

**Mayor**  
Dev Trivedi

**City Clerk**  
Alice Matteucci

**Administrator**  
Tim Schloneger

# CITY OF LOCKPORT



**“WE CARE”**  
[www.lockport.org](http://www.lockport.org)

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Dick Van Dyke - 1st Ward  
Joe Fracaro - 2nd Ward  
Brian Smith - 2nd Ward  
Tom Kelly - 3rd Ward  
Bob Morris - 3rd Ward  
John Robert Krzos - 4th Ward  
Robert Perretta - 4th Ward

## *The Lockport Reporter*

*Fall 2010*



### **A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR TRIVEDI**

*Hello Families and Friends:*

As a “We Care” community, I want to thank you all for taking time to read your newsletter. I trust that all residents of Lockport had a wonderful

summer. This past summer, we have been very busy with several large construction projects.

The City of Lockport received **\$708,416** in **Emergency Repair Program (ERP)** funds from the Illinois Department of Transportation with the assistance of our State elected officials, Representative Emily McAsey and Senator Christine Radogno. The funding was used to resurface Oak Avenue from Briggs to Farrell and Gougar/147<sup>th</sup> from 151<sup>st</sup> Street to Lemont Road.

The City was able to reallocate excess funding from these projects for resurfacing of the City’s portion of Bruce Road from Farrell to Briggs. (This work will take place in the Spring of 2011.)

Also, the City received a federal CMAQ grant for construction of sidewalk on both sides of **IL 7 / 9<sup>th</sup> Street** from Lincoln Street to Farrell Road (\$319,000 awarded in 2008). This project is currently under construction and we hope to have this project substantially completed this year.

The City also received **\$415,000** in federal **Stimulus Funding**, administered by the Will County Governmental League. This money was awarded to municipalities on a population basis and must be used for work on FAU routes, which are roads with a special designation making them eligible for federal funding. It should be noted that the City of Lockport was able to receive additional funding above our population amount. The Stimulus Funding was used for the resurfacing of portions of 163<sup>rd</sup> street from Farrell Road to the I-355 tollway and portions of Bruce Road from Gougar to Farrell. This work is now substantially completed.

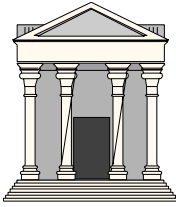
Finally, our Beautification Commission just completed our Fall project at 2<sup>nd</sup> & State, where we installed perennial plantings in the bedded parkways and bordered them with cobblestone. There were many volunteers from the Jr. ROTC and the St. Dennis Youth Group who came out to help. I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped with this project, as well as the following sponsors who donated the materials – Homer Tree Service, Dahl Landscaping, Rocks, etc., and Beary Landscaping. I would also like to thank our Emergency Management Agency for helping with traffic control and our Public Works Department for their help as well.

I would now like to take this opportunity to explain to you some of the projects we have in the pipeline for next year. For instance, the City was fortunate to receive a **DCEO** (Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity) grant in the amount of **\$150,000**. This funding will be used for watermain replacement on McKinley Street and Adams Street adjacent to Kelvin Grove School.

The City was also recommended for a **CDBG** (Community Development Block Grant) in the amount of **\$120,000**. This funding will be used for sanitary sewer cured-in-place pipe lining and spot repairs on Connor, South and East areas. An additional **\$31,000** grant from **USEPA** will be used to complement this project.

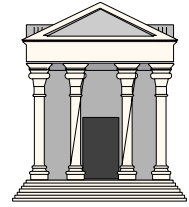
As you can see, we are trying our very best to be creative in receiving funds from outside resources to continue to improve the City of Lockport. Although we are limited in manpower and funding, we are still managing to provide for the health, safety and welfare of our residents.

Please be sure to read this newsletter in its entirety to learn more about the services we provide and some upcoming events. Most importantly, be sure to read the information provided about the Sales Tax Referendum that will be on the ballot for the November 2<sup>nd</sup> election. This information is provided to thoroughly explain the purpose and stipulations of the referendum.



# CITY SCOOPS

“WE CARE”



## Non-Home Rule Sales Tax Referendum on the November 2<sup>nd</sup> General Election Ballot

On July 21, 2010, the Lockport City Council voted to impose a 5% Utility Tax for gas and electric, and to raise the Telecommunications Tax from 1% to 6%, to fund its Capital Improvement Program. However, the motion was to approve the 5% Utility Tax and increased Telecommunications Tax ONLY if the referendum for a 1% proposed Sales Tax increase is defeated on November 2, 2010.

