



Tyson's Corner



VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

AUTUMN 2008

WELCOME...

I hope everyone is having a great Autumn. This is one of my favorite times of year, and with the colorful leaves a season when our parks are typically at their most beautiful. This year may be a little different due to the unusual windstorm Columbus and central Ohio experienced in late September. As you have probably noticed, the storm blew over many trees in our parks. Please know that Columbus Recreation and Parks staff are working extremely hard to remove the downed trees and return the parks to their fully functional state. Read more about these cleanup activities on page three.

In addition to Autumn being a time when we begin preparing for cold winters in Columbus, my Council colleagues and I are taking this time to prepare for a busy and challenging budget season. One of the most important functions we do each year as Councilmembers is review and adopt three budgets; 1) the General Fund Budget, 2) the Capital Improvement

Budget and 3) the Consolidated Plan, Action Plan Budget. In each case, the demand for the services, utilities and infrastructure funded through each budget far exceeds the resources available. I encourage all residents to become involved in the budget process by attending a budget hearing. A complete list of all hearings and public meetings will be made available on Council's Website.

The Capital Improvement Budget is the main source of funding for public construction, facilities and heavy equipment. Funds from this budget, by law, cannot be used for City operations, staffing or hiring of employees such as Police officers and Firefighters. The majority of the Capital Budget is authorized through voted bond packages supported by citizens. This year Columbus residents have the opportunity to support the 2008 Voted Bond Package. With voter approval, Issues 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 will allow the City to continue to make



investment into neighborhoods, create thousands of new jobs in construction, and ultimately improve the quality of life in Columbus. Successful passage of these issues will also allow the City to save millions of dollars by obtaining lower interest rates on the issued bonds **without** raising taxes. More information of budgets can be found on page five.

Again, I hope everyone is having a great Autumn. I thank you for giving me the honor of serving as one of your Councilmembers. If I can be of assistance to you and your family, do not hesitate to contact my office at (614) 645-2933.

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Sponsored Legislation

Below you will find a list containing some of the legislation I was proud to sponsor during the previous three months. My sponsorship of these ordinances reflects my dedication and commitment in making sure Columbus remains a strong, growing and dynamic city.

- Ordinance 1169-2008** authorized the expenditure of \$143,202 from the 1999/2004 Recreation and Parks Voted Bond Fund to hire Builderscape, Inc. to make significant improvements to Krumm Park. Located on Alton Avenue on Columbus' East Side, the park offers a wide range of recreational opportunities for area residents to enjoy. In addition to constructing an entrance canopy and improved drainage system, the project calls for a new inline skating hockey rink and the installation of pervious concrete (*an environmentally friendly product that will reduce run-off*) pavement.
- Ordinance 1319-2008** provided \$72,452 for the Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition program. This program is a collaborative effort between the City of Columbus and the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging (COAAA) to provide health and wellness opportunities for senior citizens. This legislation provided program participants with vouchers up to \$50 in value, which could be redeemed at various farmers' market locations throughout Columbus.
- Ordinance 1289-2008** authorized the expenditure of \$526,006 to install new voice over internet phone (VOIP) technology in various City facilities. VOIP provides options that may be more difficult to implement or more expensive when using traditional phone services. The City will replace over 700 standard telephones with new VOIP telephones. This conversion will reduce monthly phone costs by 80%.
- Ordinance 1125-2008** authorized the expenditure of \$105,000 to allow the trail improvement project to get underway. The upgrades will include ramp repairs along the I-670 Trail; new centerline striping, bollard removals and drainage improvements along the Olentangy Trail; railing improvements along the Alum Creek Trail and clearing work along the Scioto Trail. Removing obstacles, hazards and brush as well as improving selected ramps and railings will increase the safety of those who use the regional trail system.
- Ordinance 1201-2008** authorized the expenditure of \$29,250 to contract with WorldLingo Translations to continue providing instant translator services for City of Columbus Websites. This service allows local residents, as well as those from around the world, to translate the City of Columbus Website into their native language. The service will provide translation to English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Greek, Dutch, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, and Spanish. In June 2008, the City of Columbus' Website received over 8,300 visits from 48 countries around the world.
- Ordinance 0948-2008** provides funding for a new dog park at the Three Creeks Park Sycamore Field on the city's south side and another at Wheeler Park on the near north side. After months of public deliberation and planning, the City of Columbus is scheduled to move forward with the construction of these dog parks where owners can take their canines to run off-leash. These new canine-friendly parks will have signage, gates, and benches.

