

**2017 State of the City Address Presentation**  
**A Cherished Past, A Golden Future**  
Monday, January 23, 2017

**[DEBBIE JOHNSON COMES TO THE PODIUM, BEGINS THE PRESENTATION]**

**DEBBIE**

Welcome to our City's 99<sup>th</sup> year and the 2017 State of the City Address, as we celebrate "A Cherished Past and A Golden Future."

We have the great pleasure to begin tonight's presentation with a performance by the vocal music group from Upper Arlington High School. They and their classmates will be performing the all-time favorite Wizard of Oz February 23-26 at the high school auditorium, and we're pleased get a sneak peek at their performance this evening. Please join me in welcoming the cast of The Wizard of Oz.

**[HIGH SCHOOL VOCAL MUSIC PERFORMERS SING]**

**[APPLAUSE, PERFORMERS EXIT]**

**DEBBIE**

That was fantastic! I can't wait to see the entire production next month. Tickets go on sale next Monday, January 30. You won't want to miss it. How about another round of applause for our vocal music students?

## **[APPLAUSE]**

### **DEBBIE**

Since the biggest reason we host tonight's event each year is to celebrate all we've accomplished together this past year and to look ahead to our future, it's fitting that we have a number of our community's leaders with us this evening. That includes:

- Council Vice President Kip Greenhill
- Council Members John Adams, Carolyn Casper, David DeCapua, Brendan King and Susan Ralph
- City Manager Ted Staton
- Senator Stephanie Kunze and Representative Jim Hughes

I've been honored to serve on Council with a number of our guests this evening. It's been almost eight years now for me. It's a small amount of time in the almost-100-year history of Upper Arlington, but it's long enough to have witnessed a great deal of growth and to know that there's a lot more to come.

We've seen the transformation of Lane Avenue and Kingsdale. The benefit and expansion of our Capital Improvement Program. The rebirth of our "Main Street." The welcoming of dozens of new employers to town. Improved safety and expanded services. Local, state and national rankings that list UA among the best places to live, learn and raise a family.

These are all tremendous accomplishments to cap off our first century and lay the groundwork for our second. And we've done it all together.

One of the reasons we have a “cherished past” to celebrate and a “golden future” to look forward to is the commitment so many of our residents and businesses make to the betterment of our great city.

Beyond just committing to live and locate here, they invest in the community in personal ways that make all our lives a little richer. From creating and taking part in programs, to finding ways to help their friends and neighbors, we owe them a great debt of gratitude.

We try repay that debt and celebrate these contributions each year through our Community Awards program. It gives us a chance to honor just some of the people, organizations and businesses that make UA great. We’ll be handing out those annual awards throughout tonight’s presentation.

As usual, we’ve got lots of great things to tell you about as we review the past year in Upper Arlington, plus lots of exciting things to look forward to in the year and years to come. Thankfully we’ll have some help in telling these stories and you won’t have to listen to me the whole time!

Our first review will cover our financial picture, and my fellow Council Members John Adams and David DeCapua are here to share that with you. Please say hello to John and David.

**[DEBBIE HANDS OFF TO JOHN AND DAVID]**

**FOCUS ON STABILITY**

**JOHN**

Thank you, Debbie.

David and I get to cover the least exciting topic tonight, but always one of the most essential: dollars and cents. Keeping a city moving forward takes the collective contributions of lots of departments and lots of people, of course, but it also takes money. And our financial health is imperative. Fortunately, as a community, we're in good health.

Income tax receipts for 2016 were strong, as it was the first complete year at the new 2.5% income tax rate. We raised our revenue estimate by \$2 million mid-year and ended 2016 with \$2.5 million over initial projections—collecting \$25.3 million total, an all-time high. And we anticipate at least that much in 2017.

Intelligent fiscal policies and cost controls, the foresight of the voters, and a growing economy should get due credit for the increase, but so should the positive impact of the City's economic development program. There's lots of positive news there, and you'll be hearing about it a little later.

