



City of Wooster



June 2015

Spring Newsletter

Spring 2015

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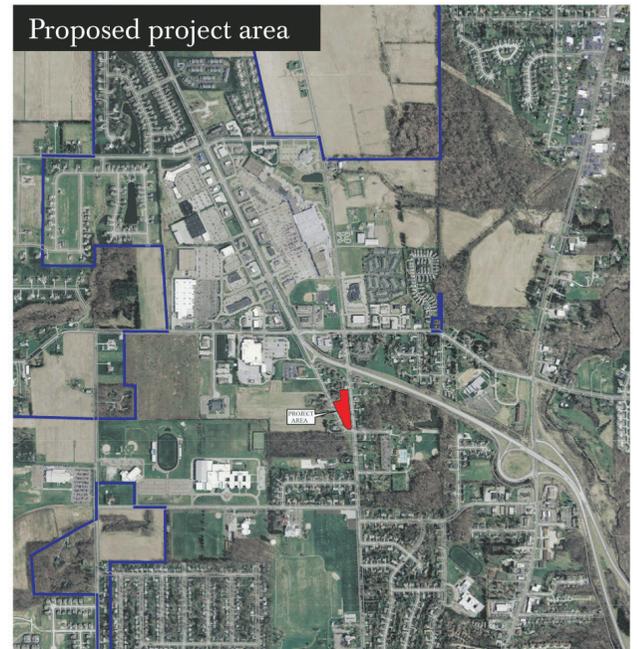
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City of Wooster Developing Preliminary Site and Building Layouts for Combined Safety Center

The City of Wooster is currently developing a preliminary site and building layout for police and fire buildings on a single campus. Initially, there were two locations being considered, one being the Layton Elementary School building, and the other being land that was purchased for a fire station at Burbank and Friendsville roads.



After evaluation, it was determined that the Layton Elementary School Building would not be adequate in size or building layout. Preliminary cost estimates indicated that the cost to renovate the building would not be much less than to build new construction, due to significant structural and code issues required

to renovate an existing facility. This would not be the best use of taxpayer dollars. Therefore, the site selected is the location that was previously purchased for a fire station at

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City of Wooster Social Media:

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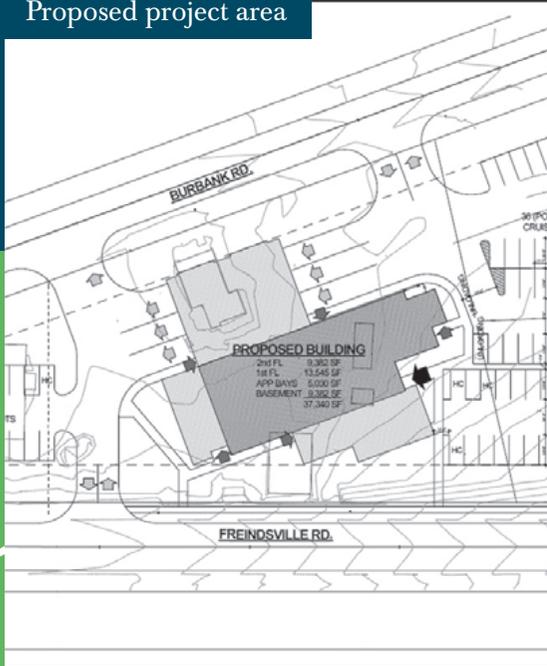
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GET INFORMED.
For more information please visit:
www.WoosterOH.com

Proposed project area



The City has grown 40% in the last 45 years, resulting in area growth of 86% and housing unit growth of 83%. In the last 25 years, fire & EMS calls have increased by 150% and police calls increased 177%. With the continued growth and development, the need for police and fire stations to be centrally located to serve residents quickly has increased.

