



## The Journey Continues...





## ••• Letter from the Mayor

The 2013 Annual Report is an invitation for you to explore all the successes the City of Whitehall experienced in 2013. It was a good year. I, along with my administration and City Council, worked toward creating new opportunities for our residents and businesses.

My goal has always been to lead the City on a path of prosperity and into a future that is brighter than it is today. One way to achieve this mission is by providing high-quality services to the community in the most cost-effective manner. I am proud to inform you that during the 2013 fiscal year, our expenses were more than \$1.1 million less than our revenue. Remaining strong fiscal stewards of taxpayer funds will ensure our path.

Another way we can ensure our path is by building a stronger and more diverse economic tax base. One of our more heralded developments in 2013 was Priority Designs' decision to purchase and relocate their operations into the former Bill Swad Chevrolet dealership on Hamilton Road. I am confident that we will be able to build on this success with further announcements of the growing business community.

As our journey continues in 2014, I look forward to reporting continued successes within the business community and finding new ways to support our citizens here in Whitehall. I welcome you to explore this report and share your comments with me at my next Mayor's Reach Out Event.

Sincerely,

Kim Maggard  
Mayor, City of Whitehall



## .... CITY COUNCIL ....

The City's legislative body consists of eight elected members: a council president, one council member from each of the four wards and three at-large council members representing the entire community.

City Council encourages public participation at their regular meetings on the first and third Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. The Council also meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. to discuss issues and legislation related to the operation, health, welfare and safety of the City. Please plan to attend an upcoming meeting to learn more about your city government.

You may contact the City Council office at 614-237-8614 or at [carol.churchman@whitehall-oh.us](mailto:carol.churchman@whitehall-oh.us). Council members may be contacted at the telephone numbers listed. For your convenience, all Codified Ordinances are available on the City's website at [www.whitehall-oh.us](http://www.whitehall-oh.us).

### Your 2013 City Council Members

- Council President: Jim Graham (614-866-6688)
- Ward I: Chris Rodriguez (614-578-7784)
- Ward II: Wes Kantor (614-235-9139)
- Ward III: Larry Morrison (614-286-8262)
- Ward IV: Van Gregg (614-577-9521)
- At-Large: Bob Bailey (614-237-7013)
- At-Large: Karen Conison (614-236-9674)
- At-Large: Leslie LaCorte (614-868-5443)
- Clerk of Council: Carol Churchman (614-237-8614)

