



Community Park Cleanup Day!

Brookville Park Board has set Saturday, March 28, 2015 as the Annual Community Park Cleanup Day for Golden Gate Park, Westbrook Soccer Complex and Ward Park. Cleanup will begin at 10:00 a.m. Trash bags and equipment will be provided at Golden Gate Park, Shelter #3. Volunteers will meet back at the shelter to enjoy hot dogs, chips and refreshments following the cleanup. Join us for a little work, a little food, and a lot of community pride! Help keep your parks a clean and safe place to play and enjoy.

Adult Summer Softball Leagues

Summer softball league begins April 28th under the direction of Ball Diamond Manager Ron Chandler. League fees are \$380 and must be paid in full by the first game. Registration will take place April 12-16, 2015 at Golden Gate Park. To sign up or for more information, please contact Ron Chandler at 937-833-0918.

City Staff

John R. Wright, City Manager
wright@brookvilleohio.com
Sonja Keaton, Asst. City Mgr./
Dir. of Finance/Clerk
keaton@brookvilleohio.com
Doug Jerome, Dir. of Police
Djerome@brookvillepoliceohio.com
Ron Fletcher, Dir. of Fire
Ron.Fletcher@brookvillefire.us

City of BROOKVILLE

“A Proud and Progressive Community.”

Spring Issue 2015

Phone: 937-833-2135 Fax: 937-833-3347

City Manager to Retire in May

It is with mixed emotions that I announce that I will be retiring as City Manager at the end of May.

After over 46 years of public service to Brookville, 34 of those years as Manager, I feel it is time for me to move on.

There is no way I could possibly thank everyone I need to, or look back at all the great changes and improvements we have made as a city. There are just too many. I will, however, thank all of the elected officials I have worked for and the dedicated employees I have worked with. For me to attempt to highlight our accomplishments or single specific individuals would consume this entire newsletter and more. So I've made it short and sweet. Thanks to everyone, especially the citizens of Brookville, for an enjoyable and gratifying career.

Good luck in the years ahead!



John R. Wright, City Manager

City Seeks a Permanent Income Tax Rate Increase

Brookville City Council Members adopted Ordinance No. 2014-11 in December 2014, which amends the provisions of the municipal income tax ordinance to provide for a permanent increase in the income tax rate in the amount of one-fourth of one percent (0.25%) effective January 1, 2016 for the purposes of general municipal operations, maintenance, new equipment, and extension and enlargement of municipal services and facilities of the City of Brookville.

We are providing our constituents with information that will address the reasons for increasing the income tax rate permanently. Below are answers to some of the questions that may be asked about why we are seeking a permanent increase to our income tax rate.

Answers About Brookville's Proposed Income Tax Increase

What is Issue 12?

Issue 12 provides for a permanent increase in the income tax rate in the amount of one-fourth of one percent (0.25%) effective January 1, 2016. If approved by the electors of the City of Brookville, at the May 5, 2015 Primary Election, the income tax rate would change from 1.75% per annum currently to 2.00% per annum.

Why is this issue necessary?

The issue is necessary to continue to provide general municipal operations and maintenance due to state cuts and/or eliminations that the City has seen over the last five years. The City has lost an estimated \$260,000 annually from the reduction in the Local Government Fund, elimination of the Estate Tax, and the elimination of promised reimbursement for the loss of revenues due to the repeal of Tangible Personal Property and Public Utilities Taxes.

The issue is necessary to restore staffing levels in our Service Department and Administrative Office to our 2007 levels and to address attrition at several levels over the next few years.

The issue is necessary to allow for capital improvements to be re-implemented, which have been almost nonexistent the last five (5) years.

continued on page 2...

continued from page 1...

Why is this issue necessary?

Issue 12 will assist the City with the enlargement of municipal services particularly for the Brookville Fire Department. The Brookville Fire Department currently works out of two buildings, one located on the corner of Market and Main Streets and the other located on the corner of Albert Road and Cusick Avenue. The Brookville Fire Department staffs the station 24/7 with four to five trained personnel. The current stations do not have decontamination facilities for personnel or equipment. The stations are too small (short and narrow) for new vehicles. The air conditioning and heating equipment is located off the equipment bays and distributes exhaust fumes and pathogens throughout the building. The current structures do not have multi-hour fire separation, nor rated doors between the apparatus bays and the surrounding office spaces. The City will see savings in operating costs by replacing two older, inefficient stations, with one new efficient and practical facility.

Who pays the tax and what is taxed?

