

**CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER**  
**MAY 12, 2023**

**IMPORTANT COUNCIL DATES:**

May 15, Monday, 5 p.m. – Work Session (OCC)  
May 16, Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. – BRC Meeting (30 Park)  
May 20, Saturday – “That Day in May”  
May 25, Thursday, 4 p.m. – Executive Session (30 Park)  
June 5, Monday, 6:30 p.m. – Regular Session (30 Park)  
June 14, Wednesday, 6-8 p.m. – Open House re: Five Points (OCC)  
June 26, Monday, 5 p.m. – Work Session (30 Park)  
June 29, Thursday, 6-8 p.m. – Open House re: Five Points (OCC)  
July 11, Tuesday, 6-8 p.m. – Open House re: Five Points (OCC)  
July 17, Monday, 6:30 p.m. – Regular Session (30 Park)  
August 7, Monday, 6:30 p.m. – Regular Session (30 Park)  
August 13, Sunday, 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. – Ice Cream Social (Shafor Park)  
August 21, Monday, 5 p.m. – Work Session (30 Park)

**BUSINESS UPDATE:**

- **May 15 Work Session:** We will conduct the May 15 work session at the OCC. We will gather at 5 p.m. The meeting will include a tour of Gardner Pool and Shafor Park. Enclosed is the agenda.
- **BRC Meeting:** We meet at 5:30 p.m. next Tuesday in council chambers. The meeting will also be available via Zoom. Enclosed is the email sent this week to the BRC, along with the meeting packet.
- **Water Report:** Enclosed is our 2022 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR.) We will post it to our website, and will mention it in our June/July *Oakwood Scene* newsletter.
- **LED Street Light Project:** Enclosed is a press release that was distributed this week regarding the replacement of almost all of the residential street lights in Oakwood. Also enclosed are *DDN* and *Register* articles. The lights on my street were replaced on Monday. They provide a different look than the High Pressure Sodium fixtures, but look good... in my opinion.
- **City Meetings:** Enclosed is a *DDN* article announcing our upcoming public meetings.
- **VIP Smoke Shop:** Enclosed is a *DDN* article about a civil complaint filed against the city of Dayton as a result of TCSU executing a search warrant at the VIP Smoke Shop last month.
- **Beautification Awards:** Enclosed are a press release and a *Register* article about our beautification awards program.
- **TDIM:** Enclosed is a *Register* article about the golf outing and auction on Monday, May 22.
- **Traffic Concerns:** Enclosed is a *Register* letter (paid advertisement) expressing concerns around Smith Elementary School. We will discuss this in work session on Monday.

- Tree City USA: Enclosed is another *DDN* article about Oakwood being designated as a Tree City USA for 41 consecutive years.
- Orchardly Park: We demolished and removed the old play structure at Orchardly Park. The new play equipment is scheduled to be installed next week and includes a playground structure and swings.



- Traffic Signal System Study: While flipping through an old file this week, I stumbled on the enclosed newspaper articles from the *Oakwood Register* and *Kettering/Oakwood Times*... circa December 1994. 😊
- aDOORable Door Project: Enclosed is a thank you letter received this week... again, kudos to Carol and Jennifer for leading our involvement.
- Far Hills Storm Sewer Project: Enclosed is a *DDN* article.

HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND!

TRANSMITTALS NOTED WITHIN NEWSLETTER

Work Session Agenda

BRC Email & Meeting Packet

2022 Water Reports

Press Release, *DDN* & *Register* articles re: LED Street Light Project

*DDN* article re: City Meetings

*DDN* article re: VIP Smoke Shop

Press Release and *Register* article re: Beautification Awards

*Register* article re: TDIM

*Register* article re: Traffic Concerns

*DDN* article re: Tree City USA

*Register* & *KMO* articles re: Traffic Signal System Study

Thank You Letter re: aDOORable Door Project

*DDN* article re: Far Hills Storm Sewer Project

COUNCIL WORK SESSION AGENDA  
MAY 15, 2023

- COUNCIL COMMITTEES
  - Court Liaison, Mrs. Hilton
  - Finance, Vice Mayor Byington
    - May 16 BRC Meeting
  - Law & Minutes, Mrs. Hilton
  - Planning & Zoning, Vice Mayor Byington
    - Business District Zoning Code Amendments
  - Public Properties, Mrs. Turben
    - Gardner Pool
    - Shafor Park and Orchardly Park
    - OCC Programs and Memberships
  - Public Utilities/Waterworks/Sewer, Mrs. Turben
    - Far Hills Storm Sewer Project
  - Safety & Traffic, Mr. Stephens
    - Smith School Traffic
  - Streets & Alleys, Mr. Stephens
  - Community Relations/Promotion/Appointments, Mayor Duncan
  
- REGIONAL AGENCIES
  - MVCC, Mr. Stephens
  - MVRPC, Vice Mayor Byington
  - Mayors & Managers, Mayor Duncan
  - First Suburbs, Vice Mayor Byington
    - Strategic Planning
  - Oakwood Inclusion Coalition, Mr. Klopsch
  
- BOARDS & COMMISSIONS
  - Planning Commission, Vice Mayor Byington
  - Beautification Committee, Mr. Stephens
  - Sister City Association, Mrs. Hilton
  - Historical Society, Mrs. Turben
  - Board of Health, Mayor Duncan
  
- MISCELLANEOUS
  - Wright Library Native Garden Tour – July 15
  - Council Email

EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR PERSONNEL AND PROPERTY MATTERS

**From:** [Klopsch, Norbert S.](#)  
**To:** [Amanda Malusky Krauss \(amanda.k.krauss@gmail.com\)](#); [Beth Ritzert \(baritzert@gmail.com\)](#); [Bill Frapwell \(frapwellw@ctt.com\)](#); [Bill Meyer \(bdmeyer4@juno.com\)](#); [Bill Rieger \(rieger.bill@gmail.com\)](#); [cait.botschner@gmail.com](#); [Chas Kidwell \(kidwellc@childrensdayton.org\)](#); [Dan Ferneding \(danr@fernedinginsurance.com\)](#); [Dickerson, Dave S. \(dave.dickerson@mvg.com\)](#); [doug.kinsey@artifexfinancial.com](#); [Elizabeth Kussman \(ebiffbrown@gmail.com\)](#); [Ella Himes \(ellahimes@yahoo.com\)](#); [Ellen Fodge \(esfodge@gmail.com\)](#); [Erika Endsley \(erika.endsley@gmail.com\)](#); [Fred Dudding \(dudfl@email.msn.com\)](#); [Heidi Edwards \(edwards.heidi@oakwoodschoools.org\)](#); [Howard Boose \(hboose3@gmail.com\)](#); [Jeanne Boozell \(cjbooze@yahoo.com\)](#); [Jeff Woeste \(jwoeste@fhf-cpa.com\)](#); [Jim Vaughn \(jim.vaughn@taylor.com\)](#); [John Gray \(jcg@grayamerica.com\)](#); [John Jervis \(john\\_jervis@ml.com\)](#); [Kate Halpin \(halpinmail@yahoo.com\)](#); [kemmarcus@yahoo.com](#); [maew1981@gmail.com](#); [Mark Risley](#); [Megan O'Leary \(kennedmp51@gmail.com\)](#); [Michael Hayes \(mphayes@woh.rr.com\)](#); [Michael Vanderburgh \(michaelvanderburgh@yahoo.com\)](#); [Mike Ruetschle \(mike@ruetschle.com\)](#); [Raya Whalen \(raya.whelen@gmail.com\)](#); [Sarah Waechter \(sjwaechter@yahoo.com\)](#); [Susan Elliott \(Elliott@udayton.edu\)](#); [Yusaku Kawai \(ykawai@gmail.com\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Stacel, Lori](#); [Collins, Carol D.](#); [Spitler, Doug](#); [Hill, Alan](#); [Jacques, Robert](#); [Kuzma, Chris](#); [Stafford, Cindy](#); [Wilder, Jennifer](#); [Hilton, Anne](#); [Turben, Leigh](#); [Duncan, William](#); [Stephens, Rob](#); [Byington, Steve](#)  
**Subject:** May 16 BRC Meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 10, 2023 10:13:34 AM  
**Attachments:** [May 16, 2023 BRC Meeting Packet.pdf](#)

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Greetings from City Hall!

Our budget committee meets at 5:30 pm next Tuesday, May 16 here at the city building. Attached is the agenda with enclosures.

For those wishing to attend remotely, please use the zoom link below.

Amongst other things, we will provide an update on the traffic signal system study, with focus on the Five Points intersection. We will show you an aerial view rendering of how a roundabout might operate at that intersection. Late this month we will send all Oakwood residential and business properties a mailer that will show the rendering. This will begin the process of receiving public input.

As stated several times, we've made no decision on the future design of Five Points... we are simply studying options.