### 2013 Legislation

#### Ordinances

- Total Introduced: 89
- Total Adopted: 85
- Withdrawn: 3
- Defeated: 1

#### Resolutions

- Total Introduced: 55
- Total Adopted: 55

## .... YOUR GOVERNMENT ....

### Administrative Elected Officials



Dan Miller  
City Auditor



Michael Shannon  
City Attorney



Brent Howard  
City Treasurer

### Department Officials



Steve Carr  
Director of Parks and Recreation



Tom Kneeland  
Director of Information Technology



Lynn McNabb  
Director of Human Resources



Preston Moore  
Chief of Fire



Ray Ogden  
Director of Public Service



Charles Underwood  
Director of Public Safety



Zachary Woodruff  
Director of Economic Development



Richard Zitzke  
Chief of Police

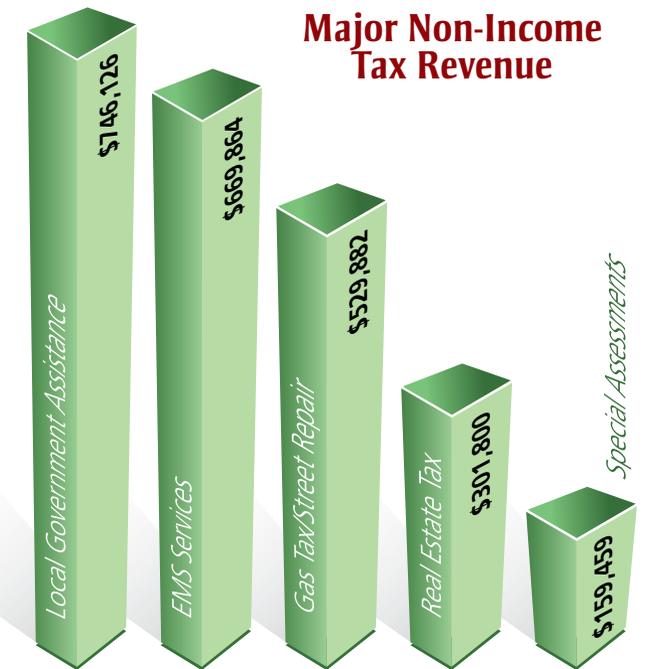


# .... CITY FINANCIALS ....

Financial stability is a top priority for the City. We continued to face challenges to our revenue stream in 2013, with cuts to our share of state sales tax, loss of estate tax and declining withholding taxes from DSCC. But through sound financial management, the City's revenue outpaced expenses by over \$1.1 million dollars in 2013.

The City experienced continued growth in municipal income tax collection, hotel/motel tax, gas tax and special assessments. Income tax collection accounts for 86% of revenue and increased by 2%, while all other income decreased by 9%. This resulted in an overall increase in total revenue of 0.5%.

The economy continued on its slow climb upward, despite setbacks. The City decreased General Fund expenses as well as total spending and will continue to focus on growing the financial success of previous years. In addition, by increasing revenue and implementing effective and efficient ways of providing services, the City will lessen the burden on the General Fund.



## 2013 Financial Year in Review

■ General Fund Revenue:	\$ 25,030,040
■ All Fund Revenue:	\$ 31,032,007
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■ General Fund Expense:	\$ 23,908,053
■ All Fund Expense:	\$ 29,271,387

## Major Sources of Expense

■ Capital Improvements:	\$ 1,033,947
■ Utilities/Street Lighting:	\$ 747,958
■ Workers Compensation:	\$ 271,124
■ Debt Service:	\$ 260,890
■ Gas & Oil:	\$ 252,701

# .... DIVISION OF POLICE ....



**Fact:**  
In 2013,  
The Whitehall  
Division of Police  
responded to 6,711  
call-outs.



In 2013, the Whitehall Division of Police launched an online reporting system that allows residents with Internet access to report crimes, including assaults, thefts of less than \$1,000, custody violations and identity thefts. Residents can also leave anonymous tips for officers.

To make reporting easier, the Whitehall Division of Police has also installed a permanent kiosk in the lobby of the department for those without Internet access. In 2013, residents filed 350 online reports through the new system.



In 2013, Mobile Community Watch members spent 872 hours on the road, helping the Division of Police eliminate crime in the area by serving as extra eyes and ears.



# .... DIVISION OF FIRE ....



**Fact:**  
The Division of Fire helped administer free blood pressure screenings to an average of five residents per week.



The Division of Fire responded to 5,855 medical emergencies with 3,028 patients transported to local hospitals. In 2013 Mount Carmel East received 80% of the patients, and all Franklin County hospitals were used at least once. Advanced life support skills (cardiac monitoring, IVs, airways procedures, etc.) were required on 82% of transports.

EMS billing revenues returned \$664,391 to the city, averaging \$219.42 per patient. Fires in 14 structures caused an estimated building fire loss of \$285,000 and contents loss of \$93,000.

The Division of Fire has an authorized strength of 37 sworn personnel, and all hold State of Ohio Firefighter II and Paramedic Certifications. Additionally, 17 are Fire Safety Inspectors, 17 are Fire Instructors and 13 are Emergency Medical Instructors.



## Serving with Heart

The Division of Fire helped administer free blood pressure screenings to an average of five residents per week in the department's lobby. While many convenience stores have similar tools, residents can receive more thorough screenings because of the one-on-one interaction with a Whitehall firefighter. One resident, for instance, felt lightheaded during a screening but avoided further medical issues because of the firefighter.



