

CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER
APRIL 16, 2021

IMPORTANT COUNCIL DATES:

May 3, Monday, 6:30 p.m. – Regular Session (30 Park)
May 15, Saturday – That Day in May (TDIM)
May 17, Monday – TDIM Golf Outing
May 24, Monday, 5 p.m. – Work Session (30 Park)
June 1, Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. – BRC Meeting (OCC)
June 7, Monday, 6:30 p.m. – Regular Session (30 Park)
June 21, Monday, 5 p.m. – Work Session (30 Park)
July 19, Monday, 6:30 p.m. – Regular Session (30 Park)

BUSINESS UPDATE:

- April 19 Work Session Cancelled: To confirm, our April 19 work session is cancelled.
- That Day in May: Enclosed is a *Register* article about the 2021 TDIM event.
- New Resident Breakfast: The drive-thru event last Sunday was wonderful, and very well attended. Big kudos to Carol and her staff... and all who assisted. We served about 200 meals and greeted about 60 carloads.
- “Best Place to Live” Commendation: Enclosed is an updated commendation with a date included at the bottom.
- Park Avenue Mailbox: We expect that the mailbox will be back in place very soon.
- Body Cams: Enclosed is a *DDN* article about area police departments using body cameras. It provides some interesting information. I continue to believe that the cameras will serve our department and city well. We are still anticipating that the camera systems will be up and running sometime in June.
- Dayton’s Police Chief: Enclosed are two *DDN* articles about the retirement of Dayton Police Chief Richard Biehl... and the process for finding a replacement.
- OCC Front Door: The new automatic sliding door is installed and fully operational... and is a significant improvement to our OCC entryway.

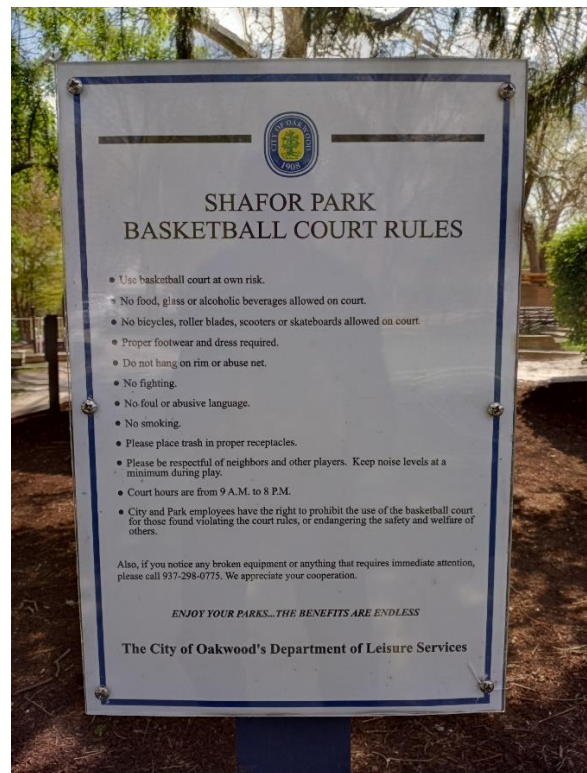


- Governor Powers: Enclosed is a *DDN* article about efforts around the country to limit the governors' power in matters relating to public health.
- PHDMC: Enclosed is a letter sent this week to Health Commissioner Jeff Cooper at Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County supporting a \$148,740 COVID-19 supplemental grant from ODH.
- 2021 CARE Walk: Enclosed is a *Register* article about the 20th anniversary CARE Walk event being planned for this fall.
- BZA Appointment: Enclosed is a letter that we mailed this week to Don O'Connor confirming his appointment to the BZA.
- May PC & BZA: We have no applications, so our May 5 Planning Commission and May 13 BZA meetings are cancelled. Enclosed are the memos.
- COVID-19 Vaccine: Enclosed is a front-page article from Tuesday's *DDN*. Public Works Foreman Tom Long (pictured in the article) was administered Premier Health's 100,000th dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Ridgeway Road Bridge: Enclosed is a *DDN* article about the road closures and detours necessary to set the new beams.



- Farmers' Market: The 2021 Oakwood Farmers' Market season is scheduled to begin on Saturday, June 5, and run through October 16. Enclosed is a *Register* article.
- “Good Choice Ticket” Program: We are moving forward with plans to start this new Safety Department program in June. The program will run from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Public Safety Officers on routine patrol will issue a “Good Choice Ticket” to children in the community who demonstrate a behavior or take an action worthy of praise/recognition such as: wearing a bike helmet; looking both ways before crossing the street; and using a crosswalk. Children can then redeem the “Good Choice Ticket” for a small smoothie at Tropical Smoothie; a single dip ice cream cone from Graeter's; or a non-sweet goody back from the Public Safety Department. The program is designed to issue 100 “Good Choice Tickets” over the course of the summer.

- Crisis Intervention Training: We had a good meeting this week that included Chief Hill, Captain Pruszynski and me... along with Dr. Sallie Wilson, Leigh Ann Fulford and Sue Hanna. Sue is an Oakwood resident and the Family Engagement Coordinator at NAMI Montgomery County. NAMI is the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Following the meeting, Chief Hill spoke with Jodi Long from Montgomery County ADAMHS. Jodi informed us that in addition to the pilot program underway where mental health professionals have been embedded within local police agencies that are most in need (Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, Kettering Police Department, Dayton Police Department and Vandalia/Butler Twp. Police Department), a second initiative is being pursued with Recovery Innovations (RI). RI is a company that provides mobile crisis teams on an on-call basis. It currently operates in nine other states and Montgomery County would be the first to bring them to Ohio. Once up and running (this is a 2021 project), the RI mobile crisis teams would be available to all local police agencies, including Oakwood. That said, Chief Hill is confident that if we had an emergency here in Oakwood right now, we would receive assistance from either the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office or Kettering PD.
- Greg Ramey: Enclosed is another *DDN* article.
- April 28 OIC Meeting: The next general membership meeting of the OIC is set for 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 28. Enclosed is a press release distributed today. You can register to attend the Zoom meeting through the www.oakwoodic.org website. I will likely not attend as that is the day that Debbie and I retrieve Sam from OSU... the official dorm move-out date. Carol Collins and Chief Alan Hill will participate... and Steve is planning to as well. I suspect that one or two other council members will also join in. Information about the event will be in next week's *Oakwood Register*.
- Basketball Court Signs: The new signs addressing court use regulations are in place.



- Income Taxes and Working from Home: Enclosed is an OML Call to Action on this matter. H.B. 197 was adopted last year in response to the pandemic, and became effective on March 27, 2020. Section 29 of the bill includes a provision that treats income earned by a work-from-home employee as being earned at the employee's usual principal place of work. Because of Ohio's system of paying taxes first in one's work city, and then in one's city of residence, the idea was to preserve the status quo during the state of emergency. At the time, the state's Legislative Service Commission analysis indicated that the bill affects both withholding and tax liability of the employee and employer. H.B. 157 was introduced on February 25, 2021, to repeal Section 29 of H.B. 197, and is progressing through hearings before the House Ways and Means Committee. The committee is currently considering amendments that would be known as Sub. H.B. 157. Instead of repealing Section 29, the proposed amendments would change its focus to withholding only, and would allow employers to manipulate tax liability. For example, Sub. H.B. 157 states that the rule applies only for determining an employer's withholding obligations and where an employer's net profits are situated, and is not for the purpose of determining the location where a nonresident employee's wages are subject to municipal income tax. It does not prohibit withholding to the actual municipal corporations where the employee works from home or at another location, and does not prohibit an employer from assigning a different "principal place of work" to the employee, which may change the employer's withholding obligations. Finally, the bill would affect taxes already withheld, retroactive to March 9, 2020. This is clearly a shift from the original H.B. 197, which was intended to affect both withholding and tax liability. Under Sub. H.B. 157, an employer could assign a "principal place of work" based on minimizing its withholding obligations, or based on the employee's wishes. The implication for municipalities is that cities have already made projections and budget adjustments based on last year's legislation, and Sub. H.B. 157 would drastically affect those. Further, it would cause an avalanche of refund requests as taxpayers try to sort out where their withholdings went and where they owe taxes. The Ohio Municipal League notes that there are already numerous lawsuits pending concerning refunds under last year's legislation. Changing course right now would cause more, not less, confusion.

