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Spring 2010 - City of Munroe Falls, 43 Munroe Falls Avenue, Munroe Falls, OH 44262 - www.munroefalls.com

A Message from Mayor Larson

2010 State of the City Address

Dear Residents,

Earlier this year, I presented my **2010 State of the City Address** to members of Council, and now I am privileged to report the highlights to you.

With all of us concerned about the current economic conditions, it continues to be a focal point of my administration. Revenues are down for local governments and businesses, and Munroe Falls is no different. The City's General Fund Revenues were down 5.4 percent from the previous year, to \$2,064,555. However, due to strict cost control efforts over the last several years, it is my pleasure to report that the City finished the year 2009 with another surplus.

The 2009 General Fund Balance had increased by \$109,657 to a total amount of \$1,614,680. I am also pleased to announce that since my first term in 2004, the administration has operated under budget. As a result, the Summit County Fiscal Office has again awarded the City with an Official Certificate of Estimated Resources, which certifies the total available resources for the 2010 General Fund to be \$3.9 million.



The balance of all City Funds for 2009 has risen to \$5.8 million dollars, up from \$3.4 million in 2003. This growth has been achieved by instituting sound fiscal policies. We budget conservatively but also realistically. Due to constant monitoring of the City's finances and forecasting the real needs of the City, this administration has been able to increase services to our residents without asking for a tax increase.

One of the top priorities of my administration continues to be the safety of Munroe Falls' residents. In 2009, the average EMS response time was 3.33 minutes, and 3.05 minutes for fire-related calls. That is one of, if not the best, response time in this area.

Our **Fire Department** offers CPR classes to the public on a monthly basis, as well as fire and safety training to the local businesses.

After 600 hours of training, the first class of the **Munroe Falls Police Academy** graduated in August with an Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission Certificate. The second class is now in session with both evening and day classes. Not only does the Academy provide additional funding to the City, it also provides a source of prospective quality personnel for the department's auxiliary program and potential part-time patrol officers.

Since its inception in February 2009, the **Mayor's Court** has also been successful with gross revenues of \$34,090.

In our **Service Department** we have successfully completed the first year of our residential rubbish and recycling contract with J&J Refuse Company. J&J Refuse is the exclusive residential solid waste and recycling service provider for the City. If you have questions regarding your service, please call J&J Refuse at 1-800-201-0005. If you would like additional information about the

continued on Page 2

Munroe Falls Spring-Summer Calendar

May 8

"Shred It Day" - Tallmadge Center 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
630 North Avenue - Entrance off of E. Howe Road
Contact **SASWMA** for more information:
330-374-0383 or visit www.saswma.org.

May 22

- **Free Pancake Breakfast** - at Fire Station #1 from 7 a.m.-11 a.m.
- **Garden Club Perennial Sale** - at the Museum 9 a.m. until sold out
- **Open House and Bake Sale** - at the Historical Museum - 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- **River Day Festival** - at Brust Park 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

May 31

Memorial Day - City offices closed

June

Farmer's Market begins - at Brust Park - 2 p.m. - 6 p.m. (Lasts 15 weeks)

July 5

Independence Day observed - city offices closed

September 18

- **Free Pancake Breakfast** - at Fire Station #1 from 7 a.m. - 11 a.m.
- **Historical Museum Open House and Bake Sale** - 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.
- **Open Class Car Show** - at Guise Park - 12 p.m - 3 p.m.



Mayor State of the City
(continued from front page)

program's rules and regulations, including schedules and material collected, visit www.munroefalls.com.

Also new in 2009 were the **water billing statements**. We now provide an easy to read statement with detailed account information. Be sure to look on the reverse side of your water bills for citywide schedules and updates.

Improvements will soon be underway at **Guisse Park**. The city received a \$77,000 grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to resurface and light the tennis courts, pave the parking lot, create a new path to the courts, as well as install swings at the playground.

Since its inception in 2004, the Munroe Falls **Community Chest** continues to grow and support various citywide groups. This not-for-profit organization was established to raise funds for distribution to the Garden Club, Police Department Auxiliary, and the Fire and Rescue Association. Support of the Community Chest is mostly derived of contributions from marriage ceremonies. All donations to the Chest make our community a better place to live and work.

