



State of the Village Address

I am pleased to have this opportunity to share with the citizens of Walbridge on the State of our Village. This report provides a glimpse of accomplishments and milestones made over the past year and informs the community of what is planned in 2016.

I am proud to be part of the significant progress and achievements in the Village and I am excited about the changes we are making for our future. These goals are not achieved individually, but rather as a strong, collective group comprised of the Mayor, Village Council, Administration Staff, Police Department and Maintenance Staff.

The Village forged ahead in 2015 dealing with various issues, challenges, and weather. I am proud of how the Village came together during this past year and successfully moved forward with many positive changes.

Village Finances

Financially – the Village ended 2015 consistent with previous years. We continue our fiscal stewardship with careful planning and mindful budget management. The local economy seemed to be steady with the previous year as our overall revenue was in line with 2014. The Village total revenue in 2015 was \$1.244 million, compared to \$1.28mil, \$1.30mil, and \$1.21mil in subsequent years. We continue to encourage new business to our Village. State government decisions continue to put pressure on local government and school district budgets.

The Village remains financially sound. We did use a small percentage of our reserves for prudent investments into the community, such as Phase 2 of the Union Street Project and real estate purchase of the former Main St. Church building. Excluding these community investments, the Administration operated within budget for 2015. The State of Ohio completed its audit of our 2013 and 2014 financials and provided us those audit results last year. I am proud to report the audit results were positive and reflected our continued satisfactory operation within the laws and regulations of the Village of Walbridge and the State of Ohio.

Our approved 2016 budget is inline with our 2015 expenditures. We foresee little change in our revenue and expenses this year. We continue to make budgetary cuts where possible, as our financial plan is very efficient.

Our current budget and audit results are public information and anyone is encouraged to request copies for their review, by simply contacting our administration office. We continue our appeal of transparency.

Police Protection

Our Police Department continues to provide excellent service to the Village thanks to the efforts of Chief Kenneth Frost and his staff of highly trained officers. Department activity in 2015 was comparable to 2014. The transparency in the department continues to exist and communication aids such as Facebook help reinforce that transparency. The Walbridge Police statistics and activities are well documented and available at the Village office. Though it is nearly impossible to put a price tag on safety, we still have a responsibility to offer Walbridge police protection within our budget. The department operated under budget in 2015 as a result of time and resource management. We are very conscience of the budget and made various administrative changes for 2015 to keep our expenses controlled. Chief Frost and I continue to be proactive in managing the departments finances.

In 2015, the Village changed dispatching service to the Wood County Sheriff's Office. This led to significant technology and service upgrades which currently aids in public safety and accountability. We have already seen the cost savings to the Village which should amount to over \$30,000 during the next four years. Our Police Department is excited with the county dispatch service and look forward to a long term relationship with the Sheriff's office.

Another significant change in 2015 was the decision to discontinue, after 42 years, Walbridge Mayor's Court. Mayor's Court presented a financial strain on our budget and we felt Perrysburg Municipal Court, led by Judge Molly Mack, offered a professional, fair, and courteous solution for our community. I am pleased with this new relationship to the Village of Walbridge.

Our Walbridge Police Department is comprised of full time officers, part time, and auxiliary police officers. The Police Department maintains constant coverage in the Village 24 hours per day, 7 days a week. Our Village Police Department works in conjunction with other local Police Departments providing mutual aid, ensuring consistent Police protection throughout the jurisdiction.

Parks and Recreation

The Village Pool experienced a much improved 2015. The maintenance and pool quality was significantly enhanced from previous years and attendance and revenue were up accordingly. Our maintenance staff deserves a tremendous amount of credit for improvements made last year. Working on a tight budget, they were able to improve the pool structure and add many years of useful life to the recreation area.

With Wood County Park District grant assistance in 2015, we added new playground equipment at Loop Park. We were also able to improve Loop Park fencing and provide a fresher appearance. The Village has been awarded additional grants from the Wood County Park District and Ohio's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) NatureWorks for 2016. These grants will benefit Loop Park with soccer goals, picnic tables, and a shelter area addition. These grant totals exceed \$50,000 and we are very appreciative of the support from



from these two organizations! Additionally, the Village plans to re-roof the current Loop Park Shelter House as it is in dismal shape and long past due for repair.