- MVCC GATEway Fiber Project: Enclosed is a press release distributed by MVCC this week, along with a *DDN* article.

HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND!

ENCLOSURE LIST

Register Article re: That Day in May
Best Place to Live Commendation
DDN Article re: Body Cams
DDN Articles re: Dayton's Police Chief
DDN Article re: Governor Powers
PHDMC Letter
Register Article re: 2021 CARE Walk
BZA Appointment Letter
PC & BZA Memos
DDN Article re: COVID-19 Vaccine
DDN Article re: Ridgeway Road Bridge
Register Article re: Farmers' Market
DDN Article re: Greg Ramey
April 28 OIC Meeting Press Release
OML Call to Action
Press Release & *DDN* Article re: MVCC GATEway Fiber Project

That Day in May returns May 15, golf outing May 17

After missing the 2020 event due to the coronavirus pandemic, That Day in May, an annual celebration of spring and community event organized by Oakwood Rotary, is slated to return to Oakwood on Saturday, May 15.

The annual outing will include a schedule of alternative events as public health protocols remain in effect as Oakwood Rotary plans the TDIM return. A virtual 5K and 10K run are on tap, along with a rolling start live event to socially distance participants. The dog show, costume contest and parade will return to the track at Mack Hummon Stadium, and instead of the

traditional pancake breakfast served at the high school, organizers are promoting delivery of a Taste of Dayton Breakfast, featuring "a tasty breakfast bag of wonderful foods from several businesses in Oakwood."

Organizers are also introducing a That Day in May golf event and auction, scheduled for Monday, May 17. The new golf outing will feature a shotgun start at 11:30 a.m., followed by an end-of-round cocktail party at 4:30 p.m. on May 17 at the Dayton Country Club.

Oakwood Rotary is currently seeking sponsors for all 2021 TDIM

events, including the breakfast, 5K and 10K runs, dog show and parade, auction, and gold, silver and bronze level sponsorships for the golf outing, as well as cart, hole and drink cart sponsors for the Dayton Country Club event. For information on sponsoring an event, contact event co-chairs Adam Snyder at (937) 657-2932 or email awsnyder9904@att.net, or Dawn Wyatt at (937) 580-9450 or email dwyatt@daytoncountryclub.com.

For additional information or to register for events, please visit www.ThatDayInMay.org or www.TDIM.org.

OR

4/14/2021



HONORING
THE CITY OF OAKWOOD
AS A BEST PLACE TO LIVE

On behalf of the members of the Senate of the 134th General Assembly of Ohio, we are pleased to commend the City of Oakwood on being selected as the number one Best Place to Live in Ohio by *Niche*.

Throughout its history, the City of Oakwood has been known for its residents' civic pride and willingness to work hard, and they have supported its economic well-being, its superior school district, and its beautiful parks, recreational facilities, and residential streets. Oakwood has given all those who call it home a reason to revel in their community, which has been nationally acclaimed for its charm and character.

The City of Oakwood has gained a reputation as an amiable and pleasant community, offering wonderful places to live and explore, and it has flourished in its efforts to achieve great progress. As a result, the city and all those who reside within it are afforded the opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments of the past and to look forward to a future filled with promise.

Thus, it is with genuine applause that we congratulate the City of Oakwood as the Best Place to Live in Ohio and extend best wishes for the years to come.



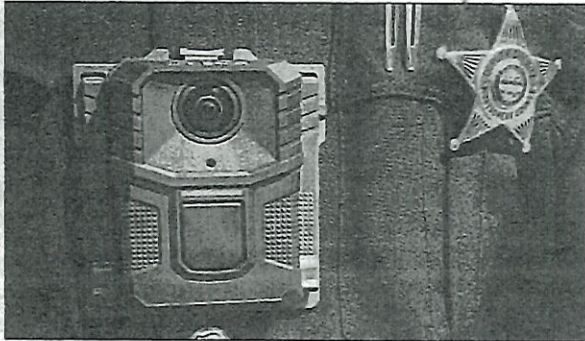
Matt Huffman
Senator Matt Huffman
President of the Ohio Senate

Niraj J. Antani

Senator Niraj J Antani
6th Senatorial District

Most area cops soon will wear body cams. Will they help?

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office will equip deputies with body cameras as shown on Deputy Herman Dixon.



Many approve, but some warn against expecting too much.

By Parker Perry
Staff Writer

Two of the largest local law enforcement departments will launch body-worn cameras soon, nearly a year after activists demanded them and even as some

area police agencies and experts question their effectiveness.

Montgomery County Sheriff's Office deputies will begin using body cameras this week after months of work implementing the tool. The technology will help the sheriff's office collect evidence, monitor deputy activity and resolve conflicts between policing officials and the public, Montgomery County Sheriff Rob Streck said.

"If the footage shows that a

deputy didn't do anything wrong, then that's good, and if it shows a deputy not acting properly and we can address that, that's good too," Streck said.

Body-worn cameras were pushed by local civil rights groups, including the Dayton Unit NAACP, in response to George Floyd's death in police custody in Minnesota last year.

Body cams continued on A13

Body cams

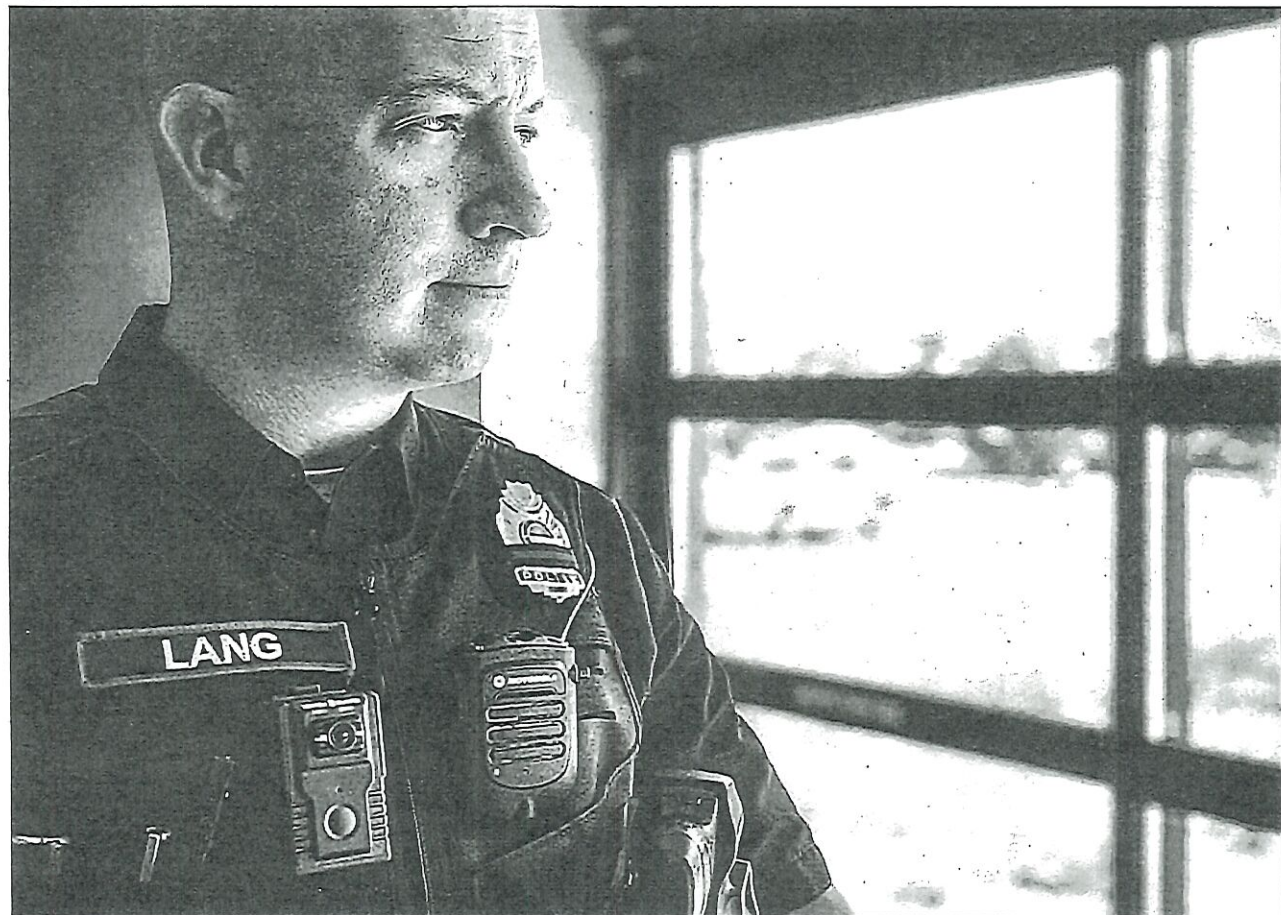
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The local chapter released an 8-point plan to reform policing in the Dayton area, and body-worn cameras were a key to "ensure transparency, accountability and safety of the community."

