

CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 12, 2024

IMPORTANT COUNCIL DATES:

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 16, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. – New Resident Breakfast (OCC)
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 18, Saturday – “That Day in May”
May 20, Monday, 5 p.m. – Work Session (30 Park)

BUSINESS UPDATE:

- MLK Day: City offices, the OCC and the Public Works Center are closed on Monday in recognition of MLK Day. Enclosed is a *DDN* article.
- January 22 Work Session: We will begin our January 22 work session setting up your devices to access your oakwoodohio.gov email account. Mark Flannery, our IT Consultant, will attend the meeting. If you haven't already, please let Lori know what device(s) you are bringing for setup.
- January 2 Council: Enclosed are *Register* articles about our council meeting last Monday highlighting the Oaths of Office, marijuana moratorium, state recognition in financial reporting and the pending sale of 1313 Far Hills Avenue.
- 2023 Financial Disclosure Statements: The deadline for filing your 2023 financial disclosure statement is Wednesday, May 15. Enclosed is a memo from Lori on this.
- RTA Trolley Lines: Enclosed are the press release and *DDN* and *Register* articles about RTA starting to remove the overhead trolley system. RTA completed some preliminary work this week and plans to start wire removal as weather permits.
- Safety Department Report: Enclosed is the December operations report. Chief Hill will deliver a staff report at our February 5 council meeting. It will include 2023 police, fire and EMS statistics.
- Holiday Meal: The Oakwood Rotary Club once again provided a fantastic meal to our safety department on Christmas Eve. Enclosed is a *Register* photo.

- Vice Mayor Byington: Enclosed is a neat *Register* article about Steve's work at Wright Patterson.
- Holiday Decorating Award Winners: Enclosed is a *Register* article with photos of the 2023 Holiday Decorating Award winners.
- 2024 Capital Improvement Expenses: Enclosed is a *Register* article listing the 2024 capital improvement projects scheduled for this year, along with capital equipment replacements.
- American Citizenship: Enclosed are two *DDN* articles about the citizenship ceremony held yesterday at Oakwood High School.

HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND!

TRANSMITTALS NOTED WITHIN NEWSLETTER

DDN article re: MLK Day

Register articles re: January 2 Council

Financial Disclosures Memo

Press Release, *DDN* & *Register* articles re: RTA Trolley Lines

Safety Department Report

Register photo re: Holiday Meal

Register article re: Vice Mayor Byington

Register article re: Holiday Decorating Award Winners

Register article re: 2024 Capital Improvement Expenses

DDN articles re: American Citizenship

OAKWOOD

Office closed, trash delayed for MLK Day

Oakwood city offices are closed on Monday, Jan. 15 in recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Trash pickup for all routes the week of Jan. 15 will be one day later than usual. Monday's route will be picked up Tuesday; Tuesday's route will be picked up Wednesday; Wednesday's route will be picked up Thursday; and Thursday's route will be picked up Friday.

For additional information, contact Norbert S. Klopsch, City Manager, at 937-298-0600 or klopsch@oakwoodohio.gov



Oakwood Law Director Rob Jacques, right, administers the oath of office to newly elected City Council member Healy Jackson, left, on Jan. 2 at the City Building as Oakwood Mayor William Duncan, center, watches the proceedings. Jackson was elected to office in November, replacing outgoing former Council member Anne Hilton who did not seek re-election.

Duncan re-elected Oakwood mayor, Byington vice mayor, Jackson takes new seat on City Council

William Duncan and Steve Byington were sworn in following their re-election in November, and newly elected Healy Jackson was sworn in to her first term on Oakwood City Council on Tuesday, Jan. 2. Jackson won the seat vacated by Anne Hilton, who did not seek re-election in November 2023 after serving 14 years on City Council.

After being seated for their new terms, both Duncan and Byington were re-elected mayor and vice mayor,

respectively, after being nominated by Jackson in her first official role as a member of Council.

Duncan, who was first elected to City Council in May 2003, has served as Oakwood mayor since January 2010. Byington, first elected to Council in November 2007, also has served as vice mayor since January 2010.

Jackson ran unopposed in November 2023 for the Council seat vacated by Anne Shank Hilton, who

was first elected to City Council in November 2009. Her Council term runs from January 2024 to December 31, 2027.

City Council also formally recognized Hilton's 14-year tenure with a resolution signed by all five city lawmakers. Hilton served as Council's liaison to Oakwood Municipal Court and represented the city on the Oakwood Sister City Association during her time on City Council.

Duncan, Byington return to Council



Oakwood Law Director Rob Jacques, right, administers the oath of office to City Council members Steve Byington, left, and William Duncan on Jan. 2. Both ran unopposed in the November 2023 election. City Manager Norb Klopsch is pictured seated at center.

State Recognition



Ohio Rep. Andrea White (R-Dist. 36), right, presents a recognition from the Ohio House of Representatives to Oakwood Finance Director Cindy Stafford, left, commending Stafford and her fellow employees on recently receiving the Ohio Auditor of State Award. The presentation was made at the City Council meeting on Jan. 2.