City of Wooster Developing Preliminary Site and Building Layouts for Combined Safety Center - *continued*

Burbank and Friendsville roads. The combined cost estimate for the safety facility is around \$7 million, with \$3.3 million for the fire station and \$3.7 million for the police station (at current figures). The fire station isn't a new proposal. The project was originally presented in 2007, but was delayed due to economic downturn. Preliminary plans were proposed and approved by the Planning Commission in 2009, and the decision to add the police station to this project was made due to the ideal location and the land already being acquired.

Several issues have led to the necessity of new buildings for fire and police stations. At Fire Station #1, located at 510 North Market St., issues include a significant lack of storage available, asbestos pipe coatings, small engine maintenance needs, roofing damage from leaks, surface wiring due to shorts in building wiring, connecting of new electrical sub panels to current

sub panels to meet demands and rotted flooring. In Fire Station #2, located at 433 East Highland Ave., doors and frames are rotted and damaged, electrical sub panels have been installed near water to meet current demands, pipes are coated in asbestos and there is an overall lack of storage.

At the police station, located within the Wayne County Justice Center at 201 West North St., the problems are even more significant. The building is nearly 40 years old and in need of renovations and maintenance. The City has grown significantly in the last 40 years, resulting in increased police calls for service and operational space. A private third-party study has recommended a need of 27,000 square feet of space for a department serving a community the size of Wooster. Currently, the Police Department only has 4,693 square feet available, with an additional 8,910 square feet of shared space. This lack of space has led to severely inadequate storage

for evidence that is required to be kept by law for up to 30 years. Evidence is currently spread across three floors, including in the supervisor's office, which has led to a strong scent of drugs

This is exciting, and I am sure that many of our families would embrace such a relocation.

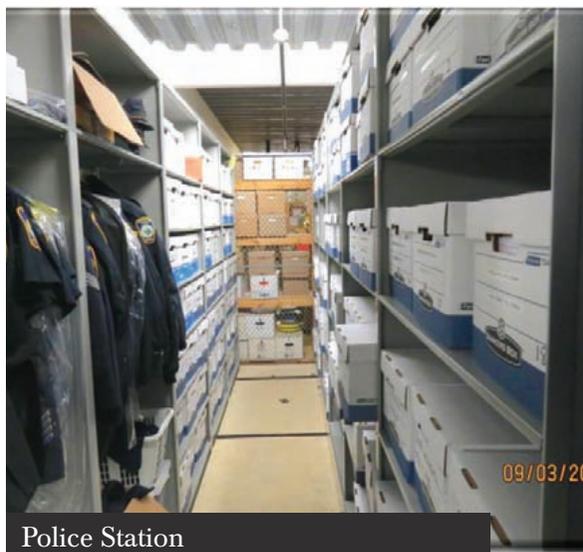
- Dr. Michael Tefs, Wooster City Schools Superintendent

throughout the office space.

The selection of the Burbank and Friendsville roads location was made after an exhaustive study was conducted to determine the best location based on Wooster's long-term needs, trends, high-risk areas of the community and the ability to respond quickly to emergency calls for service.



Fire Station #1 lack of storage



Police Station

As the process moves forward, the City will communicate progress with residents.

Please visit www.woosteroh.com/safetycenter for more information.

Did You Know?

According to a third-party allocation study, the Wooster Police Division should operate a space of **27,000** square feet.

That's nearly double the current **13,603** square feet of space (both individual and combined space) it currently occupies.

