

CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER
AUGUST 20, 2021

IMPORTANT COUNCIL DATES:

August 22, Sunday, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. – Drive-Through Ice Cream Social (OCC)
September 7, Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. – BRC Meeting (30 Park)
September 20, Monday, 6:30 p.m. – Regular Session (30 Park)
October 4, Monday, 6:30 p.m. – Regular Session (30 Park)
October 10, Sunday, 2 – 5 p.m. – Family Fall Festival (Shafor Park)
October 19, Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. – BRC Meeting (30 Park)
October 25, Monday, 5 p.m. – Council Retreat (Smith Gardens)
November 1, Monday, 6:30 p.m. – Regular Session (30 Park)
November 15, Monday, 5 p.m. – Work Session (30 Park)
December 7, Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. – BRC Meeting (30 Park)
December 12, Sunday, 6:30 p.m. – Holiday of Lights (Shafor Park)
December 13, Monday, 6:30 p.m. – Regular Session (30 Park)

BUSINESS UPDATE:

- Ice Cream Social: The big event is from 5:30 – 7:30 pm this Sunday. Enclosed are *DDN* and *Register* articles.
- Dayton-Montgomery County Ombudsman: Enclosed is a *DDN* article reporting that the city of Dayton plans to discontinue funding the ombudsman office next year anticipating the projected loss in revenue as a result of people working from home. Many years ago, we contributed \$450/year to this office. Our records show that our contribution ended in 2007. I do not recall with certainty why we stopped contributing, but believe it had to do with cost cutting and the fact that our citizens did not use the office.
- Ronald Duncan: Enclosed are the obituary for Bill's father, a letter with donation that we sent this week to the Ron Duncan Memorial Fund at the Dayton Foundation, and a copy of the tribute to Ronald Duncan that was distributed at the viewing yesterday.
- Body Cams: Enclosed is a *DDN* article about the Kettering Police Department planning to implement the use of body cameras.
- AES Rate Increase: AES Ohio is seeking to increase its annual revenues for electric distribution service by \$120 million. The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) staff reviewed the increase request and recommends that AES reduce the increase by about half. The commission is scheduled to review the case and make a decision after the October hearings. Enclosed is a *DDN* article.
- Ohio WARN: We recently joined the Ohio Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (OH WARN). The network is a state-wide mutual aid type of program of "utilities helping utilities." Similar to the more familiar mutual aid between emergency responders, this network is specifically for the water and wastewater industries. The network allows members to share emergency resources in natural or human caused disasters throughout the state. Resources could include labor, equipment, materials or network contacts to assist in solving a problem. There is no cost to join the OH WARN network, but requesting members are responsible to reimburse responding members for their services, similar to the use of an outside vendor. The membership will only be used if needed, but provides Oakwood with additional assistance in the event of an emergency where our resources are not adequate.

- Shafor Park Tennis Courts: Staff met this week with representatives from Bilbrey Construction and Heiberger Paving and Sealing, the company that applied the acrylic coating onto the tennis courts. After carefully inspecting the court surface, the Heiberger representative concluded that the entire surface should have an additional coat of acrylic. This includes both the green and blue surfaces. The work will take three to five days to complete. We will coordinate the schedule in consultation with the Oakwood HS Athletic department/tennis team.
- Census: Enclosed are three graphs... two with city/village population data and one with school enrollment data.
- Redlining: Enclosed is a *DDN* article about redlining, providing a historical context and lingering impacts.
- Ray Marcano Column: Enclosed is a Ray Marcano column from the *DDN* that speaks about local government service... and voter apathy. It includes quotes from two of our neighboring elected officials... Bruce Duke from Kettering and JoAnne Rau from Centerville.
- Katharine Wright Park: Joe Fulford informed me a couple weeks ago that Wright Library is installing a stone-mounted bronze plaque in Katharine Wright Park to recognize Katharine Wright Haskell. Below is the location of the rock and a rendering of the plaque. Steve Wright and Amanda Wright-Lane have endorsed the plaque language as has our Oakwood Historical Society. We are planning to install a ground mounted sign at Katharine Wright Park next spring and will consult with Kristi Hale and Joe Fulford regarding the sign location and sign design. Enclosed are the minutes of the September 1929 Oakwood Village Council meeting where Council approved the park name.



- Upcoming OCC Events: Carol and I met this week and discussed upcoming events. We are planning to conduct the Annual Dog Splash at Gardner Pool, as we would during a normal year. We are planning to cancel the Jr. High Dances conducted in the Great Room at the OCC, and the Annual Hot Dog Supper that also takes place in the Great Room on the evening of the High School Homecoming Bonfire. We are planning to conduct the annual Scarecrow Row, and probably also the Family Fall Festival. We do not need to make a final decision on the Family Fall Festival until the second week in September.

- Delaney Ross: Carol met with Delaney and her mother this week. She said that Delaney is a delightful girl who is definitely passionate about keeping our natural areas clean, particularly Elizabeth Gardens. We will be installing a trash can in Elizabeth Gardens near the Dogipot Station.
- Council Candidates: Enclosed is a *DDN* article announcing the Montgomery County jurisdiction candidates that have been approved for placement on the November 2 ballot.
- Ridgewood Pavement Repair: The cost to repair the pavement damaged by the water main break on Ridgewood Avenue is \$21,362. We anticipate the work being completed in the next few weeks.
- Smith School: Enclosed is a *DDN* website article about legionella detected at Smith School.

HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND!

ENCLOSURE LIST

DDN & Register Articles re: Ice Cream Social
DDN Article re: Dayton-Montgomery County Ombudsman
DDN Obituary, Donation Letter & Tribute re: Ronald Duncan Obituary
DDN Article re: Body Cams
DDN Article re: AES Rate Increase
Census Graphs
DDN Article re: Redlining
DDN Article re: Ray Marcano Column
Katharine Wright Park Minutes
DDN Article re: Council Candidates
DDN Article re: Smith School

OAKWOOD

Ice cream social in cars

The annual Oakwood Ice Cream Social takes place on Sunday, but it will be conducted as a drive-through event similar to last year, as opposed to the traditional Shafor Park event. The decision to make it a drive-through event is based on the current status of COVID-19.

The Oakwood community is cordially invited to the Oakwood Community Center (OCC) on Sunday from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. for this "Drive-Through Ice Cream Social." To participate, residents must come to the OCC by vehicle and drive through to receive their ice cream. The ice cream will be given to all participating residents, free of charge.

Residents may select from several flavors of ice cream and sherbet. To accommodate the event, the city will close Schantz Avenue from Patterson Road to East Thruston Boulevard to through traffic.

Entry to the event will be on Schantz Avenue at Thruston Boulevard. City Council and staff

will greet participants and direct them onto Schantz with two lines formed to receive the ice cream treats adjacent to the OCC parking lot.

Residents will drive up to one of two tents, place their order, and then the treats will be bagged and given to the vehicle.

"Even though the city was unable to have the typical annual ice cream social at Shafor Park, this will be our way of celebrating the beginning of school and welcoming the fall season," said Leisure Services Director Carol Collins.

STAFF REPORT

DBN
8/19/21

Oakwood Community Center sponsoring back-to-school, drive-through Ice Cream Social on Aug. 22

The annual Oakwood Ice Cream Social will take place on Sunday, Aug. 22, but will be conducted as a drive-through event similar to last year, as opposed to the traditional Shafor Park event. The decision to make it a drive-through event is based on the current status of Covid-19.

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Road to East Thruston Boulevard to through traffic. Entry to the event will be on Schantz Avenue at Thruston Boulevard. City Council and staff will greet participants and direct them onto Schantz with two lines formed to receive the ice cream treats adjacent to the OCC parking lot. Residents will drive up to one of two tents, place their order, and then the treats will be bagged and given to the vehicle. "Even though the city was unable to have the typical annual ice cream social at Shafor Park, this will be our way of celebrating the beginning of school and welcoming the fall season," said Leisure Services Director Carol Collins.

OR 8/18/21

Dayton to eliminate ombudsman funding

City thinks its mediation office can handle citizen cases for less money.

By **Cornelius Frolik**
Staff Writer

Dayton next year plans to stop funding an ombudsman office it has supported for about 50 years to cut costs at a time when the city projects millions of dollars in revenue losses due to remote work.

The city's decision will harm a vital independent agency that investigates and tries to resolve citizens' complaints against government agencies, said Diane Welborn, who has served as the Dayton-Montgomery County ombudsman 22 years.

"I sincerely hope that this decision will be reversed because our people will suffer," she said.

