

Village of Stryker, Ohio

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MAYOR
Joey Beck

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL
Terry Wieland

VILLAGE FISCAL OFFICER
Beth Rediger

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Rex Blevins
Brook Oberlin
Robert Sperling
Rick Wityk
Tracy Wyse

DEPUTY CLERK
Emily Clemens

ADMINISTRATOR
Gary L. St. John

March 21, 2016

Stryker Residents:

As the new Mayor of Stryker, I want to give you a State of the Village address. Stryker has not been completely immune to some of the same trends our nation has faced in recent years. Fortunately your council members have been working diligently to endure these difficult times. Stryker Village council and its employees work very hard, doing what we believe is best for the village.

Many of you are aware that during the second quarter of last year, A. Schulman closed down its production in their Stryker facility. The projections shared with this village was, continued, steady production, however this changed. As a result the village will have revenue loss of approximately \$45,000 per year. There have been companies showing interest in purchasing the building but to date no signed contracts. I want to assure you, as elected officials, we are taking a proactive approach towards economic growth. This can be seen by the recent hiring of an independent contractor, Patsy Mealer. She is the driving force behind Economic growth. Mrs. Mealer's first task is to understand our current businesses, then work towards attracting others. Stryker has downtown storefronts that are empty. The Village owns over 30 acres of ground that is an ideal site for construction. I believe Patsy Mealer will be a valuable asset to the Village by helping with economic development.

- There are positive signs within our village, companies are seeing increased growth and sales.
- Sauder Manufacturing is hiring
- Dalton Corporation is researching expansion
- Woolace & Johnson purchased the former Stryker Medical Center building
- Jagger Cone partnered with an ice cream company and has been approached to produce a product for a large company.
- Grieser Funeral Home relocated to an empty downtown building
- Stryker Welding is utilizing their recent expansion
- Subway was purchased by a Stryker resident
- Stryker Main Stop has settled into their new building
- Many other businesses have done an amazing job keeping their doors open in a less than favorable market.

In the last few years, the Village has struggled with funding in the General Fund due to state cuts in revenue; this has directly affected our Police Department. In November, voters passed ballot language allowing to reallocate some of the .5% income tax revenue from the capital projects fund to the general fund. This can only be done when the village sewer loan debt is paid off, scheduled for July 2017. Our Fiscal Officer Beth Rediger and Council did an amazing job to see that far into the future and present it to voters.


In other news Deputy Clerk, Peggy St. John, retired on February 17, 2016. As a result of her retirement council hired Emily Clemens as a part-time Deputy Clerk. Emily brings a lot of experience to the office having worked for five years as a State auditor and most recently employed by a local law firm.

Village Administrator, Gary St. John, submitted a letter stating his retirement date is August 31, 2016. Upon council receiving and accepting his letter, council then promoted Water/Sewer Supervisor Alan Riegsecker to Administrator in training. Mr. Riegsecker will absorb the administrator duties when Mr. St. John is done.

Stryker is losing valuable experience and knowledge with these two retirements, both have done an outstanding job preparing their replacements for success. Council and myself are confident in the abilities of these newly placed people.

As Mayor, I am thankful for each and every business and resident of this great community. I look forward to working with Council and all residents.

Sincerely



Mayor Joey Beck