

CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 17, 2023

IMPORTANT COUNCIL DATES:

November 28, Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. – BRC Meeting (30 Park)
December 4, Monday, 6 p.m. – Regular Session (30 Park)
December 10, Sunday, 6:30 p.m. – Holiday of Lights (Shafor Park)
January 2, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. – Regular Session (30 Park)
January 22, Monday, 5 p.m. – Work Session (30 Park)
February 5, Monday, 6:30 p.m. – Regular Session (30 Park)
February 26, Monday, 5 p.m. – Work Session (30 Park)
March 4, Monday, 6:30 p.m. – Regular Session (30 Park)
March 18, Monday, 5 p.m. – Work Session (30 Park)

BUSINESS UPDATE:

- November 20 Work Session: As mentioned in an email this week, our work session next Monday is cancelled.
- Thanksgiving: City offices will be closed next Thursday and Friday for the Thanksgiving holiday. Enclosed is a *Register* article.
- Planning and Zoning Workshop: The following people will attend the December 1 MVRPC workshop:
 - Andy Aidt – Planning Commission
 - Rob Jacques – Staff
 - Ethan Kroger – Staff
 - JT Ferguson – Staff
- Board of Health: The Board meets next Tuesday. Enclosed is the meeting packet along with an email.
- Holiday Luncheon & Employee Recognition: Enclosed is an invitation to our holiday luncheon scheduled for 12 noon on Friday, December 15. Please join us if you are able.
- Citizen Committees: Enclosed is a list of committee members whose terms expire at the end of the year. We will discuss this at the December 4 work session.
- Electric Aggregation: Enclosed is an email that was sent last week via the OCC email distribution list and a *DDN* article about the electric aggregation program deadline.
- December 6 PC Meeting: The Planning Commission will review two lot consolidation applications for 349 E. Schantz Avenue and 810 E. Schantz Avenue at their December 6 meeting. The consolidations are subject to administrative review only and not public hearings.
- December 14 BZA: We have no applications so the December meeting is cancelled. Enclosed is the cancellation memo.
- CPA: Enclosed is a *Register* article about this year's Oakwood Citizen Police Academy graduation. It was another excellent program.

- Five Points: Enclosed is a *Register* letter to the editor.
- Park Proposal: Enclosed is a *Register* letter to the editor about the suggestion to convert the vacant lot at 1313 Far Hills Avenue into a low-maintenance, biodiversity-friendly park commemorating Oakwood resident Joe Desch.
- DLM: Enclosed is a *DDN* article about the demolition of the PNC Bank and DLM's plan for construction of additional parking.
- MVCC: Rob Stephens chaired his last meeting this week of the MVCC Board of Directors. It was a two-year assignment.
- PELC Graduation: Today, Lieutenant Justin Slone graduated from the Police Executive Leadership College (PELC) program. PELC is a three-month leadership development program consisting of 105 class hours, covering 20+ leadership topics, 20 required readings, 4 research papers, 3 team projects, 2 speeches, and 1 capstone presentation. Captain Pruszyński and Captain Tanner attended the graduation ceremony which was held in Columbus. All four current Safety Department lieutenants are graduates of the PELC program. Congratulations to Lt. Slone.



- PSO Dustin Mitchell: PSO Mitchell (middle in photo below) graduated yesterday from the Sinclair Criminal Justice Training Academy. Dustin started the academy on June 12. His class had 17 graduates and consisted of over 750 training hours. Throughout the course of the academy, the cadets were frequently tested academically. In total, there were over 1,100 possible testing points to be earned. Dustin graduated the academy #2 overall with the separation between first and second being less than three points. This speaks to the level of Dustin's commitment and effort he put in during the academy. Dustin will take the state police certification test in the near future and once complete, will begin his in-house training. Prior to coming to Oakwood, Dustin was a firefighter/paramedic with the Xenia Fire Department. Chief Hill, Captain Pruszynski, and Captain Tanner attended the graduation ceremony.



HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND!

TRANSMITTALS NOTED WITHIN NEWSLETTER

Register article re: Thanksgiving

BOH Meeting Packet

Employee Holiday Luncheon Initiation

Citizen Committee List

Email & *DDN* article re: Electric Aggregation

BZA Cancellation Memo

Register article re: CPA

Register article re: Five Points

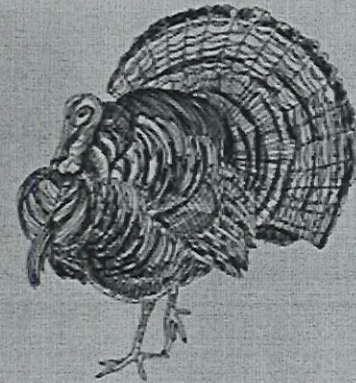
Register article re: Park Proposal

DDN article re: DLM

City offices to close Nov. 23, 24 for Thanksgiving holiday

Oakwood city offices will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 23, and Friday, Nov. 24, in observance of Thanksgiving.

