



The
STATE
of the
CITY ADDRESS

PRESENTED BY
MAYOR GERARD NEUGEBAUER



Mayor Gerard Neugebauer presents

Sharing Success

State of the City
Green, Ohio

January 28, 2016
7 p.m.
Raintree Country Club



State of the City: *Sharing Success*

Mr. President, City Council members, and residents of Green, I am honored to present to you the State of the City. This presentation is a summary of our prior year, one that I shared with you as a member of Green City Council. I will also share our plans and initiatives for this coming year.

I've titled this year's address "Sharing Success", because it is as a community that we achieve success, and therefore as a community we share in this success.

I would like to recognize Mayor Dick Norton for his careful watch of the City over the last 8 years, and to thank him for his guidance to me...as I begin the next four years.

Tonight I will begin with sharing the accomplishments and successes of the City in 2015; our community's successes, and how I envision our future working together.

My basic responsibility here tonight is to share the financial report for 2015. But, in addition to the numbers, I would like to share the story of what happened in Green in 2015.

"This Year's address is titled Sharing Success, because it is as a community that we achieve success, and therefore, as a community, we share in this success."

Let's begin with the numbers...

REVENUE

Starting with revenue, we ended 2015 essentially flat compared to 2014. The City experienced increases in almost all sources of income. Income taxes were up slightly, as well as revenues from property tax, hotel tax, and other sources.

REVENUE

Revenues	2013	2014	2015	2016 Budget
Income Tax	\$19,562,507	\$21,429,160	\$21,580,694	\$20,201,000
Other Revenues	\$8,936,506	\$11,842,330	\$11,322,463	\$10,839,200
Total	\$28,499,013	\$33,271,490	\$32,903,157	\$31,040,200
Percent change	7.8%	16.7%	-1.1%	-0.6%

However, our financial report shows a decline in total revenues as a result of several State and Federal grants reported in 2014.

Our overall income tax trend line shows that we have steadily increased tax revenues over the past 10 years, with a 35% increase over this time period. To summarize, total revenues in 2015 were \$32.9M.

Even though we see positive trends in all sources of income, we will continue our trend of budgeting conservatively. We are budgeting for 2016: \$20.2M from income tax; \$10.8M from other revenues... for a total of \$31M.

EXPENSES

In 2015, we spent \$23.8 million on operations, including more than \$4.1M for necessary road repairs and maintenance. We spent \$4.2M on debt service. The increase in debt service is due to additional bond financing in 2014.

EXPENSES

Expenditures	2013	2014	2015	2016 Budget
Operating	\$21,815,752	\$22,534,916	\$23,820,001	\$26,467,043
Debt Service	\$3,736,006	\$3,730,730	\$4,287,843	\$4,674,860
Total	\$25,570,308	\$26,286,497	\$28,107,844	\$31,141,903

In 2016, we have budgeted \$26.4 million for operating expenditures, which includes \$4.7 million in road maintenance and resurfacing. However, we typically spend less than our budgeted amounts and I am committed to continue this trend. Our budget for debt service is \$4.6M in 2016. Our total 2016 budget for expenses – operating and debt service – is \$31.1M.

GENERAL FUND

And finally, in our general fund, we finished 2015 with 16.5% less than 2014. This reduction reflects a \$5.5M advance that was made to the Street Maintenance and Repair Fund at the end of fiscal year 2015. We also advanced \$1.3M to the Parks Fund to provide funding for the construction of Central Park. With our council approved operating

budget and my proposed Capital Improvement Plan, we anticipate an increase in the General Fund balance at the end of 2016.

GENERAL FUND

General Fund	2013	2014	2015	Decrease
Balance	\$18,669,229	\$25,380,348	\$21,186,815	\$4,193,533
2015 Percent Change				-16.5%

While the General Fund is down, we still have a strong cash position, which helps us maintain a strong bond rating. In 2015, our general obligation bond rating remained at AA+. And our revenue bonds continued to be rated the highest possible – AAA.

Over the last 16 years, Mayor Croghan and Mayor Norton have kept our city in a great financial position. I thank them for their efforts. It certainly makes my job easier as I begin the next four years.

