

## **STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP ADDRESS**

2003

ONCE AGAIN I WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME YOU TO THE REDFORD COMMUNITY CENTER AND I WANT TO THANK THE REDFORD TOWNSHIP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR SPONSORING LUNCH AND THE ANNUAL STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP ADDRESS.

IT IS AN HONOR AND A PRIVILEGE TO GIVE YOU MY SEVENTH STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP ADDRESS. AS YOU KNOW, I WAGED AN UNSUCCESSFUL RACE FOR THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS LAST YEAR. A COUPLE DAYS AFTER THE ELECTION TWO VOTERS STOPPED ME IN THE TOWN HALL PARKING LOT. THEY SAID THEY VOTED FOR ME AND WERE SORRY I LOST THE ELECTION. THEY TOLD ME, "FRANKLY, MR. KELLEY, WE THINK REDFORD NEEDS YOU MORE THAN WASHINGTON, D.C. NEEDS YOU". A MAJORITY OF VOTERS IN THE NEW 11<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT AGREED WITH THEM.

AS I SAID THROUGHOUT LAST YEAR, WHATEVER HAPPENS IN THE ELECTION I WIN. THE JOB OF REDFORD TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR IS CHALLENGING, DEMANDING, REWARDING AND SATISFYING. REDFORD TOWNSHIP IS A GREAT COMMUNITY WITH WONDERFUL RESIDENTS,

OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEES AND A SENSE OF COMMUNITY THAT INFUSES RECENT EVENTS LIKE THE ANNUAL CHAMBER DINNER DANCE, OUR MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., PRAYER BREAKFAST AND THE OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION WITH A SENSE OF CIVIC PRIDE, PURPOSE AND BELONGING.

BUSINESSES, RESIDENTS, THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT WORK TOGETHER TO CREATE A VIBRANT COMMUNITY. A COMMUNITY THAT HAS SEEN PROPERTY VALUES GROW 70% IN THE LAST SIX YEARS. A COMMUNITY THAT PROVIDES OUTSTANDING MUNICIPAL SERVICES LIKE, POLICE, FIRE, SANITATION, AND WATER WITH REASONABLE MILLAGE RATES FOR TAXPAYERS. A COMMUNITY, WHICH CONTINUES TO REDEVELOP AND GROW ECONOMICALLY IN SPITE OF THE DIFFICULT FINANCIAL TIMES WE ALL FACE. A COMMUNITY WITH A SMALL TOWN FEEL IN THE HEART OF THE MAJOR METROPOLITAN REGION KNOWN AS SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN.

THE STATE OF REDFORD TOWNSHIP IS POSITIVE AS WE CONTINUE TO MOVE FORWARD MAINTAINING OUR STRENGTHS AND CONFRONTING THE CHALLENGES WE FACE EVERYDAY.

THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES PASSED THE BUDGET LAST NIGHT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003-2004. FOR THE THIRD STRAIGHT YEAR, OUR BOARD

HAD TO DEAL WITH REDUCED REVENUES BY SLASHING EXPENDITURES. THREE YEARS AGO WE TIGHTENED OUR BELTS, CUT THE FAT, FROZE CAPITAL OUTLAY AND INSTITUTED A HIRING FREEZE. IN LAST YEAR'S BUDGET WE OFFERED RETIREMENT INCENTIVES, LOST MANY LONG TIME PERSONNEL AND CUT OR MODIFIED MORE THAN 20 POSITIONS IN OUR GENERAL FUND BUDGET.

THIS YEAR'S BUDGET PRESENTED ADDED CHALLENGES. THE ECONOMIC SLOW DOWN HAS REDUCED REVENUES FOR ALL GOVERNMENT ENTITIES. THE STATE OF MICHIGAN FACES A BUDGET DEFICIT OF TWO BILLION DOLLARS. CALIFORNIA FACES A BUDGET DEFICIT OF THIRTY-EIGHT BILLION DOLLARS. THE SURPLUSES AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL WHICH OCCURRED JUST TWO SHORT YEARS AGO AND WERE PROJECTED TO LAST THE NEXT TEN (10) YEARS HAVE BEEN WIPED OUT AND THE PRESIDENT LAST NIGHT OUTLINED FEDERAL SPENDING PLANS WHICH WILL LEAD TO SPENDING DEFICITS FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.

