

# CIVIC★FOCUS

CITY OF MIAMISBURG

## City launching two major park projects in 2023

The City of Miamisburg will begin projects next spring to transform two of its signature parks.

City Council has approved the funding and concepts for improvements to Riverfront Park downtown and Sycamore Trails Park off Heincke Road. Planning is underway on both.

Since early 2022, the City's Parks and Recreation Department has been working with The Kleinger's Group of West Chester to update the master plan for all Miamisburg parks, including the aforementioned Riverfront and Sycamore Trails facilities. The updated plan for these popular parks now emphasizes realistic and vibrant recreation concepts that can be implemented in the near term.

"City Council and I recognize how much the community values our park space and facilities," Mayor Michelle Collins said. "I'm pleased that we're able to

invest in these significant upgrades to continue growing and expanding the recreational opportunities for citizens."

### **Riverfront Park**

The Riverfront Park concept plan features an outdoor amphitheater with sloped seating tiers that can accommodate approximately 1,000 spectators and a spacious lawn that will serve as passive park space, but also can host events and vendors. To the south, the park will include inclusive play space with a playground, natural play elements, traditional family-style games and shade areas. The plan also includes two levy overlooks where people can sit and enjoy views of the Great Miami River.

Importantly, there will be increased parking. Two lots that bookend the park to the north and south will add approximately 30 parking spots. In addition, the removal of Miami Avenue

will make available nearly 90 spots for special events that are unavailable in the current makeup of the park.

These improvements are estimated to cost approximately \$4.7 million and will be included in the City's 2023 Capital Improvement Plan. Completion of the final design and construction document will continue through February, when staff is expected to begin the contractor selection phase and proceed into construction. The project timeline for construction is still being finalized, but the City hopes to have the new Riverfront Park fully complete prior to May 2024.

According to Parks and Recreation Director Ryan Davis, the City hopes to execute construction in a single phase in order to limit its impacts to only one event season.

"Our hope for 2023 is to not cancel any traditional events, although it's likely that they will be modified and/or relocated

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Winter 2022-23

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# AT A GLANCE



## Mayor and City Council

Michelle Collins, Mayor . . . . . 313-6793  
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At-Large . . . . . 602-6367  
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Mike McCabe  
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3rd Ward . . . . . 859-0297  
John Stalder  
1st Ward . . . . . 866-7172  
Sarah Clark Thacker  
2nd Ward . . . . . 478-9101  
Kim Combs  
Clerk of Council . . . . . 847-6456  
*City Administration offices and Council Chambers are located in the Robert H. Mears, Sr., Miamisburg Civic Center at 10 North First Street.*

*City Council meetings are held the first and third Tuesdays of each month beginning at 6 p.m. Meetings can be seen live on Spectrum Cable, channel 5.*

## Contact Information

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**Public Works (water/streets)** . . 847-6635  
publicworks@cityofmiamisburg.com  
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**TDD Only** . . . . . 847-6499

All phone numbers (937).

## City Administration

Keith Johnson . . . . . City Manager  
Emily Christian . . . . . Assistant City Manager  
Anthony Covington . . Asst. to the City Manager  
  
Phil Callahan . . . . . Law Director  
Ryan Davis . . . . . Parks & Recreation Director  
Chris Fine . . . . . Development Director  
Gary Giles . . . . . Public Information Officer  
Valerie Griffin . . . . . Public Works Director  
Jennifer Johns . . . . . Finance Director  
Leslie Kohli . . . . . Human Resources Director  
Andrew Rodney . . . . . City Planner  
John Sedlak . . . . . Police Chief  
Bob Stanley . . . . . City Engineer  
Ben Trick . . . . . Community Development Coord.  
  
Brandon Barnett . . . Chief, Miami Valley Fire District

## Public Safety

**EMERGENCY** . . . . . 9-1-1  
**Non-Emergency Service.** . . . . 225-HELP  
225-(4357)  
**Non-Emergency TDD.** . . . . . 228-HELP  
228-(4357)  
**Police – General Info** . . . . . 847-6600  
**Fire – General Info.** . . . . . 560-2152

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## Council appointment fills vacant seat



member Beachler will complete Thompson's unexpired term, which runs through Dec. 31, 2023.

