

2007 ANNUAL REPORT

State of the Village

Celebrating **125** years



Charles K. Wise

Mayor

February 04, 2008

From August 2007 through August 2008
Ashville is celebrating its 125th Anniversary.

It has been very busy for the Village of Ashville and its staff. It has been a year of working with other government agencies such as Pickaway County Commissioners office, Congressman Dave Hobson, Harrison Township, Madison Township, The City of Columbus and the Village of South Bloomfield.

During 2007 we were able to get the final signing of the Joint Economic Development Agreement (JEDD) between the City of Columbus, Harrison Township and The Pickaway County Commissioners. The N&S Intermodal Facility is scheduled to open the spring of 2008.

Hyperlogistics has built a building in the JEDD area and it is scheduled to open March 2008.

Since both entities are in the JEDD area the Village will begin to receive revenue from these businesses at the end of 2008.

The Village of Ashville, Madison Township, and the City of Columbus have entered into a JEDD and are waiting for the final signing from the City of Columbus. This JEDD also has a groundbreaking scheduled for this spring.

Both JEDD areas have an annexation Moratorium Agreement from Duvall Road, north to the county line for fifty years and will create a buffer area between our community and the City of Columbus. This accomplishes an initiative of our Land Use Plan.

Also we are in the process of restoring the Old Town Hall and Jail Building at 160 Long Street and meets an objective of honoring our past.

This Building was built for us by the Federal Government for four hundred dollars. The keys were presented to the Mayor at the first Village Council Meeting in 1882.

Also the Village of Ashville established its own Building Department effective the first of this year. Dale Hoover was appointed as our first Building Inspector.

To continue to be aggressive in regards to economic development the Village has become a member of P3 (Pickaway Progress Partnership) a public/private organization to market Ashville and it's surrounding area.

Nate Green was hired to be the Director and our Village Administrator Franklin Christman served on the board of directors. Nate helped facilitate our JEDD negotiations and meetings.

Our First success has been securing grant money and low interest loans for a green office complex.

The property this building will be built on was donated by village resident and owner of L.W. Associates.

Money from the .5% Income tax will be used for short term and long term planning projects.

Also the increased revenue will be used for "grant chasing" seed money for possible items such as park land, downtown revitalization, and infrastructure improvements.

The Tax Department has developed a good working relationship with the Regional Intergovernmental Tax Agency and our Administrator Pat Cavinee has been working hard on collecting on delinquent tax cases and has been taking to Court those who refuse to file or pay what is due the village to make it fair on us all.

The Utility Department has been busy with improvements in our water processes including water softening and configuring the plant to be more consistent.

Our engineers have designed a major project to utilize our new well field and to install water mains to get raw water from the well field to the water plant. Work on this project will be complete in the early summer of 2008 and will allow us to increase our capacity to over 800,000 gallons per day.

We also began installing radio read meters on all new houses being built and retrofitting the rest of the village over a period of time. This will reduce the labor cost of reading and improve accuracy during the billing cycle.

The Future Farmers of America and VO AG group at Teays Valley High School built us a new building at the water plant at a material only cost saving us considerable amount of money.

At the sewer plant we are continuing to looking at improving our sludge processing and hope to take advantage of some grants and low interest loans from Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC).

We also have purchased some monitoring equipment to assist us with dealing with I & I issues. Because we have been aggressive on making corrections as we identify them the EPA has been very supportive of our operations.

The Village has also been studying the feasibility of a Mud Run Trunk Sewer. The purpose of this line is to service our growth area to the north.

With the growth we have been experiencing we have been having talks with South Bloomfield on cooperating on utilities. I believe if we can accomplish this equitably it will be a Win-Win for our Northgate CEDA Area.

We also have applied for a grant and low interest loans for storm sewer project covering the length of Randolph Street. This project is estimated around \$203,000.

With our Safety Forces it is our intent to continue to provide a well trained and equipped police department.

We purchased a new cruiser in 2007 and will be replacing a cruiser in 2008.

The Police Department has computerized its report taking and filing system. This was done mostly with Law Enforcement grant money.

We also plan on adding a new officer in the 2nd half of 2008. Along with increased staffing we will be working on being more efficient with our current staffing and have added officers out in the evening and during busy shifts.

The Service Department was resided in 2007 and the front portion of the building is being restored. The Service Department sometimes is the busiest division because they handle the street maintenance, mowing, plowing, meter reading, building maintenance, and park maintenance along with support of utilities when we have water main breaks (usually when it's very cold) and sewer repairs. They also maintain our storm sewer systems.

We purchased them a used large dump truck earlier this year to help them with their jobs.

In the Village Park we installed new lighting to make it safer for walking in the early morning and evening hours. The lights also help reduce vandalism.

We plan on resurfacing the track and making improvements to the grandstand in 2008.

The YMCA is going to assist us this year with our "Fun-in-the-Sun", youth program. This will be a good asset for the village.

I propose the establishment of Parks and Recreation Board comprising of the youth baseball league, youth soccer, youth football, YMCA, council and civic groups to work on the needs of our community.

I also propose they look into our needs for the future of purchasing land for the development of a new park to meet the need of our community, whether it is land or a recreational facility with a pool.

The Ashville Area Heritage Society purchased the building next to the current museum and is working on getting it ready to open. These young men and women are doing a fine job of preparing to open the expanded facility. This truly is a nice anniversary gift to the community.

I have to advise you that Nelson Embrey is retiring as our Chief Fiscal Officer effective the end of April. This will be a loss to operations and I wish him well.

I make the promise that we won't be using the increase in fund to grow our village staff or to grow our payroll. We will use it in the same frugal manner as I was taught by my predecessors.

Last of all, having met with other officials from other communities I believe we are in better shape than most and I have been told they wish they were in our shoes.

I have a good staff and a great community to work with. **You** make my job easy.

Charles K. Wise
Mayor