

Review 2009

Preview 2010



WEST CARROLLTON

CITY OF WEST CARROLLTON

# Mayor's Annual Report

## Community Report: 2009 Review

Like many communities throughout the nation, we continued to face financial challenges in 2009. However, we weathered those obstacles and will continue to focus on the best future for our community.

It is worthwhile to review the highlights of 2009 as we look ahead.

On behalf of the elected officials of the City of West Carrollton including: 2009 Deputy Mayor Angie Fryman, Council members Jim Bowers, Jody Jones, Jim Folker, Linda Lotspaih, and Harold Robinson, we would like to thank the community for their support.

It is our sincere desire to see West Carrollton prosper and continue to move forward. We are confident this will be accomplished.



*West Carrollton City Council Members from left front row: Harold Robinson, Jeff Sanner. Back: Angie Fryman, Jim Bowers, Jody Jones, Jim Folker, Linda Lotspaih.*

We are all just a telephone call or e-mail away for any questions or needs any citizen may have. Your input is important to us.

It is a pleasure to present this annual report to the community about several of the major efforts by the city staff to provide

excellent city services. On behalf of the City Council, our City Manager, Brad Townsend, and all of our city employees, we will continue to serve you and to improve our community to the best of our ability.

*Mayor Jeff Sanner*

## Volunteers: We Value Your Help

We would like to express appreciation to the citizens who serve on the various boards and commissions appointed by the City Council. We are indebted to the many local volunteers who have graciously shared their time and talents to make West Carrollton a better community.

Many take time out of their busy schedules to serve the city in various capacities from filing to fingerprinting. And we cannot begin to measure the contributions of all of those who volunteer their valuable time within our schools, churches, youth groups and other civic and community groups.

As you know, there are lots of opportunities to get involved, please call the city manager's office at 859-5183 if you would like to volunteer or get involved with a city board or commission.



*About 65 residents helped their neighbors during the annual Community Pride Day in May.*



*Thanks to all those who served the city this year including the members of Citizen's for West Carrollton Future who worked on the levy.*

## New Businesses in 2009

A Muse Sings – 420 E. Dixie Dr.  
(massage therapy)

Affordable Pet Grooming – 19 W.  
Central Ave.

BBS Hosiery – 235 S. Alex Rd.

Better Living Medical Supplies –  
1140 E. Central Ave.

BW3 – 2082 S. Alex Rd. (dining  
room remodel)

Chairo Auto Exchange – 801 E.  
Central Ave (additional vendor in  
White's Auto)

Chef-in-a-Box – 800-856 Water-  
tower Lane (food vendor)

Carter Logistics – 98 Quality Lane  
(trucking warehouse)

Clear My Head – 422 E. Dixie Dr.  
(wholesale spa products)

Consumer Source – 2030-B S. Alex  
Rd. (magazine distribution)

Duke's Restaurant – 630 E. Dixie  
Dr.

E'Naj Hair Studio – 5101-B Spring-  
boro Pike

Goodfellows Players Club – 1190 E.  
Central Ave. (private club)

Jaxon Ed Inc. – 5 N. Elm St. (non-  
profit education and support)

Laser Wolf Engraving – 424 E.  
Dixie Dr.

Layer Repair Services – 5099-A  
Springboro Pike

Rainbow Restoration & Cleaning –  
440 Fame Rd. (insurance repairs –  
fire and water)

Sanner Painting Co. – 907 E. Cen-  
tral Ave. (business relocation)

Serenity Nails – 1915 S. Alex Rd.

West Ohio Building Specialties –  
921 E. Central Ave. (building prod-  
ucts sales)

Whitney's Fine Chocolates – 2038-  
B S. Alex Rd.

## Economic Development: Steady Progress

Substantial progress was made in the city's effort to redevelop Exit 47. Final design and purchase of right-of-way is scheduled for completion by July 2010. The city received an additional \$595,000 in federal construction earmarks due to the efforts of Ohio Congressman Mike Turner and Ohio Senator George Voinovich. The project was also selected by Governor Ted Strickland as one of three Ohio transportation projects submitted for federal stimulus funds under the TIGER Grant program. If the project is selected for funding, the city will receive an additional \$22 million in funding which is enough to fund construction.

