THANK YOU!

Special Edition

PROGRAM REGISTRATION TO BE MOVED ONLINE
Visit www.westerville.org/registration
How Westerville Remains United

**During the Coronavirus Pandemic**

As winter gave way to spring in Ohio this year, residents received the jarring instructions to stay home. The international coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic led public health leaders to call for a temporary halt on school, youth leagues, arts programs and any gatherings of 10 or more people, among other things. People could enjoy the parks, but six-feet-apart. Though it was difficult, Westerville residents did what they always do in times of trouble: they came together, albeit at a distance, to do the right thing. They made it work because it was the right thing to do. So maybe the youth soccer season was a wash; families spent time together on the trails. Maybe the playgrounds were closed; residents found new ways to enjoy the outdoors. Neighbors created moments of joy for each other with birthday “parades,” sidewalk chalk murals and scavenger hunts organized through social media. Yes, the time of pandemic was as difficult for Westerville residents as any other. But a community united for a common goal makes navigating such times look easy. Here are the other ways we showed what it means to live “The Westerville Way.”

**PAYING IT FORWARD**

Early in the crisis, Westerville City Council approved a “Utility Bill Holiday” for the month of March. Based on economic uncertainties for residents and businesses caused by the spread of COVID-19, the City enacted a payment holiday relief program to waive payment of electric, water, sanitation and trash/recycling fees that would be due on April 15. The City encouraged residents that were able to “pay-it-forward” by supporting a local charitable organization. See page 20 for details.

**MAKING THE BEST OF IT**

Vehicular and pedestrian traffic was considerably lighter in Uptown as businesses temporarily closed and limited hours in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Making the best of a tough situation, the City worked with the contractor to extend work hours for the Uptown Improvement Project to help complete construction faster.

With crew members maintaining the recommended six-foot distance, they ramped up work to replace and widen sidewalks on the west side of the road, between College Avenue and Main Street. On the east side of the road, crews replaced the sidewalk between Winter Street and College Avenue with a wider facility and constructed an elevated sidewalk to allow the much-loved Heritage Tree’s roots to grow without endangering the integrity of the much-traveled walkway. Now, when the stay-at-home order is finally lifted and merchants begin reopening their doors, the sidewalk construction will be substantially complete and pedestrian traffic will not be impeded.

Learn more about the project at [www.westerville.org/uptown](http://www.westerville.org/uptown).
LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS
Weigh In

How would you describe the response of your customer base and the community during these trying times?

“It could bring me to tears sometimes because my customers are so awesome. I had one customer call and say he’s buying a gift card a week... We have a supportive community that wants to support and love people. Westerville is just a different community. They love supporting local businesses and each other.”

-Nicole Harrison
owner of Pure Roots Boutique

“Very supportive. I think everyone is looking to still support small from the safety of their homes.”

-Lauren Williams
owner of The Gemma Shop

“Touching! People have reached out to me personally letting me know they are thinking of the restaurants and can’t wait for us to open again and on social media, the comments are so kind and supportive. Everyone is trying to help, it’s a beautiful thing!”

-Megan Ada, owner of Asterisk Supper Club, Sunny Street Cafe Westerville

“Our customers have been incredibly supportive and loyal! We are grateful for every order. It has been a little tricky getting the new information out to everyone on how we were handling orders and such going forward but customers have been patient and grateful for their deliveries.”

-Tajana Brown
owner of Good Vibes Winery

Support Small Businesses
DURING A CRISIS

* Shop online, order carryout!
* Purchase gift cards
* Share social media posts
* Leave a positive review on social media

Hoping for the future.

Stay tuned for updates about these postponed events and meetings:

- State of the Community
- Innovation Expo
- 10th Annual Bunny Hop 5K
- Westerville Citizen’s Academy
- Westerville Citizen Police Academy
- Women’s Self-Defense
- Car Seat Inspections
- Public Fingerprinting
- Westerville Youth Explorer Meetings
- Household Hazardous Waste Collection
- Shredding Day
FACT: Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity. Fear and anxiety about COVID-19 can cause people to avoid or reject others even though they are not at risk for spreading the virus.

FACT: For most people, the immediate risk of becoming seriously ill from the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to be low. Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more serious complications from COVID-19.

FACT: Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released from isolation does not pose a risk of infection to other people.

FACT: There are simple things you can do to help keep yourself and others healthy. Wash hands thoroughly before preparing food and eating, after bathroom trips, and after sneezing or coughing.

FACT: You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms:
- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of Breath

Seek medical advice if you develop symptoms.

**STEPs TO TAKE TO STAY HEALTHY**

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Avoid close contact and gatherings with others.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

**PEOPLE WHO ARE AT HIGHER RISK**

- People who are pregnant
- People with chronic lung disease
- People 65 and older

**STEPs TO TAKE WHEN EXPERIENCING FEVER, COUGH OR OTHER RESPIRATORY SYMPTOMS**

- Avoid outdoor activities for 1-2 days and monitor symptoms.
- Avoid hospitals and emergency rooms unless symptoms become severe.
- Contact your primary care physician to discuss symptoms and treatment plan.

**Get Up to Date Information**

State of Ohio COVID-19 Hotline 1-800-4-ASK-OHIO (1-800-4-275-6446)

Federal COVID-19 Response Center for Disease Control www.CDC.GOV

Ohio Crisis Text Line Text Keyword “4HOPE” to 741741
Ohio MHAS Helpline 1-877-275-6364

**Mental Health Resources**

Disaster Distress Helpline 1-800-985-5990 1-800-846-8517 TTY Text “TALKWITHUS” to 66746
Westerville Residents SHARE THEIR STORY

The City of Westerville is collecting inspirational images to archive the community’s response to and unity in the collective efforts to do what’s best during these unprecedented times. Visit www.westerville.org/covid19 for details. We will continue to use your images as long as we are under a stay-at-home order.

Two young Westerville residents, ages 5 and 2, have been enjoying digging for worms outside during social distancing. Submitted by Jamie Cmehil

Kate, 10 wearing a shirt that says it all. Submitted by Karen Newbanks

Submitted by Valerie Lazzara Mould

Brooklyn, 9, is using her time in quarantine to bring smiles to others. Submitted by Emily Jacobs

Lauren, 8 and Emily, 2 decorated their windows to show support for essential workers. Submitted by Sara Acocks

Sophia, 10, shares a message of inspiration during the COVID-2019 pandemic quarantine. Submitted by Sophia Shaner

Westerville Sunrise Rotary places flags along Cleveland Avenue and County Line Road in support of the community.
As I write this, we’re nearly six weeks into stay-at-home, social distancing and uncertainties associated with COVID-19. I’ve observed strong compliance and resolve in this community’s response to these unprecedented times. And not enough praise can be given to the “essential” workforce; those seeing us through this crisis. That’s why thank-you banners hang atop the County Line Road bridge (on the cover) and on Cleveland Avenue.