City of Columbus Legislation Report		Office of City Clerk 95 West Broad Street Columbus, OH 43215-4618 clerk@cityofcolumbus.org
File Number: 0062-2008		
Emergency	File Type: Ordinance	Status: Bond
File Number: 0062-2008	File Type: Ordinance	Status: Bond
Version: 1	Controlling Ordinance: Recreation and Parks Commission	Introduced: 1-4-2008
File Name: Appropriation of \$3,366,054.50 from Special Fund 223 for supplies and services in 2008 and to declare an emergency.		
Requester: Exec. Dir. Parks Director	Cost: \$3,366,054.50	Final Action: 1-31-2008
Auditor Cert #:	Auditor: When assigned as Auditor Certificate Number 1, the City Auditor, hereby certifies that there is in the treasury, or receipts to come into the treasury, and are appropriated for any other purpose, the amount of money specified herein, to pay the within Ordinance.	
Contact Name(s):	Cord Collins 601-8428	
Floor Action (Clerk's Office Only)		
Municipal Action		
Mayor	Date	Council Action
Mayor	Date	City Council
Veto	Date	City Clerk
Title: To authorize the appropriation of \$3,366,054.50 from the unappropriated balance of the Recreation and Parks Special Purpose Fund to the Recreation and Parks Department to continue purchasing supplies and providing services during 2008, and to declare an emergency. (\$3,366,054.50)		
Sponsors:		
Indices:		
Attachments:		
City of Columbus	Page 1 of 4	Printed on 1/31/2008



Friends of Alum Creek and Tributaries (FACT) Celebrate

On October 14th, I was honored to join the Friends of Alum Creek and Tributaries (FACT) at Academy Park as they celebrated the removal of the first of two low-head dams on the Alum Creek waterway. This was the culmination of a three-year effort by the group to raise funds, obtain grants from the U.S. EPA, manage the project work of their general contractor Burgess & Niple, Inc, and coordinate with the Ohio EPA for dam removal. It was truly a tremendous event and, overall, an exciting community-led effort.

A common assumption about the low-head dams located on Alum Creek is that they were constructed for flood prevention. This is not the case. Most likely the dams were built in the 1930s to provide recreational opportunities for residents. Since that time much has been learned about how detrimental they can



(photos courtesy of FACT)

be to both human and aquatic life.

Removal of two low-head dams in the central part of the Lower Alum Creek river watershed has been identified by FACT as one of the best ways to immediately improve the water quality, aesthetics, recreational access and public safety of Alum Creek. A big thank you from my office goes out to all members of this group for their leadership in seeing this important project through.

FACT is a local nonprofit organization formed in 1998 working to preserve and protect the quality and beauty of Alum

Creek watershed and promote environmentally responsible recreation, educational opportunities, and citizen participation at many levels. For additional information about FACT or to volunteer, visit their website www.friendsofalumcreek.org, email kwilliams@friendsofalumcreek.org, or call (614) 409-0511.

September Winds



The Wind Storm that blew through Columbus on September 14, 2008 left some residents and businesses without power for almost a week, but our Recreation and Parks Department has been working daily since and will be working for months to come to cleanup and repair the downed

trees along our roads and in our city parks.

Since mid-September, Recreation and Parks Forestry Division has worked on storm clean up daily, receiving over 1,600 storm calls. The staff has responded to all calls and completed most of the requests for tree removal on the streets. Recreation and Parks continues to receive new requests stemming from the storm damage daily. If you have requests for tree removal from the street or on city-owned land, call 311.

Cleanup efforts will continue through the fall and winter. Because of the extent of the damage, it could take several

months to remove all the fallen trees from parks and medians.

Additional help has been provided by Transportation, Street Maintenance, Traffic, Sewer and Drains, Refuse Collection, Public Utilities Watershed and City Park Maintenance. Franklin County Metro Parks dispatched equipment and forestry crews to Goodale and Whetstone parks where they worked alongside our forestry crews to clear hazardous trees

I really want to thank the many volunteers, including City Year and Friends Groups, that have helped with cleanup efforts, especially at Goodale and Westgate Parks.

Growing to Green

columbus community garden program

During the Growing to Green Awards ceremony on September 17, local community gardeners and gardens were honored for their valuable contributions to the community. As an avid supporter of community gardening and greening projects, I was honored to serve as Keynote Speaker for the event.

Five awards were distributed:

- 🌻 Neighborhood Improvement Project of the Year, Ganther’s Place Park for All People;
- 🌻 Education Garden of the Year, Lincoln Park Elementary School;
- 🌻 Paul B. Redman Youth Leadership Award, Amber Rollie of the Weinland Park Community Garden;
- 🌻 Community Gardener of the Year, Rick Collins, Native American Indian Center of Central Ohio; and
- 🌻 Community Garden of the Year, Christ the King Community Garden.

Growing to Green, Franklin Park Conservatory’s community outreach program, promotes community gardening in central Ohio by providing resources for horticulture and plant selection needs, information on funding and grant resources that support community gardening projects, and a free eight-week Urban Garden Academy course sponsored by The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company. Growing to Green also works with community gardeners to help supplement produce donations to local food pantries. At this year’s award ceremony, in the tradition of previous years, all attendees were asked to bring produce from their gardens to be donated to the national campaign, **Plant a Row for the Hungry.**

Bruce Harkey, Executive Director of Franklin Park Conservatory, emceed the event and noted: “It’s very rewarding to see the Growing to Green Awards continue to garner more attention every year, as the community gardening movement constantly gathers momentum in central Ohio. It’s virtually impossible not to notice the new gardens and farmers’ markets popping up around Columbus.”

