

CITY NEWSLETTER



EST. 1808

OHIO

Spring 2020

*What's Inside*

# Feeling Cooped Up? Visit Our Parks!

*Also Featured*

## COVID-19 City Offices Update

Police Department Strengthens  
Bond with Community

Wooster Community Hospital  
Honors Strong Leadership

*New Trash/Recycle Hauler Begins July 1 | Division of Fire Award | Performance Dashboard*



## City Newsletter | Spring 2020

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# WE ARE HERE!



Due to concerns surrounding COVID-19 and Ohio's "Stay-At-Home" Order, **all City of Wooster offices are currently CLOSED to public walk-ins but we are still here providing the essential services you need.** As you know this situation is extremely fluid and changing on a daily basis. To keep abreast of the most current information, visit our website at [woosteroh.com](http://woosteroh.com) and click on the COVID-19 page.

Although offices will be closed to public walk-ins, staff will be accessible by phone and email.

#### Please see the listing below for the number of pertinent City offices:

- **Director of Administration:** 330-263-5244 or [jmontgomery@woosteroh.com](mailto:jmontgomery@woosteroh.com)
- **Mayor's Office:** 330-263-5245 or [mayor@woosteroh.com](mailto:mayor@woosteroh.com)
- **Human Resources:** 330-263-5254 or [hr@woosteroh.com](mailto:hr@woosteroh.com)
- **Utility Billing Office:** 330-263-5228 or [wcs@woosteroh.com](mailto:wcs@woosteroh.com)
- **Finance Department:** 330-263-5228 or [wcs@woosteroh.com](mailto:wcs@woosteroh.com)
- **Police Department:** Emergency 911 or Police Dispatch 330-287-5720

Contact us online by using the form on our website: [www.woosteroh.com/contact](http://www.woosteroh.com/contact)

#### In addition, online services are as follows:

- **Utility Payments:** [www.iwebms.net/woosteroh](http://www.iwebms.net/woosteroh)
- **Utility Payments by phone:** 330-439-2126
- **Taxes:** [www.woosteroh.com/finance/tax-information-forms](http://www.woosteroh.com/finance/tax-information-forms)
- **Permitting (Building & Zoning):** [woosteroh.viewpointcloud.com](http://woosteroh.viewpointcloud.com)

All City offices and services can be contacted via email and phone for any needed help. Contact information can be found on each Departments page on our website at [www.woosteroh.com](http://www.woosteroh.com).



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# It's Launched! Performance Dashboard



## Dashboard Service Areas

The dashboards are grouped into six primary service areas representing the operational goals of the city.

## What information can I find?

There are six primary dashboards, each containing statistics, charts, and facts about a specific area. Are you interested in knowing the city employee turnover rate? How many calls do the Wooster PD and Fire respond to? How many people visit the pools? The dashboard has the answers. Look for the link on our home page ([www.woosteroh.com](http://www.woosteroh.com)) and be prepared to broaden your knowledge of city operations.

The City is committed to engaging our residents and fostering accountability and transparency. We hope you enjoy browsing through the information and welcome your feedback.



