

**CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER**  
**DECEMBER 15, 2023**

**IMPORTANT COUNCIL DATES:**

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)  
April 1, Monday, 6:30 p.m. – Regular Session (30 Park)  
April 15, Monday, 5 p.m. – Work Session (30 Park)  
May 6, Monday, 6:30 p.m. – Regular Session (30 Park)  
May 20, Monday, 5 p.m. – Work Session (30 Park)

**BUSINESS UPDATE:**

- Holiday of Lights: The event last Sunday was wonderful... with perfect weather. Enclosed are *Register* photos. Kudos to Carol and her staff for another great community event.
- Santa Tour: Enclosed is a flyer about the third annual Santa Tour planned to begin at 6 p.m. on Monday, December 18. The flyer is posted on our website and Facebook. Also enclosed is a *Register* article.
- 2.41 Mill Tax Levy: Enclosed is a *DDN* article about the 2.41 tax levy.
- Water and Sewer Rates: Enclosed is a *DDN* article about our water and sewer rate increase.
- January PC: We have no applications, so the January 3 PC meeting is cancelled. Enclosed is the cancellation memo.
- Far Hills Avenue Resurfacing Project: Enclosed is a *DDN* article about the cost increase due to inflation and other market factors to resurface Far Hills Avenue.
- Road Diet: Enclosed is a *DDN* article about Dayton's plans to improve a section of Keowee Street with a "road diet" like we did on Shroyer.
- Dog Licenses: We are again selling county dog licenses here at the city building. Enclosed is a *Register* article.
- Styrofoam & Holiday Lights Recycling: The next Styrofoam collection event is from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. on January 6 at the recycling drop-off facility. Drop-off containers for the recycling of holiday lights are currently out at the Public Works Center. Enclosed is a *Register* article with some recycling reminders.
- Dog Splash: Enclosed is a *Register* article about the uncertainty of our annual Dog Splash event once the new pool liner is installed.

- Right-of-Way Obstructions: Enclosed is a *Register* letter to the editor.
- Marijuana: Enclosed is a *DDN* article about West Carrollton limiting marijuana activity in their community.

TRANSMITTALS NOTED WITHIN NEWSLETTER

*Register* photos re: Holiday of Lights  
Flyer & *Register* article re: Santa Tour  
*DDN* article re: 2.41 Mill Tax Levy  
*DDN* article re: Water and Sewer Rates  
January PC Cancellation Memo  
*DDN* article re: Far Hills Avenue Resurfacing Project  
*DDN* article re: Road Diet  
*Register* article re: Dog Licenses  
*Register* article re: Styrofoam & Holiday Lights Recycling  
*Register* article re: Dog Splash  
*Register* article re: Right-of-Way Obstructions  
*DDN* article re: Marijuana



Photos by Leon Chuck, Pressbox Photo  
 Hundreds gathered for the Holidays of Lights on Sunday evening at Shafor Park for the lighting of the Christmas tree. The evening included hot chocolate and treats, horse drawn carriage rides and the Oakwood High School band and choral group provided live Christmas music as animated costumed Disney characters mingled with the crowd. Kids of all ages were excited when the main attraction, Santa, arrived in an Oakwood fire truck. Santa listened intently to each child's Christmas wish list.

