

VILLAGE OF CONVOY

INCORPORATED 1874
Van Wert County
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State of the Village Address January 29, 2008

To: Residents of the Village of Convoy

Village of Convoy, Village Council

In the year of 2007, the Village has completed some infrastructure improvements as well as the beginning of one of our most ambitious projects in several years, the West Tully Street Reconstruction, starting this spring.

Projects completed for 2007 include: purchase of a new Street Department truck, the reconditioning of the Street Department truck with a new Tool Bed for the Water/Waste Water Department and a new remote monitoring system for the treatment plant.

Our most ambitious project is the West Tully Street Reconstruction Project. We have contracted with Kohli & Kaliher Associates to design the changes that need to be made to the sidewalks, curbs, water and sewer lines. We have received funding and will have the final design work done soon and hope to bid the project in February. The Village will then award the bid and see initial work start possibly as early as April, with the bulk of work starting in June. This project also includes new decorative street lighting and restructuring of part of the train crossing on West Tully as well. We will also be having a public meeting to discuss the scope of the project with all Village residents. Date of the meeting will be publicized in the Van Wert Times Bulletin, VW Independent and the Village website: villageofconvoy.com

The Board of Public Affairs received the final Water Study report from Jones and Henry Engineers and forwarded the report to the Ohio EPA. The Board received the initial approval from the Ohio EPA to add a 3rd well and will in the future determine when we should begin drilling. The Board also invested in SCADA, a remote monitoring/control system that allows our operators to monitor/control wells, the treatment plant from the internet. This system notifies our operators of potential problems or failures and allows them to correct the problems from anywhere we have access to the internet. Warning notifications can be directed to a cell phone or PDA as well. This system allows us also to reduce the amount of overtime that would be required by an operator having to go to the plant or wells to diagnose a problem. Terry Crowle, the Water Superintendent, is also working towards additional operators certifications required by the State of Ohio.

In addition, the Board of Public Affairs is in the process of evaluating our current water and sewer costs and we are anticipating raising the quarterly rates. Since our last increase in 2004, electricity rates have double for the plant as well as the cost for water testing, certifications, chemicals and the required number of hours the plant has to be manned. Also in conjunction with our water study, the Ohio EPA has recommended we look to the future at the construction of a water filtration plant. Though this project is several years away, their initial estimate for a treatment plant in 2007 dollars is \$2.8 million dollars. Normal funding would require the Village to pay 20% of the construction cost. Initial cost increases and comparisons to rates from other towns and villages our size is being done this month.

The Village has also attended numerous meetings with The Ohio Department of Transportation in regards to a long term project to make U.S. 30 a true limited access highway. Though this project may be many years down the road, officials from ODOT have assured us that an interchange at US 30 and State Road 49 is a good possibility.

Our Convoy Fire & EMS is busy getting ready for their annual Pancake Day Fund Raiser which is February 2nd from 6:00AM to 2 PM. This is a very important project that allows the department to pay for training and new equipment. Please remember this is an ALL volunteer organization and they need our help. Chief Don Wilson has added 6 new members to our force in a continuing effort to maintain the safety of Village residents.

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Also in conjunction with the Van Wert County Emergency Management Agency, Van Wert County has been awarded a Federal grant of \$1.9 million dollars to upgrade our communications systems. The system that is planned is the Ohio MARCS System which is already being utilized by all State agencies. This is a 20% match grant that allows Law Enforcement, Fire & EMS and EMA agencies to acquire the new communications equipment for 20% of the purchase cost. We will not only have the capability to communicate with first responders in our county, but also with six other Northwest Ohio counties and all State Agencies. Chief Wilson is attending a meeting on January 30th to receive further information on this new technology.

I would also like to congratulate The Convoy Care Center as one of nine local nursing homes ranked in the Top 25 of 955 facilities statewide for percent of total satisfaction, according to a study released by the Ohio Department of Aging. Convoy Care Center has a great reputation for the excellent service they provide the community. The management and staff should be very proud of this accomplishment.

Also, soon the downtown will really smell good with the opening of Baked Nostalgia, a locally owned bakery, and Secret Gardens, a floral and gift shop, on West Tully Street. My understanding is Baked Nostalgia is waiting on permits from the State of Ohio and both hope to open in the very near future. It is the strength of our local merchants that allow us the growth potential for the Convoy community, so please support them all.

Finally, as Mayor, I am on the B R & E Committee of the Van Wert Area Economic Development Council, and recently have been asked to join 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. Their projects include the Business Innovation Center and also the 1,600 acre Super Site.

I look forward to representing the Village of Convoy for the next four years 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 notice with Vicky Saylor at the Village Office or by cell phone, 419-203-0510.

Respectfully,
Brad Guest, Mayor
Village of Convoy