

# VILLAGE OF CONVOY

INCORPORATED 1874

Van Wert County  
P.O. Box 310  
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## State of the Village Address

To: Residents of the Village of Convoy  
Village of Convoy, Village Council

February 23, 2011

With the unknown certainty of our economy this past year, we have been very fortunate to be able to maintain village services, balance our budget and look towards the future with projects that will benefit all in our community. It is even more important in this next year that we have the support and involvement of village residents as we move forward to strengthen our community by putting good community principles into practice .

This past year the Village did an economic community survey which was necessary for us to be able to apply for funding for the continued infrastructure projects that we continually are required to invest in. As part of this process, the Village will be having a series of public meetings which are required as part of our application for CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization Program funding. This funding opportunity would allow the Village to look at projects such as Water and Sewer Facilities, side walk improvements, fire protection/equipment and facilities, general public improvements and possibly park and recreation facilities. We need the community's help in determining the best direction of these possible projects as well as public involvement at these meetings. It is **critical** that we have your support and attendance at these meetings.

Though the Sesame Street Project had been placed on hold due to the unexpected problem of where storm water from the street could be directed, the State did allow us to redirect the funding to a storm project which we were able to complete this past fall. This new storm line not only allows us the ability to look for funding to complete Sesame Street, but to possibly redirect storm water from the north side of the village to alleviate some flooding elsewhere in the Village and any expansion that may occur in the future.

The Board of Public Affairs has determined to keep our current rates on water and sewer the same for this fiscal year. With certain requirements from the EPA regarding separation of storm and sewer we are preparing to do a physical survey of these systems utilizing new camera equipment that we can use to verify that sanitation lines don't infiltrate our storm system. The Board of Public Affairs, Council and Vicki Saylor, Clerk Treasurer, continue looking at ways to keep our operating cost in check and in some instances have been able to cut costs not only here, but in many other areas of the Village's budget

The Village Council, Clerk Treasurer and I wish to thank Gary Baxter, Street Commissioner for his many years of service to our community. Gary officially retired the end of 2010 and even in retirement we will still rely on Gary's knowledge and expertise as he currently plans on remaining in our community. Gary's position was filled by Jeff Myers, a long time area resident of our community and had been employed by the village as a part time water and sanitation worker for over 11 years. Please welcome Jeff and feel free to contact him directly at 419-203-4465 (cell) with any street concerns.

Finally, as Mayor, I am on the B R & E Committee of the Van Wert Area Economic Development Council, and have been serving on the Board of Directors of The Community Improvement Corporation. The CIC is an Ohio chartered Corporation established to advance, encourage and promote the industrial, economic, commercial and civic development within Van Wert County, Ohio.

I look forward to and enjoy representing the Village of Convoy and appreciate any suggestions and concerns the residents may have. Our meetings are generally the last Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM and are open to the public. I can be reached by leaving a message with Vicki Saylor at the Village Office or by cell phone, 419-203-0510.

Respectfully,  
Brad Guest, Mayor  
Village of Convoy