My Administration, along with Council's help and support, continue to push forward with improvements in our Parks and Recreational areas.

Public Works

The main 2015 project, Union Street Phase 2 of 3, is complete. I am excited by the result of the new road, curbs, and drainage along that section. The project will continue this year, as the final phase, Phase 3 will extend from the corner of Union and Main – going west to Ross Street. Again, this project is 50% funded with Ohio Public Works Commission grant money which is expected to be approximately \$242,000. The Union Street Phase 3 will also include resurfacing, new curbs, and improved drainage. Looking ahead into 2017, I will be asking Council and our maintenance staff this year to review infrastructure in the south end of town for potential upgrades so we can plan accordingly for a 2017 project. Throughout the Village, we will also be reviewing sidewalks and addressing needs of repair or replacement.

My Administration will continue to work for available grant money for the Village. Given our tight budget, we understand the importance of hard work for grant dollars and will maintain our efforts for you. Our maintenance staff also completed several minor repairs of pavement and curb sections around the Village, and continues to address issues as they arise. The maintenance staff has instituted a program to routinely clean and monitor our storm sewers to prevent overflow situations. Please contact our office if you identify a need and we will review all such requests.

Unlike 2014 when we experienced a water shortage, the Village experienced a historic rainfall in June 2015. We were met with 7 inches of unprecedented rainfall. Flooding was evident throughout Walbridge and surrounding areas. The storm and sanitary sewer systems in the Village could not handle the demand resulting in extensive damage to many residential and non-residential areas in the community. We met with representatives from Wood County Emergency Management Agency (EMA), FEMA, Red Cross, and Northwest Water and Sewer District to assist our community. It was a difficult time for many in the weeks to come as clean-up and repairs were conducted. Our community is strong and braved through, as we once again we came together and worked towards a better Walbridge. As an Administration, we learned valuable lessons to improve our community going forward.

Community and Economic Development

As Mayor, I continue integrating Walbridge into TMACOG (Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments), Wood County Mayor's Association, Northwest Ohio Mayor's Association, Wood County Economic Development, and other organizations. I am able to gain valuable information from other community leaders sharing their accomplishments and lessons learned. I proudly represent Walbridge as the President of the Wood County's Mayor Association and serve on the board of trustees and the Finance committee for TMACOG. The recent support of these groups and other local leaders has become refreshing and insightful!



Council has voted to continue our support of the AOA (Active Older Adult) program through the Eastern Community YMCA and sponsor the Care-O-Van program in Oregon, Ohio. Please contact our office for information on these programs. We look forward to all the wonderful community events the Walbridge Festival Committee plans on holding this year.

In store for 2016 is the growth in the relationship between the Village of Walbridge and the Wood County District Public Library (WCDPL). Expansion plans to double the size of the library are maturing and I see potential for groundbreaking on this new building later this year. This addition is expected to cost over \$600,000 and is being funded by the WCDPL. This type of community based building is a great step forward for Walbridge and northwest Wood County and will have an expanded offering of services and hours of operation. More activity to our downtown area is positive for Walbridge local business and consequently is how growth happens! We are extremely fortunate to have a strong relationship with the WCDPL and I personally appreciate the community support for the library.

The Village purchased property at 705 N. Main St. in 2015, formerly known as the Main St. Church Building. The expectation is consolidation our Village offices need into one central location. This acquisition also allows us to retain the Walbridge Senior Center and Wood County Committee on Aging (WCCOA). This relationship with this agency is tremendous for our community and serves not only Walbridge but many outreaching areas. We hope to use this building for additional community and county needs going forward.

Volunteerism

The Village of Walbridge could not have provided all the events and celebrations without the assistance of community organization. Walbridge Fest continues to work hard putting forth many great activities in the Village! You can find them on Facebook and follow them for updates on meetings and event planning. There are other ways to volunteer in the Village as well, through Zoning and Planning Boards and recreation areas. There are many rewarding areas to become involved here in Walbridge, and I highly encourage everyone to participate. Please call our office if you have interest in volunteering and we will point you in the right direction. By attending regularly scheduled Council Meetings, you will gain valuable insight to your community and provide yourself an opportunity to receive answers to your questions.

