

The following is the text of the State of the City Address, delivered by Brooks Compton, Centerville Mayor on March 20, 2017

Why did you to move to Centerville?

What is it about Centerville that makes you to stay in Centerville?

Those questions and the answers we receive are what drive the City Council and City staff as our responsibility is to keep and improve the quality of life that brings individuals and businesses to Centerville and once here to provide the quality of services and life that keeps them here.

If you are not here, we want you to be in Centerville. If you are here, we want you to be pleased with the services that you receive, the quality of life Centerville offers and stay. And if you love it here, as we do we want you to spread the word about Centerville. Centerville has a lot to offer.

38 years ago my wife, Ruth and I moved to Centerville. Centerville was much smaller in both population and geographical area. Centerville seemed to be the place to live, start our careers and raise a family if we decided to have a family. It was a great decision as we were right. Centerville has been and continues to be a great place to live, work and raise a family. We love it in Centerville.

As a child growing up in Kettering, attending Fairmont West HS and competing against Centerville academically, musically and athletically, I went away to college knowing that Centerville was a city on the rise. Then in school I roomed with a Centerville HS graduate and visited his home on numerous occasions during our college years. I knew I really liked Centerville and when Ruth and I completed our education we headed straight to Centerville to live.

Ruth and I have been fortunate to have two boys and raise our family in Centerville. Our sons played most sports, learned about Centerville history through historical hounds, learned the ropes of babysitting through courses offered by the WTFD, spent many a summer afternoon in the library or checking out books from the library to fulfill a summer reading pledge, occasionally had an unapproved meeting with Centerville's finest a time or two, got a first class education from Centerville Schools well prepared for college and then graduated from college.

Even though our younger son, Brett has gone to North Carolina working for North Carolina State University with skills developed at CHS and Ohio University, our older son and daughter-in-law returned to Centerville a few years back with our now twin 5-year-old granddaughters who attend PV North and a brand new grandson. It is so true, there is no place like home.

Almost all of us in this room have a story to tell about why we moved to Centerville and why we have stayed.

Each of your council members and many city staff members made a conscious decision to make Centerville their home. Almost all of your council members raised their families in Centerville,

many participating in countless activities offered by Centerville and its community partners. Almost all of our children attended City of Centerville schools. On behalf of City Council and City staff we are glad you moved here, glad you are still here and we will work together to make you want you to stay in Centerville.

However, the goal of providing that quality of life known as Centerville is not accomplished solely by the city of Centerville, its policies and actions by city council or City staff.

We need great partners and we have them!

Citizens and Volunteers: Our citizens, and the many volunteers who serve on Centerville boards and commissions and the many volunteers who help the city out every day with very little public recognition, are a great asset to the city. All of us on Council and City staff know that it could not be done without them. Thank you, volunteers and board members.

Centerville Schools: Superintendent Tom Henderson, the school board and the entire school system successfully deliver outstanding educational services for Centerville students. We respect what they do for Centerville, enjoy working with them and know the quality of the City of Centerville Schools is a major factor in people deciding to move to Centerville.

Centerville-Washington Park District adds much to the quality of life in Centerville. Our park system is now headed by Arnie Biondo. His recognition of the need to preserve areas within the City of Centerville as natural parkland and also commit resources to City of Centerville projects is greatly appreciated by all of our residents and City Council.

Libraries: We appreciate what Kim Paras has done to make Centerville more attractive for our residents with the many, varied and useful programs provided at the Woodbourne and Centerville libraries. The strong community support for renovation of the Woodbourne Library is a credit to her leadership.

The Washington Township Fire Department is a vital asset for our community. Chief Gaul's efforts to improve provide first class fire and EMS and improve the department at every level is very much respected and appreciated by all of us in Centerville.

All of us, as partners, work together to make Centerville a great place to be.

Now I would ask you to consider what stands out as a major accomplishment in the City of Centerville.

Now that it is completed, you may have forgotten but North Main Street from Franklin Street to Alex-Bell was repaved. Kudos to Doug Spittler and Jim Brinegar and the Centerville Public Works Department.

