

# CITY OF CONNEAUT

## OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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# MEMORANDUM

**TO:** City Council Members/Department/Division Heads  
**FROM:** Douglas L. Lewis, City Manager  
**SUBJECT:** City Manager Update  
**DATE:** May 4, 2007

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**2007 CDBG Formula Grant:** The City of Conneaut was recently informed that our allocation for the 2006 CDBG Formula Grant is \$70,000. The funds have been budgeted for the following: 1) \$10,000 for demolition; 2) \$27,000 for street improvements; 3) \$22,000 for Sandusky Street sanitary sewer improvements; 4) \$4,000 Fair Housing; and 5) \$7,000 for general administration.

**OWDA Issue II Grant/Loan Application:** The Ohio Public Works Commission has informed us that we have been awarded our Grant/Loan for the Sandusky Street Sanitary Sewer Replacement in the amount of \$132,000. The total project cost is \$233,000 with \$82,000 in grants and \$50,000 in low interest loans. We anticipate that the engineering will begin this fall with the construction in the spring of 2008.

**Project Pride Downtown Clean-Up:** Saturday, May 19, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the gazebo. Project Pride is requesting volunteers to assist with downtown clean-up efforts. Plans are to remove the bricks and replace them with mulch, remove weeds from the cracks in the sidewalks, clean up garbage and debris, and other jobs that would improve the downtown. The first time, the clean-up will focus on Main Street from Sandusky to U.S. 20 and then north to State Street.

**It's Official – Woodland Clinic (aka Hamot Medical Building):** Dr. Thomas Hunt and partners including his brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. James and Joyce Hunt, officially closed on the building on Wednesday, May 3, 2007. They are planning to have a ribbon cutting and open house for The Woodland Clinic. I will notify the City Council when a date has been established.

**Interstate 90/State Route 7 Fueling Station:** The project continues to move forward. We received information regarding turn lanes off State Route 7 from CT Consultants. The information has been forwarded to the Travel Center engineer's. Once the Traffic Impact Study is modified, Dr. Hauser (Wetland Consultant) will be submitting the necessary mitigation plan to the U.S. Corp of Engineers. As previously stated, if all goes according to the schedule, they could be clearing the property as early as September/October, 2007.

**Conneaut Harbor Lighthouse:** The City of Conneaut was notified, after the press, that the lighthouse is considered surplus by the U.S. Coast Guard. The property is being made available at no cost to eligible entities – which include the City of Conneaut or Conneaut Port Authority. Mr. Denver Spieldenner, Chair of the Conneaut Port Authority, will be contacting the U.S. General Services Administration to obtain additional information.

**Conneaut Creek WWRSP:** Tremendous strides have been made towards the protection of Conneaut Creek which was designed as an Ohio Wild and Scenic River in 2005. The Conneaut Creek Project is the result of cooperative effort between the City of Conneaut, the Friends of Conneaut Creek, and the ODNR, Division of Natural Areas and Preserves.

The past two years, a total of fifty-six property owners with significant frontage along Conneaut Creek were contacted to determine their potential interest in providing for the permanent protection of their river front property. The program is totally volunteer and offered the landowners the option of protecting their property with conservation easements or by selling their land. As of this date, options have been executed with sixteen landowners.

As of this date, a total of 261.4 acres and 16,192 linear feet of Conneaut Creek have been permanently protected. When the project is completed in September 2007, Mr. Roloson, NE Ohio Regional Scenic River Manager for ODNR, and Mr. Charles English, Real Estate Consultant, indicated that the WRRSP Project will have protected a total of 381 acres and 44,088 linear feet or 8.3 miles of Conneaut Creek river bank by either purchase or easement of 17 parcels from 16 different property owners.

Mr. Roloson has stated that the success of this project has already encouraged other groups to do the same. In fact, the Conneaut Creek Watershed Partners were formed this past year to protect additional acreage and submit a Clean Ohio Grant application which they received for \$601,000 of funding. As a result, Ashtabula County Metroparks will be purchasing 270 acres for future parks in Conneaut and Monroe.

