

**MAYOR'S REPORT
FEBRUARY 11, 2009
REPORTING TO THE CITIZENS AND TO COUNCIL**

GREEN PACT

On January 29th community leaders met at Fellows Riverside Gardens in Mill Creek Metro Parks to sign the Green Pact. In an effort to continue our City in *Going Green*, Wastewater Plant personnel are looking into the possibility of utilizing methane gas to generate electricity. The plant's anaerobic digestion process produces a significant volume of unfiltered methane gas as a byproduct of the wastewater treatment. Presently a portion of the methane gas is used to produce heat for the treatment process. The excess methane gas, which is not used in the treatment process, is safely flared off to the atmosphere. We are seeking a grant and other funding to construct a filtered cogeneration system to utilize the excess methane to generate electricity and the required heat for the plant process.

The generator will provide a major portion of the electrical power used at the plant. By using the excess methane gas, the City will be able to reduce the electric bill at the plant. The heat presently provided by the use of methane gas will still be produced as a byproduct of the cogeneration system. The savings in electricity and natural gas along with the *green* aspect of reducing outside consumption of natural resources will be an advantage to the City. The City is currently in the process of verifying the quantity of excess methane gas byproduct.

NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION PROGRAM (NSP) UPDATE

The Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) was passed by Congress through the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (HERA) as a one-time funding provision to states and local governments for the redevelopment of abandoned and foreclosed upon homes and residential properties. There were approximately \$258 million dollars allocated to the State of Ohio by HUD for the purposes of this program. NSP funds are being distributed by the State of Ohio to local communities through a funding formula based upon need.

There will be \$2,909,311 of NSP funding available for the Mahoning County program. The Mahoning County service area includes all of Mahoning County, outside of the City of Youngstown. The NSP funds can be used for demolition of blighted structures and redevelopment of demolished or vacant properties.

On February 4th local officials met at the Mahoning County Commissioners Office to discuss the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP). The resolution on the agenda will identify Mahoning County has the Lead Entity for the NSP and the City is identified as a Participating Community.

BAD WEATHER THANKS

I would like to thank Sheriff Wellington's Day Reporting Program once again for assisting us in shoveling downtown sidewalks after the big snow. A superb job to our Street Department personnel for their tireless efforts in keeping the city streets clear of ice and snow during the recent winter storms. Hats off to the Police Department who played a key role in assisting citizens as part of our Ambassador Program, by knocking on resident doors informing them of the Parking Ban. More than 50 vehicles were moved voluntarily, while others were towed at the owner's expense. Special mention to Wastewater personnel for removing ice and snow from catch basins to insure water ran freely during the thaw to prevent freezing of roads and surfaces.

KEEP OHIO BEAUTIFUL

We were informed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Litter & Recycling that we were awarded a Litter Clean Up Grant. We have tentatively set the date for the Litter Clean Up for Saturday, May 2, 2009.

We are awaiting news from the Mahoning County Green Team in reference to the Appliance Drive and Scrap Tire Drive grants. A tentative date for those drives is set for Saturday, May 16, 2009.

Respectfully Submitted:

Terry P. Stocker
Mayor

TPS/jlg