

Call The Roll

An E-Publication of Columbus City Council

October 2005

COLUMBUS SHOWS IT CARES



Columbus City Council members and staff donned yellow jackets and joined Mayor Coleman and a host of community leaders and media partners to stage Columbus Unites, a one-day event centered at City Hall to raise money for the American Red Cross' efforts to help victims of Hurricane Katrina.



Columbus residents "dig deep," as Council members Habash, Boyce and Tavares tap into the generosity of our community.



Bank. "We asked Columbus citizens and the business community to look deep in their heart to help. True to form, they delivered."

Habash also is working with America's Second Harvest, the National Food Bank Network, to coordinate emergency food relief efforts.

To learn more or to find out how you can still help, contact:

<http://www.redcross.org> or

<http://www.secondharvest.org>

"The residents of New Orleans and surrounding areas have experienced a tragedy most of us can hardly fathom," said [Matt Habash](#), Council President and director of the Mid-Ohio Food



Council member Michael Mentel speaks with a Katrina victim.

Thanks Columbus for donating over \$500,000!

CONGRATULATIONS, PATSY



Thomas accepts award from Keith Sullivan of Medtronic while Council President Habash looks on.

Project Second Chance and Council member [Patsy Thomas](#) recently won a “Keep the Beat Community Champion Award” from the Medtronic Foundation. Joe Calvaruso, President and CEO of Mount Carmel Health Systems, nominated Thomas for the award. **“I have no doubt that as a result of Project Second Chance, lives will be saved,” said, Calvaruso.** Project Second Chance is an education effort to increase by-stander CPR and deployment of AEDs to boost sudden cardiac arrest survival rates. The City’s public access defibrillation fund will receive \$5,000 because of Thomas’ leadership.

The AED movement attracted a heavy hitter as James Taylor performed July 27th at the Germain Amphitheater as part of his 2005 Summer Tour. In support of Medtronic Emergency Response System Inc.’s national Keep the Beat campaign to increase awareness about sudden cardiac arrest, Taylor is helping to purchase AEDs for public schools.

On another front, Thomas’s program has attracted seven Columbus companies who have agreed to be Corporate Champions. They are each purchasing an AED for a needy non-profit institution and will support training efforts.

BUILDING QUALITY NEIGHBORHOODS

Public/private partnerships are forging new housing and hope for some long-neglected pockets of Columbus. One such project is the city’s first environmentally sensitive subdivision, GreenView Estates. Located on an abandoned 11-acre site on Woodland Avenue, plans call for 32 energy-efficient homes with a median price of about \$125,000. Less than a decade ago a soon-to-be condemned 161-unit apartment complex occupied the site.

City Council member [Mary Jo Hudson](#) joined the Mayor and housing developers, builders and partners on a bus tour to view a dozen on-going developments. **“The key to program success is leveraging public dollars with private investment,”** said Hudson. **“Quality affordable homes, stable good-paying jobs, and safe neighborhoods - these are the elements of the American Dream that all citizens of Columbus should have an opportunity to achieve.”**

“Green” elements like recycled material, energy-efficient windows, and low-flow faucets are expected to save homeowners up to \$900 annually on energy costs.



Hudson joins the Mayor and others to announce GreenView Estates.

September was a big month for job growth and retention in Columbus. Council's Jobs and Economic Development Committee sponsored legislation that affected over **twenty-five hundred jobs**.

- Columbus Grange Mutual Casualty Company plans to expand operations at its Front Street site. Tax incentives will help pay for needed infrastructure to accommodate the company's \$61.5 to \$71.8 million private investment. The project will create 800 new jobs over the next 20 years and assures the retention of 775 full-time and 36 part-time employees.
- The relocation of Time Warner to Gowdy Field took another big step closer to reality with legislation to incentivize the \$27.5 million project to retain 450 jobs and create 203 new ones. The project also includes a speculative office building of 60,000 to 75,000 square feet to accommodate fifty new jobs. Legislation protected the Columbus City School District from loss of any revenues.
- Two hundred and fifty new jobs are at stake with InfoCision Management Corporation, a teleservices organization, who will invest \$1.2 million to locate in the Northwest/Crosswoods development.

DOORS OPEN TO NEEDY FAMILIES



The new YWCA Family Center on Brentell Avenue opened its doors to cheers last month. City Council kicked in \$500,000 for the \$7 million facility. **“Up to fifty families at a time will get temporary housing and a stable, supportive environment while they work to regain self-sufficiency,”** said Council member [Charleta Tavares](#), a long-time advocate for the project. **“We’re helping single mothers and their children by bringing enhanced support services under one roof.”**

Council member [Michael C. Mentel](#) assisted the YWCA and neighborhood leaders in creating a “Good Neighbor Agreement” and permanent Neighborhood Advisory Council. **“The YWCA and the neighborhood have forged a terrific partnership,”** Mentel said. **“Together they are giving these families a second chance—something the Columbus community is known for.”**

STAYING AHEAD OF THE CURVE

Council members [Kevin Boyce](#) and [Maryellen O’Shaughnessy](#) are working with the City Administration and others on contingency plans to address financial challenges. Boyce convened a briefing to review the status of the City’s disaster recovery plans. Participants included representatives from the Divisions of Police and Fire, City Health Department, the local office of FEMA, and the Franklin County Criminal Justice Planning Board, the body that oversees the allocation of Homeland Security funds coming to central Ohio—more than \$23 million to date. **“We need to assure that Columbus continues to take steps to keep disaster recovery plans updated and that we are ready to address all contingencies,”** said Boyce. One priority area participants want to enhance is finding better ways to get critical information to the public during emergencies, as well as educating the public ahead of disaster events.

O’Shaughnessy conducted a public briefing to discuss ways the City will deal with rising gas and fuel prices. **“Each day, the City uses about 400 gallons of fuel an hour,”** O’Shaughnessy said. **“Just like soccer moms and commuters, it is becoming increasingly critical to conserve wherever possible.”** Critical services like police and fire will continue to get top priority and be exempt from any rationing.



Critical safety services would be exempt from any City gas rationing.