



# 2020

## ANNUAL REPORT





## A message from the **COMMISSION PRESIDENT & CITY MANAGER**

Many annual reports are cookie-cutter representations of a municipality or organization's financial year in review. They use graphics, charts, data and testimonials to display their impact on the community. They are an important tool for the creators, but they often lack true meaning and context. While it is true that you will find some of the same illustrative tools in most annual reports in this one, you will see that this year's report isn't just graphics, data and numbers... it is the culmination of the perseverance of our community members in total. It is a testament not just to the hard work of our city employees, but it is a testament to the dedication of every single person who lives and works in Sandusky. Every person in our city, from age zero to 100 plays a pivotal role in the culture created here and in the community we share.


This has been even more evident in the challenges we (and the rest of the world) were presented with in 2020. No one knew what to do or what was coming next, but we heeded expert advice. We followed the science of the medical profession. Collectively, we did the right things to keep each other safe and healthy and to make sure when it was safe, our city would thrive again.

Inside this annual report, you'll find just that: stories and collective information on how Sandusky faced an almost insurmountable challenge and still thrived. You will see that Sandusky was not immune to making difficult decisions to benefit the greater good, but that ultimately, these decisions have positioned our city to move forward together. You'll see that stakeholders, entrepreneurs and investors have stood with us and have helped to bolster the resolve of so many in our city. You'll see that many projects were not canceled. They were put on life support: modified and recalibrated so that our citizens could still receive vital services and amenities, even if they looked a little different.

2020 was a year that was more than "a little different," it was historic. When you read this annual report, it is our hope that you see within the graphics, data and illustrative tools, the immense passion and dedication required by everyone in 2020. We are proud of the boundless efforts made by every employee in the City of Sandusky. We are filled with hope by the pride we see in the neighborhoods throughout our community. As we have done so many times in our past we showed that we had the ability to bend, but we will never be broken. This year's annual report is so much more than cookie-cutter because everyone in our city won't settle for anything less than extraordinary.



  
Richard Brady  
Commission President

  
Eric Wobser  
City Manager



# CITY COMMISSION & ADMINISTRATION

*All of the accomplishments listed in the 2020 annual report were made possible by the support of the City Commission and Administration.*



## CITY COMMISSION

- Passed three ballot items to bring the City Charter up to current times, including:
  - Expansion of the position titles that can apply for Chief of Police and Chief of Fire, to allow for more candidates to be able to apply.
  - Increased commissioner pay to meet the minimum salary to receive full service credit with the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System, meant to incentivize additional candidates to run for public office.
- Entered into an Enterprise Zone Agreement with the Feick Building on Market Street to continue its rehabilitation efforts.
- Acquired and began selling property on Market Street for residential new construction. This land was once part of Sandusky Cabinets and is seeing redevelopment for the first time in many years.
- Approved a Planned Unit Development for First Street, which according to preliminary plans will bring single and multi-family condominiums to a previously blighted then vacant land, formerly known as the Apex Manufacturing Company.
- Invited Pastor Johnson to address the City Commission and Sandusky community regarding actionable steps our city can make to become more inclusive and heal with current nationwide race and police tensions.
- Wrote columns and encouraged organizations and institutions to diversify their boards and commissions, and began our own work by adding younger generations, more women, and diverse representation to the city's boards and commissions, and pledged to continue doing so in future years.



## FINANCE

- Implemented the new Kronos Payroll software, which was utilized for the first pay period in 2021.
- Assisted in the implementation of the new Lexipol software to manage policies for the city.
- Completed a \$2.31M bond issuance for Cleveland Road TIF to Civista Bank for 10 years at 3.1% and a \$7.70M bond for Urban Renewal Bonds (Chesapeake TIF) to Truist for 15 years at 2.5%.

- \$8.07M in temporary notes were issued with a net interest cost of .276% to Piper Sandler & Co.
- Reviewed the city's Property and Casualty Insurance policy saving **\$115,000** over the 2019 renewed premium.
- Streamlined water and sewer procedures by transitioning the sending of bills to property owners instead of the tenants.
- Joined forces with the Erie County Auditor's Office to begin collecting lodging taxes online, at no cost to the City.



- Restructured during COVID to keep providing the same level of service with less staff. A reduction in budget also transitioned them to a maintenance model and worked on keeping existing systems online and service levels high.
- Worked through changing our security posture in an attempt to not only solidify our defenses but also make them more efficient.
- Seamlessly supported staff working remotely and during the transition to virtual meetings. During the times offices were closed to both the public and staff, IT services were still fully available to ensure residents were still served at the high level they are accustomed to.
- Worked with Public Works field crews so all now utilize Survey123 to document their daily activities. This allows for better resource management and a more complete understanding of the scope of work our field crews undertake.
- Continued to steadily add to all of our infrastructure management databases. Sewer Maintenance and Water Distribution have been dedicated and diligent partners in collecting and updating infrastructure inventories.



## LAW

- Prepared **200** Ordinances and **46** Resolutions.
- Filed **5,622** criminal filings in Sandusky Municipal Court and processed **32** Prosecutors Field Forms through the Law Department (requests by citizens for filing criminal charges).