BESIDES THE GENERAL ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN, THE REDUCTION IN STATE SHARED REVENUES AND LOSS OF REVENUES FROM THE 2000 CENSUS, REDFORD FACES OTHER BUDGETARY PRESSURES.

**HEALTH CARE COSTS** AS WITH EVERY BUSINESS OR ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION CONTINUES TO RISE AND TAKES AN EVEN LARGER SHARE

OF OUR BOTTOM LINE. INCREASES FROM OUR HEALTH INSURANCE CARRIERS THIS YEAR TOTAL ABOUT \$450,000 MORE THAN LAST YEAR. MANAGEMENT HAS BEEN IN LABOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH OUR SIX LABOR UNIONS FOR THE LAST TWO AND A HALF YEARS. MEDICAL COSTS AND MEDICAL COST SHARING HAVE BEEN A BIG PART OF THOSE NEGOTIATIONS.

TOWNSHIP FIREFIGHTERS HAVE ACCEPTED A PACKAGE WITH INCREASED COST SHARING AND FINANCIAL INCENTIVES TO REDUCE OUR ENROLLMENT IN TRADITIONAL BLUE CROSS COVERAGE, THE MOST EXPENSIVE OPTION.

NEGOTIATIONS APPEAR CLOSE WITH THE GENERAL EMPLOYEE'S UNION AND WE RECENTLY CONCLUDED STATE MEDIATION WITH THE DISTRICT COURT EMPLOYEES WHICH MAY HELP SETTLE THAT CONTRACT.

THE COMMAND OFFICERS APPROVED A PACKAGE, WHICH ALLOWS FOR ANOTHER ROUND OF EARLY RETIREMENTS AND WE ARE AWAITING A STATE ARBITRATOR'S RULING WITH THE POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION, WHICH WILL SETTLE MEDICAL AND WAGE ISSUES FOR A FOUR-YEAR TERM FOR BOTH CONTRACTS.

I HOPE TO HAVE ALL CONTRACTS AND MEDICAL COVERAGE ISSUES DECIDED BEFORE APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup>, THE START OF OUR NEW BUDGET YEAR. WE WILL THEN PROVIDE TO ALL EMPLOYEES A FEDERAL 125 BENEFIT PROGRAM WHICH ALLOWS FOR UNTAXED WAGES TO HELP ALL EMPLOYEES DEAL WITH INCREASES IN MEDICAL BENEFITS.

WE ARE DOING ALL WE CAN TO CONTAIN COSTS IN MEDICAL BENEFITS TO SEE THAT TAXPAYERS DOLLARS GO FURTHER IN OUR TOWNSHIP BUDGET.

BESIDES INCREASED MEDICAL COSTS THE REDUCTION IN INTEREST RATES HAS CUT OUR INVESTMENT INCOME. TWO YEARS AGO WE GENERATED ALMOST ONE MILLION DOLLARS IN INVESTMENT INCOME ON TOWNSHIP FUNDS, THIS YEAR WE'VE BUDGETED \$155,000. LOW INFLATION RATES ALSO AFFECT REVENUE INCOME. THIS YEAR'S CONSUMER PRICE INDEX OF 1.5% IS GREAT NEWS FOR CONSUMERS, BUT IT DOES AFFECT CASH FLOW COMING TO OUR COMMUNITY AND FUNDING LEVELS FOR SERVICES.

BECAUSE OF THESE FACTORS THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ONCE AGAIN MOVED IN THIS YEAR'S SPENDING PLAN TO REDUCE PERSONNEL COSTS. AS MENTIONED EARLIER, WE WILL SEE THE RETIREMENT OF SEVEN VETERAN POLICE OFFICERS BY APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup> OF THIS YEAR AND MOST OF THOSE POSITIONS WILL NOT BE REPLACED.

