

CITYNotes

A PUBLICATION FOR THE CITIZENS OF SPRINGBORO

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2021

State of the City Address

As presented by Mayor John Agenbroad, January 7, 2021

As Mayor of the City of Springboro, I begin my State of the City Address by first commenting on how uniquely challenging this past year has been for all of us, as individuals, as a community, and as a nation. COVID-19 continues to be a threat to our health, safety and welfare, but I remain optimistic thanks to efforts made by our hardworking and resilient City Council and Staff Members to respond to this pandemic, and the great citizens of our community for coming together to support one another. Although we are six feet apart, it is obvious we are closer than ever.

COVID DOMINATES 2020

None of us could have imagined the impact COVID-19 would have on our families, businesses, schools, hospitals, elderly care facilities and so much more. We were faced with loss of employment, preparing our children to safely attend school or learn from home, businesses struggling to keep their doors open

with COVID restrictions in place, and simply trying to find ways to stay connected and continue to function. We have learned to protect ourselves by physically distancing and wearing masks to slow the spread of the virus in our country and communities, and yet we have mourned the loss of too many lives taken by this pandemic.

Our community's efforts to follow the state's orders and guidelines and take all of the precautionary measures to fight COVID-19 have been extraordinary. We are proud of the ways we as community leaders have supported our residents and businesses and are inspired by the many selfless, compassionate gestures made by friends, neighbors, volunteer groups and the frontline workers in healthcare, education, emergency, safety and public services who put the safety and needs of our community before their own.

Your City Staff continued to provide a high level of service to the community while looking for every possible way to support and keep our community healthy through this pandemic.

This was achieved through community partnerships and understanding the importance of working together to address community needs.



This past year obviously presented challenges for our businesses including state restrictions that would dramatically affect their income. At the onset of the pandemic, the City in partnership with the Springboro Chamber of Commerce immediately set up the Small Business Stimulus Program to help local businesses stay afloat. **In total, \$106,000 was granted to 38 Springboro businesses** to help them continue to operate. In addition, City workers helped the Springboro Community Assistance Center with food transportation and assisted hundreds of residents with free yard waste, recyclables and bulk item drop-off at the City Building when those pickups were suspended due to COVID-19. The City coordinated with local churches and the Springboro Community Assistance Center to create a **community resource list for outreach**, food and errands for residents in need and posted resource lists on our website and social media of restaurants offering carry-out and grocery store hours and restrictions. We also teamed up with Warren County Community Services and the United Way of Warren County to distribute senior citizen care packages. Additionally, we extended the City's tax filing deadline and made virtual tax appointments available for taxpayers needing assistance and additional time to file.

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CARES Act funding helped us address needs created by the pandemic specifically in the areas of economic assistance, public safety, PPE and tech equipment and we decided it would be imperative to share the monies within the Springboro community. During the September 3 Council Meeting, the City presented a check to Springboro City Schools for \$100,000 of these eligible funds to upgrade technology in the schools and provide Chromebooks and other supplies to students to help facilitate remote learning to comply with COVID-19 precautions. The City also continued to support local businesses by creating an Employer Grant Program to help mid to large sized businesses coping with their ability to retain employees or even those that may have had to increase their workforce to respond to the demands created by COVID-19. Through this program, **nine businesses received a total of \$200,000 in grant monies** to help offset the economic impact of the pandemic. We are encouraged by how we, as a community, have come together and we feel fortunate to be able to support the community in meaningful ways throughout this pandemic.

LIVING IN SPRINGBORO

One thing I can never say enough is that Springboro is one of the best cities in Ohio to live, work, play and raise a family. Our city continues to be highly rated in all aspects of community life including great neighborhoods and schools and exceptional safety, services and amenities that now include a splash park and a Performing Arts Center. In fact, **Springboro was named 2020's 5th Best Place To Raise a Family in Ohio** according to a study by the leading personal finance web outlet, WalletHub. The study compared more than 180 cities using key indicators of ideal family conditions like Family Life & Fun, Education, Health & Safety, Affordability and Socio-economics. Once again, Springboro was identified as one of the most family friendly places in Ohio scoring strongly across these quality of life factors.

It is also important to us to measure Springboro's success on a local level. Since 2008, the City has conducted a Citizen Satisfaction Survey every three years with the help of Miami University's Center for Public Management and Regional Affairs. Last year's survey invited approximately 1,000 randomly selected households to rate their level of satisfaction as a resident of Springboro and with City services and quality of life aspects in our community. Even though the survey period was curbed by the onset of COVID-19, the response rate of 35% was slightly higher than 2017 with residents from 342 households responding to the survey.

The City's overall satisfaction rating from the 2020 survey is equal to or better than the findings in 2017, and indicated that **97% of the residents surveyed were "Satisfied" and the greater percentage were "Very Satisfied" living in Springboro!** Satisfaction levels are consistently high regardless of the length of residency and half of the survey respondents think Springboro has become a better place to live in the past five years. Characteristics such as small-town feel, community spirit, appealing neighborhoods and safety contributed to the high ratings with satisfaction levels increasing in areas of public safety, parks and street maintenance.