THE OAKWOOD REGISTER January 10, 2024

City approves 1-year moratorium on commercial sale, processing or cultivation of recreational marijuana

Oakwood will not see any recreational marijuana dispensaries open in the foreseeable future as City Council on Jan. 2 approved an ordinance imposing a one-year moratorium on the commercial sale, cultivation or processing of recreational marijuana as state lawmakers take up amendments to a voter-approved ballot initiative passed in November 2023 that legalized

recreational marijuana in Ohio.

Approving the ordinance as an emergency measure and bypassing the traditional first and second reading of proposed city legislation prior to a Council vote, Oakwood joins a number of surrounding communities in grappling with how the legalization of marijuana will be regulated by the state and local municipalities. At

present there are no overarching state regulations on licensing of recreational marijuana dispensaries in Ohio.

Vice Mayor Steve Byington, who introduced the moratorium, noted that the measure only affects commercial operations, not individual recreational use or possession of marijuana which was legalized by voters in Ohio last year.

THE OAKWOOD REGISTER January 10, 2024

Council vote to sell Far Hills property would derail Desch park proposal, but advocates still hopeful for local memorial



Oakwood's Joe Desch oversaw Allied codebreaking efforts at NCR during World War II.

Oakwood City Council on Jan. 2 introduced proposed legislation that would authorize the city manager to offer the vacant property at 1313 Far Hills Avenue for sale on the open real estate market after conclusion of the Far Hills storm sewer project later this year.

The city acquired the property several years ago in anticipation of the storm sewer replacement project. The prior residence at 1313 Far Hills had to be demolished as crews removed storm sewer infrastructure located on the property to allow for completion of upgrades and improvements to the city storm sewer.

If approved by the city lawmakers the measure to resell the site would derail a proposal by Oakwood residents Andrew and Cheryl Lloyd to transform the soon-to-be vacant lot into a bio-diverse park near the high school

dedicated in memory of former Oakwood resident Joe Desch who headed U.S. codebreaking efforts during World War II at NCR.

Desch worked hand-in-hand with his more famous British counterpart, Alan Turing, headquartered at Bletchley Park in England, as the U.S. and Great Britain developed early electro-mechanical computers used in breaking Nazi and Japanese naval and diplomatic codes during the Second World War.

U.S. General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Allied commander in Europe during the D-Day landings who was later elected president, credited Desch's efforts in Dayton with shortening the war by two years.

The Lloyds say they are disappointed with Council's move to sell the property, but encouraged by the response they've had to the proposal to memorialize one of Oakwood's unsung heroes.

"While disappointed at the city's planned disposal of 1313 Far Hills, we are pragmatic, and recognize there are local area needs that the Council must always consider. We have had, and continue to have, positive engagement with the city, members of the Oakwood Historical Society, and other interested people and organizations. All subsequent feedback has been positive, and we are now discussing a suite of measures within Oakwood and the wider area, which we hope will give due recognition to Joseph Desch and his positive global impact," Andrew and Cheryl Lloyd said.

MEMORANDUM

TO: MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: LORI STACEL

SUBJECT: 2023 FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

DATE: JANUARY 12, 2024

This memo is a notice alerting you of the requirement to complete your 2023 Financial Disclosure Statement Form.

You can either file electronically online or electronically fill in the form and print the completed statement.

For those interested in electronically filing online, you can access the Ohio Ethics Commission's website at <https://disclosure.ethics.ohio.gov>. Please note that first-time users will need to register for an account. When filing electronically, the website imports your responses from the prior year's statement and has many other time-saving benefits. In regards to the filing fees, please select "My public entity has agreed to pay my fee(s)" and I will submit payment.

For those who wish to file by paper, blank 2023 financial disclosure statements are available on the Ethics Commission's website at <https://ethics.ohio.gov/forms/fds/OEC-2023.pdf>.

Please return the completed form to me at your earliest convenience.

The filing deadline is **Wednesday, May 15, 2024**.

Please let me know which filing option you plan to use so I can appropriately submit the required \$35 filing fee payment. Thank you.

c: Norbert Klopsch

PRESS RELEASE



City of Oakwood
30 Park Avenue
Oakwood, Ohio 45419

Subject: RTA Trolley Wire System Removal

Date: January 8, 2024

OAKWOOD, OHIO:

The Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority (RTA) is removing the overhead trolley wire system throughout the city of Oakwood. The work will be completed in two phases. Phase 1 involves the removal of the overhead wires along Oakwood Avenue between Irving Avenue and Far Hills Avenue/Thruston Boulevard, and along Far Hills Avenue between Oakwood Avenue/Thruston Boulevard and the south Oakwood corporation line near East Drive. Phase 2 involves pole removals.

The Phase 1 wire removal work is scheduled to begin in the next week or so and is anticipated to take multiple weeks to complete. The Phase 2 pole removal work will be completed over the course of 2024.