LET ME ASSURE RESIDENTS AND BUSINESS OWNERS THAT POLICE RESPONSE TIMES WILL NOT BE AFFECTED; OUR FIRST PRIORITY IS THE SAFETY OF THE CITIZENS WHERE THEY LIVE AND WORK.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND SPECIAL BUREAU RANKS WILL BE THINNED. EVERY PROGRAM WILL BE EVALUATED. I KNOW THE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM IS POPULAR AND WELL RECEIVED AND IT WILL BE FUNDED THROUGH THIS SCHOOL YEAR. I WILL WORK WITH REDFORD UNION AND THE SOUTH REDFORD SCHOOL BOARDS TO TRY AND MAINTAIN THOSE POSITIONS IN THE FALL OF 2003.

THE POLICE DEPARTMENT LIKE ALL DEPARTMENTS IS TRYING TO DO MORE WITH LESS. TECHNOLOGY HELPS IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY. IN 2002, THE DEPARTMENT REPLACED ALL IN-CAR COMPUTERS WITH NEW LAP TOPS WITH GRANT MONEY FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. THE NEW UNITS ALLOW FOR DISPATCHING SOFTWARE AND FIELD REPORTING COMPONENTS THAT INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY OF OFFICERS AND CLERICAL SUPPORT STAFFS.

IN 2002, OUR DISPATCH CENTER WAS UPGRADED TO RECEIVE A PORTION OF CELLULAR CALLS FORMERLY HANDLED BY THE STATE POLICE. THIS

LEADS TO INCREASED REVENUE AND BETTER RESPONSE TIMES IN CASES OF EMERGENCY. WE HOPE TO CONTINUE ADDING CELL CARRIERS IN 2003.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT ALSO IS USING GRANT MONEY AND TECHNOLOGY TO FURTHER ITS EMERGENCY RESPONSE. UNDER A GRANT SUBMITTED BY CHIEF LEONARD SOBIESKI FROM THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, REDFORD FIRE WILL PURCHASE TWO THERMAL IMAGERS, WHICH ALLOW RESCUE TEAMS TO LOCATE PEOPLE TRAPPED IN CLOSED STRUCTURES. ALSO NEARLY \$100,000 WORTH OF COMPRESSED BREATHING APPARATUS WILL BE OFFSET BY THE GRANT, WHICH TOTALS \$97,913 IN FEDERAL FUNDS.

PRODUCTIVITY INCREASES ARE HELPFUL BUT JOB CUTS ARE NECESSARY BUT PAINFUL TO BALANCE THE REDFORD TOWNSHIP BUDGET. IN MY SEVEN YEARS, THE TOWNSHIP BOARD HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE STEWARDS OF TAXPAYER DOLLARS. WHEN I CAME TO OFFICE IN 1996, MILLAGE RATES IN REDFORD WERE 14.4 MILLS, IN 2002 MILLAGE RATES WERE 13.4. IN SIX YEARS, THE RATES WERE REDUCED ONE MILL.

OVERALL TAX RATES HAVE CLIMBED. THE WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DOUBLED ITS MILLAGE. THE WAYNE COUNTY INTERMEDIATE SCHOOLS GOT AN INCREASE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION, SEMTA PASSED AN INCREASE AND LAST YEAR THE REDFORD LIBRARY WAS GRANTED NEW

MILLAGE TO BUILD ITS MODERNIZED FACILITY. SO TAX BILLS HAVE RISEN BUT, THE TOWNSHIP BOARD RECEIVES *NONE* OF THOSE DOLLARS; WE HAVE CUT TAX RATES OVER THE LAST SIX YEARS.