Once again, we are pleased to announce a new fixed rate for natural gas for members of the city's **aggregation program**. Residents currently in the city's natural gas program supplied by Vectren Source will pay a low fixed rate of \$6.511 per mcf for all gas consumed during the seven months from April 2010 through October 2010. You will be automatically enrolled in the Aggregation Program. If you choose to be excluded, return the "opt-out" postcard sent to you, or call Vectren Source, toll free, at 1-866-200-5536. To compare pricing, check the Ohio PUCO Apples to Apples web page at www.puco.ohio.gov/Puco/ApplesToApples/NaturalGas.cfm?id=4810.

In the upcoming year, the administration will continue to work with our local businesses, retain jobs, and promote new business. We are proud of our city; a great place to call home.

-Mayor Frank Larson

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Thought You Could Recycle That Pizza Box?

Think Again!

Figuring out which plastics you can recycle can be confusing. Most of us toss something in the recycling bin, right? Well, it turns out you might be doing more harm than good. How so? Fact is that if you include some unrecyclable items in your bin, you may run the risk of the entire batch being re-routed to the nearest trash dump. Here are some common items that don't belong in the recycling bin:

PIZZA BOXES: The oil from pizza can contaminate cardboard boxes, making it impossible to process them into clean paper.

NAPKINS AND PAPER TOWELS: It's not the paper goods themselves that present a problem, but the fact that they're typically used to wipe up food, cleaning products, and other hazardous waste.

Park Board Events

www.munroefalls.com

Munroe Falls Parks and Recreation Board is planning two large, fun-filled, family-oriented events for 2010.

To open the season, the 11th annual **River Day Festival** is set for Saturday, May 22.

Come early for a Fire and Rescue Association **Free Pancake Breakfast** at Fire Station #1, from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.

After breakfast, shop at the colorful **perennial sale** offered by the **Munroe Falls Garden Club** at the nearby Historical Museum. The **Historical Society** will have a bake sale and an open house at the Museum from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The day continues at Brust Park with a **weed and litter collection**. This year, a cleanup competition between our local Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The "winning" group will receive a prize!

Come early and make a day of it!

Many volunteers are needed to clean up the river. To participate, all you need to do is show up. However, we do recommend wearing a long sleeved shirt, long pants, and gloves.

Also planned for the day are kayaking, wood carving, fly fishing demonstrations, children's activities, a Native American river blessing, as well as over 40 information exhibitors.

Music during the day will be provided by local groups: **Implied Logic** and **Crooked Timber**. In the evening, the free Rootstock Folk Music Concert will be held at Brust Park from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Four counties along the Cuyahoga River celebrate River Day each year in May, and the Munroe Falls event is one of the largest gatherings.

Come early and make a day of it!



Yard Waste

Tree and brush trimmings can be included with your weekly J & J Refuse collection. All items must be bundled and tied, not exceeding four feet in length or 50 pounds per bundle.

Storm Water Management Tips

What can residents do to help with storm water management?

- **Recycle or properly dispose of household products that contain chemicals**, such as insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, and used motor oil and other auto fluids. Don't pour them onto the ground or into storm drains.
- **Use organic mulch** or safer pest control methods whenever possible.
- **Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly.** Excess fertilizers and pesticides applied to lawns and gardens wash off and pollute streams. In addition, yard clippings and leaves can wash into storm drains and contribute nutrients and organic matter to streams.
- **Don't over-water your lawn.** Consider using a soaker hose instead of a sprinkler.
- **Compost or mulch your yard waste.** Don't leave it in the street or sweep it into storm drains or streams.
- **Cover piles of dirt or mulch** being used in landscaping projects.

The **Household Hazardous Waste Recycling Center**, located at 1201 Graham Road, is open from May 4 – September.

Recyclables can be dropped off Tuesday afternoons from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. and Wednesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Need more information? Call **SASWMA** at **330-374-0383** or visit www.saswma.org.