This is historically the Center's highest rating for communities surveyed, and we thank you for this vote of confidence!

FINANCE

The City again received a **100% clean audit from the State Auditor** last year for our consistent excellence in fiscal policies, practices and accountability. In 2020, the state instituted the new Sunshine Law Star Rating System (StaRS) to monitor transparency in government by testing a local government's compliance with Ohio's Sunshine Laws. We are excited to share that the **City received a 4-Star rating, the highest achievement in open and transparent government**. Special recognition is owed to our Finance Director Jonathan Hudson and City Records Manager Lori Martin for their diligence in exceeding these state requirements. Our goal is to maintain this standard of excellence in all aspects of our local government on behalf of our community.

Springboro's financial outlook for 2021 remains on solid ground despite the negative impacts COVID-19 has had on the economy. This year's budget focuses on core priorities keeping in mind the economic uncertainties 2021 may bring due to the pandemic. These priorities include maintaining the City's operational excellence thanks to staff and all of the great services they provide in the areas of Public Safety, Infrastructure, Economic Development and Quality of Life.

Overall, **the City's approach is cautious with respect to revenue and expenditure projections** heading into the New Year. City Council approved the 2021 budget in November and **total budgeted expenses were cut by approximately 10%** not knowing how COVID-19 will affect future revenue. All 45 funds reflect a total of \$63.9 million in budgeted expenditures for capital, operations and services with a very conservative year-end projection in the total fund balance of \$30.2 million. Our General Fund, which pays for the majority of the City's administrative, safety, service and development expenses, is estimated to carry a balance of \$4.2 million with \$14.4 million in budgeted expenses. With reserve balances within the recommended range of 30-50% of expenditures, the City is in the position to draw from those reserves if necessary before needing to generate additional revenue by raising fees or taxes –our tax rate has not increased since 1988.

Total income tax revenue held steady last year meeting projections by year-end, which is a very favorable outcome considering local economies overall. The City always budgets conservatively on the revenue side and is projecting a roughly 7% decrease in income tax revenue this year as a safety measure in light of the pandemic. With the exception of mainly





income tax, the **City's budget is anticipated to remain relatively flat** in 2021. Notably, our water and sewer fund balances remain strong enough to **continue the current rate freeze** and still adequately fund operating costs for those services.

We applaud our staff's efforts to keep our primary government functions at the properly funded levels and continuing to focus on providing quality public services to our residents.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Our Capital Improvement Program (CIP) helps us plan and budget for our city's immediate and future needs in areas such as streets, infrastructure, recreational and community development. The 2021-2025 program proposes a **\$23.2 million capital investment in our community** and addresses two general areas of expenditures, the protection of existing assets such as facilities and infrastructure and the **construction of new public facilities**, including information technology, to improve public safety, service delivery, and quality of life for our citizens. The 5-year CIP has decreased \$1.5 million or approximately 6% from the previous year and capital **spending is down** this year \$2.8 million over 2020.



Although, the 2021 program has been reduced mirroring the budget cuts, it will **continue to support core improvements** such as street resurfacing as well as other important programs that improve our safety, welfare and general environment.

In 2020, **the City completed several transportation projects** including the resurfacing of S. Main Street and the addition of decorative crosswalks at all six intersections in our historic downtown making a dramatic improvement to our south corridor. In addition, approximately 1.2 miles of Lytle Five Points and Yankee roads were resurfaced and work included the addition of a pedestrian crossing island and bike lanes as part of the continuation of Springboro's Bike and Pedestrian Plan. Approximately five miles of roadway improvements were completed in 2020 including the resurfacing of 10 neighborhood streets and the City is proposing to resurface 21 streets during this year's resurfacing and sidewalk repair program. In addition, **the City was awarded approximately \$4.5 million in Federal Safety Funding Grants** to complete three traffic improvement projects over the next several years to improve safety and traffic flow. The first project involves replacing the existing traffic signal scopes at the nine

intersections along W. Central Avenue and N. Main Street with radar, a more reliable technology that can detect vehicles as they approach the intersection and more accurately control the signal timing. The other two projects involve a dual left turn lane along W. Central Avenue approaching southbound I-75 and improvements at the Remick Boulevard intersection to include a right turn lane eastbound onto Remick. We appreciate the Warren County Transportation Improvement District's assistance in obtaining 100% of the funding for these projects.

Progress continues on our **broadband fiber network initiative to bring high-speed internet services** to neighborhoods throughout Springboro. The City has collaborated with the Warren County Port Authority to finance the construction costs of the infrastructure needed to bring new private Internet Service Providers (ISPs) into the Springboro market creating competition, innovation and potentially lower prices in the realm of high-speed internet service for our residents and businesses. Private ISPs would lease or purchase the underground conduit from the City to run their own fiber optic lines to individual homes. This \$2.4 million investment in technology infrastructure will become a valuable asset in attracting new businesses and helping existing businesses and our community **prepare for smarter, faster technologies**. We see this as an excellent opportunity for our residents and economic growth within the City, and recognize City Manager Chris Pozzuto, IT Director Matt Lang, Finance Director Jonathan Hudson and the Warren County Port Authority for helping to launch this exciting project. We anticipate construction to be finished by this summer.