Norb

Norbert S. Klopsch  
Oakwood City Manager  
(937) 298-0600

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**From:** Stacel, Lori <stacel@oakwood.oh.us>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 10, 2023 9:44 AM  
**To:** Klopsch, Norbert S. <Klopsch@oakwood.oh.us>  
**Subject:** May 16 BRC Meeting Packet

Norb,

Attached is the May 16 BRC meeting packet. Below is the zoom meeting info:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88609422203?pwd=b1BpamRQY1RlcGlnY2cxdlhoMzB3UT09>

Meeting ID: 886 0942 2203

Passcode: 397058

Thanks,

Lori

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**Lori Stacel | Admin Assistant to City Manager/Clerk of Council**

City of Oakwood | 30 Park Avenue | Oakwood, Ohio 45419

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[stacel@oakwoodohio.gov](mailto:stacel@oakwoodohio.gov) | [www.oakwoodohio.gov](http://www.oakwoodohio.gov)



City of Oakwood  
30 Park Avenue  
Oakwood, Ohio 45419

To: Budget Review Committee  
From: Norbert Klopsch  
Date: May 10, 2023  
Subject: May 16 BRC Meeting

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Greetings from City Hall!

Our Budget Review Committee meets at 5:30 pm next Tuesday, May 16. We will conduct the meeting in the council chambers at the city building. We also have a Zoom option via the link below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88609422203?pwd=b1BpamRQY1RlcGlnY2cxdlhoMzB3UT09>

Meeting ID: 886 0942 2203

Passcode: 397058

Enclosed are the following items:

- Meeting agenda.
- Minutes of our November 29, 2022 meeting.

We hope to see you next Tuesday, either in person or via Zoom.

cc: Members of City Council  
Department Heads



City of Oakwood  
30 Park Avenue  
Oakwood, Ohio 45419

BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE  
MEETING AGENDA

5:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 16, 2023

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

APPROVE NOVEMBER 29, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

2022 FINANCIAL AUDIT

2023 FINANCIALS – THROUGH APRIL

2023 CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS/CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

TRAFFIC SIGNAL SYSTEM STUDY/FIVE POINTS INTERSECTION

3.75 MILL PROPERTY TAX

POSSIBLE 2024 CAPITAL PROJECTS/EXPENSES

OTHER



Oakwood, Ohio  
November 29, 2022

The Oakwood citizen Budget Review Committee (BRC) met at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 29, 2022. The meeting took place in the council chambers at the city building, 30 Park Avenue, and was available via the Zoom remote teleconferencing platform.

The following people attended:

Budget Review Committee

*In-person:*

Howard Boose  
Steve Brooks  
Dave Dickerson, Chair  
Fred Dudding  
Bill Frapwell, Vice Chair  
Kate Halpin  
Michael Hayes  
William Meyer  
Megan Kavanaugh  
Amanda Krauss  
Bill Rieger  
Sarah Waechter

*Via Zoom:*

Mark Risley  
Susie Elliott  
Beth Ritzert  
Dan Ferneding  
Ella Himes  
Yusaku Kawai  
Doug Kinsey

Oakwood City Council

*In-person:*

Mayor Bill Duncan  
Vice Mayor Steve Byington  
Councilmember Rob Stephens  
Councilmember Anne Hilton  
Councilmember Leigh Turben

City Staff

*In-person:*

City Manager Norbert Klopsch  
Finance Director Cindy Stafford  
Public Safety Director Alan Hill  
Law Director Rob Jacques  
Personnel & Properties Director Jennifer Wilder  
Engineering & Public Works Director Doug Spitler  
Staff Engineer Chris Kuzma

Mayor Bill Duncan opened the meeting with a welcome. He asked if there were any suggested edits to the minutes of the October 18, 2022 meeting. There being no edits, Mayor Duncan asked for a motion to approve those minutes. Motion to approve by Mr. Frapwell; second by Mr. Boose. Upon viva voce vote, motion passed and the minutes were approved.

Mayor Duncan invited Mr. Klopsch to make opening comments and to deliver the meeting presentation.

Mr. Klopsch welcomed the committee members and discussed the following recent events and city projects:

- Shroyer Road: Mr. Klopsch thanked committee member Bill Meyer for his comment after the last meeting about Shroyer Road and the center median visibility. Staff is testing two options for improving the visibility through use of reflectors.
- November 14 Houk Stream Event: During a routine patrol, an Oakwood Public Safety Officer found an unattended vehicle at Ridgeway Road and Oakwood Avenue near the entrance of Houk Stream that belonged to an endangered missing adult. Search efforts conducted by the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, Five Rivers MetroParks, Oakwood Public Safety Department, and members of EquuSearch located the individual deceased in a wooded area of Houk Stream.

Mr. Klopsch invited Amanda Krauss, who is a member of EquuSearch and was involved in the search efforts at Houk Stream, to share information about EquuSearch. Mr. Klopsch added that Mark Risley, also a member of EquuSearch, was also involved in the search and was the one who found the deceased.

Mrs. Krauss shared that EquuSearch is an organization dedicated to searching for missing persons. EquuSearch Midwest started in 2012, as a branch of Texas EquuSearch. The organization is a volunteer based non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Searches are often done in wooded areas and include the use of ground searchers, horses, ATVs, drones, sonar, plans and mapping. Many law enforcement agencies call on the resources of the organization's searchers to assist in their lost or missing cases.

Mr. Klopsch thanked Mrs. Krauss for the information and continued with his report.

- Local Health Districts: The Oakwood Health District has been in place since the 1930's. The 2022/2023 Ohio Biennium Budget included a provision that will likely require Oakwood's local health district to merge with Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County. The Board could continue to serve as an advisory body for city leaders on matters of health and safety.
- Staffing: There continues to be a challenge finding part-time and seasonal employees amid the hiring shortage and competitive market.
- Costs of Goods and Services: The increase in costs have been challenging and are reflected in the proposed 2023 budget.

He then reported on the following:

- 2022 HIGHLIGHTS:
  - Orchardly Park Tennis and Pickleball Courts: The tennis courts at Orchardly Park were refurbished and two public pickleball courts were added in July of this year; one tennis court was converted into two pickleball courts. The pickleball courts have been a great addition to the community.
  - Gardner Pool Improvements: The Gardner Pool Project is well underway. Since the last budget committee meeting, staff added \$30,000 to the 2023 budget for additional expenses at the pool. Staff also added \$180,000 to the Sanitary Sewer

Fund, which Cindy Stafford will address later. The pool work includes demolition and replacement of the concrete deck, installation of fencing around the zero depth wading pool (children's pool), and installing new pool lifeguard stands and diving boards.

- LED Street Lights: The latest edition of the *Oakwood Scene* newsletter includes an article about a project to replace street lights. The city contracts with Miami Valley Lighting (MVL) for street lights. In 2023, MVL will embark on a city-wide project to replace about 500 HPS fixtures, nearly all of the residential street lights in Oakwood. The city selected the 2700 Kelvin fixture as it provides illumination in the warm or soft white range, as opposed to the bright white light often seen with LEDs. Mr. Klopsch commented on a vacation last December in Florida when he first saw the use of the softer LED lights. After months of work, staff was successful in signing a contract with MVL to begin offering the 2700 Kelvin fixture.
  - Far Hills Gas Line Improvements: The CenterPoint (formerly Vectren) work along Far Hills Avenue is nearly completed. CenterPoint is installing new polyethylene pipes in place of old steel and cast-iron pipes and moving indoor gas meters to outside wall locations. Miller Pipeline should complete their work on Far Hills in a few weeks.
  - Comprehensive Plan: At the November 7, 2022 public meeting, Oakwood City Council addressed the 2004 Oakwood Comprehensive Plan and adopted a resolution. The resolution accepted a document summarizing achievements towards the Goals and Objectives of the Plan, and ratified and recognized that the 2004 Plan remains valid as the city's official policy guide for physical development addressing the use of land, the movement of vehicles and pedestrians, the protection of community character, and the provision of parks, schools, and other public facilities.
- 2022 FINANCIALS THROUGH OCTOBER: General City Services receipts through October are at 96.05% of budget, while disbursements and encumbrances are at 84.83% of budget. Mr. Klopsch shared that he anticipates that by the end of the year disbursements and encumbrances will be close to what was budgeted. Refuse Fund receipts through October are at 84.42% of budget and disbursements and encumbrances are at 84.94% of budget. Water Utility Fund receipts through October are at 82.45% of budget and disbursements and encumbrances are at 85.88% of budget. Sanitary Sewer Utility Fund receipts through October are at 80.51% of budget and disbursements and encumbrances are at 74.84% of budget.

Mr. Klopsch stated that most of the Sanitary Sewer Fund expenses relate to wastewater treatment. He invited Mrs. Stafford to discuss wastewater treatment rate increases from Montgomery County and the city of Dayton.

Mrs. Stafford shared that Montgomery County's wastewater treatment rate is increasing by about 15% and the city of Dayton increased their rate by 8-10%. These increases have been factored into the 2023 budget.

Mr. Klopsch said that a possible sanitary sewer rate increase may need to be considered next year to cover the Montgomery County and Dayton increases.

Stormwater Utility Fund receipts through October are at 83.72% of budget and disbursements and encumbrances are at 85.55% of budget.