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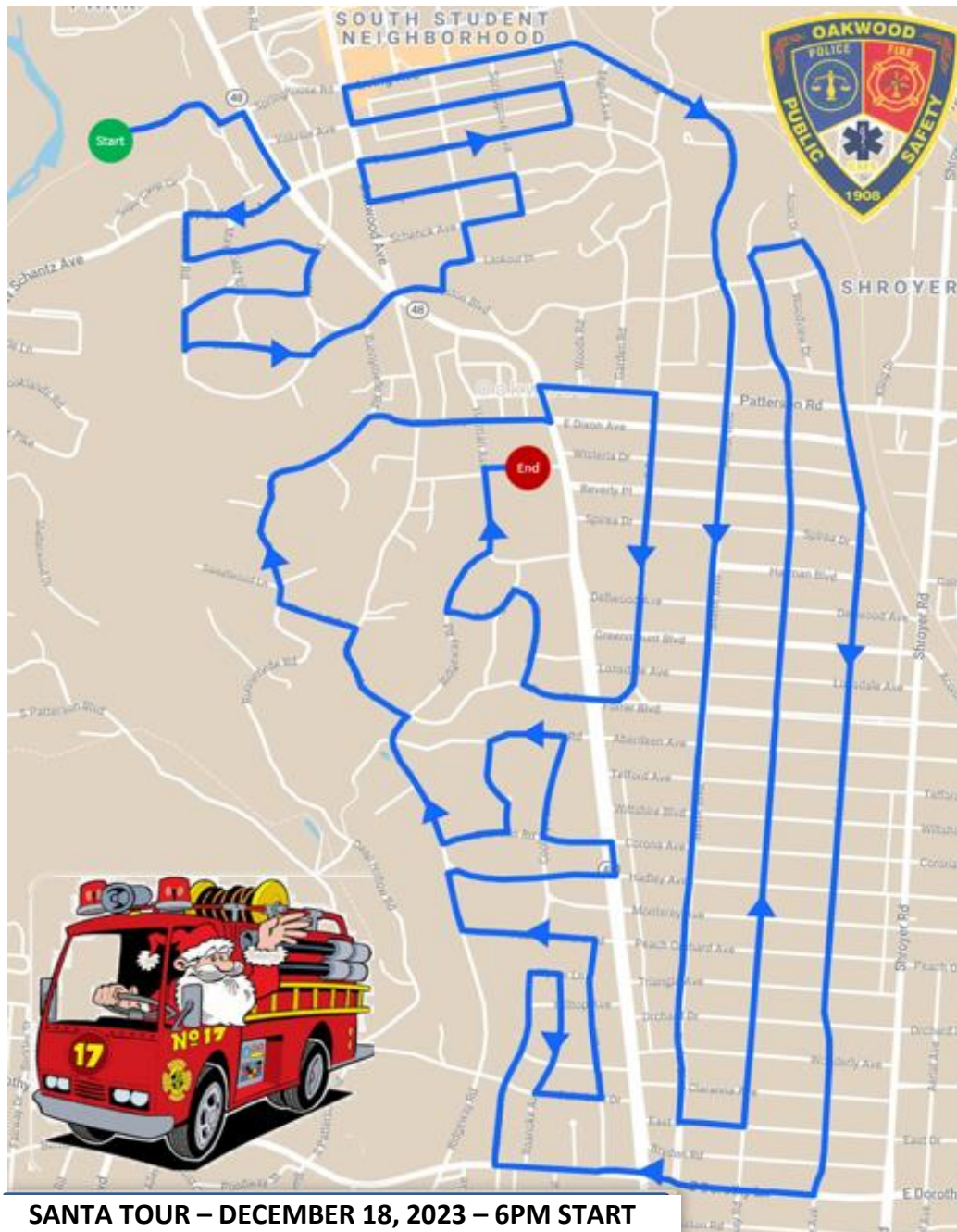
## Lighting Up Oakwood



Oakwood artist Lori Park captured this image of the seasonal luminaries around town during Lighting Up Oakwood celebrations Sunday evening.