# CITY COMMISSION & ADMINISTRATION



## FLEET MAINTENANCE

- **1,110** repair orders completed
- **\$28,487** brought in through Gov Deals sales
- **7** large vehicles/equipment (new) put into service
- Department reduction from 5 full-time to 4 full-time



## BUILDING DEPARTMENT

- Residential Permits  
**587** – Plan approval      **755** – Inspections  
Receipts **\$54,802.89**

- Commercial Permits  
**292** – Plan approval      **1,165** – Inspections  
**\$194, 203.00**
- The Public Works Permits  
**55** – Excavation in Right-of-Way permits  
**11** – Floodplain permits  
**12** – Sidewalk/Approach permits  
**10** – Stormwater permits  
**8** – Utility Taps  
**4** – Encroachment
- Zoning/Planning Permits  
**19** – Fence Permits      **9** – Shed permits

## RETIREMENTS

*A special thank you to the City of Sandusky employees who retired in 2020:*

**33**  
YEARS

**Daniel Brake**  
Fire Department

**20**  
YEARS

**Jacquelyn Jesberger**  
Finance Department

**30**  
YEARS

**Derrick Shepherd**  
Fire Department

**31**  
YEARS

**Richard Braun**  
Police Department

**33**  
YEARS

**Kelly Kresser**  
Commission Clerk

**25**  
YEARS

**Tracey Susana**  
Police Department

**29**  
YEARS

**Michael Campbell**  
Police Department

**20**  
YEARS

**Earl Mullins**  
Building Department

**28**  
YEARS

**David West**  
Police Department

**28**  
YEARS

**Richard Choquette**  
Horticulture

**25**  
YEARS

**Dana Newell**  
Police Department

**3**  
YEARS

**Richard Wilcox**  
Fire Department

**33**  
YEARS

**Todd Gibson, Sr.**  
Facilities & Properties

**27**  
YEARS

**Christopher Rankins**  
Police Department

**33**  
YEARS

**Bradford Wimmer**  
Fire Department

## GRANT FUNDING / PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS

*Various grants were awarded for projects during the course of 2020. Thank you to our local, state, and federal partners for making this possible:*

- Cedar Fair
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- Dorn Foundation
- Erie County Community Foundation
- Erie County Metroparks
- Erie County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
- Erie County Solid Waste Management District
- Friends of the Greenhouse (FOG)
- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)
- Lake Erie Shores and Islands (LESI)
- Mylander Foundation
- Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)
- Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)
- Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA)
- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA)
- Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC)
- United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA)
- Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF)

## PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS

- Barnes Nursery, Inc. – *In-kind holiday tree*
- Bill and Barb Biehl – *In-kind mulch and pavers*
- Dave Broski – *In-kind electrical supplies*
- Community Celebrations Council – *In-kind holiday lights*
- Construction Equipment & Supply – *In-kind lift for holiday decorating*
- Erie County Sheriff's Office – *In-kind grow light fixtures for the City Greenhouse*
- Mary Jane Hahler – *In-kind mulch*
- Chad Hepp – *In-kind mulch*
- Jeff Krabill and the Ohio State University Alumni Association – *In-kind plants, flowers, mulch and memorial for Jim Corso*
- Jim Maloney – *In-kind plants and mulch*
- Barb Manner – *In-kind zinnias and restoration of lion statues at Lions Park*
- The Schlessman Family Foundation – *In-kind holiday tree*
- Stein Hospice – *In-kind holiday tree and lights*
- Jodi Todi – *In-kind concrete bench for the Sunken Garden in Washington Park*
- Dave and Ann Waddington – *In-kind wildflower mulch, fertilizer and butterfly-friendly seed mix*

## COMMEMORATIVE BENCH SALES

### ***Purchased by:***

Jim Arthur  
 Dave Brown  
 Laura Crim  
 Ann Dunn  
 Howard and Sandy Elgart  
 Joseph Fedele  
 Flynn, Py & Kruse  
 Kelly Legando  
 Jody Lynch  
 Mary Mischler  
 Maria Muratori  
 Jim Murray  
 Jim Murray  
 Jim Murray  
 Patricia and Roger Pennycook  
 Lloyd Pitsenbarger  
 Carol Steuk  
 Nanette Schirg  
 Scott Thom  
 Larry and Mary Titus  
 Susan Vanbarg  
 Beth Voltz  
 Ruthie Wagner  
 Elaine Waterfield  
 Donna Willinger

