

CITY OF WAUKESHA

STATE OF THE CITY

APRIL 20, 2021

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A NOTE FROM THE MAYOR

Shawn N. Reilly

Dear Residents, City Council, and City Staff,

Each year I have the opportunity to work on the State of the City which allows me time to reflect on the past year in the life of our City. It's hard to describe in words the challenges this last year has presented both as individuals and collectively as a City. In the face of these great difficulties, I have been able to witness our community, City Council, and employees come together to face challenges like never before.

I hope you will enjoy looking back with me on some of the positive stories and accomplishments that came out of 2020 in the pages that follow. We should all feel a sense of pride and achievement over what we have accomplished during the last year despite extremely difficult circumstances.

This next year will certainly bring more challenges. However, I know that it will also bring continued opportunities. I look forward to working with the Common Council and team of employees to continue to lead the City forward this next year as we celebrate 125 years as the City of Waukesha!

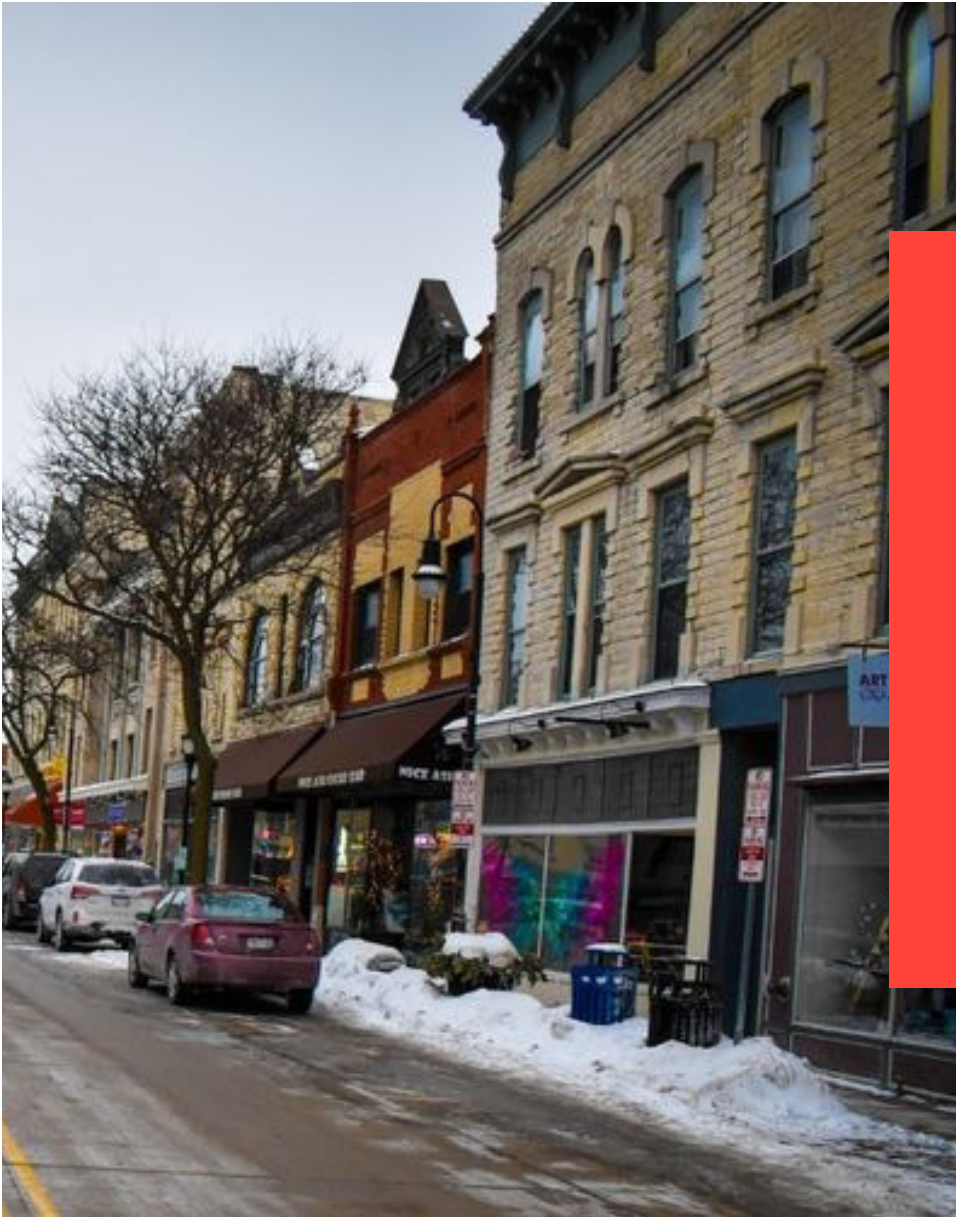
Sincerely,

Shawn N. Reilly, Mayor



Top Achievements of 2020





SUPPORT FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

\$446,000 was awarded to 110 small businesses through the Waukesha Works Economic Recovery Grant

What Happened?