The vast majority paying Brookville's income tax are those who live in other communities. In fact, about 80% of the people who pay Brookville's income tax are individuals who work in Brookville but live elsewhere. That's because you pay income tax to the community in which you work. You should know, too, that only EARNED income is taxed.

If you live in Brookville and work in a community that taxes at a rate LESS than Brookville, such as Englewood, you would pay 1.75% to Englewood and the additional .25% to Brookville.

Who does not pay the tax?

Taxpayers will continue to receive a credit for income taxes paid to other cities. If you live in Brookville but work in Dayton, Moraine, Trotwood, Vandalia, Oakwood, Springfield, or West Carrollton, or any other community with an income tax rate of two percent (2%) or more, there would be NO increase in your taxes because your income is already taxed at or equal to what Brookville proposes.

Individuals with unearned income such as Social Security, pension payments, investment incomes such as CD's, stock, annuities, dividends, checking and savings accounts, unemployment, disability, military pay, capital gains and alimony are not taxed. Dividends from the income of an S corporation are not taxed. Income of persons under 18 is not taxed.

Do Senior Citizens get a break?

Yes. Since Social Security and pension payments are not taxed, Senior Citizens who have no other earned income are not subject to the tax.

Why is it important for our City?

The additional income tax rate will generate approximately \$770,000 annually and will assist with general municipal operations, maintenance, new equipment, and extension and enlargement of municipal services and facilities of the City of Brookville.

Why now?

A 1% income tax rate began on April 1, 1971. Electors voted to increase that rate to 1.75% effective July 1, 1978. The City of Brookville has operated with that same income tax rate for 37 years. The City would like to restore some of the income levels that have been lost due to state cuts. We would like to restore staffing levels in our Service Department and Administrative Office and we would like to address attrition at several levels over the next few years. The City would like to restore capital improvement projects. The City would like to move forward with the construction of a new fire station to consolidate two older structures into one energy efficient practical facility. At this time, we are seeing unprecedented interest rates that would save the City a lot of money over a 25-year period.

I still have questions. Who can I call for more information?

There are a number of contacts who can answer your questions. You can phone City Manager John Wright, 833-2135, or email him at wright@brookvilleohio.com, Assistant Manager/Director of Finance Sonja Keaton, 833-2135, or email her at keaton@brookvilleohio.com.



Primary Election
Day is May 5,
2015

Polls are open on
Election Day from
6:30 a.m. until
7:30 p.m.

To find your polling location, use the Montgomery County Board of Elections Polling Finder online at: <http://www.voterfind.com/montgomeryoh/pollfinder.aspx>

Or call the Board of Elections at 225-5656.

The last day to register to vote is thirty days prior to an election.

Absentee voting information and deadlines can be found on the Montgomery County website at www.mcoho.org/boe

CITY OF BROOKVILLE GUIDE TO REQUIRED PERMITS

Why A Building Permit? Protection!

The City of Brookville has adopted the Ohio Residential Code to provide minimum standards for the protection of life, limb, health, property, environment and safety and welfare of the consumer, general public, owners and occupants. The City of Brookville contracts with National Inspection Corporation (NIC) for plan review, approval and inspections.

A building permit application can be submitted at the Municipal Offices, located at 301 Sycamore Street, between 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

When is a building permit required?

Building permits are required from the City for the following:

- Any new residential building
- Renovations & room additions
- Accessory buildings over 200 square feet
- Decks
- In-ground & above ground pools & hot tubs
- Temporary pools with a water depth of 18 inches or more
- Gas line installation and inspection
- Heating & air-conditioning (HVAC)
- Finished Basements
- Electrical Upgrade
- A reconnect electric permit is required when a house is vacant more than 6 months.

Please note that all plumbing permits are applied for at Montgomery County.

Building Permit Process

- 1. Submit Application:** The permit application requires information about the construction project, including the address of the project, the contractor (including self-contractors) with contact information, and 2 sets of sketches or drawings for the project. Drawings must show footer, wall sections, trusses, and dimensions of the project.
- 2. Wait During Review Process:** The majority of the permit applications are processed with little delay and will take 7 to 10 business days for review and approval. Larger projects could take longer, smaller ones less time.
- 3. Receive Permit:** The building permit is a document granting legal permission to start construction. You must proceed with work as submitted in your approved plans. A fee will be collected when approved plans are picked up.
- 4. Arrange Inspection Visits:** Each major phase of construction must be inspected by a Code Official from National Inspection Corporation (NIC) to make certain the work conforms to the Code, the building permit and approved plans. The person responsible for the construction project must request each inspection. Normally a 24-hour advance notice to NIC at 1-888-433-4642 is required.
- 5. Final Inspection:** The last inspection is considered your Final. For a residential home or remodeling you will be issued a Certificate of Occupancy. Please keep all records of any type of construction permits and inspections. This will help you if you decide to sell your home.

