



Important Upcoming Dates:

- July 30th—2007 year end accomplishment reports due to CDA
- Sept 5—Sept 20—Public Comment Period for Year End Report
- September 30th CDA Year end report due to HUD
- October 1—1st Quarter 2008 report due to CDA

Debt Service & Public Improvements Remain Largest Portion of CDBG Budget

DEBT SERVICE

Repayment of HUD Section 108 Loans or debt service remains the largest portion of the CDBG budget, at 26.9% of the total grant or \$1,178,271. The City of Youngstown funded several economic development projects including funding for Exal, Cantar, the downtown CIC, and housing rehabilitation with HUD loans. The principle and interest repayment is guaranteed by future grant funds and backed by the general fund. Each year the total CDBG funds have decreased and the percentage of the total debt service has increased. This year HUD allowed the city to refinance the principle on two Section 108 Loans at a lower rate of interest that will reduce our debt payment by \$20,000 per year for a total savings of over \$200,000.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

A total of \$915,000 or 22.8% of the grant amount will fund citywide street resurfacing, other community improvement projects, and lease payments for fire department equipment.

HOUSING

A total of \$888,251 or 20.2% of the grant amount will fund housing rehabilitation and related program costs, helping to maintain decent affordable housing in the city.

ADMINISTRATION

A total of \$768,447 or 17.5% of the grant amount will cover the administrative costs incurred by the city in CDA operations.

PUBLIC SERVICE

A total of \$415,000 or 9.5% of the grant amount will fund programs that deliver a service that provides direct benefit to Low-moderate

income people within the city. Programs include the summer park program and various community centers located within the city.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A total of \$85,000 or 1.9% of the grant amount will fund disadvantaged business assistance provided by MYCAP.

OTHER

A total of \$45,000 or 1.2% of the total grant will fund the HUD mandated fair housing program and continued Youngstown 2010 neighborhood planning activities.

Youngstown City Council passed the CDBG budget May 7, 2008 and the funding application was sent to HUD May 15th for the 2008-2009 Funding Year

Most 2008 Funding Agreements Approved

As of July 1st 2008 (The starting date of our Fiscal Year) most of the 2008-2009 funding agreements have been approved by the board of control. All of the ESG agreements have been approved and only few of the HOME and CDBG grant agreements are awaiting the required documentation from the subrecipients. The fact that most agreements have already been executed is

a testament to the hard work of the CDA staff. Equally important is the fact that a mandatory pre-funding training was conducted with all newly funded activities. This attributed to the smooth exchange of all the necessary documentation required prior to executing an agreement. Based on this successful start, we look forward to a very productive year.

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Save America's Neighborhoods: Feds to Enact Community Stabilization Funding

Congress is expected to consider important housing stimulus legislation included in HR 3221 (Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008) that would include a minimum of \$4 billion in emergency grants to facilitate the purchase of foreclosed homes by cities in targeted areas for the purpose of rehabilitation and resale. This will help to stabilize communities and stop the cycle of disinvestment. The support of every member of Congress is important to ensure that funding is not abandoned in final negotiations. Foreclosures are rampant, up 75 percent nationally from 2006 levels. And the number of lender-owned homes nearly doubled in the fourth quarter of 2007 from the same period the year before. Homes stand vacant in communities with large numbers of foreclo-

sures, creating crime, arson hazards, draining local tax bases and dragging down neighborhood home prices. The Joint Economic Committee estimates that more than \$736 billion in housing wealth has already been lost. It predicts that more than \$1.14 trillion will be lost by the end of 2008 and another \$748 billion in 2009.

The \$4 billion federal program is estimated to:

- * Generate at least \$10 billion in economic activity nationwide.
- * Create more than 32,000 jobs.
- * Generate more than \$800 million in one-time revenue for all levels of government.
- * Restore nearly \$60 million per year in real estate tax collections by local governments.

With all the benefits it would seem unlikely that anyone would not support the program. However, the President has threatened to veto the bill calling it a bailout of lenders and borrowers. The fact is no one wins from foreclosures. After a foreclosure, both the former homeowner and the lender incur significant losses, often as much as 50 cents on the dollar. The bill, if passed would require that funds only be used to purchase discounted properties below appraised value and funds would be targeted to the hardest-hit communities. Youngstown would be an eligible recipient of the funding and will seek funding to further stabilize neighborhoods. The City of Youngstown strongly supports the passage of this bill along with many other cities and organizations.



Tree Inventory and Assessment Program

Youngstown has been recently designated a Tree City, USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation. In keeping with the Foundation's mission: "We inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees," Youngstown developed a Tree Inventory and Assessment Program. This initiative will begin with a sample inventory of the street tree population throughout the summer using i-Tree software.

The use of i-Tree is central to maintaining Youngstown's designation as a Tree City USA community. The City made a concerted effort to create an innovative, yet, practical design for its Program with the recommendations and insight of other city foresters with i-

Tree experience. Former City Forester of Cleveland and current Director of Forestry for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Ralph Sievert, explains: "The i-Tree software helped quantify the benefits of Minneapolis trees proving they are a key component of the urban infrastructure. For every dollar spent on our trees, there is a significant return on investment. They had been thought of as niceties but now are seen as necessities".

This data collection in Youngstown will make the tracking and management of city trees more efficient and cost effective. After the initial sampling is completed by City Forester, David Sturtz, with the help of community volunteers, a comprehensive

cost-benefit analysis will be performed with annual budget and expenditure data to assess the costs of management -- rather than benefits alone -- providing a platform for strategic planning.