Trash pickup for all routes the week of November 20 will be the same as the normal weekly schedule, except that Thursday's route will be picked up on Wednesday.



THE OAKWOOD REGISTER November 15, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS

FROM: NORBERT KLOPSCH

SUBJECT: NOVEMBER 21, 2023 MEETING

DATE: NOVEMBER 13, 2023

Greetings from City Hall!

We meet at 5:30 p.m. next Tuesday, November 21 in the council chamber at the city building. For those wishing to participate via Zoom, below is the access information:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81442681858?pwd=9GHZR09bWEFYNLU3Kk8CPcLMUhC1bV.1>

Meeting ID: 814 4268 1858
Passcode: 079783

Enclosed are:

- The meeting agenda.
- Minutes of our September 26, 2023 meeting.
- Resolution 23-1 Fees for Food Establishment and Service Operations.

c: Mayor William Duncan, President
Dr. Steve Enseleit, Health Commissioner
Dr. John Ewing, Assistant Health Commissioner/Medical Director
Matthew Tyler, REHS, Environmental Health Director

BOARD OF HEALTH
AGENDA
NOVEMBER 21, 2023

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS
 - September 26, 2023
- III. REPORT FROM CHAIR
- IV. REPORT FROM ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR
- V. REPORT FROM HEALTH COMMISSIONER
- VI. REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATOR/CITY MANAGER
- VII. OLD BUSINESS
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS
 - Resolution 23-1 Fees for Food Establishment and Service Operations, Second Reading
- IX. ADJOURN

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH, CITY OF OAKWOOD, STATE OF OHIO

The meeting was conducted on Tuesday, September 26, 2023 in the council chamber at the Oakwood City Building, 30 Park Avenue, and was also accessible via Zoom.

Attending in person were:

Dr. David Denka, D.O., Chair
Dr. Bill Coyne, D.D.S., Vice Chair
Dr. Elizabeth Hardy, Ph.D., Member

Dr. Steve Enseleit, M.D., Health Commissioner
Norbert Klopsch, Administrator/City Manager
Matt Tyler, REHS, Environmental Health Director

Attending via remote teleconference was Mrs. Diane Scott, R.N., Member.

Also in attendance were Law Director Rob Jacques and Planning & Zoning Manager Ethan Kroger.

Excused absent were Dr. Elizabeth Maimon, DVM, M.P.H., Member and Mayor Bill Duncan, President.

Dr. Denka called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and led a discussion on the following agenda items:

Minutes of Previous Meetings: Dr. Denka asked that the minutes of the July 25, 2023 meeting be reviewed. There being no requested edits, a motion to approve was made by Dr. Hardy and seconded by Mrs. Scott. Upon viva voce vote, the motion passed and the minutes were approved.

Report from Chair: No report.

Report from Environmental Health Director: Matt Tyler, REHS, Environmental Health Director, commented on the following items:

- October 2022 – May 2023 Influenza Report: Mr. Tyler gave a report on the flu cases in Oakwood from October 2022 through May 2023. There have been six hospitalizations compared to a five-year average of five cases in Oakwood. Overall illness rates are down. The region is experiencing a slight increase in flu cases while the overall cases in the state have decreased.
- Emergency Response Plan: Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County has an Emergency Response Plan that includes the city of Oakwood. Additionally, Montgomery County has an Emergency Management Agency. Together, these two organizations are well-positioned to address any and all health emergencies throughout the region.

Mr. Klopsch noted that the city of Oakwood also has an emergency operations plan that deals with natural disasters and other emergency scenarios.

Report from Board Administrator/City Manager: Mr. Klopsch commented on the following items:

- Annual Water Testing: Oakwood's water has been tested and is free of any detectable PFAS chemicals. City staff completed 18 of the 20 lead and copper water tests and no results exceeded "Action Levels" for either lead or copper. The results of the remaining two samples will be available in the next few days. Mr. Klopsch will report the results of the remaining two samples to the Board when they are available. Mr. Klopsch commented on the two water reports that provide information on the operation of the city's water system. The Consumer Confidence Report and the Annual Water Production Report are available on the city's website.

- Five Points Intersection: A decision has not been made on constructing a roundabout at the Five Points intersection. If grant funding is approved, City Council will determine the impact on city finances before a decision is made on pursuing the project.
- Housing Inspections: Planning & Zoning Manager Ethan Kroger commented on Oakwood's pre-sale and rental housing inspections program. The pre-sale/rental inspection program has been in place for over 60 years and is one of the primary methods by which properties are code-compliant at the time of sale, or brought into compliance shortly thereafter. This program plays a very important role in maintaining the community and Oakwood home values. There were 378 inspections completed in 2018; 427 in 2019; 458 in 2020; 414 in 2021; and 360 in 2022. Mr. Kroger mentioned an incident where an inspection uncovered a health safety issue for an elderly resident. The health, safety and welfare of the Oakwood residents is the number one priority.