Zoning Permits

Zoning Permits are required for the following:

- Any new building
- Additions
- Decks
- Fences
- Sheds (under 200 sq. ft.)
- Pools- permanent and temporary
- Signs

A Zoning Application can be obtained at the City Office and is required to be completed by the property owner on file with the County Auditor. Along with the application, a plot plan and two sets of drawings are required. The plot plan needs to show the proposed project and its location on the property and must indicate the distance from property lines and any primary structures. A \$35.00 zoning fee is due at the time of the application. The Zoning Officer will review the application and if the project meets all Code requirements, will grant approval. The Zoning Officer will make a final inspection of the project upon completion.

Property Maintenance

Why a code?

The Property Maintenance Code sets minimum standards so a property owner clearly knows what maintenance is expected. Plus, it provides assurance to all residents that their neighbors will do the same. In general, the exteriors of all properties in the City of Brookville should be structurally sound, free of nuisances, unsanitary conditions, and hazards to protect property value. It is the property owner's responsibility to comply with property maintenance measures.

Who's affected?

All owners of properties or structures within the City of Brookville must comply with the Property Maintenance Code.

Who Enforces the Code?

The City Zoning Officer has the responsibility to determine if there is a code violation and enforce it.

How Will It be Enforced?

It will be enforced initially by a formal notice of violation when the Zoning Officer observes significant deficiencies on the property. Later, specific legal steps may be implemented to gain compliance and protect the rights of all residents.

Property Maintenance Checklist:

Inadequate Property Maintenance: Property such as building exteriors that are maintained in a condition as to become so faulty, unsightly, or in such condition of deterioration or disrepair that the same will probably cause decrease in values of surrounding properties. This includes, but is not limited to the keeping, disposing or scattering over the property of lumber, junk, trash, debris, abandoned, discarded or unused objects or equipment such as automobiles, or parts, furniture, stoves, refrigerators, freezers, cans or containers.

Notice of High Grass and/or Noxious Weeds: Noxious weeds, as determined by the State Director of Agriculture, or other vegetation, including grasses, which are 8 inches or more in height, or any weed or vegetation growth causing a hazardous condition to pedestrians, or which is likely to harbor rats, vermin or other pest. Property owners in violation receive one notice that is good for a full year. Once a property owner receives the notice they have 5 days to comply or the City will cut the high grass or weeds at \$75.00 an hour, plus a 2% administration fee.

Recreational Vehicles: These vehicles may be parked behind the front setback on a hard surface such as asphalt, concrete, or weed-free compact gravel and can be parked in the driveway for not more than 72 hours in 7 day period. Recreational vehicles are defined but not limited to travel trailers, "pop up" camping trailers, 5th wheel trailers, pick up campers, motor homes, converted trucks or buses, boats, boat trailers, snowmobiles, snowmobile trailers, and water ski trailers.

Refuse & Waste: Refuse and waste matter by reason of its location and character is unsightly and interferes with reasonable enjoyment of property by neighbors and harmfully affects property values in surrounding neighborhood or community.

Vehicle Parking: All parking facilities required for single family dwelling in the City limits shall be surfaced with durable material such as asphalt or concrete. No parking in the grass.

Broken or Discarded Furniture: No broken or discarded furniture and household equipment in visible yard area. This includes front porch and rear yard area.

Junk, Inoperable, or Unlicensed Vehicles: Properties must be free of junk, inoperable or unlicensed vehicles. No disabled, wrecked, dismantled, unlicensed or licensed, expired or abandoned vehicles should be visible on premises.

Treatment of Trash Receptacles: Trash containers should be removed from the curb within 12 hours of trash collection. The containers should be stored in the garage or at the rear of the home.



City wide Community Garage Sale dates have been set for Brookville residents during the month of June. The City has been divided into four sections. Each section is designated for Community Garage Sales on a specific weekend in June. We encourage you to participate. Garage sales are a great way to de-clutter your home while making a little cash to stash away for a rainy day!