I too will be fiscally conservative and plan to ask the tough questions to ensure that we are spending money wisely, and within our means.

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

As noted, we spend a significant amount of our funds in 2015 – both operating and capital dollars – on infrastructure improvements.

Greensburg Roundabout & Lauby Road

The largest construction project completed in 2015 was the \$3.6M Greensburg Roundabout & Lauby Road Improvement project. However, the \$1.2M of the project cost was funded through a Federal grant. This project:

- Creates an attractive entrance into Green from I-77 and the Akron Canton Airport.
- Provides more functional intersection operations at Greensburg/Lauby.
- Provides two full lanes of traffic in each direction on Lauby Road.
- Provides lighting and overall improvement to the aesthetics of Lauby Road



Massillon Road North

Another significant capital expense in 2015 was the on-going design of the Massillon Road North Project. This project includes:

- Widening the road to four lanes with intersection improvements
- Includes two roundabouts – SR619; and Stein Road
- Signalized intersection at Raber Road

Progress in 2015 included utility, stormwater and landscaping design. And we met with business owners to discuss driveway access and entrance configurations.

“Over the last 16 years, Mayor Croghan and Mayor Norton have kept our city in a great financial position. I thank them for their efforts. It certainly makes my job easier as I begin the next four years.”

In this coming year, our consultant will be determining the final impacts to private property, so the City can start the right-of-way acquisition process that will continue through 2017. Construction is still not anticipated until 2019 due to the timing of the federal funds for the project. ODOT has committed to funding 2/3 of the total project costs, which is currently projected to be \$13.4M.

The Hub: Massillon Road South of I-77 to Boettler Road

Moving south on Massillon Road to the highly congested area between I-77 and Boettler Road, which I will be referring to as the Hub, includes not only the intersections of Massillon and Boettler; and Massillon and Corporate Woods Circle; but also, the intersections of Corporate Woods Circle and Corporate Woods Drive in front of Giant Eagle; and Corporate Woods Dr. and Boettler.

In 2015, the City commissioned a study that affirmed roundabouts as the best solution to move traffic through the four intersections. As a result, phase 1 design will be completed this year for a roundabout in front of the Giant Eagle Market District. Construction could start as early as 2017.

We did receive tentative notice that we are slated to receive more than \$5.2 million in Federal Funds for the two roundabouts planned for Massillon Road. Again, due to the timing of Federal grants, construction is not projected to begin until 2021 or 2022 on the two Massillon Road roundabouts.

Massillon Road Improvements

However, the following interim improvements are planned to bring traffic congestion relief on Massillon Road THIS YEAR:

1. First, we will build a right turn lane on southbound Massillon Road approaching Boettler Road. This will improve both through-traffic on Massillon Road and turning movements onto Boettler Road.

According to AMATS traffic studies, approximately 20% of cars travelling south on Massillon Road turn onto Boettler Road. Adding a dedicated right turn lane will assist in moving traffic through the intersection more efficiently.

2. Second, we will remove the median island on Corporate Woods Circle in the area between Getgo and the Shops of Green to create two left turn lanes onto Massillon Road.
3. Third, we will remove the median island on northbound Massillon Road to better align the two lanes that eventually turn onto I-77 N. This will improve traffic flow and reduce conflict at that intersection.

4. And finally, we will upgrade the hardware of the Massillon Road signal system. The traffic signals on Massillon Road are part of a closed loop system that monitors traffic and adjusts signal timing to more efficiently move traffic.

With this approach, we improve traffic flow without building more traffic lanes. By upgrading this system, we do not plan to expand or widen Massillon Road south of I-77.

So the good news is:

- Motorists will see (and feel) improvements on Massillon Road this year.
- All these proposed projects are budgeted in this year's Capital Improvement Plan.
- The cost for these improvements will not be significant – estimated to be about \$600,000 total.

“So the good news is that motorists will see and feel improvements on Massillon Road this year.”

