

STATE OF THE CITY 2008

It is with great pleasure that I present to the City Council Members, Administrators, and Citizens of St. Clairsville, Ohio, my “**State of the City**” for the year 2008.

Once again, I am pleased to announce, services were provided in all City Departments without interruption. All Departments (Police, Water/Wastewater, Electric, Street & Recreation) finished without deficits; this can only be accomplished by dedicated City Employees performing their duties with pride. My sincere thanks go out to each department for their responsible actions. We could not succeed without their utmost co-operation. They have my sincere appreciation. As this report unfolds, you may be pleasantly surprised of the many projects and improvements that were made in 2008. It was a busy year, demanding great time and effort, but the results were rewarding.

The following is a compilation of each Department’s status, needs and future developments.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICES, DENNIS BIGLER

The office has had one of its most diverse and productive years in history in terms of the wide variety of issues addressed that continue to influence the face of this city, the quality of life of our residents, and those who work here. Among our major developments in 2008 were:

- January 2008 saw the long-term secretary to this office retire and Nancy Edgar was selected to fill the job.
- The office developed a bid for all of its insurance coverage’s and awarded a contract.
- The City won a unanimous verdict in the Federal Court of Appeals upholding the verdict of the Federal District Court in granting summary judgment for the City against plaintiff Samuel Harris in a bizarre groundless lawsuit filed by Harris. The City’s team stood firm to uphold City standards in the face of this challenge filed against City officials and employees both personally and professionally.
- A new 10 MVA, \$3 million electric substation was completed and placed on line, the East Side Substation. This gives us dual 69 KV transmission feeds into the City and allows the City to balance its electrical load. The project was engineered by GPD Associates and built by Nitro Electric.
- An \$800,000 federal grant was used to build the Route 40 East project. It placed new curbs, sidewalks, drive approaches, storm sewers, new water line, new guardrail, signage, striping, new pavement, and turning lanes on the widened street to create an improved gateway into St. Clairsville. The project was

designed by Street Engineering, construction engineering by W.E. Quicksall and Associates, and built by Savage Construction.

- Bett-Mar Lane was totally removed and rebuilt with new 12” deep stone base, new curbs, sidewalks, drive approaches, paving, etc., using a state grant and a project cost of \$260,738.72. The project was designed by Street Engineering, construction engineering by W.E. Quicksall and Associates, and built by Lash Paving.
- Mail delivery methods were changed through negotiations conducted by this office with the U.S. Post Office after council had been told that no changes could be made. This allowed residents to get mail delivered to each property conveniently and safely. Many hours were spent on this issue alone.
- The office led plan development, state, and federal approval to bid improvements to the National Road Bikeway Tunnel, scheduled for 2009 work using a federal earmark we obtained in 2005, plus an enhancement grant received in 2007.
- Designed, funded, and awarded a contract to repair and paint the National Road Bikeway Bridge set for 2009 work. The bridge and tunnel total about \$2.1 million of work.
- Painted the 500,000-gallon single pedestal water tank inside and out at a cost of \$227,900.00 done by American Suncraft Construction Co. Burgess & Niple served as engineers.
- Estimated, wrote, and was awarded a \$264,096.00 grant and a \$105,157.00 zero percent (0%) 20-year loan for a \$530,000 repaving project to be built in 2009 on various streets.
- Enjoyed our reign as the America in Bloom 5,001-10,000 population National Champion and participated in the international Communities in Bloom competition where we received an award for long-term planning in the downtown. This planning initiative was started in 1988 and has continued since then.
- Served as Vice Chair of the Belmont County Transportation Improvement District, which my office instigated.
- Continued to work on transportation improvements to Mall Road/I-70 Interchange and ODOT Project Development Process Steps 1-4 produced a major draft project study for this interchange.
- Helped to lobby to create the Ohio Historic Tax Credit Program and obtained a \$750,000 state credit (grant) in the first round for rehabilitation of the Clarendon Hotel.

- Office reprogrammed a state ODOD grant, plus obtained a \$99,000 Governor's Office of Appalachia grant to couple with a \$100,000 HUD-SP earmark to create and build Phase II improvements for the Clarendon Hotel-Restaurant project by Stanley Miller Construction. This entailed fire stairs and elevator shaft.
- Helped negotiate a new three (3) year AFSCME contract and dealt with various labor issues.
- Organized the Old Fairgrounds Master Planning effort for the new City Park.
- Bid and purchased five (5) new trucks and sold eight (8) vehicles by bid.
- Participated in the creation of a Park District for Memorial Park in an effort to stabilize and upgrade this non-City community facility.
- A new telephone system was installed in the City Building.
- Continued to evaluate an automated utility meter reading system.
- Saw my long advocated Community Garden proposal, which was presented to America in Bloom, "take root" as the Downtown Task Force adopts the project for construction in 2009. Also, worked with Downtown Revitalization Task Force on a parking wayfinding study.
- Conducted architectural/engineering Requests for Qualifications for fairgrounds, 40 East, Bett-Mar, and the National Road Bikeway Bridge and Tunnel projects.
- Created a Landscape and Grounds Department led by a newly certified arborist.
- The City filed suit to enforce the deed provisions of the parking lots donated by the City to the library, but never used by the library.
- Participated in a preliminary parking study between the County and City for a public parking garage near the Courthouse.
- Timed road salt purchases to save \$6,000.00.
- Administered various grants.
- Continue to work to achieve the St. Clair Commons development.
- Designed, bid, and awarded the concrete sewer lining project extending from Orchard Drive to the main wastewater plant. This is a \$244,645.00 contract with Miller Pipeline from Indianapolis. Vaughn Associates are the project engineers. The project will be completed by Summer, 2009.

