

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Craig A. Stough 2/1/2024

“State of Sylvania”

The Sylvania Rotary Club invited me to give a "State of Sylvania" presentation at their February 1st meeting. I would like to share my comments with you:

Sylvania is a great place to be. People want to come to Sylvania to live, work and raise their families. Sylvania has so much to offer, and our quality of life continues to be among the highest in the region. Sylvania offers excellent educational opportunities including the Sylvania Schools, Lourdes University, Saint Joseph Parish School and the Toledo Islamic Academy. Sylvania also has great recreation programs and venues, desirable neighborhoods and housing stock, local quality healthcare, a vibrant downtown with many exciting community activities, two modern libraries, an active senior center, ample daycare options, solid and dependable infrastructure, efficient city services, responsive safety services, and a safe environment for all to live in.

The State of Sylvania is strong. Our budgets are balanced and the recent infusion of federal and state funds have strengthened our financial position. No new taxes have been added. No services have been cut. No employees have been laid off. Thanks to the spirit of cooperation with Sylvania Township, and the constructive work and synergy among our many civic organizations and groups, we are blessed in Sylvania to be able to look to the future, and plan for it, and invest in making it better.

We are fortunate to be able to continue improving our infrastructure with the many projects last year and planned for the coming years. Thanks to successfully competing for federal and state grants to pay a majority of the costs, our local tax dollars are being leveraged to accomplish more. During the last few years, we have been awarded almost \$40 million of construction grants, which we started using last year and will continue spending over the next few years. Sylvania is able to afford our required local grant share dollars, thanks to years of careful City spending and oversight by our City Council.

Last year:	Silica Road Bridge Replacement Monroe Street/Silica Road Intersection Improvements Monroe Street/Harroun Road Intersection Improvements
This year:	Main Street paving and sewer improvements between Ten Mile Creek and Convent Boulevard McCord Road resurfacing Harroun Park Stream Restoration Phase 2 Replace/Update School Zone flashing lights.
2025:	Harroun Road/Ravine Drive Intersection Alignment at Flower Hospital US 23 Intersection Exit/Entry Ramps Realignment/Reconstruction Downtown Transportation/Streetscape Improvements – Monroe Street to Maplewood Avenue
2026:	US 23 Intersection Bridge Reconstruction Downtown Transportation/Streetscape Improvements –Maplewood Avenue to Erie Street

Sylvania will continue to encourage and plan the redevelopment of underutilized commercial properties into higher and better uses, as was done at the downtown \$36 Million SOMO apartment development. We will continue investing in our neighborhoods to keep them attractive and desirable places to live. We will also continue to improve our City Safety Services and our City Services including rubbish collection, curbside materials and green recycling, street repaving and repairs, water and sewer services, street tree maintenance, parks and bike paths, street sweeping, and curbside holiday tree pickup.

Sylvania continues to grow, improve and be a great place to live, work and raise a family. People continue to choose to come to and live in Sylvania because of our high quality of life. **Our future is bright!**

