



SPRING 2024

STATE OF THE CITY | PARKS & RECREATION | UPCOMING PROJECTS

PHOTO- COURTESY OF SEAN GILLILAN



NEWSLETTER

The City of Wooster

Keeping Tradition a Part of Our Future

Wooster, Ohio, home to 27,232 residents and counting, is a lively hub for innovation, business, and entertainment.



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TRIVIA

What Ohio community is the longest-running Tree City in the state?

Find the answer on page 15

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Bob Reynolds



Greetings from City Hall!

For those that don't already know me, I am the "new kid" on the block, having succeeded Bob Breneman as Mayor effective January 1. Bob served the citizens of Wooster as mayor for 16 years, which made him the longest tenured Mayor in the City's history.

The first two months have been a whirlwind of activity, and at times it does feel like I am drinking out of the proverbial firehose. But so far I've managed to keep my head above water and I am having the time of my life in my new position. The best part of the job is having regular opportunities to publicly boast about the City of Wooster. And I always try to make the point that the City's employees - past and present - have had a big role in the development of the wonderful community we have the honor and pleasure to serve. I look forward to serving the citizens of Wooster over the next four years.



VOTING

March 19, 2024

2024 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

VOTING LOCATION	PRECINCT NAME	ADDRESS
CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE	WOOSTER CITY 3-E WOOSTER CITY 4-B WOOSTER CITY 4-C	3100 OAK HILL ROAD
CONNECTION CHURCH	WOOSTER CITY 2-A WOOSTER CITY 2-D WOOSTER CITY 3-A WOOSTER CITY 3-D	1633 PORTAGE ROAD
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	WOOSTER 1-C	621 COLLEGE AVENUE
FOURSQUARE GOSPEL CHURCH	WOOSTER 3-B WOOSTER 3-C	3670 FRIENDSVILLE ROAD
PARKVIEW CHRISTIAN CHURCH	WOOSTER CITY 4-A WOOSTER CITY 2-C	1912 BURBANK ROAD
ST. MARY'S PARISH HALL	WOOSTER CITY 2-B WOOSTER CITY 2-C	527 BEALL AVENUE
WAYNE CO. FAIR EVENT CENTER	WOOSTER CITY 1-A WOOSTER CITY 1-B	199 VANOVER STREET



WOOSTER UTILITY AGGREGATION

City of Wooster residents approved utility aggregation for Electric and Natural Gas services in November 2023. That was the first step in the months-long process to get the program ready.

After receiving PUCO certification and obtaining energy supply contracts, eligible consumers within the Wooster city limits will receive notice in the U.S. Mail with information about the program and how to opt-out if they choose. Letters will be on City of Wooster letterhead and reference our partner, OML Energy Service Corporation, and consultant, Palmer Energy.

The City of Wooster is **NOT** sending representatives door-to-door asking to see utility bills.

Questions?

Residents may call Palmer Energy at 419-491-1040.



RECREATION

330.263.5207 | 241 S. Bever St. Wooster



PROGRAM GUIDE

All of our upcoming programs, activities and events for the Spring season can be found in the 2024 Spring Program Guide.



WOOSTEROH.COM/RECREATION

POOL PASSES ON SALE APRIL 15TH!

Passes are available at the Community Center, Buehler's Towne Market and Buehler's Milltown. All of our aquatic facilities will be open by the end of May. Hours of operation can be found at woosteroh.com/recreation.

YOUTH

Soccer, Swim, Basketball, Volleyball, T-Ball, Track, Tennis & More!

ADULT

Yoga, POUND, Coed Volleyball, Pickleball, Sand Volleyball & More!

SENIOR

Hiking, Senior Stroll, Daily Activities, Pickleball, Aquaerobics & More!



PARK PAVILIONS

Park Pavilions at all of our city parks are available for reservations.

You can make reservations by calling (330)263-5207 or stopping by the Wooster Community Center at 241. S Bever St.