Through the Waukesha Works Economic Recovery Grant program 110 small businesses received rent, mortgage, and utility bill assistance.

The Waukesha Works Economic Recovery Grant program was designed to assist small businesses (20 or fewer full-time equivalent employees) located in the City who were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The City received over 150 applications and was able to award \$446,000 in grant funds.

Why It Matters?

The preservation of the City's local economy was one of the City's main priorities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The grant funds provided to small businesses not only directly benefited the businesses who received them, but also provided community wide benefits. The community wide benefits included helping small businesses continue to provide employment opportunities and services to the community, limiting vacant office/storefront space in the City, and helping to maintain commercial vibrancy for the City.

ADMINISTRATION OF COVID-19 TESTING & VACCINES

In response to COVID-19, the Fire Department secured and implemented a plan to serve as a COVID-19 testing site and to operate a vaccine clinic.



What Happened?

The Fire Department secured and implemented a plan to serve as a COVID-19 testing site for Fire and Police Department employees.

The Fire Department also completed a process, in cooperation with all County Fire Departments, to vaccinate members of the community. In total, 1,524 vaccine doses were administered. The Fire Department also assisted the Waukesha County Public Health Department in completing their vaccine clinics for eligible individuals as prioritized by the State.

Why It Matters?

The Fire Department serving as a COVID-19 testing site for Fire and Police employees allowed both departments to be provided with quicker test results which helped to maintain Department readiness.

By utilizing the now empty City Hall annex facility for a vaccination clinic, the Fire Department was able to play a role in getting as many qualifying individuals vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus as quickly as possible. This is critical in the ongoing fight against COVID-19.



REIMAGINED COMMUNITY EVENTS

In response to COVID-19, the City was able to host reimagined and new community events throughout the year.

What Happened?

Due to COVID-19, many of the City's traditional community events had to be cancelled in order to ensure the health and safety of participants, staff and the public.


However, the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department and other City Departments were able to develop reimagined community wide-events and activities that enabled the City to come together in new and creative ways.

Examples of these events include the Reverse 4th of July Parade, first ever Drive-In Movie Night, Gnome Nose Around hunt in the City parks, Pumpkin Walk, Lantern Walk, Operation Honor Care Package Drive, and more!

Why It Matters?

The health and safety of the community and City staff is always a priority. While, COVID-19 caused a dramatic change to all City operations, City staff were able to work together creatively to continue to provide opportunities for the public to engage, have fun, and get outdoors.

In some cases, the new events provided an opportunity to try activities that could become a continued part of the City's recreation programs going forward.



RECEIPT OF \$1.5M IN COVID- 19 GRANTS AND FEDERAL FUNDING

The City was able to secure an estimated \$1.5 million in grants and federal funding for COVID-19 relief.

What Happened?

Due to COVID-19, Departments and personnel across the City had to frequently adapt to changing environments and operations. Under the direction of the City Administrator and Finance Department, the City was able to carefully track and record expenditures and time related to the COVID-19 pandemic. With this information, the City was able to apply for and secure an estimated \$1.5 million in relief. The funding came from grants and federal programs.

Why It Matters?

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a number of unexpected expenses and revenue losses for the City. By being able to submit these expenses, the City was able to cover losses and remain on a stable financial footing for the future.



**GROUND BREAKING
FOR WATER PROJECT**

**Construction began on the
Great Water Alliance project
that will bring Lake Michigan
water to Waukesha**

What Happened?

On November 30, 2020 Mayor Reilly and Milwaukee Mayor Barrett broke ground on the start of construction on the new water pipeline that will bring Lake Michigan water to Waukesha.

The groundbreaking was held where a new pumping station will be built in Milwaukee. From that station, a 13-mile water supply pipeline will be constructed through West Allis, Greenfield and New Berlin to Waukesha. A 23-mile return flow line will begin at the Clean Water Plant in Waukesha and be built through New Berlin and Muskego, before ending at a new outfall facility in Franklin.

Construction will occur in phases along the route until completion in 2023.

Why It Matters?

Waukesha's current groundwater water supply is depleted and contaminated with radium, making it unreliable for the long term. The Great Water Alliance project will provide a sustainable source of safe drinking water from Lake Michigan, and then return the water back to the Lake Michigan watershed, through a series of pipelines.



COMPLETION OF CITY HALL PROJECT

Construction was completed
on the new City Hall building



What Happened?

