

## FY 2009 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Fiscal Year 2009 City of Carbondale Budget included four Community Goals that guided City Government activities during the past year: These four goals and accomplishments within each are highlighted below.

### ***I. Economic Development and Community Growth:***

The City's top priority goal was Economic Development and Community Growth. The City's commitment to economic development was demonstrated by the financial support for the City's Economic Development Division, Carbondale Convention and Tourism Bureau, Carbondale Main Street, and the City's continued emphasis on expanding and improving its infrastructure.

In FY 2009, the Development Services Department continued its supporting role to a number of development activities. Staff continues to work with the Assistant City Manager for Economic Development and other economic development agencies to respond promptly and professionally to requests for development related information.

In FY 2009, announcements were made for the opening of Stadium Grille and Fat Patties in downtown Carbondale and the relocation of First Bank and Trust of Murphysboro to West Park Plaza. New businesses opening included Ice Man Industries, Aldi's Grocery, Inner City Merchant, Backstreet Entertainment, ACE Taxi, Polar Investments, Jazzy Pops, Southern Que BBQ, Spot Light Bar & Grill and Family BBQ House. Alliance Investments moved downtown to a completely renovated office building. New businesses in the SIU Student Center included Chick-fil-a, Wild Greens, Rio Frontera and Saluki Oasis.

Several businesses remodeled throughout the community: Royal Plaza Inn, Sunset Motel, Best Inns, Quality Inn, Bank of Carbondale, Universal Glass, Southern Illinois Piping Contractors, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Southern Recycling, Big Muddy Independent Media Center, Don Taco and All American Hearing. Country Goddess moved and expanded on South Illinois Avenue as did Fish Net in Murdale Shopping Center. Jimmy John's is also relocating and expanding on South Illinois Avenue.

Kline and Cook Dental opened in the Qualls Plaza Shopping Center and construction began on the new Comfort Inn & Suites at Reed Station Road. Simple Spinal Health & Medical Center and Shawnee Hills Oral &

Maxillofacial Surgery Center opened in Office Place at Reed Station Parkway.

During FY 2009, there were 101 new construction permits issued at an estimated cost of \$33,510,780 of the \$33,510,780 approximately \$14.3 million was new commercial construction or additions.

There were 17 new single unit dwelling construction permits issued in the city limits for the Fiscal Year ended 4/30/2009.

### ***II. Provide Quality Services With Fiscal Responsibility:***

At the close of FY 2009, the City of Carbondale is in sound financial condition. The FY 2010 Budget estimates the General Fund's ending fund balance on April 30, 2009, to be \$7,384,128 which is consistent with the established financial policies for the City. During FY 2009, the General Fund's fund balance is estimated to increase approximately \$257,827 which represents a 3.6 percent increase. Revenues in the General Fund are estimated to have been \$21,660,930, in FY 2009, compared to estimated expenditures of \$19,973,108 plus Other Financing Uses of \$1,429,995.

Sales tax revenues during FY 2009 experienced a decline. The regular one percent sales tax revenues were estimated to be \$5,794,709, a decrease of 2.6 percent over FY 2008 revenues. The City's Home Rule Sales Tax revenues was estimated to be \$6,290,263, an increase of 29.2 percent over FY 2008 revenues.

During FY 2008, the City Council approved an increase of an additional ½ percent Home Rule Sales Tax which became effective January 1, 2008. Of this increase, ¼ percent is designated to pass through to Southern Illinois University in an amount not to exceed one million dollars annually over a period of twenty years. These funds will be used to assist the University in the payment of costs associated with the Saluki Way project. The remaining portion of the ½ percent Home Rule Sales Tax increase will be retained by the City of Carbondale to be used in funding General Fund operations.

The Water and Sewer Fund had an Estimated Ending Fund working balance at April 30, 2009, of \$2,784,075, a decrease of \$306,158 during the fiscal year.

In FY 2009, City Government levied no property tax and Carbondale Public Library property tax levy was increased by 4.99 percent.

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The City once again earned national recognition with the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award and the Award of Achievement for the Excellence in Financing Reporting for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report from the Government Finance Officers Association. The Police Department continued its status of national accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies. The City was again designated as a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Foundation for the 28<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.

### ***III. Encourage Citizen Participation and Community Pride:***

The City continued its practice of encouraging citizen participation by actively seeking diverse representation on advisory boards and commissions.

In FY 2009, 46,000 copies of the *Carbondale Communique'* were distributed bi-monthly as inserts in three local newspapers. CityVision Channel 16 televised live City Council meetings and Planning Commission meetings on local cable television. The City honored several outstanding youth in the community at a City Council meeting.

The City, through its Human Relations Commission, continued the Study Circles program. This local effort, Carbondale Conversations for Community Action, facilitates widespread community involvement in discussing issues of local importance and the formulation of action plans to address the issues.

### ***IV. Strengthen and Promote Neighborhood Living***

In FY 2009, the City continued the Mandatory Rental Inspection Program designed to inspect the rental dwellings in Carbondale to ensure the units are in compliance with the City's codes.

In FY 2009, the City administered the Illinois Housing Development Authority's HOME Single Family Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program (SFOOR), the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's (DCEO) Community Development Assistance Housing Program (CDAP), and the Illinois Housing Development Authority's HOME Homebuyer Program.

SFOOR targeted the Tatum Heights Neighborhood and

portions of Northwest and Northeast Carbondale to rehabilitate the homes of low to moderate income residents. The City rehabilitated 5 homes in FY 2009 under the SFOOR Program.

The Community Development Assistance Program Housing Rehabilitation Grant in FY 2009 rehabilitated 10 homes of low to very low income residents in a portion of Northeast Carbondale.

With the assistance of Western Egyptian Economic Opportunity Council, the City used HOME Homebuyer grant funds to enable five low to moderate income persons to purchase and rehabilitate homes in the City.