At the end of 2022, the City will have continued to provide comprehensive public services and, based on current projections, will have:

- \$2,003,672 more in General City Services funds.
- \$176,204 less in Refuse funds.
- \$200,184 less in Water funds.
- \$1,440 less in Sanitary Sewer funds.
- \$20,774 less in Stormwater funds.

In the General City Services funds, about \$500,000 in revenue is from the 2022 Federal ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) distribution, and about \$1,000,000 is from higher than budgeted income tax and property tax receipts.

- **MUNICIPAL INCOME TAXES:** Gross Income Tax collections through November are about 10% above November 2021. This increase is primarily attributed to three things:
  - Income generated by the additional people living in Oakwood in the homes and condominiums at Pointe Oakwood.
  - Increase in Oakwood residents working from home, thereby directing their local income taxes to Oakwood rather than other jurisdictions.
  - Despite economic conditions, total earned income in Oakwood has increased.
- **PROPERTY TAX:** The 2022 property tax receipts are slightly above budget. The city of Oakwood has two voted property tax issues. Of the total property tax bill that Oakwood residents pay, only about 8% is received by the city to pay for city services.

The 2022 Residential Real Estate Tax breakdown consists of 70.1% to Oakwood Schools; 1.7% to Montgomery County; 0.3% to Developmental Disabilities; 1.8% to Five River MetroParks; 12% to Human Services; 3.5% to Sinclair; 8% to the city of Oakwood; and 2.6% to Wright Library.

➤ **3.75 Mill Property Tax:**

- The tax issue was first approved in May 2013.
- It has a five-year term and started generating revenue in 2014.
- The current effective mills is 3.03.
- The tax issue raises about \$1,060,000 annually.
- The tax on a \$200,000 value home is about \$203 annually.
- It expires in December 2023.

➤ **2.72 Mill Property Tax:**

- The tax issue was first approved in November 1991.
- It has a five-year term and started generating revenue in 1992.
- The current effective mills is 1.27.
- The tax issue raises about \$468,000 annually.
- The tax on a \$200,000 value home is about \$78 annually.
- It expires in December 2026.

- 2023 GOALS & OBJECTIVES: The following goals and objectives will be included in the 2023 budget book:
  - KHN Property, Sugar Camp Western Lot and Randall Residence Property
  - Water System Master Plan for Capital improvements
  - Far Hills Infrastructure Improvements
  - Sanitary Sewer System Maintenance/Capital Improvements Plan
  - Traffic Signal Master Plan for Capital improvements
  - Park Improvements
  
- 2023 BUDGET OVERVIEW: The 2023 proposed budget reflects no increases in income tax, property tax, or any increases to refuse, water, sanitary sewer, or stormwater fees. The goal is to avoid property tax increases over the next few years, after renewing the 2.72 mill issue last year, and asking for a renewal of the 3.75 mill issue in 2023. Below, in millions, are 2023 budgeted expense figures:
 

➤ General City Services:	\$17.2
➤ Refuse Operations:	\$ 1.5
➤ Water Utility:	\$ 1.8
➤ Sanitary Sewer Utility:	\$ 2.4
➤ Stormwater Utility:	<u>\$ 1.6</u>
Total:	\$24.5 million

The 2023 budget includes no increases in income tax or property tax, and no increases in refuse or utility rates.

Mr. Klopsch commented on the line item budgets for General City Services, Refuse Operations, Water Utility, Sanitary Sewer Utility and Stormwater Utility. At the end of 2023, the City will have continued to provide comprehensive services and will, based on the proposed budget, have:

- \$872,935 less in General City Services funds.
- \$120,435 less in Refuse funds.
- \$662,150 less in Water funds.
- \$524,541 less in Sanitary Sewer funds.
- \$155,925 less in Stormwater funds.

For General City Services, the 2023 beginning balance is estimated to be \$12,717,882 for Primary Operations. The Special Projects Fund currently has a balance of about \$3.5 million. The proposed 2023 budget includes a transfer of an additional \$1.0 million to the Special Projects Fund. The 2023 budget includes \$2,375,100 for capital expenses.

For Refuse Operations, the 2023 beginning balance is estimated to be \$432,632. Refuse rates were last raised in January 2019 when they were increased from \$27 to \$30 per month. The 2023 budget includes \$55,000 for capital expenses.

For the Water Utility, the 2023 beginning balance is estimated to be \$1,200,784. Water rates were last increased in January 2017 and Oakwood currently has the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest water rates of 66 Miami Valley jurisdictions. The 2023 budget includes \$479,500 for capital expenses. Given the projected 2023 spending of about \$660,000 more than revenue, we will need to consider a water rate increase next year.

For the Sanitary Sewer Utility, the 2023 beginning balance is estimated to be \$1,830,676. Sewer rates were last raised in January 2018. Oakwood currently has the 36<sup>th</sup> lowest sewer rates of 63 Miami Valley jurisdictions. The 2023 budget includes \$195,000 for capital expenses. We will also need to consider an increase in the sanitary sewer rate next year.

For the Stormwater Utility, the 2023 beginning balance is estimated to be \$474,972. Stormwater rates were last raised in January 2020. The 2023 budget includes \$2,198,394 for capital expenditures, almost all of which is coming from the General Fund and a possible state grant/loan.

Mr. Klopsch asked for a motion to recommend approval of the 2023 budget. Motion by Mr. Dickerson; second by Mr. Dudding. Upon a viva voce vote, motion passed.

Mr. Dudding commented on a stormwater catch basin concern at his property frontage on Patterson Road. Mr. Spittler will see that it is inspected and repaired as needed.

A question was raised about the status on redevelopment of the 2600 Far Hills office building. Mr. Klopsch commented on the challenges posed by the presence of two remaining cell phone antennas and available parking. Staff continues to believe that KHN will redevelop the property.

There being no other business, at 6:27 p.m. Mr. Klopsch thanked the committee members for their service and the meeting was adjourned.

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Chairman



# CITY OF OAKWOOD

## Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report

### For Calendar Year 2022



**May 08, 2023**

## Introduction

The city of Oakwood prepared this report to provide information to you, the consumer, on the quality of our drinking water. This report includes general health information relating to drinking water; a description of the Oakwood water system; general information about water quality; Oakwood water quality test results; information on how to participate in decisions concerning your drinking water; and water system contacts.

The city of Oakwood owns and operates a public municipal water system that serves the residents and businesses throughout the community. The system is comprised of eight production wells, three water treatment plants, 44 miles of underground water lines, 352 fire hydrants and a 1.5 million gallon water tower. The Director of Engineering and Public Works oversees the operation of the public water system. The Water Plant Superintendent is charged with the day-to-day operation of the wells, water tower and water treatment plants.



Springhouse Water Treatment Plant



Shafor Water Treatment Plant



Softening Units at Shafor Water Treatment Plant

## Source water information

Oakwood receives its drinking water from groundwater pumped through eight production wells. These wells draw water from tributary aquifers flowing towards the Great Miami Buried Valley Aquifer. The city's system produced 99.97% of the total city water demand in 2022. Had additional water been needed, it would have been supplied from the city of Dayton water system.

Oakwood has two reserve water connections with the city of Dayton and one with Montgomery County. During 2022, Oakwood produced 444.636 million gallons from the eight Oakwood water wells. We purchased 134,000 gallons of water from the city of Dayton. This report does not contain information on the city of Dayton water quality but a copy of the Dayton Consumer Confidence Report can be obtained by contacting the city of Dayton, Division of Environmental Management, at (937) 333-6093 or by viewing the Dayton website at [www.daytonohio.gov/documentcenter/view/13502/2022-Water-Quality-Report](http://www.daytonohio.gov/documentcenter/view/13502/2022-Water-Quality-Report)

The aquifer that supplies drinking water to Oakwood has a moderate susceptibility to contamination, due to the sensitivity of the aquifer in which the drinking water wells are located and the existence of several potential contaminant sources within the protection zone. This does not mean that the wellfield will become contaminated, only that conditions are such that the groundwater could be impacted by potential contaminant sources. Possible contamination may be avoided by implementing protective measures. For this reason, Oakwood has an Ohio EPA endorsed Source Water Assessment and Protection Program. See page 6 of this report for information on how you can help protect our water supply. More detailed well field protection information can be obtained by calling the Water Plant Superintendent at (937) 298-0777.

## **City of Dayton Source Water Assessment**

The Ohio EPA conducted a source water assessment of Dayton's water source. The assessment concluded that the aquifer supplying water to the city of Dayton's well fields has a high susceptibility to contamination. This determination is based on: the influence of surface water recharge to the aquifer; the presence of a relatively thin protective layer of clay overlying the aquifer; the shallow depth of the aquifer; contaminant plumes in Dayton's well field protection area; the presence of significant potential contaminant sources in the protection area; and the presence of contaminants in treated water. More information about the source water assessment or what consumers can do to help protect the aquifer is available by calling the city of Dayton Division of Environmental Management at (937) 333-3725.

### **What are sources of contamination to drinking water?**

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include: (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife; (B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses; (D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and (E) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Federal Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791.)

### **Who needs to take special precautions?**

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infection.

These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. USEPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791.)