- In addition to the above, the Office of Director of Public Services coordinated the day-to-day operational needs of the City.

Note: Having completed my 28th year as Director of Public Services, I want to commend all of those who help in my office including my secretary, the Planning and Zoning Administrator, and all of my departmental superintendents. St. Clairsville truly is a small city that operates like a big city.

PLANNING & ZONING ADMINISTRATOR, TOM MURPHY

Permits

In 2008 there were a total of 164 permits issued. This was in line with the previous year's total. The year 2008 was a little atypical as the number of permits issued in the spring and early summer, although steady, was quite a bit behind 2007 for the same period. As the year progressed, the number of permits issued picked up considerably to the point that the number issued in 2008 was almost equal to the number issued in 2007. Permits were issued for various projects ranging from the construction of new homes, commercial buildings, business signs, additions, decks, porches, accessory structures and driveways to the establishment of new businesses.

The total estimate of the value of work completed in the City over the past year was \$2,446,263. Of the \$2.45 million in total work, \$930,797 was for commercial (non-residential) purposes such as the construction of a new office building, structural repair, paving, concrete work, demolition, and new signs. The remaining \$1,515,466 was for residential purposes such as new homes, additions, driveways, decks, fences, walls and accessory structures. A total of five new single-family homes (residential units) were constructed. To break this down further, of the \$2,446,263 of new construction, the five new residential dwelling units accounted for \$918,500 worth of work while the remainder was for other commercial and residential work.

The major project this year was the construction of a new office building by Dr. Chaudhry. It is adjacent to Burger King. This project transformed a lot that had been vacant for years into a lot with a first class office building. The structure's tenants will include Dr. Chaudhry and up to three additional tenants. A unique aspect of this project is the establishment of an underground storage facility for storm water drainage from the structure and parking lot. Due to state guidelines, storm water drainage must be stored in some manner on the property and then slowly released into the adjacent stream. The purpose is to reduce the flow of storm water and replicate the discharge that had occurred prior to development.

Another project completed was construction of the remaining single-family homes proposed in Phase II of the Ashburn Greene development. The remaining homes were constructed. All have been sold to private owners. There were a total of eleven single-family homes proposed as part of Phase II. Seven more homes may be proposed in 2009.

Grants

In early 2008 the City obtained a grant from the American Public Power Association (APPA) through its Demonstration of Energy-Efficient Developments (DEED) program. The purpose of this grant is to increase efficiency, reduce costs, investigate new technologies, offer new services and improve processes and practices to better serve utility customers. St. Clairsville utilized these grant funds to replace existing incandescent light bulbs in traffic signals and pedestrian crosswalk lights, with energy efficient LED (light emitting diode) bulbs. This was a city-wide project. These bulb replacements will reduce our energy consumption and labor costs associated with the existing bulbs.

As part of the grant, City crews removed the old bulbs and replaced them with the new LED bulbs in late summer 2008. City staff will monitor any savings related to energy use as part of the grant and submit the findings to the APPA. This entails monitoring the energy costs associated with the incandescent bulbs with the energy costs related to the LED bulbs. Monitoring of this grant will continue through 2009.

Another grant continuing to be administered in 2008 was the Ohio Small Cities grant from the Ohio Department of Development. A portion of these funds were originally used in 2006 to renovate building facades in the historic downtown. The remaining funds were used in late 2008 for the completion of Phase II of the Clarendon Hotel Restoration and Renovation project.

Phase II included the construction of an elevator shaft adjacent to the existing stairwell in the front of the structure and a new interior stairwell in the back of the hotel. Stanley Miller Construction was the successful bidder for this phase of the project which started in November 2008. This phase is an important step toward the final goal. The final goal is occupancy.

Zoning Amendments

Over the course of 2008 there were no petitions requesting a zoning amendment. A zoning amendment is initiated when the proposed use for a parcel of land or structure is not permitted by the zoning code. For example, a citizen proposes to utilize a parcel of ground located in a residential zone for a commercial use. This is not permitted. The petitioner then may apply for the zoning to be amended/changed. The Planning Commission and City Council hear this request and can approve or deny the amendment.

