



City of Loveland

City Manager's Weekly Report

August 5, 2022



Administration

To better define the paid parking area adjacent to City Hall, Assistant City Manager, Cory Wright, Public Works Director, Scott Wisby and the Loveland Police Department coordinated a restriping of the lot along with installing a parking legend signage.



In an effort to improve the City's lighting standards with the goal of reducing glare, regulating lighting temperature (color), and mitigating and otherwise preventing light trespass upon neighboring properties, City staff has been working with Loveland resident Cindy Kessler to explore updates to current city outdoor lighting regulations. A key component of this comprehensive lighting standard update is the adoption of lighting standards that conform with the standards established by the Smart Outdoor Lighting Alliance. With this end goal in mind, an initial meeting was held with Mr. Bob Parks, Executive Director of the Smart Outdoor Lighting Alliance (SOLA), to explore the process to revise city outdoor lighting regulations to better mirror the standards for outdoor lighting established by SOLA. This week, the City secured the services of SOLA and Mr. Parks to assist in the development of outdoor lighting regulations in furtherance of this goal, as Phase 1 of the project. New regulations will utilize the concept of "Backlight, Uplight, and Glare" (BUG) ratings to regulate outdoor lighting installations, and may also include other best management practices. Ultimately, any new outdoor lighting regulations would be incorporated as part of the development standards contained within the Planning and Zoning Code for the City of Loveland. Future phases will include staff training once new regulations are adopted and implemented. Next week, the city will also meet with Ms. Kessler to provide an update regarding the City's progress on this important project.

On July 31, 2022, the Mobile Gas Station adjacent to City Hall concluded their operation and closed permanently. Once the property is vacated of all remaining inventory, the site will be transferred to the City. Once the transfer has been completed and the property has been surrendered to the City, the City will make use of the State of Ohio Demolition Grant funds recently awarded to the City, and made available through Clermont County, to demolish the structure and remove the underground storage tanks from the property, clearing the way for the planned turn improvements in 2023.

Building and Zoning

Throughout July, permit activity remained steady, with 21 residential permits of varying types issued, and five commercial permits issued. Of note, the City permitted five new residential units at Blossom Hill in the month of July. Further evidence of the additional building activity within the City can be documented in the form of increased permit revenues, exceeding previous year totals by more than \$20,000.00 year-to-date. The Blossom Hill Development continues to progress rapidly, with Building #1 under roof this week, and the footer and foundation work completed for Building #2, thusly clearing the way for underground utility installation.

Here are some additional highlights from the Building and Zoning Department's activities during the past week:

- At Quilter's Studio, masonry work began on the building addition, bringing the project closer to completion. Insulation and mechanical work is now complete, and electrical work is nearing completion soon.
- A Certificate of Occupancy was issued for 16 ChimneyRidge, the first home completed in the new Homearama project that will be showcased in September 2022. Many other units continue toward completion at a rapid pace.
- At the public works building, work continues on the new office spaces, but the remainder of the slab is delayed until the plumber can come in and finish the underground work.
- The department received an inquiry regarding the fire suppression system at Premier Pain, located at 1303 Mattec Drive.
- The Saint Columban Community Center will be forwarded to the Planning and Zoning Commission for Site Plan Review at the September 6, 2022 scheduled meeting.
- Review comments were distributed for the Highridge Drive project. In the coming weeks, a development review meeting will be hosted to address all of the remaining comments and concerns, and to further streamline the development process.

Property Maintenance inspections continue throughout the City. Progress is being made with regard to an existing violation on Lowell Street, with several dumpsters of debris removed thus far. Property maintenance enforcement efforts remain an effective tool to enhance quality of life within the city limits.

The Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a regularly scheduled meeting next week on Monday August 8, 2022, to consider an application for Conditional Use Approval for 1555 Loveland Madeira Road. The applicant proposes to renovate the defunct car wash into a microbrewery and taproom facility. Additionally, the Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Work Session on Tuesday August 16, 2022 to discuss mobile food vendor regulations, and solicit feedback from businesses and stakeholders in the community.

Finance

On Wednesday, Charles (Chuck) Bastin started as the city's new Assistant Finance Director. Chuck brings with him an impressive finance background that will be a great asset to the city. Please join me in welcoming Chuck to our team.

Customer Service Specialist, Mandy Lucas, started Paycor Live Virtual Training this week. Mandy is going to play an active role in the city's transition to Paycor for our payroll services, and serve as a liaison once we are up and running. Mandy said "There is a lot to learn, but so far it seems like this will be a great system for the city. The employee portal will be an excellent way for each employee to manage their own direct deposit info, etc." We remain on schedule for the first Paycor payroll in early October.

Public Relations

Several updates were issued over the last week: [Goshen Tornado Relief, City Declares August 'Mental Health Month'](#) and [East Kemper Road Detour](#).

Marketing & Communications Coordinator Krista Rose completed a short [video about park rules](#) for the Matt Haverkamp Foundation Dog Park. Thank you to Officer Kyle Bibelhausen and K9 Cruz for filming the video! Next on the agenda is releasing a video with recycling tips/reminders with the Loveland Sustainability Council; it will be shared within the coming weeks.

On July 28, Krista completed a training with altafiber (formerly Cincinnati Bell) about the Smart City program. The training covered ways to monetize the WiFi network. Possibly in the future, the city can sell advertising or sponsorships that will promote local businesses when a guest logs into the free WiFi network.

This week, Krista also began the project of updating the city's main website, Lovelandoh.gov. She is working to tidy up navigation menus, correct broken links, verify forms have the correct information, etc. to improve the user experience.

Public Works

The installation of new sidewalks on Karl Brown Way in front of Tahona Kitchen has commenced. These sidewalks are one of multiple joint projects the city has completed by co-sharing the cost with the adjacent property owner. Once completed, the sidewalks will include the city's new design which is concrete with a "soldering" of bricks.



Progress on the new public works building remains steady with interior doors and electric being installed.



Police

Police Chief, Michael Gabrielson, began his career with the city on Monday, August 1. The chief had a busy itinerary waiting for him when he arrived, which included visiting all of the schools in the city. The chief will be sworn into office by Mayor Bailey at the August 9, council meeting. On behalf of the entire community we welcome Michael to the City of Loveland.

Pavement for the new parking lot at the Safety Center has been completed. The project will add much needed public and employee parking. Fire Chief, Otto Huber, is working with Duke Energy for the installation of antique style lighting adjacent to the project along Lebanon Road.



On August 2, a Ford truck was stolen from Queen City Motors on Loveland Madeira. Excellent work from Detective, Jesse Moore and Officer, Mike Boettger who found the flatbed tow truck used to steal the truck. They are still conducting follow-up.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

With no update last week, I was remiss in not taking the opportunity to thank Krista Rose, Becky Noel and Misty Brents, for their hard work in putting together the Movie In The Park at Phillips. It was a wonderful event, and Phillips was the perfect location. Also, thanks goes out to LSFD for filling the dunking booth, which was one of the many activities for the kids.



Busy week coming up, here is a list of meetings:

Monday, August 8, Beautification Committee Meeting, 6:30 PM at City Hall

Monday August 8, Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting at City Hall

Monday, August 8, Arts Commission Meeting, 7:30 PM at City Hall

Tuesday, August 9, City Council Meeting, 7:00 PM at City Hall

Wednesday, August 10, Tree and Environment Committee Meeting, 7:30 PM at City Hall

Thursday August 11, Downtown Streetscape Committee Meeting, 7:00 PM at City Hall