

CITY NEWSLETTER



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OHIO

Spring 2021

What's Inside

POTHOLE BEGONE!

ROTARY 100th
ANNIVERSARY

SOURCE WATER
PROTECTION PROGRAM

Virtual Inspections / Hazardous Waste Collection / Run-Walk & Roll Trail Event



City Newsletter | Spring 2021

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Rotary 100th Anniversary
Memorial Grove Project at Oak Hill Park

Wooster Rotary is celebrating its 100th Anniversary by tackling a new community project. A cooperative effort between the City, Rotary and Secrest Arboretum, entails transplanting 27 mature trees from Secrest to Oak Hill Park to create a “Founders Row” dedicated to the 24 founding members of Rotary.

Jason Veil, Curator of Secrest Arboretum, was in need of thinning trees; Rotary was interested in creating a memorial grove; and the City had the location. Secrest Arboretum donated the mature trees and worked with Davey Tree and the City to arrange the digging and transporting of various varieties to Oak Hill Park. Rotary paid for the transportation and worked with the City to determine where the trees would be planted. The City provided the labor to clear and mow the area at the park along with marking where the trees should be planted. Rotary is in the process of installing additional benches and signage along Founders Row, creating another area of beautiful greenspace within our city.

This collaborative effort is much appreciated and many thanks go out to all involved.





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VIRTUAL INSPECTIONS (RVI)

A new way of doing business

COVID-19 has changed the way businesses and organizations everywhere operate. The rate of change differs for every industry and the construction industry is notoriously resistant to change. Even so, the City successfully instituted BIG changes to the world of construction, especially building inspections.

For the safety and well-being of our community and staff, the City of Wooster Building Standards Division began conducting remote virtual inspections (RVI) to avoid delays and keep projects moving. Virtual inspections proved to be so effective from the standpoint of safety, productivity and efficiency, that the City intends to continue this service.

RVI's are used for interior inspections of occupied residential buildings including remodeling, alteration, basement finishing and additions that are accessible only through occupied spaces. RVI's are also used for residential and commercial inspections, such as rooftop solar (photovoltaic), water heaters, furnace/AC, and re-inspections approved by the inspector.

This practice was readily accepted during the pandemic and the advantage proved so great it is likely to remain a popular and routine tool for the foreseeable future. It also compliments the online tools we use to accept and approve applications and to schedule inspections.

To learn more about our remote virtual inspections and all our other online processes go to the City's YouTube station.



