

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

CITY OF
HURON

A great lake PLACE



HURON | OHIO



A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR AND CITY MANAGER

In 2023, Huron continued its remarkable ability to secure grant funding to equip the City to undertake major capital projects – saving our tax payers and residents millions of dollars. Additionally, 2023 resulted in significant operational and equipment upgrades to modernize our departments and increase our transparency. Huron continues to be a place where residents are happy to live and others hope to move to.

This year, the City completed the \$3.5M total reconstruction of Sawmill Parkway utilizing 95% grant proceeds. From a recreational standpoint, the City opened the Fish Cleaning Station at the boat launch, completed a reconstruction of our tennis and pickleball courts at Fabens Park with the financial help of Huron Township and the Huron Joint Recreation District and adopted a Park Masterplan for the recently acquired acreage on Berlin Road. Our Safety Services had an exciting year with our Police Department creating a body-worn camera program while also re-instituting the K-9 Program made possible by significant community donations. Our Fire Department was fortunate enough to purchase two (2) new ambulances in partnership with Huron Township to modernize our fleet and they celebrated their 150th anniversary of protecting our communities.

Economic investment and job creation continue to be important for our long-term growth. We witnessed the completion of the construction at Ardagh – Erie County’s largest economic investment in decades - construction commenced on an expansion at Lakeway Manufacturing and Firelands Scientific is planning its own expansion.

Huron continues its progressive and forward-thinking approach to projects and operations while remaining cognizant of the elements of our great City that should be preserved. So much of what we do as a City can be attributed to the dedication of our tremendous staff, unified Council, and stakeholder support. Huron has been, and will continue to be, one of Lake Erie’s most thriving communities.

Monty Tapp, Mayor

Matt Lasko, City Manager



CITY OF HURON
417 Main Street
Huron, Ohio 44839

419/433-5000 | cityofhuron.org





CITY OF HURON
ANNUAL REPORT
Fiscal Year 2023

Huron City Council

- Monty Tapp, Mayor
- Mark Claus, Vice-Mayor
- Sam Artino
- William Biddlecombe
- Joe Dike
- Matt Grieves
- Joel Hagy

PLANNING, ZONING & BUILDING	5-7
DEVELOPMENT	8
PARKS & RECREATION	9-10
POLICE	11
FIRE	12
WATER	13-14
STREETS & ENGINEERING	15
LAW	16
MUNICIPAL COURT	16
FINANCE	17-18





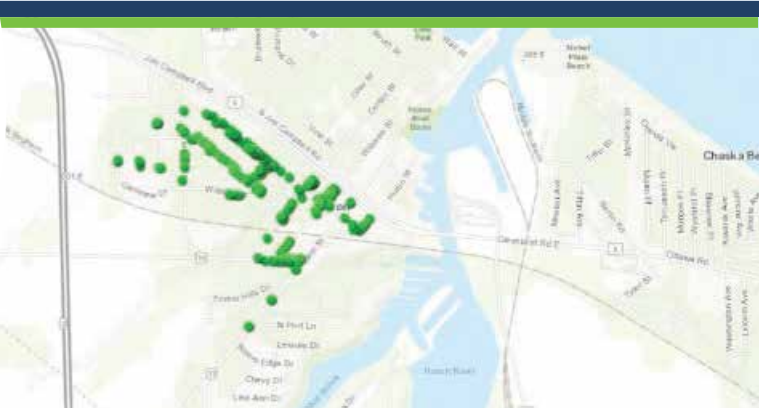
The Planning and Zoning Department is comprised of three full-time employees, the Planning Director, Zoning Inspector, and the Administrative Assistant/Permit Technician. The Planning & Zoning Department operated with only two full-time employees (Planning Director, Administrative Assistant) from January 2023-April 2023, until the newly hired Zoning Inspector was added in April 2023. The Department is, once again, operating with only two full-time employees, due to the untimely death of Jeff Fantozzi, our Zoning Inspector in early March 2024.

- **City Planning Projects:** long-range physical planning/urban design, community visioning, GIS mapping, surveys, growth trends analysis, land use analysis, outreach, and engagement efforts
 - **Zoning Permit Applications:** review, approval, collection, and deposit of fees.
 - **Contractor Registration Applications:** review, approval, collection and deposit of fees, issuance of Certificates.
 - **Building Permit Application:** distribution to the Building Department, collection, and deposit of fees. Monthly reconciliation of Building Permit Fees for Huron Township.
 - **Transient Rental Registration:** research/investigations, noticing, review, inspection, approval, collection and deposit of fees, issuance of Certificates.
 - **Code Enforcement:** review, inspection/investigation, noticing, corrective action, preparation and distribution of case files to the City Prosecutor for legal action, invoicing, tax lien documentation preparation to Auditor.
 - **Zoning Code Amendments:** Review and research of current code to make recommendations for amendments.
- **Client Consultations:** review proposed projects, review for compliance, provide applications required.
 - **Grants:** specific to transportation/park planning initiatives
 - **ROW Permitting - Driveways, Utilities, and Trees:** application creation, permit creation through IworQ software, coordination of plan reviews, inspections, collection of fees & bonds, return of bonds upon final inspections. Code amendments have been researched and proposed amendments to these codes prepared.
 - **Non-zoning permits:** Peddlers, Parades, Garage Sales, Temporary Stores- application revisions, permit creation through IworQ software. Research into proposed amendments to the corresponding codes. Proposed amendments were submitted to the Administration for review in October 2023.
 - **Commercial Stormwater/SWPPP:** coordinate deposit collections and reconciliation of invoicing for Engineering and Erie Conservation.

