NEW FITNESS WING OPENS
Westerville Community Center Expansion
Welcome

In this special summer edition of the Community Recreation Guide you will find updated information on COVID-19 in the City of Westerville and how the City and community has responded and persevered through this time. Important information is included regarding safety for both businesses and individuals.

The Westerville Community Center is OPEN. Following closely to CDC requirements on social distancing and cleaning protocol, the Center is open on a reservation basis. Plans are underway on exciting summer activities that can be found at www.westerville.org/parks. For now, class information will only be available online but expect a full class schedule to be printed in the fall guide this August.

Thanks to the community, the City's Virtual Recreation offerings were an exciting and well “virtually” attended addition to the Parks and Recreation family. Currently, with the Center open and classes slowly returning, the Virtual Recreation classes have been put on hold while programmers work on even more exciting opportunities for late summer and fall classes. Rest assured that staff is planning for new and improved virtual classes in the future.

Due to the evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, the most up-to-date class details and registration information can be found online at www.westerville.org/registration.
The new north entrance to the Westerville Community Center is now open. Just past this entrance you will find the all-new, two-story fitness wing. For additional information, see page 10-11.

With the opening of playgrounds, kids across Westerville are excited to play at Towers Park. Please follow social distancing suggestions while attending any park within the City.
A new appreciation for “essential.”

All jobs are essential, especially in a global economy that relies on each of us to make a contribution. But a certain appreciation came from the pandemic that relied on some occupations to get us through. Supply chain, distribution and delivery, grocery stores and of course, health care providers did not fail us when we needed them most.

Appreciation for the service of the essential workforce members will be remembered. Let us never diminish the role of any job in the future as we consider those who worked during an uncertain time.

We are resilient.

Much had to be sacrificed this spring. High school and college seniors missed big moments, as did students in 5th and 8th grades, who will move to a different school in the fall. Sports and prom. Special events and trips. Holiday celebrations. Nearly all of it was canceled.

Overcoming disappointment is a lifelong journey. But the stories of resilience in the face of these disappointments were encouraging. Westerville City Schools honored their seniors and found creative ways to recognize graduation. Families separated found ways to express their love, even when they couldn’t reach out for a hug. And as always, Westerville showed it’s generosity and kindness by supporting local businesses, posting positive remarks on social media and sending smiles to lift others.

Moving forward, together.

As we reflect, perhaps we learned we can do more for others, as plenty of people paid-it-forward after Westerville City Council waived utility bill payments for residents and businesses in March.

So as a community and as individuals, we were reminded of the role of cooperation in catastrophe. When it came to closed parks and courts on warm, sunny days or the long lines for complying with social distancing, the vast majority understood we’re all in this together. In the months to come, cooperation and kindness will be needed more than ever to combat our fatigue and stress with these unprecedented events.

The Westerville Way is all of these things: appreciation, support, resilience, cooperation and kindness. Thank you, Westerville!
As of June 1, Westerville City Hall (including Mayor’s Court customer windows) and 64 E. Walnut St. are open to the public.

The Westerville Electric Division, Water Division, Public Service Department and Parks Maintenance facility will continue to remain closed to the public until further notice.

Please be assured the City is adopting measures to encourage social distancing and improve safety for employees and the public.

Please consider the following options first:

- **Visit the City website for information**
- **Use the TellWesterville mobile app. Visit your app store for details.**
- **Make a phone call (City office phone numbers are found on page 24 or visit the City website.)**
- **Request a staff virtual meeting**
- **If absolutely necessary, contact staff (www.westerville.org/contactus) for a personal meeting which will be conducted at an appropriate social distance. For all other inquiries, call (614) 901-6400.**

Should you have an immediate need to visit a City facility, please be aware that you will be encouraged to wear a facial covering, stand six feet apart from other customers and conduct business through glass transaction windows or through plexiglass barriers.

In advance, we appreciate your cooperation. Stay safe.
The City partnered with the Westerville Industry and Commerce Corporation (WICC) to offer up to a 50% matching grant of $2,500 to qualifying small businesses to help reopen their doors after the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions this spring. Grants were awarded in June.

“Small businesses are a vital piece of Westerville’s thriving economy, culture and community. It’s more important than ever that we help our local entrepreneurs get back to business while protecting the safety of employees and customers,” said Jason Bechtold, Economic Development Director for the City.

Called “WeCAN,” for Westerville COVID Assistance Now, WICC administered the program and provided grants to eligible applicants in order to promote the creation and retention of employment opportunities and improve the economic welfare of the City. This is pursuant to Chapter 1724 of the Ohio Revised Code.

WeCAN was funded by a reallocation of $300,000 of existing funds from two WICC programs. As such, limited funds are available. If a business finds that it does not need these recovery funds, it should not apply.

To be eligible for the program, businesses must have a storefront in the City with more than two full time employees. Businesses were required to prove that their businesses were significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

QUALIFYING PROJECTS FOR WeCAN FUNDS INCLUDED:

- Advertising
- Costs associated with job creation and job retention
- Technology upgrades designed to assist in customer service, such as website design or upgrades, assistance with establishing or improving on-line ordering or WeConnect fiber and connection upgrades.
- Building/site renovation costs associated with complying with any sanitization or social distancing requirements.
- Purchasing of inventory required to reopen a business or re-establish normal business operations.
- Purchasing of any sanitizing equipment or supplies.

WICC may consider additional costs not listed as “eligible” that contribute to the reopening of the business, the reestablishment of normal business operations and the hiring or rehiring of employees. Such items shall be declared in the application document and must be approved in advance by WICC.

Learn more about this effort to support small businesses in Westerville at www.westerville.org/wecan.
Be aware of calls claiming they are with a government organization asking for money or your personal information. The government will never ask for your personal information over the phone.

Be cautious of emails claiming to be from the CDC, World Health Organization or other seemingly reputable sources. These are most likely fake and may have links that contain malware. Malware is malicious content that can be downloaded onto your computer or compromise your personal information.

Ignore online advertisements or scammers trying to sell you a cure for the coronavirus. There are currently no vaccines, pills or over-the-counter medication that exist to “cure” the coronavirus.