PARKS AND RECREATION

Springboro now has nine beautiful parks that feature a variety of amenities including an amphitheater, walking trails, turf fields and a brand new fitness court made possible by a grant from the National Fitness Foundation.

Kacie Jane Park is our newest park featuring an extremely popular splash pad, which opened in 2019 thanks to a generous donation from Springboro's Hausfeld Family in memory of their loved ones Kacie and Tom Hausfeld. This past summer **we opened Phase II of Kacie Jane Park** with two new playgrounds and an interactive musical play area. The City's financial partnership with Clearcreek Township to support the park's operations and maintenance ensures it will be a place for our residents to enjoy for many years to come.



Springboro's recreational facilities also include Heatherwoode Golf Course. Superior course conditions, amenities and customer service have positioned Heatherwoode among the most highly rated public courses in the region exceeding market standards for a quality golfing experience.

2020 was a landmark year for Heatherwoode. Not only did the City realize top earnings on the golf course last year by maximizing the number of rounds played in one year reaching 40,000, but also we are happy to report that **the City paid off the debt it has carried on Heatherwoode since 1999**. Pursuing opportunities to reduce interest rates since the original bonds and an early pay off option resulted in a **total savings of \$492,000.00**. We now own the flagship of our City's many great amenities and appreciate the level of excellence that Heatherwoode staff operates and maintains our golf course.

We also pride ourselves in bringing the community together for events including concerts, festivals and fireworks. It has been challenging for communities to offer these events with COVID-19 restrictions in place; however, the **City took the steps necessary to make sure we could safely move forward** with some of the popular programs we offer to our residents like our summer concert series. The **2020 concerts were a big hit** according to the many residents who attended or watched the concerts live from our website. We were able to host seven out of the 10 scheduled concerts thanks to a tremendous effort by our Park Board members and staff to put all of the necessary precautions in place recommended by our state and county health department to ensure everyone's health and safety was a priority. We are glad so many of you had the opportunity to get out and enjoy the concerts as well as our annual fireworks display, co-sponsored by Springboro

Schools and Clearcreek Township, and other events like Bike the Boro and Boro BBQ Fest. Again, thank you to our Park Board and staff for all of the effort they put into coordinating these events for our community to enjoy this past year.



COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Springboro is always open for business and continues to welcome new companies to our **500+ business community**. The City also supports economic growth by participating in regional development initiatives like BusinessFirst!, an intergovernmental program focused on business retention and expansion in local jurisdictions. The program connects member communities to more than 80 resource partners offering job training, low interest business loans and more to help our local businesses grow and expand job opportunities. These programs go hand-in-hand with our efforts to build relationships with our businesses by dedicating staff and resources to making sure the City is doing everything possible to be a partner in their success.

Notwithstanding the effects of COVID-19 on the economy, approximately 132,000 sq. ft. of business expansion and redevelopment projects were approved by our Planning Commission throughout the community in 2020. As the City was welcoming **Warped Wing** in August, construction began on 13,000 sq. ft. of additional commercial space at **Wright Station** to house a luxury nail salon, Cassano's Pizza and several other new tenants. To date, three of the potential seven commercial building sites have been constructed in the development.

Last year, the City received approval to establish a **DORA** (Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area). The DORA allows patrons to purchase alcoholic beverages from a designated DORA establishment and carry them within a defined area at Wright Station. DORA establishments include Warped Wing, Cassano's, Heroes and the Performing Arts Center. The City plans for Wright Station to be a destination where people can enjoy food, drinks and entertainment and has added **free public WIFI** for patrons of the DORA and other Wright Station amenities. Costs associated with the WIFI utility were covered by CARES Act funding and plans are to extend WIFI service to the downtown area and City parks in the future to allow residents to work, learn and relax remotely.

Several businesses in the western portion of the City developed significant expansions in operations and warehousing and most recently plans were approved for the **redevelopment of the Kroger site** along State Route 73. Kroger plans to construct a 90,000 sq. ft. store on the Kmart portion of the site. The existing 56,000 sq. ft. Kroger building will be reserved for new tenants. The City has been working with Kroger over the past two years to rehabilitate the former Kmart location, and the new store is anticipated to open in late 2021.

Much of the growth of our local economy over the past year was covered in a feature article "Spotlight on Springboro" in the Dayton Business Journal. The article highlighted community initiatives and recent investments made in commercial, retail and industrial businesses in Springboro. Our Springboro Chamber of Commerce also reported

adding 100 new members since the organization relocated its offices to the Performing Arts Center in 2019 and helped us **cut the ribbon on at least 15 new businesses or expansions** over the past year. "Spotlight on Springboro" has brought our City regional attention for the third consecutive year! We thank Assistant City Manager Greg Shackelford for the time and effort he has dedicated to these and other economic development programs in our community.



COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

Springboro has a variety of citizen boards and commissions appointed by Council that focus on specific areas of community development. We rely on the support and leadership of these committee volunteers to help us implement many special projects and programs that shape our community and we are grateful for their continuing dedication and service.

Board and commission highlights from 2020 include the Architectural Review Board's (ARB) selection of three recipients of our annual Historic Preservation Awards. The awards program has been recognizing citizens for contributions in both historic building restoration and preservation leadership since 2000. Awards were presented to **John Peeler** for his long-term stewardship of 405 South Main Street first restored in 1972 and **Charlie Shaffer** for his work as a Springboro Historical Society Trustee to further engage the public's interest in Springboro's rich heritage through programs and events. The ARB also honored longtime Springboro Historian **Don Ross** with an award for his work on public educational programs offered through the Historical Society and being among the Society's founders. In addition, the **ARB has approved nearly \$75,000 in Historic Preservation Grants** since the grant program was initiated in 2017 to help fund the restoration of our historic buildings. Supporting these preservation projects has made a positive impact over a substantial portion of the district by protecting its historic integrity and stimulating further investment in the downtown area.

Springboro's Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee presented the **City's Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan** to Council for approval last July. Committee members worked with a consultant and citizens to develop the priorities and recommendations in the second phase of the plan including expansion of the existing bicycle and pedestrian network and more family-friendly routes and recreational options such as multi-use off-road trails. With the newly updated plan adopted, the City will be able to obtain state grants for the plan's continued implementation beginning with the development of a multi-use trail from Clearcreek Park to Hazelwoods Park.

Last year, City Council appointed a committee of nine community leaders to review the **City's Master Plan**, which will be used as a guide for Springboro's long-range growth, development and redevelopment. The review process began last fall using a community survey to gather public input and more than 400 residents responded to the survey. The City selected MKSK of Columbus to facilitate the review process and work with the Master Plan Committee over the next year to complete the project. Springboro's original Master Plan was developed in 1998 and revised in 2009. The plan has been an essential tool in the management of our community's development for the past two decades.



COMMUNITY SAFETY

Community safety is a core service provided by the City's exceptional police force of 25 uniformed police officers, a command staff, detectives unit, and communications center that received approximately 16,000 calls for service in 2020. The Springboro Police Department, led by Chief Jeff Kruithoff, focuses on **service-oriented policing** and is committed to the safety and protection of our citizens.

Our Police Department provides programs and services to help us protect our community including crime prevention tools such as 'Boro Street Watch, which allows residents to register their home security cameras with the Police Department to aid in deterring crime, and a police mobile app to provide a more convenient way to report crime and receive safety information. Our Police Officers also meet with residents to address questions and concerns regarding community safety. Programs like these along with the department's presence on social media helps to foster more community-oriented safety by staying connected with our Police Department.

Our Police Officers also **participate in regional law enforcement** through agencies such as the Warren County Drug Task Force and the Miami Valley Tactical Crime Suppression Unit, which aid in investigations, policing and sharing costs for specialized equipment and training.

The Springboro Police Department serves our community in the areas of school safety and community outreach that continue to make a positive impact in the community. Our department provides two full-time **School Resource Officers** funded in partnership with Springboro Schools and the Springboro **D.A.R.E.** program to maintain a safe and healthy environment in our school community. In addition, our Police Officers sponsor the Operation Santa Program, which provides holiday

meals, gifts and necessities for families with children in need in our community each December. We express our gratitude to everyone in the community who has supported this program for the past 23 years!



The newest outreach program began when **Blue, our police comfort dog**, joined the department in 2019. Blue provides a special service to the community by visiting schools and nursing homes, attending community events, and providing comfort and reassurance to individuals experiencing a crisis or distress. Blue celebrated his first birthday in 2020 and is often seen greeting people at our Police Department with his welcoming and calm presence.

Our Police Department works hard to keep Springboro among the **top 10 safest rated cities in Ohio**. We thank our officers for all of the great safety and welfare services they provide to our community.

ON A FINAL NOTE

Many thanks to our management staff, department directors and employees for making Springboro **a leader in programs and services** that positively impact our businesses, schools and residents. We appreciate all that you have accomplished this past year and your willingness to rise to the challenges created by COVID-19. We have emerged from 2020 better prepared to respond to the uncertainty of what lies ahead in the coming year.