For Family Fun, we suggest either Christmas Run or Freedlander Park. Both parks offer kid-friendly playgrounds and pools along with adult activities such as sand volleyball, tennis, pickleball and disc golf. Reservations are available April 1st thru October 31st.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Wooster Recreation

FARMER'S MARKET

& Kids Market Days

THURSDAYS | JUNE 20 -
8A-12P | SEPT. 26

Izaak Walton League

TROUT DERBY

AGES 1 - 15 | NO PRE-REGISTRATION

May 4th 2024 | 1-4pm
Freedlander Park
400 Hillside Dr
Wooster, OH



FREE EVENT



WOOSTER
RECREATION



CONSTRUCTION

330.263.5251 | Engineering

The city is gearing up for a vibrant spring with an array of construction projects set to enhance infrastructure and community spaces.

CURRENT PROJECTS

- S. Bever Street Sewer Separation
- Palmer Street Railroad Bridge Waterline
- Fire Station #1



Coming Soon

- Downtown Streetscape Phase 4 (March)
 - West Liberty Street (south side) and Walnut Street (east side)
- Christmas Run Blvd Sanitary Sewer Project (March)
- Palmer Street Waterline Replacement (April)
- Christmas Run Park Pickleball Courts (April)
- Oak Hill Road Curb Ramp Replacement (April)
- Oak Hill Road and Milltown Road Improvements and Roundabout (April)
- Long Road Booster Pump Station (April)
- Paving (Expected to start at the beginning of June)
 - Palmer Street (north of Bowman Street)
 - Oak Hill Road (south of Wayne Avenue)
 - W. Liberty Street (Mechanicsburg Road to Oak Hill Road)
 - Robin Hood Drive
 - Friar Truck Circle
 - Allandale Drive
 - Fairview Circle
 - Little John Lane
 - Timken Road
 - Sherwood Drive
 - West Henry

PRIVATE

- Omni Fiber- continuing to build a City-wide network, mostly underground. Additional information can be found here: <https://www.omnifiber.com/construction/>
- MCTV- starting their underground fiber upgrades. Additional information can be found here: mctvohio.com



2024 Donations

DOWNTOWN BEAUTIFICATION FUND

A fund has been established at the Wayne County Community Foundation for donations to sustain and maintain the flowers located all around beautiful Downtown Wooster.

Donations earmarked for the
"DOWNTOWN BEAUTIFICATION FUND"
are deductible as a 501(c)(3) contribution.

PLEASE ACCEPT MY DONATION OF:

\$5 ___ \$10 ___ \$20 ___ OTHER ___

Make checks payable to: The Wayne County Community Foundation

Please note in memo: "Downtown Beautification Fund"

Mail to: The Wayne County Community Foundation, 517 N. Market St., Wooster OH 44691

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **Date:** _____

Your contributions are greatly appreciated!



New to Woo!



NEW PICKLEBALL COURTS

Six new pickleball courts will be installed at the lower portion of Christmas Run Park. This is in addition to the six courts on the upper portion, across from the YMCA.

OAKHILL ROUNDAABOUTS

An additional roundabout will be constructed at the intersection of Milltown and Oak Hill. This project will also include curbs, gutters, storm sewer, new pavement, and sidewalks.



*Thank you
Wooster
Rotary!*

The Rotary clock was installed at the Oldman/Oak Hill Roundabout. The clock was donated by Wooster Rotary.



THE CHALET AT FREEDLANDER PARK

Outdoor Patio

The Chalet is currently being renovated to include the new outdoor patio and seating area.

PPM crews and contractors will be installing a retaining wall, new patio, railing, and pool deck improvements, with a planned completion date of Memorial Day.

Follow our Facebook page for updates on the renovations!

@TheChaletAtFreedlanderPark

CLEAR CREEK PARK PLAYGROUND

Opening Summer 2024

The PPM crews have been installing the playground equipment at Clear Creek Park.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

330.263.5250 | 538 N. Market St.

