

# Charlack Newsletter

## Message from your Mayor:

For the Month of December, 2006

2006 is now over...what will 2007 bring for the City of Charlack? On the back of this newsletter, as I do every year, I have what I hope 2007 will bring for us. I also have the Year in Review on the back. We reached some of our goals for 2006 and fell short on others. As Mayor, I continue to set high standards for myself and the Board of Aldermen so that Charlack can continue to be a productive, viable community. We have a lot of plans coming up this year including the City Hall building, once again the possibility of annexation (based on what the professional consultants advice is) and our Comprehensive Plan should be completed, which will allow Charlack to be development ready, just in case we have the opportunity for another major revenue generating business to come to Charlack. I hope you all had a good 2006 and have plans to make 2007 even better. One suggestion for your New Year's Resolution? Come on out to one of our events. They really are a lot of fun!!

**Charlie Evola Update:** Charlie is resting at home now. His wife Teri told me that he is sleeping most of the time but knows about what we have done for him in regards to the fundraisers. He told me recently that all he wants to do is sit at our park with a cup of coffee and an donut in the mornings like he used to everyday. We still have a few tables open for the trivia night if you are interested. I have posted a flyer on our website on the home page and on the "newsletter" page at the bottom. We have received many donations and table reservations from our residents. By the way, you don't have to play to come up and bid on the raffle and silent auction items! Teri Evola is amazed at what we do as a small community. She is so grateful. If you're praying folks, keep them in your prayers.

**Christmas Trees:** Our Public Works department will be picking up Christmas trees until January 19<sup>th</sup>. Set them out front any day of the week. Peter will be canvassing the town daily to pick them up.

**Tree Limbs:** Public Works has completed picking up limbs from the recent ice storm. If you still have limbs out front or in your yard, you will need cut them up and hold them until yard waste resumes in April. I don't know if you have had a chance to drive by the location for the new City Hall, but if you did, you will see how much damage this storm actually did! The lot is full!

**Election Filing:** Election filing is still open and will remain open until January 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm. Once again, seats up for re-election are Alderman Ward 1 (currently held by Alderman Andre Morice) and Alderman Ward 2 (currently held by Alderman Lisa Buschmann).

**New City Hall:** The Board has approved the City of Charlack to enter into an agreement with Tom Hall, who will be the architect for the building of our new City Hall. Tom will be working to get us a set of finalized preliminary drawings for the Board to approve. I have scheduled a Public Hearing (see next topic) so that the residents will have an opportunity to provide input. Approving the drawings still allows changes to be made and if there are points brought up by residents that could affect the outcome of our City Hall, we will certainly have discussions. I am excited about this next step as it shows the residents and the employees that our City continues to move in a positive direction.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** There is a Public Hearing scheduled for Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at City Hall at 7:00pm. This will be an opportunity for the elected officials and the residents to discuss plans for the new City Hall. This is an exciting time for us!

**Santa Parade:** We had another great turnout for this years visit from Santa. We even had Channel 5 News come by to give us some good PR!! Santa & Mrs. Claus came through on horse drawn carriage and gave candy to all the kids and chocolates for our seniors. (It sure beats the convertible that we had to use last year!)

**Charlack Events:** While I am talking about the Santa parade, I need to give "kudos" where they are due. Along with the Santa parade, all of the events that our City provided for you this past year and a half have been organized and put together mainly by two individuals. City Administrator Zella Hornal and Alderwoman Lisa Buschmann have given countless hours and effort to making these events possible. Unless you are here to see the planning and efforts put into these events, you cannot understand how much work it is, yet Lisa and Zella do this every year, and usually with a smile on their face! They enjoy doing things for the residents and I think that is a vital piece of the puzzle that makes our small community remain a community and not just a sub-division in St. Louis County. I appreciate what they do for us. Also a thanks goes out to Peter, our Public Works employee for doing a lot of the background stuff to get these events to happen. It has been discussed by a Board member at some meetings to discontinue the events we have for our residents, but the majority of the Board feel strongly that this is a great way to keep our community strong and give all of us an avenue to meet with and enjoy our neighbors. Thanks again!

By the way, Lisa and Zella have already begun planning what events we will have next year and when they will be. As soon as they get their schedule together, I will send out a "For the Fridge" calendar with dates and times!

