



ANNUAL
REPORT
2021

CITY OF
HURON
A GREAT LAKE PLACE



A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR AND CITY MANAGER

Through the ebbs and flows of the pandemic in 2021, Huron was fortunate to return to near normalcy after an unpredictable 2020. Capital projects were initiated and completed, and events and festivals populated our civic and social calendars.

The ability to move forward, business as usual, was due to several major factors: prudent operational and capital spending in 2020, healthy income tax streams in 2021, an updated capital plan guiding the community’s infrastructure investments and strong relationships with many partners including, but not limited to, Huron City Schools, EHOVE Career Center, Huron Township, and the Huron Chamber of Commerce.

Major projects were completed such as the redesign and improvement of Route 6, along with the installation of new water lines and the complete resurfacing of Berlin Road. 2021 was also a year of announcing and planning for many catalytic investments in our community including selecting a developer for the former ConAgra property, securing funding for the complete reconstruction of Sawmill Parkway, announcing plans for a state-of-the-art fish cleaning station at the boat launch and collaborating with Huron Township and the school districts on the annexation of Sawmill Creek Resort, which will generate funding for significant infrastructure investments. This forward momentum is aided by massive private investments in our community that commenced or completed in 2021 including, but not limited to, completion of Mucci Farms’ Phase III, Ardagh breaking ground on a \$500+ Million facility expansion, USGS locating to the Harbor North property, and Stride Mobility and Safe Harbor Insurance building a new facility on Sawmill Parkway.

It is critical to mention that these projects are being undertaken with an eye for protecting the charm and character of Huron and ensuring basic service delivery remains strong – such as local street resurfacing and continued maintenance and improvement to our revered park system.

We look forward to continued momentum in 2022 and engaging residents and stakeholders to help guide the direction of this great City.

Monty Tapp, Mayor

Matt Lasko, City Manager



CITY OF HURON
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Huron City Council

Monty Tapp, Mayor

Mark Claus, Vice-Mayor

Joel Hagy

Sam Artino

Matt Grieves

Joe Dike

William Biddlecombe

CITY OF HURON
ANNUAL REPORT
Fiscal Year 2021

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PERMITS, REGISTRATIONS AND CODES

The Planning, Zoning and Building Department oversees long- and short-term planning efforts throughout the City related to private development, park and greenspace enhancements and public infrastructure. Additionally, this department aims to ensure compliance with all property maintenance and zoning codes to maintain the high-quality building stock and to elevate property values within the City.

2021 Outcomes			
	2019	2020	2021
Zoning Permits Issued	137	213	164
Building Permits Issued	No Data	185	206
Contractor Registrations	154	132	165
Transient Rental Registrations	N/A	92	117
Code Compliance	67 cases	211 cases	306 cases

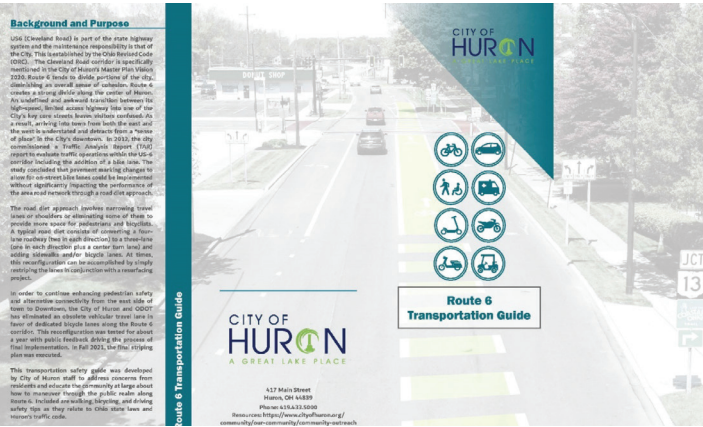
BIKE LANE DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

The Planning Department played an integral role in leading the community engagement and feedback process regarding the final design of the bicycle lanes on Rt. 6. Several changes were made from the temporary plan to address community concerns, improve safety measures, and improve traffic flow along the corridor.

Additionally, the Planning Department designed a Rt. 6 Transportation Guide. This pamphlet provides a visual depiction of the implemented traffic and signage changes, as well as providing guidance on what types of vehicles are permitted in each type of traffic lane.