Dayton NAACP President Derrick Foward said he believes body-worn cameras provide "100 percent transparency" when used properly.

"I always knew body cameras were a good technology to be used for the safety and well-being of law enforcement officers as well as citizens. You don't have to 'guesstimate' about what happened. You are actually able to witness with your own eyes, and your eyes will tell you exactly what happened," Foward said.

The Dayton Police Department plans to equip officers with body-worn cameras by mid-May, a recommendation from a Dayton police reform group started after Floyd's death.



Englewood police Sgt. Mike Lang wears a WatchGuard body camera. The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office received initial approval by a county board to purchase 200 units of the same model. JIM NOELKER / STAFF

DDN
4/11/2021

Dayton's cameras will be deployed in phases in order to work with the vendor on any issues that arise.

"Currently, about one-third of our department has received training on the new equipment. The majority of the training and equipment issuance will be done through the month of April," a department spokeswoman told the Dayton Daily News.

Dayton is the largest city in Ohio that doesn't use body-worn cameras.

Disagreement about body cams

Not every police department in the area will get body cameras.

Springboro Police Chief Jeff Kruithoff said the city has reviewed body-worn cameras for years and will continue to do so. Springboro also invested in "a very quality and robust vehicle recording system" that has served the city well, he said.

"I think politicians and people reach for (body-worn cameras) to be an immediate solution, and I just don't agree with that based on my years in law enforcement," Kruithoff said.

Daniel Lawrence, a principal research associate at the Justice Policy Center at the Urban Institute, is a social scientist whose focus is on law enforcement issues and ways to improve police and community interactions.

"I would say the studies looking at use of force are generally mixed on the impact of body-worn cameras," Lawrence said. "Some have found small to moderate reductions, and others have found no effect at all."

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Dayton is the largest city in Ohio that doesn't use body-worn cameras.

Foward said he has met with numerous police chiefs and the sheriff to discuss how law enforcement and citizens can continue to develop a trusting relationship. He said he believes progress is being made but wants every officer equipped with a body-worn camera before another person is killed by law enforcement.

"Law enforcement are everyday people just like you and I, and sitting down in a brotherhood with the law enforcement agencies and collaborating together has really been a good thing," Foward said. "We are able to discuss, agree to disagree on some things, and continue to work through the pro-

cess to set a model regarding justice reform and police accountability that other law enforcement agencies across the state can model after."

In his studies, Lawrence said he's found body-worn cameras do reduce citizen complaints of officer behavior.

He said leading theories about why that is include the "civilizing effect" in which citizens and officers may behave more cordially to each other because they know they are being recorded. He said many times, however, citizens don't realize in the moment that the camera is even there.

Lawrence said another theory is citizens are more hesitant to report a complaint because of the possibility of video evidence being used against them if the allegation isn't exactly how they remember it.

'Indispensable tool'

Area police chiefs whose officers are already outfitted with body-worn cameras said they support the technology.

Englewood was the first area department to use them, starting in 2014, and officers there are on their third gen-

eration of cameras.

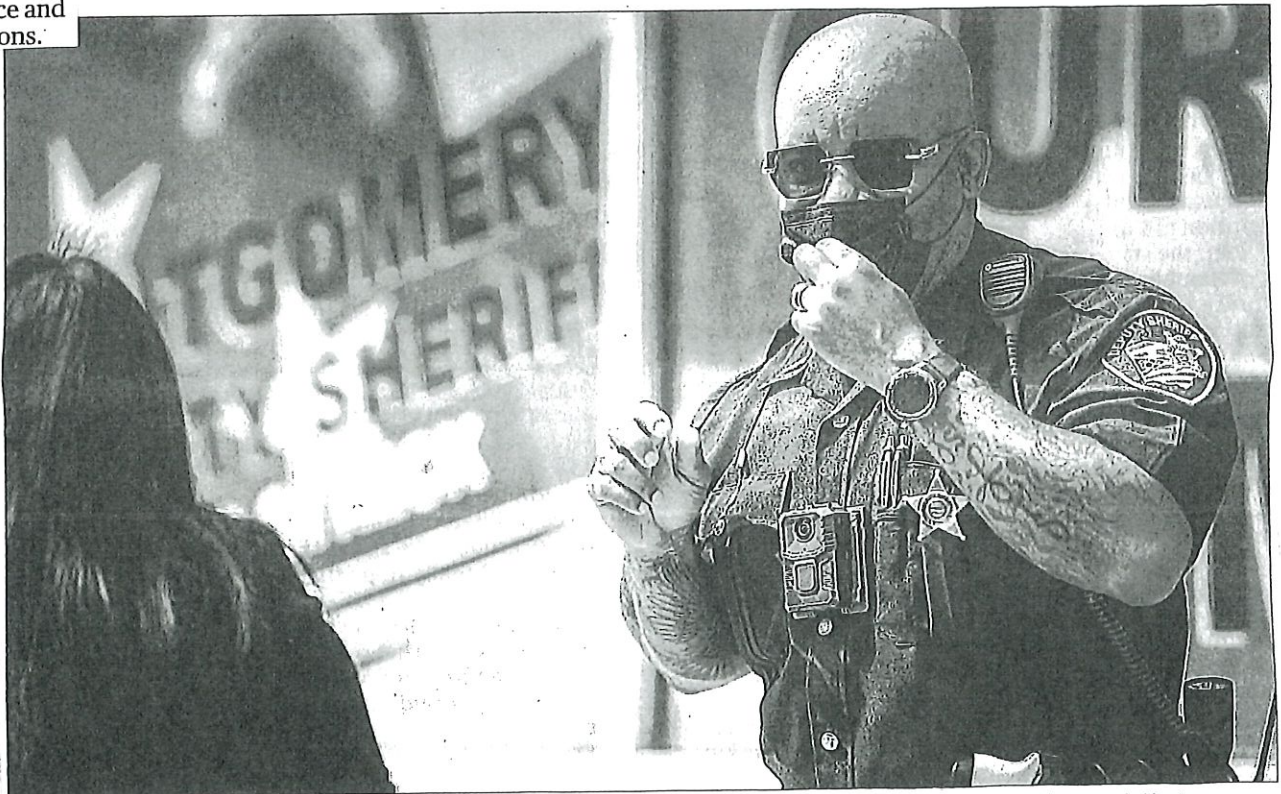
"Body cameras are an indispensable tool for law enforcement to keep the public's trust," Englewood Police Chief Mark Brownfield told the Dayton Daily News.