But Dayton City Manager Shelley Dickstein said the city's mediation center will handle the office's cases at lower costs and the city must take action to prepare for future budget challenges.



City Manager Shelley Dickstein says Dayton must prepare for a loss in tax revenue due to people working from home.

"The growth we have experienced in 2021 is largely transitory and will not be sustained," she said. "In fact, our research suggests we are likely to lose between \$10 million to \$20 million in annual tax revenue from the structural shift in the economy."

Earlier this month, the Dayton

Ombudsman continued on **B4**

Ombudsman

continued from B1

City Commission approved a \$50,000 contribution agreement with the ombudsman office, also called the joint office of citizen complaints.

The city does not plan to give the office funding next year.

The Dayton-Montgomery County ombudsman office, which is expected to serve about 10,000 people this year, is the only office of its type in the state of Ohio, Welborn said.

"Our office is the only free option for residents who have a problem or complaint with a government agency," she said.

The ombudsman office often helps residents who have spent hours on the phone with government agencies without any success to get their issues resolved, Welborn said.

Without the office's assistance, many people would lose access to Social Security and food stamp assistance they need and are entitled

to, she said.

"When citizens are knocking on the door of government agencies for assistance and there's no response, citizens understandably feel anger, helplessness and despair," she said.

Welborn implored the city to restore funding to the office she says is an impartial entity that investigates citizens' complaints in a fair way to achieve a fair result.

The ombudsman's 11-person staff has three employees who help citizens with complaints against city, township, state and federal government agencies, she said.

The office received about \$155,745 in funding last year from the city, Montgomery County and the Dayton Board of Education. The office also gets separate funding for a long-term care ombudsman program.

But Dickstein said the COVID-19 crisis has created unprecedented financial uncertainty for the city.

Dayton's general fund revenues have seen surprisingly vigorous growth this year, but Dickstein said this is

not expected to last because many people are working from home and may not return to the office.

About three-fourths of the city's general fund revenues come from income taxes, but as many as one in four people who used to work in the city may work from home for the foreseeable future, according to some estimates.

Dayton faces a significant fiscal threat because of the structural shift in how and where people work, Dickstein said, and the city has not filled open positions and has frozen wages to help reduce pressure on the budget.

"We regret that we have been forced to take this action and truly value our long-term relationship with the ombudsman," Dickstein said.

The city will use staff and volunteers at its mediation center to try to resolve issues and disputes that have been handled by the ombudsman office, she said.

The mediation center should be able to shoulder a sizable increase in its case-load, she said.

Last year, the mediation center received 2,300 cases from city departments, neighborhoods and county agencies and intervened and helped resolve about 950 cases, Dickstein said.

The Dayton mediation center resolves cases at a much lower cost than when cases are contracted out to the ombudsman, she said.

The ombudsman's office disputes this and claims some numbers the city manager recently shared are incorrect.

Dayton City Commissioner Darryl Fairchild said it's crucial that the mediation center provide the same services as the ombudsman.

Fairchild said he had to rely on safety-net assistance following the bicycle crash that left him paralyzed.

He said it was a "bureaucratic nightmare" navigating the program and receiving help.

"The people who the ombudsman help are the most vulnerable in our community," Fairchild said.

Contact this reporter at Cornelius.Frolik@coxinc.com.

DFN
8/16/21

DUNCAN, Ronald

Age 90, of Kettering, passed away on Wednesday, August 11, 2021. He was born in Evansville, Indiana, in 1930. A 1947 graduate of Roosevelt High School and graduate of Miami University. He was a route salesman with Borden Inc. for 37 years and had a distinguished career as sports official. Ron umpired High School Baseball for 34 years, retiring in 2001.



He retired from officiating basketball in 1989 after 20 years service and retired in 2000 from officiating football after 33 years. He was inducted, as an umpire, into Miami Valley Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame in 1992, inducted into Ohio High School Athletic Association Official's Hall of Fame in 1994 and inducted into the Pro-Am Hall of Fame in Dayton in 1995. He was an Instructor of Baseball Umpire Course at Sinclair College, Dayton, Ohio, for 10 years; Instructor of OHSAA Football Officiating Course at Kettering Recreation Center for 10 years and Instructor of OHSAA Basketball Officiating Course at Sinclair College for 10 years. He was also a member of Ohio High School Athletic Association Official's Football Training Committee for 10 years. Ronald and his wife have been long time members of Church of the Cross United Methodist Church. He was preceded in death by his parents Claude and Christine Duncan, and sister, Mildred (Richard) Dutro. Survived by his wife of 70 years, Faye, sons; William (Terri), Oakwood; Joseph (Gina), Troy; Thomas (Salli), North Venice, FL, and daughter Beth Duncan, Bellbrook. Grandchildren: Jenni Robillard (Kevin), Brian Duncan (Olivia), Alyson Thompson (Kyle), Natalie Salyer (Scott), Joe Brigner, Christi Brigner, Alexandra Cavallo (Dennis), Kelly Davis and Courtney Bowersock (Brandon); great-grandchildren, Corinna, Ruby, Aubrey, Quinn, Jack, Harrison, London, Ruby, Salvatore, Boz, Berklee, Dixie IV, Colton, and one grandson on the way. Family will greet friends 4-7 p.m. on Thursday, August 19 at ROUTSONG FUNERAL HOME, 2100 E STROOP RD., KETTERING. Funeral services will be held 10:00 a.m. on Friday, August 20 at Church of the Cross United Methodist, 3121 Wilmington Pike, Kettering. Burial at Miami Valley Memory Gardens, Centerville. If desired, memorial contributions may be made to the Ron Duncan Memorial Fund at the Dayton Foundation, 1401 S. Main St #100, Dayton, OH 45409. Fond memories and condolences may be shared with the family at www.routsong.com.

BDN 8/15/21



City of Oakwood

Government Administration

City Manager

August 19, 2021

Dayton Foundation
1401 S Main St #100
Dayton, OH 45409

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed please find a donation in memory of Ronald Duncan to the Ron Duncan Memorial Fund. This money comes from the city of Oakwood. Mr. Duncan's son, William Duncan, is the Mayor of Oakwood.

Thank you for your attention to this contribution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "N. Klopsch", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Norbert S. Klopsch
City Manager

NSK:ls
enclosure
cc: Oakwood City Council

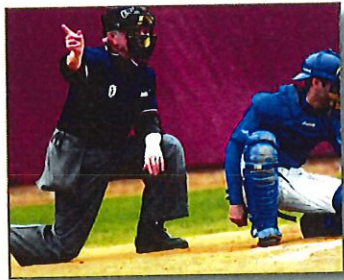
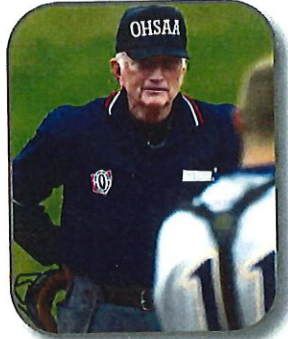
In Memory Of



Ronald Duncan

August 25, 1930 ~ August 11, 2021





**"BASEBALL IS MORE
THAN A GAME.
IT'S LIKE
LIFE PLAYED
OUT ON a field."**

-Juliana Hatfield



DUNCAN, Ronald, age 90, of Kettering, passed away on Wednesday, August 11, 2021. He was born in Evansville, Indiana in 1930. A 1947 graduate of Roosevelt High School and graduate of Miami University. He was a route salesman with Borden Inc. for 37 years and had a distinguished career as a sports official. Ron umpired High School Baseball for 34 years, retiring in 2001. He retired from officiating basketball in 1989 after 20 years service and retired in 2000 from officiating football after 33 years. He was inducted, as an umpire, into Miami Valley Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame in 1992, inducted into Ohio High School Athletic Association Official's Hall of Fame in 1994 and inducted into the Pro-Am Hall of Fame in Dayton in 1995. He was an Instructor of Baseball Umpire Course at Sinclair College, Dayton, Ohio, for 10 years; Instructor of OHSAA Football Officiating Course at Kettering Recreation Center for 10 years and Instructor of OHSAA Basketball Officiating Course at Sinclair College for 10 years. He was also a member of Ohio High School Athletic Association Official's Football Training Committee for 10 years. Ronald and his wife have been long time members of Church of the Cross United Methodist Church. He was preceded in death by his parents Claude and Christine Duncan, and sister, Mildred (Richard) Dutro. Survived by his wife of 70 years, Faye, sons; William (Terri), Oakwood; Joseph (Gina), Troy; Thomas (Salli), North Venice, FL and daughter Beth Duncan, Bellbrook. Grandchildren: Jenni Robillard (Kevin), Brian Duncan (Olivia), Alyson Thompson (Kyle), Natalie Salyer (Scott), Joe Brigner, Christi Brigner, Alexandra Cavallo (Dennis), Kelly Davis and Courtney Bowersock (Brandon); great-grandchildren, Corinna, Ruby, Aubrey, Quinn, Jack, Harrison, London, Ruby, Salvatore, Boz, Berklee, Dixie IV, Colton, and a great-grandson on the way. Family will greet friends 4-7 p.m. on Thursday, August 19 at ROUTSONG FUNERAL HOME, 2100 E STROOP RD, KETTERING. Funeral services will be held 10:00 a.m. on Friday, August 20 at Church of the Cross United Methodist, 3121 Wilmington Pike, Kettering. Burial at Miami Valley Memory Gardens, Centerville. If desired, memorial contributions may be made to the Ron Duncan Memorial Fund at the Dayton Foundation, 1401 S Main St #100, Dayton, OH 45409. Fond memories and condolences may be shared with the family at www.routsong.com.