At the November 2<sup>nd</sup> General Election the following proposition will be submitted to the voters of the City of Lockport:

***Shall the City of Lockport impose a tax under the Non-Home Rule Municipal Retailers' Occupation Tax Act (65 ILCS 5/8-11-1.3) at the rate of 1% for expenditure on public infrastructure and imposing a tax under the Non-Home Rule Municipal Service Occupation Tax Act (65ILCS 5/8-11-1.4) at the rate of 1% for expenditure on public infrastructure ?***

Note: The total increase will be 1%. The Retailers' Occupation Tax and Service Occupation Tax are not compounded.

Also Note: There will only be one proposition listed on the ballot, which is the one stated above. You will be asked to vote yes or no for a 1% Sales Tax increase, NOT **either** Sales Tax **or** Utility Tax increase.

The information included in this article explains the proposed Capital Improvement Plan and how it will be funded.

### FUNDING A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP)

The Lockport City Council has determined that there will be a funded multi-year Capital Improvement Program to address the City's infrastructure needs.

A Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is a multi-year plan identifying capital projects to be funded during the planning period. The CIP identifies each proposed capital project to be undertaken, the year the assets will be acquired or the project started, the amount of funds expected to be expended in each year of the CIP and the way the expenditure will be funded. A CIP is not a static document. It is reviewed every year to reflect changing priorities, unexpected events and opportunities. A CIP includes the maintenance, repair and rehabilitation of existing infrastructure as well as the construction of new infrastructure.

Benefits of a funded CIP:

- Facilitates **coordination** between capital needs and the operating budgets.

- Enhances the community's **credit rating**, control of its tax rate, and avoids sudden changes in its debt service requirements.
- Identifies the **most economical means** of financing capital projects.
- Increases opportunities for obtaining federal and state aid (**grant funding**).
- Relates public facilities to other public and private development and redevelopment policies and plans.

### CHOICE OF FUNDING

The City Council has determined that the City will have a funded multi-year Capital Improvement Program. However, the voters will determine how best to fund this program.

Option A	Option B
1 percentage point increase to Non-Home Rule Sales Tax	No implementation of a Non-Home Rule Sales Tax
Telecommunications Tax increased from 1% to 2%	Telecommunications Tax increased from 1% to 6%
No Electric Tax; currently 0%	Electric Tax implemented at 5%
No Gas Tax; currently 0%	Gas Tax implemented at 5%

For **Option A** to occur, the voters will need to approve a 1 percentage point increase to the City's Non-Home Rule Sales Tax at the November 2<sup>nd</sup> General Election. Then, the City would increase its Telecommunications Tax to 2% (it is currently 1%).

*It should be noted that the Sales Tax increase, to be voted on at the November 2<sup>nd</sup> General Election, would not apply to titled property, such as vehicles, or to qualifying food, drugs and medical appliances.*

**Option B** would occur if the voters reject the Non-Home Rule Sales Tax increase at the November 2<sup>nd</sup> General Election. Then, the Telecommunications Tax would increase from its current 1%, up to 6%. In addition, a brand new 5% equivalent Tax would be implemented on both the Electric and Gas utilities.

### RESTRICTING THE FUNDING

All new revenue created through either the sales tax or utility tax option will be placed in a restricted fund, which will only be used to fund "Local Capital Improvement Projects".

A "Local Capital Improvement Project" means an expenditure for any of the following purposes, or financing thereof: (A) Road construction, renovation, repair or resurfacing, (B) sidewalk, bike path and pavement improvements, (C) construction, renovation, enlargement or repair of dams, weirs, bridges, flood control projects and creek maintenance (D) the preparation and revision of capital improvement plans, designs, engineering, and project oversight (E) floodplain management and hazard mitigation activities, (F) right-of-way acquisition, (G) roadway equipment purchase or rental, (H) bridge repair, maintenance and replacement. Local capital improvement projects may be completed by consultants, contractors and/or in-house engineering and public works employees.

**THE ECONOMY IS BAD. WHY NOW?**

All roads eventually reach the end of their useful life. As the physical condition of the asset declines, deferring maintenance and/or replacement increases long-term costs and liabilities. The goal is to manage the City's roads in order to minimize the total cost of owning and operating them while continuously delivering the standard that the community expects.

