



# City of Pataskala Quarterly Newsletter

## Mayor:

- Steve Butcher

## Council Members:

- Bryan Lenzo (At-Large)
- C. Bernard Brush (At-Large)
- Merissa McKinstry (At-Large)
- Pat Sagar (Ward 1)
- Barbara Triplett (Ward 2/Council President)
- Joe Gernert (Ward 3)
- Dan Hayes (Ward 4)



Mayor Butcher and County Commissioner Bubba address the crowd at the Etna Parkway Dedication Ceremony

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IX November 2011

City's website: [www.ci.pataskala.oh.us](http://www.ci.pataskala.oh.us)

## Message from the Mayor

As we prepare to enter the winter of 2011, I am pleased to say that our Street Department Director BJ King and our great Street Department staff have made significant progress in improving how we patch potholes, as well as the plowing & salting of roads, streetlight repairs, and dealing with the many drainage issues of the city. When we began the year we placed a renewed emphasis on the importance on continuing education for our Street Department Staff. Our goal was to get as much specialized

training as possible which resulted in staff members attending numerous Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) classes. These are specialized classes that ODOT offers on everything from pavement & culvert maintenance, to traffic signal management, to roadway vegetation management, and obviously roadway plowing & salting.

In addition to increased training, City Council authorized the Street Department to fill two vacant positions and two temporary summer positions to

improve on the timeliness, quality, and quantity of service. We also are in the midst of updating the Street Department by going from filling potholes with a truck and shovel to acquiring specialized pothole patching equipment in order to move our Street Department into 2011 technology. One key piece of this new equipment will quickly prove to make a real difference: A Hot Mix Box which not only allows us to keep the batches of hot mix we purchase at the

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## Message from the City Administrator

### Economic Development and Infrastructure High on Administration's Priority List

On September 16, 2011, the City hosted the opening of the Pataskala Corporate Park and dedication of the 296 + acre Ohio certified Job Ready Site (JRS) and the Etna Parkway Extension. This new road completes the connection of Broad Street (State Route 16) with U.S. Route 40, and provides a more direct freight route and enhanced access to Interstate 70.

The completion of this project is truly an economic development milestone for the City. It was achieved by the help, dedication and persistence of many people. The partnership, originally forged between the City, County, property owner and the State of Ohio JRS program, has blossomed to include other local partners such as Harrison Township and the City of Newark on the Pataskala Corporate Park Joint Economic Development District Board. It also includes

our neighbors in Etna Township with whom we share the new road and a vested interest in seeing our corporate parks develop and create jobs for our citizens and tax resources for our community. In addition, the project has dramatically increased the City's stature with our region's primary economic development organization, Columbus 2020! As this organization searches nationwide for companies to invest in Central Ohio, we are confident the Pataskala Corporate Park will be at the forefront of sites under consideration. Finally, the presence of Mark Kvamme, Interim-Chief Investment Officer and President of Jobsohio, at the event underscores the critical importance Pataskala plays in our State's efforts to create jobs. In the coming months, I plan to update you on the City's continuing economic development efforts to create jobs and increase resources for our community. Success in these areas will

continue to enhance the quality of life for all of our citizens. I am also pleased to highlight recent infrastructure improvement projects completed, underway or pending in the City. The City recently announced the completion of the Summit Road South reconstruction project from Broad Street to Wagon Avenue at a cost of \$ 245,771.32. The City recently completed full-depth spot repairs to Hollow Road from Alward to SR310 at a cost of \$73,483. Earlier this summer, the City completed the replacement of the Old Maids Lane Bridge at a cost of \$381,052.83. This month, the Kennedy Road reconstruction & Stonemast Loop Repaving projects will begin. These projects will extend into the spring of 2012

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The Park Advisory Board is pleased to announce that the new soccer field at Freedom Park, sponsored by PRA, is fast becoming the premier field in our community. This season, the PRA High School team, the Pataskala Bandits, Grace Christian School and even Licking Heights High School used the field for practices and games. The Board is also planning and assisting the Central Ohio Clippers Youth Baseball group with their request to sponsor the construction of new baseball fields at Foundation



Park. Couple that with a pending proposal for adult softball, the discussions of the opening of the Pataskala Municipal pool, and the opening of the Cross Town Trail and our community has a lot to look forward to in 2012. Board President Jeni Ashbrook said, "In spite of the current financial situation with the Park funding, the hard work and dedication of these entities and my fellow Park Board members is paying off for the youth and adults of our community. Although many items need improved, when other parks programs are struggling, our parks are continuing to expand, slowly but surely." Over the Fall and Winter seasons, the Park Advisory Board will be hard at work proposing other projects to the City Administrator for approval. On the docket: 1) Trail along Taylor Road to Freedom Park; 2) Improving Karr Park pathway; 3) Providing assistance for the Pool Opening; and 4) Addressing signage, parking lot repairs and shelter rental processes. The Park Board believes these will further enhance our community parks.

