



## *in the loop*

by Mayor Kevin Hardman  
January 2018

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### **Dear Fellow Residents:**

Happy New Year! Over the last few months, Administration and City Council were busy finalizing the 2018 budget. This 2nd issue of "In the Loop" will highlight some of the pertinent items within this year's budget that may be of interest to you, as well as some other topics. This is going to be an exciting year for the City and I hope it is one filled with happiness for all of you.

## **Road and Sidewalk Projects**

**Road Improvements:** As mentioned in the last newsletter, the City has been very aggressive with residential street paving projects by spending over \$2.5 million the last two years on these improvements. Putting that amount in perspective, the 5-year average annual amount that was spent from 2011 – 2015 was just under \$600,000. For the 2018 budget, approximately **\$2.4 million** is anticipated in residential street and sidewalk projects!



The City will be concentrating the residential street program on the west-side by targeting **Valdosta Drive, Summerville Drive, Torrey Court, Algiers Drive, Gulfport Drive, Continental Drive, Centerdale Drive, Woodbine, Circlefield Drive, Henderson Court, Fawnvista Lane, and Chesterdale**. In addition to these west-side roadways, based on contractor prices, we hope to also address **Cottingham Drive, Dorset Drive, Bath Court, and Midpines Drive**. Last, assuming bid prices come back within our estimated amounts, **Prince Lane, Sharon Meadows Drive, and McGrew Avenue** will be improved.

**Fields Ertel Road, from SR 42 to the Copperfield subdivision, and Chester Road** will also be completed in 2018.

**Sidewalk Project:** The primary sidewalk improvement planned for 2018 will be the **addition of a sidewalk on Plainfield Road from Creek Road to Stonecreek Way**. This project will allow those in the area to easily walk to Summit Park events in Blue Ash.

## Small Business Alliance

In January 2017, the City started the “Sharonville Small Business Alliance” in an effort to keep small business representatives within our community informed about City happenings, to stay connected with City Officials, and to network with one another. Guest speakers at the monthly meetings have spoken on topics such as workplace safety and small business marketing. If you are a small business representative and would like more information regarding these meetings, please contact Katy Huffman with the City at 563-1144. We appreciate the businesses which have been active in this Alliance!



## New Police Station

The City is in the enviable position of being General Fund debt-free in 2018. This has allowed us to plan for long-term capital needs (e.g., residential road improvements as discussed on Page 1). After an extensive review process, it was determined that the biggest capital need in the City is to build a new Police Station. If anyone has recently visited the current facility, you know how inefficient the work environment is – it simply no

longer meets the needs of today’s policing environment. Given this need an agreement was recently entered into to begin the planning stages for a new facility. The new headquarters will be built on a vacant parcel of land on Kemper Road between the Public Storage facility and the Park 42 office complex.



If interested in taking a tour of the current space, please contact Lt. Nesbit at 563-1147.

## Gower Park Playground

Look for some fantastic changes coming to Gower Park in the spring of 2018. Our current playground is over 20 years old and recently lost its main structure due to insect damage and wood rot. We will be replacing both structures with a brand new playground just in time for families to get back outside. We hope that you will visit our new play area, nicknamed “Gower Tower,” and enjoy the multiple interactive play features that will be included for children of all ages.



## Gower and Gorman Parks

In 2018, the City will be focusing on the future of both Gower and Gorman Parks. At Gorman Park, the swimming pool is near the end of its useful life and that area will likely be re-purposed. There is also quite a bit of land at the park that is not currently being utilized. Similarly, at Gower Park, the ballfield that the Princeton School District was using, prior to their new facilities on Chester Road, is no longer being utilized and could be re-purposed for another park, or City amenity. Community input will be sought regarding these park projects as the planning proceeds forward.

## Fitness Center Upgrade

The Community Center’s Fitness Center will be undergoing some exciting upgrades in 2018. Some changes that you will notice include new flooring, furniture, and fitness equipment. We are eager to see the positive impact that these updates will have on the health and wellness of those that utilize our facility. If you are interested in starting a new fitness routine, next year will be a great opportunity to begin.

## Community Center Basketball Court Renovation



The Sharonville Community Center recently unveiled and dedicated the renovated basketball courts at the Community Center. One court was dedicated to Pat Schehr, who retired from the City’s Parks Department earlier this year. The other court was dedicated to current Recreation Director Sue Koetz, who has announced that she will be retiring in April of 2018. The courts both look fantastic.

## Sharonville Christmas Fund

Thank you to the community volunteers - Tracey Lovitt, Janey Kattelman and Ray Dyer - who donate their time with the Sharonville Christmas Fund to help others in our community. Four City employees, Lt. John Cook, Faye Woebkenberg, Ben Casteel and Jennifer Ely, assist with these efforts as well. The Sharonville Christmas Fund is a non-profit organization that has been helping Sharonville residents since 1967, providing assistance year-round to the community by operating a food pantry and meeting other special needs. Additionally, this past year, assistance was expanded into the schools by providing healthy snacks to ensure the children do not go hungry during the school day. During the holiday season, the Fund coordinates an Adopt-A-Family program which distributes toys, clothes and groceries in partnership with local sponsors. Through the generosity of donors, these services have provided an overwhelming relief to those in need.

In December, the Christmas fund helped 50 families celebrate the holidays! If anyone in the community would like to assist the Sharonville Christmas Fund, please contact Jennifer Ely at 563-1722.