# FIRE – EMS



## STAR OF LIFE AWARD Group Effort – Wooster Proud

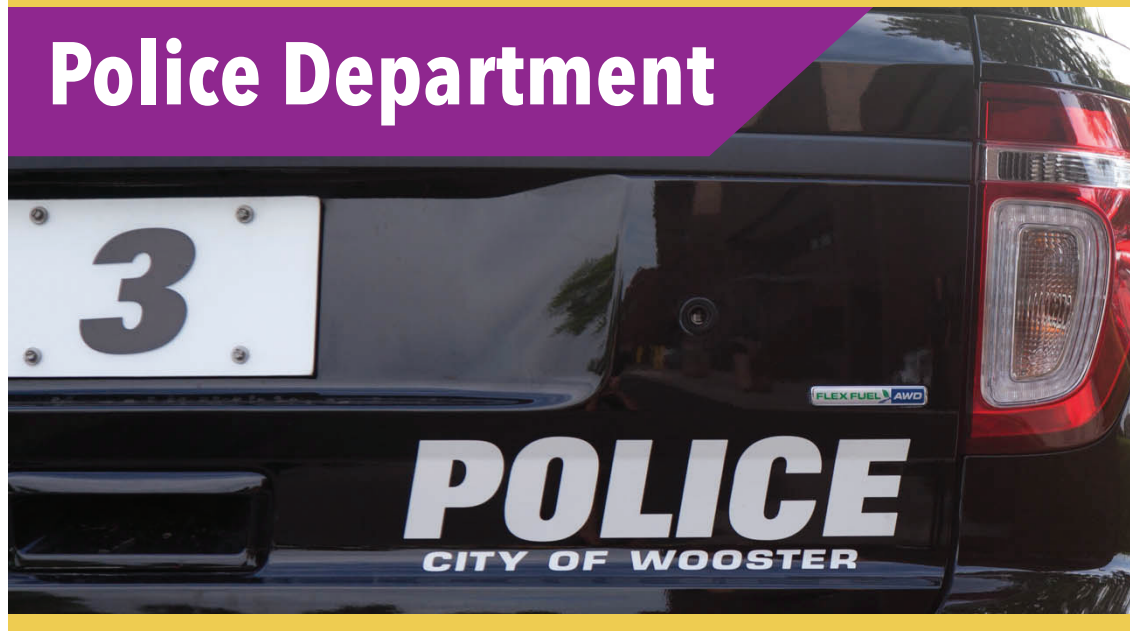


The City of Wooster is proud to announce our Division of Fire is being awarded the Star of Life Award by the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Medical Services. They were nominated due to measures taken in January 2019 to transport a patient suffering from cardiac arrest. The Wooster Fire/EMS responded to the call sending a squad and a snowplow due to the heavy snowfall that was occurring. The city maintenance crew also responded ensuring the squad could transport the patient to Wooster Community Hospital.

Once it was determined the patient needed to be transported from Wooster to Akron, the Wooster road crews and ODOT cleared the way with Wooster Fire/EMS providing the transport and our dispatcher team coordinating the effort. We are happy to say that because of the efforts of all these groups the patient is alive and well today.

***Well Done Team!***

# Police Department



## Strengthening the Bond

Our Wooster Police Department strives to strengthen its bond with the community. Our police force reaches out and participates in all types of activities involving all ages of our residents. From Reading Under the Lights, to riding school buses in our community, to our Citizen's Police Academy, our officers demonstrate a high level of accountability, engagement, and community service.

The Ohio Community Collaborative recently conducted an audit of our police department to see if they are compliant with the state standards. The Ohio Collaborative is a 12-person panel of law enforcement experts and community leaders that established state standards for seven different areas. The board granted our Wooster Police Department final certification and re-certification in each of these seven areas:

- Use of Force
- Response to Resistance
- Recruitment and Hiring
- Community Engagement
- Body Worn Cameras
- Bias-Free Policing
- Investigation of Employee Misconduct

The City is proud of our police department for showing their commitment to training and public service.





# New Trash/Recycle Hauler Begins July 1



Kimble Companies, located in Dover, was awarded a contract for refuse and recycling waste collection. Based on feedback from our residents, trash and recycling service will continue to be done weekly. The contract begins July 1st with monthly fees seeing a slight increase; regular rates will be \$15.02; senior rates will be \$12.77.

Citizens will receive new trash and recycling carts from Kimble and the ones from Waste Management will need to be returned. Those transition details for moving service are still being worked out. Look for inserts in your May utility statement with the details.



**Recycling has changed over the years, what used to be accepted, may no longer be. Kimble has provided a few guidelines for residents to follow.**

**Recycle Right: *When in doubt, Throw it Out!*** Make sure that all items are on the Kimble Recycling Center's approved list of accepted recyclables. If the item is not on the list or if you are unsure, place it directly into the trash.

**Recyclables must be clean and dry: *Food and liquid are contaminants.*** No dirty peanut butter jars or bottles with water still in them. Cardboard must also be clean and dry. Greasy pizza boxes are NOT recyclable.

**No need to sort or bag your items: *Place all your approved recyclables in your Kimble Recycling Cart.*** Items should be loose and unbagged. Plastic bags are one of the largest contaminants at our Recycling Center.



## CONTACT US WITH QUESTIONS

[www.kimblecompanies.com](http://www.kimblecompanies.com) | LIVE CHAT AVAILABLE!

1-800-201-0005 | P.O Box 448 Dover, Ohio 44622

### PAPER & NEWSPAPER

Paper should be clean and dry. Please no glossy paper or foil wrapping paper. Paper should not be stained by waste. Magazines, mail, newspapers and copier paper are accepted.