This removal work is being done because the overhead trolley system through Oakwood is obsolete and no longer in service. The work will not impact RTA bus service in and through Oakwood. Questions about the work should be directed to Public Works Director Doug Spitler at (937) 298-0777 or spitler@oakwoodohio.gov.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
K. Douglas Spitler, P.E., Public Works Director
(937) 298-0777
spitler@oakwoodohio.gov

OAKWOOD

RTA to remove trolley bus wires on Far Hills



An RTA bus travels south on Far Hills Avenue, Oakwood, on Monday. The Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority will remove the overhead trolley wire system on Oakwood Avenue, Far Hills Avenue and Thruston Boulevard. JIM NOELKER / STAFF

Work starting in next week will involve lane restrictions.

By Nick Blizzard
Staff Writer

The Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority will be removing the overhead trolley wire sys-

tem in Oakwood, including along Ohio 48/Far Hills Avenue, impacting some traffic.

The work will be completed in two phases starting in the next week or so and is expected to last throughout 2024, according to Oakwood officials.

The work will be done in phases and will not impact RTA bus service in and through Oakwood, the

city said in an announcement.

The project will have "minor impacts" to traffic on Far Hills, said Oakwood Public Works Director Doug Spitler.

"Traffic will be maintained, but isolated lane restrictions will be used to accommodate the work area," he said in an email.

Traffic on the four-lane state route for months has had lane

closures as Oakwood's \$2.1 million storm sewer reconstruction project moves forward.

Currently, only the southbound curb lane of Far Hills is closed for the storm sewer project, Spitler said.

"There will be lane closures to perform the phased storm sewer

RTA continued on B6

RTA

continued from B1

crossing on Far Hills, but we have not coordinated that final schedule with the contractor," he said.

The RTA removal work is being done because the overhead trolley system through Oakwood is obsolete and no longer in service for buses, the city said.

Phase 1 will involve removal of the overhead wires along Oakwood Avenue between Irving Avenue and Far Hills/Thrus-

ton Boulevard, according to the city. It will also include Far Hills between Oakwood Avenue/Thruston and the south Oakwood corporation line near East Drive, officials said.

This phase is scheduled to start in the next week or so and is expected to take multiple weeks to complete, according to the city.

Phase 2 will involve pole removals to be completed over the course of the year.

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

DDN 1/9/2024

RTA removing trolley wires

The Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority (RTA) is removing the overhead trolley wire system throughout the city of Oakwood. The work will be completed in two phases. Phase 1 involves the removal of the overhead wires along Oakwood Avenue between Irving Avenue and Far Hills Avenue/Thruston Boulevard, and along Far Hills Avenue between Oakwood Avenue/Thruston Boulevard and the south Oakwood corporation line near East Drive. Phase 2 involves pole removal.

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THE OAKWOOD REGISTER January 10, 2024

THE OAKWOOD PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT'S REPORT TO THE CITY MANAGER

DECEMBER 2023

Submitted by Chief Alan Hill

LAW ENFORCEMENT

PART 1 CRIMES: There were twelve Part 1 crimes reported during the month of December. These included seven thefts, four vehicle thefts, and one fraud case.

**TRAFFIC
ENFORCEMENT:** During the month of December, 85 traffic violations were cited, and 57 parking citations were issued.

DETECTIVE INVESTIGATIONS:

23-003814	300 Blk Forrer Blvd	MV Theft	Under Investigation
23-003842	400 Blk East Dr	Extortion	Under Investigation
23-003947	2700 Blk Far Hills Ave	Forgery	Under Investigation
23-004031	200 Blk Volusia	MV Theft	Under Investigation
23-004032	100 Blk Spirea	MV Theft	Under Investigation
23-004034	600 Blk Orlando Ter	MV Theft	Under Investigation
23-004058	200 Blk Dell Park	Theft	Under Investigation

LEADS: The LEADS validation report this month concerned warrant entries. All entries have been validated and the Safety Department remains in compliance with LEADS protocol.

TEEN COURT: There were no cases referred to the Oakwood Teen Court and one case was referred to the Montgomery County Juvenile Court during the month of December.

FIRE

FIRE: There were six total fire responses in December, all were to Oakwood. These included four alarm investigations, one CO alarm, and one natural gas odor investigation.

APPARATUS: No maintenance issues were reported during the month of December.

FIRE INSPECTIONS: There were no fire inspections conducted during the month of December.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

REMOVALS: There were 31 total calls for emergency medical services in December, including one mutual aid request from the Dayton Fire Department and one request from the Kettering Fire Department. Four patients refused medical treatment and/or transportation. All other patients were transported to area hospitals for treatment.

MISCELLANEOUS

DARE: There were no DARE activities during the month of December

TRAINING

Public Safety Officers, Lieutenants, Command Staff, and Dispatchers completed a total 137 hours of training during the month of December.

During the month of December, Safety Department personnel completed EMS continuing education training presented by Kettering Health Network covering Trauma Assessment.

Fire and Police Training consisted of our annual HAZ-MAT refresher presented by Gary Rettig from Dayton Regional Haz-Mat.

Dispatchers completed CE training through a Total Response presentation entitled "The Aftermath of Critical Calls: How to Move Forward".