June 4, 5, 6

Arlington Rd.	Jessica Ct.
Arlington Woods Dr.	Sterling Meadows Pl.
Kimmel Tr.	Edgebrook Ave.
Flanders Ave.	Carter Ct.
Shaney Ln.	Sunrise Ave.
Randy Sue Ct.	Studebaker Ct.
Ashmark Ct.	Coronado Dr.
300 - 815 Mound St.	Rona Pkwy.
Meadow Glen Ave.	Pleasant Ct.
Terri Dr.	Adrian Ct.
Callie Ct.	Ramblewood Ct.
Caleb Dr.	Ridge Rd.
Bruns Dr.	

June 25, 26, 27

Golden Beech Dr.	Ruth Ann Ct.
Golden Maple Ave.	Marshall Lane
Patricia Faye Ct.	Glenna Ct.
Leiber Lane	Golden Meadows Ave.
Calmer Ernst Blvd.	Marilyn Way
Dorothy Lane	Larry Ct.
Hunterfield Dr.	Hunters Run Dr.
Mallard Ct.	Wilderness Cove
Quail Hollow	Timberwolf Way
Moose Ct.	401-670 S. Wolf Creek St.
Elk Ct.	300-455 E. Westbrook Rd.
903-950 Salem St.	Brooke Parke Ave
Albert Rd.	Brooke Woode Dr.
Poplar Run Pl.	Meadow Brooke Ave.
Vinnie Ct.	Heckathorn Rd.
Estates Lane	Brookhaven Estates Ln.
E. Upper Lewisburg-Salem Rd.	

June 11, 12, 13

W. McKinley St.	Karrland Dr.
Osage Alley	Leisure Dr.
Western Ave.	Ankara Ave.
Hill St.	Brookside Dr.
Clay St.	Durwell Dr.
March Ave.	Antwerp Ave.
Simmons St.	June Pl.
Plymouth Circle	25-730 W. Westbrook Rd.
Plymouth Ave.	Madrid Ave.
Vienna Ct.	Terrace Park Blvd.
Oslo Ct.	Bayview Ave.
Harshman St.	Beechwood Ave.
Foothill Dr.	30-250 Mound St.
Ostend Dr.	Orchard St.
Crosswell Ave.	Villa Dr.
Woodfield Dr.	Villa Circle
Hull Ct.	Church St.
Deger Ct.	Cherry St.
Pryor Ct.	Rock St.
Brookmoor Dr.	Doyle Ave.
Charlie Ct.	Brookville-Pyrmont Rd.
Blue Pride Dr.	Johnsville-Brookville Rd.
100-464 N. Wolf Creek St.	

June 18, 19, 20

Baker St.	Cusick Ave.
106 - 866 Salem St.	Sycamore St.
Main St.	E. McKinley St.
Walnut St	Oak St.
Mulberry St.	Market St.
Hay Ave.	Gaines St.
Vine St.	Maple St.
Jefferson St.	Poplar St.
Columbia St.	Lisa Ct.
Wall St.	32-248 E. Westbrook Rd.
Urban Ln.	5-325 S. Wolf Creek St.
Joanna St.	15-25 N. Wolf Creek St.

- Each garage sale shall not exceed four calendar days in length.
- Admittance fees may not be charged to attend the sale.
- Each address is permitted three garage sales per year with at least a one month lapse between each garage sale.
- Each property is allowed one 2 x 2 sign- no more than 3 feet off ground- displayed on property and two 2 x 2 off-premise directional signs-no more than 3 feet off ground.

- No signs permitted on utility poles or traffic/sign posts. No signs permitted in public right of way.
- Signs shall be removed within twenty-four (24) hours following the conclusion of the garage sale.
- No balloons, streamers, special lighting, noise making devices, or similar advertising displays shall be used to call attention to the garage sale.

City Tax Help Available



The City of Vandalia will have representatives at our City Building on Friday, March 27, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday, March 28 from 8:00 a.m. until noon to assist residents with the preparation of their city income tax return. There is no charge for this service. All Brookville residents 18 or over, whether or not any income was earned or any tax is due, are required to file. Those living in the city for any part of the year are also required to file a return. Others required to file are all resident business entities including trusts, corporations, S-Corporations, partnerships and other unincorporated businesses and anyone receiving a taxpayer letter, as those accounts remain in an active status until a “final” return is filed.

Brookville tax returns are due on or before April 15, 2015. Extensions are not granted on an automatic basis. Extension requests must be filed with the City of Vandalia Tax Department on or before the due date of the return. An extension of time to file does not extend the time to pay the tax. Extensions shall be conditioned upon receipt of payment of the tax estimated to be due and the account not being held in a delinquent status.

