



# 2021

## ANNUAL REPORT



## A message from the **COMMISSION PRESIDENT**

Emerging from 2020, no one knew what the next year might bring. We were stronger because of the resiliency of our entire community fighting through the COVID-19 pandemic, but we were certain there were still unknown challenges ahead. Yet, day by day, we resolved to continue to move Sandusky forward, incrementally, one decision, one moment at a time. Isn't that what life is about after all? Life is a series of single moments, of single days lived out. As President of the Sandusky City Commission, I have sought to make every day and every decision the very best it can be, not just for me, but for every one who lives here.

Last year, the Sandusky City Commission and staff worked tirelessly for months to reach a historic agreement with Cedar Fair - an agreement that is the largest ever both in dollars and cents and in the impact it will make in our city during the next 100 years. The tax revenue generation will provide new and improved infrastructure, recreational opportunities and enhancements city-wide for decades. For everyone in Sandusky, this agreement was a truly great accomplishment. Yet, greatness doesn't just come from big tasks and major successes. Instead, greatness comes from putting in the work when no one else wants to or when no one else feels like they can make a difference.

I am proud to say that, during the last year, our city leaders, staff, volunteers and residents made the hard decisions and did the work to make our city great, to make a difference.

Problems were solved. Our city staff and safety services pledged not only to close down, but to completely eradicate a nuisance bar in an established, close-knit neighborhood. This effort took the coordination of many different agencies and many processes and procedures to complete, but in the end, the neighborhood was restored to a safe and peaceful environment.

The Goodtime I faced an unexpected mechanical issue that nearly eradicated the boat from the shores of Lake Erie. The City of Sandusky pledged the

final \$100,000 needed to ensure the boat would remain a Sandusky fixture for residents and tourists. The community raised more than \$200,000 and with the money from the city, the Goodtime I was saved.


Communities were created and reimagined. In Cold Creek Crossing, 44 parcels of land were marketed and many sold for residential development. The Hogrefe Building opened to the public as an impressive mixture of historic preservation and ground-breaking modern utilitarian design. Small City Taphouse and CLAG Brewing Company received grant funding to renovate their historic building just south of the Hogrefe Building, bringing a cohesive presence to the block.

These are just a few of the examples of the fruits of our labor in Sandusky in the last year. You will find many more weaved throughout this annual report.

Everywhere I look in Sandusky and at every event I attend, I see so many people whose daily resolve to achieve their best translates into a palpable energy and excitement for Sandusky. I am proud to see so many people traveling to our area, not just for the world-class amusement park we have in our hometown, but for Sandusky. We have truly become a sought-after lakefront destination for tourists and people relocating to our area. This is an extraordinary achievement that did not happen overnight, but happened because of the many small actions everyone in Sandusky has taken over the course of many years.

Like every person on this earth, we will wake up each day and strive for greatness. Yet, as we move forward, we can do so knowing that we have already achieved so much. Our future is truly limitless together.



  
Richard Brady  
Commission President

# CITY COMMISSION & ADMINISTRATION

*All of the accomplishments listed in the 2021 annual report were made possible by the support of the City Commission and Administration.*

## CITY COMMISSION

- Approved an agreement for professional services contract for the Cedar Point Wetland Project – Phase 1 related to the Sandusky Bay Initiative. This project involves the area along the western edge of the Cedar Point Causeway immediately to the south of the overflow/employee parking lot. The object is to create nearshore wetland areas with variations in water depth, water flow, and native wetland vegetation.
- Approved the sale of 44 parcels of real property, located in the Cold Creek Crossing Subdivision and owned by the city as part of the Land Reutilization Program.
- Created a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) and established requirements to ensure public health and safety within that area.
- Approved a grant for \$100,000 to Lake Erie Island Cruises, LLC to assist with efforts to return the Goodtime I to the Jackson Street Pier.
- Approved a grant in the amount of \$300,000 through the Economic Development Fund Program to Cattien, LLC (dba Small City Taphouse and CLAG Brewery) for exterior masonry restoration and facade improvements.
- Passed legislation, in partnership with Cedar Point, to increase the Admission Tax rate to 8% effective January 1, 2022. Previously the rate was 4%.
- Passed legislation, in partnership with Cedar Point, to institute an 8% parking tax rate.
- Authorized a development agreement with Cooke Building, LLC for the provision of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds to assist in the construction of the new Hogrefe Building. The project also received JobsOhio Vibrant Community grant funds.

## FINANCE

- The City was awarded \$18,091,098 in COVID relief funds through the American Rescue Plan Act.
- The City received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting award by

the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its 2020 annual comprehensive financial report (ACFR).

