

City of
WYOMING
Annual Report

2014





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Photo:

(Page 3 top) Wyoming's Management Team: Gary Baldauf – Police Chief, Rusty Herzog – Police Lieutenant, Lynn Tetley – City Manager, Jeremiah Caudill – Finance Director/Tax Commissioner, Megan Statt Blake – Assistant Community Development Director

Second Row, Left to Right: Mike Lippert – Assistant Public Works Director, Rachel Leiningner – Director of Recreation and Citizen Engagement, Steve Owens – Fire Chief, Terry Huxel – Public Works Director

Back Row, Left to Right: Karen Zeilman – Director of Administration, Terry Vanderman – Community Development Director

2014 Annual Report - City Manager's Letter

"Just Ask ... We're here to serve you."



It was another great year in the City of Wyoming! The staff is pleased to present the 2014 Annual Report that highlights the stories, events, and activities that framed a very successful and exciting year in our community. As you read this report, you will notice a theme concentrated on exemplary service delivery, and an ongoing effort to ensure that our residents are engaged and active in this vibrant and unique community.

In the fall of 2014, Business Insider listed the City of Wyoming as the 24th Best Suburb in the Country. This designation comes as no surprise

to the residents who call Wyoming home. Excellent schools, beautifully maintained and architecturally diverse homes, vigorous and involved residents, excellent City services, and a prime location in Hamilton County all contribute to a community that offers an exceptional quality of life.

In an ongoing effort to connect with our residents, the City launched a series of Community Engagement Forums in 2014 that will continue in 2015. The purpose of these forums is to provide an opportunity for candid dialogue among residents, elected officials, and City staff about what our residents like about Wyoming, what they might change, and what they see as the vision for our future. This feedback will be used to create a "lens" tool that will be utilized by City staff and City Council as a shared community values filter to apply when making decisions regarding the community and our future. Please stay tuned to learn more about how you can participate in a future Community Engagement Forum!

It is the goal of City staff to ensure that Wyoming is a full-service place to live and have fun! In 2014, several enhanced programs were featured on the Village Green. These included the Summer Groovin' Concert Series featuring partnerships with the Wyoming Business Association and Junior Woman's Club. Additionally, the first annual Wyoming Exotic Wheels and Wine Festival drew over 2,000 attendees to the City Center by highlighting food, beverage, and some of the most unique vehicles in the country.

At the 2014 Fall Festival in October, City staff and members of City Council hosted a booth that featured our "Just Ask" campaign. The idea behind this concept is simple - Wyoming City staff is here to serve residents. Opportunities to interact with City staff and elected officials are abundant, including the City's enhanced website featuring an interactive "Citizen Concern Action Line" and the City's presence on Facebook and Twitter. These efforts compliment ongoing communications that include the Word on Wyoming, RecTimes, and the weekly e-newsletter emails. The "Just Ask" campaign encourages residents to contact City staff whenever they have any questions or concerns. It is quite common that an issue raised by a resident can be addressed in just one call or email!

Thank you for taking the time to read this 2014 Annual Report. And please remember to "Just Ask" ... we're here to serve you.

Lynn Tetley

City Manager

ltetley@wyomingohio.gov

Office Direct: 842-1382

FINANCE/CUSTOMER SERVICE

Jeremiah Caudill, Finance Director/Tax Commissioner

Mission Statement:

Adhere to the financial policies established by City Council, develop administrative policies that maintain the integrity of the City's financial system, and support both internal and external customers by providing excellent customer service.



"Just ask! We're here to serve you."

In 2014, the Finance & Customer Service Department continued to focus on streamlining operations and assisting other departments in cost savings. This was accomplished through consolidation, shared services, and more efficient use of technology.

We looked for a variety of ways to support the City's "Just Ask" campaign. For example, the City offers all Wyoming businesses the opportunity to advertise on the City's website at no cost. Additionally, when businesses ask, we send out electronic newsletters advertising a special event, sale, or activity on their behalf. Organizations and businesses should "Just Ask," and the City will "like," "share," and "retweet" a social media post highlighting a Wyoming business, community group activity, or church/synagogue activity.

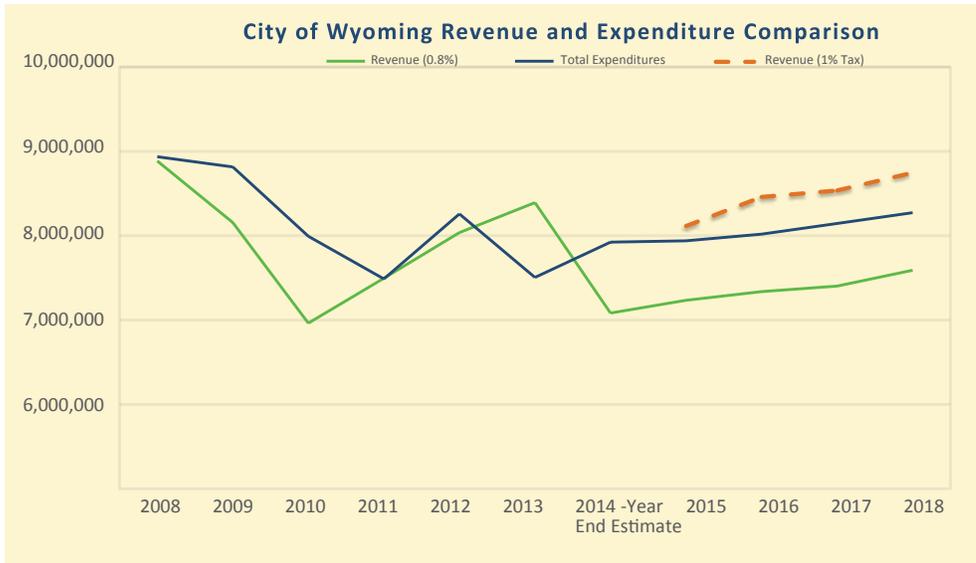
The Department Mission is Achieved by:

- Assisting City Council, the City Manager, and all City staff with budget preparation and financial matters in an efficient and responsive manner;
- Preparing comprehensive, yet understandable, budgets and financial statements;
- Ensuring timely and effective accounts payable and accounts receivable procedures;
- Administering and overseeing the City's Income Tax Code and Water Works Operating Code;
- Maintaining the City's electronic communication tools which includes management of the City website, electronic newsletters, and through social media;
- Providing quality customer service and support to the public in person, over the telephone, and through the internet;
- Providing information technology assistance using City staff members versus hired outside contractors.