### CARDBOARD

Cardboard must be clean and dry. It should be flattened and be emptied of any packing materials. No food contamination such as grease on pizza boxes.

### METAL AND ALUMINUM CANS

Only metal or aluminum food and drink cans are accepted. They should be empty, clean and dry before being placed loosely in the recycling cart. No other metal items are accepted.

### GLASS BOTTLES

All glass bottles should be empty, clean and dry before being placed loosely in the recycling cart. Please no glassware, mirrors, window panes or light bulbs.

### PLASTICS JUGS & BOTTLES

Only clean and empty plastic bottles and jugs are accepted. Please do not crush the bottles and keep lids on. No other plastic items are accepted - even if they have a recycle logo.



### NOT ACCEPTED

- WOOD
- PAINT CANS
- ANTI-FREEZE
- WAX CARTONS
- BATTERIES
- LIGHT BULBS
- MOTOR OIL CONTAINERS
- HOSES
- WIRE HANGERS
- PLASTIC BAGS
- STYROFOAM
- CHRISTMAS LIGHTS
- TOYS
- PLASTIC UTENSILS
- PLASTIC FURNITURE
- YARD WASTE



NO  
PLASTIC BAGS



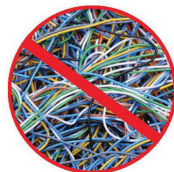
NO  
GARBAGE



NO  
FOOD OR LIQUIDS



NO  
CLOTHING



NO  
HOSES/WIRES/CHAINS



NO  
ELECTRONICS



# Infrastructure

## DOWNTOWN STREETScape PHASE 2

Simonson Construction is currently working in the southeast quadrant of the square. The project will be similar to the northeast quadrant using many of the same design elements. Sidewalks along S. Market and from the square east to the improved alley on E. Liberty will all be replaced.

Many residents have asked, "What is happening with the artwork that was there?" The display was carefully removed and has been taken to the Wayne Center for the Arts.



## ROADWAYS

Our Engineering Division aggressively seeks out funding to maintain and improve the roadways. This year the city has secured over \$2,000,000 in funding and will spend over \$4,000,000 in roadway improvements in 2020.

Highland  
Prospect  
Christmas Run  
Callowhill  
Montclair  
Quinby  
North  
E Milltown  
Hancock  
Melrose  
Maiden Lane  
Maple

## WOOSTER RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY (WRRF)

Have you smelled that smell? In order to minimize the odors emitted from our WRRF, plans to build a covered 4.7M gallon sludge tank is currently out for bid. The project is estimated at \$2,000,000 and will eliminate the need for our current system of open sludge lagoons.





## NOW HIRING

### Assistant Plant Operator & Plant Mechanic

Download an application and get more information on current career opportunities at [www.woosteroh.com/human-resources/careers](http://www.woosteroh.com/human-resources/careers).

## WE ARE WOOSTER

### Take a look behind the scenes of your local government

The City has a YouTube channel where you can now find videos on the Wooster Police Department and our Wastewater Treatment plant. You can also watch the replay of all of our City Council meetings.

We will be adding videos from other departments in the future. Stay tuned!