TOP 10 MICROPOLITANS IN OHIO

- Wooster
- Celina
- Wilmington
- Zanesville
- Sidney
- Mt. Vernon
- Wapakoneta
- Norwalk
- New Philadelphia-Dover
- Marietta



Policom does an annual ranking of communities based upon their economic strength, the consistency of their economy and degree of poverty.

The City of Wooster has once again been selected as a Top 20 Micropolitan by Policom.

Ranking #1 in the State of Ohio and 17th in the Nation, showing that the Wooster Area continues to be a great place to locate, operate and expand businesses.

POLICOM CORPORATION *Economic Analysis
Everyone Understands*

The City presented its Economic Development Strategic Plan to the Wooster Lions, Kiwanis, and Rotary Clubs. The EDSP allows the City to position itself to grow our local economy strategically with the help of our partners.



The City completed its 2023 Comprehensive Plan with the goal of creating a blueprint that will guide future development in Wooster over the next 10-15 years.

Which would you focus on most to improve Wooster's quality of life?

Top 5 responses below:



Neighborhood Revitalization



Additional Housing



Improving Roads



Public Transit



More Parks

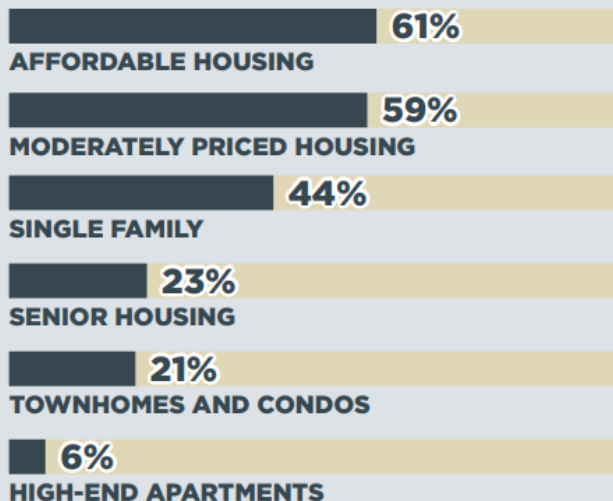
Using a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means "not at all supportive" and 5 means "very supportive," Wooster needs to provide **a mix of housing types** to attract people at various life stages

4.0
avg. rating

Using a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means "very unaffordable" and 5 means "very affordable," do you feel that the **housing options in Wooster are affordable** to you?

2.5
avg. rating

Which **types of housing** do you believe Wooster needs more of?



Using a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means "strongly disagree" and 5 means "strongly agree,"

Wooster needs to create an **updated community center** that could include *meeting rooms, gymnasiums, indoor/outdoor walking and other facilities, etc.*

3.3
avg. rating

Given the relationship between city services, income-generating development and tax levels, **which scenario do you most prefer?**

67%
prefer...

..lower taxes, but stable services paid for by new growth and development.

25%
prefer...

..limited development, and stable services funded by some tax increase.

8%
prefer...

..limited development and lower taxes, even if it means cutbacks in services.

3.9
avg. rating

Using a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means "strongly disagree" and 5 means "strongly agree," Wooster needs to **continue to invest in downtown.**

SAFETY

330.287.5720 | Police

330.263.5266 | Fire

A few weeks ago, several of our Police officers and our Fire personnel responded to a mass overdose event in the City. Six to seven individuals were struggling to breathe or were unresponsive. Our police officers and fire personnel administered over 30 doses of Narcan to revive all subjects. Twelve more doses were retrieved from the hospital by PD during the event. These efforts likely saved several of those lives.

Firefighters

- Brad Bilacini
- Lt. John Eberly
- Tyler O'Neal
- Elise Neville
- Aaron Spurlock
- Lt. Mike Springer
- Captain Mike Maag
- Jeff Buzzard
- Jacob Burkholder
- Ryan Wells
- Lt. Ed Edgell
- Brad Welty
- Carter Will



Officers



- Sgt. Tom Webber
- Kyle Moss
- Kyle Killough
- Tom Sereika
- Gina Iacco

Wooster Police Department

THIN BLUE LINE

COMMUNITY WALK

Please join the Wooster Police Department for a **FREE** community event honoring the officers who gave the ultimate sacrifice in 2023.