High Service Pumps  
at Springhouse



#8 Well



Control Panel at Springhouse



Chlorine Pump at Springhouse

## About your drinking water

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with water service lines and home plumbing. Oakwood is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. A list of laboratories certified in the State of Ohio to test for lead may be found at [www.epa.ohio.gov/ddagw](http://www.epa.ohio.gov/ddagw) or by calling (614) 644-2752. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. Oakwood conducted sampling for bacteria, nitrates, total trihalomethanes (TTHM), haloacetic acids (HAA5) and lead and copper during 2022. Over the past three years, samples were collected for a total of 125 different contaminants, most of which were not detected in the city of Oakwood's water supply. The Ohio EPA requires Oakwood to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

As the data shows, Oakwood complied with all Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) standards for drinking water during 2022. Oakwood softens its water from approximately 27 grains per gallon to an average of 12 grains per gallon. In 2022, Oakwood had an unconditioned license to operate the public water system as issued by Ohio EPA.

## Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) information

All water systems were required to begin compliance with a new rule, the Revised Total Coliform Rule, on April 1, 2016. The new rule maintains the purpose to protect public health by ensuring the integrity of the drinking water distribution system and monitoring for the presence of total coliform bacteria, which includes E. coli bacteria. The USEPA anticipates greater public health protection under the new rule, as it requires water systems that are vulnerable to microbial contamination to identify and fix problems. As a result, under the new rule there is no longer a maximum contaminant level violation for multiple total coliform detections. Instead, the new rule requires water systems that exceed a specified frequency of total coliform occurrences to conduct an assessment to determine if any significant deficiencies exist. If found, these must be corrected by the Public Water System.

## How do I participate in decisions concerning my drinking water?

Public participation and comments on any city issues, including our public water system, are encouraged. This can be done by contacting city staff or by attending regular meetings of Oakwood City Council. City Council typically meets at the City Building, 30 Park Avenue at 7:30 pm the first Monday of every month. Please check the city website [www.oakwoodohio.gov](http://www.oakwoodohio.gov) to verify meeting dates and times.

For more information on your drinking water, contact Scott Loper, Water Plant Superintendent, or Doug Spittler, Director of Engineering and Public Works, at (937) 298-0777.

## Definitions of terms contained within this report

**Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Parts per Million (ppm) or Milligrams per Liter (mg/L)** are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per million corresponds to one second in a little over 11.5 days.

**Parts per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms per Liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ )** are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds to one second in 31.7 years.

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/L):** A common measure of radioactivity.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**Not Detected (ND):** The level of contaminant was below the level detectable with current testing technology.

**The < symbol:** A symbol which means less than. A result of <5 means that the lowest level that could be detected was 5 and the contaminant in that sample was not detected.

Listed below is information on those contaminants that were found in the Oakwood drinking water.

## TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

Contaminants (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range of Detections	Violation	Sample Year	Typical Source of Contaminants
<b>Bacteriological</b>							
Coliform Bacteria (% positive/month)	0	5%	0	Not detected	No	Monthly	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Fluoride <sup>1</sup> (ppm) 210 Shafor 120 Springhouse	4	4	0.27 0.22	0.22 - 0.27	No	2021	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Barium (ppm) 210 Shafor 120 Springhouse	2	2	0.143 0.0554	0.0554 - 0.143	No	2021	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from metal refineries; Discharge of drilling wastes.
Cadmium (ppb) 210 Shafor 120 Springhouse	5	5	ND ND	ND	No	2021	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from metal refineries; Runoff from waste batteries and paint; Corrosion of galvanized pipes.
Nitrate (ppm) 210 Shafor 120 Springhouse	10	10	1.3 1.1	1.1 - 1.3	No	2022	Fertilizer runoff/natural geology.
<b>Regulated in the Distribution System</b>							
Trihalomethanes (ppb)	N/A	80	19.0	4.4 - 19.0	No	2022	By-products of chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	N/A	60	2.6	0 - 2.6	No	2022	By-products of chlorination
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants – Unregulated</b>							
Bromoform (ppb)	N/A	N/A	4.8	1.0 - 4.8	No	2022	By-products of chlorination
Chloroform (ppb)	N/A	N/A	1.5	0.50 - 1.5	No	2022	By-products of chlorination
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	N/A	N/A	4.7	1.1 - 4.7	No	2022	By-products of chlorination
Dibromo-chloromethane (ppb)	N/A	N/A	7.9	1.8 - 7.9	No	2022	By-products of chlorination
<b>Residual Disinfectants</b>							
Chlorine (ppm) <sup>2</sup>	MRDL= 4	MRDLG= 4	0.9	0.4 - 0.9	No	Weekly	Water additive to control microbes

**Table of Detected Contaminants Footnotes**

1. The City of Oakwood does not add fluoride supplements to the water it produces.
2. Level found is the highest running annual average.

<b>Lead and Copper</b>						
Contaminants (Units)	Action Level (AL)	90% of test levels were less than	Individual Result over the AL	Violation	Year Sampled	Typical source of Contaminants
Lead (ppb)	15	2.9	0	NO	2022	Corrosion of household plumbing material
	0 out of 20 samples was found to have a lead level in excess of the action level of 15 ppb					
Copper (ppm)	1.3	0.220	0	NO	2022	Corrosion of household plumbing material
	0 out of 20 samples were found to have copper levels in excess of the action level of 1.3 ppm					

# EASY THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT DRINKING WATER SOURCES



## Properly dispose of hazardous products

## Use and dispose of harmful materials properly

Don't dump hazardous waste on the ground. It can contaminate the soil, which could also contaminate the ground water or nearby surface water. A number of products used at home contain hazardous or toxic substances that can contaminate ground or surface waters, such as:

- Motor oil
- Pesticides
- Leftover paints or paint cans
- Mothballs
- Flea collars
- Household cleaners
- A number of medicines

Don't overuse pesticides or fertilizers. Many fertilizers and pesticides contain hazardous chemicals. These can travel through the soil and contaminate ground water. If you feel you must use these chemicals, please remember to use them in moderation.

## PRESS RELEASE



The City of Oakwood  
30 Park Avenue  
Oakwood, Ohio 45419

**Subject:** LED Street Light Project

**Date:** May 8, 2023

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OAKWOOD, OHIO:

Miami Valley Lighting (MVL) is upgrading the majority of the street lights throughout Oakwood. Work is scheduled to begin within the next few days and will last an estimated 6-8 weeks. The work will be completed by Capital Electric, a contractor working for MVL, and will take place in all Oakwood neighborhoods.

The city contracts with MVL for street light services. Prior to 1998, the vast majority of Oakwood street lights consisted of incandescent bulb fixtures, with some mercury vapor fixtures. In 1998, Dayton Power & Light completed a citywide conversion to High Pressure Sodium (HPS) lights. Now, consistent with the street lighting industry, the city is converting to LED fixtures. The citywide project involves replacement of about 500 HPS fixtures, nearly all of the residential street lights in Oakwood.

MVL will install LED fixtures that emit light at a color temperature of 2700 degrees Kelvin. These fixtures were specially selected to provide illumination in the warm or soft white range, as opposed to the bright white light often seen with LEDs. "This is an important and necessary upgrade to our street lights," said City Manager Norbert Klopsch. "We look forward to watching the project unfold."

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT  
K. Douglas Spitler, P.E., Director of Engineering and Public Works  
(937) 298-0777  
[spitler@oakwoodohio.gov](mailto:spitler@oakwoodohio.gov)

## OAKWOOD

### City converting to LED street lights

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Work is scheduled to begin within the next few days and will last an estimated six to eight weeks. The work will be completed by Capital Electric, a contractor working for MVL, and will take place in all Oakwood neighborhoods, according to the city.

The city contracts with MVL for street light services. Prior to 1998, the vast majority of Oakwood street lights consisted of incandescent bulb fixtures, with some mercury vapor fixtures. In 1998, Dayton Power & Light completed a citywide conversion to High Pressure Sodium (HPS) lights.

Now, consistent with the street lighting industry, the city is converting to LED fixtures. The citywide project involves replacement of about 500 HPS fixtures, nearly all of the residential street lights in Oakwood.

MVL will install LED fixtures that were specially selected to provide illumination in the warm or soft white range, as opposed to the bright white light often seen with LEDs.

"This is an important and necessary upgrade to our street lights," said City Manager Norbert Klopsch.

STAFF REPORT

## Oakwood replacing streetlight bulbs with LEDs

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MVL will install LED fixtures that were specially selected to provide illumination in the warm or soft white range, as opposed to the bright, white light often seen with LEDs. "This is an important and necessary upgrade to our streetlights," said City Manager Norbert Klopsch.

OR

5/10/23

## OAKWOOD

### City public meeting schedule set

■ The next Oakwood City Council meeting is a work session at 5 p.m., Monday, May 15 at the Oakwood Community Center.

■ The next Records Commission meeting is at 2 p.m. Tuesday, July 25 in the conference room at 30 Park Ave.

■ The next Board of Health meeting is at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 23 in Council Chambers at 30 Park Ave.

■ The next Planning Commission meeting is at 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 7 in Council Chambers.

