

State of the City:

City Council: 21 February 2023

Woo-23



It is always an Honor and a Pleasure to share our Administrative Plan for the current 2023 year and to share with City Council and the Public our Goals and Objectives in keeping Wooster moving forward. This years presentation is especially so, for it is the last time I will get to share in a State of the City address, my thoughts and vision as Mayor of the City of Wooster. The Pictures above showcase our Downtown – they are:

- Top – string lights over the NE Quad of the Square
- The Ribbon cutting of the new Ace Hardware store on March 4, 2022
- Below it is the nearly finished Mariola Italian Restaurant & Liberty Beall apartments in the Entertainment District of our City. They plan to open this Spring, 2023.
- The final picture is an artist rendering of the new Lyric Theater at the corner of South & Market streets adjacent to the City Square Steakhouse. There is a very energetic group who are bringing this project together with hopes of having the theater operating by sometime in 2024. Best wishes to this projects success!

City of Wooster 2023 Goals:

- 1. Renovation of Fire Station #1 – beside City Hall**
- 2. Connecting Wooster with Milltown/Melrose Bike Path**
- 3. Park Improvements: *Freedlander Chalet | Clear Creek Park Playground, Pickleball Courts | Christmas Run Pool Decision?***
- 4. Safety Infrastructure: *W. Liberty Streetscape | Oak Hill/Oldman Roundabout***
- 5. Utilities Improvements to Water & Waste Water Plants
– *Filters | Headworks | reactors | digester | receiving***
- 6. Promote Housing and Planned Community Growth**
- 7. Strengthen Economic Development Plans & Initiatives**
- 8. Complete Dix Expressway & Melrose Road Improvements.**

State of the City: Woo-23

There are 8 Goals that I have challenged our Administrative Team and Managers to achieve or keep moving forward in the 2023 year. I will go through them one at a time and explain. You all have the 2023 Goals sheet at your Council seat.

1. Fire Station One Upgrades



▲ Fire Station 1 Expansion Starts Summer 2023

North Parking Lot
Established to Support
2023 Expansion ▼

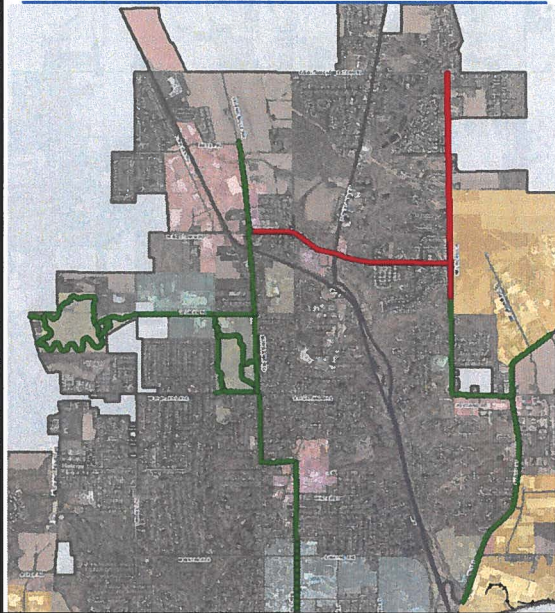


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This 1st Goal is to Renovate & Modernize Fire Station #1 next to City Hall.

- This Goal was first proposed in 2020 to start planning for Fire Station #1 upgrades and timing. I said then it would take many years to achieve.
- We started the Architecture & Engineering Plans in 2021.
- Due to increased construction costs the plans were revised in 2022 to try to reduce costs and stay in Budget (\$5.4 M)
- We've finalized lay-out and costs, and hope to award a Contract to Build this Spring and to start construction this summer, 2023 w/ completion in 2024.
- The North Parking lot picture shows we've started the process by replacing necessary parking that will be lost with the Fire Station expansion.
- Like all construction lately, costs of materials have gone up and supply is difficult.
- A \$500,000 Critical Infrastructure Grant was award in 2022 to help fund construct.
- This is our final improvement to our City's Fire Infrastructure. Station 2 & 3 have been improved/built in the last 7 yrs. 3 station locations are good for many years.
- Station #1 was built in 1961 and has had some improvements over the years, but is in need of renewal and expansion. (62 years & still going)
- Station #3 building was purchased in 2015, remodeled and opened in May, 2016
- Safety Center started in April, 2016 and put into service in Summer of 2017.

2. Connecting Wooster with Milltown / Melrose Bike Paths



◀ **+13 Miles of Connected Trails**
Includes 2.7 Miles of New Bike Trail shown
in **RED**

Funded primarily through ODOT
Thank you for supporting the grant! ▼



State of the City: *Woo-23*

This 2nd Goal is the connection of 2 of our primary Bike Trails in the City, completing the Northern loop of our Trail System, and extending a new leg up to Smithville-Western Road, picking up some major residential areas.

- This has been a long process, but we were finally successful in achieving grant dollars to help with the costs.
- Funding for the Milltown Road piece of trail comes available after July 1st 2023, so Right of Way acquisition will start sometime after this date. Construction of this section probably won't start until late 2023 or in 2024, and probably won't be complete until the end of 2024.
- The Melrose leg of this trail is included in the Melrose Road reconstruction cost, so the ground work on the northern ½ started last year, with the final ½ to be completed sometime in 2023.
- This leg from Smithville-Western Road to Milltown Road should be completed by this Summer or Fall and be useable at that time.
- These 2 pieces of Trail are important connections for our City wide plan, and will bring us one step closer to a Trail system that connects all areas of Wooster.

3. Park Improvements



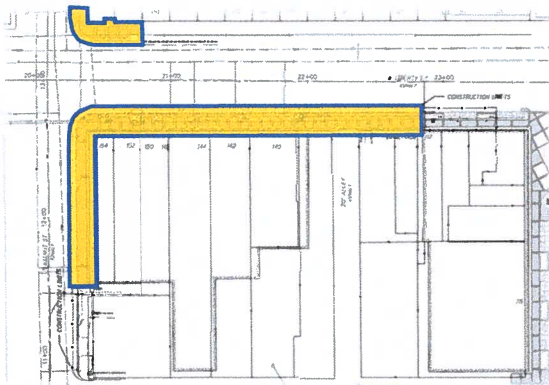
- ▲ *Clear Creek Park Playground*
- ◀ *Christmas Run Pool Decision?*
- Also . . .
- *Freedlander Chalet Entry & Patio*
- *Pickleball Courts*

State of the City: Woo-23

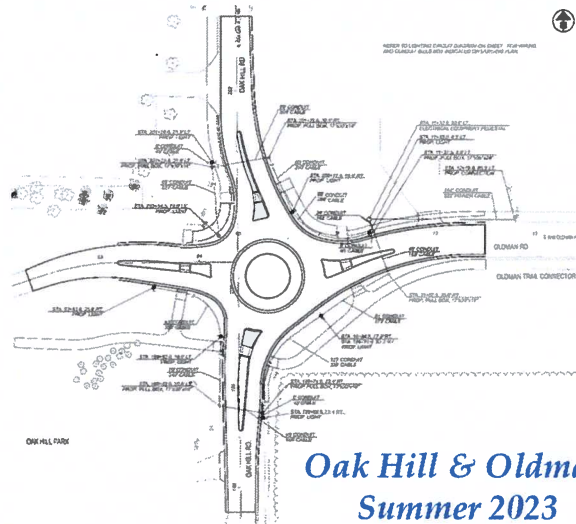
This 3rd Goal of Park Improvements is made up of 4 different projects throughout our City Park system. They are:

1. Freedlander Chalet Entry and Patio improvements.
 1. Steps & Ramp from Parking lot need to be redone. Too Steep.
 2. An Outdoor patio area will compliment the indoor Chalet facility and should help 3 seasons (Spring, Summer, Fall) rentals.
2. Clear Creek Park Playground Construction. Wesley Johnson family donation is to be used to help create this play structure to compliment the pavilion and trail system at Clear Creek Park.
3. Pickelball has become the newest sporting rage, and the demand is starting to outpace our court availability. We have budgeted \$125 K to build additional courts in our city this year. Location yet to be determined.
4. Christmas Run Pool Renovation discussion and direction (hopefully) on how to move foreword this year. We've hire OHM to do a study on costs/benefits of redoing our existing pool, building a new pool, or do we rehab/replace. This will also be considered in relation to our Comprehensive Plan update by OHM.

