

An aerial photograph of a ribbon-cutting ceremony on a newly constructed bridge. A large group of people, including officials in suits and workers in high-visibility vests and hard hats, are gathered on the bridge deck. A red ribbon is stretched across the road, and several individuals are holding scissors, ready to cut it. The bridge has a concrete railing with black metal fencing on top. In the background, a street with traffic lights and some greenery are visible. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

# CREATING A BRIGHTER FUTURE TOGETHER

NEWARK DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



# NEWARK DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS



To our stakeholders,

2017 began with a full and exciting agenda; here are the major accomplishments:

**Newark Vision 2028:** The Board of NDP accepted, in December, 2017, the final recommendations from scores of volunteers who devoted hundreds of hours to create a comprehensive and energetic strategic plan. With guidance from Aaron Domini, his team from OHM Advisors and Yarimir Steiner from Easton, seven Pillars (major categories) were identified that address issues and needs in Newark, Ohio. The priority objectives of each area are being addressed. We pledge to make progress addressing the priorities to help move our city forward. We are grateful for the efforts of dedicated citizens who made the Vision 2028 roadmap a reality.

**Special Improvement District (SID):** A separate, independent board has been elected by property owners, and downtown parking is their highest priority to address. We were pleased to initiate and complete the SID during the year with the able assistance of Shannon Fergus of Fergus Consulting, LLC.

**Newark Commerce Center:** Late in 2016 we accepted the extraordinary gift of the Newark Commerce Center from the Murphy family; the building was dedicated as the Herbert J. Murphy, Jr. building. We invite your comments and attendance at our monthly meetings at the Newark Commerce Center. We appreciate the support of our several constituencies.

**[www.wedignewark.com](http://www.wedignewark.com):** Changes are underway for the website to be utilized for the SID, parking availability, and general information including construction updates.



We were involved in a number of other activities initiated by others where we provided assistance, some direct and some indirect, with the following:

- The Licking County Commissioners unveiled our Licking County Courthouse beautifully restored exterior, returned to pristine condition.
- The 2nd Annual Slice of Licking County was held on the top level of the parking structure on South Second Street.
- NETWORK Space was opened on North Park Place, a unique facility restored by Teri & Fred Lowinger and Sarah & John Wallace.
- The Longaberger Basket Building was sold to a private group of individuals committed to restore the facility.
- The renovation of the former Newark High School building at 112 West Main Street began late last year.
- The Cherry Valley Lodge was sold and is now under new ownership and strategic leadership.
- The Canal Market District was awarded the "Best Public-Private Partnership" in the State of Ohio as recognized by the 2017 Heritage Ohio Annual Awards.

Newark was described as the "Gold Standard" at the 2017 Heritage Ohio Conference. Newark is now well over \$110MM (and growing!) in public and private investment since 2013, a huge amount for a city population of 48,000. The citizens of Newark should be very proud of this accomplishment.

2017 marked the end of the term of one of our directors, Mrs. Cheri Hottinger. Cheri was replaced on the board by Jennifer McDonald, President of the Licking County Chamber of Commerce. We welcome Jennifer to the board and bid Cheri a fond farewell. She served our board from inception with dedicated, professional advice and counsel. We were not so quick to let her go, however, as the board appointed Cheri our Treasurer, which she gladly accepted. We are pleased with the results of 2017. We will remain actively engaged in finding ways to help Newark, Ohio grow and prosper. We are grateful for the collaboration we enjoy with the City of Newark, Mayor Hall, his professional team, our City Council, other elected officials, the business sector and the citizens of Newark. We appreciate the support of our several constituencies and look forward to continued progress in Newark.

C. Daniel DeLawder, Chairman  
Board of Directors

Fred Ernest, Executive Director  
Newark Development Partners

The **Newark Vision Plan 2028** is a partnership between Newark Development Partners (NDP), local stakeholders, and City leadership. The plan has been holistically developed with the intuitive knowledge of the community combined with an examination of physical, economic, and social trends of the city and region.

# NEWARK

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## VISION PLAN 2028

The **Newark Vision Plan 2028** plan is calibrated to the pulse of Newark. It is designed to be used as a tool to guide and inform the community and local leaders in making collective decisions that work toward a common future over the next ten years.

Visioning involves the examination of the potential of a community, place, region, or district. It is an engaging process that brings people from all walks of life together to discuss their ideas and aspirations for the future. These aspirations can focus on anything from the environment, economy, infrastructure, education, recreation, culture, or any other issue that is important to those who live, work, and play in the community.

The visioning process uses a variety of tools to build consensus around a desired outcome, future, or image. The process is built extensively on public and stakeholder involvement. It engages residents and stakeholders in fun and dynamic ways to share their visions for the future, and strategize how they would like to see that future become reality. The results of these exercises become the foundation of the vision.

**WHY HAVE A VISION?** The visioning process helps communities, organizations, and individuals identify what is important to them, their ideas and plans for the future, and more importantly, how to make those ideas a reality. Visioning helps communities identify and reach goals that are otherwise not discussed, or if discussed, not built on a foundation of collaboration.