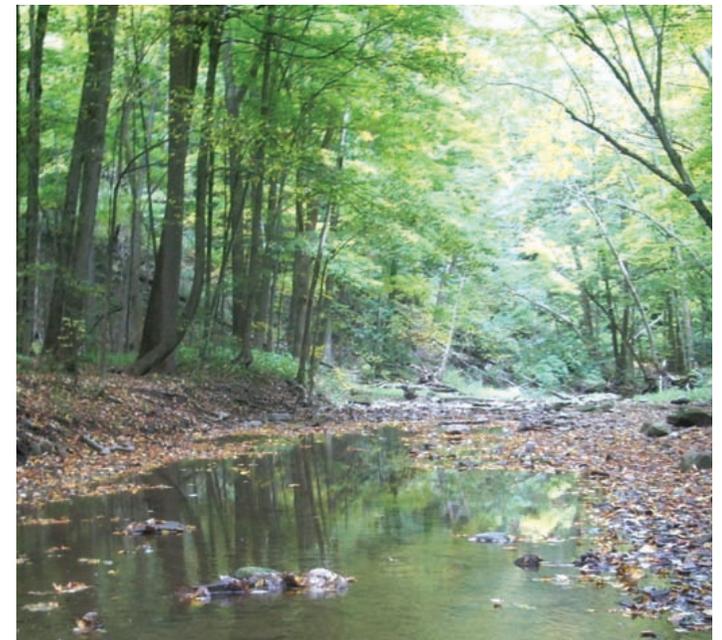
Wooster Memorial (Spangler) Park (WMP)

Wooster Memorial Park, better known as Spangler Park, is located five miles west of Wooster, just off of U.S. 250, and consists of more than 320 acres of pristine woodland. The park is perfect for the outdoor enthusiast who enjoys hiking, bird watching and simply enjoying nature. There are more than six miles of primitive trails, scenic overlooks, Rathburn Run, picnic pavilions and public restrooms. Wooster Memorial Park offers some wonderful educational opportunities and great surroundings to enjoy the natural beauty that is often overlooked in day-to-day living. The park is intended for foot traffic only, no bikes, horses or motorized vehicles are permitted.

Come out for one of the park's upcoming events!

Walk the New Kenwood Property – Sunday, June 14, 2:00 p.m.

This new addition to the landholdings protects the boundaries of Wooster Memorial Park and provides easier hiking for guests. Come out and see the changes that have already been made to the property while enjoying the incredible views into the Rathburn ravine! To attend, meet at Kenwood Acres prior to 2:00 p.m. (parking is available on the property).

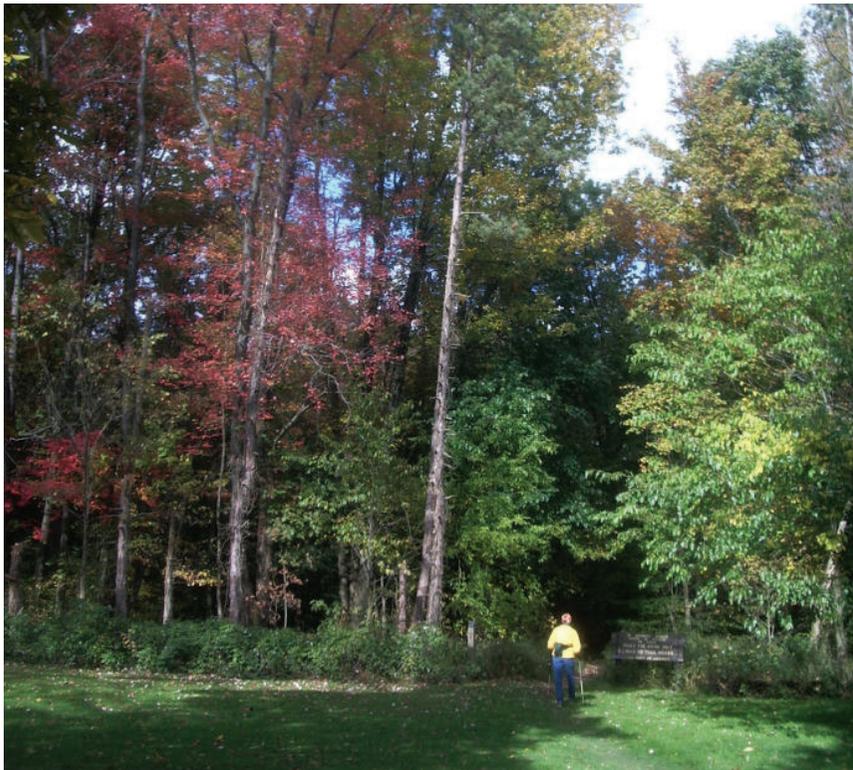


Walk (in) Rathburn Run – Saturday, July 11, 10 a.m.