Mr. Klopsch mentioned that the ACORN (Assisting and Contributing to Oakwood Resident Needs) program is available to assist the senior and at-risk population in Oakwood. Staff is working to increase the number of citizens enrolled in the program.

- Gardner Pool: Gardner Pool had a wonderful season. There was only one medic call dispatched to the pool this season and it was for a minor incident.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

- Resolution 23-1 Fees for Food Establishment and Service Operations, First Reading: Dr. Denka introduced Resolution No. 23-1 and opened a public hearing. There being no visitors wishing to speak on the matter, Dr. Denka closed the public hearing. A second reading and vote will take place at the November 21, 2023 board meeting.

The Board briefly discussed vehicle and pedestrian safety. Dr. Hardy commented on excessive vehicle speeds on the newly repaved portion of E. Schantz Avenue. Mr. Klopsch will see that the Public Safety Department addresses this matter.

There being no other business, at 6 p.m. Dr. Denka adjourned the meeting.

Chair

Secretary

Commissioner of Health

**OAKWOOD BOARD OF HEALTH
RESOLUTION**

NO. 23-1

TO ADJUST FEES FOR THE LICENSURE OF RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS (RFEs) AND FOOD SERVICE OPERATIONS (FSOs), BOTH FIXED AND MOBILE, AS WELL AS SWIMMING POOLS, SPAS, AND VARIOUS BODY ART SERVICES, PURSUANT TO THE APPROPRIATE STATE-MANDATED COST METHODOLOGY.

WHEREAS, the Oakwood Board of Health has heretofore adopted a state-mandated cost methodology for the calculation of licensing fees for Retail Food Establishments (RFEs) and Food Service Operations (FSOs), both fixed and mobile, as provided under Ohio Revised Code Section 3717.07; and

WHEREAS, the Oakwood Board of Health has also adopted a uniform system of fees to pay the costs of other services provided by the Board, including the licensure of Swimming Pools, Spas, and services relating to permanent and/or temporary Tattooing, Body Piercing, Combined Body Art, and Permanent Cosmetics, as provided under Ohio Revised Code Section 3709.09; and

WHEREAS, utilizing the statutory cost methodology where applicable, the City Sanitarian has determined that such licensing fees should be increased for 2024, as shown on the attached Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 3717.25(A), the Board is authorized to establish and collect fees for such licensing services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF HEALTH OF THE CITY OF OAKWOOD, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, OHIO, THAT:

Section I.

Exhibit A, which sets forth licensing fees for the 2024 licensure year, calculated pursuant to the state-mandated cost methodology where applicable, is hereby incorporated by this reference.

Section II.

The Board hereby adopts and establishes the licensing fees set forth on Exhibit A, to take effect for the 2024 licensure year and to remain in effect until further action by the Board.

Section III.

This resolution shall take effect as of the earliest date permitted by law.

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF HEALTH OF THE CITY OF OAKWOOD, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, OHIO, this ____ day of _____, 2023.

David Denka, D.O., Chair
Oakwood Board of Health

ATTEST:

Secretary

TO THE SECRETARY:

Please publish in a newspaper of general circulation within the Oakwood Health District, such publication to be made once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks.