This Program is an exciting step in the "gray to green transformation" outlined in the Youngstown 2010 Citywide Plan.

For volunteer information, contact Nicole in the Youngstown Planning Department at 330-742-8838 or planning@cityofyoungstownoh.com

"... inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees."



Neighborhood Planning Spotlight: Wick Park

“Encourage organizations to develop neighborhood plans.”

On Saturday, June 21, over sixty citizens met at the Park Vista Community Room for the second of a three part planning series designed to gather ideas for major renovations to historic Wick Park on the city’s North Side.

Community members, neighborhood groups, and YSU students along with officials from the City of Youngstown, Youngstown State University, Youngstown CityScape, Defend Youngstown, and the Design Center of Northeast Ohio spent over 2 hours to discussing short term and long term physical improvement and usage plans for the 34-acre park.

Participants divided into two groups to brainstorm for additional ways they hope the park can be improved, including:

improved lighting; making the front of the community center and the entrance to the park more defined for first-time visitors; spreading seating throughout; removing some unsightly barriers and guardrails; finding a more discreet location for trash bins; redesigning a play area to make it easier for parents to supervise their youngsters; having smaller parking lots as opposed to one large one; forming public and private partnerships; creating areas for musical performance and a field for casual athletic recreation; placement of benches around the park perimeter; diagonal parking around park on Elm/Broadway/Park Ave; wireless Internet access, and creating sensible, accessible trail networks.

A final community planning meeting will take place in approximately 60 days with an implementation strategy and timeline to follow.

For more information on the Wick Park Project or to receive information about upcoming planning meetings, visit: www.WickParkProject.blogspot.com



Economic Developments: Float Loans

Youngstown City Council approved nearly eight million dollars in float loans (18 months/0% interest) this year to five business expanding or located in Youngstown.

1) The downtown housing development project will receive a \$2 million float loan.

2) A River Bend Industrial park business will receive a \$1 million float loan for its expansion project.

3) A \$ 1.1 million float loan was approved for a business relocation project.

4) A Tennessee based company will be locating an automobile

salvage business in the Ohio Works business park. The company will also be receiving \$2 million float loan.

5) A \$1.8 million float loan will be going to a business expansion project located in the Salt Springs business park.

Just My Opinion: “What’s the Story Morning Glory?”



That was an album title of the 90’s English rock band Oasis. I heard the saying before the album hit the charts and have no idea where it originated from or the meaning of the phrase. When it comes to Youngstown or more like the “Youngstown story” it seems the story has already been written. The story still being told is the old rust-belt, high crime, city that once upon a time was something more. Enter Youngstown 2010 and the story

changes at least within certain national and international media outlets. An innovator in dealing with social, economic, and population decline is the new “Youngstown story” being whispered. A challenge exists to get the new message, the right message, out all the time. With Ohio being “in play” again during the upcoming national election, the candidates will be visiting again with the national media. We missed getting the new Youngstown story out

during the primary season. When the candidates and the media come back around, what will the Youngstown story be? Who will tell it? A simple, positive media piece should be prepared and disseminated to the national media when they, and they most certainly will, return. Call it PR or “spin” either way it is time to shape a more accurate image of the changing Youngstown. The image of an emerging, diverse survivor.

Community Development Agency

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HUD's mission is to increase homeownership, support community development and increase access to affordable housing free from discrimination. To fulfill this mission, HUD will embrace high standards of ethics, management and accountability and forge new partnerships--particularly with faith-based and community organizations--that leverage resources and improve HUD's ability to be effective on the community level.

Visit us on the Web at:
WWW.CityofYoungstownoh.org
WWW.Youngstown2010.com

CDA's Mission is to positively impact on the quality of life for city residents while remaining sensitive to their needs and concerns. To accomplish this, CDA will efficiently and effectively administer resources to help eliminate slum and blight in neighborhoods, foster suitable and positive living environments, and expand economic opportunities. Resources will be amplified by partnering with organizations having similar missions. Services will be provided in a manner that is fair, consistent, compliant and professional, with respect for the dignity of the citizens served.

Youngstown 2010: Behind The Name & Logo

The name, **Youngstown 2010**, was conceived by the City/ YSU planning team back in 2002. Discussions revolved around how often a comprehensive plan should be completed, updated or reviewed. It was also noted that U.S. Census data is compiled every ten years, with the latest year completed in 2000. With that, the name Youngstown 2010 was born!

stage and will be updated every ten years as directed by a charter amendment passed in 2004 by 74% of Youngstown voters. It is unlikely that any changes will be made because the plan will only be five years old in 2010.

Many projects have begun in the community that compliment the City's 2010 Vision. For example, the Police Department's new K-9 unit directly addresses the 2010 Vision principle "Improving Neighborhood Safety". And the new Tree Inventory & Assessment Program coordinated by the City Forester

and the Youngstown Planning Department contributes greatly to the Vision principle "A Greener Community".



The four swooshes in the 2010 logo represent government, education, business and community. It will be the combined effort from all of these sectors that help implement Youngstown 2010 and that work goes well beyond the year 2010.



It has been over 50 years since the last comprehensive plan was started in 1951. The Youngstown 2010 City-wide Plan was adopted by the Planning Commission and City Council in the summer of 2005. The 2010 Plan is now in the implementation