4. Safety Infrastructure



*W. Liberty Street
New Streetscape*



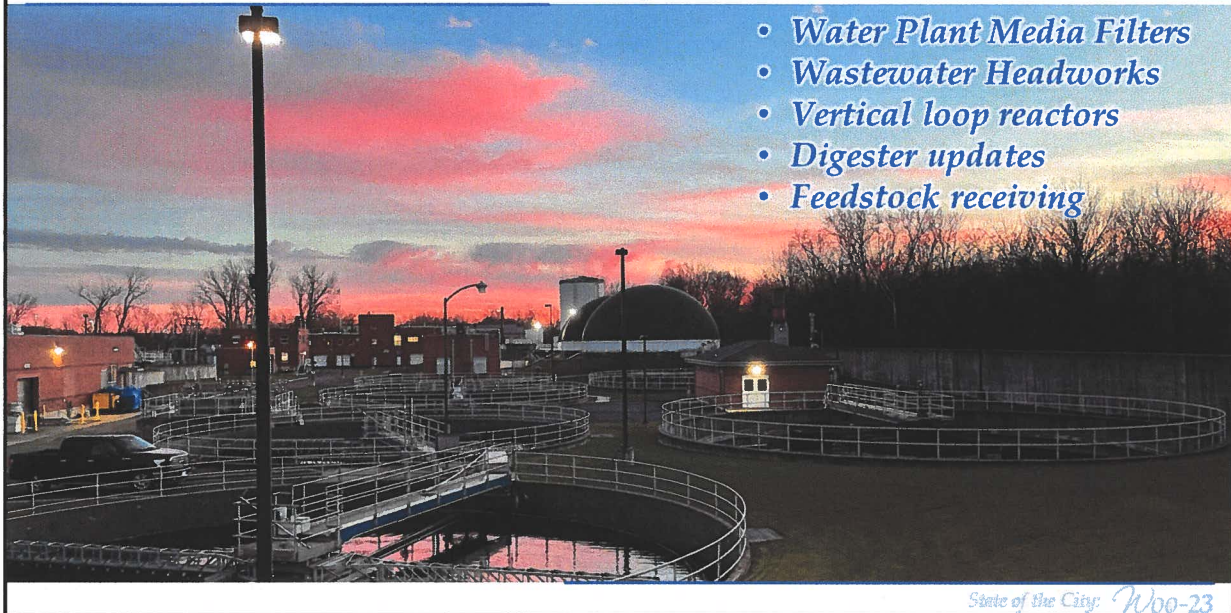
*Oak Hill & Oldman
Summer 2023*

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This 4th Goal of Safety Infrastructure is made up of 2 different locations in our City.

- The first is a continuation of our City's Streetscape improvement project in our Downtown.
- The areas shown in yellow are on W. Liberty street with the main improvement on the South side of the street. This will marriage up to where the last improvement stopped just around the alley West of the Bank teller lanes. The improvement will round the corner in front of Matso's and continue South on Walnut Street to approx. the alley North of Local Roots.
- The small area on the North side of Liberty Street will improve the corner crosswalks and will marriage up with the last streetscape project around Basil that we did in this area.
- The 2nd major infrastructure project is a needed improvement to the intersection of Oak Hill Road and Oldman Road. This is a needed improvement due to the increased traffic load on both of these streets. It is also the first time that TIF dollars will be used to benefit the public from the increase in housing occurring in the Ryan Homes development North of the Church of the Nazarene. This will be a welcome improvement to the traffic situation.

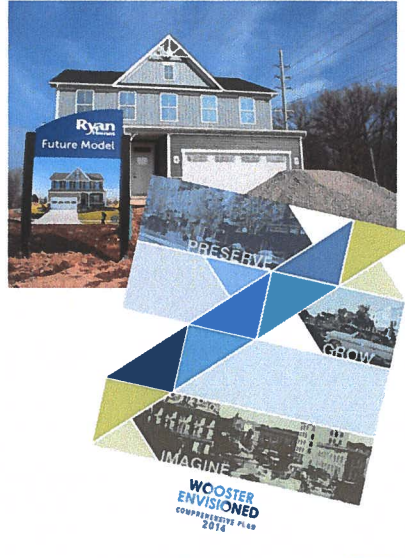
5. Water & Waste Water Plant Expansion



This 5th Goal focus's on our City Utilities of Water and Wastewater improvements to our plants infrastructure needs.

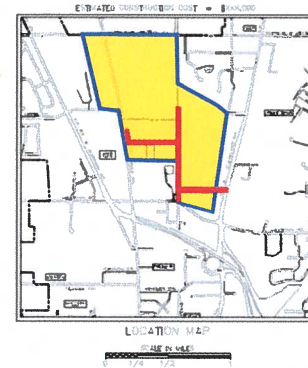
- Our Water Production facility has served our City well since it was constructed in 1998 almost 25 years ago. The water production load has increased since this plant was built by increased housing and industrial needs.
- A planned way to expand our Water filters was built into the building which can double the amount of Water produced. This was what we planned on doing.
- Luckily our Utility & Engineering teams found a way to clean and refresh our sand filters while still handling the production needs. This will buy the City some more years before a much costlier building expansion needs to happen.
- Our Wastewater Improvements are much more involved. They involve 4 areas:
- The Headworks – Main Pipe bringing sewage into the plant is 50+ yrs old and must stay in use while the replacement is being made. Not easy to do this.
- The Vertical Loop 1 & 2 Reactors must be rehabbed & improved.
- Our anaerobic Digesters need updated, cleaned, retarped and rehabbed.
- Our Feedstock receiving needs improved to get our energy producing component back into production to help offset operations costs.
- All of these improvements are time intensive and hard to perform during use.

6. Promote Housing & Planned Community Growth



NORTH END SANITARY SEWER

CITY OF WOOSTER, OHIO
2022



State of the City: Woo-23

This 6th Goal is essential to keeping our Community moving forward. It deals with two important aspects of Growth. They are:

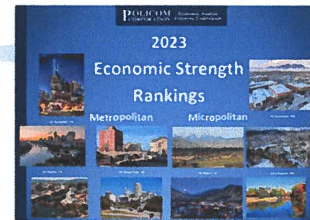
- Planning our Community's Growth. This is necessary, best practice, undertaken every 10 yr. Comprehensive Plan review and update that is starting here in a few weeks. These pictures show the committee & plan formed in 2013/14.
- We have a 20 member committee of Wooster Citizens who will be working with OHM Advisors and City Staff to review Wooster's 2014 Plan, talk about what needs changed or updated, and any new planning developments that have benefited other communities, and recommending a Plan update to City Council
- The 2nd part of this Goal deals with improving the Housing situation in Wooster. We've had many opportunities to improve this situation, but have encountered resistance from neighbors and NIMBY and bad/untrue information spread.
- The map on this slide shows a new potential improvement area that we've been working on for many years. We've called it the Walmart lift station because of it's location behind Walmart.
- We've just established a right of way which will allow the removal of this lift station, and turn this area into a gravity sewer system, which is better for City.
- This holds the potential for more housing & Commercial development.

7. Strengthen Economic Development Plans & Initiatives

- *Work to get City, County, and partner agencies moving forward together*
- *Continue planning for necessary growth of important land acquisitions*

#7

**WOOSTER
MICROPOLITAN
ECONOMY IS TOPS
IN OHIO**



Collaboration With
Community Partners:



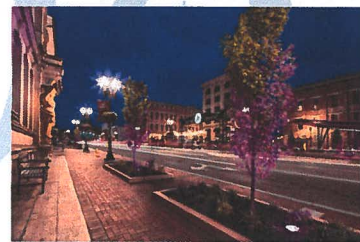
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This 7th Goal is exciting, but is something that can be hard to explain to others.

- We have a great group of partners that have worked well together for years.
- Wooster is the largest City and population base per sq. mile of any place in WC.
- As such, our needs have grown as well as our own in house professional staff. We now perform many things that others used to provide as a service.
- This doesn't mean we don't need or want the collaboration of our partners, it means we need them to understand this new reality, and work with us to find what services, functions, and expertise they can provide that help all involved.
- This means, Wooster has to grow, but in a planned, methodical way. If we don't, our City will start to stagnate. That's why we do a 10 yr. Plan as stated.
- We need our partners to grow with us, and not against us for these partnerships to be valuable to our City. This can be done if we work together.
- The #7 Micropolitan is a true honor for our City. We have been the #1 Micropolitan in the State of Ohio since 2018 – the last 6 years!
- I don't need to tell you that this doesn't go unnoticed on a National and International level. If you are looking to grow or expand a business, don't you think business professionals do there homework to find the best place to do so? We should be very proud of this honor, and share with anyone you meet!