City Law Director

City of Oakwood Health Department 2024 Proposed Fee Schedule Changes

Food Protection		2023 Current Local Fees	2024 Proposed Fees	State Fee		
Commercial Food						
Risk FSO & RFE	< 25,000 ft ²	Level 1	\$95.00	\$110.00	\$28.00	16.00%
		Level 2	\$105.00	\$124.00	\$28.00	18.00%
		Level 3	\$210.00	\$236.00	\$28.00	12.00%
		Level 4	\$270.00	\$299.00	\$28.00	11.00%
	≥25,000 ft ²	Level 1	\$140.00	\$158.00	\$28.00	13.00%
		Level 2	\$145.00	\$167.00	\$28.00	15.00%
		Level 3	\$540.00	\$589.00	\$28.00	9.00%
		Level 4	\$570.00	\$624.00	\$28.00	9.00%
Non-commercial Food						
Risk FSO & RFE	<25,000 ft ²	Level 1	\$47.50	\$55.00	\$14.00	16.00%
		Level 2	\$52.50	\$62.00	\$14.00	18.00%
		Level 3	\$105.00	\$118.00	\$14.00	12.00%
		Level 4	\$135.00	\$149.50	\$14.00	11.00%
	≥25,000 ft ²	Level 1	\$70.00	\$79.00	\$14.00	13.00%
		Level 2	\$72.50	\$83.50	\$14.00	15.00%
		Level 3	\$270.00	\$294.50	\$14.00	9.00%
		Level 4	\$285.00	\$312.00	\$14.00	9.00%
Mobile Food		\$42.00	\$30.00	\$28.00	-29%	
Vending Food		\$0.00	\$16.04	\$6.00		
Temporary Food (fee per event)	Commercial	\$30.00	\$35.00	\$0.00	17.00%	
	Non-Commercial	\$15.00	\$17.50	\$0.00	17.00%	
Swimming Pools		\$170.00	\$170.00	\$80.00	0.00%	
Spa		\$170.00	\$170.00	\$80.00	0.00%	
Special Use		\$170.00	\$170.00	\$80.00	0.00%	
each additional unit		\$85.00	\$85.00	\$55.00	0.00%	
Tattoo		\$50.00	\$24.95	\$0.00	-50.00%	
Body Piercing		\$50.00	\$24.95	\$0.00	-50.00%	
Combined Body Art		\$50.00	\$24.95	\$0.00	-50.00%	
Temporary Tattoo/ Perm Cosmetic/ Piercing		\$25.00	\$25.00	\$0.00	100%	

8/1/2023 CMF/MT

From: Klopsch, Norbert S. <Klopsch@oakwood.oh.us>

Sent: Monday, November 13, 2023 4:49 PM

To: John Ewing <johnewing@me.com>; Stacel, Lori <stacel@oakwood.oh.us>; Bill Coyne DDS (williamcoyne4888@gmail.com) <williamcoyne4888@gmail.com>; David Denka, DO (ddenka59@yahoo.com) <ddenka59@yahoo.com>; Diane Scott, RN (scott.diane918@yahoo.com) <scott.diane918@yahoo.com>; Elizabeth Hardy PhD (elizabethahardyphd@gmail.com) <elizabethahardyphd@gmail.com>; Elizabeth Maimon, DVM (esm@hdvet.com) <esm@hdvet.com>; Matt Tyler (mtyler@phdmc.org) <mtyler@phdmc.org>; Enseleit, Stephen <hc@oakwood.oh.us>; Duncan, William <duncan@oakwood.oh.us>

Subject: 11-21 Board of Health Meeting

Our Board of Health meets at 5:30 pm next Tuesday, November 21. Attached is the meeting packet and below is a Zoom link for those wishing to attend remotely. It will be a short meeting.

Norb

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

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

Sent: Monday, November 13, 2023 4:21 PM

To: Klopsch, Norbert S. <Klopsch@oakwood.oh.us>

Subject: 11-21 BOH Meeting Packet

Norb,

Attached is the 11-21 BOH meeting packet. Below is the zoom meeting info:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81442681858?pwd=9GHZRo9bWEFYnLU3Kk8CPcLMUhClbV.1>

Meeting ID: 814 4268 1858

Passcode: 079783

Thanks,
Lori

Lori Stacel | Admin Assistant to City Manager/Clerk of Council
City of Oakwood | 30 Park Avenue | Oakwood, Ohio 45419
stacel@oakwoodohio.gov | (937) 298-0600 | www.oakwoodohio.gov



**You are cordially invited
to the City of Oakwood**

**Holiday Employee
Luncheon**



**Friday, December 15, 2023
12:00 Noon at the
Oakwood Community Center**

**Please R.S.V.P. to the
Oakwood Community Center,
(937) 298-0775 by**



Friday, December 8, 2023.



**Join us in celebrating the
Holiday Season.**



City of Oakwood 2023 Years of Service Awards

Five Years

Kasey Ballinger
Chris Harold
Matt Six
Justin Slone
Corrie Taylor
Josh Wells
Ryan Wells