2014 Accomplishments:

- Wyoming was awarded a Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association as a result of the City's comprehensive annual financial report (1992-2013). We also received the Ohio Auditor of State Award with Distinction (2013) for clean accountable government.
- The City retained its Standard & Poor's AAA bond rating, which was reviewed by Standard and Poor's in May 2014.
- Finance & Customer Service generated more than 3,300 quarterly invoices, collecting \$1,468,611 in water fees and \$2,230,516 in sewer fees.
- The department collected more than 1,500 quarterly income tax statements and processed over 5,000 tax returns, which generated \$4,482,646 in revenue.
- The department processed 1,927 purchase orders, 3,094 checks, and all the W-2s for 200 employees (full-time and part-time).

City of Wyoming Financial Update and Important Income Tax Information:



Breaking Down the Cost of an Average Monthly Water Bill Per Household



*The City absorbs the total cost of a resident's monthly sanitation expense. In addition, the sewer portion of the bill is collected by the City from each household and distributed to MSD, the provider.

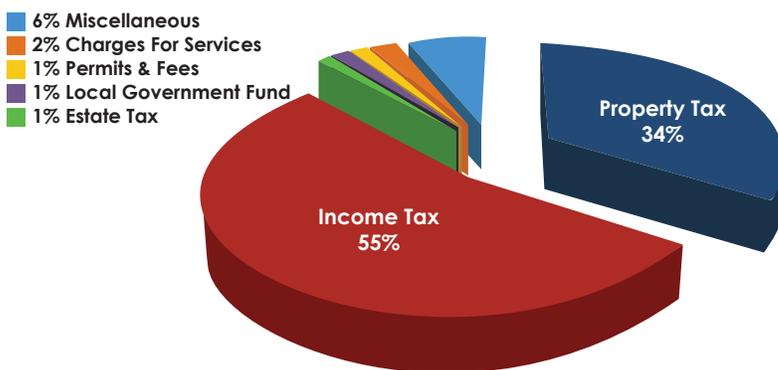
The City carefully reviewed our five-year financial projections, considering all State of Ohio and Hamilton County legislative and policy changes, which reduced the City's projected revenue. Based on this thorough review, the City realized the income tax rate needed to be increased. As a result, effective January 1, 2015, the rate increased from 0.8% to 1.0%.

Combined, the City of Wyoming has lost approximately \$1,200,000 in annual revenue, with the reduction in the State of Ohio Local Government Fund, the elimination of the Estate Tax, and the reduction in property values from 2012 through 2014. The City has been aggressive in reducing costs, while maintaining services. Cost reductions have been accomplished by reducing staff levels, increasing the use of shared services, refinancing debt, and deferring capital and facilities maintenance. The 0.2%

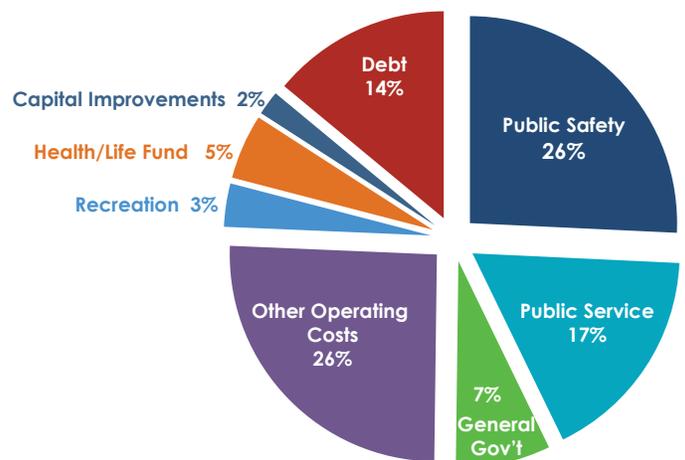
increase in the income tax rate will allow the City to continue operating at current service levels, while completing much-needed capital and public facility improvements throughout the community.

The City of Wyoming is known for offering an excellent quality of life to residents by providing exemplary services, creative and engaging programs/activities for residents of all ages, well-maintained public spaces, and well maintained infrastructure. It is the core objective of Wyoming's City officials to preserve this excellent quality of life and maintain stable property values while providing residents with a strong sense of community.

General Fund Revenues



General Fund Expenditures



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Gary Baldauf, Wyoming Police Chief

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Wyoming Police Department, in partnership with the community, is to protect life and property, maintain order, and promote a safe environment through problem solving, education, impartial application of the law and the promotion of trust and mutual respect within our community.



"How Can We Help You?"

Collaboration and Partnerships:

The Wyoming Police Department is committed to providing the best public safety services possible. These include law enforcement, crime prevention, community outreach and educational programs, and many other services that improve the quality of life and make Wyoming a safe place to live, work, and visit. We continually seek new and better ways to meet the needs of the community.

Staffing and service levels are designed to deliver the most effective service at the most efficient cost. This is accomplished by continuously reviewing, analyzing, and adjusting operations based on public feedback, crime trends, and best practices.

The Police Department monitors all calls for service by collecting data which is used to compare its service delivery against that of other communities. Historically, police agencies have measured their performance solely against traditional crime-focused indicators such as crime rates, arrests, and response times. However, Wyoming Police Officers take on a wide variety of roles, from problem-solver, to counselor, provider of first aid, and more. With declining budgets, it is critical that police services are provided in the most effective and efficient manner possible.

The department is focused on proactively developing and strengthening community partnerships, while reducing the fear of crime by delivering high quality, committed, and consistent services to citizens, businesses, and visitors. The department collaborates with other City departments, community organizations, the Wyoming City Schools, the Wyoming Youth Services, and other groups to host crime prevention and safety education programs and events.



Outreach efforts include working closely with the school district to maintain a safe environment for children. In 2014, the department partnered

with the Wyoming Schools to conduct safety training for students and teachers. Given the number of school-related events occurring nationwide, it is imperative that school personnel and students adopt strategies to keep them safe.

The department's collaboration efforts do not stop at the City limits. Officers and civilian employees are members of a number of regional law enforcement boards, committees, and teams responsible for providing law enforcement services in Hamilton County.

Calls for Service:

These include both calls from citizens, as well as officer-initiated activities. In 2014, officers responded to approximately 4,270 calls for service from citizens and officers initiated over 622 calls for service.

The Wyoming Police Department's uniformed patrol consists of four teams, each comprised of police officers and a supervisor. These squads work 12-hour shifts. Uniform patrol officers provide a full range of law enforcement services, utilizing the most current community policing techniques. They are the first responders to, and in many cases the investigators of, crimes ranging from minor misdemeanors to serious felonies.

During the course of 2014, police officers responded to and handled reports of robberies, simple assaults, aggravated and domestic assaults, burglaries, motor vehicle thefts, thefts from motor vehicles, juvenile complaints, drug complaints, motor vehicle collisions, misdemeanor thefts, residential and commercial burglar alarms, welfare checks, noise complaints, vandalism, neighbor disputes, missing persons, and animal complaints.

Traffic Safety:

Police responsibilities include: conducting selective enforcement initiatives; investigating traffic crashes; administering the school crossing guard program; conducting traffic control at community events; inspecting and educating the community about proper child car seat installation; and utilizing portable speed measuring signs to increase public awareness and responsibility.

