

Minutes Approved
As Circulated
November 20, 2023

November 6, 2023
Regular Council Meeting
Elyria City Council

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of Elyria City Council was called to order on November 6, 2023 at 7:03 p.m. by President Stewart. President Stewart opened the meeting requesting a moment of reflective silence. President Stewart extended words of benevolence to the family of Mr. George Crossan, who was a regular attendee at the city of Elyria council meetings. Mr. Crossan was passionate about the interests of the city of Elyria and recently passed. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council member Simmons.

2. ROLL CALL: COUNCIL MEMBERS

PRESENT: Callahan, Cerra, Corbin, Davis, Oswald, Lipian, Mitchell, Tollett, Schneider, Simmons, Stewart

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Whitfield, Safety Service Director Lundy, Asst. Safety Service Dir. Williams, Fin. Dir. Pileski, Law Director Deery, Fire Chief Pronesti, Police Chief Pelko,

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mrs. Mitchell moved, Mr. Cerra seconded to approve the Meeting Minutes of the October 16, 2023 Regular Council Meeting and the October 23, 2023 Special Council Meeting Minutes as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

5. REMARKS AND REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS:

Mayor Whitfield:

Mayor Whitfield provided an update regarding public safety and the issues that have been occurring lately through out the city. H expressed that within the police department lateral transfers are being conducted as well as upcoming academy recruits. Police department recruitment is a a challenge nationally. Mayor Whitfield shared that he submitted a referral to discuss at the finance committee meeting regarding an increase in benefits and wages for police and the police chief. Mayor Whitfield stated the other component to crime solving is license plate readers. He stated that in addition to solving crime, they will look at ways to prevent crime.

SSD Lundy:

SSD Lundy stated that the city of Elyria would be center stage on Saturday November 11th for the REV Walk. The walk raises awareness of suicide amongst veterans. The race begins at 7:30a.m. and the walk begins at 9:00 a.m. SSD Lundy provided an update to a project completed by the Central Maintenance Garage team with completing a government Fleet reporting report required by the EPA. He gave a special shout out to Kim Kline for a job well done with the

5. REMARKS AND REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS: CONTINUED

report. SSD Lundy provided an additional reminder regarding leaf pick-up. There is no regular schedule, please no twigs, cars should not be parked in front of leaf piles.

Finance Director: No report

Finance Director Pileski wished everyone on the ballot good luck.

Law Director Deery: No report

EPD:

Chief Pelko provided an update regarding an award the Elyria Police Department received from Triple A. Chief Pelko explained the award is given for traffic safety and reducing accidents in the city. He expressed his appreciation to Engineer McKillips and Traffic Technician Gina Rothgery. Traffic Technician Gina Rothgery plays a vital role in collaborating with EPD to improve the streets, intersections and traffic patterns through out the city. Chief Pelko stated the award is a great accomplishment, and acknowledge the entire police force for making the city a safe city to travel within. Chief Pelko shared that collaboration efforts are taking place with the Domestic Relations Court and the Juvenile Advocacy Center. The program is designed to serve as a preventive effort to provide social services to juveniles and their families prior to escalation into the criminal justice system. Plans for the court to occupy office space at the police station are being worked out. EPD is also in collaboration with the school system for a program titled Handle With Care. The premise of the program, is that if a juvenile has experienced a traumatic event with police involvement, the Police department would provide communication to the perspective school system under the child's name to "handle with care" without providing event details. The efforts would be to provide the child grace in the event they are having a bad day or emotional distress and provide additional wrap around services.

Sergeant Walker was promoted to replace a Sergeant Veteran that resigned to the Westlake Police department. Garen Rose and Dustin Hackney were two new lateral hires from Newberg Heights Police Department.

Chief Pelko shared that two weeks ago EPD responded to a barricaded suspect in the Wilkes Villa Apartment Complex, shots were fired, special response team was called out, the suspect eventually surrendered. Chief Pelko expressed his appreciation to Mayor Whitfield and SSD Lundy for their assistance.

A homicide occurred on Eighth Street, a young lay was ambushed and murdered, the front passenger was seriously injured. The detectives are following up on leads.

A shooting occurred at Wal-Mart on Chestnut Drive, a subject was shot in the parking lot, and died. The subject was located in Oberlin and was arrested.

Sunday, November 5th was an officer involved shooting. Press Release attached

Chief Pelko expressed his appreciation to Elyria Fire, Mayor Whitfield, SSD Lundy, Ohio State Patrol, Lorain County Sheriff's Department, Grafton Police, North Ridgeville Police who were all responsive to the situation.

