



Spring into Community!

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Gahanna City Council newsletter. As the days grow longer and the weather warms, your City Council remains hard at work, moving our community forward. In this edition, learn about updates on recent legislation, how it impacts you and your neighbors, as well as ways to get involved.

In this edition, you will find:

1. **Legislative Highlights** – Summaries of recent legislation
2. **Community Highlights** – Local initiatives
3. **From the Archives** – Local history
4. **Member Spotlights** – Updates on Councilmember activities
5. **In the Know** – Contact information & constituent hours
6. **Want to Know More?** – Helpful resource links



Gahanna City Council

Legislative Highlights

Bimonthly Updates: March - April 2025

Your Council has been busy supporting community priorities, paving the way for needed improvements. If you missed a meeting, here is a quick overview:

- **Regular Meetings:** [March 3](#), [March 17](#), [April 7](#), [April 21](#)
- **Committee of the Whole:** [March 10](#), [March 24](#), [April 14](#), [April 28](#)





Herbs, History & Hometown Pride

Councilmembers and city administration celebrated Gahanna's proud status as the *Herb Capital of Ohio* with Visit Gahanna Executive Director Lori Kappes. Special thanks were shared for the *Gahanna Herb Ladies*, noting Jane "Bunnie" Geroux, whose dedication helped earn Gahanna its herbal status - [RES-0018-2025](#)

Recognitions:

1. Women's History Month [RES-0007-2025](#)
2. Food Waste Action Week [RES-0008-2025](#)
3. Troop 7456 - First Girls BSA Troop [RES-0009-2025](#)
4. World Water Day [RES-0010-2025](#)
5. Earth Month & Air Quality Awareness Week [RES-0017-2025](#)
6. Herb Week [RES-0018-2025](#)
7. Paperclip Project – Certificate on [April 21, 2025](#)
8. Gahanna Residents in Need (GRIN) – Certificate on April 21, 2025 (on site)



Troop 7456 - First Girls BSA Troop [RES-0009-2025](#)

Highlights:

Supporting Our Safety

Council authorized a School Resource Officer (SRO) contract with *Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools* ([ORD-0019-2025](#)), and approved essential upgrades to the *Communications Center* radio system, utilized by your first responders ([ORD-0020-2025](#)).

Strengthening Infrastructure

Council reviewed local policies, in partnership with city staff and administration, authorizing street, sidewalk, and utility upgrades, laying the groundwork for future improvements and ongoing civic accountability.

- **Construction Contract Approved:** A contract with Decker Construction Company for the *2025 Street and Sidewalk Maintenance Program* ([ORD-0015-2025](#))
- **Updated Sidewalk Areas:** Update of the *2025 Sidewalk Maintenance Program* work zones ([RES-0012-2025](#))
- **2026 Program Planning:** The repair and replacement of sidewalks in the primary *2026 Sidewalk Maintenance Area* ([RES-0013-2025](#)) and the *2026 Lookback Area* ([RES-0014-2025](#))
- **Legislative Modernization:** The repeal and replacement of Chapter 903 of Gahanna's codified ordinances ([ORD-0008-2025](#)), clarifying responsibilities and simplifying procedures for residents and staff
- **Utility Infrastructure Improvements:** Council passed several ordinances related to right-of-way and utility easement agreements: [ORD-0010-2025](#), [ORD-0011-2025](#), [ORD-0012-2025](#), [ORD-0013-2025](#), [ORD-0014-2025](#)



Community Representation

Council made several board appointments and legislative updates to strengthen community engagement and board governance:

- **New Community Authority** – Council appointed Alan Ohman and Ross Goldsmith as citizen trustees to the *NCA* and confirmed the process for future board appointments ([MT-0003-2025](#), [MT-0004-2025](#), [RES-0005-2025](#)).
- **Grants & Appeals Panels** – Council named Travis Polk and Nancy Gurwin to the *2025 Community Grants Review Panel* and appointed Holly Haines to fill a vacancy on the *Property Appeals Board* ([MT-0005-2025](#), [MT-0006-2025](#), [MT-0007-2025](#)).
- **Ordinance Update** – Council amended the *Board of Zoning and Building Appeals*, *Property Appeals Board* procedures, simplifying steps and promoting consistency ([ORD-0009-2025](#)).