"I'm honored that City Council appointed me to fill this vacant seat," Council member Beachler said. "I look

Miamisburg City Council in September voted to appoint Steve Beachler to the vacant at-large seat created by the resignation of Greg Thompson. Council

forward to working with Council and the City staff to serve the community."

Council member Beachler is a retired surveyor for the Montgomery County Engineer's office, where he served for 34 years. He also has extensive experience in the fire service, where he was a reserve firefighter in Miamisburg from 1976-2011 and has been a member of Ohio Task Force One since 2002. This group is a FEMA search-and-rescue team that responds to natural and man-made disasters.

In addition, Council member Beachler is the varsity girls softball coach at Miamisburg High School and former coach at Sinclair Community College, where he led the Tartans to the National

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# AROUND TOWN



## Winter report from Baum Opera House



Located in the heart of historic downtown Miamisburg, the Baum Opera House is home of memorable public events, performances, weddings and much more. Renting the facility is a great way to support this 137-year-old community gem.

The Association has teamed up with the Miamisburg History

Center and Plaza Theatre to offer membership to all three 501(c)3 organizations for a \$100 donation. Additional information about benefits and a receipt will be sent to each donor upon payment. Checks should be mailed to Baum at 15 S. First Street in Miamisburg.

Upcoming events at Baum:

### *Volunteer Day*

Jan. 7, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Start your new year by joining us for a few hours of community service. We'll spend time cleaning, painting, putting away holiday decorations and sprucing up the building.

### *Dayton Swing Smackdown*

Feb. 24-26

Visit [daytonswingsmackdown.com](http://daytonswingsmackdown.com) for more information and tickets.

Questions about this information should be emailed to [thebaumoperahouse@gmail.com](mailto:thebaumoperahouse@gmail.com). ★

## *Did you know?*

The Baum Opera House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

## City Beautification Commission

Tom Zimpfer (847-9819), Chair



Many proud Miamisburg residents work hard to keep this an attractive community. Listed here are the final 2022 City Beautiful Awards presented for August, as selected by the City Beautification Commission (CBC). Congratulations to all of this year's winners.

The CBC appreciates all the nominations that were submitted. Most importantly, thanks to all the property owners who helped enhance the appearance of our City.

### **AUGUST**

The Zech Home	1194 Mary Lane
The Williams Home	430 E. Linden Avenue
The Pardieck Home	1109 Jefferson Street
The Bailey Home	135 Mound Road
The Wilcher Home	523 Douglas Drive
The Kepler/Berkshire Home	765 Hidden Meadows Drive
The Schwieterman Home	15 S. Seventh Street

The Brewster Home	1275 Granite Peak Way
The Pettit Home	825 Mary John Drive
The Greene/Minton Home	1934 Robin Hood Drive
The Crawford Home	1626 E. Lindsey Avenue
The Grimes Home	1755 Rosina Drive
The Allaire Home	4143 Benner Road
The Marsh Home	818 Alexandersville Road
The Duckett Home	2201 Coldstream Court

### *Renovation Award*

The Gum Home	2313 King Richard Pkwy.
Sienna Company	128 Cole Avenue

### *Business*

Plaza Theatre	33 S. Main Street
M & Co.	48 S. Main Street

## Children's Performing Arts of MSBG

[info@cpamburg.com](mailto:info@cpamburg.com)

CPAM will present The Best Christmas Pageant Ever on Dec. 9-10 at Parkview United Methodist Church at 3713 Benner Road. Show time Friday for this classic comedy is 6:30 p.m., while Saturday performances take place at 2:30 and 6:30 p.m.

For additional information about this show or to learn about future shows, auditions, classes and camps, visit [cpamburg.com](http://cpamburg.com).

CPAM is a non-profit children's theater that promotes, to all area youth, an appreciation of the performing arts through education, practice and performances. ★



to allow for construction."

Staff will be in communication with event organizers over the next few months to determine and finalize plans for the year. As that process evolves, residents are encouraged to check [PlayMiamisburg.com/events](https://playmiamisburg.com/events) for up-to-date information.

