

Mayor's Report
February 2013

This month I learned how strong our community is.

On January 13th, I suffered a stroke which affected my speech. Having thought that I was too young to experience such a life-changing event, I soon learned that some things are beyond our control. We are challenged to make the best of bad situations.

With the help of my family, City Hall colleagues, Council, Department Directors, residents and friends, I have successfully started my recovery. Because of the fine people I have mentioned, I can proudly report that "business went on as usual" at City Hall. Our residents should not have been concerned about the status of our city during my convalescence because so many strong people stepped up to help out. For this, I thank everyone for their assistance, and thoughts and prayers. It certainly helped to ease the burden during my illness.

I am pleased to report that I am back at work at City Hall and actively leading the day-to-day operations as we ease into 2013.

I presented the State of the Cities report at the Willoughby Area Chamber of Commerce's luncheon (with the help of my narrator Council President Dave Reichelt) recently and was pleased to report that we will be welcoming some new businesses into our community, including Dollar Tree, O'Reilly Auto Parts and Rally's, as well a senior housing facility near Chagrin North medical complex at Routes 6 and 91. In this tough economic climate, we are pleased to be able to report some new things happening in our community.

I have concerns about the lack of government funding, including reduction in property tax revenue and inheritance tax. This, coupled with the necessity to provide health care to employees working 30 hours or more has certainly put a strain on our finances. We can only hope that our economic development will continue to bring positive results, hopefully on a larger scale than what we have recently witnessed. In the meantime, I will continue to work with the department directors to reduce expenses and seek alternative funding methods. I will also continue my medical treatment to be back at 100% very soon.

Thanks again to everyone for their thoughts and prayers. They have gotten me through a tough time and are greatly appreciated.