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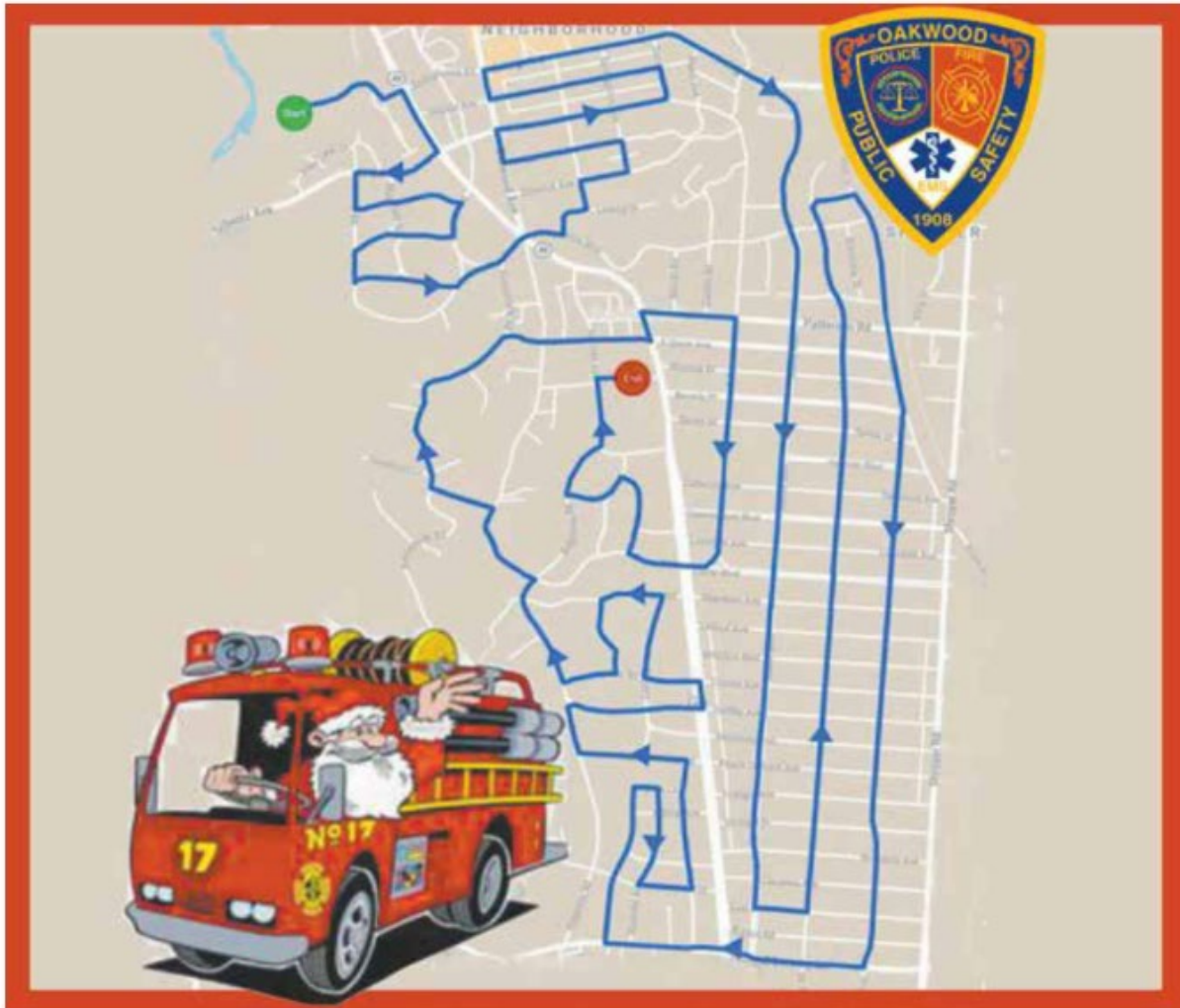




### **SANTA TOUR – DECEMBER 18, 2023 – 6PM START**

Santa has reached out to the Oakwood Public Safety Department and has requested assistance from the Safety Department on December 18, 2023. Santa is looking to finalize his route plans for Christmas Eve and his reindeer are unavailable. Therefore, Santa will be riding aboard Fire Engine #27, and will be escorted by a police car through the City of Oakwood. Santa would love to see everyone, so please come out and give Santa a BIG wave as he passes by. Santa will be departing Lane Stadium at 6:00pm and making a trip through the Element Oakwood apartment complex to start his route. Please follow on Facebook at Oakwood FOP Lodge 107 for live location updates throughout the evening.

### **SANTA TOUR – DECEMBER 18, 2023 – 6PM START**



## Santa will tour Oakwood in a firetruck Dec. 18

Santa reached out to the Oakwood Public Safety Department and has requested assistance from the Safety Department as he visits the city on Monday, Dec. 18.

Santa is looking to finalize his route plans for Christmas Eve and his

reindeer are resting for the busy night ahead. Instead, Santa will be riding aboard Oakwood Fire Engine 27, and will be escorted by a police car through the City of Oakwood. Santa would love to see everyone, so please come out and give Santa a big wave as he

passes by.

