

Defiance council sets budget deliberation schedule

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Budget season is in full swing for Defiance City Hall, and a tentative schedule for deliberations was announced Tuesday night. But the latest news delivered to city council concerning revenue was less than cheery.

Council also approved all eight of its ordinances during its regular meeting, including two concerning downtown revitalization (see related story on page A1).

New finance director John Lehner presented council with what he called a "crude" 2010 budget schedule, calling for meetings on Nov. 10, Nov. 17, Nov. 24 and, if necessary, Dec. 1 with council's finance, water and sewer committees. This would allow for budget ordinance readings by council on Dec. 8, Dec. 15 and Dec. 22.

Lehner said the city's department heads submit-

ted their proposed budgets to the administration last week.

The budget talk prompted a question from At-large Councilman Steve Hubbard about city revenues.

City tax commissioner Mary Boals said income tax receipts are approximately \$500,000 less than they were at this time last year.

"It seems to be stabilizing at that," she said. "They're not getting any worse, but they're not getting any better either."

According to Lehner, receipts are down about 11.5 percent over last year.

Also at the meeting, Daniel Gray, 810 Nicholas St., pleaded with city officials to continue addressing a building eyesore concern at 408 Ralston Ave.

Gray noted that the owner (Donna Baldwin of Defiance) had a specified time to remediate the building's condition, but nothing was done. Baldwin had pleaded no contest to

two nuisance-related violations — both minor misdemeanors — on Aug. 20 in Defiance Municipal Court, was found guilty and given a suspended \$200 fine on condition she address the problems within 30 days.

"Could someone please say enough is enough?" Gray asked.

City administrator Jeff Leonard said he wasn't sure of the status of the situation. But he said he would speak with law director David Williams and his assistant, David Land, to see what is getting done.

For his part, Williams agreed that the building's appearance is "indefensible."

He said there have been some discussions about introducing a fourth-degree misdemeanor in city ordinances for repeat offenders of this nature. That would allow a judge the possibility of imposing a jail sentence, he noted.

In other business:

— Ward III Councilman Darrell Handy asked the administration what part of Webster Street would be resurfaced. Leonard said he wasn't sure, but would let Handy know.

— Mayor Bob Armstrong highlighted upcoming city events. Among them: Dr. Morbs will host a "double creature feature" on Saturday at the Defiance Arts and Media Center, 319 Wayne Ave. A Halloween costume contest will be held while candy will be available for children. Kids age 6 and under will be admitted free while everyone else will be charged \$2.

— Leonard recommended that council's committees hold discussions on the proposed annexation of 200-plus acres southeast of Defiance parallel to their budget deliberations in November. Williams corrected a typographical error that appeared on the annexation ordinance tabled by council last week. The area

in question is 270 acres, not 207 acres.

— At-large Councilman Joe Eureste asked if the administration planned to do long-term vision planning with council in the

near future. While Leonard indicated that nothing is planned, Council President Tim Holtsberry said some sort of strategic planning may occur after a new council is seated (after Jan. 1).



Jenny Derringer/C-N Photo

Annual meeting

The Defiance Area Society for the Handicapped (DASH) will hold its annual fall meeting from 6-8 p.m. Oct. 22 at St. John United Church of Christ. Author Sean Barron will talk about his life with autism. Dinner is \$8.50 and includes chicken, potatoes, beans, salad and cake. Individuals should RSVP by Monday at 419-428-6141. This year's dinner is sponsored by Defiance College's autism program. Preparing for the meeting are: Cathie Bok (left), president of the DASH board of directors; and Donna Sullivan, board member.

AREA DEATHS



Together again

Marjorie Linebrink

Marjorie Margaret (Bistel) Linebrink, 79, Defiance, Ohio, went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, October 13, 2009, at Twin Rivers Care and Rehabilitation Center, Defiance.

She was born July 27, 1930, in Dennison, Ohio, the daughter of Carl H. and Mary E. (Fetter) Bistel. On Dec. 3, 1947, she married Roger A. Linebrink, who preceded her in death on Aug. 30, 2009. She was a devoted wife and mother who spent her life caring for her husband, their home and their sons. Marjorie was dearly loved by her family and will be missed greatly by all who knew her. She was a partner in MarRog Tackle Company with her husband. She was a member of Independence United Methodist Church where she served as a Sunday school teacher for 30 years. She was a den mother for Den 5 of Cub Scout Pack 128 of Jewell, Ohio, during the 1950s. She was an avid gardener, baker and crafter.

Surviving are four sons, Larry Linebrink Sr. of Ruckersville, Va., Gary (Liz) Linebrink of Picayune, Miss., Dennis Linebrink of Victorville, Calif., and Mike (Karen) Linebrink of Maple Falls, Wash.; a brother, Raymond (Shelby) Bistel of Waynesboro, Va.; eight grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Preceding her in death were her beloved husband of 61 years; her parents; siblings, Carl W. Bistel, John Patrick "Pat" Bistel and Katherin Smith; a daughter-in-law, Sharon D. Linebrink; and a granddaughter, Teresa Linebrink.

