

Call The Roll

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REINVIGORATING A NEIGHBOHOOD

With a tribute to the past and a promise to the future, neighborhood leaders on the City's near Eastside joined City Council and other local government officials to dedicate the gateway arch to the King Lincoln District.

"This arch serves to honor the historic heart and soul of Columbus' African American community," said Council member [Kevin Boyce](#). "It reminds us of the great history here and welcomes the new vitality and spirit rising in the District."

Council member Boyce led efforts to have a plaque placed at the base of the arch, which sits in front of the St. Paul AME Church, the city's first African American church and starting point of the King Lincoln District.

Construction of I-71 split this once thriving neighborhood of 68,000 residents - home today to just 16,000. "We mark the beginning of efforts to repair that great divide in years to come with new investment and new energy," said Council member [Maryellen O'Shaughnessy](#).

Council member [Charleta Tavares](#) highlighted the growing number of new housing projects as proof of "how the re-investment in this area is beginning to make real changes for the families in this community."



Pastor Michael Bean of St. Paul AME Church raises a copy of the plaque at the base of the King Lincoln Arch. Left to right: Mayor Mike Coleman, Council member Charleta Tavares, Ohio Senator Ray Miller, Council member Maryellen O'Shaughnessy, Bean, Council member Kevin Boyce, and City Attorney Richard Pfeiffer.



TAKING THE 315 CORRIDOR INITIATIVE FROM PAPER TO PRACTICE



Council member Mary Jo Hudson, joined by Development Director Mark Barbash, hosted a public briefing on the unique income tax-based incentive with Ohio State University Physicians, Inc .

For the first time since the launch of the 315 Research and Technology Corridor initiative, City Council approved a Technology Growth Incentive agreement aimed at retaining and growing jobs and honing the city's competitive edge in top-notch health care delivery.

Ohio State University Physicians, Inc. (OSUP), had considered moving its operations outside of the city. Instead, OSUP will consolidate 200 local employees at its location on Ackerman Road. OSUP also agrees to grow by creating 120 new jobs. In exchange, the incentive agreement returns 30% of the growth of the company's withholding tax paid by the retention of existing employees and for new ones.

"This is a great example of how the Corridor can help us take advantage of our smart capital," said Council member [Mary Jo Hudson](#), chair of the Jobs and Economic Development Committee; "OSUP represents the kind of talent we need to keep in the 315 Research and Technology Corridor, which already includes all four regional non-profit hospital systems along with the Ohio State University and Battelle."

HISTORIC PARTNERSHIP PROTECTS BIG DARBY

For nearly three years Columbus has led the effort to forge a partnership with ten other political jurisdictions on planning principles that balance development and conservation objectives within the Big Darby Watershed.

At its final meeting in July, Council President [Matt Habash](#) and Council members [Maryellen O'Shaughnessy](#) and [Patsy Thomas](#) sponsored legislation to officially adopt the Planning Accord.

The plan's primary goal is to safeguard the Big Darby for future generations. Participating jurisdictions continue to work to establish a Memorandum of Understanding to guide ongoing cooperation and implementation.

City Council also approved the purchase of 30.1 acres on West Broad Street in the Darby Watershed for protected greenspace and a potential future far west side Recreation Center.

"As a City and a community we cannot overlook the need to safeguard our valuable greenspace," said Council President Matt Habash, who also chairs Council's Recreation and Parks Committee. "This investment preserves open space for a future regional recreation center and expands our ability to protect the future of the Darby Watershed."

This newly acquired property is contiguous to more than 100 acres acquired by the City in 1997 and 2002. The added land will provide opportunities for future recreational development including the possibility of a new West Side Athletic Field, tennis and basketball courts, playgrounds or even a recreation center.



During a four-hour canoe trip along the Big Darby, Mayor Coleman and Council member Maryellen O'Shaughnessy stop to view some of the natural aquatic life living in the Big Darby.

UNDERSTAND ART FROM DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS

Members of the Creative Columbus Policy Steering Committee got some Texas advice on how one city is bringing exciting changes to its art and culture scene. The fourteen-member expert panel called together by Council President [Matt Habash](#) and Council members [Mary Jo Hudson](#) and [Kevin Boyce](#), is to research and offer policy recommendations to Council on the challenges of changing times for arts, culture and creative industries in Central Ohio.

In June, Janet Siebert, Austin's Civic Arts Coordinator, met with committee members to talk about how a cultural plan enhances the quality of life in a city and how to collaboratively develop one. The Texas capital city recently completed a Cultural Assessment and Community Cultural Planning process, that Ms. Siebert affectionately termed as "keeping Austin weird."

As the Civic Arts Coordinator for the City of Austin for the past five years, she facilitated a community-wide dialogue to identify ways art and artists could participate in developing the urban environment. As an outcome, Austin is developing a Downtown Arts Master Plan, addressing both public art and cultural vitality strategies.



The Creative Columbus Policy Steering Committee met with Janet Siebert of Austin to hear how that Texas city is keeping arts and culture at the forefront of community development. Committee chair Wayne Lawson (center), former Executive Director of the Ohio Arts Council, is joined by Jason Beehler of the Greater Columbus Arts Council .

RECOGNIZING THE HEROES AMONG US



Council member [Patsy Thomas](#) recently tapped the artistic talents of the city's young people to help spread the word about the value of learning CPR and the use of AEDs. As part of the first anniversary to the launch of [Project Second Chance](#), a partnership to improve survival rates for victims of sudden cardiac arrest, Thomas invited kids ages six to twelve in three Columbus Recreation & Parks summer art programs to submit posters with the theme: *Heroes Who Save Lives*.