- After paying down \$800,000 worth of city debt, the 2021 various purpose notes were issued for \$7.29M with net interest cost of .265% to Piper Sandler & Co.
- The property and casualty insurance premium was \$335,000 for the annual premium starting on December 1, 2021. This was a savings of \$105,000 compared to 2019 renewal figures of \$440,000.
- A new feature allowed online payments for Code and Building Department transactions.
- Offered Deferred Compensation Roth Contributions for employees.

## IT

- Assisted in the implementation and configuration of a new HRIS System for the city.
- Provided support and remote work from home solutions as needed to keep the city operating safely and efficiently.
- Expanded the use of Geographic Information System as an asset management solution as well as public communication, grant opportunity support, and in-house analysis.

## LAW

- Prepared 204 ordinances and 43 resolutions.
- Filed 6,404 criminal filings in Sandusky Municipal Court and processed seven Prosecutors Field Forms through the Law Department (requests by citizens for filing criminal charges).
- The City responded to a total of 236 requests for public records in 2021 (March – December).

## HUMAN RESOURCES

- Hired a Diversity and Economic Opportunity Manager to develop and implement a plan for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.





# CITY COMMISSION & ADMINISTRATION

## FLEET MAINTENANCE

- 1,394 repair orders completed
- \$44,916 brought in through 25 Gov Deals auctions
- Four new large vehicles put into service, all were custom builds
- 30 year employee retired and the displaced full-time mechanic in 2020 was brought back to Fleet Maintenance.

## BUILDING DEPARTMENT

- **Residential Permits**  
688 – Plan approvals  
528 – Inspections  
\$67,388.04 – Receipts

- **Commercial Permits**

292 – Plan approvals  
462 – Inspections  
\$142,644.02 – Receipts

- **Public Works Permits**

68 – Excavation in Right-of-Way permits  
15 – Floodplain permits  
24 – Sidewalk/Approach permits  
18 – Stormwater permits  
22 – Utility Taps  
8 – Encroachment

- **Zoning/Planning Permits**

76 – Fence permits  
17 – Shed permits  
33 – Sign permits

## RETIREMENTS

*A special thank you to the City of Sandusky employees who retired in 2021:*

**26**

YEARS

**Steve Brown**

*Building Department*

**25**

YEARS

**Dan Lauber**

*BIWW*

**30**

YEARS

**Gerald Mahler**

*Fleet Maintenance*

**21**

YEARS

**D. Michael Morris**

*Fire Department*

**27**

YEARS

**Wendy Roach**

*Police Department*

**23**

YEARS

**Bill Burch**

*Properties & Facilities*

**34**

YEARS

**Deb Leslie**

*Building Department*

**28**

YEARS

**Ricky McGee**

*Fire Department*

**26**

YEARS

**Kenneth Nixon**

*Police Department*

**33**

YEARS

**Terry Wade**

*Sewer Maintenance*

**25**

YEARS

**Kevin Youskievicz**

*Police Department*

## GRANT FUNDING / PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS

*Various grants were awarded for projects during the course of 2021. Thank you to our local, state, and federal partners for making this possible:*

- Dorn Foundation
- Erie County Community Foundation
- Erie County Solid Waste Management District
- Friends of the Greenhouse (FOG)
- Mylander Foundation
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- Erie County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
- Erie County Solid Waste Management District
- Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)
- Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)
- Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA)
- Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC)



## PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS

- Barnes Nursery, Inc. – In-kind holiday tree services & tree for Arbor Day planting
- Barabara and Bill Biehl – Volunteer services at various parks
- Brady Signs – In-kind sign enhancement at Oakland Cemetery
- Cedar Point – In-kind tropical plants and flowers
- Community Celebrations Council – In-kind holiday lights
- Construction Equipment & Supply – In-kind lift for holiday decorating
- Kathleen Dudek – Volunteer services at various parks
- Nanette Guss – Volunteer Services at various parks
- Mary Jane Hahler – Volunteer services at various parks
- Chad Hepp – In-kind mulch and volunteer services at various city parks and properties
- Jeff Krabill and the Ohio State University alumni association – In-kind plants, flowers, mulch and volunteer services at Facer Park
- Barb Manner – In-kind zinnias and volunteer services at Lions Park
- Merry Go Round Museum – In-kind holiday tree
- Sharon Smith – In-kind magnolia tree at Oakland Cemetery
- Stein Hospice – In-kind holiday tree and lights
- Megan and Matt Stookey – Volunteer services at gateway triangle on Venice Road
- Sharon Stookey – Volunteer services at various parks
- Allison and Mike Will – In-kind holiday lights for Washington Park

