



Deer Park News – City Manager B J Jetter

Construction, construction, construction! The Plainfield Road water main replacement project will continue through the end of the year. There have been rolling closures of Plainfield Road as they move closer to the Silverton border and all the way up to Montgomery Road. I heard one comment from a resident who said you don't realize how much traffic goes through Deer Park until a major road is closed. But the end is in sight and in the Spring, repaving will be done, and we will reap the benefits of all this construction. Also starting in the Spring, will be the construction for the entire length of Oakwood from Plainfield Road to the railroad line.



Improvements in the Park continue. People using the walk path will now see the signage provided by the grant we received from We Thrive, with distance markers and helpful information. If you haven't used the walk path lately, you should take some time to stroll through the park. New drinking fountains have been installed, the handicap access off Blue Ash Road has been added with landscaping around the ramp and along the railroad tracks. All along the path are trees donated by residents, with plaques to honor loved ones, that add to the beauty of the park. The entrance area off Matson Avenue by the Park office has been totally repaved, and was recently dedicated to former Mayor, Dave Collins. The Park office and the concession stand have both received a new coat of paint.

And that's just what has been completed! New fencing and lighting for the ball diamonds will be added in 2024. Design work for the new Music Pavilion should be done by the end of 2023. Once the design is approved, Council will have to authorize moving forward to secure bids on the project. We have already received a grant for \$300,000 from CEDAP (Community & Economic Development Assistance Program) that we plan to use for the pavilion and have applied to ODNR (Ohio Department of Natural Resources) for additional funding. This will be a great addition to the park, and we are very excited to move this project along. Donated to the City by the Chamberlin family, the park is 13 ½ acres located in the center of the city. If you haven't already, make plans to come check it out.

Many residents took advantage of the City's Sidewalk Program, that reimburses a portion of the cost for repairing broken sidewalk blocks. The program received approximately \$7000 in applications in 2023. If you need to replace some broken sidewalk blocks, go to our website, at the top of the page in the box located next to the Facebook symbol, type in sidewalk program and hit the search button for more information on how the program works.

Since Daylight Savings Time has ended, the evening commute can be a little more difficult. Please drive safely and watch out for pedestrians walking in the community in the early evening hours after work.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday and as always, it's a great time to Re-Discover Deer Park!

Important Dates

December 19th 7:00pm Block Watch meeting at the Community Center in Chamberlin Park.

December 25th and 26th the city offices will be closed for the holiday.

Tax season is just around the corner, and your tax returns can be filed in three different ways.

- E-file your return via the Tax page on our website
 - Submit your documents online via our website or drop them off in one of the drop boxes located at the City Building (one outside and one inside)
 - If you would like us to prepare your return while you wait, schedule an appointment by calling our office at 513-794-8863. Walk-in service is NOT available. Appointments are available Monday through Friday from 8:15 am - 4:00 pm
 - More information can be found at: www.deerpark-oh.gov/departments/taxdepartment
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[Message From the Mayor – John Donnellon](#)

As we get ready to finish up the year, great things continue to happen in the city of Deer Park!

A special thank you to all those in Deer Park who went out to make sure their voices were heard in the election earlier this month. Congratulations to our new councilmember, Natasha Kohorst, and congratulations to Chris Westmark-Hedger and Neil Kelly, who will be continuing their roles on city council as well. I would also like to express my thanks to the other members of our city council for all your years of service!

The Holiday Spirit Decoration Awards will be returning this year! The City of Deer Park's Holiday Spirit Awards program is a city-wide competition that recognizes businesses, residences, organizations, and other establishments for contributing to the enjoyment and spirit of the Christmas and Holiday season in our community through their outdoor holiday displays! We look forward each year to visiting all the locations and choosing our favorites. Let's light up Deer Park bigger and better than last season! Don't forget to get your nominations in for neighbors, or even yourself! Nominations are due by 4:00pm on Thursday, December 14th. For more information visit our website and click on the NEWS link at the top of the front page.

As we move into the holiday season and start seeing colder weather, please remember to check up on your neighbors and friends. Wishing everyone a safe, joyous, and healthy holiday season!

[From the Desk of Police Chief David Battin](#)

The police department continues to go through personnel changes. In October we filled a vacancy for a new patrol officer.

Officer Ryan Faehr was sworn in during the first council meeting in October. He joins our department with 15+ years of experience and will be a tremendous asset to the city.

In 2024, the police department will be transitioning to a new work schedule. As part of that change, Mayors Court will now be held bi-weekly on Tuesdays starting at 6:00pm. This change will go into effect on January 9th, 2024.

With the time change recently, residents are urged to be vigilant when driving through the city during school hours for children walking to and from school.

The Police Department remains proactive and urges residents to report suspicious behavior, if you see something please say something. We remind residents to lock their homes and vehicles and keep your valuables out of sight.

[Lucas CPR Device Helps Save Lives](#)

In 2020, Deer Park City Council approved the use of Covid money the city received from the State of Ohio, to purchase two Lucas CPR devices for the Deer Park Silverton Joint Fire District.