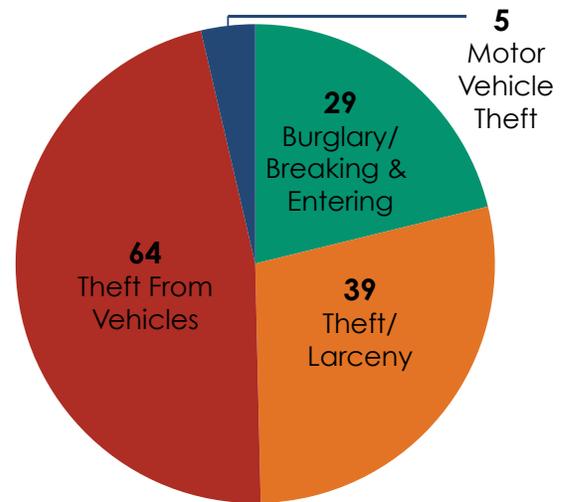
DDACTS:

2014 continued our Data Driven Approaches to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS) initiative, which addresses crime patterns and trends through traffic safety, while also making Wyoming's streets and roads safer. This approach encourages the collection and use of data to help align the department's traffic enforcement efforts to crash locations.

Crime Prevention and Education:

The department's pro-active approach to crime prevention has led to consistently low crime rates in most categories. It is important for Wyoming residents to be the eyes and ears to suspicious activity. This partnership with citizens enables the department to continue improving service and safety. The department participates in community events and hosts crime prevention activities to help educate residents about crime prevention strategies.

Number of Property Crimes



Traffic Accidents

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total Crashes	111	104	129	86	99
Injuries	23	19	22	12	14
OVI	2	1	0	1	2
Fatal	1	0	0	0	0

"I always knew that we had a great Police Department in Wyoming, but after taking the Police Academy, I realized so much more. Our community is very fortunate to have such a conscientious police force that shouldn't be taken for granted! We live in a very special community!"

- Jeannie Tobias



Training and Professional Development:

Wyoming continued its commitment to provide the best ongoing training possible to its officers and staff. Quality training helps the department stay abreast of the latest trends and best practices in law enforcement, as well as developing officer and staff careers. A focus on continuous improvement enables the department to remain open to new ideas and concepts in law enforcement, as well as, to adapt to and plan for a future enhanced by technology.

Department members received over 3,000 hours of training in 2014. High priority training included Use of Force, Firearms, Defensive Tactics, Legal Review, and Taser, which are conducted by "in-house" instructors.

In addition to in-service training, officers and staff received training related to:

- Homicide Investigation and Crime Scene Management
- Fraud Investigation
- Crisis Intervention
- Firearms Instruction (Range and Firearms Training System)
- Use of Force
- Instructor Development
- Human Trafficking
- Child Abuse Investigation
- Legal Updates
- Leadership for High Performance
- Performance Measures
- Supervision

Technology and Equipment:

The department seeks to research, evaluate, and adopt new technologies and equipment that help deliver the best service to the citizens of Wyoming. In 2014, these efforts included: replacing three police cruisers, in-cruiser video systems, and purchasing a new laser speed measuring device.

Community Resources and Communication:

- Prescription drug drop box at the police station
- Business contact information registry
- Away From Home Check Program, a service available to all as part of the community policing effort, residents can have their home placed on a list for an officer to check while away from home to assure the house is safe upon return
- Are You Ok? Program, a telephone check-in program for elderly residents
- Community presentations and involvement about crime prevention such as officers helping community groups like the Boy Scouts in achieving badges and annual third grade class tours of the Police Department
- Media outreach to provide the community with the most up-to-date information possible via the Wyoming website, Facebook, Twitter, CodeRED, and via the Word on Wyoming printed newsletter
- Neighborhood Watch

2014 Citizens Police Academy



DEPARTMENT OF FIRE-EMS

Steve Owens, Wyoming Fire Chief

Mission Statement:

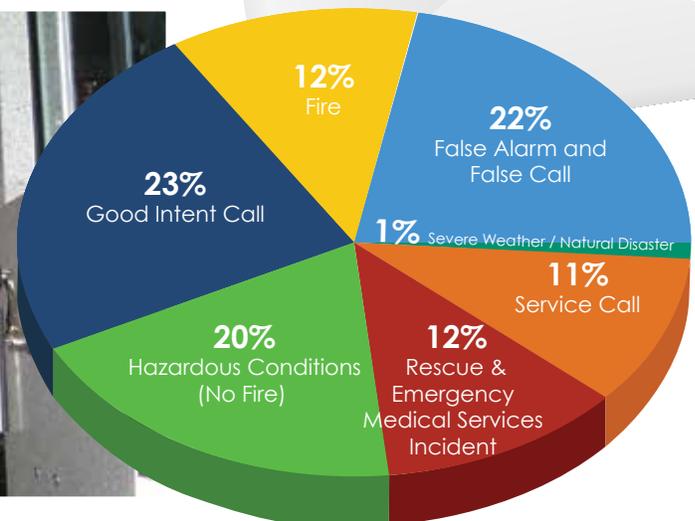
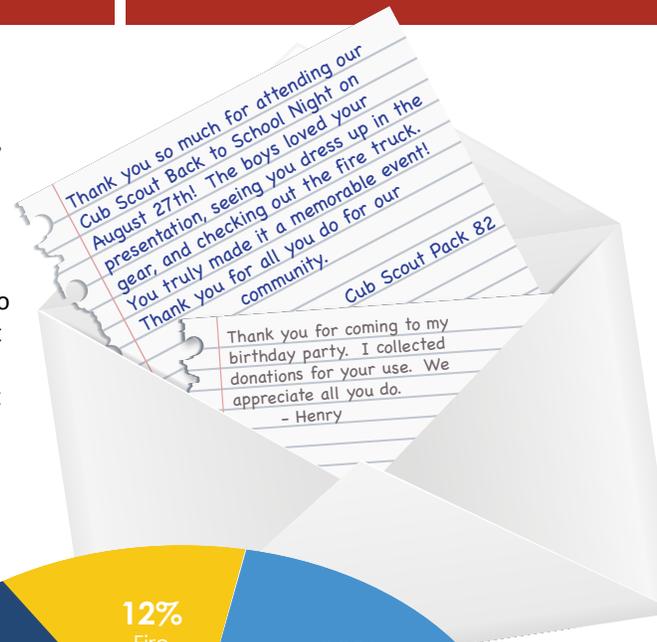
The Wyoming Fire Department is committed to providing fire suppression, fire prevention, fire investigation, hazardous materials response, and basic rescue of the highest standards of excellence to the citizens and visitors of the City of Wyoming and to any community who requests our assistance.