NATIONWIDE WE LOST

124

OFFICERS IN THE LINE OF DUTY IN 2023



May 18th



Wooster High School Track



9AM-12PM



The wicked flee though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion

We honor them by never forgetting.

QUESTIONS?
CONTACT 330.287.5720



SATURDAY, MAY 18TH
FROM 9AM-12PM there will be a **FREE** Community Walk to remember the 124 law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty in 2023. This walk is also to show support for officers that protect and serve our communities as we close out National Police Week 2024.

SATURDAY, JUNE 10TH
11AM-1PM CORNERSTONE
ELEMENTARY PARKING LOT
(QUINBY ST.) Then join us
downtown for Main Street
Wooster KIDS' DAY at the
Wayne County Public
Library from 1PM - 4PM! This
event features music,
games, balloon animals,
face-painting, and of
course the awards for the
All American Kids!!

WOOSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT



BIKE Rodeo



FREE
ADMISSION

**JUNE
10TH**

GRADES
K-5

FREE GIVEAWAYS FOR PARTICIPANTS AND FREE LUNCH!

11AM - 1PM

CORNERSTONE ELEMENTARY

101 W BOWMAN STREET, WOOSTER, OH

BRING YOUR OWN BIKE IF YOU HAVE ONE! QUESTIONS? 330-287-5720



VISIT WOOSTER

Special Events

Arbor Day

April 26, 2024



This Spring in Wooster

Kiwanis Club - Pancake Day | March 23th

Wayne County Children Services - Wear Blue | April 12th

Chamber Home & Garden Show | April 27th - April 28th

United Way - Reading Under the Lights | May 15th & 16th

Memorial Day Parade | May 27th

Main Street Wooster - Kids Day | June 8th

TRIVIA ANSWER

The City of Wooster!

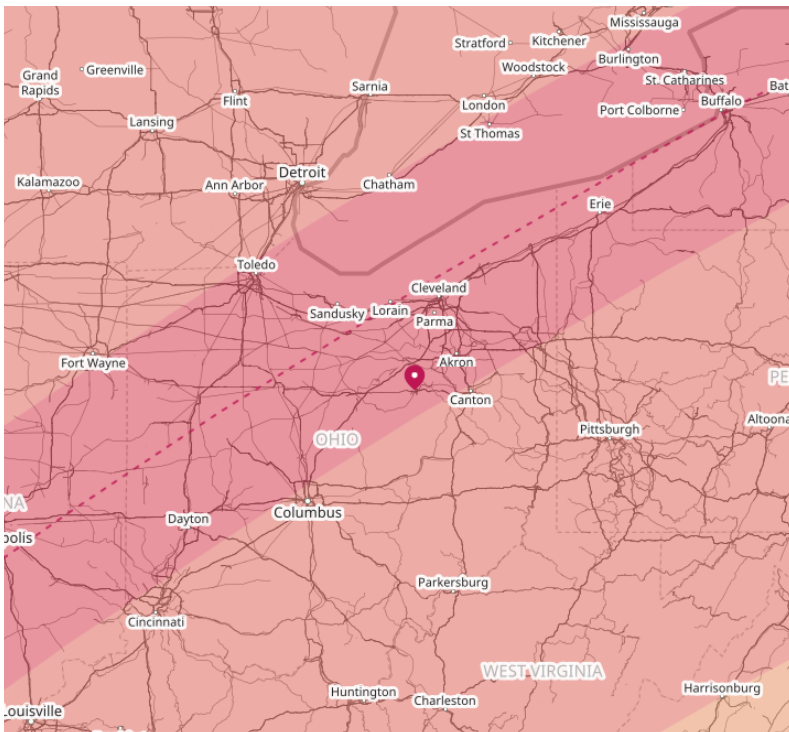
Along with the cities of Westerville and Springfield, 2024 will mark the 48th year of recognition for each community

TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

April 8th @ 3:15pm

The last total solar eclipse visible in Ohio was in 1806.