# ... DEPARTMENT OF ... PUBLIC SERVICE

The Department of Public Service works hard to make the City a better place to live and work. The department's work is one of the most visible services in the community.

## Capital Improvement Projects

## Total Cost

- Etna Street, Virginia Circle West, Bernhard Road & Ross Road: \$ 181,649
- Yearling Road resurfacing from Main Street to Mayflower Boulevard: \$ 160,602  
(100% permissive money, no City money)
- Main Street resurfacing: \$ 1,075,760  
(80% ODOT, 20% City)
- Elm Street Bridge over Mason Run: \$ 352,450  
(80% ODOT, 20% City)

## Cases Heard

- Planning Commission: 8
- Board of Zoning & Building appeals: 25

## Whitehall Code Enforcement

- 3,569 warning letters issued
- Code Enforcement: 3,195
- Animal Control: 329
- Director: 24
- Building Inspector: 21
- 176 code violation citations
- Code Enforcement: 145
- Animal Control: 28
- Building Inspector: 3

## City Roadways

- 133 lane miles maintained
- 2,500 tons of rock salt used to treat snow and ice
- 28 roll-off dumpsters of collected leaves converted into mulch

## Construction

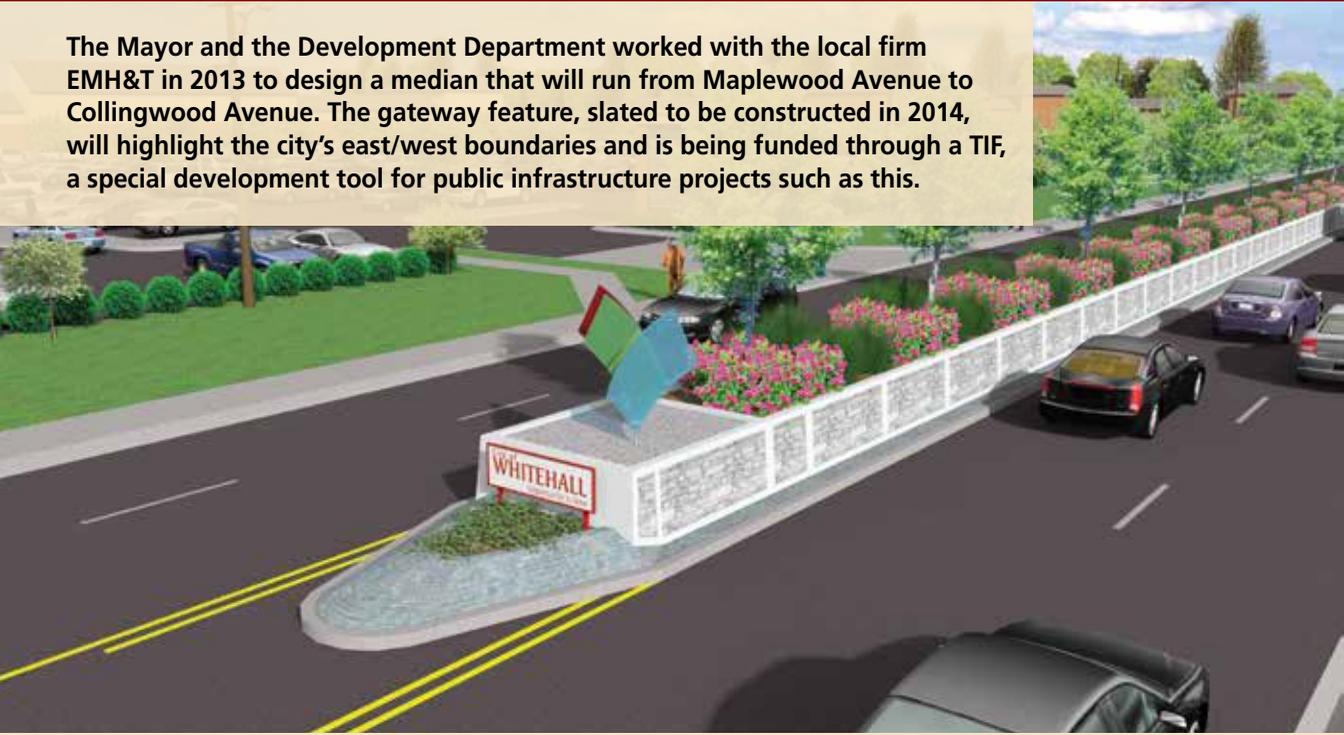
- Number of Permits: 433
- Construction Value: \$15,939,410