ROADS ARE ALWAYS AN ISSUE. WE HAVE DONE AN AGGRESSIVE PILOT PAVING PROGRAM AND HAD HOPED TO ASK FOR MILLAGE LAST YEAR TO CONTINUE THOSE EFFORTS. GIVEN THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY WE DID NOT ASK RESIDENTS FOR MORE MILLAGE. LIVONIA PASSED A ROAD TAX LAST AUGUST. WE DID NOT PUT ANY PROPOSAL ON THE BALLOT. AS A BOARD, WE WORK TO BE RESPONSIVE TO TAXPAYERS CONCERNS AND HAVE WORKED TO DO MORE WITH LESS IN THE LAST THREE BUDGETS.

PERHAPS THE MOST VISIBLE “CUT” WAS THE ELIMINATION OF OUR TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY CALENDAR. THE CALENDAR WAS A GREAT INFORMATION RESOURCE FOR ALL RESIDENTS AND THOUGH IT COST ALMOST \$30,000 TO PRODUCE, WE OFFSET THAT FIGURE BY SIX TO EIGHT THOUSAND DOLLARS WITH ADVERTISING SOLD TO LOCAL BUSINESSES. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS YEAR THE MONEY SIMPLY WAS NOT THERE. THE BOARD HAS GOTTEN A LOT OF NEGATIVE FEEDBACK ABOUT THIS CUT AND WE WILL TRY TO RESTORE THE CALENDAR, BUT I DON’T THINK THAT WILL BE POSSIBLE IN THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS.

SO THE ECONOMY IS DRAGGING AND THE BUDGETS ARE TIGHT BUT NOT ALL THE NEWS IN REDFORD IS NEGATIVE. IN SPITE OF CUTS, WE CONTINUE TO PROVIDE QUALITY SERVICE FOR THE TOWNSHIP.

NOWHERE IS THIS MORE EVIDENT THAN IN PARKS AND RECREATION. THE 2002-2003 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET FOR PARKS AND RECREATION WAS \$900,000. THE DEPARTMENT GENERATED ABOUT \$180,000 IN REVENUE SO THE GENERAL FUND COSTS TO THE COMMUNITY WAS \$720,000.

WITH THOSE DOLLARS, PARKS AND RECREATION FIELDED 191 ATHLETIC TEAMS AND SERVICED 23,543 INDIVIDUALS. BESIDES BASEBALL, FOOTBALL, SOCCER, BASKETBALL AND HOCKEY, REDFORD PARKS AND RECREATION PROVIDES PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT, WALKING TRACKS, IN-LINE SKATING AND TENNIS COURTS. THROUGH CREATIVE PARTNERSHIPS THEY HAVE FIELD TRIPS, POOL TABLES, PING-PONG, AIR-HOCKEY, ARTS AND CRAFTS, VIDEO GAMES, MOVIE NIGHTS, BAND CONCERTS AND A HOMEWORK ROOM FOR STUDENTS AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER.

BILL McSWEEN AND HIS DEPARTMENT HAVE WORKED TO MAXIMIZE ALL THEIR POTENTIAL RESOURCES. CELLULAR TOWERS AT KORVETTE AND CLAUDE ALLISON PARKS, APPROVED BY THE BOARD, HAVE BROUGHT IN ALMOST \$300,000 IN REVENUE DURING MY SEVEN YEARS. THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT COMMITTEE HAS FUNDED

\$285,000 IN CAPITAL PROJECTS IN THE LAST SEVEN YEARS. SHELLY KATZ AND THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED \$75,000 FOR A NEW SKATE PARK AT CAPITOL PARK WHICH WAS APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES LAST NIGHT.

CLAUDE ALLISON PARK WAS REFURBISHED LAST YEAR AT A COST OF \$400,000, HALF FROM A STATE GRANT, AND THE OTHER HALF FROM THE TOWNSHIP GOLF COURSE FUND. THE PROJECT PROVIDED 3000 FEET OF NEW DRAINAGE, RECONSTRUCTION OF THE WALKING TRACK AND PARKING LOT, NEW FENCING, LIGHTS AND A SCOREBOARD FOR THE SOFTBALL DIAMONDS, AND A NEW ROLLER BLADE COURT. THE PARK WILL BE BUSTLING IN THE SPRING.

