



## The State of the City

Mayor Carolyn Kay Riggle – City Manager Tom Homan

Delaware Area Chamber of Commerce, February 16, 2023

# Our focus:

**A great community,  
A safe city,  
A healthy economy  
An effective government**



# Great Community

## Continuous Growth

- A balanced local economy - government, education, health care, manufacturing/industrial
- Central Ohio regional impacts



Total Population **44,700**



Household Income **\$74,130**



Total Households **16,500**

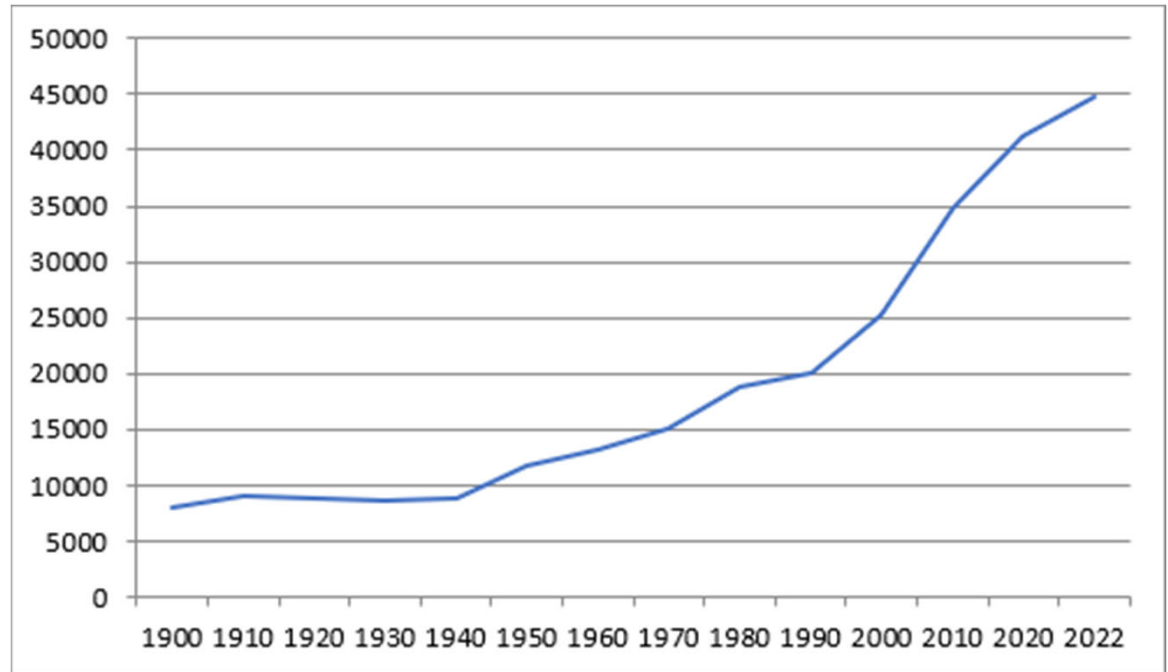


Median Resident Age: **34.5**

# Great Community

## Continuous Growth

- 451 single family homes in 2022, second straight year of 450-plus
- 8.3% growth since the 2020 Census.
- 28.7% growth since the 2010 Census.
- Places demands on community with respect to housing, infrastructure, services and amenities.



# Great Community

## A New Era for Delaware's East Side

- The Mill on Flax mixed-use development on Delaware near East side
- Beginning transformation of the city's riverfront
- 162 apartment units in five buildings, as well as office space and amenities such as a swimming pool, walking paths, and community open spaces
- Possible connector to Mingo Park



# Great Community

## Community Development

- 270-acre Addison project a major focus
- Focus area planning for 3,200-acre southwest quadrant
- Update on Channing Street redevelopment and attainable housing
- Missing middle workforce housing



# Great Community

## Achievements and Accolades

- David Efland, Director of Planning and Community Development, achieved the planning profession's highest honor by being named to the prestigious American Institute of Certified Planners College of Fellows
- Bronze designation from the national SolSmart program for making it faster, easier, and more affordable for homes and businesses to go solar
- Black History Month celebration promoting music, conversation and community



# Great Community

## Public Works, Services and Projects

- South side neighborhoods have better stormwater drainage thanks to 1,800 feet of new pipe and catch basins
- \$750,000 project improved drainage for properties that are bounded by Sandusky Street, Liberty Street, Park Avenue and Bernard Avenue
- \$600,000 project to install 3,200 feet of new water line along Pennsylvania Ave for better resident service and improved fire safety





# Great Community

## Point Project Beginning Spring 2023

- ODOT has awarded a contract to Shelly & Sands for construction of the Point project
- Construction is expected to start spring 2023; completion fall 2025
- Before the main construction project starts, residents can expect to see utility companies such as AEP and Columbia Gas relocating their facilities.