Santa will be departing Lane Stadium at 6 p.m. and making a trip through the Element Oakwood apartment before starting his route through the city, which will end at the City Building.

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# Oakwood to place city tax levy on spring ballot

**By Nick Blizzard**  
Staff Writer

Oakwood voters can expect to decide next spring on a replacement levy to fund city services.

The 2.41-mill, five-year tax issue will appear on the March 19 ballot, costing owners of a home valued at \$200,000 about \$168 annually, Oakwood records show.

The replacement levy would not raise taxes, according to Oakwood officials.

A 3.75-mill renewal levy set to go before voters last month failed to appear on the ballot due to a clerical error, officials said.

The current levy is set to expire at the end of this year. If the tax issue approved by Oakwood City Council last week is approved by voters, it will not collect any property taxes until 2025, records show.

The millage difference from the current levy to the one proposed is due, in part, to "strong property values" in Oakwood, Vice Mayor Steve Byington said.

The city's budget review committee has endorsed the tax issue, Mayor Bill Duncan said.

A replacement levy is similar to a renewal, but the cost is valued at a home's current rate instead of the previous one.

## Oakwood

continued from B1

The levy is expected to raise about \$1.13 million a year. That money would go into the city's general fund, covering costs such as public safety, parks and recreation, and roadway maintenance, Oakwood City Manager Norbert Klopsch said.

The significance of funding generated by the levy is magnified because the city receives only a small portion of real estate taxes, Klopsch said.

He said the levy is among two five-year tax issues the city uses to supplement its general fund.

The levy was first approved by voters in 2013 after Oakwood let an existing tax issue expire five years earlier, officials have said. After state cuts to the local government fund and the loss of estate tax revenue, the city found it was losing about \$3 million annually, or about 20% of its budget, Klopsch said.

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## OAKWOOD

# City OKs higher water, sewer rates for customers

Oakwood water rates had been among the lowest in the region.

By Nick Blizard  
Staff Writer

Oakwood water and sewer customers will be paying higher rates starting next month.

Typically, residential customers in Oakwood use between 300 and 900 cubic feet of water per month, according to the city.

This would translate into water bills increasing \$7 to \$13 a month while fees for sewer services would jump \$7 to \$14 in the same time period, officials said.

The rate hikes, endorsed by Oakwood's budget review committee earlier, are

"needed in order to meet the operational and upcoming capital needs," Councilwoman Leigh Turben said.

The hikes, approved in a 5-0 vote Monday night, will start Jan. 1, according to the city.

The last rate increases for those respective services came in 2017 and 2018, Oakwood records show. Before its 2017 water rate hike, those fees were last increased in 1994, City Manager Norbert Klopsch said.

"Our water system is fully automated, which keeps our labor costs low. We do not need employees working 24-7 to operate the system," Klopsch said.

"Also, our capital improvement expenses have been modest over the past couple of decades. We antici-

pate that capital improvement expenses will increase over the next decade or two as the infrastructure ages," he added.

In an Ohio regional water rate survey of more than 60 jurisdictions, Oakwood has been among the eight lowest since 2013, finishing in the top four six times, including each year since 2021, documents show.

Since the city's last water rate hike, Beavercreek, Dayton, Huber Heights, Kettering, Miamisburg and Springboro have all increased prices with each city except Springboro doing so since the start of 2022, according to survey results.

Montgomery County sets the rates for about 85,500 customers in more than 10 jurisdictions, including Cen-

terville, Kettering, Riverside, and Miami and Washington Twp.

Greene County does the same for Beavercreek and Beavercreek Twp., Bellbrook, Sugarcreek Twp., outlying rural areas, and sections of Centerville and Kettering, said Mark Chandler, county sanitary engineering director.

Oakwood produces its own water, and operates and maintains a distribution system, Klopsch said.

Oakwood has pipe connections to Dayton and Montgomery County systems as a back-up, but these are "only used at the very rare times when we have a situation where we are unable to produce our own water," Klopsch said.