Be suspicious of individuals going door-to-door offering COVID-19 testing or temperature checks. Call the Westerville Division of Police non-emergency line (614) 882-7444 if you witness any suspicious activity in your neighborhood.

If you are looking to donate to a cause, do your research to make sure you are donating to a reputable organization. Avoid donors who ask you to donate via cash, gift card or wire transfer as these methods are often used by scammers. A database of registered charities is available on the Ohio Attorney General’s website.

Beware of any calls or messages asking you to send your personal information to get your stimulus check or to pay a fee to get your check. The IRS will not ask for any of your personal information and there is no fee required to receive the check.

Visit coronavirus.ohio.gov for a list of available testing facilities and up-to-date information regarding the virus in Ohio.
Taking advantage of lighter traffic in the area, the City approved an accelerated work schedule to help speed along the Uptown Improvement Project this spring.

This project aims to bring the historic area into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) with wider, more accessible sidewalks. Other improvements include the addition of wayfinding and beautifying features to improve the visitor experience in Uptown.

Those who have stayed away from Uptown during quarantine may be surprised to witness the transformation that has taken place. Take a look from above at the improvements made during this time.

Get weekly progress updates at www.westerville.org/uptown.

All sidewalk work, including new curb ramps, lighting and decorative sidewalk items were completed. Still to come: final electrical work and decorative items (i.e. seating, planters).

Almost complete: Pavement repairs and resurfacing are being undertaken that will provide an all new road surface from Walnut Street to Broadway Avenue.
The contractor completed sidewalks adjacent to buildings and new curb ramps, as well as removals for the new bump-out feature at 8 State St. All electrical work was also completed.

*Still to come: Decorative sidewalks and brick work, bump-out feature at 8 State St.*

Contractor has substantially completed sidewalk work in this block.

*Still to come: Installation of decorative items (planters and seating).*

The City’s contractor substantially completed sidewalk work in this block. This work included new curb ramps, new sidewalks and brick work.

*Still to come: Installation of decorative items (seating and planters) and final paving.*

The contractor has substantially completed all sidewalks in this block. This work included new drive approach at Slaughter Alley, new lighting and electrical work.

*Still to come: paving of State Street and Slaughter Alley, installation of decorative items (benches and planters).*
With direction from Gov. DeWine and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) the Westerville Parks and Recreation Department opened the Community Center doors on June 15, welcoming the community to its new fitness facility. During this initial phase, there will be 100 reservations available for each 90-minute time slot. Each person must have a reservation to utilize the facility. Reservations may be made online at www.westerville.org/registration or, if available, in person at the Community Center. More information is available at www.westerville.org/covid19.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT THE FACILITY:

☑ Stay in your car until your scheduled time slot.
☑ Line up adhering to social distancing requirements at the north (Fitness) entrance.

During this time, the main entrance will be closed for expansion construction updates.
☑ Upon entrance to the facility, each visitor should be wearing a face covering and will have their temperature checked.
☑ Visitors will then show their reservation receipt and either pay for their entrance or show their pass. Daily rates apply.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS WHEN UTILIZING THE COMMUNITY CENTER?

☑ Face coverings must be worn by all visitors and staff. Those utilizing the fitness area must wear a mask when entering and exiting the facility but may remove the mask during activity.
☑ Fitness equipment must be disinfected with the provided cleaner, by the user, both before and after use.
☑ The track will be single-file use for walking and jogging. Joggers may pass at a safe distance.
☑ Lockers will not be available; patrons will be required to keep their belongings with them at all times.
☑ Social distancing will be strictly enforced.
☑ No shared gymnasium equipment will be provided.
☑ Limited programs and activities will be allowed in the gymnasium based on social distancing compliance.
☑ No water fountains will be available, patrons will be required to bring their own water.

WHAT AREAS ARE AVAILABLE DURING THIS PHASE OF OPENING?

☑ FITNESS AREA

A portion of the equipment will be available at all times following social distancing guidelines.
Available equipment will alternate each session.

☑ TRACK

Single file walking/jogging. Joggers may pass at a safe distance.

☑ GYMNASIUM

No organized activity.
No shared equipment will be supplied.

REMAINING CLOSED

MAC gymnasium, childcare (Sprout’s Wait Room), locker rooms, water fountains, climbing wall, adventure play, social and common areas.

OPENING IN THE NEXT PHASE?
Expect the indoor pool facility to open early July.

SAFETY CONTINUES TO BE A PRIORITY

In addition to staff cleaning throughout the day, a thorough deep cleaning will take place in the entire facility overnight. Both staff and visitors will have their temperature checked upon arrival. Staff will wear masks or facial covering while in the facility while visitors should wear masks or facial covering upon entry and exit and while walking through the building.
NEW FITNESS AREA OPENS AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER

Now that the construction is complete on the new, two-level fitness and training areas and extended track, the community can expect to see the following:

- **The first floor** provides a variety of strength training equipment that includes squat racks, Smith machines, Olympic benches, plate-loaded equipment and dumbbells.

- **The second floor** houses more than 70 pieces of cardiovascular equipment that includes treadmills, bikes, ellipticals, seated steppers, upper body ergometers, step mills, rows and a Jacob’s ladder. The second floor also has the Nautilus Inspiration selectorized line that features easy to use Lock n’ Load technology for selecting your desired weight.

- **The Agility/Stretching area** is located within the track and has a multifunctional trainer, tank and tire flip along with AirDyne Bikes and rows. This turf area is ideal for athletes of all ages.

- **The newly expanded track** is now 1/7 of a mile (seven times around equals one mile). Walkers will use the inside lane and the outside (grey) lane is for runners. The track direction changes daily.

MULTI-ACTIVITY COURT (MAC) GYMNASIUM TO OPEN SOON

Though not open yet, the new MAC Gymnasium will be available for games, programming and specialized fitness. Included in the new area is:

- Six basketball hoops
- One full-size basketball court
- Two quarter-size basketball courts
- Three Pickleball courts
- Two volleyball courts
- One Futsol court
- Wireless scoreboards
- Bleachers
- Free access to lockers
- Access from current gymnasium to new gym through large indoor garage doors
Public health shutdowns weren’t enough to stop Westerville residents from staying fit and healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Westerville Virtual Recreation Center continued to provide a wealth of opportunities for physical, mental and educational wellness.