"We're here to serve you."

With a 122-year tradition of service to the community, and since its inception in 1892, Wyoming's fire and emergency medical responses have been handled predominately by volunteers – men and women who are your neighbors, friends, and fellow citizens.

With a staff of 24 part time paramedics and 36 volunteer firefighters, residents of Wyoming call on this department for help with: medical emergencies, fire alarm system and smoke detector activations, CO alarm activations, emergency to property, power outages, gas leaks, water damage, and general calls for help that do not fit into an industry category. The members of this department are proud to be the ones called upon and happy to lend a hand. The Wyoming Department of Fire-EMS is one of the best bargains in town. These services are provided at a minimal cost of \$60.62 per person, per capita and that is related directly to the willingness of neighbors to come to the aid of fellow residents when called.





The level of professionalism exhibited by members of this department is second to none. One benchmark of professionalism is the willingness to seek training within the field.

In 2014:

- Six members of this department attended the Ohio Fire Academy Leadership course;
- Three members successfully completed 150-hours of Emergency Medical Technician training and received their Ohio State EMT certification;
- Four members completed training and received their 36-hour Firefighter certification;
- The department hosted 16-hours of live fire training, utilizing the training centers at the Colerain Township Fire Department and the Cincinnati Fire Department;
- Seven CPR classes were hosted as part of a public education program;
- The department offered 48-hours of weekly continuing education training for Wyoming firefighters and another 8-hours of EMS education.

An efficient para-military organizational model is crucial to a healthy professional organization in the fire service. Wyoming Fire-EMS is no different. 2014 saw changes to the Officers Corps of this department, promoting five members to Lieutenant. These vacant positions were filled to allow for improved personnel supervision at emergencies. In the fire service, lieutenants fill the role of supervising fire companies comprised of three to six members. This fulfills National Incident Management System guidelines and increases the operational readiness and safety of personnel while operating at large emergency scenes.

Staffing changes continue to streamline and increase the efficiency of the department. 2014 saw the resignation of an Assistant Chief and the reassignment of the Safer Grant Coordinator. Due to these changes, the City hired an Administrative Assistant for Wyoming Fire-EMS. This position is responsible for managing the Safer Grant, fire inspections and plan review, coordinating the Fire Safety/Fire Prevention program, performing the role of ISO coordinator, and maintaining department and personnel records.

2014 brought a number of opportunities for Fire-EMS to interact with the community. The department held an open house at Station 97 during May Fete, and took part in a DUI crash demo at the Wyoming High School. Fire-EMS participated in the July 4th parade and fireworks, the Muddy Pig, hosted 15 fire house tours for school groups and scout troops, attended 10 birthday parties, and participated in the "Touch-a-Truck" event.



Fire safety with youth.

2015 will bring organizational changes, as well as some new opportunities, as Fire-EMS continues to serve the City and its residents. These include:

- Filling a vacant Captain's position;
- Developing a community plan for natural disasters; and
- Further hazardous material training, specifically for rail cars and railroad accidents;
- Beginning to develop medical outreach to residents.



Did you know that Wyoming has an active Fire Safety Program targeting school groups and scout troops?

Every year the department hosts approximately 15 firehouse tours for school groups and scout troops. This does not include requests for birthday parties and special events where a fire truck and firefighters are in attendance. Wyoming's Fire Safety Program largely reflects the work of Lieutenant Taylor Wood.

Lt. Wood grew up in Wyoming, went to Wyoming schools, and was a cadet for Wyoming Fire-EMS. He is now one of the most active volunteer members. His primary responsibility is to keep Ladder 97 equipped and ready to respond to calls, and he shares in the responsibility for keeping all firefighting gear (the outer clothing worn on emergency calls and the air packs) in top condition. He is also active in the Cadet program and answers many 911 calls for service. His greatest contribution, however, may be the information about firefighting and fire safety that he passes on to the next generation. Lt. Wood not only makes the arrangements for fire station tours and fire safety presentations, he is also usually in attendance, often as the teacher.



MICHAEL K. HAUCK, FIRE CHIEF

EVENDALE FIRE DEPARTMENT
10500 READING ROAD
EVENDALE, OHIO 45241
513-563-2248
Fax: 513-956-2670
www.evendaleohio.org

September 30, 2014

Chief Steve Owens
Wyoming Fire Department
800 Oak Ave.
Cincinnati, Ohio 45215

Dear Chief Owens:

The Officers and Members of the Evendale Fire Department would like to express our genuine gratitude for your mutual aid in assisting our crews on September 29, 2014 at GE. We can't express enough our appreciation for your hard work. The support that your personnel showed and provided was invaluable and appreciated by every member of our Unit 1 crew.

We want to acknowledge that your continued support for mutual aid allows us to have enough personnel on scene in a short time frame to accomplish the tasks at hand. With the complexity of the structures at GE your crew showed great discipline during this incident, completed their assigned tasks as requested and then immediately reporting back to the IC. We always state that this is how we are supposed to operate, but as we all know, it doesn't always happen that way.

As you know, we have multiple large complexes that can be overwhelming, however with the assistance of departments like yours; we are able to contain incidents like this one quickly and safely.

Again thank you for the support during this operation within the Village of Evendale.

Respectfully,

Michael K. Hauck, EFO
Fire Chief



Mission Statement:

The mission of Wyoming Public Works is to provide the residents of Wyoming the highest level of public service possible in a fiscally responsible manner.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Terry Huxel, Public Works Director



"We're here to serve you."

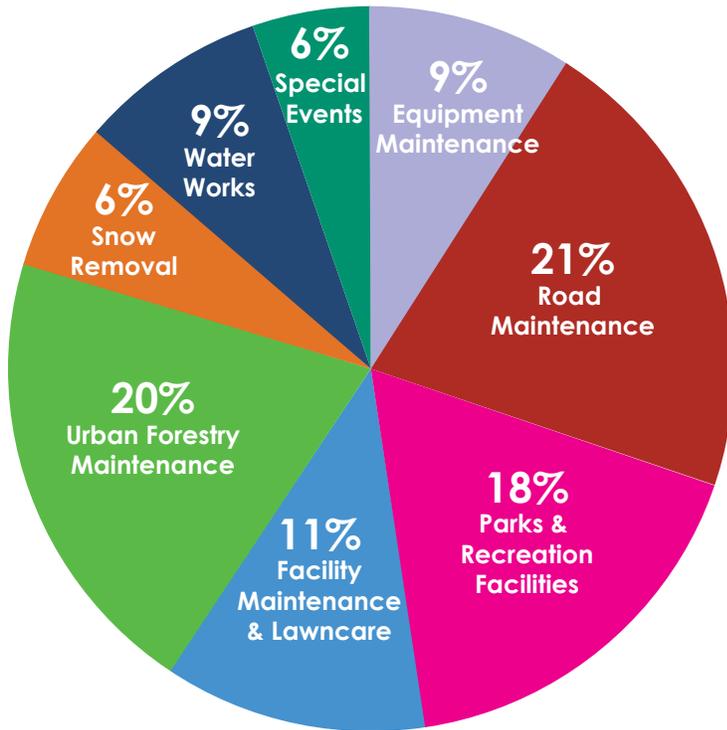
The goal of the Public Works Department is to provide public services that are an integral part of what keeps Wyoming exceptional. Residents frequently see Public Works staff on the job throughout the City, working to keep Wyoming a place where you want to raise your family. Public Works responds to resident calls about repairing potholes, confirming mulch deliveries and leaf collections, and taking care of damaged City trees. With a combined 225+ years of service to the City, the department proudly works hard for Wyoming residents.