Preventive maintenance is key to controlling long-term costs

- The risk of taking action is less than the risks of letting deficits accumulate to daunting levels.
- It costs less in the long run to have good roads than bad roads - if you keep up with preventive maintenance continuously.
- Deferred maintenance drives up long term cost; it shortens the cycle for rehabilitation, which is four times as costly.

Deferred rehabilitation compounds the problem, often leading to pavement failure and the need to reconstruct the whole roadbed, at ten times the cost.



**WHERE HAS THE CITY ALREADY MADE CUTS?**

The City is not asking for more revenue to fund day-to-day operations. The City has made significant cuts to balance the operating budget.

- Privatized Building Department
- Hard hiring freeze in place for all full-time positions in the General Fund
- Eliminated 18 full-time equivalent employee positions since 2007

- General Fund Reduction equivalent to \$4,992,386
- Personnel Reductions equivalent to \$1,231,190
- Property Tax Reduction equivalent to \$396,073

**HOW DOES THE AVAILABLE FUNDING FOR PROJECTS IN LOCKPORT CURRENTLY COMPARE TO OTHER COMMUNITIES?**

Neighboring cities often fund their road projects through a combination of sales tax and utility tax revenues. However, Lockport currently has the lowest amount of available funding from these sources. (See chart below.)

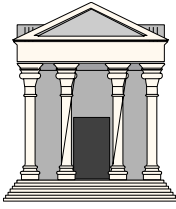
		Utility Taxes	Sales Tax	Total	Per Capita
Romeoville <sup>3</sup>	36,709 residents	4,254,358	7,004,909	11,259,266	307
Plainfield <sup>3</sup>	37,334 residents	2,200,000	6,846,515	9,046,515	242
New Lenox <sup>1</sup>	24,055 residents	896,005	4,115,849	5,011,854	208
Frankfort	16,492 residents	739,089	4,260,517	4,999,606	303
Mokena <sup>2</sup>	18,669 residents	143,143	3,957,436	4,100,578	220
Shorewood	16,625 residents	1,173,410	2,786,395	3,959,805	238
Lemont	13,822 residents	1,642,853	1,707,083	3,349,936	242
Crest Hill	19,876 residents	723,838	1,710,459	2,434,297	122
Lockport	24,059 residents	149,298	2,238,963	2,388,261	99
<sup>1</sup> Implemented a home rule sales tax in October 2009					
<sup>2</sup> Has a non-home rule sales tax					
<sup>3</sup> Has a home rule sales tax					

**PLEASE REMEMBER, THIS REFERENDUM WILL BE ON THE NOVEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup> ELECTION BALLOT.**



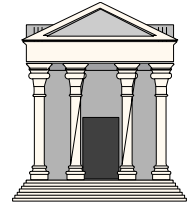
**CLERK'S CORNER**  
**Clerk Alice Matteucci**

Looking forward to the **April 5, 2011 Consolidated General Election**, petitions are now available for one (1) Alderperson (four-year term) for each of the four (4) Wards in the City of Lockport. Petitions are available in the City Clerk's Office, Central Square Building, 2nd Floor, 222 E. 9th Street, Lockport. The City Clerk's Office hours are 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The filing period for said petitions shall be between December 13-20, 2010. The City Clerk's Office will be open until 5:00 p.m. on the last day of filing. If you have any questions please contact Donna Tadey at 815-838-0549 ext. 2121.



# CITY SCOOPS

“WE CARE”



## ADVICE FROM ENGINEERING

Fall and Spring tend to be wet and rainy times of year in our area. This is also the time of year when drainage problems occur. Being aware of the causes of drainage problems can help homeowners correct and avoid these types of problems.

Sump pumps and downspouts are common causes of drainage problems. Sump pumps should be directed away from the foundation of the house. If there is an adjacent storm sewer inlet, the sump pumps and downspouts may be connected directly to the storm sewer system. Please call the City if you would like to connect your sump pump to the storm sewer system. Also, please be courteous to neighbors by being conscious of flows from a sump pump and redirect if necessary.

Many lots contain drainage easements in the rear and side yards. It is important to preserve these areas for drainage by NOT placing swing sets, sandboxes, landscaping, etc., in these areas. These items may block the flow of water through the easement, thus causing standing water on your property or your neighbor's property. If standing water occurs, evaluate whether there are any obstructions, even bushes or fences, which may be blocking the flow of water. Clearing these obstructions may improve drainage in these areas.

Other possible causes of drainage problems could include broken underground lawn sprinkler systems, water service leaks, malfunctioning septic systems or overflow from pools.