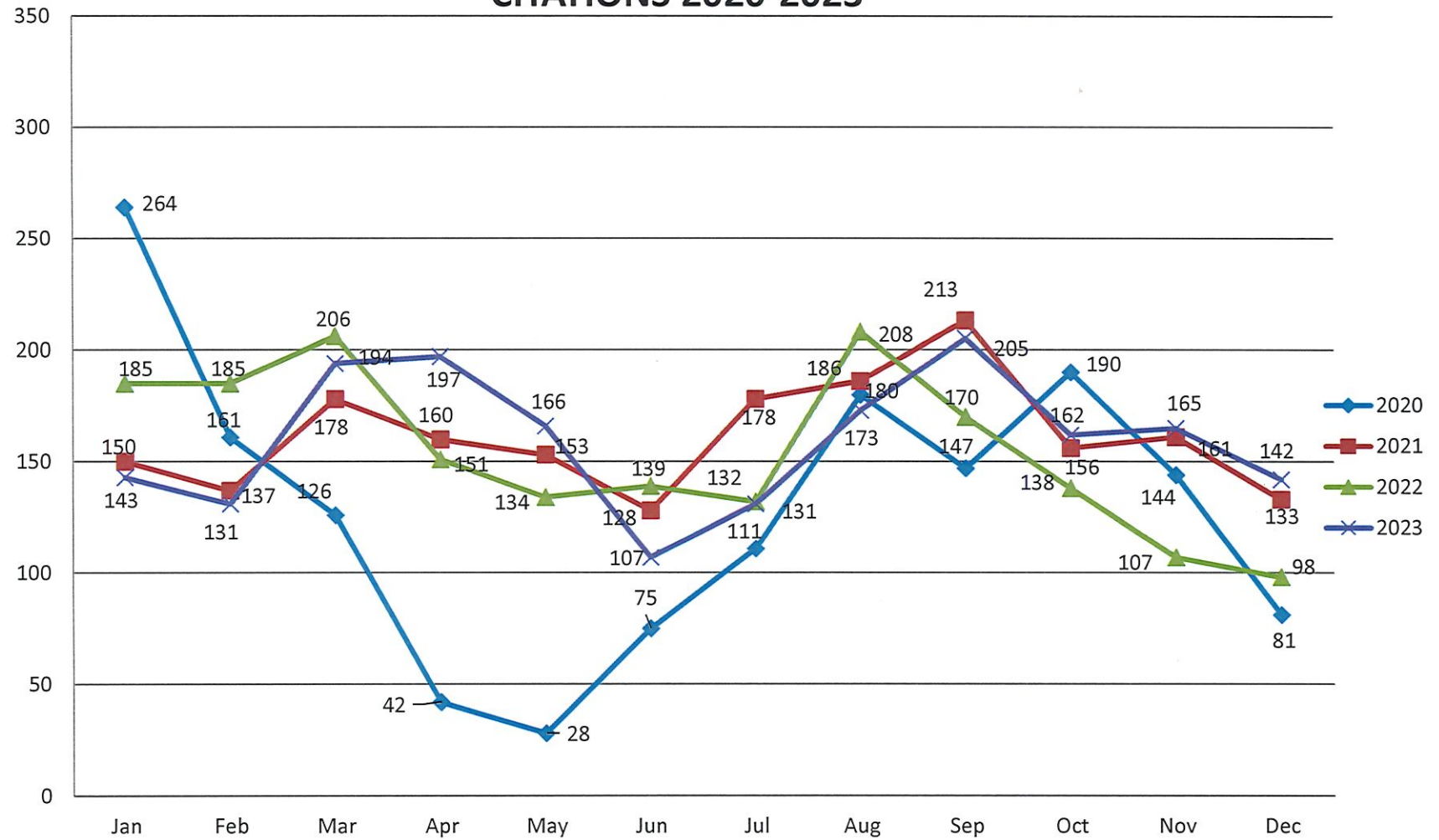
Lastly, on December 12-13, Officer McElroy attended SWAT training with the Kettering Regional SWAT Team.