## Permits (Construction/Zoning)

- Residential: 194
- Commercial: 78
- Business Occupancy: 66
- Zoning: 95

**Fact:**  
In 2013,  
2,500 tons of  
rock salt was used  
to treat snow  
and ice.

The Mayor and the Development Department worked with the local firm EMH&T in 2013 to design a median that will run from Maplewood Avenue to Collingwood Avenue. The gateway feature, slated to be constructed in 2014, will highlight the city's east/west boundaries and is being funded through a TIF, a special development tool for public infrastructure projects such as this.



## Prioritizing Development

The industrial design and product development firm Priority Designs announced plans to relocate to the former Bill Swad Chevrolet dealership on the corner of Hamilton Road and Fairway Boulevard. The former dealership will be transformed into a multi-million dollar, state-of-the-art facility in 2014. Priority Designs will bring more than 55 employees and a \$4.3 million payroll to our community. The City's initial \$1 million investment in the property will generate \$1.7 million in new revenue for the City.



# ... ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY ... DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Economic and Community Development continued making strides in attracting, retaining and expanding businesses in Whitehall. More than 36 new businesses opened in 2013, and other existing businesses expanded.

The department is constantly pursuing new and creative ways to attract businesses to the area and support existing businesses growth here in the City.

### Since the beginning of 2012 under the current administration:

- More than 75 new businesses created
- 700 new committed jobs
- Potential \$24 million in new payroll

### Top 15 Employers in Whitehall

*(listed alphabetically):*

- Accenture
- Alliance Data Systems
- American Health Network
- Byers Auto
- Dave Gill Chevrolet
- Defense Supply Center Columbus
- Franklin County Children Services
- FedEx Ground
- Glazer's Distribution
- Kroger
- OhioHealth
- PNC Bank
- Target
- Wal-Mart
- Whitehall City Schools

### My Home Program Update

Last year was the first full year of the My Home Program, the City's down payment assistance program. Since its inception, 37 families have found new homes in Whitehall through the program. Not only does this partnership between the City, Huntington Bank and Apprisen help potential residents find homes in Whitehall, it also helps build our community by ensuring that new residents live in their homes for at least five years.