Kettering's new police tool in hand

City has taken delivery of body cameras, but no date released yet on when street use will begin:

By Nick Blizzard
Staff Writer

KETTERING — Body cameras have been delivered to the Kettering Police Department, but no date has been set for street use.

Kettering police are awaiting items from the vendor to be shipped, said Patrolman Tyler Johnson, KPD public information officer.

Street use of the cameras will come “as soon as possible” after installation, testing, training and a policy are complete, he said in an email.

The cameras “will assist KPD in several aspects to include more precise documentation of events in stressful incidents, provide a more clear and visual depiction of events in court proceedings, and will also give the department more accountability and transparency with the community,”

Johnson said.

Last fall Kettering City Council approved \$236,030 to buy 90 cameras from WatchGuard, records show. The Dallas-based business was preferred over other vendors, in part, because it also supplied the KPD’s in-car camera system, officials said then.

The use of body cameras and when they are activated has been the source of debate nationally. Scrutiny about their use increased last year with the police killing of Black people, notably in Louisville, Kentucky, Minneapolis and Kenosha, Wisconsin.

A Dayton Daily News 2020 summer survey of 30 law enforcement agencies in Greene, Miami, Montgomery and Warren counties found most local departments that responded did not use body cameras.

Body cams continued on B9

Body cams

continued from B1

Those that already had them then included Beavercreek, Bellbrook, Englewood, Huber Heights, New Lebanon, Xenia and the Greene County Sheriff’s Office, records show.

Since then, several jurisdictions have moved to buy them. Among them are Dayton, Moraine, Oakwood, and sheriff’s offices in Miami and Montgomery counties.

While improving transparency and accountability, the devices will also help Kettering police “strengthen our trusting partnership with the community,” Chief Chip Protsman has said.

The move to live use of

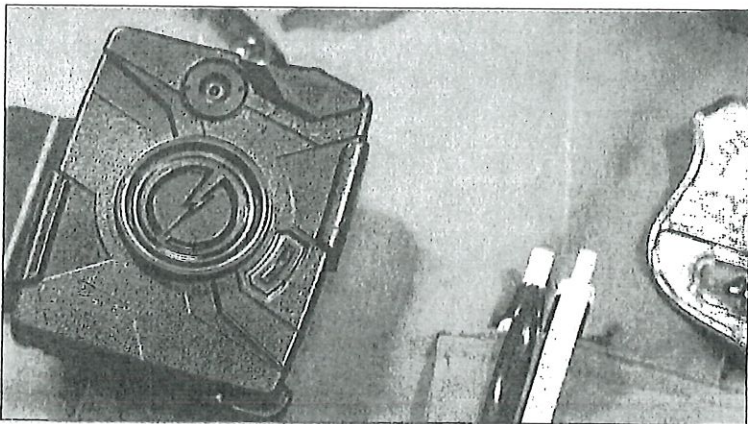
the cameras “is a multi-step process that we are currently in the installation phase of,” Johnson said.

“We are waiting on further installation to occur until additional items are received from the manufacturer,” he added. “It is unclear at this time when we will have those items.”

Training will be “minimal” because Kettering officers are well-versed with the cruiser cams, Johnson said.

“The primary focus of the training will be how to operate the specific unit and to understand the policy that will govern the use” of the body cameras, he said.

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



Last fall Kettering City Council approved \$236,030 to buy police officers 90 body cameras from WatchGuard. FILE

BBN
8/15/21



AES Ohio was formerly known as Dayton Power & Light and serves more than 527,000 customer accounts. AES OHIO PHOTO

AES Ohio seeks to raise rates; a state hearing is set

PUCO staff suggests paring back proposed increase by nearly half.

By Thomas Gnau
Staff Writer

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) has set a hearing date in what could be AES Ohio's first rate increase since 2015 – and PUCO staff has recommended granting the electric utility a rate boost far smaller than it originally sought.

A PUCO staff report has recommended reducing the annual revenue requested by AES Ohio by nearly half – from \$120,771,561 to a range between \$61,115,418 to \$66,665,151, said Matt Schilling, a spokesman for PUCO.

If the commission passes what PUCO staff has recommended, a customer using 750 kilowatt-hours a month would see a 5.47% increase.

The increase sought by AES Ohio – formerly Dayton Power & Light (DP&L) – would have amounted to a 14.3% increase.

One kilowatt-hour is enough

to watch TV for 10 hours or run a vacuum cleaner for an hour.

The case has been scheduled for an evidentiary hearing at PUCO's Columbus offices beginning Oct. 4. A pretrial hearing is set for Sept. 16.

A PUCO staff report is not final. The commission is expected to make a ruling after the hearing.

DP&L's last distribution rate case was in 2015.

Meanwhile, the Office of the Ohio Consumer's Counsel recently filed to dismiss the utility's application to raise those rates.

The office argues that AES Ohio is prohibited from increasing base rates because it agreed to freeze base distribution rates in a 2009 PUCO-approved settlement.

The office argues that DP&L signed a settlement agreeing to a rate freeze for the duration of its "electric security plan," called "ESP 1."

"DP&L has gotten far more from consumers than it ever bargained for," the office said in an Aug. 5 filing with PUCO. "Now, for once, it is time for consumers to

AES Ohio continued on D4

AES Ohio

continued from D1

get what they bargained for under the DP&L settlement: a freeze on DP&L's base rates while ESP 1 is in effect. The PUCO should enforce the rate freeze. The way to do that is by denying the application and dismissing this case with prejudice for the duration of ESP 1."

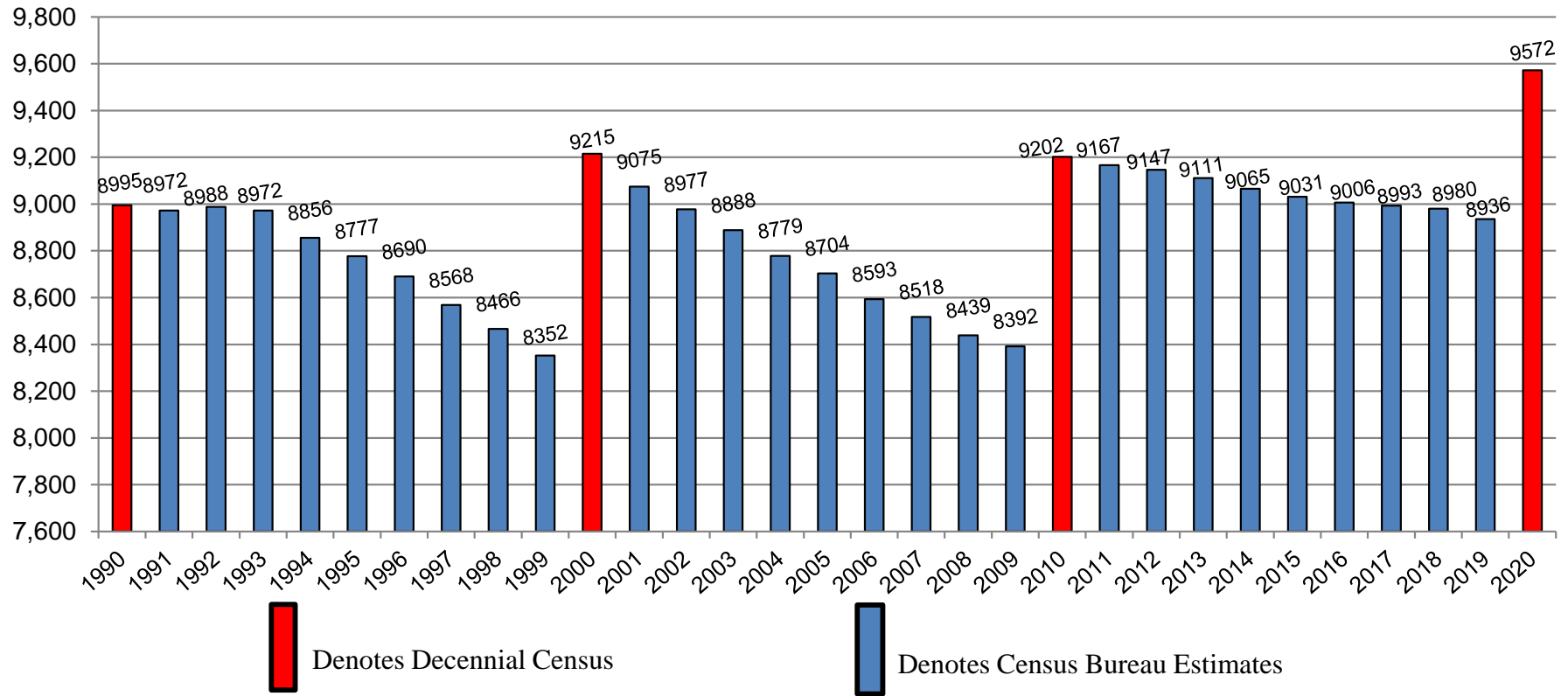
"We are currently reviewing the PUCO's proposed recommendation and working through the regulated process," a representative of AES Ohio said Thursday.