Our property tax revenues are expected to remain flat this year, but Franklin County's three-year valuation update in 2018 is projected to increase those revenues by about 5%. And thanks to the voters, who overwhelmingly passed Issue 38 in November, we'll have funding for the City's portion of the Police and Fire retirement and disability fund for an additional five years at a 10 percent reduced rate.

Thankfully our budget will give us the resources necessary to continue the high levels of services you expect and deserve, and allow us to continue to reinvest in our infrastructure and parks. We should also have the capacity to produce sound budgets over the next five years and keep our 10-year Capital Improvement Program updated and financed.

We're also confident the City will retain its Triple A rating with S&P and Moody's for the ninth consecutive year. That's the highest possible financial rating from both these agencies, and an accomplishment that ensures significant interest-rate savings when we issue bonds to support capital projects.

## **[JOHN HANDS OFF TO DAVID]**

### **DAVID**

Dependable revenues and Triple A ratings aren't the only keys to the City's financial health. Fiscal responsibility plays a big part, too. That's why we've taken the recommendations of the Citizen Financial Review Task Force so seriously and why we've worked hard to follow them.

The task force recommended that we not make further cuts in staffing or programs that would negatively impact the quality of life, and we've done that.

We have not pursued any additional tax revenues to support the City's General Fund as well.

We've found ways to streamline services and contain costs, including:

- Expanding our fleet maintenance agreements
- Simplifying many application and permitting processes
- Working to contain healthcare costs through coverage restrictions, restructured premium contributions and an employee wellness program.

We're working to ensure fees for services cover the costs of those services whenever possible. In 2016, we actually increased fees to bring some operations closer to break-even. We're also actively restructuring programs to try and expand revenue opportunities.

We've set utility charges at a level that allows us to cover operating and capital improvement costs.

We've expanded our efforts to collect all income taxes that the City is due, including delinquent taxes. In 2015, that effort netted us an additional \$400,000.

As the task force recommended, we'll have a fresh review of the City's financial position this summer, but it's safe to say that both Council and the Finance & Administrative Services Department are constantly looking for ways to boost revenues and reduce expenses.

There are certainly challenges ahead, and we expect there will be some revenue reduction as a result of the Ohio income tax adjustments in House Bill 5. But we're also well positioned to

manage them should they occur. That's what smart fiscal management prepares you to do.

We wouldn't have any of this positive news to share with you without the incredibly hard work of one person in particular, and, unfortunately, we're bidding her a fond farewell this evening.

After a 30-year career with us – the last 21 as Finance Director – Cathe Armstrong is retiring next week. She has served the City with distinction in every role she's had, and has overseen a department that has represented our community with passion, integrity and transparency. Through good economic times and bad, she's kept a steady hand on the City's finances, leading to our AAA credit rating from Moody's and S&P in 2007. And she and her team have maintained it ever since.

She's won dozens of awards for her work, including being named the City's Employee of the Year in 2014. But her most memorable legacies are her devotion, her willingness to help others, and her four grandchildren!

And with everything that Cathe has accomplished during her tenure here at Upper Arlington, City Council is proud to present our Resolution of Appreciation.

**[Cathe accepts award]**

And now with a special presentation for Cathe, please give me a hand to welcome Senator Stephanie Kunze and Rep Jim Hughes.

**[SENATOR KUNZE and REP HUGHES SPEAKS]**

## **DAVID**

Thank you, Senator Kunze and Rep Hughes, and thank you Cathe. You'll be deeply missed as a colleague and a friend, but we wish you nothing but the very best as you enjoy your "golden" years.

We also have the opportunity to hand out the first of our annual Community Awards. This first award is given to an individual or group involved in activities that raise awareness or improve the overall health and safety of our community. It's called the Community Safety award, and this year two programs were nominated: the Snow Angels Program and the Syntero/UA Schools In Schools Program.

This year's award goes to the collaborative effort between Syntero and Upper Arlington Schools.