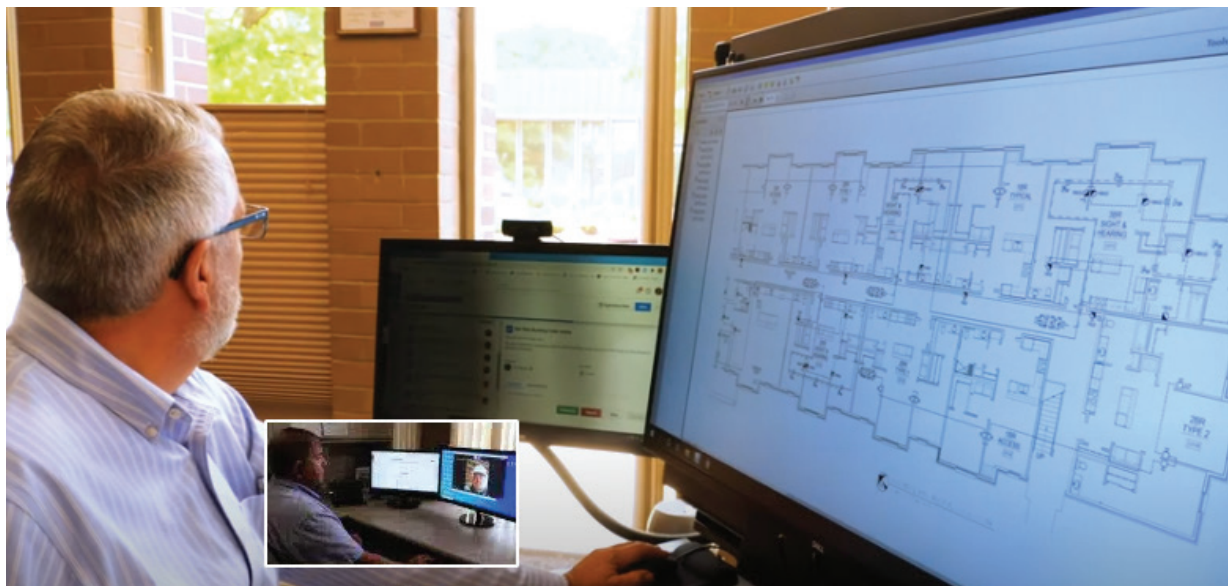
NUISANCES AND PROPERTY CODE ENFORCEMENT

Our Building Standards Division handles the enforcement of property code violations and nuisance calls. Code enforcement enhances the quality of life for residents by:

- Promoting the health and safety of the public
- Preserves property values in the city
- Encourages pride in our community
- Encourages private and public investment in neighborhoods

The Division responds to complaints from the public. They also proactively inspect the traditional residential areas. For the most part, property owners resolve issues once they are cited. If not, the City will follow up with the prosecution.

Complaints can be submitted online through our Building Standards Divisions' home page or call 330-263-5241.





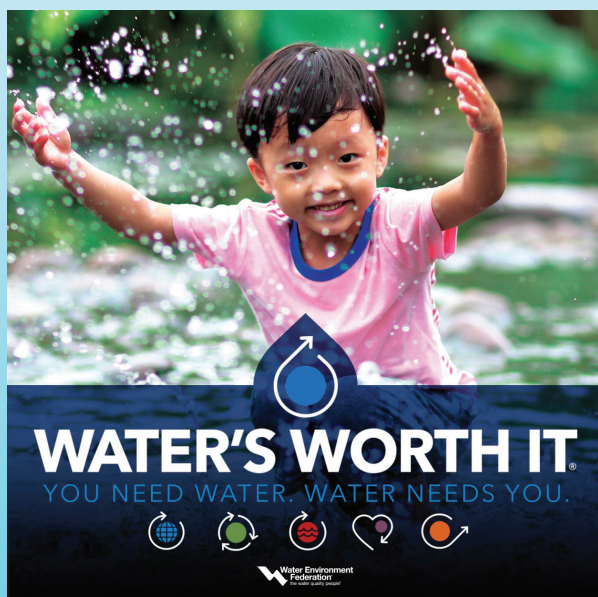
"Safety, Reliability, and Excellence!"

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you feel strongly about our environment and specifically our drinking water? The Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP) committee is seeking community members to serve on our SWPP Task Force.

2021 Taskforce Schedule: April 19th, July 19th and October 18th

Call **330-263-5286** if you are interested in joining our Task Force.



Source Water Protection Program (SWPP) What is a 'Source Water Protection Program' ?

