



## City of Loveland

### City Manager's Weekly Report

February 10, 2023



**2023 Ms. Valentines, Donna Barnes, is serenaded at the Annual Valentines Breakfast**

#### Administration

This week, the City received confirmation that the Nature Conservancy has received the City's wetland mitigation in-lieu-of fee for impacts to 0.11 +/- acres of wetlands located at the Chestnut Street Property, clearing the way for full site clearing and remediation activities to commence on the site. Contractors continue to mobilize in anticipation of commencing the remediation activities on the site.

At 106 West Loveland, the City received confirmation from Patriot Engineering that the Ohio Abandoned Gas Station Program Grant has been awarded, and that the demolition contractor plans to mobilize to the site beginning the week of February 16<sup>th</sup>. The City is very excited to commence demolition and remediation activities there in preparation for the State Route 48/West Loveland Avenue turn lane improvement, scheduled to be bid later in 2023. In regard to the turn lane project, the project engineering is now nearly 90% complete, with the final steps to include a final review and approval process. Once the plans are approved, bid document preparation can commence and the project can be advertised for bid.

The City continued its review of consultant LOIs submitted responsive to the City's request for proposals for the West Loveland Avenue Bridge Congestion Mitigation Project. Once the consultant scores are finalized and the top ranked consultants are notified, the City will begin the process of negotiating the scope of work and cost proposals with the city's selected consultant in accordance with qualification based procurement process established by both state and federal law. The process and ultimate study and recommendations will be completed in accordance with state and federal laws governing transportation projects, in order to preserve access to future state and federal highway funding sources.

On Wednesday, the Law and Ordinance Committee held a follow-up meeting to entertain additional discussion and receive information about the proposed lighting ordinance for the City. At this meeting, the City heard an extensive presentation from Ms. Cindy Kessler, who provided a detailed analysis documenting the benefits of regulating lighting as to reduce glare and light pollution. The committee members and staff all expressed gratitude and appreciation to Ms. Kessler for the extensive research and work that she has done to advance this important cause. In addition, the committee discussed specific elements of the lighting ordinance and policy matters with Mr. Bob Parks, Executive Director of the Smart Outdoor Lighting Association, who took time out of his schedule to join the meeting virtually. Armed with this additional information and having reviewed the benefits of developing robust lighting regulations, the Law and Ordinance Committee will hold an upcoming work session on Wednesday, March 1, 2023 at 7:00 PM to begin formal consideration of the draft ordinance.

This week, I attended the Little Miami River Chamber Alliance board meeting to discuss downtown projects.

#### Building and Zoning

This week, the Building and Zoning Department continued review and inspection activities in relation to the current development at Blossom Hill. Two more Certificates of Occupancy were issued for units located at 106 and 108 Blossom View Drive, as both units passed final inspections on Monday of this week. Plans for additional units located at 125-133 Blossom View Drive have been reviewed and approved by the Plans Examiner. However, the plans are currently still under review by both the Zoning Department and City Engineering. While these additional reviews are still pending, approvals are anticipated to be issued soon, with a permit issued early next week. Here are some additional highlights from the Building and Zoning Department for the past week:

- At 282 East Kemper Road, work continues to bring this project toward completion, with the gas line inspection occurring this week. The property passed inspection and work is expected to continue.
- The department received plans for the new Autozone location at the Goodwill Shopping Center located at 350 Loveland Madeira Road. This national retailer will be taking four existing tenant spaces and will be converting them into a single tenant space.

- The department also met with the demolition contractor that will be demolishing the former fuel center located at 106 West Loveland Avenue. Demolition activities are anticipated to commence upon issuance of a permit.
- The Department met with the Highland Street project to discuss project timelines and next steps. It is anticipated that the eastern side of the project will be developed at this time.

As mentioned previously, the Planning and Zoning Commission met on Tuesday, February 7, 2023 to hold a public hearing to consider the mobile food vendor zoning text amendments proposed for the City. The Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval of the draft text amendment as presented to the commission, and directed staff to forward the amendment to council pursuant to the text amendment process prescribed by the City's Planning and Zoning Code. The March 7, 2023 Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting will include a site plan review for the DVD Brew Microbrewery conversion located at 1555 Loveland Madeira Road, a Conditional Use application for 199 Sentry Hill, and the zoning map amendment for the Oak Street development.

Property Maintenance Enforcement efforts continued with priority enforcement actions occurring on Bares Run Drive. Elsewhere in the City, the property maintenance inspector coordinated a joint inspection for a property located on Oneida, in order to address alleged public health and sanitation issues reported there by a complainant. In addition, the City is conducting priority enforcement activities for a property on Center Street, due to a non-compliant out-of-state absentee owner. The City is also working on a priority enforcement action for a property located along West Loveland Avenue, where a prior fire damaged the roof of the structure, with no action taken by the owner to address this significant issue.

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## Finance

Utility Billing Clerk, Lisa Craig and Customer Service Specialist, Mandy Lucas attended NECO/Neptune training with the Public Works Department to obtain a better understanding of water meters, readings, and to help with fielding customer questions. As technology and procedures continue to evolve, we always appreciate it when members of our team take the time to learn to better serve our customers.

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## Public Works

With the installation of the mulch this week, the Phillips Park Playset is now complete and ready for use.



This week, the city held a pre-bid meeting for its annual road program. These meetings allow contractors the opportunity to ask questions on the bid documents, bid process, quantities, etc. For the 3rd year in a row, the city's annual road program will exceed \$1,000,000. Bids will be opened on February 16.

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## Public Safety

Fire Chief, Otto Huber was notified that LSFDF was awarded \$39,623 through the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation's Safety Intervention Grant program. The funding will be utilized to purchase a new ambulance cot. LSFDF continues to pursue all available funding sources to purchase equipment and provide training for the department.

This week, LSFDF Deputy Chief, Jon Frye, coordinated a meeting with the city and Symmes Township, to finalize the upcoming joint GPS traffic signal pre-emption project. The city and Symmes Township will be co-sharing the cost of adding the GPS pre-emption units at the intersections of Loveland Madeira Road and; Cottonwood, Lebanon and East Kemper. The GPS units detect approaching emergency vehicles and modifies the signal cueing to reduce accidents and improve response time. The coordination with a neighboring community assures consistency during mutual aid calls.

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## Upcoming Meetings & Events

[Hearts Afire Weekend](#) is here! Come out to help us celebrate all things Valentine's Day. The weekend will feature an ice sculpture tour, live entertainment, food trucks, and fun photo opportunities. Local businesses are participating with valentine specials and love-inspired activities. Most activities are free, while some require pre-registration. There is something for everyone. We'll see you there.

The Beautification Committee is scheduled to meet on Monday, February 13, at 6:30 p.m.

City Council will meet on Tuesday, February 14, at 7:00 p.m.

On Thursday, February 16, the Parks and Recreation Board will meet at 6:00 p.m. and the Veterans Memorial Committee will meet at 6:30 p.m.

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