2016 Goals

- Continued improvements to our Parks and Recreation areas
- Consistent enforcement of our Property Maintenance Ordinances
- Continued transparency of my Administration to the Walbridge residents
- Continuation of a green initiative through upgrading to our office to electronic storage and improved records retention program resulting in greater efficiency
- Economic development and continued support of local business



2016 Goals Continued

- Attainment of CDBG, OPWC, and/or park district grant awards
- Successful Phase 3 Union Street Project Completion
- Groundbreaking for Wood County District Public Library addition
- Continued support of Wood County Habitat of Humanity group with additional prospective build
- Completion of consolidation of Village and Administration offices to 705 N. Main St.
- Electronic and technology disposal/recycling event
- Successful launch of new Village website

Summary

In closing, I hope you have gained the same optimism and pride I feel about what we have accomplished and where we are headed. Village Council and I pledge to continue to be heedful in the performance of our duties and work hard to continue our recent wonderful efforts. Please be assured we will continue to be attentive in seeking ways to control and reduce expenditures so that residents receive the best service at the lowest possible cost.

I would like to thank the Village employees, committee members, our wonderful volunteers, and Village Council for their continued valuable efforts to help make the Village of Walbridge a safe, vibrant, and family-oriented community.

As always, my door is always open. I appreciate hearing your concerns and suggestions for improvement. I look forward to seeing all of you at our many future community events. My best to you and your families for a safe and prosperous 2016.

Sincerely,



Mayor Edward A. Kolanko

Village of Walbridge



From the Desk of Patricia Crawford, Fiscal Officer



Your postcard for 2015 Tax return and estimate payments have been mailed. Please follow the directions on the postcard to access your forms. If you would like the Tax packet, separate the postcard and return it accordingly and you will be sent the respective forms in the mail. The forms are also be on our website at www.walbridgeohio.org.

Our scheduled dates for free assistance with your 2015 Village of Walbridge Tax return will be Saturday, March 26th, 2016 from 8am to 11am and Wednesday, March 30th, 5pm to 7pm. This is a free service for Walbridge residents. Tax payer assistance is on a first come, first serve basis. Our attendance has been overwhelming the last couple years and we request you sign in when arriving. Your patience is greatly appreciated during these times.

All new residents (home owners and renters) are required to submit a New Resident form to the Village Tax Office within 10 days of establishing residency. Our form is available on our website or by contacting our office.

If you have questions, please call 419-666-1830 or stop by the Village office Monday through Friday 8am-430pm. We will be happy to address your questions.



The Village Refuse and Recycling Service contract with Republic Services began October 2015. Though change is often met with the occasional bump in the road, this too is no different.

As reminder, we still have unlimited trash pickup weekly and recyclables will be picked up every other week. Our pickup dates will still be on Monday's. Republic Services has sent a calendar of pickup dates and holidays to all residents.

All collection of refuse or recyclables will occur curbside. This means there will be no collection in alleys. Due to increased safety of refuse collection drivers and Walbridge residents, as well as wear-and-tear on Village alleys, this was a necessary change.

In effort to be more environmentally friendly, recycling is strongly encouraged. Many items we place in our trash are recyclable and having these carts will promote this green initiative. Many residents have rented a regular trash cart in addition to the provided recycling cart. Please be careful

depositing refuse and recycling into their respective containers.

Soon, Republic Services will be sending residents who have not established a service account a reminder. Everyone should have service set up in their individual names and have made payment arrangements with Republic Services. If you have not done so, please contact Republic Services at 1-800-234-3429 or 419-472-1165 as soon as possible. Failure to establish this account will result in termination of service to your residence.

The administration continues to proactively work with Republic Services to address any and all concerns. We stand ready to listen and assist our residents with their questions and will help in situations we can. Please don't hesitate to contact our office for assistance.

Again, look for service and billing correspondence from Republic Services in your mailbox very soon. Help keep our Village clean by taking the necessary steps to ensure your service is not interrupted.

REMINDERS

www.walbridgeohio.org

The Village has updated its website! This will allow us to provide additional and timely information for residents. One important enhancement is a calendar of Village events and meetings. Though this website is still currently undergoing construction, it is available for your needs. Please let us know what you think or how we can make it better by sending us a message! Please “Like” us on FaceBook for valuable information!