The family will receive visitors on Friday from 4-8 p.m. at Mast-Mock-Hoffman-Hanenkrath-Clevenger-Schaffer Funeral Home, Defiance, and one hour prior to the funeral on Saturday at the funeral home. Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Independence United Methodist Church, rural Defiance, with Rev. Laura Clark officiating, with burial following in Independence Cemetery. Her sons remember her preference for sweatshirts and ask that in her honor, mourners wear sweatshirts to the funeral.

In lieu of flowers, preferred memorials are to a charity of the donor's choice. Condolences may be expressed at www.mastmockhoffman.com.

George Bradford

George E. Bradford, 70, Defiance, died Saturday, October 10, 2009, at the Toledo Hospital where he had been a patient for two weeks.

He was born June 19, 1939, in Putnam County, Ohio, the son of Bert L. and Helen M. (Hutchins) Bradford. On December 15, 1978, he married Margaret M. Richmond, who survives. He was the owner/operator of the Power Dam Inn, Defiance, for 38 years retiring in 1998. He was a U.S. Army veteran and a graduate of Continental High School. He was also a member of the Defiance VFW Post 3360, the Defiance AMVETS Post 1991, the Defiance Eagles 372 and the Continental American Legion Post 541.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret, Defiance; three daughters, Kim (Jerry) Shaffer of Grover Hill, Ohio, Kristi (Jason) Farquhar of Fort Bragg, N.C., and Peggy Diaz, Houston, Texas; nine grandchildren, three stepgrandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and eight great-stepgrandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother David L. Bradford in 2004.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, October 17, 2009, at the Den Herder Funeral Home, Paulding, with Rev. Ben Lowell officiating. Burial will be in Sherman Cemetery, Charloe, Ohio, where military graveside rites will be accorded. Visitation will be from 2-8 p.m. Friday, October 16, 2009, at the Den Herder Funeral Home. Also, there will be calling one hour prior to services on Saturday at the funeral home.

The family suggests that memorial contributions be made to the Defiance County Humane Society. Online condolences may be sent to www.denherderfh.com.

Vern Nafziger

ARCHBOLD — Vern J. Nafziger, 91, Archbold, died Tuesday morning, Oct. 13, 2009, at Fairlawn Haven Nursing Home in Archbold.

He was born July 27, 1918, near Pettisville, the son of Charlie and Malinda (Rufenacht) Nafziger, and married Evelyn Nofziger on December 4, 1941. A lifelong resident of the Archbold area, he farmed and, with his wife, made lye soap for Mennonite Central Committee for many years. He did volunteer work for Mennonite Disaster Services and Little Eden Camp. He was a member of the Central Mennonite Church near Archbold, and the Gideons International.

He is survived by his wife, Evelyn; six children, Melda (Larry) Richer of Wauseon, Esther (Wendell) Badertscher of Bluffton, Daniel (Shirley) Nafziger, Julia (Neal) Beck, Norma (Doug) Kauffman and Karleen Behnfeldt, all of Archbold; a daughter-in-law, Carolyn Nafziger of Pioneer; 18 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren; and one sister, Pauline Rossman, formerly of Wauseon.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a son, Marvin Nafziger; one grandson; three brothers, Earl Nafziger, Ora Nafziger and Loren Nafziger; one sister, Lillian Sauder.

Memorial services will be held on Friday at 4 p.m. at the Central Mennonite Church with Pastors Jeffrey Smith, Bill Holsopple and Mary Jo Bray officiating. Interment will precede services in the Pettisville Cemetery. Friends may call at the Central Mennonite Church from 2-8 p.m. on Thursday. Short Funeral Home in Archbold has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Memorials are suggested to Gideons International.

James Bergstedt

NAPOLEON — James "Jim" Bergstedt, 54, of Napoleon, Ohio, died Monday, October 12, 2009, at the University of Toledo Medical Center.

He was born on August 28, 1955, to Donald and Ruth (Behnfeldt) Bergstedt. He was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Napoleon.

He was a member of the Sons of the American Legion of Napoleon and served as commander, second vice commander, adjutant and first district commander. He also served the Son's sergeant of arms state position from 2002-2003. He also loved coaching baseball and coached Napoleon Pony League from 1971 to 1988. He began coaching at the age of 16 and coached until all of his nephews were done playing the game. He also served as Henry County Pony League

Commissioner for a number of years. Jim was a production and shipping supervisor at Universal Co-op in Napoleon for over 30 years and from 1973-1975 he worked for Bergstedt Builders of Napoleon.