OFFICER ACTIVITY

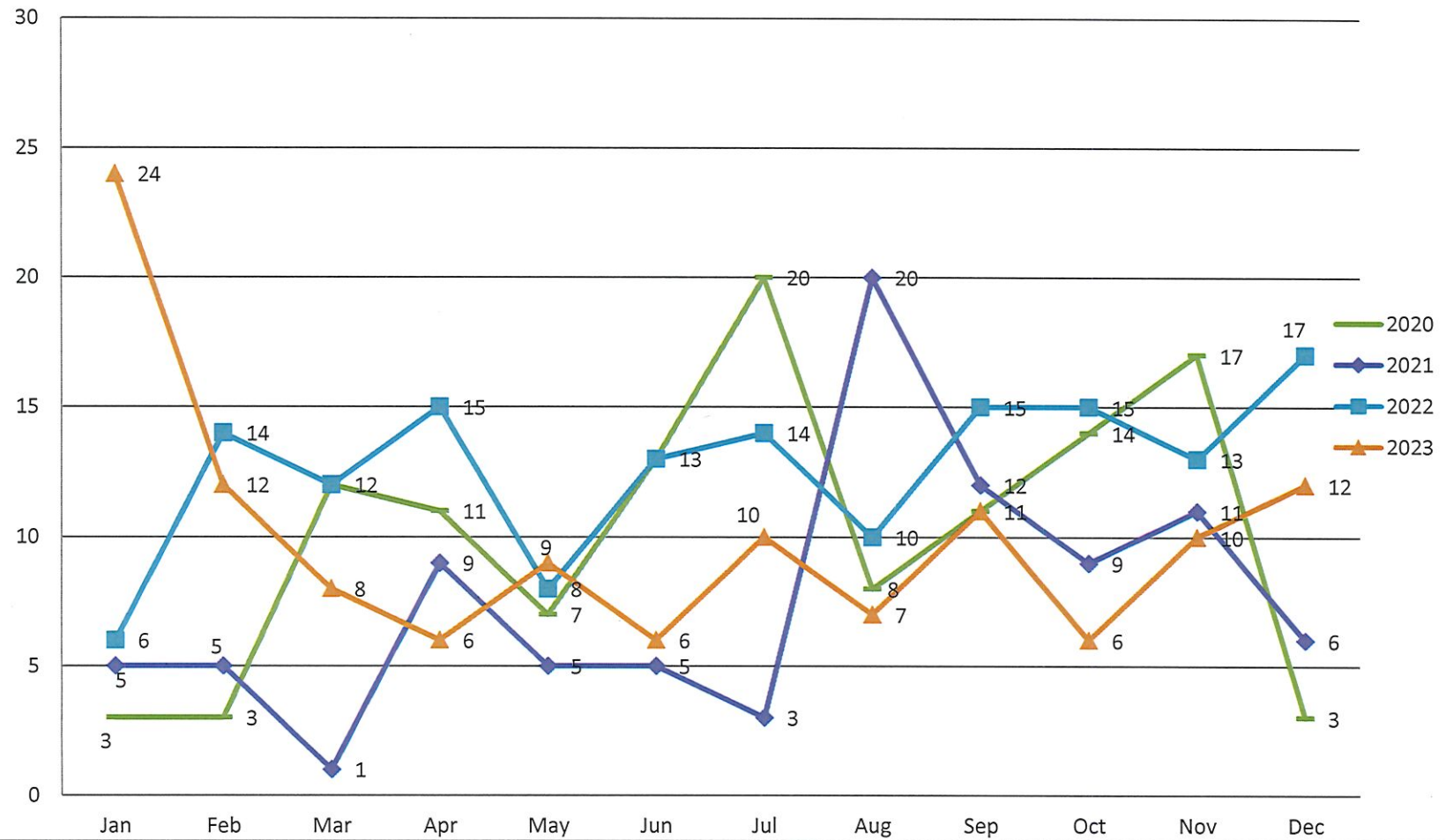
	ARRESTS	TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS CITED	OVI	FIELD REPORTS	REPORTS TAKEN	PARKING	WARNINGS	VHC	COMMUNITY MAINTENANCE
Staff	0	4	0	0	12	1	9	12	0
1	5	42	0	3	39	26	55	102	4
2	0	14	0	4	22	26	57	124	5
3	3	25	0	0	16	4	38	75	6

TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS CITED		WARNINGS	
White	42	White	96
Black	25	Black	42
Indian	4	Indian	3
Asian	6	Asian	0
Hispanic	1	Hispanic	2
Middle Eastern	2	Middle Eastern	2
Unoccupied Vehicle/Other/Unknown	5	Unoccupied Vehicle/Other/Unknown	14
TOTAL	85	TOTAL	159
FIELD INVESTIGATIONS		ARRESTS	
White	4	White	4
Black	1	Black	4
Indian	0	Indian	0
Asian	0	Asian	0
Hispanic	0	Hispanic	0
Middle Eastern	0	Middle Eastern	0
Other/Unknown	2	Other/Unknown	0
TOTAL	7	TOTAL	8

CITATIONS 2020-2023



PART 1 CRIMES 2020-2023



Rotary treats first responders



For many years the Rotary Club of Oakwood has provided Oakwood Public Safety Officers with a Christmas Day spread delivered to the safety building on Christmas Eve. Club members prepared their favorite Christmas dishes as a token of thanks for all that Public Safety Department employees do for the community. Dorothy Lane Market also provided fruit baskets, a sandwich tray, bagels and Killer Brownies!

THE OAKWOOD REGISTER January 10, 2024

Oakwood's Byington combines love of history, architecture at Wright-Patterson AFB

*By Amy Rollins
Skywrighter Staff*

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base has a long, colorful and storied history - and Oakwood's Steve Byington has the good fortune to help carry it safely into the future.

Byington gets to do that as the 88th Civil Engineer Group's cultural resources manager, a job he's held since August 2020 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

He has an important mission, and it's one he deeply enjoys. He does the work "so we understand where we came from and how it influences and can shape the environment we work in today," the 88 CEG's former construction design manager said.

An architect by trade, Byington holds a bachelor's degree in architecture with a specialization in historical preservation and architectural history. That makes the job a "perfect marriage" of his interests, he says.

"There are lots of good things to say about the job Steve is doing for our mission and vision in the Environmental Branch," said Michael Brady, section chief, adding the branch's main role is to enhance mission sustainability through environmental excellence.