AES Ohio serves more than 527,000 customer accounts, representing 1.25 million people in west central Ohio.

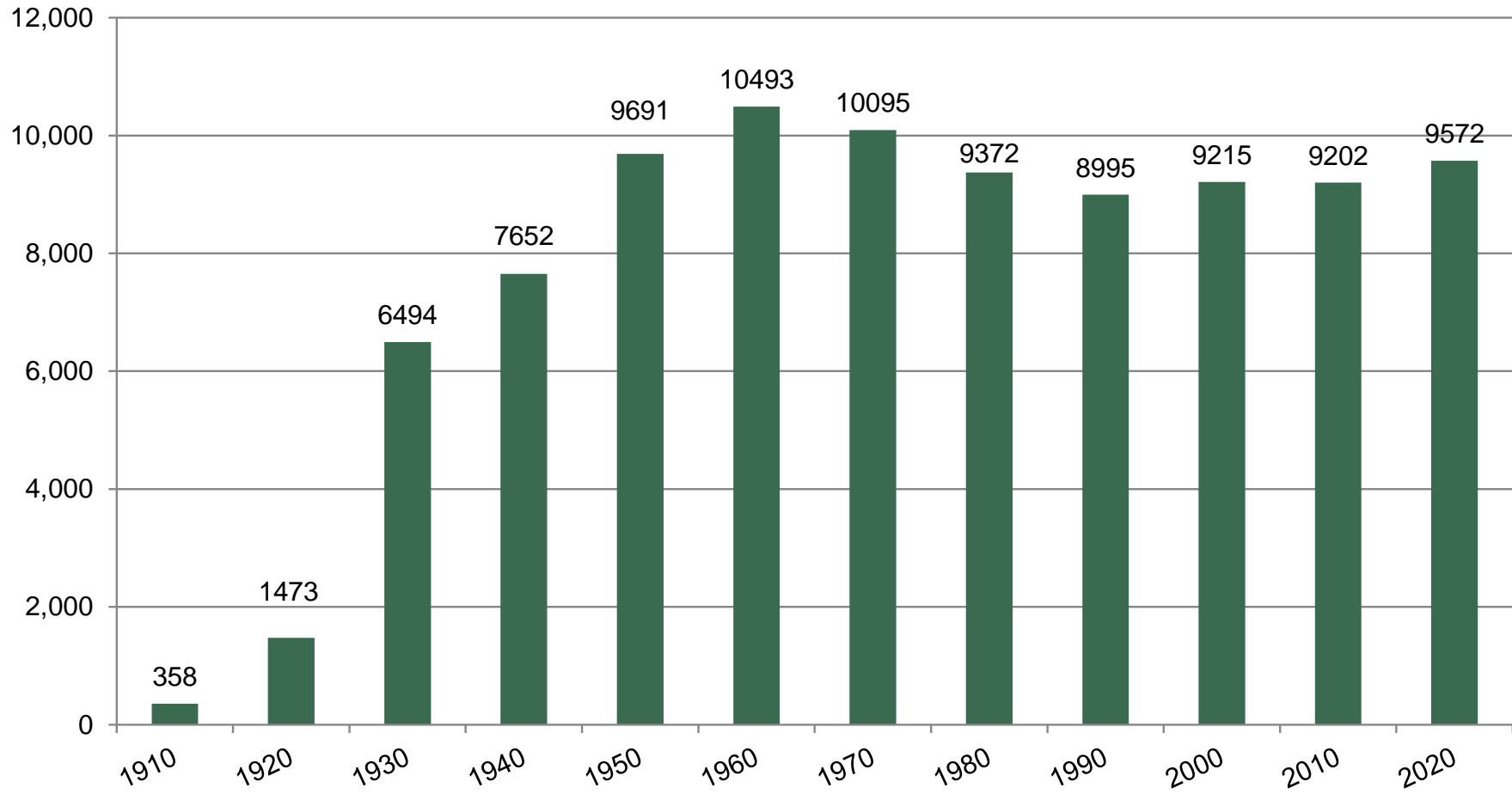
Contact this reporter at 937-681-5610 or email tom.gnau@coxinc.com.

DBN
8/16/21

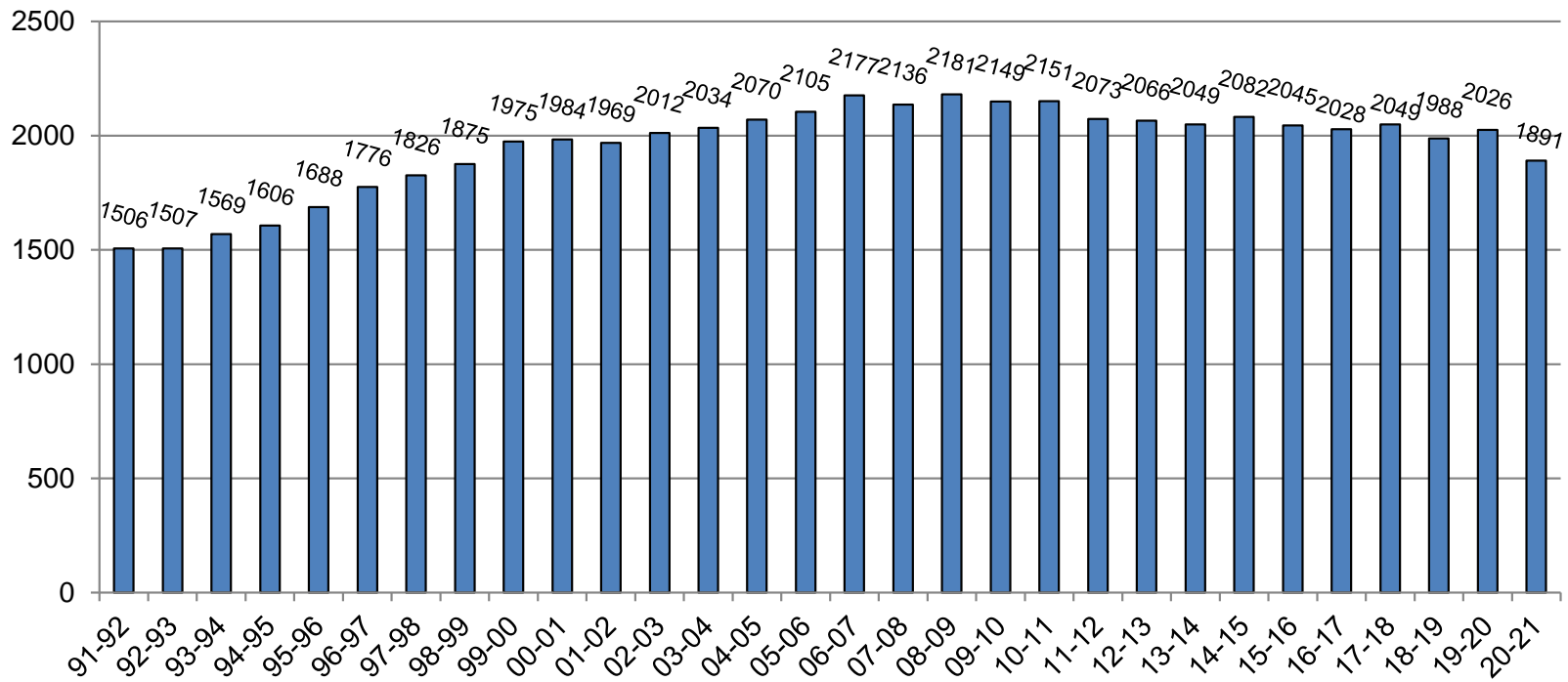
OAKWOOD CITY CENSUS COUNTS AND POPULATION ESTIMATES 1990-2020



OAKWOOD CITY CENSUS POPULATION 1910-2020



OAKWOOD SCHOOLS ENROLLMENT DATA



Legacy of redlining still affecting values

Despite housing boom, homeowners living in minority areas suffer.