In addition, the city participated in the State of Ohio TRAC program which is a ranking program for Ohio transportation projects. Exit 47 received the highest ranking in the region and therefore should be funded in 2010 if the TIGER Grant is not funded. Construction may start as soon as September with completion in 2012.

In early May one of our larger employers Veolia Environmental Services experienced an explosion that caused millions of dollars in damages to their facility as well as significant damage to neighboring CAM Manufacturing and several private residences. Fortunately, only two employees were injured and both Veolia and CAM are committed to remaining in West Carrollton.

The city has made every effort to retain the Motoman facility and their



Artist rendering of Exit 47 once redevelopment is complete.

200 employees. Motoman needs a larger facility to accommodate their current and future operations. The city in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Development, the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners and the Dayton Development Coalition has presented a multi-million dollar incentive package to Motoman in hope of convincing them to remain in the city. A decision is expected early this year.

The city has been very successful in securing Montgomery County ED/GE grants for several local companies. Business expansion grants have been secured for Motoman (\$390,000), CAM Manufacturing (\$200,000) and Carter Logistics (\$200,000).

## Keeping You Informed: Public Relations

We hope you are able to stay up to date throughout the year about many of the activities found in this report through our redesigned website

[www.westcarrollton.org](http://www.westcarrollton.org), our news releases and newsletters, and our cable television shows that air on cable channel 5.

Last year, the city produced 45 "Weekly Focus" shows that profile events in the West Carrollton area. Topics have ranged from home foreclosure to safety tips from police and fire.

We also continued to produce a monthly news magazine show, "Take A Closer Look" that highlights local businesses, school and community events.

In 2009, 74 news releases were sent to local print and television media and residents who've requested to receive them via e-mail. We also redesigned our city newsletter to a full-color publication.

If you are interested in receiving any of these publications electronically, e-mail [publicrelations@westcarrollton.org](mailto:publicrelations@westcarrollton.org).

## Parks & Rec: Providing Fun Close to Home

There were approximately 33,765 visitors at Wilson Park Pool during the summer of 2009 and approximately 158 children participated in the Red Cross swim lesson program.

The city was recognized as a Tree City USA for the 21<sup>st</sup> consecutive year. Parks maintenance staff replaced 34 trees this year – 6 residents participated in the City/ Citizen Tree Planting Program. The Parks Department also received a \$2,500 grant for the tree program from Walmart. In conjunction with the Tree City award, an Arbor Day Tree Planting Ceremony was held April 24 at Wilson Park.

Recreation programs were expanded in 2009. New classes and activities included Instant Guitar, Photography classes and a Track Your Tracks walking program, with over 120 pedometers given out.

Adult sports such as golf lessons, taekwon do, tai chi, and softball saw continued participation.

High levels of participation in youth sports continued including: the Moraine-West Carrollton Little League, the West Carrollton Soccer Association, Wee Pirate Football & Cheerleading, the West Carrollton Basketball Association and the West Carrollton WAVES Swim Team.

The City Beautiful Commission sponsored the following activities: Annual Flower Awards; Holiday Festival; Santa's Mailbox and Community Pride Day.

Residents took advantage of all the facilities the city has to offer including: 57 Senior Citizen/Community Center reservations for private parties, 249



*An Arbor Day celebration was held in Wilson Park.*

reservations for park shelters, and 145 meetings were held in the Civic Center meeting rooms.

New playground equipment was installed at Wilson Park and received a \$32,000 grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

Several other special events occurred in 2009, including: A week-long Girl Scout day camp at Hintermeister Park; 60 teams from four different states participated in the Soccer Blast soccer tournament at the Soccer Complex; the 5th annual Father/Daughter Dance was held at Harry Russell Elementary School; and the 4<sup>th</sup> annual 4th of July Festival at Wilson Park followed by a great fireworks display along the Great Miami River. The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Doggie Dive Splash Festival was held at Wilson Park Pool.

There was a family campout at Hintermeister Park, the Relay For Life held their event at Wilson Park, and the West Carrollton High School began holding their tennis matches at Wilson Park.

All the basketball courts were resurfaced and painted in 2009.

