



City of Loveland

City Manager's Weekly Report

August 12, 2022



Mayor, Kathy Bailey administered the oath of office to the city's 10th Police Chief, Michael Gabrielson, at the August 9 city council meeting.

Administration

The city, and the Loveland Symmes Firefighters Association has jointly completed the installation of a new Community Theatre sign in the downtown district, along the bike trail. The new cabinet style sign will allow Loveland Stage and other local theatre groups to promote their upcoming productions.



City Administration met with Louise Vermeil, an aspiring young artist and current senior at Loveland High School, to discuss the opportunity for completing a new mural project for the retaining wall along West Loveland Avenue, between Loveland Madeira Road and Village Anniversary Park. Ms. Vermeil discussed the opportunity to create the new mural, which would celebrate the various elements that make Loveland unique and inviting, and would further beautify this prominent location within the city. The project would be completed as part of a school service project. Ms. Vermeil will work with Misty Brents and the Arts Commission to refine the mural concept and implement this project, with a projected completion date in the Spring of 2023. We would like to thank Ms. Vermeil for her energy and enthusiasm to promote art and beautification efforts in the City of Loveland.

The Downtown Streetscape Committee has met, and finalized their recommended Downtown Loveland Streetscape Master Plan. The plan, which was led by KZF Design, creates a detailed enhancement of the city's Downtown District's streetscape, broken into various corridors.

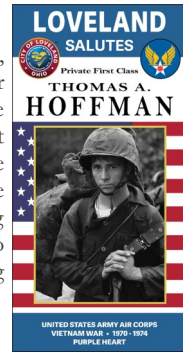
Special thanks to the committee members who oversaw the development of this important plan. The committee included members of the city's Tree & Environment and Historic Preservation & Planning Committees, along with a downtown business owner. The members were: Katie Coulson, John Robinson, Doug Gilbert, Mary Ann Lynn and Gloria Wilson.

The next step is for the plan to be presented to city council and the public for feedback.



Assistant City Manager, Cory Wright and I participated in a zoom meeting with the City Manager of Coral Springs Florida and his staff. The meeting was to discuss the city's Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA). Their City Manager was in Loveland recently and was very impressed with the layout of our downtown district, the various seating areas and how visitors were enjoying the DORA.

Assistant City Manager, Cory Wright, Assistant to the City Manager, Misty Brents and I met with Veterans Memorial Committee Chair Terry Stouder, and Committee Member Ben Parker to identify the best location for their Veteran Banner Program. It was decided that the best banner location would be along State Route 48 from the five-point intersection to the American Legion. The next step in the process is identifying the utility poles that will be used and having Duke Energy inspect and approve the use. The committee hopes to have the banners up before Memorial Day 2023. This is an exciting project, and we appreciate the efforts of the committee members.



The city has taken possession of the former Mobil Gas station located at 106 West Loveland Avenue, bringing the acquisition phase of the project to a close. On Thursday, Assistant City Manager, Cory Wright met with the environmental consultant handling the asbestos inspection process for the State of Ohio Demolition Grant program, which is administered through Clermont County. As previously noted, the city received an award through this grant program to assist in the demolition of the former gas station. The asbestos inspections are part of the normal process to demolish structures as part of this grant program, and once the testing is completed, a demolition contractor selected by the county will proceed with demolition under the grant program later this year. Additionally, taking possession of the site allows the city to proceed with other environmental testing efforts in furtherance of securing funds to abate prior releases associated with now-inoperable underground storage tanks located on the property.

Building and Zoning

The Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing to consider a Conditional Use application to convert the former car wash building located at 1555 Loveland-Madeira Road into a micro-brewery and taproom. At the hearing, the applicant's representative discussed the future concept and provided details regarding this exciting renovation project that would repurpose a currently empty space along the Corridor. After reviewing the documentation provided, the application was Conditionally Approved, with several requirements, to include detailed site plan review, driveway consolidation, landscaping, and the inclusion of sidewalks. The applicant will return and will be heard by the Planning and Zoning Commission for detailed site plan review, before the project proceeds.