By Jordan Laird
Staff Writer

The booming housing market is leaving many homeowners in minority neighborhoods behind as their homes continue to be valued unfairly low, advocates say.

Homeownership is viewed by many as the key to closing the large racial wealth gap in the U.S. But because metro areas like Dayton are still extremely segregated and homes in minority neighborhoods are devalued, homeownership there isn't the same engine for building wealth as in other communities, local realtists say.

Realtists are members of the National Association of Real Estate Brokers, a group of mostly minority real estate professionals who promote fair housing,

Redlining

continued from A1

a predominantly minority area," said Veronica Bedell-Nevels, a Dayton-area real estate broker who is Black and president of the Ohio Realist Association.

Bedell-Nevels said she tells her clients of color to be out of the house when an appraiser comes.

"Prepare your home, where the appraiser will be focused on the quality of the home and not have reason to consider who lives there," she said. "If you want your value, do not let them see you."

Bedell-Nevels pointed to an egregious example from earlier this year in Indianapolis where a Black homeowner had a white friend stand in for a third house appraisal and her home value nearly doubled (it jumped from \$125,000 to \$259,000).

But there is little homeowners can do to obscure the racial makeup of their neighborhoods.

Dayton Daily News INVESTIGATES

The path forward: RACE AND EQUITY

ABOUT THIS PROJECT

Our team digs into what you identified as pressing issues facing our community, and this project seeks solutions to these problems by investigating race and equity. Follow our work at DaytonDailyNews.com/path-forward.

fair lending and fair valuations.

"There are appraisers that look at certain neighborhoods and they're going to devalue the neighborhood if they think it is

Redlining continued on A6

Nikol Miller, executive director of the Miami Valley Urban League, said low appraisals mean homeowners of color are less able to use tools homeownership should provide to stabilize and grow their wealth. Those include borrowing against their home to start a business or selling at a profit to increase wealth and move onto a bigger home.

The Dayton Daily News Path Forward project investigates the most pressing issues in our community, including race and equity. This story examines how homes in local minority neighborhoods are valued less than comparable homes elsewhere, and the effect that has in preventing residents of color from building equity and closing the vast racial wealth gap.

The value of a neighborhood

Carolyn Williams bought her home in the Westwood neighborhood in West Dayton in 1987 for \$18,000 — about \$41,000 in today's dollars when adjusted for inflation. She also received a loan from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to fix it up.

In the decades since, she and her husband Larry Williams Sr. said they have poured over \$40,000 into improvements, including installing a new roof, refurbishing the kitchen, finishing the basement, installing new windows and putting in a second bathroom.

In 2020, the Montgomery County Auditor's Office valued their home at \$43,580 and Larry Williams Sr. said he doesn't believe he would get much more than that if he listed the house for sale. As of Wednesday, Zillow.com estimates the Williams' house is worth about \$63,100 and Redfin.com estimates the home is worth \$38,517.

"Our investment has been a negative investment and that shouldn't be," Larry Williams Sr. said. "It's hard to swallow."

The couple said they may have moved into a nicer home if their house value had ever appreciated and they're disappointed they won't be able to leave much to their kids and grandkids.

He said the lack of amenities in the area, including no grocery store, likely plays a role in the home values in the neighborhood. Frederick Diggs, a local realtor who is Black and past president of the Greater Dayton Realist Association, said that's an issue that impacts most of

West Dayton, where most of the majority-Black neighborhoods are.

And since it costs more to fix up a home in West Dayton than some owners could likely sell it for, there's little incentive to buy a home there and the majority-Black neighborhoods continue to stagnate or decline, Diggs said.

Bedell-Nevels said appraisers often value homes in minority neighborhoods for less than they're worth because of prejudice.

According to a 2018 report by the Brookings Institution, differences in home

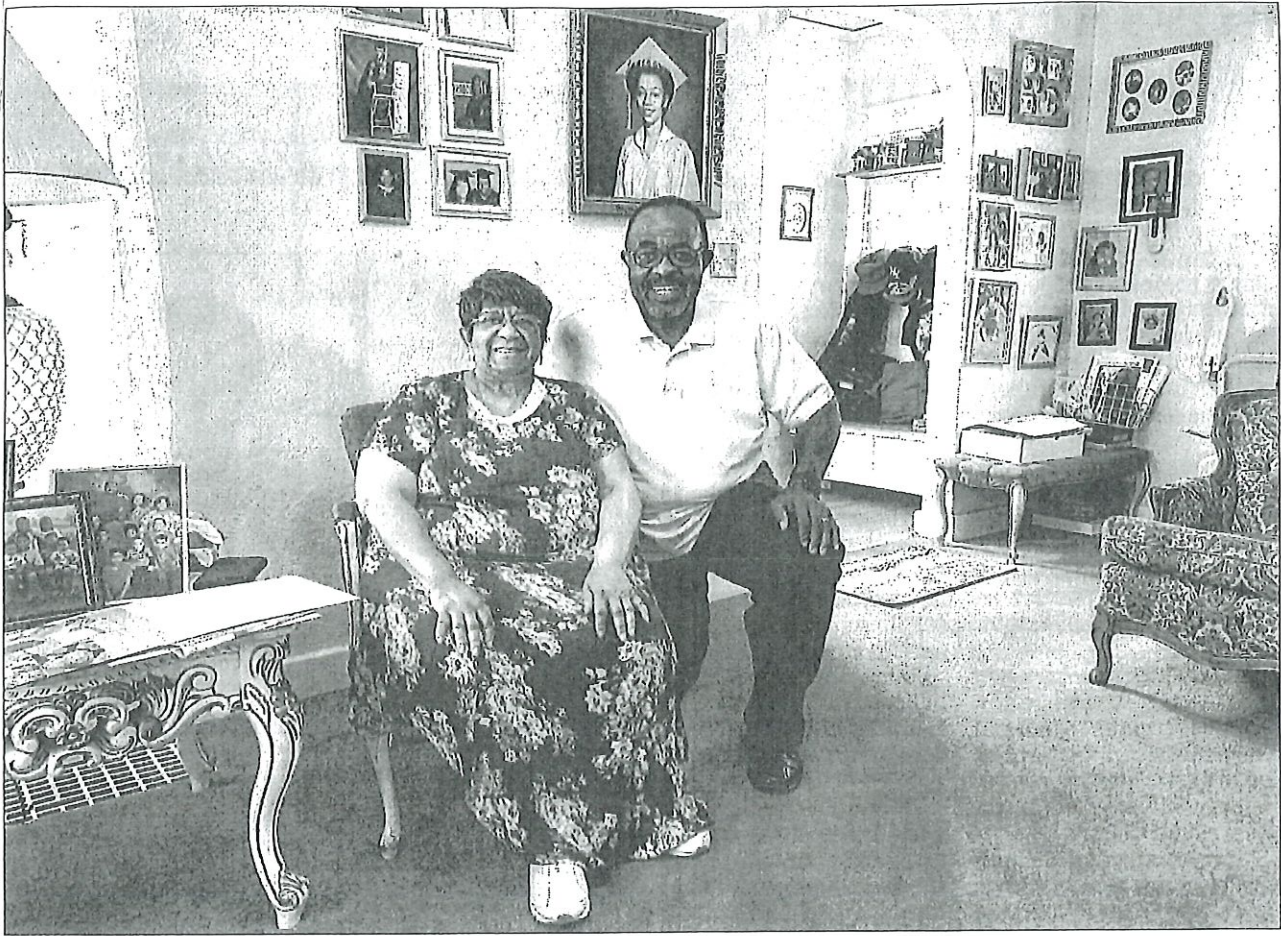
and neighborhood quality do not fully account for the lower valuations of homes in Black neighborhoods. The report found that in the Dayton metro area, homes of similar quality in neighborhoods with similar amenities were on average worth 23% less (\$14,668 per home) in majority-Black neighborhoods compared to those with few or no Black residents. Researchers looked at neighborhood characteristics like the quality of the public schools, number of restaurants and access to jobs as measured by mean commute time.