Graybill Road Project Delayed

Another project originally slated for 2015 is the Graybill Road widening project at the Massillon intersection. However, after reviewing the project, I have decided to not move forward with this project this year for a number of reasons. The Heritage Crossing development has not demonstrated the traffic delays on Graybill Road that we anticipated. In addition, the Graybill road project does not help alleviate any of the traffic congestion on Massillon Road. Delaying this project will free up dollars to continue to invest in resurfacing secondary and neighborhood roads.

Ironwood Drive

However, we do plan to extend Ironwood Drive to connect the Chenoweth neighborhood to Chenoweth Road and Arlington. This provides much-needed connectivity in that area of the city and opens up land for further development. In addition, what makes this project so attractive to the City is that the developer is paying 50% of the construction costs.



Road Resurfacing

In 2015, we also completed the following resurfacing projects:

- Mayfair Lakes Neighborhood
- Meadow Wood Neighborhood
- Killinger Road
- East & West Nimilisa Roads
- Wise Road
- Boettler Oaks Drive
- Tabs Drive
- International Parkway



We also repaired several notably poor sections of Boettler Rd, Mayfair Rd, and Christman Rd in an effort to extend the life of these roads until more extensive repairs can be funded.

In 2016, we will resurface the following roads:

- Boettler Road
- Pickle Road
- Cottage Grove from Caston to State Route 619
- And, Raber Road from the Chapel to Mayfair Road

We also plan to resurface several residential streets including:

- The Raintree subdivision... which has concrete streets and will be improved with an asphalt overlay. The subdivision resurfacing will be split into two phases – phase one completed in 2016 and phase two in 2017.
- We also plan to resurface Corporate Woods Drive from Giant Eagle north to Forest Lake Drive.

And finally, our service department crews will be undertaking several in-house paving projects on residential streets.

These roads will be selected for improvement based on the conditions noted in the 2013 pavement study, which rated the quality, expected life and traffic impact of all roads in Green. One road that we know will be paved in 2016 is Melanie Drive.

Stormwater Projects

Moving on, let me mention briefly a few stormwater projects slated for this year:

- We plan to make improvements along Springdale Drive in the Rolling Greens Neighborhood.
- Construct Butterfield storm sewer dissipater to improve water quality entering the Portage Lakes.
- Replace a large portion of the Main Street Storm sewer, an emergency repair due to failing infrastructure.
- And rebuild the catch basins on Boettler Oaks Drive.

To properly address our persistent stormwater issues, I will be reinstating the stormwater committee, a group including members of my administration, city council and residents. The committee will be charged with addressing stormwater concerns and complete a long-range stormwater plan.

Multi-Use Trails

- The last two infrastructure projects slated for construction for 2016 are multi-use trails.
- One will be along the north side of Steese Road from the Middle School to Greenwood Drive.
- And the other will be along the east side of Shriver Road from the Portage Lakes Career Center... to King Drive.

These will be called trails because they are wider than a sidewalk – 8 feet wide to accommodate traffic – both walking and biking – in both directions.

What's exciting about these trail projects is that we are connecting more than 850 homes in local neighborhoods of Meadow Wood, Greenwood Commons, High Tower Estates, Belleau Woods, Green Meadows and Rolling Greens to the Green Local Schools' complex, our new Central Park and all the amenities of Central Green.



PARKS

Central Park

So let's talk about Central Park. Central Park is a vital part of creating a Central Green – a place to gather, build community and bring people together.

Because we had good weather through December, Central Park construction is on schedule and approximately 50% complete. The park is set to open mid-summer.

I know many are excited to experience the new features of this park including:

- Three splash pads;
- An additional 1-mile of walking trails;
- An Amphitheatre with seating for 500 people;
- And a new community hall, which will be used to expand Park programming, and available for rent with seating for 120 people.

Heritage Hill Playground

In addition to Central Park, we have plans to upgrade the Heritage Hill Playground in Boettler Park. This playground was built by community volunteers in 2002. The complete tear-out and replacement of the 30,000 square foot playground will begin in the fall.

Patriot Playground

Don't worry... while Heritage Hill playground at Boettler park is out of service for renovation, our children will have their choice of playgrounds in Central Green. By then, Central Park's playground will be open. And last August, we dedicated Patriot Playground at the Green Veterans Memorial Park.

