



CITYLINE NEWS



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[The Mayor's Line](#)

Dear Residents and Business Owners,

We recently said goodbye to summer and now look forward to the changing seasons and holidays ahead. This year has brought about many changes to our day-to-day lives. In spite of the challenges we have faced, the citizens of the City of Mansfield have proven to be resilient in challenging times.

We continue to work diligently across all City Departments to keep our citizens safe during this unprecedented time. Thanks go out to all first responders, Police and Fire personnel, healthcare workers and all who are working to keep our community thriving and safe.

The City received \$1.69 million in the first round of Federal CARES Act Funds in August, and a second round of CARES Act funding was approved in the amount of \$845,193.07 which has enabled the City to invest in needed capital improvements to address the current public health emergency. The majority of the expenditures will be used for equipment in the fire, police and maintenance departments.

Local businesses and restaurants are to be commended on the adjustments they have made in how they conduct business due to COVID-19, and your continued support is appreciated. Many businesses now offer curbside pick-up, delivery and takeout options to adhere to social distancing protocols.

Although some activities were put on hold over the summer, Mansfield is open for business with many activities continuing to be held, including First Friday Shop Hop, Secret City Tour, Social on Main Pop-Up Shop, Trick or Treat Night, and the Tiny Tim Shoppe to name a few.

We look forward to time spent with our families as the cooler weather approaches; it is the perfect time to get outside and enjoy all that beautiful central Ohio has to offer.

Inside This Issue

- [The Mayor's Line](#)
- [Business Spotlight – Relax, It's Just Coffee](#)
- [Community Development](#)
- [Economic Development](#)
- [Parks & Recreation](#)
- [Water Repair Department](#)
- [Utility Collections](#)

"We are a team dedicated to providing the highest quality of professional service to positively impact the citizens we proudly serve."

Mayor Timothy Theaker



Diamond in the Rough

Highlight: John Hamilton

John Hamilton has been chosen as our Diamond in the Rough award winner! John was hired by the City of Mansfield in 1990, initially working at the airport and later moving to water repair, and now works as a Utility Maintenance Dispatcher.

His supervisor states that John's job requires a wide range of skills that are critical to the operation. His primary duty as Utility Maintenance Dispatcher is to field phone calls from the public during second and third shifts when the main work force has gone home for the day. John has to diagnose problems on the fly, determine the severity of the issue, and contact the right people if the issue requires immediate attention. John has a great grasp of this, communicating clearly and courteously to homeowners what the issue could be, what the fix is, and determining whether the problem is an emergency or not. He makes nightly rounds to our construction sites to make sure the site is secure, contacts the police hourly to assist with keeping the traveling public safe, and keeps the city service complex clean and secure. He performs the many facets of his job with a great attitude and work ethic. Even if his efforts aren't typically in the limelight, his impact on the community and coworkers is definitely felt.

Thank you, John, for your hard work and dedication. You are truly an asset to the City of Mansfield.

Community Development News

The City's office of Community Development has a long history of making a difference for the residents who call the City of Mansfield home. Over the years, the department has funded many successful projects ranging from infrastructure repair and replacement to public service grants that help meet the needs of citizens.

More recently the department has maintained a presence in the rehabilitation of existing housing stock within the City. This program offers eligible homeowners the opportunity to secure interest-free forgivable loans which can be used for the repair or replacement of housing systems at their residence. Examples of repairs made using program dollars include roof replacement, plumbing repairs and upgrades, furnace replacement, and electrical upgrades and repairs. Despite setbacks due to COVID-19, the City has already completed eighteen such projects this year with more under contract and many more in the process.

Additionally, the department has funded public service activities for entities such as: NECIC, Harmony House, and Richland County Transit. The Department also looks forward to beginning work on larger scale projects. Particularly, the target neighborhood project located in the area near OhioHealth Mansfield Hospital.

If you are a homeowner within the City limits and are interested in pursuing rehabilitation funding, please call 419-755-9793 between the hours of 7:30 AM – 4:00 PM for more information.

Parks & Recreation

This summer has been a unique one for the City of Mansfield Parks and Recreation Department. Despite the challenges, we were able to accomplish upgrades to North Lake and Johns Park playground equipment. We partnered with United Way and several community partners to hold a socially distant day camp that was attended by many children of the community. We also partnered with the Cleveland Food Bank to distribute over 10,000 meals to the community. We held our annual food truck festival at South Park and it was a great success. Construction started on the Blacksmith shop and the construction of the Immigrant Bell will be started soon.

We are now transitioning into our fall/winter operations which will consist of fixing park equipment, painting picnic tables and benches, and deep cleaning of all park facilities.

Be sure to check our Facebook page for upcoming events in the near future.
<https://www.facebook.com/mansfieldparksandrecreation/>



Economic Development

The City of Mansfield's economy started the year off strong but it took a serious blow with the onset of the COVID 19 virus. A number of local businesses were required to shut down for an extended period of time, while others were forced to downsize due to a lack of business. As the State and others have reduced their restrictions, we have seen our economy begin to work its way back toward pre-pandemic levels.