## COMMEMORATIVE BENCH SALES

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

Elizabeth Good, Kirk Matthews and Andy Hibbard  
Susan Clough  
Jamie Delaney

### ***In Honor of:***

Louisa P. Hibbard  
Charles Orvis Hunter  
James Foos



## VIBRANT CITY

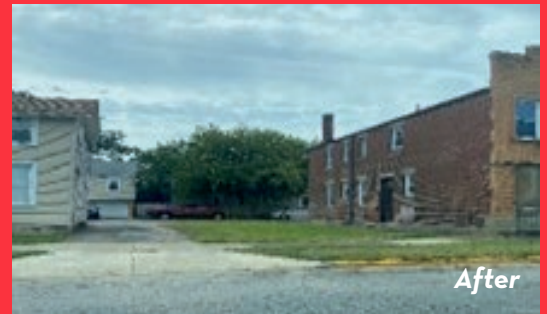
*Vibrant City strategies are designed to strengthen Sandusky's regional economy by leveraging existing assets, partnering to create new opportunities, and supporting entrepreneurs and small businesses.*

### REVITALIZATION OF VACANT BUILDINGS & BLIGHTED LAND

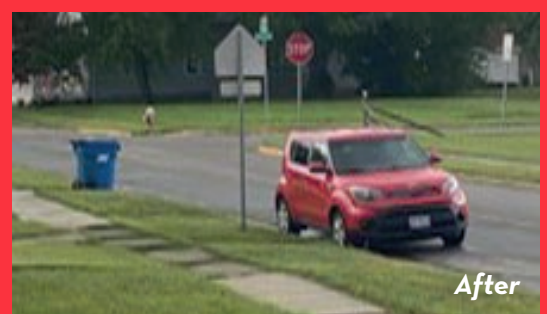
- The City continued addressing blighted properties that required demolition. In 2021, the City of Sandusky utilized CDBG funding to demolish ten properties:
  - 1501 S. Forest Drive
  - 2132 Parkview Boulevard
  - 2111 Parkview Boulevard
  - 506 East Monroe Street
  - 923 Ogontz Street
  - 1029 5th Street (garage)
  - 1506 Lindsley Street (garage)
  - 1416 Sagamore Street
  - 213 Reese Street
  - 602 Harrison Street
- Asbestos surveys were completed at seven properties.



#### 506 E. Monroe Street



#### 923 Ogontz Street





## SUPPORT ENTREPRENEURS & SMALL BUSINESSES

- The Economic Development Incentive Committee approved 16 grants, committing a total of \$289,217 to the following:
  - Ahner Commercial
  - Maca Root Juice Bar
  - Wake Up and Waffle
  - Tony's
  - Your Turn Special Events, LLC
  - Port Sandusky Restaurant, LLC
  - Body by Erica Taylor, LLC
  - Venue 634, LLC
  - Kiddie Korral Preschool
  - 135-145 Columbus Avenue
  - Derrick's Diner, LLC
  - Small City Taphouse
  - 333 E. Washington Street
  - Dairy Frost
  - Sweet Potato Catering, LLC
  - Everwild Spirits, LLC
- Approved two new enterprise zone tax abatement agreements:
  - RDMJD, LLC – Ordinance No. 21-037 (passed 3/22/21) authorized a 75% real property tax abatement on the value of new improvements for a ten year period. RDMJD, LLC purchased and renovated the former Sandusky YMCA building at 2101 W. Perkins Avenue, Sandusky. The total cost of the renovations was over \$150,000. The renovation project allowed Ahner Commercial & Supply, LLC to relocate into the facility from outside the City of Sandusky.

*Ahner Commercial & Supply, LLC*



- Everwild Spirits, LLC – Ordinance 21-074 (passed May 24, 2021) authorized a 75% real property tax abatement on the value of new improvements for a ten year period. Everwild Spirits, LLC purchased the building at 212 Hancock Street, Sandusky and planned to redevelop the property into a craft bourbon distillery and tasting room at a total cost of over \$1.4M. The project was expected to create a minimum of three permanent full time eight part-time employment positions. The City also provided an Economic Development Fund grant to assist the project.