Bike Lanes – Looking East from Main Street



Rt. 6 Transportation Guide

SITE PLAN REVIEWS FOR COMMERCIAL INVESTMENTS

Major site plan reviews were also conducted on significant commercial investments throughout the City, including, but not limited to, Ardagh Metal Packaging, Firelands Scientific Dispensary, Horvath Roofing Expansion, and the United States Geological Survey Building. The mentioned projects are all either completed or under construction.



USGS Facility



Firelands Scientific Dispensary



Horvath Roofing Expansion

2021 CODE UPDATES

The Planning, Zoning and Building Department undertook several major code updates in 2021 including:

- Updates to the transient rental ordinance to address off-street parking requirements, occupancy limits, and enhanced inspection requirements.
- Streamlining the process for abating and assessing property owners who have multiple noxious or high weed violations.
- Combining the planning commission and design review board to streamline the plan review process to provide faster and more efficient customer service to owners, developers, and contractors.

DEVELOPMENT

The City announced the selection of NAI Harmon Group (Toledo, OH) as the preferred developer of the former ConAgra site. Preliminary plans for the \$25+ million project call for the construction of approximately 80 residential units, some commercial and retail uses and transformational public green space throughout. The project has been aided through the support of Huron Schools and EHOVE Career Center, who approved School Compensation Agreements and a Tax Increment Financing package to assist in public infrastructure investments that are needed to support the development.



Conceptual Site Plan - Former ConAgra Site

The City, in partnership with Huron Township, Cedar Fair, Huron Schools and EHOVE Career Center, also announced the annexation of Sawmill Creek Resort. This action was needed in order to institute a tax increment financing arrangement to provide construction subsidy to the project. With these approvals, Sawmill Creek Resort has commenced construction on a \$25+ million rehabilitation to the facility in hopes of opening the resort in 2022. This project will also provide critical funding for future infrastructure investments around the site, with a focus on the Rye Beach Road/Cleveland Road intersection.

Sawmill Creek Resort - Exterior Rendering

Ardagh Metal Packaging, an international leader in the production of infinitely recyclable packaging solutions, announced the acquisition of the former IAC facility on Sawmill Parkway. Ardagh Metal Packaging is currently underway on a \$500+ million investment into the facility, which will result in a doubling of the size of the facility and the creation of 300+ new employment positions.



Ardagh Metal Packaging – Sawmill Parkway



PUBLIC BOAT LAUNCH

- Secured \$500,000 in grant funding from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for construction of a state-of-the-art fish cleaning station, which will only further enhance the popularity and notoriety of our boat launch.
- Hosted six (6) major fishing tournaments bringing thousands of anglers into Huron.



BOAT BASIN – MARINA – AMPHITHEATER

- Had a very successful year in terms of usage of the marina:

DOCKAGE	
Seasonal Dockage	Transient Visits
2021 – 70 boats	2021 – 700 stays
2020 – 68 boats	2020 – 420 stays
2019 – 54 boats	2019 – 645 stays

- Enhanced our user and customer experience through adoption of a new online phone app (called “DOCKWA”) to handle reservation requests and to provide information on the Marina and nearby amenities.

- Began implementing a robust, albeit abbreviated, entertainment schedule the second half of summer, including eight (8) Boppin’ on the Basin concerts, five (5) Movies by the River and four (4) Arts in the Amphitheater events.
- Hosted several traditional community events including City-Wide Garage Sales, Pumpkin Fest, Winter Fest, and the Farmer’s Market.



Carriage Rides - Winterfest

- Celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the facility, which opened to the public on October 23, 1971.



BOAT BASIN AND AMPHITHEATER

FABENS PARK

- Fabens Park had another tremendous year in terms of usage and ability to attract not only local youth, but also kids from multiple states.

- Over 300 children participated in the 2021 recreational baseball/softball season.
- Hosted 5 large multi-team tournaments.
- Hosted 51 baseball/softball teams through the annual Dawg Daze Tournament which included teams from six (6) different states.

- Fabens Park was recognized by Sports Events Magazine in 2021, ranking #3 nationally in the Reader’s Choice Award category for the All-Star Outdoor Sports Venue category.
- Secured funding from multiple philanthropic sources to aid in the installation of a new 55x100 outdoor, real ice, ice skating rink. This asset will be instrumental in expanding the City’s winter activity options and recreational opportunities for kids and families.



