

**Mayor's Report & Comments**  
**City of Gahanna**  
**Regular Council Meeting – July 6, 2020**  
**Mayor Laurie A. Jadwin**

The following report is respectfully submitted on behalf of the Mayor's Office for Monday, July 6, 2020:

City Operations

- *Re-openings:*
  - City Hall re-opened to the public today, July 6. Detailed protocols have been put into place for visitors to the building – specifically, visitors will be required to check-in at the front desk, verbally respond to a brief CDC-questionnaire before proceeding any further into the building, and wear a facial covering. Visitors also will note several physical changes to the building, as stanchions and plexi-glass have been put into place, and access to certain areas of the building will be limited as a safety precaution. Please note that some services have changed in the manner in which they are offered. Please consult Gahanna.gov for details on protocols and services.
  - In order to reduce the amount of foot traffic into City Hall, the Gahanna Senior Center will continue to be used as the primary meeting location, as it is easier to effectively clean and disinfect after use. Boards and commissions have been encouraged to continue to meet virtually/online if able to do so effectively.
  - The Gahanna Senior Center is still closed to the public per Governor DeWine's *Responsible Restart Ohio* plan. To date, there has been no indication as to when senior centers will be able to re-open. Programming for the Senior Center will continue to be conducted online and through "drive up" activities that protect the safety of our most vulnerable residents.
  - All other city facilities are now open to the public, including playgrounds, basketball courts, park shelter houses, golf course clubhouse. Groups wishing to use athletic fields for any reason must obtain prior approval from the Gahanna Parks & Recreation Department. Please contact 614.342.4250 for more information.

Staffing Updates

- Last week, Russ Sims, Streets & Utilities Superintendent, retired from his position as Streets & Utilities Superintendent after 22 years in Gahanna's Public Service Department. We thank Russ for his years of dedication to Gahanna.
- The City is currently accepting applications for the position of Finance/Management Analyst, following the departure of Chance Shannon. Qualified applicants may submit applications and resumes on the City's website at gahanna.gov through July 10.

## Department Updates

- *Gahanna Division of Police*
  - Last Monday, Mayor Jadwin had the honor of swearing in a new recruit to the Gahanna Division of Police. Police Officer Recruit Morgan Milliken will begin her six months of academy training next week, with graduation expected to be in January 2021. She was hired to replace Det. Mike Lambert, who unexpectedly announced his retirement from the force.
  - Gahanna Division of Police welcomed three new officers who graduated last Thursday from the Police Academy. Officers Brian Smith, Jeff Hoffman and Maria Curren began their training with GPD today. They will now enter into a four month internal training program. We hope to have them ready for deployment before the end of 2020. Their hires also were backfills for vacancies within the Department. We are excited to welcome to Gahanna.
  - Last week, the Division issued its very first Annual Report, detailing the mission and operations of the Department. A copy of the Report is available online at [gahanna.gov](http://gahanna.gov).
  
- *Parks & Recreation Department*
  - The Dept. of Parks & Recreation presented a series of "Neighborhood Jam" concerts on July 4<sup>th</sup>. The program consisted of a 30-minute performance by a local band, who traveled between four different Gahanna parks for a neighborhood performance. Many thanks to KEMBA Financial Credit Union for their support.
  - The Recreation team currently is offering a new summer initiative called, "Camp Crates." Each "crate" contains supplies needed for a week of activities, along with detailed directions for the activities. The offering was recently featured in *The Dispatch*, as a creative way to deal with COVID-19 restrictions. For more information: [ExploreGahannaParks.com](http://ExploreGahannaParks.com).
  - Paddleboats and kayaks are operating at both Friendship Park and the Creekside Marina. To reserve a session and pay online, go to: [PaddleGahanna.com](http://PaddleGahanna.com).
  - This Friday, July 10, the Parks & Rec team will host its first of several "Drive-In" series. Each Friday will feature either a drive-in music concert or drive-in movie. This Friday's feature is an acoustic rock show by the group, El Guapo. Tickets are required (\$5 per car) and must be purchased online. Limited food and drink will be available for purchase at the concession stand. A registration link can be found on the Parks & Rec Facebook page.
  
- *Public Service & Engineering Department*
  - Street Program Update
    - Rebuilds on Oberlin and Clemson have been completed

- Rebuild of Research and Blatt Blvd. will begin this week, Wed., July 8
- Resurfacing projects continue
- Curb replacements are underway in Hunter's Ridge
- Sidewalk Program
  - Sample ratings of neighborhood sidewalks have been completed
  - With completion of sampling, Administration will begin work on extrapolating and analyzing data to understand and identify extent of need and create proposed plan for moving forward with program. Administration anticipates being able to submit a proposed plan to Council in August.
- The 2020 Root Control Program is underway. This annual program, which costs approximately \$20,000 annually, focuses on treating roots that protrude into sewer line to reduce potential for blockages. This year's program is focused on the College Park and Gramercy neighborhoods.
- *Mayor's Office*
  - In response to COVID-19 and the impact it has had on our community, the City is partnering with several Gahanna organizations to create a new program, #SupportingGahannaTogether. The program consists of three facets – a volunteer initiative (spearheaded by Parks & Recreation), a small business grant program (spearheaded by the Gahanna Community Improvement Corporation), and a Community Outreach program (involving the Gahanna Parks & Recreation Foundation, Visit Gahanna, the Gahanna Area Chamber of Commerce, and Gahanna Neighborhood Bridges). More details on the program will be released later this week.
  - An application to create and establish a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) in the Creekside District has been submitted to the Council Office for consideration. First legal notice of the filing appeared last week in *This Week* newspaper. The application is available for viewing in the Council office and will be available online at [gahanna.gov](http://gahanna.gov). A public hearing on the DORA application has been set for August 3.
  - Communications & Marketing
    - The team built upon efforts to increase reach to residents with creation and publication of an expanded city-wide e-newsletter, a revamped Parks & Recreation e-newsletter, and expanded Gahanna Senior Center newsletter. In addition, water bill inserts were updated to include information on ongoing sewer projects, recommendations to residents on protecting against storm damage, and introducing staff members to residents.
    - Promotional videos were created to inform residents on ongoing recreational activities, including the new "Camp Crates," as well as educating residents on waterway safety tips when using creeks, lakes, etc., for outdoor activities.