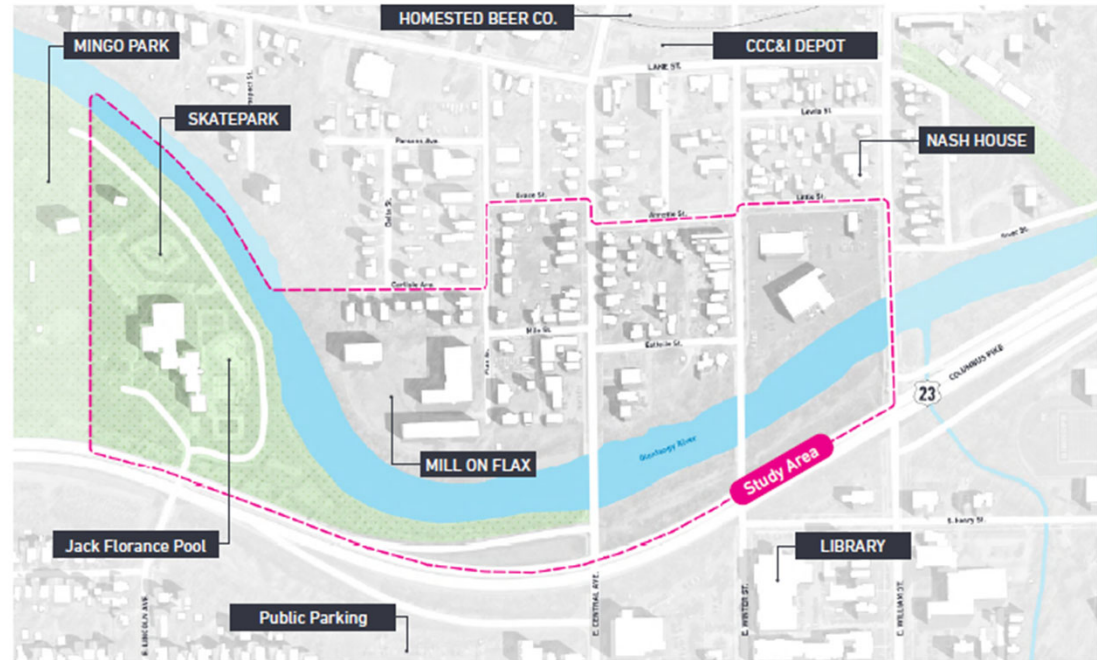


*View Looking West*

# Great Community

## Olentangy River Initiatives

- Transform the River into a destination that threads our community together
- More than 350 survey comments, plus engagement with neighbors
  - Findings:
    - Underutilized, forgotten, inaccessible
    - Need for passive and active amenities
    - Water access, entertainment
- Build upon other mobility planning - Rapid 5 project, multi-use trail with Preservation Parks - to improve connectivity



# Safe City

## Public Safety

- Adam Moore appointed City's 13<sup>th</sup> Chief of Police after serving as Interim Chief
- Police officers are equipped with body-worn cameras. Approximately 50 body-cams in use
- Interim Chief Tim Pyle is leading the Delaware Fire Department while a search for the next Chief takes place
- Continued community outreach



# Healthy Economy

## Sawmill Parkway Extension - Sawmill Pointe Business Park

- Sawmill Parkway extended west 1,400 feet
- Access to 290 acres, including Sawmill Pointe Business Park — 1.3 million square feet of industrial space, beginning with two 147,000 square-foot speculative development buildings
- Business Park has first tenant with construction of a 202,165-square-foot building for Delaware-based Inno-Pak







# Healthy Economy

## Expanding Opportunities

- Pittsburgh Drive Business Park
- 84,000 SF in four buildings; mixture of office, warehouse, distribution, manufacturing
- 32 new businesses in 2022
- These companies projected to hire 282 new full-time staff