2023 – Back on Top! Policom Ranking

In Ohio	2023 Micropolitans	In Nation
1 st	Wooster	7 th
2 nd	Celina	45 th
3 rd	Mount Vernon	74 th
4 th	Wapakoneta	99 th
5 th	Sidney	100 th
6 th	Norwalk	106 th
7 th	Wilmington	120 th
8 th	New Philadelphia-Dover	128 th
9 th	Marietta	135 th
10 th	Zanesville	136 th

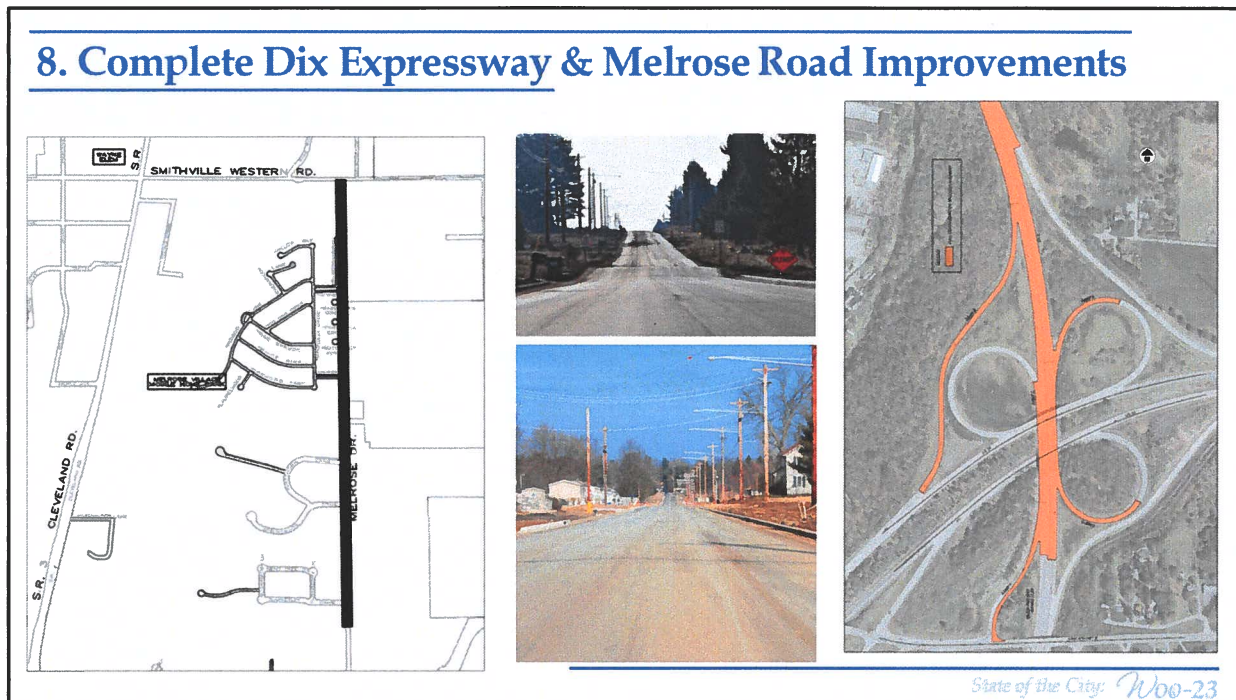


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This is a continuation of the Goal #7 slide. I just wanted to show you the Top 10 Micropolitans in the State of Ohio. A Micropolitan area is defined as a City with a population between 10,000 to 50,000 people within 1 or 2 Counties in the United States. These Micropolitans are always identified by the City, then State and then County where they are located. There are 2 agency's that do Metropolitan and Micropolitan ranking in the United States. They are Policom.com and Site Selection Magazine. Policom is the agency that bases it's rankings strictly on publicly available data that all city's report on an annual basis. Site Selection rankings will not be available until after the 1st of March and are based on what City's submit to them of development projects that they achieved during the previous year.

- FYI – Ashland is #11 @ 147 and Findley is #12 @ 151 on this years State ranking.

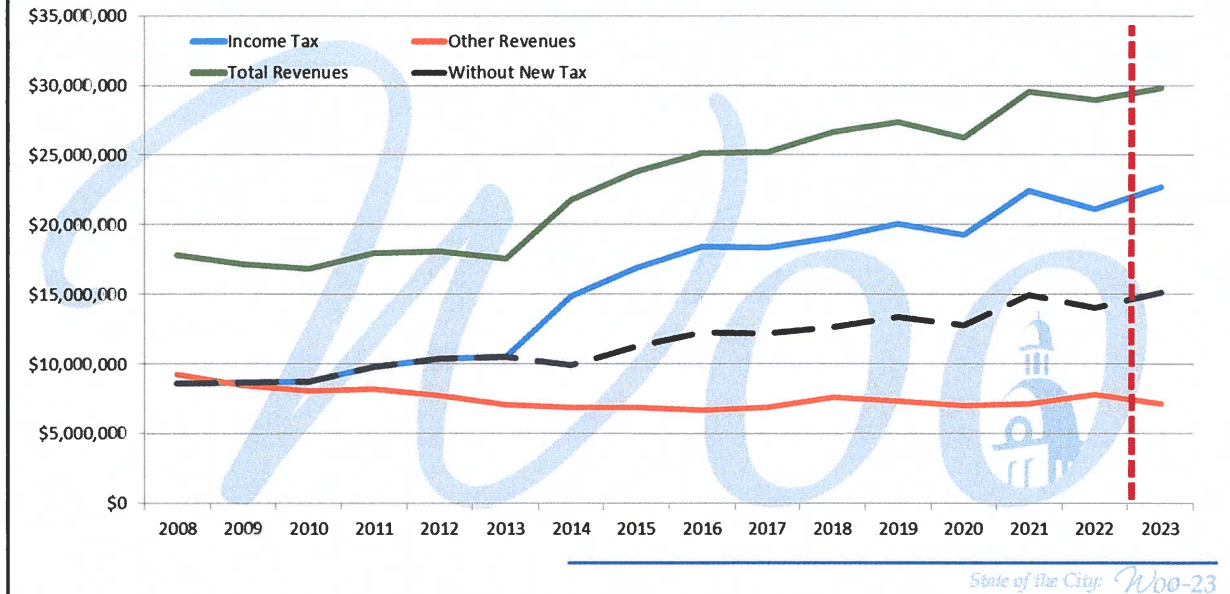
8. Complete Dix Expressway & Melrose Road Improvements



This 8th Goal on both of these important road and infrastructure improvements started last year in 2022. As stated in last year's State of the City goal, both projects would take 2 years to complete.

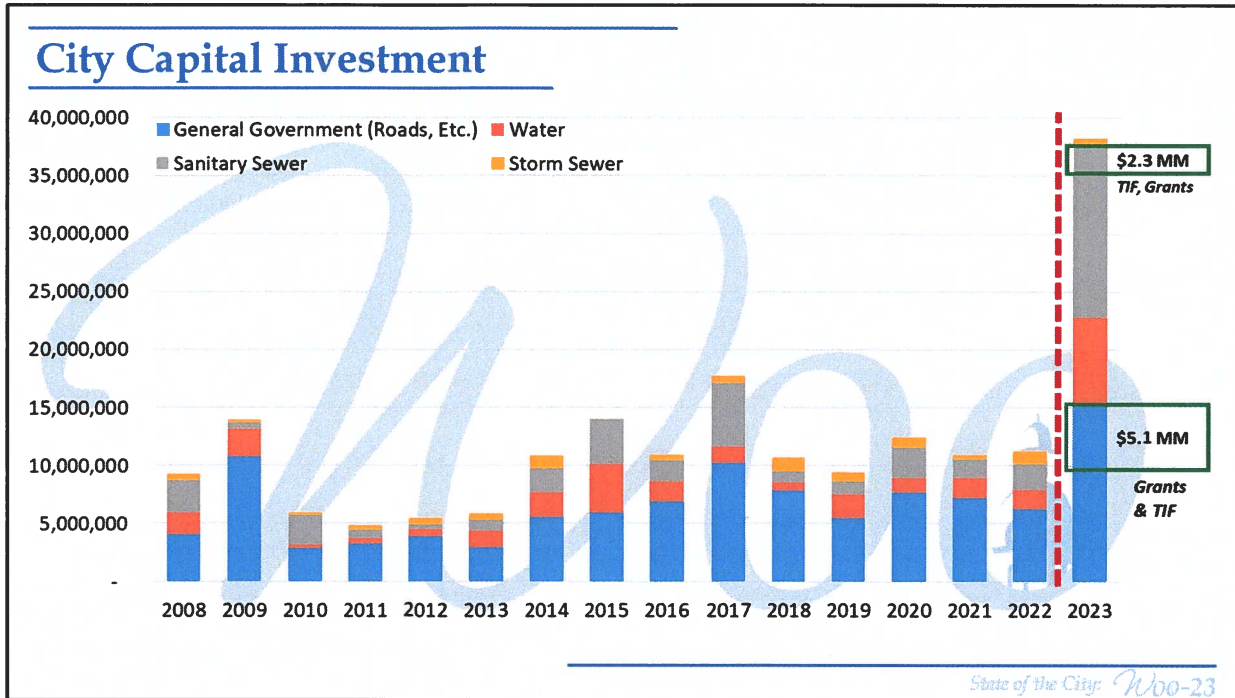
- I'm happy to report that both projects are well underway and both are following their plans to be completed this year.
- Both have had to disrupt travel convenience to the public for which we apologize, but neither could have been done otherwise.
- I think all will find the improvements have been worth the wait and inconvenience when they are reopened later this year.
- We can Thank the State of Ohio for funding the improvements to the Dix Expressway.
- And say Thanks to ourselves for fixing and improving Melrose Drive along with a \$500,000. OPWC grant.
- An off road Bike/walking path will accentuate this new road improvement!

Revenues For Services



Finance Slides – it always comes down to the Dollars!