### **Sycamore Trails Park**

To many residents, Sycamore Trails is simply the secluded natural space accessed from Heincke Road. In reality, it's much more.

There are 90-plus acres on this site that also include a disc golf course and hiking trails, as well as the adjacent Sycamore Trails Aquatic Center and the park on Maue Road that offers basketball and tennis courts, a playground and a shelter. A redesign of the site to connect all three parts was first developed in the mid-1990s, and the current plan builds on that idea. It calls for the transitioning of the Heincke Road entrance near State Rte. 725 to a pedestrian-only/bike access path and

construction of a new internal road to connect the park sections. New entrances to the park will be from Heincke Road near the Aquatic Center and from Maue Road next to the current basketball court.

In addition to the roadway improvements, the new park master plan includes several amenity upgrades. In the northern part of the park, there will be updated playgrounds, a new shelter/restroom structure and environmental education components. In the southern section, new tennis, basketball and pickleball courts will be featured, with additional child-focused activity/obstacle course-themed play and an adult fitness component. There will be new walking paths, a rejuvenated hiking trail and additional parking throughout. Some impacts to the current disc golf course are anticipated, but these will likely be limited to relocation of various holes.

Sycamore Trails improvements are estimated to cost approximately \$4.8

million and will be included in the City's 2023 and 2024 Capital Improvement Plans. Completion of the design and construction documents will take place late summer 2023 with planned construction to follow in the late fall. Work is expected to take 18-24 months to complete.

"Residents can expect to see updated, revitalized signature parks that will bring new life to this community," Davis said. "These projects represent City Council's desire to enhance the quality of life for Miamisburg residents and, as studies show, a well-maintained and vibrant park system is one of the reasons this remains a great community to live and work."

Stay up-to-date with future developments and get answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about Riverfront Park by visiting [PlayMiamisburg.com/Projects](https://playmiamisburg.com/Projects). ★

## Miamisburg Library Notes

The Miamisburg branch of Dayton Metro Library is pleased to provide the following sample of program information for winter:

### **Children**

#### **Reading Buddies**

(age preschool thru grade 3)  
Saturdays, 11 a.m.

Does your child need some extra guidance in reading? In this program, trained volunteers spend time with any child who needs more reading practice. These Reading Buddies can read aloud to a child, listen to a child read or both.

#### **Tween Game Time**

(ages 8-12 years)  
Fridays, 4 p.m.

Hang out with friends and play video games on the library big screen or enjoy other fun activities. Snacks provided.

#### **Holiday Cookie Family Story Time**

Dec. 19, 6:30 p.m.

Celebrate the holiday season with festive stories, cookie decorating and a marionette show featuring our Santa Claus puppet.

### **Teens**

#### **Silent Book Club**

Second Tuesdays of the month, 4 p.m.

This club is all for the quieter, introverted book reader. Bring anything to read and whichever reading medium you prefer.

#### **Mixed Age**

#### **Visual Art Workshop**

Dec. 17, 2:30 p.m.

Participants will be introduced to multiple art mediums in a series of workshops with professional-level instruction from Jamaal Durr of Dayton. The focus of this session will be watercolors.

### **Adults**

#### **Kettering Health Speaker Series**

A representative from Kettering Health will be providing information on a series of health-related topics. Upcoming sessions include:

**Stress Management** - Dec. 10, 11 a.m.

**My Chart** - Dec. 12, 6:30 p.m.



#### **D&D at the Library**

Jan. 7, 3 p.m.

Action & adventure awaits in a session of Dungeons & Dragons 5e. No experience necessary.

#### **Excel Basics**

Dec. 22, 11 a.m.

Jan. 14, 10:30 a.m.

#### **Email Basics**

Jan. 27, 10 a.m.

Computer classes that provide instruction on a variety of programs are available. Registration required.

The Miamisburg branch library is located at 545 E. Linden Avenue. For more information about these and other programs, contact the branch at 463-BOOK. Be sure to also follow Dayton Metro on social media. ★



# PUBLIC SAFETY



## Holiday safety guidelines from Fire District

The traditional holiday season is a time for family gatherings and celebrations. However, citizens should be aware that these parties, dinners and events increase the risk of fire-related emergencies in the home.