It is an immense honor to serve this great community, and I thank my colleagues Deputy Mayor Jim Chmiel and Council Members Dale Brunner, Jack Hanson, Stephen Harding, Becky Iverson and Janie Ridd for their unity and teamwork. Please accept my very best wishes for your health, safety and wellbeing as we welcome a new year together! **#stayconnectedspringboro**

– Mayor John Agenbroad



City Employees Recognized for Service

The City of Springboro recognized seven employees for reaching a milestone in service in 2020. **Police Sgt. Don Wilson** received a 30-year award and **Sharon Rottert**, City Manager's Administrative Assistant, received a 25-year award. Receiving 20-year awards were **Mark Eller**, construction inspector; **Officer Eric Kuhlman**, Police Department; and **Missy Whitt**, Service Department. **Matt Lang**, IT director, received a 15-year award. Ten-year awards were presented to **Aaron Bowley**, Service Department, and **Kelly Carroll**, Clerk of Courts.

"We appreciate the continued outstanding efforts and commitment of our entire staff," said City Manager Chris Pozzuto. "It's an honor to recognize these seven employees who have dedicated their careers to serving the residents of Springboro."



SGT. DON WILSON
Police Department



SHARON ROTTERT
City Manager's
Administrative Assistant

Springboro City Council Meetings

Springboro City Council meets the first and third Thursday of each month beginning with a Work Session at 6 p.m. followed by a Regular Meeting at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers. All meetings are open to the public and residents are encouraged to attend or watch the live broadcast on Spectrum cable channel GATV 6 or live stream www.mvcc.net.

2021 CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Schedule changes will be posted at
www.ci.springboro.oh.us.

January	7 & 21	July	1 & 15
February	4 & 18	August	5 & 19
March	4 & 18	September	2 & 16
April	1 & 15	October	7 & 21
May	6 & 20	November	4 & 18
June	3 & 17	December	2 & 16

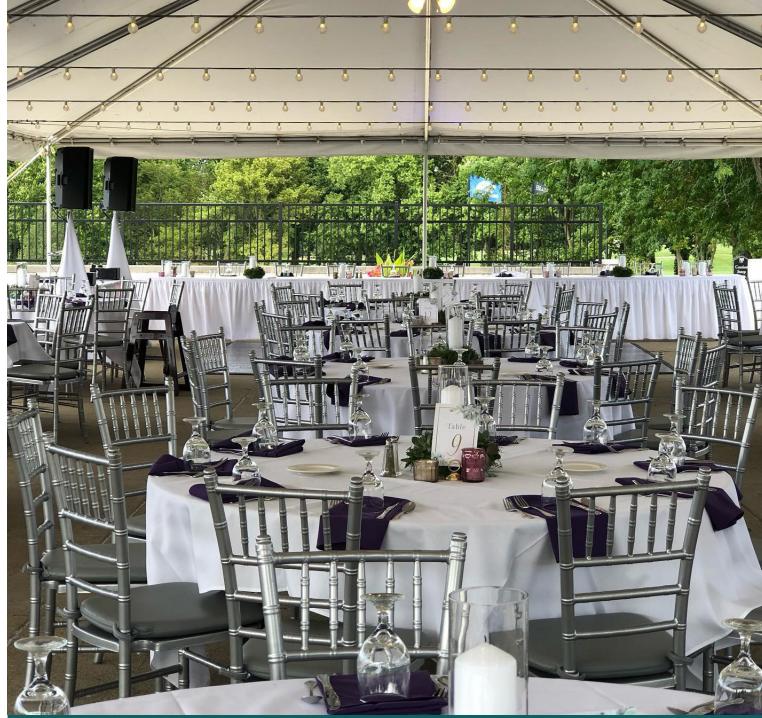


LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Your City Council Members meet monthly on the first and third Thursday at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers to pass legislation and authorize budgeted expenditures related to the management and operation of our City and the health, safety and welfare of our citizens. In 2020, City Council voted on approximately 80 legislative items concerning capital improvements, planning and zoning, economic development, finance and general policies.

Here are just a few agenda items recently approved by City Council.

- **The Annual Appropriations Ordinance:** authorizes budgeted expenditures for the calendar year 2021 totaling \$63,921,887.00 for all City capital and operational expenses.
- **An ordinance** requesting the assistance of the Warren County Port Authority to finance the construction of an underground conduit bank to enable private Internet Service Providers to extend high-speed, broadband fiber optic cable to neighborhoods throughout Springboro. This citywide conduit/fiber system will encourage competition in the realm of high-speed internet service for our residents and businesses. In December, City Council authorized the sale of a portion of the conduit bank to the first new ISP, Point Broadband. The company plans to offer up to 1 GB speeds (upload & download) to its customers.
- **Authorized an agreement to update the City's Water Master Plan.** The existing plan was developed in 2008 to ensure the community's current and future water needs are met through water system maintenance and improvements. Updates are typically completed every 10 years to keep Springboro's water operations and distribution program current.
- **An intergovernmental agreement for continued participation in BusinessFirst!** The Montgomery County Department of Economic Development started this initiative to create a formal business retention program for local jurisdictions. The City has held membership since 2004 to support business retention in Springboro using the program's network of over 80 area resource partners to assist local businesses.
- **A resolution** authorizing pre-emptive approval for current and future uses of available CARES Act money to help fight COVID-19 and its effects on the City, and its businesses and residents.
- **Adopted the Warren County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.** The Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires that local communities develop a plan for natural disasters such as severe winter storms, flooding and tornadoes to be eligible for hazard mitigation grant funding. This plan is updated by the Warren County Emergency Management Agency every five years.
- **Approved the appointment of ODOT to manage the installation of radar detection units at nine signalized intersections** along St. Rt. 73 & St. Rt. 741 to provide enhanced vehicle detection to increase safety along these thoroughfares. A state grant will cover 100% of the cost of this transportation safety project in 2021.
- **An intergovernmental agreement with the Warren County Transportation Improvement District to manage safety improvement projects** at the intersections of St. Rt. 741 & Remick Blvd. and St. Rt. 73 & I-75, scheduled to begin in 2023. The construction costs of both projects are covered 100% by two federal safety grants totaling approximately \$4.5 million.