Twenty-Five Years

Ron Ferrell
Cherie Muceus

Thirty Years

Norb Klopsch

Thirty-Five Years

Tracy Martin

Ten Years

Missi Seifert
Lori Stacel

Fifteen Years

Joni Boyer
Nancy Gill
Alan Hill
Sherri Laidler
Steve Short
Cindy Stafford

Twenty Years

Greg Brewer
Linda Merker
Greg Ortel
Rob Wilson

2024 COMMITTEE NEEDS

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Appt</u>	<u>New Term</u>	
					<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
ADA Compliance Committee	3	Tom Hardy	937-307-2008	3/2020		
Beautification Committee	3	Katy Dalrymple	937-474-2667	2/2005		
		Nancy Drozd	937-294-6266	6/2011		
Board of Zoning Appeals	5	Nick Endsley	952-210-7253 937-222-2500 (o)	11/2018		
Budget Review	4	(A) Dan Ferneding	937-293-0046 937-294-1755 (o)	2/1996		
		(B) Dave Dickerson	937-294-8451 937-528-4000 (o)	12/1987		
		(B) Jeff Woeste	937-299-3400	5/2011		
		(D) Heidi Edwards	937-206-6507	9/2016		
		(F) William Meyer	937-298-9405	5/2011		
		(F) Bill Rieger	937-776-5369 937-296-1711	9/2016		
		(G) John Gray	937-293-9313 (o)	5/2003		
		(G) Beth Ritzert	937-903-0127 937-626-5393	6/2011		
		(H) Mike Ruetschle	937-461-5390 (o)	5/2011		
		(H) Mark Risley	937-750-3569	6/2016		
Property Maintenance Board	5	Kathy Lockett	937-294-8925	3/2008		

Planning Commission

Need a new member to replace Healy Jackson.

From: City of Oakwood <occ+oakwoodohio.gov@ccsend.com>

Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 2:47 PM

To: Klopsch, Norbert S. <Klopsch@oakwood.oh.us>

Subject: Electricity Aggregation Enrollment Deadline

The City of Oakwood

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, OHIO



PRESS RELEASE

Over the past two months, Oakwood residential and small business electricity customers have had the option to opt-in to the Miami Valley Communications Council (MVCC) electricity aggregation program. Enrollment can be accomplished through the Oakwood city website at www.oakwoodohio.gov/electricaggregation or by calling Energy Harbor at 1-866-636-3749.

November 15, 2023 is the deadline to enroll in the MVCC aggregation program and be guaranteed the same electricity rate as others in the program. The MVCC rate is locked-in through December 2025, and there is no penalty for early cancellation.

Oakwood city leaders chose to offer the opt-in program so that Oakwood customers could make a deliberate choice on their own whether to: 1) join the MVCC aggregation program; 2) stay with the AES standard offer for purchasing electricity; or 3) choose a different supplier altogether.

Customers that are already enrolled in a program offered by another third-party electricity supplier, other than AES, will need to terminate that contract before being eligible to enroll in the MVCC program. Before doing so, those customers should review their contracts to understand if there are penalties or charges for early termination. Also, customers that have solar power installations may not be eligible to enroll in the MVCC program, depending on the terms of their current billing agreement with AES. Call Energy Harbor for more information.

The State of Ohio offers electricity choice. Under Ohio law, electricity customers can purchase their electricity from a number of different suppliers and can select contract terms that best meet their individual needs. For more information, please visit the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio website at: <https://puco.ohio.gov/> and the Energy Choice Ohio website at: <https://www.energychoice.ohio.gov/>.

Click here to enroll!

City of Oakwood | oakwoodohio.gov

OAKWOOD

Aggregation enrollment deadline nears

Nov. 15 is the deadline for Oakwood residents and qualifying small businesses to enroll in the Miami Valley Communications Council (MVCC) electric aggregation program.

Meeting this deadline will guarantee Oakwood customers

the same electricity rate as others in the program, according to the city. The MVCC rate is locked-in through December 2025, and there is no penalty for early cancellation.

Oakwood city leaders chose to offer the opt-in program so that Oakwood customers could make a deliberate choice on their own whether to: 1) join the MVCC aggregation program; 2) stay with the AES standard offer for purchasing electricity; or 3) choose a different supplier altogether.

Customers that are already enrolled in a program offered by another third-party electricity supplier, other than AES, will need to terminate that contract before being eligible to enroll in the MVCC program. Before doing so, those customers should review their contracts to understand if there are penalties or charges for early termination. Also, customers that have solar power installations may not be eligible to enroll in the MVCC program, depending on the terms of their current billing agreement with AES.

Enrollment is available at www.oakwoodohio.gov or by calling Energy Harbor at 1-866-636-3749.

DDN
11/10/23

MEMORANDUM

TO: BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS MEMBERS
FROM: ETHAN KROGER
SUBJECT: CANCELLATION OF DECEMBER 14 MEETING
DATE: NOVEMBER 15, 2023

The Board of Zoning Appeals meeting on Thursday, December 14, 2023 has been cancelled due to a lack of agenda items. The next regularly scheduled meeting is at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 11, 2024.

On behalf of our elected officials and city staff, we wish you all the best during the holiday season.

EK:ls

c: Members of City Council
Norbert Klopsch, City Manager
Robert Jacques, Law Director

Oakwood Public Safety graduates Citizen Police Academy class



Pictured from left to right: Captain Kevin Pruszynski, Council Member Anne Shank Hilton, Chief Alan Hill, Steve Scheid, Dave Requarth, Scott Bryant, John Berry, Mayumi Hall, Bruce Hall, Bob Brumberg Sr., Lieutenant Chuck Balaj, Captain Mike Tanner, and Public Safety Officer Rob Wilson. Not Pictured: Ratnam Oza, Cyril Matthews, Susan Jones, Marilyn Brumberg.