The program provides behavioral health support as well as prevention services and activities in all UA schools. That includes providing consultations for students experiencing interpersonal difficulties and recommendations to students, parents and staff to help resolve problems. The program helps prevent serious personal, family and community crises and has been very well received and highly rated by all involved.

For the awareness it's raised and the students it's helped, the Syntero and UA Schools' In-School Collaboration is this year's Community Safety Award recipient.



Here to accept the award on behalf of the program is Sara Harrison-Mills and Sarah Shiflett.

### **[SYNTERO/SCHOOLS REPRESENTATIVE ACCEPTS AWARD]**

#### **DAVID**

Congratulations, [Sarah Shiflett and Sara Harrison]. Your program is proof we can do great things when we work together.

Next we're going to hear from Council Members Carolyn Casper and Sue Ralph, who have some information to share about the vibrancy of our community and the role development is playing in our "cherished past and golden future."

### **[DAVID HANDS OFF TO CAROLYN]**

#### **FOCUS ON VIBRANCY**

#### **CAROLYN**

Thank you, David and John. There's certainly a lot to like in that report, and plenty of good reason to remain vigilant. And thank you again to Cathe for all your hard work and dedication. You're our "gold standard."

It's appropriate that part of our theme is "a golden future," because that's exactly what we see thanks in large part to all the development and re-development that's going on across UA. That includes commercial and residential development, and Sue and I are going to touch on some of the highlights.

As you'll see in the graphic behind me, there's been a tremendous investment made in our community over the last decade. In fact, we've welcomed more the \$400 million in new commercial construction since 2005. More than \$80 million of that total has come in the last two years alone. And you can see the physical reflection of that investment in our major commercial districts.

Medical office facilities are leading the way at the moment. Brand new facilities like the OSU Wexner Medical Center Outpatient Care Center, Ohio Health Medical offices, and Columbus Aesthetic & Plastic Surgery are just three recent examples of new developments that are making Upper Arlington a sought-after destination for new and expanding medical practices.

Together they've brought more than 150,000 square feet of new medical office space and more than 230 new jobs to town.

We've seen an influx of new retail at developments like The Lane and Kingsdale as well. As both those sites grow and mature, they're attracting new office tenants, restaurants and retailers who value our community's enviable demographics.

And both are ripe for more growth. In the next year, we expect to see the extensive renovation at 1515 Lane Avenue turn into the new Upper Arlington Veterinary Clinic. The new outbuilding at the Shops On Lane Avenue has officially opened. Plans for a new J.Liu restaurant and Hotel on Lane continue to proceed. And while Kroger's plans for a store in the proposed new

mixed-used building at Kingsdale are still taking shape, we're looking forward to something exciting.

Speaking of expansion, the high-end, mixed-use Arlington Gateway project on Lane Avenue that we'll be talking more about over the next year is expected to bring even more housing, dining and retail options to our residents while also completely re-framing the southeast entrance to the City. And we don't see any signs of slowing down.

## **[CAROLYN HANDS OFF TO SUE]**

### **SUE**

Just as commercial development is vibrant and exciting here in UA so are our residential improvements. Our housing, where we live our lives, is one of the most sterling hallmarks in UA. 2016 was an amazing year for housing in Upper Arlington.

Our Senior Planning Officer, Chad Gibson, tells me that UA set an all-time record for construction in 2015 with a staggering \$95 million. In 2016, we broke that record, and we could get close to \$100 million by the time all the numbers are in. That's just incredible.

447 UA homes were renovated last year. We also set a record for new home construction. At least 30 new homes were constructed here last year- that is the most, by far, in the last decade. That is just incredible! These improvements have raised the median sale price for homes in our school district by more than \$37,000 in the last two years. And this is a good thing for all of our property values.

Thank you, Chad Gibson and the entire Development Department for your dedication to helping our residents make their dreams for their homes come true.

