



WALBRIDGE

Newsletter

Message from the Mayor

Dear Residents and Businesses,

Hard to believe that it is 2010 already, seems like just a few years ago we were bombarded with warnings of doom for the year 2000 and we all lived through it. I hope that everyone enjoyed the holidays and was able to spend some time with family and friends.

As we enter this New Year one of the things that Council, the staff and I are working diligently on is ensuring that our operating budget for the year is in line with our expected revenues. Unlike the federal government we are legally bound to submit and then work to a balanced budget. To me this means spending slightly less than what we expect to get in each year as revenue. This allows us to be able to absorb some level of emergency if issues arise throughout the year. For this year our expected revenues are approximately \$200,000 less than last year due to the downturn in the economy. Our decreased revenues are made up of: decreased income taxes from our residents, decreased income tax withholdings from our in-town businesses, and decreased funding from the county and state.

There has been much debate about how we can make this lower revenue work for us with minimal impact to everyone. Let me say that our starting position is this for any and all cuts that we have identified: "As the year progresses and we see that our revenues are returning to normal we will restore any and hopefully all cuts if we can." While there are those that think some cuts should not be made, we have an obligation to have a balanced budget and this is an obligation that I take extremely seriously. Even as a young boy I had learned that the best way to get a hold of your finances is to control your spending. That same attitude is used as Council, the staff and I put together our budget. There are some people in town that think we should spend everything we have in savings and then turn to the state and federal government for help when we need it. I think this is a failing strategy and one that has proven to get our federal government in the problems that we see today.

With the budget that I submitted to Council, and they subsequently approved, the approach was to share the pain so that no one group would have to accept an undue burden of the cuts. We shared cuts between the following groups: the employees, the residents and businesses, and the Administration (Mayor's office). Below I have summarized the cuts that we have included in the 2010 budget in order to balance with our expected revenues:

•	Police and Street Overtime Limitation	\$55,000
•	Health Insurance Changes for Employees	\$57,000
•	Not opening the pool in 2010	\$41,000
•	Not operating Camp Loopy in 2010	\$10,000
•	Not staffing the ball diamonds programs.)	\$10,000 (Working with the baseball association to identify ways to support the baseball programs.)
•	Not replacing a retiring employee for 2010	\$21,000 (savings of pay and benefits for ½ year)
•	No potential for bonuses in 2010	\$7,000
•	Mayor donating salary back to Village	<u>\$7,200</u>
	Total Savings:	\$208,200

Let me change subjects a bit and discuss some changes we have made in our Council set up so that we can focus on some key elements. We have restructured our committees to consolidate Buildings and Lands with the Street Committee. This essentially establishes one committee for caring for our 'hard' assets. We have also renamed the Recreation Committee to be the Recreation and Community Events Committee. This is intended to have that group of Council members put more attention on all community events and all recreational areas since that fit is a natural. By making these changes we have freed up your Council members to be able to form a new committee for Business and Economic Development. I have asked this committee to become more proactive in working with established businesses, and established economic development groups in Wood and Lucas County to promote Walbridge as a business friendly environment. Additionally we are looking forward to working with the new Mayor of Toledo, Mike Bell, on a more regional approach to business growth. I don't expect that these changes will provide immediate results but I do believe that it sets us up for becoming more involved and for actively and strongly reaching out to new and existing businesses as we move out of the economic downturn.

VR,

Dan Wilczynski
Mayor – Walbridge, Ohio



Message from the Street Department by Steve Smith

Spring is right around the corner and I will once again be pursuing residents that fail to keep their yards free of garbage and/or inoperable, unlicensed vehicles. So please take the time to look around your property once the weather improves and dispose of unwanted items properly so we can "Keep Walbridge Beautiful".



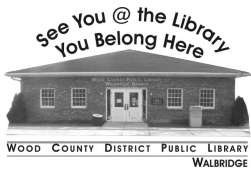
by Patricia Crawford, Fiscal Officer

FREE Walbridge Local Tax preparation dates are:

Wednesday, March 24th 5:30pm to 8:00pm

Saturday, March 27th 9:00am-Noon

Please bring all of your 2009 W-2's and any other 2009 tax information. Both "Free Tax Days" will be first come first served. We accept cash, credit cards and checks for payment. Payment is not due until April 15th but we will accept payments at anytime.



Walbridge Branch Library

An oil painting that once hung at the Walbridge State Bank is now hanging at the Walbridge Branch Library. The painting was done by once-local artist Lyda Woollett in 1981 and depicts the coal loader for the old steam engines that once stood near the railroad tracks here in the village.

Making the library the painting's new home was a cooperative effort by the State Bank, Marv Savage, and Patricia Crawford.

Upcoming events at the Walbridge Branch Library include:

Mon., February 8, 2010	1 pm	Walbridge Book Club
Tues., February 9, 2010	10 am	Preschool Storytime [held at Ever-Gard Daycare]
Mon., February 22, 2010	6 pm	Mystery Book Discussion Group
Tues., February 23, 2010	10 am	Preschool Storytime [held at Ever-Gard Daycare]
Mon., March 8, 2010	1 pm	Walbridge Book Club
Tues., March 9, 2010	10 am	[<i>Tentatively</i>] Preschool Storytime [held at Ever-Gard Daycare]
Mon., March 22, 2010	6 pm	Mystery Book Discussion Group
Tues., March 23, 2010	10 am	[<i>Tentatively</i>] Preschool Storytime [held at Ever-Gard Daycare]

The informal book groups are a lot of fun and are open to all who want to participate in the discussions.