### ***In honor of:***

Albert S. and Juanita F. Arthur  
 Jim and Marge Kelley  
 James Schatz  
 Charles M. and Ruth F. Barker  
 Leonard Adam Elgart  
 Justin Allen Fedele  
 Mel and Mary Stauffer  
 Abigail Marie Bastien  
 Heather Celina Wayne  
 Lloyd and Linda Pitsenbarger  
 Frank "Buddy" Muratori  
 Shirley Ann Knowles Murray and James T. Murray  
 Margaret Cummings Murray and Thomas James Murray  
 Rose Ann Rafferty Murray and Thomas E. Murray  
 Ellsworth and Ruth Grubbe  
 Linda Pitsenbarger  
 William Charles Steuk  
 Ken Schirg  
 Ray and Shirly Thom  
 Larry and Mary Titus  
 Earl and Richard Walborn and Earl and Michael Vanbarg  
 Thomas W. Voltz  
 Charles Butch Wagner  
 Charles and Elaine Waterfield  
 John and Joe Willinger







# LIVABLE CITY

*Sandusky's neighborhoods will benefit from a comprehensive approach that improves housing stock, eliminates blight, invests in neighborhood amenities and builds strong safety programs.*

## FOCUS ON IMPROVING NEIGHBORHOOD INFRASTRUCTURE

- Completely or partially resurfaced 20 streets throughout the city, totaling over 8 centerline miles: Buchanan, Church, Cleveland, Edgewater, Elwood, Hancock, Huron, Jackson, Linden, McCartney, Niagara, Pierce, Sagamore, Shoreline, Thomas, Tiffin, Washington.
- Completed several major roadway and sidewalk improvements, including Buchanan Street Reconstruction and Resurfacing, Pierce Street Reconstruction, the Urban Paving: State Route 6 (in-partnership with ODOT).
- Completed the McCartney Reconstruction project, including Storm sewer improvements and resurfacing.
- In partnership with private contractors, Forestry planted 92 new trees, trimmed 374 trees and removed 382 dead trees and/or stumps. The city was also recognized as a Tree City USA community for the 30th consecutive year.
- Completed and fulfilled the Brownfields Assessment Grant which funded environmental studies of over 25 properties to help grow the local economy by ensuring market-ready sites for new businesses.



▲ Buchanan Street



▼ McCartney Road utilities

## IMPLEMENT HOUSING PROGRAMS TO MAINTAIN SUPPLY & STIMULATE DEMAND

- Committed nearly **\$412,000** of new funds for Exterior Improvements, Down Payment Assistance, Rehabilitation and Landscaping, including in model blocks.
- Leveraged an additional **\$3,000,000+** in private construction investment and **27** home purchases (39 home purchases in 2019 • 60 home purchases in 2018 • 51 home purchases in 2017). Of the **39** homes purchased using Down Payment Assistance:
  - **11** were previously vacant  
18 in 2019 - 27 in 2018 - 23 in 2017
  - **17** were purchased by first time home buyers  
33 in 2019 - 52 in 2018 - 25 in 2017
  - **8** were purchased by residents moving from outside the city of Sandusky  
15 in 2019 - 24 in 2018 - 22 in 2017
- **98** total houses assisted  
168 in 2019 - 242 in 2018 - 145 in 2017  
*Note: some overlap due to landscaping used with other programs*
  - **27** down payment assistance  
39 in 2019 - 60 in 2018 - 51 in 2017
  - **16** substantial redevelopment  
22 in 2019 - 21 in 2018 - 10 in 2017
  - **55** exterior repairs  
107 in 2019 - 161 in 2018 - 91 in 2017
- Approved **11** residential tax abatement projects subject to the new 10-year, 75 percent abatement program. The projects included:
  - **7** new single family residences
  - **3** residential additions to existing properties
  - **1** residential renovation to existing property

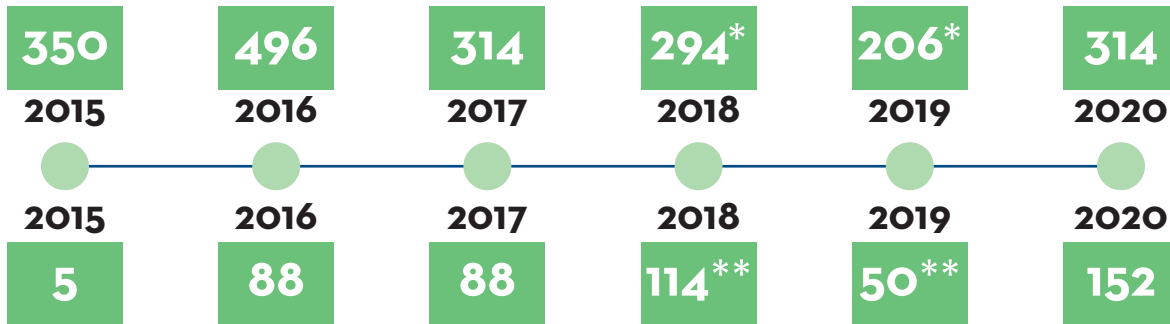


**1317 Prospect Avenue before and after**

## BLIGHT ELIMINATION & CODE ENFORCEMENT

COVID-19 had a significant impact on operations as full-time staff were transitioned to seasonal work, due to not having seasonal employees for about a three month period. During this time, staff maintained grass cutting and routine trash abatement. This cut back left full-time staff only responding to complaints only, which still generated quite a bit of activity for the department.

