

Mayor's Message, Summer 2009

With the current economic situation, it seems that everyone is paying more attention to budgets and finances these days. The village is no exception. We continue to monitor our spending, paying close attention to revenue and expenditures to make sure we maintain a positive financial standing.

You may also be watching your spending, looking for inexpensive and close to home options for shopping, dining and entertainment. Many area retail establishments offer affordable options, and by supporting these businesses, you will help push money into the local economy. There are also several opportunities available for free entertainment within the village, such as spending time at one of the village's parks or attending a Music & Art in the Park concert event.

To promote improvements to commercial properties in historic downtown Canal Winchester, the village worked with Main Street Canal Winchester to kick off its pilot Building Improvement Matching Grant Program (BIMGP). The BIMGP is a reimbursable, matching grant program implemented to stimulate efforts to improve the appearance, longevity and structural integrity of downtown Canal Winchester commercial buildings.

To qualify for a grant, buildings had to meet several requirements, such as being a commercial property located in the target historic area and a commitment from the property owner to cover at least one-third of the project cost. Grants were awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis to properties that met all the requirements as long as all information was submitted correctly. In total, \$15,426 worth of grants was awarded.

If you haven't already heard, Mount Carmel and Fairfield Medical have chosen "Diley Ridge Medical Park" as the name for their emergency care center campus under construction at US Route 33 and Diley Road. Mount Carmel and Fairfield Medical received nearly 600 name submissions from members of the community and area classrooms to help name the emergency center. Although "Diley Ridge Medical Park" was not among the suggestions received, several recommendations included these words.

Finally, I'd like to update you on a recent outcome of the 2008 citizen survey. Based on feedback from residents, village staff is researching a satellite college program in Canal Winchester and seeking resident input through an online survey. To share your opinion on the type of educational program you would prefer, log onto the village's Web site at www.canalwinchesterohio.gov and follow the link on the homepage to the survey.

Sincerely,

Michael Ebert
Mayor of Canal Winchester