie!!*

Macedonia Seniors that would like to join us are welcome, *but we do ask that you call us for reservations the Wednesday before our luncheon.* The Village Restaurant in Oakwood is our wonderful caterer, and we need to give Sharon a total count. *The luncheon starts at 12 noon and the speaker begins at 1:00 pm.*

The cost is only \$3.00 and worth every penny! If you are interested in more information about our luncheon, please feel free to call *Dianne at 330-468-8339 or Denise at 330-468-8300.*

### *Events coming up include...*

#### *Monday - August 3, 2009*

*“Dr.’s Black Bag – Home Remedies and Folk Lore”  
Presented by the Summit County Historical Society  
(If attending, please call by July 29<sup>th</sup>)*

#### *Monday - September 4, 2009*

*“Grandma’s Attic/Grandpa’s Garage”  
Presented by the Summit County Historical Society*

*Hope you can join us!!*

**For more information, check our web site:**

[www.macedonia.oh.us](http://www.macedonia.oh.us)



## *Police Department*



### *Parents, be on alert!*

If children are going to “sleep over”, please make sure they don’t sneak out at night. ***You are ultimately responsible!*** Also, make sure your children are where they say they are supposed to be! All too often the Police Department will find children wandering around the streets in the early morning hours. When we ask where they’re supposed to be they say “at the other kids house”. When kids plan a “sleep over”, it is a good idea for parents/guardians from each family to call each other and verify that the children are indeed spending the night.



***Communication is the key to safety and responsibility!***

*Chief Jon Golden*

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## *Recreation Department*



### **Important Upcoming Program Dates to remember!**



**July 19** - 2009 Scorchin’ Summer Classic Grass Volleyball Tournament Longwood Park  
**August 7** – Second Annual Movie in the Park  
**August 23** - 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Dog Swim & Parade

**\*\*The Recreation Center will be closed July 4 we will reopen Sunday at 11:00 am\*\***

## ***Service Department***

### **MACEDONIA SERVICE DEPARTMENT**

***IS PROUD TO OFFER RESIDENTS***

### ***FREE MULCH!!!***

Free mulch is available at Service Garage #1, 9000 Valley View Road. Available to all Macedonia residents, according to the following rules:

1. Mulch can be picked up by residents Monday-Friday during business hours only, no later than 4:30 p.m. Gates to the garage will be closed at 5:00 p.m.
2. The City **CANNOT** load mulch for anyone, either into their vehicles or trailers. In the past, the loading service got out-of-hand and caused a big disruption for the mechanics. Residents must load their own containers and/or vehicles. In addition, no one is allowed to bring in their own equipment to load their vehicle.

*Macedonia Service Department*  
Questions – Please call 330-468-8324.

