

CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER
MAY 10, 2024

IMPORTANT COUNCIL DATES:

May 18, Saturday – “That Day in May”
June 3, Monday, 6:30 p.m. – Regular Session (30 Park)
June 17, Monday, 5 p.m. – Work Session (30 Park)
July 15, Monday, 6:30 p.m. – Regular Session (30 Park)
August 5, Monday, 6:30 p.m. – Regular Session (30 Park)
August 11, Sunday, 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. – Ice Cream Social (Shafor Park)
August 19, Monday, 5 p.m. – Work Session (30 Park)

BUSINESS UPDATE:

- “That Day in May”: The big event is on Saturday, May 18. Enclosed is a *Register* article with the activity schedule.
- Miami Conservancy District (MCD): Enclosed is a *DDN* article about MCD pausing implementation of the new assessments.
- BRC Meeting: We had a good meeting last Tuesday. There were 22 committee members in attendance, 14 in person and 8 via Zoom. Enclosed is information about the 2021 ASCE (American Society of Civil Engineers) Infrastructure Report Card.
- Citizen Committees: Enclosed are letters that we mailed this week to Donetta Johnson and Amy Honaker.
- Joe Desch and Codebreaker: Enclosed is a *Register* article about the proclamation event at our council meeting on Monday. It is posted on our website, along with the article written by Debbie Desch Anderson. Debbie okayed us posting it.
- Gardner Pool: We filled the pool with water this week. Lots of preparation work will take place between now and May 25... pool opening day!
- Raleigh Road Concrete Repair: Work began today on concrete street repairs on Raleigh Road.

HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND!

TRANSMITTALS NOTED WITHIN NEWSLETTER

Register article re: “That Day in May”
DDN article re: Miami Conservancy District (MCD)
2021 ASCE Infrastructure Report Card
Citizen Committee Letters
Register article re: Joe Desch and Codebreakers



That Day in May is only days away!



The Rotary Club of Oakwood is honored to host a day filled with family fun. Much of the activity will take place on the grounds of Oakwood High School.

Saturday 5/18 activities in Oakwood

- **Pancake Breakfast:** 8-11am Hot pancakes and bacon! Tickets at the door or at the Oakwood Community Center.
 - **Fun Run/5K & 10K Runs:** Starts at 8:30am Challenge yourself with our three new courses! Walk-up registration available.
 - **Community Parade:** Starts at Noon on Shafor Blvd. at Orchard Dr. and moves down Shafor to Oakwood High School.
 - **The Best Dog Show Ever!** Costume Contest Registration opens at 1:30pm; Parade starts at 2pm. Check out pups dressed in the latest Barbenheimer fashions!
 - **Games and Bouncy Houses:** 12:30pm behind Mack Hummon Stadium and in "The Pit" at Oakwood Junior High School.
 - **Auto Show:** 1-4pm See vintage and rare cars and the latest in EVs along Dellwood Avenue.
 - **Dunking Booth:** After the Parade, take your best shot at dunking Oakwood personalities!
- Round out your day at the festival with food trucks, the Lemon Shake-Up, the CareFlight helicopter landing & there's even more in store.

Monday 5/20 activities at Dayton Country Club

- **The Silent Auction:** Open to the community! 10:30am and throughout the day Bid on over 40 gift baskets, items, and services!
- **The Golf Outing:** Registration and hot buffet opens at 10:30am; Golf Scramble starts at noon (advance registration required).
- **The 19th Hole Cocktail Party:** 4:30pm Join us for your last chance at the Silent Auction and to wrap up our weekend of festivities.

Please scan the QR code or go to www.tdim.org for more information and we'll see you there!



That Day in May is made possible through the generosity of sponsors who support this wonderful community event and by those who also support the Oakwood Rotary Foundation.



NEW DETAILS

Conservancy district pauses reappraisal for flood benefits

By Sydney Dawes
and Michael D. Pitman
Staff Writer

The Miami Conservancy District Board of Directors' decision to pause the reappraisal of properties that are protected by the region's levee and dam system was met with applause from a crowd that filled Hamilton City Council chambers Friday evening.

