

To chip and seal our roads or not to chip and seal our roads, that is one of several questions that will be answered on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Our office gets complaints every summer when roads are chip and sealed because of the dust and loose gravel. Most of our city streets have a base of either asphalt or concrete. Once a paved street is in need of repair it becomes part of the city's chip and seal program. Although inexpensive there are many drawbacks to chip and seal.

1. Any imperfections in the road subsurface become worse under a chip and seal program. With an asphalt paving program roads in need will be ground down and pavement will be restored to the correct height and level. Proper street drainage will also be restored.
2. Loose gravel from chip and seal ends up in citizens' yards and in the storm sewer pipes. Once in the storm sewer the gravel leads to a build-up of silt that needs to be cleaned out. This process of silting, clogging, and cleaning adds labor and equipment costs plus shortens the life of the storm sewer system.
3. Chip and seal needs to be performed every three years. Asphalt will last ten or more years depending on the amount of traffic on the road. Restored concrete roads can last up to twenty years.

In the last Newsletter it was mentioned that the City of Canal Fulton and Lawrence Township were considering the creation of a Joint Recreation Board to facilitate bringing a Health & Wellness Center to our community. After several meetings between city and township officials and members of our local TAP committee it was decided that developing a Joint Economic Development District (JEDD) might be a better first step. A JEDD would allow for private investments to pay for most of the infrastructure and construction costs of a Health & Wellness Center as opposed to higher taxes.

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission has agreed to assist Canal Fulton and Lawrence Township in the development of a Joint Comprehensive Plan. Land use, traffic, open space preservation, and economic development were among the main issues expressed by city and township officials when we met with them last month. The county planning commission is drafting a proposal that will be presented at our next meeting in May.

Lastly, the City of Canal Fulton was successful in getting \$234,300 in Clean Ohio Funds toward the purchase of 70 acres of open space including the Tuscarawas River corridor northwest of town just north of Warwick Dr. The local matching funds for the grant were provided by the property owner, Don Shultz of Canal Fulton Farms, LLC. The city was concerned about additional flooding that would occur downtown as property upstream is developed. Land acquired with Clean Ohio Funds must remain as perpetual open space. The natural beauty and wildlife habitat in that area will now remain in tact for future generations.