

## **MAYOR'S REPORT NOVEMBER 10, 2009**

### **EPA METHANE GAS GENERATOR GRANT**

In a letter dated October 30<sup>th</sup> from Robert Monsarrat, Jr., Ohio EPA Manager of Environmental Planning informed me that as a result of project withdrawals and lower bid costs for funded projects; there are additional American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) available for the Methane Gas Generator Project. As of this date, I am happy to report that a total of \$3,557,176 is available for the City of Struthers' project.

As reported in early July; Methane gas which is a by-product of the Wastewater Plant's digestion process and presently the gas is burned off through a waste gas burner. This product would use the methane gas to run a generator to power the operations of the plant.

The total cost of the project is \$4,655,000 and ARRA funding is \$3,557,176, with a WPCLF Loan for \$1,097,824 at 3.25% for 20 years. The Mahoning County monthly share is \$4,049 a month and the City Share is \$2,234 a month.

I feel it is a one-time opportunity for both the County and the City to work together for future generations and to work towards bringing clean energy to our community.

### **TAX COMMISSIONER REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2009**

Due to the drastic financial change in the economy and the financial markets in 2008-2009, the City Tax Office has responded by implementing a Tax Recovery Plan. The plan encompassed by accounting and tax methods of auditing, account maintenance and debt collections to provide planning control measures for current and future tax debt in the City Tax Office.

The Tax Recovery Plan has generated over \$39,000 for the months of September and October 2009. Collections over \$29,000 have been collected through individual tax delinquencies and an additional \$10,000 in net profit and withholding taxes collectively.

The Tax Recovery Plan has benefited the tax payers by providing an opportunity for agreement of payment plan which controls and maintains their current and future tax debt. The Tax Recovery Plan will continue through the remainder of the year with plan review and adjustments scheduled for the first quarter of 2010.

### **NATURAL GAS "OPTOUT"**

On November 3<sup>rd</sup> the citizens voted for the Natural Gas Optout Program. On an ongoing basis, optout programs save about \$.40/Mcf compared to optin programs. As of today's market, residents switching to the optout program will save approximately \$3/Mcf starting in February 2010 and there will be no fee to switch programs and local utility customers are switched to the new supplier automatically. Customers under contract will have to call and make the switch including those currently in the City's program. Buckeye Energy Brokers, Inc. is a PUCO certified in energy buying and view aggregation of residential and small commercial customers as a valuable service that local governments can provide. Once the City becomes PUCO

certified next month, Buckeye Energy Brokers should be striking a deal to save the citizens some energy dollars.

### **CURBSIDE MADNESS**

The Green Team is sponsoring the first-ever curbside recycling contest whereby communities are competing on a per-cap basis, and the top three winners will receive prizes. In order to celebrate America Recycles Day which is November 15<sup>th</sup>, the Green Team is making that the kick-off date for the three-month contest.

On October 24<sup>th</sup> our Recycling Coordinator Dan Sepesy along with Peg Flynn of the Green Team held an Open House at the new Recycling Site downtown Struthers. They passed out recycling bins and leaf bags to residents in need.

We are encouraging all Struthers residents to recycle curbside during the *Curbside Madness* and to continue to get into the habit of recycling and to stay committed to reducing waste in our community.

For more information on how you can *Reduce, Reuse & Recycle*; contact Dan Sepesy at 330-755-2181 x138. Remember to recycle your Christmas Trees, Christmas Wrapping Paper and Cards this year.

### **REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE – NEOtropolis SHOW**

On November 12<sup>th</sup>, Regional Roundtable Members Tony Paglia, Bob Lidle, Poland Twp. Trustee and myself will appear on a new show; NEOtropolis – Channels 45/49. Janis Worley will interview us on how the Roundtable was formed, the goals and what regional collaboration brings to our communities. I'm honored to be a part of the Regional Roundtable and pleased to be included in the interview.

### **LAW DIRECTOR RESIGNATION**

In a letter dated October 29<sup>th</sup> from Law Director Carol Clemente-Wagner she informs me of her resignation for personal and family reasons as of December 1, 2009. On behalf of myself and my administration I would like to thank Carol for her many years of service to our City and I sincerely wish her well in the years ahead.

I have advised Democratic Party Chairman David Betras and he will set December 7<sup>th</sup> At 6:00 PM as the date her successor will be selected by the precinct committee persons whom represent our community. Anyone interested in filling the position should send a letter of interest to my office and also to Chairman Betras at Democratic Party Headquarters.

### **DISTRICT 6 PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS**

On November 4<sup>th</sup> District 6 Public Works Integrating Committee met to award regional significant points to conduct the final assessment and prioritize the projects to be submitted to the Ohio Public Works Commission in Columbus. Sixty projects were submitted by cities, townships and villages for either SCIP (water/sewage) or LTIP (road) projects.

Funding for eligible projects come in the form of a grant which requires a local match of the total project cost or percentage; or an OPWC Loan at zero percent over a period of years based on the useful life of the project. Both projects submitted have been neglected for many years.

The City submitted two projects:

Clingan Road (from the intersection of Center Street south of the city limits). Between 2004 and 2008 there have been 18 accidents on this roadway due to lack of drainage facilities, especially at the intersection of Center Street. The project allows for storm sewer installation, curb construction, asphalt repair and driveway repair. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$304,400.

Maplewood Street Culvert Replacement Project. The culvert is beyond its useful life, this project is a continued effort by the City to replace the culverts in the area to better control flooding and storm water runoff. The project components are removal of existing culvert, installation of new concrete box culvert, removal and replacement of sanitary sewer and roadway repair. The estimated project cost is \$143,350.

#### **AN EVENING WITH SANTA**

“An Evening with Santa” is scheduled for Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at Mauthe Park. Aqua Ohio Water will sponsor hot cider and donuts and many organizations and businesses have donated generously to make sure the children go home with a nice treat after their visit with Santa. Santa will once again arrive via Fire Truck!

Respectfully Submitted:

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Terry P. Stocker  
Mayor

TPS/jlg  
C:file

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