Public Works provides a high level of service within the constraints of an operational budget that has seen minimal annual increases. Some of the services that are a vital part of what the community expects, and the department takes pride in providing, are:

- Welcome to Wyoming and street signs with unique planters adorned with eye catching floral arrangements;
- Well-maintained urban street tree canopy and the leaf collection and mulch delivery programs;
- Expedient clearing of fallen trees and debris, working with utility companies to restore service as quickly as possible after a storm;
- Expedient clearing of snow and ice during all winter storms, making our streets safe to travel on for all ages;
- Well-maintained parks with picnic shelters and playground structures for families to enjoy;
- Athletic fields that coaches and young athletes are proud to call their home fields;
- The Hike/Bike Trail that is enjoyed throughout the year;
- A dependable storm water system to provide drainage and safe conditions during inclement weather;
- Solid waste disposal, recycle, and "Go Green" challenge programs; as well as the annual City-wide spring clean-up of miscellaneous junk and yard waste.

An example of providing high service in a fiscally responsible manner is the City's history of being awarded State Capital Improvement Project (SCIP) grant funding for street repairs and/or reconstruction. Since the inception of the SCIP program, Wyoming has been awarded grant funding totaling \$15,948,400, which is the third most grant dollars awarded to any jurisdiction in Hamilton County. (The City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County are the two jurisdictions that have received more SCIP funding.)

Public Works allocates manpower resources and dollars to maintain and enhance the bedroom community appeal that distinguishes the City of Wyoming. Examples of projects completed in 2014 are:



- Contract work was done to replace the curb and mill/overlay of the driving surface on Oliver Court, repair the curb and mill/overlay of the driving surface of the west section of Reily Road, and construct the new municipal tennis court.
- 4,695 man-hours were spent grinding/repaving damaged sections of asphalt (replaced 205 tons of asphalt), filling pot holes, applying asphalt sealant to asphalt patches and street cracks, street painting, street sweeping, curb repairs, and catch basin repairs and/or replacement.
- 4,493 man-hours were dedicated to maintaining the City's acclaimed tree canopy and services associated with the tree canopy, including tree replacement (127 trees were planted in 2014), tree removal, tree pruning, and the City's "leaves to mulch" program.
- 3,902 man-hours were spent on City recreational facilities, including the Recreation Center, Civic Center, Family Aquatic Center, parks, athletic fields, and the Hike/Bike Trail.
- 1,966 man-hours were dedicated to replacing/repairing watermains, water service lines, and fire hydrants, and painting fire hydrants.
- 1,198 man-hours were allocated to support City-sponsored events and activities.



Wyoming continues to be a front-runner in the Hamilton

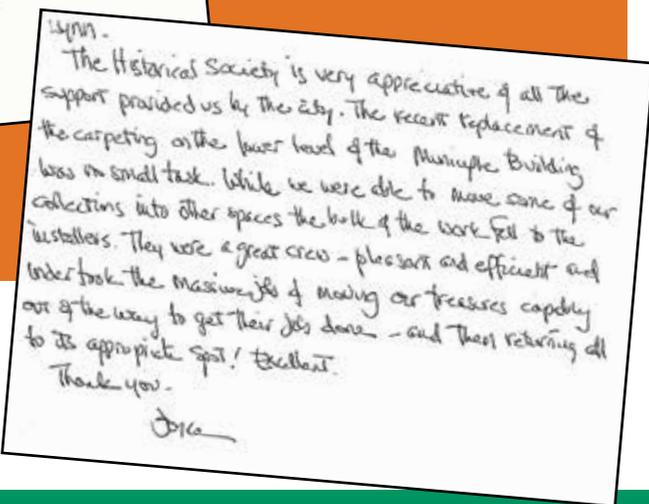
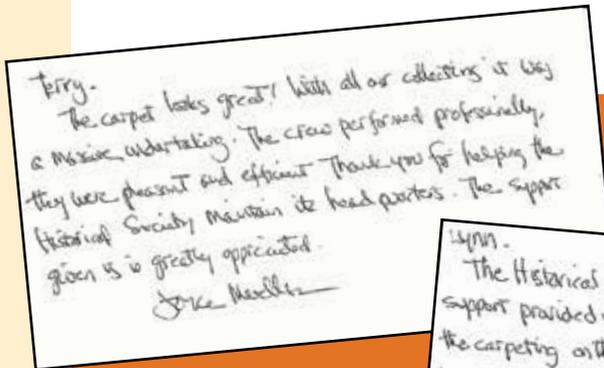
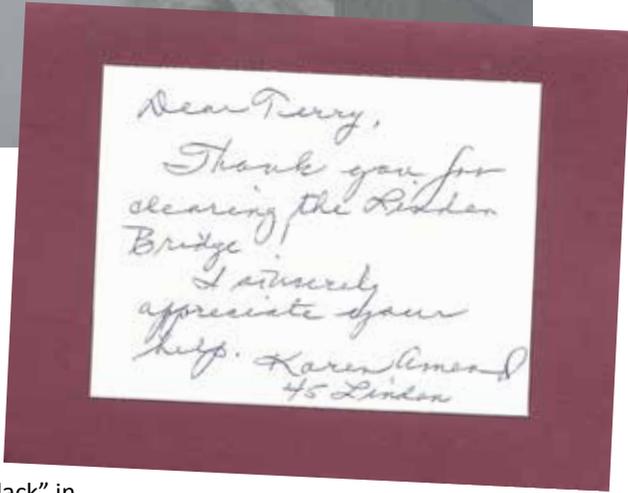
County Recycling and Solid Waste District. In 2014, the City averaged just under 30% in recycling and for that the City received approximately \$36,000 from Hamilton County's Residential Recycling Incentive Program. The City is rewarded for everyone's recycling efforts so continued resident support of these efforts is strongly encouraged. Residents are reminded that studies show that an average of 50% of all discarded trash is recyclable.