Our essential workforce includes, but is not limited to, public safety professionals, grocery and distribution workers, delivery drivers, food service professionals and many more. And from the City of Westerville, public employees who are steadfast in providing the continuity of service you expect and need in a time like this. Our professional crews in Public Service and Utilities, along with all of our public safety first responders in Police and Fire, are among 10 departments that are working to ensure delivery of critical public services.

Westerville City Council is at-work as well, having authorized emergency measures, and last month offering a utility bill holiday for March bills due in April. Through careful and conservative financial planning and policy, along with Westerville’s place among the most-awarded municipalities in the state for financial performance, Council and the administration found a way to offer this $5.5 million relief program for residents and businesses alike. If you’re able, we encourage you to “pay-it-forward” by helping a Westerville-based charity or nonprofit (more at westerville.org/covid19).

So, Westerville, remember you too have a role as we head toward a time of recovery. Our families and friends rely on us to stay healthy in mind, body and spirit. We can best help others when we help ourselves. Stay well by making your own physical and mental health a priority and by abiding by the social distancing requirements offered by our public health leaders. Learn more about how to do that in the pages to follow.

Best wishes and “see” you again soon!

David A. Collinsworth
Westerville City Manager

Westerville City Council

BACK ROW: Alex Heckman; Valerie Cumming, Vice Mayor; Diane Conley; Kenneth Wright

FRONT ROW: Craig Treneff, Vice Chair; Kathy Cocuzzi, Mayor; Mike Heyeck, Chair

MISSION STATEMENT
The City of Westerville is dedicated to providing exemplary municipal services to our community and fostering prosperity while embracing our unique heritage and character.

CITY VALUES
Innovation
Stewardship
Excellence
Accountability
Integrity and Trust
Public Safety
Community Engagement
Employee Enrichment

NOTES TO THE EDITOR
Westerville Community Recreation Guide Editor:
Toni Schorling
toni.schorling@westerville.org

Cover Image: The City of Westerville thanks all essential employees for continuing to keep the community running safely. See the back cover for full banner content.

Due to the evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, the most up-to-date summer class details and registration information can be found online at www.westerville.org/registration.
From the Director

Parks & Recreation people are, by nature, active and upbeat. The teams that create your recreational programming and maintain your parks system are go-getters. That’s why when we’re pressing pause on our daily lives to stay healthy, your programmers and parks staffers are looking at innovative ideas and new strategies to keep you entertained, physically active and strong in spirit.

In order to get there, we must take the rest of this journey together. Until we can come together in-person again, the Parks & Recreation Department is adjusting its class schedules, canceling some events and working on rescheduling as much as possible as we look into the months ahead.

Most notably, this publication is significantly lighter than usual. That’s because we’ve removed the class portion, which will be available online at westerville.org/parks. As soon as we are able to offer classes and programming, we will.

In the meantime, we have introduced a Virtual Recreation Center. This online content offers Web-based tutorials, like art classes, and taped exercise routines you can do at home. There are family-friendly activities for people of all ages and abilities.

We’re adding more every day, so check it out. It’s completely free! Check it out at www.westerville.org/virtualrec.

Some of our popular events, like Party at the Creek and Touch a Truck, had to be canceled. Others, like the Bunny Hop and Shredding Day, will be moved later this year. The City website is always the most reliable place for updates, so come back often.

If you have a great idea for us to make your “virtual” experience better, email parksandrec@westerville.org. Check out page 5, with stories shared by Westerville residents who found creative ways to both hope and cope. We will keep showcasing them if you keep sending them in!

I am eager to get back to celebrating health, fitness and wellness with you. Stay healthy!

Randy Auler
Director of Parks & Recreation

AROUND THE CITY

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During the COVID-19 crisis, Westerville Parks and Recreation continued to serve the community with virtual recreation opportunities.

Gov. Mike DeWine issued a stay-at-home Order in March, encouraging people to only venture into populated areas for essential needs. Gyms, senior centers and recreation centers were also ordered to close. In that time, hundreds of residents turned to the City’s robust network of parks and trails for exercise.

“We were thrilled that so many families were opting to utilize their neighborhood parks and trails during this difficult time,” said Randy Auler, Director of Westerville Parks and Recreation.

As time went on and experts learned more about the pernicious behavior of the virus, another Order was issued to close all of the playgrounds in the state to help stop the spread. While the parks and trails remained open, Auler knew that residents would be looking for ways to stay active from the comfort of their homes. His team quickly assembled a Virtual Recreation Portal at www.westerville.org/virtualrec.

“We tapped into our network of expert fitness instructors that provide services through the Westerville Community Center to continue those services online, free of charge,” Auler said. “This was about doing what is right for the people we serve and maintaining the relationships with our instructors.”

Not limited to fitness offerings, the portal also gave users the opportunity to explore wellness, arts and music, games and educational activities, programs for older adults and an outdoor recreation guide.

“Westerville Parks and Recreation believes in supporting the community holistically with a well-rounded offering of programs that encourage wellness,” Auler said. “It was important to us that we continue these services online.”

Check out the online resource at www.westerville.org/virtualrec.
Though spring classes with Westerville Parks and Recreation have been canceled due to the COVID-19 crisis, summer classes are still being planned. Since time is crucial and word from Gov. Mike DeWine regarding the release of the stay-at-home rule is essential, classes have been removed from this edition of the Community Recreation Guide.

**HOW WILL I KNOW WHEN CLASSES BECOME AVAILABLE?**
The program staff is working diligently to plan great summer opportunities for the community. At the moment, these classes are being held until a release date is scheduled. You can continue to monitor when classes become available by visiting [www.westerville.org/registration](http://www.westerville.org/registration).

**WHERE CAN I FIND UPDATES?**
Updates regarding classes and events with Parks and Recreation will continue to be available through the City website and social media.

- Website: [www.westerville.org](http://www.westerville.org)
- Facebook: @cityofwesterville
- Twitter: @westervillepark
- Instagram: @cityofwesterville

You can also sign up for the City E-newsletter by visiting [www.westerville.org](http://www.westerville.org). This newsletter will be emailed to your inbox once a week and include news and events for the City of Westerville.

**WHAT CAN WE EXPECT IN THE FUTURE?**
Rest assured, the Community Recreation Guide will continue to be produced and mailed to residents of Westerville and be available online at [www.westerville.org/recreationguide](http://www.westerville.org/recreationguide). Classes will continue to be planned for summer and fall. Should the stay-at-home rule be lifted before summer classes begin, registration and class opportunities will be available at [www.westerville.org/registration](http://www.westerville.org/registration).
The Uptown Improvements Project is well underway since its restart in March. This project will bring the historic heart of Westerville up to modern accessibility standards, bringing sidewalks and intersections into compliance with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA), while improving the overall functional and aesthetic quality of Uptown’s infrastructure. Work to build an elevated sidewalk around the Heritage Tree on the east side of State Street (between Winter Street and College Avenue) also began in March.

