



# City of Pataskala Quarterly Newsletter

Issue IV, August 2009

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

**Mayor:**

- Steve Butcher

**Council Members:**

- Larry Meade (At-Large)
- C. Bernard Brush (At-Large)
- Merissa McKinstry (At-Large)
- Pat Sagar (Ward 1)
- Barbara Triplett (Ward 2/Council President)
- Brian Raybourne (Ward 3)
- Ken King (Ward 4)

**City Administrator:**

- Tim Boland, AICP  
740-964-2416  
[tboland@ci.pataskala.oh.us](mailto:tboland@ci.pataskala.oh.us)

**Upcoming Meetings/  
Events**

- City Council Meeting— Sept 8
- Labor Day Sept. 7  
City Offices Closed
- City Council Workshop —  
September 14

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## Message from the Mayor

I am periodically asked why the city would spend \$250,000 on sidewalk repairs on Main Street when neighborhood streets are crumbling. I am also frequently asked about the City's efforts to capture grant funds. The answer to the first question is really a simple one while the second question requires more details and examples.

Grants like the Federal Stimulus Program require that we only use the awarded funds on projects the grantor makes

the funding available for. Either we spend it on sidewalks or give it back so they can give it to another community for their sidewalks. The City applied for sidewalk monies as part of 22 different projects submitted under the original Federal Stimulus Program. These projects totaled \$28.7 million. Only a few of our projects were funded. However, we continue to pursue Stimulus Grants in addition to other grants. We requested \$500,000 million dollars from Mid Ohio

Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), through the Federal Stimulus Program, and were awarded \$250,000. These funds can only be used for replacement of walks downtown. ODOT will be the project manager for the sidewalk replacement project, beginning Spring 2010, which will construct 500' of new walks north and south of the railroad tracks. MORPC awarded \$202,461 in Stimulus Funds, which will be matched *(continued on page 4)*

## Message from the City Administrator

Economic Development and infrastructure projects at this time include:

Construction of a new road extending the existing Etna Parkway from US Route-40 to Broad Street (SR-16) thru the **Pataskala Corporate Park** appears back on track - with construction likely in 2009 and completion in 2010.

The Park represents the City's single largest potential job creation and investment area, located on 520 acres south & east of Broad & Mink Street. A Joint Economic Development District (JEDD) will be created to generate revenue needed for basic improvements. The City & Harrison Twp. will hold JEDD public hearings on September 8, with Newark holding a hearing on Sept. 28. More information is available by visiting [www.pataskalacorporatepark.com](http://www.pataskalacorporatepark.com).

At [www.ci.pataskala.oh.us](http://www.ci.pataskala.oh.us) you will also find the following information:

- **Capital Improvements Plan (CIP)** - listing of major projects, such as street re-surfacing and bridge repair, cost & timeframes contingent on City resources.

- **Major Infrastructure Plan (MIP)** - costs of major capital improvements projects, particularly bridges, for the period 2009 - 2011. These projects are dependent upon grant funding.

The City has focused on reconstructing 5 bridges rated in "Poor" Condition in our annual Bridge Inspection Program:

**Hollow Rd. Bridge** -Completed in 2009 - City funded; cost \$152,447.64

**Cable Rd. Bridge**—2009 & 2010 construction; completion in 2010. \$361,309 Grant Award - partial funding.



Recently replaced Hollow Road Bridge is shown above.  
**McIntosh Rd. Bridge** - Construction 2011 & 2012; completion in 2012 - \$399,012 Grant Award - partial funding.

**Old Maids Lane Bridge & Mink St. Bridge** - Grant applications in 2009.

The City is implementing a preventative program to keep 9 bridges currently rated as being in "Fair" condition from deteriorating to a "Poor" rating. The cost of prevention is substantially less than reconstruction.