■ The May 11 Board of Zoning Appeals meeting has been canceled. The next BZA meeting is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. Thursday, June 8 in Council Chambers.

For additional information, contact Lori Stacel, Clerk of Council, at 937-298-0600.

STAFF REPORT



# Worker files suit after police raid smoke shop

By **Cornelius Frolik**  
Staff Writer

A man who works at the VIP Smoke Shop in Oakwood has filed a lawsuit against the city of Dayton demanding that authorities return money that was seized as part of a raid of multiple local smoke shops.

But the Dayton Police Department was not involved in the raid or alleged seizure of any property at the Oakwood business, said John Musto, Dayton's deputy law director.

Authorities with a police task force nearly a month ago raided smoke shops in Oakwood, Moraine, Springboro and Washington Twp. after investigators said they discovered the businesses were selling products containing illegal THC.

Search warrants were executed by the Tactical Crime Suppression Unit, a police task force whose members include law enforcement from Centerville, Germantown, Kettering, Miamisburg, Moraine, Oakwood, Springboro and West Carrollton.

Dayton is not a member of the task force, and a spokesperson for the group said the city of Dayton was not part of its investigation.

Ziad Zamara, a Kettering resident, worked at the Oakwood VIP Smoke Shop. In a civil complaint filed Monday in the Montgomery County Common Pleas Court, he says police on April 10 confiscated \$9,350 in cash, personal checks and money orders belonging to him.

Zamara manages rental properties, and the money



The VIP Smoke Shop in Oakwood. CORNELIUS FROLIK / STAFF

and payments authorities confiscated were the rents owed by tenants of those properties, the complaint states.

The complaint claims that Zamara's money and property are in the possession of the Dayton Police Department, possibly in the evidence room.

Zamara has asked for the money and property to be returned but that has not happened, according to the lawsuit, which is seeking the return of the property, plus compensatory damages.

On April 10, the Tactical Crime Suppression Unit executed search warrants at the Springboro Vape & Smoke Shop and three VIP Smoke Shops, at 9144 Dayton-Lebanon Pike in Washington Twp.; at 6 Oakwood Ave. in Oakwood; and at 5410 N. Springboro Pike in Moraine.

Police said undercover officers purchased products from these smoke shops that later tested positive for illegal THC, which is a psy-

choactive substance found in marijuana.

An attorney representing VIP Smoke Shops said his client had no idea some of the products sold at the stores may have contained illegal substances.

Smoke shops, gas stations, convenience stores and other establishments across the region and state sell products that contain Delta-8, which is legal in Ohio because it is derived from hemp.

Delta-8 can produce a high when smoked or ingested, though it is generally believed to be less powerful than standard THC. But police said some vape products and edible candies contained illegal THC.

The city of Dayton and Zamara's attorney have not responded to requests for further comment.

Contact this reporter at  
[Cory.Frolik@coxinc.com](mailto:Cory.Frolik@coxinc.com)



## PRESS RELEASE

The City of Oakwood  
30 Park Avenue  
Oakwood, Ohio 45419

**Subject:** 2023 Oakwood Beautification Award Nominations

**Date:** May 8, 2023

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OAKWOOD, OHIO:

### 2023 OAKWOOD BEAUTIFICATION AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Oakwood Beautification Award Program is intended to recognize residential and business property owners who have enhanced the beauty of Oakwood by either planting flowers, shrubs, trees or other landscape improvements, or by making significant architectural modifications or building improvements to existing structures. Awards are given during the months of May, June, July and August. Monthly award winners are selected by citizen-members of the Property Maintenance Board.

Beautification Award winners will be recognized in the Oakwood Scene newsletter, the City website, and the *Oakwood Register*. They will also have a sign placed on their property for up to 30 days. During a council meeting, all winning properties will be featured as part of a video presentation and all winners will receive a recognition certificate that includes a photograph of their property. Winners from May and June will be recognized at the July council meeting; winners from July and August will be recognized at the September council meeting.

Properties may be nominated for consideration by citizens or city staff. Nomination forms are available on the City's website at [www.oakwoodohio.gov/oakwood-beautification-awards](http://www.oakwoodohio.gov/oakwood-beautification-awards). We encourage nominations of properties that have not previously won an award.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

Jennifer Wilder, Director of Personnel and Properties

(937) 298-0411

[wilder@oakwood.oh.us](mailto:wilder@oakwood.oh.us)

## City accepting nominations for 2023 Beautification Awards

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OR

5/10/23

## Popular golf outing, silent auction will wrap up That Day in May festivities at Dayton Country Club

What's becoming a favorite event of That Day in May is the Golf Outing and Auction held the following Monday, May 22, at the Dayton Country Club.

Day two of That Day in May is designed for golfers as the Rotary Club of Oakwood hosts the third annual golf event at DCC.

Chris MacPherson, That Day in May chair, invites everyone to enjoy this historic course, "For the weekend golfer, this is a unique opportunity to play on one of the finest golf courses in

our area," MacPherson said. The golf course dates to 1897.

This year's TDIM Golf Outing Chair Victoria Hix has asked DCC to create a signature cocktail for the event's 19th Hole Cocktail Party. "The staff promises it will be light, fun, and refreshing after a full day of golfing," Hix pledged.

Last year the TDIM Golf Outing had a \$1,000 prize winner at the 110-yard hole-in-one contest. This year, there'll be even more chances to win prizes at various putting challenges, including

longest drive, and closest-to-the-pin contests.

The \$150 golf entry fee includes 18 holes of golf, early access to the Silent Auction items, a \$10 DCC Pro Shop credit, lunch buffet and two drink tickets to use on the course or at the Cocktail Party.

Oakwood Rotarian Polly Petricola, Auction co-chair, invites everyone to stop by the DCC throughout the day to place bids on some very attractive auction items. "You don't have to be

See TDIM on page 7 ►

### ► TDIM from page 1

a golfer to enjoy our silent auction with over 50 unique items up for bid," Petricola adds.

Two new sponsors this year have donated spectacular items that will be very popular with bidders including a David Yurman Necklace valued at \$750 from James Free Jewelers, upscale, permanent eye-lining services from Dayton Powder Brows also valued at \$750, four hours of exclusive trout fishing, tickets to the OSU-Maryland football game on Oct. 7, numerous bourbon and wine baskets, a Houser Asphalt hot air balloon ride with complimentary champagne, a guided bird watching tour at Germantown MetroPark, and gift cards from local restaurants, as well as gift cards from Siebenthaler's, land-

scaping from Williams Landscaping services, a month of Dayton Dragons tickets in July with parking pass, a fun sing-along package with guitarist Bill Schuerman perfect for block parties or family gatherings, \$500 worth of auto detailing items from Carl's Body Shop, a \$250 Lazer bike helmet and two DCC golf packages for four golfers and two carts valued at \$600 each. The public is invited to place their bids from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The public is also invited to enjoy the TDIM 19th Hole Cocktail Party which begins at 4:30 p.m. Tickets are required and available online or at the door the day of event.

"It's important to note that nearly 100 Oakwood Rotarians, along with various Oakwood High School student volunteers and various city and

public safety employees, spend nearly 1,000 hours putting on our signature Oakwood community event," MacPherson adds. TDIM is also the primary fundraiser for the Rotary Club of Oakwood and the Oakwood Rotary Foundation, which has distributed nearly \$750,000 to support numerous Miami Valley area non-profits, educational groups, and service organizations over the last 30 years.

Visit [www.TDIM.org](http://www.TDIM.org) for information on sponsorships, to register for golf or make a reservation. Applications for the parade and dog show are also available at [www.TDIM.org](http://www.TDIM.org). Tickets for the pancake breakfast can be purchased at the Oakwood Community Center, from members of the Rotary Club of Oakwood or at the door.

OR 5/10/23

OPEN LETTER TO THE OAKWOOD COMMUNITY  
SUBJECT: SCHOOL TRAFFIC SAFETY

First, a little recent history. Our eight year old daughter was hit by a small SUV on Telford Avenue on April 27 just off of school property shortly after the school day ended. An after-school care facility picks her up on Thursdays, but Thursday, April 27, was the Celebration Of The Arts day at Smith Elementary. She decided to walk home with a neighbor friend instead of going to the after-school bus so she would be ready for COTA, but nobody else knew the change of plans. Her friend was already on the other side of the street, so our daughter went between parked cars into the street to take the shortest route. This left little time for the SUV to react and she was hit. Thankfully our daughter was not seriously injured. We are especially grateful for the parents and teachers who stepped up to comfort and help her when we could not.

We recognize our daughter's decision to enter the street between two parked cars contributed to this accident. However, pickup and dropoff at the school gets very congested with vehicular traffic and often include parked vehicles in no parking zones or loading zones. As a result drivers in the street may not have a clear view of smaller pedestrians on the sidewalk or approaching the street. Our house is on Telford and we experience the traffic Smith Elementary receives not only for school pickup/dropoff and its own extracurricular events, but also for OCC events that use the gymnasium, middle and high school sports practices, sports games, and PTO nights. Wright Library also has days of increased traffic flow on our street. We are aware of the hazards these present and frequently remind our two children of the importance of looking both ways prior to crossing the street, verbally acknowledging safe passage, and peeking around parked cars rather than stepping into the street to check for traffic. Our children get regular practice when crossing the street for school as well as for the playground area, library, and Katharine Wright Park. None of this stopped our daughter from acting impulsively to catch up with her friend. Our daughter is typically a pretty responsible child. She is also eight years old and should not shoulder the burden of her safety.