**GREEN PHASE**
This work will consist of widening and replacing the sidewalk and the installation of street plaques. These improvements will result in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

**ORANGE PHASE**
This work will consist of widening and replacing the sidewalk along with the installation of street plaques. A bump-out at the crosswalk will also be constructed to extend the curb, improving pedestrian safety. There is also a storm structure to be installed near the Church of the Messiah.

**YELLOW PHASE**
This work will consist of basement work, widening the sidewalk and the installation of street plaques. These improvements will result in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

**GRAY PHASE**
This work will consist of widening and replacing the sidewalk along with the installation of street plaques. These improvements will result in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
On-street parking will be unavailable during construction. Two-way traffic will be maintained but delays should be expected. Access to businesses will be maintained through alternate walkways and posted detours. All work is weather dependent.

As with any extensive, multi-phase improvement project, it can be challenging to communicate what work is being done at any given time. A new interactive map now exists at www.westerville.org/uptown to create a “common language” between the City, residents and visitors when discussing the project.

“Due to the nature of this project, you may see crews working in one area, then jump a few blocks and work on another the next day,” said City Engineer Scott Tourville. “This map will allow the user to understand not only where we’re working, but what we’re looking to accomplish in each section of the project and what to expect when we move to each section.”

Below find a color-by-color breakdown of each section.
Westerville Helps

The City of Westerville is calling for residents to help connect neighbors in need with assistance programs.

In February, the City announced that it was expanding a financial assistance program that long existed in Parks & Recreation for reduced to waived program fees to other public services, including utility bills, sidewalk maintenance and home improvements.

“We know there are families in the City who could take advantage of these programs, but may not be aware. We’re doing everything in our power to make the application process easy to navigate because we believe in the power of these programs,” said JR Fourqurean, Utility Billing Supervisor.

Over the years, approximately 200 people have taken advantage of funding for programming through Westerville Parks and Recreation. Funds exist to help many more people.

“We can’t underestimate the importance of these recreational programs for social and physical health,” said Randy Auler, Parks and Recreation Director. “It’s possible that there are families and individuals out there who simply have never considered these programs could be an option for them because of economic restrictions.”

Now that the financial assistance has expanded to other programs, more individuals in Westerville may be able to get the help they need.

If you know someone who could qualify for financial assistance programs, encourage them to visit www.westerville.org/helps.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARKS &amp; RECREATION</th>
<th>UTILITIES</th>
<th>PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>AMOUNT/CAP of CREDIT</strong></td>
<td>$100 per person/year and $500 per family/year</td>
<td>$500 per calendar year - can be used in one month, or over several</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA</strong></td>
<td>Eligible towards programs and membership passes; residents only. Federal Poverty Guidelines for the National School Lunch Program.</td>
<td>Past due utility bills only. Only residents (no C&amp;I). Tenant or Owner-Occupied. Not intended for water leaks*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FUNDING SOURCE</strong></td>
<td>Parks Foundation (Bunny Hop)</td>
<td>Electric: $1 per month. Opt-in.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>APPLICATION DEADLINE</strong></td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Find more information at www.westerville.org/helps.
The City is dialing up its efforts to communicate with residents this spring with a brand new mobile application. Called “Tell Westerville,” the mobile application and service request portal powered by SeeClickFix, will replace the “My Westerville” mobile application.

The new mobile application features an attractive design and better access to important information. The service request portal places a greater emphasis on sharing the geolocation of issues needing to be addressed.

“This technology allows for users of the application to clearly direct staff to areas of concern. By providing a precise location the app allows the City team to locate the issues efficiently improving customer service,” said Kevin Weaver, Director of Westerville’s Public Service Department.

“Tell Westerville,” builds on the City’s existing digital customer service branding. Once launched, it will effectively replace the “My Westerville” mobile application which will no longer be supported.

To download the new mobile application, simply visit your mobile application store (Google Play, Apple App Store) and search “Tell Westerville” to download.

Learn more at www.westerville.org/tellwesterville.

The City of Westerville 2020 Resident Guide + 2019 Annual Report is now available at www.westerville.org/annualreport. The publication features the City’s financial performance from the prior year, and highlights public programs and services. A section for new residents is also included in the publication, covering issues from utility services to how to submit a service request.

The annual report is traditionally mailed directly to all Westerville residents and businesses. However, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the City opted to forego costs associated with a full residential printing and mailing. A limited number of reports have been printed, and will be available for pick-up at public facilities when restrictions associated with the public health crisis have been lifted.

Please click here to access the publication via an easy-to-use online reader. Questions may be emailed to communityaffairs@westerville.org.
Lake Shore Cryotronics Gets businessWISE for Energy, Cost Savings

It may come as no surprise that Westerville, known as “a City within a Park,” places a top priority on sustainability. Leading the way in this effort are the men and women of the Westerville Electric Division who manage the lion’s share of the City’s sustainable programs. Among these programs is BusinessWISE (Westerville Incentive Savings for Efficiency Program). Through this program, the Division partners with area organizations to fund energy-saving facility projects like lighting, HVAC and custom efficiency updates.

The innovative program attracted the attention of Lake Shore Cryotronics, a globally recognized innovator and pioneering scientific researching company based in Westerville working with the likes of NASA. The company leveraged BusinessWISE to fund three major projects: replacing more than 1,400 lamps and 130 lighting fixtures with high-efficiency LED bulbs; installing electric vehicle charging stations through the PowerUp program and the replacement of a 23-year-old rooftop HVAC unit with one that exceeds industry standards for cooling efficiency requirements.

“We were looking to save energy, which in turn, helps us to save costs that Lake Shore would have to spend for utilities,” said Lake Shore Cryotronics Facilities Manager Michael Roehrenbeck.

Save they did.

“The LED lights have helped us tremendously. They knocked our electric budget down by $1,000 per month, average. Really, the cost of the fixtures and lamps have dropped so drastically, we had to look at them as a viable choice to install,” Roehrenbeck said.

According to Roehrenbeck, the HVAC replacement could save the company upwards of $9,000 annually.

Beyond cost savings, Lake Shore’s commitment to sustainable solutions has a broader impact on the community. Their LED replacement project alone reduced the company’s electric usage by 112,227 kWh/year and peak demand (kW) by 30.86 kW.

“The City purchases power from the market, but the cost of transmission and other bill components are largely out of Westerville’s control. The highest peak consumption days in a given year are a big factor that impacts the overall cost,” said Electric Utility Manager Chris Monacelli. “Any measure we take to reduce peak usage will benefit the entire community. We’re all in this together.”

