



City of Loveland

Straight From The Heart

NEWSLETTER

Fall/Winter 2024 - Vol 6



WHAT IS PFAS?

Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) is a group of man-made chemicals used to manufacture many waterproof, stain-resistant, and non-stick consumer goods. These chemicals can enter drinking water or the air at locations where they are manufactured, used, disposed of, or spilled. Because PFAS is not easily broken down by natural processes, it may remain in the environment for many years.

City Addresses PFAS Regulations

The City of Loveland continues to monitor the development of regulations for Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) and is developing a treatment plan to address PFAS. Currently, our water satisfies all current, enforceable state and federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards.

Background

The city provides water service through a groundwater aquifer to City of Loveland residents, as well as parts of Symmes and Miami Townships.

Beginning in 2020, the Ohio EPA (OEPA) began testing PFAS levels in Ohio's nearly 1,500 public water systems to establish Ohio's PFAS Action Plan. With this data, OEPA developed suggested "action levels" for six PFAS compounds that the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) identified as priority contaminants — PFOA, PFOS, GenX (HFPO dimer acid), PFBS (perfluorobutanesulfonic acid), PFHxS (perfluorohexane sulfonic acid), and PFNA (perfluorononanoic acid). These levels are measured on a part per trillion (ppt) ratio, which is equivalent to one gallon of water per trillion gallons. The action levels were set at 70 ppt. In 2020, the City of Loveland's only detectable contaminant in its finished water was PFOS at 14.8 ppt.

The city's finished water has been continuously tested every year to monitor any changes in contaminant levels. By 2023, it was anticipated USEPA would create a new drinking water standard that would set a limit of 4 ppt for PFOS. The 2023 test results of the city's finished water identified 15.5 ppt of PFOS.

Continued on Page 3



New sidewalks on West Loveland Avenue bridge



O'Bannon Creek Bridge replacement

From the Mayor: 2024 in Review

Wow, what a year for construction projects! When I look back on 2024 and the sea of construction cones, I appreciate the patience of our residents. At the same time, I am pleased we were able to complete numerous projects that had been in the works for so long.

The construction season started with the replacement of the Little Miami Scenic Trail's bridge over O'Bannon Creek. This project reminded us how important the trail is to our residents and businesses, and how fortunate we are to have it going through the heart of our downtown district. The new bridge is something special, and we are thankful for the hard work of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

CITY COUNCIL



Kathy Bailey - Mayor
kbailey@LovelandOH.gov



Ted Phelps - Vice Mayor
tphelps@LovelandOH.gov



Andy Bateman
abateman@LovelandOH.gov



Brian Goodyear
bgoodyear@LovelandOH.gov



John Hart
jhart@LovelandOH.gov



Neal Oury
noury@LovelandOH.gov



Kip Ping
kping@LovelandOH.gov

The year also kicked off with one of the largest infrastructure projects in recent memory: the East Loveland Avenue bridge replacement. This included replacement of an aging bridge, new sidewalks, new storm water system, new sanitary sewer lines, and roadway improvements. I want to join city staff in thanking residents of East Loveland Avenue, Fifth Street, and Bares Creek for putting up with this project. I also want to salute the efforts of city staff on being able to pull together a \$2-million project involving multiple entities, all completed with a local share of just \$280,000.

One of the most visible projects was the sidewalk replacement on the West Loveland Avenue bridge. Although this was a Hamilton County project, the city took the opportunity to add upgraded railings and antique-style lighting.

Outside of downtown, the city continued its commitment to pedestrian connectivity with completion of Phase II of the Loveland-Miamiville Road sidewalk project.

Finally, a new parking lot with 147 free spaces was added in Historic Downtown, and the lot adjacent to City Hall was reconfigured to make it more accessible and pedestrian-friendly.

While we are pleased with what was accomplished in 2024, we are actively working on ways to continue improving the quality of life for our residents, repairing our infrastructure, and enhancing economic development. Learn more on pages 4-5 of this newsletter.

The signature of Mayor Kathy Bailey.

— Mayor Kathy Bailey

(Cont. From Page 1) City Addresses PFAS Regulations

In April 2024, USEPA published the first-ever national standards (known as the National Primary Drinking Water Regulation Contaminant Levels) for regulating PFAS in drinking water. This mandates that initial monitoring must take place between 2024-2027; monitoring reports must be included in Consumer Confidence Reports (i.e. Annual Water Quality Reports) by 2027; and all public water systems must comply with Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) regulation by 2029.

