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City of NAPOLEON, OHIO

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*Copies to
Mayor
Council
Managers*

August 12, 1980



Henry County Commissioners
Henry County Courthouse
Napoleon, OH 43545

Mayor
Robert G. Heft

Dear Sirs:

Clerk-Treasurer
Rupert W. Schweinhagen

I attended the parade ceremonies for the 1980 Henry County Fair and would like to make mention of some things I viewed and truly believe should be one of your top priorities for the coming year, or sooner.

Members of Council
Lawrence Haase, President
James Jackson
William Young
Darel Austermiller
Darrell Fox
James Zumfelde

While watching the parade, an electrical wire on a pole just off the main entrance burned, throwing sparks ten feet around the pole. There were people walking within the area and they ran for safety. The disconnect on the pole had a cable coming out the bottom with no connector to support the cable. On the end of the cable, which was about one foot long, was a box with a receptical. Some cords were plugged into the receptical and some were connected directly into the disconnect poles within the box. None of the cords had connectors fastening them into the box. The receptical was not fastened to the pole but swung loose with the tension on the cords. The disconnect did not have a ground fault interupter (GFI) which is required by the National Electric Code.

City Manager
Alan E. Tandy

Law Director
Keith Muchfeld

On Monday, I went back out to the Fair to do an inspection on the Sharon Church Building and while there, I walked around looking at the rest of the poles and disconnects on the grounds. There are no GFI's in any of the disconnect boxes. Quite a few were overloaded and the cords were very warm. Behind the shooting gallery there was a cord with two four (4) inch boxes connected to it with eight (8) outlets in the boxes. These were laying on the ground and it was raining into the outlets.

Wires strung from pole to pole were bare of insulation, extension cords ran everywhere with no water-proof connection joints.

The old Sharon Church building has extension cords running all over the kitchen area, connected to deep fryers, grills, pop machines and other equipment.

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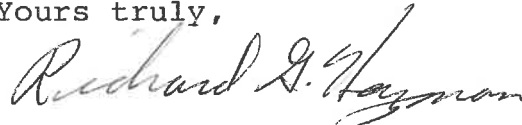
I did not look at any of the other buildings except I did notice that the new metal building setting near the main gate, has seven outside recepticals fastened to the building and none of these were on a GFI.

The Board of Building Standards tells me I have no control over the grounds, only the buildings. I wish this was not the case because if someone gets hurt, burnt or killed, the people are going to ask why and want answers. I hope you can see my concern. When a person connects with a 15 amp circuit and is standing in water on the ground, the amperage could jump to 60 which is peralizing or 70 which is fatal. I would hate to see this happen, and most of the people working at the Fair know nothing about overloads, short circuits or anything else to do with electricity.

I hope you will make this one of your concerns. In less than one-half hour, I counted 75 things that should be corrected. One thing you should do immediately is to take all extension cord joints and only allow the amount of cords as there are recepticals.

If I can help you in any way, please feel free to call.

Yours truly,



Richard G. Hayman
Building Commissioner

RGH:dd