PARTNERSHIPS WITH WAYNE COUNTY, THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS, AND ST. HILARY CHURCH HAVE LED TO NEW BASEBALL DIAMONDS, FOOTBALL FIELDS, SOCCER FIELDS AND PLAYGROUNDS EAST OF TELEGRAPH.

GLENHURST GOLF COURSE AND THE REDFORD ICE ARENA ARE SEPARATE ENTERPRISE FUNDS WHICH CONTINUE TO BE SELF SUPPORTING USING NO TAX DOLLARS, DESPITE INCREASED COMPETITION FOR THIS BUSINESS FROM MUNICIPAL AND PRIVATE ENTERPRISES.

RECREATION IS AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT FOR ANY FAMILY IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY. THE KELLEY ADMINISTRATION HAS TRIED TO PROVIDE FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS AT AN AFFORDABLE RATE. WE HAVE INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY WITHOUT INCREASING PAYROLL. WE HAVE REQUESTED NO ADDITIONAL MILLAGE FOR FACILITIES. IN SEVERAL WEEKS, WE WILL APPROVE A NEW FIVE-YEAR MASTER PLAN, AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO PARTNER WITH OTHER AGENCIES TO MEET RECREATION DEMANDS WITH REASONABLE COSTS TO TOWNSHIP TAXPAYERS. CHECK THE WEBSITE OR CALL PARKS AND RECREATION AT 387-2650 TO GET ACTIVE.

IN SPITE OF THE WEAK ECONOMY, LONG TERM PRIVATE INVESTMENT CONTINUES TO COME INTO REDFORD TOWNSHIP. SEVEN YEARS AGO I RAN ON A CAMPAIGN TO “REDEVELOP REDFORD”. THE EFFORTS WE HAVE MADE ARE PAYING DIVIDENDS IN 2003.

DETROIT DIESEL CORPORATION, NOW OPERATED BY DAIMLER-CHRYSLER, IS REDFORD TOWNSHIP’S LARGEST TAXPAYER. NEW ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS LED TO CHANGES IN THEIR SERIES 60 ENGINES LAST YEAR AND 700 EMPLOYEES LOST THEIR JOBS. DAIMLER-CHRYSLER APPROACHED US WITH PROPOSALS TO UPGRADE THEIR FACILITIES.

AS A RESULT OF OUR LOCAL TAX ABATEMENTS AND WITH HELP FROM THE MICHIGAN ECONOMIC GROWTH CORPORATION, THE AXLE ALLIANCE COMPANY WILL BE LOCATING AT DETROIT DIESEL. THE CREATION OF AN AXLE MANUFACTURING LINE WILL LEAD TO A DIRECT JOB CREATION OF 215 POSITIONS AND OVER 337 INDIRECT JOBS FOR TOTAL CREATION OF OVER 552 NEW EMPLOYEES. THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, GRANTED THE ABATEMENT OF NEARLY ONE MILLION DOLLARS AND THE STATE SINGLE BUSINESS TAX CREDIT WILL SAVE SIX MILLION DOLLARS OVER 15 YEARS. WITH THE FINANCIAL PACKAGE REDFORD AND THE STATE OF MICHIGAN WERE ABLE TO DEFEAT SOUTH CAROLINA FOR THIS SITE LOCATION.

DETROIT DIESEL HAS ALSO COMMITTED TO UPGRADING ITS CURRENT FACILITY TO MEET NEW ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCTION STANDARDS. WITH THE HELP OF ANOTHER TAX ABATEMENT, THIS 100 MILLION DOLLAR INVESTMENT WILL GUARANTEE THE REHIRING OF THE WORK FORCE LET GO LAST FALL. IN FACT, SOME PRODUCTION WORKERS ARE ALREADY BEING REHIRED.