- Remember the “Great Recession” from Dec. 2007 to June 2009.
- Governor Kasich State funding cuts in 2010 & 2011
- City Income Tax Levy raised Income tax from 1 – 1.5% passed effective 1-1-2014
- We are holding our own with a solid Revenue stream funding our City!
 - Income Tax increase was essential. Saved our Community. We would not be where we are as a community without it.
 - Thank You Citizens of Wooster for investing in our City!

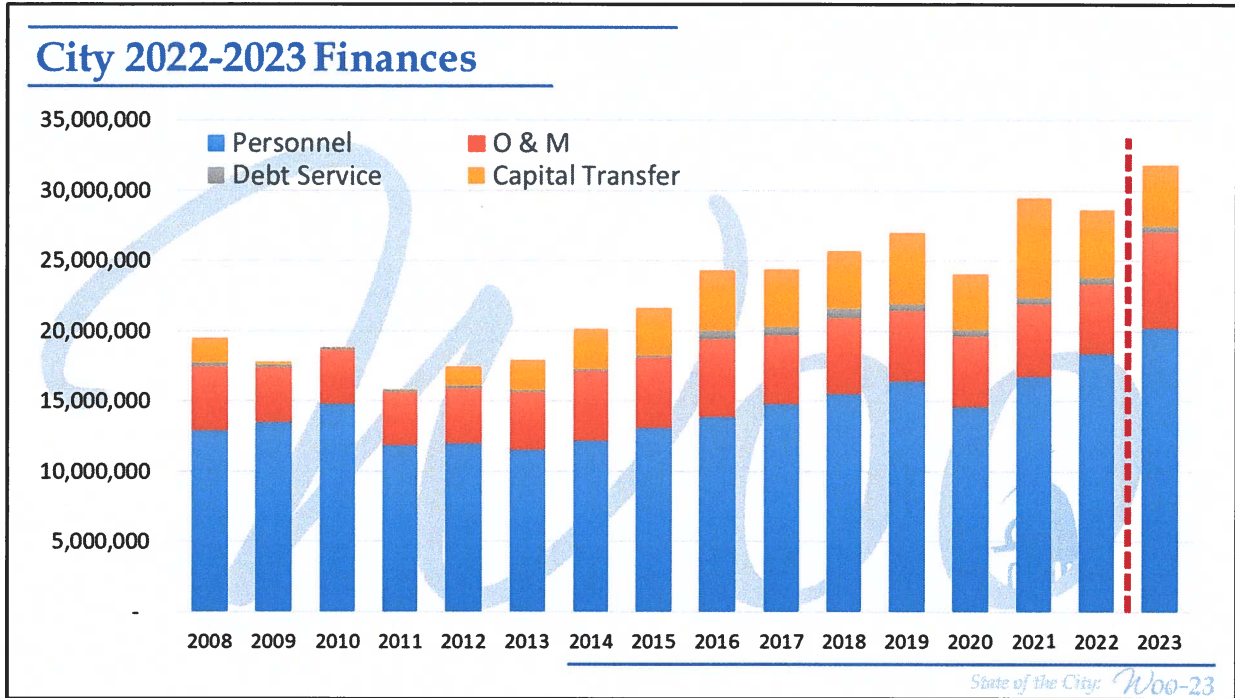


How your Dollars are spent.

- Fire Station #1 Remodel
- \$3.3725 MM – Capital Improvement Debt
- \$627,500 CDBG grant Fire Station
- \$1.4 MM Fire Station – ARPA Funds
- \$5.4 MM Total for Fire Station #1 Remodel.

- \$1.425 MM Oldman/Oak Hill Rd Round-a-bout with TIF \$

- Walmart Gravity Sewer
- \$ 750,000. Capital Improvement Debt
- \$ 500,000. OPWC
- \$ 250,000. ARPA Funds
- \$1,500,000 Total for Gravity Sewer Project



This Bar Graph shows how our City Dollars were spent or are Budgeted to be spent.

The lower graph in 2020 is due to the infusion of ARPA Funds

You'll note that we are holding true to our Pledge in 2013 of Funding Capital Improvements each year.

Clear Creek Park & Arbor Day



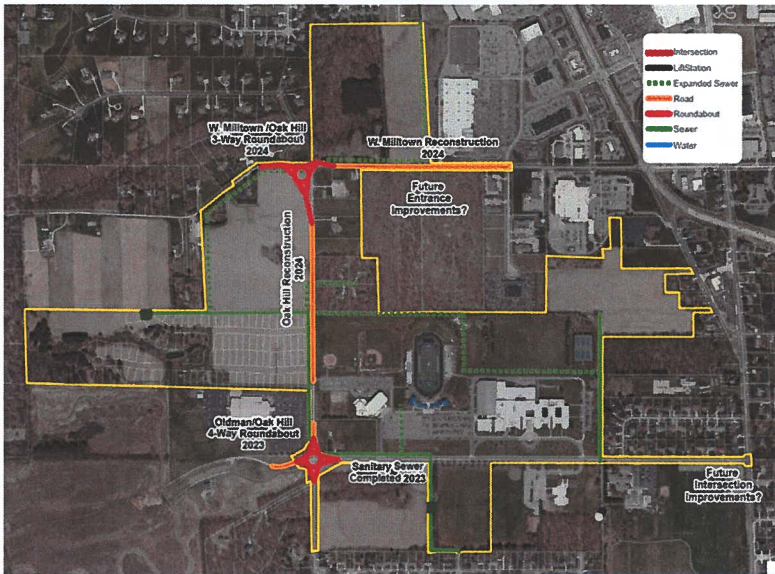
46th Year awarded
Tree City USA
designation



State of the City: Woo-23

- Arbor Day & Clear Creek Park Opening
 - 4/29/22 – Dedication, the park made possible by the generous donation of Dick & Judy Seaman.
 - 46th Year Awarded Tree City USA designation
 - Thank you to Steve Webster who served on Urban Forestry for 12 years

Oak Hill TIF District Established



Program Saving Wooster Taxpayers ~\$9MM



*W. Milltown & Oak Hill
Summer 2024*

State of the City: Woo-23

Oak Hill TIF District

- In February, 2022 City Council approved the TIF for this area
- In May, annexation of 75 acres is started
- Infrastructure Improvements begin Summer of 2022
- Fall 2022 – Ryan Homes begins constructing their model home
- Oak Hill & Oldman Road roundabout design phase underway

One Million Square Feet of New Industrial Space



1.

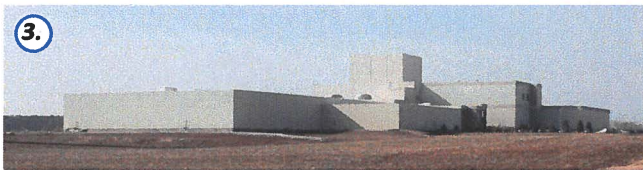


4.



2.

1. **Wooster Brush Company** +608,000sf
2. **Federal Express** +210,000sf
3. **Daisy Brand** +40,000sf
4. **Schaeffler** +80,000sf
5. **Frito-Lay** +198,000sf



3.



5.

Over 400 New Job Opportunities Allowing Wooster Families to Stay and Thrive

State of the City: Woo-23

- Wooster Innovation Park and Old Airport Road
- Over 1 MM Square Feet of New Industrial Space and jobs!
 - 1) Wooster Brush largest building in Wayne County constructed
 - 2) Fed Ex Warehouse Facility
 - 3) Daisy Brand – yearly expansion projects
 - 4) Schaeffler continues to expand
 - 5) Scannell/Frito-Lay warehouse and Distribution Center
- More land still available for building in the area
- Thank to all for growing in our Community!

New Retail Options



I'm sure everyone knows about the new Meijer's store that is getting close to opening in our North end Commercial District.

- This national chain should compliment the other grocer's and general goods stores in Wooster. I believe they will help attract people from the surrounding area to come to Wooster to shop.
- We've met w/ the Management Team from Meijer's and were impressed with their company and their desire to be in our community.
- They will be opening some time this spring.
- Welcome to Wooster!

Spring Run Taking Root

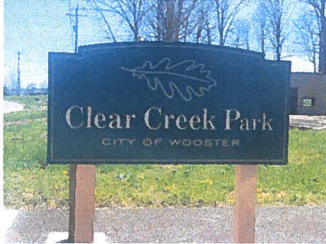


Finally realizing housing starts

- Spring Run Development – Ryan Homes – 91 units
- This Development put together by a local group of investors began working with Ryan Homes back in the early part of 2022.
- They broke ground on this first house/Model Home at the end of last year.
- They plan to have this Model Home/Sales Office open by the 1st part of March and will use it to introduce people from the community to homes that Ryan Homes will have available for immediate build to suit in this well placed development.
- This is one of the first boots on the ground housing development under way in our City. We are pleased to have them serving the Wooster community.