We here at the MSC want to help homeowners with the construction process and increase our efficiency. We have streamlined the permitting, development and construction processes. Many of our application forms and registrations are now available on the City's website, where they can now be completed, submitted and fees paid.

This past summer, Scioto Country Club hosted the 2016 U.S. Senior Open. Thousands of visitors and millions of television viewers had the opportunity to get to know Upper Arlington. The tournament gave businesses and residents a chance to show our new development, both commercial and residential. This generated a great deal of community pride - pride in our cherished past and excitement for our golden future.

As we approach our next century in UA I know that you will agree with me that our cherished past and our golden future are because of each of you – the citizens of UA.

We are a wonderful community because of you.

And tonight, as part of our State of the City Celebration, I am proud to present our 2016 Community Awards for Business of the Year and the Community Enrichment Award.

I hope you will take some time to read about each of the nominees in tonight's Program. Their devotion to UA is remarkable and each of you have made our city a better place to live.

I will start with the Business Award.

UA is blessed with terrific businesses and business leaders – all committed to serving the residents of UA.

And tonight, we are proud to recognize those nominated for the 2016 Business of the Year Award.

C.K. Lee Taekwondo, Steven's Catering, the OSU Wexner Medical Center, First City Bank and Home Care Assistance.

This year's nominees, again, go above and beyond in support of our city. In addition to leading successful businesses, each of you give generously of you time and expertise to so many philanthropic efforts in our community and to all things UA. Each of you has our gratitude and respect.

And this year's Business of the Year is The OSU Wexner Medical Center.

The Ohio State University's Wexner Medical Center Outpatient Care is one of the newest businesses to enter the City, with its 104,000 square feet of offices at Kingsdale, located at 1800 Zollinger Rd. This beautiful new facility brings to our community a broad range of high-quality health services including women's health, family medicine, and laboratory

services to name a few. We are grateful to have this new health service for our residents, as well as for the new jobs this Center brings to UA.

This commitment to the health and wellbeing of our residents bodes well for our future. We welcome The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center to Upper Arlington and look forward to a healthy and strong relationship for decades to come.

Please welcome Dan Like to accept the 2016 Business of the Year award.

**[Dan Like ACCEPTS AWARD]**

**SUE**

**OSU SAYS A FEW WORDS**

Thank you Dan Like. We are so pleased to have you here.

Congratulations to you and to all of our Business of the Year nominees.

Our next award is the Community Enrichment Award, which is presented to an individual or group involved in programs that enhance the City's quality of life in areas such as the arts, education, cultural diversity and the environment.

This year's nominees are Mary Ellen Hatch and Leadership UA, Northwest Kiwanis Club, Stori Rex, and Frank and Jill Hess. Each

of you and your organizations have made UA a better place to live. Thank you for your devotion to all of our residents and for giving of your time and talent. You are an inspiration to us all. Thank you.

This year's Community Enrichment Award is presented to Northwest Kiwanis.

The Northwest Kiwanis has a long history of service and commitment to UA. Their devotion to our community has truly made a difference. Their efforts to enrich the quality of life in UA is exceptional. There are so many examples of their service – let me mention a few. They funded the city's purchase of Northwest Kiwanis Park and spend days of volunteer time each year participating in projects that improve our community. They constructed the shelter house and restroom facilities at their namesake park and donated them to the City of UA. Northwest Kiwanis was a leader in the development and funding of the Amelita Mirolo Barn. They support numerous programs for children, including the decades long sponsorship our community's recreational soccer program. For these and dozens of other reasons, we are pleased to honor Northwest Kiwanis with the 2016 Community Enrichment Award.

Here to accept the award on behalf of the Northwest Kiwanis Club are Craig Smith, George Kirsh, and Tim Arnold. Congratulations!

#### NWK SAYS A FEW WORDS

Thank you, Northwest Kiwanis. And congratulations and thank you to all of this year's Community Enrichment nominees.

Next, it is my pleasure to introduce my fellow council members Kip Greenhill and Brendan King. They will highlight some of this year's many capital improvements.

