



City of Loveland

City Manager's Weekly Report

February 17, 2023



The city's new mascot made its debut during Hearts Afire Weekend. Both adults and children were delighted to visit the Loveland Frog, which was dressed a "Frog Prince" to match the theme. Be on the lookout for the Frog at city events. Thank you Customer Service Specialist Mandy Lucas for jumping at the chance to be our mascot.

Administration

The city's 2nd annual Hearts Afire Weekend was held February 10-12. It was a busy, successful, fun-filled weekend. The event received strong media coverage including WXIX Fox 19, WLWT 5, WKRC 12, Spectrum News 1, 700 WLW, Loveland Lifestyle Magazine, and WCPO 9. There were 39 ice sculptures displayed around downtown, and ice carving demonstrations on City Hall's front lawn. Sculptures ranged from characters like Yoda, Loveland icons like bicycles, and designs representing businesses. Many businesses participated with special events. [Click here](#) to view a photo album.

This weekend is the result of months of planning. A special thanks to Assistant to the City Manager Misty Clark, Permit Specialist Becky Noel, and Marketing & Communications Coordinator Krista Rose. I also must thank the Special Events Committee volunteers including Nancy Duff, Sherri Fening, Christina Jeranek, Adam Jeranek, Erin Harper, Vickie Larcomb, Ben Capodagli, Nicole Capodagli, Cassie Mattia, and Patti Pedicini. Our event sponsors also deserve a thank you, Erin Harper, Comey & Shepherd Realtors; RP Diamond Screen Printing & Embroidery; Tano Bistro & Catering; and Washing Systems as well as the local businesses who purchased an ice sculpture. This is truly a community event, and it would not be possible without the support of these individuals. I would be remiss if I didn't thank our Public Works Department, Police Department, and the LSFDF for all they do to help prepare for the event and for those who volunteered to work a special duty on that day.

At Chestnut Street, Buckeye Elm is now in the final stages of preparing materials and equipment to mobilize to the Chestnut Street property. Mobilization may occur as early as February 21, 2023. The contractor will begin clearing and preparation of access routes throughout the site, and then once these access routes are cleared, the Contractor will begin excavation and stockpiling activities.

With the issuance of a demolition permit for the tear-down of the former fuel center located at 106 West Loveland, the removal and abatement of this long-vacant structure is now imminent. Contractors are in the remediation phase of the demolition process. Once all remaining asbestos and remaining refrigerant are removed, the contractor will commence demolition activities.

The City completed its initial review and ranking of the consultant LOI letters for the West Loveland Avenue Bridge Congestion Mitigation Study. The City is now engaging with the top-ranked firm to negotiate scope of work and fees for completing the work contemplated under the proposal solicitation, in accordance with qualification-based selection (QBS) processes required by both ODOT and associated state and federal funding sources.

The Gazebo foundation and associated walkway work was completed early this week at Nisbet Park, and the gazebo is scheduled to arrive on Friday. It will take several days for the crews to install the gazebo, connect electrical fixtures, and otherwise complete the project. Meanwhile, the concrete contractor will be advancing additional sections of walkway, framing the future seating areas and connecting the gazebo to the restroom and Little Miami Trail in several locations. Once the concrete is poured, landscaping will be installed around the gazebo, resulting in a finished appearance for this marquee project.

Assistant City Manager Cory Wright, Assistant to the City Manager Misty Clark, and Fire Chief Otto Huber met with Lexington Kentucky's Director of Arts and Cultural Events Heather Lyons to discuss their Art on the Town program. The program provides free outdoor retail and demonstration space to local artists, craftspeople, and authors in downtown Lexington and allows them to market, sell, and demonstrate their work. The Art on the Town program gives local residents, visitors, and tourists opportunities to purchase original local works of art and to engage with local artists and authors. Staff will continue to investigate if and how a similar program could be implemented in Loveland.

News was released this week about [LSFD's latest grant](#) and a [reminder to residents that the city's drinking water remains safe](#) in light of the train derailment in East Palestine.

Marketing & Communications Coordinator Krista Rose earned a Public Information Officer Awareness certificate through FEMA's Emergency Management Institute.

Building and Zoning

This week in the Building and Zoning Department, inspections continued for the Premier Pain expansion project located at 1303 Mattec Drive. The interior construction and finish work is now nearing completion, with a potential Certificate of Occupancy (CO)/Final Inspection occurring as early as next week, if work continues to progress. Once the CO is issued, staff can finalize licensing approval with other agencies exercising regulatory oversight. At Blossom Hill, the department conducted a Final Inspection for the unit located at 100 Blossom View, which passed inspection and a CO was subsequently issued. The demolition permit was also issued to the contractor responsible for the tear down and abatement of the former fuel center site located at 106 West Loveland Avenue. The plans for the new AutoZone retail store were also approved this week by the Plans Examiner, and are now under review by the Fire Department.

On Tuesday of this week, the Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendation and Notice of Final Action was provided to City Council relative to the Mobile Food Vendor Draft Text Amendments proposed for the City. After receiving the Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendation during the February 14, 2023 City Council Meeting, Council moved to set a public hearing for March 14, 2023 at 7:00 PM, to consider adoption of the proposed text amendment, as recommended by the Commission.

Finance

On Thursday, Assistant City Manager Cory Wright, Director of Finance, Mark Medlar, and Assistant Finance Director, Charles Bastin attended a Zoom meeting with ClearGov to continue the implementation process for the City's new budget software.

Public Works

The bid opening for the 2023 annual road program was held on Thursday. Three bids were received and are still under review for completeness. The low bidder was JK Meurer Corp.

Public Safety

This week was National School Resource Officer Day on February 15th and we would like to recognize the SRO's as well as the Milford School District and St. Columbian for their continued partnership to help keep our kids safe.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

The Arts Commission is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, February 21, at 6:30 p.m.

The Historic Preservation and Planning Commission will meet on Wednesday, February 22, at 6 p.m.

Tigers Inc., the Loveland High School business program, has set the date for the 2023 Back Our Businesses Week. Plan on eating and shopping in Loveland February 27 through March 5. Their Impact Night will happen on March 2. The Back Our Businesses campaign celebrates community through the support of local shops, restaurants, and non-profits organizations.

To learn more about this and other upcoming community events, visit our [Lovin Life Loveland](#) website.