Celebrating New & Old

Clear Creek Park Opens



Liberty Beall Project



**Alice Noble Ice Arena
20th Anniversary**



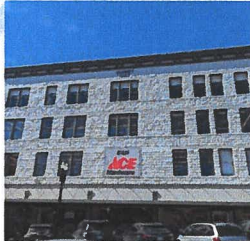
**Bogner Construction
Celebrates 125 Year**



Beef O'Brady's



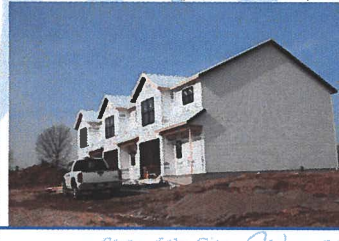
E&H ACE Hardware



Caribou Coffee



New Housing (Noble Dr.)

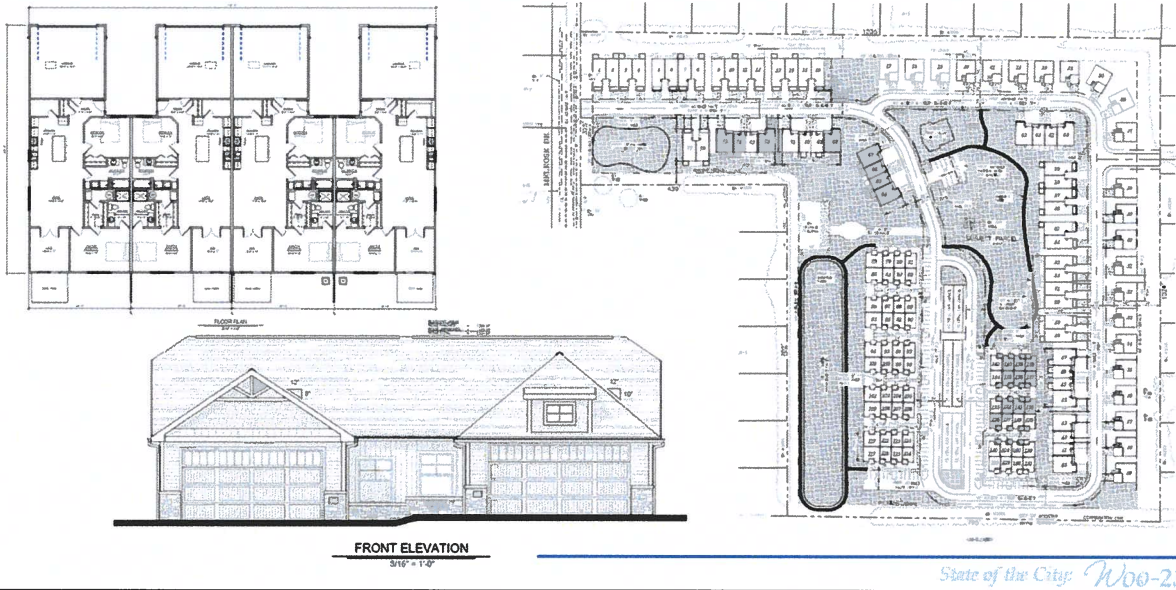


State of the City: Woo-23

Welcoming the New and Recognizing the Old

- Clear Creek Park – Opened with a generous donation from the Dick & Judy Seaman Foundation
- Mariola – Liberty Beall Groundbreaking New Italian Restaurant and 8 Apartment units beside Muddy's. Great support of our Entertainment District.
- Alice Nobel Ice Arena – 20th Anniversary! Thank you to the Noble family for their continuous support of the Wooster Community!
- Bogner Construction - 125 years – Ted Bogner retires Congrats and Thanks to the Bogner family for over a century of serving our Community. Ted, I'm impressed – you look really good for 125 year old! Congratulations
- Beef O'Brady's - Opens on South Market where Henry Station was located.
- Ace Hardware - Opened March 4, 2022 on the Square. Thank You Ace!
- Caribou Coffee – on Cleveland Rd. – Opened 1st US Based franchise in nation.
- New Apartments – Being built on Noble Drive. 6 of 15 constructed so far.

Melrose Housing Development - Starting this Spring



Lemmon Development is moving forward with a Housing Planned Development (PD) off of Melrose Drive.

- Had to rezone the land to a Planned Development from R-1 to do the Housing Development they envisioned.
- Preliminary plans are for a 141 unit development w/ apartments, duplexes, and single family homes
- Plan received a unanimous vote of approval from Planning Commission.
- Council approved the rezoning to PD at their May 3, 2021 meeting.
- Latest word is they are planning to start building this Spring.
- Lemmon Development did the Danbury facility at the base of Portage Road.
- Thank You for growing in our Community!

WPD Honors



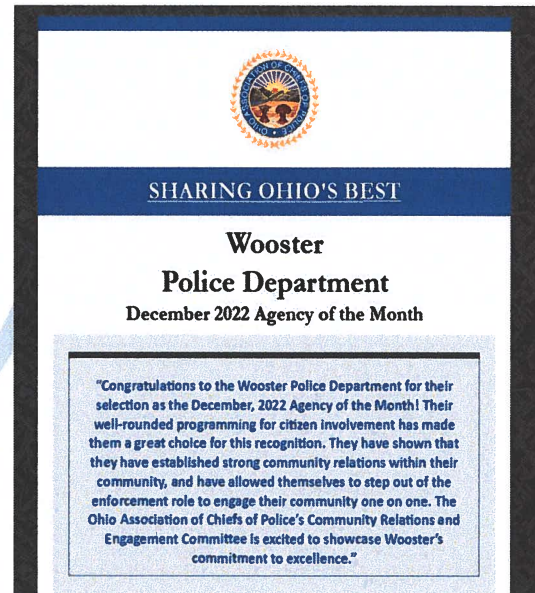
▲ *Chief Fisher honored by
Wooster Chamber
Distinguished Alumni Award*



◀ *Jordan Telquist
Award of Merit Commendation*



Don Hall ▶
Officer of the Year



Wooster Police

- Chief Fisher honored by Wooster Chamber
 - Distinguished Alumni Award
- Jordan Telquist
 - Award of Merit commendation The Award of Merit may be awarded to any officer of the Wooster Police Department for an outstanding act or achievement that brings credit to the Wooster Police Department.
 - Jordan was acting officer in charge when 2 shootings occurred within 90 min. She remained calm and directed fellow officers to handle specific tasks. Her poise & professionalism are commended.
- Wooster PD was recognized in December 2022 by The Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police as the Best Agency of the Month.
- Don Hall was recognized by his PD team as “Officer of the Year”.

WCH Award Winning Community Hospital



State of the City: Woo-23

- CMS 5 Star Quality Rating
- Stroke Gold Quality Achievement Award
- 8th Time winner of the Top 100 Hospitals by Fortune/Merative in 2022.
- Newsweek's World's Best Hospitals for 2023. 3rd year in a row.
- Congratulations & Thank You to our WCH Team for their Excellence!

IBCLC Care Award – International Lactation Consultant Association

2022 Excellence in Health Care Award

Community Celebrations

Downtown Events & Programs

THURSDAY 8/25
ED MARTHIEY
piano
6-8PM!

FRIDAY 8/26
ONE MAN BAND
70% Country, Rock

SATURDAY 8/27
THE CICCONE/TTI BROTHERS
original rock, pop, blues, jazz

Wagon Wheel & Blues
8:30-11:30 PM
Historic Downtown Wooster Square
Presented in Partnership with the City of Wooster

FREE CONCERTS!

MAIN STREET WOOSTER, INC.
KIDS' DAY, 2022
FUN IN THE SUN!
Petting Zoo, Snow Cones, Firetrucks, Popcorn, Games, Crafts, Slime, Free Giveaways and more!
JUNE 4TH 1P TO 4P

SHAKE, RATTLE & ROLL
AT OUR
NOVEMBER
Wooster Community Center
AGES 3-10 | TICKETS \$45
TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE

AMERICA'S PREMIER LYRIC THEATER FESTIVAL
OHIO LIGHT OPERA
44TH SUMMER SEASON

Woosterfest

State of the City: Woo-23

Community: Life returns to normal

Events and activities abounded in Wooster in 2022.

Main Street sponsored many events such as:

- Kids Day
- Music on the Square
- Farmers Market
- Concerts and Car Shows
- Air Stream Rally

Chamber had a great turn-out for Woosterfest.

Ohio Light Opera ran all summer and is ready for a great 2023 season.

Memorial Day parade was back in full force after a two-year hiatus

A Community Committed to Service

2022 Friends of Philanthropy WCCF



Congrats Judy &
Richard Seaman

Rotary Flies +2,000 Flags

Now celebrating 15 Years!



Kiwanis Ohio Convention

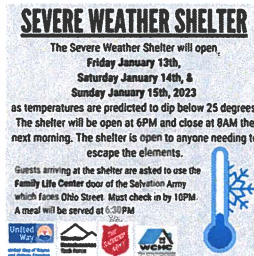


Wooster Welcomes
the State!

Wooster Lions



Supporting Shelter For All



Exchange Club Celebrates Our Freedoms

State of the City: Woo-23

Service to the Community is strong

- Dick & Judy Seaman were honored at the WCCF annual dinner
- Kiwanis hosted the 104th Ohio District Convention at OSU/ATI
- Rotary tops over 2000 Flags in our community – Great Project – Thank You!
- Lion's Club – Thanks for promoting Eye Sight in our world!
- Exchange Club – We couldn't do Fireworks without you! Thank You.
- United Way, Salvation Army, WHMA and the Housing Coalition partnered to provide a Severe Weather Station during the winter months.