PROJECTS/TASKS

Grant Submissions: In late 2022, the zoning staff applied for a Coastal Management Assistance Grant (CMAG) administered through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and was subsequently awarded \$35,000 with a 50% match in 2023 (\$70k total). The funds will be allocated to a Waterfront Parks Plan that will minimally address connectivity, coastal habitat restoration, land use, and amenity planning from the Waterworks facility to the Showboat property/Main Street Beach. OHM Advisors was recently selected to provide planning services for this project.

District 2 - Sidewalk & Tree Survey: As part of the comprehensive Sidewalk and Tree Assessment Program initiated in 2023, the department has taken the lead in mapping all sidewalk and street tree conditions within the city. The city has been divided into districts to make the process more manageable. It will be an on-going annual task to track conditions of the city's sidewalk and tree assets starting with District 2 (southwest quadrant), which includes a portion of Downtown, Oklahoma, Forest Hills, Rivers Edge, Hidden Valley, and Huron Heights neighborhoods. This process will help the department guide the city in prioritizing and allocating funds to sidewalk and tree maintenance. Furthermore, the mapping will aid in securing any grant funding available for any future sidewalk repairs and tree plantings within the public right-of-way.



Main Street Planning Initiative: Working with its consultant, OHM Advisors, the city successfully completed a corridor plan for Main Street, including physical enhancements of the right-of-way, land use, landscaping, stormwater management, and parking. Moving into 2024, the Planning and Zoning Department will be undertaking a crucial zoning code update to its downtown district to align future development with what is proposed in the Main Street Corridor Plan.

MAJOR COMMERCIAL/BUSINESS PLAN REVIEWS

- Sheltered Brook Drive. Two Rivers Phase 1- Planned Development Project, 27 Single-Family Free-Standing Condos
- 730 River Road, Seven Lakeway Refractories- Expansion
- 120 Main Street- Multi-Family Residential Development- 14 Townhomes
- 912 University Drive-GDM Properties- Accessory Structure

BUILDING FEES

Total Building	\$ 96,969.16
Miscellaneous	\$
Addition	\$21,026.37
Commercial	\$12,443.21
Deck	\$2,152.22
Accessory Structures	\$1,393.99
Electrical Only	\$22,110.84
Fire Alarm	\$1,113.44
Foundation	\$3,162.70
In-ground Pool	\$
New Residential	\$11,050.52
Remodel	\$3,959.71
Roof	\$14,010.62
Solar Panel	\$522.68

ZONING FEES

Total Zoning	\$17,362.66
Miscellaneous	\$205.01
Accessory Structure	\$1,068.78
Addition to Commerci	\$395.00
Addition to Residence	\$2,232.39
Commercial Structure	\$1,266.25
Deck	\$275.00
Demolition	\$82.76
Fence	\$2,113.60
Floodplain Permit	\$100.00
New Residence	\$1,351.55
Meeting Applications	\$5,455.00
Signs	\$1,570.83
Swimming Pool	\$225.00
Parking Lot	\$1,226.50

COMPLETED CODE AMENDMENTS FOR 2023

Staff has completed several code audits related to both new regulations and amending existing processes permits are now being processed through the planning and zoning department and some language has become obsolete. These amendments seek to address potential legal issues and realign with new standard operating procedures. Code amendments addressed in 2023 include the following: Chapter 1323 Contractor Registration, Chapter 741 Garage Sales, Chapter 901 Excavations, Chapter 311 Parades, Chapter 711 Peddlers, Chapter 721 Taxi Cabs, Chapter 731 Temporary Stores, Chapter 1139 Zoning Administration (New regulations for conditional uses), Section 505.18 Chickens (New regulations for keeping hens), Section 505.19 Bees (New regulations for beekeeping), and Chapter 1129 Signage (Content neutral regulations updated). Staff are hoping the changes made to the aforementioned sections will be brought before Council and approved in early 2024.

Fee Schedule– In 2023, staff completed a comprehensive overhaul of the fees associated with all zoning and non-zoning permits, excluding building permit fees. Key issues include standardizing and streamlining missing processes and charging for services previously not covered. Examples of the types of changes include formalizing a process for both preliminary and final plat reviews, floodplain permit review fees, and including a non-refundable processing fee for both commercial and residential projects.

The last time Huron's zoning fees were updated was in 2012, and currently do not reflect the number of services provided by the planning and zoning department nor do they accurately reflect the amount of time it takes staff to manage projects effectively. Further recommendations include increasing the fees all-around to further offset costs associated with project review and inspection time. Staff are hoping the changes will be brought before council and approved in early 2024.



PERMITS, REGISTRATIONS AND CODES

	2023	2022	2021	2020
Zoning Permits	162	159	164	213
Building Permits	194	134	206	185
Contractor Regist.	192	180	165	132
Transient Rental Registration	191 Cases/Entries 165 Active Certs 19 Expired 7 Wait list	178 Cases/Entries 165 Active Certs 5 Wait list	146 Cases 117 Active Certs	134 Cases 92 Active Certs
Code Enforcement	274 cases Top 3 Violation Types: Grass/Weeds Debris/ Sanitation Vehicle Parking Certified & Regular Mailings Issued Expense: \$1,021.55 Mowing Fees Expenses: \$1,680.63 Fees Paid: \$281.25 Fees Certified to Auditor on Tax Duplicate \$1,399.38	252 cases Top 3 Violation Types: Grass/Weeds Debris/Sanitation Vehicle Parking Certified & Regular Mailings Issued Expense: \$2,177.22 Mowing Fee Expenses \$4,229.35 Fees Paid: \$1,749.60 Fees Certified to Auditor on Tax Duplicate \$2,479.75	306 cases Top 3 Violation Types: Grass/Weeds Debris/Sanitation Vehicle Parking Certified & Regular Mailings Issued Expense: \$2,177.22 Mowing Fee Expenses \$4,229.35 Fees Paid: \$1,749.60 Fees Certified to Auditor on Tax Duplicate \$2,479.75	211 cases