# 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.*

## IMPLEMENT HOUSING PROGRAMS TO MAINTAIN SUPPLY & STIMULATE DEMAND

- Committed nearly \$218,500 of new funds across three programs.
- Leveraged over \$3,000,000 in private construction investment and 11 home purchases (27 home purchases in 2020, 39 home purchases in 2019, 60 home purchases in 2018, 51 home purchases in 2017). Of the 11 homes purchased using the Down Payment Assistance category:
  - 4 were previously vacant (11 in 2020, 18 in 2019, 27 in 2018, 23 in 2017)
  - 7 were purchased by first time home buyers (17 in 2020, 33 in 2019, 52 in 2018, 25 in 2017)
  - 6 were purchased by residents moving from outside the city of Sandusky (8 in 2020, 15 in 2019, 24 in 2018, 22 in 2017)
  - 55 total houses assisted (98 in 2020, 168 in 2019, 242 in 2018, 145 in 2017)
  - 11 purchase assistance for owner occupancy (27 in 2020, 39 in 2019, 60 in 2018, 51 in 2017)
  - 8 substantial redevelopment (16 in 2020, 22 in 2019, 21 in 2018, 10 in 2017)
  - 36 exterior repairs (55 in 2020, 107 in 2019, 161 in 2018, 91 in 2017)



**1141 E. Farwell Street**  
*New Residential Construction -  
Firelands Habitat for Humanity*



**319 E. Madison Street**  
*before and after  
Exterior Rehabilitation*



**1311 Columbus Avenue**  
*before and after  
Exterior Paint*







**806 South Meadow Drive**

*New Construction - Residential Tax Abatement*



**241 Cedar Point Road**

*2nd floor addition - Residential Tax Abatement*



**1035 Hancock Street**

*before and after  
Residential Renovation  
Residential Tax Abatement*



- Approved 20 residential tax abatement projects subject to the new 10-year, 75% abatement program (11 in 2020). The projects included:

- 15 new single family residences (7 in 2020)
- 2 residential additions to existing properties (3 in 2020)
- 3 residential renovation to existing property (1 in 2020)



**830 Old Mill Place**

*New Development for Land Reutilization*



**1516 Camp Street**

*Lot Split for Land Reutilization  
(added driveway with side lot expansion)*

- There were 24 deeds transferred to or from the City Land Bank for reutilization purposes:
  - 10 properties sold for new development in the Cold Creek Crossing Sub Division
  - 1 property sold for new development on W. Market Street
  - 5 lot splits for side yard expansion
  - 8 property acquisitions through Sheriff Sale or forfeiture



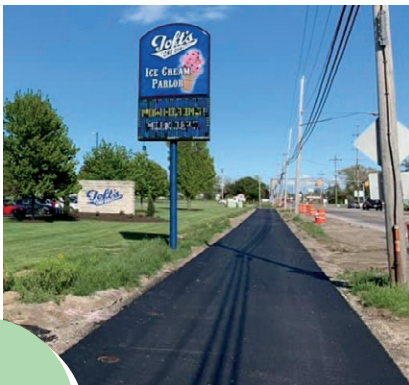
# LIVABLE CITY

## FOCUS ON IMPROVING NEIGHBORHOOD INFRASTRUCTURE

- In partnership with private contractors, Forestry planted 30 new trees, trimmed 568 trees and removed 145 dead trees. The City was also recognized as a Tree City USA community for the 31st consecutive year.
- Performed full service lead line replacement at 39 residential properties
- Installation of 4-Way Stops at various intersections along Wayne and Water streets, as well as 3-Way stop installation on Hancock Street to improve walkability and pedestrian safety in the neighborhoods.
- Completion of several major capital improvement projects including;
  - Shoreline restoration work at Shoreline Park and Paper District Marina
  - Camp Street resurfacing and reconstruction
  - 2021 local resurfacing project
  - 2021 sewer lining project
  - HVAC system replacement at Fire Station #7
  - WWTP digester cleanings
  - 2021 CDBG Street rehabilitation
  - Public parking lot resurfacing (E. Market grounds and Wayne Street lots)
  - Jaycee Park Connector Trail
  - West Side Utility and Connectivity Project