It is critical to have a vision to achieve the following: Creation of shared goals for the future; Identifying ways to implement shared goals; Building goodwill and understanding between groups that rely on each other; Giving people ownership in their community; and, Developing new leaders in the community.

## SEVEN PILLARS OF PRIORITIES

- IMAGE AND BRAND
- PUBLIC SAFETY
- MOBILITY & TRANSPORTATION
- NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION
- VIBRANT DOWNTOWN
- ARTS & RECREATION
- QUALITY EDUCATION



[www.newarkvisionplan.com](http://www.newarkvisionplan.com)

# 2017 NOTABLE EVENTS

Newark Development Partners was involved in a number of activities throughout the year initiated by other organizations where we provided assistance, some direct and some indirect.

- Matesich Distributing brought the famous Budweiser horses to town for a day and hundreds of folks were able to see the majestic horses first-hand. A return visit is planned for 2018
- The Licking County Commissioners unveiled our Licking County Courthouse beautifully restored exterior, returned to pristine condition. The Annual Courthouse Christmas Lighting occurred again where thousands were on hand to celebrate the arrival of old St. Nick!
- The 2nd Annual Slice of Licking County was held on the top level of the parking structure on South Second Street in downtown Newark. Hundreds of folks attended to sample local food and beverages and enjoy the entertainment.
- NEWORK Space was opened at 14 North Park Place in November 2017 marking the end of a historic restoration project facilitated by Sarah & John Wallace and Teri & Fred Lowinger. The 6,000 sq. ft. co-working space spans three stories with a state-of-the-art meeting room located on each level as well as private offices, dedicated desks, and floating seats. Learn more about NEWORK at [www.neworkspace.com](http://www.neworkspace.com)
- Mt. Vernon Bridge opened in November 2017
- The Longaberger Basket building was sold to a private group of individuals committed to restore the facility. Newark Development Partners helped preserve the status and condition of the building in the second half of 2017. NDP was instrumental in helping the buyers understand the potential for the building and finalized the purchase of the property in late December 2017. NDP will continue their involvement with the Basket assisting the owners to bring a new use to the building that will benefit the City of Newark.
- The renovation of the former Newark High School building into the Old School Apartments at 112 West Main Street began late last year. A combination of Historic Tax Credits and conventional investment will be used by Steve Layman to create 29 new residential living units.
- The Cherry Valley Lodge was sold and is now under new ownership and strategic leadership. NDP provided counseling assistance on topic matter as the new buyer was considering the purchase.
- HeartChase participants once again filled the streets of downtown Newark for a good-cause community adventure game. In a fun and frenzied pursuit of hidden rewards, healthy living is promoted as the game helps the American Heart Association chase away heart disease for good.







## RECOGNITION & AWARDS

The Canal Market District was awarded the "Best Public-Private Partnership" in the State of Ohio as recognized by the 2017 Heritage Ohio Annual Awards.

Newark was described as the "Gold Standard" at the 2017 Heritage Ohio Conference. Newark is now well over \$110MM (and growing!) in public and private investment since 2013, a huge amount for a city population of 48,000.



# SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (SID)

The Downtown Newark SID is a private, not-for-profit organization through which property owners assess themselves to provide funding for district-wide parking enforcement, business resources, physical environment enhancement services, safety, marketing and promotion, as well as special project services. Under an agreement, Newark Development Partners (NDP) administers the services plan for the Downtown Newark Special Improvement District (SID). Through the SID, the Downtown Newark Special Improvement District concentrates on long-term development, as well as short-term improvements.



Among other results of the SID improvement activities, property owners will see:

- Larger downtown employee base—more customers
- Consistent and positive image of downtown
- Increased occupancy rates in downtown buildings
- Parking Enforcement in the Downtown Business District
- A safe, clean and secure downtown environment
- Increased property values
- Coordinated marketing among organizations
- Increased convenient downtown parking

For questions or more information please contact Newark Development Partners at [info@wedignewark.com](mailto:info@wedignewark.com)

## WWW.WEDIGNEWARK.COM

Periodic news blasts and information updates allowed us to communicate the progress on the utility upgrade project. The downtown square was completed during the summer and merchants enjoy increased traffic and pedestrian flow. We celebrate a beautiful downtown and look forward to continuing streetscape and other improvements in the downtown area. Changes are underway for the website to be utilized for the SID, featuring parking availability and general information including construction updates. Sign up for email updates at: [www.wedignewark.com](http://www.wedignewark.com)