For example, more than 500 fires occur nationwide during the holiday week due to the ignition of Christmas trees. An estimated \$11 million of property loss occurs as a result of these fires, not to mention the sorrow and emotional distress experienced by family members.

The following safety tips are provided by the Miami Valley Fire District to keep the holidays safe and enjoyable for local families this holiday season.

- Be sure all candles are kept away from decorations and other combustible materials. Make sure they are extinguished before retiring for the evening.
- Never leave children unattended in a room with lit candles.
- Do not display lighted candles in windows or near exits in case of the need to escape from the home.
- Never use candles to decorate a Christmas tree.
- Use only Underwriters Laboratory – approved decorative lights.
- Do not overload electrical outlets and always unplug lights before leaving home or retiring for the evening.
- Never put electrical lights on a metal Christmas tree.
- When installing outside lights with a ladder, make sure it is properly footed and attended by another person.
- Choose a fresh Christmas tree.
- Use a Christmas tree stand specifically designed to prevent tip-over.
- Place the Christmas tree well away from heat sources and exits.
- Keep live Christmas trees watered.
- Do not burn fires in fireplaces where stockings are mounted or hung.
- When using extension cords, do not place them under rugs, carpets, furniture or across doorways.
- Make sure extension cords used outdoors are intended for outdoor use.
- Unplug and do not use any extension cord that is hot to the touch.

- Do not use any extension cord that has frayed/exposed wiring or a loose plug.

The Miami Valley Fire District would like everyone in the community to have a safe, enjoyable and stress-free holiday season. Please apply these safety tips in your home this year in hopes of keeping it safe and fire free. If you have any questions regarding this information, please call the Fire District at 560-2152.

### Election results

Voters in the Miami Valley Fire District approved a ballot issue in November that will enable the District to operate financially independent of the City of Miamisburg and Miami Township. Issue 9 was approved by a 58-42 percent margin. As a result of this passage, existing fire levies in the City and Township will be discontinued in 2023.

"I want to thank voters for their strong support on election day," said John Stalder, president of the MVFD Board of Trustees. "Our firefighters do an outstanding job, and now we'll be able to invest in equipment and station upgrades to meet the increasing demand for service in our community." ★

## Police Dept. urges identity theft protection

Identity theft has emerged as a significant consumer concern in today's world, and people should be mindful of the dangers.

Identity theft is the fraudulent acquisition and use of a person's private identifying information, usually for financial gain. The Federal Trade Commission reports that it received 1.4 million complaints of identity theft in 2020 – a 2,920 percent increase from 2019. No matter how careful citizens may be, their personal information is "out there" and the odds of becoming a victim are growing. However, there are some easy steps people can take to reduce the expense and inconvenience of becoming an identity theft victim.

- **Monitor your credit score** - There are a number of ways to do this, from paid subscription services to simply having your score run occasionally. Some banks and credit cards also offer credit monitoring as a perk. Any time you see your score take an unexpected dip—even if the cause is not something criminal—it is always a good idea to try and figure out why what is happening.
- **Freeze your credit** - This simple step prevents anyone from taking out an unauthorized loan or credit card in your name, and it is not nearly as complicated as it sounds. It's easy to do online, and you can temporarily "unfreeze" everything in only a few minutes if you need a legitimate credit check.

- **Read your credit card and bank statements** - A practice on the rise is for credit card thieves to charge a compromised card just a few dollars every month with the hope that the cardholder won't notice. This activity can continue for years. Be quick to investigate any suspicious charges—even if it's only a dollar or two—and don't be afraid to ask your provider for a new card if you notice something you are not comfortable with.