### TALL GRASS ABATEMENTS



### BOULEVARD & TRASH ABATEMENTS

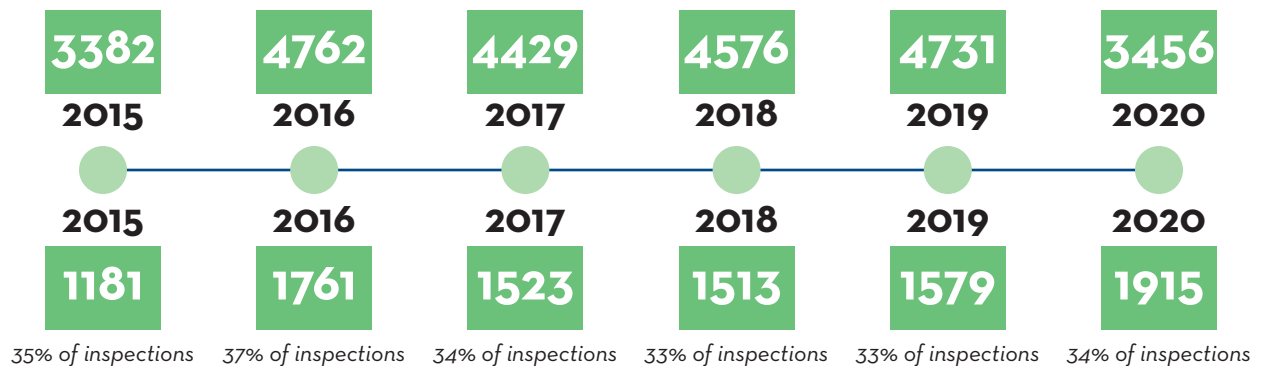
\* 2018: Decrease due to public services maintaining Cold Creek and less issues  
 \* 2019: Decrease due to less issues and almost 50% compliance rate

\*\* 2018: 65 abated by the City  
 \*\* 2019: 23 abated by the City

### EXECUTION OF SEARCH WARRANTS FOR PROPERTY CLEAN-UPS



### INSPECTIONS



### VIOLATIONS



233 Center Street before and after demo

1215 Central Avenue before and after





# LIVABLE CITY

## TARGET NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTMENT

The Sandusky Neighborhood Initiative currently targets six neighborhoods (First through Fifth Street Neighborhood, South of Kilbourne, Cove District, Garden District, West End District, and Southside District) focusing on anchor projects, placemaking investments, and a designed model block area for each neighborhood. Through the course of the five year initiative (2017 - 2021), funding includes \$600,000 for the neighborhoods and \$600,000 for model block areas. Funding is a combination of general city dollars and a generous donation from the Dorn Foundation.

- Started work on the Jaycee Park Connector Trail, a multi-use pathway. The trail will be completed in 2021 and will run the park's western edge from Milan Road south to Lane Street, connecting both the McKelvey and Osborne streets park entrances.
- City staff and commissioners spearheaded 15 neighborhood clean-ups, focusing on underpasses, parks, the waterfront and the downtown area.



## Sandusky Neighborhood CLEAN-UPS

DATE	CLEAN-UP LOCATION (STARTING LOCATION)
April 18th	City Underpasses (Tiffin Ave.)
April 25th	Churchill Park (Parking Lot)
May 9th	Orlando Pace Park & Neighborhood (Parking Lot)
May 23rd	Wightman Wierber & Jaycee Park (WW Parking Lot)
May 30th	Sandusky Bay Waterfront (Sheiby Street Boat Ramp)



\*All Cleanups begin at 9am\*



407 Decatur Street  
Sandusky, OH 44870  
419.626.6940

### Three Week School Closure Feeding Program

Free Lunch, Breakfast, & Dinner prep bags to ALL STUDENTS from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm, Monday - Friday at the following locations:

1. Mills Elementary Drive Thru 1918 Mills Street Sandusky, OH 44870	8. Foxborough Park 2032 Fox Run Trail Sandusky, OH 44870
2. Sandusky Police Station Drive Thru 222 Wedge Street Sandusky, OH 44870	9. New Day Center 1135 Warren Street Sandusky, OH 44870
3. Boys & Girls Club Teen Center 1800-1836 Kensington Avenue Sandusky, OH 44870	10. Sandusky Fire Department 3016 Venice Road Sandusky, OH 44870
4. Victory Kitchen 1613 Hayes Avenue Sandusky, OH 44870	11. Wilbert Park 2002 Tiffin Avenue Sandusky, OH
5. Nehemiah Center 1315 Cambridge Street Sandusky, OH 44870	
6. Orlando Pace Park Wamogo Drive Sandusky, OH 44870	
7. Community Youth Mentoring 904 West Washington Street Sandusky, OH 44870	

Adults will be able to visit the Victory Kitchen or visit. Other will have regularly scheduled food portions. The Salvation Army will be expanding their services.  
Sandusky Transit will be free to everyone during these three weeks.  
Please see the map located on the back of this sheet for a visual of these locations.  
For questions, contact any of the agencies listed above or call Sandusky City Schools at 419.626.6940 or email: AAS@Sandusky.k12.oh.us

- Strengthened partnerships with local organizations including the NAACP, OHgo, Care and Share, and Sandusky City Schools to help provided needed services to local residents such as school lunch drop, neighborhood parades to build community during the state-wide lockdown, and improve communication about race relations and bias training.
- Encouraged residents to go outside and greet their neighbors for an evening during the state-wide lockdown.





