



## City of Loveland

### City Manager's Weekly Report

June 2, 2023



Mayor Kathy Bailey welcomes the crowd and reads a proclamation at the Memorial Day Ceremony

#### Administration

This week, the city received word from the Ohio EPA that the city was awarded a Community and Litter Grant, in the amount of \$49,889 as part of the Recycle Ohio Grant program administer by OEPa. This grant will allow the city to install surveillance cameras at the existing recycling compactor on the northern side of downtown, adjacent to Karl Brown Way and Harrison Avenue to address illegal dumping issues, and also includes funding to install a new decorative recycling enclosure and surveillance cameras at the Linda Cox parking lot on the southern side of downtown to encourage and promote recycling by businesses in the city. The total project investment, including the 25% local match is estimated at \$62,361.00. The city appreciates the partnership with the Loveland Sustainability Council, which promotes and expands recycling awareness and initiatives throughout the community, and especially downtown. These efforts increase recycling results in the diversion of waste from landfills. The grant program requires that no activities commence until after July 1, 2023; consequently, the enclosure purchase will be advanced to city council in June for authorization to proceed with ordering the enclosure after July 1, 2023. Once the enclosure is ordered, separate contracts will be secured to install the concrete enclosure pad and apron and bollards, as well as the recycling cameras at the current recycling compactor and future Linda Cox Lot recycling location.



Work continued this week on the Karl Brown Way Pedestrian Crossing Project, with contractors completing the form work and initial pour of the new sidewalk, pedestrian refuge island, and ADA accessible curb ramp along the eastern side of Karl Brown Way. Once the concrete has cured, brick pavers will be installed, completing this portion of the overall project. Crews will now proceed to the western side of Karl Brown Way to begin the stormwater work required to complete the project. Once all areas have been defined, the pedestrian refuge islands will be backfilled and work will begin to select native plantings that can withstand the harsh conditions associated with a streetscaping installation, while simultaneously beautifying this area of the city. Installation of the push-button Rectangular Rapid Flashing Pedestrian Beacons will also occur as work continues to progress at the mid-block crossing location.

Demolition activities commenced at 501 Loveland Madeira Road, and work is well underway to remove the structure. Once the building is removed, access will be established to the Chestnut Street property.

On Wednesday, City Engineer Klopfenstein, Assistant City Manager Wright, and City Manager Kennedy met with representatives from Martin Painting to discuss final preparations for the warranty repair work on the traffic mast poles at West Loveland Avenue and Wall Street. This work will commence this summer and will involve a couple of days of work by the painting contractor to remove failed paint coatings on the two mast poles located at this intersection. Warranty work includes removal of the failed coatings, and then recoating the poles with epoxy primer and two coats of urethane black paint.

At 106 West Loveland Avenue, soil borings were completed under the turn lane, to determine if soil will need to be removed due to issues with the prior fuel center use. The soil removal will be conducted in conjunction with the city's Abandoned Gas Station Program Grant, separate from the turn lane project, and will need to be completed in advance of the intersection improvements. In addition, construction crews are awaiting relocation of utilities by Duke Energy as well, prior to mobilizing for the project. The utility relocation process can extend for several weeks while the utility company schedules the relocation work.

The Loveland Heights Housing Rehabilitation Grant program has been very active recently with two projects completed this week and multiple site visits conducted. To date, the program has completed exterior improvement projects at 25 owner occupied homes in the Loveland Heights. For every \$1.00 invested by the city, the property owners have invested \$2.21 for a total investment of \$136,407. When the investment of the grant program is coupled with other

improvements in the Heights, such as the annual road program and the upcoming replacement of the tot-lot playsets, the city's commitment to the area is becoming very apparent.

This week, I met with Doug Gilbert from the Tree and Environment Committee. Doug brings an incredible skill set to the committee and is a perfect example of the commitment our committee members make to the city. The Tree and Environment Committee has accomplished much in the past few years and has big plans for the future.

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## **Building and Zoning**

This week, the department welcomed Ms. Erin Flanagan as a part-time intern with the Building and Zoning Department for the summer of 2023. Ms. Flanagan is currently a student at The Ohio State University, pursuing a degree in City and Regional Planning, and is a past graduate of Loveland High School, where she was a member of the Tigers Inc. program. Ms. Flanagan brings an impressive array of skills and experiences to the city and is maintaining an impressive 4.0 GPA at Ohio State University, while participating in various volunteer engagements and fraternal organizations. During her time here, Ms. Flanagan will be assisting the department in completing digital archiving and integration of approved plans with the City's permitting system and will be learning other aspects of the city's Building and Zoning Department functions.

Progress continues at Blossom Hill. Framing and insulation work nears completion on one of the structures, and foundation work for a second building continues. Also, this week, the department issued a Certificate of Occupancy at 21 Chimneyridge. A demolition permit was issued for 501 Loveland Madeira Road, and work is now underway to remove the structure and cap the utilities.

The Planning and Zoning Commission will meet on June 6, 2023, to review updates to the City's Thoroughfare Plan completed in conjunction with the recently adopted Comprehensive Plan for the city. Once the commission reviews the plan, the final document will be forwarded to city council for review and adoption. The plan is part of the "local planning factors" scoring criteria used by OKI to administer the highly competitive transportation funding process.

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## **Public Works**

Public Works crews tackled a water main break on Pueblo Court Thursday evening.

The city received an update on the upcoming West Loveland Avenue Bridge Improvement project. The Hamilton County Engineers office reported that the bid opening for the project is scheduled for July 13.



This project has been in the planning and budgeting stage for sometime and the community looks forward to its completion. Not only will new sidewalks be installed on the north side of the bridge, but new decorative railings will be installed on both sides of the bridge. The decorative railings are an important addition to the project due to the fact that renovations to bridges now require an increase in height to the adjacent abutments. Without the decorative railings, the increased height would have obstructed the view of the Little Miami River. The project also includes new street lighting. Stay tuned for updates on this and other important infrastructure projects.

This week, staff members participated in a meeting with the Clermont County Engineer, Jeremy Evans and Sukie Scheetz with the Clermont County TID, to discuss the upcoming East Loveland Avenue Bridge Replacement project. This multi-jurisdictional project will complete many needed infrastructure improvements including a new bridge, stormwater upgrades, road repaving, water main relocation, sanitary sewer main replacement and new sidewalks on both sides of the roadway. Efforts have been ongoing to reduce the impact to traffic and public safety once the project kicks off near the end of this summer.

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## **Public Safety**

With warmer temperatures, agencies across the US are reporting an increase in thefts of and from vehicles.

Use common sense when parking and exiting your vehicle:

- Take your vehicle's key; do not leave it in or on your vehicle.
- Close and lock all windows and doors when you park.
- Park in well-lit areas if possible.
- Never leave valuables in your vehicle, especially if they can be seen from outside the vehicle.

Radios and wheels covers are no longer the popular stolen vehicle parts thieves take; they want whatever sells. Some of the most popular vehicle parts or valuable items stolen from vehicles include doors, engines, transmissions, air bags, radios, GPS units, cell phones, iPads, laptops, and purses.

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## **Upcoming Meetings & Events**

The annual Household Hazardous Waste disposal day will be held Saturday, June 3, in the Home of the Brave Park. [Click here](#) for a list of acceptable items.

The Planning and Zoning Commission will meet on Tuesday, June 6, at 7:00 p.m.

The Tree and Environment Committee is scheduled to meet on Thursday, June 8, at 7:30 p.m.