Chief Pelko wished everyone good luck in their election. President Stewart expressed his appreciation to Chief Pelko for his leadership.

EFD: No report

6. PRESIDENT'S REFERRALS AND REMONSTRANCES:

1. The matter of a liquor license transfer from Ohio Mart Group LLC DBA Ohio Mart Elyria, Unit B, 515 Abbe Rd. N. to Krishna 2022 Inc. DBA Elyria Food Mart, 515 Abbe Rd. N., Elyria.

REFERRED BY: DIVISION OF LIQUOR CONTROL

REFERRED TO: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

2. The matter of a Downtown Facade Improvement Applicant, 230 Broad Street, Elyria.

REFERRED BY: CD MANAGER ALMOBAYYED

REFERRED TO: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

3. The matter of a budget increase and program extension to the Skill City Promise Program Agreement.

REFERRED BY: MAYOR WHITFIELD

REFERRED TO: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/ FINANCE

4. The matter of referral to amend ordinance 2022-44 , not to exceed \$231,607.

REFERRED BY: ASSD WILLIAMS

REFERRED TO: FINANCE

5. The matter of 3% increase for Chapter 165 city employees, effective January , 2024.

REFERRED BY: SSD LUNDY

REFERRED TO: FINANCE

6. The matter to authorize the Mayor to enter into a contract for the FY 2024 with Roetzel & Andress, LPA.

REFERRED BY: MAYOR WHITFIELD

REFERRED TO: FINANCE

7. The matter to authorize the Mayor to enter into a contract for FY 2024 with McCaulley & Company.

REFERRED BY: MAYOR WHITFIELD

REFERRED TO: FINANCE

8. The matter of a request to increase specific salary and benefits for Elyria Police officers.

REFERRED BY: MAYOR WHITFIELD

REFERRED TO: FINANCE

9. The matter of a request to increase the Police Chief's salary at time of passage.

REFERRED BY: MAYOR WHITFIELD

REFERRED TO: FINANCE

10. The matter of a request to purchase License Plate Reader utilizing ARPA funds.

REFERRED BY: MAYOR WHITFIELD

6. PRESIDENT'S REFERRALS AND REMONSTRANCES:

REFERRED TO: FINANCE

11. The matter of applying for an Ohio Environmental Protection Agency , Water Bottle Refilling Station grant.

REFERRED BY: P&R DIRECTOR REARDON

REFERRED TO: FINANCE/ UTILITIES

12. The matter of authorization to purchase a Ford F-350 or equivalent and not to exceed \$60,000 for Water Pumping.

REFERRED BY: WTL Jacob

REFERRED TO: UTILITIES

13. The matter of authorizing the Mayor to enter into change order No. 1 for the Washington Village Park Lot Improvement Project.

REFERRED BY: ENG. MCKILLIPS

REFERRED TO: UTILITIES

14 - 15 Received and Placed on file in the clerk's office:

14. List of receipts collected by each division of the Clerk of court's office for September 2023

15. Copy of the Elyria Parks & Recreation Board Minutes from September 14, 2023

16. The matter of a city purchase of the property at 39009 Chestnut Ridge Rd.

REFERRED BY: Council Member Corbin - Ward 3

REFERRED TO: FINANCE

7. PETITIONS- LOBBY:

1. Greg Fanning- 6025 Havencrest Ct, N. Ridgeville- Reforms in Elyria- Political comments made regarding his opponent and other candidates running for office. President Stewart stated public comments should reflect what is reflected on the form presented. Mr. Fanning stated he is allowed freedom of speech. Law Director Deery stated that Mr. Fanning's topic was reforms in Elyria. Law Director Deery asked that all who addresses council would speak to the topic indicated.

2. Patrick Spears- 267 Northfield Dr., Elyria- Increased Crime and Police Manpower

3. Michael S. Whitlock- 5598 Wallace Blvd. N. Ridgeville- Representing Dennis E. Campanalie Mr. Whitlock spoke passionately regarding the history of numerous incidents at 39009 Chestnut Ridge Rd. He stated no dwelling should exist at this location and that assistance be provided to obtain the property and no property ever exist in that space.

4. Cristini Johnson Howard- P.O. Box 1132- John Howard , Education/ Environment-

7. PETITIONS- LOBBY: CONTINUED

Mrs. Howard Johnson made several statements regarding several topics.

