

Illuminating The Progress Of Barnesville

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Street Light

SPECIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BARNESVILLE RECORD-REVIEW & CLAY COUNTY CONNECTION

Three Sections - 36 Pages

Section A - 16 Pages

Barnesville...

Preserving Our Heritage...

... Planning For Our Future



With this issue of the Barnesville Record-Review we also bring you the annual production of the Barnesville Streetlight. For lack of a better title, Streetlight is Barnesville's annual progress edition. The publication highlights what has happened in the past year or two as well as taking a look forward as far as the eye or imagination can take us.

Each of the Streetlight publications has had a theme. This year we varied on that theme a little bit as we take a long look backwards as well as forward. This year's Streetlight reminds us that we are "Preserving Our Heritage . . . Planning For Our Future". Incorporated into the structure of the latest edition of Streetlight is a "2020 Perfect Vision, Barnesville" that we hope you will enjoy.

As we usually do, we will cover some of the highlights associated with our community such as festivals, fairs and celebrations. We will take a look at what is changing on the school and city fronts where big changes will be happening over the summer.

The school will be embarking on a two-year project that will see our youngsters entering a state-of-the-art new building when the school bells ring for the 2021-2022 school year. This 28 million dollar academic improvement has been a work in progress for a number of years and will soon become a reality.

The city also will be hosting at least two and perhaps three building projects beginning this summer. On the front burner for sure is a new housing sub-division. Infrastructure for Phase III of the DelAcres/Gilbertson Housing Development is expected to be completed over this summer. New home construction in the new 57-lot housing development could begin as early as this fall.

Also on the city's radar is a less elegant yet still expensive project as one cell of the city's lagoon system is rebuilt. Also in the planning stages is an expansion of campsites at Wagner Park. That popular campground

has been running at near capacity for the past few summers. With all of the upcoming construction and temporary workers that are expected, camp sites will likely be at a premium. The expansion is needed sooner rather than later even without the new construction happening around the area.

One item we hope you find entertaining and perhaps even educational is a look back at some of the classy old homes that have been preserved within our community. We have a wealth of our history still remaining on our residential streets from the "Stone Castle", to the "Thompson Mansion", to the "Huxley Bungalow - The Dentist's House", to the "McGrath Mansion" and "Gussie's House", as well as others. The present owners of those houses have graciously invited us in to see their homes and you're invited to come in and have a look around yourself.

This Streetlight publication is somewhat of a milestone for us here at the Record-Review. This edition marks our 25th anniversary of producing the publication. The product was originally the brainchild of Mike Cihak who came up with the concept while working as an intern at the newspaper back in 1995. Mike has gone on to bigger and better things and now heads up the Communications Department at the University of Minnesota-Morris Campus. But his original idea still is reborn each year in the pages of the Barnesville Streetlight.

Settle back in your favorite chair. Pour yourself an extra cup of coffee. Read all about what has happened, what's happening now and what's going to be happening in Barnesville in the future. You can try to get through the publication all in one sitting or you can come back to it for another installment whenever you like.

It will be a bumpy ride. Enjoy it.

- Gene Prim, Publisher