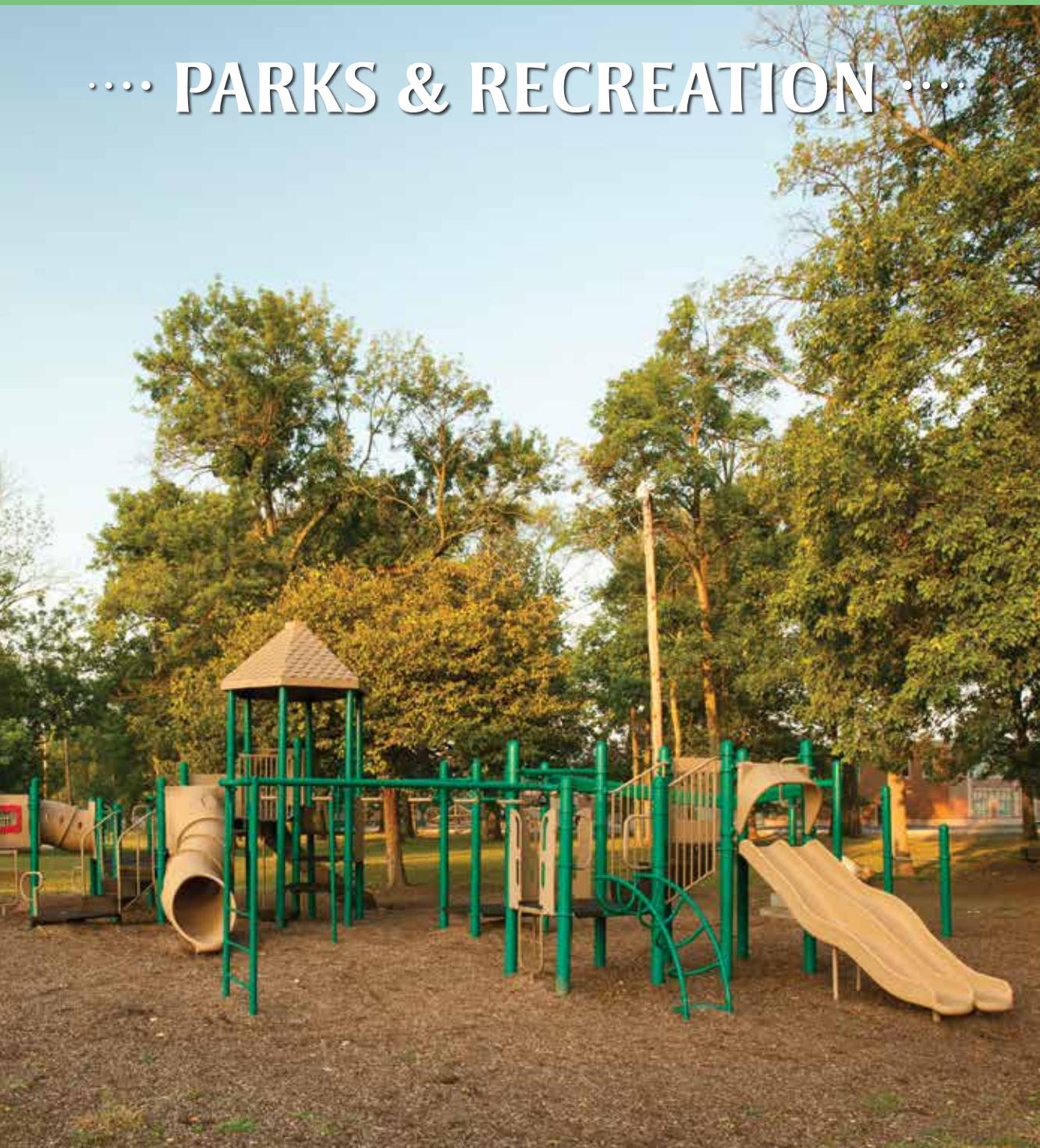


**Average down payment assistance:** \$3,522.97

**Average home sale price:** \$93,452.70



# ... PARKS & RECREATION ...



## John Bishop Park Improvements

New backstops, sideline and outfield fences, safety caps, foul poles and player benches were installed on six little league diamonds.

## Park Master Plan

The department selected the consulting firm EMH&T to develop the park master plan, which will be completed in the final quarter of 2014.

## Recreation Programs

The department offered youth programs, including ballet, tap and jazz, hip hop dance, karate and summer playground. Adult programs included aerobics, yoga and men's softball leagues. The department also provided and maintained athletic fields for Whitehall Youth Athletic Association, Whitehall Bantam Football Association, Whitehall Youth Soccer Association and Whitehall T-Ball League. Annual memberships were offered to the indoor workout facility at Whitehall Community Park, as well.



## Youth Sports Guidelines

The department began establishing basic guidelines for all Whitehall youth sports programs by sending a comprehensive youth sports questionnaire to all independent youth sports organizations that receive assistance from the City. During the first half of 2014, the department will collect and evaluate information from other independent youth sports organizations, parks and recreation departments, the Whitehall Yearling High School Athletic Department and national youth sports advocacy groups. Before the Commission votes to adopt proposed guidelines, all Whitehall youth sports organizations will have an opportunity to comment on the recommendations.