The effects of racist housing policies linger

Miranda Wilson, director of investigations and enforcement at the Miami Valley Fair Housing Center, said the Williams' story is a familiar one and a legacy of historical racism.

"Families like the Williams invest all these resources into their house, but they're not able to get an appraisal that is comparable to what they put into it so they're never going to be able to sell it for what they put into it because of all these other conditions in the area that are based on historical discrimination," she said.

DDN 8/15/21



Carolyn and Larry Williams Sr. have spent tens of thousands of dollars maintaining and fixing up their home in Westwood. But its resell value is likely much less than what it would be in a different neighborhood.

Montgomery County Auditor Karl Keith said the Williams' story is not unique.

"There's just no denying that historically there are factors in the real estate market that have been discriminatory towards different minority groups in the community and that's had a long-term impact on the ability for them to market their homes, to accumulate wealth, all of those things," he said.

Policies like redlining (systematically denying loans or charging higher interest rates in minority neighborhoods) and racial covenants (writing into the deed of a property what race a buyer could be) were banned by the Fair Housing Act in 1968. But the law did not readjust housing prices in segregated neighborhoods.

Today, the way appraisers value homes – by looking at what similar nearby homes sell for – perpetuates the impact of previous racism in home pricing, Wilson said.

"It's inherently cherry-picking this house versus that house," Wilson said. "That is so subjective and that's how you end up with appraisals that are vastly different. And there isn't any recourse in the system. All you can do is get another appraisal and hopes it turns out better."

How to bring up home values in minority neighborhoods

On top of working with community members on improvements and amenities they'd like to see, area housing advocates want a fairer appraisal system.

"One, appraisers are not a diverse bunch, so improving diversity of the appraisers themselves is a big part of that because there's conscious and unconscious bias," Wilson said.

There are fewer than 80,000 active real estate appraisers in the U.S., of which about 85% are white and about 1% are Black, according to 2019 data from the Appraisal Institute, the country's largest professional association of real estate appraisers.

Wilson said there also needs to be a more uniform, less subjective appraisal system as well as a mechanism for disputing appraisals.

"The appraisers should get it together and reduce the bias within their industry," she said. "But I think we also need for the government to step in and do that because there needs to be accountability and because the government is also the ones that helped create these problems in the first place."

When Keith's office did its 2020 reappraisal for tax purposes, his employees and contracted workers were required to attend training on implicit bias.

"There is a certain degree of subjectivity that comes to play in property appraisal work," Keith said. "This training helped members of my staff and the appraisers who participated to recognize those subjective biases that may impact their decision-making without even knowing it and how they can overcome those biases."

Appraisal Institute President Rodman Schley said appraisal groups are working with consumer groups, real estate brokers, banks and government agencies to explore housing inequities' causes and solutions.

"When we see even one story of a consumer who feels they were treated differently because of their race, it's very upsetting because that goes against everything appraisers stand for," Schley said in an emailed statement. "Appraisers take a lot of pride in being an objective source of real estate value information. We look at the numbers and facts and mirror what the market tells us. ... We believe efforts, such as the HUD interagency task force created by the Biden administration, should include adjoining mortgage processing issues such as lender reconsideration of value and appraisal appeal processes, as well as creative approaches to financing underserved markets."

The Appraisal Institute is working with The Appraisal Foundation, the profession's standards-setting body, to improve standards and qualification requirements related to unconscious bias. The Appraisal Institute is also developing a five-hour course focused on unconscious bias in appraisal and previously updated its "Guide to Professional Ethics" to explicitly safeguard protected classes.

The organization offers a scholarship for minorities and women.

Contact this writer at Jordan.laird@coxinc.com.



Larry Williams Sr. says the house he owns with his wife in West Dayton "has been a negative investment and that shouldn't be."

Have more than an opinion; have a voice



Ray Marcano
Interim Ideas
Voices editor

I realize we live in a world of hyperbole, where, in some quarters, the precise meaning of words

means little more than a bent penny. So as I listened to the latest “democracy is in danger” chant from the pundits on both sides, I wondered – is it really?

I’m beginning to think yes, and it has nothing to do with what’s going on in Washington.

It has everything to do with local community apathy.

We are an apathetic lot when it comes to the workings of our local governments. Sure, we care about safety, whether the trash gets picked up on time, and whether someone can force that annoying neighbor to cut his overgrown grass or stop playing the music so loud.

So why don’t we care about who we elect? Why

don’t more of us participate?

In all cases, local turnout in non-presidential election years is abysmal. Figures from boards of elections in Montgomery, Butler and Clark counties in 2019, from the most recent off-year election, all told the same sad tale.

In Montgomery County, 74,285 of 356,568 registered voters – barely 1 in 5 – made decisions on levies, judgeships, council members and the like. In Clark County, 18.6% of eligible voters cast ballots. Hamilton County did better, but with a still under-represented 29% of voters going to the polls.

You can scroll through precinct-level data and find areas in which 10% or fewer registered voters bothered to cast ballots. That’s an abdication of our duties as citizens.

Contrast that to 2020, which set a national record for turnout during the presidential election. In all three counties, roughly 73% of voters turned out.



Bruce Duke

“I am convinced more than ever that the backbone of our democracy rests on citizens participating in government at the local level,” said Bruce Duke, who has spent 36 years on the Kettering city



JoAnne Rau

council. “Democracy will not collapse from external forces but sadly, could eventually die through benign neglect of our citizens to be involved with their government.”

And JoAnne Rau, a member of the Centerville city council, put it this way: “Everyone has an opinion, but when you participate in local government, you have a voice.”

I get why some people don’t want to run for office. It’s a pain. You have



Voters wait in line at the Central Christian Church on Forrer Blvd. in Kettering. MARSHALL GORBY / STAFF

to fill out forms that aren’t easy to find, get signatures and campaign. And if you win, you have to listen to the complaints of people who didn’t bother to vote. It makes having your toes slammed with a hammer sound more appealing. It’s why I don’t have a problem when someone runs unopposed, because at least they’re running.

But participation doesn’t only mean running for election or serving on a committee. We

can attend council meetings and raise questions. We can ask why commission agendas and minutes aren’t on city or village websites, one of the only real ways nowadays to stay informed. (I did a quick check and found several city sites that had outdated information or none at all). We can canvass on behalf of issues.

At a minimum, we can rally neighbors around issues, have discussions and vote. Throwing away

the local vote is the easiest way to throw away democracy. As it stands, few of us have a hand in electing a local government that spends our tax money and makes decisions for all of us.

Why bring this up now? Several of our local municipalities have off-year elections coming up. Remember, many local governments, like Centerville, are nonpartisan, so political angst shouldn’t be an issue. Everyone wants police and fire protection, and we can affect how that happens at the ballot box. Those cool summer concerts in the park that happen in so many communities? It takes committees to make those happen.

We can destroy democracy by keeping participation at these levels. The rot doesn’t start at the top; it builds from the bottom.

Right now, the rot is us.

Ray Marcano is a long-time journalist whose column appears every Sunday. He can be reached at raymarcanoddn@gmail.com.

DDN
8/15/21

The Council of the Village of Oakwood, State of Ohio, met in regular session on Monday Evening, September 23rd, 1929, at the regular time and place of meeting.

The President Pro-Tem, Mr. Chas. H. Simms, presided in lieu of the President, L. F. Rieger, who was unexpectedly called out of the city. Mr. A. C. Bergman recorded.

Upon roll call the following Members responded to their names: Drs. Everhard and Tizzard, Messrs. Hilton, Mosier. Mr. Murlin being absent from the city.

Other Officers present were the following: Messrs. Dissinger, Matthews and Whalen.

The Committee on minutes not being in position to report on the reading of the minutes of the previous meetings of Council, it was moved by Mr. Mosier and seconded by Dr. Everhard that the reading thereof at this time be dispensed with, and upon a viva voce vote the motion was carried unanimously and it was so ordered.