Subdivisions

There were three requests in 2008 for the subdivision of property. All were minor subdivision requests. The first request was made by Roy Mazzer. Mr. Mazzer owned one lot that contained two single-family homes. His petition to subdivide created a separate lot for each of the two homes and a third lot that would be vacant land. The third lot contained 1.67 acres. All three lots were to be sold eventually as individual lots. The required public hearings were held. Both the Planning Commission and City Council gave final plat approval to the subdivision.

The second request was made by Robert Pickenpaugh. Mr. Pickenpaugh owned a lot just under five acres in size that contained his single-family home. He wanted to subdivide this parcel into two lots. One lot would contain his home while the other lot would have a single-family home constructed on it. The lot that contained his home would measure approximately 4.3 acres while the new lot would measure approximately .47 acres. The required public hearings were held. Both the Planning Commission and City Council gave final plat approval to the subdivision.

The final subdivision request was petitioned by David Boltz. Mr. Boltz's parcel of land constituted a .5 acre lot with his single-family home on the parcel. His proposed subdivision request was for the creation of one additional lot carved out from his .5 acre lot. Each lot, his lot and the new lot, would measure approximately a quarter of an acre. The lot with his existing home would be sold and he would construct a new single-family home for his family on the new lot. The required public hearings were held. Both the Planning Commission and City Council gave final plat approval to the subdivision.

Variances

There was one variance request made in 2008. This request was made by Greg Honish. Mr. Honish owns an approximately 1.5 acre lot in the Highlands subdivision on the corner of Edinburgh Way and Kilsyth Court. The lot was vacant. His plan was to construct a new single-family home on the lot. The proposed location of the home did not meet the city front yard setback requirements on two sides of the lot. Mr. Honish petitioned the Board of Zoning Appeals in order to have the variances from City Code approved. The Board approved the request.

Conditional Uses

Conditional uses are uses of a property that are permitted in a particular zone, as long as they meet certain additional conditions as outlined in the Code. In 2008 there was one request. This request was made by Jarvis Law Office. Jarvis Law Office planned to establish an office specializing in legal issues pertaining to those intending to retire. The proposed location was on East Main Street in the CD Corridor District which allows offices as a conditional use. A previous tenant at this location utilized the space for office use. Jarvis Law Office petitioned the Board of Zoning Appeals. The Board approved this location for a new office once it was determined that the proposal was consistent with city guidelines.

Planned Residential District/Traditional Neighborhood Development

As mentioned earlier, the second phase of the Ashburn Greene development was completed in 2008 with the completion of construction on the eleven single-family homes. These eleven homes were not rental homes but were to be sold. Currently, all but one has been sold. The developer has tentative plans to construct seven more homes. The developer has not decided whether or not he will move forward with these plans. This development is located adjacent to Young Lane, McFadden Street and Clark Avenue Extension. Overall, Ashburn Greene has been a success story. It is used as a model for other developers around the state and region.

Board of Architectural Review

The Board of Architectural Review, which assists in enforcing the design guidelines for the Downtown Historic District, held eight meetings last year. The Board reviews all signs proposed by businesses in the Downtown Historic District and the Corridor District. Two of the more major projects in the Downtown Historic District are continuing. Denny Dlesk is still working on his project at the former Dr. Vazquez office. In 2008 Mr. Dlesk completed construction on a retaining wall at the rear of the property, started construction on a rear deck/entranceway and restored electric to the structure. Interior work and completion of the exterior façade, both front and back, should be completed in 2009. Mr. Dlesk has continued to work with City staff, the Board and Mike Gioulis, a historic preservationist, on this restoration and renovation. This project is ongoing.

Another exciting project that was actually reviewed by the Board in 2007 with plans to construct in 2008 has still not started yet. This project is the renovation and addition for the proposed new Vocelli Pizza. John McNab, the owner of Vocelli Pizza, purchased the former Prime Time Video Building at the corner of Sugar and Main Street. He will renovate the two story portion of the structure and remove the one story addition to the east. A new one-story addition will take its place and house a seating area for the restaurant. In conversations with the McNab family, they intend on working on the project in 2009.

FINANCE DIRECTOR, JILL LUCIDI

The St. Clairsville Finance Department was very busy this year. All of our departments worked very hard to keep within their budget. This year was no different; however, this fall we saw a huge decrease in the cost of fuel, which was a big plus for us at the end of the year.

We saw many things in the financial world that I didn't expect to see in my lifetime. We saw the bail out of a huge investment firm that had been around for over 100 years. We saw the collapse of one of the largest insurance companies in the nation. The United States Treasury issued millions of dollars of 0% Treasury Bills and sold them all! We saw a local bank fail and the FDIC insurance increase to cover deposits up to \$250,000. Our economy is suffering from the mortgage crisis and its trickle down effect. Luckily, St. Clairsville has not been hit as hard as the rest of the country, but the new year may catch us. We have to tighten our belts and spend our money more wisely than ever before.

