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Oberlin receives auditor's award for 'clean' finances

City given award for second year; among three Ohio cities honored

Anna Merriman
The Chronicle-Telegram

OBERLIN — A new award presented to the city of Oberlin last week might not mean any monetary reward but, according to city manager Eric Norenberg, it does exemplify how well the city treats taxpayer money.

Last week, Oberlin was one of only three Ohio cities to be awarded the Auditor of State Award for 2013. The award — which Oberlin previously won in 2012 — is given to cities that file timely, “clean” financial reports,

according to a news release from the auditor's office.

“They did everything that we would like every audit to look like,” State Auditor spokesman Blaine Kelly said. “There was nothing on their books that we thought needed review or could have been a conflict.”

Norenberg said the award is an indication of how meticulously the city cares for its finances.

“We don't waste money. We're careful with the money that taxpayers entrust us with,” he said.

Though Norenberg couldn't point

to a specific reason that the city has won the award two years in a row, he said it could be attributed to support from City Council and other city officials.

The award is primarily recognition of a job well done, but Kelly said some cities have used the award as a point of pride when they are being looked at for bond ratings.

Norenberg said he doubts Oberlin will use the award for that purpose in the near future.

“I don't anticipate needing a bond rating for a while ... but everything helps when you're able to talk about how well run the city is,” he said.

Contact Anna Merriman at 329-7245
or amerriman@chroniclet.com