For more information about identity theft, online security and fraud, or to report specific scams, incidents of fraud, or identity theft, please visit the Federal Trade Commission website at [consumer.ftc.gov](https://consumer.ftc.gov). ★





# STREET BEAT



## Snow Emergency Routes

Alexandersville Road  
Belvo Road  
Benner Road  
Byers Road  
Central Avenue  
Cherry Hill Drive  
Dunaway Street  
Eleventh Street  
Fifth Street  
First Street  
Gebhart Church Road  
Heincke Road  
Jefferson Street  
Kercher Street  
King Richard Parkway  
Lawrence Avenue  
Linden Avenue  
Leiter Road  
Lower Miamisburg/Germantown Rd.  
Lyons Road  
Main Street (Old 25)  
Manning Road  
Maue Road  
Mound Road  
Orchard Hill Drive  
Pearl Street  
Richard Street  
Riverview Avenue  
Robin Hood Drive  
Rosina Drive  
Second Street  
Seventh Street  
Sherwood Forest Drive  
Sixth Street  
Soldiers Home-Miamisburg Road  
State Route 725  
State Route 741  
Twelfth Street  
Union Road  
Upper River Road

## Know the local Snow Emergency Routes

If the upcoming winter season is typical, there are sure to be times when driving conditions are dicey.

By ordinance, the City has the authority to declare a snow emergency "when the (city) manager has reason to believe that snow or ice has accumulated or will accumulate in such quantities as to endanger the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the City... ." The purpose of this declaration is to provide adequate passageways for snowplows by

temporarily eliminating parking along certain streets designated as Snow Emergency Routes. In these instances, vehicles must be removed from the street within two hours and remain off the street until the snow emergency is lifted.

The list of streets designated as Snow Emergency Routes, which receive priority plowing status, is listed at left.

For more information, please call the Engineering Department at 847-6531. ★

## Future project planning



and resident work agreements for the project.

Early next year, individual plans will be available to residents identifying construction limits for driveway and sidewalk tie-ins, along with frontage grading and restoration. For more information, please contact the Engineering Department at 847-6531 or [engineer@cityofmiamisburg.com](mailto:engineer@cityofmiamisburg.com).

The preparation of engineering design plans continues for the S. Riverview Avenue roadway improvements scheduled to begin next fall. This \$2.0 million project is being paid by funds from the federal American Rescue Plan Act and is part of the Miamisburg C.A.R.E.S. neighborhood enhancement initiative west of the Great Miami River.

The design is 60 percent complete and includes layout of a new two-lane roadway and sidewalk connections between Lower Miamisburg Road and W. Linden Avenue. Two new storm drainage culverts will replace two broken down structures underneath the roadway at the north end of the project. Additional roadside catch basins and storm drainage piping will help alleviate long-time flooding of the roadway area. Plans detailing work adjacent to individual properties along the corridor are being developed to create highway easements

### I-75/State Rte. 725

In 2021 the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) identified a diverging diamond interchange (DDI) as the preferred design alternate for planned safety improvements at the busy intersection of I-75 and State Rte. 725. Engineering design is now 80 percent complete with preparation of final right-of-way plans and detailed construction drawings remaining.

This project will feature that new DDI ramp design, along with upgraded traffic signals between the SR 725 intersections at Byers Road and Mall Woods Drive/Prestige Plaza and new sidewalk from Byers to State Rte. 741.

ODOT approval and certification of final project drawings is planned in 2023. Construction is expected to begin in spring of 2024. ★

## Austin progress

The developers of Austin Business Park were awarded a grant from the State of Ohio to help facilitate the current construction of a fifth building along Byers Road. Due to rising costs, the grant was critical in the developers' ability to move forward with the project.

# Snow is coming: Helpful hints for wintertime



Equipment has been prepared and 3,000 tons of road salt are on hand.

While the City is well-prepared to provide snow and ice control

service on local roadways this winter, assistance from motorists and residents is also necessary to ensure an effective level of service and maintain safe conditions. Please note the following information from the Public Works Department:

## Salt brine use continues

Salt brine is used in an anti-icing procedure that prevents or weakens the chemical bond that forms between the roadway and ice or snow. Prior to an anticipated severe weather event, the liquid brine is applied on primary roads, hills, bridges and select side streets. City crews will continue to use brine this winter when weather

conditions allow.

## On-street parking

Residents are asked to please move parked cars off the street while snow and ice control efforts are underway. When streets and cul-de-sacs are clear of vehicles, snowplow operators are able to efficiently and safely remove snow and ice from curb to curb. Assistance is very much appreciated.

