

It is an honor to present the 2011 State of the City Address and a privilege to serve as your Mayor. I am delighted to welcome everyone here and watching at home. I want to thank the Chamber for hosting this annual event and recognize and give my deepest thanks to my fellow council members, city manager, department heads, city employees, community groups, volunteers, business leaders, faith based organizations, non-profit groups, and to the education professionals who work hard to make Clawson the city it is today. I'd like to thank the Clawson School Staff who are here. It is important that the City and school district have a strong relationship so we can share ideas to support a sense of community and work together on projects, large or small, to maximize our planning to make Clawson a great place to raise a family. There is a sense of satisfaction in life serving one's community and working for the common good, and there is much to be proud of in Clawson. We have built on the accomplishments of generations past and laid a foundation for a stronger future.

This is the time when we look back through the last twelve months to note our accomplishments, our strengths and our weaknesses .

Let's start with our accomplishments. Throughout the city we experienced a business investment of over one million dollars, and 74 new jobs were created in Clawson with the arrival of Quality Associates on Anderson Street, Off the Wagon grocery store on Crooks, The Drive In, Every Day Yoga, Amazon Stingray, Hair Razor and Nick's Country Oven on 14 Mile Road, Cars 4 You and Salon Oggi on Main Street, Blood Line Tattoo's, Smokers Outlet and JP Homes on Rochester along with temporary businesses of two campaign offices and Halloween USA. This year we will see the construction of a new Social Security Administration building on the north side of CVS at Crooks and 14 Mile Road. Another upcoming new restaurant will be a gourmet chili business on 14 Mile. These two developments will also bring a significant investment of money into Clawson.

On the construction front in Clawson, we watched the reconstruction of Elmwood Avenue from Main Street to Selfridge. This project utilized most all of the last bond money for road repair approved by voters a few years ago. We will also see the end result of a streetscape program with banners on new streetlights and flowers in planter boxes this year in our downtown area.

Additional on street parking was added on 14 Mile Road along with a shared parking agreement by business owners from Church Street to Pare Street (Old Port Inn, Renshaw Lounge and Dunkin Donuts) which allowed the elimination of six driveways by the business owners and a reconfiguration of the parking lot. The sidewalk improvement program began replacing sidewalks north of 14 Mile Road, between Main Street and Rochester Road. The sidewalk program this year will continue its progress in the same area. This program is funded by a \$25.00 annual fee collected for the purpose of maintaining safe sidewalks in our community. We planted over 400 trees in the park and along roads last year and continue to be recognized as a Tree City USA. In 2011 we will see an upgrade to the traffic signals at 14 Mile and Rochester and four electronic speed control signs with the signs placed at 14 Mile and Washington, 14 Mile and Bellevue,

Phillips and Main Street, and Walper and Main Street. These traffic signal and speed control signs have been funded through a safety grant providing 80 % of the fees. We will continue our pavement patching program, repairing sections of pavement following underground utility maintenance work. We will be able to install the “old, new” street lights in Clawson City Park, using the Community Development Block Grant funds.

Let’s talk about our strengths. We are pleased to hire Mark Pollock as our permanent city manager and part time finance director, whose experience and demeanor make him an excellent choice for our city manager. We are also fortunate to have hired Michael Smith as Deputy City Clerk, who keeps us organized. Tim McKernan retired from our police department after 26 years of service. Most of you will remember Tim for his work with the 4th of July activities. Bill Witte retired from our police department after 24 years. Bill was an easily recognizable soul because of his spirit of volunteerism in the city. Jake Shearer was our one police officer to join the ranks in 2010 and his enthusiasm to serve and protect is noted. Brad Orville became our first Police Department Chaplain. Linda Brookins, our Administrative Assistance for 24 years, retired earlier this year and we hired Angie Maxwell as our part-time bookkeeper. We were also able to welcome Trevor Zablocki in the DPW, and we were familiar with his work ethic through his past employment with the city as a seasonal DPW worker. Our DPW is also famous among southeastern Michigan cities for their fantastic job of snow shoveling.

A library bond was approved to expand the library, giving us the much needed 40% more space, a larger parking lot and an updated design to include energy efficient operations. In the next few months you will see more information regarding funding for library operations. The bathrooms in city hall were renovated to comply with the American Disability Act and we were able to install new kitchen countertops and closet doors in the City Hall Community Room. We purchased bullet proof vests and two police vehicles, turnout gear, jaws of life and fire safety equipment for the fire department, and upgraded areas in the DPW and at Hunter. The DPW purchased one mower.