For more history, something similar happened on January 13, 2020 at nearly the same spot. A child was in the crosswalk on the way to Smith and was struck by a car making a turn onto Telford from Shafor. Multiple close calls around Smith Elementary have been avoided by vigilant parents and educators alerting the children, as attested to during recent conversations with school administration and parents following our child's accident. Put simply, we do not believe the status quo is safe for the children in our community, especially in the 8:00 to 8:30 and 3:00 to 3:30 timeframes with significantly higher pedestrian and vehicular traffic near the school. Please see the included photos as examples of the congestion during dropoff and pickup times around Smith. They represent a typical day, and posted signage for no parking, turnarounds, and loading zones are often ignored.

Following the 2020 accident we did quite a bit of research into options. At that point we concluded a viable option was to create one-way traffic flow on Telford Avenue between Far Hills and Shafor toward Far Hills, and likely also one-way traffic flow on Aberdeen Avenue between Far Hills and Shafor toward Shafor. This addresses the following concerns related to hazards for parked cars and pedestrian traffic: turnarounds in the street and driveways to pull into a parallel or angled parking spot, high congestion with two-way traffic flow at the Smith Elementary dropoff and pickup areas, and tight two-way traffic flow near the Wright Library media return. One-way flow would allow vehicles to travel more in the middle of the street and offer more time to react to surprises from children or objects.

We presented this to the City Council in May 2021 and received a response from the Chairman of Streets and Alleys. He indicated that similar ideas have been discussed for years but the council did not feel one-way traffic was beneficial to the area around Smith School and Wright Library. Items highlighted to reject proposed one-way traffic include: flexibility of travel two-way offers; backups onto Far Hills, in front of Smith on Shafor, and on Aberdeen and Telford from one-way flow; increased vehicular traffic on Wiltshire and Forrer to avoid one-way on Aberdeen and Telford; and reduced access to residents on Aberdeen and Telford if traffic is one-way. The chairman did acknowledge no traffic study has been done about the effects of converting the first block of Telford and possibly Aberdeen to one-way, but said that the Council does not want one way streets in that area and is resistant to speed bumps in the city. He also indicated he would kick off a conversation with the Smith Elementary administration to alleviate backups at dropoff and pickup, and that they should be included in the conversation. We don't know if these conversations took place but we know that the congestion at dropoff and pickup has not changed.

The Chairman of Streets and Alleys and Chief of Police did erect a speed sign and data collection device to identify traffic speeds and flow over a two week period. During that period, on the first block of Telford 2825 vehicles traveled westbound toward Far Hills and 1167 vehicles went eastbound toward Shafor (anecdotally, a good percentage of eastbound traffic found parking spots for the library and never made it to the school). For speed, 50% of traffic was below posted school limit of 20 mph and 85% of traffic was 26mph or lower each day of the week, with Sunday having the highest average speed. These percentiles were in the presence of clear notice on current speed and likely deterrent to not exceed the 20 mph school zone posted limit or 25 mph for residential streets. We had continuing dialogue with one member of the City Council on the data collected.

We were also informed that the June 2021 Council meeting would include vehicular traffic as a topic. We canvassed our neighbors on Telford in advance of this meeting to understand if there was any appetite for one-way traffic on the street and also if there were any concerns with traffic on the block. Of the 12 houses on our block we were able to talk to eight, seven of whom were in support of one-way toward Far Hills (in the direction of the angled parking) and one which had no strong opinion for or against and would need more information. Speeding, wide turns into angled parking, turnarounds, and congestion at the library and school were all particular concerns raised by our neighbors. So at least for the residents on the Telford block, the effect of one-way traffic may not be as significant as first believed. With more than 70% of traffic going westbound on Telford the effect of one-way traffic on routes may not be as dramatic either, though data were gathered for one week each way and spanned the end of the school year.

Since our daughter was hit we are even more passionate about ensuring that the hazard to young pedestrians is addressed more fully. The feeling of driving to the hospital to meet your child after receiving a call is something we want to prevent other parents from experiencing. The emotional state of a child that has been hit by a car may take longer to recover than the body. Seeing a classmate or friend lying in the street can also have a lasting effect.

Conversations with our neighbors and other community members are highlighting issues. Some items that have been raised include a lack of flashing signs on Aberdeen or Telford alerting motorists to the school zone, no clear end to the school zone areas, and unenforced no parking areas. Options offered that this letter hasn't yet mentioned include fencing or other barrier to direct pedestrian traffic to the crosswalks, placing temporary cones in the no parking zone to prevent vehicles from blocking line of sight, and establishing a safety patrol with 6th grade or 7th-12th grade students for community service hours or credit. We have also heard that Harman Elementary has similar problems with pedestrian and vehicular traffic near the school and are interested in learning more about how to improve that area. An April 20, 2023 letter signed by the Oakwood City Manager Norbert Klopsch regarding a roundabout study on Far Hills stated that a location with "heavy pedestrian traffic requires the safest possible intersection design." We agree, and assert that the Shafor-Telford and Shafor-Aberdeen intersections receive heavy pedestrian traffic.

Many residents either attend the elementary schools or are parents of these students. Hopefully this letter kicks off a larger conversation on the topic of traffic around the schools and we can brainstorm ideas that improve the safety of our children. Some options may work at both schools or benefit one school more, but we would love to hear your ideas and work to implement solutions. If you have read all the way to the end, THANK YOU for your interest in this topic. Feel free to write to [OakwoodTraffic@gmail.com](mailto:OakwoodTraffic@gmail.com) with suggestions, or you can talk to us in person if you see us around town!

Regards,

Christine Robinson  
Lucas Robinson



Photo looking westbound on Aberdeen Avenue toward Far Hills Avenue. Photo taken does not represent how heavily congested this area can get so as to not interfere with the flow of traffic, but does demonstrate the challenge of operating a two-way road during pickup and dropoff.

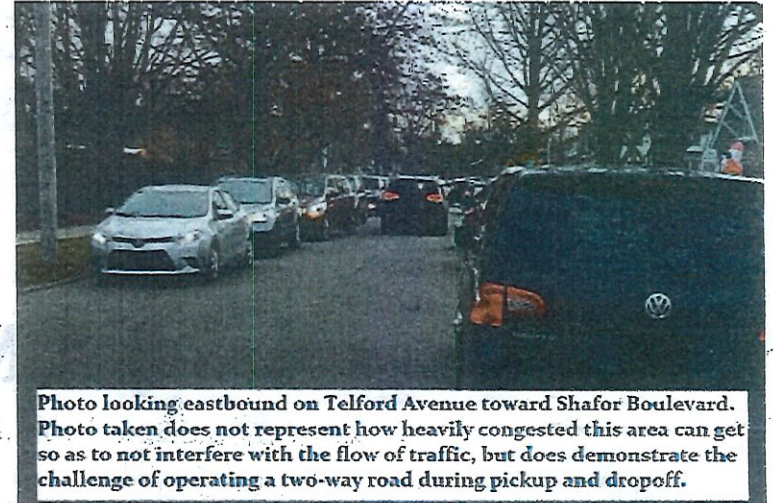


Photo looking eastbound on Telford Avenue toward Shafor Boulevard. Photo taken does not represent how heavily congested this area can get so as to not interfere with the flow of traffic, but does demonstrate the challenge of operating a two-way road during pickup and dropoff.

OR 5/10/23

## OAKWOOD

### City named Tree City USA for 41st year

The city of Oakwood was named a Tree City USA for the 41st consecutive year. On April 20, Carol Collins, the city's director of leisure services, and Brian Caldwell, city horticulturist, received the award on behalf of the city at a banquet held in Fairfield.

"Oakwood has always placed enormous value on trees, both on public land and private property," said City Manager Norbert Klopsch. "Carol and Brian do an outstanding job in implementing our annual tree maintenance programs and the annual Johnny Appleseed Street Tree Planting Program that Carol started in 1976."

For additional information, contact Carol Collins at 937-298-0775 or [collins@oakwoodohio.gov](mailto:collins@oakwoodohio.gov).