Wooster Memorial Park looks a little bit different when you're actually "in" Rathburn Run. On a hot summer day, the cool water is a treat! You can see the ledges from below, observe and catch some critters in the Run and view some other hard to see sections of the park (including the upper section of the Run that wasn't seen last year). Be sure to wear footwear that can be 100% wet!

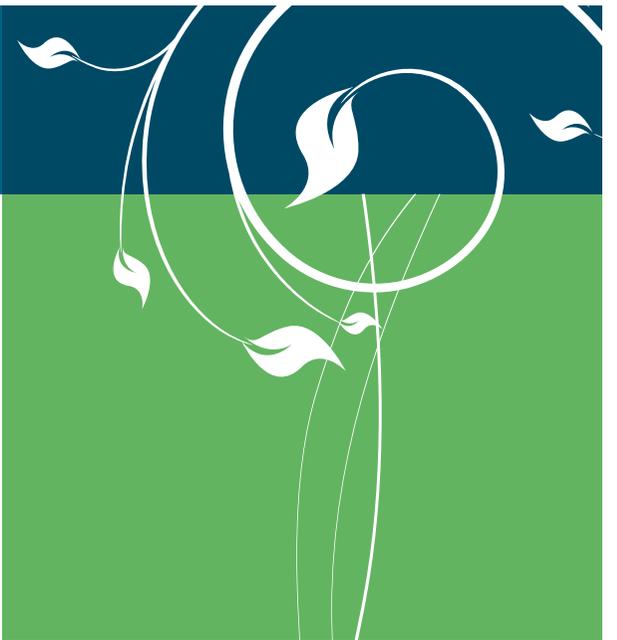
Meteor Watch (Members of Friends of Wooster Memorial Park and their guests only) – Wednesday, August 12 at 4:00 a.m.

This year, Friends of Wooster Memorial Park will be meeting early to see the showers that are most visible in the wee hours of the morning. Bring comfortable chairs and enjoy the show! Prior to 4:00 a.m., we will meet in the Education Area, and the area will be open all night for those who wish to watch earlier. A campfire will also be provided for those wishing to cook breakfast.



Salamanders of WMP – Sunday, September 27 at 2:00 p.m.

Join us for a special treat when our resident expert leads this hike to find various species of salamanders in Wooster Memorial Park. This is a catch and release event, so we will keep the salamanders long enough for everyone to get a good look and then return them to their homes in the park.



THE CITY OF WOOSTER AND WASTE MANAGEMENT NOW PROVIDING ROLLING CARTS

As your waste service provider, and as North America's leading environmental services company, Waste Management is proud to help Wooster stay clean and green with a new cart program.

As a resident of Wooster you will be receiving two new service carts. One for refuse (all green) and one for recycling (yellow lid).

Refuse and recycle pickup will remain a weekly service. Residents will receive additional information with the delivery of the carts.

Look inside when they arrive!

For more information or questions, please check the City of Wooster website.



Waste Management
116 N. Bauer Road
Wooster, OH 44691

Printed on post-consumer recycled paper.

THINK GREEN.®



Wooster Police Division Update



Since 2011, Wooster Police Officers and Wooster Firefighters have been helping families by attempting to “Stuff the Cruiser.” Officers and Firefighters stand outside of Wooster Walmart and ask for donations to help families that are in need.

Over the years, the Stuff the Cruiser program has grown in success. In 2011, food and toys were collected and turned over to the City’s adopt a family program. In 2012, the program sponsored 32 children with Christmas presents, and collected food was turned over to People to People ministries. In 2013, the program sponsored 98 children with presents and each family received a food certificate from Buehler’s worth \$50.