Heatherwoode Makes Events Memorable

Heatherwoode Golf Club offers a unique and beautiful setting for your next special event. With two lovely banquet rooms, a covered deck and spacious outdoor pavilion overlooking the golf course, Heatherwoode offers numerous possibilities-- inside or outdoors.

Along with a gorgeous location and extensive catering menu, the customer-oriented staff will ensure your experience is absolutely outstanding. Heatherwoode is the perfect setting for a business meeting, luncheon, company party, anniversary party, wedding, graduation party and other special events. For more information, contact Staci Fox, 937-748-3222 Ext.106, email staci@cityofspringboro.com or visit golfheatherwoode.com.

Keep Your Swing In Shape

Weather is unpredictable! Keep your clubs handy and your swing in shape.

Heatherwoode Golf Club is waiting for you! Open to the public, stop in for a top of the line experience with fantastic amenities and unbeatable customer service. Need a custom club fitting? Heatherwoode carries all the fitting accessories for Titleist, Callaway, Taylor Made, Ping and Mizuno. Book your golf outings for 2021 and 2022! For more information and to book tee times, visit golfheatherwoode.com or call 937-748-3222.



City Gives Grants to Nine Businesses

Nine Springboro businesses received at **total of \$200,000** from the City's Employer Grant Program. Funds from CARES Act monies were distributed to help absorb costs associated with hiring new employees and/or rehiring former employees whose jobs were cut because of the pandemic. Businesses could apply for up to \$20,000. This is the third grant program administered by the City. Last spring, the City of Springboro partnered with the Springboro Chamber of Commerce to provide \$106,000 in grants to 38 Springboro businesses when the state closed due to COVID-19, and in the fall, the City gave Springboro Schools \$100,000 for technology upgrades and to provide Chromebooks for students in need.

City Council Establishes New Posting Places and Planning Commission Schedule

City Council made changes to the places where ordinances, resolutions, meeting notices and other information, required by law to be published, are posted. To streamline the process of meeting this legal requirement, reduce advertising costs and provide the public with a more viable option of finding such posted information, the City website and/or select social media sites will now be the principal Posting Place for this requirement.

The Springboro Municipal Building, Performing Arts Center and Public Library as well as legal advertisement in a local newspaper will serve as alternative Posting Places when internet-based options are not available. Look for Public Postings & Legal Notices under Important Links! on the City's homepage, ci.springboro.oh.us.

The Planning Commission's work plan has changed by combining a preliminary review of all cases subject to action at a single monthly meeting allowing all of the Commission's work to be conducted in one meeting per month. The revised meeting format reduces the time required to obtain Planning Commission review from six to four weeks. According to the new schedule, Planning Commission now meets the second Wednesday of each month. Meeting times and locations appear on the City's website calendar and any schedule changes will be posted.

Smart City, Smart Homes

Construction will soon begin on the City's \$2.4 million investment in the digital future. In partnership with the Warren County Port Authority, the City is building a broadband fiber network to provide high-speed internet service. The City will not be providing internet services, however, the fiber network is expected to attract additional Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and should be ready to launch later this year.

The first ISP to drive Springboro's new digital highway is Point Broadband. Point Broadband is partnering with the City to run their fiber optic network to every neighborhood in Springboro! Point Broadband <https://point-broadband.com> expects to offer up to 1GB upload and download speeds to residents by the end of summer. Look for more updates soon.



Kroger Under Construction

A new Kroger is under construction at 625 W. Central Avenue. Contractors are mobilizing in the rear and interior of the former Kmart to redevelop the building as a new 90,298-square foot Kroger. The building shell will remain with additions to include a new vestibule/entrance and redesign of the front of the building. The former garden center on the east/South Pioneer Drive elevation will be demolished to allow for a drive-thru pharmacy and Kroger PickUp lanes. The store will also include a Starbucks. A 14-pump fueling center is planned on the northwest corner of the site, in front of the existing Kroger at 725 W. Central Avenue. The new Kroger is expected to be open in November 2021 with the existing Kroger remaining operational until that time.

