

January 2010

Dear Residents :

Happy New Year!! I wish a very happy and safe New Year for everyone. Let's hope that our economy continues to improve and that anyone who lost their job last year will be successful in finding a new job in 2010.

As we start 2010 we have two new winter activities for our residents. We have re-opened the sledding hill by the Bruce Yee Baseball field off of Reeves Road. Everyone is welcome to bring their sleds and use the hill to have some winter fun. We have also installed a skating rink in front of Classic Park. All residents are welcome to come free of charge and ice skate. You will need to bring your own ice skates this year. Next year we hope to be able to purchase some ice skates and rent them out for people to use as well as open the concession stand at the stadium and serve hot drinks and snacks.

I am working with City Council on our 2010 budget. As with 2009 we will have a very tight budget as far as revenues and expenses balancing out. The stadium debt payment last year has helped and we have proposed using some of the money to benefit our residents. The re-opening of Houston -Fisher pool is one item that we have added as well as a part-time recreation person for summer activities. As I promised in my campaign I have also asked for an Economic Development Coordinator to assist me in keeping our current businesses in Eastlake as well as helping to bring new business to our city. Our main source of revenue for the city is not real estate taxes but the 2% city income tax. Therefore the only way we can increase revenues is with new business moving into Eastlake.

We also have to factor into our budget a 3% wage increase for all of our employees as dictated by the union contracts. Our health insurance has increased by 4.5% which really is not too bad. Our health insurance increases have been much smaller since we joined the Lake County Health Insurance Group program a few years ago. Workers Compensation costs continue to increase and will go up \$100,000 in 2010. We have many injuries in our police, fire and service departments that cause the costs to increase. I have asked all three of these departments to find ways to decrease injuries on the job and hopefully they will in 2010.

Please remember as you read your Real Estate Tax bills in January that the City of Eastlake HAS NOT raised your real estate taxes. The increase that you will receive is a result of the November election when a new Willoughby/Eastlake School Levy was passed along with a new Library Levy.

Please drive safely and slowly during the winter weather over the next few months. Until next month—

Mayor Ted Andrzejewski