Centerville voters overwhelmingly supported the increase in the income tax from 1.75 to 2.25

percent. Your vote in support of the levy showed confidence for all of us on council and city staff. As promised, we will put the dollars you entrusted to us with this increase to good use within Centerville and for Centerville.

There was the settlement of the longstanding Fire EMS dispute with Sugarcreek Township. We know that this was a group effort to get this resolved and we appreciate those who helped in this process. The City stuck to its position and the result was what we felt was fair from the very beginning. We are pleased to have this resolved.

Wilmington Pike improvements which widened Wilmington Pike from Brown Road to Feedwire Road were done on time and within budget. Whipp Road west of Wilmington was widened and better access to 675 heading south on Wilmington was provided to motorists.

Yankee Street was widened from Social Row Road north to Winding Green in Yankee Trace.

South Johanna Drive was fully reconstructed.

Cornerstone of Centerville saw Cabela's and Cheddar's open. They are successful parts of a rapidly developing Cornerstone of Centerville and Centerville's economy.

Cross Pointe Centre added new commercial locations and a new restaurant, while continuing to upgrade the first class look Cross Pointe Centre provides to Centerville.

And finally in 2016 a study was completed by a task force comprised of volunteers, business owners, developers and council members JoAnne Rau and Mark Engert. Andrew Rodney led the task force for the redevelopment of the Centerville Place shopping center. This is an exciting project which will be worked on in 2017.

So what is ahead for Centerville in 2017:

1. As Council promised if the tax levy passed, the City would invest heavily in Centerville neighborhood infrastructure. The City is investing \$4.1 million in its street and sidewalk repair and replacement program along with bike way improvements with a Capital Improvement Plan commitment of at least \$3.4 million per year for the next four years.
2. In 2017 Council is committed to advancing Centerville's bike and pedestrian pathways to promote and advance the ability of our residents to bike and walk throughout Centerville. Centerville has a strong biking community and our citizens are demanding this amenity. We are making the commitment to improve and extend both this year and in the long term this amenity. Healthy living will be promoted by both pedestrian and bike access throughout our city and Centerville Council will strongly support this effort.
3. 2017 will see another expansion with Miami Valley Hospital South's announcement of millions of dollars of capital investment and many new jobs to its Centerville campus.

Graceworks has announced a multi-million dollar investment in its Centerville campus with expanded options and improved facilities to meet the needs of its residents.

4. New single family residential and multi-family developments throughout Centerville are coming on board to address the wide and varied housing demands of people who wish to call Centerville home.

New single family developments near Yankee Trace expect to be breaking ground and worked on this year to bring new housing options to Centerville.

5. 2017 will also bring new upscale multi-family developments to the former Showcase Cinema site, working with Cross Pointe Centre to create a good synergy between both, along with a new development at Chardonnay site, both of which will be adding new options of housing for all age and family needs to Centerville. Centerville has not added multi-family housing for years and we are pleased that developers are willing to invest millions of dollars and commit many construction jobs in Centerville to meet that need.

5. Council is committed to the AP District and Heart of Centerville to improve and help those who have invested and work in this area. We have a gem with the center of Centerville and its historical significance. Council and staff will be working hard to advance the district from an economic, entertainment and aesthetic perspective and work with those who own properties and work in the district. Council and staff recognize there are additional hurdles to meet to maintain an historically significant building and all that goes with it all while building a business at the same time.

6. There will be continued economic development at Cornerstone of Centerville. Cornerstone of Centerville will bring on board a new Kroger Marketplace, Hilton Brand hotel, additional restaurants and commercial locations, along with the potential for upscale multi-family residential housing.

7. This summer will again bring great entertainment with Heart of Centerville gatherings on Fridays, the outstanding summer concert series at Stubbs Park and other offerings by the Centerville Arts Commission.

The City of Centerville has tremendous operational strengths.