THE DOT.COM BUBBLE MAY HAVE BURST BUT MANUFACTURING JOBS ARE KEY TO OUR COMMUNITY AND DAIMLER-CHRYSLER WILL CONTINUE TO BUILD HEAVY TRUCK COMPONENTS IN REDFORD FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.

PRESBYTERIAN VILLAGE OF MICHIGAN HAS HAD THEIR FLAGSHIP FACILITY IN REDFORD FOR ALMOST 60 YEARS. THE VILLAGE HAS COMMITTED TO A MAJOR REDEVELOPMENT WITH NEW BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES INCLUDING SPACE FOR THE REDFORD TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY. WE APPRECIATE THEIR EFFORTS TO REDEVELOP AND REMAIN AN OUTSTANDING FACILITY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF REDFORD SENIORS, AND SENIORS FROM THROUGHOUT MICHIGAN. THEIR LONG TERM COMMITMENT INVOLVES MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN NEW SPENDING.

NEW HOUSING CONTINUES TO SPROUT IN REMARKABLE REDFORD. TWENTY STAND ALONE BUILDING PERMITS HAVE BEEN ISSUED OR ARE BEING CONSIDERED FOR NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION THIS YEAR. IT SEEMS ALMOST EVERY AVAILABLE SPACE IS BEING USED OR REUSED FOR QUALITY HOUSING. IN ADDITION TO THOSE 20, THE ASHLEY PARK DEVELOPMENT IS RISING ON SCHOOLCRAFT WITH TWENTY-FOUR UNITS. THE VOLNEY-SMITH SUBDIVISION WILL BEGIN THIS SPRING LEADING TO 56 NEW HOMES, AND IF YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH THE NEIGHBORHOOD YOU KNOW THE OLD SCHOOL FACILITY IS GONE. THIS IS REDFORD'S FIRST SUBDIVISION IN MORE THAN THIRTY YEARS.

THIS REDEVELOPMENT IS KEY TO OUR FUTURE. DEMOGRAPHERS ALL PROJECT SMALLER HOUSEHOLD SIZES. IT'S A TREND THAT BEGAN IN THE 1980'S AND SHOWS NO SIGN OF SLOWING. IN THE MASTER PLAN, WHICH

WAS APPROVED BY PARKS AND RECREATION AND FORWARDED TO OUR BOARD FOR CONSIDERATION NEXT MONTH, PROJECTIONS CALL FOR A CONTINUED DECREASE IN POPULATION TO A TOTAL OF ABOUT 47,000 RESIDENTS IN 2020. THE GOAL OF REDEVELOPMENT SHOULD BE TO OFFSET THESE LOSSES WITH REDEVELOPMENT AND NEW POPULATION.

WITH THAT IN MIND, THE CATHOLIC CENTRAL PROPERTY OFFERS A HUGE POTENTIAL FOR REDEVELOPMENT. THE TOWNSHIP BOARD HAS COMMISSIONED OUR PLANNERS, WADE-TRIM, TO LOOK AT DEVELOPMENT OPTIONS ON THE CATHOLIC CENTRAL PROPERTY. AFTER THEIR REVIEW, WE INTEND TO APPROACH THE SCHOOL ABOUT A POTENTIAL SALE TO THE TOWNSHIP. THIS WOULD BE FOR A ROLLOVER TO A PRIVATE DEVELOPER. THE TOWNSHIP WOULD THEN HAVE INPUT IN ANY FUTURE PROJECTS ON THAT IMPORTANT PIECE OF LAND. CATHOLIC CENTRAL HAS TO GET THEIR BEST DEAL AND I BELIEVE WE WILL BE ONLY ONE INTERESTED PARTY, BUT IT IS AN OPPORTUNITY WE PLAN TO EXPLORE.

IN SPITE OF THE ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN, WE CONTINUE TO SEE REDEVELOPMENT IN OUR COMMUNITY. THERE IS A GREAT MIX OF INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT. INVESTMENT CAPITAL IS BEING SPENT IN REMARKABLE REDFORD. TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT WILL WORK TO FURTHER THIS POSITIVE CLIMATE BY DELIVERING SERVICES WITH REDUCED REVENUE.