## What do the results of a financial audit mean to the City?

Ohio Revised Code Section 117.11 requires "that each public office shall be audited at least once every two fiscal years. The Auditor of State shall audit a public office each fiscal year if that public office is required to be audited on an annual basis pursuant to "The Single Audit Act of 1984," 98 Stat. 2327, 31 U.S.C.A. 7501 et seq., as amended. In the annual or biennial audit, inquiry shall be made into the methods, accuracy, and legality of the accounts, financial reports, records, files, and reports of the office, whether the laws, rules, ordinances, and orders pertaining to the office have been observed, and whether the requirements and rules of the auditor of state have been complied with".

An external audit is a review of the financial statements or reports of an entity, usually a government or business, by someone not affiliated with the company or agency. External audits play a major role in financial oversight because they are conducted by outside individuals and therefore provide an unbiased opinion.

External audits are performed to verify that the financial statements of an entity are correctly presented. They do not involve an actual accounting of an entity's financial accounts, but

rather external audits are an independent review of financial documents provided to the auditor. At the conclusion of the audit, the auditors may issue an unqualified opinion (the best audit opinion available) qualified opinion, adverse opinion, or disclaimer of opinion. The City has received unqualified opinions over its financial statements since 2004.

Governmental external auditors are also generally required to perform audits in accordance with Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS), which includes reporting on internal control, compliance with laws and regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements as they relate to financial transactions, systems, and processes. External auditors are required to issue a report which summarizes their findings as it would relate to noncompliance with laws and regulations, contract and grant agreements, or suggestions to which the government may improve upon existing financial transactions, systems, and processes. Any findings are required to be communicated to the government's governing body, audit committee (or equivalent), and management.

Based on the results of an external audit performed in accordance

with GAGAS, the findings are generally summarized as material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, or control deficiencies. For the period 2002 – 2007, the City has had a total of 1 material weakness, 4 significant deficiencies, and 36 control deficiencies based on the results of external audits. Since January 2007, the Administration has made great strides implementing policies and procedures to address these weaknesses noting that the results of the City's 2008 external audit marks the first time no material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, or control deficiencies were identified.

A resident of the City may ask "So what do the results of the 2008 audit mean to me?" From my personal viewpoint, I believe it shows the commitment and dedication from all employees of the City to ensure that all money received and expended is properly accounted for and procedures and processes are in place to ensure accountability.

If there are questions or concerns regarding the City's audit, financial operations, or general questions please contact Jason Carr, Finance Director at (740) 927-3167 or [jcarr@ci.pataskala.oh.us](mailto:jcarr@ci.pataskala.oh.us).



**A plaque (shown above) donated by the Licking County Historical Society was installed at Pataskala City Hall commemorating the history of Lima Township.**

**Please visit the City's website at [www.ci.pataskala.oh.us](http://www.ci.pataskala.oh.us) to complete an online survey related to city services delivery.**

## City Public Services Survey

The City of Pataskala will be requesting residents and business owners to visit the city website at [www.ci.pataskala.oh.us](http://www.ci.pataskala.oh.us) to complete online surveys related to service delivery. The current survey is about services provided by the Public Service

(Streets) Department. Please visit the City's website and take a few minutes to complete the brief survey. The surveys are an important tool for the City to receive feedback on our level of service delivery. Please visit the City's website frequently to complete forthcoming

surveys and to stay up to date on city related meetings, events, and news. If you have questions about the survey or any item listed on the website, please call the Director of Public Services at 740-927-0145.

## Income Surveys and 2010 Census

Dianne Harris, City Planning Director, and Jack Geinger, Zoning Inspector will once again be visiting households in old village Pataskala and Summit Station to gather income data for upcoming grant applications. In old village Pataskala they will be stopping at every house on Broadway, Granville, High (between Granville and Broadway) and Wood Streets, in an effort to gather enough information to qualify the neighborhood under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. This will be the first survey in Summit Station in over three years, and again an attempt will be made to speak with every household.