Westerville Parks and Recreation staff worked continually to provide live and on-demand opportunities in a variety of our classic health, recreation and art categories.

**Fitness and Wellness**

*Live exercise classes offered throughout the week, including weekends*

*Additional resources about fitness, nutrition and emotional wellbeing*
Weekly live Artist Table offered through the City’s Facebook
On-demand watercolor tutorials
On-demand youth art projects
Links free live and on-demand musical performances and preschool craft ideas

Step 1 Collect Your Materials

ITEMS YOU WILL NEED:
1. Small River Pebbles
2. Rocks or Slate
3. Driftwood
4. Moss
5. Botanical items such as bark, pine cones, seed pods, acon-accords, etc.

CLEANING AND SMOTHERING YOUR MATERIALS:
Give these a good scrub in hot water with regular dishwashing detergent and a splash of bleach.

Virtual family game links
DIY project ideas
Links to classic preschool pastimes and new ideas like Cosmic Kids Yoga, Storytime with the Westerville Public Library and JumpBunch at Home.

Life Skills Course Links
STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) links
Language Arts with the Columbus Blue Jackets
History and World Studies

Visit Westerville Parks and Recreation online at www.westerville.org/parks.

Links to free games promoting cognitive health
Access to free webinar series, “Cognitive Health in the 21st Century” by Kemper Cognitive Wellness
Live webinars promoting health and wellness
Links to free exercise resources

Links to activities to enhance the experience of being outside
Links to environmental stewardship activities
Mary Johnston has served as a professional municipal clerk for nearly 36 years; 18 of that in Westerville working for the 17 individuals who have been elected to Council positions in that time. Her career was inspired by the guidance and interest of a mentor, a role she now takes on this year as president of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC), a professional association serving 15,000 members and representing municipalities of less than 500 to more than 10 million.

Johnston’s journey through the leadership ranks culminates this year with IIMC. It’s unexpectedly at the same time when the association, like many others, is leading their membership through the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

That means canceling their annual conference in St. Louis and holding it virtually, says Johnston. Meeting the needs of the municipal clerks who help City Councils and administrations run cities is a challenge when you remove the professional development and education opportunities that come from their annual conference.

“We’re going to carry on and conduct these activities by video conferencing and we’re going to figure out ways to keep our members engaged in a time when we’re all figuring out what the new normal will be,” said Johnston. “It’s an honor to serve as president of IIMC in a time that won’t be quickly forgotten, so I do feel a duty to be innovative, creative and show the strength of our association.”

Westerville is proud of Johnston’s service, which was recognized by Council at one of their public meetings (conducted by video conferencing) in May.

“Mary is the right person to lead her professional association during this time,” said Mike Heyeck, Westerville City Council Chair. “She’s level-headed, smart, volunteers for the community like Westerville Honor Flight and is always willing to help others. Council is proud of her commitment to lead on this international scale.”
HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED IN A CAREER IN THE MUNICIPAL CLERK PROFESSION?
This was something I actually stumbled into, back in 1983. Right after high school I had gone to work for a company that manufactured household goods and farm supplies near my hometown in Freeport, Illinois. When I applied for an open position for deputy clerk at Freeport City Hall, I still didn’t have a specific career path in mind. But I got the job and the City Clerk took me under her wing and showed me the clerk’s profession and taught me everything about government.

When the Clerk Lucille Lattig decided to retire in 1992, she said I was ready and needed to run for the position. In Freeport, the city clerk is elected, so I ran my first campaign and went door to door. I ran twice for the Clerk position and was unopposed both times. I kept one yard sign as a memento of everything I learned from that process that still today is in my garage. Had it not been for the Clerk’s mentoring, I wouldn’t have the career I have today.

HOW DID YOU COME TO WORK AND LIVE IN WESTERVILLE?
My husband Mark was transferred to North Carolina for work. About a year and a half into the position, the plant closed and moved operations. At that time, I was working for the federal government in the U.S. Courts Western District in Asheville. I saw the position in Westerville online and applied. It was January 2003 when we moved here with our daughters. Our daughter Heather and husband Malcolm live in Virginia Beach, VA and our other daughter Courtney lives in Clintonville. We have three granddogs that we spoil.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES REQUIRED IN YOUR ROLE AS CLERK OF COUNCIL?
I’m here to serve Council and make sure Council and staff have the materials they need to conduct the business of the City. My primary duties include preparing meeting agendas and compiling and producing Council packets. I also attend the meetings and act as the point person for the public so that they can obtain information related to local legislation. Clerks try to be one of the go-to people in the City, so that they are helpful and open with information.

WHAT CONTINUING EDUCATION IS REQUIRED AS PART OF YOUR JOB?
There are educational requirements and an ongoing certification schedule for these positions. The International Institute of Municipal Clerks is our certification body. Clerks can also accumulate the hours and continuing education credits to earn the Master of Municipal Clerk designation, which I hold. We also have a peer network to share information and stay up-to-date with best practices and training.

WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS FOR IIMC IN YOUR PRESIDENTIAL YEAR?
IIMC is at a crossroads on how we deliver our educational sessions to all members, whether in person or online. So, it’s my goal to expand our educational offerings to all members in small or large communities. All municipal clerks should have the opportunity to access our education programs. Our committees will be working in this initiative in the coming year.

Another goal is to encourage seasoned clerks to reach out and mentor our new members. Mentoring is an important part of our association’s goal to help guide new clerks through the requirements of being a municipal clerk.