On November 8, the Oakwood Public Safety Department completed its sixth Citizen Police Academy (CPA). The academy consists of a 10-week curriculum educating participants

on the functions and services of the Oakwood Public Safety Department, which includes police, fire and EMS.

"The purpose of this program is to create a unique opportunity for citizens

to better understand the job of a public safety officer. I know I speak for every officer who instructed in this year's CPA, it is truly our privilege to bring this experience to the participants."

said Public Safety Chief Alan Hill.

The next academy is scheduled for fall of 2024. For more information visit www.oakwoodohio.gov.

THE OAKWOOD REGISTER November 15, 2023

Roundabout: Not Safe, Not Needed, Not Wanted

Traffic is unaccustomed to stopping in a roundabout which makes having to do so confusing and unsafe. There are many lawn companies that service Oakwood, and they all have trucks with trailers. They might have difficulty maneuvering the roundabout. Many other trucks will be using it since Far Hills is a highway. The current system has worked

well for many years. I don't see the need to change it, not to mention the time and cost required. I have not talked to anyone in favor of it. I have talked to many who were disappointed (as was I) that there has never been a meeting where questions could be asked and opinions heard.

Barbara Greer

THE OAKWOOD REGISTER November 15, 2023

Ex-pat Brits hope to dedicate park memorializing Oakwood's WWII codebreaker

Oakwood was hitting well above its weight class in World War II as two top-secret programs in the city played key roles in the Allied victory.

At the now-lost Runnymede Playhouse, which was demolished after the war, researchers worked on devices associated with the Manhattan Project to develop an atomic bomb. And nearby Sugar Camp, once an idyllic, park-like corporate retreat for National Cash Register, or NCR, housed Navy WAVES - Women's Reserve - codebreakers who worked under the direction of Oakwood's Joe Desch to break Nazi Enigma cyphers in an effort that mirrored the more widely known British codebreaking teams assembled at Bletchley Park.

The Dayton codebreakers worked hand-in-hand with their British counterparts including famed British mathematician Alan Turing who spearheaded the development of the computer used in breaking the German code. During the war Turing visited Dayton to consult with Desch, and that formed the basis of an intelligence sharing network that eventually grew to include the U.S., U.K., Australia, New Zealand, Canada - the so-called "Five Eyes," a cooperative alliance that continues to this day.

Now two other Brits, Oakwood resident and retired Royal Air Force officer Andrew Lloyd, and his wife Cheryl, are leading an effort to create a new bio-diverse park in the city dedicated as a memorial to Desch.

The Lloyds hope to see the now vacant lot at 1313 Far Hills Avenue, which the city purchased several years ago in anticipation of demolishing a home on the site in order to complete



Oakwood's Joe Desch led a top-secret codebreaking project in Dayton during World War II.

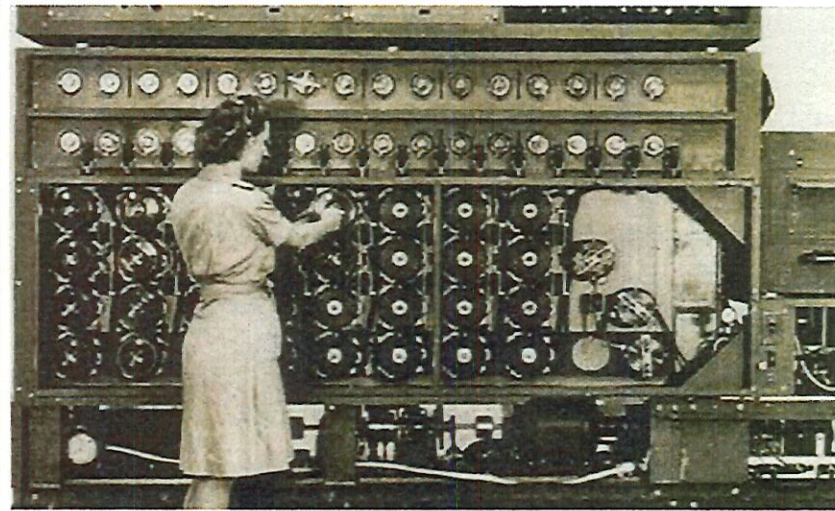
the currently ongoing Far Hills storm sewer project, turned into a biodiversity park which students from nearby Oakwood High School, located across the street, could use as a sort of open air laboratory. The site is ideally situated, too, they say, to memorialize Desch who used to live just across the street on Greenmount Boulevard, which can be seen from the proposed park site.