The next total solar eclipse that can be seen from the contiguous United States will be on August 23, 2044.



SAFETY TIPS

- Except when the Moon completely blocks the Sun's bright face, it is not safe to look directly at the Sun.
- Viewing any part of the bright Sun through a camera, lens, binoculars, or telescope will instantly cause serious eye injury.
- When watching the partial phases of the solar eclipse directly with your eyes, you must look through safe solar viewing glasses ("eclipse glasses") or a safe handheld solar viewer.

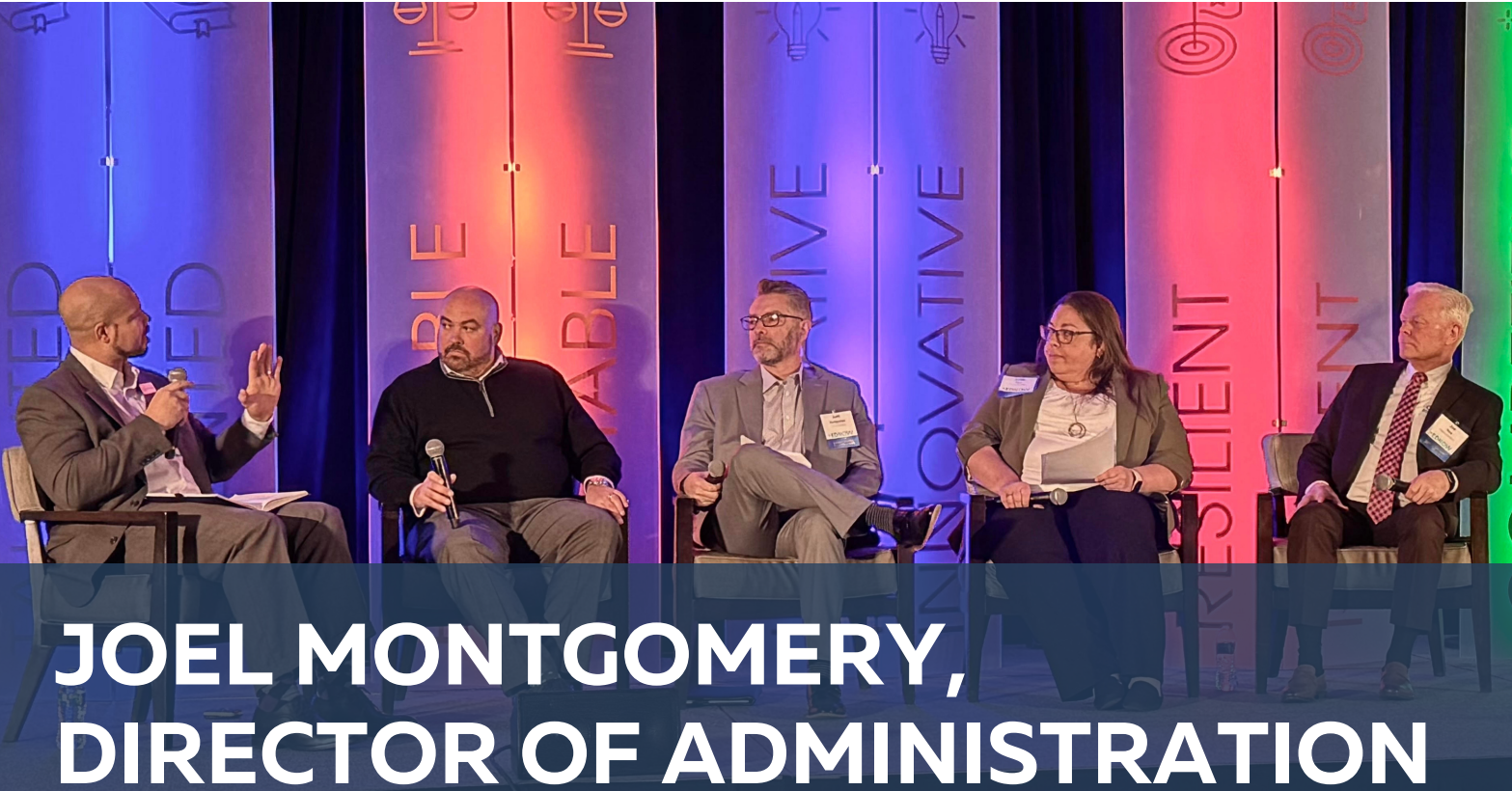
For more information, please visit NASA's safety guidelines [Read More](#)