If you think you have a drainage problem, check to see if one of the above issues may be causing the problem. You may be able to employ solutions, such as installing a rain garden or French drain, to take care of wet areas. Neighbors may also be able to work together to install drain tile or remove obstructions in order to solve drainage problems.

Please be aware that if you wish to re-grade your property, this work will require a grading permit from the City. Changing the grade from the approved grading plan may cause drainage problems for your property or adjacent properties.



## SOME MORE ENGINEERING PROJECTS

Aside from the road projects mentioned in Mayor Trivedi's article, the City performed various street maintenance projects this year. Various streets throughout town were crackfilled. Crackfill prevents water from penetrating the pavement base, thus extending its useful life. Streets that are suitable for crackfill are typically those streets between 5 and 10 years old that are beginning to show signs of wear and cracking. Crackfilling early prevents the cracks from opening up and forming potholes and other types of pavement failures.

The City of Lockport will be resurfacing three streets as part of the **2010 MFT Resurfacing** program. The following streets were included in the MFT Resurfacing project:

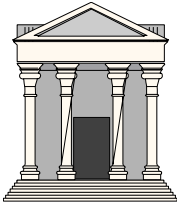
Street	From	To
East Street	Roseann	South
Darin Drive	Read	Jacquays
Rodney Court	Darin	culdesac

The approximate cost of the 2010 MFT Resurfacing program is estimated at \$200,000.

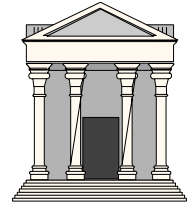
Requests for the **2011 Sidewalk Program** are currently being taken and are added on a first come-first serve basis, either by phone or on the City's Service Request System located on our website, [www.lockport.org](http://www.lockport.org). The deadline for submitting requests for the 2011 program is April 1, 2011.



*Pictured above – “new and improved” Gougar Road/147<sup>th</sup> Street from 151<sup>st</sup> Street to Lemont Road.*



# CITY SCOOPS



## GARBAGE RATES TO INCREASE...

*But don't let it get you down in the dumps!*

Per the City's contract with Waste Management, the garbage and recycling rates are due to increase effective November 1, 2010. The current rate of \$16.75 will increase to \$17.42 per month, and for senior citizens it will increase from \$16.25 to \$16.92 per month. **Seniors** – do not forget, as you can see, you can receive a discounted rate. If you have not yet done so, please apply for the Senior Discount for both garbage and water services. Applications are available at the City Water Department. Senior citizens can save 50% off the price of water UP TO 3,000 gallons (full price will be charged for monthly usage over 3,000 gallons). The senior discount for non-metered customers will be a savings of \$4.00, off the water portion of the bill. To be eligible to receive the senior citizen discount for both water and garbage, the applicant must be 65 years of age or older, must apply for the discount in person showing proof of identification, must reside in a single-family unit, a duplex unit, or a multi-dwelling unit, and must be the subscriber to the system.

## **CITY HALL HOURS FOR THE UPCOMING HOLIDAYS**

### Veteran's Day –

**Thursday, November 11, 2010**  
**City Offices Closed**

### Thanksgiving Holiday –

**Thursday, November 25, 2010**  
**Friday, November 26, 2010**  
**City Offices Closed**

### Christmas Holiday –

**Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – Offices Close at Noon**  
**Monday, December 27<sup>th</sup> – City Offices Closed**

### New Year's Holiday –

**Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup> – Offices Close at Noon**  
**Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> – City Offices Closed**

### Martin Luther King, Jr., Day –

**Monday, January 17, 2011 – City Offices Closed**

## **VEHICLE STICKERS**

Vehicle stickers for City of Lockport residents are available starting November 1, 2010. Stickers purchased during the period of November 1 through December 31, 2010 are sold at a discounted price of \$18.00 per sticker. Stickers bought from January 1, 2011 through January 31, 2011 will cost \$20.00. These prices are valid for passenger vehicles, motorcycles and pickup trucks (B plates). Stickers for trucks with D plates (and over) are \$73.00 up to December 31, 2010, or \$75.00 if purchased after January 1, 2011; and stickers for Dealer plates are \$15.00. Senior Citizens can receive an additional 50% savings per sticker for up to 2 vehicles. All cars (owned OR leased) registered to the City of Lockport **MUST** have valid stickers, even if they are not housed here. Also, according to Ordinance 73.011, all new residents must purchase a vehicle sticker within thirty days of establishing residency. Stickers can be purchased at the City's Water Department located at 222 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Floor 2, or at the Police Department at 1212 Farrell Road. For your convenience, the Police Department will be open on Saturdays from 8 a.m. until noon, from November 1<sup>st</sup> thru January 31<sup>st</sup>. You can also purchase stickers at Corwin's Pharmacy:

- Corwin's Pharmacy, 944 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Street (Mon.-Thurs. 8:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.; Fri. 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.; Sat. 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.; Sun. 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.)