More than 200 kids presented their creative and colorful work. Columbus residents voted online for their favorites. Council member Thomas recognized the winners and their artwork (left photos) with a family pass to the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, and tickets to a Columbus Crew game and to Fort Rapids waterpark. Congratulations to winners Lucy Ndiva, Mario King-Clark, and Sofia Yahnke!

"It's great to get young people involved in promoting good health and safety practices," said Thomas. "We want them to know that anyone can be a hero."

So far, 18 Columbus companies have become Project Second Chance Corporate Champions, donating an AED and training to a local non-profit organization. More than 166 new AEDs have been deployed around the city in just the past year, and over 3,350 citizens have been trained on life-saving techniques.

Council member Patsy Thomas thanks young artists for helping to recognize Columbus heroes.

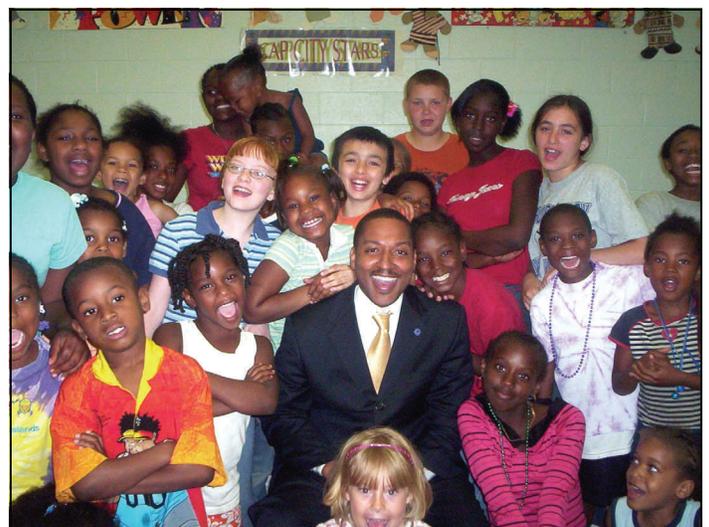
BOYCE FULFILLS PIZZA PROMISE

A group of students in the Columbus Lights on Afterschool program recently found out that the benefits of reading go beyond acquiring new knowledge and enjoyment.

Council member [Kevin Boyce](#) threw a pizza party at Sullivant Gardens Community Center for 35 young readers for having read 500 books during the school year. Boyce made the promise after visiting the Westside center last November.

The afterschool program helps kids with their regular school work and provides a productive activity in a safe setting until parents get home from work. In addition to reading, subjects include geography, math, and more. Participants range in age from kindergarten to grade five.

Boyce, a graduate of the Columbus Public School System, shared more than good, fun food during his visit. "Reading opens all kinds of doors," he told his audience, "both now, during your school years, and later in life. What you learn from books can give you great confidence that you can achieve anything."



Council member Kevin Boyce is surrounded by several young friends at the Sullivant Gardens Community Center, after congratulating them on their reading achievements.

REMEMBERING OUR TROOPS



Firefighters joined with Council President Matt Habash at Fire Station 1 to add their personal messages to several Columbus shirts before the shirts were shipped overseas.

Columbus City Council President [Matt Habash](#) teamed with Columbus firefighters and first responders as they gave the shirts off their backs to show support for the country's deployed military troops.

The effort in June was part of the national Hero to Hero campaign. This non-political effort to gather t-shirts from "local heroes" - firefighters, law enforcement officers and first responders - was founded in 2003 by Washington State resident Liz Jackson and has grown into a national campaign.

Firefighters and police personnel sign the shirts with inspirational messages of support and send them to men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. At any given time, there are about 20 to 25 of the City's uniformed firefighters and police officers serving their country on military leave from their City duties.

Council President Habash, whose son is currently serving a tour of duty in Iraq, partnered with the IAFF Local 67 Columbus Fire Fighters Union on the effort.

MENTEL PROMOTES NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

August 2nd marked the 23rd year of National Night Out. Cities all across the nation participated in community-based events designed to bring neighbors together for fun and to heighten awareness of crime and drug prevention. Organizers use the events to recruit citizens for block watches.

"We want to send a message to criminals that Columbus neighborhoods are fighting back," said Safety Committee chair, [Michael C. Mentel](#), who joined Columbus police officers and neighbors for cookouts and music at events on the Hilltop and in Linden. About thirty-five such block parties occurred around Columbus.

Learn more at this website: [NNO](#).



Council member Mentel with liaison officer Norm Russell and Sergeant Robert Stransbaugh on Ogden Avenue on the Hilltop.

SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES SHARE STORIES OF SUCCESS



Council member Charleta Tavares reads to kids. Improving literacy is just one way City social service funding positively impacts families.

Tough economic times and tight budgets continue to trouble many of the social service providers in Columbus according to the executive directors of several social service agencies testifying at the 7th Annual Human Services Briefing held by Councilmember [Charleta Tavares](#) in August. But the overall theme of the two-day briefing was one of success.

Each year about 40 different agencies receive City funding. The briefing gives them an opportunity to share their successes and challenges in meeting the needs of the community. And they help the community learn more about the services that these agencies provide.

Over the past year, City Council has allocated over \$3.6 million from the General Fund and Community Development Block Grant to address the many human service needs that benefit low and moderate-income persons in our community.