

**CITY OF LOVELAND
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: David Kennedy, City Manager
RE: Weekly Update
DATE: December 10, 2021

Administration

Thanks to the generosity of Keith McCluskey, new signage was installed along Commerce Drive within the Loveland Commerce Park. The project cost was completely covered by Keith, whose headquarters, McCluskey Chevrolet, is located within the Commerce Park. This is not the first public project completed by Keith, all of which is greatly appreciated by the city.



The city's internal employee policy review committee has completed a final draft of the employee policy manual. The review committee has been meeting weekly since June to update the city's employee policies and procedures. The updates include a transition to digital format with continual trainings on the policies. The committee members and those that assisted in this difficult process include, Human Resources Manager, Joy Deardorff, Police Chief, Sean Rahe, Assistant Finance Director, Barbara Turcotte, Director of Finance, Mark Medlar, Clerk of Council, Misty Brents, Public Works Director, Scott Wisby, City Engineer, Cindy Klopfenstein, Marketing and Communications Coordinator, Krista Rose, and Assistant City Manager, Tom Smith.

Assistant City Manager, Tom Smith gave a presentation to the Cincinnati and Dayton Area Managers Associations on Friday. His presentation centered on combating social media disinformation and focused on tactics for responding to politically charged and factually inaccurate posts.



Misty Brents, Assistant to the City Manager and Clerk of Council, worked with the special event committee to finalize plans for activities at City Hall during Christmas in Loveland. The committee has also been busy planning a new event for 2022 - Hearts Afire Weekend - Where Sparks Will Fly. This three-day celebration, February 11-13, will celebrate the Sweetheart of Ohio in true Loveland style.

Building and Zoning

Chief Building Official, Jim McFarland has submitted his resignation. Jim will be retiring at the end of March 2022. Jim started with the city in 2019 and has been a very critical part of the city's Building and Zoning Division ever since. Jim has been instrumental with his contributions to the growth of the city and has had a very accomplished career. His skills and knowledge of the industry will be difficult to replace. We congratulate Jim and wish him all the best as he moves forward with the next phase of his life.

This week, plans were received for the addition of fabric enclosure panels for Ramsey's Trailside outdoor patio area.

This week, city hall staff continued their annual tradition of sharing dinner together before Christmas. With 33 years of working in municipal government, I can honestly say that this is the most dedicated, customer service orientated group that I have ever worked with. It is truly an honor to work with these individuals every day.



Public Relations

Krista Rose, Marketing & Communications Coordinator, shared two updates this week about City Council: [Weisberger/Oury final meeting](#) and the [appointment of new Council members](#). Krista spoke with Cincinnati Bell to discuss adding text message (SMS) notification capabilities to the city's Smart City program; this would be beneficial for emergency management and crisis communication. More research needs to be done and additional software would need to be purchased to make this possible. Krista is further looking into how the city can grow/utilize the Smart City program.

Public Works

In the city's on-going effort, to incrementally improve traffic in the downtown district, the city has finalized the quote for the installation of a five-head traffic signal in the eastbound lane of Broadway Street at the five-points intersection. The additional turn arrow has been requested for some time from business owners along Broadway Street, due to the fact that vehicles making left turns onto 2nd Street often cause significant backups. The five-head signal will include an arrow to provide a dedicated left turn onto 2nd Street, while also allowing through traffic to continue. The project cost was included in the 2022 Operating Budget and will be officially authorized in early January.

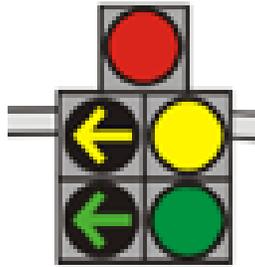


Figure 1: Typical Five-Head Style Traffic Signal

Police

This week Loveland Officers assisted at the Loveland Tree Lighting event and collected Toys for Tots and at the event at RP Diamond Loveland Madeira Road. Officers called out Public Works for the first slick roads of the season. Officers took a report from a Loveland resident who sent \$2000 of gift cards to a scammer. The case is under investigation.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

The Beautification Committee's Light Up Loveland contest is well underway. Nominations will be accepted through December 12. Judges will review the nominations December 13, selecting the finalists. The finalists' photos will be uploaded to the Light Up Loveland Facebook Group for public voting to take place December 14-16. The Beautification Committee will announce the contest winners and release a listing/map of all nominations on December 18.

The Beautification Committee will meet on Monday, December 13, at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

The Comprehensive Master Development Plan Committee is hosting a community engagement meeting on Monday as well. This meeting will be held at Oasis Turf & Tree and will begin at 6:00 p.m.

City Council will meet on Tuesday, December 14, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

The Arts Commission will meet on Wednesday, December 15, at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

The Historic Preservation and Planning Commission will meet on Wednesday too. Their meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Christmas in Loveland is this Saturday, December 18. This event is organized by the Little Miami River Chamber Alliance and will run from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Santa will be on City Hall's "front porch" again. Inside City Hall, Ms. Claus will be reading stories at 4:30; 5:00, and 5:30 p.m. Kids will also have the opportunity to write letters to Santa. At 7:00 p.m., the Mad Cap Puppet Theater perform a version of The Nutcracker in Council Chambers.

For more information on upcoming community, school, and business activities and events, visit www.LovinLifeLoveland.com.