## BUILD COMMUNITY

- The Recreation Department continues to serve the youth of the community through out-of-school options.
- **Midtown Supper Club** – The second-year program wrapped up one week before the COVID-19 Pandemic hit. The popular program included two classes with beginners and advanced chefs-in-training who worked in the kitchen of Halo Live and Lea's Kitchen in downtown Sandusky.



### ▲ Midtown Supper Club

- **Spring Break Camp 2020** – All of our spring planning was cut short due to COVID-19.
- **Summer Playground Program** – The 51st year of the program was somewhat abridged due

to the pandemic, but Sandusky Rec was able to implement a new lunch program in collaboration with Sandusky City Schools. The staff changed operations from working in one park per day to splitting their days at two parks.

- **Coping Through COVID** – Sandusky Rec was not able to utilize Sandusky City School facilities during the pandemic, but used the Rec Room at 222 in a greater capacity in 2020. The Coping Through COVID program included art, sailing, music and expression and culminated with an unveiling of artwork on display at Vita Sandusky in downtown. The artwork has a permanent home at the Erie County Community Foundation.



### Coping Through COVID ▲

- Free programming with the help of local businesses sponsorships and partnerships continue to grow in popularity.
- **Pier Pressure** – offered free Saturday morning workouts in downtown Sandusky with a rotating schedule of local gyms/trainers. Participants were socially distanced and wore masks when needed. Several yoga sessions were also provided at the Mylander Pavilion at the Jackson Street Pier.





# LIVABLE CITY

## SUPPORT NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

### POLICE

- Despite the many challenges 2020 brought to the City of Sandusky, the Police Department remained vigilant in keeping our neighborhoods a safe place to live and play.
- Jared Oliver was hired as the new Chief of Police.
- Officers were asked to participate in drive-thru birthday parades and celebrations for local residents.
- Community Impact Officers assisted local organizations by distributing lunches to children in our community.



▲ Chief of Police, Jared Oliver



▲ Distributing lunches to community



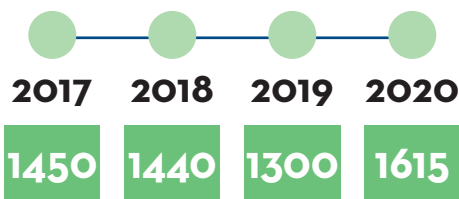
Valentines from Ontario Elementary ▲

◀ Community Impact Officers: Ofc. Chris Rankins and Ofc. Bronson Lillo

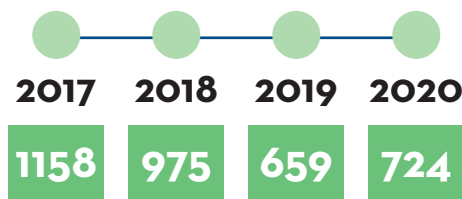
- Ontario Elementary 6th graders hand-made Valentines for all of our officers.
- Eva Olcott, Rick Sharp, and David Borsick worked together to design and manufacture a street sign topper that debuted on Tyler Street in March. This was in Memory of Officer Andrew Dunn who was killed in the line of duty on March 19, 2011 on Tyler Street.
- The City of Sandusky Police Department was recognized as a Lexipol Connect Gold level agency, reflecting our dedication to sound policy management and training.
- Continued officer engagement with members of the public:



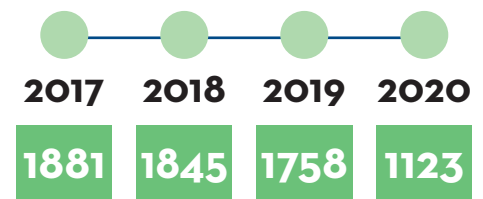
### PARK WALKS



### NEIGHBORHOOD WALKS



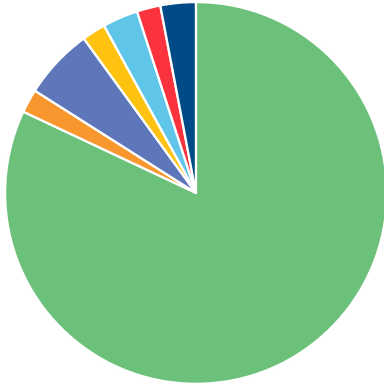
### BUSINESS WALKS





## FIRE

- Fire department personnel generated 6,349 reports in 2020:



- EMS – 82%
- Fire – 2%
- Rescue – 6%
- Hazardous Conditions – 2%
- Service Calls – 3%
- Good Intent – 2%
- False Alarms – 3%



*Fire response to State Theater collapse, Sandusky rescue boat, and a structure fire ▼*



- The Sandusky Fire Department provided mutual aid 8 times while receiving mutual aid 7 times. Sandusky Fire also provided automatic aid 10 times while receiving automatic aid 23 times.
- Sandusky Fire Department's Community Impact Officer coordinated with OHgo for participation in meal delivery and to bring neighborhoods together with parades during the COVID-19 lockdown.