Kinnison Excavating crews work on the Far Hills storm sewer reconstruction project in August in Oakwood. City Council voted to raise fees for sewer services that would jump monthly costs \$7 to \$14. MARSHALL GORBY / STAFF



## MEMORANDUM

TO: PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: ETHAN KROGER

SUBJECT: CANCELLATION OF JANUARY 3 MEETING

DATE: DECEMBER 11, 2023

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The Planning Commission meeting on Wednesday, January 3, 2024 has been cancelled due to a lack of agenda items. The next regularly scheduled meeting is at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 7, 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

# Ohio 48 resurfacing next year to cost Oakwood, state more than expected

**By Nick Blizzard**  
Staff Writer

Roadwork will continue on Ohio 48 in Oakwood next year and it will cost the city more than initially anticipated.

The resurfacing of the state route known as Far Hills Avenue will span the length of the road in Oakwood in 2024. The local share now stands at about \$360,000, \$140,000 more than the city approved earlier this year.

Work on that stretch of Far

Hills – last resurfaced in 2011 – will include removal and replacement of all the asphalt, according to the city.

The increased costs “is significantly higher due to inflation and other market factors,” Oakwood Vice Mayor Steve Byington said.

Measures for the additional funds were approved by Oakwood City Council last week.

The Ohio Department of Transportation will fund 80% of the

**Ohio 48** continued on B4



This is an aerial photo of Far Hills Avenue looking north from East Dorothy Lane in Oakwood. Roadwork will continue on Ohio 48 in Oakwood next year and it will cost the city more than initially anticipated. JIM NOELKER/STAFF

## Ohio 48

continued from B1

joint project currently estimated to cost \$1.8 million, according to the state.

The resurfacing is expected to be bid next month with paving scheduled to start in the spring and targeted for completion in late summer, said Loryn Bryson, an ODOT spokeswoman.

More specific time frames will be known as the resurfacing draws closer, Bryson said.

Ohio 48 in Oakwood for the past several months has experienced lane closures because of a \$2.1 million storm sewer reconstruction project.

That work, which was originally targeted for completion by the end of October, is behind schedule and is now set to be completed early next year, project

engineer Chris Kuzma has said.

The sewer work involves Far Hills at Greenmount Boulevard; Dellwood from Far Hills to East Schantz Avenue; Forrer Boulevard from Far Hills to East Schantz; and a section of Devereux Drive north of Forrer Road, according to the city.

South of Dayton, Ohio 48 runs through Oakwood, Kettering, Centerville and Washington Twp. in Montgomery County.

The average number of vehicles using it daily ranges from about 14,700 at Stewart Street in Dayton to more than 41,500 at Interstate 675 in Centerville, state records show.

ODOT resurfaced Ohio 48 in Kettering from Oakwood to David Road in 2021.

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# City plans 'road diet' for section of Keowee Street

By **Cornelius Frolik**  
Staff Writer

Dayton wants to put part of Keowee Street on a "road diet" in the hopes of improving safety and reducing serious traffic crashes.

The city wants to shrink a highly traveled  $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile section of Keowee Street between East Fifth Street and East Monument Avenue, near the eastern edge of downtown.

The city proposes reducing the number of lanes of traffic from seven to five.

The city wants to install a new curb and tree lawn, with about 150 new trees along the corridor.

The city also plans to install a 12-foot bike and multi-use path, which would be protected from traffic by the tree lawn and sidewalk.

This section of Keowee had 232 crashes between 2016 and 2020, and about 81 (35%) resulted in injuries or death, according to the city.

During that timeframe, the roadway had 52 left-turn collisions and a dozen pedestrian and bike crashes.

A traffic study found that during a 24-hour period more than 900 vehicles that traveled along that part of Keowee were going at least 10 mph over the posted speed limit of 35 mph.

On average, that section of Keowee Street is used by about 27,200 vehicles each day.

The Dayton City Commission this week is expected to have the second reading of an ordinance that will accept a nearly \$2.1 million grant from the Ohio Department of Transportation in support of the road diet project.

The city says construction



Keowee Street near the East Third Street intersection, in Dayton. City officials want to reduce the number of lanes in this section of the street from seven to five. CORNELIUS FROLIK PHOTOS / STAFF

on Keowee could begin in April 2026.

