

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Craig A. Stough 1/16/2020

"City of Sylvania Update"

The Sylvania Rotary Club has invited me to give an update about the City of Sylvania at their January 30th luncheon, and I would like to share the same information with you.

Sylvania is a great place to be! We have excellent schools, great recreation programs and venues, desirable neighborhoods and housing stock, excellent healthcare services, a vibrant downtown, an active senior center, two new libraries, solid infrastructure and efficient city services. We are also fortunate to be a college town with Lourdes University sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis.

Sylvania's quality of life continues to be among the highest in the region. In order to remain competitive with newer, outer ring communities, we have ongoing programs to improve all those great amenities Sylvania has to offer and that draw people to our community. In addition, the City of Sylvania is working to identify and redevelop old or underutilized sites in our community.

Land for new development that was created by clearing old buildings east of the downtown hotel is now under construction by Republic Development. The development will have 206 luxury apartments with indoor parking below, in total a \$36 million investment. A tower crane has been erected on the site to help construct the two 4 story buildings. The first units in the west building are hoped to be ready for occupancy later this year.

In addition, two new residential developments are under construction on McCord Road and on Alexis Road. Also, a five building 252 unit adult apartment complex is expected to begin construction this summer behind the Sylvania Avenue Kroger store.

A wonderful synergy of the Sylvania Area Chamber of Commerce, Sylvania Arts Commission, Redbird Downtown Sylvania Association and Heritage Sylvania continues to make for a vibrant downtown and attract new business and community interest. We have an Art Festival, a Fall Festival, a holiday celebration, parades, a weekly summertime Farmers Market and Art Walks held the first Friday of each month.

Sylvania now has a DORA, or Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area, allowing alcohol outside on Main Street in the downtown. A parklet with outdoor seating will be erected mid-block on the west side of Main Street this spring by the Downtown Sylvania Association. Thanks also to the Sylvania Area Chamber of Commerce for their vision and continuing investment in the beautiful decorative lighting over Main Street.

Sylvania City Council has approved a 25% rate reduction for water customers in Sylvania. After years of work and negotiation with Toledo, a Regional Water Commission has been formed to equalize and stabilize water rates with Toledo and eight surrounding suburban communities. This depoliticization of water is a great step forward for regional cooperation and economic development.

The 2019 City Operating Budget is balanced with no services cut, no employees laid off and no taxes raised. Operations have been made more efficient, overtime has been reduced and equipment life has been extended. Income tax receipts continue to steadily rise as businesses continue to grow and move into Sylvania.

We have already been preparing for the 2020 census. Our population numbers will be up with the City perhaps over 20,000 and the Township over 30,000. People want to come to Sylvania to live, to go to school here and to invest here. That continued interest in Sylvania has raised our property values by 14%, more than anywhere else in Lucas County.

All in all, the future looks bright for Sylvania! Sylvania is a great place for families and business!

