



CITY NEWSLETTER
Fall 2021

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LEAF PICKUP SCHEDULE

SENIOR HIKE
& STROLL

INFRASTRUCTURE
UPDATES

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City Newsletter | Fall 2021

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Top Reasons Why You Will Want to Work for THE CITY OF WOOSTER

- 1. You will provide services to the community you live, work and play in**
 - We take pride in our community
 - We love the small-town atmosphere and big-city amenities
- 2. You'll participate in awesome training opportunities**
 - We want employees to reach their full potential
 - Full-time employees are eligible for tuition reimbursement
- 3. You can work your way up the ladder**
 - We prefer to promote from within
 - We conduct annual employee evaluations
- 4. Your salary and benefits are competitive**
 - Earn vacation and sick leave as soon as you begin work
 - OPERS participation for retirement
 - Deferred compensation and Flexible Spending Accounts Available
 - Health insurance employee premiums are minimal
 - We regularly gauge our wage structure against other similar communities
- 5. You won't be bored**
 - Variety in your job is a given
 - Divisional transfers are encouraged
- 6. You'll be part of a team that values**
 - Accountability & Continuous Improvement
 - Leadership & Management
 - Respect & Communication
 - Honesty & Integrity
 - Stewardship & Trust
 - Safety



You can reach a member of
our HR Team at
hr@woosteroh.com
or 330-263-5254

Open positions can be found
at [www.woosteroh.com/
human-resources/careers](http://www.woosteroh.com/human-resources/careers)



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Wooster City Council has four seats to fill; Ward 2, Ward 4 and two At-large positions are up for grabs on November 2nd. We encourage you to exercise your right to vote.

POLLING LOCATIONS HAVE CHANGED This chart shows the new polling locations for some of our wards:

Former Permanent Location	Precinct(s)	New Location Name	New Location Address
Wooster Community Center	Woo-1A	Wayne County Fair Event Center	199 Vanover Street, Wooster
American Red Cross Building	Woo 1-B	Wayne County Fair Event Center	199 Vanover Street, Wooster
College Hills Retirement Center	Woo 2-D Woo 3-D	Connection Church	1633 Portage Road, Wooster
West View Healthy Living	Woo 4-B Woo 4-C	Church of the Nazarene	3100 Oak Hill Road, Wooster

Insider Look at City Government

Our 2021 Citizen’s Committee began in September. This ten member class met weekly at various city locations to learn the ins and outs of how city government works and what the city does.

There were tours of the Safety Center, City Hall, Community Center, the Water Treatment Plant and the Water Resource Recovery Facility. Hands-on learning and demonstrations such as turning valves and hydrant flushing were done at the Utilities Division, and members had the opportunity to climb into the heavy equipment at our Maintenance Division.

If you are interested in attending the 2022 session, contact Lynne DePaulo, 330-263-5242.



2021 Leaf Pickup Schedule

Leaf pickup begins October 27 and runs through December 10. The street-by-street schedule and other important information is on our website at woosteroh.com/ppm/leaf-collection.

OCTOBER

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		10/27 - Section 1	10/28 - Section 2	10/29 Section 2