Cooperation from all residents is critical to obtaining enough data to qualify these neighbor-

hoods for CDBG grant funds for infrastructure improvements such as storm drain replacement, sidewalks and curbs. CDBG funds were used this summer to replace collapsing catch basins and clean storm drain lines on Jefferson Street, the last neighborhood to successfully be qualified using the income survey method. The survey requires only two questions: How many people live here? What range is the total household income? No personal identification is recorded, and only grant personnel are allowed to view the survey forms. City staff always carry identification, and will never ask to come into your home.

On a related matter, starting this fall, households will begin receiving mail-in forms for the 2010 Census. During 2010 if

the forms are not mailed back, Census workers will attempt to reach the household in person in an effort to obtain an accurate 100% count of U.S. citizens. Though unfortunately the Census results are not expected to be available at the tract level for a couple more years, the results of the new Census is the basis of future grant funding and affects many decisions affecting the City.

Your participation is vital to your neighborhood's future. Please take a moment to participate in both the local income survey and the Census. Any questions may be directed to Dianne Harris, City Planning Director, 740-927-2168.



The City Sewer Plant's new sludge rotary machine, shown above, was put into service in mid-July.

## Online Utility Bill Payments

The City's Utility Billing Department is in the process of partnering with a vendor, *Official Payments*, to provide an option for online bill payment for its customers. A link will be placed on the city's website homepage that will direct customers to the *Official Payments*

site. A customer will need to establish an account on the *Official Payments* site, which allows them to submit payments online 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. There will be a \$3.95 charge per payment/transaction when paying through *Official Payments*. *Official Payments* accepts most

major credit cards including American Express, Discover, Citibank and Chase, and partners with these card companies to offer users special promotions and offers. Please contact the Utility Billing Department at 740-927-5249 for more information.

## Police to Conduct OVI Checkpoint

The Pataskala Police will conduct an OVI Checkpoint on Friday, August 28, 2009 from 10:00 pm until 1:00 am. The checkpoint will be located on SR 310 in front of the Police Department located at 430 South Main Street/SR310. This area has been the location of numerous fatal crashes related to impaired drivers. This

checkpoint will coincide with the State of Ohio's campaign for seatbelt use and reduction of impaired drivers.

The Division of Police is reminding motorists of the upcoming start of the school year for area schools. Additionally, please remember the Pataskala Street Fair, scheduled for August 19-22. During the Street

Fair, SR 310/Main Street will be closed and traffic will be diverted to a detour route. Also, the Street Fair Parade is scheduled for August 22nd, so additional traffic congestion may occur prior to 3:00 pm on that day.

Please contact the Pataskala Police Department at 740-927-5701 with any questions.

**Beginning  
September,  
Pataskala's  
Utility  
Department is  
partnering with  
vendor "Official  
Payments" to  
offer its  
customers an  
online bill  
payment  
option.**

## Mayor's Court Briefing

This article outlines the procedures for a trial in Mayor's Court.

### Trial Day Procedure

When you arrive for court, you should first check in with the Clerk of Court. You may also discuss your case with the prosecutor prior to your trial.

### Trial Process

When your trial begins, both the defendant (you) and the prosecutor will make an opening statement. Since the prosecution has the burden of going forward with the evidence, they will present their case first. You may waive your right to provide an opening statement if you wish. It is common for the prosecution to waive their opening statement if they do not feel that the evidence is lengthy or complicated. Next, the prosecution will present their evidence through witnesses. In many cases, the only witness for the prosecution is the officer who issued the citation. You will be given an opportunity to cross-examine, or ask questions related to the case to the prosecution's witnesses.

Once the prosecution has completed presenting all their evidence, they will rest. The defense will then have an opportunity to present any evidence through witnesses including yourself. Because of the fifth amendment privilege against self incrimination, you do not have to testify, but you may do so if you wish. However, the Magistrate may only consider evidence presented such as the testimony of witnesses. Once you or any of your witnesses have completed their testimony, the prosecutor will have an opportunity to cross-examine them.