The previous City Hall was built in 1965 and posed significant safety, maintenance, and operational concerns. On April 4, 2019 the Common Council approved the construction of a new City Hall and on February 4, 2021 the City Council officially cut the Ribbon on the brand new City hall.

The construction on the new City Hall site continues with a visitor parking lot anticipated to be completed in the summer of 2021.

The previous City Hall building is being demolished and the area will be sold for future redevelopment.

Why It Matters?

The new City Hall provides many benefits for our community and employees.

Features:

- Improved customer service with visitors greeted at a centralized Help Desk
- Increased safety and security features for visitors and employees
- Enhanced public meeting spaces and Common Council chambers
- Improved functionality for employee collaboration



IMPROVEMENTS TO DOWNTOWN

**Construction was completed
on the Barstow and Riverfront
Street project**

What Happened?

Since 2014, the City has been on a schedule of completing construction on the Downtown Waukesha streets as part of the City's Community Investment Program. In 2020, improvements were completed on Barstow Street and Riverfront Street.

The project included the installation of new water main, lining of the sanitary sewer main and laterals, storm sewer rehabilitation, roadway reconstruction, traffic signal replacement & rehabilitation, bridge rehabilitation, pedestrian ramp reconstruction, sidewalk replacement and installation of a wider stone paver terrace.

Why It Matters?

The Downtown projects replace failing infrastructure. The sewer mains in most of the Downtown area were original to the City and date back to the 1800's. Most of the water mains in Downtown were installed in the early 1900's and are undersized for today's needs.

Not only do the Downtown projects address needed infrastructure improvements, they also improve the aesthetics of downtown by using decorative concrete brick pavers, benches, bike racks, upgraded lighting, and enhanced pedestrian areas.

INSTALLATION OF NEW PLAYGROUNDS

As part of Community Build projects, new playgrounds were installed at Meadowview and Grandview Parks



What Happened?

New playgrounds were installed at Grandview Park and Meadowview Park with the help of community volunteers in the fall of 2020. The new playground designs were finalized after a series of public information meetings. Volunteers worked on each of the park projects over a period of days to help install the playground systems.

Both playgrounds feature fun new equipment options and ADA compliant poured-in-place resilient rubber surfacing.

Why It Matters?

The Grandview Park playground had served the neighborhood since the 1990's and had some of the oldest equipment in the City park system.

At Meadowview Community Park, a playground was developed as part of the park master plan.

Located on the City's northwest side of town, adjacent to the West Bypass, this park will serve both neighborhood and community residents and is well connected with trails, sidewalks, and off-street parking for ease of access.

The "Community Build" program has been in place since 2007. Not only does it save on City costs, it helps "build" pride and ownership in the City's parks.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY ACHIEVEMENTS

Administered three elections during the COVID-19 pandemic including a Presidential Election



Hired a new Police Chief, Finance Director, City Assessor, and Cemetery Director



Received nearly 80% response to 2020 Census (highest in County)



Completed Frame Park Baseball Field renovation (all synthetic turf facility, new fencing, dugouts)



Broke ground on the Buchner Pool and Community Building Project



Implemented the Onecard program resulting in \$117,000 of new revenue for the City



Started construction on the sewer lift station consolidation project



Held a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Training program for all employees



CONTINUED SERVICE EXCELLENCE IN 2020



Police Department responded to **26,508** calls for service



Fire Department responded to **8,043** calls for service



Public Works Department completed **20** salting/plowing operations, cleaned and maintained **226** miles of sanitary sewer pipes, and collected **4,868** tons of leaves



Community Development Department issued **643** Building permits and completed **1,805** property maintenance inspections



Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department offered **1,253** programs and classes serving **17,421** people.



Waukesha Public Library offered **382** programs and classes serving **8,709** people



Prairie Home Cemetery Assisted with **202** burials



TOP WORK PLACES AWARD
MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

2020
AWARDS



CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR EXCELLENCE IN
FINANCIAL REPORTING
GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION



TREE CITY USA®
Arbor Day Foundation

TREE CITY USA AWARD (41ST YEAR)
ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION



PARK DESIGN AWARD - FRAME PARK
PROGRAM EXCELLENCE AWARD- ADULT/OLDER ADULT
PROGRAMMING, PROGRESSIVE TENNIS
WISCONSIN PARK AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION



GOLD LEAF AWARD, OUTSTANDING ARBOR DAY
PROGRAM
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE

EMPLOYEE AWARDS

- **Mayor Shawn Reilly** - Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association Elected Official Award
- **Denise Vandebush-Kohlman (Finance)** - Wisconsin Institute of CPA's Community Service Award
- **Monica Kusik (Forestry Intern)** - Wisconsin Arborist Association Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award