



City of Loveland

City Manager's Weekly Report

January 6, 2023

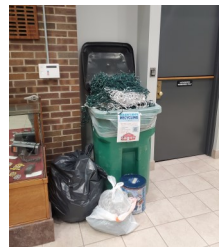


The Loveland PD provided dinner for the Care Center on Wednesday. Police Chief, Mike Gabrielson and LPD staff, are joined by Mayor Bailey, Vice Mayor Phelps, and Care Center Volunteers.

Administration

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) notified the city on Thursday that the Nationwide 404 Permit has been approved for the Chestnut Street site, which culminates many months of work necessary to clear the site for development activities. Now that the 404 Permit is in hand, the city can secure additional state permits, and purchase wetland bank mitigation credits needed to comply with the terms of the USACE permit. The city is now working to secure these additional items, and once secured, the city will issue notices to proceed to the remediation companies completing the work, for which contracts have been awarded.

The Holiday Lights Recycling Bin at City Hall has been well utilized, as residents use this service to dispose of old Christmas lights. Thanks as always to Amy VanStrien and the Loveland Sustainability team for this and so many other recycling initiatives they conduct on behalf of the city.



This week, I was able to meet with Loveland High School students from Tigers Inc. to discuss their progress on the design of the small dog area addition coming soon to the Matt Haverkamp Foundation Dog Park. The students have been helping the city determine the size and location of the new area which will be installed this spring. Also, they are working on a park flyer design which will allow for easy identification of each city park and what amenities the park offers. They will be presenting the design to the Parks and Recreation Board at an upcoming meeting. Speaking of the dog park, the water line for the new dog fountain has been installed. The fountain has arrived, and will be installed by the Public Works crew in the spring.

At the former Mobile Station located at 106 West Loveland Avenue, the city received word from the Ohio Department of Development that the Abandoned Gas Station Grant program funding application is being forwarded to the State Controlling Board for final approval. Once the grant agreement is approved by the State Controlling Board, the funds will be released, and demolition and tank removal activities can then commence. Once the demolition and removal activities are finalized, testing and monitoring will commence to remediate any petroleum releases identified during the demolition and closure activities. The city is appreciative of the continued partnership with the Adams County Land Reutilization Corporation that is allowing the remediation work to proceed under this funding program.

The city also received good news this week from Hamilton County regarding the CEDAP Grant that was conditionally awarded to the City to fund the purchase of 501 Loveland Madeira Road. Hamilton County advised the City that the additional US EPA review that was required as a condition of the grant approval process yielded no additional substantive concerns. Consequently, the city now awaits completion of the remaining steps to secure confirmation and release of funds. Once funds are released, the city will move to close on the property.

This week, City Manager Kennedy and Assistant City Manager Wright also met with Mr. Todd Osborne, in his capacity as a member of the Law and Ordinance Committee, to review concerns associated with the proposed Outdoor Lighting Ordinance that was reviewed in late November of 2022. Mr. Osborne provided a wealth of examples of other communities that have adopted similar ordinances, and also provided suggestions where revisions or clarifications can be made in the proposed draft Ordinance. The city would also like to thank the Law and Ordinance Committee members, including Mr. Osborne, for their continued work on this important legislation. Once revisions are finalized, the ordinance will be brought back to Law and Ordinance in 2023 for additional review, and to hear a presentation from Loveland resident Ms. Cindy Kessler, about the benefits of establishing robust outdoor lighting code of regulations.

Building and Zoning

In the last two weeks in the Building and Zoning Department, Building and Zoning Staff continued to work to close out permits received in the latter part of December, 2022. At the new Public Works garage, a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy was issued for the building, allowing the staff to begin the process of transitioning into the building from the soon-to-be decommissioned structure. Final fire alarm inspections were completed at Loveland Elementary School and Loveland Primary School for the improvements there during the school's Christmas Break. Department officials completed a walkthrough for a new business located at 100

Commerce Park Boulevard. Elsewhere, work continues to progress at Blossom Hill, with significant progress being made on all units presently under construction at this time. In ChimneyRidge, yet another permit was issued for a new home in this development. Property maintenance inspections and enforcement efforts continue to occur.

