

State of the City Address- Michelle M. Roman Mayor, City of Lockport February 8, 2023

Good evening.

As we embark upon 2023, we have many positive things to look forward to, while celebrating the many gains we have accomplished up to this point. Lockport continues to grow as our community organizations, businesses, residents, and City employees work collaboratively to improve our quality of life. For the first time in years, we have had a population growth, although slight, it is a move in the right direction. I believe that the improvements to our streets, trees, parks, and infrastructure, together with our greatest asset, our people, are all resonating with those who are looking for a place to call home, raise a family, or build up a business.

Over the coming months we will be seeing improvements in many areas:

- Ambulance – We are returning the ambulance service to our LFD where our residents, businesses, taxpayers, and visitors will receive expedient, high quality emergency medical care that they deserve, which is expected to generate revenue that will offset costs for the taxpayers.
- Neighborhood Enhancement -We plan to work with our Code Enforcement Office and other partners to continue improvements in our neighborhoods.
 - Vacant Property Registry- discourage property owners from leaving their properties to deteriorate and become neighborhood hazards
 - Grants to help homeowners keep their homes energy efficient and up to code
 - Update to the city Zoning Code to make it easier for property owners to make improvements
- Coalition of Caring- A gathering of community organizations, governmental agency partners, and the City will work together to bring awareness of the services available for those dealing with housing and food insecurity for varied reasons such as domestic violence, economic loss, medical debt, mental health issues, catastrophic loss, or disaster.
- Trees- we continue to get grant funding to improve our urban forestry program, including removing dangerous trees, trimming, and maintaining our trees, and planting trees.
- Parks- we will continue seeing improvements to our parks and trails throughout the City, including the new skatepark at Outwater, a new pocket park by the N. Adam Street Bridge on Market, improvements to playgrounds, and facilities through our newly reinstated Parks Board.
- Streets- We will continue to mill and pave many more miles of streets this coming season, along with traffic control cameras at key intersections, and more
- Sewer- We are fortunate to have collaborated with the DEC for the Gulf Sewer Line saving the city millions of dollars for the first phase of the project, and we are still securing more grants to help offset the cost of the final phase of the project. We also have cooperation with the EPA for the 18mile creek clean up and repurposing a pipe for sewer improvements on Water St. leading to the plant. We are continuing to work

on storm and sewer separation and CSO monitoring, as well. Our UV disinfection system at the wastewater plant will be up and running this year, also.

- Water- We are working on grants to help replace our aging water lines but continue to make improvements in the infrastructure at the plants with a maintenance plan for valves and pumps. We are working with Senator Gillibrand's office for infrastructure funding for our water lines.
- Assessment/Tax Incentives
 - Annual Assessments to maintain 100% equalization to ensure equity for school and county taxes with other municipalities.
 - Reviewing the homestead tax act on how it may help relieve the burden of homeowners
 - Reviewing income levels for seniors
- Transparency and Public Engagement-
 - Expanding the City Website and Social Media Presence
 - Financial Transparency Portal is now up and running and can be found on the City website.
 - Open Meetings-
 - LCTV partnership expanded for viewing from anywhere you are at LCTV.net-
 - Mayor's Updates- one at City Hall each month and one at LCTV studios each month- both allow for public input.
 - All other committees and boards have information on the City Website

I want to thank all of the city workers from the Department Heads, CSEA, AFSCME, Police, and Fire unions, as well as those who are unrepresented, the volunteers on committees and boards, community partners, and the residents and property owners. It is your diligence and hard work that make our City what it is today and gives us a glimpse of what it can be in the future. 2023 is going to be wonderful year to live, work, and play in the City of Lockport.

Warm regards,

Michelle Roman
Mayor
City of Lockport