

**Annual Report**  
**City of Lewisburg**  
**January 1, 2010-December 31, 2010**

**Introduction**

It has been my pleasure to serve as your mayor for the last seven years. A great deal has happened over the last year, so I thought it would be good to present a summary and to point out a couple challenges on the horizon we need to prepare for.

We live in a fine community, one that is the envy of many others in the state and around the country. Fine communities do not happen by chance; they happen because a wide variety of people work hard to make it that way. Among these community builders are merchants, arts organizations, non profits, educational institutions, our churches, property owners who take pride in their properties, and people of all sorts who help out in so many ways—our numerous volunteers.

I thank you for the good work that you do.

I would also like to thank the employees of this city for their hard work and dedication to this city, its residents and its visitors. When I think of “government,” our city employees are who comes to mind—our police and fire officers who keep us safe, the workers who plow our streets and maintain our parks, who dump our trash cans, who recycle our items at our curbs, who work around the clock to provide us clean drinking water and fix the leaks to keep that water coming to our households, and the support staff who keep it all running smoothly. I am proud of our city employees, and I hope you are as well.

Thanks are also in order for each of the numerous volunteers in this city who serve on our boards and commissions. They serve without pay, they put in a lot of time and effort, and sometimes they take a lot of heat for trying to do what is best for the city as a whole.

Finally, I would like to commend the continuing commitment of the members of City Council. They participate in many meetings, both at the committee level and as a Council, and many are very lengthy and detailed. And there is prep work required prior to each meeting. Council members work hard, do their homework and engage in active discussion and debate about issues central to improving our community. I am honored to work with such a team. I would be remiss if I did not also thank our local news media for covering our numerous meetings and reporting to their readers (and listeners) what city government is doing and planning. Government cannot operate both fairly and effectively in a vacuum, and the media keeps us on our toes. Many of the items that follow have been reported upon already in the media, but it is useful to list the significant ones all in one place.

## **Accomplishments**

### **Public Works**

#### **Water**

Finalized plan for downtown waterline replacement project (construction to begin winter 2011).

Completed Comprehensive Plan of Water Treatment Plant and Distribution System.

Lewisburg water system now serves 4687 customers (1800 of them within city limits).

Provided public water to residents of Renick for the first time.

Added 200K gallon water tank in Frankford (improving fire flow).

Purchased property in Fairlea to build larger water tank to improve capacity and fire flow for southern part of service area.

Negotiated approved frequency for radio units throughout water system that will allow us to read all water meters remotely and spot leaks more quickly (\$2 million Green Stimulus Grant).

#### **Streets**

Upgraded Randolph Street between N. Jefferson Street and N. Court Street. Improvements included building 300 feet of new sidewalk, installing wrought iron fence, adding lampposts upon whose poles decorative banners are placed, repaving and relining the street, and making it a one-way street to improve safety at N. Jefferson Street/Randolph Street intersection.

Resurfaced nearly 1 mile of streets, including portions of Silo Lane, Blackbird Way, West Randolph Street, East Foster Street and Village Road.

Widened Foster Street/Holt Lane intersection.

Installed five new lampposts downtown on North and South Court Street.

Finalized plans and bid out new 219 North sidewalk project between Arbuckle Lane and Lee Street (\$400,000 Transportation Enhancement grant). Construction to begin spring 2011.

Replaced 2 hour parking signs downtown with new decorative ones.

Removed 550 dump truck loads of snow from downtown during one of the heaviest snowfall winters in memory.

#### **Parks & Recreation**

Completed Phase I of the L&R trail (0.6 mile) and started planning for Phase II.

Built new picnic shelter at Dorie Miller Park (Hollowell Foundation grant assistance).

Completed Phase I of sidewalk construction in Dorie Miller Park.

Installed new Toddler Playground at Hollowell Park.

Replaced roof on Shelter #2 at Dorie Miller Park.

### **Sanitation and Recycling**

Began electronic recycling curbside pick-up .

Contracted out trash collection services to reduce costs in the long run.

### **Fire**

Earned an Insurance Standards Office (ISO) Class 4 Public Protection Classification from auditor which reduces property owners' homeowners and fire insurance premiums for those customers whose insurance carriers use these ratings to set premiums.

Responded to 787 requests for service.

### **Police**

Renovated and moved into a new Police Department facility. Project received Community Enhancement Award from West Virginia Municipal League.

Responded to 3652 requests for service.

Provided traffic control for PGA Tournament and WV State Fair.

### **Planning and Zoning**

Adopted the State Building Code that includes the 2009 International Building Codes.

Continued review and update of Lewisburg Zoning Ordinance with Planning Commission.

Assisted in clean up and remediation of problems in Lamplighter Subdivision which included the demolition of two abandoned buildings.

Developed and passed a vacant structure ordinance.

### **Finance**

Began accepting online payments for customers' utility accounts and began accepting credit card payments (Discover and Master Card) for customer bills.

Achieved cost savings through participation in the State of WV purchasing card program.

### **Miscellaneous**

Signed lease for old library building on Courtney Drive with New River Community and Technical College. Received approval of grant request to install energy efficient heating and cooling systems in old library and annex.

Received Tree City USA Award for 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.

Prepared for and cleaned up after numerous special events downtown, including Shanghai Parade, Chocolate Festival, Battle of Lewisburg, TOOT and Christmas Parade.

Hosted Holiday Angel Program for 12<sup>th</sup> year which helped 28 children in need.

Donated 937 food items from city employees and local residents to local food banks.

### **Challenges**

Planning and paying for major improvements at the water treatment plant and distribution system.

Replacing Fire Station #1.

John Manchester, Mayor

City of Lewisburg

January 18, 2011