The OEPA, which is the City of Loveland's regulating authority, has begun its own rule-making process for establishing MCL regulation for PFAS. OEPA may fully adopt the USEPA's standards or adjust the MCLs.

Actions Taken by City

In 2023, the city hired an engineering firm to evaluate its water treatment facility and make recommendations for how the facility may need to be modified to meet future regulation. The treatment study was finished in June 2024.

Then the city started the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process to select a design firm. In September, the city began scope and fee negotiations for design services with AECOM, a local yet worldwide-accomplished engineering consultant. The city hopes to be moving into design soon.

As with any large project, funding must be established. The city created a PFAS Remediation Fund to house proceeds from grants, settlements, and lease agreements. The first deposit is a \$46,500 grant from OEPA, reimbursing the city its cost for the treatment study.

Regarding other funding opportunities, city staff is in continuous dialog with state and federal legislators.

Additionally, the city joined a class action lawsuit (along with other public water systems) against manufacturers 3M, Dupont, BASF, and Tyco for discharging PFAS to groundwater.

Stay Informed

The city has created a dedicated webpage about PFAS at LovelandOH.gov/559/PFAS-Drinking-Water. This is your resource to view all study results, water quality reports, communication to residents, frequently asked questions, etc.

Going forward, Assistant City Manager Chris Wojnicz will provide updates about the PFAS treatment plan at City Council meetings approximately every two months. Copies of the updates will be posted on the website.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



Newly Opened Businesses

Spring - Fall 2024

BCM Inks - 161 Commerce Blvd.

Bike Trail Books - 113 Karl Brown Way

Curated Fine Furnishings & Design (Formerly Bond Furniture)
113 Karl Brown Way

Grunder Landscaping - 137 Commerce Blvd.

Nostalgia Ink - 403 Loveland-Madeira Road

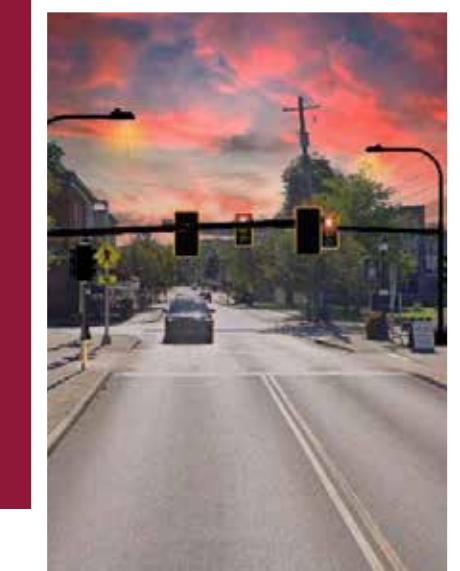
Simply Zero - 207 W Loveland Ave.

SPENGA Loveland - 10645 Loveland-Madeira Road

The Split Leaf Co. - 113 Karl Brown Way

Sucré - 305 W Loveland Ave.

2025 CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS



Project Design

Construction will not be underway in 2025, but design and engineering will begin on these large projects:

Loveland-Madeira Road Corridor: The city has been awarded a \$4.6-million grant through the OKI Regional Council of Governments to improve Loveland-Madeira Road from West Loveland Avenue to just past Valley View Lane. Plans include a roundabout at Valley View Lane, street lighting, storm water improvements, pedestrian/biker shared-use pathways, and streetscape enhancements.

South Riverside Avenue/East Kemper Road: The city is working with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to address erosion and streambank stabilization. USACE has completed a project report, and project design is next.

Nisbet Park Amphitheater

As part of the ongoing revitalization of Nisbet Park, the city plans to build a new amphitheater with that will face into the park, creating a larger seating area. Tentatively, demo of the current structure is planned for 2025. City staff has secured \$250k in grants and is applying for more funding to complete this project.

Phase III of Sidewalks

In this multi-phase project, sidewalks have been added along Loveland-Miamiville Road from State Route 48/Oakland Road to Saddleback Drive. Phase III will extend the sidewalks to Huntington Drive. Once complete, sidewalks will connect three neighborhoods and two schools to Historic Downtown.