Taxpayers are urged to file their returns electronically through the Online Tax Filing Tool on the City of Vandalia’s website, which can be accessed through our website, www.brookvilleohio.com. City taxes may be paid by cash, personal check, money order, credit card, or electronic check. Cash, personal check or money order payment may be paid in person at the Vandalia Income Tax Office, or mailed to the tax office. Credit card or electronic payments are to be remitted through the Online Payment Center on the City of Vandalia’s website, which can be accessed through our website, www.brookvilleohio.com.

Police Departments Warn Parents on Dangers of Sexting

The City of Brookville Police Department, Clay Township Police Department, Perry Township Police Department and the Brookville Local Schools are taking a proactive approach towards social media and “sexting” concerns within our community. In today’s society, our smartphones, tablets, iPods, iPads and laptops provide countless avenues to access social media outlets for our teens; which in turn allow teens to communicate, share information and images amongst themselves and in many cases, without the knowledge of their parents.

We strongly encourage parents to monitor, discuss and explain the dangers associated with electronic devices and social media outlets with their teens. By parents taking a proactive approach now, it will prevent us from taking an enforcement approach later. We are often faced with rumors and allegations of wrongdoing by our teens. Recently, we were alerted to a possible problem amongst our teens related to sexting. Our preliminary investigation did not provide any physical proof, therefore, we have chosen to take an educational and proactive approach towards the issue of sexting and the negative use of social media outlets.

What is sexting? Sexting is the sending or receiving of sexually explicit or sexually suggestive images, messages, or video via a cellphone, internet or any other electronic device. Examples of sexting include: the sending of nude or nearly nude photos or “selfies,” videos that show nudity, sex acts, or simulated sex, and text messages that propose sex or refer to sex acts. In many cases, our teens send these images to boyfriends or girlfriends and in some cases as a joke or to seek attention. Unfortunately, these images are then forwarded to unintended persons which can ultimately lead to bullying and in some cases suicide or suicidal thoughts by teens.

When does sexting become a crime? Since we can’t control what other people send electronically, it only becomes a crime when the image is either “retained or forwarded.” For reference, here are some Ohio laws related to sexting which include: Illegal Use of a Minor in Nudity Oriented Material 2907.323, Child Endangering 2919.22, and Disseminating Matter Harmful to Juveniles 2907.31. Both possessing child pornography and possessing nude images of a child are both felonies in Ohio. A child is considered to be someone under the age of 18. Let’s make sure that our teens know the severity of their actions.

According to a study published in the Journal of Pediatrics, approximately 20 to 25 percent of American teens engage in sexting. For more information on sexting go to www.DoSomething.org and search “11 Facts about Sexting”. We recently hosted a community event on sexting at The Ridge Church. If you were unable to attend and feel that your teen is a victim of sexting, have any concerns in general about sexting or the use of social media by your teens, please contact your local police department.



City of Brookville Sewer Backup Policy

A sewer backup creates a stressful and emotional situation for the homeowner/renter. In some cases it may cause health and safety concerns as well as significant property loss. A proper response to a sewer backup can greatly minimize property damage and diminish the threat of illness.

The City of Brookville makes every effort to be responsive to a resident's needs and concerns when a sewer backup occurs. As with many other municipalities, the City cannot assume full financial responsibility for damages resulting from sewage backups or water damage. The City has a sewer crew whose duty is to inspect, clean and maintain sewers. They are available on a 7-day a week, 24-hour a day basis to minimize the possibility of sewer problems. Unfortunately, because a sewer is not a closed secured system, many things put into the sewer can clog the system.

Many homeowners' insurance policies exclude damage resulting from sewer backups. However, some insurance companies do provide sewer backup coverage. In the majority of cases, a special rider will need to be added to your homeowner's or renter's insurance policy to cover damages related to sewage backups or water damage. If you are concerned about the possibility of a sewer backup and want to insure that you are covered, the City urges you to check with your home insurer regarding the availability of sewer backup insurance.

If you experience a sewer problem, please call the City of Brookville at 937-833-2135. For emergencies or after hours, please call the Englewood Dispatch Center at 937-833-4357 and state that you are reporting a sewer emergency or water line leak. Backed up sewer lines, water line breaks, sewage odors and overflowing manholes are considered an emergency.

If the problem is in the sewer lateral, the homeowner or business is responsible for correcting the problem. The owner of the property is responsible for maintaining and cleaning the sewer lateral from the building (or home) to the City's sewer main, including the connection on the sewer main. Locating the lateral is also the responsibility of the property owner. Plumbing companies have special locating equipment, which will be helpful.