**Street Improvement Program:** Mr. Bob Howland, Acting Public Works Director, has scheduled Boca Construction to begin milling Mill Street on Monday, May 14, 2007. We had to delay it one week because hot asphalt was not available to repair the road cut patches prior to grinding. Once Mill Street is ground down, the Public Works Department will apply the scratch/leveling coat. At that point, Miller Construction will begin the curb work. If time permits, the Public Works Department also plans on having Boca Construction milling the ends of Clark Street.

**Mill Street Restoration:** The City has recently begun the restoration work on Mill Street from last year's curbing and paving project. Weather interrupted the work but we will continue to make repairs as weather and time permits.

**Country Roads:** The Public Works Department graded and applied stone to South Ridge Road west, Under Ridge Road west and Keefus Road south of Interstate 90. The Public Works Department is ditching along Horton Road south of South Ridge Road. Due to the number of calls we have received regarding dust, Mr. Howland has contacted the company that provides our dust control and they will be applying salt brine on Monday.

**Road Cuts:** Since the asphalt plant opened today, the Public Works Department will be working on repairing road cuts the week of May 7-11, 2007.

**Concession Stand Repairs:** Repairs have been authorized for the concession stand at Lakeview Park. We will be doing repairs to the electrical system, replace the broken doors jams, install two windows and possibly some other minor repairs.

**Spring Clean-Up:** The Public Works Department finished the second and final week of spring clean up throughout the City. They covered most areas in the city a minimum of three times. At this time, citizens are encouraged to bring yard debris to the Compost Site, as they will not be doing another clean up until the fall.

**652 Furnace Road:** The tree crew from the Public Works Department removed the tree that had fallen on a vacant property at 652 Furnace Road. Although this tree was located on private property, due to the fact that the homeowner has abandoned the property, City Council passed an ordinance to alleviate this safety and unsightly nuisance.

**Investments in Conneaut, Ohio:** Below please find a list of actual and projected investment in the community from 2005. With the exception of the travel plaza, all the investments have occurred and the City of Conneaut has provided assistance and/or support in most instances.

Woodland Clinic	\$1.1 million
Lighthouse Retreats on Lake Erie	\$1 million
CVS Re-Location	\$2 million
Gateway Plaza	\$4 million
Sav-A-Lot Plaza	\$2.7 million
Cleveland Hotel	\$3 million
Cooper Buildings (Main and Broad)	\$90,000
Spartech Building (Whitney Street)	\$425,000
Spartech Building (Jackson Street)	\$225,000
Gill Property/Travel Center	\$4 million
Broadcasting	\$200,000
Total:	<u>\$18,740,000 investment</u>

**East Conneaut Industrial Park:** Dr. Edward Hauser is working with Mr. Shawn Aiken and I to submit the necessary paperwork to the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. We are submitting the plan to include the box culvert with **NO** mitigation. This will enable us to move forward and market the approximately 62 acres it will open up for development. If we include the culvert, we will need to sell the existing acreage for approximately \$20,000.00 per acre.

**Illuminating Company Aerial Patrols:** The Illuminating Company forestry department will be conducting its normal spring aerial patrols of the transmission lines. This is a normal spring patrol that reviews vegetation conditions on the transmission corridors. We do spring and fall patrols - the spring patrol - trees can shift from the winter season and we want to make sure that conditions are as clean as possible for summer loading conditions.

Weather permitting, the Illuminating Company will be flying over the transmission lines starting on May 7, 2007. It will take 3 - 4 days to complete. Mr. Jones was unable to provide specific dates that flight will take place in Ashtabula County.

**Power Outage:** During the recent power outage, the Water Treatment Department had to mobilize crew members to hook up portable generators at Parrish Road Pump House and Center Road Pump House.

**Summer Employees:** The Public Works Department will be employing three (3) summer workers who are anticipated to start on Monday, May 07, 2007. The three (3) individuals hired by the Public Works Department are David Vendetti, Anthony Nelson and Josh Anderson. They will be performing the following tasks: crack filling, mowing grass, maintenance of cemeteries and weed eating.

**Ambulance for Station #3:** At 6:30 p.m. on May 21, 2007 before the Work Session the new ambulance will be available in the City Hall parking lot.