5. Evan Petrisko- 38965 Chestnut Ridge Rd.- Household Damages from Reckless Drivers- Mr. Petrisko stated that he felt the gentleman before him expressed all that he planned to share regarding the Campanelli home at 39009 Chestnut Ridge Rd., Elyria.

6. Matthew Van Wormer- 235 Denison Ave., Elyria- Community Safety- Comments attached

8. PETITIONS-COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Council member Maurice Corbin- Ward 3- Crime uptick in Ward 3 and Possible purchase of Campanelli home.- Council member Corbin expressed his appreciation to Elyria Police and Fire for the excellent work in his ward with Chestnut Commons as well as the Campanelli property at 39009 Chestnut Ridge Rd. Council member Corbin made two standing referrals from the floor:

1. License Plate Readers- Utilities Committee
2. Purchase of 39009 Chestnut Ridge Rd.- Finance Committee

9. REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

10. RESOLUTIONS FIRST READING:

11. RESOLUTIONS--SECOND READING: None

12. RESOLUTIONS--THIRD READING: None

13. ORDINANCES--FIRST READINGS: None

14. ORDINANCES-SECOND READINGS:

15. ORDINANCES--THIRD READING:

16. COMMITTEE CALLS:

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT 11/13/2023 6:00 P.M. All Referred Items Council Chambers w/Law Director, SSD, Engineer, Bldg. Insp.

JOINT CD/FINANCE 11/13/2023 Following CD All Referred Items Council Chambers w/Law Director, SSD, Engineer, Bldg. Insp.

FINANCE 11/13/2023 Following Joint All Referred Items Council Chambers w/Mayor, Auditor, Law Director, SSD, Engineer

UTILITIES, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT 11/08/2023 6:00 P.M. All Referred Items

16. COMMITTEE CALLS:

Council Chambers w/SSD, Law Director, Engineer All

COUNCIL/STRATEGIC PLANNING 11/20/2023 Immediately following Council Meeting
All Referred Items

Council Chambers W/ Mayor, Safety Service Director, Auditor, Solicitor, Engineer

17. MISCELLANEOUS AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Council member Schneider shared with everyone the upcoming changes with private septic systems. Lorain County Public Health is requiring operation and maintenance permits. Bills will be in circulation starting in December with a due date of January 31st, the fee associated is \$120.00 for a three year period.


Monet Roberts- Elyria Community Partnership- Presentation Attached

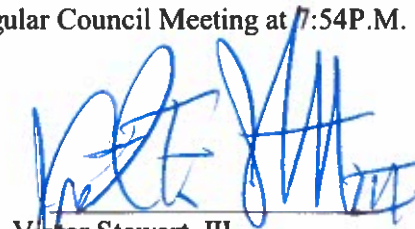
Council member Davis asked about follow up to Muncy Ave. Water Tower. Ms. Roberts explained the team was focused on the Farmer's market.

18. ADJOURNMENT:

Mitchell moved, Cerra seconded to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting at 7:54P.M.

MOTION CARRIED


Michael J. Lorco, III
Clerk of Council


Victor Stewart, III
President of Council

RLP/



CITY OF ELYRIA

FRANK WHITFIELD, MAYOR

Elyria Police Department
18 West Avenue
Elyria, OH 44035
440-323-3302 FAX 440-326-1338

William R. Pelko
Chief of Police



On November 5th, 2023 at approximately 0234 hours an Elyria Police Officer was on patrol in the general area of East Broad St. and S. Abbe Rd, and could hear a vehicle squealing tires and what sounded like erratic driving. In checking the area, a red Dodge vehicle was located in the parking lot of the Speedway at S. Abbe Rd. and E. Broad St. The patrol officer approached and attempted to investigate if this was the vehicle involved. The driver/suspect of the red Dodge eventually began to flee from the officer, with the officer partially inside of the vehicle. This vehicle began to flee southbound on S. Abbe Rd. at a high rate of speed. This vehicle was later observed to have crashed into the residence of 39009 Chestnut Ridge Rd. Upon officers checking the vehicle, the driver of the vehicle fled from the scene.

The driver/suspect of the red Dodge was then located and barricaded himself at 520 Carol Ln. Officers attempted to get the suspect to come out of the residence. The driver/suspect eventually got into another vehicle that was parked inside the closed garage at 520 Carol Ln. The driver/suspect began to accelerate and drove through the garage door of this residence at officers, who had surrounded this house. Officers fired their firearms at the driver/suspect of this vehicle. The driver/suspect vehicle was disabled. The driver/suspect was placed into custody, first aid was rendered and he was transported to University Hospital Elyria Medical Center. The driver/suspect appeared to sustain a gun shot wound to his person. He was eventually cleared medically and transported to the Lorain County Sheriff's Office.

