

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Craig A. Stough 2/2/2023

"Downtown Visioning Process Continues"

The City of Sylvania is continuing the visioning and planning process started last year for our downtown Main Street and the overall downtown Sylvania area. We continue looking for resident input from all who are interested as the plans develop, evolve and become more detailed.

Our downtown has grown and developed greatly during the last quarter of a century thanks to a lot of community and business input and investment. There are new stores, more restaurants and many community activities that have improved the appearance of our downtown and the quality of life for all of Sylvania.

But the downtown streetscape itself hasn't been updated since the 1980's when the current sidewalks, street lights, trees and focal points were installed. Those improvements are beginning to show their age, and we now have the opportunity to re-envision what our downtown looks like and how it can best serve the overall community. Our \$2 million share of the federal American Recovery Plan Act and the City's current financial strength are making these improvements possible now.

There are two concurrent planning processes underway – one for downtown Main Street from Monroe Street to Erie Street, and another for redeveloping the overall downtown area. Consultants have been hired for both, and they are helping us to receive input and comments, and continue developing the best plans possible.

The visioning process started last August with a downtown Main Street stakeholders meeting of residents, business owners, property owners and downtown organizations to discuss the schedule of meetings to come, and to receive their initial thoughts, ideas, input and wishes. That initial meeting lead to convening a separate group interested in the downtown beyond just the Main Street improvements.

The latest of these meetings was held Wednesday, February 1st to view a preliminary presentation from our consultants, DGL and EDGE, and to receive everyone's response to the developing plan, and their further ideas for the best plans moving forward.

I thank all who have participated including residents, businesses, property owners and community organizations. The Sylvania Area Chamber of Commerce, Redbird Sylvania, Sylvania Arts and the Heritage Sylvania have all played pivotal roles by working together to better our downtown over the years, and continue doing so now.

I know that in five years our downtown will look different that it does today. Thanks to the input and planning going on today, it will grow, improve, be more ADA accessible and be even better than it is today. We need everyone's input and ideas. Sylvania is a great place to be, and your support and participation are what keeps Sylvania's quality of life moving ahead.