"First, we'd like Desch memorialized somehow," said Andrew. "Secondly, we see a great opportunity with the vacant property of Far

Hills. Desch lived across the street from the work that is now going on opposite Oakwood High School would

be a perfect location for a park to recognize Desch because it is also opposite Greenmount Boulevard, so on that point alone it is right near his street, it's also right by the school and offers a fantastic opportunity for education."

Born in 1907, Desch attended Catholic school before attending the University of Dayton. He developed an early interest in then new technology of radio, built his own equipment and worked as an inspector at Day-Fan, a Dayton radio manufacturer, while studying at U.D. He later worked for General Motors Radio and Delco before taking a job at National Cash Register, or NCR, where he pioneered high-speed calculating machines using electric circuits rather than mechanical apparatus. By 1938, NCR President Edward Deeds tapped Desch to launch an experimental electronics lab. The small lab consisted of Desch, two researchers and several technicians, but in the lead up to America's entry into World War II, the National Defense Research Committee became aware of Desch's work in 1940. One of his inventions eventually played a part in the Manhattan Project, and



A Cryptanalytic Bombe built by NCR

by 1942 the U.S. Navy was looking at Desch's NCR Electrical Research Laboratory to design and manufacture what amounted to an early computer to decrypt German naval codes. A year later, Desch was supervising hundreds of civilians and military personnel, all under Marine Corps guard, in a top-secret project that eventually grew into a codebreaking effort targeting not only German Enigma signals used to communicate with Nazi U-boats attacking Allied convoys crossing the Atlantic, but also Japanese and diplomatic codes. The 7-by-10-foot codebreaking machines, built by workers at NCR, were called Cryptanalytic Bombes.

Although Andrew Lloyd, a retired Royal Air Force Group Captain (equivalent to a Colonel), was aware that British codebreakers at Bletchley Park utilized similar devices, he wasn't aware of American codebreaking efforts until an RAF assignment brought him to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base - and Oakwood - as an exchange officer for the final seven years of his 34-year military career.

"We went to Carillon Park and one of the exhibits talked about NCR and

the Codebreakers. I took a real interest back in the U.K. in Bletchley Park and the codebreaking there. So everybody knew about that, but I had never heard of Joe Desch or NCR. I had no clue that there was codebreaking going on here," he recalls. "Some people might say why is a Brit sticking his nose in, why is he so interested, the answer is quite simply that Britain probably would've lost the war if it hadn't been for the work of Joe Desch and the Dayton Codebreakers. It would certainly have been in dire straits. The work in Dayton and the work at Bletchley Park were completed intermeshed. Desch's work was attributed by Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Supreme Allied Military Commander in Europe, as shortening the war by two years. And if you think about those two years, what it represents not only in terms of Allied lives, but if you think of two years of additional Holocaust victims and civilian casualties, the world would be very different today if it wasn't for Oakwood's Joe Desch."

"The other piece is the international cooperation, the so-called Five Eyes, that deep intelligence sharing

See Desch on page 14 ►



Andrew and Cheryl Lloyd are proposing a park on Far Hills Avenue to memorialize Desch.



Navy WAVES quartered at Sugar Camp in Oakwood marching to work at NCR during World War II. The compound was kept under Marine Corps guard during the war.

► Desch from page 1

relationship started by Desch and Turing and it is still in existence today. It is the deepest intelligence sharing relationship on the planet. It started when those two realized that to win the war those two nations had to share everything, and they've never

decoupled that. Whenever people talk about the special relationship between certain nations, that's it."

His wife, Cheryl Lloyd, who studied environmental science at the University of the West of England and has long been active in the Green Oakwood environmental and

recycling initiatives, coupled the idea of memorializing Desch with creating a biodiversity park in the city, near the high school, that could serve biology and environmental science classes, as well as provide students with an additional greenspace close to school for lunch breaks or relaxing after classes.

"When I saw that 1313 Far Hills had been razed I was thinking 'Wouldn't it be wonderful if there was a biodiversity rich park that the schools could use for soil analysis, biology, statistical analysis, all those sorts of things,'" she says. "I thought there would be a lot of opportunities there for the schools to use it. A native, biodiversity rich park would be different to other parks that we have in Oakwood and bring an additional element. And it suddenly dawned on me, I had a revelation. 'Oh my goodness, it's right opposite Greenmount Boulevard and if Oakwood is ever going to memorialize Joe Desch by naming a park, there's no other plot on Greenmount.' We talked about it for a while and thought it would be a wonderful meeting of the two ideas, but the biggest thing, of course, is remembering Joe Desch."

After researching Desch's role in World War II, Andrew, an avid history buff, gave a lecture on the topic for

the Far Hills Speaker Series at Wright Library in Oakwood, where he was told that Joe Desch's daughter, Debbie Anderson, now residing in Kettering, was in the audience. That encounter sparked a years-long friendship.