- Helped celebrate birthdays and other milestones during COVID by participating in parades.
- Participated in the Sandusky Recreation Department's Winter Break Camp.

*Assisting with the Cooke Building demolition ▶*







## VIBRANT CITY

*Vibrant City strategies are designed to strengthen Sandusky's regional economy by leveraging existing assets, partnering to create new opportunities, and supporting entrepreneurs and small businesses.*

### REVITALIZATION OF VACANT BUILDINGS & BLIGHTED LAND

- Approved a tax abatement and grant funding to support the catalytic renovation of the Feick Building. The tallest building within historic Downtown Sandusky, the Feick Building is slated for a \$10 million dollar renovation after being acquired by Marous Development Group of Willoughby, Ohio. The renovation project will bring new retail and/or restaurant space on the first floor of the building and residential living space in the upper floors.



▲ *Feick Building work in progress (left), artist rendering (above)*

### 125-131 Water Street renovations ►



- Approved a tax abatement and grant funding for 125-131 Water Street. These addresses sat vacant for many years before experiencing significant damage during a 2018 wind storm. Renovations have since brought the units back into productive use, housing office space for Lake Erie Shores and Islands, retail space, and condominiums.
- Acquired 2132 Parkview and 1501 S. Forest in McArthur Park. Demolition of both properties are scheduled for 2021. The acquisitions are part of the city's continued strategy to acquire blighted properties as they become available within the Churchwell Park area as called for in the Sandusky Neighborhood Initiative. Selectively demolishing blighted housing within this neighborhood increases the number of city owned parcels in the neighborhood and sets the stage for the future redevelopment of the area. As a next step for the neighborhood, the city plans on undergoing a neighborhood planning process with stakeholders and residents in summer-fall of 2021.

- Prepared and sold the land for the Water Street Lofts project. In addition, the City provided financial assistance to the developer and buyers through the Housing Beautification and Development program. The new Water Street lofts represent a significant redevelopment of a prime location in downtown Sandusky. The lofts, which will total 13 new construction housing units when complete, represent an investment of about \$4 million dollars into the development on former Keller Building site.

### ▼ Water Street Lofts project



## SUPPORT ENTREPRENEURS & SMALL BUSINESSES

- COVID 19 Business Assistance
  - In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Sandusky re-positioned program funds totaling \$165,000 to provide local business relief grants of up to \$3,000 to 86 businesses.
- Approved three (3) economic development grants:
  - **Family Health Services, LLC** – Awarded a grant of \$65,000 to support the construction of a 3,000 square foot dental facility on the South campus of the Firelands Regional Medical Center. The project will create over 20 new employment positions at the site.
  - **Yellowstone, LLC** – Awarded a grant of \$10,000 to support the adaptive reuse of the vacant, historic property at 333 E. Washington Street through a substantial renovation that will result in the creation of five (5) new short-term rental units.



The City of Sandusky Department of Community Development has created the Local Business Relief Grant program to provide assistance to businesses in the City of Sandusky that have been negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. These grants of up to \$3,000 can be used for rent or mortgage payments, general operating or businesses expenses, utilities, payroll, and ancillary impacted business needs.

- Grant**
- \$3,000 maximum award
- Eligibility**
- Located in the city of Sandusky
  - 50 or fewer employees
  - Operates from a commercial or retail storefront in select business sectors
  - Full eligibility details can be found in the application online
- Application**
- Apply online at [www.cityofsandusky.com/BusinessRelief](http://www.cityofsandusky.com/BusinessRelief)
- Questions?**
- Contact John Storey at [jstorey@ci.sandusky.oh.us](mailto:jstorey@ci.sandusky.oh.us)



- **Bait House Brewery** – Awarded a grant of \$10,000 to support the construction of a second floor kitchen at the Meigs Street brewery to allow the company to serve food to its customers.

◀ Bait House Brewery, located at 223 Meigs Street





## CONNECTED CITY

*Sandusky must be connected to the global economy and the region and must work to provide a more seamless connection from its neighborhoods to employment, Sandusky Bay and downtown.*

### WALKING & BIKEABILITY

- As part of the Shoreline Drive Rehabilitation Project, the Sandusky Bay Pathway was recreated to establish a protected bicycle lane.



"You can't tell how many people will use a bridge by how many people are swimming across a river"

We recently completed some bicycle/pedestrian counts on the Sandusky Bay Pathway near Mile Marker Zero. Nearly 800 people used the pathway on Saturday 9/5 between 8 AM-5 PM.



3:46 PM · Sep 29, 2020 · Twitter Web App

[View Tweet activity](#)

10 Retweets 3 Quote Tweets 55 Likes

- Installed four-way stops at Fifth and Ogontz streets, as well as at Wayne and Neil Streets to improve walkability and pedestrian safety in the neighborhoods.