The driver/suspect was identified as Dorian Williams, a 27-year-old male from Detroit, Michigan. He was charged with the following offenses:

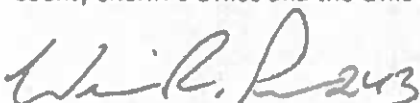
- Two count of Assault on a Police Officer ORC 2903.13 F4
- Two counts of Failure to Comply ORC 2921.33 I F3
- One count of Having Weapons Under Disability 2923.13 F3
- One count of Resisting Arrest ORC 2921.33 M1
- One count of Obstructing Official Business ORC 2921.31 F5

The officer that was dragged from the vehicle at E. Broad and S. Abbe sustained minor injuries to his arm and knee. He was transported to University Hospital Elyria Medical Center, treated and released.

All officers involved with firing their duty weapons will be on paid administrative leave until further notice.

Lorain Police Department is investigating these incidents. If anyone has any information they are asked to contact LPD Captain Mike Failing at Mike_Failing@cityoflorain.org or 440-204-2105.

The Elyria Police Department would like to thank the North Ridgeville PD, Grafton PD, Lorain PD, Lorain County Sheriff's Office and the Ohio State Highway Patrol for their assistance with this investigation.


Chief William R. Pelko

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“Quo vadimus?” This short Latin question roughly translates to “Where are we going?” and that is a question the city of Elyria needs to ask itself, right now. Are we going to continue to let imported crime come into our community, or are we going to stand together, as neighbors, and say that enough is enough?

Several weeks ago, an eviction hearing was held, and the residents of 100 Cornell Avenue were sent packing after a shooting took place. We got lucky with that one, as the owner of the property was someone local and the situation was resolved quickly. We aren't so lucky with other homes in the city that are owned by LLCs in California, New York, Florida, and Texas. We need a way to ensure that all landlords are held accountable for the people to whom they rent, and that we can get ahold of them when the need arises.

When issues are reported, as it stands right now, our Police don't have the numbers to respond to every call that comes in, and that can be frustrating, but we can't stop making the calls. The more information we have on problem houses or problem people, or problem streets, the better chance there is that something will be done to correct the issue.

I'll continue to say “If you see something, say something” until I'm blue in the face, because I want better for my daughters, and for all families in Elyria. The moment we become apathetic to the issues is the moment that the problems start to win. We have to work together, and we have to keep working together so that our future can be bright.

— MATTHEW VAN WORMER



ELYRIA
COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIP

November 6th Overview



2023 Goal

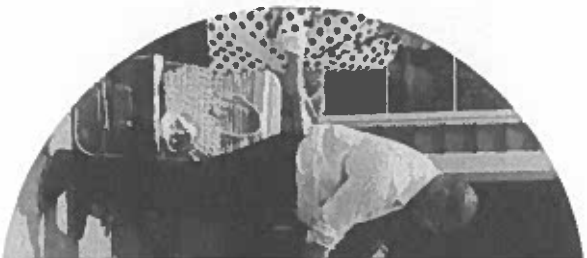
- Economic Development
 - Vibrancy Projects
- Events Expansion
- Support and Partner with Existing Programs
- Branding

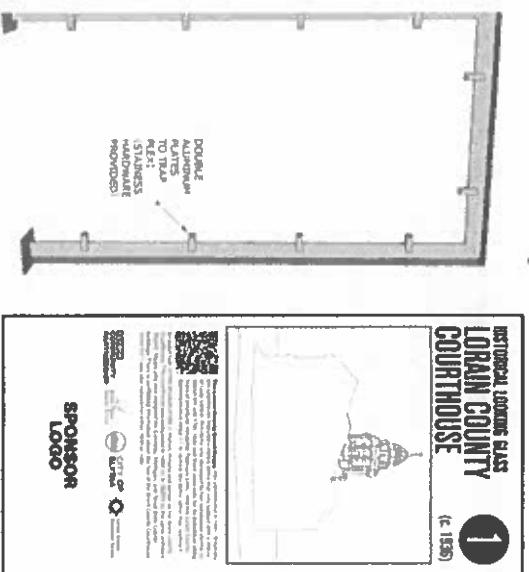
Engaged
Vibrant
Joy JIFF



Economic Development

- **Business Owners**
 - Provide Marketing, Exposure, financial, and educational resources.
 - Workshops and Networking Opportunities
 - Supporting local businesses for coupons, gift cards, and catering.
- **Property Owners**
 - Meetings and connections to different resources
 - Touring and learning different challenges and needs for specific buildings
 - Navigating City Questions
 - Connecting interested businesses with Property Owners
 - Building a resource and contractors list for specific rehabilitation needs
 - Connecting property owners with other property owners