"The Environmental Branch is the designated environmental spokesperson for WPAFB, ensuring installation functions remain in compliance with federal, state, local, DOD, and Air Force environmental regulations and policies by establishing environmental-compliance plans, administering environmental programs and coordinating environmental-

protection requirements."

The cultural resources manager works as a liaison to ensure the Air Force maximizes the reuse of its historic buildings and structures, while meeting all preservation laws and regulations.

"This job was an opportunity to use something I've always had as a love of mine but hadn't been able to use that much in my professional career as a commercial architect," he said. "This seemed like the perfect marriage of what I love to do in terms of design and construction but also with the research and the historical-preservation aspects of making sure that we're not losing resources that are important to the history of the base and to the region."

Before becoming a civilian employee, Byington spent 25 years with three local architectural firms, where he worked on everything from homes to university research buildings.

"Ultimately, I have always been drawn to reuse and rehabilitation projects and the opportunities they provide," he said.

Now, a big part of his job is getting early notifications of proposed base-construction projects, comparing them against a database of properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and providing technical assistance where warranted.

"If there's any sort of historical context to the building, then I'll review the drawings and specs to make sure no harm will come to any cultural resource," he said. "Or if the project would potentially damage an asset, then

See **Byington** on page 8 ►

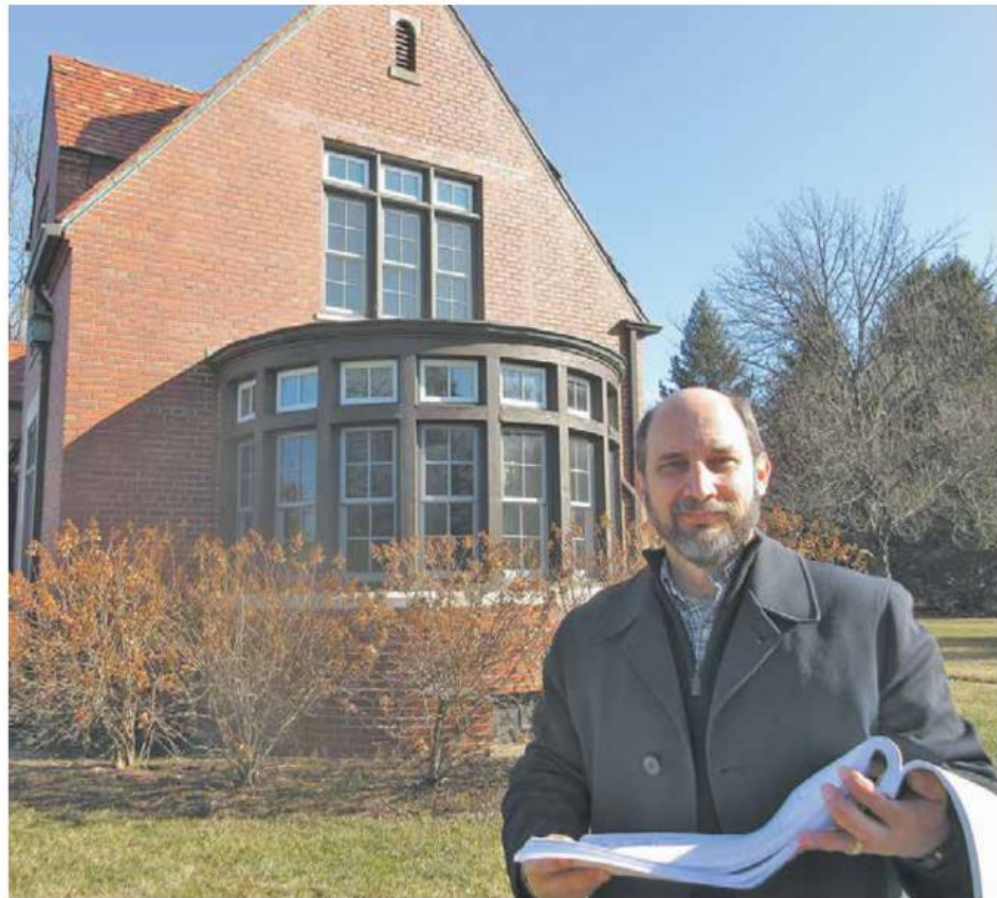


Photo by Amy Rollins
Steve Byington, the 88th Civil Engineer Group's cultural resources manager, reviews architectural plans at the Brick Quarters on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

► Byington from page 9

mitigation efforts - moving, reworking or encapsulating the significant features are explored. Not everything can be saved, but demolition is always a last resort. We're always trying to protect the resources we have while supporting the Air Force's mission of providing the advanced services we need to continue to fly, fight and win."

Protecting more than buildings

Cultural resources other than buildings on base under Byington's purview include Huffman Prairie - where the Wright brothers perfected sustained, controlled, powered flight - and its interpretive center at the Wright Brothers Memorial by Area B.

Byington works closely with the National Park Service on these assets. He also works to preserve and protect artworks, including a colorful mural painted by German prisoners of war during World War II in an Area A building.