- Safety and sidewalk improvements were completed at various intersections along Buchanan, Camp Street and Hayes Avenue in preparation for more and younger students walking to the new Sandusky Intermediate School.



## PUBLIC TRANSIT

- Suspended fares at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic for three months.
- Redesigned SanduskyTransit.com to be more user-friendly.
- Launched EZfare, a mobile ticketing app that allows users to purchase transit passes on their phones.
- Offered free rides to polling locations on Election Day.
- Ridership:

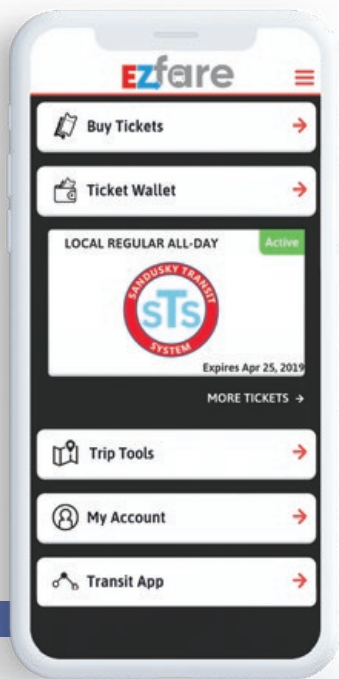


147,880

*Fixed Route*

24,921

*Dial-a-ride*



◀ *EZfare, mobile ticketing app*







## DESTINATION CITY

*As people choose to live in the same type of places as they visit, investing in projects that benefit both tourists and residents has become paramount.*

### ARTS & CULTURE

- Approved new Lange Trust of the Sandusky Library art installations city wide, along with many new locations to give additional residents and visitors the chance to see public art.

*Lange Trust Art Installation* ►



### DESTINATION DOWNTOWN

- Completed the transformation of the Jackson Street Pier from a parking lot into a park, with green spaces and streetscaping features to improve waterfront access citywide.





- The Friends of the Greenhouse obtained funding for lighting upgrades for the Boy with the Boot fountain in Washington Park to preserve and enhance community pride of a valued icon while enhancing visitors' impression of Sandusky.



- Completed the Shoreline Drive Rehabilitation Project, a project spanning the entire length of Shoreline Drive that included new sanitary and storm sewers, water main replacement, improved parking, reconstruction of the roadway, and partial burial of low-voltage utilities.

## RECREATION & WATERFRONT

- In the past four years, the Recreation Department has promoted health and wellness for all ages by adding annual walking/running events in the city.
  - **RUNDUSKY Race Series** - The area running/walking scene took a hit with many races being canceled and others going virtual. The race series still happened with some adjustments. Over 45 participants still received their hoodie for participating in 4 out of the 8 events and two grand prize winners were awarded gift certificates to North Shore Running Store.
  - **Boy with the Boot 5k/10k and Family Relay** - The third year of the event went virtual with limited participation. The event was added in 2018 as part of the city's bicentennial and will continue as an annual tradition to kick off the Stars and Stripes Community Celebration.
  - **Dot the i, Block the M** - The date for the event had to change several times due to changes in the date of the annual game. A virtual-esque event was held on December 12 and the weather couldn't have been better. The event, in its fourth year, includes two courses that can only be completed on a street grid like Sandusky's.
- The Recreation Department is the hub for special event planning within the city limits for events that cater to residents, but also visitors the city.
  - **Wightman-Wieber Kidsfest and Safety Fair** *Canceled*
  - **Ohio Bike Week** *Canceled*
  - **7th Annual National Night Out Touch-A-Truck event** *Canceled*
  - **4th Annual Dragons and Bacon Fest** *Canceled*
- The Recreation Department also provides support and communication for other city departments with community stakeholders for ongoing events in the city.
- Continued to manage the Mills Creek Golf Course and was able to do so in a safe and socially distanced manner. Recreation Program Supervisor Annette Solet took the reigns of managing the course to help boost numbers and offset some part-time hours.
- Saw an increase in the amount of transient use at the Paper District Marina.
- Hosted several fishing tournaments at the Shelby Street Boat Launch including the FLW Pro Circuit.
- Sandusky Rec partnered with Janotta & Herner and Erie MetroParks to create a Gaga Ball Pit outside 222 Meigs Street for public play. The pit was built with the help of Sandusky youth and JHI and funded through the Local Parks grant with Erie MetroParks.
- Held a Coping through COVID program in collaboration with the Sandusky Sailing Club, Leslie Griffin, Linda Kerst and Vita Sandusky.