The board moved to rescind the reap-

praisal record of benefits, filed by the conservancy district in March, during the special meeting. For now, this pause halts plans to implement updated property values when charging properties for flood protection in the form of assessments that appear on property tax bills. The last reappraisal made by the Miami Conservancy District was 12 years ago.

In addition to the reevaluation of flood benefits, the Miami Conservancy District has proposed a new 1% capital assess-

ment and an increase to the maintenance assessment property owners already pay annually.

The Miami Conservancy District Board of Directors will need to reconsider the capital assessment that would have begun appearing on tax bills in 2025.

"We need to take a step back from that," Miami Conservancy District general manager MaryLynn Lodor said.

Reappraisal continued on A6

Reappraisal

continued from A1

Board member and Hamiltonian Mark Rentschler said historically high property values – a major consideration in calculating flood protection assessments charged to properties – put “an unfair burden” on small businesses and other property owners under the district’s current approach.

“We’re listening to your complaints,” Rentschler said. “We need to commit to evaluate and explore sustainable funding models as quickly as possible. The approach used by the conservancy district has been utilized multiple times over the last 100 years and was viewed to be fair and equitable for that time, but it’s time to consider the needs of today and for the future.”

Spooky Nook Sports complex owner Sam Beiler – whose annual assessments would have jumped to \$478,000 – said he and other property owners were grateful for the decision.

“I don’t think anyone doubts the need for flood protection. I believe we need to find a better way to assess those costs in a less impactful way,” Beiler told the board on Friday. “So for everyone that’s had comments and has opinions, our challenge now is to move forward in good faith.”

Owners of hundreds of properties across the region would have been paying more than \$1,000 a year to the Miami Conservancy District for flood protection if the proposed rate increases were implemented, according to data obtained by the Journal-News.

More than 43,000 riverfront properties throughout Montgomery, Butler, Hamilton, Miami and Warren counties pay annual assessments for flood protection. Assessments are not taxes and appear as a charge on a property owner’s tax bill.

The pause to the reappraisal process was recommended by Lodor.

The recommendation followed public outcry from property owners who saw their estimated assessment totals increase significantly and after the conservancy district receiving letters from local lawmakers requesting the reconsideration of the reappraisal.

Keep Hamilton Afloat organizer David Stark, who is also with ArtSpace Hamilton Lofts, organized his campaign around the flood assessments, saying his estimated assessment charges would have been more than \$10,000 annually.

He and others held a demonstration outside of Hamilton City Hall ahead of Friday’s special meeting.

“It is clear that you have listened,” he told the conservancy district board after Friday’s decision. “I believe that this moment will go down in Hamilton history. I thank you for the role, I daresay historic and heroic role, that has been played here.”

Under state law, conservancy districts cannot reappraise flood protection more frequently than every 6 years. Additionally, the Miami Conservancy District board of directors annually assigns the rate at which assessments are charged. These rates are approved by the Conservancy Court.

The pause on the reappraisal process is not a halt to assessments altogether, Lodor said. Properties will still be charged annually for flood protection, just not under the calculation that includes the updated property values.

The Miami Conservancy District will also be examining the possibility of a new exemption for property owners who pay flood assessments, called the hardship exemption. This objection would be for property owners who are financially unable to pay for their assessments, according to the board.

The pause of the reappraisal was praised by Butler County and regional leaders, as well as several residents living on the riverfront. But some residents offered words of caution at Friday’s meeting.

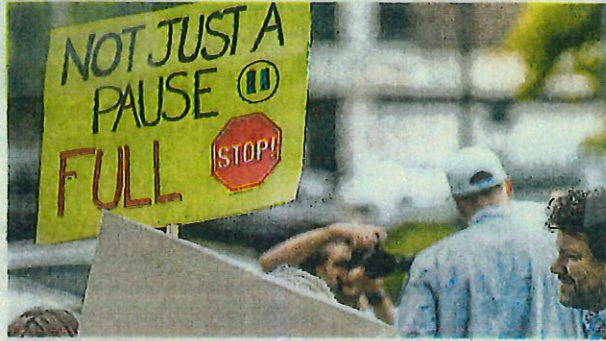
Payne Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church pastor Vanessa Cummings asked the board to consider reevaluating who is charged for flood protection, on top of its evaluation of the benefit calculation.