Lake Shore is paying-it-forward still by making the Electric Vehicle chargers available for public use. Located adjacent to Hoff Woods Park (556 McCorkle Blvd.), it makes for a convenient stop for environmentally friendly park goers.

In addition to the projects completed with BusinessWISE, Lake Shore installed a solar panel solution along with a new roof with great success.

“We were projected to produce about 149,000 kWh of power for the year, but really produced over 172,000 kWh in one year. Unknown to most is the fact that the Columbus area actually has 263 sunny days a year. Even when it’s cloudy, there are still light rays making it through to the roof,” Roehrenbeck said.

In all, the company’s energy efficiency improvements resulted in more than a 20% reduction in energy consumption.

Learn more about the BusinessWISE program at www.westerville.org/businessWISE.
Ohio’s largest physician-owned orthopedic surgery practice is deepening its roots in Westerville, expanding to a new 80,000 sq. ft. headquarters and medical facility at the northwest corner of Polaris Parkway and Africa Road.

The company has had a presence in Westerville since January 2012, when they first opened their 20,000 sq. ft. medical facility at 560 Cleveland Ave.

The new headquarters and medical facility represent an investment of at least $14 million in the community. The company anticipates bringing $13.7 million in additional payroll to the City within three years of moving in.

“The City’s largest revenue source is income tax, so it’s difficult to overstate the impact when a company decides to move, expand or stay in our community,” Bechtold said. “It means strengthening the funds that help pay for important City services.”

According to the company’s website, the physicians at Orthopedic One play a role in the community serving student athletes at Westerville North, South and Central high schools; Genoa, Blendon, Walnut Springs and Heritage Middle schools.

On the northern border of the Westar area, the new headquarter location will give the company prominent visibility from Polaris Parkway. It joins other leading health care providers nearby like OhioHealth (300 Polaris Pkwy.) and Central Ohio Primary Care headquarters at 655 Africa Rd.

“With the continued expansion of the Westerville’s Medical Mile, residents, businesses and visitors to the City will have access to world-class health care. It’s a tremendous asset for our community,” Bechtold said.

Stay up-to-date about business news in the City at business.westerville.org.

Westerville is home to the nation’s first municipally owned, commercially available data center. With more than 40 miles of high-speed fiber and more than 70 corporate clients, the WeConnect team knows cyber security.

They are encouraging residents to give their security know-how a tune-up with the following tips:

**PROTECT YOUR PASSWORDS**
Passwords are difficult to manage and keep secret. Many times people re-use the same passwords for multiple systems. For example, someone may have their email account compromised and use the same password for their banking system. There are millions of hacked passwords online for sale to hackers. It may be common to share passwords to streaming services such as Hulu, Netflix, Disney+ and others, but this can leave you vulnerable as well.

**UTILIZE MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION**
This security enhancement (sometimes called “two-factor authentication”) requires anyone accessing an account to provide two forms of credentials. This comes in many forms, like fingerprints, PINs or facial recognition along with a password.

Learn more about the WeConnect Data Center and fiber network at [www.wecnectdatacenter.com](http://www.wecnectdatacenter.com).
Violence in the home can take on many forms, each of them damaging and potentially life-threatening to members of the family stuck in a cycle of abuse. There is both hope and help, according to Westerville Division of Police (WPD) officers and experts at The Center for Family Safety and Healing (TCFSH), a Nationwide Children’s Hospital facility.

WPD and TCFSH are partners in identifying, addressing and helping resource violence in the home. Last year, TCFSH expanded their adult services in Westerville, providing counseling and related supportive and advocacy services for adult victims of domestic violence in the community.

“This partnership had given us a chance to reach more adults experiencing domestic violence, which affects people in all neighborhoods,” said Kara Penniman, TCFSH Adult Services’ Clinical Manager. “Our staff in Westerville can assist adult survivors of domestic violence to increase their safety, decrease their isolation, and provide mental health treatment for trauma recovery.”

WPD Chief of Police Charles Chandler says educational sessions are important because it may be part of a first step in understanding and defining abuse in their lives. WPD intends to host an educational forum on violence in our community when the Ohio Department of Health lifts stay-at-home and social distancing orders.*

“We’re talking about abuse that can be come out as physical violence, sexual violence, psychological violence and emotional abuse,” said Chief Chandler. “There’s often fear, shame and humiliation too, so it’s a complicated process. Working together, we can be best prepared to help victims first find safety, and then start on a path to recovery and healing.”

WPD and TCFSH will continue their work together to fulfill a need in our community to pair victims of violence with protectors in law enforcement and emergency medical services.

**ABOUT THE CENTER FOR FAMILY SAFETY AND HEALING**
The Center for Family Safety and Healing (TCFSH) fully addresses all aspects of family violence, including child abuse and neglect, teen dating abuse, domestic violence and elder abuse. TCFSH aspires to break the cycle of violence through the advocacy, prevention, intervention, treatment and research of family violence by integrating comprehensive services through community interdisciplinary collaboration and evidence-based practices.

**WHERE’S THE LINE?**
TCFSH encourages people to “risk being right” if they believe they have witnessed abuse. Report suspected abuse directly to an Information Coordinator 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Monday-Friday. Find more information at wherestheline.info.

CALL: (844) 234-LINE
TEXT: 87028
LIVE CHAT: www.familysafetyandhealing.org

**Do you need help?**
*If abuse is a problem in your home, know that you can reach out for help. State and local agencies have expressed concerns about victims who are at home with their abusers during regulations associated with the pandemic.

**TEXT 9-1-1 IF YOU CANNOT CALL**
Westerville emergency dispatchers can accept text messages. If you cannot talk, text 9-1-1 and tell dispatchers what you can.

**OFFER CLUES IF YOU CANNOT CALL**
Let dispatchers know with clues if you cannot openly talk. They are trained to help you in these circumstances.

**CONCERNED FOR ANOTHER? CALL FOR A WELL-BEING CHECK**
Call Westerville’s non-emergency line at (614) 882-7444 to request a well-being check on a child or adult.

To make an appointment, call the central intake line at (614) 722-8293. This is not an emergency line. If you are in an emergency, call 9-1-1 immediately.
Thefts from Vehicles Most Common, Most Preventable Crime in Westerville

There was no stay-at-home and social distancing for thieves looking for crimes of opportunity. This spring, thefts from vehicles were again among the most common crimes in Westerville neighborhoods, according to the Westerville Division of Police (WPD). The vast majority of these thefts were from unlocked vehicles with valuable items visible from the outside.

“We sometimes call these smash-and-grabs, but that’s typically not the case in the neighborhoods because thieves are simply opening unlocked car doors,” said WPD Chief of Police Charles Chandler. “By just locking your vehicle and removing valuables from sight, you have a much better chance of a criminal passing you by because you’ve created at least one barrier.”