Centerville has the finest police department around. Chief Robertson has assembled a department that has the respect and support of Council, but more importantly, the respect and support of Centerville citizens. The public saw the professionalism of Centerville PD on display recently. With first responder training, national accreditation, a local 24 hour local emergency dispatch and a large presence in the schools and community, Centerville residents know they can depend on the Centerville PD.

Our finance department is led by Jonathan Hudson. Jonathan provides the financial expertise the City needs. He has only been on the job less than one year, but council is very impressed.

Doug Spitler, Public Works Director, and Jim Brinegar, City Engineer, had a busy year in 2016, and 2017 won't be any less busy. The City's increased commitment to infrastructure in its road and annual street and sidewalk repair programs, while supervising an active Public Works Department will mean another hectic year at Public Works.

Nathan Cahall, in Economic Development, manages and works with the development tools available to the city to improve and help our business base grow and prosper. Andrew Rodney, Centerville's City Planner, brings creative talent to his position and projects for City Council to review. Maureen Russell Hodgson is our volunteer coordinator and public information officer. If there is something going on in Centerville, she knows about it and gets the word out. Assistant to the City Manager Jennifer Wilder, Head Golf Pro Steven Marino and Director of Food and Beverage Jason Pajari, plus the entire staff at Yankee Trace deserve a great deal of credit as Yankee Trace earned the Number 1 Dayton area Golf Course award again in 2016. We are also proud that Benham's Grove is recognized as the best in the Dayton area. Assistant to the City Manager Kristen Gopman has taken over the management responsibilities at Benham's Grove. She and Randy have steadily improved Benham's Grove both operationally and fiscally.

Carin Andrews has been our Clerk of Council with Julie Weaver helping her out as the Assistant Clerk of Council. Council respects the hard work that Carin and Julie both do for us every week. After working with Carin for just over one year, we know that we are lucky to have her as Centerville's Clerk of Council.

And it goes without saying that Centerville employees are out there every day taking care of the city's business.

Centerville has a great strength in its employees and its staff. Thank you for all of your hard work. You make our jobs as council members much easier.

Now I would like to take just a couple minutes to talk about our City Manager, Greg Horn.

Greg Horn has been Centerville City Manager for 25 years and is retiring in July. Greg is the consummate City Manager. Always has the best interest of Centerville in mind and well respected by all in his profession.

Much has been accomplished under Greg's leadership. The new Police Department Headquarters, Public Works building, numerous developments throughout the city, improvements at Benham's Grove, the Kroger Marketplace, Cornerstone, Miami Valley Hospital and of course Yankee Trace. It is a credit to Greg Horn that he put in place the proper financial controls so that Yankee Trace will be paid off in full--very shortly, several years early.

Those of us on Council at the time knew that Yankee Trace would be a success. Greg came on board and made it so. I can say without reservation that Yankee Trace would not be what it is today without Greg Horn's leadership.

As a council, we value his friendship and his dedication to Centerville. We all know that Greg could have left many times for a bigger city and more money, but he chose to stay. The City of Centerville is fortunate that Greg did in fact choose to stay in Centerville. Thank you, Greg.

As a member of Centerville Council and now as Mayor, I have seen the thoughtfulness and seriousness my fellow council members bring to their job. I can tell you that this group works hard on city business and has a very open exchange of ideas and meaningful discussion in our meetings. It is a privilege to work with all of them, as they are what you hope you have in a community as your elected officials.

Council and staff know that there will be and are difficult challenges ahead, not the least of which is the increasing drug epidemic that Centerville is not immune, like other cities throughout Ohio; the constant undermining of local government authority by our state legislature and governor and the replacement of 25 years of historical knowledge and professionalism with the replacement of Greg Horn.

However with the support that Centerville has given to your council and the support we receive from City staff, we are confident that we will have another successful year in 2017 building for the future.

We know why we moved to Centerville and we know why we love it in Centerville. I can assure you that Council and staff will work hard to keep Centerville the place you want to be to locate your business, work or raise your family.

It is an honor to serve as Centerville's Mayor. Your council has big plans. All of us thank you for your support.

May God bless Centerville and the United States of America.