"Thank you for a few of the improvements that have been made lately that I really appreciate. The first two have made it appreciably safer for my middle school cross country runners to run a loop that includes Springfield Pike and the bike trail. Sometime this summer someone cleared the brush back from the sidewalk just south of the rec center on the east side of Springfield Pike. The brush had overgrown the walk and made it difficult to keep on the walk without making contact with the bush. With the volume of traffic there it never felt safe. Thank you."

- Greg Knickel

The Public Works Department was challenged in 2014 with heavy snowfalls in January, February, March, and November. The staff met each challenge, getting the City streets cleaned to "asphalt black" in time for local and commuter traffic. The department's efforts did not go unrecognized; the City received many phone calls thanking Public Works for a job well done.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/ BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Terry Vanderman, Community Development Director



"We're listening to you."

Residents collaborate with the Community Development/Building Department on numerous boards and commissions to provide valuable insight, research, and guidance to improve the City's business and residential development, preservation, architectural integrity, parks, and overall quality of life. Responding to residents' concerns about unsafe and unsightly public and private property conditions is a top priority.

Historic Preservation:



The Historic Preservation Commission collaborated with the Urban Forestry & Beautification Commission to launch Historic Preservation Awards in tandem with the annual Beautification Awards. Three properties were recognized for historic preservation success: the Wyoming Baptist Church at 170 Burns Avenue, and the residences at 137 Springfield Pike and 216 Wilmuth Avenue.

Third grade students from Vermont Elementary implemented a temporary signage project which shared historic information about Wyoming on signs posted throughout the community. The students presented their plan to City Council and worked with the City to ensure that the signage met sign code requirements.

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Community Development/Building Department is to:

- Promote the public health, safety, and welfare of the City's residents;
- Foster and ensure safe, sanitary, and thriving living and working environments;
- Help retain and enhance the quality of life of our citizens;
- Attract and encourage appropriate residential and non-residential development and redevelopment within the community.

Building & Zoning Permits and Appeals:

259 Building and Zoning permits were issued in 2014, representing \$6,092,607 in added value to the Wyoming community. Of these, six were for the construction of new homes reflecting a combined value of \$1,804,000.

The Board of Zoning Appeals heard 10 requests for variances from the Zoning Code. Most of these cases were filed as the result of the denial of building permits for non-compliance with the provisions of the Wyoming Zoning Code.

Public/Resident Services:

The Sidewalk Replacement Program oversaw repairs to damaged or hazardous sidewalks at over 175 properties throughout the community in 2014. Action was taken to repair heaved sidewalks without compromising the health of existing trees, in particular tree roots.

A short concrete stairway was installed between the Spring Valley Bank parking lot and the Wyoming Wines/State Farm/Tēla Bar + Kitchen parking lot, to provide pedestrian access between the businesses.

The department continued its practice of responding to citizen concerns about properties in need of care. Properties were also proactively inspected throughout the community, to help ensure that neighborhoods are maintained at an appropriate level and are safe and sanitary.

Over 150 property maintenance cases were handled in 2014. Of these, 92% of cases were resolved, while 8% continue to work towards compliance in 2015. Property maintenance requests made by the residents range from removal of dead trees on private property, to addressing flaking exterior paint, to remediating homes which have been found to be unfit for habitation. 1% of property maintenance cases are adjudicated by the Wyoming Mayor's Court or Hamilton County Housing Court.



The property at 642 Van Roberts Place was purchased in late 2013 with funding from the Community Development Block Grant Program. In early Spring 2014, using Neighborhood Stabilization Funds administered by the Port of Greater Cincinnati Development Authority, the deteriorated house was razed. Property acquisition in this block along the railroad tracks will allow for future expansion of the Van Roberts Place Greenway.

Development Projects:

Several development projects were begun or completed in 2014. These include:



The Healing Space of Cincinnati, to be located at 217 Wyoming Avenue (Presbyterian Church Manse), was reviewed by the Planning Commission, Architectural Review Board, and ultimately approved by City Council. The Healing Space will offer specific programs and healing modalities designed to promote a balanced life.

Tēla Bar + Kitchen, a gastropub-style restaurant locating at 1212 Springfield Pike, received approval for the addition of a front dining patio with an overhead door. This new restaurant is anticipated to open in early spring 2015.



The Wyoming Middle School addition and renovation represents the most significant development to occur in Wyoming in the last decade. The \$24 million project includes a 46,500 sq. ft. two-story addition, housing a new cafeteria, kitchen, classrooms, music wing, and gymnasium, along with a complete renovation of the original building and parking lot expansion. Throughout 2014, Wyoming City Schools and their design team worked closely with the City to ensure that the project delivered a high-quality school building and was completed on time. Middle School students returned to their school building in January 2015.



The property at 715/717 Van Roberts Place was transferred from the City of Wyoming to the Wyoming Community Improvement Corporation for future residential redevelopment. The CIC is working with Potterhill Homes who is marketing the lot for a single family home.

The Wyoming Glen residential development at the north end of our community had five new single-family homes built in 2014 on Victoria Court and Woodruff Lane.

The 500 Wyoming Avenue building, owned by the Wyoming Community Improvement Corporation, remained fully leased to seven locally-owned businesses.

May Fete enjoyed its second year being held in the City Center and Village Green. Improvements were made from the inaugural year in the new location, including providing additional portable restrooms for festival-goers.

The Wyoming Ave. Farmers' Market continued providing fresh local produce, meats, cheeses, and pantry items at its Village Green/Oak Avenue location.

Thanks to Volunteer Chip Skidmore

Do you want to be heard by the City of Wyoming? Volunteer on a board or commission that supports the City. Wyoming depends on the valuable suggestions and contributions of volunteers to make Wyoming an outstanding place to live, work, and play.

Chip Skidmore, an outdoors enthusiast, first learned about the Greenways Subcommittee at Fall Festival. He was eager to help expand our Hike/Bike Trail and clean up our stream banks. Chip is now chairman of this Subcommittee, and represents Wyoming at the Connecting Active Communities Coalition, which coordinates hike/bike trails in the Cincinnati suburbs.

The Greenways Subcommittee helps the City write grants to expand Wyoming's Hike/Bike Trail. The trail currently runs from North Park Avenue to Woodlawn, where pedestrians and cyclists can continue to Glenwood Gardens. After a grant to extend the trail south from North Park Avenue to Oak Park was rejected, the Subcommittee suggested a modified, less expensive solution. Chip states, "The City is very receptive to our input" and he is excited about someday hopping on a bike and traveling from Wyoming to Winton Woods.

Megan Statt Blake, of the Community Development Department, praises Chip's advocacy, in-depth research, and collaboration. The Greenways Subcommittee, led by Chip, has been vital to the success of Wyoming's Hike/Bike Trail.



West Fork Mill Creek Riparian Restoration:

In the Spring and Summer of 2014, 140 volunteers planted 1,800 native trees and shrubs along the banks of the West Fork Mill Creek in order to repair and enhance the riparian corridor through Wyoming. The project is funded by a grant from the Clean Ohio - Green Space Conservation Fund.