WPD’s HABIT program - H Alt Auto B reak-In T oday - was developed to remind residents about the simple tips that reduce risks for thieves. (See the list in the Report It! box below.)

According to law enforcement experts, it takes less than a minute for a thief to break into your car, by door or by window, and grab something of value inside. Each year, billions in personal items and accessories are stolen from vehicles.

Chief Chandler reminds residents that an unlocked car may also give a thief access to the trunk.

“Remember, this is just not what’s visible and accessible on your seats,” he said. “If you’re locking your vehicle, but thinking your valuables are safe in your trunk, think again. All they need to do is open the door and pop the trunk.”

Theft reports show that thieves take big chances on small rewards. Residents report stolen loose change, phone chargers and sunglasses. In some cases, an unlocked vehicle is a stolen vehicle.

“Get in the ‘habit’ of locking your car door when you lock your front and side doors before going to bed each night,” says Chief Chandler. “I also like to tell people to take their key fobs to their bedrooms, especially if they have an alarm. If they see or hear something, or there is an emergency, hitting the panic or alarm button on the fob is a smart way to get attention from your neighbors.”

Don’t become a statistic. Follow these easy car break-in prevention tips!

PARK IN A VISIBLE LOCATION
Choose a location under a streetlight or close to the building. Thieves like to work in private so a more public location would be best.

LOCK YOUR CAR
Keep windows and sunroofs closed and doors locked and take all keys with you. Don’t make your car and easy target.

ACTIVATE YOUR VEHICLE’S ANTI-THEFT SYSTEM
If you do not have one, consider having one installed. A blaring alarm can discourage a car break-in to a thief who likes to work quietly.

HIDE YOUR VALUABLES
Many car break-ins happen on impulse, so keep your stuff out of sight. If you choose to bring items with you when you know your car will be parked for a while, place those items in a trunk or under a retractable cover BEFORE getting to your destination. An experienced car thief will stake out a parking lot watching for those transferring items from their car to their trunk.

DON’T LEAVE YOUR CAR RUNNING
It can be tempting to leave your car running in the morning or when you’re just running in and out of the store, but this makes it pretty easy for a thief to hop in and drive away. Also, it’s illegal to leave your car running and unattended in Ohio to help prevent your car from getting stolen!

WPD asks the community to report anything that appears unusual in public parking lots or in neighborhoods.

• Call the non-emergency phone line at (614) 882-7444. Call 9-1-1 for emergencies.

• Identify yourself by name, address and phone number.

• Report the type of crime (burglary, assault, suspicious person or vehicle, etc.).

• State the location. Be prepared to be as specific as possible.

• Be prepared to provide a description of the suspect, a description of the vehicle, including license plate number and the direction of travel, if applicable.

• Stay on the phone with the dispatcher until they tell you that you may hang up, (unless you are in fear for your safety).
With the support of Westerville residents who voted last November to approve the new Westerville Division of Police (WPD) headquarters and Mayor’s Court facility, the project is moving forward. Architectural firm BrandstetterCarroll has been retained to complete design work, with a final plan design expected later this Spring or early this summer.

Upon approval of the final designs by the City, plans will then be submitted to the Planning Commission and then Building Division for permit review. Concurrently, City administration will work to prepare for sale of the $15 million bond issue in the fall. The City maintains a Aaa credit rating from major rating agencies (the best achievable rating for a municipality), so favorable interest rates are expected in addition to strong interest in the project from general contractors.

Following all this, the project will go out to bid for construction, which is also expected in the fall timeframe. Upon award of a bid, a 12 - 14 month construction schedule is expected, so all three bureaus (Patrol, Investigations and Community Services) may be ready for the move in early 2022. Moving with them is the Mayor’s Court operation, Records and Emergency Communications (9-1-1).

On another side of this project, the City will also be preparing to put properties up for sale that currently house various departments and divisions that will relocate as part of this facility consolidation. The former Armory at 240 S. State St., the City building at 64 E. Walnut St. and the WPD Investigations bureau currently at 28 S. State St. (the old Post Office) are expected to be placed on the market. Upon completion of renovations of the current WPD headquarters at 29 S. St., operations based at 64 E. Walnut St. will relocate into this space creating in essence a City Hall Annex. The Police Division will retain a small Uptown satellite office in the space where Mayor’s Court currently functions in City Hall. The WPD Uptown Officer will work from this office and it will be available to other officers for their use in report writing or other.

Watch the project progress at www.westerville.org/policecourtfacility.
Honoring Law Enforcement
THIS SPRING

Each May, Westerville residents bring out their blue ribbons and lights in a show of support for the Westerville Division of Police. Don’t forget these important dates.

**LIGHT OHIO BLUE**
May 8-15

**NATIONAL POLICE WEEK**
May 10-16

**PEACE OFFICER MEMORIAL DAY**
May 15

For more information, visit www.westerville.org/police.

WESTERVILLE DIVISION OF POLICE
Introduce New Police Cruiser

This April, the Westerville Division of Police (WPD) introduced the first cruisers to feature a new design and branding, including a memorial sticker memorializing Officers Anthony P. (Tony) Morelli and Eric Joering.*

The Ford Interceptor police cruisers are part of the regular fleet maintenance and replacement schedule of fuel efficient hybrid vehicles. They are the first to feature the new graphics package, which place emphasis on better visibility and a stronger alignment with the Westerville city brand.

“When I started my career in Westerville, the cruisers had the most unappealing powder blue stripe on our current silver patrol car,” says WPD Chief Charles Chandler. “We’ve been very well served by the silver-and-black police sedans and SUV’s for nearly 20 years, but we are very proud of this new look.”

Chief Chandler collected and considered feedback about the current police cruiser. WPD officers liked the traditional black-and-white style police cruiser, but they wanted a color unique to Westerville. The traditional white doors were paired with a titanium color scheme. City officials approved the incorporation of the memorial sticker, which is common among departments that have experienced line of duty deaths.

“The Morelli and Joering names on the cruisers is meaningful, not only to us but to the entire Westerville community,” said Chief Chandler. “This is a real way to keep them with us in spirit.”

WPD expects it will take about three years for the full fleet of 30 cruisers to be replaced. While cruisers are phased-in, both the new and existing vehicles will patrol Westerville streets.

For more information about WPD, please visit www.westerville.org/police.

*Officers Morelli and Joering were killed on February 10, 2018 while responding to a domestic violence emergency call. Theirs were the first line of duty deaths in Westerville’s history.*
**Clean Water Starts with Sustainable Lawn Care**

Spring has sprung and that means many-a weekend and after-work warrior will spend the next few months nurturing their lawns to an enviable hue of green.

While residents get to work on manicuring lawns, the City’s Water Division requests keeping a few things in mind to help make it easier to keep drinking water clean:

Never place lawn clippings on hard surfaces and definitely don’t place them in the streets! Yard waste and litter can clog stormwater drains and send chemicals into the water system.