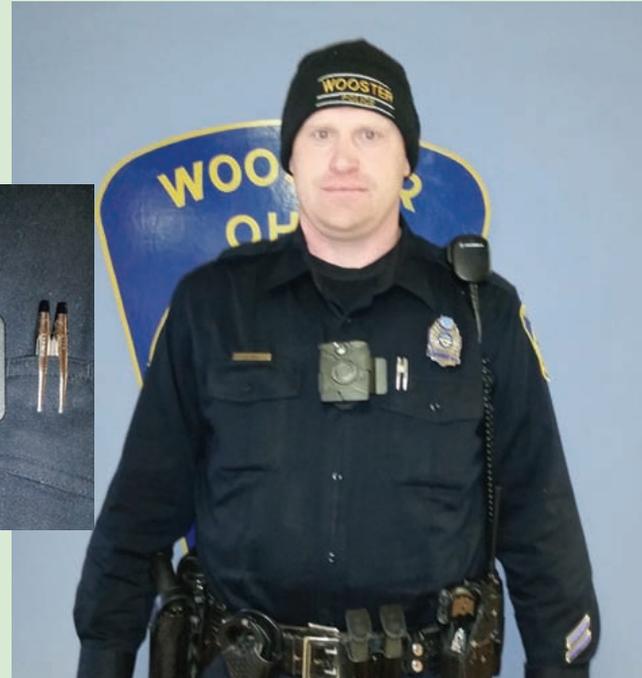
In 2014, the division attempted to sponsor 193 children with presents and clothing. In total, we were able to sponsor 200 kids. We are thankful to all of the citizens of Wooster and Wayne County for assisting us in meeting this goal.





Taser Axon Cameras

In January, the Wooster Police Department implemented body-worn cameras for all of its patrol officers. While these cameras can't look side to side and do not have peripheral vision like a human being, they can record situations that occur in front of the officer. These recordings can be used in criminal proceedings and to investigate officer complaints. They provide both video and audio that can easily be viewed by the officer, the officer's supervisor and the prosecutor. The cameras offer increased safety services for the residents of Wooster, while also providing added perspective for daily police activities.



Citizen's Police Academy

Session Two of the Wooster Police Division Citizen's Police Academy has begun. Seventeen participants representing various businesses, industries and individuals were nominated and selected to participate in this endeavor. These participants will get to experience a small taste of what a Wooster Police Officer deals with on a regular basis. The premise of the program is to provide individuals with a perspective that perhaps they hadn't considered before; that of a police

officer.

The Citizen's Police Academy Alumni from Session One raised funds to provide Thanksgiving dinner to those officers who had to work on Thanksgiving Day. While these officers surely missed their families, the hot meal that was provided was certainly appreciated.

This is the second time that the Citizen's Police Academy has been held.



Wooster Police Division Update

Detective Bill Belcher Named 2014 Wooster Police Department Officer of the Year

The 2014 Wooster Police Department Officer of the Year award has gone to **Detective Bill Belcher** for his outstanding character and dedication to his job.

Belcher was nominated by his fellow detective, Tony Lemmon. Police Chief Matt Fisher presented Belcher with the award before a large audience in the Wooster City Council chambers on Tuesday, February 17, 2015. Fisher prefaced the award with a reading of Lemmon's nomination letter.

"In my 19 years of working for the Wooster Police Department, I have never seen an officer more deserving of this award,"

"In my 19 years of working for the Wooster Police Department, I have never seen an officer more deserving of this award,"

- Detective Tony Lemmon

Lemmon wrote in his nomination letter. "He has made our community and its citizens safer, he has taken the time to improve our department in law enforcement and he continues to do an outstanding job in combatting and investigating crimes."

Belcher joined the Wooster Police Department in April of 1999. He has served on the SWAT team, the honor guard, has conducted ALICE emergency response training for both the Wooster City Schools and the College of Wooster and currently serves on the law enforcement advisory council for the Wayne County Schools Career Center.

Both rookie and veteran officers seek out Belcher for his investigative knowledge and tips on how to improve their work, Lemmon wrote.