## **[SUE HANDS OFF TO KIP AND BRENDAN]**

### **KIP**

Thanks, Sue and Carolyn. We've enjoyed an amazing year in lots of ways, and development has certainly been one of the brightest spots. With record numbers like those you mentioned, it's easy to see why we've got a "golden future" to look forward to.

There are lots of reasons we love UA, and one of the most practical is the fact that we continue to reinvest in the infrastructure that binds our community together. 2016 was a perfect example of that ongoing investment.

Over the last several years, the City's Capital Improvement Program has poured more than \$31 million into our streets, waterlines, bridges, sanitary sewer lines, streetlights and traffic signals. By the end of 2017, that investment will have topped \$42 million. And it's an investment that's paying off.

Our Engineering Division has been going through a systematic process to measure our road conditions every two years. It's a process that helps us measure progress and prioritize future projects. In the last four years, the average rating for pavement



conditions in UA has gone from and 82.7 out of 100 to an 88.17. That may not sound too exciting, but it demonstrates a marked improvement in overall road conditions. And it's a big deal to our residents.

Our curb conditions have also improved noticeably, from an average of 2.3 in 2012 to 2.1 in 2016. That's on a scale of one to five, with one being the best condition. Keep in mind that these are averages, and there are lots of streets in our community that are still in need of repair, but the difference we're seeing is noticeable, and our CIP investment is the reason.

None of these projects is more noticeable than the transformation of Tremont Road. The new three-lane configuration, landscaped traffic islands, brick crosswalks, dedicated bike lanes, shared-use path, sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, traffic signals, storm sewer improvements and street lights are something to behold. So are the 220 new trees that line the road. It's now what we like to call a "complete street," and it was completed on budget and ahead of schedule. We even offset the cost of the project through a variety of alternate funding sources, and alternative funding continues to be a high priority for us going forward.

We successfully secured two \$250,000 grants from the State to fund the shared-use paths on Zollinger and Tremont and the one on Fifth Avenue that will extend the Scioto Greenway Trail in partnership with Marble Cliff and the City of Columbus.

The new fiber optic network that now connects all City, Schools and Library buildings was also paid for in part by a \$500,000

grant from the State and a low-interest loan from the Franklin County Infrastructure Loan Program. These cost-saving alternatives will wind up saving us about \$64,000 in interest payments over time.

We also got a \$250,000 grant from the Department of Natural Resources for the Northam Park Phase II improvements, which Brendan is going to tell you more about right now.

## **BRENDAN**

Thanks, Kip.

It's no secret that the Northam Park redevelopment project has had its ups and downs. The new pool is already under construction and is expected to be completed by the start of the upcoming swim season.

Phase II is set to begin with construction of the new park entry area, playground, reading garden, pathways and landscaping. The cost and the contractor have been approved, so we're excited to see the next phase of this project come to life.

This project has been molded through an extensive community engagement process, and we're thankful to everyone who provided their input.

Speaking of parks, we approved a resolution this past year to rename Parkway Park in honor of Jack Nicklaus and hosted a ceremony to celebrate it. The park will soon include a privately funded tribute to one of our most famous native sons that will stand not far from his childhood home.

As busy as 2016 was for capital improvement projects, we won't be taking a break in 2017. With \$1 million in additional funding, the 2017 Capital Improvement Program will take on a long list of new projects:

We'll be nearly tripling our spending on the Street Reconstruction Program, with sections of 18 streets slated for improvements in 2017.

The Street Maintenance Program will see us:

- Resurfacing Reed Road from Lane Rd to Henderson;
- Replacing water lines on Asbury, Reed and Wyandotte;
- Replacing or improving bridges on Abington, Brixton and Kenny roads;
- Upgrading traffic signals at the Grace Lane/Reed Road and Andover Road/Northam Road intersections;
- Improving street lighting on Kioka Avenue from Zollinger to Fishinger, and McCoy Road from Kenny to Reed; and
- Investing approximately \$2 million to begin a series of sanitary sewer improvements across the City.