We were awarded several new grants this year for projects that are already started and projects that will begin early in 2009. We are very fortunate to have an excellent grant writer in our Service Director. These funds that he goes after enables us to continue to upgrade the City. The Finance Director kept very busy with the accounting for the many grants and projects.

The Finance Director was also busy this year as the President of the Ohio Association of Public Treasurers. She takes education very seriously and was involved in planning and organizing the organization's Hot Topic Seminar in the spring, a week –

long institute in the summer and their annual fall conference. “Continuing education is essential in doing my job well. This year brought so many changes in the investment world that I have to be aware of in order to keep the citizens’ tax dollars safe.” Investing is a primary function of the Finance Director’s position, as well as budgeting, accounts receivable and payable, payroll, human resources, and the day to day operation of the City. The Finance Director was also chosen to be the Chairperson of the Investment Policy Certification Committee for the Association of Public Treasurers of the United States & Canada.

The next year is sure to be key in the recovery process of our financial market. The Finance Department will be watching the market closely and investing wisely. The City will continue to do as much as we possibly can while keeping within our budget. We continue to believe that St. Clairsville is a great place to live, work, and play and we’re proud of our commitment to our citizens.

LIGHT & POWER SUPERINTENDENT, DON SMITHBERGER

In the year 2008 the Electric Department enjoyed a productive, but safe year of operations. St. Clairsville Light and Power was recognized by our peers for a no lost time accident record working in excess of 12,000 hours. With a conscious effort by electrical personnel, an OSHA compliance training session monthly, and effort by administration to get necessary materials and equipment, yet keeping expenses to a minimum, the Electric Department experienced a record year. A record both the city and department are very proud of!

As to distribution many improvements have been instituted. We are in the process of updating power lines in the area of East Main and Forest Lawn. We have also replaced transformers and other distribution hardware in various locations within our service area to better serve our customers in an attempt to keep outages to a minimum.

As to the expanded improvements with the addition of the second substation, a well charted course of action has been completed and dedicated for the consumers benefit. Administration is looking at all options and course of action to ensure the best return for our customers in consumption, distribution, service , and customer relations.

Finally we would like to thank our customers, personnel and of course the administration for a successful, yet safe year of service!

WATER/WASTEWATER SUPERINTENDENT, JOSH GOODRIDGE **WASTEWATER**

Treated 189.6 MG of wastewater at Legion Road Treatment Plant

Treated 24.8 MG of wastewater at West Area Treatment Plant

Average Daily Wastewater 587,000 GPD for both plants

Land applied approximately 1,080,000 gallons (91.3 dry tons) of biosolids

Performed approximately 4,400 lab tests

There were 2 sewer breaks repaired in 2006, 27 water main breaks repaired, 6 Water Taps, 10 broken valves and curb boxes were repaired.

Water/Wastewater Department employees rebuilt both upflow clarifiers at the West Area Treatment Plant, replacing the fixed media with screening material. This resulted in a substantial savings for the City compared with the purchase price of new media for both filters.

Employees began painting the Water Treatment Plant. They also replaced broken air lines supplying the Rotating Biological Contactors at the Main Wastewater Treatment Plant. Also, a maintenance program for the plant was instituted.

Throughout the daily operations of both the Water and Wastewater facilities, daily-weekly-yearly maintenance is necessary. The maintenance and repairs are all performed by our City personnel. We maintain a main water plant and two separate wastewater plants within the City, plus 11 separate sewage lift stations, consisting of high velocity pumps moving sewage to our wastewater plants. Our employees are well trained to keep these plants in operation.

Our demands for the water plant is equally demanding. It requires licensed operators insuring testing of all treated water leaving our facility is 100% safe according to all EA standards. The following stats show some historical figures of production from 1982 to 2008.

UTILITY OFFICE MANAGER, SHELLEY FORTNEY

January, 2008, marked the first month with AMP-OH as the major supplier of electricity to the City of St. Clairsville. AEP submitted bills for residual charges, although slight, during the first five months of the year. The power bills from June to December reflected charges solely from AMP-OH.

Although it was anticipated that there would be some relief from the high bills reflected from AEP, it did not materialize. In fact, the City of St. Clairsville paid \$42.07 more for the 12 month period overall than in 2007. The tables below reflect the annual cost and usage for demand, demand, kilowatts and overall cost.

