



# City of Seven Hills, Ohio

7325 SUMMITVIEW DRIVE • SEVEN HILLS, OHIO 44131 • PHONE 216/524-44221

Dear Residents,

I realize some of you may already have received some of this information through other sources such as the newsletter, social media and the City website. I also realize that our residents receive information in many different ways, so I felt it important to reach you today via email with a few updates.

As we enter the month of March, one can't help but reflect on the last 12 months. March 2020 was the time COVID became front and center of our daily lives and the beginning of a long chain of events that have been very trying on all of us. Heading into spring, I hope the healing process soon begins on all fronts. After witnessing our community come together so many times, in spite of so many challenges, I have no doubt this will once again be the case.

First off, I want you to know that we finished the year with over **\$1.4 million** in surplus general fund revenue! (Expense cuts plus federal and state COVID aid more than completely offset COVID impacts like increased cleaning expenses, the state mandated closure of the recreation center and the cancellation of other fee generating programs).

The 2020 surplus continues a 3-year trend of building our cash reserves and carefully setting aside funds for our upcoming infrastructure projects. For example, we closed 2020 by increasing our Capital Fund from a zero balance to \$902,000.

More importantly, our General Fund Unexpended (Cash) Balance increased steadily and substantially (see the chart below) over the last 3 years.

Jan. 31, 2021	Dec. 31, 2017	Inc. / (Dec.)	% Change
\$7,181,040	\$3,152,199	\$4,028,841	127.8%

We have also started 2021 trending in the right direction. Revenue is slightly up while General Fund expenses remain flat.

	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2020	Inc. / (Dec.)	% Change
General Fund Revenue	\$854,168	\$816,048	\$38,121	4.7%
General Fund Expenditures	\$772,643	\$772,585	\$57	0.0%

What does this all mean?

1. Your City leaders have continued to carefully manage your tax dollars over the last few years.
2. We are well positioned to safely take on necessary large street and sewer projects.
3. We have protected sufficient reserves in the event COVID impacts continue or any other risk arises to our revenue streams. (Continued on page 2)



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However, we are not resting on our accomplishments. We are pressing ever harder on our Partnerships and Progress goals to ensure we bring the best value to our residents.

In fact, the uncertain economic environment has made the partnerships even more important. Below are just a few examples of what to expect:

Resurfacing of Chestnut Road is partly due to our being approved for funds through the County 50/50 program. The City will get the maximum \$250,000 allowed under the program towards this project.

We continue to work with the NEORS to restore the natural floodplain in the Donna Rae / Forest Overlook area. You can expect a few more homes to be cleared this spring as part of this project.

In addition, we won the competitive county supplement grant for a gazebo to be built on Hillside and Broadview. We hope the new gazebo will be ready to serve the community this coming Memorial Weekend.

**Breaking news! We will be receiving \$75,000 from the State Capital Budget towards new ADA compliant restrooms and a concession stand for Calvin Park.** We are not stopping with this great news. We have applied through the county block grant program for an additional \$150,000 towards Calvin Park improvements.

In addition, we have applied for a county supplemental grant for \$50,000 towards a new community bus (The current bus is 19 years old, in poor shape and is not handicapped accessible).

We have expanded our partnership with Cuyahoga County Public Works for additional sewer maintenance, cleaning, and repairs. The partnership has enabled the City to perform significantly more sewer cleaning than we have ever in past, as we now have the ability to utilize the County's sewer trucks (you may have noticed them working 2nd shift in your neighborhood) and our own in-house sewer team.

Lastly, we utilized approximately \$92,000 of a NOPEC energy grant towards replacing the old ballfield lights at Valleywood Park. The new LED lighting will create a safer playing field with significant maintenance and energy savings going forward. The City contribution was approximately \$38,000 clearly showing how partnership can bring great value to the table. The new lighting is expected to be ready for the 2021 baseball season.

Looking ahead to Spring/Summer 2021, you will see robust infrastructure activity, economic development and not only the return, but also the addition of, new community events (as soon as it safe to do so). Please stay in touch. Much exciting news is on the horizon!

Till then Happy St. Patrick's Day! (Aren't we all Irish on this day).

Mayor Tony Biasiotta, City of Seven Hills, Ohio