Rewarding, indeed!

Built in 1895, Franklin Park Conservatory is a botanical landmark two miles east of downtown Columbus. It is a premier horticultural and educational institution showcasing exotic plant collections, special exhibitions, and a signature collection of work by glass artist Dale Chihuly. The Conservatory and surrounding park are currently undergoing a transformation that will include a Community Garden Campus will support the Conservatory’s Growing to Green program and be a place where all people can gain ideas for their own gardens, volunteer, or just sit, relax and enjoy the gardens. The City of Columbus Recreation and Parks Department is a major project partner.



(r to l), Christ the King Community Garden and Ganther’s Place Park for All People



City Budgets

General Fund Budget

The General Fund provides financial support for the city's basic services and staff. Many divisions are funded solely by the general fund; others receive general fund subsidies, and others have multiple funding sources.

The primary source of revenue to the general fund is income tax. Columbus' income tax was established in 1947 at 0.5% and in 1982, to its current 2.0%. Since that time, low unemployment and a high level of economic development resulted, until recently, in a high level of tax collections. Other sources of revenue funnel into the general fund include the hotel/motel tax, fines and penalties, charges from services, and earnings on investments.

Consolidated Plan / Action Plan Budget

The Consolidated Plan and related Action Plan combine into a single budget submission for the planning and application aspects of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), Emergency Shelter Grant (WSG), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) programs. The plan represents a continuing commitment to provide quality housing and expanded economic opportunities to the community.

Capital Improvements Budget

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Local Matters LOCAL OHIO FOODS

Local Matters is a nonprofit organization located in Columbus. The group is playing a key leadership role in ensuring that

central Ohio has easy access to a sustainable, local food system. I'm happy to report that our neighborhood recreation centers are playing an important part in that mission.

Local Matters believes that food has the power to transform, sustain and build community in Central Ohio, Columbus and neighborhoods within the city limits. "Just as food nourishes the individual's body and soul, so it is capable of nourishing and transforming the neighborhoods we inhabit into healthy communities by affecting systemic social, economic and environmental change our region," say Local Matters Executive Director Michael Jones.

Local Matters operates three programs to demonstrate the positive influence that local food and a healthy local food system can have in our community; **Farm to Fork, Urban Agriculture, and Local Food to School.**

One project from Local Matter's *Farm to Fork* program is the "**Mobile Farmers Market.**" This project is a partnership with The Greener Grocer, a for profit business owned by Local Matters, and distributes locally grown, fresh and nutritious foods in underserved communities via their "Veggie Van." The van typically makes two-hour, pre-determined stops in various neighborhoods on a weekly basis and are set up to accept EBT cards in addition to credit cards and cash payments. The project will continue this winter with distribution of food items at various Columbus locations, including the J. Ashbourne Rec. Center on the City's Westside.

For more information on any of these programs, or to become a volunteer or donor, please call (614) 263-5662 or visit their Website at www.local-matters.org.

www.local-matters.org



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RECREATION AND PARKS / ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

In an effort to encourage greater public involvement, I host a committee meeting each month. The date(s) for some upcoming meetings are listed below. Unless otherwise noted, meetings occur on the fourth Thursday of the month and begin at 5:30 P.M. in Council Chambers, located on the second floor of City Hall, 90 West Broad Street, in downtown Columbus.

I encourage you to attend. Please note, if you are able to attend an upcoming meeting, a valid picture ID is needed to enter City Hall. If you would like to speak at the meeting, you must complete a speaker slip. Speaker forms are available in Council Chambers from 5:30 until 6:00 P.M. on the day of the meeting.

Upcoming meeting date(s)

- Thursday, November 20, 2008 — Recreation and Park / Administration General Fund Budget Hearing

Safe and Accessible Playgrounds

Thursday, September 18th and Friday, September 19th were two great days in Clintonville. That is when members of the Clintonville community joined forces with City Year-Columbus and volunteers from Nationwide Children's Hospital to construct new playground equipment in Whetstone Park. Not only did this effort help save the city thousands of construction dollars, it was a great example of community in action.

The new playground equipment was included in the overall improvements made to Whetstone Park, and was funded in part through my Safe Playgrounds Capital Improvement initiative. This initiative added money to Columbus' Capital Improvements Budget for the systematic replacement of aging and unsafe playground equipment in Columbus parks. As noted in previous editions of my newsletter, Columbus Children's Hospital treats more than 600 children annually for playground related injuries.

The Whetstone playground being constructed incorporates soft surfaces and updated equipment that is ADA-accessible.

Thanks to everyone involved in this exciting and important project.

Karns Park, on the City's Southside, and Weinland Park, in the central city, also were recently updated with safe playground equipment.



columbuscitycouncil.org/tyson/comment