Along with the park service and other groups, he's also responsible for safeguarding five prehistoric Native American/indigenous mounds at the Wright Brothers Memorial, plus one in a protected area in the middle of Area A.

At the end of 2020, the mounds were surveyed with ground-penetrating radar as well as other imaging equipment to potentially identify any remains or cultural artifacts. The survey's final report is pending.

"We do communicate on a regular basis with five different tribes that have shown interest, and we let them know of any potential projects or events that might affect these sites," Byington said.



U.S. Air Force photo by Daniel Peterson

Steve Byington, 88th Civil Engineer Group cultural resources manager, gives opening remarks during a ceremony at Wright Brothers Memorial in Dayton on Dec. 15, 2023. The ceremony marked the 120th anniversary of the Wright brothers' first flight.

His favorite part of the job is continually learning more about the base's history through his research, whether architectural or aviation related.

"I don't think a lot of people realize, just when you're driving around, that some of the plainest, most-nondescript buildings on base have some of the most interesting histories," Byington said. "With Wright-Patterson being one of the earliest air bases in the U.S. and the world, it's interesting to see buildings that date back to 1927 when Wright Field was first founded, and knowing that Orville Wright was still in Dayton working in his laboratory.

"Also, virtually every aircraft the Air Force has flown has either been tested or had a portion of its design researched and developed right here in Dayton."

The largest project on Byington's plate in recent years has been the renovation of the Brick Quarters, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The project is renovating 30 residences built on base between 1934 and 1937 as officers' quarters.

"They are a bit dated inside, so we are doing everything we need to for a modern renovation while keeping a sensitivity toward historical preservation, too," he noted.

Currently, he is looking at samples of roofing materials - even visiting the Ohio company's factory that manufactured the original clay-roof tiles.

Once the project is complete, the homes will look as they always have but be easier to maintain, with new wiring and mechanical systems featuring a longer lifespan.

"It's a really big project in Phase 1 now, with another 20 homes to be done in three or four years," Byington said. "It's involved the Air Force 88 CBG, Base Housing, the State Historic Preservation Office, the Army Corps of Engineers and a local architectural and

engineering construction group.

"When you do a project like this in a historic district, it's sort of a give-and-take with all parties involved to arrive at the right levels of modernization, preservation and mitigation. One of the things we're taking a look at in terms of mitigation is a renovation of the Gen. Hap Arnold House."

He said there is also talk of doing a documentary on the base's history and how WPAFB developed.

"It would involve putting together a script and working with a film crew. That also would be a mitigation effort that would help us do what we need to do construction-wise," he said.

People may look at Wright-Patt as a typical Air Force base, but it has a diversity of high-tech, brand-new, cutting-edge construction, combined with very-utilitarian-but-still-functional buildings that have been around since the 1920s, Byington said.

"It's a beautiful melding of the old and the new. ... There may be a B1B bomber flying overhead, but we're also very cognizant that we started off with the old Curtiss Jenny biplane trainers. Wright-Patterson has been a part of that since the very beginning," he said.

Byington occasionally brings his wife on base to visit Huffman Prairie, ride bikes and take advantage of the beautiful natural areas like Bass Lake.

"It's also interesting to just drive around and look at the buildings," he said. "I'm always seeing something new. I still like to do that."

Fortunately, his wife has an interest in Dayton history, too.

Republished with permission.



Area 1 - Daytime
Kiersten and Sean Cahill
260 Ridgewood Avenue

City of Oakwood Holiday Decorating Awards

On January 2 the City of Oakwood presented its 2023 Holiday Decorating Awards to the following residents and businesses.



Area 5 - Nighttime
The Beecher Family
25 Grandon Road



Area 1 - Nighttime
Julie & Jonathan Lamb
437 Volusia Avenue



Area 3 - Nighttime
Allie & Timothy Shaw
223 Harman Boulevard



Area 6 - Daytime
Brad & Whitney Gibson
1101 Ridgeway Road



Area 2 - Daytime
Erica & Jon Williams
124 Beverly Place



Area 4 - Daytime
Beth & Jeremy Wilson
324 Peach Orchard Avenue



Area 6 - Nighttime
The Jerele Family
814 Harman Avenue



Area 2 - Nighttime
Bethany & Aaron Reiff
601 Hathaway Road



Area 4 - Nighttime
John & Vail McGuire
360 East Drive



Business - Daytime
Lula Bell
23 Park Avenue



Area 3 - Daytime
The O'Connor Family
1306 East Schantz Avenue



Area 5 - Daytime
Gracey & Al Weisbrod
111 Park Road



Business - Nighttime
The Spicy Olive
2510 Far Hills Avenue

Oakwood outlines proposed capital improvement projects

Oakwood plans to spend \$3.8 million on capital improvement projects and capital equipment expenditures in the coming year, according to projections presented to the city's Budget Review Committee.

Topping the list of projected capital improvement expenditures in 2024 is the \$1.5 million dollar repaving of Far Hills Avenue, with taxpayers expected to pay 20 percent - or \$300,000 - of the total cost while the Ohio Department of Transportation is projected to pay 80 percent, or \$1.2 million, for repaving the state route.