## Senior Citizen Center

The Senior Citizen Center, open to all Whitehall residents 55 years and older, offered arts and crafts, ceramics, euchre club, billiard league, electronic bowling league, shuffleboard league, horseshoes, Tai Chi, exercise club, potluck dinners, OSU football tailgate parties and several trips throughout the year. Improvement projects included installing handicapped signs and posts, upgrading the kitchen electrical service and sealing, coating and striping parking lot cracks.



## Music in the Park

The department sponsored six free concerts that were held on Sunday evenings throughout the summer at the John LaCorte Amphitheater in John Bishop Park.

## Community Events

The department provided support for Community Spring Cleanup, Safety Town, Food Truck and Fun Festival, National Night Out, Corvette and Classic Car Show, as well as WCCA's Egg Hunt, July Fourth Celebration and Breakfast with Santa Claus.

## Staff Training

Staff participated in the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association's Annual Conference and Tradeshow, OPRA's Recreation Facility Design Workshop and a ball field maintenance and renovation workshop.

# .... WHITEHALL BRANCH ....

of the Columbus Metropolitan Library



## Fact:

Former Whitehall librarian Carol Snowden saved more than \$1 million and donated a majority of that to the library at her death.

The Columbus Metropolitan Library broke ground on the new Whitehall branch at 4445 E. Broad St. on September 10, 2013. The new branch will be more than twice as large as the old branch and will open in 2015.

The Whitehall branch will offer the community Homework Help Centers, Ready for Kindergarten, Ready to Read, Reading Buddies and other services aimed at bolstering third-grade reading levels. It will also provide expanded access to technology and spaces for adult training. Thanks to a \$750,000 legacy gift from former librarian Carol Snowden, the new branch will include a special children and teens area. For more information on the branch's progress, visit [www.columbuslibrary.org](http://www.columbuslibrary.org).



# ... WHITEHALL CITY SCHOOLS ...

The new Whitehall Yearling High School was the last of five new district buildings to open its doors to students. Students started this school year with gleaming hallways, a state-of-the-art gymnasium and college-like science classrooms. The building is 120,000 square feet and can serve 700 students.

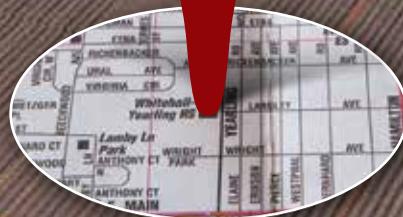
*Whitehall taxpayers contributed \$7.7 million to the new high school project, which is less than half of what the state provided. The full construction cost was \$23.1 million.*