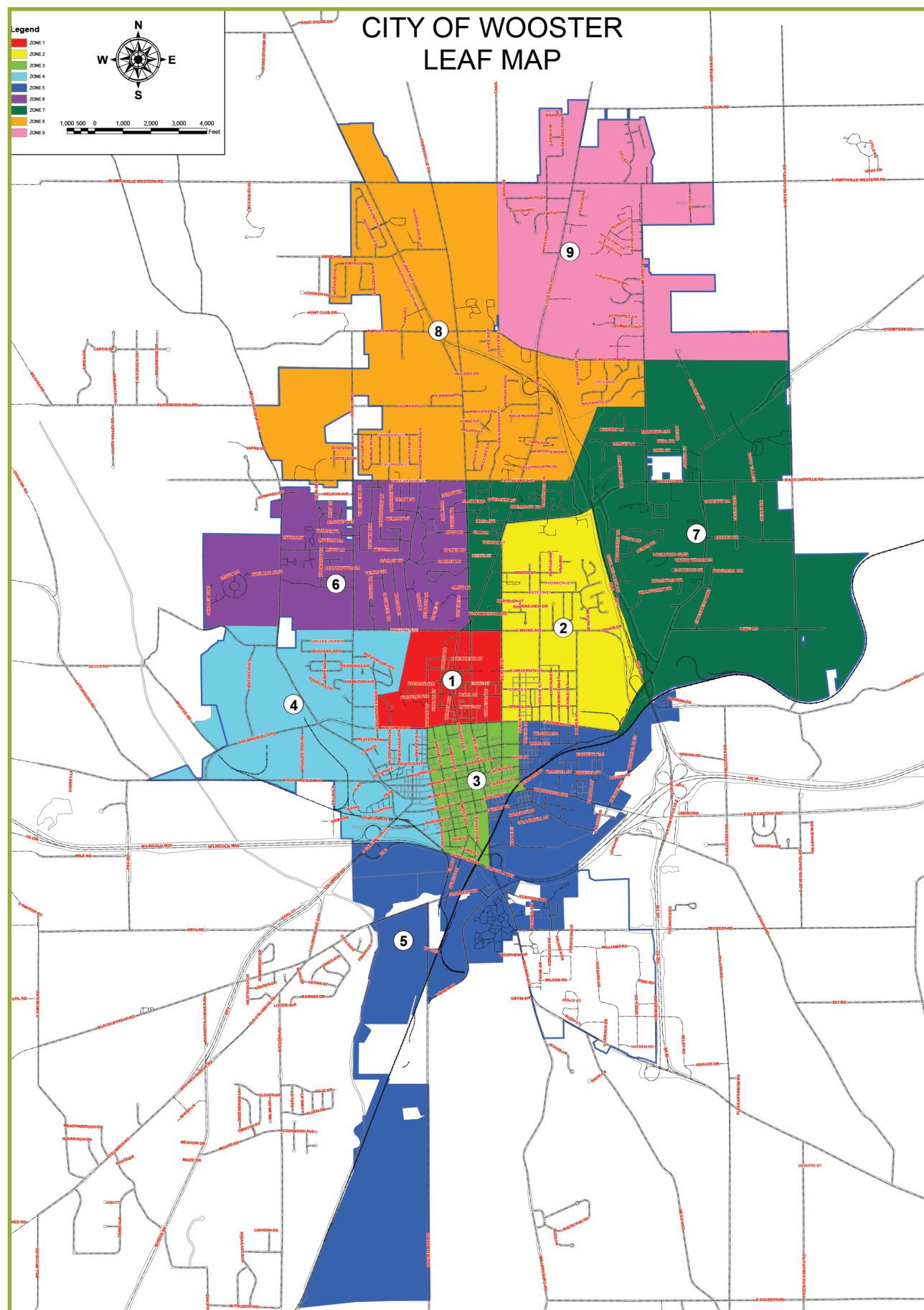
NOVEMBER

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
11/1 - Section 3	11/2 - Section 4	11/3 - Section 5	11/4 - Section 6	11/5 - Section 6
11/8 - Section 6	11/9 - Section 7	11/10 - Section 7	11/11 Veteran's Off	11/12 - Section 7
11/15 - Section 8	11/16 - Section 8	11/17 - Section 8	11/18 - Section 9	11/19 - Section 9
11/22 - Section 1	11/23 - Section 2	11/24 - Section 2	11/25 Thanksgiving Off	11/26 Holiday Off
11/29 - Section 3	11/30 - Section 3			

DECEMBER

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		12/1 - Section 4	12/2 - Section 5	12/3 - Section 6
12/6 - Section 6	12/7 - Section 7	12/8 - Section 7	12/9 - Section 8	12/10 - Section 9





INFRASTRUCTURE

Upcoming Projects

Melrose Drive Improvements

The northern portion of Melrose Drive is scheduled for improvement in 2022. The improvements include curb and gutter, sidewalks, a bike path on the west side, a dedicated bus-stop near Melrose Trailer Park, and reconstruction of the roadway from Milltown Road to Smithville-Western.

Roadway Resurfacing - Beall Avenue, Cleveland Road, Columbus Avenue

You may have noticed the brick crosswalks on Beall Avenue in the College of Wooster vicinity were removed this summer. This was in preparation for the upcoming paving project. Hopefully, with the removal this summer, the ground will settle enough before the resurfacing to create a nice, smooth driving surface.

ODOT funding for the resurfacing project will cover about half of the \$1,050,000 estimated cost for the resurfacing of these three major city roadways.

Dix Expressway

ODOT is starting a \$31,000,000 reconstruction project in March 2022 on the Dix Expressway. The concrete will be removed and replaced with asphalt. The expressway will not be closed completely, but will be reduced to one lane.

Wastewater Recovery Facility Update

The open lagoons at our Wastewater Recovery Facility have been emptied and the new covered storage tank has been in operation since July. This storage tank can hold five million gallons and allows for gas capture, which lowers the noticeable odor that emits from the biosolids. The tank has simplified load-out features that enable the biosolids to be transported easier and with less smell for land application.



The construction of this storage tank took close to a year to complete and had a final cost of \$2,316,000. This investment shows a commitment to ensure sustainability and to meet the expectations of our community.

Clear Creek Park

The newest addition to Wooster's park system is almost complete. Grant money from NatureWorks and OPWC was used to create a 10-acre park on Venture Boulevard. The park has about a mile of paved walkway meandering through woods, creeks and hills, a deck overlooking Clear Creek, a restroom and a still to be installed pavilion and playground area. The pavilion is on a slow boat from Australia and we're hoping it finally makes it to Wooster in November.