Sustainable Tip: Leaving grass clippings on your lawn and recycle nutrients!

Use environmentally friendly materials and follow application instructions carefully for fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides to maximize outcome with the least impact.

Use rain barrels for irrigation to help minimize flow downstream and minimize your water bill.

**Good to Gnome, er, Know:**

Grass is required to be 8 inches or less in height? Proper yard care not only benefits our entire community, it’s the law! (Ordinance 539.01a)

Yards should also be free of noxious weeds such as thistle, milkweed, poison ivy and ragweed. (Ordinance 539.01a)

Read about the City’s stormwater protection plan at [www.westerville.org](http://www.westerville.org).
Westerville residents are more engaged than ever in recycling efforts. In fact, last year’s deployment of more than 11,000 carts helped produce an 8% increase in recycling between May-November 2019 alone. But there’s more work to be done.

According to a study of 180 commercial and residential samples by the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) released in March, as much as 76% of material sent to the Franklin County Sanitary Landfill could be recycled or composted.

The study found that food scraps were the most common materials that could have been diverted. Kevin Weaver, Westerville’s Public Service Director, says Westerville’s new food-waste composting program could help make an impact.

“There’s only so much landfill space available; it’s important for everyone to do what they can to reduce, reuse and recycle,” Weaver said. “We know residents are motivated to make a positive impact on the environment, so we’re taking advantage of every opportunity to help make it easier.”

Launched in March, the City’s pilot food waste composting program allows residents to drop off approved materials in marked receptacles at Westerville Public Service (350 Park Meadow Rd.) and Parks Maintenance (469 Westdale Ave.) 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

More information about Westerville’s recycling program can be found at www.westerville.org/recycling and food waste composting can be found at www.westerville.org/composting.
Spring Storm
PREPARE

With all that spring 2020 has brought by way of an international pandemic, severe weather preparedness may be the furthest thing from your mind. However, the City is joining the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in encouraging residents to take simple steps to ensure they are prepared for severe weather this spring and summer.

**Have a “Go-Bag”/Kit Ready:**

The most prepared people may already have a bag in their vehicles filled with essential items in case of an emergency. However, it’s important to consider that, in the case of a severe weather outbreak, you may not be able to use or even access your car. Consider keeping a bag/box in your home (preferably in your best shelter location) filled with:

- **WATER:** DHS experts recommend keeping a three-day supply of one gallon of water per day per person in the household. This water could be needed for drinking and sanitation purposes. Don’t forget your pets!
- **FOOD:** Non-perishable foods lasting each member of the household (including animals) for at least three days.
- **MEDICATIONS:** Over-the-counter and prescription
- **BATTERIES:** You’ll want a variety of batteries to power your important electronics.
- **FLASHLIGHTS**
- **CELL PHONE CHARGERS**
- **FIRST AID KIT**
- **CASH**

Find a detailed list of what to keep in your go-bag at www.ready.gov/kit.

**Key Terms to Know**
The National Weather Service (NWS) experts issue weather watches, warnings and advisories when they anticipate dangerous weather conditions.

- **WATCH**
  Experts see a potential or conditions exist for a dangerous weather event.

- **WARNING**
  A dangerous weather event is imminent and residents should take immediate action must be taken to protect life and property.
LIGHTNING:
- It's unpredictable, increasing risk to individuals and property.
- It often strikes outside of heavy rain and may occur as far as 10 miles away from any rainfall.
- Lightning strike victims carry no electrical charge and should be attended immediately.

THUNDERSTORMS:
- They may occur individually, in clusters or in lines. Some of the most severe occur when a single thunderstorm affects one location for an extended time.
- They typically produce heavy rain for a brief period, anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour.
- Warm, humid conditions are highly favorable for thunderstorm development.
- About 10% of thunderstorms are classified as severe, with possibilities of hail and winds of 58 mph or higher or produces a tornado.

WIND:
A High Wind Watch/Warning means a potential of high wind speeds of 40 mph and/or gusts greater than or equal to 58 mph developing that may pose a hazard or is life-threatening.

A Wind Advisory a potential of wind speeds of 31 and 39 mph for an hour or more, or any instantaneous wind gust between 46 mph and 57 mph is expected.

TORNADOES:
- Tornados may strike quickly, with little or no warning.
- They may appear nearly transparent until dust and debris are picked up or a cloud forms in the funnel.
- The average forward speed of a tornado is 30 mph but may vary from stationary to 70 mph.
- Peak tornado season in the northern/midwest states is late spring through early summer.
- Tornados may occur in any season and at any time of day.

FLOODING:
- Flooding is caused by spring thawing (snow and frozen grounds melting in the spring), heavy rains, snowmelt runoffs, flash floods, and mudflows.
- Flash floods can bring walls of water from 10 to 20 feet high.
- A car can be taken away in as little as two feet of water so do not drive into floodwaters.
- Particularly at risk are communities located in low-lying areas, near water, or downstream from a dam.
- To stay safe during a flood, go to the highest ground or floor possible.

DRIVING IN FOG:
- Make your vehicle visible to others both ahead of you and behind you by using your low-beam headlights since this means your tail lights will also be on. Use fog lights if you have them.
- Never use your high-beam lights. Using high beam lights causes glare, making it more difficult for you to see what’s ahead of you on the road.
- To ensure you are staying in the proper lane, follow the lines on the road with your eyes.
- In extremely dense fog where visibility is near zero, the best course of action is to first turn on your hazard lights, then simply pull into a safe location such as a parking lot of local business and stop. If there is no parking lot or driveway to pull into, pull your vehicle off to the side of the road as far as possible. Once you come to a stop, turn off all lights except your hazard flashing lights, set the emergency brake, and take your foot off of the brake pedal to be sure the tail lights are not illuminated so that other drivers don’t mistakenly run into you.

Find more weather preparedness and safety tips at www.ready.gov.
They say knowledge is power. Westerville residents will receive a publication this spring from the City’s Water Division called the “Consumer Confidence Report.” This report is produced annually and empowers residents with important knowledge about how the City stacks up to standards set forth by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**INFORMATION HIGHLIGHTED INCLUDES:**

**PROTECTING WESTERVILLE’S SOURCE WATER**
The majority of the City’s drinking water is sourced from Alum Creek. The report explains the rigorous methods used to clean H2O before it comes out of your faucet.

**HOW WESTERVILLE WATER IS TREATED**
Learn about the progressive and “green” methods used to keep water safe.

**SOURCES OF POTENTIAL CONTAMINANTS**
It is important to understand what the Division is working against and what methods they use to succeed in keeping Westerville families safe.

