

MAYOR'S MESSAGE
Craig A. Stough 4/11/2024

"Downtown Planning Process Continues"

The City of Sylvania is continuing the planning process started in 2022 for our Downtown Sylvania Main Street streetscape, paving and utility improvements. We continue looking for your review and input as the plans have now developed, evolved and become more detailed for bidding later this year. A public input meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 17th at 5:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers.

Our downtown has grown and developed greatly during the last quarter of a century thanks to a great deal 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.

However, 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 further improve 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 creation of a Downtown Tax Incentive Financing District to direct existing taxes into the project, are making these improvements possible.

The formal visioning and planning process started in August, 2022 with a downtown Main Street stakeholders meeting of residents, business owners, property owners and downtown organizations to receive their initial thoughts, ideas, input and wishes. Over the past two years, the project has expanded to also include the Main Street block from Maplewood north to Erie, and now a total budget over \$6 million.

I thank all who have participated so far with their ideas, input and vision. The Sylvania Area Chamber of Commerce, Redbird Sylvania, Sylvania Arts and 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 two years from now our downtown will look different and better than it does today. Thanks to the input and planning that has been invested, it will grow, improve, and be ADA accessible. Sylvania is a great place to be, and your support and participation are what keeps Sylvania's quality of life moving ahead.