Demand

2008	9,503
2007	9,448.7
2006	8,675
2005	9,689.8
2004	9,339.6

Demand Charge

2008	\$666,130.78
2007	\$2,103,273.20
2006	\$1,931,055.00
2005	\$618,462.90
2004	\$598,309.80

Kilowatts Purchased

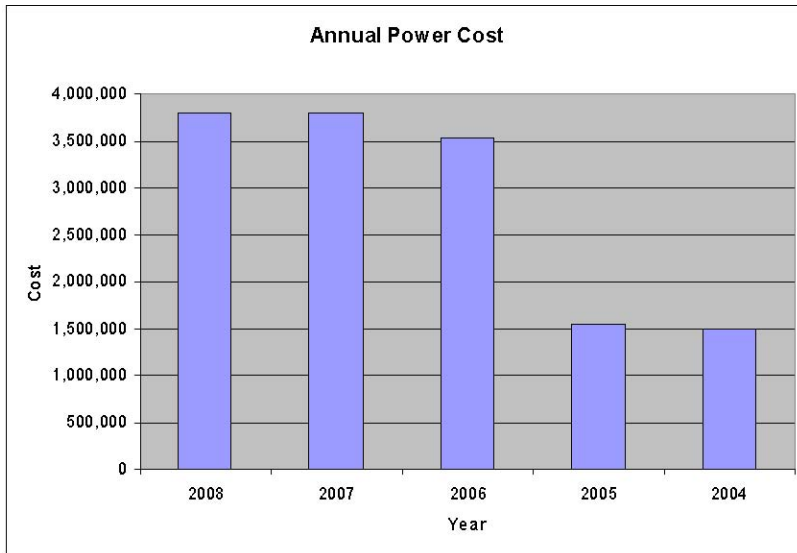
2008	55,386,104
2007	55,554,248
2006	53,610,620
2005	56,857,579
2004	54,423,904

Energy-charge

2008	\$3,028,561.78
2007	\$1,388,856.24
2006	\$1,340,265.53
2005	\$907,485.75
2004	\$892,294.29

Total Annual Cost for Power

2008	\$3,796,095.61
2007	\$3,796,053.54
2006	\$3,528,556.78
2005	\$1,553,203.70
2004	\$1,490,712.72



Information on charges by individual months is available in the utility office.

Online Utility Information

Another successful year was evident with the Online Utility software. Credit card collections increased over 2007 by 21.4% in sales. Online payments represent 6.6% of the total collections for the year.

The number of online payments increased by 32.3%. Fees for the online payment program were less than one percent (.98%) of the total online sales collected for the year. This indicates a major reduction in cost to the City of St. Clairsville. The reason for the decline in cost is attributed to the fact that we switched the credit card processing company to The Neil Group, Inc. during the final month of 2007.

Fee

YEAR	Number	Amt.	% Inc	% of Sales
2003	143	\$14,549.74		
2004	607	\$71,034.54	388.2%	3.1%
2005	983	\$114,019.70	60.5%	3.0%
2006	1,398	\$195,545.55	71.5%	2.8%
2007	1,939	\$345,203.61	76.5%	2.5%
2008	2,566	\$418,998.93	21.4%	.98%
TOTAL	5,070	\$740,353.14		

The Neil Group, Inc. is a company that can design their program to fit government entities as opposed to the merchant at the mall. Therefore, pricing is much lower thus creating a savings to the City.

The online payment option has proven to be a valuable tool for the office staff as well as for our customers. Because Internet access is available at the desktop, customers

can call the office with their credit card information and the staff can process the payment through the Internet site. This has been helpful to many customers who are out of town or especially to delinquent customers to restore services or avoid termination.

New customers of St. Clairsville Municipal Utilities automatically receive a password for their online account allowing them immediate access to their account. This accounts for the increase in the number of users and for the increase in customers paying their bills through the Internet.

E-Bills

The popularity of Ebills increased by 28.9% during 2008. The increase is due, in part, to passwords being sent to new customers giving them the opportunity to browse their account options. Customers can choose either paper bills mailed through the US Postal Service or the Ebills through their email. Ebills save on the cost of postage and supplies. Because Ebills are sent electronically, the notices are sent while the paper bills are printing. Payments are received through the web site many times before the paper bills are finished being processed.

	Ebills	% Inc.
2004	113	
2005	738	553.1%
2006	973	31.8%
2007	1232	21.0%
2008	1588	28.9%

	Paper			
	Bills	Ebills	Total	Ebill %
2006	34,406	973	35,379	2.8%
2007	34,188	1,232	35,420	3.5%
2008	34,188	1,588	35,776	4.4%

Credit Cards Processed in-Office

Credit cards accepted for payment in the utility office are Visa, MasterCard, Discover and Debit cards. The following table shows the combined payments, sales, cost, annual increase, the fee and the % of sales that the fee represents for utility payments processed through the office credit card machine since 2001. There was a decrease of in-office credit card payments of 15.2% in sales during 2008. The online payment, however, increased by 21.4% which nets an increase in overall credit card payments of 6.2%. Fees reflected a sharp decrease in cost with the office credit cards due to the fact that they are also being processed by The Neil Group, Inc.