The ADA-accessible playground replaced a tired 25-year-old play equipment. The playground was paid for in part with a \$62K NatureWorks grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.



First Responders Memorial

When the Green Veterans Park was built in 2010, we envisioned several elements could be installed at a later date. One was this patriotic-themed playground. Another was a First Responders' Memorial to honor the men and women who protect us in our communities.

On Veterans Day last year, we announced plans to build the First Responders Memorial in 2016. To do this, we need to raise \$75,000. To date, we have already received more than \$4,000 even before we have officially started the fundraising effort. We plan to complete the project this year and dedicate it on September 11.

I'd like to take a moment and recognize the committee of volunteers who participated in the design process for the memorial: Summit County Sheriff Steve Barry, former Summit County Sheriff Drew

Alexander, Green Fire Chief Jeff Funai, Former Green Fire Chief Bob Calderone, Firemedic and U.S. Marine Corps veteran Justin Pratt, Parks and Recreation Board Member Les Kuglics, US Marine Corps veteran Joe Sheehan, City Service Director Paul Oberdorfer, and Mike Elkins, Parks and Recreation Superintendent.

Other capital improvements in our parks in 2015 included:

- Reconstructed infields at Greensburg Park for better drainage, easier maintenance, and the ability to put the fields back in play quickly after rain events.
- We also upgraded the restrooms at Greensburg Park and connected the drains to sanitary sewers on Massillon Road.
- We installed a new entrance sign at Southgate Park.
- We made renovations to the Hartong Farmstead
- And we constructed a north trailhead parking lot in Southgate Park.

Hartong Farmstead Initiative

At State of the City last year, Mayor Norton introduced the family that was chosen to start a new initiative for the farmstead property. I think it is safe to say we were all disappointed that the Ohio Public Works Commission did not permit us to use the property in this way.

We are still looking for opportunities – the right opportunity – to build something unique in our community. The overall goal for this property is to preserve the house and its historical setting while generating value to the community.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

East Liberty Schoolhouse

I am a strong proponent of preserving our history. History always gives us a sense of community. It gives us a foundation. We are not going to preserve every historic structure in Green (for example Kleckner School was recently demolished), but there are a few that I am sure we will find worth saving. Last year, City Council felt it was important to save the East Liberty Schoolhouse.



Certainly our community was divided on whether to spend the money to move it or permit Circle K to just tear it down. While it was a significant expense to move the building, I believe that in the future, our community will be proud that we chose to save the historic structure. We plan to sell the building to a business or organization with requirements to preserve its historical integrity. By selling the

property, the city will be able to recoup much of the expense of moving the building and benefit from future tax revenues.

In Green, historic preservation falls under the responsibilities of our planning department, as does a number of other activities including: marketing the City to prospective businesses, business retention, development, land use, zoning, grant writing, and federal regulation compliance such as EPA guidelines, and others.

Nexus Pipeline

Of note, a significant amount of time in 2015 was spent reviewing the Nexus Pipeline Proposal and determining its effect on our community. The City has taken the stance that while we are not against the project as a whole, we are against the location of the route passing through the City of Green.

In 2015, we developed an alternative route, which was submitted to Federal Energy Regulation Commission, or FERC, to demonstrate that there are less impactful ways to route the pipeline through the region. Our original opposition to the proposed route noted these negative impacts:

- The route is in close proximity to school buildings and parks.
- It impacts future land use and economic development opportunities;
- Impacts environmentally sensitive areas;
- Impacts to residential properties.

The original proposed route has changed, although still through Green. It is now located a bit farther south away from our population density, but still through industrial land, parks and environmentally sensitive areas. It's still not ideal.

In late 2015, we engaged Cleveland State University to study the long-term impact of the pipeline on property values for both commercial and industrial properties. The report validates our position that (if the pipeline goes through our City) Green would suffer disproportionately as compared to more rural areas.

The City has also filed to be an “intervener” with FERC, which is a legal term that gives us the right to post comments and appeal the final decision from FERC in the courts. Moving forward, we will continue to engage in the process on behalf of our citizens to keep the pipeline out of Green.