Projects like these are never painless. But as we've seen, these investments pay off in the long run. And they make our city more accessible and more livable each and every year. And that's a price worth paying.

I have to privilege of handing out our final two Community Awards of the evening. The first is our Super Senior award, which is given to senior members of our community who are

actively involved in volunteer service or take a leadership role in community programs.

This year we had two nominees: Alma Saddam and John Easton. And this year's Super Senior is John Easton.

John is a champion of beautification programs in Upper Arlington and has been working to add flowers and natural beauty to the city for 10 years. He served on the UA Community Foundation and encouraged the board to offer their support to City beautification efforts, which continues to this day. He's also directed several group-sponsored beautification programs like the neighborhood island at Sandover Road and Clarion Court and the new butterfly garden at Westover Park. He continues to sponsor garden maintenance projects and bring together residents with his appreciation and dedication to natural beauty. For that we honor John as our Super Senior.

Unfortunately, John couldn't be with us this evening, so we'll accept the award on his behalf.

While we enjoy great contributions from our senior residents, we're grateful to our junior residents as well, many of whom find creative ways to add to the fabric of the community. Our Youth Award recognizes individuals or youth groups that are involved in volunteer service or community programs that benefit others and set a positive example for their peers.

This year's nominees included the Upper Arlington Student Foundation and the B.E.A.R.S Group at Hastings Middle School. And this year's Youth Award goes to the B.E.A.R.S Group.

B.E.A.R.S stands for Bringing Empathy, Acceptance, and Respect Schoolwide. It's a group formed by students at Hastings to help make sure their fellow students feel safe and engaged at school. The group meets during lunch hours and over the summer to plan events and activities for the school. They've made staff meeting presentations, visited elementary schools to discuss the importance of kindness, hosted school-wide team-building days and planned monthly in-class activities. Additionally, B.E.A.R.S students have written grant letters to purchase supplies, brought in nationally known speakers on bullying, and invited OSU athletes to school to talk about the importance of teamwork. The excellent work of the B.E.A.R.S students has made a big impact on their school and the students in it. And that's why they're this year's Youth Award winners.

Here to accept the award on behalf of the B.E.A.R.S are Catherine Shapiro Carrie Streg and the students

### **[Catherine Shapiro & Carrie Streg ACCEPTS AWARD]**

#### **BRENDAN**

What a great program! Congratulations to everyone involved in B.E.A.R.S, and keep up the good work.

Finally tonight, let's focus on the future – our “golden future.” With some of his thoughts and vision for what that's going to look like, let's welcome our City Manager, Ted Staton.

## **[BRENDAN HANDS OFF TO TED]**

### **TED**

I want to begin by offering my thanks to all of our Council members for helping to deliver the important messages you have heard this evening. There was a time when members of the Council were in the audience for these presentations. Now they are an integral part of tonight's address. I also want to thank them for keep us all moving tonight. Because when you think about it, that's what every one of us in your city government is all about – keeping us moving. Moving forward - into that “golden future” we keep talking about.

One of the big questions we ask ourselves and members of the public is, “Are we moving in the right direction?” And thankfully the answer is a resounding “YES.” And all the good news you've heard tonight is not our only indicator.

Periodically we scientifically survey UA residents and we begin those surveys with the question: “Is UA headed in the right direction or have we gotten off on the wrong track?” In the four recent surveys when this question was asked, citizens answered “right track” by an average margin of about 3-1. It's worth mentioning that some of these surveys were administered in close proximity to issues that have been somewhat controversial in our community and yet we have maintained this 3-1 right track ratio.

When residents have been asked to cast votes on important community issues, even when taxes are involved, strong support has been reflected in those results as well.

We're certainly on the right track when it comes to personnel. We've added strong professionals in our Parks and Recreation and Public Services Departments and we had the wisdom and good fortune to stay inside our organization to promote two new safety chiefs this year – Police Chief Tracy Hahn and Fire Chief Lyn Nofziger. Both are credits to their brave professions, and we're lucky to have them on staff.

