

**MAYOR'S REPORT
JANUARY 26, 2011**

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FY 2012 REDUCTIONS

We understood that discussions are taking place within the presidential administration regarding a substantial reduction in spending for the CDBG Program in preparation of the FY 2012 Budget. Reports have indicated the cut of 25% or \$1 billion is under consideration. In a letter dated January 18th to President Obama I expressed that a reduction in this funding would be devastating to the City of Struthers and hinder our ability to continue doing our part in aiding the nation's economic recovery.

The activities that have been funded in Struthers have provided a direct benefit to our low and moderate income residents and their neighborhoods, something that would not have been possible without this federal/local partnership.

A 25% reduction in funding would mean curtailing or possibly cancelling the following projects in our community: Downtown Façade Renovation Program, Downtown Transportation Enhancement Program, Street Improvement Program & Housing Programs.

LANDLORD MEETING

On Saturday, January 22nd at 10:00 AM at Mauthe Park; Safety Director Ed Wildes and I called a meeting with landlords whom own property or rent property in the City of Struthers and over 60 landlords were present. They were informed of all the requirements and laws that our city expects to be followed; such as: mandatory trash pickup, occupancy permits, property maintenance codes, sewer bill responsibility and also Tax Commissioner Jim Bertrando was there to inform them that according to ordinance; they must register their tenants with his office.

I would like to thank all who showed an interest in this important meeting by attending and those who participated in making this meeting a success for our community. These laws and ordinances were created for the betterment of our city and my administration will continue to enforce these laws created by council.

2011 OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCE GRANT

I called a special meeting on January 19th for a resolution authorizing myself and Safety Director Ed Wildes to enter into a contract with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Recycling & Litter Prevention.

A grant was awarded in the amount of \$2,000 for our annual Litter Clean Up which will be held in May.

EASTGATE FINANCE/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2011

I was graciously nominated to 1st Vice Chairman of the above committee and accepted. I am honored to serve in this capacity and look forward to being a part of the Eastgate Regional Council of Governments.

AQUA OHIO WATER FORUM

On Monday, January 24th at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers Aqua Ohio Water Representatives held their public forum to update residents on business operations in our community.

I would like to extend my thanks to Aqua for keeping our administration and residents abreast of any changes in service and for answering questions that our citizens pose.

METHANE GAS GENERATOR UPDATE

The methane gas generators will be in service in the next few weeks or days. They are currently performing the proper tests to make sure that when the “on” switch is hit; all will be in working order. We are excited by this \$ 4 million dollar ARRA funded project that will save our next generation considerable tax dollars in the operation of the Wastewater Plant.

GAS AGGREGATION & ELECTRIC PROGRAM

Over 1,500 residents and businesses enrolled in the City’s natural gas aggregation program will see a change starting with their winter gas bills – a lower price. Thanks to robust natural gas suppliers, weak demand and swift action of city officials; a new price of \$5.92 per mcf was locked in and will start with the December 2010 gas flow. Customers will see the new price reflected in their January 2011 through July 2011 gas bills. There is an additional \$.10 savings for our eligible senior citizens.

Since offered in 2009; 3,700 citizens have taken advantage of the electric program savings with First Energy Solutions. The current discount program, which runs until March of 2012; was extended with an additional 6-year term through March of 2018 with an increased discount to a minimum of 6% for the extended term. Once again swift action by my administration and council ensured that this unique opportunity would not be missed and in 2010 a onetime grant was awarded in the amount \$127,050. I have received Buckeye Energy Brokers’ Winter 2011 Newsletter with more information.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

**TERRY P. STOCKER
MAYOR**