Historical Society to Open in Spring

The Springboro Area Historical Society is looking forward to re-opening after a year's absence. The museum, located at 110 N. Main St., officially opens Friday, April 2, and will welcome avid local historians and "newbies" to the community 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. every Friday and Saturday, April through November. The society made good use of its "year off" and created many new exhibits. Visit the society's Facebook page or email springboromuseum@gmail.com for event information.



Roadway and Infrastructure Projects

The streets in the 2021 Street Resurfacing Program include: Atrim Dells, Carlton Woods, Country Club Lane, Deer Trail Drive (west end cul-de-sac portion), Fenwick Court, Fox Trail Drive, Glass Court, Irish Hills, Laurel Ridge, Majestic Oaks, Maple Drive, Marbury Court, McVey Place, Meadows Drive (from Glass Court to Farr Drive), Pinehurst Place, Reed Road (from Springmill Drive to Springmill Drive), Rustic Brook Court, Spring Mill Drive (cul-de-sac portion), Stone Brook Court, Terradyne Trace and Wilkerson Court. Work also includes concrete repairs to curbs, sidewalk and driveway aprons. Construction is anticipated to begin late spring and completed during the summer.

2021 Water Main Improvements

New 8" water mains will be constructed on Foliage Drive (from south end to Tamarack Trail) and Lemonwood Court. Design is underway with construction anticipated to begin in late summer.

City Receives Funding For Multiuse Trail, Named Bicycle Friendly Community

More good news for cyclists! Springboro's continued commitment to a pedestrian and bicycle network has been recognized with state funding for a multi-use trail and the Bronze Bicycle Friendly Community award.

Springboro will receive \$250,000 in funding from the State of Ohio to complete a multiuse trail connecting Clearcreek Park to Hazel Woods Park. The trail will continue Springboro's efforts to connect to Franklin and the Great Miami River Trail, expanding the existing bicycle and pedestrian network to offer more recreational opportunities. The trail is expected to be under construction in 2022.

City Manager Chris Pozzuto said State Rep. Scott Lipps and State Sen. Steve Wilson along with the Warren County Chamber Alliance were instrumental in the project receiving the funding. The trail was part of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan City Council first adopted in 2013 and then updated last year.

The League of American Bicyclists' Bicycle Friendly Community award process includes a comprehensive review of a community's cycling programs. The City of Springboro recently earned Bronze Bicycle Friendly Community recertification. Certification is good for four years, and the City first earned Bicycle Friendly status in 2016. In addition to designated bike lanes, park paths and trails, the City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) offers numerous recreational and educational events throughout the year including Bike the Boro, a Bicycle speaker series and biking and hiking events.

Over the next several years, Springboro will continue to connect and develop trails as state funding and grants become available.



Master Plan Update

Progress continues on the Master Plan, the City's guide for land use and development, zoning decisions, transportation, utilities and other infrastructure. More than 430 people participated in the initial online survey offered last fall and provided feedback on future housing, business and park development as well as ideas and concerns on other topics. Additional surveys will be conducted throughout the process. For more information, visit springboromasterplan.com.



Water and Sewer Rate-Freeze to Continue, City Pays Off Facilities Debt

Residents will see no increase in Water and Sewer rates for 2021. City Council's vote in 2019 ensured that rates would remain constant for at least two years. The City will analyze rates every two years to ensure funds are adequate to maintain our water and sewer systems at their highest levels.

To accommodate future growth, in 2004, the City passed a bond issuance and spent approximately \$32 million to upgrade both the Water and Sewer Treatment plants. Thanks to financial prudence, that bond issuance will be paid off later this year--two years early-- for an interest savings to residents/customers of almost \$550,000. This is the last remaining debt in relation to our water and sewer facilities.

Operation Santa

Santa made an early stop in Springboro! Assisted by his Springboro Police Department helpers, Santa visited six families to deliver lots of gifts and holiday cheer as part of Operation Santa. Kiddos were excited to unwrap a gift and chat with Santa before he whisked away to another stop! The Police Department's Operation Santa began in 1998 with three officers, \$100 and five children. The program has grown over the years with sponsors and individuals contributing to this community event. This year, Operation Santa assisted six families and 22 children. For more information, contact Officer Aaron Nicley, 937-748-0611.



Check Traffic Before You Go

Find out road conditions and traffic situations 24/7 from the City website. The City has installed three live streaming traffic cameras at the following intersections: St. Rt. 741 at Lytle-Five Points, St. Rt. 741 and St. Rt. 73 and St. Rt. 73 at Drug Mart. Visit ci.springboro.oh.us and scroll down the main page under the "Calendar". Click on a camera location to see a live feed of the traffic.



Rumpke Adds More Items to Recyclable List

Yogurt eaters rejoice! Rumpke is accepting plastic tubs so bring on the butter tubs and toss in those fruit cups! All items should be clean and empty. Attached lids on glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles, jugs and tubs are accepted. Place all items loose in the recycling toter--do not bag. All of these items will then find new life through Rumpke's enhanced recycling program. Visit ci.springboro.oh.us for more information on recycling.

