

## GROWTH, HOUSING AND POPULATION

The population of Norwich Township was 770 persons in 1850 and 77 of them lived in the area that 25 years before was known as Scioto and later would become known as Hilliard's Station. By 1900 the Village of Hilliard's had 400 persons in residence. Another 50 years later the Village had a population explosion. The town grew from an area roughly bounded by Gill Street, Scioto Darby Road, Main Street and the Norwich Street area. The population steadily kept increasing. The United States, Ohio Census for 2000, reported a population count of 24,230 persons in the City of Hilliard.

The 1950s and 1960s saw a housing boom that caused about 12 subdivisions to be built, expanded and new land annexed from Norwich Township. As high as 576 building permits were issued in the 1990s in a single year. Approximately 125 housing areas existed by 2002. The average price of most homes is in the \$200,000.00 price range with many amenities. The old style farmhouse with a hitching post in the front is a memory in this day and age. The more modernistic home took on a look of them one story home. This style home was popular in the 1950s and 1960s. The condo units became popular and home were popular that were built with dual bathrooms and cathedral ceilings. New home owners wanted garages, family rooms and lots of amenities to make home life more comfortable.

Nearly every housing area in Hilliard has some type of greeting sign or welcoming sign near the main entrance into the subdivision. The Beacon Subdivision had a 12 foot tall beacon style tower on the southeast corner of Leap Road and Lacon Road in the 1950s and 1960s. It was eventually torn down due to the aging of the wood. The City eventually replaced it on the northeast corner with a large rock with a concrete beacon in the 1990s.

As new areas are being developed and built, some of the olden ways still prevail. The subdivisions are being named after the former owners whose families have owned the farm land for many generations. Some of the names have been devised from area pioneer families, past residents in the area who have been honored for their community activities and some living persons who have contributed significantly to the community.

It has become almost a custom in Hilliard to name streets, roads, schools and buildings after our townsfolk and pioneers to keep all in touch with some part of their past as a reminder of who are, where we have been and where we are going with all the modern buildings and changes happening in Hilliard!