“When you’re looking at an equitable way to do this, everyone benefits when the rivers are protected, not just the people who were flooding in 1913,” she said.

“So when you’re looking at how to do this, make sure that you’re looking at the fact that if the water floods, everybody, every community is going to be impacted.”



Keep Hamilton Afloat organizer David Stark speaks Friday at the Miami Conservancy District meeting in Hamilton to discuss the recent assessment increase. “It is clear that you have listened,” said Stark, who is also with ArtSpace Hamilton Lofts, after the board’s decision to rescind the revised appraisal record of benefits previously filed in March. NICK GRAHAM PHOTOS / STAFF



A group of concerned citizens protests before a Miami Conservancy District meeting in Hamilton to discuss the recent proposed assessment increase Friday.

THE STORY SO FAR

In April, the Miami Conservancy District proposed a new 1% capital assessment and a 0.59% increase to the 2.19% maintenance assessment thousands of residents are already paying. The assessments would cover costs related to upkeep and rehabilitation of the levee and dam system. Following the announcement, there was public outcry from property owners who saw their estimated assessment totals increase significantly, and local lawmakers sent letters requesting the reconsideration of the reappraisal.

DDN

5/5/24

2021 REPORT CARD FOR AMERICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE

G.P.A.



 AVIATION 

 PUBLIC PARKS 

 BRIDGES 

 RAIL 

 DAMS 

 ROADS 

 DRINKING WATER 

 SCHOOLS 

 ENERGY 

 SOLID WASTE 

 HAZARDOUS WASTE 

 STORMWATER 

 INLAND WATERWAYS 

 TRANSIT 

 LEVEES 

 WASTEWATER 

 PORTS 







2021 Report Card GPA: C-

Ohio's infrastructure plays a vital role in the quality of life for the state's residents and visitors while also enabling commerce for local businesses and freight. Ohio roadways and bridges carry the third highest freight volume in the U.S., and accommodate the sixth most vehicle miles travelled, making the state an essential tool in the national economy. While surface transportation, rail, ports and inland waterways are all meeting the needs of Ohioans, continued investment is needed to sustain these volumes, expand the local economy, and ensure no sector is left behind.

Further supporting Ohio is the transit systems which needs to become an immediate priority. With so many travelers coming to and through the state, local businesses cannot thrive, and the local economy will become stagnant without reliable methods of transportation for working class individuals. The report card's findings also underscore Ohio's concerted efforts to modernize and innovate in the state's roads and energy grid. While these successes are notable, decision makers shouldn't become overly consumed with next-generation technologies at the expense of addressing current needs.

Overall, as stewards of our infrastructure, civil engineers, policy makers, and the general public need to advocate for infrastructure that supports the state's economy, while holding public safety and quality of life in utmost importance.

Ohio Infrastructure Grades

| | | |
|---|---|--|
|  BRIDGES  |  DAMS  |  DRINKING WATER  |
|  ENERGY  |  HAZARDOUS WASTE  |  INLAND WATERWAYS  |
|  LEVEES  |  PARKS  |  PORTS  |
|  RAIL  |  ROADS  |  SCHOOLS  |
|  SOLID WASTE  |  STORMWATER  |  TRANSIT  |
|  WASTEWATER  | | |

BASIC FACTS

\$9.7 million
in 2022 airport improvement grants across **12** major airports

27,151
bridges: **4.9%** of which were structurally deficient in 2021

426
high-hazard dams

\$16.1 billion
total drinking water need

53
Superfund sites

321
miles of levees protect **95,400** residents

51.3 million
passenger trips across **66** systems in 2021

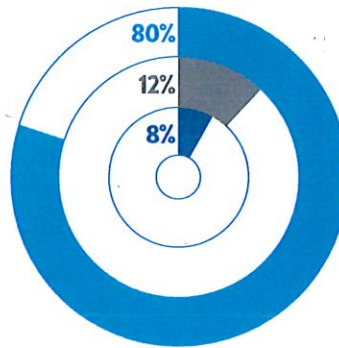
\$14.6 billion
in wastewater needs

31% of roads are in poor or fair condition
Each motorist pays **\$524** per year driving on roads in need of repair and every resident loses **\$1,036** annually due to crashes

BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW

\$10.4 billion

has been distributed so far across **541 projects** (average \$19.5M, median \$295K)



- **80%** to transportation
- **12%** to climate/energy/environment
- **8%** for broadband

KEY WINS IN OHIO

\$127M

to replace the Western Hills Viaduct in Cincinnati

\$24.5M

for bike-walk safety and access along US-6 in Erie County

\$11.3M

to Cleveland-Hopkins International Airport

\$500K

to the Lorain Port Authority for brownfield improvements



City of Oakwood

Government Administration

Mayor

May 7, 2024

Donetta Johnson
2215 Shroyer Road
Oakwood, OH 45419

Dear Donetta:

At the May 6 public meeting, Oakwood City Council appointed you to the Budget Review Committee. It is because of the dedication of our citizen volunteers that we are able to provide high quality and cost-effective services to the community. We look forward to your contributions as a member of this important committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William D. Duncan". The signature is fluid and cursive.

William D. Duncan
Mayor

WDD:ls

c: Members of City Council
Norbert Klopsch, City Manager



City of Oakwood

Government Administration

Mayor

May 7, 2024

Amy Honaker
114 Hadley Road
Oakwood, OH 45419

Dear Amy:

Norbert Klopsch informed City Council that you are moving out of Oakwood and are therefore unable to continue as a member of our Property Maintenance Board. On behalf of City Council, thank you for your service to our community. Citizen participation in the governance and management of Oakwood is critically important and we truly appreciate your service on this important board. We wish you and your family all the very best.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill".

William D. Duncan
Mayor

WDD:ls

cc: Members of City Council
Norbert Klopsch, City Manager
Ethan Kroger, Planning & Zoning Manager

City pays tribute to 'unsung' Oakwood codebreaker who helped Allies win World War II

Oakwood City Council on Monday paid tribute to one of the city's "unsung" heroes – Joe Desch, a Dayton native and 17-year Oakwood resident who led American codebreaking efforts during World War II. According to the former Supreme Allied Commander in Europe – and later President – Dwight D. Eisenhower, who led the D-Day invasion, Desch's work using what were essentially early computers at National Cash Register shortened the war by several years and saved hundreds of thousands of lives on both sides of the conflict. A graduate of the University of Dayton, Desch resided on Greenmount Boulevard in Oakwood while working on the top-secret wartime project.

On Monday, Mayor Bill Duncan proclaimed May "Codebreaker Month" in Oakwood to honor Desch. On hand to accept the honor was Desch's daughter, Debbie Anderson of Kettering, and grandson, Joshua Anderson. Last year, retired British Royal Air Force officer and now Oakwood resident Andrew Lloyd and his wife, Cheryl, began championing efforts to recognize the codebreaker and initially proposed naming a city park after Desch, who worked closely and cooperated with famed British codebreaker Alan Turing during the Allied effort to break Nazi naval codes. Lloyd, who had been stationed at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base while in the RAF, said he was familiar with Turing's work at the now famous Bletchley Park complex in England, but did not learn of Desch's own role in Allied codebreaking until coming to Dayton. Turing is known to have visited Desch during the war as the two coordinated Allied codebreaking during the war.

"Joseph Desch, a pioneering and world-leading American engineer and inventor, was awarded the Presidential Medal of Merit in 1947, for his invaluable contributions to the field of cryptography, significantly hastening the Allied victory in World War II," Duncan noted in his proclamation. "Born May 23, 1907, in Dayton, and having demonstrated exceptional aptitude in mathematics and engineering, Joe Desch graduated from the University of Dayton and resided in Oakwood

for 17 years. Asked by the National Cash Register Company President Edward Deeds to form the Electrical Research Laboratory he developed high-speed electronic calculating and mathematical computing machines and created the first electronic calculator."

