

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and I hope all will have a great New year 2008.

As this New Year begins the City of Eastlake is in better financial shape than this time last year. We have been removed from fiscal emergency by the State of Ohio and have a positive balance in our general fund. Council will be working with me on finalizing the 2008 budget in January and I hope we can start slowly to bring back some of the services we needed to cut. I emphasize slowly because we can only restore items that we can fit into the budget and maintain a balanced budget. One goal for me in 2008 is to reopen Jakse Pool so that the youth of our city will have somewhere to go this summer. Other items we will be looking at are an Economic Development coordinator, one additional policeman , one additional service employee, and summer recreation programs.

In 2007 our city had a disturbing trend that we must all address and that is vandalism of city parks and city equipment. We had picnic tables destroyed including a cement table at Jakse Park. We have repeated graffiti on walls at parks , a plastic slide at Surfside park was set on fire and ruined and fences cut and vandalized. I would like to ask all residents to help stop this vandalism .When you see anyone vandalizing city property please call the police department right away. If you know the names of anyone vandalizing property call us and let us know. Parents please know what your children are doing and where they go and most importantly tell them that vandalizing any property is wrong. We have spent thousands of dollars buying new park tables and park equipment to replace vandalized items. We have spent thousands of dollars of man hours to clean graffiti and trash dumped at parks. Please help your city in 208 by reporting anyone destroying city property.