Thank you to all the volunteers who help make our park recreation programs a success. As you, your business, or groups are planning for 2012, would you consider joining us in supporting our community parks? Please contact the Board at [pataskalaparks@ci.pataskala.oh.us](mailto:pataskalaparks@ci.pataskala.oh.us) with your ideas or interests. Or join us at our meetings, the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm at the City Administration Building. just a reminder, the gates at Foundation Park will close for the winter season on or about December 15th and will reopen on or about March 15th.



Please remember that volunteers work hard to maintain our community parks. PRA and the Pataskala Lions sponsor the porta johns. Please dispose of your trash and other items in the dumpsters provided.

Report vandalism, dumping, and other inappropriate or damaging activity to the Pataskala Police non-emergency number: 740-927-5152. Watchful eyes are appreciated.



WASTE MANAGEMENT



## Waste Management Celebrates Grand Opening of its Green Energy Plant in Central Ohio

Green energy is helping power homes in Central Ohio thanks to Waste Management Suburban Landfill's new Gas to Energy Plant in Glenford (Perry County). The official Ribbon-cutting Ceremony was held recently with Ohio EPA Director Scott Nally as a special guest for the dedication.

"Creating this facility ensures the waste we generate will be converted into a beneficial use," said Rick Blevins, Site Manager of Waste Management Suburban Landfill. "By investing in landfill gas-to-energy, we are developing clean and renewable green energy to power homes and also create a more sustainable community here in Central Ohio."

As waste naturally decomposes, it produces landfill gas which can be captured and used as a green energy source and alternative to fossil fuels. The gas that is generated at Suburban Landfill is collected and channeled into the engines to produce electricity. The electricity generated at Suburban Landfill goes into the electrical power grid through South Central Power. Suburban's Gas to Energy Plant has the design capacity to generate 6.4 megawatts of electricity, enough to power the equivalent of 5,000 homes.

"As Ohio and the rest of the nation invest in renewable energy, landfill gas is becoming more attractive because it is reliable," Blevins added. "It's important for residents to understand that landfill gas at Suburban Landfill means reliable green energy production for the future."

The U.S. EPA has endorsed landfill gas as an environmentally friendly resource that reduces reliance on coal, oil and other fossil fuels. Like wind and solar power, landfill gas is a resource that can be harnessed to produce energy and has many benefits and advantages compared to fossil fuels and other alternative energy sources.

Waste Management, the leading provider of comprehensive waste management services and the largest recycling company in North America, pioneered landfill gas-to-energy technology over two decades ago and operates more facilities than any other company in the United States. Waste Management owns or operates more than 130 beneficial reuse landfill gas projects in North America.

Waste Management has a sustainability goal to increase the amount of waste-based energy it produces every year. Currently, the company creates enough energy to power over one million homes, and its goal is to double that to two million by 2020.

*Message from the Mayor  
continued*

hot mix we purchase at the proper temperature, even in cold weather, but it allows us to reheat batches year round. We have been hampered by the asphalt suppliers as they have been increasing the minimum sized batches we must purchase, which has put our crews at a disadvantage in using up larger batches quick enough and properly. Having to buy larger batches than we really had the ability to handle resulted in a poorer repair than any of us would like and we needed a better solution. This Hotbox offers a solution as now we can accept these mandatory larger batches while taking the time to fill holes more slowly and properly, before the asphalt loses its consistency, thus allowing

it to heal properly. Additionally, we have added additional tools like an asphalt cutting saw and a roller compactor to get better results from larger holes because of better adhesion while providing a better driving surface.

Please know we are committed to finding ways of doing even a better job in 2012 in our patching, repairing, and paving efforts and will be taking greater advantage of training and advice that is offered by industry and technical experts. We do not intend to slow our ongoing efforts in making application for both Federal and State Grants and we will continue playing a major role with the Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) as they influence much of Central Ohio's grant and planning dollars. I am pleased with Council

and the Administrations work on an aggressive Master Street Repaving Plan that includes every ward. I do expect that Council will soon announce the specifics of this multi-million dollar paving program.

Lastly, should you have a pothole, streetlight, or a question about the day to day operations of the city you can contact BJ King, Director Public Service at 740-927-0145 or Tim Boland, City Administrator at 740-964-2416. Another way of requesting a service is utilizing our brand new Community Customer Service (CCSR) Response System which provides the opportunity for residents to submit service requests online or through their Smartphone. Residents can submit service requests to various departments and when the response is submitted, the resident will be given a request number which

can be used to track the progress of the service response. Additionally, each time a City staff member updates the response to the request, the resident will receive an automatic notification via e-mail about the update. This system will provide the opportunity for the City to close the loop, from submission of request to notification of the City completing the job, with the resident. You can go directly to the City website from any computer at:

[www.ci.pataskala.oh.us](http://www.ci.pataskala.oh.us) as the CCSR system will be accessible on the City's website.

