

City of Norwalk – A Year in Review

I have been with the City of Norwalk for a year and wanted to share some accomplishments for that time frame. It is important to remember that none of these accomplishments are achieved as an individual. They are completed with the direction of the City Council, the work of many talented staff members at all levels of the organization, the partnership of community organizations and our citizen volunteers.

The following accomplishments are broken down into four main categories. They include the City's financial health, community outreach, economic development and Beautification.

Financial Health

- Maintained or expanded services to the community while maintaining a steady levy rate.
- Employee Health Insurance Plan Savings – Identified health insurance plan design changes to reduce health care costs for an actual premium reduction of \$36,000. **By going through the design plan changes, we avoided a \$90,000 increase.**
- General Fund Savings – Saved approximately \$235,000 to the general fund in fiscal year 2013 and nearly \$200,000 in fiscal year 2014 by reapportioning expenses related to development.
- Capital Improvement Plan – Created a five year capital improvement plan that includes identified funding sources.
- Grants and Cost Savings – Saved more than \$26,000 in interest costs by refinancing a bond through the WRA (Wastewater Reclamation Authority). Brought in more than \$13,000 in miscellaneous grants.

Community Outreach

- City Boards and Commissions - Modernized the structure of the Parks and Recreation Commission, enhancing representation from the broader community and a more diverse age group, including a youth representative.
- Expanded Communication - Started the monthly "Community Chat" events allowing residents the opportunity to visit informally with city representatives. A bi-weekly electronic City newsletter was created to keep residents informed.

Economic Development

- Partnership Opportunities – Partnered with Warren County Economic Development Corporation to host the Commercial Real Estate Forum Trends and Issues Breakfast, which brought nearly 200 key development players into Norwalk. This was the first time this event was held in Warren County.
- Home Show 2014 – Landed the 2014 Home Show, which will bring up to 15,000 people to Norwalk. This is the first time this event is being held in Norwalk.

Beautification

- Nuisance Enforcement - Placed a greater emphasis on nuisance enforcement and abatement, which represents a coordinated effort from many departments.

- City Entrances – Working with the Public Works Department to produce better maintained entrances in all directions to the community.
- Cherry Parkway – Created a beautification plan for Cherry Parkway.

The list above is only a brief snapshot of what we have been able to accomplish at the City of Norwalk in just one year. Staff and Leadership are actively working to create goals for the next fiscal year, which includes significant reconstruction on Wakonda Drive and Holly Drive; planning for the replacement of the City's pool; additional commercial growth; entryway beautification planning; city entryway sign construction and expanded trail connections. I am impressed with the vision for the community and by the enthusiasm of staff members to tackle these ambitious goals.

If you have questions about these or any of the City's accomplishments or goals, please do not hesitate to call on me. Thank you.

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City Manager

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