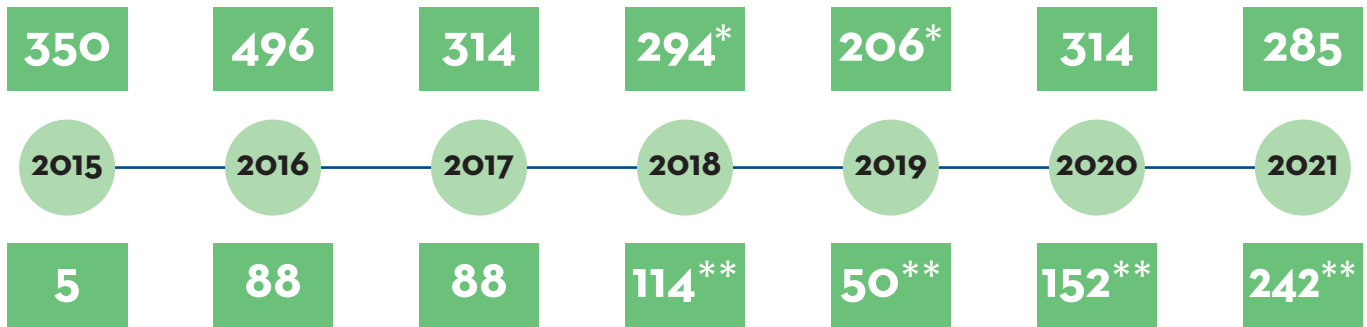
- Annual sewer lining projects assist with maintaining sewer infrastructure underground that accepts sewer flows from properties and takes it to the sewer plant for processing. The lining process helps extend the useful life of the infrastructure, increases pipe capacity by speeding up flow velocities and minimizes the amount of above ground work. This work also reduces sewer maintenance's regular work on these lines.



- Public parking lot resurfacing assisted with improving public parking lots within the downtown area that are heavily used by residents and students of the BGSU Campus and businesses along both East Market and Wayne Street. This work also reduces the Street Department's maintenance in those areas.
- Sewer Plant maintenance projects such as the digester cleaning projects, are crucial in order to keep our plant in good operation; providing a fully-functioning and safe sewer system to our community is imperative.

## BLIGHT ELIMINATION & CODE ENFORCEMENT

### TALL GRASS ABATEMENTS



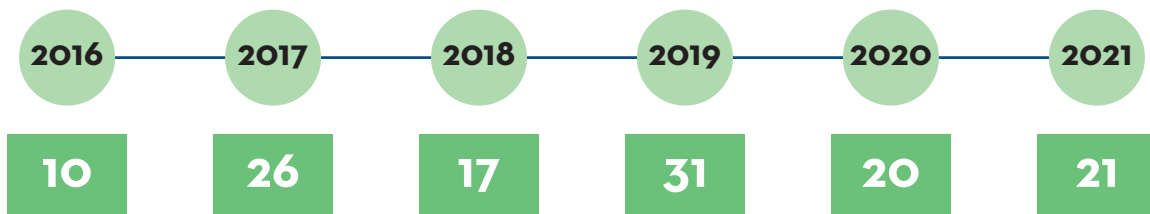
### BOULEVARD & TRASH ABATEMENTS

\* **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

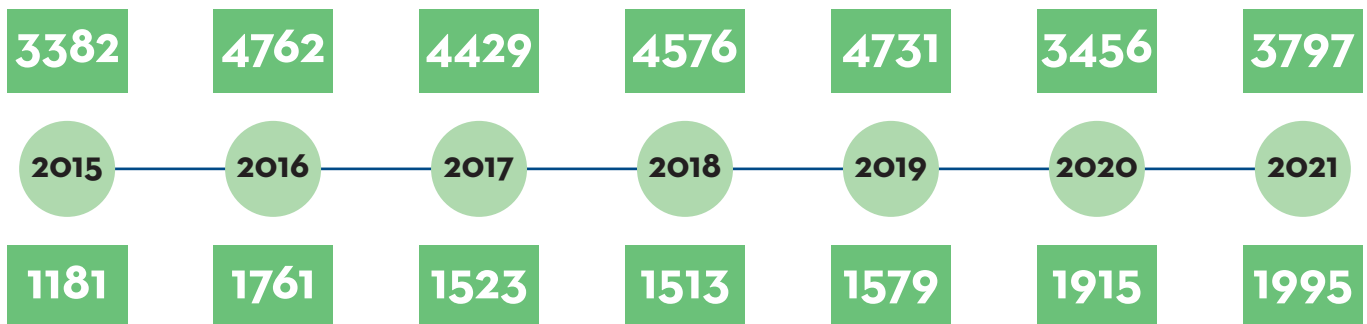
\*\* **2020:** 56 abated by the City  
 \*\* **2021:** 91 abated by the City

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



### INSPECTIONS

**2021 Inspections**    Inspections - 2,572    Triennial inspections - 1,134    Transient Inspections - 91



35% of inspections    37% of inspections    34% of inspections    33% of inspections    33% of inspections    55% of inspections    53% of inspections