*Fishing tournament at the Shelby Street Boat Launch ►*





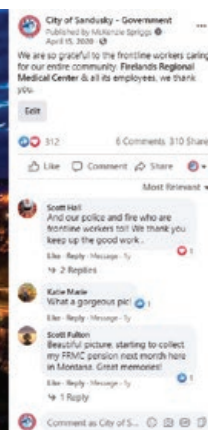


## CELEBRATED CITY

*The Bicentennial provides an opportunity to redefine Sandusky, celebrate assets and build on the City's proud history.*

### STORYTELLING

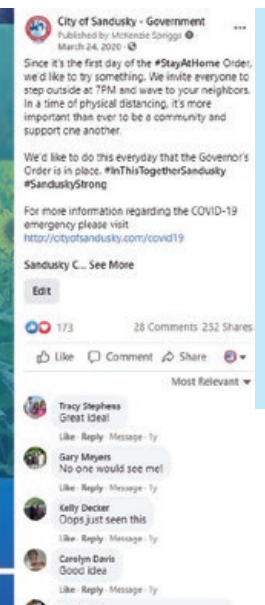
- Created a campaign around standing #StrongerTogether amidst a pandemic. The campaign consisted of videos and portraits of front line workers, community builders, and those who rose to the occasion to address gaps and needs in our community. This was very successful with thousands of views and partners participating, and was well received by the Sandusky community.



- Debuted the reopening of the Jackson Street Pier with whimsical and beautiful photos of the community using this public space and the amazing sunsets seen from this vantage point.

### CREATE STRONG WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

- Constantly communicated updates from Governor DeWine's Office and the State of Ohio to the local audience regarding closures, reopenings, mask mandates, vaccine information, assistance programs, and COVID resources.
- Communicated via social media and by creating an ever-evolving web page: [cityofsandusky.com/covid19](http://cityofsandusky.com/covid19).



## SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook Page Reach

874,415 ↑ 271.8%



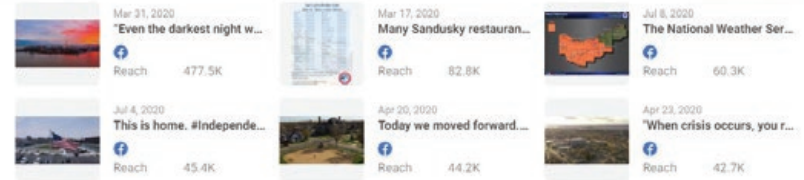
Instagram Reach

8,151 ↑ 128.2%



Content

Sort by: Reach



Audience

Facebook Page Likes

12.3K

Instagram Followers

3.5K

Age & Gender



Age & Gender



12,300 Likes

874,415 Reach



3,500 Followers

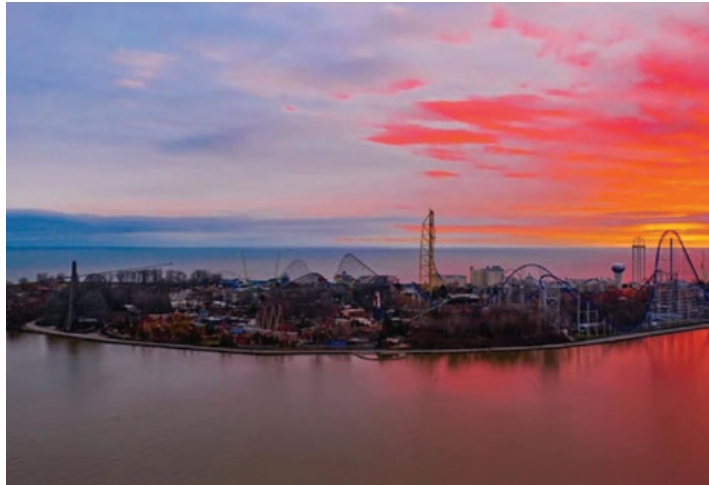
8,151 Reach



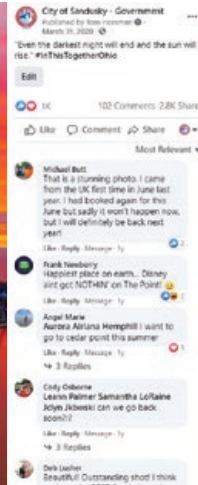
3,153 Followers

## FACEBOOK TOP POSTS

Reach: 477.5k // Engagement: 41.5k



Reach: 82.5k // Engagement: 10.8k



## TWITTER

- Communicated with residents and visitors during and after the collapse of the Sandusky State Theatre, showing city support for the cleanup and rebuild.





**240 Columbus Avenue  
Sandusky, Ohio 44870  
[www.cityofsandusky.com](http://www.cityofsandusky.com)**

### **CITY COMMISSION**

Commission President – Dick Brady  
Commission Vice President – Dennis Murray, Jr.  
Commissioner – Blake Harris  
Commissioner – Mike Meinzer  
Commissioner – Wes Poole  
Commissioner – Naomi Twine  
Commissioner – Dave Waddington

### **DEPARTMENT HEADS**

Interim Fire Chief – Jim Green  
Law Director – Brendan Heil  
Community Development – Jonathan Holody  
Public Works Director – Aaron Klein  
Police Chief – Jared Oliver  
Assistant City Manager – John Orzech  
Finance Director – Michelle Reeder  
City Commission Clerk – McKenzie Spriggs  
City Manager – Eric Wobser