Lastly, IIMC will be celebrating 75 years in 2021 as the leading professional association for municipal clerks around the world. I have chosen the theme, “Let’s Celebrate” to highlight the many accomplishments of IIMC, our members, our families, and the communities we serve. We all need to celebrate all things large or small especially in today’s world.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES AND INTERESTS?
I like to be outdoors, and enjoy biking, tennis, hiking and walking. I don’t play an instrument, but I love anything to do with music. My husband Mark and I have a place in Asheville, NC so we try to spend as much time as possible there enjoying the outdoors and mountains.
Every 10 years, Westerville City Council appoints a Charter Review Commission to conduct a full review of the time-tested document that acts as the City’s “Constitution.” The five-member Commission of resident-appointees met earlier this year, considering a number of issues and amendments proposed by residents or modern-day practices.

On March 10, Commission members conducted a virtual work session with Council, presenting a list of issues identified for evaluation and analysis. From that discussion came five amendments to be considered by voters in the November 3 general election.

Commission Chairman and former Councilmember Larry Jenkins says the recommendations generally represent updates, revisions and edits that best reflect current City programs, services and community governance needs.

“The Charter continues to serve Westerville well, but there were a few opportunities to modernize language to include digital communication and the very broad access the City can provide to its residents,” said Jenkins. “Other items really represent what is commonly known as ‘housekeeping.’ Essentially, making sure we’re considering how our government can best serve us moving forward.”

AMENDMENTS INCLUDE:
Remove existing requirements for certain written notices and postings, and allow Council to determine appropriate methods of notice and publication.

Confirm the common expectation and practice of effective dates of informal and temporary legislative actions

Move the start date of Council member’s terms to January 1 and Council’s organizational meeting to the first meeting thereafter.

Revise certain requirements and procedures regarding recall, including petition format and election dates.

Allow Council to appoint members of the Personnel Review Board to additional boards.

All amendments will be presented as one ballot initiative, as they collectively represent an effort to update the charter for modern practice and procedures and to prevent ballot confusion.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Please contact the Clerk of Council’s office at (614) 901-6410.

Special thanks to the following individuals who serve on the 2020 Charter Review Commission:

Larry Jenkins, Chair
Lavonne Bailey, Vice Chair
John Bokros
Megan Reamsnyder

City Brings 4th of July Parade to the Community

July 4th is a time to gather with family and friends, attend a parade, watch fireworks and celebrate our great country. The holiday this year will look much different due to COVID-19 regulations. Although the parade through Uptown Westerville has been canceled, families will still be able to enjoy a shortened but still enjoyable parade that will come right to their neighborhood thanks to the City of Westerville. Fire Trucks, Police cruisers, Public Service and Electric Utility trucks along with a variety of community vehicles will drive in coordinated routes throughout the City. For a map of the planned routes and timing of when the parade can be expected in areas of the City, visit www.westerville.org/4thofJuly.
Currently, the City offers eight locations in the Uptown Westerville area seven days a week, from 7 a.m. - 10 p.m.

- City building parking lot at 64 E. Walnut St.
- Westerville Public Library Parking Lot (126 S. State St.)
- Intersection of South State and West Park Streets
- Westerville City Hall (21 S. State St.)
- Intersection of North State Street and West College Avenue
- Intersection of North State and West Main Streets

Once at an access point or drive-up Wi-Fi zone, connect your mobile device to the network (SSID) called “WeConnect.”

In addition to the new drive-up locations, access to free Wi-Fi is provided at every City facility, including the Westerville Community Center, Highland Park Aquatic Center, City Hall and the City building at 64 E. Walnut St.

Businesses interested in establishing or sponsoring WeConnect Wi-Fi access can email WiFi@weconnectdatacenter.com or call (614) 901-6829 to get started.

Access the interactive map of WiFi locations at www.westerville.org.
As the pandemic-related need for food and supplies grew in the community, WPD re-imagined their holiday Fill-A-Cruiser program to collect, distribute and deliver these much-needed resources. In partnership with local grocery chains Walmart, Marcs and Kroger, WPD officers helped fill cruisers this June with supplies for the Westerville-Area Resource Ministry (WARM) to distribute to residents-in-need.

Westerville Council Chairman Mike Heyeck, who also serves on the WARM Board of Directors, said the need is now.

“We’ve seen more than a 300-percent increase in the need for food and other assistance programs at WARM alone because of impact of COVID-19,” said Heyeck. “This program has been incredibly helpful during the holiday season for many years, and I’m appreciative that WPD thought to connect this program to the need right now.”

With cruisers at each of these locations, WPD collected more than 1,697 pounds of perishables and pantry items to help sustain the community and the organizations that support local families.

Chief Charles Chandler says Fill-A-Cruiser has been a popular way for the community to connect when the need arises.

“We feel compelled to support the community beyond what we do day in and out in public safety,” said Chief Chandler. “Our service does not stop at law enforcement alone. We want people who are facing challenges right now to know WPD is there for them and we care.”

Fill-A-Cruiser is expected to return for the holiday season, but may also turn up again this summer and fall.

“We’re here for the long-haul when it comes to the recovery from this pandemic,” said Chief Chandler. “We want to be a steady show of support until everyone who needs help has been seen.”

Contact one of these local organizations to find out more.

**WARM**
warmwesterville.org

**NEIGHBORHOOD BRIDGES**
neighborhoodbridges.org

**WESTERVILLE CARING & SHARING**
westervillecaringandsharing.org

**2020 WPD Fill-A-Cruiser Event**
collected

**NON-PERISHABLES & PANTRY ITEMS**

$189 IN DONATIONS

1,697 POUNDS

Do you need help?
Don’t Forget:
Tax Day Rescheduled to July 15

After COVID-19 brought much of the world to a halt this year, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) extended the Tax Day deadline from April 15 to July 15.

In consideration of ongoing public health concerns caused by the virus, the Westerville Tax Division is still unable to provide in-person filing assistance. However, City staff remain available to prepare City of Westerville Income Tax Returns for free.