Intersection Improvement

To improve traffic flow, the intersection at West Loveland Avenue and Loveland-Madeira Road will undergo turn lane improvements and lane widening. This is the busy intersection near the Quilter's Studio and Loveland Dairy Whip.

Bike Trail Crossing

The city has been awarded a grant to install an automated traffic signal system at the Little Miami Scenic Bike Trail's crossing at West Loveland Avenue. To create the new system, two types of signals will be installed — traditional overhead signals for vehicles and traffic light signals for trail users. The system will deliver automatic traffic control and establish right of way.



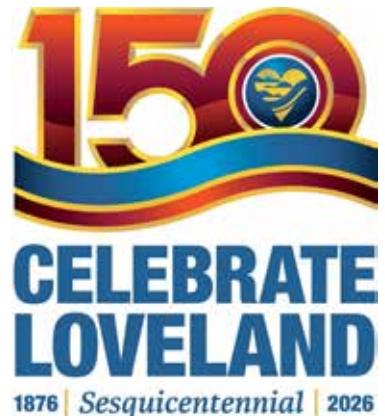
Heights Water Main Replacement

This project is estimated to begin in December 2024, but most construction will be completed in 2025. A public water main is replacing a private main along West Main Street between Cherokee Drive and Highland Street. Adding a public main completes a looped system that serves several homes and apartment complexes. A looped main provides a second water source during main breaks, reducing the number of residents experiencing water outages. Additionally, there is storm sewer work and repaving. This is the city's first large-scale water main project not requiring a loan. The \$2.1-million project is funded with a federal grant, a state grant, the Water Main Replacement Fee, and other local funds.



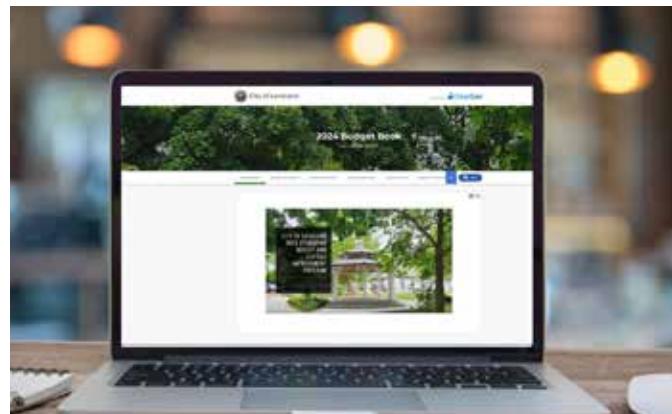
West Loveland Avenue Improvements

Pending successful funding from the Ohio Public Works Commission, the city will continue its commitment to the 2022 Downtown Loveland Streetscape Plan by advancing the West Loveland Avenue improvements from Second Street/State Route 48 to Karl Brown Way. The improvements would consist of storm sewer upgrades, demolition of existing sidewalks, installation of new concrete walkways with brick paver accents, installation of tree wells, water main improvements, and sanitary sewer improvements in conjunction with Cincinnati Metropolitan Sewer District.



Celebrate 150 Years

In 2026, the City of Loveland will celebrate its Sesquicentennial — otherwise known as its 150th anniversary. Planning is underway for events, a time capsule, contests, and activities to commemorate this special year. Please stay tuned for more details!



View City Budget

To promote transparency, the city is operating new budget software, ClearGov. This gives residents an accessible, searchable budget book. View at LovelandOH.gov/169/Finance-Department.



Go to the "Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program" link.

Honor Heroes

The Veterans Committee hopes to expand the Hometown Hero Military Banner Program. These are the banners displayed on utility poles to honor local heroes. The committee is seeking donations to help make the banners affordable for families. Donations can be mailed or dropped off to Loveland City Hall, 120 W Loveland Ave., Loveland, OH 45140. Questions? Please contact mclark@lovelandoh.gov or (513) 707-1437.

Vote for the City Tree

The Tree & Environment Committee wishes to name an official City Tree. This would be similar to how the State of Ohio's official tree is the Buckeye. The committee has selected three regionally appropriate trees: American Sycamore, Eastern Redbud, and White Oak. Vote for your favorite by Nov. 30, 2024.



To vote, scan the QR code or visit LovelandOH.gov/229/Tree-Environment-Committee.

