

MAYOR'S REPORT
"Making a Cleaner & Safer Community"
2010 in Review - Part II
January 12, 2011

INFRASTRUCTURE

Culverts that have been replaced & repaired: completion of the Fifth Culvert, completion of the Spring Street Culvert, and soon to be replaced Maplewood Culvert; culverts were presently safety issues for vehicle travel.

Cleaned eight creek beds that lead to our river; by removing thousands of tires, appliances and trash making for clean water to the Mahoning River.

All of the above were obtained through grants and loans from Ohio Department of Development & Ohio Public Works Committee/Ohio Water Development Authority.

DEMOLITION

Approximately 80 structures that were deserted, foreclosed, condemned blighted structures that were in an unlivable condition that caused property to decline. Now these properties have been cleaned up and fresh grass has been planted and awaits development.

DOWNTOWN FAÇADE RENOVATIONS

Utilized CDBG Funds to create a business initiative between the City & Downtown Businesses Owners that hold title to buildings in the LMI targeted area. The City uses CDBG Funds to match businesses owner's exterior structure investments up to \$5,000 (city share) depending on the number of interested parties. So far many projects have given the Downtown a well deserved facelift. The new city sign allows for advertisements and city events.

Also achieved downtown at no cost to the citizens is a new Recycling Center open 24 hours to serve our residents and businesses in a "green aspect".

PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Northside Mickler Park – (Baseball/Soccer Field) replaced rotted seating with aluminum bleachers obtained from the Struthers School System during the demolition of their old stadium. Installed a new kick wall for soccer practice; this has created an attractive facility for our schools and children.

Nebo – A once overgrown former baseball field in Nebo Park has been transformed into a practice field for baseball teams to utilize. A back stop has been installed for safer playing conditions.

Fifth Street Park – Fallen trees, stumps, weeds, brush, rocks and trash have all been removed. This undertaking has allowed a once under used park area to become a place of beauty to take a walk and enjoy nature. The cleared areas have been graded and seeded and a walking bridge has been installed by our Eagle Scout Troops. I envision Phase II of this park; possibly playground equipment.

Mauthe Park Meeting Room – Interior improvements to the meeting room have been put into place such as; photos of Struthers history and a fireplace has also been installed. Renovations to the baseball field by the Struthers City Schools Softball Program collaboration with the city.

THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS WERE OBTAINED THROUGH STIMULUS, FEDERAL HIGHWAY, OPWC, OWDA & CITY INITIATIVES BY THE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL WORKING TOGETHER:

- *\$2.9 MILLION – Lower Connector Bridge; tying Struthers, Campbell & Youngstown together. (Away around train tie-ups, emergency vehicles & economic development purposes). Completed in 2010.*
- *Bob Cene Way Improvement – Railroad crossing to be completed in 2011.*
- *\$5.2 MILLION – Applied for and received Stimulus Energy Project Methane Generator Gas Burners – Methane Gas burnt off to the atmosphere is now being used to run generators which will produce electricity for our Wastewater Treatment Plant saving the taxpayers approximately \$100,000 annually. This project was one of four throughout the entire State of Ohio. The project cost the city “nothing”. The work is continuing to be completed in mid 2011.*
- *Over \$1 MILLION - Resurfacing for State Street, Fifth Street, Center Street and others. Also grant dollars for Clingan Road Safety Upgrade, Runge Blvd. Safety Upgrade, Sanitary Improvements such as Pipe Bursting, replace slip lining all sections of piping throughout the city; allowing for greater flows and preventing erosions of yards and roadways and flooding. Completion in 2010, 2011 & 2012.*
- *Over \$1 MILLION – Wastewater Treatment Plant – Grit Collectors Construction & Design and Septage Receiving Station Construction & Design.*
- *Yellow Creek Transportation Enhancement Project – Submitted in 2010 and Partnering with Mahoning County & Mill Creek Metropolitan Park District, the scope of the enhancement grant will cover the bridge expansion joints, bridge deck, bridge railing, approach railing, approach sidewalk, landscape and pedestrian overlook, park entranceway and lighting; will also include downtown lighting. Completion in 2011/2012.*
- *Natural Gas Opt-Opt Program – The city ensured that citizens will receive the stable rate of \$6.54 per mcf through your July 2011 billing cycle, with no opt-out fees required and also negotiated a discount of \$.10 per mcf off the commodity rate for senior citizens. Secured in 2010.*
- *Augmented Police Department by obtaining 3 Tazer Guns and provided training to officers. Secured in 2010.*

BUSINESS WELCOMED IN 2010

- *Southside Environmental Group*
- *Aesir Metals*
- *C’s Waffles*
- *Simon Roofing Expansion*
- *Bob McAllister’s Ice Cream*
- *Astro Shapes Expansion*
- *Habitat for Humanity Expansion*
- *Giannios Candy Expansion*
- *Demyan’s & Knuckle Buster Expansion*
- *Best Muffler – Detailing*
- *Struthers News Stand*

ODNR GRANT

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources have announced through a phone conversation with Litter & Recycling Coordinator Dan Sepesy that the City of Struthers will receive the grant in which we applied. The grant award amount is \$2,000 for our Litter Clean Up that coincides with Join Hands Day in May. The legislation (city council) and final contract (from ODNR) is currently being prepared.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

I would like to wish all a Happy New Year; I wish for good health and prosperity for all of the citizens of our community in the year 2011 and always.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mayor Terry P. Stocker