

STATE OF THE VILLAGE 2023

In 2022, the Village of Edgerton began to see fruit from all its labors over the last few years. The team that has been assembled represents a finely tuned vehicle that is hitting on all cylinders. From the brain trust inside Village Hall that not only efficiently tackles the day-to-day operations but also is never resting by looking to the future for ways to improve our community through networking with others, endlessly seeking funding as we implement our vision with the mottos, "Let's do things that will live long beyond ourselves" and "Why not in Edgerton?" Out in the field, our Electric, Street, Water, Sewer and Park Departments continue to move from a reactionary mindset to one of proactive preparation through improvements and plans for the future.

In 2022, we began Phase 1 of a multiphase, multiyear, multimillion dollar plan to improve pedestrian infrastructure in Edgerton focused on getting our students safely to and from schools. With the Oak St project that was bid at \$23,000 under engineer's estimate and CDBG funds, it left the village's portion at 54% of the cost. We added 1,280 feet of new and updated sidewalks, that will allow students to use sidewalks and not street to get to and from school. The improved esthetics was a bonus for that block of Oak St as well. The Laubach Dr project was completed and has shown great improvement of drainage of our decades old problem at Miller Park, also with a portion funded by CDBG. 1,720 feet of new asphalt was laid on West St, Hull St, Crane St, Railroad St, River St and in Maple Lane Addition. New playground equipment was installed at both Miller Park and Burkhardt Fields on Gerhart St. The Picnic Pavilion in Town Park had original rotting wood support posts replaced with new and safer steel ones and was installed by volunteers. The Water Department had 2 new low service pumps, 2 Check valves and 4 Gate valves installed replacing 1966 original ones. Last year we also saw the beginning of both water towers being renovated, which will add approximately 40 years of life to the existing structures. \$300,000 was awarded to the Village by the Williams County Commissioners through the County ARPA Fund to help finance the project. The June 5th weather and train related power outage event, which took down 16 of First Energy's utility poles east of the village, caused several days of havoc but, in the end, provided an unplanned multimillion dollar upgrade to the transmission lines to the benefit of the Village of Edgerton.

The Edgerton Police Department, under the direction of Chief Gary Plotts, continues to transition into a fully functioning department, with growing numbers, improved morale and the restoration of the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program in our schools. The addition of a K-9 police dog, Jaxx, has been well received in the schools and community. Our Fire Chief Scott Blue celebrated his 50th year in the Edgerton Fire Department as we continue to look for ways to grow the department.

The year ended with the Village of Edgerton being notified by the Ohio Department of Development that the funding request made by the partnership of Edgerton Development Corp and the Village of Edgerton, along with current Metals property owners, Edgerton Acquisition, was being fully funded for 4.95 million dollars through the State of Ohio's Brownfield Remediation Program to clean up the Metals property on Bement St. This decades long eyesore on 4.4 acres will provide an opportunity to develop this once dismal property into something positive for the community. The additional match of 1.3 million dollars from the current owners will make this a 6.2-million-dollar project and the entire property ownership will eventually be transitioned to the village. 4.4 acres of riverfront property cleaned up, ready for development and turned over to the village at no cost. A true modern-day miracle and an example of God's blessing and answer to the prayers of our community. A total of 5.5 million dollars more in funding was applied for in 2022 and these applications are still in process so we anticipate that there is more to come...

So, as we turn our attention to 2023 with high expectations of even more infrastructure improvement projects on several fronts...we are determined to not take our foot off the pedal. We are closing in on our goal of filling all downtown buildings with thriving businesses and our industrial buildings as well. The area is taking notice of what is happening in Edgerton...With all of us, working together, along with God's Hand guiding us our future potential is limitless... and begs the question... "Why not in Edgerton?"