

Merisa K. Bowers

GAHANNA CITY COUNCILWOMAN, AT-LARGE
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To: Residents of Gahanna;
Members of Council;
Mayor Jadwin;
City Attorney Ray Mularski
CC: Chief of Police Jeffrey Spence;
Council Clerk April Beggerow
From: Councilmember Merisa Bowers
Re: **Constituent Update - September Report**
Date: 10/05/2020

General Update:

Constituent Hours were held on September 21 (Sunpoint Park with Councilman Renner) and September 27 (Gahanna Farmers Market).

From the Mayor: CARES Act Assistance: If you are a business struggling to pay bills because of COVID-19 or are a resident behind on rental or mortgage payments as a result of the pandemic, the City of Gahanna's new **Gahanna CARES Assistance Program** ("Program") can help. This new Program is funded by federal dollars that were awarded to the State of Ohio by the U.S. Department of Treasury and directed to local governments by the State for COVID-19-related use.

One-time grants will be distributed to Gahanna businesses and residents through an application process. Program guidelines list all eligibility requirements for both applicants and use of funds.

Apply at www.Gahanna.gov, or at City Hall, Gahanna Library, or Gahanna Senior Center. Questions to CAREsprogram@gahanna.gov

September Recap

- September 5: Participated in Supporting Gahanna Together Day activities including kayaking at Friendship Park and Chalk It Up at Creekside.
- September 8: Attended MuniReg webinar on Land Banking, neighborhood stabilization and economic tools.
- September 13: Participated in Courage to Run 5K, showcasing Ward 3 of Gahanna. The race was intended to raise awareness of the importance of having women serve in elected office.
- September 16: Panelist on webinar regarding LGBTQ Minority Health presented by Greater Columbus LGBTQ Health Coalition, the Ohio Commission on Minority Health, and Columbus Public Health.
- September 24: Attended the New American Advisory Council 2020 Forum. Discussion regarding supporting immigrant, refugee, and all new Americans in education, small business, and social support.

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Upcoming Event

West Side Pride!

Community Pride Event

Sign up: <https://forms.gle/7L5VJ3n6JmtXi3F39>

Saturday, October 17, 2020

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Neighborhood Litter Clean Up

11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Community Safety Briefing (by Zoom)

1:30 - 4:30 p.m. Pumpkin Painting at your home or park of your choosing

Join us to celebrate the West Side of Gahanna for the inaugural "West Side Pride" Event, Saturday, October 17, 2020.

We'll start with providing materials including maps, trash bags, and gloves for small teams to engage in direct service with litter clean up. Location TBD.

At 11:30, a Community Safety Briefing will be held via Zoom. Please make sure to register and login to Zoom so you can participate and ask questions during the Q&A portion.

For all volunteers, The Gahanna Foundation has generously provided pumpkins and paint (for the first 75 volunteers). You're welcome to paint your pumpkin at one of our beautiful West Side Gahanna parks or at your home. Please share pictures of your painted pumpkin on social media using the hashtag #GahannaWestPride and on our event Facebook page!

Zoom Link for Community Safety Briefing:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAkdOyoqDMoGNIzuvPJ_u_hXRTyWd3VkYoNo

Sponsored by: The Gahanna Foundation and City Councilmembers Bowers and Renner

You may sign up for my email updates here: <https://forms.gle/PMTu8eH5Fy4bN4Si8>

Constituent Issues/Concerns:

#1: Litter/"The Bag"

Received email from constituent regarding receipt of "The Bag" - unsolicited advertising.

Action:

Responded to Constituent

Response:

In consideration of this concern, along with other issues brought to our attention, we have organized a community day of action including a neighborhood litter pick up, safety briefing, and fun activity ("West Side Pride!").

#2: Trick or Treating

Received various questions about trick or treating plans from neighbors and residents.

Action:

Listened to Governor's briefings, shared update from Mayor Jadwin.

Response:

No further response necessary.

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#3 AEP mobile app

Received email from resident expressing displeasure at the discontinuation of an AEP Mobile App “It’s Your Power”

Action:

Researched the App, its reviews, and its functions. What problems did it solve? Are there other tools to address the same concerns?

Response:

Will continue to look for opportunities for individuals, business, and government to operate with energy efficiency and sustainability. Scheduled to attend MORPC Summit on Sustainability later this month.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Merisa K. Bowers

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Gahanna City Councilmember, At Large

10/05/2020