Fabens Park

NICKEL PLATE BEACH

- Installation of two (2) new Water Towers (including drinking fountains) at Nickel Plate Beach.
- Nickel Plate Beach continued to display very high usage (even after a record 2020) when considering both vehicle visit and season pass holders:

PARK VISITORS	
Vehicle Visits	Season Passes
2021 - 10,500	2021 – 149
2020 – 13,000	2020 – 140
2019 – 5,500	2019 – 129

PROGRAMS

- Reinstated many popular and important community and youth programs including, but not limited to, Youth Sports Camps (Track, Softball, Golf, Cheer, Soccer, and Basketball), Arts and Crafts Camp, Junior Fun Camp, Safety Town, Beach Yoga and Tai Chi.



GOLF CAMP

STREETS & ENGINEERING



BERLIN ROAD – REPAVING AND STRIPING

- Completed the comprehensive repaving and striping of Berlin Road (south of Rt. 6 to the city limits).
- Crews utilized 4,250 pounds of crack sealing material to undertake sealing activities on Lincoln Avenue, Washington Avenue, Tiffin Avenue, Berlin Road (north of Rt. 6), Ontario Street, A Street, McKinley Street, Nickel Plate Drive, and parts of Silvern Avenue.
- Crews also undertook milling and blacktop repair activities on Stowe Street, Valleyview Drive, Forest Hills Drive, Gumwood Road, Vine Street, Lakeway Drive, Wilder Avenue, Wilbor Avenue, Scott Street, and Taylor Avenue.
- Crews undertook concrete road and curb repairs on Salem Drive and North Port Lane and managed the temporary roadway leveling of Sawmill Parkway.
- Crews also repaired or replaced eight (8) catch basins/ manholes and repaired or replaced 24 feet of storm line.



VACUUM LEAF COLLECTOR

- The City purchased its first ever set of battery-powered, mobile radar signs which were used for traffic control and data collection on several streets in 2021. Given the popularity of the mobile signs, the City is planning to purchase another two (2) sets in 2022.
- The City also purchased three (3) sets of new solar-powered school zone lights, which have since been installed in front of Shawnee Elementary School, McCormick Middle School and Huron High School.



DECORATIVE STREET LAMP - CLEVELAND ROAD

- Installed over thirty (30) new decorative light fixtures along Route 6 between Berlin Road and Williams Street to match existing decorative streetlamps near the boat launch entrance and Main Street.
- The City began the process of planning for the full reconstruction of Sawmill Parkway, which will include new curbing, stabilization of subbase, and installation of new storm sewer and catch basins. The approximate \$3.5 million project is currently being designed with plans for construction to start in 2022. The project is entirely grant-funded with assistance being provided by the Economic Development Administration, ODOT Jobs and Commerce, Ohio Development Services Agency and Jobs Ohio, and the Ohio Public Works Commission.
- Street Department staff completed another successful year of citywide leaf pickup services. Between October 25th and December 16th, crews completed 6 complete trips throughout the City and picked up 48.5 truckloads of leaves totaling 1,212 cubic yards of leaves.

POLICE

- Even though 2021 was still challenging due to COVID, the Huron Police Department was able to begin participating in several traditional annual events such as Sandusky Touch-a-Truck, Huron River Fest Parade, Huron Winter Fest Parade, Operation Santa's Sleigh and OHGO's Operation Happy Christmas.
- Although late 2020 and 2021 saw the retirement of two patrol officers, the Huron Police Department added three new police officers in 2021, resulting in a net gain of one additional full-time officer.
- Continued the strategic upgrading and modernization of our fleet of cruisers. In 2021, the City purchased 4 new police cruisers to replace a significant portion of our aged and outdated fleet.

STATISTICS	2018	2019	2020	2021
Incident Reports	1,782	1,756	1,525	1,591
Service Calls	7,784	8,320	6,994	6,627
Traffic Crashes	53	68	53	63
Private Property Crashes	37	39	25	37
Criminal Arrests	333	364	247	254
Traffic Citations	591	722	188	483
Traffic Warnings	931	923	333	1,490
Parking Citations	11	27	13	18

FIRE

- Even with limited training opportunities, the Fire Department was able to complete 1,599 total training hours amongst all personnel.
- Additionally, the Fire Department made several equipment and technological upgrades throughout the department including:
 - **Upgrading the electronics package on the fire boat**
 - **Purchased and utilized a new dive trailer**
 - **Installed new EMS and Fire reporting software**
- Of the 2,057 total calls for service:
 - **1,202 (or 59%) were in the City of Huron**
 - **810 (or 39%) were in Huron Township**
 - **45 (or 2%) were mutual aid calls in adjacent communities**

The Fire Department had a record number of calls for service in 2021 - 2,057. A breakdown of the types of all incidents is as follows:

- **Medical Rescue - 88%**
- **Good Intent – controlled burns 4%**
- **False Alarms – controlled burns 3%**
- **Fires – 2%**
- **Service Calls – 2%**
- **Hazard Spills/Leaks – 1%**

SAFETY TOWN



WATER

- The Huron Water Plant underwent a major increase to operational capacity in 2021, thereby enhancing water security and reliability for customers. Specifically, the plant, which traditionally only operated 16 hours per day, now operates 24/7/365.
- To help with this increase in plant capacity, the Water Division added an additional employee in 2021, increasing total employees from 9 to 10 in both filtration and distribution.