	2023	2022	2021	2020
Planning Commission/DRB	14 meetings 25 cases	12 meetings 32 cases	18 meetings 34 cases	9 meetings 35 cases
BZA	9 meetings 16 cases	9 meetings 29 cases	12 meetings 29 cases	9 meetings 21 cases

NON-ZONING PERMITS

	2023	2022
Non-Zoning Permits:	133	38
Garage Sale Permits	33-\$66.00	10-\$20
Temporary Stores	2-\$300	1-\$150
Peddlers Licensing	19-0	4-0
Outdoor Dining Permit	0-0	1-0
ROW Street/Driveways	25-\$1,200	4
ROW Utility	30-\$1,400	14
ROW Trees	15-0	3-0
Parade	3-0	1-0

Main Street Townhomes

In 2023, the Planning Commission approved the site plan for the future construction of fourteen (14) market-rate, multi-family residential townhomes to be constructed on the private vacant lot 120 Main Street. This type of development is supported by both the Vision 2020 Masterplan and the downtown/Mainstreet Masterplan. A 2024 groundbreaking is in the works.

Two Rivers Development

In July of 2023, the Planning Commission and City Council approved the PUD request and the Development Agreement for Phase I of Sheltered Brook Drive. Approval of Phase I brought hope of restarting the residential development of 27 single-family, free-standing condos on the remaining available lots.

Lakeway Manufacturing Purchase

Lakeway Manufacturing was acquired by RHI Magnesita, headquartered in Vienna, Austria, mid-year in 2023. Following the corporate acquisition, plans were submitted to the City by the facility requesting approval of a major expansion. The 11,000 square foot addition estimated at \$1.5M is a valuable addition to the River Road property. The City is very appreciative of the company's commitment to Huron and its plans for future growth.

ConAgra Development

In November of 2023, the City and the developement partner of the former ConAgra site agreed to mutually part ways. Moving forward with the understanding the interest in developing the site remains strong, a proactive approach of sending out a new Request for Qualification and Conceptual Proposals was taken. These documents were sent to many potential developers and firms who had expressed interest in the site. The City hopes to secure a new development partner in early 2024.



Osters Mobile Home Park

The opportunity to purchase Oster's Mobile Home Park was presented in the Spring of 2023. The City saw this as an opportunity to not only help the residents overcome multiple living challenges, but to clean up the property along Cleveland Road, West. In all, twenty-eight households were relocated, the residents were supported by social service agencies, and the property was cleared. The City currently owns the seven (7) parcels and intends to engage the Rye Beach neighborhood and adjacent stakeholders in terms of securing feedback on the preferred future use of the site.

Images:

Two Rivers Development - bottom right
Lakeway Manufacturing - bottom left
ConAgra Property - upper right
Osters Mobile Home Park - bottom center





PROJECTS & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS



COURTS AT FABENS PARK

The Courts at Andrew L. Fabens Memorial Park reconstruction project began during the spring of 2023 and wrapped up mid-October. The timing was such a soft opening for the balance of the playable season was offered. The two brand new court systems consist of a total of five tennis courts and six regulation-striped pickleball courts. The three-court system was reconstructed with double-striping

to accommodate the three tennis and six pickleball courts with removable nets for versatility. The two-court system is dedicated solely for tennis. The \$570,500 capital improvement project was made possible through city funds of \$376,500 and contributions totaling \$100,000 from Huron Township and \$94,000 from the Huron Joint Rec District Board.

BERLIN ROAD PARK

The Berlin Road Park Master Plan was unveiled by City Architecture. The Cleveland-based architectural firm was contracted last February to begin working on a start for a Park Master Plan. Three public meetings were held in May to review the initial starting point and offer suggestions to firm up the plan. After gaining significant public and stakeholder feedback, City Architecture returned in August with a complete Master Plan. The basic concept of the Master Plan is to keep the park very passive in nature and focus on the pond. As presented, the Master Plan could total close to \$500,000 in future projects.

Amenities include: a walking trail around the pond, floating dock for fishing, an open-air pavilion, picnic tables, benches, grills, as well as terraced levels for seating and potential restrooms.

THE ANCHOR MEMORIAL

In the fall of 2023, the Anchor Memorial at the top of the Boat Basin Amphitheater was set and topped off. The new public art feature has been in the design and development stages since the fall of 2020. The purpose of the project is to honor four Huron residents who were the foundation and strength in "anchoring" the Huron Community through the HJRD Board. These four individuals played an integral role in creating and increasing recreational opportunities while securing and improving the future of Huron's greenspaces. The anchor was a donation, and a Memorial sub-committee was formed from the HJRD Board to oversee the project. Plaques will be installed later and an official dedication of the memorial, and the revealing of the honoree's names will take place in the spring of 2024.

FISH CLEANING STATION

The City was awarded the Extraordinary Destination Enhancement Award for the all-new Huron Public Fish Cleaning Station. The station was officially open to the public on June 21 following a soft opening for a brief period. The fish cleaning station features state-of-the art equipment designed to provide an extraordinary experience for anglers while minimizing the impact on the local infrastructure. The station was closed in late November for the season following an incredible inaugural season. The newest asset to the Huron River Boat Launch has been made possible through a partnership with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Division of Wildlife and Shores & Islands Ohio Destination Development Grant.