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

- At Quilter's Studio, masonry work is progressing rapidly on the building addition. Drywall work was also completed.
- Work continues in the ChimneyRidge development in anticipation of the upcoming Homearama show in September.
- At Blossom Hill, Building #1 continues to take shape. The building is now under roof with a majority of the exterior framing completed. Work continues on Building #2, with underground work nearing completion.
- Tenant relocation work continues at Shopper's Haven. It is nice to see that occupancy rates have increased significantly at this important destination in the City.

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. Enforcement efforts continue at several other properties in the city, with the goal of bringing the properties into compliance and addressing long-standing delinquency. 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 Work Session on Tuesday August 16, 2022 to discuss mobile food vendor regulations, and solicit feedback from businesses and stakeholders in the community. The community response to an associated survey was very strong, with more than 300 unique responses collected during a two-week period!

Finance

The city's new Assistant Finance Director, Chuck Bastin, was sworn into office by Mayor, Kathy Bailey at the August 9, city council meeting. Chuck is working hard, and I am looking forward to him becoming an important part of our budget team.



Speaking of the budget, work on the 2023 Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) has begun. Meetings with department heads to discuss their budget and capital needs are underway

Public Works

Assistant City Manager, Cory Wright organized a meeting with a representative from the Genesee Wyoming Railroad. The purpose of the visit was to review the deteriorated condition of the railroad crossing at West Loveland near city hall. The condition of this crossing results in numerous complaints from motorists.

Based on the site visit, it appears that a joint effort between the railroad and the city can be completed to repair and smooth out the crossing. Future updates, will follow.



Public Safety

Chief Gabrielson and I met with Little Miami Chamber of Commerce President , Cee Cee Collins as he works to become familiar with the community.

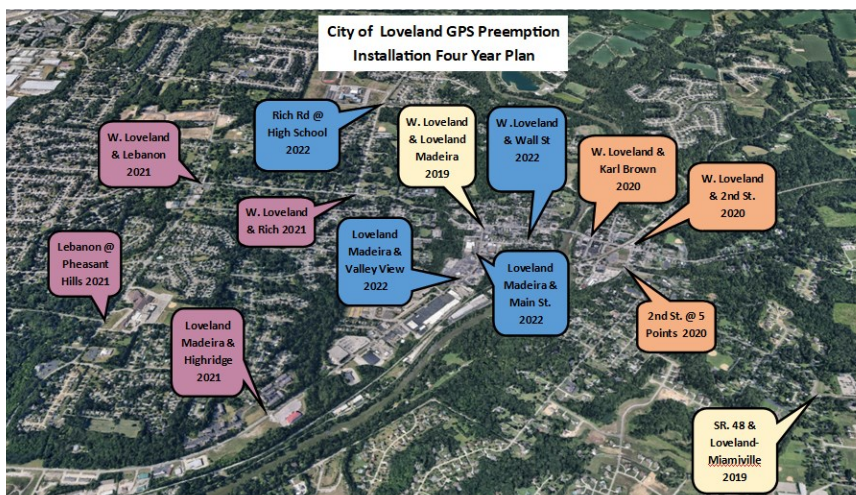
The city welcomed new Police Officer, Bobby Taylor to the city. Bobby comes to the city via the Colerain Township Police Department. Officer Taylor will be sworn into office at the August 23 city council meeting.

The city had a four year plan for the installation of GPS preemption units within the control panels of all of its traffic signals. This plan is now complete, with four units being installed this year at the following intersections:

West Loveland & Wall Street
Loveland Madeira & Main Street

Rich Road & Loveland High School
Loveland Madeira & Valley View

The GPS units identify oncoming emergency vehicles, interrupting the traffic signal's cueing cycle and providing a green signal for faster and safer response times. The equipment conforms with our neighboring community allowing for faster, safer response times during mutual aid runs. The completed project enhances the safety of our residents and first responders.



The kids at the Children's Academy received a surprise visit from Officer Wright this week. He shared safety information with the kids, talked about his bicycle and safety, and as a parting goodbye he turned on the siren and lights. Some ears were covered, some hands flew up in the air as the giggles began.



Upcoming Meetings & Events

Downtown shops will host a Sale on the Trail on Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Civil Service Commission will meet on Tuesday, August 16, at 5:00 p.m. Also on Tuesday, the Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a work session at 6:00 p.m. to

The Law and Ordinance Committee will meet on Wednesday, August 17, at 7:00 p.m.

The Veterans Memorial Committee is scheduled to meet on Thursday, August 18, at 6:30 p.m.