STAFF REPORT

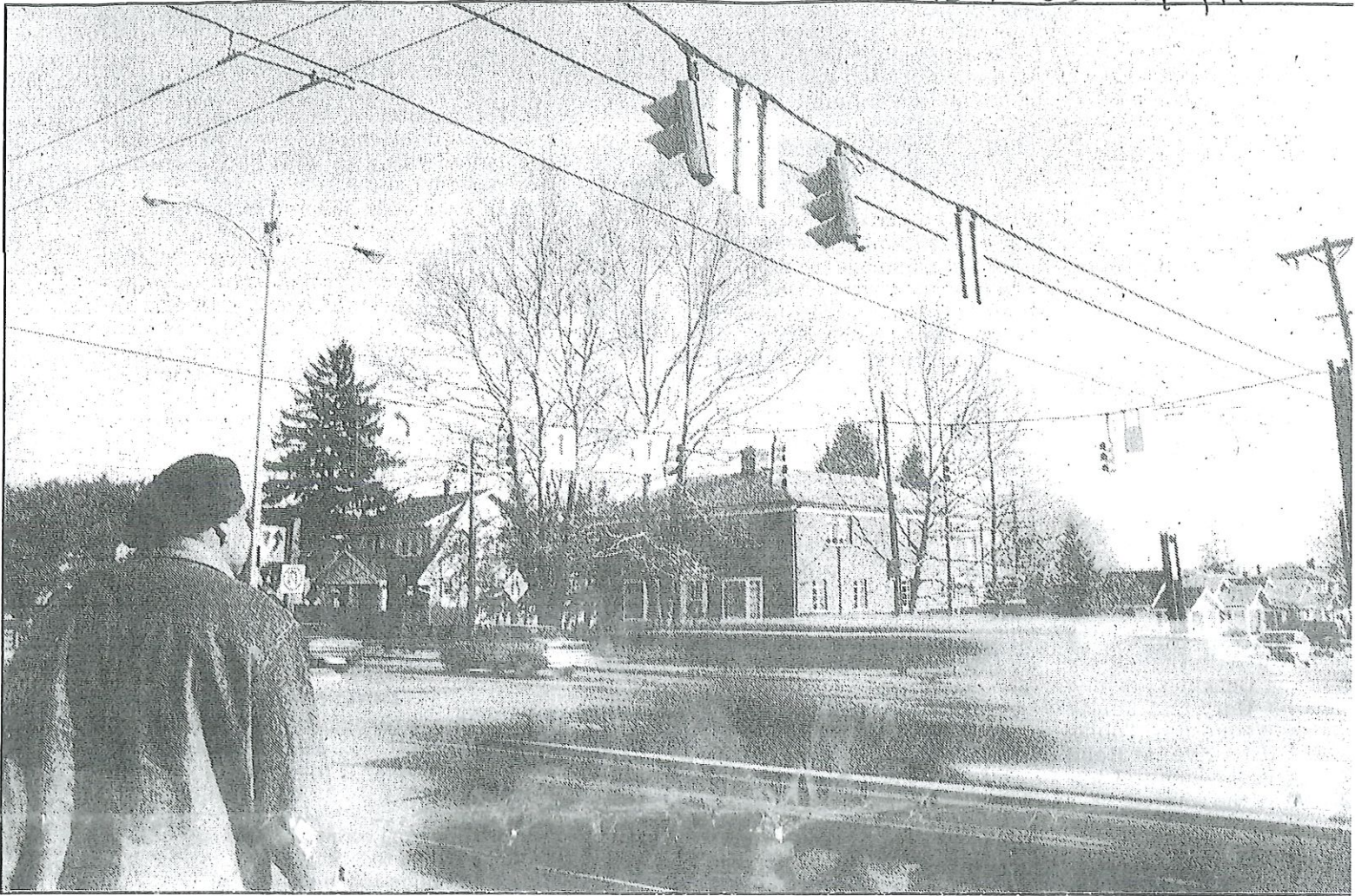


photo by Chip Gamertsfelder

The intersection of Far Hills and Peach Orchard avenues is one of many being targeted by the city of Oakwood as it seeks to update its traffic signalization.

# Signals of change in Oakwood

## Traffic signal plan to address several intersections

By Lisa Gallagher  
Staff Writer

The city of Oakwood is planning an "over-head upgrade" of all traffic signals by 1998, according to Norbert Klopsch, city engineer.

The first phase, which was allotted \$30,000 in 1994's city budget, will begin in late January. The intersections of Far Hills and Schantz avenues and Far Hills and Peach Orchard Avenue are the first to be changed, Klopsch said.

The total project, consisting of five phases, is estimated at \$300,000, he said.

Under the plan, a contractor will replace the signal heads with larger ones, Klopsch said. Some over-head sig-

nals will also be taken down and moved to make the intersection easier to understand, he said.



Norbert Klopsch

will make the same changes to upgrade three more intersections. The intersections of

Oakwood and Schantz avenues, Far Hills and Patterson Road, and Oakwood and Far Hills will be completed by the end of 1995, he said.

"The location of the light at Peach Orchard and Far Hills is misleading," Klopsch said. "We need to relocate it to fall in line with the lane."

The second phase, estimated to cost \$55,000, will make the

same changes to upgrade three more intersections. The intersections of

Oakwood and Schantz avenues, Far Hills and Patterson Road, and Oakwood and Far Hills will be completed by the end of 1995, he said.

"Over the last few years things have fallen down from hard wear," Klopsch said. "We haven't made changes in close to 20, or 30 years."

Another phase, which includes work on four intersections, will be done in 1996. The fourth phase (five intersections) will be completed by 1997, Klopsch said.

In 1998, when all 14 intersections are completed, the city will replace the controllers which run a few of the signals, he said. Currently, 11 out of the 14 intersections are part of a closed-loop

Please see page 13A



## Traffic signals

Continued from page 1A

computerized system. City officials will take measures to include the other three intersections in the system, Klopsch said.

Residents can expect to see single lanes closed during the signal upgrade process, he said. But there will always be through traffic at all of the intersections, Klopsch said.

"We will be working on the lights when the traffic isn't as heavy," he said. "There may be some delay, but it won't be bad."

# City readies plans for signal changes

By Sherry Heinzerling

The Oakwood Register

Oakwood's major intersections are heading for what city engineer Norbert Klopsch calls an "overhead upgrade."

The Schantz-Far Hills and Peach Orchard-Far Hills intersections are both earmarked for signal improvements, hardware replacement and some phasing changes before the end of the year.

Patterson-Far Hills and Five Points will be next on the upgrade list, probably early 1995, Klopsch said.

Changes include replacing the current 8 inch signal lights on Far Hills with 12 inch ones. New wiring, sign brackets and other hardware, some of which is 20-30 years old, will also be replaced. Overhead signals and signs will be re-positioned so that they are more easily understood, he said.

Pedestrian signals will be replaced with larger ones using the red hand and the walking person symbols.

The signal phasing for Far Hills and Peach Orchard will also be changed to eliminate a left turn trap, which can leave motorists stuck while they wait for an opening in traffic and the lights turn red.

"This is really a tough intersection with the way it exists today," Klopsch said. "I've had an experi-

enced traffic engineer look at it and there's really not much else we can do."

Klopsch explained that traffic in the northbound cruise lane, which has its own signal, can trigger the early changing of the signal over the extreme left lane on southbound Far Hills traffic. That phasing will be eliminated.

"It's a tradeoff," he said. "There's more safety for the person making the left turn but it will stop both directions of traffic at the same time."

At Schantz and Far Hills avenues, the protected left turn signals on both northbound and southbound Far Hills will be altered to protective/permissive left turns, which means that once the left turn signal ends, motorists can continue to turn left on green if traffic permits.

"The visibility in both directions there is fine," Klopsch said. "This will reduce delays."

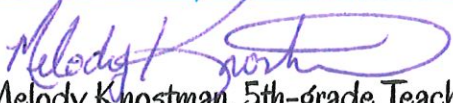
Other changes include adjusting the length of the yellow light and the length of the all-red light at all Oakwood intersections. The all-red is the brief interval when lights in all directions are red. By adding several seconds to those phases, the traffic department hopes to increase the safety of the intersections.

Klopsch added that pedestrian clearance times will be lengthened at all intersections, to give walkers more time to cross.

May 4, 2023








Dear aDOORable Oakwood partner,

The 5th-grade class at Smith Elementary wants to THANK YOU for participating in our service project. We hope our project brings our community together as a family to explore Oakwood and the shop while spending time together as a family. Enclosed you will find a copy of the trail guide and a sticker as our appreciation for your participation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Melody Knostman at [knostman.melody@oakwoodschoools.org](mailto:knostman.melody@oakwoodschoools.org).