To help ensure assistance can be provided before the deadline, the Income Tax Division asked that residents follow one of the steps below by June 26. However, help may still be available after this date, contact the Division using the information below:

- **EMAIL** and attach your documents (W-2’s, 1099’s, Federal Schedules (C, E, F), and any other income documentation) to incometax@westerville.org and request preparation of your return.
- **FAX** your documents (W-2’s, 1099’s, Federal Schedules (C, E, F), and any other income documentation) to the Income Tax offices at (614) 901-6820.
- **MAIL** your documents (W-2’s, 1099’s, Federal Schedules (C, E, F), and any other income documentation) to PO Box 130, Westerville, OH 43086-0130
- **DROP BOXES** Please make sure to place your documents (W-2’s, 1099’s, Federal Schedules (C, E, F), and any other income documentation in an envelope marked “Income Tax Department” and place in one of the drop boxes at 21 S. State St (behind the building) or 64 E. Walnut St.

Find details about filing income tax returns for the City at [www.westerville.org/incometax](http://www.westerville.org/incometax).

PANDEMIC WON’T DAMPEN PURSUIT OF INTELLIGENT COMMUNITY DESIGNATION

Progress in Westerville couldn’t be stopped by the COVID-19 outbreak. In fact, in many ways, the pandemic seems to have ramped up innovation in the community. It’s this story that the City will tell a judge from the Intelligent Communities Forum (ICF) this fall.

Instead of the planned in-person visit from ICF co-founder John Jung, the City is taking on the challenge of helping Jung experience a virtual tour of the City.

“John’s goal is to see enough of the projects described in our nomination to validate what we shared is real; to better understand the degree of political, business and institutional commitment to becoming an Intelligent Community and the programs Westerville has in place to achieve this,” said Todd Jackson, Chief Information Officer. “So, essentially, it’s revealing our community’s heart and soul by sharing what we’re doing, why we’re doing it and how we are accomplishing what matters for our community.”

Jackson has spearheaded the City’s pursuit of the Intelligent Community of the Year designation for two years with great success. In 2019, Westerville became the first city in the state of Ohio to receive the Smart 21 and Top 7 acknowledgments on its first attempt. This year, the City was again named to both lists and is moving forward in a pursuit of the #1 spot in the world.

Jackson is quick to point out a number of ways the community has responded to the pandemic that further highlights the innovation taking place in Westerville, including:

- **WEConnect Data Center and Fiber network team installing eight Wi-Fi access points and created three networks to provide internet access for students, staff and businesses at The Point at Otterbein University.**
- **Otterbein students working together at The Point at Otterbein University to make Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for medical professionals fighting coronavirus pandemic.**
- **Installation of drive-up Wi-Fi zones in public parking lots to provide free, convenient internet access? See page 17 for additional details.**

Jackson says regardless of the results of the ICF’s virtual visit, the City has already won, providing innovative community solutions in times of crisis. Learn more about the City’s ICF journey at [www.westerville.org](http://www.westerville.org).
Crews this summer amped up a major upgrade to the City’s public power infrastructure funded by a nearly $3 million reinvestment in the community. The improvements will help secure electric reliability in the City for up to five decades.

“We’re replacing just over a mile of high-voltage underground cable that has served our community around 45 years,” said Chris Monacelli, Westerville Electric Division Manager. “This new, modern equipment will ensure continued reliability for the next 50 years.”

Work is taking place along South Hempstead Road from Colony Drive to south of Gentlewind Drive. In the summer, the project continues along South Hempstead Road from Laureen Court to south of Walnut Street. Then, in the fall, the project will be completed under Spring Road from Towers Park to Lawrence Road.

Danbert Electrical and Kerite Cable Services, the City’s contractors, began the project in late May in existing easements and road rights-of-way. Impacted residents were contacted about the possible impact to property.

“We appreciate the cooperation of the residents in the area as we complete these improvements that will serve Westerville for years to come,” Monacelli said.

Work started with the inspection of the project area and marking of utilities, followed by the installation of protective conduits to house the new underground electric cables. Areas disturbed by the work will be restored within a few weeks of the conduit installation followed by the cable installation. All land disturbed during this process will be permanently restored.

“This new, modern equipment will ensure continued reliability for the next 50 years.”

-CHRIS MONACELLI
WESTERVILLE ELECTRIC DIVISION MANAGER

The replacement is expected to be complete by December 2020. All work is weather permitting.

Find updates about the project at www.westerville.org/electric.
The Westerville Water Division is joining public health agencies in reminding business and property owners that building plumbing systems with limited or no use for 4-8 weeks are at risk of having reduced water quality from stagnation that includes sediment, lead and microbial growth, including harboring Legionella, the water-borne bacteria that causes Legionnaires’ Disease and Pontiac Fever.

Legionnaires’ Disease is a potentially deadly variety of pneumonia that can infect people who breathe in mist from showers, fountains or cooling systems contaminated with Legionella.

With simple steps and a water management plan, businesses can ensure the safety of staff and customers. Before reopening, the Ohio Association of Plumbing Inspectors (OAPI) recommends:

- Developing a comprehensive water management program if one isn’t in place.
- Check that water heaters are set to at least 120 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Flush your water system, running hot and cold water through all points of use. Flushing should continue until the hot water reaches the maximum temperature.
- Disinfect decorative water features.
- Check that cooling towers are kept up to the manufacturer’s specifications and are free of slime and biofilm. Disinfect cooling towers and basins.
- Regularly flush and clean fire sprinkler systems, eye-wash stations and safety showers.
- Disinfect all hot tubs and spas.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) features a robust library of helpful information and resources to help stop the spread of Legionella. Learn more at [www.cdc.gov/legionella](http://www.cdc.gov/legionella).

Questions? Call the Westerville Water Division at (614) 901-6770.
Community Making Progress Toward Surpassing 10-ton Composting Goal

A number of green-minded residents of Westerville are taking advantage of a pilot program making it easy to compost food waste.

“By the end of May, we were already to nearly 50% of our goal for the year,” said Kevin Weaver, Director of Westerville’s Public Service Department. “The community response has been incredible.”

This program is free and open to Westerville residents. To participate, one needs only to collect approved food waste items (see the image below for details) in a bucket or other receptacle and bring those items to City facilities located at 350 Park Meadow Rd. and 469 Westdale Ave. available 24-hours a day, seven days a week. Weaver says that if participants choose to use a bag to line their bucket, they need to ensure it is BPI-certified.

