



PRESS RELEASE**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Date: November 1, 2021

Dr. Caesar Carrino Awarded Heritage Ohio's 2021 "Spirit of Main Street" Award

Each year, one person in the State of Ohio is selected to receive the "Spirit of Main Street" award from Columbus-based Heritage Ohio. The winner embodies the spirit of a community leader passionate about preserving his or her historic downtown and the people, buildings, and stories that make it a beloved and irreplaceable place. Dr. Caesar Carrino of Wadsworth has been chosen to receive this honor in 2021.

Dr. Carrino was announced and honored at Heritage Ohio's annual Preservation and Revitalization Conference that took place in Springfield, Ohio in October. He will be formally presented with the award at the Main Street Wadsworth Meeting on Tuesday, November 9 at 6:15 p.m. at Wadsworth City Hall in Council Chambers (120 Maple Street). The public is invited to attend.

Ever the advocate for Main Street Wadsworth's preservation-based revitalization efforts, Dr. Carrino is an expert on the history of Wadsworth and makes sure to share his knowledge with fellow residents and visitors alike. Dr. Carrino served as the Mayor of Wadsworth during 9/11, has published many books about Wadsworth, is involved in many community non-profits, and even pushed for Wadsworth to become an accredited Main Street Community years before Wadsworth joined the program in 2016.

During the pandemic, Caesar became concerned that a drop in volunteerism would impact downtown Wadsworth's revitalization efforts, so he became Main Street Wadsworth's most reliable volunteer. Caesar helped Main Street Wadsworth create engaging programming for community events while also educating visitors about the history and heritage of Wadsworth. In addition to being an historian who provided Wadsworth history trivia, Dr. Carrino also sported different First Friday- themed costumes as he answered visitors' questions at the Main Street Wadsworth table each month. In November and December 2020, the 90-year-old Dr. Carrino served as Main Street Wadsworth's Santa Claus for Holiday Magic on Main Street, speaking to children through a storefront window in order to adhere to COVID-19 guidelines.

Heritage Ohio (www.heritageohio.org) prompts economic growth through the preservation and revitalization of downtowns and neighborhoods across Ohio. Heritage Ohio is the designated statewide Ohio preservation partner with the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Their motto is, "Through saving the places that matter we can all build community and live better."