One more fun fact: more than 12,000 mutt mitts were used in the parks.



*A Family Campout was hosted at Hintermeister Park.*

## Human Resources: Group Effort Pays Off

One of the top priorities for the year in Human Resources was labor & management relations. In March the West Carrollton Independent Employees Association ratified their contract with the city.

An Employee Leadership Committee composed of representatives from all employee groups (both union and non-union) was formed to provide an avenue for dissemination of information to employees regarding budget and economic issues. The members were also charged with assisting in the development of cost cutting strategies and in identifying alternative revenue sources. As a result of the committee's work, we achieved consensus among all employee groups to agree to a wage freeze for 2010. This agreement was a vital step in avoiding personnel reductions. The Leadership Committee will continue their work in 2010.

The city experienced only a few personnel changes in 2009. In May, Dane Brierly retired as code enforcement officer. In November, the police department saw the retirement of Sergeant Mike Stangle. At the end of the year, Charlie Chin retired after more than 40 years of service with the fire department.

The city welcomed two new employees in 2009. Josh Whitehead started as a full-time firefighter/paramedic and Kyle Schwable joined as a part-time firefighter/paramedic.

In addition to job-specific training, all employees participated in customer service training. Two completed a supervisory training program. Several employees also got involved in the renewed safety and wellness program committees.

We look forward to serving the community in 2010 with the most highly-trained staff possible.

# Fire Department Faces Most Challenging Year Yet in 2009

The Fire Department faced its most challenging year in history hitting record numbers in fire dollar loss for 2009. Firefighters responded to 28 significant structure fires which had damage to room and content or greater.

The explosion and ensuing fire at Veolia caused over \$28 million dollars in damage to the facility and surrounding properties. Along with neighboring fire departments, the Regional Hazardous Materials Team and environmental teams from the U.S. and Ohio EPA, we were on site over 20 straight hours to mitigate this incident.

The Emergency Medical Service responded to record high 1,565 calls for the year which matched the 2008 EMS calls for service. Fire personnel responded to 831 fire calls and 506 medic assist calls in 2009. All of our apparatus are staffed by 31 part-time and 24 paid on-call personnel. Three career Firefighter/Paramedics

allow the Fire Department to staff in house medic personnel 24 hours a day. To complete the medic crew, we also staff one part-time in-house. Three career captains serve as first responders and are also certified paramedics. All three medic units contain advanced life support equipment and, in an emergency, are prepared to transport your family to many of the area hospitals.

The Fire Department maintains a Class 2 ISO rating, which determines fire insurance rates. There are no Class 1 departments in Ohio and only a handful of them are rated in the Class 2 category. Members of the Fire Dept. had a combined total of 935.5 hours of fire training and 627.75 hours of in-service medic training in 2009.

West Carrollton's Fire Prevention Officer continues to work with Moraine's Fire Educator in presenting the Safety and Fire



*The Fire Dept. co-hosted a mock accident at the High School.*

Education program to the schools. The fire stations are also tour sites throughout the year — more than 3,500 children and adults were contacted with fire safety and emergency medical information.

We appreciate the 24 volunteers who serve as paid on-call members of the Fire Department. Their commitment to service and protection of the community is one that makes us especially proud of our Fire Department.

## Enhancing the Community Through Planning & Building

A new vision for the city's future was adopted in 2009 with the Comprehensive Plan "Destination Tomorrow." It's the result of a 2-year process involving a 45-member steering committee and 5 workgroups which touched over 400 residents and business owners in 26 visioning sessions. Broad goals and specific actions are outlined to achieve sustainable growth in the areas of economic development, housing, parks and recreation, community facilities, and education.

An outgrowth of the plan, the Downtown Corridor Study, was also initiated in 2009. The goal is to develop a "complete streets" plan for the corridor that will create an economically viable, mixed-use city center.

Development activity in the city slowed this year, reflecting the downturn in the economy. Only 1 building permit for new commercial structure at a value of \$419,750, and three single-family residential permits representing a value of \$345,000 were issued. However, 29 permits representing a value of \$1,119,976 were issued to upgrade or alter commercial and industrial buildings. Major pro-

jects this year included repairs related to the Veolia explosion, Appleton's expansion and repairs, final occupancy for CarMax and Sonic, and a self-service storage facility at 111 S. Elm Street.