The following communications were read to Council:-

"September 14, 1929. We, the members of the Oakwood Village Club, respectfully request the privilege of again leasing the Club House on the corner of Patterson Road and Schantz Avenue for social educational and civic activities. We feel that there is a need in the village for this social center. The present Board, hoping to interest a larger number of village residents have reduced the yearly dues from \$10.00 to \$2.50 per family. The following is a list of the proposed activities for the coming winter. 1. Bott's Classes. 2. Oakwood Village Community Dances, twice a month. 3. Bridge luncheons. 4. Sunday School each week. 5. Rentals to Civic Organizations for dinner dances. 6. Proposed Father's and Sons' Club. 7. Parent Teacher Association Banquets. Respectfully submitted, signed - President EDW. W. HOLTSOW (SGD) Signed - Secretary M. EDNA STORIS (SGD)."

Upon the conclusion of the reading of the foregoing communication, Dr. Everhard, the Chairman of the Parks and Playgrounds Committee addressed Council at some length and read a proposed agreement as follows: "AGREEMENT. Inasmuch as this Club is located in the residential district of the Village of Oakwood. We pledge ourselves to be as quiet as possible upon entering and leaving the club grounds and also while the party is in progress. We further agree not to destroy any part of the building or fixtures. We also agree not to allow any intoxicating liquors. These things we pledge on our honor. It is understood that violation of any of these rules loses the privilege of our ever renting the Club again. All music must stop at 11:30 P. M. sharp. Signed _____ name of organization. Per "

Dr. Everhard further stated that in company with Mr. Dissinger, the question of again leasing the Oakwood Club was discussed with the Secretary and the various proposed activities were thoroughly gone over, the only objection on the part of the parks and playgrounds committee was centered on the operation of dances; particular stress being laid on the fact that public admission dances would not be tolerated; civic club dances, and strictly invitational affairs it was felt should be permitted, provided the same were properly conducted and supervised and chaperoned; that no Saturday night dances would be considered with the exception however, of extraordinary conditions prevailing such as Thanksgiving Evening, Hallowe'en Eve, Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve, and like celebrations.

After a lengthy discussion and a thorough consideration on the part of Council in the premises, it was moved by Dr. Everhard and seconded by Dr. Tizzard that the Village Solicitor be respectfully instructed to prepare an ordinance authorizing the entering of a lease with particular cognizance being given to the safeguarding of the residents in contiguous territory as well as a thorough consideration of all objectionable features that might enter into the operation of the Club House.

Upon roll call on the motion, the following Members voted aye - Drs. Everhard and Tizzard, Messrs. Hilton and Mosier. Mr. Murlin being absent. There being Four aye votes and No Nay votes thereon, the said motion was declared duly carried, and the Village Solicitor instructed accordingly.

"Dayton, Ohio. September 17, 1929. To the Officers and Members of the Council of the Village of Oakwood. Ladies and Gentlemen: Mrs. Town and I wish by this communication to express our approval of the very excellent administration which you have given our Village. There are many things which we could enumerate, but all of them show that you are fully alive to the best interest of the Village and its people. While you are generally commended and relied upon, very few express themselves to you, so we are writing to inform you that we believe and hope that you will continue your good work. We are especially pleased that without solicitation

the Police Department, finding that we were going away for August, twice each day had our house inspected by officers, and this made us feel safe in being absent. It was a great comfort, and we wish to thank them through you. Very truly yours, O. B. BROWN (SGD)."

The foregoing communication was ordered received and filed.

Dr. Everhard, Chairman of the Parks and Playgrounds Committee addressed Council in furtherance the naming of the various parks throughout the village and introduced the following resolution: "The Members of the Park Committee that we should, when we can, commemorate the lives and the work of those who have been an honor and have rendered notable service to our village. We had in our midst a woman whose name is revered wherever the beginnings of aviation are known. She was interested in our village and in our schools. We therefore move that, in memory of her, the Park on Far Hills Ave., connected with the Elementary School be called Katherine Wright Park. The East Oakwood Club came into existence as a result of the ideals for neighborliness and community life which were fostered by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Shafor. They gave time, effort and money that we might have a common meeting place. We move that, in their memory, the plot of ground known first as the East Oakwood Club, then as the Oakwood Club, be known hereafter, as Shafor Park and the building in this park as Shafor Park House. The Members of the Committee ask also that copies of this motion be sent to Mr. Henry Haskell, and to Mrs. Haskell's brothers; and to the Members of the family of Mr. and Mrs. Shafor."

Upon conclusion of the reading of the resolution, it was moved by Dr. Tizzard and seconded by Mr. Mosier that the same be adopted forthwith and that in addition to spreading the same upon the minutes of this meeting, a copy thereof be forwarded to Mr. Orville Wright, Mr. Henry Haskell, husband of Mrs. Katherine Wright Haskell, now deceased, as well as the heirs of the Shafor Estate. Upon roll call on the motion, the following Members voted Aye - Drs. Everhard and Tizzard, Messrs. Hilton and Mosier. There being Four Aye votes and No Nay votes thereon, the said motion was declared duly carried, and thereupon the Clerk was instructed to forward copies of the resolution as above set out.

The following Accounts Payable of the Village of Oakwood, State of Ohio, were presented to Council for approval and action to wit:

L. M. Dissinger	\$ 28.00	L. M. Dissinger	\$596.55
L. M. Dissinger	1,098.65	L. M. Dissinger	500.00
Mary O'Donnell	100.00	W. M. Matthews	183.35
Mildred Jehn	100.00	Elinor E. Orth	125.00
A. C. Bergman	285.33	Columbus Blank Book	12.19
L. M. Dissinger	1,165.52	L. M. Dissinger	688.95
Ohio Bell Telephone Co.	36.50	Dayton Power & Light	25.77
Dayton Stencil Works Col	10.00	Dayton Blank Book	14.50
Harley-Davidson Sales	5.00	H. Hollencamp Sons	55.45
Indian Motor Mart Co.	28.05	Ohio Bell Telephone Co.	16.40
F. A. Requarth Co.	56.28	Refiners Oil Co.	47.50
Dayton & Troy Automobile Co.	7.20	Dayton Blue Print Co.	2.60
Flack Equipment Co.	1.00	T. D. Eichelberger's Son	0.82
Kanouse Tire Co.	6.70	Standard Oil Co.	5.25
Frank Tejan	180.00	Frank Tejan	90.00
Frank Tejan	488.25	Frank Tejan	400.40
Frank Tejan	400.00	Frank Tejan	80.00
Worth & Willoughby	460.98	Worth & Willoughby	279.28
Republic Asphalt Pvg.	426.99	Republic Asphalt Pvg.	473.80
Republic Asphalt Pvg.	427.11	Republic Asphalt Pvg.	455.83
Republic Asphalt Pvg.	416.14	Republic Asphalt Pvg.	472.99
Wm/ Perry	70.10	C. K. Shearer	96.00
Dayton Gravel & Sand	17.35	Jim Kelly, Inc.	4.50
Republic Asphalt Pvg.	456.42	Republic Asphalt Pvg.	487.60
Republic Asphalt Pvg.	479.55	Republic Asphalt Pvg.	490.12
Republic Asphalt Pvg.	480.40	H. E. Barney	109.20
H. E. Barney	218.40	R. P. Debold Engrg.	4,395.42

Moved by Mr. Mosier and seconded by Dr. Tizzard that the foregoing accounts Payable of the Village of Oakwood be approved and ordered paid. Upon roll call on the motion, the following Members voted Aye - Drs. Everhard and Tizzard, Messrs. Hilton and Mosier. Mr. Murlin being absent. There being Four Aye votes and No Nay votes thereon, the said motion was declared duly carried, and thereupon the said Accounts Payable were ordered paid.

There being no further business to come before this body, it was moved by Mr. Hilton and seconded by Dr. Everhard that Council do now adjourn, and upon a viva voce vote the motion was carried unanimously and Council thereupon adjourned.

ATTEST:

ae Bergman
CLERK - of Council

L.P. Kirger
PRESIDENT - of Council

More candidates approved for Nov. 2 ballot

Montgomery County Board of Elections certified 71 candidates Monday, bringing total to 119.

By Chris Stewart
Staff Writer

The Montgomery County Board of Elections on Monday certified a majority of candidates who will vie for municipal positions and township offices on Nov. 2.