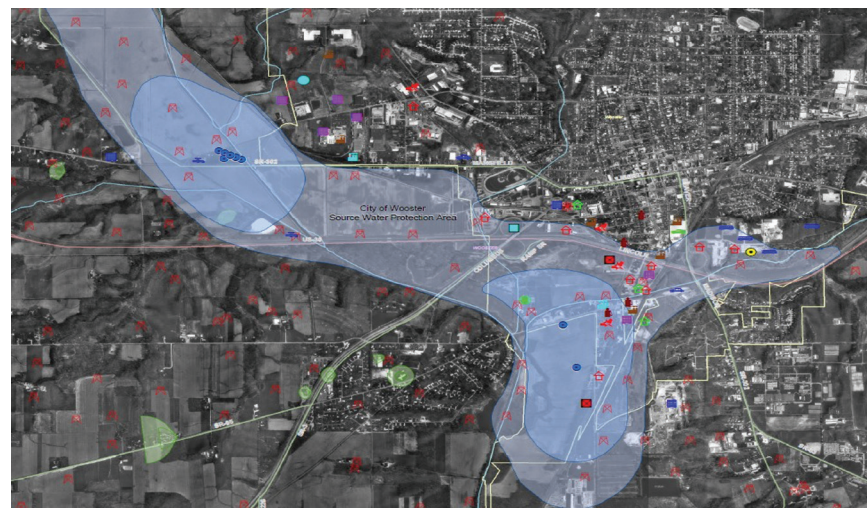
The City of Wooster Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP), is a written, adaptive plan of action for protecting the water we drink at the source. A SWPP Task Force has been formed with a focus on our community and a deep desire to protect our Drinking Source Water.

A Drinking Water SWPP includes two phases: assessment and protection. Assessment includes research, data, and science to evaluate the potential for source contamination based on the facilities and activities within areas of interest. Protection includes activities to ensure the integrity of source water that eventually becomes the source of drinking water for the community.

Through collaboration with the Ohio EPA and research consultants, the City of Wooster engaged in a comprehensive update of this program. This included evaluation of protection methods, protection areas, and efforts to ensure the program operates with the focus of drinking water protection.

The updated plan can be located at **woosteroh.com/water/source-water-protection-program**.

Safe drinking water is not an accident; it is intentional, with a focus on community health and reliability. Wooster has a positive, progressive, and proud tradition of stewardship at work, meeting the expectations of our citizens and the regulatory community. The City of Wooster has placed a priority on protecting its ground water resources through public education and local source controls. Community action, support, and education is paramount to ensuring safe drinking water in Wooster for generations to come.



The map above shows the City of Wooster's Source Water Protection area highlighted in blue.

Wayne County Hazardous Waste Collection

*By Appointment: Monday, May 3, 2021, Noon to 6:00 p.m.
and Monday, June 7th, Noon to 6:00 p.m.*

This event is sponsored by the Stark Tuscarawas Wayne Recycling District and is for residents of Stark, Tuscarawas and Wayne counties ONLY. ID is required for the appointment.

Residents MUST register for this event. There are 144 appointment slots available over the six hour time period. Register by going to **timetorecycle.org/hhw-appointments**.

The following wastes will be accepted as long as they were generated in a household:

- **Aerosols**
- **Automotive Fluids** (Oil, antifreeze, fuel injector fluid, etc.)
- **Cleaning supplies and other household chemicals**
- **Diesel, Kerosene, Gasoline** (Limit 10 gallons per car. Containers will not be returned. All containers must be closed tightly.)
- **Fluorescent Bulbs**
- **All tubes up to 8 ft- CFL- all sizes**
- **Mercury-containing devices** (ex. Thermometers)
- **Oil-Based Paint (NO LATEX PAINT), Stains, and Varnish:** How to identify oil-based paint- Look on the back and find the cleanup section. Oil-Based Paint requires paint thinner or mineral spirits. If you have Latex Paint, it will say to use water and soap for the cleanup, will use phrases like "water-based" and usually is housed in a plastic container. Latex paint can be placed with household trash once it has been solidified (either by allowing it to dry out or by mixing in kitty litter, sawdust, or shredded newspaper).
- **Pesticides, Herbicides, Fungicides, Fertilizers**



Main Street Farmers Market on the Square

*Every Saturday morning from
8 a.m. to noon beginning
May 15th to October 9th.*

SLUDGE TANK PROGRESS



The sludge tank is in its final construction phase. This sludge tank was designed to be a 5 million gallon containment tank for biosolids. The new tank will store the sludge under cover, versus the lagoon containment currently being used. With the nice spring weather, the lagoons are being emptied and the material supplied to our agricultural partners for their farming operations. In 2020, we provided 3,794 dry tons of biosolids to local agricultural fields reducing the need for commercial fertilizers.