FUTURE LOCATION OF PLANT EXPANSION

- Crews broke ground on a plant expansion project involving the installation of tube settlers - to be completed in 2022. This project will increase the plant's capacity to produce finished water from 3.4 million gallons per day to 5.8 million gallons per day. This \$2.9M expansion will permit the system to meet growing demand while also allowing the system to attract new customers – this project represents the single largest investment into the plant since its original construction in 1957.



BERLIN ROAD - WATER LINE REPLACEMENT

- Completed the replacement of the water main on Berlin Road (south of Rt. 6), Stedman Street, Tyler Street and Paris Street. Project involved installation of over 1 mile of new larger piping and road resurfacing.



EXAMPLE TUBE SETTLER PROJECT

- In summation, the water filtration plant experienced record high numbers in terms of water treated and water delivered, which is a testament to the growth being experienced in Huron.

LAW

- Prepared nearly fifty (50) ordinances and over ninety (90) resolutions for City Council consideration.
- Researched and proposed updates to several codified ordinances related to transient rentals, tall grass and weed abatement, electronic scooters, sidewalk requirements in new subdivisions and parking enhancements throughout the City.
- Successfully assisted the administration in the negotiation and completion of three (3) new bargaining unit contracts with the Huron Police Department, Huron Fire Department and AFCSME which extend through the end of 2024.

MUNICIPAL COURT

The mission of the Huron Municipal Court is to provide a fair, impartial, and efficient resolution of the matters brought before it, without unnecessary delay, in a courteous manner.

Filed:

- 1,907 traffic cases filed
- 377 criminal cases filed
- 237 civil cases filed

Resolved:

- 1,940 traffic cases
- 467 criminal cases
- 267 civil cases

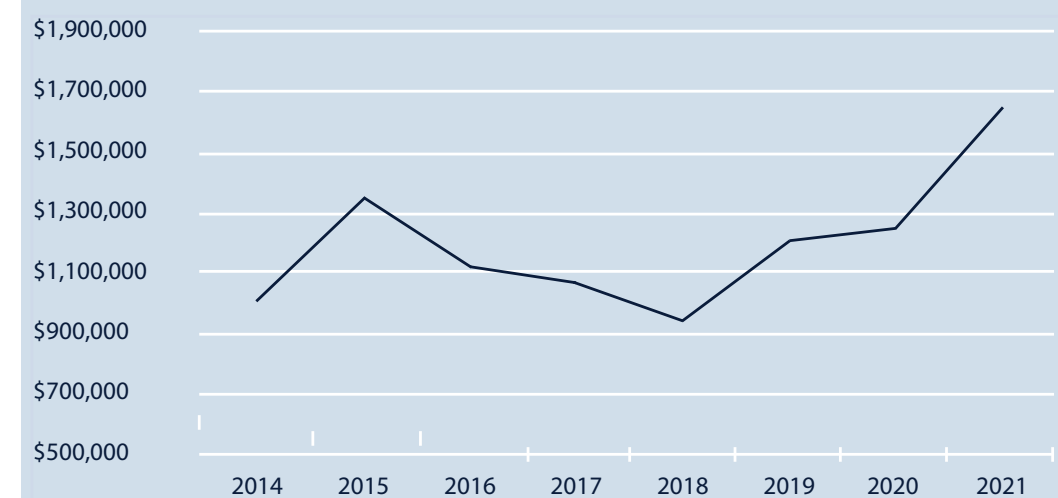
In total held 100 regular court sessions with 3,552 total cases scheduled.

FINANCE

The Finance Department supports the operations of all City departments and Council. Services provided to these departments and the public include accounts payable, payroll, utility billing, debt and investment management, budget preparation and financial reporting. In addition, the Finance Department assists Council and the City Manager to secure funding, while managing the City's debt capacity and investment portfolio.

