

November 25, 2016, Daniel D. McDonald Passed Away, 91 Years Of Age, Served Madeira, 1956-1977

My Story Begins in November 1973.....

It was late on Election night, November 1973, I had not stayed up for the results of the Madeira City Council race. I was awakened by the ringing telephone, the voice was that of Dan McDonald, calling to congratulate me on my election as a member of Madeira City Council. Dan also suggested that I would be welcome as a Republican member of City Council. I politely declined, citing my commitment as an independent candidate. I would go on to win two more elections, serving as an independent, member of council, for all three terms. I soon discovered that Mayor McDonald, exemplified what it meant to represent the residents of our community, he had spent his entire life in Madeira. Dan had served as clerk of council, council member, and was the longest serving Mayor. We were separated in age by 21 years. As our Mayor, Dan McDonald, had some important qualities, including the ability to lead, and foresight, looking into what the future of our community, might look like. Dan McDonald was a mentor, whom I looked up to. I have often thought, that the two terms that I was fortunate to have spent with Mayor Dan, were some of the most important and productive years in the history of Madeira. Here is why,

- * Madeira purchased all of the property on Dawson Road that would eventually become a park. Much of the park planning was completed during those years.
- * Madeira had a need for additional annual revenue, determining that an earnings tax would be most appropriate. The earning tax was implemented, and continues to be an important source of tax revenue. A tax commissioner was hired to oversee the new tax office.
- * Madeira decided that a new utility would be important in our community, and determined what company would provide the new service, known as "Cable TV".
- * Madeira seized the opportunity to acquire the soon to be vacated B&O Railroad Depot. The Depot was first leased for \$1.00 yearly. Soon the city would have an opportunity to purchase the Depot, after both Dan and I were no longer members of council. The Depot is now owned by the city and included in the Madeira Historic District.
- * Madeira founded the Madeira Historic Society, due to the leadership of Mayor Dan. The year was 1972.
- * Madeira city council supported a new team sport in Madeira. That sport was Soccer.
- * Flood Insurance came to Madeira, not needed by everyone but maybe by some.
- * A King Quick Store was built on Miami Avenue, today is a Health Food Store.
- * The old Texaco Gas Station next door to city hall was replaced with 1st National Bank, today is US Bank.
- * A new restaurant, Cork and Clever, was built on Goff Terrace, today is Ferrari's Little Italy.
- * A new, large office complex was approved, and subsequently built across from city hall. Local retired dentist owned the building and operated his dental practice in the complex until his retirement.
- * Madeira was able to induce Friendly's Ice Cream to locate in Madeira, today is a PNC Bank.

* Madeira City Council supported the Madeira School District, which lead to the district becoming one of the "best" in Ohio.

What I have listed, are just a few important changes in Madeira, that Dan McDonald was immensely involved in. I was very fortunate to be a member of council during those same years, and to have served with Mayor Dan McDonald. With the passing of Mayor Dan McDonald, I may now be the only living council member from 1973. It was an honor.

Douglas Oppenheimer