"While performing all the above functions," wrote Lemmon, "he still continues to be a respected father, son and a good friend."



Detective Tony Lemmon (l),
Detective Bill Belcher (r)

Wooster Residents Try Police Firearms Training Simulator

The Wooster Police Department recently started using the firearms training simulator (FATS) to prepare officers to make split-second, life or death decisions. During a Citizen's Police Academy, Wooster residents also had the opportunity to try the simulator.

Because of recent national controversy regarding the use of deadly force by police officers, the Wooster Police Department decided to both use the FATS and allow Wooster citizens to experience the simulation.

The simulator is intended to train officers for worst-case scenarios when they may have very little time to make a decision. It looks and works like a first-person perspective video game; however, Chief Matthew Fisher said that the scenarios are very real.

"If I don't shoot, it may cost me my life," Fisher said. "If I do shoot, what are the ramifications of that? What do you have to live with? Those are decisions that officers across the United States have to make every day."



Often times,
what you see on TV, you
get to hash it out, you can
step back and look at it all.
Police officers
don't get that.

We are forced to make
**split-second
decisions with
imperfect
information**
without the benefit of 20/20
hindsight. **That's
what we do
every day.**

– Chief Fisher



Wooster Fire Division Updates

Change Your Clock, Change Your Batteries a Success!

The Wooster Firefighters Local 764 and the Wooster Division of Fire held their 14th Annual “Change Your Clock, Change Your Batteries” program on November 1, 2014.

Members of Firefighters Local 764 were available to assist any City of Wooster resident with the exchange of their smoke detector batteries, ensuring that the primary method of notification in the event of a residential fire is intact. The smoke detector’s batteries replacement and testing of the unit’s function were provided free of charge.

Aluminum Cans for Burned Children Receptacle at City Hall

The Wooster Firefighters Local 764 and Aluminum Cans for Burned Children charities now have a collection bin located in the southwest corner of the Wooster City Hall parking lot, located at 538 North Market St.

A L U M I N U M C A N S F O R B U R N E D C H I L D R E N

WE NEED YOUR CANS!

Help children in need with bagged cans

Located between City Hall and Fire Station #1

Convenient drop off location



Wooster Firefighters Local 764 and Aluminum Cans for Burned Children charities now have a collection bin located in the southwest corner of the Wooster City Hall parking lot.

Together we can change lives....



Wooster Firefighters Local 764

510 N. Market Street | Wooster Oh, 44691 | 330-263-5266

Visit us on Facebook @ Wooster Firefighters Local 764

Our firefighters continue to serve our great city, even on their off time,

through programs like Aluminum Cans for Burned Children and their efforts to keep our city safe by changing batteries in smoke detectors for those citizens that are unable.

As the Acting Chief of the Fire Division,

I could not be more proud of their continued efforts.

Bob Tuck Kiwanis Playground



This year marks the 25th anniversary for the community build of the Bob Tuck Kiwanis Playground at Christmas Run Park. Because the wood structure is 25 years old, it is showing wear and tear. Wooster is also in need of an all-inclusive, handicap accessible playground in our community, and because the playground at Christmas Run is the most popular in Wooster, volunteers have decided to make this play structure accessible to children and families of all abilities.

This fall, demolition of the old playground will occur and refurbishing and rebuilding the Kiwanis Playground for the next generation will begin.

Just like in 1990, the City of Wooster is partnering with the Kiwanis Club of Wooster and will make this a community project. Please talk to your kids and ask them to start thinking about features that they would like to see in their new playground. In the near future, the company that is designing the playground will be going around to Wooster City Schools to ask the kids what they want.

Please keep the Christmas Run Kiwanis Playground in your thoughts to give toward or to volunteer your time to help build. More information will be shared in newsletters, local media and on the Christmas Run Kiwanis Playground's Facebook page as the project progresses. Just like in 1990, it will take a community to make this awesome project happen.



City of Wooster



Wooster City Hall
538 N. Market St.
Wooster, OH 44691