The City utilizes 48 separate funds to account for the activity of various services, such as Fire, Police, Service, Water and Electric. The General Fund is an unrestricted Fund and critical to the City's essential operations, such as Police and Fire. The City must maintain a General Fund reserve greater than 15% of annual expenditures. The City's General Fund reserve has maintained a balance of 18% to 32% from 2017 through 2021. The City maintains these reserve balances to ensure essential services are not affected by unanticipated emergencies and economic downturns.

GENERAL FUND RESERVE BALANCE



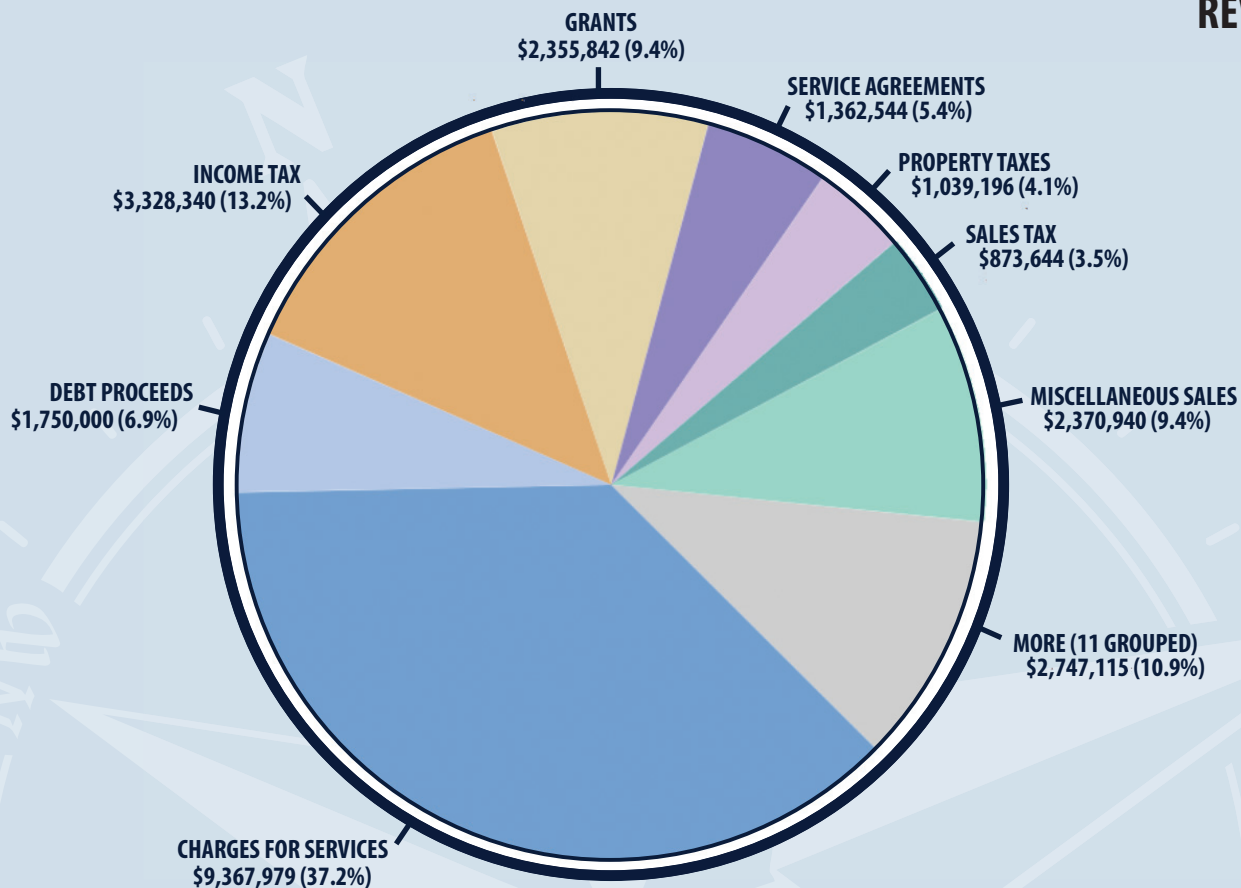
*Reduced 2016's balance by \$796,000 due to an estate tax receipt that was transferred to the Economic Development Fund in 2017.

The City's income tax revenue accounts for approximately 60% of General Fund income. Income Tax growth year over year is pivotal due to the City's reliance on this revenue source. 2021 income tax revenue was 17% higher than 2020.





REVENUES



EXPENDITURES