## Shoveling snow

When clearing snow from driveways, residents are urged to shovel snow to the right side of the drive when facing toward the street. This practice will minimize the amount of snow that remains at the end of the driveway after snowplows pass by. Remember that during heavy snow events, the snowplow driver will first make one pass through your street just to open it up for emergency vehicles. Once the driver has done the first pass on each street on his route, he returns to each street and clears it curb to curb. Residents may want to wait to shovel their driveway until the driver completes that street.

Residents are not permitted to throw or blow snow from driveways or walks into the roadway. This practice is a safety

hazard, a violation of City ordinance and hampers efforts to control snow and ice.

## Safe driving

- Avoid driving during snow and ice events, unless absolutely necessary.
- Allow more time for trips.
- Avoid fast starts and stops while driving on hazardous roadways.
- Slow down. Increase following distance.
- Yield right-of-way to snowplows/salt spreaders.
- Watch for icy patches on bridges, overpasses and shaded areas. ★

## Did you know?

Not all roadways within Miamisburg are maintained by City crews. Many roads are maintained by other governmental entities or private contractors.

Examples include:

- State Routes
- Condo/Apt Complexes
- Mobile Home Park Streets
- Newly Constructed Streets (not yet formally accepted by the City)

## Holiday collection schedule

Refuse and recycling will not be collected by Rumpke on consecutive Mondays, Dec. 26 and Jan. 2, due to the holidays. The schedule for those entire weeks will be pushed back one day. Pick-ups will occur as usual on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. ★

## City offices closed

**December 23 & 26**

Christmas holiday

**January 2**

New Year's holiday

**January 16**

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

## Reporting information

Potholes and water main breaks become more common as temperatures plummet during the winter months. To report a pothole, contact the Public Works Department at 847-6635 or [streets@cityofmiamisburg.org](mailto:streets@cityofmiamisburg.org). Main breaks may be reported to the same phone number during normal business hours or to 225-HELP after hours. ★

## Additional funding for home rehab program

The City of Miamisburg has been awarded an additional \$50,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds from Montgomery County in order to continue the Owner-Occupied Home Rehabilitation Program for residents. Combined with a \$25,000 match from the City, these funds will be available to continue assisting low-income households with the repair or replacement of essential home systems or add handicap-accessible elements to a residence.

After a two-year hiatus, this valuable

program returned in 2022. To date, over 25 local households have received assistance from the program, with another 40 on a wait list to access these funds. An application for an additional \$100,000 from Montgomery County is pending.

"Continued investment in the community's housing stock ensures our neighborhoods remain healthy and vibrant," City Planner Andrew Rodney said. "We would like to thank our partner agency, CountyCorp, for their assistance in executing this important program."

For more information, contact Rodney at 847-6536 or [andrew.rodney@cityofmiamisburg.com](mailto:andrew.rodney@cityofmiamisburg.com). ★



ECRWSS  
Residential Customer



# CITY STAFF



## News and Notes

- The new Kroger Marketplace store on N. Heincke Road (right) is scheduled to open shortly after the first of the year. The existing store will later be razed and replaced by parking and a fuel center.
- The ongoing replacement of all water meters in Miamisburg, detailed in the last issue of *Civic Focus*, is ongoing. The project is scheduled to be completed by mid-2023.
- In early October, the City partnered with Rumpke on free bulk trash collection in the Siebert plat west of



the Great Miami River. This special project was part of the City's C.A.R.E.S. neighborhood

enhancement program getting underway in that section of the community. ★

< "Council" continued from page 2

Junior College Athletic Association Division II National Tournament in 2019.

Council member Beachler holds an associate's degree in Engineering Science from Sinclair and a bachelor's degree in Public Administration from Capital University. He has been married to his wife, Teresa, for 17 years.

Council solicited applicants for the vacancy and selected its newest member from among 12 candidates.

### Former mayor passes

The City learned in September that former Mayor Don Lucas died earlier this year in Florida.

Mr. Lucas served one term as mayor from 1988-91 after 10 years representing the Fourth Ward on Miamisburg City Council.

He later went on to serve three terms as Montgomery County commissioner. ★



## New Face



**Michael Preston**  
Parks & Recreation Dept.