

NEWARK DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

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2018 was our first year to begin implementation of the "Seven Pillars of Priorities" adopted in the Vision 2028 Strategic Plan. While several initiatives are expected to take more time to produce results, last year's efforts allowed us to make significant progress. Four of the pillars made real progress in 2018. Neighborhood Revitalization, Image and Brand, Arts and Entertainment and Vibrant Downtown have each moved forward. When Vision 2028 was introduced we pledged to avoid adopting a plan and not following through. We have already seen benefit from execution on several of the pillars, and more will follow in 2019 and coming years. We are grateful for the many volunteers who have contributed their time and energy helping us to progress!



C. Daniel DeLawder,
Chairman



Fred Ernest,
Executive Director

NDP director, SID board chair and commercial real estate specialist Steve Layman initiated the renewal of the downtown building painting project last year. Steve raised funds to make the project a reality. The first phase was done in 2018 and added significantly to the beauty of downtown Newark, further enhancing the City funded streetscape improvements and the restoration of the Licking County Courthouse, funded by our County Commissioners. We congratulate the board members of the SID for a highly successful 2018.

Several other exciting developments occurred in Newark that merit mention. Sarah Wallace and Adam Weinberg, President of Denison University, announced plans to establish the Boys & Girls Club of Newark. The Thomas J. Evans Foundation purchased the former Maholm Elementary School, 94 Maholm Street, to serve as the location of the Club. The initial fundraising campaign is well underway to provide funding for the renovation of the property, for operating funding for the first four years and to seed an endowment to provide operating dollars in perpetuity. The Club will provide local youth with after-school and summer programming to maximize their potential relative to academic success, good character & citizenship and healthy lifestyles. A summer program will begin in June 2019 and the after-school program will begin in September 2019 in the newly renovated facility.

The Gilbert Reese Family Foundation and the Thomas J. Evans Foundation, in partnership with the City of Newark and a number of other contributors, is completing a comprehensive renovation of Everett Park in Downtown Newark. The renovation will include a new, state-of-the-art skate park, a dog park, a picnic pavilion, community gardens, two practice baseball fields, a new restroom facility, a new playground, lighting, security and a new parking lot. The park will be open this summer for enjoyment and adds another Newark venue to the investments made by the City, the YMCA and the Licking County Foundation's redesign of the Flory Park BMX Bike Park, offering dirt track fun for bicycle enthusiasts.

Newark Campus of Ohio State University and Central Ohio Technical College began a community fundraising campaign in 2018 to enable the construction of the new John and Mary Alford Center for Science and Technology. The campaign's success was critical for the announcement, earlier this year that funds were secured to construct a three story, 60,000 square foot facility.

With the initial significant pledge by the children of Mr. and Mrs. Alford, significant and multiple donor commitments and the very recent challenge grant offered by Ariel Corporation, groundbreaking on the facility should take place in late summer, 2019.

Newark's positive story continues to grow. According to Columbus 2020, Licking County is one of 11 counties making up the Central Region of Ohio. With the remaining 4 regions in Ohio, the Central Region is the only one of the 5 regions to experience population growth in recent years. Newark's population continues to grow, causing Newark to now be the 15th largest city in the state according to recent census estimates.

We believe we have the best ingress/egress opportunities of any county in central Ohio, to and from Franklin County and Columbus. Route 161 reaches northeastern Franklin County and I-270. State Route 62 provides connection via I-270 with the northern part of Licking County. The southern part of Licking County has Interstate 70 running directly into downtown Columbus and in between we enjoy Routes 40 and 16 connecting to the central part of Columbus. Licking County is positioned for more central Ohio growth. Newark sits geographically in the center of our county, enjoying the best of all options: we are surrounded by beautiful hills and rural settings yet close enough to reach downtown Columbus, our state capital, in less than 45 minutes.

We are delighted that Heritage Ohio decided to select Newark as the city for their annual 3-day state convention in 2019. Comments have been made by Heritage Ohio individuals that Newark is the "Gold Standard" for community development. We have attracted attention on a state-wide level, and the convention will further showcase our many successes. NDP has been very active with Heritage Ohio over the past few years, and, along with Mayor Hall, succeeded in convincing Heritage Ohio to select Newark as their next annual convention site.

We close this message by thanking our NDP board members and officers for their engagement and commitment to our agenda, Newark Mayor Jeff Hall, his administration and all of our elected officials including our Newark City Council and our Licking County Commissioners for their steadfast support. This is a team game. And we have an outstanding team dedicated to taking full advantage of assets at our disposal. We encourage, as always, input, advice, support and assistance to help move our great city forward!

RECOGNITION & AWARDS

Heritage Ohio Conference — Argyle Properties was awarded the “2018 Best Upper Floor Residential Rehabilitation Award” for the Brunswick Building. Liz Argyle accepted the award as the property owner, designer and contractor; Northpointe was the Architect.



Heritage Ohio (HO) will hold their 2019 Conference in Newark, Ohio. HO will highlight to other communities the Streetscape Project, Underground Utility Project, funding sources, bio-swales, Historic Tax Credits to improve buildings, Special Improvement District, examples of community collaboration and more. This will be an exciting 3 day event for Newark.