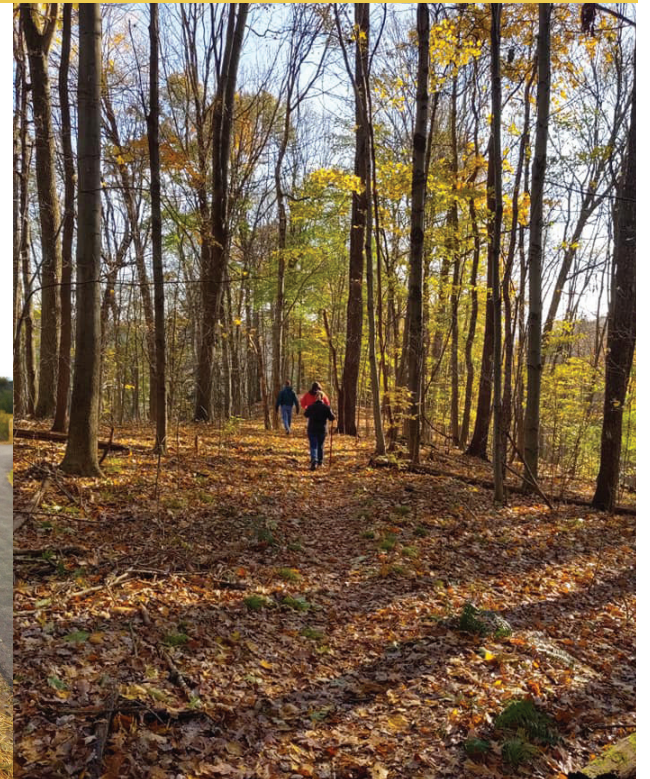
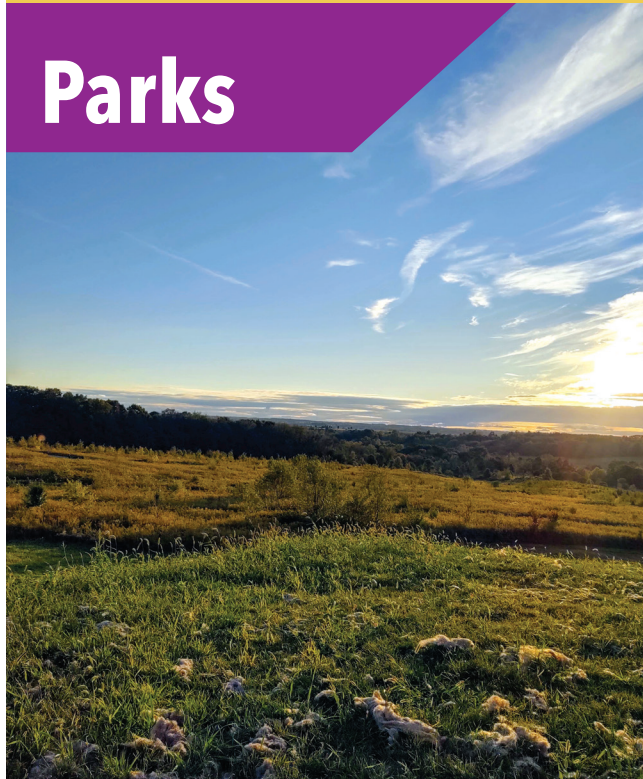


## FIRE DIVISION IMPROVES SAFETY RATING

The City of Wooster recently received a new Public Protection Classification (PPC) from the Insurance Services Office (ISO) program, reducing their PPC rating to a "2." This rating plays an important role in the underwriting process at insurance companies. Most U.S. insurers use PPC information as part of their decision making process when determining which businesses to write, coverages to offer, or prices to charge for personal and commercial property insurance.

This reduction was directly related to enhancements made to the fire department's response methodology, increased data collection, enhanced fire and officer training levels, implementations of our Community Risk Reduction Activities, and the level of services being provided by the Wooster-Ashland Regional Council of Governments Communication Center (WAR COG). As of 2019, there were 1,597 fire departments countrywide that have obtained this rating.

# Parks



## Feeling Cooped Up? Come Enjoy Our Parks.

Did you know that the City of Wooster has several secluded parks to enjoy? In this day of social distancing and isolation, now is the time to lace up those sneakers and seek out some new adventures. Please be respectful and stay on the designated trails and take out whatever you bring in – don't litter. Remember to stay at least six feet apart from other hikers.

1. **Grosjean Park** has long been a destination for fly fishers from all over the state. It has 57.5 acres with an accessible education trail.
2. **Walton Woods** is a small 9.3 acre park that has just over one mile of primitive walking trails. It will soon be teeming with wildflowers, blooming trees and wildlife.
3. **Wooster Memorial Park** is where you want to go to just get away from it all. It has 422 acres and more than 11 miles of primitive trails and beautiful scenery. For those of you who prefer a paved stroll, there is a new section called Kenwood Acres. It is ADA compliant and includes scenic overlooks.

4. **Oak Hill Park** offers the best sunset views in all of Wooster along with 1.7 miles of paved paths.

Along with the parks, the City has over 11.1 miles of multi-use paths perfect for a safe walk or bike ride. The paths are 8' wide and have plenty of room to spare to keep socially distant. Just remember, walkers need to move over to the right when you hear that biker say "On your left."

This summer, construction will begin on another 1.2 miles of pathway; a short section connecting the SR585 path to Melrose Drive and another section continuing the Burbank Road path north to connect to Friendsville Road.