In 1941, as the United States entered World War II, Nazi submarines were devastating Allied shipping along the East Coast and the U.S. Navy tasked Desch with a top-secret project to rapidly decipher enemy codes. "Assisted by Navy WAVES – Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service, Desch's perseverance, ingenuity, genius and leadership resulted in successfully designing and constructing an electro-mechanical device which became known as the American cryptanalytic bombe, capable of deciphering the most complex enigma encrypted messages in near real-time."

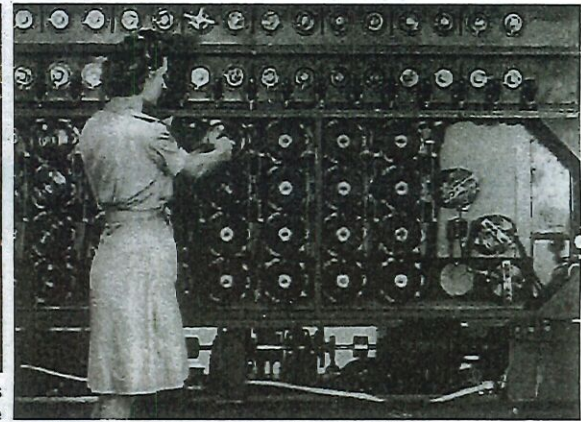
"His accomplishment," noted Duncan, "is considered the cornerstone of modern automated cryptology. Desch's machines provided crucial intelligence and played a major role in winning the Battle of the Atlantic and significantly contributed to the Allied victory, shortened the duration of the war and saved countless military and civilian lives."

The proclamation, Duncan said, recognizes Desch's "unwavering dedication to serving the United States of America, his extraordinary contributions to the field of cryptology, and acknowledges his instrumental role in shaping the outcome of World War II. May his legacy continue to inspire and guide us in our endeavors to advance science, technology and global cooperation for the greater good of humanity."

"On behalf of the family of Joseph Desch, we are very honored to be here to receive the declaration of Council on behalf of Joe Desch and his team of engineers and specialists at NCR," Joshua Anderson said. "During the time he resided on Greenmount my grandfather stayed out of the public limelight, necessarily. Today, 78 years later, I'm sure he would be fascinated by the attention the city bestowed upon the work that he performed."



Oakwood Mayor Bill Duncan, left, presents the City's proclamation to Debbie and Joshua Anderson, Joe Desch's daughter and grandson, on Monday.



A codebreaking cryptanalytic bombe at NCR.



Joe Desch



Navy WAVES quartered at Sugar Camp in Oakwood assisted codebreaking efforts during World War II.

'Dayton Codebreakers' screening at Wright Library

Wright Library, in partnership with Unsung Oakwood Heroes, recognizes May as "Codebreaker Month" with a curated selection of books and a film screening of the documentary "Dayton Codebreakers" on Thursday, May 23, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Wright Memorial Public Library.

The documentary film, "Dayton Codebreakers," began airing on public television stations throughout the country in 2006 and tells the story of NCR engineer and Oakwood resident Joseph Desch and the top-secret codebreaking operations in Dayton during WWII. The film was produced by Yellow Springs resident Aileen

LeBlanc and Deborah Anderson of Kettering, the daughter of the late Joseph Desch, and includes interviews and rare footage inside Building 26. Following the film will be a short presentation and Q&A.

During "Codebreaker Month," a curated selection of local history and non-fiction books about WWII Codebreakers in Dayton and abroad will be available at the library for additional reading. Wright Library also recommends watching "The Imitation Game," a 2014 dramatization about English Codebreaker Alan Turing and his team who first cracked the WWII German Enigma code at Bletchley

Park in England. *The Imitation Game* is available with a Wright Library card on DVD, Blue Ray, and Roku Streaming Devices.

The film screening of "Dayton Codebreakers" is in partnership with Unsung Oakwood Heroes, a citizen's group dedicated to raising awareness of the local, national, and international impact of Oakwood's notable residents, starting with Joseph Desch. For more information, about Unsung Oakwood Heroes or to assist in this effort, email UnsungOakwoodHeroes@gmail.com. For more information about this and other library programs, visit wrightlibrary.org/events

OR
5/8/24