We put them right to work, too. As most of you know, we've been reviewing options for 911/dispatching for about six years now. And with good reason. It's a critical service and deserves the kind of thorough review we've given it. But the time has come to take the next steps. And based on the rapidly changing technological and resourcing requirements for these centers – and the recommendation of our Police and Fire chiefs – we believe that Upper Arlington should no longer operate its own dispatching center. In looking at all the options, we believe that partnering with the Northwest Regional Emergency Communications Center for these critical services is the best path forward.

Obviously there's still a lot to be discussed about the issue, and we will have lots of opportunities for Council review and public discussion and engagement in the weeks and months to come. But I think we all can agree that public safety should be our highest priority, and we believe the time is now to keep our

911/dispatching services up to the high standards we've always set for this community.

Speaking of public review, one of the outgrowths of the Northam Park redevelopment has been an effort on everyone's part to make decisions like this one deeper and more inclusive in the future. That's why we're set to launch a brand-new parks review process in 2017.

The goal of the process is to review the community's entire park system, including a detailed study of the condition and use of all our existing facilities and sports fields. Needless to say, it will involve extensive community input. Ultimately we'd like to end up with an overarching "roadmap" for maintaining, upgrading and adding new facilities that will better meet the community's needs and also help our park system adapt to changing trends. We'll certainly keep you posted as the process is finalized.

I hate talking trash and trash is no one's favorite subject, but we'll be talking a lot about it in the coming year. Our contract with Republic Services will expire in the spring of 2018, and we've already been exploring options for a revised approach to our solid waste program for well over a year. We will be attempting to balance cost and environmental considerations as we continue to listen to resident's ideas.

We've already had a focus group, an online town hall meeting, and have received nearly 2,000 responses to our online survey, so the amount of feedback has been excellent. We'll have a lot more opportunities this year for residents to let us know how



they feel about the program and our options before we make a recommendation.

If solid waste doesn't blow your hair back, here's something you can get excited about. UA's Centennial celebration is just over a year away, and we're looking forward to a number of great events, a new UA history book from the Upper Arlington Historical Society, community group celebrations and a legacy project that's being brainstormed as we speak.

The Centennial is an amazing opportunity to tell our story, and a legacy project is one way to carry that story long into the future. The UA 100 Celebration Committee is already developing plans for a permanent project that residents can enjoy long past 2018, and they're looking for your input.

You're welcome to contact the committee and email your ideas and suggestions to [info@uaoh100.org](mailto:info@uaoh100.org). A public announcement about the project and the fundraising effort behind it will be coming in March – one-year before our celebration begins. Rich Simpson and the Committee deserve a big “thank you” for all the hard work they've already put in. We couldn't be more excited.

As you can see, there's a lot on our plate. But we like a challenge. And meeting our challenges has been an Upper Arlington hallmark for nearly 100 years. It's why we have a “cherished past” and why we're looking forward to a “golden future.” As always, it's going to take all of us working together to get there, but we're standing on a great foundation. And that's how things get built.

## **[TED HANDS OFF TO DEBBIE]**

### **DEBBIE**

Thank you, Ted. You've certainly shown us a positive path forward, and we're counting on your continued leadership to help get us there.

Before we close, I would like to remind everyone to please take our online survey at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/UAOH2017](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/UAOH2017) and tell us how we did this evening , the link is also located on the last page of your program.

I feel like we've kept you long enough at this point, so I'll wrap things up by saying how much we truly appreciate your interest and engagement in our community. Cities like ours work best when everyone takes a genuine interest and makes a positive contribution.

We're incredibly fortunate to have neighbors who care deeply about what Upper Arlington has been, what it is, and what it will become. If you're looking for examples, you saw plenty of them here tonight. That's why we have 100 years to celebrate and a "golden future" to look forward to.

Thank you all, and good night.