After the defense has presented their evidence and rested, each side has an opportunity to present a closing argument. After both sides have concluded their case, the Magistrate will render

his decision regarding guilt or innocence.

### Evidence

The Magistrate is required by law to follow the Ohio Rules of Evidence in all criminal and traffic trials regardless of whether the defendant is represented by an attorney. These rules are complicated, however, the following is a basic guideline to assist you:

- (1) A witness should testify about things only they actually saw or heard.
- (2) Evidence must be directly relevant to the issue at trial.
- (3) If you decide to testify, you may testify in narrative form. In other words, you do not have to ask yourself questions, but may just tell your story.
- (4) If you want to offer photographs or other physical evidence (such as a document) you must first show the item(s) to the prosecutor and then identify the object, including how it was prepared. If it was not prepared by you, or it is not relevant, the court may not accept that evidence. However, you may present a photograph taken by someone else if that person is called as a witness to testify that it fairly and accurately shows the subject in the photo.
- (5) Any testing, certification, or other documents that you want to see or have an opportunity to ask questions about, you must request those documents from the clerk prior to trial.
- (6) You have the right to inspect or have copies of most (but not all) of the information in the prosecutor's file. In order to get this material, you must send a written request to the clerk of court in sufficient time for her to copy and return that information to you prior to trial.

(Message from the Mayor, continued from page 1)

(Mayor's message, continued from page 1)

with \$179,200 of private developer funds, and \$216,000 of city funds to re-pave all of Taylor Road north. Some ask why Taylor Road was selected over Mink St. Engineers told us that Mink Road would require serious reconstruction before paving and the funds could only be used for paving.

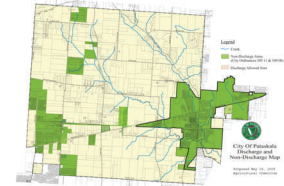
We have an ongoing issue with bridges in the Old Lima area. Please refer to the City Administrator's article in this Newsletter for more details. This all is happening while Street/Infrastructure Funds have declined 15% since 2007 and our total budget has declined 7% since 2007. Additionally, the city only receives 13% of the Property Taxes you pay.

The City has pursued other projects, funded by both grants and city money. The City Engineer completed a \$4,000 study of the Havens Corner & Summit Road intersection and recommended making it a four way stop, which will be funded with license plate fees.

We captured 100% of the funds needed to replace all old computers in our Police Cruisers and received donations to cover the cost of a Police Dog. We have two Safe Routes to Schools grants and are seeking additional funds.

Through use of CDBG grant funds, awarded to areas based on income levels, the city was able to replace a portion of Jefferson Street sidewalks and storm sewer catch basins. The city's investment in this project is approximately \$1,400. Clearly grant dollars make improvements to our city and help make our limited dollars go further.

In closing, we continue working with State Representative Jay Hottinger, State Senator Tim Schaffer, our County Commissioners. We had an excellent meeting with the Governor in early



The above map shows proposed changes to the firearms discharge areas.

Please visit the City's website at

[www.ci.pataskala.oh.us](http://www.ci.pataskala.oh.us) to download this map.

Please contact the City's Director of Planning & Zoning, Dianne Harris at 740-927-2168 if you have questions about this map

or would like your property to be removed or added to a non-discharge area.

August and believe that we have an active working partnership with the State. I remain committed to getting this road built and seeing it designated as the new State Route 310. This is critical to reduce the volume of traffic going through the heart of the Old Village and to remove truck traffic from traveling over our underground water system. We can ill afford to have a truck accident along the current SR 310 corridor which could well contaminate our drinking water source when a solution is well within our reach by simply moving SR 310 to the west.

I am quite proud of the fact that the city has successfully captured grant funding in excess of \$1.5 million. We aggressively pursue grants as they are announced. If I can be of further assistance please feel free to contact me at 614-774-6643. Stephen J. Butcher, Mayor