"My parents moved to 413 Greenmount in 1940. My father had purchased the lot, had a house designed to his and my mother's taste - Tudor, and had it built," Debbie recalls of her parent's time in Oakwood, which coincided exactly with Desch's war work. "We moved from there in 1957."

Anderson says she supports the proposal to remember her father's top-secret contributions to shortening the war. "I am grateful to Andrew and Cheryl Lloyd for taking time to learn the story, to understand its importance and to donate time to work on the idea," she adds. "The idea for a memorial so close to Greenmount would contribute to preserving the local story."

Now, 80 years after the fact, that story needs to be told to the next generation in Oakwood, the Lloyds say. "It's not overlooked, it's simply unheard of," Andrew notes.

"It was a national secret for so many decades, even when Joe Desch was awarded the Medal of Merit he didn't talk about what he got it for at the time. His daughter didn't know

why he got it. The reason it's been kept quiet was that it was secret at the time, but that time has passed," Cheryl adds.

"The key player, obviously, is the city," she says. "I've spoken with the city manager. He said the plan was not to make any decisions before the new year, but I think the fact that is driving us is that if it's going to be that plot of land we need to air this opportunity before they make any decision about the property. That, in some ways, is the driving factor."

City Manager Norb Klopsch confirmed that a decision regarding the disposition of the property once construction is completed on the Far Hills project is not expected until sometime in 2024.

In the meantime, Andrew has already presented the idea to City Council and hopes to hear back on the proposal to memorialize one of Oakwood's unsung heroes.

"I'd like to think that it resonated, certainly there was no one frowning thinking 'What is he on about?'" he says with a smile.

Anyone interested in learning more about the park proposal, or wishing to support the effort, can email Andrew and Cheryl Lloyd at unsungoakwoodheroes@gmail.com.

OAKWOOD

Dorothy Lane Market to add parking in Oakwood after Ohio 48 bank demolition

By Nick Blizzard
Staff Writer

Dorothy Lane Market plans to add parking at the former site of a bank adjacent to its Oakwood store on Ohio 48.

The grocer purchased the former PNC Bank at 2720 Far Hills Ave. in August for \$1.1 million, according to Montgomery County land records.

Demolition started last week and the land is being cleared, but

DLM has not submitted any plans yet, said Ethan Kroger, Oakwood planning and zoning manager.

Demolition began days before the family-owned business broke ground on a new store in Mason, adding to locations in Springboro and Washington Twp., as well as the Oakwood business at 2710 Far Hills.

More parking is “much-needed,” DLM Oakwood store director Jerry Post said in a release.

DLM Oakwood has roughly 50 parking spots, but the bank’s 40-car lot “has long been used for overflow parking for customers, according to the company.

“By DLM taking ownership, this guarantees continued use of those spots to serve DLM customers, and we will add additional parking as well,” Post said.

About 13 parking spots will be added, according to DLM. DLM

Market continued on B6

Market

continued from B1

also plans to update other exterior features, such as signage, lighting throughout both parking lots and some landscaping features.

“More room allows for a more attractive presence for DLM Oakwood, parking lot improvements, and potential to entertain other ideas in the future,” Post said.

The business will work with the city for necessary approvals, officials said.

The former Oakwood bank site is nearly $\frac{1}{3}$ acre, land records show. The Dorothy Lane Market store at 2710 Far Hills is slightly more than $\frac{1}{2}$ acre, documents state.

The demolition application was approved in recent weeks and started Nov. 6, Kroger said.



Workers dig at the former site of PNC Bank at 2720 Far Hills Ave., just south of Dorothy Lane Market in Oakwood, on Tuesday. Dorothy Lane Market bought the property in August for \$1.1 million, Montgomery County land records show. Demolition of the bank started last week. DLM said it will add lighting and landscaping. JIM NOELKER/STAFF

“The building came down in short order,” he added. “It nothing out of the ordinary. It was very straightforward.”

The business started by

the Mayne family in Oakwood in 1948 broke ground Thursday for DLM Mason, which will be its largest location.

The Mason site will include

a 50,000-square-foot main level and a 9,000-square-foot mezzanine, which will include an on-site Culinary Center. DLM officials said between 250 and 300 associates will be employed at the Mason location.

The first store opened in 1953, according to the company. A second location opened at Washington Square on Far Hills Avenue in 1991, while the Springboro site, which is about 40,000 square feet, opened in 2002.

DLM has about 950 DLM associates, 215 of whom are in Oakwood, officials said.

Staff Writer Ed Richter contributed to this report. Contact this contributing writer at 937-610-7438 or email Nick.Blizzard@coxinc.com.