The Lucas device is an easy-to-use mechanical chest compression device that helps deliver consistent chest compressions to sudden cardiac arrest patients. While highly recommended for all EMS personnel, the cost of each unit (\$16,000 to \$20,000 each) sometimes puts that out of reach.

Members of the Deer Park Silverton Joint Fire District made a presentation to Council with the newly acquired device. In attendance with them was Mr. Patrick Hennigan, and members of his family, who were there to thank the City Council and the Fire District for using the device to save his life when he suffered a medical emergency.



[What to know about new recreational marijuana law in Ohio](#)

Ohio just became the 24th state to legalize recreational marijuana. Issue 2, approved by Ohio voters, will allow adults 21 and older to buy, possess and grow marijuana. Products would be taxed 10% on top of the current state sales tax. The measure is an initiated statute, meaning it will become part of the Ohio Revised Code in 30 days.

Here's what you can expect next with the state's new adult-use marijuana program:

- **When can I start legally using marijuana in Ohio?** Ohioans can start possessing and consuming marijuana when the law takes effect on Dec. 7th. Adults 21 and older are allowed to have up to 2.5 ounces of cannabis and 15 grams of extracts.
- **When can I start growing marijuana in Ohio?** Ohioans can start growing marijuana when the law takes effect, Dec. 7th in a locked, enclosed area that's not accessible to children or visible to the public. Adults 21 and older are allowed to grow up to six plants individually and no more than 12 in a household with multiple adults. Landlords can prevent their renters from growing, but the ban must be part of a lease agreement.
- **Can anyone buy marijuana in a dispensary in Ohio?** No. The Ohio Department of Commerce has nine months to create the rules and regulations for the sale of recreational marijuana and to distribute licenses. Until then, dispensaries will sell only to people who have a medical marijuana card. Once recreational sales begin, they'll be limited to adults over 21.
- **Can I smoke marijuana in public in Ohio?** No. Smoking marijuana would fall under the state's smoking ban. That law prohibits people from smoking plant material in enclosed areas open to the public, with exceptions for outdoor patios, smoke shops and hotel rooms designated for smoking.
- **Can people drive while high in Ohio?** No. The proposed statute bars people from driving a car, bike, boat or airplane while under the influence of marijuana. Passengers are prohibited from smoking or vaping in the vehicle. The state's current OVI laws apply to anyone who violates those rules.
- **What does marijuana legalization mean for Ohio employers?** Public and private employers can still set their own policies for marijuana, such as rules around drug testing and on-the-job use. They won't have to accommodate employees who use marijuana and can discipline or refuse to hire someone who does.

[Service Department Update – Ron Schwettman, Foreman](#)

Leaf collection continues and the leaf crew has been through the city making curbside vacuum pickups and they will continue to make rounds until Dec 15, 2023. For easier collection, please avoid parking on or near the leaf piles. Just a reminder, the Friday brush chipping service will resume after the leaf collection season ends.

Winter weather is approaching, and we would like to request that during snow events residents not park on the streets. This enables a safer and more complete clearing of the roadway.

The Service Dept recently purchased a new Dump Truck, replacing the old one that was in service for 22 years. Many repairs to just keep it running have been done over the years and the addition of the new truck is really appreciated! Did you know the city dump truck can be rented, from April to September, overnight or over a weekend, for \$150 per load. We drop it off, you load it up, we haul it to Rumpke! Visit our website and use the search feature in the top right corner for more information on this program.

Our department was recently honored with an award from the Hamilton County Storm Water District. "This award signifies your facility's efforts and achievements in maintaining the District's Best Management Practices. Your facility received a grade of "A" when evaluated for storm water pollution prevention practices and garage cleanliness. Your unwavering commitment to maintaining a high-quality facility has been recognized and appreciated." We completed extensive storm sewer work over the summer and it's nice to have your efforts acknowledged.

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Deer Park Library Celebrates Two Year Anniversary

Ms. Natalie Fields recently attended the Deer Park Council meeting to give an update as the library is celebrating two years in their new facility. Ms. Fields shared that the Deer Park branch is the second busiest location in Hamilton County after the main branch. The library has meeting rooms available for local organizations that has been used for job fairs, services for disabled adults, and senior services just to name a few.

Their website has a list of the extensive classes and programs offered each month. For example, they have a Family Storytime every Tuesday and Thursday 10:30 -11:00. This is a great way to meet other moms while your child enjoys books, songs, and other activities. Every Wednesday they host a Senior Lunch for those 60+, 12:00-1:00. Meals are funded by the Council on Aging of Southwest Ohio and operated by Episcopal Retirement Services. You must register for these the Monday before if you plan to attend. Another great opportunity for you to meet other seniors in our area.

Are you a crafter? On Tuesday, December 19th, 7:00pm-8:30pm, come meet others in our community and enjoy an evening of music and mingling. Bring a project of your own or work on a craft with materials that will be provided. All crafts and abilities are welcome.

Visit their website for a complete listing of activities they have going on. Join their Facebook page and you will be notified of programs being offered you can sign up for in advance. The library is a great asset, and we are very fortunate to have them in our community.
