

# Mayor's October Report

## Dear Residents:

The Administration has spent a considerable amount of time over the past 4 years in planning to help our city solve our problems and to grow. One example of planning is the issue of stadium debt. In 2004 we set up a 5 year plan to pay off a considerable amount of debt. We sold the naming rights, refinanced the debt from short term interest only to long term low fixed rate loans. We set up plans to follow up and obtain the Federal Transportation Bill money and to sell a cell tower for \$500,000. We put all this money into an interest bearing account to be used to pay off \$10 million in debt. This 5 year payoff plan will be implemented in August of 2009.

Another example of our planning is the replacement of pump stations that help pump sanitary sewage to the treatment plant. We recognized several years ago the need to replace the 15 -18 year old equipment that was costing thousands in repairs each year. By the end of 2009 we will have all new pump stations and all have been partially paid for (40%) by money from the State of Ohio. This culminates a three year replacement plan.

A third example of our planning process is our plan to restore some recreation programs in our city. We knew that we could not support operating two pools so we commissioned a study of the Houston Fisher pool to determine if it could be repaired. After receiving a positive report I then worked with our State Representatives to secure \$150,000 in a grant to specifically repair the pool. The second step was to determine what to do with Surfside pool. The administration worked with council to approve money to demolish the pool and hopefully later to get approval to put up a picnic pavilion. This will insure a nice park and playground for the residents for many years.

I offer these as examples of the extensive planning that the Administration works on year to year. Some cities spend thousands of dollars on consultants who put together very nice looking 50 page report. These plans are often times not practical and if examined later one would find very little was implemented. We take a more practical business approach to planning and plan for specific projects with outcomes that can and do get done. I think that this method works much better for the taxpayer.