Body-worn cameras have cleared area officers in the last several months.

In September, Dayton Police released body-worn camera footage from an arrest of George Lail. Authorities said the body-worn camera footage showed a weapon was inside a vehicle when officers first asked him to exit.

The officers were testing the cameras at the time.

Also, body-worn camera footage captured a December officer-involved shooting in New Lebanon. In the video, an officer is heard telling suspect Jason Harlow not to move after the officer found a weapon. A scuffle appears to take place, and Harlow was shot.



The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office will equip deputies with body-worn cameras similar to the model being sported by Deputy Herman Dixon.

A Montgomery County grand jury decided not to indict the officer last month.

"Body cams can be crucial in determining what happened in an interaction with an officer, and often record statements and demeanors that aid in an investigation,"

the Montgomery County Prosecutor Office told the Dayton Daily News.

In addition to Englewood, other area departments that use body-worn cameras include Riverside, Bellbrook, Huber Heights, New Lebanon, Xenia, Beavercreek and the Greene County Sheriff's Office.

Trotwood and other departments are in the process of obtaining the devices.

The Miami County Sheriff's Office announced last year a plan to get body-worn cameras for deputies.

Kettering announced in October that officers will get the cameras. Lt. Lee Sanders said manufacturing issues attributed to the challenges presented by COVID-19 have slowed the department's implementation, but he said the hope is to receive the needed equipment in the next month or so and to get them operational soon after.

Moraine City Council voted in February to authorize the purchase of 28 body-worn cameras, 12 in-car cameras featuring front-facing and rear-seat cameras, plus the associated software, hardware and licensing. The state bid cannot exceed \$131,000.

Centerville police officials said they are evaluating which system will work best with the existing IT infrastructure and are awaiting more information on Gov. Mike DeWine's funding plan.

\$10 million plan

Money is one of the issues preventing some jurisdictions from obtaining the cameras.

DeWine wants all police officers in Ohio to use body-worn cameras and has called for a \$10 million grant to assist agencies with the cost.

"I think it protects police, it protects the public. It's good to have that transparency," Dewine said previously.

State Rep. Phil Plummer told the Dayton Daily News he likes body-worn cameras and believes they protect citizens and law enforcement. But Plummer, the former sheriff of Montgomery County, said paying for the tools is a challenge.

"I'd like to see the legislature invest in the back side of it, the storage for the servers, that's the real cost," Plummer said. "If the state can maintain that system, local departments could afford just the cost of the cameras."

Montgomery County spent about \$650,000 so far, Streck for officers.

Officials said the purchase of the body cameras was in the works before 25-year-old Andrew Hogan was shot and killed by Trotwood police in February. Police Chief Erik Wilson said Hogan had a knife in his hand at the time of the shooting, but the event sparked a demand by Hogan's mother and other community members for body-worn cameras.

The case was heard by a grand jury Thursday and the officer involved was not indicted.

Sheriff rolling out cameras

Montgomery County Sheriff's deputies will begin using body-worn cameras in days. The body-worn camera policy mandates deputies record their interactions with the public.

Streck said the cameras have been discussed for a long time, but the cost was a prohibiting factor. He said recent national events, calls from the public and a reduction in costs as the technology advances played a role in the office deciding to move forward. Streck said that in the past body-worn cameras would have cost the county more than \$1 million, and the quality of the video wouldn't have been as good.

The sheriff also said storing and maintaining the video was a challenge the office had to figure out.

To ensure the office is following the law when fulfilling public records requests, the sheriff is creating a new public records department, responsible for any required redaction and response to requests for the videos and other records.

Streck said the department was created through an internal reorganization and with no new hires.

Springboro's Kruthoff noted that police officers deal with sensitive issues every day, and when the camera is on, those once-private conversations with citizens could make it into the public's eye.

"We get into the homes of very nice people having a bad day, and they call upon the police department to assist them with the problem they may be having," he said. "Whether that is drug or alcohol abuse, incorrigible teenager or infidelity, that issue should not automatically be open to a records request."

Ohio's public records laws regulate what footage can be shared by police, but Kruthoff said residents need to trust when they come to police that their issue will be handled with care.

Jeff Jackson is a member of the use of force reform group that collaborated with Dayton police. He runs a local nonprofit and isn't involved in law enforcement, but said, as an everyday citizen, he feels body cams will bring accountability.

"The body camera will give a non-biased account of what took place if used properly," Jackson said. "From some of the research, they have been more helpful to law enforcement when it comes to accountability because there is a video account of what actually happened."

ONLY IN THE DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Dayton Police Chief Biehl to retire

City officials praise his community engagement as he oversaw significant policing issues in 13 years.

By **Cornelius Frolik**
and **Parker Perry**
Staff Writers

DAYTON — Dayton Police Chief Richard Biehl is retiring after 13 years of leading his department through significant policing issues, including a large opioid epidemic and a mass shooting that caught the nation's attention, plus civil unrest and a

global pandemic that still present challenges today.

"It has been the greatest honor in my professional career to serve as police chief for the city of Dayton and to work with the Dayton community to improve public safety," Biehl said Tuesday.

Lt. Col. Matt Carper will serve as acting police chief after Biehl's July retirement. Carper is in his

29th year with the Dayton Police Department.

Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley noted Biehl's leadership through those most challenging moments, including in 2019 the mass shooting in the Oregon District and the deadly on-duty shooting death of Detective Jorge Del Rio.

"He has shepherded the department through our current police reform process, making sure his officers were committed to

Biehl continued on A5



Dayton Police Chief Richard Biehl announced his retirement after 13 years of service Tuesday. Lt. Col. Matt Carper will serve as acting police chief after Biehl's July retirement.
JIM NOELKER / STAFF

Biehl

continued from A1

listening carefully to residents as they worked together to create recommendations for how police can be more transparent and responsive to residents," she said. "Clearly the work we've done on police reform, the 142 recommendations, would not have happened without Chief Biehl's leadership and support through this."

Whaley wished him a happy retirement, noting she'd miss him personally and that the community will miss his leadership.

Biehl thanked the Dayton community, elected officials and police for their support during his tenure.

"I salute you all for your overwhelming support, dedication and contributing efforts to making our community a safe place to work and live," he said. "And now it is time for someone else to lead. And I leave them in good hands."

Biehl earned community support after Dayton officers killed a mass shooter in less than a minute of him opening fire in the Oregon District and for how he prepared the city for a hate group's rally downtown in May 2019.

"The job of police chief is one of the most important roles for both the city organization and the community," said Shelley Dickstein, Dayton city manager. "Nationally, policing is at a crossroads, and I want to thank Chief Biehl for helping to lead the department through some very difficult conversations and situations in recent years."

Biehl had a reputation for studying law enforcement research and crime patterns and trends, and he was an advocate for community policing.

Biehl also was a strong proponent of the Welcome Dayton initiative to make the city



Dayton City Manager, Shelley Dickstein hugs Dayton Police Chief Richard Biehl after Biehl announced his retirement Tuesday afternoon at City Hall. Biehl brought stability, promising when he was hired to stay on the job for the long-term. JIM NOELKER / STAFF

more immigrant-friendly.