  
Melody Knostman, 5th-grade Teacher at Smith Elementary  
The Oakwood Class of 2030

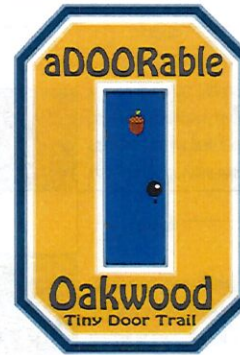
Handwritten names in various colors:

- will, Zae, charlie, Elaine, Elizabeth, Darla
- Peter, June, Dan, Sebastian, Zack, Rudy, Elijah, Clark
- Chloe, Skylar, Lizzie, Wren, Thomas, Addy, Blake, Stella, McPowell
- Marin, Karim, Hannah, Dasu, Lily, Lucas, Beck
- Kendall, Josiah, Ava, Miles, Adam, Sophie, Jonathan
- Amelia, Avery, Ben, Sophie, Claire, Max, Benjamin, Jonathan
- W.C., Danny, Lexi, Lucy, Scout, Chloe, Benjamin, Tyler, Emma, Immanuel
- Stella, James, Adrian, Bee, swany, Mingsu, A DAY, Ellie, Rowan, Michael, Immanuel
- Mary, Evelyn, Maddie, Drew, Evie, Allison, Rowan, Michael, Immanuel
- Libby, Ethan, Daniel, Julie, Jett, Poppy, Nathan

<p>Pride is in store for this little door Hidden in a tree on Volusia floor If you stay on the 100 block You'll be able to see it from the sidewalk</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Location: _____</p>		<p>They are running the schools and paying the bills You'll find them right off of Far Hills When you find it we think you might be floored And trust us, we guarantee you'll never get BOARD</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Location: _____</p>	
<p>All the classes will keep you active Keeping your whole family captive Fun and activities all year round This door is easily found</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Location: _____</p>		<p>I won't tell you exactly where this can be found But it will be in the road verge close to the ground Take a walk on the 200 block And keep your eyes peeled like a hawk</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Location: _____</p>	
<p>Art and stationary in the store Something sweet is right next door Don't just park outside the store Just look up to find this door</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Location: _____</p>		<p>I am so grateful to have this opportunity to initiate our very own aDOORable Oakwood Tiny Door Trail with the generosity of the Oakwood School Foundation. I also want to thank Lori Stanley and Brian Knostman for encouraging and helping with the trail; along with the help of the 5th-graders at Smith Elementary. They helped in creating some of the clay doors with the guidance of our amazing art teacher, Amy Mullins. I also would like to thank Mr. Rainsberger at OHS, for helping with the 3-D printing of the doors and Jacqui Taylor at the Wright Library for continuing and supporting the project. I aim to encourage families to get outside to enjoy the hunt, locate the doors, and spend time with each other. The Smith 5th-graders, class of 2030, will always be a part of this community outreach project, including my daughter, Wrennie, the inspiration behind it all. <i>Melody Knostman, 5th-Grade Teacher at Smith Elementary</i></p>	
<p>In the road verge in a tree on East Dixon Be sure to listen to this description In order to find this little door 100 is the clue to store</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Location: _____</p>			
<p>This little door is found in a triangle A little park where a black swing does dangle Where two roads meet up But you won't have to look up</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Location: _____</p>			

Places to look for doors:

- The Wright Library
- Orchardly Park (look for 2)
- Ashley's Bakery
- Mac Hummon Field
- Oakwood Florist
- Oakwood Jr. High
- The City Building
- 00 Block of Greenmount (look for 2)
- The Flower Shoppe
- Shafar Park (look for 2)
- The Spicy Olive
- Blue Turtle Toys
- Maraluna
- Board of Education Office
- Stephens Insurance
- Smith Elementary
- Harman Elementary
- Smith Gardens
- Park on Forrer & Schnatz
- Fairridge Park
- Lula Bells
- The Little Exchange
- Jessup Wealth Management
- Kubik Books
- 100 Block of East Dixon
- 100 Block of Volusia
- 200 Block of Telford



Use the QR Code along with the clues to help you find all the Tiny Doors on the trail.

They're just not any doors...

**aDOORable** akwood

Tiny Door Trail

Use the QR code to open a Google map to help you find all the tiny doors on the trail.

Let's Start!



They're just not any doors...  
aDOORable



akwood

Tiny Door Trail

Brought to you by the Smith Class of 2030!

Your adventure awaits! Find the tiny doors throughout Oakwood, write down the location, and turn in the completed form to Oakwood's Wright Library for a prize. Doors are located in public locations. Please do not walk up on private property while door hunting. Enjoy the hunt!  
Dedicated to my daughter, Wrennie ❤️ her mom



<p>You're in the Wright place if you look real close This door is special for the host Find the start of the trail right here Enjoy the hunt, there's nothing to fear</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Location: _____</p>	<p>We WONDER if you can find these 2 Hidden where the kids all flew You'll swing right in and make a splash But don't wait long, hurry and dash!</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Location: _____ / _____</p>	<p>Park yourself and get some sweets It's a piece of cake to find this treat Donut you know how to find this door? We know when you do, you'll be wanting more</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Location: _____</p>	<p>You never know what this hunt will yield You may be outstanding in your field You'll have to look forward and back Find yourself standing right there with Mac</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Location: _____</p>	<p>Flowers, flowers all around This one can be easily found At the very edge of town Just look down upon the ground</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Location: _____</p>
<p>Our door, well it may be kinda little But we put it right there in the middle You may be able to find it sooner If you're not in high school but a junior</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Location: _____</p>	<p>It's SAFE to say this one is so fun But if you can't find it, DON'T call 9-1-1 Sirens and lights are only for an emergency So go right there and the door you will see!</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Location: _____</p>	<p>Greenmount is the place to be The 00 blocks there are 2 to see One is hidden amongst the stone The other in the boulevard zone</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Location: _____ / _____</p>	<p>Roses are red, or sometimes pink Peonies, &amp; lilies are pretty we think Gorgeous arrangements, &amp; greenery galore Will lead you to this tiny door</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Location: _____</p>	<p>These hide where the special events are If you're at the OCC it's not very far Where kids run, play and have lots of fun In the big green space made for everyone!</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Location: _____ / _____</p>
<p>Spicy and green and such a treat This natural food is fun to eat Ons with a special bite Just look down to the right</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Location: _____</p>	<p>Fun and games for every age The newest games are all the rage Don't be SLOW getting here The tiny door is very near</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Location: _____</p>	<p>If you Park and take a real good look You'll find this door and a pretty good book Be sure to be quiet and don't make a sound Then this door will be easily found</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Location: _____</p>	<p>A cozy little gift shop that has a big heart Giving to Children's the funds from their mart This door is sweet, tiny, and a little bit pink When you find it you'll want to shop there, we think!</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Location: _____</p>	<p>A neighborhood shop that feeds your soul Where you can find a rug or bowl Sustainable goods for everyone This door is right amidst the fun</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Location: _____</p>
<p>Flower lovers will look high and low For this little door where the plants all grow A stream and pond and weddings too! This beautiful place is waiting for you!</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Location: _____</p>	<p>From 1<sup>st</sup> on up, you'll be taught a lot Teachers will help with the things you forgot The door is headed towards the west But you'll have to figure out the rest</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Location: _____</p>	<p>In the middle of Shafor this door you'll find Better pay attention or you'll fall behind You'll learn to take all the hints and clues Or your teachers will surely get the blues</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Location: _____</p>	<p>When you find this door you'll have the power It's very close to the water tower Have a swing or take a slide This door was easy to hide</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Location: _____</p>	<p>To INSURE you find this little door. Don't go to your typical store A family-owned business to protect your stuff They will make sure you have just enough</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Location: _____</p>

30 Tiny Doors to find... We might add more down the line.

More doors to find on the other side



## OAKWOOD

# Ohio 48 sewer work to cost more, affect traffic for months

**By Nick Blizzard**  
Staff Writer

OAKWOOD — A \$2.1 million sewer project on Ohio 48 is expected to cause lane closures that will slow Far Hills Avenue traffic for months and cost the city much more than initially expected.

Oakwood's state grant application was denied, prompting the city recently to shift \$985,000 from its general fund for the Far Hills Avenue storm sewer reconstruction, a "critically important" project, according to the city.

The budget Oakwood approved for this year included \$1.22 million for stormwater capital improvements, city documents show.

The work, estimated to run from June to November, will

**Sewer work** continued on **B4**

## Sewer work

continued from B1

likely be a phased project with northbound and southbound single-lane closures on Far Hills/Ohio 48, Oakwood officials said.

The city's website will have weekly updates on the project, City Manager Norbert Klopsch said.

"This is not something we've traditionally done for projects. But this particular one is a biggie and you're going to see a lot of work right down Far Hills Avenue just south of the high school," Klopsch said.

"And I think a lot of folks will be interested in keeping up on the work on a regular basis," he added.

Residents can also register

for weekly email updates once work starts, Klopsch said.

That part of Ohio 48 is one of the most traveled surface streets in Montgomery County, running from downtown Dayton south through the suburbs of Oakwood, Kettering, Centerville and Washington Twp.

Much of the sewer system in the work zone was installed before the 1950s, officials have

said.

Kinnison Excavating's bid of \$1.84 million was the lowest of four submissions received on the project and was awarded the contract, according to the city. The highest proposal was \$2.24 million by Outdoor Enterprises.

Oakwood officials expect to meet with Kinnison in a few weeks, at which time a firmer schedule and a traffic

maintenance plan will be discussed, city project engineer Chris Kuzma said in an email.

"Traffic will be maintained with at least one lane open in both directions throughout the project," Kuzma said. "There are no plans for a total road closure and complete detour at any point of the project."

The project will include replacing about 3,050 feet of pipe on four Oakwood roads,

including the state route, officials said.

The work will involve one block on Far Hills from Dellwood Avenue to Greenmount Boulevard, plus one-block areas ending at the state route on Dellwood and Forrer Boulevard, Klopsch said.

The project will also impact Devereux Drive from Forrer to just north of Ashridge Road, he added.