Please note, if you do not purchase a vehicle sticker before the deadline of January 31, 2011, the City will impose a penalty of \$20.00 per sticker, which will increase the price per sticker to \$40.00.

# HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS



## Halloween Already? Now *that's* a **SCARY** thought!!!

Yes, it's true. Halloween is *creeping* up on us and it will be here before you can say "BOO!" This year's *bewitching* hours for Trick-or-Treating will be from 2:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., on Sunday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. We hope you have a "ghostly" time!!!



## Halloween Safety Tips

1. All children should be accompanied by an adult or responsible youth.
2. Use the "buddy" system to watch out for each other.
3. Don't stray too far from home; set an area limit (2-3 blocks from home) where you are most familiar with the neighborhood and the neighbors.
4. Walk on the sidewalk.
5. Cross streets only at the corner, looking all ways before crossing.
6. Obey all traffic lights.
7. Walk across streets, never run.
8. Children should wear brightly colored, non-flammable costumes that do not impair sight and mobility.
9. Use reflective materials or reflective tape on costumes.
10. Carry a flashlight.
11. Never enter a stranger's house or car.
12. Throw away all unwrapped treats.
13. Instruct children not to eat any treats until an adult (parent) inspects them.
14. If you are driving on Halloween, be sure to watch carefully for pedestrians because they may not be watching for you.
15. Most importantly, have a **FUN** and **SAFE** Halloween.

## CHRISTMAS FUN

The following Christmas events are held right here in Lockport. Why go elsewhere for Christmas fun? These festivities are practically in your own backyard. Bring the entire family and celebrate the holiday season the Lockport way. Not only will you be in the "Christmas spirit", but also in the "community spirit."

### **Christmas Crossroads – 40<sup>th</sup> Year!**

**Saturday, November 20, 2010, 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, November 21, 2010, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**Lockport East High School; admission charged**

**NO STROLLERS**

Christmas Crossroads is the annual event that kicks off our Christmas activities here in Lockport. Sponsored by the Lockport Woman's Club, it is one of the largest craft shows in the area with approximately 180 crafters and over 10,000 visitors. All proceeds go toward scholarships for local children, medical care and food pantries. For more information call (815) 838-4900 or visit [www.christmascrossroads.com](http://www.christmascrossroads.com).

### **Christmas In The Square**

**Saturday, November 27, 2010, 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

**Central Square, 222 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Street**

This is the sixth year for the event, with a growing attendance every year due to the fun holiday activities offered to all ages. Sponsored by the City of Lockport, the Lockport Township Park District, Lockport Township Government, and the Lockport Chamber of Commerce, this *free* event will definitely put you in the Christmas spirit! There will be live reindeer, pictures with Santa, festive entertainment, carriage rides, train rides, holiday games, crafts, and much more. Also, you can visit the Gladys Fox Museum to vote for the best decorated Christmas tree. Please come out for this day of holiday fun, and be sure to stay for the "grand finale" where we will light our 20' Christmas tree. The elected officials from the park, city, and township will "light up Lockport" to officially kick off the holiday season.



**City of Lockport  
222 East Ninth Street  
Lockport, IL 60441**

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The Lockport Reporter is published by the City as a public information service for its residents. Additional copies of city newsletters can be obtained at City Hall. If you have comments for the editor, please address them to Jodi Herman at City Hall or e-mail comments to [City@Lockport.org](mailto:City@Lockport.org).

**Important Phone  
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David Palya, Treasurer  
838-0549, option 6**

**Tim Schloneger  
Administrator  
838-0549**

**William Kendziora  
Chief of Police  
Police Department  
838-2132**

**Water Department  
838-0549, option 3**

**Planning and Economic  
Development Departments  
838-0549, option 4**

**Building Department  
838-0549, option 5**

**Engineering and Public  
Works Departments  
838-0549, option 8**

**The ♦ Lockport ♦ Reporter**

**REMEMBER TO PURCHASE  
YOUR VEHICLE STICKERS!**