Other projects on the city's to-do list this year include \$300,000 budgeted toward the purchase of a new medic and ambulance for the Oakwood Public Safety Department, another \$300,000 in improvements to

salt storage facilities and the Public Works yard, \$100,000 for a new pool liner at Gardner Pool, \$100,000 for concrete street repair, \$175,000 to install a median on Harman Boulevard, and another \$175,000 allocated to sidewalk, curb and driveway apron replacement.

An additional \$280,000 is budgeted for a street sweeper for the city, along with \$90,000 for replacement of a front-end loader, \$150,000 to replace a hook truck, another \$150,000 to replace a dump truck, and \$400,000 for water main service improvements. The city plans to allocate \$125,000 for a sewer line cleaner for easements along with \$50,000 for sewer line repairs, \$125,000 for sanitary sewer linings, and \$100,000 for manhole rehabs.

THE OAKWOOD REGISTER January 10, 2024

OAKWOOD

High school to host ceremony for new citizens

By Nick Blizzard
Staff Writer

A swearing-in ceremony for new U.S. citizens is scheduled for this morning at Oakwood High School.

The United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio will hold the naturalization event, which will include about 40 petitioners taking the citizenship oath, according to Oakwood City Schools.

These ceremonies are generally open to the public on a first come/first serve basis, according to the court. But due to the lack of space in the OHS auditorium and the anticipated student participation, this event will not be open, the school district said.

Judges from the U.S. district court and the federal bankruptcy court will admin-



About 90 people from 40 different countries take the oath of citizenship from U.S. District Judge Walter H. Rice, in Dayton, in 2020. Oakwood High School will host a naturalization event today. Students will attend and watch via video. The event is not open to the public. STAFF

ister the oath in a ceremony to be attended by about 230 Oakwood High School juniors and sophomores, school district officials said. Those students are

enrolled in government, social studies and world language courses. All other Oakwood Junior and Senior High School students will watch via a live video stream from their classrooms, according to the school district.

Naturalization ceremonies are public events that often bring communities, schools and new citizens closer, according to the U.S. District Court website. Schools often ask to participate in the ceremonies, which are commonly held at federal courthouses. Special ceremonies may be held at other locations, according to the court.

The event is scheduled for 11 a.m. in the OHS auditorium.

Contact this reporter at 937-610-7438 or email Nick. nblizzard@coxinc.com

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2024 | DAYTON DAILY NEWS

New U.S. citizens welcomed in ceremony at high school



Oakwood High School students pack the school's auditorium for a naturalization ceremony, on Thursday. JIM NOELKER PHOTOS / STAFF

District court brought ceremony to school so students could watch.

By Eileen McClory
Staff Writer

Around 50 people from almost 20 different countries became U.S. citizens on Thursday in Oakwood High School's auditorium.

The U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio hosted a naturalization ceremony in the auditorium of the high school to allow students the chance to see the Constitution in action, said U.S. district judge Michael J. Newman.

"We're doing it as part of our court's civic outreach to bring the court to the public, if you will, and to teach young people in this case, and high school students here at Oakwood about the Constitution," Newman said. "They got to see the Constitution in action today, which is a really wonderful thing from my point of view."

Most often, the naturalization ceremonies are held at the U.S. courthouse, but U.S. Magistrate Judge Peter B. Silvain Jr. said the court has been holding ceremonies outside of the courthouse.



New U.S. citizen Abuk Deng celebrates her naturalization along with 40 other new Americans at a ceremony at Oakwood High School, on Thursday. Deng is from Sudan.

He said the Dayton branch of the court has been going to Dayton Dragons games, Sinclair Community College and other places to

do the citizenship ceremonies.

"We feel it's important to have the community be part of this ceremony," Silvian said.

"I think it makes it special for the new citizens."

Citizens continued on B8

Citizens

continued from B1

Neil Gupta, Oakwood's superintendent, said the opportunity to have the ceremony at Oakwood came about over break.

He and the high school's principal, Paul Waller, worked with the high school social

studies department to host the ceremony.

"Our thought was, this is their first day as U.S. citizens, so we want to make sure it's special," Waller said. "Also for us to be part of that, for our students to see how excited people are to become U.S. citizens, I think that was really meaningful for our students."

Gupta said the ceremony was important to him as the son of two parents who immigrated in the 1970s from India and became U.S. citizens in 1992.

"I don't think at the time that we realized how much of an important ceremony this was, how monumental of a time it was for them to celebrate, and what it actu-

ally meant for them for their future and for ours as well," Gupta said.

Sarah Mutoni, a Congo native who became a U.S. citizen on Thursday as part of the ceremony, said the process to become a citizen took her seven years. She works as a home health aide and is going back to school, she said.

She told those who are still trying to become citizens "to keep working hard."

"It takes time and a lot of work," she said.

Oliver Spaulding, an Oakwood High School junior, said he was excited to see the ceremony.

"Being able to see this process, having it in real time happening to these real peo-

ple, was I think something that's helped us really connect our learning to real life and to the effect that it's going to have on the real world," Spaulding said.

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