**Sanitary Sewer Repair:** The Wastewater Crew repaired a sanitary sewer cave-in on Harbor Street south of Orchard Street on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Police Calls/Citations:** During the week of April 20 through April 27, the Police Department logged 512 calls for service. Included in these calls were: 76 registration checks, 16 suspicious activity calls, 57 traffic stops, 8 traffic violations, 8 vandalism calls, and 11 juvenile complaints.

**Police Calls/Citations:** During the week of April 27<sup>th</sup> through May 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Police Department logged 423 calls for service. Included in these calls were 58 traffic stops, 7 traffic violations, 67 registration checks, 18 suspicious activity calls, 8 animal calls, 3 threat calls, and 6 domestic situation calls.

**LEADERship Ashtabula County:** LEADERship Ashtabula County is now accepting applications for 2007-2008. This will be the 20th adult class! The ten-month course begins in September, 2007 and concludes in June, 2008. The curriculum is designed to prepare people for community involvement through leadership development. Participants have a unique opportunity to view the complex systems that make the community work. They are challenged, educated and stimulated to become engaged in civic life. The 2008 class will also participate in the fifth Regional Day with 14 other community leadership classes in NE Ohio. I would encourage at least one member of the City Council to attend. Inquiries for applications may be made by calling the office at 440-998-3888, by e-mail ([leader@suite224.net](mailto:leader@suite224.net)), the website ([www.leadershipashtabulacounty.org](http://www.leadershipashtabulacounty.org)). Applications are due June 15, 2007.

**Water/Wastewater Billing Clerk:** Over 100 resumes were received for the position of Clerk in the Water/Wastewater Billing Office. The employee review committee narrowed it down to ten candidates. Nine of the ten candidates agreed to be interviewed and it was further narrowed down to three candidates. I will be interviewing the three finalists on Monday, May 7, 2007 and awarding the position by Tuesday, May 8, 2007.

**Drug Free Work Place Training:** As you know, all employees, supervisors, volunteers, council members and board members are required to attend the drug free training. Upcoming sessions being held in Council Chambers are as follows:

Upcoming sessions being held at Station 3 are as follows:

May 15<sup>th</sup> from 7pm-9pm for City Council and employees  
May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 7pm-9pm for City Council and employees

If you have any questions regarding dates/times, please feel free to contact Pat Beckwith in my office.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS – IMPORTANT DATES:**

***Friends of Conneaut Creek 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Clean-Up:*** Saturday, May 12, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The staging area will be CLYO fields off Center Road. City Crews will be assisting with the debris removed from along Conneaut Creek.

***Postal Drive:*** the Conneaut Food Pantry is conducting their Postal Drive on Saturday, May 12, 2007 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Conneaut Post Office.

***Port Authority Meeting:*** Meeting regarding sand bar and transfer of sand to Presque Isle State Park in Pennsylvania The meeting will be held on Friday, May 18, 2007 at 1:00 at the Moose Lodge. Members of the Conneaut City Council are encouraged to attend if available.

***Project Pride Downtown Clean-Up:*** Saturday, May 19, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the gazebo. Project Pride is requesting volunteers to assist with downtown clean-up efforts. Plans are to remove the bricks and replace them with mulch, remove weeds from the cracks in the sidewalks, clean up garbage and debris, and other jobs that would improve the downtown.

***LaTourette's Elected Officials Conference:*** May 17 – 18, 2007 in Washington, D. C. from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Please let me know if you plan on attending as we need to RSVP as soon as possible.

***Sock Hop and Car Cruise:*** Friday, June 15, 2007 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in Downtown Conneaut, Ohio along Broad Street. Due to the popularity last year, it may have to be expanded to include Main Street.

***LEAF Project:*** July 16-21, 2007. The goal of the LEAF project is to help with the rebuilding and renovation of fifteen (15) properties in Conneaut. If you are interested in lending a helping hand or need assistance, please contact Mr. Don Palm, LEAF Project Coordinator, at 224-1176.

***CAMA Block Party:*** July 28, 2007 from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Dean Avenue Park

***Household Hazardous Waste Collection:*** September 22, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds. Materials to be taken: paint, household cleaners, batteries, automotive fluids, pesticides, mercury, unacceptable materials. A flyer has been placed in your mailbox.