### VIOLATIONS





# LIVABLE CITY

## BUILD COMMUNITY

- During 2021 the city supported, through CDBG, numerous public service agencies including:
  - OHgo who assisted at least 767 people with meals as well as access to mainstream groups and services through the OHgo Mobile Food Pantry.
  - Erie County Senior Center's Meals on Wheels Program delivered 152 hot meals to senior citizens within the City of Sandusky.
  - The Center for Cultural Awareness conducted a mentorship program assisting 13 youths.
- \$120,000 through CDBG CV, was made available for food pantries. Five grant agreements were signed to Second Harvest (\$50,000), Victory Kitchen (\$5,000), Care and Share (\$15,327), the Boys and Girls Club (\$7,777), and Father's Heart Church (\$28,223).



- Hosted 11 neighborhood ice cream socials in six different neighborhoods across Sandusky to update residents on what has been happening in their neighborhoods, as well as to hear feedback about what they want to see going forward.

*Neighborhood Ice Cream Socials*  
Wednesdays at 7:00pm

Sept. 1	Talon Flohr Park
Sept. 8	Churchwell Park
Sept. 15	Sandusky Rec
Sept. 22	Lions Park
Sept. 29	Central Park
Oct. 6	Jaycee Park North

- Free programming with the help of local businesses sponsorships and partnerships continue to grow in popularity:
  - Pier Pressure: Free Saturday morning workouts continued in downtown Sandusky with a rotating schedule of local gyms/trainers.
  - Several yoga sessions were also provided at the Mylander Pavilion at the Jackson Street Pier.



- City staff and commissioners spearheaded neighborhood clean-ups in the spring and fall, focusing on parks, the waterfront and the downtown area, as well as drop off days at the Shelby Street Boat Launch.

## ▼ Neighborhood cleanups

**LOVE where you LIVE**

2021 Community Clean-up & Beautification Series

It's time to spring clean Sandusky!  
Help clean your yard and neighborhood as we get ready to enjoy summer and welcome back visitors.

**DROP-OFF DAY**  
Saturday, April 24 • 9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Shelby Street Boat Launch

**A CLEAN WELCOME**  
Saturday, May 1 • 9:00 am - 10:00 am  
Main Corridor & Downtown Clean-Up

**LOVE WHERE YOU PLAY**  
Saturday, May 8 • 9:00 am - 10:00 am  
City-wide park clean-up giving the parks a spring cleaning and foundation for summer play and programming.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:

Hunter Furnace & Sheet Metal Men of Action Vintages Bar Brandy Sign Garage Dirt Works Underground Utilities, Inc. Spear Bros, Inc. Barnes Nursery The Frozen Tire Murray & Murray Co., L.P.A. Gundlach Sheet Metal Works Inc. H2 Property Management Flynn, Py & Kruse LEWCO, Inc. Latalyn Design Fick Design Group & Fick Contractors Republic Services Imagine Baking Towboat US Outspine.com Vite Sandusky Eric Blacktop Eco Tree Services



**CITY OF SANDUSKY CITY WIDE CLEANUP**

SATURDAY, September 25, 2021  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
SHELBY ST. BOAT LAUNCH, 101 SHELBY ST.

**OPEN TO CITY OF SANDUSKY RESIDENTS ONLY**  
**PHOTO ID REQUIRED**  
Volunteers will be waiting to help unload items

DROP OFF ITEMS:	ITEMS <u>NOT</u> ACCEPTED:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mattresses/box springs</li> <li>Unwanted household items</li> <li>Electronics</li> <li>Furniture</li> <li>Bicycles/exercise equipment</li> <li>Appliances</li> <li>Carpet</li> <li>Batteries</li> <li>Unwanted paper documents</li> <li>Limit 2 banker boxes per household</li> <li>Passenger car and light truck tires</li> <li>Limit 10 per person</li> <li>Max of 1,000 tires will be collected</li> <li>Rims must be removed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction debris</li> <li>Hazardous Waste</li> <li>Paint</li> <li>Propane tanks</li> <li>No liquid recycling</li> <li>Household garbage</li> <li>Prescription pills</li> <li>Commercial landscaping debris</li> <li>Residential yard debris</li> <li>Trimming, sod, stump or rock</li> <li>TV's</li> <li>NO COMMERCIAL TRAILER LOADS AND/OR OVERSIZED U-HAUL LOADS</li> </ul>

**THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS**  
SANDUSKY CITY SCHOOLS' GENTLEMEN'S CLUB, ALLSHRED SERVICES, BARNES NURSERY, CYCLONE SERVICES, GOODWILL INDUSTRY, INTERSTATE BATTERY, OHIO TIRE TERMINAL, SANDUSKY POLICE DEPARTMENT, SANDUSKY STEEL



## ▲ Drop-off Days at Shelby Street Boat Launch





# LIVABLE CITY

## SUPPORT NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

### POLICE

- While still dealing with the pandemic in 2021, the Sandusky Police Department was able to reconnect with our community through our Community Policing initiatives.
- Officers assisted OHgo, the Sandusky branch of the NAACP, Care and Share, Project Noelle, Serving our Seniors, Ability Works, the Sandusky City Schools, and many other organizations.