Streetscape - Phase 3

The southwest quadrant of the square was finished just before Woosterfest this fall. This is the final piece of our updating of the downtown square to make it more inviting to our residents and visitors. The cannons were refurbished, the statue was power-washed and seating areas were established.

Senior Hike and Stroll

The Senior Hike and Stroll Program saw a huge increase in participation this fall.

The Hikers met at Wooster Memorial Park and hiked for about 1 ½ hours on the trails. Recreation Manager Jeff Battig led 20 participants on the weekly hikes.

The Strollers met at various parks that had paved surfaces and walked for an hour. This program was developed for those who are still active but need more stable footing.

The Fall session has now ended. You'll be able to find the Spring information on our website after the first of the year.



Santa's Mailbox

Santa and his helpers are excited to announce that Santa's Mailbox will be located on the downtown square beginning November 1st and ending on December 6th. Window Wonderland begins on Friday, November 19th - what a great way to kick off the holiday season! Visitors can drop off their letters to Santa at the mailbox downtown while viewing the beautifully decorated windows and watching Santa as he descends from the roof.

Be sure to include a stamped self-addressed envelope so Santa can send his reply. More information for Window Wonderland can be found on Main Street Wooster's website. (mainstreetwooster.org)



Check our Recreation Department website at **woosteroh.com/recreation** for the most up-to-date information on all of our activities.

RECREATION

GHOSTLY GREETINGS!



As we near the Halloween holiday, many neighborhoods in Wooster will be looking to hold trick-or-treat for children. While the City of Wooster does not coordinate or sponsor a city-wide, one-day trick-or-treat event, there are many organizations that offer trunk-or-treat, haunted trails and other fun activities.

We encourage parents to review safety rules with children before going out for trick-or-treat. Remember to walk on the sidewalks, stay with a group, and approach only clearly lit homes. For residents participating in trick-or-treat, make sure to remove anything that could cause the little goblins to trip or fall on your walkway or lawn. Please be sure that the outside of your home is well-lit and keep your family pets away from trick or treaters, even if they seem harmless to you.

Halloween is a real treat - we hope you have a fang-tastic time!

UPCOMING DEVELOPMENT



Wooster Innovation Park

The Wooster Innovation Park is welcoming an historic industrial expansion with the Wooster Brush Company breaking ground on a 608,400 square-foot single building, the City’s largest-ever. The construction project will host upwards of 75 jobs, while at the same time, Scannell Properties works to complete its 200,000 SF distribution center, employing 150 workers. This development and it’s resulting job growth are due to the City of Wooster purchasing 136 acres to expand the Wooster Innovation Park in 2020. The City is partnering with JobsOhio to internationally market the remaining 116 available acres for job-creating development.

Dominion East Ohio Gas is laying 6.4 miles of new pipe extending from Geyers Chapel Road to Mechanicsburg Road to provide increased capacity of natural gas for future development.



Photo courtesy of Wooster Chamber of Commerce

New Housing Options

Housing developments over the past few years have been sparse while Wooster’s population is steadily increasing and we now have over 27,000 residents. Several developers are excited to bring new housing to the area. Lemmon Development is proposing 36 new houses, 16 new villas, and 8 senior apartments at Oak Hill Road, while its development partner, Vision, hopes to construct 236 new apartments on Oldman Road. The project will enable an expansion of the Wooster City School District’s Oldman Road campus, and through a proposed tax increment financing arrangement, the new homes could cover the \$6.5MM cost of installing new roundabouts at Oak Hill/Oldman and Oak Hill/Milltown, in addition to reconstruction of W. Milltown and parts of Oak Hill along with sewer extensions.

City Finances

Activity Measures as of September 30, 2021.

Income Tax Receipts (net of refunds)	Prior YTD	Current YTD	% Change
Individual	\$1,208,803	\$1,373,447	13.6%
Net Profit	\$1,968,545	\$3,919,184	99.1%
Withholding	\$11,272,172	\$12,001,607	6.5%
Total	\$14,449,520	\$17,294,237	19.7%

Other Measures	Prior YTD	Current YTD	% Change
Lodging Tax Collected through August	\$83,462	\$188,264	125.6%
Water Billed in Gallons	690,830,000	702,218,000	1.6%
Wayne County Sales Tax	\$8,279,757	\$9,515,247	14.9%

Through three quarters of the year, the City’s financial performance is very positive. The income tax receipts appear to indicate that the local economy is doing well. The lodging tax increase would be a sign of recovery to pre-pandemic levels. While the City receives zero sales tax, it does indicate that people are spending.

The increased tax revenue, when combined with spending below budgeted amounts, positions the City to operate efficiently and continue to invest in infrastructure and services. Stewardship of the public’s funds remains a core value and goal of the City organization.