The Library's hours are Monday through Thursday 1 pm to 7 pm and Saturday 10 am to 2 pm. The phone number is 419-666-9900.

Recreation Committee

“News-U-Need” by Maureen Jacobsen, Council President
I just wanted to say a special thanks to everyone who helped make the 1st Annual Parade of Lights Parade that took place in December a success! The event was put together on short notice but turned out great! Everyone who attended and participated enjoyed the lights, floats, atmosphere and seeing Santa Claus take time out of his busy schedule to stop and speak with our children. Please keep in mind any ideas you may have to put a float in this years “Parade of Lights” yourself. Come join us and help make this years parade bigger and better!

A.O.A. 55+ Program- Your Mayor and Council are so pleased to bring back at no cost the opportunity this year for our seniors (55 and over) to attend the A.O.A. program at the Oregon YMCA. The Active Older Adults Program is a wonderful opportunity for senior citizens of our community to get involved in a wonderful land and water aroberics program. So please call or come to the Village office in inquire!

Upcoming Community Events:

Lake Twp Chili Cook-Off and Silent Auction Saturday, Feb. 20th Registration begins at noon. Public tasting 1:30pm

Rally by the Rails- May 14th & 15th (parade and car show on the 15th)

Spring Community wide Garage Sale- May 14th & 15th 9am-6pm



Police Beat by Walt Tylicki, Chief of Police

Please join us in Council Chambers the second Thursday of every month at 6:30pm for a Community Block Watch Meeting. Every month we have different speakers and valuable information to help keep your personal property safe.



Walbridge Business Corner

The newly created Business and Economic Development Committee will hold their first committee meeting February 10th at 5:00pm.



Our Community

Lake High School Sophomore English Class (Stephanie Hull, Bre Coutchek, Shelby Harrison, Casey Hughes, Tatiana Walters, Alysha Eckenrode, Gentry Perry and Courtney Kranz) accompanied by Kristen Dippman, their former student teacher, made a presentation to the Mayor and Council at the December 16th Council Meeting regarding substance abuse. They stood in front of a poster they made regarding numerous facts about substance abuse and the effects on health and families. The students hope to organize a fund raising event to help raise awareness. The students have made their personal commitment to remain drug and alcohol free.



Water Management by Steve Smith, Village Administrator

What you can do to protect storm water in winter:

- Shovel or plow your driveway and sidewalks before spreading de-icer. De-icer will not work on deep piles of snow anyway, and shoveling does not require chemicals that could harm streams.
- Limit the use of de-icers, especially those with the most environmental impacts.
- Only use as much de-icer as you need. Large snow piles and thick ice will not melt faster with more de-icer. You can always reapply if you used too little.
- Do not use fertilizer for snow and ice removal. Fertilizers are very poor at snow removal and increase the nitrogen in streams when snow melts.
- Only use sand for traction. Kitty litter and ash become clumpy and are difficult to clean up after use.
- Pets can be harmed by some de-icers. Wipe your pet's paws if they walk on any salts or chemicals. This helps prevent ingestion and damage to their paws.

Not all de-icing products are equal in terms of cost, environmental impact, or effectiveness.

De-icer	Lowest Temperature	Cost*	Environmental Impact
Calcium Chloride	-25 Degrees F	3 times more than rock salt	Less salt required. No cyanide. Contains chlorine.
Magnesium Chloride	5 degrees F	Comparable to other salts	Least toxic deicing salt. May cause tracking or discoloration
Sodium Chloride (rock salt)	15 degrees F	Around \$5 per 50lb bag	May contain cyanide. Contains chlorine
Urea (fertilizer)	20 to 25 degrees F	5 times more than rock salt	Contains excess nutrients. Less corrosive
Calcium Magnesium Acetate (CMA)	22 to 25 degrees F	20 times more than rock salt	Less toxic
Sand	Does not melt snow/ice	Around \$3 per 50lb bag	Accumulates in streets & streams. Needs to be swept.

* Source: Snow, Road, Salt and the Chesapeake Bay by Tom Shuler, Center for Watershed Protection



Helpful Information

New Contact Numbers for Village of Walbridge

With the current economic times we all need to cut back and save wherever we can, so the Village of Walbridge is eliminating and combining phone lines. This action results in a substantial savings for the 2010 budget.

419-666-0043 Maintenance Bldg
419-666-1830 Village Offices
419-666-7087 Mayor's Office & General Office Fax
419-666-8412 Non-Emergency Police Dept.
419-666-5643 Police Fax

2010 Holidays- Village offices & Street Department will be closed

Presidents Day Mon Feb 15th, Memorial Day Monday May 31st, Independence Day Mon July 5th, Labor Day Mon Sept 6th, Columbus Day Monday Oct 11th, Veterans Day Thurs Nov 11th, Thanksgiving Day Thurs Nov 25th, Christmas Day Fri Dec 24th

Waste Management 2010 Schedule

The Following dates are holidays for Waste Management (trash pickup) employees this year. On these days ONLY, the offices are closed. For these service weeks, service is delayed one day throughout the remainder of the week.

New Year's Day- January 1, 2010 trash picked up January 2nd
Memorial Day- May 31, 2010 trash picked up June 1st
Labor Day- September 6, 2010 trash picked up September 7th
Thanksgiving Day- November 25, 2010 trash picked up November 26th

Look for the next newsletter
May 3rd