HURON BOAT BASIN DREDGING

The City entered into an agreement with Huffman Equipment Rental Inc. for the dredging services related to the Huron Boat Basin for a maintenance dredging project in the amount of \$366,477.50. We received two bids and Huffman Equipment Rental Inc. was the lowest and best bid. \$150,000 is allocated from the Boat Basin funds and the balance will be paid by the general fund. The last time maintenance dredging in the Boat Basin was in 2009 and has averaged about every ten years since its inception. High water the last four years helped push this back, but it is necessary for maintaining the existing waterway. By removing the sediment from the bottom of the marina it will allow for safe passage for boats in and out of their slips.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

CITY WIDE CLEAN-UP GREEN-UP: Over 2 dozen volunteers showed up to help clean up the green public areas of Huron. This year's clean up focus was on the pier, Nickel Plate Beach, and the new Berlin Road Park.

CITY-WIDE GARAGE SALE: The annual spring sale hosted 38 vendors who combined consumed 56 spaces full of antiques, furniture, clothing, and treasures.

EASTER BUNNY & EGG HUNT: On April 1st, Parks & Recreation partnered with the Huron Lion's Club for a pancake breakfast and food drive for the Huron Food Pantry. In climate weather concerns postponed the Egg Hunt portion of the event. Over 100 children (between the ages of 2-8) returned on April 6 and participated in the Easter Egg Hunt.

HURON PUMPKIN FEST: Mother Nature had her way with the 13th Annual Pumpkin Fest this year as well. The event was planned and ready for execution on October 14th but had to be cancelled just prior due to gale force winds and heavy rain.

HURON WINTER FEST: Took place on Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023, with a full schedule of events. The afternoon event kicked off with a 25-unit parade, a visit from Santa & Mrs. Claus, Elsa, Anna, and Olaf, along with horse-drawn carriage rides, maker's markets, cookie decorating, Main Street shopping, photo stops, and a trackless train. The event concluded with a Tree Lighting Ceremony and Winter Fireworks over the Huron River.

PROGRAMS

Youth Programming: A total of 419 local youth participated in the Youth Summer Camps and the Youth Sports Camps. The 2023 camp offerings included: Safety Town, Safety Town Extended Camp, Arts & Crafts Camp, Junior Fun Camps, Baseball, Track, Golf, Cheer, Basketball and Soccer Camps.

Baseball/Softball: Over 300 local youth participated in the Huron Baseball Softball Program at Fabens. In addition, there were four consecutive weeks of Fall Ball Tournaments in August and September with sixteen baseball teams and eighteen softball teams. The two local programs represent over 700 youth. The 23rd Annual Dawg Daze Tournament softball tournament brought in 42 teams from Michigan, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, New York, and Ohio.

Adult Programming: There was a total of 53 registered adult participants for both Tai Chi and Yoga along with 31 new or renewed yoga memberships over the course of the summer season. Walk your Way to Fitness at Fabens (Summer) and Walking at Woodlands (Winter) are two free, non-registration required programs.

NICKEL PLATE PARK VISITORS

Vehicle Visits	Season Passes
2023 - 9,000	2023 - 138
2022 - 9,000	2022 - 135
2021 - 10,500	2021 - 149

BOAT BASIN

The 2023 Event Schedule at the Huron Boat Basin was full of live entertainment with fourteen consecutive weekend events of Boppin' on the Basin, five Wednesday evenings of Movies by the River, and five Sunday afternoons of Arts at the Amphitheater.

Dockage: The Boat Basin Marina remained full for Seasonal Boaters totaling 71 filled slips. The extended good weather this past fall helped to increase the transient dockage to a record-breaking 912 stays in 2023.

DOCKAGE

Seasonal Dockage	Transient Visits
2023 - 71 boats	2023 - 912 stays
2022 - 70 boats	2022 - 785 stays
2021 - 70 boats	2021 - 700 stays





HURON POLICE

- In 2023, the Huron Police Department promoted a new Chief of Police, promoted a new sergeant, and hired three new full-time police officers to fill three vacancies creating a total staff of fourteen (14) full-time officers and one (1) part-time officer.
- The police department received grant funding for a Body Worn Camera Program which allows each officer to be equipped with a body worn camera. Additionally, all officers were equipped with new Tasers and departmental handguns.
- All officers completed twenty-four (24) hours of state mandated Continuing Professional Training in addition to at least 40 hours of specialized training. Two (2) officers completed ODNR's marine patrol school and are now certified as marine patrol officers for the department's Harbor Patrol.
- During the summer boating months, the waterways were patrolled by the department's Harbor Patrol. The department's marine patrol officers conducted 87 boat safety inspections, contacted 239 persons on board, and issued 73 warnings and two (2) citations.
- The police department started a K-9 fund initiative to support a future K-9 program which will better serve the community in a variety of ways. Fundraising efforts will continue into 2024. The new K9, Jax, and his handler attended and successfully completed state mandated training which allows the K-9 Unit to be operational.
- As part of the police department's new community policing agenda, each officer was assigned a neighborhood with specific duties. The new neighborhood policing duties include checking for roadway view obstructions or potentially dangerous conditions, junk vehicles and 24-hour violations, streetlights, and traffic signs in need of repair, weed and grass violations, looking for subjects with arrest warrants, conducting resident house checks, and attending neighborhood or HOA meetings when requested. Depending on shift activity, officers are to conduct three patrol area checks of their assigned neighborhood each tour of duty. The community policing program is a proactive approach to problem solving.