At Biehl's direction, police officers started carrying naloxone to try to reverse overdoses and save lives at a time when other departments were reluctant to take those steps. Under his leadership, the police department created specialized teams of officers focused on combating the opioid epidemic and reducing fatal overdoses.

He won over some community members with impassioned pleas against violence and support of legislative actions like gun control measures, and he also built relationships by attending community events and hosting yoga classes.

Critics, however, have accused Biehl of ignoring community-developed police reform recommendations in the past and said he wasn't as progressive as his public statements suggest.

Biehl was sworn in as Dayton's 16th police chief in January 2008 after a national search and an interview process that involved

community input. He previously served as Cincinnati's assistant police chief after working as a police officer in the Queen City from 1980 to 2004.

Before coming to Dayton, Biehl served as the executive director of Cincinnati's Community Police Partnering Center, a nonprofit group established to connect community stakeholders with Cincinnati police.

Biehl made a strong impression when he was interviewed for Dayton's top cop job by panels consisting of law enforcement officials, priority board members, citizens and business leaders.

City officials praised what they said was Biehl's track record for bringing police and community members together and his talent for community engagement.

Biehl was proud of the work he did to connect with kids during events like a summer camp in which he taught yoga, martial arts and gardening.

Biehl brought stability,

promising when he was hired to stay on the job for the long-term.

Before Biehl was hired, Dayton had two police chiefs in the previous six years. Biehl told media Tuesday that he had made a commitment to stay at least five years and planned to retire last year before the COVID-19 pandemic and civil unrest in the city.

He said he couldn't leave the department then, but felt now was a good time to exit. He said it's important residents remember that Dayton is stronger when it's united like the evening after the Oregon District shooting when a large crowd gathered to remember those lost.

"When we find ourselves in states of distress or judging other people, we need to remember to go back to that moment when we showed who we truly are as a community," he said. "United, shared-heart, caring compassionate. That's who we are, and if we forget that, we will all suffer."

DDN

4/14/2021

CLOSER LOOK

How will Dayton hire its new police chief?

Police reform group members want say in selection process.

By Cornelius Frolik and Parker Perry
Staff Writers

DAYTON — Dayton will seek new leadership for its police department at a critical juncture for police reform efforts and at a time when law enforcement is under extra scrutiny.

Dayton Police Chief Richard Biehl announced Tuesday that he will be retiring in July. The city said they will begin a search to replace him this month with the hopes of hiring someone in October.

Dayton City Manager Shelley Dickstein said the city will conduct an "open search with robust community input."

"We will hire an executive search firm," Dickstein said. "To support that search firm, we will create a selection oversight committee that will include city leadership, a



Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley watches Police Chief Richard Biehl before he announces his retirement on Tuesday.

JIM NOELKER / STAFF

former police chief and representatives from the police reform workgroups."

A Dayton police reform group focused on recruitment and promotion last month recommended the city involve community members in the selection of the next police chief.

The group has asked the city to let community members help create the

description of the position and include "reform orientation" as a requirement of the job.

The police reform committee also recommended that community members take part in the interview process and members of the reform committees be involved in the hiring process.

The city said the Selection Oversight Committee

will include police reform committee members William Gillespie, Serida Lowery and Jeff Jackson.

"The SOC will be working over the next several weeks to build the position profile which serves as the formal advertisement for the position," the city said in a statement. "The selection process will include substantial inputs from a variety of perspectives: community stakeholders, neighborhood presidents, reform implementation group members and city staff."

The community should get an opportunity to question and engage with police chief candidates who make the final cut, and the police department needs a leader who is committed to improving diversity on the force, Travis Dunnington, a member of the reform committee focused on recruitment, said earlier this year.

The city should look for "someone who can carry on ... making this department

look more like the community and act like they're serving the community," he said.

Ellis Jacobs, another member of the recruitment committee, said the community and the city can learn about candidates by having them interact with each other.

Ken Couch, Dayton's human resource director, previously said he reached out to an executive search firm the city has used for the last six years to help with replacement hires.

Couch said he asked the search firm to provide information about how it has included community engagement in police chief recruiting efforts.

He said it's important the community has "input, a stake and buy-in" during the selection process.

Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley said communities across the country have come up empty on police chief searches lately.

Some people say the candidate pool for police chiefs

in larger cities has gotten smaller and the search processes have received additional scrutiny.

Officials say the city is focusing efforts on finding an "ideal candidate that will be expected to continue to build on the work" already started by the city commission and police reform initiative. The city said the focus now shifts to implementation of recommended reforms and strengthening police-community relations.

Earlier this week, the Dayton City Commission announced the members of the new police reform implementation committee, which will monitor how the police reform group's more than 140 recommendations are implemented over the next six months.

The committee's main roles, according to the city, will be receiving updates on implementation efforts and providing feedback to create a "long-term accountability structure for police reform."

DDN 4/14/2021

Lawmakers seek limit on governors' emergency power

By David A. Lieb
Associated Press

As governors loosen long-lasting coronavirus restrictions, state lawmakers across the U.S. are taking actions to significantly limit the power they could wield in future emergencies.

The legislative measures are aimed not simply at undoing mask mandates and capacity limits that have been common during the pandemic. Many proposals seek to fundamentally shift

power away from governors and toward lawmakers the next time there is a virus outbreak, terrorist attack or natural disaster.

"The COVID pandemic has been an impetus for a re-examination of balancing of legislative power with executive powers," said Pam Greenberg, a policy researcher at the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Lawmakers in 45 states have proposed more than 300 measures this year related to legislative over-

sight of executive actions during the COVID-19 pandemic or other emergencies, according to the NCSL.

About half those states are considering significant changes, such as tighter limits on how long governors' emergency orders can last without legislative approval, according to the American Legislative Exchange Council, an association of conservative lawmakers and businesses. It wrote a model "Emergency Power Limitation Act" for lawmakers to

follow.

Though the pushback is coming primarily from Republican lawmakers, it is not entirely partisan.

Republican lawmakers have sought to limit the power of Democratic governors in states such as Kansas, Kentucky and North Carolina. But they also have sought to rein in fellow Republican governors in such states as Arkansas, Idaho, Indiana and Ohio. Some Democratic lawmakers also have pushed back

against governors of their own party, most notably limiting the ability of embattled New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo to issue new mandates.

When the pandemic hit a year ago, many governors and their top health officials temporarily ordered residents to remain home, limited public gatherings, prohibited in-person schooling and shut down dine-in restaurants, gyms and other businesses. Many governors have been repealing or relax-

ing restrictions after cases declined from a winter peak and as more people get vaccinated.

But the potential remains in many states for governors to again tighten restrictions if new variants of the coronavirus lead to another surge in cases.

Governors have been acting under the authority of emergency response laws that in some states date back decades and weren't crafted with an indefinite health crisis in mind.

DDN
4/11/2021



City of Oakwood

Government Administration

City Manager

April 12, 2021

Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County
Attn: Jeffrey A. Cooper, Health Commissioner
117 South Main Street
Dayton, Ohio 45422-1280

Dear Commissioner Cooper:

This letter is provided in support of Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County receiving \$148,740 in Coronavirus Response Supplemental funding from the Ohio Department of Health to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. We understand that Public Health is providing an information line / call center, case investigation and contact tracing, education and outreach, complaint follow-up for businesses, community testing, and vaccination planning. Response activities include residents of the city of Oakwood.

The funding provided will ensure that you have the means available to meet the public health needs of our community. We fully support Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County in their efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "N. Klopsch", is written over a faint dotted line.