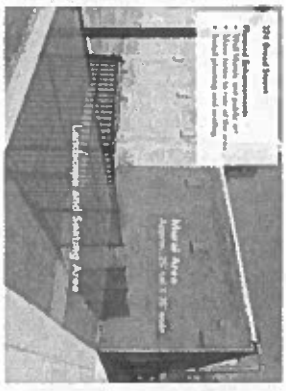




Vibrancy Project Update

- Historical Looking Glass Projects
 - Finalized Stamp of Approval from Arch
 - Design Review Approval
 - Pending Contract Approvals

- Banners
 - Designed with community feedback
 - Installed
- Connecting Spaces
 - Mural and Gathering space design con
 - Mural and Design Approved
 - Artist Selection
 - Pending Professional Masonry

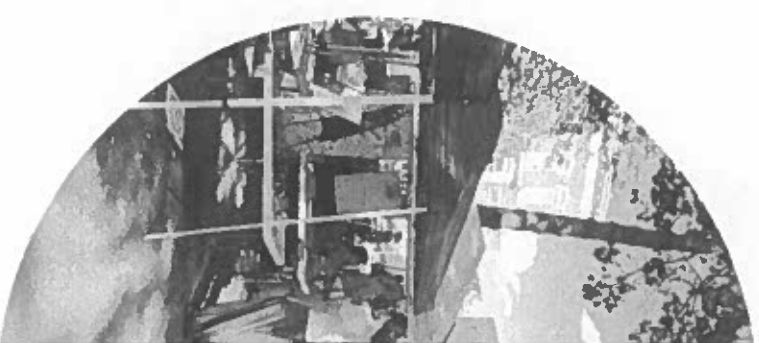


Event Expansion

- 2023 Events
 - Movie Nights in the Plaza
 - Small Business Luncheon
 - Third Thursdays
 - Farmers Market
 - Fundraising Events
 - Support of Community Events

“The Elyria Community Partnership is one of the best things that happen to this city!”