While any container you choose is acceptable, a limited number of free buckets are also available from Westerville Public Service. To inquire about availability or to sign up for composting email updates, call (614) 901-6740 or email publicservice@westerville.org.

The program is made possible by a grant of up to $9,240 (the maximum reimbursable amount), or up to 75% from the Solid Waste Authority of Ohio’s (SWACO) Community Waste Reduction Grant program. Westerville was one of four communities receiving grants to start or expand community composting from the organization.

Learn more about this pilot program at www.westerville.org/composting.

Westerville Fire Receives CARES Act Grant, Invests Back in EMS

The Westerville Division of Fire received a grant of more than $31,000 through the CARES Act to reinvest in emergency medical services (EMS) related to costs associated with WFD’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chief Brian Miller says the funds offset expenses related to the equipment and services prepared to provide emergency services to patients suspected or confirmed of having exposure to the virus.

“We had expenses tied to ensuring our firefighter/medics were safe and had proper personal protective equipment,” said Chief Miller. “Within days of the pandemic coming on, we were ready to respond to whatever Westerville and Blendon Township would experience, including an extra Medic vehicle to transport sick people if we experienced a surge.”

The grant reimburses WFD for supplies such as breathing medications and airway support equipment, as well as disinfectant concentrate to decontaminate medics and firehouses after COVID-19 patient calls.

Additionally, the funds will be directly applied to costs associated with:

- **Decontamination equipment for staff and medics after COVID-19 calls.**
- **Face respirators, additional eye protection and long sleeve t-shirts for firefighter/medics.**
- **Thermometers to track staff temperatures at all three stations twice daily.**
- **Aerosol applicators to apply disinfectant to all WFD equipment.**
- **Equipment and supplies for the additional Medic vehicle.**
- **Decontamination stations and showers for staff and medics after suspected COVID-19 EMS runs.**

WFD also purchased cots to allow firefighter/medics to relocate to designated locations in case a firehouse had to be closed for quarantine. A deep cleaning would have been required if a firefighter had become sick with COVID-19 symptoms. Luckily, this process was not required in Westerville.

“I am really proud of how we prepared and responded to the pandemic,” said Chief Miller. “The community should know we worked tirelessly to keep the public and staff safe. Just like any crisis, we were well-prepared and adapted and overcame any new challenges as we learned more about the virus.”

While the seasons change and the state and nation re-open, Chief Miller emphasized WFD operates on a “not out of the woods” yet philosophy.

“We could see the virus return in the fall, or we could see a spike from reopening, and we’re prepared for either scenario,” he said. “We are in the business of saving lives, and nothing about that changes if we see coronavirus again in and around our community.”

For more information on the City’s response to COVID-19, please visit www.westerville.org/covid19.
Take a stroll around any City park or along a City street and one thing will become abundantly clear: Westerville takes its trees seriously. As it should, it was named a Tree City of the World in 2020 by the Arbor Day Foundation and has received the Tree City USA designation for 44 consecutive years and counting. In fact, the City has two teams of arborists working to maintain a healthy tree canopy.

The Urban Foresters in Westerville Parks and Recreation maintain nearly 15,000 street trees plus all public and park trees in the City. It’s their job to ensure Westerville’s robust canopy is maximized and healthy. Additionally, the Westerville Electric Division employs four Utility Arborists who are professionally trained in tree care and maintenance with specialization of clearing greenery near and on power lines. Westerville’s Arborists are critical to the reliability of the Westerville Electric System and work to the highest standards as outlined by the American National Standards Institute. They will generally prune three years of growth on trees prone to growing into power lines. Remember that residents should never attempt to trim or remove limbs near a power line. If you are concerned about a tree that is close to a power line, call the Electric Division at (614) 901-6700.

YOU HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT TREES GROWING TOO CLOSE TO POWER LINES: Westerville Electric Division, (614) 901-6700.


Learn more about the City’s talented arborists at www.westerville.org.
New Trial “Courtesy Spots”
Make Uptown Dropoff/Pickups Easier

To accommodate the growing popularity of carryout and ride-share services to the Uptown area, the City has designated eight “courtesy” parking spaces. With a 10-minute limit, these eight spaces help make finding a drop-off/pickup spot easy.

“We want to make sure we are accommodating the evolving needs of those who want to dine and shop in Uptown. Our intent is to keep these spots readily available at peak times for high turnover use,” said Jennifer Alford, Westerville Traffic Engineer.

The new spots are located in parking lots A, B, E and F and are marked with special signage. Alford says they will be available through the end of the year, at which time the City will review the use and compliance with the parking spot terms.

“If the spots are used consistently as intended, then we’ll know they are providing value to the community,” Alford said.

Parking spot use will be tracked by the new occupancy sensors installed by Fybr this spring.

Learn more about parking improvements in Uptown and find a map of these newly designated trial spaces at www.westerville.org/uptown.
Field of Heroes Stood to Salute Essential Workforce

In its 11th year, Westerville Sunrise Rotary members could not imagine canceling the Field of Heroes. Event organizers decided to carry on this favorite central Ohio tradition and pay special tribute to the essential workforce who carried the community through the hard weeks in March, April and May during stay-at-home and social distancing orders.

“Every year the Field is a tribute to a specific set of heroes,” said Rotarian and Field of Heroes Chair Dennis Blair. “We’ve honored first responders, women in the military and featured all foreign wars. This year we had planned to honor and recognize minorities in the military, and the impact of certain outfits like the Tuskegee Airmen. But in March and April, a real community-based set of heroes emerged in our essential workforce, and we felt strongly compelled to recognize their service. We wanted to capture this opportunity, and continue our planning to spotlight the extraordinary accomplishments of minorities in the military in 2021.”

Blair said Rotarians worked to re-imagine the Field as a drive-through experience without changing the number of flags positioned to honor our personal heroes. To reduce the amount of touching and gathering, “Virtual Flag Dedications” took the place of physical cards attached to flags. The tribute field for the essential workforce was erected at the north end of the Sports Complex parking lot, visible from the drive-through experience.