NOW ACCEPTING

BOTTLES, JUGS AND TUBS!

You can now recycle butter tubs, yogurt cups and fruit cups! Containers should be clean and empty.

Recycling Questions?
1-800-828-8171
www.rumpke.com

Here Comes Another Tax Season, City Filing Deadline is April 30

Since our last tax deadline was extended to July 15, 2020 because of COVID, you may feel like you just filed. But, in 2021 we're returning to a regular filing schedule—so it's time to start thinking about filing your 2020 tax return. In addition to helpful tools on our website, ci.springboro.oh.us, here are a few more tips to guide your way.

Tax filing deadline is April 30

The City of Springboro is extending its filing season until April 30. You'll still need to file your Federal return on April 15. When you file your City return, you'll need to give us a copy of the first page of your Federal Form 1040.

Multiple ways to access help

We pulled out all the stops to help residents file their returns during COVID—and we're keeping all those options in place for 2021:

Ask us to prepare your return remotely: Submit your documents (W-2s and page 1 of your Federal Form 1040) and we'll prepare the return. Get us your forms by mail, electronic drop box available on the website or physical drop box at the municipal building. Be sure to include your contact information in case we have questions.

Schedule a Zoom appointment: If you get us your tax documents at least 24 hours in advance of your appointment we'll even prepare the return and discuss the results during your virtual meeting.

Schedule an appointment and we'll prepare your return in-person:

If you prefer to have a staff member prepare your return while you wait, schedule an appointment online or by calling 937-748-9701. No walk-in service is available. Due to COVID restrictions, all visitors are required to wear masks.

Out with the old... In with the new

The City is developing an exciting new electronic filing option that will make your City filing easy! In the meantime, we have suspended use of the online tax-preparation tool. If you used this system and need help with this year's task, please take advantage of one of the filing options outlined above.



Two Buildings Ready for Tenants At Wright Station

Final touches are being made to two buildings at Wright Station, the City of Springboro and Mills Development project at St. Rts. 741 and 73. Luminous Nails Spa is setting up shop along St. Rt. 73 near Warped Wing. The upscale nail salon will occupy part of the 8,000-square-foot building, with space remaining for an additional tenant.

Cassano's new location is just south of its old spot on St. Rt. 741. The 5,000 square foot space also includes space for an additional tenant along with ample parking.

Another bonus: Wright Station offers free WiFi in the parking lots.

LAX Ready for Season

It's pre-season practice for the Springboro Lacrosse Club. Games begin in March for Girls & Boys Lacrosse for all ages. All home games for every age group are played at Wade Field. From mid-March on, you can catch games on just about any evening or weekend. Stop by to check out the action! For more information, please visit www.borolax.org.



City Thanks Volunteers

Springboro's boards and commissions represent approximately 40 citizen volunteers who participate in our community's leadership in areas such as community planning, historic preservation and parks and recreation.

One such volunteer is Springboro resident **Becky Hertle** who retired from service in December after serving 14 years as a member of the City's Planning Commission and a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals for the past seven years. Becky shared her commitment to the careful planning and development of our community and the City appreciates her time and valuable contributions as a community leader.

The City also thanks Board of Zoning Appeals members **Scott Oxley** for his service since 2008 and **Russ Hess** for his service since 2011. They helped make important decisions as part of the appeals process. In addition, **Paula Reams** served as a member of our Tree Authority for the past 13 years and shared her interest and commitment to the protection and stewardship of trees and forests in our community. These volunteers represent the long-standing commitment of many of our committee members who provide experience and continuity to our City's leadership. **Many thanks to all of our volunteer community leaders for their service in 2020!**



City Notes

City Note is a publication of the City of Springboro
Chris Pozzuto, City Manager

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maureen@cityofspringboro.com

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www.ci.springboro.oh.us



Pastors Association Partners with SCAC for Food Drives

Monthly food drives for the Springboro Community Assistance Center (SCAC) are underway. Coordinated by members of the Springboro Pastors Association, a food drive will be held each month at a local church. St. Francis Episcopal Church held the first drive in January. "As demand for assistance has risen during

the pandemic, supplies at

local food bank have dwindled," says Rev. Jed Dearing of St. Francis. "The churches in the Springboro Pastors Association have committed to host a food drive in 2021 helping to assure that no family or child in Springboro will go hungry." A list of needed items is available springborocommunityassistance.org.



Art Gallery to Celebrate Black History Month

Several local artists will showcase their work during the month of February at the Performing Arts Center Gallery, 115 Wright Station Way. Featured artists include Deborah Dixon, Cyndie King, Ronald Lee, Sydney Adams, Simeon Oyeyemi and Erin Smith Glenn with exhibits showcasing pen and ink, photography, fabric, water color, pastels and mixed media. The show kicks off February 1.

Exhibit hours are 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and by appointment by calling 937-748-5774. COVID restrictions apply.

