GAHANNA CITY COUNCILWOMAN, AT-LARGE
City of Gahanna, 200 S. Hamilton Rd., Gahanna, OH 43230
merisa.bowers@gahanna.gov (614) 342-0040

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.





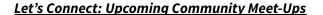


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- Celebrated and supported Visit Gahanna and local vendors at the annual **Herb Day Festival** on May 3, presenting a joint <u>Resolution/Proclamation</u> recognizing Herb Week in Gahanna.
- Listened to stakeholders' thoughts and ideas at the Gahanna 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 <u>elected official</u>
 <u>compensation</u> at Committee of the Whole meeting on May 12 with <u>Memo from City Attorney</u> 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 <u>Resolution</u> on May 19 recognizing <u>CHLOE Inc.</u>
 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.



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 meeting, coffee, or call, please email meeting, coffee, or call, please email meeting, coffee, or call, please email meeting-abovers@gahanna.gov or call,

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