Meet Our New Intern!

The Council Office is happy to renew its partnership with the *Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission* (MORPC) internship program. Following the successful completion of the 2024 program with student Charlie Schneider, Council approved the seasonal employment of Gahanna native Nathan Graves through the 2025 program ([RES-0006-2025](#)).



Council Office Intern Nathan Graves

JUNE COUNCIL MEETINGS

2 JUNE
7 PM

REGULAR MEETING

9 JUNE
7 PM

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

16 JUNE
7 PM

REGULAR MEETING

23 JUNE
7 PM

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Visit [Legistar](#) for complete agendas with legislative details, or sign up for [agendas delivered directly to your inbox](#).

Community Highlights

Celebrating Service and Engagement in Gahanna. From community partnerships to acts of advocacy and celebration, Gahanna City Council continues to champion community involvement and civic pride.



State of the City 2025

Lifting Local Businesses

Attending the *Visit Gahanna Annual Meeting*, Councilmembers celebrated local tourism and businesses. The meeting featured keynote speaker Roy Hall, *Ohio State Football* alumnus and proud *Gahanna Lincoln Lion*!

Members also welcomed several new businesses, including *Three Creeks Kitchen + Cocktails* and *SugaringNYC*.

Contact for More Information: Councilmembers Bowers, Jones, McGregor, Padova, Schnetzer, and Weaver

Dates: March 6, 18, and 26, 2025



Visit Gahanna Annual Meeting

Reenergizing the Region

Leaders from across central Ohio joined for the *Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission annual State of the Region* event. Council connected with peers on strategic planning and development initiatives across central Ohio.

Contact for More Information: Councilmembers Bowers, Jones, Padova, and Weaver

Date: March 21, 2025



MORPC State of the Region

Amplifying Neighborhood Action

Councilmembers joined *Gahanna Residents In Need (GRIN)* at the grand opening of their new temperature-controlled lockers. Members honored

GRIN with a certificate celebrating *GRIN*'s impact, providing nourishment, dignity, and hope to those facing food insecurity in our community. These lockers were made possible by *American Rescue Plan Act* (ARPA) funding through City Council's approval of the 2024 *Community Grants Program*.

That same day, Councilmembers joined residents for the joyful grand opening of the *Plant Library* at its new host location, where the library now partners with *Creative Options LLC*.

Contact for More Information: Councilmembers Bowers, Padova, Jones, and Weaver

Date: April 12, 2025



GRIN Lockers



Plant Library

Connecting Compassionate Communities

Affordable Housing remains a top priority for our community members and for Council. Councilmembers participated in the quarterly *Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio* (AHACO) meeting, a statewide working group facilitated by the *Greater Ohio Policy Center*. Elected leaders and housing advocates came together to address affordability with urgency, humility, creativity, and hope.

President Bowers also enjoyed attending *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.

Contact for More Information: Councilmembers Bowers and Jones

Dates: April 9, and April 23, 2025

Galvanizing Gahanna

At the annual *State of the City Open House*, Councilmembers enjoyed meaningful conversations with community members, celebrating Gahanna's many achievements and sharing updates and insights on Council priorities.

