

CITY OF CANAL WINCHESTER

COMMUNITY CONNECTION NEWSLETTER



A Message from the Mayor

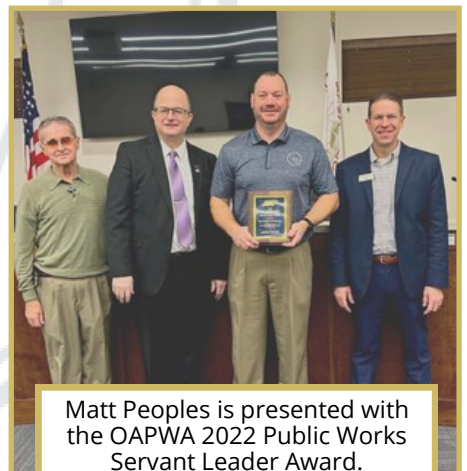
Here we are into March already! It's beginning to feel a little like spring and it hasn't even been too bad of a winter – well, except for that stretch during Christmas week, which may have been the coldest temperature here since the blizzard of '78. Did you know the coldest day ever recorded in central Ohio was January 13 of 1912, the same year the Titanic sank? Now that's cold!

As most of you know, in late 2022, City Council approved hiring the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police to perform a **police staffing study**. This study was facilitated to determine if the City was sufficiently staffed by Fairfield County Sheriff deputies, and included a recommendation for projected staffing needs in 5 years. Their findings show we are right on the mark with our current number of deputies, with no need to increase that level at this time. The help we receive from Madison Township officers adds yet another layer of security. Additional information about the study can be found on the city website under the "Police" tab.

We are currently in the process of drawing the **final plans for McGill Park phase II**. This phase will include baseball fields with a concession stand and PA announcement structure; trails and a bridge connecting to phase I; a dog park; pickleball courts; a shelter house near the baseball fields; a small playground; and a water access point to Walnut Creek. We hope to begin construction this year with some of these features. The three-season shelter, originally scheduled for 2022, will come to fruition this year. Availability of materials plus an inflated construction cost prevented us from construction of the shelter last year. We now have a contractor hired and construction of the shelter should begin soon, with an estimated completion date of late September 2023.

The 2023 Street Program is going to be our largest ever. This year, there will be considerable work done in the Dye Addition, with Woodsvew Drive being the primary focus. Planned work for the area includes replacement of water mains, curbs, gutters, and driveway aprons, and paving the entire street. City staff will be in regular communication with those in the area regarding the project schedule. Additional work is planned for Ashbrook Village Dr. and the Winchester Village courts as part of the street program.

You may have already heard, but it is certainly worth mentioning again. **Public Service Director Matt Peoples** was awarded the highest honor a Public Service Director can receive in Ohio – the 2022 Public Works Servant Leader Award from the American Public Works Association, Ohio Chapter. The award recognizes individuals who serve as dedicated public works servant leaders and creators of public value over a sustained period of time. Matt began his career in 1994 with the Village of Canal Winchester in the Water Reclamation Department. Today, Matt oversees all of the public works facilities and related projects in Canal Winchester. If you see Matt around, give him a shout out. Matt is very humbled for this award for which he is very deserving, right here in **"The Greatest Little City in Ohio"**.



Matt Peoples is presented with the OAPWA 2022 Public Works Servant Leader Award. From right to left: Mayor Mike Ebert; Larry Lester, Past President of the OAPWA; Matt Peoples, Canal Winchester Director of Public Service; Glenn Marzluf, OAPWA member.

Mayor Mike

Important Dates

MAR 6 City Council Meeting	APR 22 Prescription Drug Take Back
MAR 20 City Council Meeting	MAY 1 City Council Meeting
APR 3 City Council Meeting	MAY 6 Annual Tree Give Away
APR 7 City Offices Closed—Good Friday	MAY 15 City Council Meeting
APR 8 Community Egg Hunt	MAY 17 Kris Sims Memorial Relay for Life Dinner
APR 17 City Council	MAY 19 Music in the Park / Touch-A-Truck
APR 20 Family Game Night	MAY 20 Destination: CW Art Stroll
APR 22 Backyard Conservation Workshop	MAY 27 CW Farmers Market Begins

TAX REMINDER

Canal Winchester has a mandatory filing requirement for municipal income taxes, regardless if you work in CW or not. File these taxes through RITA before the April 17 deadline.

D.O.R.A. Comes to Canal Winchester

City Council recently approved the implementation of a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area—better known as DORA—in Old Town Canal Winchester. The creation of a DORA serves as an economic tool to attract patrons to Canal Winchester for special events, generate additional sales at local restaurants, and continue to highlight the Old Town area as a destination for dining and entertainment.



What is a DORA?

Patrons 21 years of age and older may purchase an alcoholic beverage from a participating business, then sip, stroll, shop, and explore within the DORA boundaries. These beverages will be served in plastic cups or plastic bottles, no larger than 20 oz., provided by the establishment.

Is DORA active all the time, or only during specific hours?

DORA runs Thursday through Sunday from noon to 11 PM, and Labor Day from noon to 6 PM.

Where can I buy a drink?

The following businesses are participating establishments: Shade on the Canal, Barrel & Boar, Harvest Moon, Loose Rail Brewing, Roman's Pizza Super Sub Shoppe, and Local Cantina. Beverages may also be purchased from licensed beer tents during major festivals.

Can I bring my own alcohol to drink in the DORA?

No. Only beverages purchased and served from a DORA establishment are permitted.

How will I know the DORA boundaries?

Boundaries are clearly marked on public pathways with ground decals and/or street signs. You can also review the DORA boundaries map on our website.

Can I take a drink from one restaurant into another or into a shop?

You cannot take a drink from one establishment into another that serves alcohol. If an individual store allows it, you can take an alcoholic beverage inside.

Will there be extra security and trash patrol during the DORA?

Yes, the City of Canal Winchester Public Service Department will be responsible for ensuring that all trash receptacles in the DORA are emptied regularly. Fairfield County Sheriff's Department will handle the enforcement of DORA regulations during all hours and with special duty during events.

Where can I get more information?

Visit our website or call 614-837-1894.

Updates to Utility Billing Rates

If your utility bill left you thinking "hmm...this looks slightly higher than normal," you're not wrong! Last year, Council passed an ordinance to update the utility billing rate by approximately 2% each year for the next 4 years (ORD-22-035). The new rates, per 1000 gallons, are as follows:

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Water	\$6.46	\$6.62	\$6.79	\$6.96	\$7.13
Sewer	\$6.00	\$6.15	\$6.30	\$6.46	\$6.62

These rate increases are necessary to help pay back loans for capital improvement projects related to the water and wastewater infrastructure, such as the upcoming redesign of our existing Water Reclamation Facility (better known as the WRF Headworks project).

We hope these rate increases won't make much of an impact to our residents. However, if you are struggling with the increase, please contact Amanda Jackson, Finance Director, at 614-837-6937. Financial assistance is also available through CW Human Services to those in the CW School District; contact CWHS at 614-834-4700 to learn more.

Did You Know...

You can make one time or recurring payments for your utility bill online. Scan the QR code to get started! You can also enroll in automatic withdrawal by contacting the Utility Billing Clerk at 614-837-7716.

COMING SOON: Waterloo/Washington 3-Way Stop

Have you heard—the Waterloo and Washington intersection will soon become a 3-way stop!

Our contracted engineers suggested this as a way to improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety in the area. Pavement markings and new signage will be installed soon. We know it will take time to adjust to this change, so please use extra caution and patience while travelling in the area.



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