

MAYOR'S REPORT
DECEMBER 23, 2009
THE YEAR IN REVIEW ~ PART II

SAXONY PLACE ROADWAY APPROVED

After many discussions and meetings with Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), Saxony Developer Henry Nemenz, MS Consultants Engineer Gary Diorio and others; ODOT has issued a permit to install drainage facilities and construct a 24 ft. wide public road with 30 ft. south radii and 35 ft. north radii along State Route 170 in Mahoning County at the location off Youngstown-Poland Road into Saxony Place.

I would like to thank Chairman of Annexation, Zoning & Industrial Business Robert Burnside and Safety Director Ed Wildes for their activeness in obtaining this permit.

NATURAL GAS OPT- OUT PROGRAM

Under the Natural Gas Opt-Out Aggregation Program, the City of Struthers acted on behalf of its natural gas consumers to select a supplier to provide retail natural gas pricing to consumers as a group. The supplier, through its ability to buy natural gas for the aggregation in large quantities, was able to secure long-term supply of natural gas at competitive rates.

The residents voted in favor of the City having the authority to aggregate the retail natural gas loads in the City. The City has selected Direct Energy as its natural gas supplier to serve its eligible residents and small businesses. The City has ensured that citizens will receive the stable rate of \$6.54 per Mcf through your December 2010 billing cycle, with no opt-out fees required. The City also negotiated a discount of \$0.10 per Mcf off the commodity rate for Senior Citizens 65 and older who are the primary owners of their residence.

I would like to thank the Chairman of the Public Utilities Committee; Robert Carcelli, III and the other Public Utilities Committee members for their support on this legislation.

DOWNTOWN FAÇADE

The Downtown Façade Program assisted three businesses to actively spur development in our downtown area. The three businesses that took part were Select Home Solutions, Donavito's Bar & Italian Grille and Dr. Andrews Office Complex. The objective of the Façade Renovation Program was to enhance local businesses and improve the exterior of their establishments. The entire amount allocated under the FY CDBG 2008 Formula Program (\$15,000) was committed to the above applicants who were in the target area defined by census guidelines and a 50/50 match.

Thanks to Community Development Chairman Michael Patrick for his vital part in scheduling meetings with the downtown business owners and his support for this legislation.

SOUTHSIDE ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

Marketing efforts by Castlo Industrial Park and the City of Struthers have brought Southside Environmental Group; owners Matt and Jacob Schimley to our community. A new company from Niles, Ohio to be located in Castlo Industrial Park, in the old Drywall Barn building (Blgd.C). The company specializes in all types of environmental water and waste removal as well as environmental excavating needs. The company brings approximately 15 jobs to the City of Struthers and as the company expands so will the employment opportunities.

The City of Struthers is fortunate that Southside Environmental Group chose our community to build their business and we look forward to working with them.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

A ground breaking celebration for the New Material Deconstruction Recycling Addition took place on December 16, 2009. The grant is from Ohio Department of Natural Resources in the amount of \$100,000 for the construction of a 6,000 square foot pole building that will address the current shortage space for the unexpectedly large volume of donated materials received, and to provide space for the large volume of deconstruction materials that will be recovered from city and county based demolition projects.

MAHONING VALLEY HOUSING & FINANCE AGENCY NOMINEES

The City nominated two members to represent our area's interest in the upcoming Neighborhood Stabilization Program II's series of grants. Struthers residents' Sharon Vidman and Maxine Doles will act in an advisory capacity. We look forward to the implementation of these economically and esthetically uplifting initiatives in partnering with the Community Development Agency to best utilize these funds for acquisition, land banking, sustainable e deconstruction and redevelopment.

NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION PROGRAM (NSP)

The first round of bids was to be opened today at the Mahoning County Commissioners Office and twelve homes are in the first round of demolition. As reported; the City received a letter from Ohio Department of Development that indicated that Mahoning County and the City of Struthers are jointly eligible to receive a total NSP allocation of \$2,909,311. We agreed that Mahoning County would be identified as the lead entity for this effort.

The NSP Housing Group is considering a few sites in our community to build on.

2010 DISTRICT 6 PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAM GOALS

Maplewood Street Culvert Replacement Project – This project will include the removal of the existing culvert, installation of a new concrete box culvert, removal and replacement of the existing sanitary sewer, and roadway repair. This is a continued effort

by the City to replace culverts to better control storm water runoff should local funds become available. This is the last culvert to be replaced along the stream from State Street south and west to Youngstown-Poland Road.

Clingan Road Safety Upgrade Project – The purpose of the project will be to improve the drainage of the roadway to prevent the formation of ice in the winter and eliminate a dangerous situation. The work will include the installation of curb and cutter, catch basins, storm sewers, new driveway approaches and an asphalt overlay.

**CITY OF STRUTHERS WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW BUSINESSES
IN 2009:**

Becker's Angel's Rest Pet Cremation Service & Becker Monuments & Memorials, Average Joe's Restaurant, Bella Dermis Tattoo, Comfort Zone Therapeutic Deep Tissue & Relaxation Massage Therapist, Poosh Paws Grooming Salon, Tangier Bar & Pizza, Flex Fitness, 8th Street Candle & Crafts and Kelly Pavlik's Thirteenth Round Sports Bar & Grille and American Wire giving the Viking Building a new face.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

I would like to wish the administration, council, employees and all the citizens of Struthers a very Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry P. Stocker
Mayor