The Department completed final inspections for the new Premier Dance and Tumbling tenant space at Shopper's Haven. In addition, city staff joined Mayor Bailey at the studio to celebrate their Grand Reopening event on Friday, December 30, 2022, that was hosted in their newly renovated space. The renovations inside the expanded tenant space look fantastic, with more than 22,000 square feet in freshly renovated space created to accommodate their growing business. The city is very excited to see this renovation successfully concluded and appreciates the opportunity to celebrate this milestone with the owners and operators of this long-time Loveland Business.

The Planning and Zoning Commission met on Tuesday, January 3, 2023, to formally initiate proposed zoning text amendments, modifying the regulations for Mobile Food Vendors throughout the City of Loveland. As part of the discussion and initiation process, the Commission and Staff agreed that given the interest in this significant overhaul of the existing regulations governing mobile food vendors, Staff would notify interested businesses throughout the city that the proposed regulations will be considered at an upcoming public hearing. Once discussions concluded, the Planning and Zoning Commission voted unanimously to initiate the text amendment process, and established a Public Hearing for Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Public Relations

Recent city news releases include the [MSD Sewer Rate Increase, Christmas Tree Removal Services, Hearts Afire Weekend Returns](#), and [Hearts Afire Valentine Pageant](#).

On December 27, Marketing & Communications Coordinator Krista Rose spoke on 700-WLW about the city's Hearts Afire Weekend and upcoming improvements to Nisbet Park. She has also been working with Loveland Lifestyle Magazine to cover the Hearts Afire event. Next week, Krista will begin regular promotion of the event to the public and media. Thank you to RP Diamond Printing & Embroidery who came forward this week as an event sponsor.

The 2022 numbers are in, and the city continues to make progress in reaching residents and visitors through its communication channels. By having a full-time marketing & communications employee, the city can deliver timely, consistent messaging. In 2022:

- 119 website newsflashes/press releases were sent. The city received coverage from every major TV station in the Cincinnati market, as well as radio and print media. Social media continues to be an important communication tool for the city.
- The city grew its social media following by 45%. The city's Facebook page is averaging approximately 126k impressions per month, compared to 62k impressions per month in 2021.
- The city also relies on its newsletter communication – print and digital - to broadcast messages. A biannual print newsletter was created in 2022. It was mailed in [May](#) and [November](#) to approximately 5,600 recipients. The City Manager and City Council received many positive comments about the print newsletter, and it will be continued in 2023. Additionally, the city sends a monthly e-newsletter. Subscribers grew by 65% in 2022. If you would like to subscribe to the digital newsletter, please [click here](#).
- LovinLifeLoveland.com continues to establish itself as a resource for residents and visitors to learn about local attractions and events. The site had 111,988 pageviews in 2022. This is a 50.5% increase compared to its 2021 performance. The site went live in April 2021.
- LovelandOH.gov earned 348,992 pageviews in 2022. This is a 12% increase compared to 2021. Other than the homepage, the top five most frequently visited pages were: News, Jobs, Staff Directory, Pay Your Bill (Utilities), and the Calendar.

Finance

The Finance Department has welcomed its newest employee to the team. Stephanie McGill started in late December as a part-time Finance Clerk. Stephanie has a great deal of accounting experience and we are very pleased to have her here with us.

With 2022 at an end, the Finance Department is busy closing the books on 2022 and opening 2023. In the coming weeks the Department will begin coordinating the Annual Comprehensive Finance Report.

City staff continues to field calls and emails on the recently implemented Water Main Replacement (WMR) fee, which went into affect with the bills due this month. Obviously, new fees are not popular, but we hope that from the communications we have had with our residents, that we have conveyed the need to create a financial plan for replacing older water mains within our distribution system.

Public Works



The new City of Loveland Public Works Office building is complete! Our Public Works Director, Scott Wisby and our City Engineer, Cindy Klopfenstein have been busy the past couple of weeks moving in. Also, solar panels were recently installed, making this the city's first solar powered building.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

The Valentine Lady Program Kickoff will be on Saturday, January 7, at 11 a.m. at the Valentine Lady Memorial along Sweetheart Lane.

The Beautification Committee will meet on Monday, January 9, at 6:30 p.m.

City Council will meet on Tuesday, January 10, at 7:00 p.m.

The Civil Service Commission is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, January 11, at 5:00 p.m.

The Tree and Environment Committee will meet on Thursday, January 12, at 7:30 p.m. understand the need for replacing our water mains.

For information about other community events, visit our [Lovin Life Loveland](#) website.