The work is expected to take about a year to complete.

Dayton plans to put other busy corridors, such as parts of North Main Street and Wayne Avenue on road diets.

Officials have said the city wants to shrink Gettysburg Avenue because of dangerous driving along that corridor.

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[frolik@coxinc.com](mailto:frolik@coxinc.com)



Keowee Street near the East Fifth Street intersection, in Dayton. About 27,200 vehicles travel this section of Keowee each day.



## 2024 dog licenses available

Dog licenses for 2024 are available at the Oakwood City Building, 30 Park Ave., through Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024.

The base fee for an annual license is \$20, the same as last year, but applies to spayed/neutered dogs only. The fee for unaltered dogs is \$24. Fees are payable in cash or check only. Online purchases may be made through the Montgomery County website at [www.go.mcohio.org/applications/auditor/doglicense/](http://www.go.mcohio.org/applications/auditor/doglicense/).

There are several exclusions to the \$4 non-spayed/neutered fee:

- If the dog is 9 months old or less.

- If the dog is too old or has a medical condition preventing the dog from being spayed/neutered (the owner must provide a veterinarian's certification).

- If the dog is used or intended to be used for breeding or show (a Breed Registry number is required).

If veterinarian certification or breed registry number are provided to avoid the \$4 extra fee, the license must be purchased by mail or in person at the Montgomery County Auditor's office at 451 West Third St., Dayton, Ohio 45422.

Visit [mcohio.org/637/Dog-Licenses](http://mcohio.org/637/Dog-Licenses) for more information.

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## Green Oakwood recycles styrofoam, holiday lights

The Holiday Season is near at hand. Here are a few reminders to assist in our community recycling efforts.

- **Unserviceable Holiday Lights:** These are now being collected by Green Oakwood volunteers in the back lobby of Wright Memorial Library and at the recycling center at Foell Public Works. Recycled by Cohen, the recycled holiday lights are a fundraiser for Five Rivers MetroParks.

- **EPS/ Styrofoam:** Please save items for the next Styrofoam Recycling Event which is scheduled from 9-11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 6, at Foell Public Works, 210 Shafor Blvd. If you have a large load, please take the items directly to the county event at Activity Center Park, at 221 N. Main St. in Centerville. The city is unable to store styrofoam, and if placed in the co-mingled or the cardboard dumpsters

at Foell Public Works, the whole bin is considered contaminated, and will end up in a landfill. No corn starch, black Styrofoam, or spongy film accepted.

- **E-Waste:** Batteries, ink cartridges, electronics and small appliances, such as laptops, cell phones, hand mixers are collected in the blue container at Foell Recycling center. These items are taken to Charitable Recycling which recycles them and makes \$\$ donations to Dayton Children's Hospital, based on the amount of electronics received.

- **Compost:** You can drop off left-over compostable foods (not meat, nor dairy) in the bins at the back of DLM near the milk cartons. The Unity Garden, near Grandview Hospital, converts it to compost and is a garden enabling refugees to grow traditional foods.

- **#5 Red Solo Cups** are being

collected by Smith School Eco Action Team, but they are no longer collecting the juice and fruit pouches.

- **Harman School Green Thumbs Club** has been learning about compost and is executing a Compost Bin.

- **Pop Tabs:** Remember to collect for Ronald McDonald House.

- **The Next Green Oakwood Biodiversity Meeting** will be held at Wright Library at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 9.

- **The Next Green Oakwood Recycling Meeting** will be held at Wright Library at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb 5.

- Visit the Rumpke website for a list of acceptable items for Co-Mingled Recycling at [www.rumpke.com/for-your-home/recycling/acceptable-items](http://www.rumpke.com/for-your-home/recycling/acceptable-items).

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## Future of Dog Splash uncertain

Just what the future holds for the annual end-of-summer Dog Splash at Gardner Pool is uncertain as the city plans to install a pool liner next year at the community pool in Oakwood.

Carol Collins, head of the city's Department of Leisure Services, told City Council last month that the department plans to install a liner in the spring of 2024 prior to opening next season.