FURTHER, IN OUR EFFORT TO MAINTAIN A STRONG BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT, THE CHAMBER HAS FORMED A BUSINESS LIAISON COMMITTEE HEADED BY GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS REPRESENTATIVE ED GOSTOMSKI, WITH PRESIDENT PATTI CHAMPAGNE, SECRETARY JEEP NEWTON AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MARY JO MULLEN. THIS COMMITTEE WILL MEET WITH BUSINESS OWNERS TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS THEY MAY BE HAVING IN OUR COMMUNITY AND WORK DIRECTLY WITH MY OFFICE TO RESOLVE ANY SITUATIONS. BUSINESS IS A KEY COMPONENT IN THE REDFORD ECONOMY. WE WANT TO KEEP IT THAT WAY.

WITH THE START OF A NEW YEAR, WE SEE CHANGES IN LEADERSHIP AT THE STATE AND COUNTY LEVEL. JOHN ENGLER AND ED McNAMARA HAVE GONE AND JENNIFER GRANHOLM AND BOB FICANO HAVE TAKEN OVER. ENGLER AND McNAMARA WERE POLITICAL FIGURES WHO ACCOMPLISHED MANY THINGS DURING THEIR TENURE IN OFFICE. THOUGH THEY HAD DIFFERENT PHILOSOPHIES, THE END TO THEIR MEANS WAS TO MAKE SURE GOVERNMENT DID POSITIVE THINGS FOR ITS CITIZENS.

ED McNAMARA IS A LONG TIME FRIEND. IN 1982, HE LOST A RACE FOR WAYNE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO BILL LUCAS, THE SAME YEAR I LOST A

RACE FOR WAYNE COUNTY COMMISSIONER TO RICHARD MANNING. THAT WAS LONG BEFORE THE "McNAMARA MACHINE" CAME INTO BEING. HIS SIXTEEN YEARS IN OFFICE IS BEING CLOUDED BY THE CURRENT FEDERAL INVESTIGATION, BUT ED McNAMARA ACCOMPLISHED MUCH IN HIS TERM OF OFFICE. BALANCED BUDGETS, A WORLD CLASS AIRPORT RECENTLY RATED 3<sup>RD</sup> BEST IN THE WORLD, TWO NEW STADIUMS, INNOVATIVE HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS, PILOT PAVING FOR REDFORD, ED McNAMARA ACCOMPLISHED MUCH AND I WISH HIM WELL IN HIS RETIREMENT.

AS LEADERS, THEIR LEGACIES ARE MIXED, BUT NO ONE CAN DOUBT THEY LEFT A MARK OF ACCOMPLISHMENT ON STATE AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT. I HAVE TRIED TO EXHIBIT THAT SAME TYPE OF POLITICAL PRAGMATISM FOR REDFORD TOWNSHIP. RUNNING A MUNICIPALITY IS A TOUGH JOB AND DOING THE RIGHT THINGS DOESN'T ALWAYS HELP WIN POPULARITY CONTESTS.

BUT WHEN HOMEOWNERS SEE WHAT THEY GET FOR THE SALE OF THEIR PROPERTY, OR WHEN THEY CALL FOR A POLICE OFFICER OR FIREFIGHTER, OR GET THEIR REFUGE AND RECYCLABLES PICKED-UP RELIABLY EVERY WEEK, MONTH AFTER MONTH, YEAR AFTER YEAR, I HOPE THEY APPRECIATE THE GOALS OF THIS ADMINISTRATION AND THE HARD WORK AND EFFORT PUT FORWARD BY ALL TOWNSHIP PERSONNEL. WE WANT TO

MAKE REDFORD THE BEST COMMUNITY IT CAN BE AND WE WILL  
CONTINUE TO STRIVE TOWARD THAT END IN THE COMING TWO YEARS.  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME TODAY.