Several community development projects were pursued to support and enhance neighborhood property values. The city received a Community Development Block Grant from the county to acquire and demolish the abandoned David's Flowers building at 505 N. Burns Avenue, to acquire two residential lots on N. Smith Street, and to acquire abandoned property in the Carrollton Center.

The city also participated in the county's Real Estate Acquisition Program (REAP) which targets the acquisition and re-use of vacant, tax-delinquent properties.

A major overhaul of the city's Property Maintenance Code was also accomplished this year. A new Neighborhood Enhancement Program was created to use personnel in other departments to report code enforcement violations.

CountyCorp sold two renovated homes at 29 E. Main St. and 110 E. Pease Ave. Eleven homeowners were approved in the city's annual paint program to improve the exterior of

their homes.

A total of 331 property maintenance and nuisance violations were investigated. There were 274 property maintenance and nuisance abatement orders issued. Of that total, 260 were closed due to compliance or court action.

The third Home Improvement Fair / YMCA Family Fun Day was held in April at the West Carrollton YMCA. Approximately 500 people attended the event, which offered over 50 home improvement vendors, a Wright Flyer trolley tour of available homes in Olde Downtown, children's activities, door prizes, food, music and entertainment.

Other community enhancements in 2009 included a new gateway sign and landscaping at the intersection of Wattertower Lane and SR 725, and the approval of grant funding from the Montgomery County Arts and Cultural District to paint a public mural within the community.

A review of the city's development review and permitting processes was also conducted, resulting in changes that make the system more user-friendly and efficient.

# Police: Dedicated to the Community

In March 2009 the police department was internationally re-accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) at a conference in Raleigh, N.C.

The police department continues to live up to its “Dedicated to Community Service” motto by involvement in projects such as the Citizen’s Police Academy. The department held its ninth academy in 2009 — graduating 17 participants. Students learn many aspects of police work, bringing our citizens and our officers closer together. The department hopes to continue its commitment to community involvement by hosting the tenth Citizens Police Academy in the fall of 2010.

The police department and the Lindbergh Plat Neighborhood Watch Group meet quarterly to discuss issues and current event updates. In 2009, the police department held several community meetings in an attempt to establish more Neighborhood Watch Programs.

West Carrollton police officers completed more than 3,437-business park-and-walk patrols and 3,016-residential park and walks. These programs enable the department to become more accessible to our citizens and businesses.

The police department also continued to work with the West Carrollton School District by completing over 708 school walk-throughs in all of the schools. The PD also worked with the High School staff and students on the Student Crime Stoppers Program. Along with the Moraine and Miami Township police departments, and West Carrollton School District staff, we began bi-monthly meetings to dis-

uss issues of mutual concern.

The PD hosted National Night Out at Wilson Park Pool in August. Citizens were invited to examine police department equipment and receive safety information.

The police department’s volunteer program, consisting of past graduates of the Citizens Police Academy, continued in 2009. The volunteers gave more than 851 hours of their time on duties including: fingerprinting civilians, assisting with parking for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, filing, and cleaning and checking departmental equipment. The volunteers al-



*National Night Out was hosted at Wilson Park Pool in August.*

ceive a speeding problem. A computer inside the trailer provides a report, which details the speeds of all vehicles. With this information the department makes better use of its manpower allocations. The print-out is available to any citizen that requests it.

In 2009 the police department continued to be involved in the Montgomery County Joint D.U.I. Task Force that enables the department to have officers out specifically on D.U.I. patrol. The police department also continued working with the State of Ohio Third Grade Seatbelt Grant Program, which allows an officer to teach students the importance of wearing a seatbelt.

In 2009 officers responded to about 9,123 calls for service and approximately 26,845 officer initiated activities throughout the year. Officers completed 1,851 reports not including 366 motor vehicle crash calls for service.

Sergeant David Wessling graduated from the Police Executive Leadership College (PELC). PELC is an advanced supervisory training school developed to give supervisors more skills and insights for managing people and organizations. Deputy Chief Woodard began the Certified Law Enforcement Executive (CLEE) course in 2009 and will graduate in early 2010.

