



September 25, 2009

TO: Council President
City Councilmembers
Council Appointees

FROM: Eric Norenberg

SUBJECT: City Manager's Update

Following are updates on various topics for your information. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!

Oberlin Police Department

- Kudos presented to the Men and Women of the Oberlin Police Department: Several months ago, I received the attached letter of appreciation for the efforts of Oberlin's Police Officers and Dispatchers to provide gifts to kids and families who would not otherwise have received gifts last Christmas. As it is quite difficult to hold a staff meeting with all employees of the Police Department, I did not get a chance to share this letter with OPD until this week. Now, the letter is attached for your information. It is a testament to the caring and generosity of the great employees in our department. I am very proud of them and their support for this program.
- Requested documents attached: In the City Manager's Update two weeks ago, I summarized statements and data from two OPD memos. Councilmember Ashenurst asked for copies and they are attached.

City Manager's Office

- Safe Routes to School Work Continues: Assistant Superintendent John Schroth reports that the Oberlin City School District is nearing the end of the data gathering stage of the Safe Routes to School project. This data will enable the District to finalize its report and application to ODOT for funding to improve sidewalks and other features of the routes Oberlin children take to school. John anticipates completing this phase during October and being able to share a report with the City Council in early November.
- Community Giving Campaign Kicks Off: The annual Oberlin Community Giving Campaign began for City of Oberlin employees with a chili cook-off social event today. Ten employees entered the chili cook-off and employees were encouraged to sample different the varieties of chili and vote for their favorites. Samples of chili were 4/\$1 and a bowl of chili sold for \$1. Representatives from Oberlin Community Services, Oberlin Early Childhood Center and Greater Cleveland Community Shares were on hand to speak about their organizations and to judge chili cook-off. Funds were also raised from employees paying to throw whipped cream pies at selected managers (based on \$1 votes), a prize drawing, and a 50/50 raffle. In appreciation for their participation at the

event and for judging the chili, the \$278 raised by the event will be split between Oberlin Community Services, Oberlin Early Childhood Center and Greater Cleveland Community Shares.

- ICMA Virtual Conference Sessions On-Line: This year, ICMA tested a virtual conference (selected sessions) for those managers who could not attend the conference due to financial conditions. Now, those presentations are on-line during October so that those of us who did attend may also use this tool to see sessions we could not attend during the conference or to share these virtual sessions with colleagues. There are sessions available on-line that focus on housing, public safety, HR and sustainability. I think each of you will find one or two sessions of interest. Please note, the keynote addresses (Dr. David Suzuki (sustainability) and Alice Rivlin (economic outlook)) will only be available for a few days. Please contact me if you would like me to e-mail you links, passwords, instructions, etc. to log in.

Oberlin Fire Department

- Fire Station Expansion /Renovation Well-underway: The fire station expansion/renovation project is now four months into its ten month schedule. The Fire Chief provided this recap of the project accomplishments to-date:
 - All contractors are fully mobilized and represented on site with exception of fire protection. Several contractor work and storage trailers are located onsite.
 - Site work: all building/site excavation and soil removal is complete. New water/electric utilities will be placed shortly. A new communications tower has been erected and placed into service with a full array of communication antennas. The old tower will be removed this week.
 - West and north parking lot areas have been roughed-in with curbing on the west side. A test section of pervious pavement has been poured in that area, in preparation for full pour completion. For more info on pervious pavement, go to www.perviouspavement.org
 - South building addition: Completed building foundation, exterior basement poured concrete walls, underground utility piping, full concrete flooring, and interior masonry block walls with work extending above ground for stairway/elevator shaft. Basement room areas and building size are now evident.
 - North building addition: Completed building foundation, initial exterior two-course block wall, under-floor utility piping, and full concrete flooring.
 - Apparatus rooms: Completed foundation for new apparatus bay; back-filling preparation for concrete flooring.
 - Existing building: Removed all non-essential utility piping and old exterior screen walls. Demolition of existing skylight area over apparatus bay. Defacing of old building exterior finish in preparation for connection to new areas. Installation of electric conduits and ventilation duct work across apparatus area for connection of building utilities.
 - Outbuilding: Completed foundation and a portion of the exterior brick/block walls.

You may follow the project by viewing weekly photo updates at:

www.oberlin-fire.com/Administration/fire%20station.html

Please contact Fire Chief Dennis Kirin if you have any questions.

OMLPS

- Oberlin Not Selected for Climate Showcase Communities Grant: We received word this week that the City's application for the "Climate Showcase Communities Grant Program" managed by U.S. EPA's Climate Protection Partnerships Division was not awarded. The proposal titled: "Developing a Comprehensive Energy Plan for Oberlin, Ohio to Achieve Climate Neutrality" was one of over 450 applications that were submitted for the grant program. The EPA's message noted that "Given the merit of the proposals received, the review team had a very difficult assignment in coming to this decision. Your proposal is not being recommended for award because it did not receive a high enough score under the proposal evaluation criteria. We appreciate the time, effort, and commitment you and your colleagues have put into this process."
- AMP Upgrades Website: The new AMP web site, www.amppartners.org went live this week.
- Research into Additional Power Supply from Landfill Gas Continues: Earlier this summer OMLPS staff, City Management and College officials met to consider preparing a plan to be submitted to Energy Developments Inc. (EDI) that would enable the City (with or without other partners) or some other third party developer to secure the energy (electricity and possibly heat) to be produced by the expansion of EDI operations at the Lorain County Landfill.

As you will recall, for many months, EDI was considering selling some or all of its worldwide operations. That review was to be completed in June and we had indications that EDI would be interested in receiving one or more proposals for how the expansion of their operation could meet Oberlin's energy needs. In order to prepare such a proposal, the decision was made to contract with a technical writer consultant to assist in this endeavor for two reasons. First, internal staff resources were stretched thin with other projects and pursuit of stimulus grants. Second, there was the expectation of a very tight timeline to make a proposal following the completion of the EDI review.

The suggestion was made and ultimately accepted that the City contract with Daniel Gardner for this consulting. We felt this made sense since he was knowledgeable of the local energy supply situation and the City/AMP power supply procurement process due to his immersion in the discussion of power supply while he was on City Council. In addition, he had the necessary time to invest in the short time we thought would be required to develop this proposal. The concept, and later the agreement with Mr. Gardner, was reviewed by the Law Director (copy attached). In July, staff met with EDI and learned that in fact they would be willing to entertain a proposal from Oberlin and also that their timeline to receive a proposal from Oberlin would be extended into the fall. Accordingly, though there is no longer the initial urgency, the prospect of securing a local renewable resource to meet part of our baseload need is one we feel we must pursue. Work will continue on this proposal.