HURON FIRE



- Huron Fire celebrated its 150th Anniversary in 2023. To commemorate the event an Open House was held at Station 2 in October. The event was attended by many retired, former, and current members of the department, along with their families, council members, trustees, and residents.
- The staff exceeded 2,000 hours of training to stay proficient in skills within their scope of practice. Many of the hours cover Fire, EMS, Rescue, Inspector and Instructor.
- The department completed 234 commercial property inspections. During these inspections, several violations of the Ohio Fire Code were noted and mitigated thus lessening the number of major incidents.
- Water Safety Day was brought back in May of 2023. This event saw 168 third and fourth grade students from Huron observe presentations from 6 different public safety and water related agencies, and each student was provided with a life jacket to keep. Fire Prevention Week in the fall educated over 700 of Huron's preschool through fourth grade students in fire safety.
- In the off-season, fire boat 461 was outfitted with new electronics making water related emergencies safer and more efficient. With the most up to date equipment, people in need of assistance may be located quicker and the communication will be more reliable. 461 maintained readiness throughout the busy boating season and extended fishing season until December 12, 2023.
- In 2023, the City and the Township purchased and took delivery of two new Lifeline squads that were placed into service in September. These new squads replaced the 2011 and 2012 Horton squads that served our communities well.
- The HFD Dive Rescue and Recovery Team continued to enhance their skills and participated in 10 training dives including lake, pond, quarry, river, and pool dives. The team is currently staffed by 8 members, including FT/PT members. The team assisted the BCI (Bureau Criminal Investigation) team on a cold case file.

• In 2023 the Fire Department responded to 2003 calls for assistance.

Of these calls for service
EMS - 1737
Fire - 205
Motor Vehicle Accidents - 52
Water Rescues - 9

Of these calls for service
City Calls - 1,176
Twp. Calls - 758
Mutual Aid Calls - 69
HFD requested Mutual Aid - 12



11.



12.





WATER DEPARTMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Update and revise Huron Water Contingency Plan, Asset Management Plan, Risk and Resiliency Plan, and the Emergency Response Plan. It is a combination of these plans that ensure a potable water supply flows uninterrupted 24/7/365.
- Completed competitive bidding for water treatment chemicals for calendar year 2024. A collaborative effort with the City of Sandusky, Erie County, City of Vermilion, and City of Huron was once again completed. Advertising together allows for greater chemicals volumes to be bid on and thus more competitive financial offers from vendors. Chemical prices were down 17% overall from 2023.
- The entire length of the Lake Erie intake (2,555') was cleaned by Lake Erie Diving Inc. with assistance from staff. This also involved removal and installation of a new 1 ¼" HDPE chemical pipe for the sodium permanganate feed at the intake crib. The crib and wet well were also inspected and cleaned of all debris.
- Update and revise algal toxin response plan.
- Installation of approximately 3,500 Neptune automated meter reading radios. Staff worked diligently to install this entire system. The city is now entirely 100% operational on Neptune and has completely transitioned away from Zenner. The total number of meters in the system is approximately 3,500.
- Purchased a hydraulic power pack and hydraulic valve turner. The city received an equipment grant for \$10,000 to aid in this purchase. This equipment assists staff with the valve exercising program.
- Complete annual sludge lagoon maintenance. 2023 maintenance involved the rental of a Case long-reach excavator to dredge the one-acre sludge lagoon into the two previously formed retention dikes for a duration of one week.
- Purchased GIS mapping equipment with a \$50,000.00 Ohio EPA Service Line Identification and Mapping Grant. This grant requires no local match and provides funds for any equipment and services related to service line identification and mapping. The department purchased GIS geodes, tablets, line locators, training, and programming at no cost to the water system. Staff have been trained on this equipment and have begun mapping assets such as valves, hydrants, water mains, and more.
- Exercised valves and flushed hydrants in the water distribution system. It is a requirement of the Ohio EPA to flush hydrants annually and exercise 20% of system valves per year. Hydrant flushing ensures water quality in the system, specifically in dead end water mains while also ensuring the proper operation of the hydrants for emergency needs. Valve exercising ensures that valves will open and close successfully when needed in the event of routine or emergency maintenance (water main break).
- Received \$5,000,000 grant from the State of Ohio to be used for construction of a new 2.0-million-gallon water tower

EMPLOYEE UPDATES

- Jack Evans, Water Superintendent/Laboratory Manager, "Thank you to The City of Huron for welcoming me this year and I am grateful to have dedicated staff members along with support from the city. It is always our goal to provide the best quality drinking water and I am looking forward to serving Huron for years to come."
- Hired new Filtration Operator Shari Kreutzfeld to replace vacant position due to Operator Alex Hoyt taking a day-shift position with the Village of Monroeville. Shari brings 10-years of filtration plant operating experience as well as a Class 3 Water Supply license.

Emergency Water Main Repairs in 2023

6" Water Main	Crack	Valley View Drive	01/2023
8" Water Main	Hole	S. Main Street	04/20/2023
12" Water Main	Crack	Sawmill Parkway	05/31/2023
8" Water Main	Crack	Brookview	06/08/2023
12" Water Main	Hole (top)	Sawmill Parkway	08/16/2023
6" Water Main	Hole (side)	Forest Hills Dive	08/24/2023