Review the latest report at www.westerville.org/water.
CUT THE CORD:
Program Pays Residents to Unplug Old Appliances

It’s an unseen staple of many American homes: the puttering spare refrigerator or freezer. Once the crown jewel of the kitchen, these appliances were replaced by newer versions and moved to another space because, well, they still work. Sort of.

Reassuring as extra food storage might be, old inefficient appliances can cost households every month in energy costs. What’s worse, they create a drain on the City’s grid and can contribute to higher energy costs in the future.

“The Westerville Electric Division purchases power from the market, but the cost of transmission and other bill components are largely out of Westerville’s control. Those prices are based on, among other things, power consumption,” said Chris Monacelli, the City’s Electric Utility Manager. “So it works to everyone’s advantage to get inefficient appliances off the grid.”

Through the City’s appliance recycling program, residents can receive a $50 pre-paid VISA gift card or digital debit card download in exchange for their old, working refrigerator or freezer. The City will even handle arranging the heavy lifting and safe recycling. Launched in 2017, Westerville residents have recycled more than 1,500 refrigerators and freezers through the program.

The appliances recycled/removed from the grid resulted in a decrease of more than 840,000 kWh in annual usage or more than $90,000 per year in energy costs for consumers.

Please note that pick-ups were temporarily put on hold with respect to the state’s social distancing orders. However, interested parties may still arrange to be added to the program’s waitlist. Learn more at www.westerville.org/takemyfridge. Schedule a free pick-up and claim an easy $50 today.
Westerville City Manager David A. Collinsworth and Westerville Assistant Manager Julie Colley announced this spring their plans for retirement from public service effective January 2021. Westerville City Council will solicit recruitment proposals to assist them with the selection and onboarding process for the new City Manager. Once hired, that individual will have the opportunity to appoint the next Assistant City Manager.

Collinsworth has been with the City of Westerville for more than 12 years, succeeding Dave Lindimore, who retired in 2007. Collinsworth is a 32-year public servant, having served the Ohio communities of Tipp City (1997-2007) and Miamisburg prior to Westerville. For more than a decade, Collinsworth has been responsible for over 430 full-time employees and an annual city budget exceeding $180 million. Shortly after his arrival in Westerville, Collinsworth led an extensive income tax restructuring campaign, more than tripling the funding made available for street reconstruction and infrastructure improvements.

Leadership highlights during his tenure also include the passage of four other tax or bond issues for public safety and parks, the expansion of the Community Center, the establishment of the nation’s first municipal community data center, and major infrastructure programs, including the revitalization program for S. State Street.

He helped navigate the City’s response following the tragedy of February 10, 2018, when WPD Officers Tony Morelli and Eric Joering were killed in the line of duty. A former president of the Ohio City/County Management Association, Collinsworth is currently serving as the Chair of the Central Ohio Mayors and Manager Association.

“Long before the changes associated with the current pandemic, Julie Colley and I had already made these personal decisions that happen to coincide,” said Collinsworth. “I consider it a great honor and privilege to have been afforded the opportunity to lead this incredible City and appreciate the great support from City Councils past and present in our endeavors over the years.”

Collinsworth appointed Julie Colley to Assistant City Manager in 2008. Colley previously served as City Planner and Economic Development Administrator in Westerville as part of her 30-year service record. She also worked in the City of Grandview as the City Administrator.

Colley manages several Westerville departments, including Parks & Recreation, Planning & Development, the Electric and Water Utilities and Public Service. Leadership highlights include two national gold medals for Westerville Parks & Recreation and millions in investments in economic development initiatives, including the development of the Westar area along Polaris Parkway and Cleveland Avenue.

“Looking back, it’s amazing how quickly 30 years working in local government has passed,” said Colley. “Being Westerville’s Assistant City Manager has truly been a privilege. I’ve had many opportunities to serve this community, both in my professional role and as a volunteer. This community has so much heart. As I prepare to transition my part in leadership, I know as a resident Westerville is in capable, talented hands.”

Westerville City Council will soon begin its search to fill the City Manager position. Details will be posted online when available at www.westerville.org/jobs.

Collinsworth intends to remain in Westerville with wife Jane and family. Colley also plans to stay in Westerville with husband Dave, and near family and grandchildren. Both Collinsworth and Colley plan to continue to serve with the Westerville Sunrise Rotary.
When COVID-19 blanketed the community in uncertainty, Westerville City Council acted quickly to start the conversation about what help could be offered to residents and businesses. From this concern about economic impacts and financial hardships came the utility bill holiday, a $5.5 million program to waive the cost of City utilities for bills due in April.

How is the City able to offer and then absorb a multi-million dollar program? Through strong fiscal policy that focuses on year-over-year careful and conservative planning.

Westerville consistently holds a place among the most-awarded municipalities in the state for financial performance. Additionally, Westerville’s finances each year earn bond rating agencies’ most distinguished awards and top state recognitions.

This means the City also maintains what’s traditionally known as a “rainy-day” fund tucked into the utility accounts. These dollars can be accessed during an emergency, like the current global pandemic’s impact at the local level.

“Our fiscal policy is built to have emergency measures so we can access funds without increasing rates or taxes,” said David Collinsworth, Westerville City Manager. “So although we’re facing a pandemic, we have a way to design a relief program that provides immediate help to residents and business.”

Specifically, because the City of Westerville maintains municipal utility services, the program does not impact general funds (public infrastructure, public safety and services, etc); cash reserves live in various utility enterprise funds (electric, water, sewer, and refuse). The utility enterprise fund policies dictate how much the City should carry in reserve for sufficient operating cash, which is analyzed each year during the budget process.

Collinsworth says the funds will be balanced by looking at operating and capital expenditures that can be cut, deferred, or rescheduled to 2021.

“We’re in a good financial position to not only offer the bill holiday within our utility operations, but have taken the same care in managing our tax funded services to have sufficient reserves on hand that, combined with restrained spending, will ensure continuity of core City services during this economic downturn.” said Collinsworth.

Programs like construction, infrastructure improvements and essential public safety services remain relatively unchanged. Residents and businesses will continue to see progress in neighborhoods and in districts like Uptown while improvement projects stay in motion.

“If there’s a silver lining to this, the pace and lower cost of construction would be one,” said Collinsworth. “The Uptown Improvement Project has made great strides during this time, which makes the overall timeline look promising for early completion.”

With the announcement of the utility bill holiday, Westerville City Council encouraged residents to pay-it-forward by supporting a Westerville-based charity or nonprofit that could further offer aid in the community. Through letters, emails and social media posts, it appears that people took it to heart.

“We heard good things from WARM, Neighborhood Bridges and other organizations who saw the effect,” said Collinsworth. “That’s the idea. We can all help each other in the midst of a crisis, and get through it together.”

Find more on the utility bill holiday at www.westerville.org/covid19.
The closure of City of Westerville facilities due to the COVID-19 quarantine has not stopped the Community Center expansion project from moving forward. Through this closure there have been many changes and improvements that are being completed in preparation for the day the Center opens again for the community.