The new sludge tank will have simplified hauling procedures that should reduce the odor issue and still provide a benefit to the local farming industry. There is still quite a bit of piping, electrical and mechanical work to get the sludge tank functional, but we hope to have it operational in late June... just in time for your outdoor summer fun.

POTHOLES BE GONE!

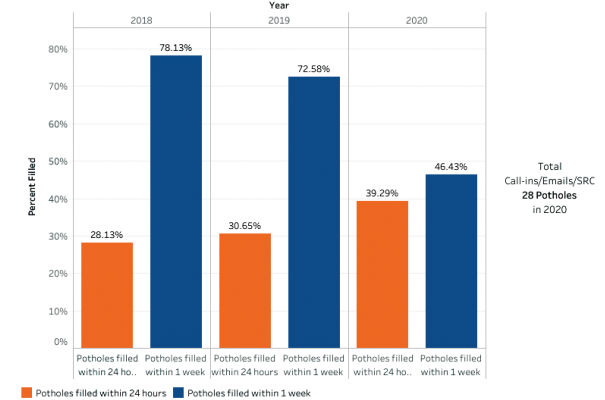
At the very first council meeting of 2021, City Council approved \$3,684,000 in roadway maintenance and improvements for this year's construction season. No need to dodge potholes, you'll be dodging orange cones this season.

Our Engineering Division will be overseeing the projects and partnering a few with ODOT. Some of the projects you will see happening around town are concrete repairs on Buchholz and Greensview, West Milltown Road turning lanes, the resurfacing of certain portions of Columbus, Beall and Cleveland roads, and the final phase of the downtown streetscape.

A project being headed up by ODOT is a major rehab of the Dix Expressway that will begin in late 2021. The project calls for the removal of the concrete and replacement with asphalt. The construction phase is expected to take two years, with traffic being maintained, but reduced to one lane in the construction zone.

There will be nine streets within the city that will benefit from resurfacing: Grant, Henrietta, Old Mansfield Road, Bowman Street, Oldman, Winkler, Venture Blvd., Walnut and Saybolt.

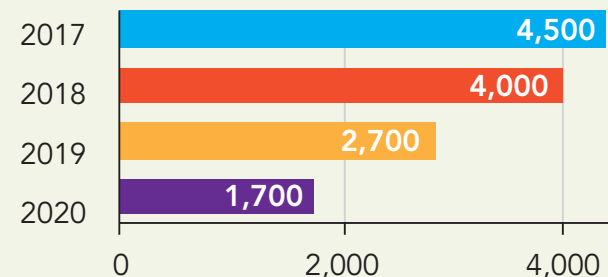
Reported Pothole Response Time



PUBLIC PROPERTIES MAINTENANCE DIVISION

Speaking of potholes, our Maintenance and Engineering Divisions have diligently been working to improve the quality of our streets and reduce the number of potholes and emergency maintenance issues. There has been a 265% DECREASE in potholes in the past four years.

FILLED POTHOLE 265% DECREASE IN 4 YEARS



Run-Walk & Roll Trail Event

Join Us on Saturday, June 19th, 2021 for a Family Friendly "Scavenger Hunt" Event



The Run-Walk & Roll Trail event will feature a scavenger hunt with twelve stops along the city's bike paths with check-in beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the Kinney Soccer Complex. Completion of the entire event could cover a span of six miles; we encourage families to do as much or as little of the hunt as they want by any method they want. You can walk, run or bike. (Helmets required for biking)

Registration ends on June 4th, 12:00 p.m. The cost is Individual \$5.00; Family \$10.00.

For additional information, including necessary waivers and registration along with COVID guidelines, go to [woosteroh.com/recreation/run-walk-roll-wayne-trails-bike-event](https://www.woosteroh.com/recreation/run-walk-roll-wayne-trails-bike-event) or you can call 330-263-5207 with questions.