Stephen J. Butcher, Mayor  
City of Pataskala

*Continued from the City  
Administrator*

and will address two of our most deteriorated roadways. Looking to the future, Council recently adopted a Roadway Asset Management Plan (RAMP) listing the condition of all streets and establishing

the most deteriorated of these roads, dependent on available resources. I anticipate that the RAMP will be used extensively throughout the 2012 City Budget development process.

For more information on the RAMP and other projects, please go to our website at

[www.ci.Pataskala.oh.us](http://www.ci.Pataskala.oh.us) or our Facebook page. The City intends to continue this momentum of improvements into 2012 and beyond.

Tim Boland, Administrator  
City of Pataskala

for appropriation. Higher level of contingency balances portray a higher level of budgeting conservatism, especially when dependent on economically sensitive revenues such as income taxes which currently fund the Street and Police fund operations.

Determining what level of contingency balance to maintain is a difficult task and one that needs to be reviewed consistently. The value of maintaining sufficient contingency levels will allow the City to maintain orderly operations and continue services regardless of the instability or changes in revenue structures. As economic conditions worsen, the City will be in a position to deal with the consequences of a slowing economy when compared to other local governments who have not.

**WHY CONTINGENCY FUNDS ARE IMPORTANT**

A significant number of local governments are operating in an increasingly difficult fiscal environment which has been made worse by the effects of an economic slowdown. Of particular concern have been revenue cuts to local government funds, tangible personal property tax reimbursements, and also decreasing revenues from economically sensitive sources, such as income taxes.

A number of actions can be taken by local governments seeking to improve their chances of avoiding financial difficulty during periods of

sluggish or negative economic growth. Those actions include reducing expenditures or use of contingency funds to off-set revenue reductions.

The City of Pataskala has established contingency or "rainy-day" funds which represent budgeted appropriations in the General Fund, Street Fund, Police Fund and Sewer Fund for 2011. Establishing contingency funds may ensure no significant changes in services in the event of revenue reductions and is a particularly important factor considered by credit rating agencies in their evaluation of the credit worthiness of local government debt, with instability potentially lead-

ing to a credit downgrade and increased borrowing costs.

City Council, upon the recommendation of the Administration, authorizes contingency funds through budget process and in conjunction with the City's Purchasing and Financial Policy Manual. The City strives to reserve for contingency 10%-25% of total resources available for appropriation. Contingency funds may only be used upon specific approval of Council through legislative action. As of September 30, 2011, contingency balances in the General, Street, Police and Sewer Funds were 19%, 21%, 47%, and 19%, respectively, of total resources avail-



### Mayor's Court Briefing

#### PAYMENT PLAN AVAILABLE FOR FINES AND COURT COSTS

Occasionally, a defendant fails to appear in court because they mistakenly believe that they would go to jail if they are unable to pay their fines and court costs. Ironically, their failure to appear in court results in a warrant being issued for their arrest as well as a forfeiture of their driver's license. This could have been avoided because Pataskala Mayor's Court has a

payment plan that allows defendants a reasonable amount of time to pay fines. This time period varies between 30 and 60 days depending on the amount of the fines and the personal circumstances.

In order to be put on a payment plan, the defendant must appear in court and request it. If the Court agrees to grant additional time to pay, a future court date will be issued. This date is called an "enforcement" date to verify payment has been made.

This enforcement date is a required court appearance and failure to show up will result in a warrant being issued. There is a \$20.00 administration fee to manage this program.

If the fines and court costs are paid in full prior to that enforcement date, the defendant does not need to appear in court. However, if the fines are not paid in full, the defendant must appear in court at 1:00 PM on the enforcement date and explain why he/she was unable

to pay. The court may grant additional time to pay if the defendant shows they have made a good faith effort. If a defendant is truly indigent and unable to pay their fines, the defendant will be placed in Community Service in lieu of paying their fines.



### Utilities & Zoning Departments

Help protect Ohio's Water Quality Environment  
Do you have unwanted or expired prescriptions, over-the-counter medicines, or supplements in your home?  
Do not flush or pour them down the drain.  
Check out this web site link for a flyer on how to properly dispose of unwanted medication,

or contact the Pataskala Utility Department at (740) 964-6275.

[http://www.ohiowea.org/docs/Dispose\\_Drugs\\_Properly\\_OWEA.pdf](http://www.ohiowea.org/docs/Dispose_Drugs_Properly_OWEA.pdf)



Please note the Zoning Office, home of zoning permits and garage sale permits, has moved to upstairs to the second floor

of the City building, Suite 2A. An elevator is available and our phone and email contact information is the same. The move provides us a lot more room for storing and reviewing plans and other frequently used documents. Hope to see you soon!