He is survived by his mother, Ruth Bergstedt; brothers, Tom (Marilyn) Bergstedt, Mike (Darlene) Bergstedt, Scott (Shelley) Bergstedt and Joe (Deb) Bergstedt, all of Napoleon, Ohio; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, Donald; and a nephew, Brian Bergstedt.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 16, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Napoleon with Pastor Peter Marcis and Pastor James Hoyle officiating. Interment will follow at Grelton Cemetery. Friends may call from 2-8 p.m. at Rodenberger Funeral Home in Napoleon on Thursday and on Friday one hour prior to the service at the church.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggest memorials to St. Paul Lutheran Church, Napoleon. Online condolences at www.rodenbergerfuneralhome.com.

Gordon Mowat

NEY — Gordon Thomas Mowat, 63, of Ney, Ohio, died at 7:19 p.m. on Monday, October 12, 2009, at Community Hospitals and Wellness Centers of Bryan, Ohio, shortly after admittance.

Mr. Mowat was a 1963 graduate of Fairview High School. He entered the U.S. Navy on September 16, 1965, and served for four years. He retired from the Defiance Post Office in 2000, where he was a letter carrier for 27 years. He loved spending time with his family and grandchildren. He also enjoyed traveling, being outdoors on his farm, gardening and raising animals.

Gordon Thomas Mowat was born on October 15, 1945, in Dearborn, Michigan, the son of George Herbert and Anna Catherine (Welsh) Mowat. He married Betty L. Stansill on November 9, 1968, at St. Stephen's Catholic Church, The Bend, Ohio, and she survives.

Surviving in addition to his wife, Betty, are two daughters, Beth Ann (Todd) Buttermore of Ney, Ohio, and Angela (Tim) Pyle of Lima, Ohio; and two granddaughters, Allison and Ashley Buttermore, both of Ney. He is also survived by a brother, Lawrence (Rita) Mowat of Greenwood, Indiana; a sister, Georgianna (John) Cannady of Bremerton, Washington; his stepfather, Arthur Wonderly; five step-siblings, Greg (Lynn) Wonderly, Mark Wonderly, Neil (Jill) Wonderly, Cindy Baxter and Vickie Elser, all of Sherwood.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Sharon Polter.

Services for Gordon T. Mowat will be held at the Ney Church of God on Saturday, October 17, 2009, at 11 a.m. with Pastor Richard VanHorn officiating. Visitation will be held on Friday, October 16, 2009, from 4-8 p.m. in the Krill Funeral Home, 860 West Mulberry Street, Bryan, Ohio, and one hour prior to the service on Saturday, beginning at 10 a.m.

Memorials in the name of Gordon T. Mowat may be given to the American Heart Association or the charity of the donor's choice.

Marjorie Baker

Marjorie J. Baker, 85, Defiance, died Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2009, at Mercy Hospital of Defiance. Arrangements are pending at Mast-Mock-Hoffman-Hanenkrath-Clevenger-Schaffer Funeral Home.

Wauseon elementary receives state award

WAUSEON — The Wauseon Exempted Village Board of Education has been informed that Elm Street Elementary School was chosen as a 2008-09 "School of Promise" by the Ohio Department of Education.

The recognition was for high achievement in reading and mathematics for all groups of students despite having more than 40 percent of its student population coming from low-income backgrounds, superintendent Marc Robinson said at the board's meeting Monday night.

"This accomplishment is a tremendous tribute to the staff and is certainly worthy of the recognition

received," said Robinson.

The school was among only 134 school buildings honored across Ohio.

In other business, the board:

— viewed a video presentation by agriculture education students Kira Andre and Saul Triana and their teacher, Leah Amstutz, regarding the FFA trip to Brazil this past summer.

— commended Tirth Patel and Morgan Williams for being named "commended students" in the 2010 National Merit Scholarship program.

— approved Deana Beck and Maria Thuma as LEP (limited English proficiency) volunteers.

Henry County commissioners support statewide ballot issue

NAPOLEON — Henry County commissioners voted Tuesday to endorse a statewide issue that will appear on the ballot in the November general election.

The board voted to endorse Issue 2, which would create an Ohio livestock care standards board.

Commissioners also approved an \$84,490 pay estimate to L.J. Irving and

Sons for work on two county bridges and conducted a monthly review of Country View Haven, the county-run residential care facility.

On the agenda for Thursday, the board will conduct a quarterly investment meeting at 9:15 a.m., open bids for snow plowing at the Henry County Office Complex at 9:30 a.m. and review health insurance information at 10:30 a.m.

THE BOSS HAS GONE BATTY

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GL5 BASIC (Reg. \$7995) SPOOKY Clearance: \$4499 +tax	GL7 EXCEL (Reg. \$10995) SPOOKY Clearance: \$6499 +tax
GL5 EXCEL (Reg. \$8995) SPOOKY Clearance: \$4999 +tax	1/2 OFF ACCESSORIES AT TIME OF NEW SPA PURCHASE Coverliff H2 Handystep Clearance: \$135+tax Clearance: \$59.95+tax

DEFIANCE WATER recreation

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Sat. 9-3

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