Contact for More Information: Council Office

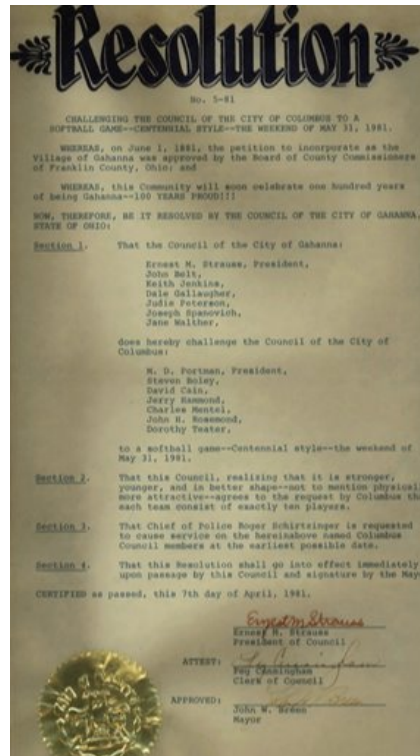
Date: March 27, 2025



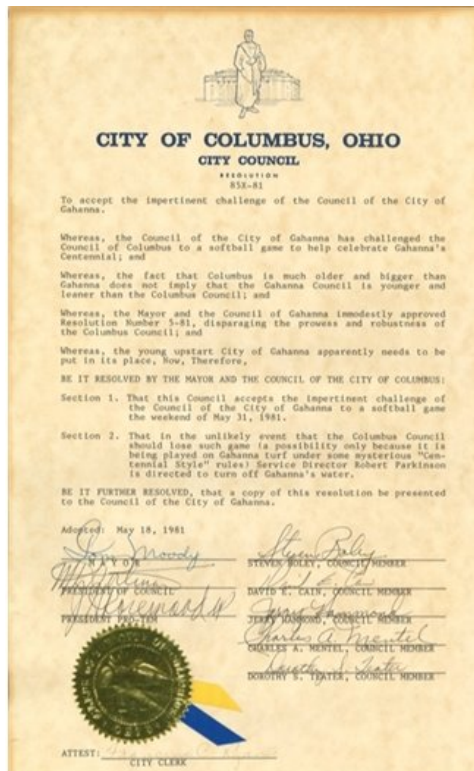
State of the City 2025

From the Archives

Diamonds & Diplomacy - by Sophia McGuire



City of Gahanna: Resolution 5-81



City of Columbus: Resolution 85X-81

In May 1981, Columbus City Council accepted a challenge to participate in a softball game against Gahanna City Council. This event took place as part of Gahanna's Centennial celebration, acknowledging 100 years since Gahanna's 1881 incorporation as a village. Gahanna City Council Office holds copies of the resolutions displaying the playful banter between the two cities' Councils.

Please reach out to **Deputy Clerk Sophia McGuire** to learn more.
Sophia.McGuire@Gahanna.Gov [mailto:Sophia.McGuire@Gahanna.Gov] / 614-342-4092

Member Spotlights

Councilmember Activities



Councilmembers Contribute to Community Cleanup

This April, Councilmembers joined the *Make Gahanna Yours* community litter cleanup, jumping in across the city. With support from Councilmember Jones, Vice President Weaver and Councilmember Renner tackled sections along Route 62, while Councilmember Schnetzer and his sons worked near Café Creekside. President Bowers is joining her neighbors for a cleanup and beautification event this May.

Date: April 19, 2025

Guiding Governance

Councilmember Renner heartily accepted an invitation to join the advisory board of *Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service*, welcoming another opportunity to support civic leadership.

Date: March 21, 2025

Advocates in Action

Councilmember Jones met with *Kiwanis K. Kids* at *Royal Manor Elementary*, offering insight into public service as an elected official and encouraging young students to envision themselves as future leaders.

Councilmember Schnetzer joined the *Gahanna Football Coaches Clinic*, where coaches from all levels united to strengthen the program and celebrate shared values. Coach Bruce Ward highlighted the culture-driven success of Gahanna's high school team, with 27 players advancing to college football in just three years!

President Bowers (quarter marathon runner) joined *Gahanna Police Department* Sgt. Kaylea Pertz (half marathon runner) at the *Cap City Half & Quarter Marathon*, passing along her congratulations to all runners

and walkers! This event celebrates healthy lifestyles and raises funds for the *OhioHealth Foundation*.

