

# VILLAGE OF CONVOY

INCORPORATED 1874

Van Wert County

P.O. Box 310

Convoy, Ohio 45832

(419) 749-2266

## State of the Village Address

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

February 23, 2010

This past year has been very difficult for our local and regional communities with tough economic times throughout many business sectors. Many in our community have suffered through one of the most difficult years of our life times and hopefully the economy and all business markets will improve in the near future.

One project the Village is working on is a local economic survey which we are having completed to provide us with a snap shot of the economic being of our community. With the results of this survey, it may allow us to apply for grants and loans to continue the infrastructure projects that the council and in some cases the state mandates. Not all residents will participate, as the confidential survey was sent out by a contracted organization randomly. It is imperative if you receive a survey, please fill it out and return it to the address enclosed. If you have any questions regarding the survey, please see myself or any Council Member.

The Sesame Street Project has been placed on hold due to the unexpected problem of where the storm water from the street could be directed. Unfortunately, the Village's engineering firm determined that to continue this project and complete the street reconstruction did not make much sense because the issue of standing water in the area would remain. The State of Ohio has allowed us to change the grant to a Storm Water Project that we hope to have completed early this spring. Once this is accomplished, the search for new reconstruction funding can begin.

Recently, approximately 20 acres of property along south State Route 49, at the south corporations, was authorized to be purchased by the Council at public auction. This property allows us the capability to protect our existing well field and for possible future construction of a water treatment plant and/or a combined Fire-Police Facility. This area will be farm ground that will be cash rented for the time being and has been put to bid for the spring planting season.

The Board of Public Affairs had determined the need to increase the water and sewer costs to Village residents effective January 1, 2010. This increase allows us to keep pace with the rising costs to operate and maintain water/sanitation services to village residents. We are now billing the water/sewer bills monthly with the option of auto payment, at your request. The Board of Public Affairs, Council and Vicki Saylor, Clerk Treasurer, have spent untold hours 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 want to wish Gary Baxter, Street Commissioner, a speedy recovery from his recent heart bypass surgery. Gary is off due to recovery and rehab, therefore during the recent snow, Council members, village employees and several other individuals found themselves in trucks, tractors or skid loaders, helping to keep the streets and parking lot clear. We all ask if you see something that needs attention in the Village that you take the time to make us aware of the situation while Gary is recuperating.

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 the last Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM and are open to the public. I can be reached by leaving a message at the Village Office, 419-749-2266 or my cell phone, 419-203-0510.

Respectfully,

Brad Guest, Mayor  
Village of Convoy