



# Call The Roll

An E-Publication of Columbus City Council

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## PROMOTING FIRE SAFETY

Council members encourage all homeowners to make fire prevention a family priority. At the March 15<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, Council member [Kevin Boyce](#) noted that the City's Fire Division has over 1,700 smoke detectors to distribution to needy families. The units are free and firefighters will also provide free installation and home inspections. Officials recommend using detectors on every level of a home and near bedrooms. Anyone interested should call 614-645-7377.

Boyce and Council Safety Committee chairman, [Michael Mentel](#), have scheduled two meetings in April – one in the OSU campus area and one for Franklinton/Hilltop, hoping to institutionalize a process where neighbors help neighbors with installation and checking batteries. **"I ask for your support and advice on how we can work together to increase the safety of your neighborhood."** Boyce wrote. "Columbus has endured 18 fire-related fatalities since November, 2003, most recently losing a two-year-old child. Many of the deaths could have been avoided if smoke detectors were installed and functioning at the time of the fire." Contact Angela Mingo, Council's Community Affairs Director, at 645-2537 for more information on Council's community outreach effort. Partners include Nationwide Insurance, IAFF Local 67, the Columbus Division of Fire and ClearChannel.



Council member Kevin Boyce

## PROTECTING FRANKLINTON – THE LONG AWAITED FLOODWALL

Public officials recently gathered with happy residents of Franklinton, one of the city's oldest neighborhoods, to dedicate what Council President [Matt Habash](#) called **"one of the most important capital projects in City history."** The 7.2-mile floodwall costs \$134 million and took over a decade to build. Franklinton felt the brunt of three major floods in the last century: 1913, 1935 and 1959.



Habash noted that in 1959 "Firefighters in boats bumped against the tops of submerged cars during rescue efforts. And our City Auditor, Hugh Dorrian, watched his mother's Mason jaws of homemade canned goods float on the rising tide to the top of her cellar."

Thanks to the efforts of local Congressional representatives Debra Pryce and Chalmers Wiley, the federal government footed about 75% of the cost of the massive project.

The floodwall removes about 2,700 acres of low-lying land from the flood plain and was designed by the Army Corps of Engineers to handle a flood the size of the 1913 event, which took 93 lives in Columbus, as well as devastated cities across Ohio.

## WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP KIDS SAFE

Council member [Michael Mentel](#), chair of Council's Safety Committee, recently met with police officials, concerned parents and neighborhood leaders to discuss ways to protect children walking to and from Avondale Elementary School. **"Keeping kids safe has to be our highest priority,"** Mentel said. Police and citizens can work together, using police liaison officers in the area and the Franklinton Blockwatch to keep neighborhoods safer. The Police Division's Strategic Response Bureau is working with area residents on the Avondale Project Proposal, an analysis of area crime data statistics and a citizen survey to help the division strategically deploy officers to address safety concerns.



Mentel previously sponsored legislation to require developers of residential areas that exceed 50 units to work with Public Safety to facilitate the formation of blockwatch programs. Today, there are over 225 such organizations citywide.

## PRESIDENT COOKS UP FUDGE FOR HUMANE SOCIETY



*Council President and Chef Extraordinaire Matt Habash*

Council President [Matt Habash](#) donned his chef hat to show off his culinary skills as a celebrity chef to help raise money for the Capital Area Humane Society (CAHS). The annual event was held at The Blackwell Center on the OSU campus. "I don't know about being a celebrity," Habash joked, "but I make some mean fudge." Other "celebrity" chefs included County Commissioners Dewey Stokes and Mary Jo Kilroy, TV weatherman Chris Bradley and sports reporter Dom Tiberi, among others. One of CAHS's many programs involves animal cruelty investigations that sometimes uncover incidences of spousal and child abuse. The connection between different forms of cruelty is well documented and will be one of the subjects of an April 1<sup>st</sup> seminar at Children's Hospital in association with Child Abuse Prevention Month. For the last two years, City Council has provided CAHS \$25,000 to help support investigation efforts.

"It's great when the community comes together for a fun event like this for such an important cause," CAHS executive Dan Knapp said. Apparently the crowd agreed with Matt's self-assessment, as he served up his entire desert to brave patrons. Next year...baked Alaska!

## BRINGING JOBS DOWNTOWN

An expanded Office Incentive Program means new jobs downtown. The program, created in 2002, encourages businesses to locate downtown by allowing them to retain 50% of the income tax dollars associated with their employees. So far, 20 companies have taken advantage of the program bringing over 1,400 new jobs downtown.

Council recently upped the maximum retention period from its previous high of five years to eight. The greater the number of employees, the longer the eligible retention period. "This is proof we mean business downtown," said [Maryellen O'Shaughnessy](#), chair of Council's Development Committee, who along with Council President [Matt Habash](#) sponsored the legislation. **"In this economy we've got to creatively find new ways to support job growth to generate additional income tax revenues to the City to support critical services."**



*Council member Maryellen O'Shaughnessy*

Gates McDonald associates, an affiliate of Nationwide, looks to be the first company to use the extended program. In choosing to relocate from Hilliard to North Front Street, the company will occupy 100,000 square feet of office space and bring another 480 jobs to downtown Columbus.

## AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATION (AED) PROJECT UPDATE



- 10 AEDs have been placed in City buildings
- 153 City employees have been trained to use the units, as well as 10 city trainers given special instruction to maintain the program into the future
- Effort to create a heart attack registry is underway - update and analysis of current cardiac arrest data from Columbus EMS with OSU
- Strategy meetings to promote further partnerships with private sector are ongoing



*Council member Patsy Thomas*



### FIRE SAFETY TIPS

***THE TIME YOU TAKE CAN SAVE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY'S LIFE!***

- **Install** smoke detectors on every level of your home and **replace** batteries every six months.
- **Fully extinguish** all smoking related materials if you smoke.
- When cooking, **never leave** the kitchen unattended.
- **Do not allow** candles to burn unattended.
- **Do not overload** or **run** extension cords under rugs.
- **Do not overload** electrical outlets.
- **Check space heaters** for wear and tear, and make sure they have automatic shutoffs.
- **Identify two exits from every room**, have an **escape plan** and **practice** it.
- **Do not go back inside** a burning building for any reason.
- Once outside, **CALL 911** and report the fire.