# Effective Government

## Financial Wellness

- Financial Review Task Force
  - ✓ Review current financial status and outlook
  - ✓ Explore collaborative service-delivery opportunities and cost containment measures,
  - ✓ Assess existing city service levels
  - ✓ Assess status of capital investments
- 23 meetings over 10 months
- Significant recommendations that Finance Committee and Council will study in 2023





# Effective Government

## Internal Operations

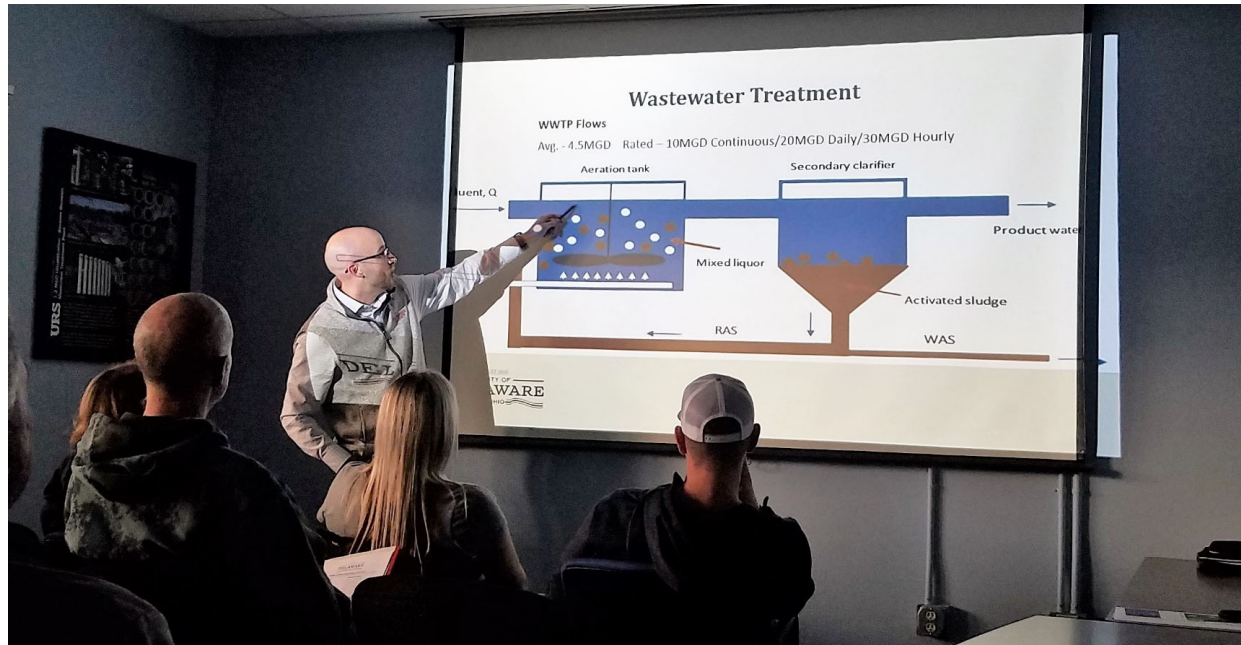
- Changes and promotions in the Finance Department and Budget Office
- New wellness initiatives, including emphasis on mental health for City's 350-plus employees
- DEI – internal working group of volunteer members from across all departments
- Hosting kick-off of Equity Day Feb. 21



# Effective Government

## Delaware Citizens Academy

- Free series of in-person classes that provide an inside look at our local government.
- 20 + hours of instruction over four months.
- More than 200 alumni since first Academy in 2010
- 2 City Council members, nearly 20 on City boards or commissions



# Effective Government

## Utility Savings for Residents

- Voter-approved electric aggregation program
- City to help residents save money on electric bills and support renewable energy.
- Can negotiate with a utility to obtain on behalf of its residents and businesses.
- With Council approval, residents will be given option to participate in the program in 2023



# Effective Government

## Partnerships and Collaboration

- Progress with Delaware County on a Regional Airport Authority working group
- Town-Gown collaborations ongoing with Ohio Wesleyan, along with projects with Delaware City Schools, Main Street, Unity Center, Sustainable Delaware and others



*The state of our city is strong, but for Delaware to reach its full potential we must address looming challenges on the path forward*





**Thank you**