"In 2024 we're going to be putting in a liner at the pool, which we feel will extend the life of the pool membrane by 20 to 25 years," she reported.

The pool enjoyed an uptick last summer with memberships at Gardner Pool increasing by approximately 4 percent over 2022 levels. Total membership stood at 712 for 2023

compared to 685 memberships in 2022.

"This is one of the highest membership rates we've had in a number of years, Collins told city lawmakers. Total pool revenue for the year was \$252,253, up from a total of \$218,247 last year.

The picture may not be so bright for Oakwood's poolside pooches, though, who for more than the past decade have gained access to Gardner Pool after the facility closes for the season but before the pool is drained.

"This has been a very popular event. Everybody had a great time. We're not exactly sure what is going to happen next year with the pool liner," Collins noted. "We're working with them right now to find a solution, whether we can have the Dog Splash or not."



## Sidewalk obstructions? Bah! Humbug!

Oakwood recently required Jessica Myers to remove the decorative arches she had put over the sidewalk of her Wonderly Avenue home. Oakwood Law Director Robert Jacques defended the restriction as follows: "Allowing private holiday décor or other structures in the public right-of-way, particularly on sidewalks, would interfere with the public use of the right-of-way. Public rights-of-way are not an open

forum for this kind of activity." Well, gosh, if you are indeed concerned with obstruction of the public right-of-way, why not crack down on people who let shrubs grow over the sidewalk? In some places, only half of the sidewalk is usable because of shrub overgrowth. This is a much bigger interference than the arches were! And while you are at it, why not crack down on people who let the

alleyway weeds and bushes behind their homes grow so far into the alley that cars driving down the alley must weave back and forth to prevent their car from being scraped? Not that you asked, but wouldn't this be a much better use of your legal expertise? Oh, and have a Merry Christmas, Mr. Jacques!

*Bill Irvine*

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# West Carrollton joins list of cities putting hold on marijuana businesses

By **Eric Schwartzberg**  
Staff Writer

Another Dayton-area community is hitting the brakes on businesses looking to grow or sell recreational marijuana.

West Carrollton City Council on Tuesday unanimously approved a nine-month moratorium on “the issuance and processing of permits for dispensaries, cultivators or processors of adult-use cannabis” within the city.

“This simply means the city will not process any permits for the sale of adult-use cannabis for 9 months, the same amount of

time the state legislature has to amend any language of issue,” said Lori Denlinger, the city’s law director/prosecuting attorney.

The city also is waiting on the Division of Cannabis to establish rules and regulations, Denlinger said.

Last month, Ohioans voted to legalize the growing, processing, selling and use of recreational marijuana, making the Buckeye State the 24th state to do so. Nearly 57% of Ohioans approved state Issue 2, and the law took effect on Dec. 7, allowing adults

**Marijuana** continued on B4



West Carrollton City Council approved a nine-month moratorium on “the issuance and processing of permits for dispensaries, cultivators or processors of adult-use cannabis” within the city. AP

## Marijuana

continued from B1

21 and over to legally possess up to 2½ ounces of marijuana, as well as use and grow up to six plants per person and 12 per household.

This is an expansion of Ohio’s marijuana laws, as the state legislature approved the use of medical marijuana in 2016.

State legislators have indicated they’re going to make changes to the language, but that process has been delayed at least until January, and Denlinger said there’s no clarity yet on the extent of the changes they’ll make.

“Therefore, as a result of the forthcoming rules and regulations coming, potential language change to Issue 2, city staff just needs some additional time to look into and review this issue and determine whether or not the recommendation would

be made and the impact it would have to city council as far as having these businesses within the city,” Denlinger said.

The resolution was an emergency measure, meaning the moratorium went in to effect Tuesday when it was approved.

The moratorium affects permits for marijuana-related businesses, but will not affect the right of residents to partake in recreational marijuana, Denlinger confirmed.

“This has nothing to do that,” she said. “We are actually not permitted to prohibit that, so they can partake as the law allows them.”

Other local cities that have enacted similar moratoriums include Centerville, Kettering, Springboro, Beavercreek and Troy.

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