Moving on to new commercial development in Green in 2015.

Circle K

Circle K is constructing a new gas station and convenience store at the corner of SR 619/East Turkeyfoot Lake Road and Arlington. I am sure that our residents will welcome the added

convenience at this location. Certainly the project will be an improvement to the array of buildings that previously occupied the corner.

In 2015, construction began on several new developments, offering a variety of housing options for our residents. Projects included:

Brier Creek

Brier Creek, the 80-acre planned development, with an emphasis on senior housing, located on Boettler Road. Clearing, grading and construction of the entrance road for this expansive multi-year development began in 2015.

The first building that will be constructed is the senior assisted-living facility – a \$10-\$12 million investment which will serve 60 residents, with plans to double the investment and number of residents served in a second phase.



Ultimately the entire development will include a mix of cluster homes, senior apartments, independent and assisted living, a memory care center and several professional office buildings.

The District at Green

Another large development project, slated to begin in 2016, will be called the District at Green. The developer will be building a new public road at the location of the existing Burgess Drive, located next to Jeff Evan’s Insurance along Massillon Road.



Two separate housing projects will begin.

- Greensburgh Manor, a 50-unit dedicated, rate adjusted, independent senior housing facility.
- The Boulevard at Green, 192 unit, market-rate luxury apartment complex.

Bentley Reserve

Bentley Reserve on Arlington Road, sister property to Emerald Ridge, is now pre-leasing its 52-units. These units are single story... designed for the empty nester or senior population.

The Reserves of Green

And finally, The Reserves of Green, a 32-unit, luxury apartment complex, located on Moore Road behind the Target Plaza.

Akron-Canton Airport

It is without question in the City of Green and the region, that the Akron-Canton Airport is a driver of economic development.

- CAK estimates that their economic impact to the area is a half billion dollars annually and generates more than 3,000 jobs.
- In 2015, CAK had more than 1.5 million customers
- They continue to offer the lowest average fare of all regional airports including Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Columbus.
- Currently, the airport is investing \$14 million dollars in customer enhancement projects including a ticket wing upgrade, parking lot improvements and an entrance road redesign to be completed by Fall of this year.
- In 2015, the Airport added Allegiant Air, with their ultra-low fares and affordable vacation packages.
- American Airlines (to LaGuardia) and United Airlines (to Newark/ New York) expanded service to the New York Metropolitan area.
- And finally, four out of five airlines are growing at CAK - American, Delta, United and Allegiant. Southwest is the only airline to announce reductions at the airport, but the overall outlook for CAK is strong.



Green also welcomed a number of new businesses in 2015:

Kenda Tire North American R&D

One notable business to come to Green is the Kenda Tire North American R&D Center. Kenda invested in Green by purchasing and renovating an exist facility on Mayfair Road. Kenda brought 22 new high tech jobs to Green this year and plans to nearly double this number of jobs within the next seven years.

In addition to Kenda Tire, 47 other businesses opened their doors in Green in 2015.

These included:

- Tom + Chee
- Caston and Main Brewhouse

- Next Level Sports Training
- Town Park Physical Therapy
- Osteostrong, and many others.

I'd like to mention two new businesses opening this first quarter of 2016.

Painting with a Twist

Earlier this month I participated in my first ribbon cutting as Mayor at "Painting with a Twist." This new business is located next to Acme in Heritage Crossing.

35°
brix

35 Brix

In spring, a new restaurant is scheduled to open its doors — 35 Brix. The casual upscale restaurant will also be located at Heritage Crossing. The restaurant will be owned and operated by a Green couple with experience in restaurant management.

Living Green

One other important initiative for Green is our continued progress and support of our Living Green initiative. Sustainability...and the pursuit of all things environmentally sound... is a driver of economic development in some sectors. With a name like Green – it's not only a driver, but shouldn't it just be?

In 2015, the Living Green task force embarked on its strategic plan and initiatives with a focus on the following:

- Lead by example by continuing to work to make City operations more sustainable;
- Increase our "Harmony with Nature" by increasing recycling in our City;
- And finally, to measure and report our Green Initiative success.
-

In 2015, we enhanced the curbside recycling program with the addition of rollable totes and bi-weekly collections. I am happy to report with this change, curbside household recycling is up 25%.