Comings and Goings



Wooster City Council
Upholding Community Service



Thank You
Stan Popp



Hello
Deb Catlett



Thank you
Dave Silvestri



Hello (Again!)
Jon Ansel



Thank you
Marty Starkey



Hello
Rob Wells



Thank you
Dr. Bolton & Dr. Webster



Hello
Dr. McCall

State of the City: Woo-23

Comings & Goings

- WMHA – Stan Popp retired after over 28 years working with WMHA. Deb Catlett was promoted to Director.
- Wayne Visitors & Convention Bureau – Marty Starkey retires after 28 years of service to the community. Rob Wells has the difficult job of filling her shoes.
- City Council – David Silvestri, Ward 3, decides to move his family to the country to pursue his kids love of chickens and goats. Jon Ansel, with 16 years of previous council experience, agrees to fill the vacant seat. He missed us!
- OARDC/OSU – Welcome Andy Michaels
- Gary Thompson who served 23 years on City Council and 13 years on WCH Board of Governors passed away on 4-27-22. Thank you for your service Gary!

A Look Back

Announced October 2017

Best Places to Live 2017
Money
In Partnership With realOGCITY

No. 37 Wooster, Ohio

2018 State of the City
37th Best Place To Live in USA

2017 brought many accolades. Our residents celebrated with us at the Window Wonderland.

2018 State of the City
Wooster Secures Ohio's Best Hometown Award

2018 State of the City
Window Wonderland & Award
November 17, 2017

State of the City: Woo-23

2017 Brought many good recognitions of our City!

- We submitted an application to be considered by Ohio Magazine as one of the 5 Best Hometowns/one per region of the state in 2017/18. This was the first year that we could be considered because our City had won the award previously and you could not be considered again for 10 years.
- After a Community visit by the Editor's of Ohio Magazine and a day showcasing why we should be the Best Hometown in the NE Region of the State – we learned a few months later that Wooster was selected.
- This set up following sessions with Ohio Magazine where we took them around helping them select the places, pictures and info. that they wanted for the story
- Money Magazine on the other hand called us up and said – “You’ve been selected as the 37th in the Top 50 Best Place to Live in the United States. Please send us 10 pictures that you think would present Wooster the best to the world and we’ll select one that we like.
- We held a community Celebration Downtown during Window Wonderland and handed out gifts of tree ornaments saying Best Hometown & 37th Best Places to live in the USA. Ohio Mag. Came to Wooster & Presented the award.

2013 Income Tax Proposal

The City of Wooster

Proposed Earned Income Tax:

- Potential .5% Increase
 - Approx .25% towards retaining services
 - Approx .25% towards capital improvement projects
- New earned income tax rate would be 1.5% - still amongst the lowest in Northeast Ohio
- City Council voted unanimously in January 2013 to place the issue on the May 2013 ballot

The City of Wooster

Income Tax Rates in Comparable Ohio Cities

City	2008 Pop	2010 Pop	City Rate	City	2008 Pop	2010 Pop	City Rate
Wooster	24,111	25,173	1.00%	Shawnee	22,543	29,291	1.00%
Madison	25,475	28,578	1.25%	North Cucklet	24,113	27,113	2.00%
Lordburg	27,841	29,791	1.00%	South Cucklet	23,337	22,285	2.00%
Colum	22,317	24,628	2.00%	Galena	21,943	21,291	2.00%
Berkeley	22,327	25,520	2.00%	Farmers	22,052	22,302	1.50%
Griffith Heights	20,724	28,422	2.00%	Aspen	11,446	21,183	1.75%
Millard	24,276	28,420	2.00%	Altaville	29,429	27,227	1.75%
Shaker Heights	28,302	28,443	2.25%	Antwerp	21,202	20,267	1.50%
Hullster	22,438	22,282	2.00%	Manfield	49,345	49,231	1.75%
Wart	26,152	28,054	2.00%	Business	33,424	34,215	1.25%
Wesley Heights	24,158	21,128	2.25%	Wardle	21,581	21,418	1.50%
Wickliffe	22,891	22,228	2.00%	Carroll	22,202	22,227	2.00%
Upper Arlington	23,228	23,721	2.00%	North Canton	19,389	17,888	1.00%
C. Glouster	22,141	22,122	1.00%	Findley	20,227	20,000	1.25%
				Wadsworth	19,427	21,227	1.50%

* - Home of Cedar Pines Amusement and Waterpark
 ** - Home of Kings Island Amusement and Waterpark

The City of Wooster

What is an Earned Income tax?

An earned income tax is a tax levied as a percent of earned income.

What is Taxed?

- Wages
- Tips
- Self-employed earnings
- Partnership income
- Rental income
- Business Net Profits

What is Not Taxed:

- Interest
- Dividends
- Capital gains
- Pensions
- Annuity income
- Unemployment
- Income from estates
- Social Security benefits

The City of Wooster

Income Tax facts

Annual Salary	City Income Tax Monthly Increase 0.5% in 2013	State Income Tax Decrease (2004 to 2011)	Difference
\$ 25,000.00	\$ 10.42	\$ (12.34)	\$ 1.92
\$ 50,000.00	\$ 20.83	\$ (13.58)	\$ 12.72
\$ 75,000.00	\$ 31.25	\$ (16.39)	\$ 25.05
\$ 100,000.00	\$ 41.67	\$ (22.48)	\$ 40.79

- City Income tax funds are used to pay for Police, Fire, Infrastructure Maintenance and Recreation Programs - in the City of Wooster
- More bang for your buck at the local level

The recession of 2008-2010 and the reduction of state funding made a request for an Income Tax increase necessary.

Without this increase, our city would not be in the shape it is now. We are fiscally secure, our infrastructure is continually updated and we've been noticed by outside entities as a great place to live and work.

Thank you to those who had the foresight and the diligence to make the income tax increase a reality.

State of the City: Woo-23

Hard to believe that doing a Ballot issue in 2013 to raise our City's Income Tax rate from 1.0% to 1.5% is one of the high points of my career as Mayor. It's not that I like paying taxes any more than anyone else, but we (myself, Admin Team, City Council) were convinced that without this 0.5% raise our City would start to backslide.

- We asked the Ohio Auditor of State to do a Performance Review of our City to see if there were any ways to streamline things to save funds. Probably the Best thing we did for it showed we were running lean and without the tax would start going downhill.
- Then we set up a group led by Paul Williams & Bret Defibaugh as co-chairs. We then used our city team to help sell the need to our citizens. We talked to anyone who would listen – community meetings, PTO's at the schools, neighborhood gatherings, assisted living communities, service clubs, churches, etc. Our messaging worked!
- The tax increase was on the Primary Ballot in May, 2013 where it passed by a strong margin on the first try.
- I am convinced that without this extra 0.5% we would not be the community we are today. It was essential to keep us moving forward. Thanks to All!

Schaeffler Gears Up

Schaeffler LuK & Wooster Attend Global Trade Fair



Schaeffler (aka LuK) has been a valuable partner throughout the years.

They remain one of our top employers and are continually expanding.

Wooster 2016 State of the City Top Employer LuK Expands (Again!)



Schaeffler LuK USA Expansion to Add 250 Jobs

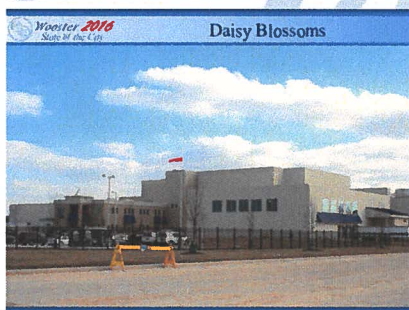
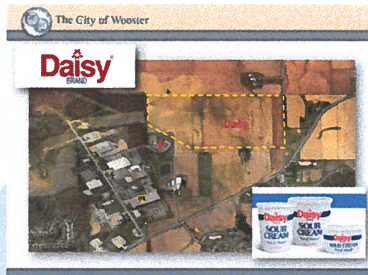


State of the City: Woo-23

Schaeffler (aka LuK) has been a wonderful community partner since it was established in Wooster in 1977 with I'm told 6 employee's making clutches.