Our police department recently held their second annual fundraiser for a scholarship program for those interested in a criminal justice degree and held their first backpack fundraiser, filling the backpacks with school supplies and distributing the backpacks at our schools. A great example of collaboration between groups is Blessings in a Backpack, funded by the North Woodward Community Foundation who provided \$17,000.00 in seed money to collect backpacks filled with food to distribute to Clawson students, ensuring those students of nutritious meals on the weekends.

The Parks and Recreation Board completed a newly defined bicycle path through Clawson that takes us around the park. Long range goals would be to connect the bike path to neighboring cities. The Senior Center is able to publish a monthly newsletter that is on average eight pages full of events for Clawson seniors. One of the new events this year is a Tables of Treasure Sale on April 2nd. The Historical Museum is also publishing a newsletter with a most recent issue describing the kit homes we have in Clawson. Our Teen Center continues to offer safe, fun programs for middle school youth after school and is responsible for our annual Camping in Clawson Park, which will be July 29th this

year. City hall staff volunteered their time, and dollars, to make Random Acts of Kindness a success and donate money to organizations through casual day.

Let's talk about our budget. The budget is the primary policy making tool in the city. Through the budget, the Mayor and Council establish priorities and allocate resources which define the policy for the year. The budget should reflect the needs and priorities of city services that are provided to those of us who live and work in Clawson and are paid through our taxes. It is the single most important municipal document that affects the lives of Clawson. Two years ago our budget included a surplus over \$700,000.00. Last year our surplus was almost \$400,000.00. This year we are experiencing a deficit of 10% of our budget of seven million dollars due to the decline in property tax revenue. We are creative in making good use of our money. . Budget workshops are scheduled for April of this year and in those workshops we will determine the asset allocation and how we will be able to reduce the budget by 10% while maintaining the city services that we have come to love and expect.

Our sewer debt was transferred from the water bill to the county tax bill last year, allowing us to increase management of the budget appropriately. This year we will actively pursue delinquent water bills, and in order to avoid a water shut off situation, you are encouraged to make payment arrangements with city staff.

As a city, we have an obligation to ensure the safety of those who live and work within our two and a half square mile boundary and a moral obligation to create hope in the lives of all people. A need for shared sacrifices and for sacrifices to be equally shared may be needed in order to accomplish our task of a safe and good quality lifestyle in Clawson.

At our goal planning workshop last week, we prioritized a freeze on all spending in the upcoming budget year, and plan on creating a two year budget projection to help stabilize and manage our finances effectively. We'd like to develop a program to increase recycling. We'd like to host a city wide open house to showcase our businesses, city and school buildings and available real estate properties. We will continue to explore energy efficient options in new buildings and present buildings. We have a wish list of new visitor bleachers at the city park, a community events calendar that is all inclusive of civic and non profit groups in Clawson, a restroom at Grant Park, increasing use of electronic media, ie facebook, developing a program of informational segments to be shown on our cable channel, developing a cultural arts program, where art from residents is on display in city buildings, and finally, beginning a Youth Council. Our youth, while not having voting privileges, are still constituents of Clawson and able to take ownership & responsibility in our community which will ensure a healthy growing relationship for years to come.

Our community is changing, but one thing that is not changing is our ability to come together and capitalize on our strengths even during a slow economic recovery. As a community, we will provide a financially sustainable budget, provide excellent city services and be known as a leader in customer service and superior service. Our core services of public safety, infrastructure, library and parks and recreation are the

investments that contribute most directly towards establishing a high quality of life and place in Clawson and an environment for economic activity to flourish. We want to protect our talent in our various departments. We want to employ new technologies. We want to increase productivity, efficiency, transparency and participation at the city level. Good government will always require a standard of ethics to do what is right for our city.

In closing, I would like to report that community events are a forte in Clawson, from our 4th of July activities to the Lions Club Car Show to our Farmers Market, Movie Night on Main Street, and Relay for Life to name a few, along with a celebration of traditions such as Youth Assistance's Trick or Treat Trail, Santa's arrival by fire truck to Clawson and the Jimmy Marvin Benefit Fundraiser, All of the events are a result of the good works of our civic and non profit groups in the city.

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy. Martin Luther King, 1963.

Thank you all for coming and God Bless.