In 2009 the police department completed updating the City’s E9-1-1 system to the latest technology; the previous system was over 10 years old and was no longer supported by Emergitech.



*The 17 graduates of the Citizen’s Police Academy were recognized during a city council meeting this fall.*

low police employees to focus on other duties. What a great resource we have in these volunteers —Thank you volunteers!

The police department continued working with Project ChildSafe passing out gunlocks to citizens who need them. The program is designed to reduce the number of accidental deaths and injuries related to firearms.

The speed trailer is used in areas where the department or citizens per-

## Public Works: Providing Clean Water, Prompt Waste Removal, Clear Streets

The service department continued to provide the high-level of service to which the community has become accustomed. Steady, high-quality water and sewer services, prompt street clearing, household refuse collection, and top-notch engineering projects are the norm for the department.

In addition to annual street crack sealing projects, catch-basins repairs, storm drainage ditch and culvert maintenance, the streets division performed quarterly large trash collections, repaired and replaced traffic control signs, made pavement repairs, operated the street sweeper, completed leaf pickup program, and maintained equipment. Snow and ice removal was an important task during the winter months.

The refuse division collected 4,700 tons of household refuse during regular and bulk item pickups during 2009. Crews collected bulk items, scrap metal, scrap tires, old paint cans, used oil, and transported appliances containing Freon to Montgomery County's recycling and disposal facilities during the quarterly large trash pickups. The recycling hauling contractor removed over 450 tons of materials.

The water and wastewater divisions continued to provide excellent water and sewer services. Daily monitoring and control of the treatment and pumping operations, regular preventive maintenance for equipment and facilities, and immediate response to changing conditions and emergency situations are essential job functions. The treatment facilities were constantly monitored for quality control and all the equipment in the supply and treatment facilities experienced a regular

service schedule. Sanitary sewers were cleaned per a three-year cleaning cycle to minimize sewer stoppages. Water main breaks were promptly repaired. Water mains were flushed and fire hydrants were tested to ensure proper functioning.

Major infrastructure improvement projects and capital expenditure projects were also an important part of the 2009 activities. For example:

The annual curb and sidewalk repairs; annual repaving and crack sealing of various public roadways; and annual retracing of pavement markings was completed.

Annual traffic counts as required by MVRPC were completed.

Construction of the S. Alex Rd Bridge was completed in December thanks to an Ohio Public Works Commission application.

Construction of the Traffic Signal Interconnect project along S. Alex Road also took place with assistance from a federal grant.

The Farmersville-W.C. Road Flooding Study was continued and included revisions to the FEMA map near the bridge over the Great Miami River to correctly reflect existing conditions.

Construction of the SR741 Enhancement Project, including sidewalk and landscaping improvements along SR741 from Dixie Drive to the Holes Creek bridge was completed through a joint project with the City of Moraine and a federal Transportation Enhancement grant.

Coordination with ODOT and MVRPC on design and funding for Exit 47 was continued.

Construction of concrete, catch basin and sewer repairs was completed



Several major improvement projects were completed in 2009 including Gibbons Rd.

assistance from a federal grant administered by Montgomery County CDBG.

Engineering for the second phase of the Gibbons Road Enhancements project along Gibbons Road and Owl Creek was completed with money from a Federal Transportation Enhancement Grant.

A FY10 application for a Montgomery County Development Block Grant for design assistance for the Farmersville – West Carrollton Road Flooding Improvement project was submitted and approved for funding.

An Ohio Public Works Commission application was submitted and approved for the re-painting of the Skyview Water Reservoir, scheduled to be done in 2010.



1,500 tons of salt were used in 2009

### 2009 By the Numbers

Water Treatment Plant produced **362** million gallons of water

Concentrate Pond treated **62** million gallons of wastewater from the softening process

Wastewater Treatment Plant treated **459** million gallons of wastewater

Nearly **1,750** tons of biosolids were taken from the Wastewater Treatment Plant

Streets division used **1,500** tons of salt for snow and ice removal

Refuse Division collected **4,700** tons of household refuse

Recycling Contractor removed **450** tons of materials