As part of our latest Kimble contract and upgraded recycling program, the City receives a rebate, per ton of recycled material, when we meet minimum volumes. We just received word that the community rebate for 2015 is just over \$2,000.



We plan to take ½ of the funds received and create an account at the City to further our Living Green initiatives. The other half or \$1,000 received this year... we will grant to a not-for-profit in Green. We are currently creating the grant application...and will release this in February.

Also in 2015, we partnered with Simple Recycling for curbside recycling of clothing and household goods. The goal is to further remove items from the trash stream. In just a few short months, Simple Recycling completed 1,300 pickups, collecting 20,000 pounds of household goods. We also receive a quarterly rebate from Simple Recycling based on these collections. These funds will also be used to further the Living Green initiatives.

One of the new initiatives that the Living Green task force is launching in 2016 is a new residential composting program. The City will be offering backyard composters for sale at a great price for our residents.

Let me take a moment to recognize and thank our Living Green Task Force for their community involvement and assistance in helping the City with these initiatives. Will the members of the Living Green Task Force, please stand to be recognized.

SAFETY SERVICES

Green Fire

Let's talk a bit about our safety forces in Green. Under the leadership of Fire Chief Jeff Funai, the fire division responded to 3,300 calls for service, a 5.4% increase over 2014. Of these calls, 80% were EMS calls with 20% trauma calls, and 12% cardiac-related incidents. In 6.2% of the calls, firemedics responded to the needs of a child.

Our average call volume per day in 2015 was 9.1, with our highest number of calls in one day, which was 19, actually happened on two separate days in May.

In 2015, we continued to offer dispatch services to Lakemore, Coventry and Springfield Townships Handling more than 8,200 calls for all four jurisdictions, this was a 7% increase in call volume over 2014.

In 2015, the Fire Division had four retirements, which we backfilled with a number of promotions and new hires. I'd like to take a moment to recognize the following promotions in the Fire Division: Virgil Schlabach was promoted to Assistant Fire Chief; And Randy Porter and Josh Chrapowicki were both promoted to Lieutenant.

Summit County Sherriff's Department

2015 was the first year of a new 3-year contract with the Summit County Sherriff's Department for policing services. We currently have 16 full-time deputies, which equates to 3 cars around the clock; one deputy assigned to Green High School; and one full-time detective.

According to the Sherriff's report, theft was up 6%. Arrests were up 43% over last year. And traffic citations were down 20%. I guess this means those of you breaking the law speeding were lucky in 2015, but those who were conducting more egregious crimes were not so lucky.

As mayor, I have a dual role as safety director. One of my goals for this year and my tenure as mayor is to improve communications among our safety services and in particular with the Sheriff Department.

“One of my goals for this year and my tenure as mayor is to improve communications among our safety services and in particular with the Sheriff Department.”

COMMUNICATIONS

Let me share some of my thoughts on communicating and making sure we are transparent as a public entity. In this day and age, communication is faster than ever, and now the focus needs to be on the quality and accuracy of the message. I will continue to place value and importance on communication and keeping our residents informed.

Green Alert Text Messaging

In late 2015, the City expanding our Green Alert text messaging to include emergency alerts as well as general updates. The types of messages we are sending include time sensitive information such as “fireworks are cancelled” or “East Turkeyfoot Lake Road is one lane near Pickle Road due to an accident”. To register for these text alerts, text GREEN-O-H to 888-777 or signup on the City's homepage.

In addition, for parents with kids in youth sports, we created a few sport-specific texting groups to alert parents when the City closes fields due to weather. To register for one of these special texting groups, send GRN (for Green) plus the sport, for example GRNBaseball to receive alerts when Green baseball fields are closed.

Parks Events & Activity Guide

Another new communications tool we added last year was the Parks Events & Activity Guide. This bi-annual publication is designed to communicate and promote all the programs, activities and special events of the City's Park & Recreation Division. The guide is paid for in part by advertising from local businesses.