NEWARK VISION PLAN 2028 UPDATES

The intent of the Newark Vision Plan 2028 is to align community perspectives with local leadership to create a path for change that will continue to enhance the local quality of life. Newark Development Partners, along with the City of Newark and local leadership have been working throughout the year on the following pillars.

VIBRANT DOWNTOWN - NDP, in partnership with the City of Newark and Wilson's Garden Center, will unveil a new floral program this summer. The downtown will be in full bloom with the addition of hanging baskets, which will complement the existing flower pots. This will enhance the streetscape in the downtown area. Downtown painting projects: The painting project began in late summer 2018 with 13 buildings being painted. The remainder of the buildings will be painted late Spring 2019. The painting has made a tremendous impact on the look of the downtown building landscape.

IMAGE AND BRAND - 2019 will see Guide Studio lead the community in a new identity process for the City of Newark. The goal is to reposition Newark within Ohio to showcase the revitalization while creating a new brand for the City.

NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION - The initial effort is to concentrate on non flood areas in the south end to work on a priority list of improvement packages to take to specific home owners while also working to change the flood zone rating to better allow improvements through home equity/improvement loans.

PUBLIC SAFETY - Evaluate the current conditions of social services in Newark and Licking County in order to strategically plan for the future.

MOBILITY AND TRANSPORTATION - Improve access to community hubs and destinations within Newark through enhanced and creative public transit options.

ARTS & RECREATION - Leverage existing public and private event/community spaces and local partnerships to create new community events serving residents and attracting visitors. The refurbishing of the Gazebo, re-constructed with ADA compliance, will be in a new "pocket-park" at the former Children's Home location in east Newark.

QUALITY EDUCATION - Identify and strengthen career opportunity and requirement guidance at all educational levels in partnership with the community, business and industry leaders.



2018 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.



HEARTCHASE continues to be a great event for the American Heart Association and is one of the largest money earning single events in the country. The American Heart Association has a goal of reducing deaths from cardiovascular disease and strokes by 20 percent by 2020, and Licking County's HeartChase event is one way communities are working to be healthier and reach this goal.



SUMMERFEST 2018 was held on June 21, 2018. Eight Budweiser Clydesdales made an appearance. Downtown Newark SummerFest featured a tribute to our Hometown Heroes, as well as a daily music fest to celebrate the newly completed renovations in downtown Newark.

Over 1500 area children participated in Safe TRICK OR TREAT ON THE SQUARE. Visitors enjoyed the new streetscape as Downtown residents and businesses passed out candy.



Back for the fourth year, THE SLICE OF LICKING COUNTY is a joint effort between the Licking County Chamber of Commerce and Newark Development Partners. This fun party on the roof is always open to the public and held on top of parking garage off S. 2nd St. in Newark. The "Slice" offers a variety of pizza, a beer & wine garden, and live music.

SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

The Downtown Newark SID is a private, not-for profit organization (501c3 application pending) 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, NDP administers the services plan for the SID. The Downtown SID concentrates on long-term development, as well as short-term tasks including trash pickup, watering and general safety.



The SID has proven results in the first year. Local restaurants boast that lunch business is up over 30% due to parking enforcement providing more available parking during lunch hours. Weed control was implemented. As much as 50 gallons of trash is picked up weekly, providing a cleaner Downtown. An Environmental Specialist was hired to maintain the bio-swales, green infrastructure, weeds, cleaning and overall maintenance of the Downtown. The addition of hanging baskets will further enhance the Downtown area!

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

NEWS & UPDATES



Leadership provided by the T. J. Evans Foundation, Sarah Wallace, Adam Weinberg and strong additional community support will bring the Boys & Girls Club of Newark, opening in 2019. The Club will give young people the support, guidance, tools, and skills to succeed in life. Comprehensive after school and summer programming for youth ages 6 through 18 costs only \$5 per child per academic year and entitles youth to unlimited Club access.



Phase One of the Downtown Utility Upgrade & Streetscape is complete. Phase Two, 4th Street Utility Upgrade, and Streetscape is scheduled for 2020.

Old School Apartment Living Project was completed. Using a number of local contractors and vendors, the former Central Elementary School (the building at one time was a new addition to the old Newark High School downtown) was converted into a residential property with one and two bedroom apartments renting at market based rates. Several units are already leased by individuals and empty nesters who desire to try downtown/city living. The project is across from the Licking County Library on West Main Street.



The dirt bike trails at Flory Park reopened in 2018 as the 21st Street Bike Park, a partnership of the city, the Licking County Family YMCA and the Licking County Foundation. The renovations, developed by Newark-based ADR and Associates in collaboration with several Columbus businesses, include a BMX pump track, dirt jumps, a skills course, and a half-mile mountain bike loop on a 1.2-acre space.



The Gilbert Reese Family Foundation and the Thomas J. Evans Foundation, in partnership with the City of Newark and a number of other contributors, is completing a comprehensive renovation of Everett Park in Downtown Newark. The title of "best skate park in Ohio" will soon be bestowed upon Newark, Ohio, thanks to a state-of-the-art skate park design/build by Spohn Ranch. The skate park is one component of a larger improvement project at Everett Park and would not be possible without an amazing collaboration between Spohn Ranch, the Evans & Reese Foundations, the City of Newark and a team of local engineers, architects and contractors.

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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.

NDP is a 501(c)(3) organization formed in 2012 under the Ohio Revised Code as approved by the City of Newark Administration and Council

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