

Mayor's Message, Fall 2009

As summer winds down, the village's 2009 street projects are coming to a close. So far this year, High Street has been repaved and some bricks on the crosswalks replaced or reset. Thrush Drive was repaved, and portions of the pavement in Ashbrook Village, Winchester Village and The Villages of Westchester were repaired and reconditioned as part of our street maintenance program.

The public parking lot behind Shade on the Canal was repaved and restriped, which improved flow and added 11 parking spaces to this lot. Two parking spots were also added on High Street, for a total of 13 additional parking spaces in the downtown area.

One project still on the agenda for 2009 is the repaving of Waterloo Street, from Washington Street east to the Fairfield County line. This project is being handled by Franklin County through stimulus dollars awarded to Canal Winchester, and is expected to be complete this fall.

We continue to work with SWACO and Waste Management to try to minimize the negative impact SWACO's proposed modifications to its waivers authorizing out-of-district solid waste disposal would have on Waste Management. SWACO's proposed changes would require Waste Management and other private haulers to dispose of more solid waste in Franklin County's landfill, which would cost Waste Management more than using their current company-owned landfill. As a result, the curbside pickup rate Waste Management charges residents could increase to cover their costs.

If the amount of waste SWACO requires to be disposed of in Franklin County becomes too significant, Waste Management could close its operation in Canal Winchester. This would have a significant impact on the community, including:

- A loss of over 270 jobs, resulting in a decrease in the amount of income tax collected (one of the biggest revenue generators for the village)
- An increase in curbside pickup rates, currently calculated at a reduced rate for Canal Winchester residents through a host community agreement
- A decrease in revenue for the village, which currently receives 80 cents for every ton of solid waste that Waste Management hauls

SWACO plans to make a decision on the amount of waste it will require private haulers to dispose of in Franklin County by November 1. In the meantime, we will continue to work diligently to try to persuade SWACO's policy makers to reconsider the modifications that are being proposed for their waivers. It's my hope that we'll be able to come to a resolution with minimal impact on Waste Management, the Village of Canal Winchester and its residents.

Sincerely,

Michael Ebert
Mayor of Canal Winchester