

November 11, 2014

All steps are progressing well with the utility aggregation programs here in Fort Recovery. The electric rate took effect on November 1st and if you still need to switch over you can do so by cancelling your existing contract or waiting until it expires. The contact number for AEP Energy is 1-877-726-0214 – make sure you have a copy of your DP&L bill in front of you when you make the call. Should you have any issues, feel free to contact Jordan at AGE (village consultant) at 618-203-8328 and he will help guide you through any problems. The gas aggregation will take effect on December 1st, again at a rate of \$4.79 per mcf for a 24 month term with Volunteer Energy. Letters are being mailed this week to those who do not have a current contract which will provide them with the opportunity to do nothing to take advantage of this program or to choose to opt-out by returning the enclosed post card. Contact info is forthcoming for those in current contracts and would like to switch. If you have any questions about either program, please feel free to contact me at the village offices and I will be glad to assist.

Our fall curbside leaf pickup is definitely in full swing and village personnel are doing a great job getting around town nearly every day that the weather is fit. Please remember to keep any sticks, roots, nuts or fruits out of your leaf piles as they will plug up the leaf vacuum. Those items should be placed in yard waste bags and will be picked up by Maharg's Trash Service on Wednesday mornings. We also are in the process of removing and now cleaning up the many dead and/or dying ash trees from public property. It is unfortunate that we have to lose all these trees but many were becoming unsafe. The village will be replacing each of those removed with a tree planted somewhere here in our parks and public grounds.

Mayor Roger Broerman has announced he will be holding his annual "Christmas Lighting & Decoration Contest" again this year. As in the past, all properties located within the village are eligible and there is no registration required. The mayor and council members will be doing the judging the evening of Tuesday, December 23rd. Merchant gift certificates will be awarded to the top three winners. Show your holiday spirit and possibly win a prize this holiday season.

Other items of interest around the village and upcoming events include:

- Year-end planning is moving along with many projects still on the horizon. We will likely be focusing on a major upgrade to our sanitary lagoon system during 2015. This system was built in the early 1970's and has served our community very well over the years and quite cost effectively. With the growth that has occurred and is continuing in both the industrial and housing areas, it is necessary to complete an upgrade in order to keep us in compliance with Ohio EPA regulations and to provide for adequate growth in the future. Look for additional news as we move forward with the planning.
- We continue to look at ways to improve our park systems and will be considering what project(s) we will take on for next year and the following years. One such project that is in the engineering stage is that of adding additional parking to Community Park. Anyone that attends any events during our busy summer months will have a good understanding of the need for additional parking. Other projects that are being considered include a walking trail, restroom renovations, tennis courts, improvements at the swimming pool and others. Feedback is always appreciated so feel free to talk with me or any of the Park Board members regarding your thoughts on our park needs.
- A preliminary planning committee met with representatives of ODOT, our legislators, and county personnel regarding a long term plan to help accommodate the large volume of truck traffic that travels through our community on a daily basis. We are discussing various possible improvements/options and will report more as we move through the process. With our winding highway route this is becoming more of an issue for our businesses and the farm community and certainly something that we would certainly love to improve for everyone's benefit.
- Merchant's Christmas Open House is Sunday, November 16th from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. There will be many activities including carriage rides, Pioneer house demonstrations, strolling carolers, the Bell Choir, and of course Santa Claus will be in town. Don't forget to register for the big \$1,000 drawing at the participating merchants for your chance to win \$1,000 in merchant gift certificates.
- I would be remiss not to say a huge Congratulations to Coach Niekamp, his coaching staff and the entire football program for their highly successful season, which now includes our first playoff game in school history and a well-played victory in that game!! How exciting for the community and especially those athletes that have worked very hard to achieve their goals. Good luck this week with the Flyers!
- A special thanks to our many veterans this week in celebration of Veteran's Day. We commend and appreciate your service, both past and present, and want you to know it will never be forgotten in the sacrifices you gave to provide this great country with the freedoms we now enjoy. Thank You!!