Programming and presentations, including the concert, speakers and ceremonies, were eliminated as part of the modified event. The Education Tent and special displays and exhibitions were also withheld. However, in keeping with our tradition, the playing of “Taps” retired the Field each evening.

The annual 5K that has accompanied the event each year was turned “virtual” as well. Registrants were mailed the t-shirt and participant materials and asked to conduct the 5K on their own over Memorial Day Weekend. To recognize their achievement, many participants posted an image or photo that was featured on the Field of Heroes website (www.fieldofheroes.org).

Rotarian volunteers wore face-masks during their shifts, and helped enforce social distancing of people who visited the Field on-site. The goal of these major modifications, says Blair, was to limit physical interactions while still honoring the tradition of the event.

“Coincidentally, the flags have always been spaced six-feet apart, so we were meeting social distance requirements from the start,” said Blair. “We hope that each and every flag that waved in this year’s Field honored someone who worked in distribution or delivery services, on the frontline in the health care system or at the grocery store and pharmacy or performed any of the essential jobs that saw us through the pandemic.”

Blair says this year it was important to offer the Field of Heroes as we emerged from many difficult weeks this Spring.

“It was important to us to offer the Field this year,” he said. “There has been a tremendous amount of change and hardship and we wanted to remind Westerville of just a few of the things the Field stands for: hope, courage, strength and resilience as we remember those that made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country this Memorial Day weekend.”
Westerville Fire Puts Spotlight on
Summer Safety

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the postponement or cancellation of many time-honored community events. As summer 2020 progresses, the Westerville Division of Fire encourages residents to keep the following safety tips in mind:

Fireworks
Remember that the use of fireworks is prohibited in the City unless for permit-issued public exhibitions. If you find yourself near fireworks this summer, remember to follow all manufacturer recommendations for use.

Water Activities
When participating in any water activity, be sure to only wear a life jacket approved by the U.S. Coast Guard. Never swim alone or allow a child to swim without an adult in attendance. These rules are especially important when in unfamiliar waters. REMINDER: Swimming is prohibited in Hoover Reservoir. While this body of water is owned and operated by the City of Columbus, emergency medical services are provided by the Westerville Division of Fire.

Grilling
This great summer pastime is one that many dream of through the colder months in Ohio. Remember to keep all grills at least three feet away from siding and deck rails. Propane, wood pellet and charcoal grills should only be operated outside the home. All grills should be kept away from eaves and overhanging branches.

Learn more about evolving summer plans in Westerville at www.westerville.org.
Naval Lieutenant Joins Parks & Recreation for Veterans Fellowship

The City of Westerville welcomes U.S. Navy Flight Officer Lt. Andrew Homce for a 14-week veteran’s fellowship. Lt. Homce was selected to complete the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Veterans Local Government Management Fellowship, a program offered by the U.S. Department of Defense and their “Skillsbridge” Program to aid transitioning service members with hands-on management experience in local government.

The Fellowship is designed to provide members of the military with post-military experience to transition into service careers. It is part of ICMA’s NextGen initiative, which was designed to help build the next generation workforce in local government management. Based out of the Parks and Recreation Department, Lt. Homce will focus primarily on advancing park and recreation initiatives, while also gaining exposure to all aspects of City operations.

Lt. Homce was most recently based in Pensacola, Fla, where he served as instructor, schedules officers and student control officer. In these roles, Lt. Homce is accountable for training the next generation of Naval Aviators in Advanced Aviation Training. He has more than eight year of Naval training and experience, including a three-year operational tour stationed in Atsugi, Japan. Lt. Homce is trained and proficient in project management, customer service, team leadership, operational risk management and interpersonal Communication.

In addition to multiple decorations from the Navy, Lt. Homce holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management from Penn State University.

“The dynamic environment of the U.S. Navy has provided so many of my career milestones, but I’m eager to put what I’ve learned to work at the community level,” says Lt. Homce. “This gives me exposure to developing programs and the tactical work in crafting health, wellness and recreational needs at the local level.”

Westerville City Manager David Collinsworth says this is a good fit for Westerville, which holds a profound respect and admiration for the men and women who serve our country.

“An officer of Lt. Homce’s caliber in Westerville embodies so much of the standard we set for professionals who serve in our community,” said Collinsworth. “Hosting Lt. Homce during this Fellowship offers us an opportunity to tap into his military experience while providing him with an exposure to local government to help further advance his career transition.”

Lt. Homce may be contacted at andrew.homce@westerville.org.
The magic of fall is coming back to Heritage Park (60 N. Cleveland Ave.) with the Great Westerville Pumpkin Glow October 21-25.

“Pumpkin Glow” transforms the home to historic Everal Barn into an autuminal wonderland featuring a quarter-mile wooded trail aglow with thousands of pumpkins. In its first year in 2019, people from five different states and 82 cities/townships purchased more than 10,800 tickets to the four-day event.

“We were blown away by the regional and community response to Pumpkin Glow in its first year and look forward to another great year with even more exciting displays,” said Randy Auler, Director of Westerville Parks and Recreation.

Tickets will be available in September at www.westerville.org/registration, in-person at the Westerville Community Center (350 N. Cleveland Ave.) or at the event each day. Tickets cost $12 for adults ages 16 and up, $10 for youth ages 3-15 and children under 3 are free. Tickets are not refundable but can be exchanged for another date.

The Great Westerville Pumpkin Glow continues rain or shine. Learn more at www.westerville.org/pumpkinglow.

Construction of Johnston-McVay Park, located at 480 S. Hempstead Rd., is expected to be complete by the end of 2020.

True to tradition in Westerville, the park has been transformed into a signature space. Already a wooded area with unique environmental features, the City worked with residents to design a park that:

- **Preserves the property’s natural beauty and mature trees.**
- **Implements whimsical and educational play elements.**
- **Adds a realigned entry drive and bridge, restroom, trail network, parking lot, creek interaction zone and much more.**

The park was also designed to honor its namesakes, the philanthropic and nature-loving Johnston and McVay families. Its completion fulfills a vision set forth in the Westerville Parks & Recreation master plan (Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces, or “PROS” for short) to invest in and create a park in the southeast area of the City.