New sidewalk at North Park and Chestnut Avenues

Greg Knickel, Wyoming resident and Middle School Cross Country coach, really appreciated the new sidewalk on North Park Avenue. As he said, "I just want to say thank you for the recent construction of the retaining wall and walk on the hill/curve at the community gardens. I've always found running up and down the hill at that curve to be scary when running with the team or even alone. Having the walk there feels much safer.

WATER WORKS DEPARTMENT

Mike Lippert, Assistant Public Works/Water Works Director

Mission Statement:

The mission of Wyoming Water Works is to provide the highest quality drinking water to our customers by utilizing state-of-the-art technology in the most cost-efficient manner.

Customer service is always a high priority for the Water Works Department, second only to supplying safe and great-tasting water to residents. Wyoming Water Works pays particular attention to notifying residents whenever possible via the City's CodeRED system for water service disruptions due to watermain breaks or other issues. The department is also glad to assist residents to identify possible plumbing issues which affect their water supply. Often, Wyoming water operators can pinpoint problem areas for residents which helps save time (and money) when they hire plumbers. Operators have expertise in identifying leaky toilets, low water pressure issues, backflow device problems, etc. and are happy to make minor adjustments, if necessary, to save resident plumbing expenses later.

"We're here to serve you."

Wyoming Water Works was especially busy helping residents during the winter of 2014 -- perhaps the most severe winter since the 1970s. The extremely cold temperatures affected the department in ways not seen in several years. There were nine watermain breaks in January and another six in February. This compares to 12 watermain breaks in all of 2013. There were reports of several frozen residential water services around town as well. Consequently, water operators were especially busy dealing with customer care concerns in addition to their normal job duties.

The department is excited about the water system improvements and equipment purchased in 2014. A new automatic valve turner, which was mostly paid for by a Workers' Compensation grant, will help extend the lifespan of the distribution system valves. Installation of a new starter for one of the water tower pumps will reduce energy costs and extend its lifespan as well. Finally, cleaning the inside of the Hilltop water reservoir tank enhances water quality throughout the system.

In 2015, construction will take place on the West Fork Mill Creek stream bank stabilization project, adjacent to the water sludge lagoons. This project was paid for by an EPA Surface Water Improvement Grant and was largely designed and approved in 2014. Also in 2015, Wyoming water operators will begin utilizing new digital mapping software to assist in operation and maintenance as well as field activities.

In spring 2015, Wyoming Water Works will release the 2014 Consumer Confidence Report to the public. This report details water test results and other information.



Unaccounted for water in Wyoming was 13.7% in 2014 - 15% or less is the EPA's recommended water loss rate. Unaccounted water is defined as water produced that is not metered (i.e. water lost in the distribution system due to leaks, watermain breaks, hydrant flushing, etc.)



I want you to know what a valuable employee Clay is and what a great job he did. I needed the main water valve shut off at the street before I replaced my inside main valve. He answered the phone, friendly and professionally. He came to my residence...and went about his work. He said not to worry, he comes across this situation all the time and reassured me that it would not be a big deal. He was...able to get the water shut off for me to do my work. He came back and turned the valve on and replaced my inside meter in a timely, friendly fashion. Clay does his job exceptionally well. He deserves a pat on the back. Clay is one of the reasons why Wyoming is a wonderful community!

- Brian Akers

Water Works Facts:

Total Water treated in 2014:	264 mg (million gallons) –281 mg in 2013
Average daily usage:	0.72 mg
Average water hardness	185 milligrams/liter or 10.8 grains/gallon
Number of water main breaks:	26
Average water usage per person:	78 gallons/day

Grant amounts awarded to Wyoming Water Works in 2014:

Bureau of Workers' Compensation Grant	\$ 40,000
EPA Surface Water Improvement Fund Grant	\$112,080
Ohio Department of Health (Fluoride Grant)	\$ 750
Total	\$152,830



I wanted to let you know how much I appreciate the help I received from a Water Works employee. Discovering a toilet leak (at my home), I called the water company to confirm this was the problem. Devon was professional and helpful in assuring me (shutting off the water) stopped the meter running. I appreciate him answering all my questions and being so polite at the same time.

- Terri McClean

Did you know?

One gallon of Wyoming Water	\$.0065 (less than a penny)
One gallon of gas	Cost/day/household=\$1.42
One gallon of milk	\$2.09/gallon (at end of 2014)
	\$3.86/gallon

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Rachel Leininger, Director of Recreation and Civic Engagement

Mission Statement:

The Recreation Department seeks to provide a broad spectrum of cultural, educational, athletic, and recreational opportunities that promote a healthy lifestyle and enrich the community's quality of life.



2014 was another exciting year for the Wyoming Recreation Department, with 44% of Wyoming households utilizing the programs, facilities, and membership services that are offered. These include a variety of quality sports, fitness, and enrichment programs for all ages, as well as improved parks and fields. Improvements were achieved through key community partnerships. The City is committed to finding innovative, efficient ways to continually improve and build upon its recreational programs and services, and encourages creative, cost-effective suggestions from residents and organizations.

A new scoreboard was added to the turf field, which was made possible through a collaborative funding effort with the Wyoming Lacrosse Club. A new tennis court was constructed at the Municipal Courts, as a result of combining City funds, state grant money, and private donations from the community. The Recreation Foundation was created, as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that provides funding for Wyoming recreational and community events. Individuals and businesses are welcome to make donations to support the Recreation Foundation and its mission.

"Let us know what you think!"

Sports:



The Wyoming Recreation Department provides an array of sports programs for all ages in all seasons. Wyoming recreational sports continually have one of the highest participation rates in the region. In 2014, more than 2,000 youth and adults participated in Wyoming recreational sports, which included 33 youth sports programs and 7 adult sports programs.

Five new sports programs were offered: Ultimate Frisbee, Hoop Stars, Little Hoop Stars, Youth Wrestling, and Men's Open

League. Wyoming Youth Basketball joined the Cincinnati Youth Premier Basketball League in 2014. The league hosts over 400 teams, with 36 of them from Wyoming.

The Recreation Department strives to meet the sports needs of the community and seeks input from Wyoming residents about new ideas and opportunities.

Community and Special Events:



Wyoming hosted 21 different community and special events in 2014, including activities ranging from family bowling and movie nights to larger events, such as the Fourth of July parade and fireworks and Fall Festival. More than 6,000 friends and neighbors participated in these community and special events which provide a venue for them to socialize and share in the pride and comradery of the Wyoming community.