IN OUR PARKS

Grailville Nature Preserve

1014 O'Bannonville Road

The former Grail property, located between O'Bannonville Road and State Route 48, is one of the largest undeveloped pieces of land within the city's limits. Approximately 100 acres is owned by the Clermont County Park District, and approximately 80 acres is owned by Cardinal Land Conservancy. Both groups will preserve the land as greenspace. Clermont County is moving forward with its plans to restore meadows and trails; build overlooks and bird blinds; and install infrastructure like roads and parking lots to welcome visitors. Stay tuned for future updates!

Lever Park

Approx. 200 Heidelberg Dr.

Lever Park's restroom facility has been upgraded with new epoxy floors, a metal roof, fresh paint, a heating system, and new entry doors. Prior to Lever's upgrade, McCoy Park underwent a refresh. Up next: Phillips Park's restroom facility will be renovated in 2025.

McCoy Park

471 Oak St.

In late summer, the pickleball and tennis courts were repaired and resurfaced.

Nisbet Park

126 Karl Brown Way

This summer, the last set of tables was installed, completing the park's new dining patio. In 2025, the city hopes to begin the revamp of the amphitheater.



Nisbet Park Dining Patio

Welcoming New Roles to LPD

As 2024 closes, the Loveland Police Department is welcoming new faces and bidding a fond farewell to a longtime employee.

Two new officers joined the LPD Family in October: Benjamin Marcum and Brandon Wilson. Previously, Marcum served as a ranger with Five Rivers Metro Parks in Dayton, Ohio. Wilson came to LPD by way of Colerain Township and the Village of Woodlawn Police Departments.

Meanwhile, former part-time Property Room Manager Erin Godsey has transitioned to the full-time role of Support Services Assistant. She continues to manage the LPD Property Room but also assists the general public with requests; enters data; and processes payroll, scheduling, and purchasing paperwork. Godsey previously worked for the Clermont County Sheriff's Office and Union Township.

In December, LPD will bid a fond farewell to its Mayor's Court Clerk. After 30 years of service to the citizens of Loveland (the last 20 with LPD, the previous 10 in tax/finance), Melissa (Mel) Bacon will retire. As clerk, she has been responsible for processing and maintaining all documents filed with the Mayor's Court; maintaining the court docket; collecting and distributing all fines and costs; and submitting abstracts of the court record and information required by the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles. Thank you for your dedicated years of service to the City of Loveland!



Mel Bacon recognized by City Council for 30 years of service.

LPD NEWS





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Loveland-oh.myfreealerts.com



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**RESIDENTS
MUST OPT IN**

Meet **CivicReady**, the NEW mass notification software that the City of Loveland utilizes to keep you informed about critical information, news, and events.

CivicReady will be used for emergency alerts, as well as non-emergency incidents that may have significant impacts to residents.

Snow Season REMINDERS

Brr! Colder temperatures are returning. Public Works shares reminders for a safe winter season.

GUIDELINES FOR SNOW & ICE REMOVAL



- If possible, in a snow or ice storm, park your vehicle off the street. This helps crews clear the streets more efficiently.
- Remove basketball hoops, toys, etc. from your cul-de-sac or end of your driveway.
- Make sure your mailbox is securely attached. Heavy snow and/or ice can knock mailboxes loose.
- Maintain a safe distance while driving. Snowplows are large, and operators cannot see directly behind the truck.
- Please do not blow or shovel snow into the street.
- Trash and recycling cans should be placed in the curb lawn as to not interfere with snow removal.
- It is your responsibility to clear snow from the sidewalk and in front of your mailbox. These areas cannot be cleared with snow plows.



Q&A WITH PUBLIC WORKS

What determines the order of how roads are cleared?

Snow-covered streets are plowed and salted by a schedule based on traffic volume, public safety, and access to emergency facilities and schools. Main roads are treated first, followed by side streets and neighborhoods.

How many snow plows does the city operate?

On a heavy snow, Public Works will operate as many as eight plow trucks. On a lighter snow, we may only use two plow trucks.

How much salt does the city use?

On average, depending on the winter, we use between 300-500 tons of salt.

What does the city use to treat the roads?

The city uses salt brine and road salt, depending on conditions. The city owns a salt brine maker, which consists of a 1,000-gallon storage tank that mixes salt and water to make a brine solution. The salt brine solution is effective down to temperatures of approximately -6 degrees and can only be applied on dry roadways.