- Elyria Resident on Facebook after Revamping Farmers Market



Support & Partner with Existing Programs

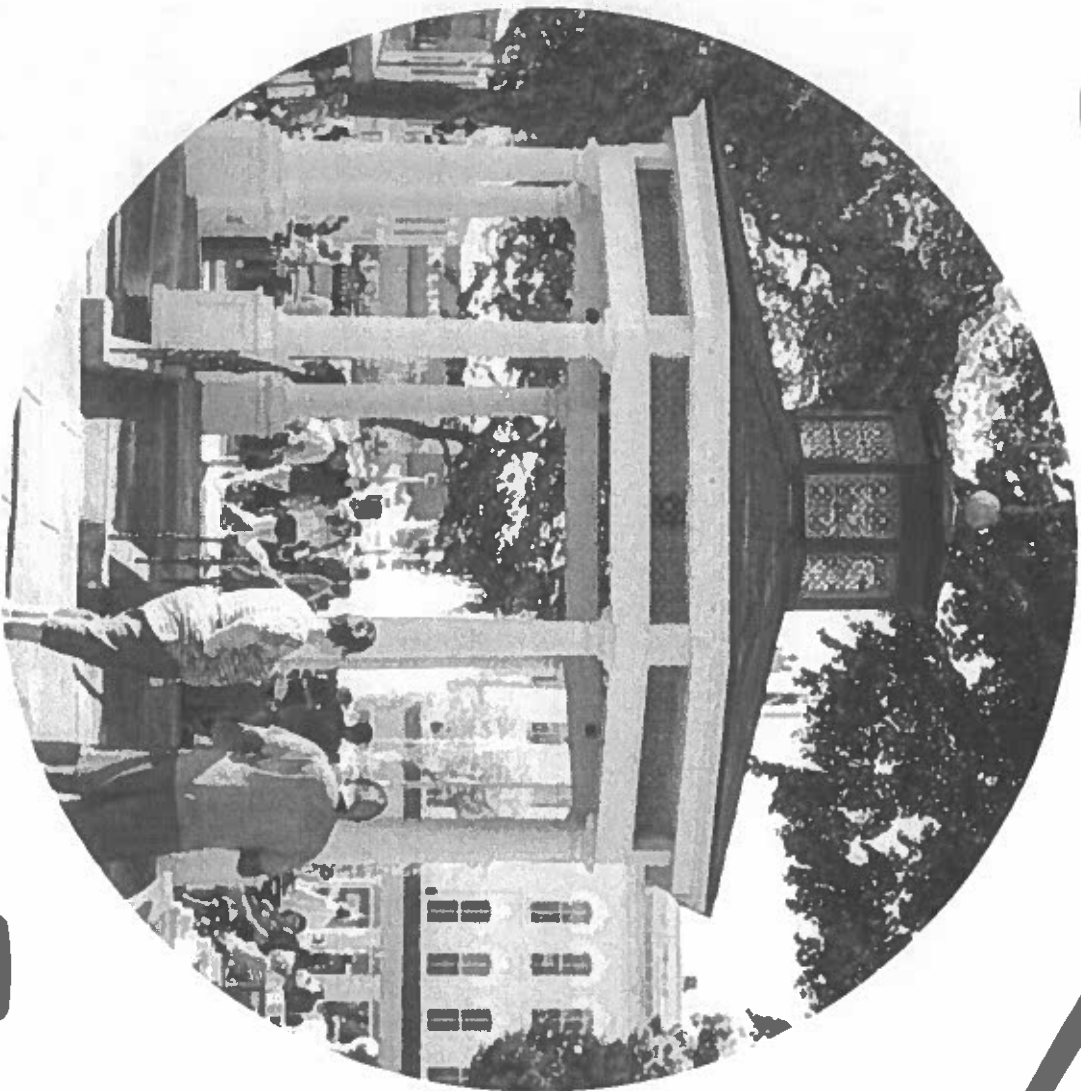
- Clean Up program
 - Lorain County Beautification Day
 - AmeriCorps Vistas Saturday Clean Up During Farmers Market
- Spruce Up Elyria Housing Beautification Program
 - Promote and Market
- Volunteer Coordination
 - Events committee
- Memorial Day Parade
 - Connecting Trolley Rides
- Parks and Rec Programming
 - Provide exposure opportunities



Support & Partner with Existing Programs continued

- Annual Juneteenth Celebration
- Partnerships
 - Small Business Development Center, HFLA of Northeast Ohio, Minority Business Association Center, SCORE Mentors, Achieve Credit Union assist in Small Business Development Resources
 - Collaborative events with Lorain County Public Health Department, Lorain County Urban League, Elyria Public Library, Elyria Arts Council, Lorain County Historical Society, and more.
- Communitywide Events shared on Fridays





Branding

- Action Oriented
- Consistency
- A Community Liaison
- An avenue for volunteer engagement

Vi
EQU

Funders & Sponsors

City of Elyria
Nord Family Foundation
PNC Bank
Lorain County
First Energy Foundation
PNC Foundation
Lorain County Community Foundation
Foundry Kitchen and Bar
Lorain County Visitors Bureau
CommStar Credit Union
Elyria Arts Council
NOPEC
Wigland
Dale Yost Construction
Wesleyan Village

1807 Art Collective
Washington Ave Christian Church
WOBL WDLW
Vandemark Jewelers
Unplugged Brewery
Andrea Repko, Howard Hannah Realtor
Dan Martin Property Owner
Lorain County Historical Society
Lorain County Community College
Achieve Credit Union

WEOL Radio
The Chronicle-Telegram
Power 89.1
Forge 417
Leadership Lorain County
Northwest Bank
Auto Details
Stewart Appliances
Lamar Advertising
Elyria Public Library

Elyria Black Legacy Comm
United Way Greater Clev
Sambino's Pizza
Hanni Plus
Hanni Subs
Cleveland Clinic
Lorain County Task Force
Cozzeria Pizza

EMC Precision
Grow America (National Development Council)
Jennys Popcorn
Venue Church
Erie Island Coffee
Forge 417
Over 100 Residents & Visitors

Thank You

Your generous support, investment, and efforts have made a lasting impact in Elyria, OH. Without you, there is no Elyria Community Partnership

-Mone't Roberts, Executive Director

mroberts@elyriatogether.org

4406101461



