

MAYOR'S REPORT
Reporting to the Citizens & Council
December 10, 2008

YEAR END REVIEW
Part 1

2008 has been a very challenging year, but a very rewarding one. By implementing changes in how the City manages itself and the willingness of its employees to work together to accomplish our goals. Communication has been and will remain the key to continuing progress.

At the beginning of 2008, as Mayor, I knew that working relationships needed to be established with department heads and the new administration. In order to move forward we implemented weekly department head meetings to provide interworking relationships between all departments and allowed everyone to be informed of each department's activities. I have noticed a sense of appreciation by the employees as to the achievements that have been made.

Continuing progress for a cleaner and safer community as promised. The following is *Part I* of a year end review highlighting many of the City's accomplishments under the current administration. Without everyone's input the following would not have been possible. I feel that through the support of many council members as well as City employees have afforded the community opportunities to work together and bring forth change.

- **Police/Radar Enforcement** – Radar enforcement began in our residential neighborhoods on January 4th during all police shifts. Also, a speed trailer was loaned to the City from Youngstown Police Department and was used in target areas.
- **Elementary School Traffic Congestion** – Concerns from school officials were long standing. Our safety forces implemented a new drop-off and pick-up procedure that is successful and has eliminated traffic congestion for the safety of our children.
- **Ambassador Program** – This program was initiated in January to strengthen the City's relationship with area business leaders. Safety Director Ed Wildes, Police Chief Robert Norris and Police Officers periodically and randomly visit businesses to greet and meet the owners offering them any assistance they might need and assuring them of a strong police presence in our community.
- **Security Surveillance Cameras** – Surveillance cameras were installed at the City's Skate Board Park, Mauthe Park, City Hall, the Wastewater Treatment Plant; and the Secondary Plant & downtown Recycling Center. These cameras cut the volume of vandalism and protect and secure the above areas.
- **Police Canine Unit** – The Canine Unit is in place. Rebel (canine dog) is an added asset to our Police Department. The unit is a great public relations device that has strengthened the relationship with the community by showing that the City is taking proactive measures to

protect our streets. There was no cost to the City for the Canine Unit; it was accomplished through donations and the Struthers FOP Lodge.

- **Police Bike Patrol** – The patrol was initiated in the month of July. It is an added defense for the well being of our citizens. The main areas of use are in parks and plazas.
- **Policies Created in 2008** – A Computer Policy, Records Retention Commission, Records Storage Facility and a Public Records Policy were put into place by my administration. No prior policies were in place for the above.
- **Police Department Shooting Range** – The range is 45 feet long and over 20 feet tall located in Sidley whom donated the property for this purpose. This is the first stage of the gun range; more improvements will include a roadway development and a larger area for the range which will be under construction in the spring.

Storm Water & Wastewater in Review

- **Certified Compost Site** - A seasonal revenue stream. The City of Youngstown is utilizing this Compost Site and has made at least 14 leaf drop off thus far.
- **Fifth Street Park Phase I** – Cleaned and dredged the stream and cleaned the surrounding areas. Added a dog station to offer a recreational place for citizens to run their dogs as well as keeping our streams clean.
- **Pollution Control Center** – The newly complete site situated downtown next to Astro Shapes consists of a debris collection bin and a discharge station for the Vactor Truck that vacuums the city dump basins. The water is filtered out from the debris and pumped by the Bridge Street Pumping Station to the Wastewater Plant where it is processed for treatment. The debris is then taken to a landfill.
- **Struthers 201 Boundary Adjustment Plan** – The area was expanded to allow interested parties submit plans to be approved by the proper governmental agencies. Mahoning County and Struthers service area expanded to accept flows from further out into the County. The service area was extended and the Mahoning County agreement was renegotiated. The City received 1/3 of all tap-ins in the service area.
- **Re-established the Debt Service** – Was re-established for the purpose of funding current and future debt in the Wastewater Department.
- **Storm Water Utility Manager** – Under our new Storm Water Utility; the Wastewater Treatment Plant Manager took on the responsibilities of implementing the six minimum controls mandated by the Ohio EPA at no cost to the taxpayers; which are Public Education, Public Participation, Illicit Discharge Detention & Elimination, Construction Site Run Off, Post Construction Run Off Control and Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping.
- **Mutual Aid with Ohio Water Agency Response Network (WARN)** – Mutual aid for assisting nearby communities in rapid, short-term support in response to a natural or man-made emergency.
- **Culverts & Ravines** – Many culverts and ravines were cleaned. Over 1,500 tires, appliances and other debris were removed from Coy Street, Culvert on SR 289 (East end of road towards

Lowellville), Ravine on Katherine Street, drainage area behind the former Highland School, Glendale & Highland Ravine, Woodbine & Chestnut Ravine, Narcisssa Street Ravine and Lowellville Road Culvert. ODOT also assisted in removing debris in the culvert between the Shell Gas Station & Crograns on SR 616.

- **Biodegradable Leaf Bags** – Were purchased and delivered to our residents at no charge as part of the Storm Water Educational Awareness Program.
- **Storm Water Educational Seminar** – Held for local businesses and local leaders.

Pride in Our Community

I promised to focus on property maintenance in our community. I would like to commend Safety Director Ed Wildes for actively taking on the many, long standing property maintenance issues in our community. The culverts, the abandoned homes and grass problems, also the many trash and debris complaints that plagued our City that have been taken care of. We have really just begun; so much was left for so many years. I thank all of our hard working departments of the City; the joint effort has improved our community and we are on our way to getting the pride back in our community.

I am proud of the above accomplishments during my first year in office and would like to express my sincere thanks to council members and **all** of the employees who have played any part in bringing forth the **CHANGE** I promised the taxpayers. My next report will include Part 2 of 2008 in Review.

Respectfully Submitted:

Terry P. Stocker
Mayor