

# Merisa K. Bowers

GAHANNA CITY COUNCILWOMAN, AT-LARGE  
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To: Residents of Gahanna; Members of Council; Mayor Jadwin; City Attorney Priya Tamilarasan  
CC: Clerk of Council Jeremy VanMeter  
From: Council President Merisa Bowers  
Re: **Community Report - April/May 2025 Report**  
Date: June 2, 2025

## **General Update - Events and Actions of April - May 2025:**

- Researched advocacy organization promoted by constituent due to requested Resolution.
- Participated in a Statewide Local Government Policy Roundtable on **affordable housing** on April 9.
- Joined a **small business happy hour** co-hosted by Gahanna Area Chamber of Commerce and local AmSpirit chapter at the new Third Base Pint House on April 10.
- Celebrated the **Grand Reopening of the Gahanna Plant Library** at Creative Options on April 12, supported in part by a grant from the City of Gahanna Community Grant Program.
- Co-hosted a “Stuffy Swap” community meet-up at the CML Gahanna Branch Library on April 13 with Councilwoman Kaylee Padova.
- Developed agenda, prepared for and attended leadership touchbase meeting with Mayor, City Attorney, Council leadership and senior directors on April 14.
- Celebrated the opening of **food storage lockers at Gahanna Residents in Need (GRIN)** on April 21, supported in part by a grant from the City of Gahanna Community Grant Program.
- Enjoyed a **career shadowing experience** the week of April 21 with local 8th grader, Hadley, who is interested in a career in law and local government.
- Worked on advancing local legislation to collect lodging tax at all transient accommodations (short-term rentals, B&Bs, hotels, etc.)
- Attended **Gahanna's Giving Local 100+ Women (GLOW) Spring Gather to Give**, as a guest, congratulating the *Central Ohio Beekeepers Charitable Foundation (COBCF)*, *Dreams on Horseback*, and the *Gahanna Community Chorus* on their thoughtful and compelling presentations on April 23.
- Attended the **Mind & Wellness Fair presented by Gahanna Division of Police** on May 1 and connected with organizations and providers.



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- Celebrated and supported Visit Gahanna and local vendors at the annual **Herb Day Festival** on May 3, presenting a joint [Resolution/Proclamation](#) recognizing Herb Week in Gahanna.
- Listened to stakeholders' thoughts and ideas at the **Gahanna Strategic Plan Vision Festival** events on May 7.
- Began compiling information related to multifamily & master meter utility billing practices.
- Organized and participated in a **neighborhood beautification and litter clean-up** for Rathburn Woods on May 10.
- Engaged in further discussion of [elected official compensation](#) at Committee of the Whole meeting on May 12 with [Memo from City Attorney](#) on comparable legal officer compensation.
- Attended meeting with neighboring residents of proposed development project at "Growing Solutions" property on E. Johnstown Road on May 13.
- Met with **new Director of Economic Development Jeff Gottke** for discussion of opportunities, obstacles, policy, and goals on May 15.
- Prepared and presented a [Resolution](#) on May 19 recognizing [CHLOE Inc.](#) and its founder, **Connie Nafziger**, for 25 years of supporting young pregnant women and mothers and congratulating Connie on her retirement as Executive Director of the organization.
- Contacted State Senators expressing concern with erosion of Home Rule and local control related to Senate Bills 63, 104, and House Bill 96.
- Remembered and honored brave armed servicemembers who gave the ultimate sacrifice at a beautiful **Memorial Day ceremony** hosted by the Gahanna Veterans Memorial Committee on May 26.
- Received information related to restrictions on housing wholesaling practices and infill housing projects.



*Photos from top: residents select stuffies to "swap" and share at the Gahanna Branch Library; at GLOW's Spring Gather to Give at the Menlo with GLOW Member Helen Cosner; volunteers gathered at Rathburn Woods after perennial planting and litter clean-up; presenting Resolution to Connie Nafziger; attending the Memorial Day Ceremony with Council colleagues.*

## **Let's Connect: Upcoming Community Meet-Ups**

Have you checked out the new Mountain Biking Trail at Academy Park? It's a fun adventure accessible to families and those interested in getting a taste of the thrill of mountain biking. The Ribbon Cutting will be **Friday, June 6 at 4pm.**



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Come check it out and let's talk about your favorite ways to get active in Gahanna!

**Join me for a casual meet-up at Rathburn Woods Park on Saturday, June 7 from 8am - 10am. Joy Local Coffee Truck will be serving coffee. I'll be happy to take questions and discuss what's on your mind.**

Inspired by the LGBTQ+ community's legacy of advocacy and demand for fair recognition, the non-profit organization Gahanna Pride Network launched the **Gahanna Pride Festival** last year. This year's event will be **Thursday, June 26 at Headley Park from 5 - 8pm**. Join me to lift up acceptance, visibility, and love at this year's Gahanna Pride Festival!

For more, see: <https://www.gahannaohiopride.com/>



**To schedule a meeting, coffee, or call, please email [merisa.bowers@gahanna.gov](mailto:merisa.bowers@gahanna.gov) or call 614-342-0040.**

Where can you most influence the day-to-day lives of your neighbors? The answer is local government! I welcome your thoughts, questions, and information about what's going on in Gahanna!

*You can join various Gahanna CivicEngage newsletter lists - **including the new bimonthly City Council Newsletter** - by creating a [“Notify Me” Sign In](#) account and selecting the desired newsletter lists.*

## **Constituent Issues/Concerns:**

Throughout April and May, residents voiced concerns and opinions or requested assistance in the following areas:

- Support for Natural Family Month
- Mifflin Township Fire & Police levies
- ERU water rates and communication of increase
- Gahanna (Agler Road) BMV closure
- Animal control incidents
- Conservation of Monarch butterflies and their environment
- Yard waste disposal



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- Support for Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month & Taiwanese American Heritage Month
- Residential trash pick-up practices/performance
- Support for rail infrastructure funding
- Pre-annexation agreement, proposed NE Gahanna development, support for environmental considerations and mixed-use zoning
- Additional pickleball courts
- Sidewalk and street maintenance schedules
- Opposition to federal legislation regarding increasing permitted size of tractor-trailers
- Support for Jewish Heritage Month

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Merisa K. Bowers

Merisa K. Bowers, Council President

Gahanna City Councilwoman, At-Large

June 2, 2025