2024 WATER DEPARTMENT OBJECTIVES

- Continue GIS mapping of water assets – water mains, valves, meters, pits, hydrants
- Complete of OEPA mandated lead service line mapping (Due Oct. 2024)
- Explore needs for future finished water clearwell storage
- Continue to train and learn Neptune meter reading system
- Continue replacement of aged Auma actuators with Rotork actuators
- Survey for future design and installation of new Rye Beach waterline beneath RT 2
- Receive completed design/engineering of Huron River Emergency Intake Project from Kleinfelder
- Receive completed design/engineering of Huron Sludge Lagoon NPDES Permit Elimination Project from Kleinfelder
- Receive completed design/engineering of 2.0 MG Water Tower from Kleinfelder that will be placed near the industrial parkway and will provide increased potable water storage in the event of an emergency. This tower is necessary for increased residential and commercial demands.
- Complete triennial water leak survey in collaboration with Underground Utilities or internally. The Triennial leak survey is performed to identify small leaks that otherwise would go undetected. It is important to fix these leaks to increase efficiencies, protect public health, and reduce property damage.
- Replace VFD drives with Low Server Pump #4 and High Service Pump #3. The pump drives are being replaced as they were damaged during a power surge. Every piece of equipment at the Water Filtration Plant is redundant to minimize the effects of equipment failures.
- Complete construction and rehabilitation of next scheduled water main replacement:
 - Portions of South Main
 - Forest Hills Drive
 - Valleyview Drive
 - Hickory Drive
 - Portions of Huron Street
 - Mill StreetThe scheduled water main replacement is addressing some of the older pipes in our distribution system that are prone to breaks. New water mains will reduce breaks and ensure residents always have access to safe, palatable, and potable water.





Crack Seal Program

The Street Department used 9,000 lbs. of crack seal material for sealing the Street & Water Department roadway and many areas in Old Homestead, Chaska, Oakhurst, Salem, and Westport. The department also crack sealed Rte. 6 (between Berlin Road and Center Street), Williams Street, Center Street (north of Cleveland Rd. W), South Street and Wall Street.

**Blacktop/Concrete Street Repairs
Painting of Stop Bars, Crosswalks, Curbs**

Riverside Drive, Center Street, Williams Street, Oakhurst Drive, Main Street, areas in Chaska, Old Homestead, Sawmill Parkway, Mudbrook Road, and grindings/dust control spray on Maple Avenue.

Street Sweeping

The city street sweeping was conducted from April to mid-October. The City collected 35 truckloads equaling 210 cubic yards of material.

Fall Leaf Collection Program

The leaf collection truck began picking up leaves on October 23rd and finished on December 11th. The truck rotated from the eastside of town to the westside of town making 6 complete trips for a total of 62 truckloads equaling 1,550 cubic yards of leaves.

**Mowing/Weed Whacking
Tree Trimming of City Lots/Roadways**

Berlin Road, Route 6, River Road, Tiffin Avenue, the water towers, Silvern Drive, Rye Beach Road, Huron Public Power property, Bogart Road and Route 2, Center Street (south of the railroad tracks), Mudbrook Drive, the Service Complex, the Pier, and ConAgra

**Catch Basin/Manhole/Storm Line
City Ditch Maintenance**

Used the jet/camera on 3,725 feet of storm line, repaired/replaced 25 feet of storm line, cleaned out 11 catch basins/manholes, dug out the culvert on Sawmill Parkway, and cleaned out the ditches at Nickel Plate and on Sail Away Drive as needed.

Staffing

The Street Department is currently set up with 4 full-time employees (1-foreman/3-maintenance). In May, Mark Clayman transferred to the Water Distribution Department, and 3½ months later, we welcomed Troy Halstead to our maintenance staff.



LAW

- Successful outcome of the Showboat property litigation at the Ohio Supreme Court.
- Oversaw Federal lawsuit against the City and negotiated a resolution with City's insurance carrier.
- Oversaw successful results in various appeals from BZA decisions.
- Assisted in authorship and/or processing of over 150 pieces of legislation.
- Also participated in negotiations with counsel for Oster's Mobile Home Park to bring purchase to a reality, in addition to other City purchases of land throughout the year.
- Provided support and service throughout the year to all City departments.

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, the Municipal Court held 100 regular court sessions with 3,552 total cases scheduled.



