

Bay Village City Council Update May 2012

Dear Bay Residents:

Over the years we have attempted to reach out to residents in a variety of ways including Town Hall Meetings, Ward e-mail newsletters, Ward meetings and statements in the city newsletter. In an effort to reach as many residents as possible we introduce a new concept, the City Council Update.

The City Council Update will be available via the city E-mail subscription list; posted on the city council portal on the city website; submitted to the Observer for publishing; and copies will be dropped off at the Bay public library and Dwyer Center. Meetings minutes and agendas are available on the new city website as well, www.cityofbayvillage.com. We encourage you to visit this new and exciting information portal which represents a dramatic improvement in our collective efforts to provide beneficial and timely information to the residents. Here's a link to the city council portal <http://www.cityofbayvillage.com/city-government/city-council.aspx>. We expect to publish this update quarterly, or timelier as events unfold.

Balanced Budget

The collective effect of a dramatic increase in healthcare costs, steep cuts in state funding and police/fire overtime costs attributed to employee injuries posed a major budgetary challenge as we began the process in October 2011 with a shortfall of over **\$860,000**. The Finance Committee met weekly with the city administration for months for the purpose of identifying and executing a variety of budget reducing measures. **These include re-organizing, regionalizing, restructuring debt, renegotiating the refuse collection contract, outsourcing and reducing staff in Police, Service, Building, Community Services, Animal Control, Parks & Recreation and Administration. The end result is a balanced budget for 2012, without dipping into our capital reserve funds or raising taxes.**

Over a period of four years, City full and part-time employees have dropped from 147 to 105 (numbers provided by Mayor Sutherland). The challenges continue in 2013 as the Ohio Estate Tax is eliminated (roughly \$600,000 annual in Bay Village) and the state continues to reduce monies to local municipalities. We are not alone as cities statewide face these same issues. We hope to negotiate a more favorable healthcare plan in 2013 to help offset these challenges.

Sewer Improvements

The costly investment in the cleaning and removing of debris from the city main sewer lines thus far seems to have paid off as we have seen a dramatic decrease in flooding related calls to the city. Detailed analysis of our sewer system by CT Consultants has led to the identification of several other projects to include the Cahoon Road Sanitary Sewer replacement scheduled for 2013; Wolf Road Aerial Sewer Replacement (over the creek at the Wolf Rd. Bridge near Cahoon) 2012. In total, these projects will require **\$3,000,000** in funding. While we are actively executing a short-term plan for improvements,

we are also working with CT Consultants to write a long-term plan to address city flooding and sewer infrastructure issues.

Road Improvements 2012

An asphalt mill and overlay is schedule for the Huntington Woods area. This will overlay the current concrete streets, which have been frequently patched over the years. Additionally, Donald Dr. and West Oviatt Rd.(between Dover and Cahoon) will receive new surfaces.

City Buildings / Infrastructure / Long-term plans

A variety of city council committees are turning their attention to the future as a number of our public buildings are in need of updating and improvements. Last year studies were conducted to assess all of our facilities to explore current ultization; condition of infrastructure and energy efficiency. These studies will play a large role as we prioritize and plan for the future in 2012. It's estimated improvements in the Community House will total **\$500,000**.

Dover Tennis Courts and Columbia Rd. Park Stairs

The Dover Tennis Courts have been repaired many times over the years but are at the point that repairs will no longer meet the needs of our many tennis enthusiasts. The courts are in poor condition and need to be replaced. We are in the process of receiving bids for their replacement, to include new lights. Additionally, the harsh weather that Lake Erie brings to the Village is particularly hard on the shore. The stairs that lead from Columbia Rd. to the Lake have taken a beating and either need significant repair or replacement. Both options are being considered.

Refuse Contract Renegotiated and Extended

Last year we began automated trash and recycling collection services with Allied Waste. After some initial hiccups, the process has been streamlined. Friday collection has not been popular among residents. We have been able to renegotiate more favorable terms with Allied in the form \$120,000 in savings anually; return to Tuesday collection by the end of 2012 and a three year extention. As part of the agreement, we are ending the recycling rewards program to reduce costs, at some point later this year. The rewards program was established as an incentive to increase recycling but after many discussions with residents we feel it is no longer needed as an incentive to recycle.

Mark Your Calendar - Bulk Trash Pickup Days:

June 8, July 7 (Saturday), August 10, September 8 (Saturday), October 5, November 9, December 7

Mark Your Calendar – Holiday Trash / Saturday Pickup Days:

June 2 (Memorial day); July 7 (4th of July), September 8 (Labor Day), November 24 (Thanksgiving), December 29 (Christmas)

We look forward to working with you all as we simultaneously tackle challenging economic issues and continue to improve infrastructure and plan for the future. We are proud to serve you.

Sincerely,

Paul Koomar / Council President Dwight Clark / Council At-Large Scott Pohlkamp / Council At-Large

David Tadych / Ward 1 Clete Miller / Ward 2 Karen Lieske / Ward 3 Mike Young / Ward 4