NEO ED NOW

6th Annual Conference February 23, 2024



JOEL MONTGOMERY, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

The City of Wooster had the opportunity to address attendees at the prestigious 6th Annual Team NEO ED NOW conference, delving into insightful discussions on strategic economic development within Northeast Ohio.

Throughout the morning, community representatives engaged with state and economic leaders, exploring the intersections of economic and community development. The discourse covered proactive infrastructure planning and the optimization of land use to align with overarching community goals.



ACCLAIM AWARDS

Nominate an outstanding City of Wooster employee

Celebrate the exceptional individuals who make our City of Wooster shine! We need YOUR help in recognizing the dedicated employees who embody the core values that make our city thrive.

Core Values



Accountability
Accept Responsibility
Do work right the first time



Continuous Improvement
Promote Innovation
Provide highest quality of service



Communication
Friendliness
Truthfulness



Leadership
Serve as a role model/mentor
Responsible management of resources



Attitude
Treat others with courtesy & dignity
Respect of others



Integrity
High standards of conduct
Makes responsible decisions



Managing Trust
Responsible with public funds
Stewardship

**HOW TO
NOMINATE
SOMEONE**

If you would like to recognize a City of Wooster employee for a job well done, please complete the form on our website at woosteroh.com/acclaim



2024 JACK O'DONNELL AWARD RECIPIENT

Ashley Hershberger,

The City of Wooster's Recreation Manager, is the 2024 Wooster Area Chamber of Commerce Jack O'Donnell Award for Community Service honoree.



The award is presented annually in memory of former Chamber President, Jack O'Donnell, to recognize contributions to the community through volunteerism, enthusiasm, and love for Wooster.

"I am very honored that they considered me for this award," Hershberger said. "I think Wooster is a very special place, that's one of the things I recognized when I first started with the city."

Hershberger has been volunteering with the Chamber since her early days of working with the city. She started for the City as an intern in 2007 while she was working on a recreation degree at Ashland University. She was part of the 2009 Leadership Wooster class, and now serves on the steering committee. She serves on the Woosterfest committee, is a board member for United Way of Wayne & Holmes Counties, is on the Facilities Master Planning Committee as a part of the Wooster City Schools Business Advisory Council, is a past president of the Kiwanis Club of Wooster, and is a club member and chair

of the PR committee. Hershberger also is involved as a committee member for the Wayne County Family and Children First Council, Wayne County Children Services Marketing Committee, and the City of Wooster Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee.

COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

Mayor's Office
330-263-5242

Economic Development
330-263-5250

Human Resources
330-263-5254

Engineering
330-263-5251

Law
330-263-5242

Utility Billing
330-263-5228

Parks
330-263-5275

Public Prop. Maintenance
330-263-5275

Income Tax
330-263-5226

Fire
330-263-5266

Building Standards
330-263-5241

Police
330-287-5720

Planning & Zoning
330-263-5241

Recreation
330-263-5207

All City offices are closed on the following dates:

*May 27th, June 19th, July 4th, September 2nd,
November 11th, November 28th, November 29th,
December 24th, & December 25th*



woosteroh.com



330-263-5200



PHOTO- ALYSSA MASTERS PHOTOGRAPHY