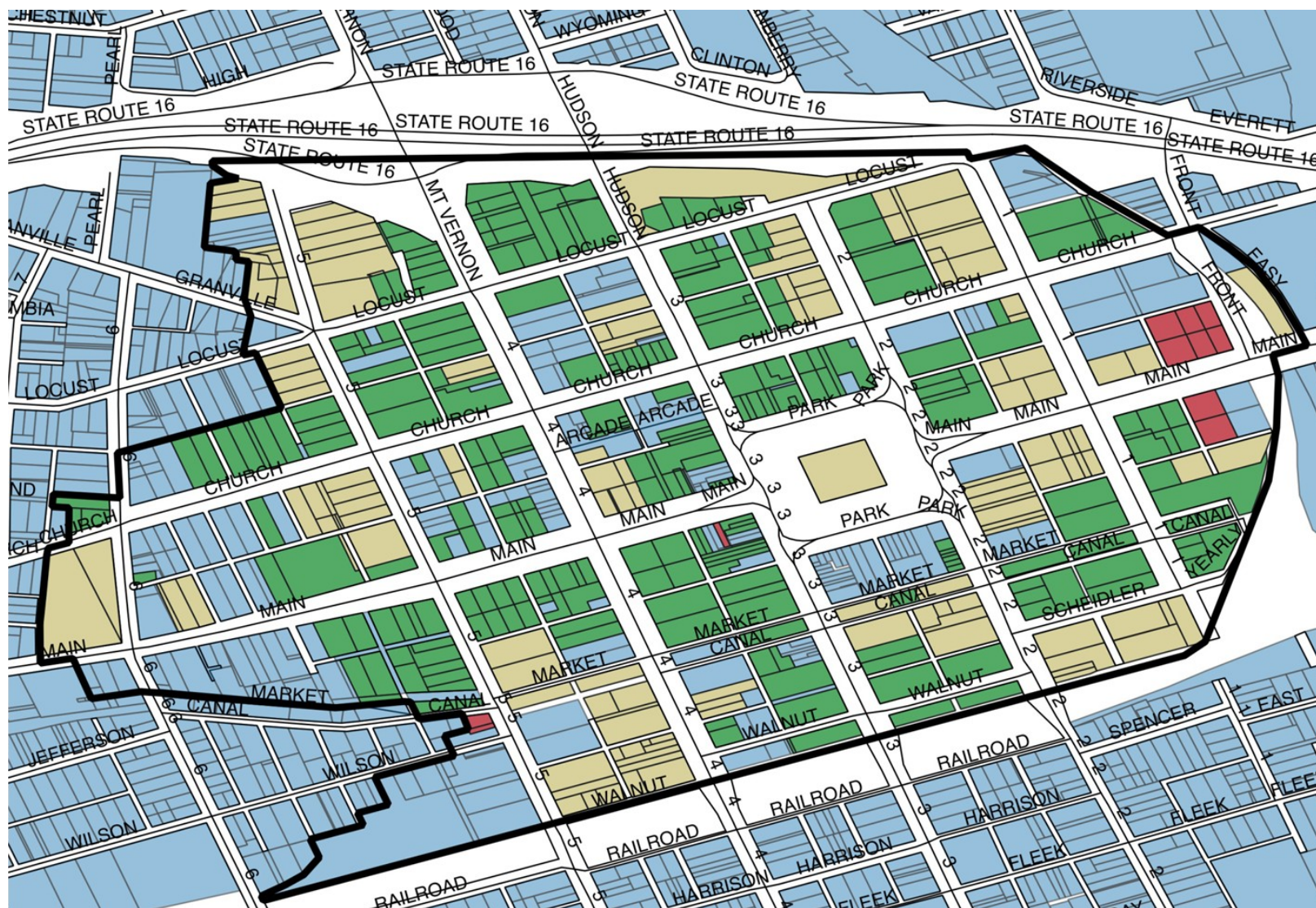


## NEWARK COMMERCE CENTER

In late 2016 Newark Development Partners accepted the extraordinary gift of the Newark Commerce Center from the Murphy family; the building was dedicated as the Herbert J. Murphy, Jr. building. This past year brought building and property improvements, new tenants and better utilization of the building as a community asset which is presently at 80%+ occupancy



## SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT MAP



**NEWARK DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS**

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**OUR MISSION**

Newark Development Partners is a collaborative venture engaging the public and private sectors dedicated to incentivizing investments in Newark, Ohio in order to sustain economic development, create jobs and further improve the business, individual and residential living areas of our vibrant and attractive city.

**NEWARK DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Mary Albright, Partner Reese Pyle Meyer PLL	Mark Mauter, Community Development Director City of Newark	Andrew Morrison, Partner Buckeye Winery	
Brian Morehead, City Engineer City of Newark	Jennifer McDonald, President Licking County Chamber of Commerce	Noble Snow, Partner WSS, LLC	
CHAIRMAN Dan DeLawder The Park National Bank	VICE CHAIRMAN Jerry McClain, Jerry McClain Company	SECRETARY Stephen Layman Anderson Layman Company	TREASURER David Rhodes City of Newark

We love to hear your feedback. Email us at [info@newarkcic.com](mailto:info@newarkcic.com) or write us at NDP, PO Box 4532, Newark, OH 43058-4532