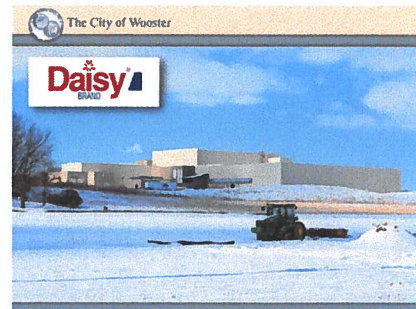
- City partnered w/ LuK on March 21, 1977 when the city issued Industrial Revenue Bonds (41M) to help LuK expand and Grow (JC Breneman/Stype).
- Schaeffler has grown over the years to be Wooster's Largest employer making torque converters and working to be a big player in the Elec. Vehicle market.
- One of my fondest memories was when in April, 2016 myself & Joel Montgomery joined Prasanna Gurusurthy on a trip to their Plant in Buhl, Germany to meet the leaders of Schaeffler and join them in the industrial fair (Hannover Messe) in Hannover, Germany. This may have helped convince leadership to expand the Wooster Plant. It's a memory of a lifetime.
- The next memorable event was celebrating Schaeffler's 40th anniversary in Wooster, OH in 2017. Many of the Leaders we met in Germany came to the event, and Mr. George Schaeffler, CEO joined in the celebration.
- We are extremely fortunate to have Schaeffler as the largest employer and industry in our City, and we wish them the best in their future endeavors.
- They are presently starting a 90,000 sq ft. expansion to their facility.

"A Little Dollop of Daisy"



Daisy first announced they were coming to Wooster in 2013.

Since then they have discovered what a good fit they are with our community and continue to expand.



State of the City: Woo-23

Daisy Brand Chooses Wooster for its new Manufacturing facility – 6-24-13 !

- This has to be one of the Best things to happen during my time as Mayor.
- Attracting Daisy was a full press effort by our City Team, WEDC, Team NEO and Ohio Dept. of Development along with many community members who helped.
- Daisy was being courted by Indiana, Pennsylvania, and Michigan, so for us to land them in Wooster, OH was a pretty amazing feat.
- Our Economic Development Team did an outstanding job of selling our City.
- I think what won the day is the Daisy culture/moral fabric is very similar to the culture/moral fabric of the Wooster/Wayne Co. area. I think we portrayed a moral and work ethic & honesty that they liked and was comfortable to them.
- It was a pleasure to get to know the Daisy team & to work with them. Still is.
- Icing on the cake was when the President of Daisy brought his wife to town one weekend unknown to any of the Wooster team. They stayed in the St. Paul Hotel, walked around the Downtown, ate in the local restaurants, went to the Farmers Market, and drove around the community. He said he wanted to make sure Wooster was the type of community that his employees would want to raise their families in. It sealed the deal for Wooster!
- What a Great Corp. partner Daisy is – we are blessed to have them here!

Gojo - From Hospitals to Homes....



GOJO renovated the Rubbermaid facility in 2015 and has been growing ever since.

During COVID, News Anchor, Lester Holt, came to Wooster to highlight GOJO and their efforts to slow the spread. 2021



State of the City: Wooster **Woo-23**

The Chamber of Commerce sponsored an Economic Development Forum where they along with Dee Vydia invited speakers to talk about Economic Development.

- On October 16, 2014 this event was held, and Joe Kanfer, CEO of GOJO Ind. was the Keynote speaker.
- One Goal in the 2014 S of C was “Get Rubber. facility back to useful production”
- Many people were talking at & with GOJO leadership, and I felt we needed one voice speaking for the Community. I called Mr. Kanfer & asked if we could meet
- On Friday, 12-12-14 myself, Rod Crider, and Andrei Dordea drove to Akron to meet with Joe Kanfer-CEO, Mark Lerner-Pres. & COO, Scott Levin-CFO, & Ron Hammond-VP at GOJO’s main office. We talked over lunch how Wooster could be a good fit for GOJO and the empty Rubbermaid building.
- This started the ball rolling. Many meetings to Feb. 17, 2015 announcement by GOJO that they had an agreement with InSite for Wooster’s former Rubb.Bldg.
- GOJO announced on May 29, 2015 that it agreed to lease 1.3 M sq ft in Wooster to expand manufacturing & Distribution operations.
- In Operation by Dec. 17, 2015. Great Partner for Wooster. Thank You GOJO!
- Today GOJO owns the facility and grounds, and it is the worlds largest producer of Purell sanitizer here in Wooster! Many people helped to make this happen.

Wooster Innovation Park



STATE OF THE CITY
2020
Wooster
PROPOSED
DEVELOPMENTAL LAND



AVAILABLE SITE IN NORTHEAST OHIO Wooster Innovation Park West



The purchase of 5L Farms with 138 acres in 2020 became Wooster Innovation Park.

This piece of land was an essential piece to keep Wooster moving forward and creating a future of opportunity and employment for our residents and community.

State of the City: *Woo-23*

We purchased the 5L farm (138 acres) in 2020.

- Land was/is essential for keeping jobs in Wooster.
- Probably need to look into another adjacent piece for growth potential.

New Dispatch - WARCO Wooster 2016 State of the City Inaugurate New Dispatch Service



WOOSTER-ASHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



The idea of our own dispatch center began to formulate in 2014.

After joining forces with Ashland & Orrville, the new dispatch center WARCO opened in July 2016.

WARCOG has proven to be a true asset to the communities it serves.

State of the City: *Woo-23*

Establishing our Dispatch COG has been one of the best things we've done during my years as Mayor.

- Unfortunately it was one of the most difficult things to accomplish.
- Good partners in Orrville and Ashland. Too bad the County didn't join in.

Safety Service Building - Fire & Police



After many years of planning, the Safety Center opened in Fall 2018.



State of the City: Woo-23

This Safety Service Center for our Police Department and Fire Station #2 was one of the Best decisions we've made as an organization.

- Good location, and professional offices and building.
- Great step forward for our City!

Christmas Run Park Playground

The City of Wooster



Wooster 2016
State of the City

Christmas Run Park Revamp



Wooster 2016
State of the City

Christmas Run Park Revamp

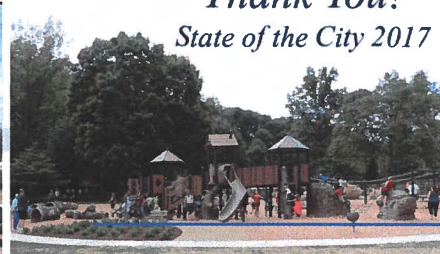


Wooster
2016

Christmas Run Community Build



Thank You!
State of the City 2017



Beginning in 2015, the concept to revamp Christmas Run Park began. Completed in 2017, the park is a favorite for kids of all ages.

State of the City: Woo-23

Revamp of the Christmas Run Playground in 2017.

Thank You Wooster Kiwanis Club and City team!

Wonderful Park for the Community and Kids love it!

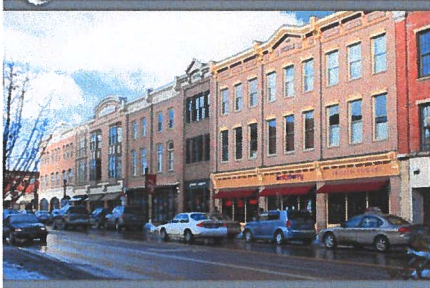
Goodbye Freedlander's - Hello Merchant Block



The City of Wooster



After 125 years, Freedlander's shut their doors. Investors demolished the building in 2011 to make way for Merchant's Block.



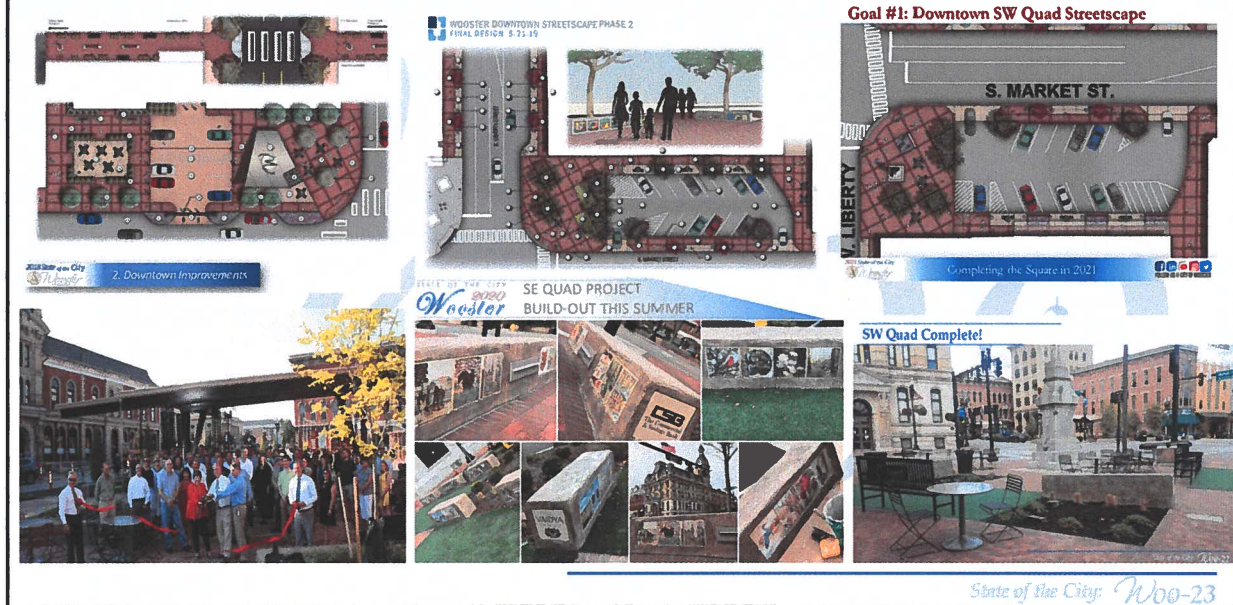
Side of the City: Woo-23

Six months into becoming Mayor(2008), Stan Gault invited me to a meeting where he told a small group that he was going to have to close Freedlanders after 125 yrs.

