

AUGUST 2011

Monthly Letter to Residents from Mayor Ted Andrzejewski
City of Eastlake, Ohio

Hello Residents:

Many of you have asked about the new Walmart and it is still on track with a demolition start date of August 1. The project manager has told me construction takes 9-12 months so we would look for an opening of Fall 2012. Key Bank on Vine Street will open in August, 2011 adding another nice new building to Vine Street.

We have one more movie night this year at Classic Park. The movie will be on August 26 and it will be "Gnomeo and Juliet." Tickets are \$1.25 per person and can be purchased now in the Mayor's office or at the stadium the day of the movie. This is a very low cost family event, so make it an evening at the stadium and bring your whole family. We need community support to continue movie nights at the Stadium. If you would like these to continue please plan on attending and invite your friends.

In March of 2011, City Council and the administration worked together and passed a balanced city budget for 2011. In April Governor Kasich announced a 50% reduction in the money we receive from the local government funds. He also announced that the State of Ohio would be keeping the CAT Business tax and the Utility tax that were also given to cities. Together these cuts amount to an estimated \$1.4 million dollars loss of revenue each year for us. What the governor has done is to pass the State budget deficit down to the local level and has told us that we now have to deal with it. The residents of Eastlake send millions of dollars to the State in the state income tax that we pay and now we are being told that \$1.4 million will no longer be given back to Eastlake.

Therefore we have no choice but to ask the residents of Eastlake for assistance. In November there will be a small real estate tax levy on the ballot for your approval. It will cost \$120 per year or \$10 a month for a house valued at \$100,000. We will be talking more about this with public meetings for all residents to attend in future months. I want to emphasize that we are not overspending, that we had a balanced budget until the Governor took away this money. The alternative is to lay off city workers most likely in the safety forces and service departments. This is the first time since 1982 that the city has asked for an increase in the real estate taxes. We need to keep Eastlake a vibrant city with services at a level that benefit our residents and keep everyone safe. It is vital to our future that this small levy be approved. Have a nice rest of the summer.

Thank you,

Mayor Ted Andrzejewski