Green Magazine

In addition the City also produces the annual Green Magazine, created in collaboration with Great Lakes Publishing. This high quality magazine is sent to more than 30,000 businesses in the region as an insert to Inside Business magazine. The magazine, supported by advertising, is also sent to all homes and businesses in Green. This June, we will produce our third annual issue.

The City had a successful year in 2015. I want to thank the City employees who make the City work for you – our residents. It is because of them that 2015 was a success, and it is their hard work in 2016 and beyond that will allow Green continue to thrive and prosper.

Green is a great place to live, not only from the services the City provides, because of our many partners that make Green a successful community.

Green Local Schools

Perhaps our most important partner is Green schools. Let me take a moment to share some their successes.

Finances

- First of all they are fiscally sound and responsible.
- They predict that in Fiscal Year 2016 revenues will exceed expenditures by over \$2.4M.
- They are continually looking for ways to trim expenses, while adding value and expanding programs. In 2015, the District trimmed the budget by \$1.2M while reinstating 2 foreign languages at the high school; retaining languages at Green Middle School; and introducing foreign language at the Intermediate School level.
- In 2015, the District received \$1.3 million in grants.
- In March, the district will be asking voters to renew a levy that will keep them financially strong in 2017 and the years to come.

Academic Standards & Performance

Green Schools are known for their high Academic Standards and Performance.

- Green High School was once again named to the College Board's Annual District Honor Roll recognizing their academic excellence.
- Green High offers 13 Advanced Placement courses. AP credits are awarded based on test scores, graded on a scale of 1 to 5, with five being the best. 58% of our students score a 4 or 5 on these exams.
- Out of the 306 Green High graduates last year, 22 scored 30 or higher on the ACT. One Junior, Arman Aboutorabi, earned a perfect score of 36 on the ACT.
- In our lower grades, 100% of our Third graders passed the 3rd Grade Reading Guarantee for the second consecutive year.
- And, 70.5% of third graders scored at the accelerated or advanced level on the 2015 Spring OAA. Six of our students achieved a perfect score on the test.

In Athletics

- In the first year of our participation in the Federal League, Green High School has already earned 3 Federal League Titles, 3 player of the Year awards, and 2 Coach of the Year awards.

- 58% of our Green High School fall athletes earned a 3.5 GPA or higher and 1 out of 3 athletes carry a 4.0 GPA or better.

In Arts

- Our vocal and instrumental students consistently receive Superior ratings in state competitions. Our music curriculum now includes 5th and 6th grade bands. One in four students at these grade levels participate in band.
- The Green High School Musical Theatre Department continues to produce outstanding performances of Broadway shows, most recently Shrek the Musical in 2014 and Mary Poppins in 2015.

Community Support

In addition, Green Schools continue to build up our community.

- Over the past two holiday seasons, Green students and staff have raised over \$40,000 to help fellow families in need.
- Last October, The Bulldog Dash, an annual 5K and Fun Walk, netted an incredible \$50,000. This money directly supports programs and learning initiatives at Greenwood and Green Primary School.

Portage Lakes Career Center

Another key partner in our community is the Portage Lakes Career Center. I had a chance earlier this week to tour their facilities. I was impressed with the number and quality of programs they offer for students and adults.

They are now completing a \$1.5M renovation to bring the RAMTEC robotics manufacturing training program to our learning center. Later this year, they will be opening Summit County's first fire training facility, a collaborative project with the University of Akron and area fire departments.

Of course, we also have strong partners in our business community. I look forward to building relationships with all of our businesses – large and small – to help them share in the success of our community. I look forward to working with Green Chamber of Commerce and their members. I look forward to working with the Greater Akron Chamber and Summit County to bring new businesses to Green.

Rebuilding Together

One of the things that make Green a wonderful place to call home is the caring support of our residents.

In 2015, City employees and other resident volunteers gave a day of service through the Rebuilding Together program. Working together they completed a number of projects for the elderly resident.

Projects included reconstructing a deck, repairing a wheelchair ramp, painting, landscaping and more.