Norbert S. Klopsch
City Manager

NSK:ls

cc: Oakwood City Council
Oakwood Board of Health
Health Commissioner Steve Enseleit, MD

Watch for CARE Walk updates

Dear CARE Walk Supporters,

It's hard to believe that our homegrown, grassroots Breast Cancer 5K CARE Walk will have its 20th anniversary this year. We are so excited to share this happy news during this year of uncertainty. Because of the pandemic, we cannot host our 20th CARE Walk on the 2nd Saturday in May as we normally do. Therefore, we are planning an in-person event and celebration and are hopeful for a fall date. We will post updates in *The Oakwood Register* and on our website and Facebook page as soon as we finalize plans.

Thanks to our sponsors, donations from our many supporters, and a grant from The Breast Cancer Foundation, we raised more than \$18,500 with our DIY CARE Walk in 2020 and were able to support our fellow Daytonians

through Noble Circle, Living with Lymphedema, and The Breast Wishes Foundation. As you know, this has been a very hard year for many, and just because the pandemic has shut down a lot of our community, it has not stopped the number of folks who have been diagnosed with breast cancer or who need ongoing services and treatments. We are glad we were able to continue providing the support the survivors/thrivers in our community have come to rely on.

We will be in touch this summer regarding our plans for 20th CARE Walk. Until then, on behalf of our CARE Walk team of dedicated volunteers, our team thanks you sincerely and wishes you good health.

Leigh Ann Fulford
Director, CARE Walk
contactcarewalk@gmail.com

OR

4/14/2021



City of Oakwood

Government Administration

Mayor

April 12, 2021

Don O'Connor
1306 E. Schantz Avenue
Oakwood, OH 45419

Dear Don:

At the April 5 public meeting, Oakwood City Council appointed you to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Thank you for agreeing to serve. It is through the dedication of our citizen volunteers that we are able to provide first-class and cost-effective services to our residents and businesses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William D. Duncan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

William D. Duncan
Mayor

WDD:ls

cc: Members of City Council
Norbert Klopsch, City Manager

MEMORANDUM

TO: PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS
FROM: ETHAN KROGER
SUBJECT: CANCELLATION OF MAY 5 MEETING
DATE: APRIL 14, 2021

As we have no applications to present, your regularly scheduled May 5 meeting is cancelled.

NSK:ls

cc: Members of City Council
Norbert Klopsch, City Manager
Robert Jacques, Law Director
Jennifer Wilder, Personnel and Properties Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS MEMBERS
FROM: ETHAN KROGER
SUBJECT: CANCELLATION OF MAY 13 MEETING
DATE: APRIL 14, 2021

As we have no applications to present, your regularly scheduled May 13 meeting is cancelled.

EMK:ls

cc: Members of City Council
Norbert Klopsch, City Manager
Robert Jacques, Law Director
Jennifer Wilder, Personnel and Properties Director

Vaccine supply starts to outstrip demand

Parts of Ohio, area moving toward in-clinic shots.

By Kaitlin Schroeder
Staff Writer

Hundreds of appointments for COVID-19 vaccines remain open in the region, and some providers have started taking in walk-ins or targeting outreach to match supply with people who still need an immunization.

Erik Balster, Preble County Public Health commissioner, said appointments were filling up since they started in December but about a week and a half ago they started having empty appointment slots and cut their Saturday clinic shorter than planned.

"I think largely we're moving away from the large vaccine clinics where hundreds of people show up, to do more smaller in-clinic based vaccinations," Balster said.

Now, as they move past vaccines from retirees to primarily

Demand continued on A4



Premier Health administered its 100,000th dose of the COVID-19 vaccine to Tom Long during Monday's clinic at the University of Dayton Arena. MARSHALL GORBY / STAFF

BY THE NUMBERS

4.1M or 35%

Ohioans who have received at least one vaccine.

70%

Ohioans 65 and older who have received at least one vaccine.

1,236

Ohioans hospitalized Monday, the highest number in at least two weeks.

HOW TO SCHEDULE A VACCINE

People can schedule appointments at <https://gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov/>.

DDN
4/13/21

Demand

continued from A1

people working or in school, the health department is regrouping and figuring out the best next approach, such as possibly doing outreach for people doing shift work who can't come out to a day clinic appointment.

"We're still open for vaccines, we're just recalibrating the system," Balster said.

Vicky Knisley-Henry, health educator with Miami County Public Health, said her department is taking appointments but has also started incorporating walk-ins into their clinics. They are also setting up a site near Kroger and Dayton Children's for walk-ins, with some evening and weekend hours.

"Part of the reason is to provide more access to people who are working during the day. They might not be able to get in to get a vaccine until after hours or on the weekends, so we're trying to provide another option for the community to get their vaccine," Knisley-Henry said.

People can also register for Miami County Public Health's Tuesday and Thursday clinics this week at miamicountyhealth.net or 937-573-3461.

All vaccines available are nearly 100% effective in preventing severe disease or death from COVID-19 and have been urged to help people protect themselves and those they come in contact with.

Anyone 16 and older can seek a vaccine, though minors must have permission from a guardian present for the vaccination. The vaccines are free to all.

About 35% or 4.1 million Ohioans have received at least one dose. More than 70% of people 65 and older have received at least one vaccine.

On Monday, Ohio Department of Health reported 1,236 hospitalized patients, the highest number in at least two weeks.

Monday was also the first time Ohio had more than 300 coronavirus patients in the state's ICUs in the last two weeks. On March 30, 251 COVID patients were in the ICU, as of Monday there were 315.

Amy Rohling McGee, president of the Health Policy Institute of Ohio, said it would be good to have better data on the reports of

VACCINES IN OHIO

Who can sign up now?

Ohioans 16 and older are eligible to be vaccinated. The Pfizer vaccine is the only one authorized for ages 16 and older. The Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are authorized for ages 18 and older.

Where to get more information:

For more information and to search the list of COVID-19 vaccine providers near you, including public health departments, go to vaccine.coronavirus.ohio.gov. Ohio Department of Health's general information help line is 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634). You can also call 1-866-243-5678 to be connected to your local area agency on aging for help for older adults with vaccine site options.

Who is vaccinated so far:

As of Monday, 4,122,416 people in Ohio (35.27% of the population) have been given at least one dose and 2,644,249 people in Ohio (22.62% of the population) have completed their vaccination.

How to sign up:

Appointments are limited, required, and sometimes are all filled. The following is not a comprehensive list, but here are some of the major vaccine providers in the area that you can check with:

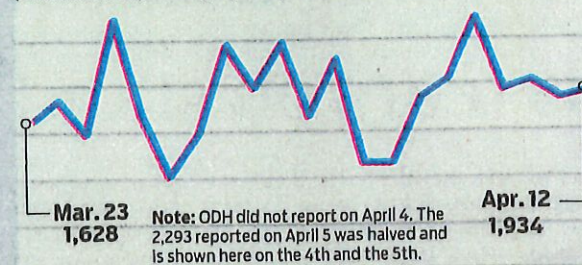
■ Ohio Department of

Coronavirus cases in Ohio

Ohio had 1,041,389 cumulative reported cases and 18,827 deaths* as of 2 p.m. April 12.

New cases reported each day

(Difference from previously reported)



Two-weeks of cases by county

Note: Values were pulled on Apr. 7 for the 14-day period of Mar. 24 to Apr. 6 and exclude incarcerated individuals.

Area county rates

County	Cases per 100,000 pop.	Cases
Clark	267.0	358
Greene	236.2	399
Warren	153.5	360
Champaign	151.7	59
Darke	150.6	77
Montgomery	136.0	723
Butler	132.9	509
Miami	120.6	129
Preble	105.2	43

Source: Ohio Department of Health

Health's central vaccine scheduling tool: <http://gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov/>

■ Kettering Health Network: ketteringhealth.org/coronavirus or call 1-844-576-3627

■ Premier Health: premierhealth.com/vaccine or call 937-276-4141 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Highest county rates

County	Cases per 100,000 pop.	Cases
Hancock	336.5	225
Lucas	300.0	1,285
Summit	291.1	1,575
Clark	267.0	358

Lowest county rate

Holmes	25.0	11
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*Note: Other states do not send death certificates to ODH's Bureau of Vital Statistics on a regular schedule, so fluctuations will occur in the deaths reported.