Fee %

Month	Number	Amt.	% Inc	of Sales	Fee
2001	204	\$22,542.26		1.9%	430.09
2002	381	\$47,349.45	110.0%	1.9%	909.64
2003	409	\$58,965.39	24.5%	2.1%	1,243.23
2004	474	\$59,959.38	1.7%	2.4%	1,432.73
2005	490	\$61,744.33	3.0%	2.2%	1,371.32
2006	449	\$72,603.58	17.6%	2.8%	2,014.97
2007	581	\$110,060.18	51.6%	2.7%	3,005.07
2008	595	\$93,282.05	-15.2	1.2%	\$1,087.21
TOTAL	3,583	\$526,506.62			\$11,494.27

Monthly Report to Utility Committee

Monthly reports were distributed to the members of the Utility Committee containing various figures for each month during 2008. Several categories are listed on this report to hopefully reflect the work that is processed in the office on a monthly basis. Below is a chart of those items reported and the final totals for 2008 and 2007. Additional information can be added to this report upon request. Notice that the total collections for 2008 fall short of collections for 2007 by \$249,757.81 (3.8%).

	2008 ANNUAL TOTAL	2007 ANNUAL TOTAL	Annual % Difference	Annual Difference	
Disconnects		244	231	5.6%	(13)
Delinquent Notices Printed		5,380	5,386	-0.1%	6
Finals		511	589	-13.2%	78
Total Collections	\$6,391,275.84	\$6,641,033.65		-3.8%	\$249,757.81
Number of Payments		35,805	35,807	0.0%	2
Online Payments	\$418,998.93		\$345,203.61	21.4%	(\$73,795.32)
Online Fees	\$4,094.88		\$8,689.36	-52.9%	\$4,594.48
Number of Online Pymts		2,566	1,939	32.3%	(627)
Credit Card Payments	\$93,282.05		\$110,060.10	-15.2%	\$16,778.05
Credit Card Fees	\$1,087.21		\$3,005.07	-63.8%	\$1,917.86

ACH Collected	\$586,897.89	\$597,741.62	-1.8%	\$10,843.73
Number of ACH Pymts	4,639	4,514	2.8%	(125)
Number of Office Pymts	28,005	28,807	-2.8%	802
Mail and Walk-in Adjustments Unbilled	\$5,292,096.97	\$5,583,062.29	-5.2%	\$290,965.32
Adjustments	(\$361,534.64)	(\$383,464.66)	-5.7%	(\$21,930.02)
Unbilled Adjustments	(\$334,171.27)	(\$357,953.45)	-6.6%	(\$23,782.18)
Billing Adjustments	(\$27,363.37)	(\$25,511.21)	7.3%	\$1,852.16
Pool Meters (#11)	51	61	-16.4%	10
Pool Meter Credit	(\$1,923.63)	(\$5,629.14)	-65.8%	(\$3,705.51)
Ebills	1,588	1,232	28.9%	(356)
Number of Paper Bills	34,052	34,188	-0.4%	136
Meter Rereads	241	277	-13.0%	36
AEP Bill	\$302,364.44	\$3,813,881.97	-92.1%	\$3,511,517.53
AMP-OH Bill	\$3,409,908.88	\$75,299.50	4428.5%	(\$3,334,609.38)
Total Power Bill	\$3,712,273.32	\$3,889,181.47	-4.5%	\$176,908.15
Kilowatts Purchased	55,178,744	55,323,157	-0.3%	144,413
Demand	118,233	28,660	312.5%	(\$89,573.48)
City's Cost per KW	\$0.067277	\$0.070299	-4.3%	\$0.00

	Electric	Water Wastewater	
Commercial Sales	\$2,231,663.12	\$189,685.67	\$171,809.66
Residential Sales	\$2,815,977.38	\$658,471.98	\$589,344.16
Total Sales	\$5,047,640.50	\$848,157.65	\$761,153.82
Commercial Count	374	208	201
Residential Count	2,562	2,192	2,201
Total Count	2,936	2,400	2,402
Commercial Usage	22,180,220	32,668	31,046
Residential Usage	28,217,276	96,710	97,468
Total Usage	50,397,496	129,378	128,514

**New
Service
Fees**

Year	# Elect	Total	# Water	Total	# Sewer	Total
2006	9	\$675.00	12	\$4,800.00	12	\$4,800.00
2007	13	\$975.00	11	\$5,100.00	13	\$6,300.00
2008	7	\$525.00	9	\$3,148.60	6	\$2,400.00
Totals	22	\$1,650.00	23	\$9,900.00	25	\$11,100.00

LANDSCAPES AND GROUNDS DEPARTMENT, BRIAN KRALOVIC

This year the city competed in the Community in Bloom international competition. Although the city did not win top honors like we did in America in Bloom, the experience was once a again a positive one, with high marks from the judges and the opportunity to once again involve individuals not employed by the city through various volunteer efforts. Inmates from Belmont County Correctional Institute pruned and mulch not only Halloran Park, but also Woodrow Hub and the 40 newly planted trees on the fairgrounds. Students from St. Clairsville High School mulched all the landscape beds and both nature walks on the bikeway. The Belmont County Master Gardeners weeded and planted the flowers at Halloran Park. And St. Clairsville residents, St. Clairsville students and St. Mary’s students assisted in planting the downtown tree pits with flowers, donated once again by Walmart. These volunteer efforts are greatly appreciated and their help in the future is greatly anticipated.

