

**Availability of Basic Infrastructure in Targeted Development Areas will Drive
Economic Development for New Franklin
By Mayor Al Bollas**

According to the household survey conducted by the Franklin Township Trustees in 2004 as part of the Franklin Township Comprehensive Plan, more than two out of three residents felt that new retail development is important for the economic viability of New Franklin. A majority also wanted to see office and industrial development for economic growth. Also, residents of New Franklin would like to see more shopping, restaurants, and industrial development – but a limited amount. And yet, where there was little agreement was the provision of sewer and water services.

During the second phase of the water supply study conducted by CTI Engineers, Inc. in 2007, another survey was taken of those residences, commercial/businesses, and industries located in designated priority development areas described in our Comprehensive Plan. These areas include the corridors along Manchester Road, Turkeyfoot Lake Road, West Nimisila Road, and South Main Street. The purpose of the survey was to determine willingness to connect to water and wastewater services if available and affordable. Four hundred sixty eight (468) postcard surveys were sent to properties located in these areas. Following are the highlights of that survey:

- Forty six percent (46%) responded to the survey. This compares to 30% response to the 2004 community wide survey.
- Fifty four percent (54%) of the respondents said they would purchase water from a public system if it were available and affordable.
- Sixty four percent (64%) of the respondents said they would purchase public sanitary sewer service if it were available and affordable.
- Of the single family residents in these designated areas, they were evenly split on the question of water service. On the other hand, 61% said they would purchase sanitary sewer service.
- Of the commercial/business and industrial/manufacturing properties in these targeted development areas, 67% said they would purchase water and 74% said they would connect to a sanitary sewer.