

April 2011

Dear Residents:

We are selling \$1 tickets to the Lake County Captains game on Saturday April 23. The game is at 1 p.m. This is our fourth Eastlake Appreciation Day. Tickets up to a maximum of six can be purchased at the Mayor's Office. Please bring proof of Eastlake residency.

Also in the Mayor's office, residents can fill out a raffle ticket for a chance to win four tickets to the Eastlake Loge at Classic Park. For each game we will be giving four tickets each to three different families. You only need to fill out the raffle ticket once for the entire year. There are 70 games that residents will have a chance to win tickets for.

On March 15 the governor announced the new two-year state budget. In that budget is a drastic cut of 25% to the local government fund that cities like Eastlake receive. For us that amount is \$450,000 a year starting in 2012. What is happening is clear. The Governor is trying to balance a budget with an \$8 billion shortage and is pushing the burden down to the local level. He is cutting money from our budget that we need and in effect telling us lay off more people or to cut more services to absorb the \$450,000 loss. A city the size of Eastlake just cannot absorb such a drastic cut. This would be the equivalent of losing six firemen or policemen or 10 service department employees. We are already short in all departments and can barely keep up now with the services we need to provide to our residents. We can do our part and take a small cut but not like the one that is proposed. Our residents send millions of dollars in income taxes to Columbus and yet we receive very little in return except for the local government fund. I am writing this to let our residents know what is happening in Columbus and how the burden of closing the deficit is being pushed down to us at the local level. Please call, email or write the governor, State Representative Lorraine Fende or State Senator Tim Grendell and let them know how you feel.

Opening day for the Midwest League Champion Lake County Captains is April 11 at 7 p.m. I encourage all residents to attend the game and show some support for the team.