

Named The American Issue, the sculpture (located at Westerville City Hall, 21 S. State St.) tells the story of Westerville's role 100 years ago as the intellectual and logistical center for the passage of the 18th Amendment. The artist/sculptor, Matthew Gray Palmer joined by Westerville residents Beth Weinhardt (Westerville Public Library/Anti-Saloon League Historian), Joe Meyer (Former and longtime Westerville Public Opinion editor), Bill Merriman (President, Westerville Historical Society), Laura Ball (Westerville Parks & Recreation), and Bruce Bailey (Westerville resident/City of Westerville Law Director), together formed a committee to advance the project. The committee selected the quotes based on their historical significance during the Prohibition era. The quotes appear here and on the sculpture as they were originally printed. Find more information about The American Issue at [www.westerville.org/americanissue](http://www.westerville.org/americanissue).

*The language featured on the "dry side" of The American Issue sculpture is listed below.*

## **U.S. IS VOTED DRY**

- Liquor money is usually bread money, meat money, shoe money, and money that ought to go for clothing. -The American Issue
- January 16, 1919, Momentous Day In World's History  
That public morals are injured by liquor is shown by the records of every jail, prison, workhouse, public institution and home for delinquents. -Wayne Wheeler
- Alcohol degenerates the character of men and tears down their spiritual nature. The spiritual nature of man gives dignity to his life above the life of the brute. It is a tragedy to blight the physical life. No measure can be made of blighting the spiritual life.

Science has thus demonstrated that alcohol is a protoplasmic poison, poisoning all living things; that alcohol is a habit-forming drug that shackles millions of our citizens and maintains slavery in our midst; that it lowers in a fearful way the standard of efficiency of the Nation, reducing enormously the national wealth,

entailing startling burdens of taxation, encumbering the public with the care of crime, pauperism, and insanity; that it corrupts politics and public servants, corrupts the Government, corrupts the public morals, lowers terrifically the average standard of character of the citizenship, and undermines the liberties and institutions of the Nation; that it undermines and blights the home and the family, checks education, attacks the young when they are entitled to protection, undermines the public health, slaughtering, killing, and wounding our citizens many fold times more than war, pestilence, and famine combined; that it blights the progeny of the Nation, flooding the land with a horde of degenerates; that it strikes deadly blows at the life of the Nation itself and at the very life of the race, reversing the great evolutionary principles of nature and the purposes of the Almighty. -Richmond P. Hobson

- Law does regulate morality -Andrew Volstead
- Intemperance in drink has produced more guilt, misery and crime than any other one cause. -Catharine Beecher
- If you would reduce poverty to the minimum you must destroy the liquor traffic, which produces most of the paupers. If you would reduce crime to the minimum you must destroy the liquor traffic, the chief cause of crime. If you would add to personal comforts and wealth, you must destroy the liquor traffic which is the greatest waster of incomes. Governments are organized with a solemn duty to protect their subjects. Yet when governments authorize the sale of liquor, they help to destroy their subjects.
- There is but one thing in America worse than the liquor traffic, and that is the public sentiment that tolerates it. -Rev. A.C. Bane
- The real purpose of any proper law is to promote what is right and prohibit what is wrong. -Ernest Cherrington

- We have constantly said that the rights of the individual end where the rights of society begin -Bishop Thomas Nicholson
- Surely it is the part of wisdom to "touch not, taste not, and handle not" a thing which, even when used sparingly causes an appreciable loss in health, in strength, and in service; which, when used in so-called moderation, causes wretchedness, cruelty and crime, and which finds its culmination in delirium tremens, the most terrorizing experience through which a human being can pass. But I am not willing to rest the case in favor of total abstinence entirely upon the ground that one who uses alcohol brings danger upon himself. That argument, while it should be sufficient to deter the prudent man, has in it an element of selfishness.

While one is justified in abstaining from that which would reduce his physical and mental capacity below the maximum, he cannot ignore the effect which his conduct has upon others, and no one in this land and age can be ignorant of the suffering and injustice which alcohol has brought into the home. -William Jennings Bryan

- We are attempting to harm no one, nor to deprive any man of his rights, for that which is wrong has no rights. -Charles Bane
- The liquor dealers are after revenue and that only. They care nothing for manhood and womanhood and the welfare of society if only their coffers are filled. -Rev. G.M. Matthews
- If I could have my way, I would wipe out every saloon. The saloon is the prolific source of nine-tenths of the misery, wretchedness, and crime, and is, more than we know, responsible for the social evil. -Rev. Charles H. Parkhurst