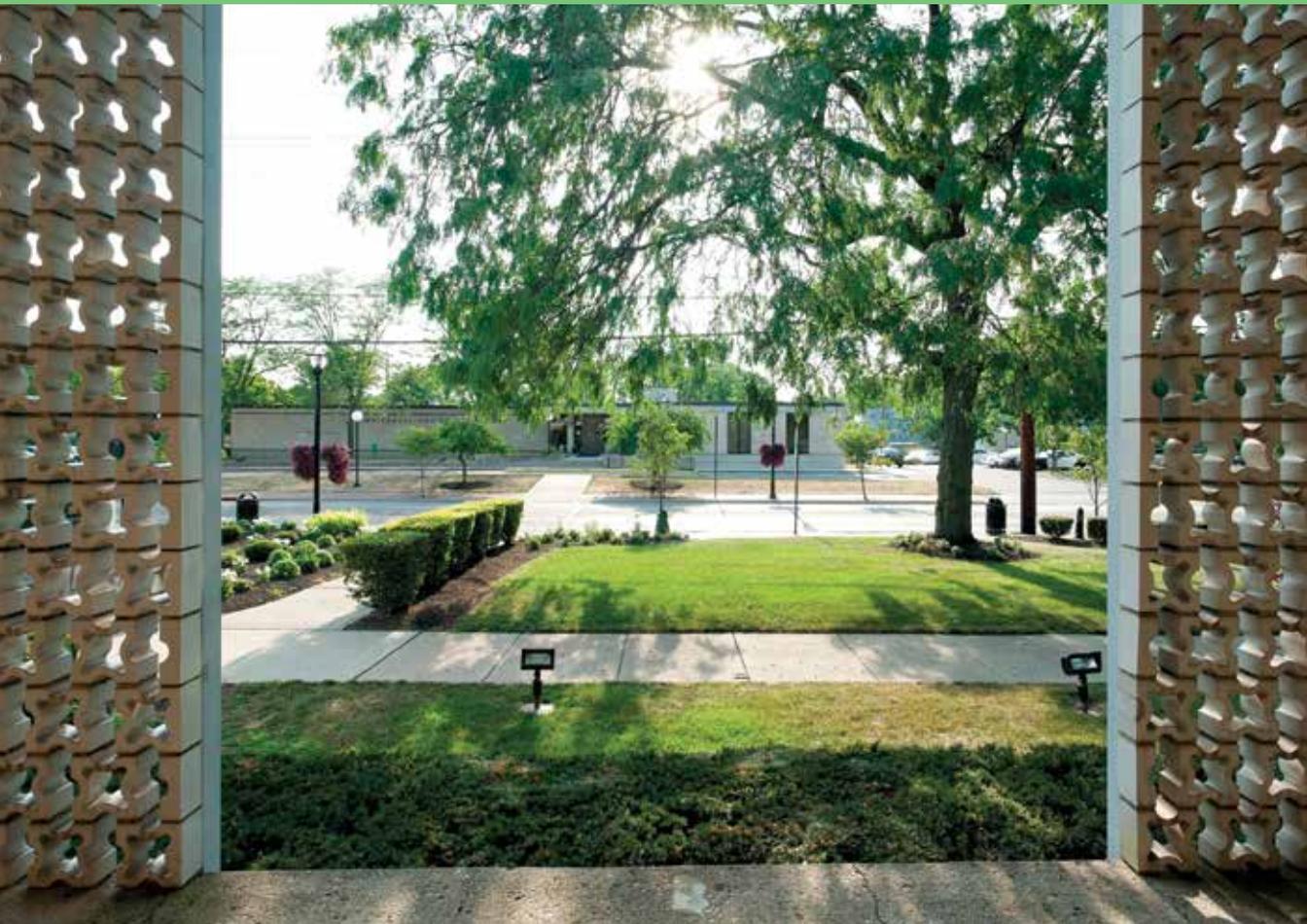
*All five new Whitehall City Schools buildings were designed to meet a minimum LEED (Leadership in Engineering and Environmental Design) Silver Certification.*



## Fact:

The high school's media center is named for former superintendent Judyth Dobbert-Meloy, who oversaw the building's construction.





## .... LOOKING AHEAD ....

We are looking forward to continuing our journey to build a better community. 2014 will bring some exciting announcements about new businesses and developments here in Whitehall. We are also looking forward to strengthening our permanent residential base by announcing a new home rehabilitation program to help homeowners complete exterior home projects.

Other 2014 goals include completing the Main Street Streetscape Project, between Maplewood Avenue and Hamilton Road. The streetscape plan is the first of a number of similar projects envisioned for the City in coming years.

City officials are also working hard on building a dark fiber optic network to help Whitehall businesses grow and help attract new ones to the community. The addition of the network will help Whitehall be more attractive to both national and international businesses.

Lastly, the City of Whitehall will continue to maintain the levels of services that the citizens of Whitehall have come to expect. We look forward to the opportunities we can bring Whitehall in 2014.





**Municipal Building**  
360 S. Yearling Road  
Whitehall, Ohio 43213

[www.whitehall-oh.us](http://www.whitehall-oh.us)