Ordinance 941.13 HOURS OF PLACING REFUSE CONTAINERS. All refuse/garbage containers shall be placed at curb side at the property line, or in the alley way, if available, by 6:30 a.m. on the day of collection and no earlier than 6:00 p.m. of the night preceding collection day. Empty containers shall be removed from the curb or alley way on the day of collection. ** Failure to follow this ordinance can lead to a Property Maintenance Violation and possible citation.

2016 YMCA Active Older Adult passes (\$20 per person) and Walbridge Village Pool Season passes (\$30 per person) are available at the Village offices. For more information—please call the office or stop by! Please support your YMCA and community Pool!

Message from the Street Department

Spring brush pickup will be here soon! Pickup will begin May 2nd and continue until May 6th . This is for BRUSH only. Please do not expect entire trees to be collected.

You may notice gas line work performed in the Village affecting residential yards and streets. These gas line repairs are performed by an independent contractor of the gas company and are routine repairs and in some situations replacements. The contractor is required to replace the affected area back to its original condition. Please be patient during these situations.

Permits are required in the Village of Walbridge for various building and repair work around your home. Please contact the Village office to determine if a permit is required before you begin work. If the work is started prior to obtaining the proper permit, you may have to pay double the permit fee. Forms are available at the Village office or by calling 419-666-1830

Unauthorized digging is one of the leading causes of natural gas leaks. By law, you must call the Ohio Utilities Protective Service (OUPS) at 8-1-1, at least two working days (M-F) before digging for any landscape or construction project on your property. Keep in mind that lines have been hit digging fence post holes, anchoring supports for decks and swing sets, planting trees, removing tree roots and driving landscaping stakes into the ground. By not calling, you are breaking the law and risking injury to yourself, your family and your fellow community members.



WALBRIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Our Police Department continues to provide the residents of Walbridge with excellent service 24 hrs. a day, 7 days a week. Over the past several months we have been very busy with incidents and traffic enforcement. Our Officers maintain a vigilant patrol regularly checking businesses and private dwellings. A tremendous out reach program is our monthly Block Watch sessions. Your involvement is critical to awareness and identifying various issues increasing your safety. Please review the following dates and topics. A stronger Block Watch program does increase overall safety in our communities! Officer Shannon Heider of the Walbridge Police Department conducts monthly Block Watch meetings. These meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month at 6:00pm in the Village Council Chambers.

Block Watch meetings are open to everyone, residents and non-residents. The meetings help educate and create awareness of current safety trends in the Village, things to watch for, and what role you can do to help make our Village a safer place for everyone. Audience participation and questions are highly encouraged!

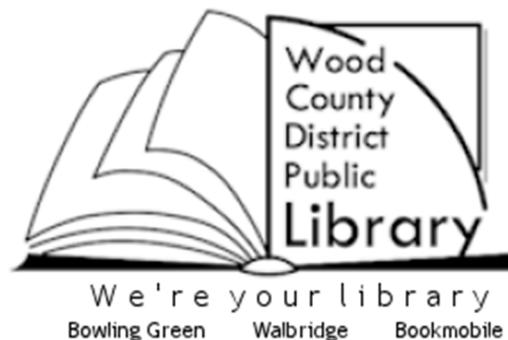


<u>Date:</u>	<u>Topic:</u>
March 9th, 2016	Terrorism Detection and Awareness
April 13th, 2016	Severe Weather Awareness
May 11th, 2016	Motorcycle Safety and Awareness
June 8th, 2016	Mental Illness / PTSD
July 13th, 2016	Domestic Violence
August 10th, 2016	Sex Crimes / E-SORN
September 14th, 2016	Drugs / K-9 Demo
October 12th, 2016	Forensics / Burglary
November 9th, 2016	Holiday Crime Prevention
December 14th, 2016	Yearly Recap / Statistics

Union Street—Phase 3 road project will be occurring this year. The area affected will be Union Street from the corner of Union and Main Streets, going west, across the CSX railroad tracks and CSX office, to Ross St. This project will be the last of the multi-phase Union Street project and will consist of re-curbings, road resurfacing, and sewer/drainage repairs. We will notify Village residents and business of this work prior to commencement so they can plan accordingly.



WALBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY



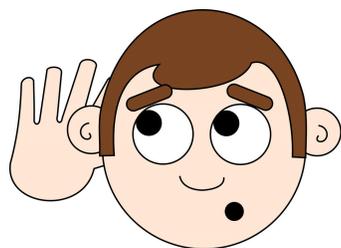
The Walbridge Branch Library has a program for everyone. Come in to use the library's WiFi. Seniors are welcome to join the Walbridge Senior Wii Bowling League every Monday at 1 pm.

Families with children of all ages are invited to "Family Storytime" every Tuesday at 11 am for stories, songs, and creative activities. Every Tuesday evening the library has one of these three programs: Mad Scientist Lab, Lego Block Party or Arts and Crafts for children of all ages. Every Wednesday Students in Action Tutoring for all grade school kids is at 3:30 pm.

Adult readers can enjoy two lively book discussions each month. Fiction book group meets on Mondays at 1 pm, and will be discussing *All the Bright Places* by Jennifer Niven on February 8. The author Jennifer Niven will be attending through Skype. Mystery book group meets Mondays at 6 pm, and will be discussing *Checked Out* by Elaine Viets on February 22.

Play Euchre at the library every Wednesday at 1 pm. Play pinochle at the library every Thursday at 11 am. Euchre and Pinochle at the library is for those 16 years old and above, who already know how to play.

All programs are free of charge. For further information please call 419-666-9900 or visit the library's website at www.wcdpl.org. Hours of operation: Monday & Wednesday 1pm-7pm, Tuesday & Thursday 11am-7pm, Friday 1pm-5pm, Saturday 11am-3pm, Sunday—Closed



Did You Hear???

The Walbridge Library Branch expansion is on track for a potential ground breaking later in 2016! We are excited with this continued partnership with the Wood County District Public Library.

Walbridge has partnered with the Community Care-A-Van group for 2016. The Community Care-a-Van service was established in 2000 to help those who are unable to get transportation to their important medical services. They will pick the patient up, take them to their appointment, and then transport them back home. This service is free to the patient, and is entirely supported by donations. If you need to use the Care-a-Van service, you can schedule a ride by calling: 419-696-7404 *after* you have scheduled your medical appointment. Their service hours are 8 AM to 5 PM Monday to Friday. When scheduling a ride, please have the following information ready: your name, your phone number, and the time and date of your appointment. A driver will then follow-up with you.

The Walbridge Administration has renewed for 2016 the Oregon YMCA Active-Older-Adult program. For \$20 per year per person (passes available at Walbridge Village office), Walbridge residents ages 55 and over can participate in the land and water fitness program. This is a GREAT way to stay in shape and meet fellow residents and new people! Please call the Walbridge Administrative offices for additional information!

The Walbridge Administration is planning a free Electronic Recycling Day this summer. This will be an ideal time to dispose of your old computers, televisions, phones, cell phones, and other electronic devices. The tentative drop off location will be at the future Walbridge Administrative office site at 705 N. Main St. If you are a senior citizen and unable to physically drop off the item(s), you will be able to make arrangements with the Administration office to have someone assist in picking up for you. Stay tuned for more information to follow!

VILLAGE OF WALBRIDGE

DATES TO REMEMBER 2016

Free Tax Preparation Day	March 26, 8am-11am
Free Tax Preparation Day	March 30, 5pm-7pm
Rally by the Rails	May 20-21
Spring Garage Sale Days	May 20-21
Spring Brush Pickup	May 2nd through May 6th
Memorial Day—Office Closed	May 30th
Village Council Meetings	1st and 3rd Wednesday at 6:30pm
Block Watch Meetings	2nd Wednesday's at 6:00pm
Independence Day—Office Closed	July 4th

PHONE NUMBERS TO REMEMBER

Walbridge Village Office	419-666-1830
Police and Fire Emergency	911
Police Non-Emergency	419-666-1444
Lake Township Administration	419-838-6536
Wood County Office	419-354-9000
First Energy	1-800-447-3333
Columbia Gas	1-800-344-4077
Northwest Water and Sewer District	1-877-354-9090
Republic Services	1-800-234-3429

Village of Walbridge

111 N. Main St.
Walbridge, OH 43465

Office: 419-666-1830
Fax: 419-661-8458

Email: Mayor@walbridgeohio.org

Hours of Operation

8:00AM—4:30PM
Monday-Friday

Police:

Non-Emergency: 419-666-1444
Emergency: 911



PRSRT STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

Local
Postal Customer



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