Wooster Community Center Farmers Market

Thursdays 8:00 a.m. – Noon

July 8 – October 7, 241 S. Bever Street


We need vendors for the 2021 season.

Contact Sue, skeens@woosteroh.com or call 330-263-5207 for an information packet and more details.



ZUMBA

at the
Community Center
Mondays & Wednesdays
5:30pm – 6:30pm
\$50/Resident
\$60/Non Resident
per 10 Class Session
\$7/Drop in
Pre-Registration Required
For more information
Call (330) 263-5207



YOGA

at the
Community Center
MONDAYS:
Chair Yoga 9:15-10:00am Morning Yoga 10:15-11:15am Evening Yoga 6:00-7:00pm
\$50/Resident
\$60/Non Resident
per 10 Class Session
\$7/Drop in
Pre-Registration Required
For more information
Call (330) 263-5207

Check our Recreation Department website at [woosteroh.com/recreation](https://www.woosteroh.com/recreation) for the most up-to-date information on all of our activities.

RECREATION



STAY TUNED

All three aquatic facilities will be opening this summer, but at this time, the city does not know what type of format it will take. Stay tuned while the city tweaks pool operations to ensure we comply with COVID-19 governmental guidelines and ensure the safety of our patrons.

COMMUNITY CENTER

The Community Center is offering limited programming and the fitness center is open. Billiards, table tennis, and bingo are available following the governmental guidelines. Yoga and Zumba classes are being offered with limited enrollment. We look forward to seeing you all and hope to increase our offerings as we are allowed.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to our Recreation Coordinators, Alexis Gunn and Michele Williams for becoming Certified Parks and Recreation Professionals. This designation is earned from the National Recreation and Parks Association by taking an examination that focuses on the five areas of Communication, Finance, Human Resources, Operations and Programs. Thank you, Alexis and Michele, for your commitment to your profession and our community.

LET'S CHAT

Putting the "Public" in Public Service

Monthly in-person meetings to discuss topics or concerns of your choice have begun. City Council and City Administration representatives will be available to listen to YOU! These monthly meetings will be held at City Hall in Council Chambers.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Registration is REQUIRED
- The Registrant is allowed to bring ONE person with them
- 15 Minute Time Slots are allocated for discussion
- Meetings are held within City Hall, Council Chambers
- Masks are required, Social Distancing will be maintained

UPCOMING DATES

- Wednesday, May 12th, NOON
- Wednesday, June 16th, 5:30 p.m.

To register your time slot – call 330-263-5242
or go to [woosteroh.com/events](https://www.woosteroh.com/events).

Economically Strong



MAGAZINE

Wooster, Wayne County and Ohio continue to be recognized for economic strength and success. Policom Corporation placed Wooster in the their Top 20 Micropolitans coming in at #14. Site Selection Magazine has ranked Ohio #1 for the past two years for states with the most projects per capita.



eFILE IS HERE!

The City of Wooster has been working to provide an electronic filing and payment option for our citizens and businesses. eFile is a free, secure electronic portal. It is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week except for scheduled maintenance. This new website provides a user-friendly approach where customers can input their tax information and then produce a calculated and final return.

At this time, the customer still needs to submit their supporting tax forms (i.e., W-2s, 1099s, 1040, etc.) and all returns may be subject to an audit at a later date.

While the payment portion of this electronic filing is still undergoing testing, we do have the ability to accept your online payments at [woosteroh.com/finance/online-tax-payments](https://www.woosteroh.com/finance/online-tax-payments).

City of Wooster's Finance Department Does It Again



Government Finance Officers Association awarded the Certificate of Achievement for the 39th consecutive year to the City of Wooster. This

certificate is given for going beyond the minimum requirements of general accepted accounting principles in the preparation of the comprehensive annual financial reports.



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