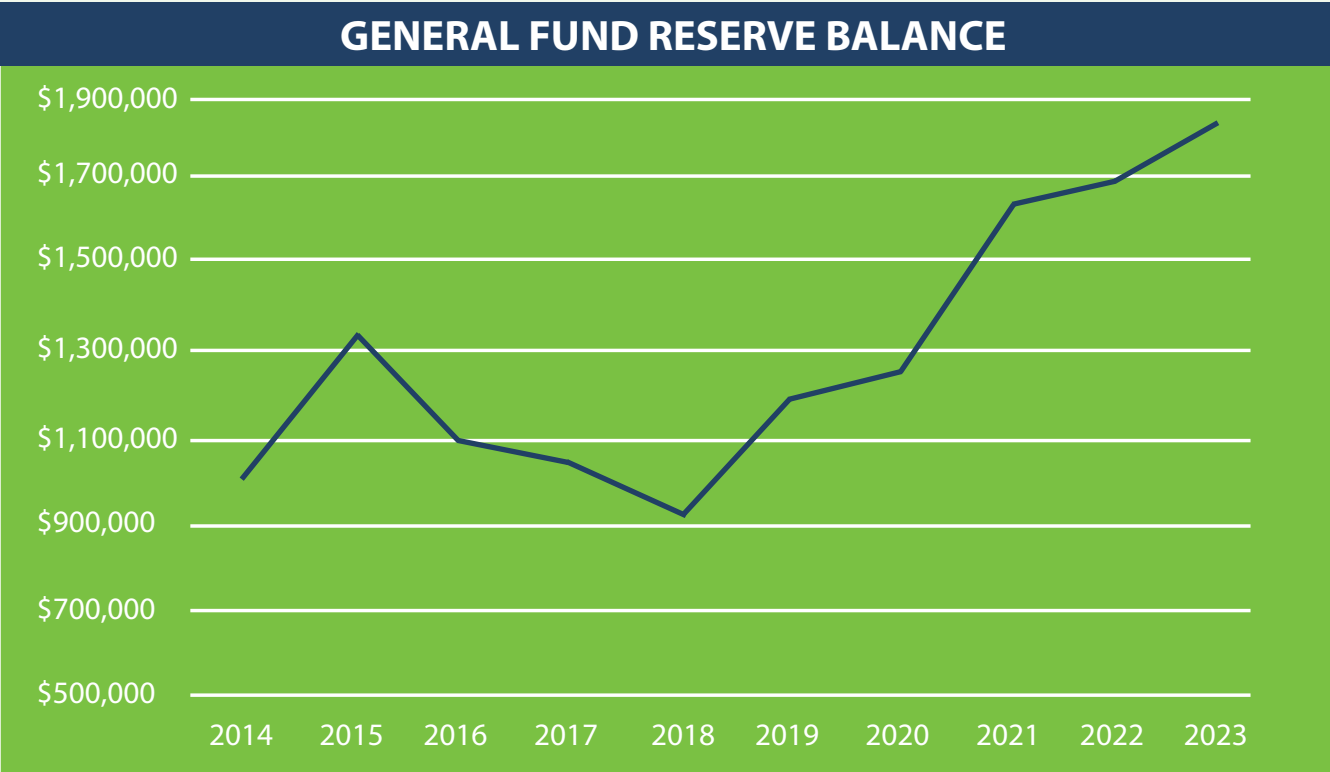


FINANCE

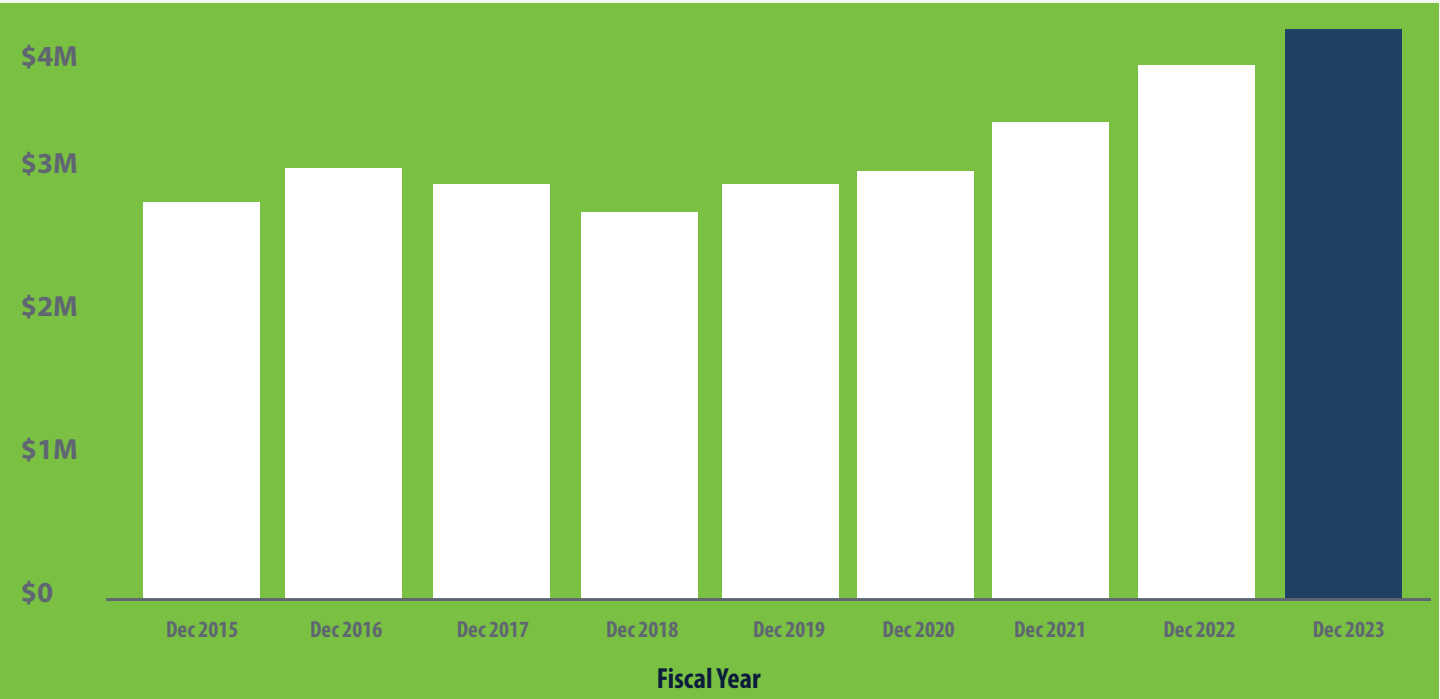
The Finance Department supports the operations of all City departments and Council. Services provided to these departments and the public include accounts payable, payroll, utility billing, budget preparation and financial reporting. In addition, the Finance Department assists Council and the City Manager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

The City utilizes 49 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 2023. The City maintains these reserve balances to ensure essential services are not affected by unanticipated emergencies and economic downturns.