Youth Programs:



A diverse selection of 38 youth programs were offered to meet a wide range of interests, spanning programs such as dance classes, martial arts, and enrichment programs like Better Babysitters. There were 16 different specialty or summer camps offered in 2014, and it was one of Wyoming's strongest years for Summer Day Camp: an average of 94 kids attended camp every day for more than 10 weeks. Summer Day Camp provides a combination of exciting activities and adventurous field trips to help children build friendships and learn new skills. The program encourages campers to develop an appreciation of the outdoors, nature, art, music, swimming, and more. Some of the most popular 2014 Summer Day Camp field trips included: Gorman Heritage Farm, Cincinnati Reds game, Lazer Kraze, Dagaz Acres, Kings Island, The Beach Waterpark, and a day at the movies.

Fitness Programs:

The Wyoming Recreation Department delivers on its mission of promoting a healthy lifestyle by offering a variety of fitness opportunities to the community. These include the fitness center, group fitness classes, group cycling classes, fitness assessments, and personal or group training at the Recreation Center. In 2014, there were over 10 group fitness and cycling classes to choose from at any given time of the year. Joining in fitness and wellness activities is a fun way to socialize with neighbors and friends, while investing in one's own health. Feedback from residents is used to identify new programs, scheduling preferences, and more.

Recreational facilities and programs are important to Wyoming residents:

1 out of 3 households are members of the Wyoming Recreation Center and/or Aquatic Center.

1 out of 3 Wyoming households participate in recreation sports, programs, and/or activities.

1 out of 10 households utilize recreational facilities, including the Civic Center and athletic fields.



Meet the Yunker Family



Do you know all of the recreational amenities that Wyoming has to offer?

- Civic Center
- Recreation Center
- Family Aquatic Center
- Oak Gym
- Nine tennis courts
- Skate Park
- Six community parks
- Athletic fields
- Playgrounds
- Two picnic shelters
- Two outdoor basketball courts, Hilltop and Oak
- “Green Areas” throughout the community

The Yunker family has lived in Wyoming for over eight years, and they have been using Wyoming recreation services for most of that time. They are active members of the Recreation Center and Aquatic Center. Parents, Nicky and Tony, use the fitness facilities and participate in adult sports, while daughter Ava and son Eli participate in camp, youth sports, and many other youth programs.

“We like playing sports with other people in our community; it’s a great way to get to know people and their families. We’ve met most of the people we know through our participation in Wyoming sports leagues,” says Tony. Ava and Eli attended Summer Day Camp for most of the summer. “I especially like the Wyoming day camp counselors! They greet the kids by name, and appear to genuinely enjoy being there and playing with the kids,” adds Nicky.

Ava and Eli enjoy the various field trips they take at camp, as well as having access to the pool on a daily basis. Participating in the programs and services that the Wyoming Recreation Department has to offer keeps the Yunker family active and engaged in their community. “We could have moved many other places in Cincinnati, but we came to Wyoming because of the great community. We really enjoy getting to know all the families we’ve met since moving here.”



Mary Corley, Instructor of Walking and More

Mary Corley volunteers her time to teach the “Walking and More” class for seniors twice per week at the Recreation Center and twice per month at the Civic Center. Her classes are specifically designed to engage seniors in physical activity while encouraging them to socialize with each other. Many thanks to Mary for providing a much needed service to the Wyoming senior community, free of cost!

Master Plan Update at a Glance



2014 saw significant effort by the City to work on and accomplish a considerable number of the objectives and goals identified in the 2007 Master Plan. Many items are identified in the individual Departments sections of this report. The following capture a number of the notable accomplishments for 2014. The 2007 Master Plan can be viewed at <http://www.wyomingohio.gov/masterplan.cfm>.

THEME: Ecological Stewardship and Sustainability

- The Environmental Stewardship Commission conducted educational outreach by speaking on recycling to 5th graders.
- The West Fork Mill Creek Riparian Restoration concluded in 2014 with the removal of invasive plant species and the planting of native trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers. This project was funded by a grant from the Ohio Public Works Commission Clean Ohio Conservation Fund with significant support from local volunteers.
- The “Green Areas Foresters” continued work in Stearns Woods.
- The Urban Forestry and Beautification Commission provided large caliper trees for sale to residents at the Fall Festival for nominal expense in an effort to support the regional Taking Root initiative, which seeks to plant a million trees in the region.

THEME: Historic Preservation

- The Historic Preservation Commission reintroduced Historic Preservation Awards in the community in conjunction with the Urban Forestry and Beautification Commission’s annual awards.

THEME: Visual Resources

- The City installed additional street planters.
- The City made aesthetic improvements to the community gardens on North Park Avenue.
- The City partnered with the Trowel and Error Garden Club to rehabilitate the Centennial Park Fountain. Work commenced in 2014 and will be completed by May 2015.

THEME: Neighborhood Preservation & Improvement

- Grant funds and private donations were received to partially fund the construction of a new tennis court by the High School.



THEME: Managed Fiscal Responsibility

- The City continued its partnership with Wyoming City Schools to share information technology staff, providing enhanced service at a reduced cost.
- The City received a charitable donation from Wyoming LaCrosse to assist in the purchase of the scoreboard at the turf field.
- The City created the Wyoming Recreation Foundation, a recognized 501(c)3, to allow for fundraising efforts in the community.
- The City was awarded a six million dollar grant from the Ohio Department of Transportation to reconstruct Springfield Pike. Construction is scheduled for 2018 based on the grant funding cycle.
- The City partnered with Wyoming City Schools and the Wyoming Fine Arts Center to combine community newsletter mailing, which saves money and improves communication efficiency.
- The City-wide Performance Metric Program that collects data and allows staff to better analyze and evaluate service delivery was launched.

THEME: Zones of Potential Change

- City Administration contracted with an architectural firm to develop a renovation plan for the Civic Center and contracted with an economic development consultant to determine what private redevelopment options are viable for the Civic Center property, if the use as a Civic Center were to cease. City Council will be determining the highest and best use of the Civic Center property based on these studies and a community survey to be performed in the early part of 2015.

CITY OF WYOMING

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Council Membership

Barry Porter, Mayor
Lynn Crider, Vice Mayor
Albert Delgado
Jennifer Eismeier
Pamela Kamm
Jenni McCauley
Jim O'Reilly

The City does not exclude individuals with disabilities from participation or deny them the benefits of employment, programs, or City services.

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Water Dept., 513.821.8044
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dhufft@wyomingohio.gov (water bill)

CITY BUILDINGS

Wyoming City Building
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Wyoming Public Safety Building
600 Grove Avenue
Wyoming, OH 45215

Wyoming Civic Center
1 Worthington Avenue
Wyoming, OH 45215

Wyoming Recreation Department
9940 Springfield Pike
Cincinnati, OH 45215

WWW.WYOMINGOHIO.GOV



*Left to right, first row: Lynn Crider, Vice Mayor; Barry Porter, Mayor; Pamela Kamm
Left to right, second row: Jim O'Reilly, Jenni McCauley, Jennifer Eismeier, Albert Delgado*