- Community Impact Officer Hill, in conjunction with the Sandusky City Schools, organized a very successful youth flag football league.
- Officers assisted with several youth events at city parks, splash pads and the winter break camp.
- City of Sandusky Police Department was recognized as a Lexipol Connect Gold level agency for the second straight year, reflecting the department's dedication to sound policy management and training.
- Officers worked with the Recreation Division to host the annual Touch-a-Truck event.



### PARK WALKS

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
1450	1440	1300	1615	1826

### NEIGHBORHOOD WALKS

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
1158	975	659	724	762

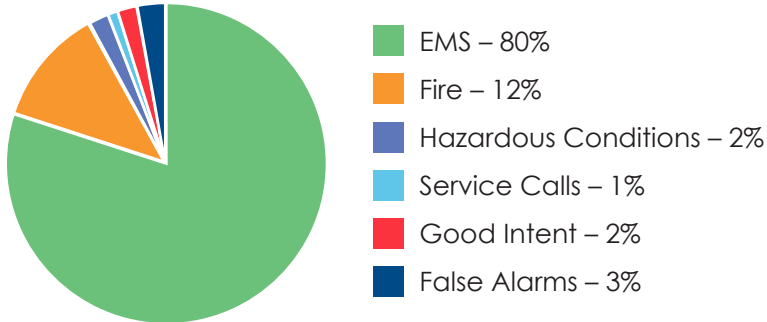
### BUSINESS WALKS

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
1881	1845	1758	1123	1064



## FIRE

- Fire department personnel generated 6,659 reports in 2021:



- The Sandusky Fire Department provided mutual aid 67 times while receiving automatic aid 23 times and mutual aid 22 times.
- Funded by COVID relief money, Fire Station #7 had its HVAC system, carpeting, and ceiling replaced.
- Through a lighting grant, Fire Station #7 had its interior lighting upgraded to LED's.
- Promoted Mario D'Amico to Fire Chief.
- Sandusky Fire department participated in numerous community activities:
  - Assisted Fathers Heart Church at their food pantry
  - Delivered the Easter Bunny to the annual city Easter egg hunt
  - Delivered Santa to the annual city tree lighting ceremony
  - Participated in Sub Zero with a Hero
  - Participated in Touch-a-Truck
  - Dropped pumpkins for the annual city pumpkin drop
  - Worked with SPD and Sandusky City Schools to coach flag football for elementary children
  - Stood by as St. Mary's students raced cardboard boats at their annual senior class cardboard boat regatta
  - Escorted Duane Lash around the Larchmont neighborhood while he delivered homemade rib and chicken dinners in honor of former Sandusky firefighters Tony Bonner and Lonnie Register. This event was coined the "Love thy neighbor" event.



▲ Fire Chief D'Amico



▲ Sub Zero with a Hero





# 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

- The City Hall Art Gallery, located on the first floor of city hall, debuted. This was a project of the Public Arts and Culture Commission to bring pieces of art from local artists to City Hall for public display.
- Approved new art installations through the Lange Trust Midwest Sculpture Initiative Outdoor Sculpture Walk. This project gives residents and visitors numerous opportunities to see public art throughout the city.

## DESTINATION DOWNTOWN

- Developed a Downtown Sandusky Master Plan, a comprehensive plan for the future development of the downtown area, which was adopted by the City Commission.
- The Recreation Division is the hub for special event planning within the city limits for events that cater to residents, but also visitors the city.

- The annual Easter Egg Hunt continued with over 3,000 eggs and a collaboration with Sandusky Rotary on prizes for children.
- Wightman-Wieber Kidsfest & Safety Fair returned to the Sandusky Bay Pavilion.



▲ Annual Easter Egg Hunt



- 7th Annual National Night Out Touch-A-Truck event returned and was hosted at Battery Park Marina after a one-year Covid hiatus. The movie Cars was shown at the Sandusky Bay Pavilion.
- The Downtown Trick or Treat included a Monster Mash Parade, pumpkin drop and Trick or Treat Cruise on the Goodtime I.
- Sandusky Rec also provided support and communication for other city departments with community stakeholders for ongoing events in the city.