■ Kroger: kroger.com/ohiocovidvaccine or call 1-866-211-5320.

■ CVS: cvs.com/immunizations/covid-19-vaccine or call your local pharmacy

■ Walgreens: walgreens.com or call your local pharmacy

■ Discount Drug Mart: discount-drugmart.com or call your local pharmacy

unused vaccine and empty appointments.

"We've heard the same kind of anecdotes but it would be very helpful to have quantitative data at the county level so that we can assess or fully what's going on," she said.

Reem Aly, vice president, Health Policy Institute of Ohio, said there needs to be practices to meet the needs of particular populations facing specific barriers to vaccines.

"You're now at the point where you need to reach those populations that are facing the most barriers to accessing the vaccine, whether it be through their work or transportation or cultural linguistic barriers," Aly said.

Dan Suffoletto, with Public

Health - Dayton & Montgomery County, said as of Monday afternoon they still had about 2,300 openings on Friday and 3,000 appointments open for Saturday. People can schedule appointments at <https://gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov/> or by calling 937-225-6217.

"For those people who may have had trouble in the past trying to find open appointments or schedule appointments, now's a great time to do it because there's plenty of availability," he said.

Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County is also doing targeted vaccine outreach, such as an online forum entirely in Spanish and an upcoming panel geared toward LGBTQ residents.

Not all providers have

experienced the same appointment gaps in the system and there are regional and provider-level variations.

Julie Wickline, clinical services director with Five Rivers Health Centers, based in Dayton, said so far they have been able to fill appointment slots and have had very few no shows. If they do have a no show, they can ask patients on site for other reasons if they are interested.

"Sometimes patients are in here will schedule an appointment while they're in here. They're asking if we don't have something that day if we can schedule an appointment so I do think that helps having the relationship," she said.

Contact this reporter at kaitlin.schroeder@coxinc.com.

Busy Kettering road closing, detours start today

By Nick Blizzard
Staff Writer

KETTERING— A road closing due to a bridge repair that had been set to start Monday will now start today, according to the city.

West Dorothy Lane will close to through traffic

between Southern Boulevard and Far Hills Avenue from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m., and again on Wednesday, Kettering announced.

That section of road will be shut down for the \$3 million Ridgeway Road bridge replacement, Kettering officials said. The detour routes

in both directions for West Dorothy will use Southern, West Stroop and Far Hills from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. both nights, according to the city.

Local traffic will be maintained on West Dorothy, but the road will be blocked at the Ridgeway bridge.

West Dorothy will close

so five steel beams can be installed, a city official said. Each is about 114 feet long and weighs about 35,000 pounds, according to the city.

Construction of the bridge will cost about \$2.67 million with a public art component budgeted at \$350,000, Kettering records show.

The Ohio Department of Transportation is funding most of the cost, according to city documents.

The bridge has had a weight limit that includes “emergency vehicle load restrictions,” barring Kettering’s largest fire truck from crossing it, the city has said.

A section of Ridgeway from Oak Knoll Drive in Oakwood to Canterbury Drive in Kettering is closed for the duration of the project, officials have said.

Contact this writer at 937-610-7438 or Nick.Blizzard@coxinc.com.

DDN
4/13/21

Oakwood Farmers' Market gearing up for 2021 season

Are you excited to get outside and shop for fresh, local produce, delicious homemade baked goods, and beautiful handmade items? You won't have to wait much longer!

The Oakwood Farmers' Market is eagerly anticipating Opening Day, scheduled for Saturday, June 5, and looks forward to welcoming everyone back for another wonderful season filled with a variety of vendors, both new and returning, as well as a weekly food truck.

You'll find everything from fresh flowers to hot sauce to locally roasted coffee! The market will operate with Covid-safe guidelines similar to the 2020 season, so you can rest assured it's the perfect place for safe, family fun!

You can find the Oakwood Farmers' Market open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the municipal lot behind Chicco's on Far Hills Ave. and Orchard Dr. from June 5 through October 16.

OR 4/14/2021

New trial date set in Ramey's child porn case

By Parker Perry
Staff Writer

A Greene County judge has denied a Dayton child psychologist's motion to reconsider a previous ruling in a child pornography case, and a new trial date has been set.

Gregory Ramey is facing charges of illegal use of a minor in nudity-oriented material, pandering obscenity involving a minor, attempted pandering sexually oriented matter involving a minor and tampering with evidence. He faces 145 counts overall and has pleaded not guilty in Greene County Common Pleas Court.

Ramey was a longtime employee of Dayton Chil-



Gregory Ramey

Ramey's employment was terminated in August 2019, the hospital said.

Ramey's attorney, Jon Paul Rion, previously told media the images are not pornographic and the individuals are clothed.

The defense team and the Ohio Attorney General's Office have been locked in a legal battle for months

over whether evidence collected via search warrants should be allowed to be used in the case. Ramey's defense previously asked the court to throw out evidence in the case. They argued that search warrants allowing investigators to search email accounts and Ramey's home lacked probable cause and were too general. They also said the affidavit lacked a factual basis to support an issuance of a warrant.

After that motion was denied, the defense filed a motion to reconsider, arguing that the term "erotica," used in the search warrant, does not mean child pornography.

"(The affidavit for the search warrant) did not allege any criminal activity; in fact, it dispelled any belief of illegal activity by including (the) findings regarding the downloaded images being mere erotica, not child pornography," the motion says. The motion says once officials determined that the images were "merely erotica," probable cause ended. "To conclude the affidavit in the present case contained sufficient probable (cause) would be to weaponize, and criminalize, the word erotica and its definition - this would be a drastic change from known, legislative meaning," the motion says. "This may also have

First Amendment implications if such interpretation were to be adopted as law." Greene County Judge Michael Buckwalter filed a response to the motion to reconsider, saying the court has already ruled on the matter. "The initial motion to suppress filed by Ramey was extensively briefed by the parties," the ruling says. "In Ramey's supplemental memorandum in support of motion to suppress, Ramey advanced the arguments that the search warrant affidavit was unsupported by probable cause because it did not allege illegal activity; rather the search warrant affidavit referenced erotica," the

judge wrote. "Ramey secondarily argued that the affidavit in support of the search warrant contained only conclusory statements that failed to establish probable cause. These arguments were previously considered and rejected by Judge (Stephen) Wolaver."

Buckwalter denied the motion to reconsider. Ramey is now due back in court in August for a final pre-trial hearing, and a five-day jury trial has been set to begin on Sept. 13.

Contact this reporter at 937-610-7441 or email parker.perry@coxinc.com.

DAN
4/16/21

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Kristi Hale
Wright Memorial Public Library
1776 Far Hills Ave., Oakwood, OH 45419
hale@wrightlibrary.org
937-294-7171

Subject: Oakwood Inclusion Coalition
Date: April 16, 2021

Oakwood Inclusion Coalition Public Meeting Will Explore “The Danger of a Single Story”

OAKWOOD, OHIO: — The Oakwood Inclusion Coalition (OIC), a citizen-driven coalition dedicated to inclusivity and diversity, will hold its next quarterly public meeting on April 28 from 7 – 8:30 p.m.

The meeting is open to all and will be held virtually.

At the April 28 meeting, the community is invited to explore the power of stories, and “The Danger of a Single Story.” Participants will watch best-selling author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s powerful TED Talk of that title, which illustrates the role assumptions play when we meet “others,” or anyone unfamiliar. Afterward, participants will break out into small discussion groups to explore the power of stories and the pitfalls of “single stories,” as well as how to prevent them from interfering with their relationships with others.