The hanging baskets and bedding plants did excellent again this year. Dennis Bigler and Brian Kralovic attended the 2008 Ohio Flower Show in July. As a result , there will be some minor changes to the hanging baskets, new flower pot designs and new species of flowers used in the beds around the gazebo.

There have been many Eagle Scout Projects on the National Road Bikeway. This year William Fiesley did a project with two phases. The first phase was to install five lighted Blue Spruce trees in four urns in front of the courthouse and the one by the city building for the holiday season. These trees will the by planted between Trabar Drive and the bikeway, providing a buffer between them.

In October, Ohio State University Wooster hosted a program called “Why Trees Matter”. This program focused on the social and economic benefits of trees. As the world becomes more “green”, there are many other economic values trees offer other than added property value. A free software program, “i-Tree”, can calculate the value of trees in a city. Early in 2009 a street tree inventory will be completed, and then a total value and a dollar figure of total environmental benefits can be calculated. The street tree inventory will also assist in obtaining grants and FEMA assistance if necessary.

With many majority of the new park plan for the fairgrounds on hold until the last fair in September, one part will be implanted in May. The Community Garden will soon

be welcoming gardeners from the city and beyond. The OSU Extension will have several demonstration plots and educational classes will be offered.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT, KEVIN BARR SUPERINTENDENT

The St. Clairsville Department of Parks and Recreation continued to expand Recreational opportunities during 2008 through the numerous programs offered by the department as well as providing facility usage for many clubs and organizations at the J.B. Martin Recreation-Senior Center. The following list utilized the J.B. Martin Recreation-Senior Center to conduct meetings, fundraisers and various programs:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Belmont County Fair | Board of Elections |
| Boys Varsity Basketball | Girls Varsity Basketball |
| Boys JV Basketball | Girls JV Basketball |
| Boys Freshman Basketball | Girls Freshman Basketball |
| Boys Junior High Basketball | Girls Junior High Basketball |
| St. C. H.S. Softball | St. C. Swim Team Meetings |
| St. C. H.S. Final Exams | St. C. H.S. Proficiency Testing |
| St. C. High School ASVAB Testing | St. C. Cheerleading |
| A.A.R.P. | Sam's Club Grass Roots Meeting |
| P.E.R.S. | N.A.R.F.E. |
| St. C. Christmas Parade Line-up | Welcome Wagon Playgroup |
| Belmont County Fair Housing | Cub Scouts |
| Soccer Association Meetings | Boy Scouts |
| Head Start | St. C. Track |
| St. C. Football | Friends of Library |
| Belomar | Job and Family Services |
| Buckeye Modulators | Gardeners Forum |
| Easter Seals Benefit | CAC |
| Red Cross Blood Drive | Binger Benefit |

Parks and Recreation Director Kevin Barr, is serving his 6th year term for Ohio Issue I-N.R.A.C. Committee for a ten county area which is responsible for working with communities to assist them in application for potential funding under Issue I as well as to recommend projects for funding. Barr was originally serving a one year term.

The City St. Clairsville Jr. Sports Complex again serviced as a hub for many youth baseball and softball programs during the summer months and also for youth flag football and for high school soccer programs for both boys and girls and high school girls softball team.

The department's policy always has been to strive to provide additional programs, seek additional grant sources and meet the demands for quality leisure time activities.

Mayor Vincenzo and the City of St. Clairsville Department of Parks and Recreation completed a master plan with Gabe Hayes and Phil Cole of Hayes Landscape Architecture Studio for the Belmont County Fairgrounds in anticipation of the City's

purchase of the fairgrounds. With the purchase of the fairgrounds, the entire area will become a hub for recreational activities. The potential for additional facilities and programs are endless and include an amphitheater, sand volleyball, outdoor basketball courts, deck hockey, a community garden, restoration of the former train depot, a stage green area, pavilions and enhanced parking areas as well as a riparian corridor.

2008 Wish List

Flat Bed Truck

Stove – (commercial) as mandated by the Health Department

Amphitheater for Summer Concert Series

Recreation Center Booster Club

The following items were purchased through the St. C. Rec. Dep. Booster Club:

Playground equipment

Bleachers

55 gallon metal drums for Fairgrounds (20 Total)

Sponsorship of the Summer Concert Series

The Parks and Recreation Department received a \$ 15,000 PRC grant from Belmont County to offer numerous summer programs at no cost to those meeting income requirements. This program continues to enhance a multitude of summer programs for everyone.