**Plans for the next three months include**
- Fitness/Group Fitness area completion and equipment installation along with:
  - Fitness wing entry and check in desk
  - Locker rooms
    - pool/fitness/family
  - E-sports room
  - Warm water therapy pool
  - MAC gymnasium
    - adventure gym
  - Party room
  - Multipurpose room with demonstration kitchen
  - Front desk kiosks
  - South (older adult) wing and entry plaza
  - Parking lot
    - south/main/fitness

**Areas that are complete and have been open to the community include:**
- Sprouts childcare room
- Main entry plaza/doors
- Leisure pool
- Main parking lot expanded
  - 84 spaces added along Cleveland Avenue
    (waterfront)
A new area coming to the Community Center is the E-Sports (electronic sports) room located on the south-side of the facility. This multiplayer gaming area will offer organized team and individual opportunities through classes and events.

**Some notes about the E-Sports Room:**

- 12 PC gaming units
- XBox
- PlayStation
- Four 50” televisions
  (for gaming and live Twitch streaming)
- Gaming chairs
- Hyper X headsets

**Opportunities include:**

- Open play
- Classes
- Camps
- Tournaments
- Birthday parties
What’s Better than the 4th of July in Westerville?

HOW ABOUT A BIGGER CELEBRATION?

The very popular day of community activities is getting an upgrade in July 2020, with family-friendly events and fireworks moving to a new location for more space and better viewing opportunities.

The event is hosted by the Westerville Rotary Club, with the City of Westerville providing support as a partner.

“For the last few years, we have made the 4th of July an all-day celebration in Westerville,” said Dave Krebs, Westerville Rotarian and event organizer. “Music and food trucks and big-name concerts have headlined our afternoon events after the parade and fun run, and we have had our eye on moving to a location to accommodate more families for some time.”

The City and Rotary worked together to move the concert, food and entertainment to the Westerville Sports Complex for the day. Attendees are invited to come prepared for hours of fun while awaiting the fireworks show at dusk.

Fireworks will be shot from a new location visible from the Sports Complex. This moves the location from Alum Creek Park South for the first time in more than 10 years.

“The Westerville Sports Complex is an ideal location for what we have planned,” says Krebs. “We’re bringing food trucks and great music, plus inflatables for the kids and so much more. People can picnic and bring their own entertainment until the big finale draws near.”

For more information on parking and event logistics, visit www.westerville.org.

8 a.m. Rotary 5K Run/Walk
9 a.m. Rotary Children’s Fun Run
Westerville Sports Complex
325 N. Spring Rd.

1 p.m. Parade
Uptown Westerville
Westerville Sports Complex

5–10 p.m. Food Trucks
6–9 p.m. Family Fun Zone
5–7 p.m. Jon Anthony & Wishful Drinkin’
7:40–10 p.m. Pop Gun

Dusk (~10 p.m.) Fireworks
Near Westerville Sports Complex

REMINDER

Due to the evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, the most up-to-date information regarding the 4th of July events can be found at www.westerville.org.
Work began this spring on the new Johnston McVay Park project, located at 480 S. Hempstead Rd. Named after the McVay family, the land’s original owners, the park is designed to preserve the property’s natural beauty and add fun and educational play elements. Construction will include a realigned entry drive and bridge, shelter, restroom, trail network, parking lot, creek interaction zone and much more.

This spring, the contractor removed shrubs and four trees to rework the culvert for the new entry drive. The trees that have been removed will be replaced in accordance with City Ordinance 1173, along with many additional trees that will be planted.

**COMPLETED:**
- Construction fence installed
- Four trees removed
- Overhead utilities removed
- House and barn demolished

**NEXT STEPS:**
- Remove asphalt
- Demolish existing box culvert and install a new one
- Start grading operations for the park development

Please visit [www.westerville.org/parks](http://www.westerville.org/parks) for updates on all class and event schedules.

Virtual Recreation classes with Westerville Parks and Recreation are available. For information visit [www.westerville.org/virtualrec](http://www.westerville.org/virtualrec).
With grand ideas in mind, and exceptional plans on paper, the Highlands Park Aquatic Center (HPAC) construction began a little over 10 years ago. Sitting on nearly 41 acres of what was once Highlands Pool, a top neighborhood stop every summer for families, teens, swim/diving team members and water aerobics enthusiasts, HPAC offers family entertainment and fun in a whole new atmosphere.

In its 10th year, HPAC has provided thousands with summer fun and activities. Built as a state of the art facility, HPAC and Highlands Wetlands have won many awards in the first five years for their ability to cater to energy efficiency and environmental design. This is in part to its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification which is given to facilities that identify and implement measurable green building design, construction, operations and maintenance solutions.

THE FACILITY WAS BUILT WITH:

- Emphasis on native plantings.
- Trex material on the boardwalk that has a high recycled content of plastic and wood fiber.
- Bio Swales in the parking lots to slow stormwater runoff sediment and filter non-point pollution sources.
- Rain gardens to absorb runoff and reduce the need for stormwater infrastructure allowing 30% more water to soak into the ground compared to a regular lawn.
- Greenroof plantings with more than 27 drought-tolerant species to slow stormwater runoff by 50%-90% and insulate the buildings, reducing cooling loads by the same percentage.
- Light wells in most buildings to reduce lighting needs.
- Low flow plumbing fixtures to ensure the smallest amount of water usage.

Awards

"Best Outdoor Municipal Pool" - Highlands Park Aquatic Center (HPAC) - Columbus Parent - Best of Columbus and Family Faves 2010-2015

Award of Excellence - Natural Resources and Conservation - Highlands Park Wetlands - Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA) 2013

Honor Award - Highlands Park Aquatic Center - Columbus American Institute of Architects (AIA) 2012

Due to the evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, the most up-to-date summer class details and registration information can be found online at www.westerville.org/registration.
The extra day we had this year was one of celebration for several Westerville residents, who have the distinction of being “leaplings,” born on February 29 in a Leap Year.

For all the missed birthdays of these special residents, we wish all a belated Happy Birthday. Benji and Simon tie for the youngest leaplings, and as the group’s only teenager, Michelle counts as the most “experienced.” Each of these receive a day pass to the Westerville Community Center to celebrate.

And one special anniversary...

*He and his daughter both turned 11 on Feb. 29, 2020!
Playgrounds and sports courts are currently closed due to COVID-19 but the trails are available. Please maintain 6 feet of separation when passing other users.

Visit one of the many Westerville parks while enjoying the paths.
THANK YOU, Essential WORKFORCE!

Health care professionals
Pharmacy staff
Public safety professionals
Government employees
School teachers
Farmers/food production
Factory workers
Delivery drivers
Truck drivers
Restaurant staff
Grocery employees

Westerville loves you