

As I sit here typing this article from my new corner office at the corner of Market and High, I begin to notice the numbers of cars passing through the intersection. The traffic is non-stop. The bricks on these streets are older than our most of our oldest citizens. Yet they hold up to this non-stop traffic. Just like our small town, now a city, as it has grown has maintained its historical character. This is why most of us are here. And, whether we grew up here or have just moved here we are proud of our town.

Our city is growing. Fortunately we are staffed with capable people who care for our city. We have elected officials who are looking to our future. We are evaluating our water and sanitary sewer facilities and infrastructure to ensure that these resources will continue to meet the high standards we have set for any future expansion. We will also evaluate streets and storm sewers in order to improve the way that these are maintained.

We will soon embark on a Master Plan for our city, hopefully with Lawrence Township's and Northwest Local School's partnership. Growth must occur logically and responsibly according to a plan that has the approval of our citizens. As a city, Canal Fulton has the opportunity to ensure smart growth. A Master Plan will provide a unified guide under which this growth will occur. This will enable us to be opportunistic and act quickly when smart economic development opportunities arise.

We will strengthen the partnerships already established between the city, township, schools, and businesses to ensure that future growth will produce economic benefits to our community while preserving our cultural heritage. And as we grow so will our cultural heritage. When I moved here over twelve years ago, a bike path along the canalway was just the vision of a few people. Now it has become one of our most valuable resources and is still growing.

We have become a city with a vision that is strengthened by our view of the past.