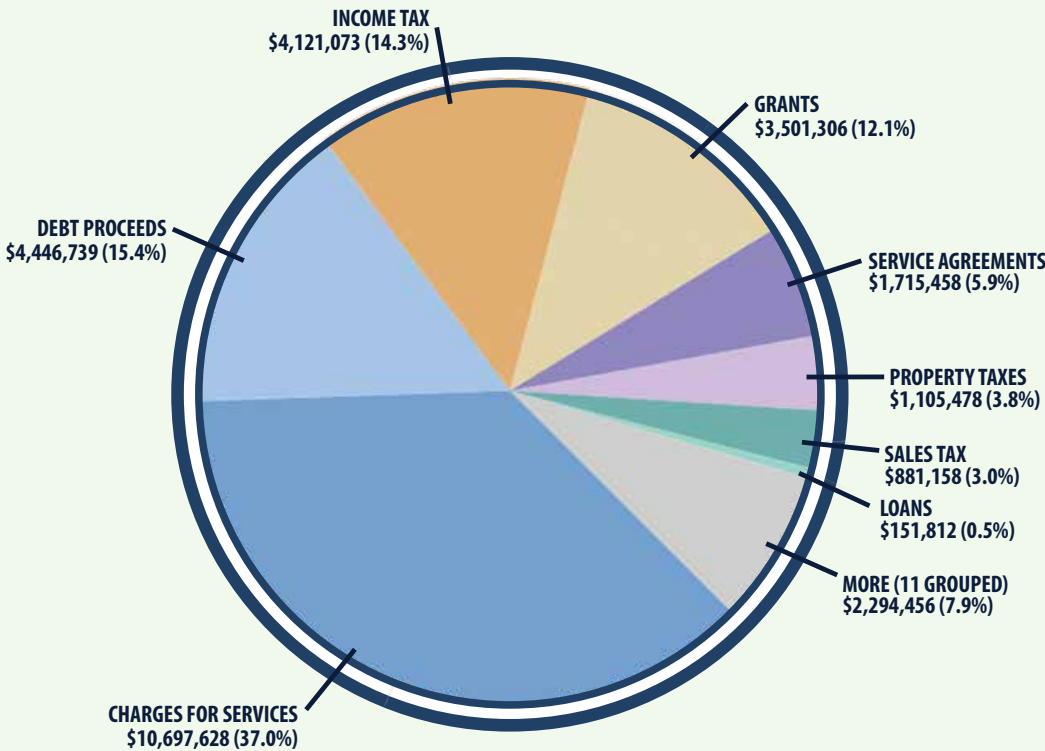
In 2023, the City received the State Auditor's Award on Financial Reporting for the 2022 fiscal year. The award is given to local governments for issuing a clean audit. Only 8% of the 6,000 government entities audited every year receive this award.



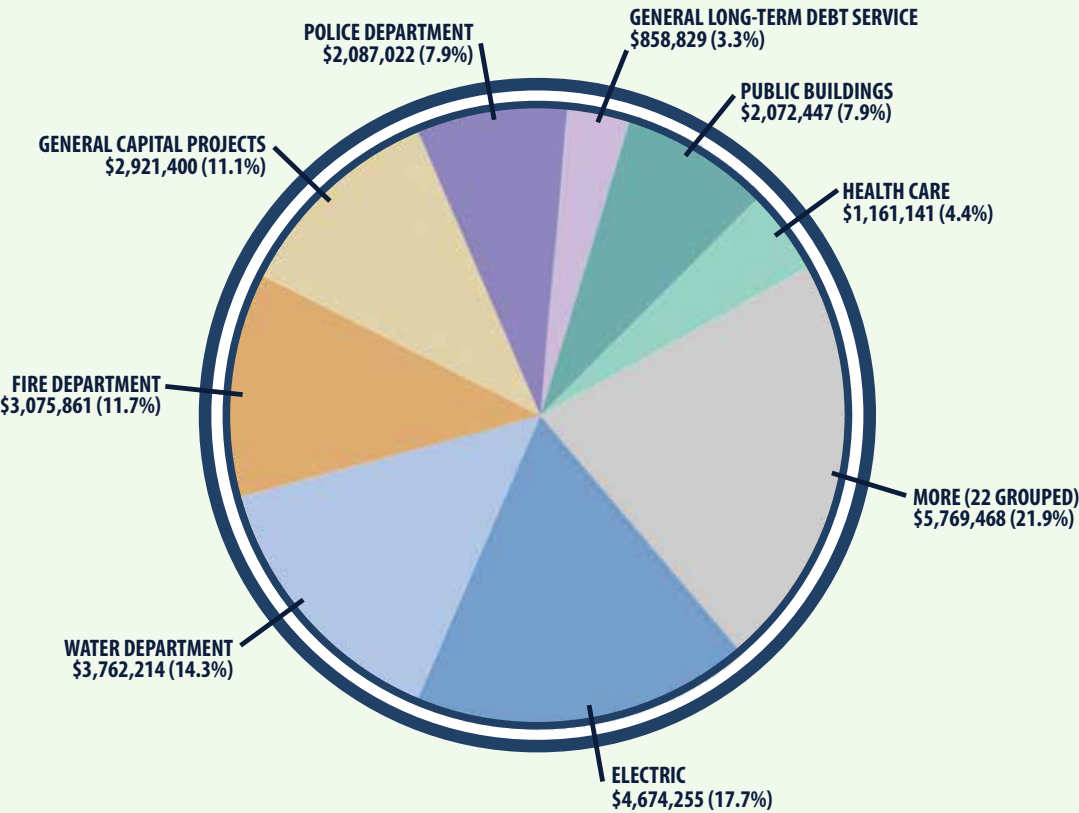
The City's income tax revenue accounts for approximately 67% of General Fund income. Income Tax growth year over year is pivotal due to the City's reliance on this revenue source. 2023 income tax revenue was 5% higher than 2022.



2023 REVENUES BY SOURCE
TOTAL REVENUES: \$28,915,108



2023 EXPENDITURES BY DEPARTMENT
TOTAL EXPENDITURES: \$26,382,637



CITY OF
HURON
A great lake PLACE