If the problem is in the sewer lateral, whom do you call for help? You will need to call a plumber or a sewer/drain cleaning service. Check your Yellow Pages or Business White Pages for the qualified businesses that specialize in this type of cleanup. The City of Brookville does not make recommendations. However, it may be in your best interest to obtain several estimates. To minimize damage and negative health effects, the owner/renter should arrange for cleanup of the property as soon as possible.

REMEMBER TO CALL THE CITY OF BROOKVILLE FIRST before you call a plumber. We will check the sewer main and inform you of our findings. If the problem is not in the City main, you will then be advised to contact a plumber or a sewer/drain cleaning service.

Take Care of Your Sewers

The City of Brookville Service Department is asking residents to not flush baby wipes, disinfecting wipes, disposable mop refills, paper towels, and similar items down the toilets as they are causing problems in the city's sewer system. The Service Department is asking residents to instead throw the wipes and similar items into the trash. Other items such as cloth towels, rags and diapers have also been found in our sewer system. These items are disrupting the sewer system and negatively affecting pumping stations and damaging personal properties.

Sewer pipes are smaller than you might think. The pipe from your home is normally 4" in diameter while most main lines are 8" in diameter. Obviously, large items that will not flow in a small amount of water will cause problems.

In addition, food service businesses need to control the amount of greases put into the sewer system through proper methods of disposal and required maintenance of grease traps. Grease is another major contributor to sewer problems and stoppages in the city. If major contributors are verified, they will be reported to the proper authorities.

If you have any questions concerning your sewer system, please feel free to call the city office at 833-2135.

Council Members

Dave Seagraves, Mayor

Bob Apgar

Margo Cantrell

Michael Duncan

Bruce Garber

Anne Kirklin

Chuck Letner

We're on the web!
www.brookvilleohio.com

Spring Weather Awareness

Spring is the time of year when many things change—including the weather. Temperatures can swing between balmy and frigid. Sunny days may be followed by a week of stormy weather. Sometimes extreme weather changes can occur even within the same day. Mark Twain once said, "In the spring I have counted one hundred and thirty-six kinds of weather inside of four and twenty hours."

Because spring weather is so unpredictable, planning ahead makes sense. Prepare for storms, floods, and tornadoes by having flashlights, food and water, a first aid kit and emergency escape plan ready. Plan as if you know in advance severe weather is coming, because in the spring, it very likely will.

Spring Issue 2015

City of Brookville
301 Sycamore Street
Brookville, Ohio 45309
Phone: 937-833-2135
Fax: 937-833-3347

**Presorted Standard
US Postage Paid
Brookville, OH
Permit #4**

The City office will be closed on Good Friday, April 3, 2015. Refuse and recycling will be picked up on Thursday, April 2, 2015.

Other dates to remember:

April 1– Chamber of Commerce Scavenger Month begins

April 4 - Optimist Easter Egg Hunt

May 25– Memorial Day, City Office Closed (refuse and recycling picked up on Tuesday)

GROWING PAINS.....

The Brookville Fire Department is experiencing **growing pains**. Our calls for service are greater now than they've ever been, and our roster is at the maximum currently permitted, as authorized by the City Manager.

We've had to evolve to meet the Fire and Emergency Medical needs of our community, which translates to more personnel and more tools and equipment to do our jobs. We continue to utilize part-time personnel for all jobs except the Fire Chief's position, which keeps our personnel costs as low as possible. The provisions of the Affordable Care Act forced us to restructure our staffing model, limiting the number of hours our personnel could work. The net result was more people, working fewer hours, operating from our primary fire station. We are unable to have personnel run their shifts from home – those hours count against the total hours they are permitted to work. Operationally we are benefiting from the personnel we have on duty at Fire Station 76 around the clock now. We have several examples of where our faster response time has minimized loss at fires. We have personnel staying in Fire Station 76 around the clock, however, the building was never designed for this. Our training room, which has to double as a bunk room, no longer holds all of our personnel... **a growing pain**.

Our call volume has made a third ambulance necessary, however, we have no more space for apparatus. One-third of our apparatus has to sit outdoors. In colder weather this slows us down... **a growing pain**.

We hope a one-quarter percent increase to the City Income Tax will help us with our growing pains. We cannot make any significant adjustments to our facilities or make our operations more efficient without the revenue this increase would bring in. We have many options and potential solutions, but all will require increased revenue. **Growing pains...**



When we run five pieces of apparatus from four bays, doors cannot be fully opened.