Dates: April 8, 24 and 26, 2025



Kiwanis Kids



Coaches Clinic



Cap City Run

Policy Pulse

Vice President Weaver deepened his understanding of emerging policy trends and development insights, participating in several key forums, including:

- *Hot Topics for Ohio Political Subdivisions: Housing Development* – March 6, 2025
- *The Business Journals' Downtowns Redefined* – March 17, 2025
- *Ohio Municipal League's Statehouse Update* – April 24, 2025

Honoring Our Heroes

President Bowers joined city staff and administration in celebrating the retirement of Officer Sherman Buck, who faithfully served the *Gahanna Division of Police* for 25 years. At a heartfelt ceremony outside police headquarters, attendees honored Officer Buck's dedication to public safety and his lasting impact on the community. Gratitude was extended to his family for their support throughout his years of service.

Vice President Weaver joined neighbors at Gahanna's third annual *Walk in Our Boots 5K*, hosted by the *American Legion Post 797* at the *Veterans Memorial Park* at *Creekside*. This community-driven event honors Columbus area veterans and raises funds to support veterans' journey in overcoming challenges, including homelessness.

Date: March 10, and May 3, 2025



Retirement Ceremony

Thank you to all partners and volunteers for their continued dedication to making Gahanna a thriving and inclusive community!

In the Know

Stay Connected with Your City Council!

We would love to hear from you! Stay engaged by reaching out to your Councilmembers, attending meetings, or joining a community event. Contact information for Councilmembers is included below.

CONSTITUENT HOURS

7 JUNE

PRESIDENT MERISA BOWERS

9 - 10 A.M.

Rathburn Woods Park
316 Howland Drive
Gahanna, OH 43230

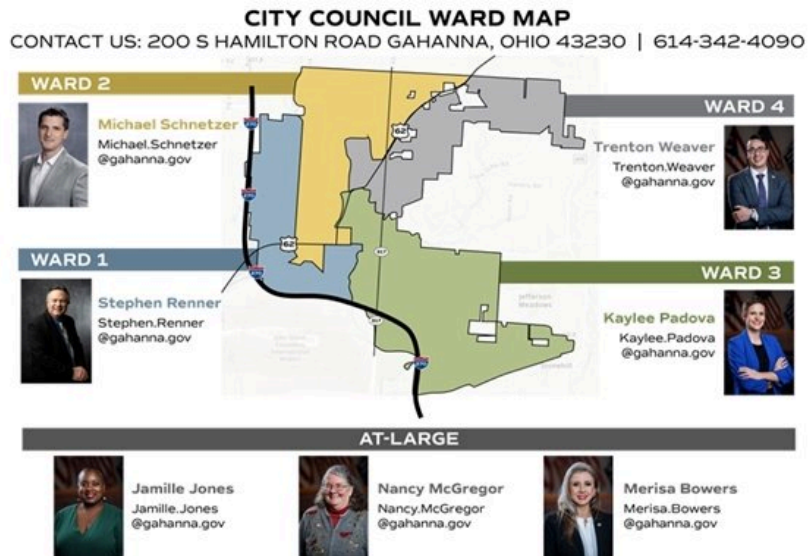
22 JUNE

COUNCILWOMAN JAMILLE JONES

2:00 P.M.

Friendship Park
150 Oklahoma Avenue
Gahanna, OH 43230

Meet the Council Office



Connect with Your Local Council Member

Gahanna has four Council Wards. For those unsure of which ward they live in, the Council Office is happy to share an easy-to-use Ward map, to help residents connect with their representatives. This tool is all about making local government more accessible. [Plug in your address to find your Council Member here!](#)

Your Representatives

- [Stephen Renner – Ward 1](#)
- [Michael Schnetzer – Ward 2](#)
- [Kaylee Padova – Ward 3](#)
- [Trenton Weaver – Ward 4](#)
- [Jamille Jones – Member at Large](#)
- [Merisa Bowers – Member at Large](#)
- [Nancy McGregor – Member at Large](#)

Council Office Staff

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Sophia McGuire CRA
Deputy Clerk of Council

Want to Know More?

Get Connected

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 2. [Agendas for Public Meetings](#)
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Resources

- [Learn about the many resources awaiting you.](#)
- [Find the answer to many *Frequently Asked Questions*.](#)

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