Learn more about this whimsical new park at www.westerville.org/parks.
COMMUNITY EVENTS

Pancake Breakfast

ALL YOU CAN EAT $4

WEDNESDAYS
7 - 10 a.m.

Aug. 5
Sept. 2

Bring your family and friends to our monthly breakfast at the Westerville Senior Center and enjoy pancakes, eggs, sausage, orange juice and coffee.

WESTERVILLE SENIOR CENTER
310 W. Main St.

Virtual Event

SATURDAY, JULY 11
SUNDAY, JULY 12

For updates, please visit www.westervillechamber.com

Annual Craft for Your Local Shelter Day

Meet adoptable pups while making a cozy blanket or chew toy. Bring something to donate or fleece to make a blanket, everything we make will be donated to a local animal shelter. Help make animals feel at home while waiting for their furever homes.

SATURDAY, JULY 18 • 12 - 2 p.m.
FREE  ALL AGES
Captivating Canines • 12 E. Main St.

SUNDAY PADDLE

JULY 19
ACTIVITY #313724-02

AUG. 16
ACTIVITY #313724-03

12 - 2 p.m.

Join us at Hoff Woods pond for a casual paddle on the water. This event is family friendly and perfect for any age. Try out a canoe, a kayak or both! Learn new strokes and techniques from certified instructors, or just have fun paddling on the water. Perfect for beginners.

ALL AGES • $7 for ages 8 and up

HOFF WOODS PARK POND
556 McCorkle Blvd.
COMMUNITY EVENTS

WESTERVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT • (614) 901-6500 • www.westerville.org

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THE GREAT WESTERVILLE PUMPKIN GLOW
OCT. 21-25

Ham & Bean Dinner
Thursday, Oct. 15
4:30 - 6 p.m.
$7
Westerville Community Center
350 N. Cleveland Ave.

Amazing ARTIST CLUB

This new summer drop-in art program is a creative way to enrich the summer months. As we paint, glue, create and color our way through the summer we will explore a variety of fun themes such as Yum-Ice Cream, Fun with Water, Amazing Animals, Crazy Creations and more. Planned activities will promote creativity and allow children to express their ideas artistically.

Children may get a bit messy so be sure they come in appropriate clothing.

Fridays, Aug. 7 - Aug. 28
12 - 1 p.m.
Ages 5-7 • $6
Westerville Community Center
350 N. Cleveland Ave.

IN-PERSON CLASSES ARE AVAILABLE
Visit www.westerville.org/programs for the most current information regarding what classes are available at the Westerville Community Center.

To register, visit www.westerville.org/registration.
For a complete list of Parks and Recreation policies, visit www.westerville.org/parks.
FITNESS ROOM
The new north fitness wing has two levels and four training areas that include a variety of strength training equipment.

The first floor includes squat racks, Smith machines, Olympic benches, plate-loaded equipment and dumbbells.

The second floor houses over 70 pieces of cardiovascular equipment that includes treadmills, bikes, ellipticals, seated steppers, upper body ergometers, step mills, rowers and a Jacob’s ladder in addition to the Nautilus Inspiration selectorized line.

The Agility/Stretching area is located within the track and has a multifunctional trainer, tank and tire flip along with AirDyne Bikes and rowers.

TRACK
The Track is 1/7 of a mile long and can be utilized by those ages 14 years and older.

ORIENTATION FOR NEW PASS HOLDERS
Are you new to the Community Center? New users are required to complete an orientation. Fitness staff will:

Show you how to use the cardiovascular equipment
Discuss Fitness Room policies
Have you fill out a health history questionnaire that will be kept on file

Free introductory strength-training class offered to novice exercisers. Available by appointment only; please see Fitness Room staff to schedule.

PERSONAL TRAINING AVAILABLE
Our degreed and certified health professionals will coach you to achieve optimum fitness results. Only annual passholders may use a personal trainer. Fees and appointments are arranged between the passholder and trainer. Information can be located at the community center front desk or fitness desk.

FITNESS ROOM & TRACK HOURS
Mon–Fri 5:45 a.m.–9 p.m./10 p.m.
Sat 8 a.m.–8 p.m.
Sun 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Please be advised Fitness Room & Track hours may be subject to change due to activity changes or special events.

Due to COVID-19 guidelines, please make a reservation at www.westerville.org/registration for a 90-minute time slot to enter the facility. Regular rates apply for those without a pass.

Masks and temperature checks are required to enter the facility. Masks may be removed during physical activity.

No lockers/locker rooms are available.

Remember to bring a filled water bottle. Water fountains and bottle filling stations will not be available.
COMMUNITY CENTER

GYMNASIUM

The Gymnasium can consist of two regulation-size or four smaller basketball courts or four regulation-size volleyball courts. Basketballs and volleyballs are available for your convenience.

The all-new Multi-Activity Court (MAC) Gym includes an Adventure course, one regulation-size basketball court or two quarter basketball courts, three Pickleball courts, two volleyball courts, one Futsol court, bleachers and easy access to free lockers. The MAC Gym can be accessed through the North (Fitness Wing) entrance or directly through the existing gymnasium.

Parent/Guardian may observe children nine and under at no charge. Hours are subject to change due to special events.

GYMNASIUM HOURS

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<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday-Friday</td>
<td>5:45 a.m.-9 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>8 a.m.-8 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>10 a.m.-6 p.m.</td>
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Due to COVID-19 guidelines, please make a reservation at [www.westerville.org/registration](http://www.westerville.org/registration) for a 90-minute time slot to enter the facility. Regular rates apply for those without a pass.

Masks and temperature checks are required to enter the facility. Masks may be removed during physical activity.

No lockers/locker rooms are available.

No equipment or group activities will be available in the gymnasium at this time.

Remember to bring a filled water bottle. Water fountains and bottle filling stations will not be available.
Visit one of the many Westerville parks while enjoying the paths.
Community Center Fitness Area Open

Purchase a pass today at the Westerville Community Center. See page 32 for details.