Rebuilding Together is a nationwide program that provides home improvements to seniors and those in need, so they can continue to safely live in their homes. 2016 will be the 10th year that the City has supported the program for our residents. The City budgets \$60,000 annually to assist our seniors that qualify.

Green Gives Back Food Drive

Another great program, supported by the generosity of our residents and businesses, is our annual Green Gives Back Food Drive. The City distributes boxes donated by Kimble Companies to area businesses who host a collection box. This past year more than 15 businesses and organizations participated, collecting more than 60 shopping carts full of non-perishable food items for Green Good Neighbors, an organization that serves the residents of Green and surrounding communities.



Knit for the Needy

And finally I want to share a small, but rewarding program – Knit for the Needy. This program brings seniors and others to get together to knit hats, scarves, blankets, mittens and other items, which are donated to Green Good Neighbors. Twice a month a handful of ladies (and one gentlemen) get together to knit at the John Torok Senior Center. It's a great program that serves two purposes: one –it's a great way to give back, and two it's also a great way to build community among the participants.

I share these stories of success with you for a number of reasons:

- These are just the tip of the iceberg of all the great things going on in our community;
- Green has so many talented people, great organizations and supportive businesses doing amazing things for others.
- In the future, I'd like to promote and celebrate more of these successes by working with all of you for this common goal.

Let me share a little story about my days in grade school...

We did not have a lot of things, nor could we afford some of the finer foods. We gardened for our fresh vegetables... and mom made our bread and cooked dinner for the 11 of us every day starting early in the afternoon.

I recall in 5th grade, many of my classmates buying lunches from the school didn't like many of the items in their lunch and simply threw them away...especially the fruits and vegetables. I'm sure many of them gave me parts of their lunch... mostly pear halves or fruit cocktail. But I distinctly remember the tangerines, mostly because we never had them at home, but they were also un-peeled so they could be saved for later. On the days that tangerines were served for lunch, I would stand by the trash can at the end of lunch with my lunch bag, and collect a bag full of these treasured items and take them home to share with my brothers and sisters.

While grateful for the generosity of others, I was always struck that they didn't appreciate what they had.

As I grew older, I always remained thankful for what I had. And I started helping other. I volunteered at CYO Camp Happiness, a day camp for mentally-challenged members of our community. After High School, I volunteered as a High School Soccer coach at St. V – St. M. As a parent, I again coached youth soccer. But I also became active in my Engineering Professional Society, including our work with the Jr. High School program Math COUNTS. I volunteered for the City of Green initial Design Review Board. I joined our community in constructing the Heritage Hill playground in 2002. Each one of these opportunities showed me how all these activities build community, and how the strength of our community is in our businesses and citizens, working together to make all our lives better.

We all have something to give, perhaps something we didn't even consider important or valuable.

So how does this story relate to my presentation? I hope it gives you some insight about me and my passion for helping others – something I would like to spread throughout the City.

My vision is to find a way for us to collectively and collaboratively build a better community. This is based on the idea that you, as a resident, should not look to government to provide all the solutions. Instead, it is through the collaborative effort of local government and all our partners that we build a better community.

In Green, so many of our businesses, families and individuals give of their time and expertise throughout the year for the greater good. Whether it is donating to Green Gives Back, or serving on the board of your church or coaching your kid's sports team, or volunteering at local events.

But how else can we give back, help someone grow, or share a resource? Do we know where to begin? Who to talk to?

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My vision is to create a group of leaders in our community who would be willing to help promote this idea of volunteering, sharing and broadening our horizons to make us all better – to make Green better. I'm calling this initiative – *Project Tangerine*.

I'd like to see the City as a conduit to making connections for those willing to give – not necessarily money, but give of their time, experience and expertise – the possibilities could be endless. Let's build our community together.

On your tables are tangerines. I ask that each of you take one with you tonight – to eat, share or just hold on to for a day or two to think about how you can get involved with your community. And if an idea moves you, call me, so we can get started on this vision of Project Tangerine.

In conclusion, I thank you for allowing me to muddle through this first State of the City. It is a pleasure to serve you as Mayor and I look forward to sharing our success in 2016.

Thank you, God Bless, and good night.

Gerard Neugebauer, Mayor
January 28, 2016