▼ Farmers Market



▼ Party at the Pier



▼ Concerts





## RECREATION & WATERFRONT

- Shoreline restoration work at Shoreline Park provided improvements to shoreline protection along the west finger of Shoreline Park, including a new pathway to the northern end of the finger, creating better access for fishing and recreation in this area. The project also aimed to reduce erosion and real property damage and loss from wave-action at this site.
- Engaged over 820 youth through 20 different programs and events including Bowling, Spanish lessons, community sailing, creative writing Sign Language, Make it SEW Easy, Midtown Supper Club, Summer Park Program, Winter Break Camp, to name a few.
- The Recreation Division has promoted health and wellness for all ages through two annual walking/running events in the city.
  - **Boy with the Boot 5k:** The fourth year of the event had over 100 participants. 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 & Stripes Community Celebration.
  - **Dot the i, Block the M:** The Race Before the Game had over 100 participants and was the second-to-last event of the RUNDUSKY Race Series. The event, in it's fifth year, includes two courses that can only be completed on a street grid like Sandusky's.
- Mills Creek Golf Course had over 16,000 rounds in 2021. The course leased 12 new golf carts to expand their aging fleet and installed a new pump for the irrigation system.



Shoreline Restoration work ▲  
at Shoreline Park



- The Recreation Division debuted the Civista Bank Ice Skating Rink, a synthetic ice rink, at the Jackson Street Pier. The operating season started before Thanksgiving and ran through mid-January, Thursday and Friday evenings and all day Saturday and Sunday. Additional hours were added during the winter breaks.

### ▼ Movies by the Bay



### ▼ Wightman Wieber Park







# 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.*

## CONNECTIVITY

- West Side Utility & Connectivity Project installed a 1-mile portion of the Sandusky Bay Pathway along Venice Road.
- Jaycee Park Connector Trail is a .44 mile multi-use pathway connecting neighbors from Milan Road south to Lane Street and tying in Osborn Street and McKeveley Street
- Through several roadway and resurfacing projects the City resurfaced 173 streets throughout the City, totaling over 14.8 centerline miles.

## PUBLIC TRANSIT

- Offered free rides to polling locations on Election Day.
- Ridership recovered after being down in 2020 due to COVID.



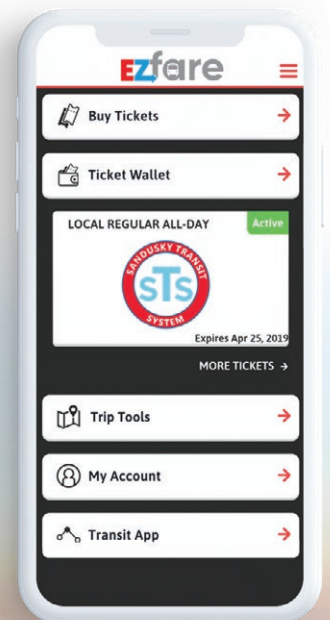
## RIDERSHIP

**219,484**

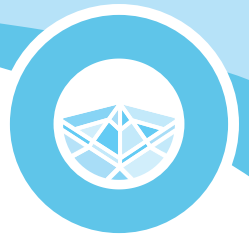
**Fixed Route**

**22,857**

**Dial-a-ride**



# CELEBRATED CITY



*Sandusky continues to redefine itself, while celebrating its strengths and building on the City's proud history.*

## BEST HOMETOWN

- The City of Sandusky was recognized by Ohio Magazine as a Best Hometown. To determine honorees, Ohio Magazine solicited nominations and conducted site visits across the state.
- The editorial board evaluated nominees in six categories: community spirit, education, entertainment, health and safety, business environment, and culture and heritage.



## MOST AFFORDABLE LAKE TOWNS



- Sandusky also received the distinction of being ranked Number 1 in Realtor.com's 2021 list of Most Affordable Lake Towns.







**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 – Steve Poggiali  
Commissioner – Dave Waddington

### **DEPARTMENT HEADS**

Fire Chief – Mario D'Amico  
Law Director – Brendan Heil  
Community Development Director –  
Jonathan Holody  
Public Works Director – Aaron Klein  
City Commission Clerk – Cathy Myers  
Police Chief – Jared Oliver  
Assistant City Manager – John Orzech  
Finance Director – Michelle Reeder  
City Manager – Eric Wobser