Progress Continues on New Fire Station

The city is constructing a modern fire house at 220 E Loveland Ave. This will replace Station 63 at the intersection of East Loveland Avenue/State Route 48.

The new station will be more than 10,000 square feet, featuring two pull-through apparatus bays, one back-in bay, training rooms, ample equipment storage, full living quarters, office space, and public restrooms.

The facility is funded through the United States Department of Agriculture's Community Facility Loan Program, which provides funding for essential community facilities at competitive rates.

Over the summer, city staff moved forward with the bidding process as an approved resolution and ordinance by City Council was provided to the USDA for issuance of bonds. Request for bids followed with seven contractors submitting bids in mid-September.



Rendering of new fire station

Once the bids are reviewed, the project will be brought to City Council for contract approval. Then the project, which has been in development for nearly four years, will begin construction.



Parade Changes Coming

Due to the increasing size of the city's annual Independence Day parade, city staff will introduce a formal registration process in 2025. The goal is to better track participants and ensure safety at the large event.



City "Experts" Graduate

The 2024 Loveland U class graduated Nov. 8. Approximately 20 community members took part in the 10-week program to get a behind-the-scenes glimpse at city operations. They visited the Loveland Museum Center, Loveland Stage Company, police, fire, and other departments. Learn more and apply for the 2025 class at LovelandOH.gov/365/Loveland-U.

AROUND TOWN



Local Art Showcased at City Hall

In early 2024, the city's Arts Commission installed a gallery space in the lobby of City Hall, 120 W Loveland Ave. The gallery is refreshed seasonally and showcases artwork created by Loveland artists.

So far this year, the gallery has featured photography by Loveland High School art students, watercolor paintings by the Watercolor Guild of Loveland, and oil paintings by landscape artist Deidre Dyson.

In fact, Dyson's exhibit is on display through mid-November. Approximately 50 pieces are showcased, ranging from countryside settings to landscapes of Historic Downtown Loveland.

Dyson is known for her style of painting "En Plein Air" — believing there is no substitute for being directly in front of her subject to observe light, shadows, season, and weather. She works in oils, favoring dramatic lighting and bold color. Her art has been displayed in galleries as far as New York and New Mexico. Her paintings on display are for sale.



Oil paintings by Deidre Dyson

What's in the gallery's future? The Arts Commission will debut the next showcase in January 2025, featuring a winter-themed exhibit.

Visit the gallery during City Hall's lobby hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



Christmas Tree Lighting Festival

Dec. 7 - 4-8 p.m.

Kick off the holidays with the tree lighting ceremony, drone show, craft market, and festive fun for all ages.



Christmas in Loveland

Dec. 14 - 4-8 p.m.

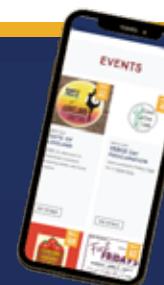
At this annual event hosted by the Little Miami River Chamber Alliance, visitors can enjoy caroling, holiday food/drink, and entertainment.



Hearts Afire Weekend

Feb. 7-9, 2025

There's no sweeter place to celebrate love than at the city's 4th annual fire and ice event.





City of Loveland

120 West Loveland Avenue
Loveland, OH 45140
(513) 683-0150
LovelandOH.gov
LovinLifeLoveland.com



Building & Zoning
(513) 707-1447

City Manager's Office
(513) 707-1437

Local Income Taxes
(513) 707-1452

Fire/EMS/Police (Non-Emergency)
(513) 677-7000

Public Works
(513) 583-4309

Utilities Billing
(513) 707-1451

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COMMUNITY REMINDERS

City Council Meetings

Residents are invited to attend City Council meetings on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at City Hall. Meeting agendas and minutes are available at LovelandOH.gov/200/public-meetings.

City Manager Weekly Updates

Did you know the city manager publishes a weekly report? This is a great way to stay up to date with department news. Read at LovelandOH.gov/319/City-Managers-Weekly-Updates.

Upcoming Services for Residents

Nov. 30, 2024 - Jan. 17, 2025 - Holiday light recycling collection at City Hall
Jan. 2 - 15, 2025 - Christmas tree collection at curbside

City Offices Closed

Nov. 28-29 - Thanksgiving
Dec. 25 - Christmas
Jan. 1 - New Years Day
Jan. 20 - MLK Day