The summer also included a summer concert series. Just some of this years entertainers included Roz & Lynn, Rich Treglia, Ron Retzer, John Adams, Aftermath, Rick Farrell Band, Three for One, Hot Pursuit, the Chrisagis Brothers, and the Fabulous Bender Boys. We held this year's concert series on Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm immediately following the downtown farmers market held in downtown St. Clairsville.

We sponsored a gun and knife show on April 12th, an Archery Expo on April 11, 12, 13 and held an indoor circus on April 30th. We celebrated Independence Day on July 1st and 2nd with a flea market, games, rides, entertainment, concessions and fireworks at the City's Belmont County Fairgrounds. We would like to thank Sayre Realty for sponsoring the John Adams concert, Bob Lewis of Belmont Mills for the concert stage usage, and Lois & Russell Groves for sponsoring the Halloween Contest. It was estimated that 5,000 people attended this year's celebration. We are working on the 2009 program to offer a bigger and better event for everyone.

POLICE DEPARTMENT, CHIEF MARTIN KENDZORA

Our Police Department consists of Police Chief Martin Kendzora and nine full time Officers, which includes a School Resource Officer. We also employ four full time and one part time Dispatchers and two Crossing Guards at the St. Clairsville-Richland Elementary School.

This year we also employed a part-time Meter Maid to patrol the Downtown Area at the request of the Downtown Merchants. It is producing results with a two hour parking limit. It is our intent to continue with this program.

We still maintain our contract with the St. Clairsville-Richland School District to provide a School Resource Officer, Officer Jeff Gazdik. We are very pleased with the results that are achieved with this program. Safety for our school students is the top priority.

We are proud of our Police Department. Their vigilance and concern for our Citizens is our major concern, our thanks go out to our Police Force.

STREET DEPARTMENT, RICHARD SMITH SUPERINTENDENT

2008 was a busy year for our Street Department. The Street Department performs the normal duties of:

- Snow plowing & ice control for 70 miles of City streets & alleys
- Pot hole patching
- Repair storm water catch basins and culverts
- Repair earth slips
- Leaf pick-up
- Mowing all City properties
- Prepare streets that will be paved
- Sign maintenance
- Paint traffic lines and markings
- Provide inspection on paving projects
- Clean-up storm damage
- Use asphalt box paver to patch more critical areas
- Clean out ditches and empty litter cans in Business District

These are but a few items mentioned that are usually done on a frequent basis. What is important above all else, heavy equipment is used daily, yet maintaining an excellent safety record. Plowing snow in the worst of conditions is not for non-experts. I commend their efforts.

CONCLUSION

Once again in 2008, the City completed another successful and productive year. This cannot be accomplished without key people steering the helm. Our Service Director, Dennis Bigler provides the expertise and direction for our Departments, thereby achieving positive results. Our Finance Director, Law Director, Superintendents, Police Chief, Utilities Manager, Planning & Zoning Administrator, Recreation Director, Office Secretaries, Kathy & Nancy working together generates a successful operation. My many thanks to you, without your help it would not happen.

Again, it goes without saying our mission is to provide the best possible service to all our Citizens and Community. We continue to improve our commitment. The health, welfare and safety of the City of St. Clairsville are most important.

Once again, we are proud to announce that financially we finished in the black. Again in 2008 we had a reduction of Local Government Funding, increased operating cost of gasoline and diesel fuel, nearly double the cost of 2007. Chemicals, maintenance supplies, raise in electricity rates all caused concern for our budget.

The fiscal responsibility of our Finance Director, Jill Lucidi led us through the year balancing our budget. We are deeply thankful.

WHAT'S NEW FOR 2009

- The Clarendon Hotel is still on the agenda. The economic free-fall certainly is playing a big part in a positive prospect. We have hopes it will become a reality.
- We have improvements for the Bike Trail Tunnel and Bridge.
- We have secured a substantial grant from Issue II Funds to do some major street work/paving this year.
- Look to see action on the City owned Fair Grounds Property. This lends to be a new and exciting venture to be ongoing for several years.

For Example:

- A Community reception center
- Outdoor sports facilities
- Open air amphitheatre (concerts, plays, etc.)
- Play ground facilities
- Picnic shelters
- Community garden areas

These are just a few items on the horizon. We know it will happen because we know you will make it happen.

Finally, it is our commitment to improve our every day operations, improve our infrastructure, continue to search for grants for new projects and maintain the day to day operations. This is our mission, it is our agenda for the years ahead.

Improvement is progress. Progress is our guarantee for our existence.

“Creativity, Vision, Teamwork” is our motto.

Robert Vincenzo, Mayor