He then uncovered an easel with an artist rendering of Merchant's Block and said, this is what is going to go in its place.

Sad to say Goodbye, but what a vision Mr. Gault had for moving our community forward. There's lots of in between moments to getting to today, but to me this is the reason our Downtown is as strong and beautiful as it is.

Downtown Streetscape

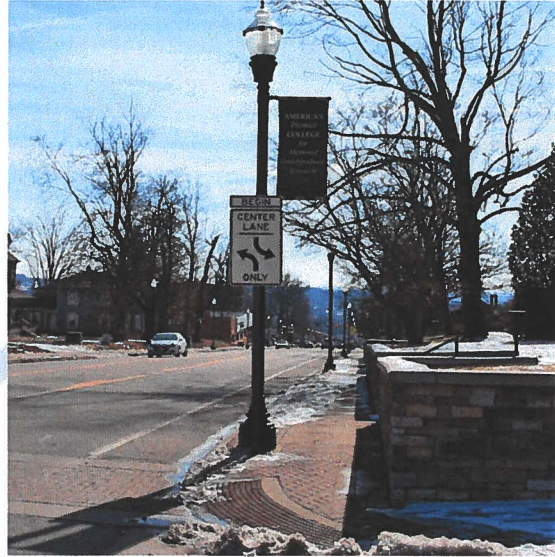


Making our Downtown come alive! The City with the help of a Downtown Plan facilitated by OHM Advisors and city team and community support made this happen.

We are the envy of many communities and it has brought life back into the Downtown.

The story continues, new restaurants and apartments, a new Theater for things to do, and programming by Main Street with a DORA zone idea from the Chamber.

Beall Avenue Streetscape



State of the City: Woo-23

Beall Ave. Streetscape project was a major step forward for Wooster.

Many players helped make it happen; College of Wooster, Ralph Regula & Fed. \$, multiple state agencies contributed funding, and the City of Wooster contributed major funding and efforts of multiple city divisions.

Beautiful way to tie the College of Wooster with the Downtown.

Great project for the Community.



The Duchess of the Downtown – Sandra Hall retires in 2020 after 30+ years.

Sandra was the first and only Main Street Director for Wooster. She made the magic happen for our City – and we are eternally grateful for her leadership and tenacity!

Sandra is still helping our community as a leader in helping get the Lyric Theater in our Downtown.

Shannon Waller has done a nice job of keeping the Downtown strong.

Development on Market Street



WEAVER Custom Homes
Rea & Associates
Commercial Real Estate



STATE OF THE CITY
2020
WeaVER
A NEW FUTURE
FOR MARKET STREET

Rea & Associates Inc + Weaver Custom Homes



STATE OF THE CITY
2020
WeaVER
Rebuilding N. Market Street



State of the City *WeaVER* 2020

The excitement continues. New life for N. Market Street where Horns Nursing home was.

Partnership between County & City got Horns out of bad hands, cleaned up site, and sold property to Rea & Assoc. for an office and property to Weaver Custom homes for 10 Condo units.

Beauty out of a bad situation. Thanks to all involved!

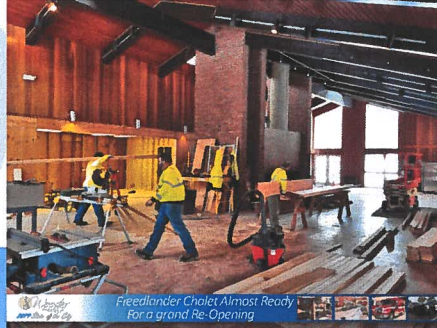
What a Beaut! Freedlander Chalet



Freedlander Chalet



New Facility for Wooster's Chalet



Freedlander Chalet Almost Ready For a grand Re-Opening



The Chalet is a gem. A perfect setting for any event.

2023 will see improvements to the patio and outdoor area.



CHALET OPENING NOW AVAILABLE FOR BOOKING

State of the City: Woo-23

Freedlander Chalet was a true treasure for our City created by the Freedlander family. It served Wooster for many decades as a Swimming complex, park, ball fields, a chalet rental for parties and a fishing lake.

Time moved on, and the Chalet got old and out of date. The City took it on as a building project for our PPM team, and they breathed new life back into the facility.

Rentals are very strong now for gatherings, wedding receptions, and family gatherings. Beautiful facility now – great job team!

Bike Trail Connections - Ride On!

Wooster Bike Trail Loop Progress

- Phase I FUNDED
 - \$712,500 Grant Secured
 - Will connect Oak Hill Park to College of Wooster and Downtown via Oldman Trail and Kinsley Property
- 1-Mile of Dedicated Trail
 - Burbank and Beall Ave
- 1-Mile of Bike Lanes
 - Beall Ave
- Phase II & III in Planning
- Statewide Bike Trail Planning Underway

Goal #8: Connect West Side Neighborhoods & Parks

Goal #4: Connecting the Loop!

4. Wooster Bike Trail

State of the City: W00-23

A trail network for our City!

This is one of our ongoing missions spurred on by the 2013-14 Comprehensive Plan update that said people wanted better connectivity in Wooster.

So, in the fall of 2014 we started a Bike Trail committee of volunteers and City staff to make the magic happen.

We've made good progress through the years, but still have many things yet to do. This has been good for the Community!

Thank you to the Team



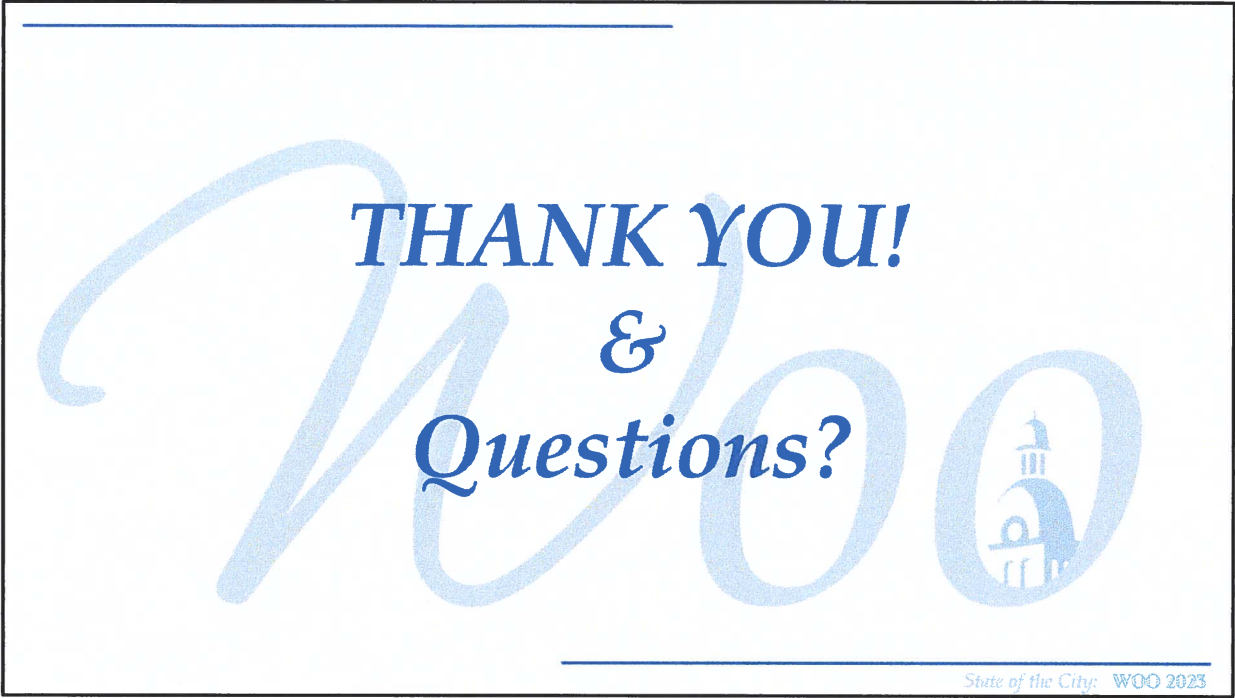
Jonathan Millea, Andrea Dorden, Lynne DePaulo, Mayor Breueman & Joel Montgomery

State of the City: Woo-23

Talk about making the Magic happen – This is my Kitchen Cabinet when it comes to putting the State of the City presentations together.

My Sincere Thanks to: Jonathan Millea, Joal Montgomery, Lynne DePaulo, and Andrei Dordea (not shown) for their expertise and help over the years!

Thank you for a Great Run in our Wonderful City of Wooster!



Thanks to Jonathan Millea and Lynne DePaulo for all their assistance and hard work in helping pull this presentation together!