Michael Carter, Senior Advisor to the President and Chief Diversity Officer at Sinclair Community College, will be the meeting facilitator.

The OIC held its first public meeting in January, which engaged more than 100 participants. During lively breakout group discussion, participants shared their many reasons for living in Oakwood, concerns for ensuring that all are welcomed, and visions for extending all that is good about Oakwood to all who reside in and visit it. Those stories illustrate a rich tapestry of hopes and visions for the future of Oakwood.

Visit www.OakwoodIC.org to register to attend and learn more about Oakwood Inclusion Coalition.

###

If you would like more information please contact Kristi Hale at [937-250-6824](tel:937-250-6824)
or email hale@wrightlibrary.org



Call To Action:

Ohio House To Act on Legislation Impacting Municipal Income Tax

April 15, 2021

Tuesday afternoon, the Ohio House Ways and Means Committee adopted a substitute bill for HB 157 legislation that would alter the temporary COVID-19 municipal income tax withholding provision in Sec. 29 of HB 197, from the previous General Assembly. These changes would be detrimental for many municipalities throughout Ohio.

The House Ways and Means committee will be holding a fifth and what we expect to be the final hearing on Sub. HB 157 at their next meeting which we anticipate will be held Tuesday, April 20 at 1 p.m. in Statehouse Hearing Room 116. That date will be confirmed when the committee announcement is made at the end of the week.

In order to ensure that committee members have the opportunity to fully understand the impacts that the proposed changes will have, not only on municipalities but also on the constituents we serve, this is an important opportunity for tax administrators to help educate committee members of the consequences that this bill will produce.

HB 157 was originally drafted to repeal Section 29 of HB 197, which instructs municipalities to continue withholding municipal income tax at a taxpayer's place of work, even if the taxpayer is currently working from a different location due to the COVID-19 pandemic, until 30 days after the expiration of the state's declaration of emergency.

The bill was amended in committee to extend the expiration of the repeal of Sec. 29 until December 31, 2021, regardless of whether or when the emergency declaration ends, and requires the working arrangement to be the result of the COVID-19 pandemic rather than the emergency declaration. The League appreciates that the sunseting of this temporary withholding language would be extended until the end of the year, which would give municipalities greater time to understand the workforce return rate and any revenue-related issues associated with withholdings.

The other changes made by the committee would alter the original intent of Sec. 29 and potentially undermine revenue stability for cities and villages across Ohio. These changes do the following:

- States that the Sec. 29 rule applies solely for determining an employer's withholding obligations and where an employer's net profits are situated and not for the purpose of determining the location where a nonresident employee's wages are subject to municipal income tax.
- Specifies that the temporary withholding policy does not prohibit an employer from withholding income tax to the actual municipal corporations where the employee works from home or at another location.
- Specifies that the temporary withholding policy does not prohibit an employer from assigning a different "principal place of work" to the employee, which may change the employer's withholding obligations towards the employee despite the rule.
- Prohibits a municipal corporation from assessing taxes, penalties, or interest against an employer for the employer's failure to properly withhold tax from an employee's wages, as long as the employer does properly withhold in accordance with the special withholding rule, including the retrospective changes made by the substitute bill.
- Applies the interest and penalty waiver and the changes to the withholding rule to all municipal income taxes withheld from March 9, 2020, to December 31, 2021, and states that these modifications are remedial in nature.

You can read the full substitute bill [HERE](#) and the Legislative Services Commission (LSC) comparison document [HERE](#) which addresses differences between the introduced bill and the new substitute bill that we anticipate will be voted out of committee Tuesday. You can access the League's opposition talking points [HERE](#) for the purposes of drafting opposition testimony.

It is critical that the Ohio legislature understands the ramifications of this bill and why it should not be voted out of committee. Please submit testimony to the House Ways and Means Committee at ways&meanscommittee@ohiohouse.gov 24 hours before the committee hearing. **We will alert our members when the committee hearing schedule is confirmed.**

While it is most effective that local leaders testify in-person against these changes, those that cannot come to the Statehouse are strongly encouraged to submit written testimony for the committee hearing on April 20. ***The League also urges our municipal leaders to contact their own state representative and senator and share with them any concerns that you may have.***

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. If you have any questions about testifying or contacting members of the legislature, please contact League Director of Communications Ashley Ringle at aringle@omlohio.org.

PRESS RELEASE

GATEway Public Fiber Network Phase II Launch

Crews have started installation of Phase II which will complete the GATEway Public Fiber Network. The nearly \$3 million project will facilitate connectivity among local government buildings as well as schools, non-profits and public safety facilities.

The Miami Valley Communications Council (MVCC), recognizing the importance of providing businesses and residents of its member cities enhanced access to technology, completed Phase I of the 44-mile public fiber optic network in early 2020. MVCC represents the cities of Centerville, Kettering, Germantown, Miamisburg, Moraine, Oakwood, Springboro and West Carrollton.

The fiber ring drives economic development and makes it possible for communities to share resources and save money. It is the foundation to facilitate the long-term strategic goals and Smart City initiatives for MVCC cities.

“In the year since COVID, technology has impacted nearly every aspect of our lives. In many instances, working from home is the norm rather than the exception. Having access to high-speed, reliable, competitively-priced internet service is no longer a luxury, it is a necessity,” MVCC Executive Director Jay Weiskircher said.

Seven of the eight MVCC member cities funded the \$1.14 million Phase 1 of the project. This involved using existing underground, municipally-owned fiber and installing more than 17 miles of new fiber and conduit.

MVCC and Independents Fiber Network (IFN) recently entered into an agreement where IFN will fully fund the \$1.8 million Phase II portion of the project. Phase II involves replacing existing limited capacity fiber with the same robust new fiber and conduit installed during Phase I. IFN currently owns some of the 10 miles of fiber currently connecting Springboro and Miamisburg.

“Independents Fiber Network is excited to provide its private capital to fully complete the GATEway Fiber Network,” said Independents Fiber Network CEO Robert Shema. “We are honored to be a part of one of the first-of-its-kind public-private partnerships that will deliver state-of-the-art technology. This partnership will also provide a revenue share to the municipalities and up to 100 gig internet service to local businesses in participating communities.”

The partnership with IFN has saved member cities hundreds of thousands of dollars on the original project estimate.

MVCC is also currently marketing the fiber infrastructure to internet service providers and telecommunication companies interested in serving residents with competitive technology services.

“The unique public-private partnership with IFN made it possible for member communities to complete this project without any additional investment of taxpayer dollars. At the end of the project, MVCC and IFN will equally split the available fiber and conduit assets which can then be sold or leased to interested technology providers,” MVCC Board Chair and West Carrollton City Council Member Leanne Nash said.

Construction on Phase II of the GATEway Public Fiber Network is scheduled to be completed by late summer.

About Independents Fiber Network

Independents Fiber Network is a wholly owned subsidiary of CNI that was established in 2003 to better serve the voice, video and data services of its customers. We are an Ohio-based internet service provider that brings high-performance, high-capacity, Ethernet-over-fiber solutions to your doorstep. By operating a fiber-optic backhaul network dedicated to serving rural, suburban and underserved communities in Ohio, Michigan and Indiana, we’re able to deliver connectivity you can count on for mission-critical operations, ensuring business continuity and access when you need them most. <https://ifnetwork.biz/>

CENTERVILLE

Fiber optics installation

Crews have started installation of Phase II to complete the GATEway Public Fiber Network. The nearly \$3 million project will facilitate connectivity among local government buildings as well as schools, non-profits and public safety facilities.

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STAFF REPORT

BBN
4/15/21