

Good afternoon and thank you for joining us here at Calabria's. I would like to thank the Gates-Chili Chamber of Commerce for the opportunity to present the Town of Chili *State of the Town Address* to all of you...my fellow town council members, honored guests, business leaders, and most importantly, Chili residents. Public service is a commitment of the highest calling. As I begin my 2nd year as your Town Supervisor, I am honored and privileged that you have placed your trust in me. I will continue to serve the people of Chili openly, with dignity, honesty and integrity. I do not walk this path alone. Our dedicated team – my fellow elected officials and our talented and hardworking staff – join me as we continue our work to maintain and improve the quality of life for Chili now, and for the future.

Let me begin my address by proudly saying, the state of the Town of Chili is **strong, and growing brighter by the day!**

We are filled with optimism and hope for the future. Our children have access to the finest educational opportunities. Despite a housing crisis in many parts of the country, our residential property values remain strong. Families and individuals are choosing Chili for its outstanding quality of life, excellent schools and our rich and diverse cultural Climate.

Along with optimism comes the realization that our successes have truly been a collaborative effort. Many hearts, hands and minds came together this past year with a shared vision. Together, Town Council members, Department Heads, staff and residents worked side by side to achieve our shared goals and identify new opportunity. I wish to thank our Council members for their support and guidance in this my first year of public service. Together, we have created an environment of cooperation by actively sharing our views and perspectives. We are building a stronger Chili.

Town Council members lobbied hard for an Architectural Advisory Committee. This suggestion was embraced and in March of 2008, the Town Board approved and entered into Town Law standards which will assist in maintaining architectural consistency throughout our Town. By April, the Town Board had a committee in place. The Days of whatever are gone!

By midsummer the Town Board had assembled a committee of Chili residents from various backgrounds and interests to form a committee that would become the Chili Center Ad-Hoc Committee. This committee has been charged with providing the Town Board with a town wide opinion for future development in the area of Chili Center specifically. This committee has worked diligently and aggressively to deliver a method of capturing public opinion by way of a survey. Though this project is still underway, I would like to thank everyone who has worked so hard to get their survey out to the public. I would also specifically like to thank Dorothy Borgus, who not only participated as a member and secretary to this committee, but took the lead on presenting the survey at three public meetings recently held. To date we have received more responses to this survey than any other in our history, and more than twice the responses received for a similar survey just a few years ago. (748)

By November, we began what will be our 2030 Comprehensive Plan. Once again, we called on a diverse group of volunteers to aid our consultants in developing a plan for the future of Chili.

This past December we saw the opening of a new Walgreens store in North Chili, with a second location to be opening soon in Chili Center. Sherwin Williams has opened a store in the Chili Paul Plaza. Target is on schedule to open late July 2009. McDonalds plans to demolish and rebuild a more modern facility at their current location. Kentucky Fried Chicken plans to build a restaurant in Chili Center.

The old Bausch & Lomb facility is now leased to near capacity, bringing with it several new jobs. What was once Empire Beef is now being leased by Wegman's and The University of Rochester parking facility on Scottsville Rd. should wrap up this spring. Despite what much of the nation is experiencing in economic downturn, to quote the words of Larry Glazer CEO of Buckingham Properties, "Chili is Hot Hot Hot".

We have several highway projects slated for this spring/summer.

- 1) King/Paul Rd to Behan Rd milling and paving
- 2) Modifications to the intersection of Union St and Chili ave. to support better traffic flow in this heavily congested area.
- 3) Tentatively milling and paving Coldwater Rd between Chili Ave and West side Dr.
- 4) The County will begin the replacement of the Stottle Rd bridge this summer.
- 5) And of course we anticipate the announcement of groundbreaking ceremony for our new highway facility.

A few park improvements are in the wings.

- 6) Phase 1 of the Baker Property improvements which include a new picnic facility, Storage space, a new septic system and modern restroom facilities. Phase 2 will include a walking trail and gardens and phase 3 will tentatively include playground apparatus. All being done with Grant money, and In kind services from the town.
- 7) We will begin design and work to upgrade the restrooms at Davis Park, once again with grant monies received from the state.
- 8) We are aggressively seeking opportunities for greater use and accessibility to the Chili Nature trail and the Pfringle property.

Grants in the works:

With the support of the Town Council members, the Town continues pursue each and every grant opportunity that we can reasonably pursue. Some of the many opportunities we have applied for include:

- 1) Defined and groomed trails in the Union Station Park
- 2) Sidewalks in a variety locations that desperately are in need of safe pedestrian thoroughfares
- 3) Sewers in the Wadsworth area, where septic systems are failing and a better solution is needed.
- 4) Water to areas currently not served.
- 5) Dollars to complete phase 2 and 3 of the Baker Property improvements.

On the lighter side, the Town of Chili will be holding its 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Chil-E Fest this summer. Building on the tremendous turnout from last years event, we plan to make this the best ever. Two other programs they made their debut last year with great success will be returning to highlight our summer programs: the Farmers Market will begin in late May, making available to the community quality locally grown produce and hand crafted items and secondly our concert and movies in the park series will continue to provide families with a night of entertainment at no cost.

During the past year, the many departments that form your Chili town government have continued to operate smoothly and efficiently. All departments continue to think outside the box, seeking opportunities to reduce costs and increase efficiency. We continue to participate in opportunities for shared services and functional consolidation that will save taxpayer dollars and maintain quality services.

**The Public Works and Highway Departments**, under the capable leadership of Commissioner of Public Works / Superintendent of Highways David Lindsay, have continued our commitment to ensure the integrity of our infrastructure, the very foundation of our Town. Improving sanitary sewer and storm water drainage systems through a targeted Infrastructure Improvement Program meant a reduction in sewer backups and neighborhood flooding during heavy rainstorms. Please remember that when you drive down snow-cleared and well-maintained roads, you have David's dedicated and hardworking staff to thank.

In our continued effort to provide an open and transparent government we offer more information online than ever before through our website at [www.townofchili.org](http://www.townofchili.org). For the first time ever our entire budget was placed online for review and comment from our taxpayers, agendas and minutes from every board and committee are now available online and FOIL requests have significantly been reduced as a result. As always we remain committed to offering you the easiest methods of communicating with your town government. If you have ideas that would enhance the Web site, please let us know by contacting Chris Levey, Director of MIS.

**As we reflect on the past year, we are reminded again of the toll that war has taken on our community.** We honor the outstanding young men, women and their families who made the ultimate sacrifice during the war in Afghanistan and Iraq. We also honor all of our Veterans for dedicated service to our country and for the substantial sacrifices they make to protect our freedom.

**In closing, I am pleased to report that the State of the Town is, indeed, strong and vibrant. I know I speak for all of my colleagues when I say that we look forward to the many exciting challenges ahead, and invite you to join us on our journey towards a greener and ever brighter Chili.**