But city charters in Kettering, Moraine and Riverside give candidates until Thursday to file. Just three of seven candidates who pulled petitions for the at-large Kettering Council seat have filed with the board. Similarly, former state Sen. Peggy Lehner is the only one of three taking petitions for the Kettering mayor's position to have paperwork returned and certified by the elections board.

The board approved 71 candidates on Monday, bringing to 119 the number currently certified for the odd-year ballots heavy with

city and township posts.

The board rejected the petitions of six candidates running for city or township office because of invalid signatures or errors on petitions that invalidated a block of signatures, leaving them short the required number.

The board also examined petitions with errors — at times conferring with the county's civil counsel — but based on precedent, allowed seven to proceed to the November ballot.

"We have ordinary citizens that are stepping up to run for office. They may not have the expertise, but they're doing what they want and serve their community," said Rhine McLin, chairperson of the elections board. "Unless it's a fatal flaw, we try to err on the side of

Candidates continued on B2



Montgomery County Board of Elections Director Jeff Rezabek (right) shows a questionable petition to board members Elaine Herrick (left) and Thomas Routsong during a meeting Monday to certify candidates. CHRIS STEWART / STAFF

Candidates

continued from B1

the candidate."

Some races are short on candidates. With four seats open, the Phillipsburg Council has just one candidate, Shannon Spatz, certified for the ballot. In New Lebanon, two candidates are certified in the race for three seats. Write-in candidates have until Aug. 23

to declare their intent to run.

Candidates for Dayton mayor and commission were certified earlier this year and competed in May to winnow those fields. Jeffrey Mims Jr. and Rennes Bowers defeated former mayor Gary Leitzell to advance to compete for mayor in November. Voters reduced a crowded field of seven commission candidates to four for two commission seats.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CANDIDATES, NOV. 2 ELECTIONS

Brookville Council (1)
(unexpired term)
Jeffery J. Requarth

Brookville Council (3)
Curt Schreier *
Kim Wilder *
James S. Zimmerlin *

Centerville Council (3)
Dan Apolito
Leah E. McCullough
John E. Palcher *
JoAnne C. Rau *
Bill Serr *

Clayton Mayor (1)
Mike Stevens *
Warren Wysong

Clayton Council at Large (3)
Brendan Bachman *
Jeremy Blanford
Tina M. Kelly *
Greg Merkle *

Dayton Municipal Clerk of Court (1)
Martin Gehres

Dayton Mayor (1)
Rennes Bowers
Jeffrey J. Mims Jr.

Dayton Commission (2)
Stacey D. Benson-Taylor
Darryl Fairchild *
Scott Sliver
Shenise Turner-Sloss

Dayton Municipal Court Judge (1)
Term Begins 1/2/22
Carl S. Henderson *

Dayton Municipal Court Judge (1)
Term Begins 1/3/22
Mia Wortham Spells *

Englewood Council (3)
Adrienne Draper *
Andrew Gough *
Solomon D. Hill
Darren Sawmiller

Germantown Mayor (1)
Bonnie Gunckel Koogle
Terry Johnson

Kettering Clerk of Court (1)
Keara R. Dever
Rob Scott *

Kettering Mayor (1)
Peggy B. Lehner

Kettering Council at Large (2)
Jacqueline L. Fisher *
Jyl Hall
Joe Patak

Kettering Council District 1 (1)
(unexpired term)
David Brown
Lisa M. Duvall
Darrell Meshew

Kettering Council District 2 (1)
(unexpired term)
Bob Scott

Miamisburg Council Ward 1 (1)
John A. Stalder *

Miamisburg Council Ward 2 (1)
Sarah Clark Thacker *

Miamisburg Council Ward 3 (1)
Thomas A. Nicholas *

Miamisburg Council Ward 4 (1)
Mike McCabe *

Moraine Mayor (1)
Teri Murphy

Moraine Council at Large (2)
Donald B. Burchett

Oakwood Council (2)
Brandy Mariani
Rob Stephens *
Leigh S. Turben

Oakwood Council (1)
(unexpired term)
Anne Shank Hilton

Riverside Council (1)
(unexpired term)
Jesse Maxfield *

Riverside Council (4)
Mike Denning *
Zachary Joseph
Sara S. Lommatzsch *

New Lebanon Council (3)
Tammy Loch
Lyndon Perkins *

Phillipsburg Mayor (1)
(unexpired term)
Rebecca Hodge Ford *

Phillipsburg Council (4)
Shannon Spatz

Butler Twp. Trustee (2)
Ken Betz *
Don Birdsall
Bryson Jackson
Mike Thein

Clay Twp. Trustee (2)
Mark B. Brownfield
Dale Winner *

Clay Twp. Fiscal Officer (1)
(unexpired term)
No candidate. Petition for Holly Buchanan rejected

German Twp. Trustee (1)
(unexpired term)
Walter Lynn Cleveland
Louis H. Potter Jr.

German Twp. Trustee (2)
Mark D. Cross
Abra Reed *
Lyndsey Ritz
Jake Stubbs *

Harrison Twp. Trustee (1)
(unexpired term)
Danielle Bradley
Charles M. Waldron, Jr. *

Harrison Twp. Trustee (2)
Georgeann Godsey *
Roland Winburn *

Jackson Twp. Trustee (2)
Randall DeVilbiss *
Ryan L. Hodson *
Jim Wampler

Jefferson Twp. Trustee (2)
Sheila Back
Joseph J. W. Barnes
Roy R. Mann Sr. *
Mike McLaughlin *

Germantown Council (3)

Michael T. Kuhn *
James A. Lawson
Rob Rettich *
J. Brian Wafzlg *

Huber Heights Mayor (1)

Jeffrey Gore *
Glenn T. Otto

Huber Heights Council at Large (1)

Nancy L. Byrge *
Richard E. Shaw Jr.

Huber Heights Council District 3 (1)

Kate Baker *
Frank Wylie

Huber Heights Council District 4 (1)

Vincent King
Anita Kitchen

Huber Heights Council District 5 (1)

Mark Campbell *
Noemi Marrero

Trotwood Council District 1 (1)
Bettye L. Gales *

Trotwood Council District 2 (1)
Yvette F. Page *

Trotwood Council District 3 (1)
Ron Vaughn *

Trotwood Council District 4 (1)
Tyna R. Brown *

Union Council (3)
Robert Jay Niemann
Helen Oberer *
Ken Prunier

Vandalia Council (3)
Mike Blakesly *
Candice K. Farst *
Dave Lewis *

West Carrollton Council (4)
Richard R. Barnhart *
Keith A. Tilton
Amanda Zennie *

Miami Twp. Trustee (2)
John Gomez
Bob Matthews
John Morris *
Terry Posey *

Perry Twp. Trustee (2)
Melissa E. Mears *
Zach Music
Dale E. Seim
Mindi Wynne *

Perry Twp. Fiscal Officer (1)
Charity F. Grill

Washington Twp. Trustee (2)
Sharon A. Lowry *
Scott Richard Paulson

* Incumbent

****Kettering, Moraine and Riverside
municipal candidates have until Aug. 19
to file for office.

DDW

8/17/21

Oakwood treating school building water for Legionella



LOCAL NEWS

By Jen Balduf, Staff Writer

Aug 18, 2021

Smith Elementary School treated for the bacteria last August as well.

Oakwood City Schools is working with a water management specialist that found Legionella at Smith Elementary School.

The bacteria that can cause pneumonia-like Legionnaires' disease was detected during testing conducted the week of Aug. 7 by Solid Blend Technologies, the company contracted to perform tests throughout the district in preparation of the start of the school year, Oakwood Schools stated in a press release.

All other test results so far have come back negative and additional testing is being completed.

The district said it is following recommendations to address the bacteria and all of the building's water sources are closed. The Smith Elementary School system will be retested Aug. 23 and the district said it will follow additional treatment recommendations if needed.

Legionella was discovered last August in a girls' restroom on the second floor of Smith Elementary School.

Anytime a building or fixtures have been dormant or unused for a period of time, bacteria can build up, Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County has said.

"We are continuing to be proactive on all fronts to ensure our facilities remain safe, dry and secure, and support the educational and instructional needs of all of our students and staff. The health and safety of our students and staff remain a top priority," Oakwood Superintendent Kyle Ramey stated. "We are looking forward to having our students return to school next week and beginning another great school year."

Water tests last summer also revealed Legionella bacteria in the water supplies of school buildings in Kettering, Dayton, Northmont and Vandalia-Butler school districts.

In Kettering, a school custodian tested positive for Legionnaires' disease last summer, and another custodian who worked in the district died of Legionnaires' disease in 2019.