

SUSTAINABLE GREENFIELD **GREENFIELD'S VISION OF THE FUTURE MOVES FORWARD**

The Sustainable Greenfield Implementation Committee has been charged to measure progress toward the goals set out in our master plan. In reviewing progress over the past 6 months, we think that you will agree that it is most impressive! Greenfield have made significant progress toward our goals of improving our downtown and the health and well being of community members, as well as making our community more resilient.

Improving Downtown

As noted by Rachel Katz, co-owner of Greenfield Gallery & Fine Printing, in an interview in the Valley Advocate, the arts and other expansions are making Greenfield's downtown more vibrant!

The Arts Block now offers entertainment on weekdays as well as weekends; Greenfield Gallery added a frame shop; Magical Child has a new owner and expanded offerings; Franklin Community Coop expanded to 170 Main St; and The Dreamboat Health Collective, Heart of Paris, and Mimosa Thrift Shop have opened. The town is also becoming more colorful with the addition of new murals and painted meters.

Additionally, The Toyota/Ford dealership opened their new \$7.4 million sales and service building, and the Meadows Golf Course and Restaurant is now open for lunch and supper as a full service family restaurant seven days a week.

Community Wellbeing

In addition to a more vibrant downtown, the wellbeing of our community has been enhanced by investments in housing, parks, and improved health, food and transportation services.

A beautiful new 'kid's train' has been added to the Greenfield Energy Park that offers exercise and endless delight to toddlers, pre-schoolers, and their parents.

Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) is offering expanded evening service.

Community Builders completed Phase 1 of their \$70 million rebuild of Leyden Woods, and permanent housing has been found for almost all of the families in transition staying in Greenfield hotels.

BHN has opened a 64-bed substance abuse detox/treatment facility at the former Lunt property on Federal Street.

In our Schools, better food, composting, and a new program that helps students resolve conflict through peer communication and mediation, are all contributing to their wellbeing.

'Breakfast in the Classroom' is now offered in our middle school and most of our elementary schools. Madison Walker, food service director, is bringing more fresh locally-grown food to schoolchildren through a partnership with Just Roots, and the 'Harvest of the Month' program. A 3-year effort has brought composting to our schools, which diverts 75% of cafeteria waste to Martin's Farm and teaches young people good habits.

Energy Improvements Save Money

In May, Greening Greenfield gave Carole Collins, Director of Energy and Sustainability, an award for her work to cut fossil fuel use and save money while improving town buildings.

Demonstrating that protecting the environment and saving money go hand in hand, Carole reports that over the past four years, Greenfield has saved over \$2 million on utility bills, and expects to save almost a half a million dollars each year going forward. Recent improvements include adding ceiling insulation to Newton Street School while putting on a new roof, upgrading gymnasium lighting to LEDs that cut energy use and maintenance bills, and installing new energy efficient windows at the Green River School.

Town Government: New Services & Policies

The most visible accomplishment to date is the Town's new website, which makes it easier for citizens to look at government processes. It also includes a Town calendar that includes events happening throughout the community, a 311-service to report problems, and expanded Code Red services that better connect us to the National Emergency Broadcast System.

Looking to the future, the Town Council has made decisions that have set the stage for improving all our lives. Budgetary commitments include building a Community/Senior Center on Davis Street, getting *Greenlight* up and running to bring broadband to Town by the spring of 2017, and making our drinking water system and sewer system more secure.

Additionally a "Complete Streets" policy was adopted, highlighting the Town's vision of a 'multi-modal' community with streets that are safe for bikers, public transit users and walkers in addition to automobiles; and a new Tree Ordinance, supports the *Sustainable Greenfield's* goal of increasing the Town's tree canopy to make the Town more beautiful, cooler and more walkable in the summer.

For more details on this report go to the Sustainable Greenfield Implementation Committee's page on the Town Web site, or friend us on Sustainable Greenfield's Facebook page.

#

Nancy Hazard, Sustainable Greenfield Implementation Committee (SGIC) member, on behalf of SGIC