There are also three bike repair stations located throughout the city. One is at Oak Hill Park near the pavilion, one along Burbank Road near the Kinney Building and the third is in front of the Wayne County Public Library on West Liberty Street.

For directions and more information go to [woosteroh.com/parks](http://woosteroh.com/parks).

# Mayor Breneman's Message



As you are aware, we are facing a health crisis in our city, state, and nation with an intensity that has never been seen by most living people. This is a situation which we must take very seriously and need to follow the professionals who are guiding the protocol in staying safe in living through this virus. We have been planning the spin-up of our critical city services for many months, and have put those plans into place within the past weeks.



There will be loss, hard days, and making tough decisions, but we are well prepared and better than most to face this challenge. We will need everyone's help to slow this virus down and get our community back up and running after the crisis passes. Please pray for and thank all those who are standing in harm's way to keep our community safe.

Bob Breneman  
Mayor of Wooster

## WCH – Strong Leadership



Wooster Community Hospital (WCH) honored CEO Bill Sheron for a quarter century of leadership and creating a highly respected community hospital. IBM Watson has for the 5th time recognized WCH as a Top 100 Hospital. The hospital has also earned a 5-star rating from CMS for High-Quality Patient Care. WCH is one of twenty-three Ohio hospitals to achieve this 5-star rating, right up there with the Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals.

U.S. News & World Report awarded the Transitional Care Unit (TCU) with the designation of Best Nursing Home for short-term rehabilitation. The hospital's TCU earned this rating by achieving a "High Performing" status, the highest possible rating. The short-term rehabilitation rating is based on ten quality measures focusing on staffing, outcomes, resident complaints, and processes of care.

Wooster Community Hospital is one of the few remaining community hospitals in Ohio. With WCH being one of the largest employers in Wooster, along with the level of care provided, it is truly an asset to the area.

# SERVICES IMPACTED BY COVID-19

## Meals On Wheels

Meals on Wheels will continue to operate and deliver meals to the residents of Wayne County from the Meals on Wheels of Northeast Ohio central kitchen facilities in Massillon and Akron. Anyone wishing to sign up for the Meals on Wheels service please call 1-800-466-8101.



## Public Meetings Will Be Held Through Teleconferencing

Due to the ongoing concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic and the current social distancing requirements, all public meetings that are not canceled will be held through teleconferencing on either Zoom or join.me meeting platforms. This method will continue until further notice. Members of City Council and all boards and commissions are asked to attend by calling in at the scheduled time of the meeting. Fifteen minutes before the meeting, a phone number and code needed to join the meeting will be provided on the City of Wooster Website and Facebook page. Members of the public will be able to join the meeting in the same way.

**The phone number for all meetings will be 646-307-1990.**

All Council meetings are recorded and published online on our Youtube channel and broadcast on MCTV channel 22 on the following dates:

- Wednesday & Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. & 11:30 p.m.
- Thursday & Friday mornings at 7:30 a.m.
- Thursday afternoon at 1:30 p.m.
- Friday afternoon at 2:00 p.m.

## Tax Filing Extended

The City of Wooster has extended the Income Tax Filing Deadline to July 15, 2020 following the order delivered by the State of Ohio. This includes extending the time to pay. Contact our income tax department at [incometax@woosteroh.com](mailto:incometax@woosteroh.com).

## Courts and Playgrounds Closed

To limit possible exposure to and spread of COVID-19 in our community, the City of Wooster is closing all park restrooms, tennis courts, pickleball courts and the skate park in addition to the recent closures of all playgrounds and basketball courts.

Closed signs are posted and facilities will be taped off or locked where possible.



## Waste Management – Modifying Services



In order for Waste Management to maintain its focus on municipal solid waste collection and disposal, and due to the reduced number of employees in the field, effective Wednesday, April 1, 2020, Waste Management is temporarily suspending the performance of the following services, which are non-essential during this period of emergency:

- Any extra trash bags or any items that do not fit safely inside the WM container.
- Bulk Collection - furniture, carpet, mattresses, appliances, etc.
- Yard Waste Collection - grass clippings, brush, tree limbs, etc.

When the Declarations of Emergency and social distancing recommendations have been eased and Waste Management's work force returns to pre-pandemic levels, these services will be restarted. Waste Management will provide notice when the service(s) will resume.



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