

Article for 04/02/2012

It has been three months since my Mayor's job has begun, and it certainly has never been boring or uninteresting. Each day brings new information and challenges. I'd like to share with you some of the duties and meetings I attend.

Ohio Revised Code stipulates the duties of the Mayor. The most specific of those duties is to be the direct supervisor of the Fire Chief and Police Chief. Fire Chief Chad Smith and Police Chief Bill Talbott and I have numerous conversations each week. I appreciate their openness and enjoy learning from them about public safety. Chad Smith and his Fire/EMS department, along with the Police Dept., will be holding a **Public Safety Day on Saturday, May 19, from 9:00 – 4:00**. The day will be filled with tours of the fire station, demonstrations of equipment, activities for children, and food all hosted by the two departments. Chad will explain all about that day in an article to be published in early May. Please mark your calendars now to spend part of that day at the Fire Station and learn about the way our public safety employees serve you.

The Fulton County Mayors met this month to form a new organization. Topics of discussion included EMS services, water issues, and the discussion about the governor's consideration to lease or sell the Ohio Turnpike. The mayors of the seven municipalities of Fulton County agree that it is imperative to approach these and future issues as a united force, both for fiscal and policy reasons with both the Fulton County Commissioners and the State of Ohio. We feel we will be stronger as one cohesive unit.

Speaking of the Turnpike, I attended a meeting in Bryan, Ohio on Wednesday with the Mayors of Williams County, as the guest speaker was Rick Hodges from the Turnpike Commission. The meeting was quite an exchange of ideas. I will write a complete report on that issue for my next article.

Being Mayor automatically assigns me to be active on many committees. The Farmers Market is one of those, and we met for the second time this year last Thursday. **The Farmers Market** committee is dedicated to bringing local vendors to our community to sell their homemade and locally produced goods and agricultural products **on each Saturday morning from June 2 – Sept. 15 this year. Hours are 9:00 – 12:00** and the committee is busy contacting vendors, planning unique programs of educational interest, and finding hosts to offer breakfast each week. You will see newspaper advertising soon about this weekly event and we also have a banner that is flown above Airport Hwy. Please make sure you check that out on Saturdays this summer. More info regarding becoming a vendor will be featured in the near future on our village website at www.villageofswantonohio.us.

Two other websites I would like you to know about is the new Swanton Enterprise website at www.fcnews.org. There is currently no charge for accessing the news on this site. Please share this info with friends and family who do not currently subscribe to the local paper.

Also, please remember to "Call 811 Before You Dig". You need to contact the Ohio Utilities Protection Service before you dig in your yard due to underground utilities. Their website is www.oups.org.

My regular days at my village office are Tuesdays and Wednesdays, although I can be found in and out on the other three weekdays. If you wish to have an appointment with me, please call 419-826-9515 and I will call you back to schedule an appointment.