**Charlack Web Page:** I just looked at the "hit counter" at the bottom of the web page. It sits at 4992. Only eight away from 5000 hits. I never would have imagined that this little old web page would be so welcomed by the community. I thank everyone for their comments and suggestions on the "Contact Us" section. Looks like the web page will be a keeper!

**Christmas Lighting Contest Winners:** Congratulations to the winners of the Holiday Lighting Contest! Ward 2 had a great showing and whipped up on Ward 1 by having all three winners! In fact, there were 2 winners on Olden and one on Walton at the corner of Olden and Walton. What got into the folks in that area?? You could almost see all three winners at one time! Ok Ward 1, the challenge has been issued for next year! We had a great showing this year as we counted nearly 90 homes with decorations. Congrats to the following for their efforts! Well Done!:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: 8647 Olden - \$75.00

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: 2626 Walton - \$50.00

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: 8714 Olden - \$25.00

### **Up and Coming:**

Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> – Board Meeting – 7:00pm at City Hall

Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> – 5:00pm – Election Filing Closes

Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> – PUBLIC HEARING – 7:00pm at City Hall

Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup> – Last day to have Christmas tree pick up

Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> – Work Session – 7:00pm at City Hall

**Chief Palme Report:** "In 2006, the Charlack PD patrolled more than 75,990 miles, issued 4,457 summons' and made 584 arrests. Overall, I think that the Police Department made a good showing in the past year. I am happy to report that overall thefts are down compared to last year. Burglaries have decreased by 40% compared to last year. It is clear that we have a good balance between patrol and traffic enforcement. I hope to see continued improvements and to remain pro-active in enforcement as we strive to provide the excellent service for our residents. I would also like to thank all of our officers for their hard work. I also thank the residents for your help and cooperation. Please remember, we are here to serve you."

Each year for the December newsletter, I put in our "Year in Review" and our "Crystal Ball" for the upcoming year. Last years "Crystal Ball" had several items that we were able to accomplish. Those items will show in in the "Year in Review." The items that we were not able to accomplish in 2006 include the creek project at the park, the construction of a sound barrier wall along the highway at the park, and the resurrection of the Board of Adjustments. I have talked in length with St. Louis County regarding them taking over Lackland Road and although I will continue to try, I am not confident that they will assume responsibility. I am also not confident that St. Louis County Highway Dept. will entertain the construction of a sound barrier wall along the highway for our park. I'll keep trying though!

### **Charlack's Calendar Year in Review:**

- Had the owners of Lackland Plaza start and finish the much needed facelift on their facility.
- Began work on the filling in of the creek at our park. If I could only get MSD to finalize the plans.....
- Asked the Board to revisit the possibility of annexation, this time with professionals to assist us with our decision.
- Welcomed Officer Lou Calbreath, our newest police officer, who has turned out to be a fine addition to our force.
- Hosted successful City events for our residents.
- Once again passed a budget that allows us to operate without deficit.
- Made it through the great storm of July 19<sup>th</sup>!! Asked for and received approval for emergency funds for future storms of this nature. Charlack was one of the very few communities who assisted the residents the way we did and as far as I know, the ONLY community that had no crime during that week.
- Changed trash service again, this time was not so welcoming. 100% of fees to be paid for by the residents. This allowed our budget to operate without deficit and was a necessary step for financial stability.
- Received the verbal agreement from the owner of Lackland Plaza for the much needed "facelift."
- Hired consultants to make Charlack a "Development Ready" city for future business.
- Agreed to purchase 2 new police cruisers to keep our Police Department operating efficiently.

### **The Crystal Ball for 2007:**

- Begin construction of the City of Charlack's new City Hall
- Finish the project of filling in the creek at the park.
- Resurrect the required Board of Adjustment commission to oversee our ordinances and variances.
- Begin the construction of our new City Hall.
- Complete the Comprehensive Plan for the City to make us "development ready" should that need arise.
- Have consultants finish research on the annexation process and make determination, based on their findings, to continue with the process or drop it.
- Work with the City of Overland to allow our residents to become members of their Community Center.
- Continue our efforts to make Charlack a great place to live, work and play. We have a nice community and we are strong, and yes, I am still proud to say that I am the Mayor of the City of Charlack!

*Please Be Respectful of your Neighbors!*