Through the first nine months of the year, we did see some positive signs as projects did move forward such as; Old Dominion Freight lines, Inc. completing their new 56-dock freight terminal. Their plan at this time is have this new facility up and running during the first quarter of 2021. Another positive sign was the renovation and opening of the 84 Lumber truss manufacturing facility on State Route 13. 84 Lumber began production at this location over the summer and are hoping to grow their workforce over the next 12 to 24 months.

As we head into fall, there has been a number of potential projects that have been under consideration that are going to move forward within our existing business community. The projects include investment in building expansions that will allow for anticipated growth. These projects, which include; health services, professional services, food service and manufacturing should be announced over the next few weeks.

Business Spotlight



We are pleased to recognize and congratulate [Relax, It's Just Coffee](#) established in downtown Mansfield in 2011; our Business Spotlight for this edition. [Relax](#), is located at 105 North Main Street in Mansfield's historic Carousel District; Relax, It's Just Coffee is a purveyor of specialty coffees, fine teas, and house-made breads and baked goods by Blackbird Bakery.

After the events of 9/11, Paul and his family chose to locate in Mansfield in 2001 because his career at the time involved frequent travel and the family wanted to find a smaller community. They fell in love with Mansfield's offering of a small-town feel, but the resources of a bigger town. Paul always sought out the best coffee shops in the country during his frequent business travels; which proved to be valuable once the family put down their roots in Mansfield and made it their home. It was a family meeting where the idea of "Relax" was born, realizing that an independent coffee shop was the piece that was missing in Downtown Mansfield.

Owner and Founder of Relax, It's Just Coffee, Paul Kemerling, fulfilled his vision to create a community space in Downtown Mansfield that feels like someone's living room. Whether passing through for a morning cup of coffee, sitting in a quiet work space, or staying a while to visit with friends, there is space for you.

Relax has become a place for friends to meet in a fun and comfortable atmosphere. The energy you find at Relax is not just from the fresh roasted coffee, but from the diverse people of all ages, who frequent the community coffee shop for the great coffee and good company. A big part of the success of Relax is the space that was created and the interesting friendships that have evolved over the years. Paul has been intentional in connecting with the visual and performing arts communities featuring live performances and original art on display with artists feeling right at home.

In the first two years, Relax experimented with different coffees introducing one at a time, now all coffee is roasted in-house and is sourced from multiple coffee brokers. The house blend, and three other selections are offered daily, with coffee from Africa, Indonesia and South or Central America, guests can experience variety each time they visit.

In response to the changes brought about by the pandemic, Relax has made it easier to not miss a great cup of coffee, by taking phone orders, offering curbside delivery and soon they'll launch a smart phone app where you can order and pay by phone. Downtown Mansfield is open for business and now more than ever businesses are becoming more creative to bring people in. The best thing we can do is patronize downtown businesses and we will continue to have a thriving, diverse city to call home.

City of Mansfield

30 North Diamond Street

Mansfield, OH 44902



<http://ci.mansfield.oh.us>

Upcoming Events:

Looking for things to do, visit the following links to events and activities in our community:

First Friday Shop Hop

November 6 & December 4
Held the first Friday of each month in downtown Mansfield.

Election Day

Tuesday, November 3rd
Don't forget to go out and Vote!

Christmas Time in the City & Tree Lighting Ceremony

Friday, December 4
5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Tree Lighting at 6:00 p.m.

51st Annual Holiday Fair at

[The Mansfield Art Center](#)
November 21 – December 30th
11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

City Offices are Closed on

Veteran's Day

Monday, November 11th

Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 26th & Friday,
November 27th

Christmas

Friday, December 25th

**Sunday,
November 1st**
DON'T FORGET TO

Change Your
Clocks Back &
Smoke Alarm
Batteries



Water Repair Department News

The Water Repair Department is utilizing new machinery, GIS mapping information, and databases to help maintain the city water system and bring the city into compliance with the EPA.

When the city has a water main break, it is important to have functioning water valves to turn off the water to the section of pipe that is broken. The purpose of this program is to ensure that the water valves in the city are working and in good condition. This program makes the water department proactive rather than reactive in finding faulty valves, cleaning the valves, and updating mapping information based on field conditions. So far, the program has started smoothly and with success in finding minor issues that are fixed before an emergency strikes. How does this program benefit residents? If a water main breaks, the city will be able to isolate the water main break quicker and with potentially fewer residents affected by the necessary water shut down. This is the first year of a five-year program; the water department aims to exercise 700 water valves a year.

Utility Collections

With Autumn comes the advancement of the mass meter change out for all of the City of Mansfield residents. Postcards are circulating with contact information for the city contractor ACLARA/SGS. Appointments are being scheduled and completed by contacting ACLARA at 1-877-642-6633.

Note to homeowners: Vacant properties that have equipment still at the location will be charged monthly a minimum billing of the current years rate. You can pay \$10.00 to have the equipment removed to stop all billing.

Please note, that if you will be away from your service address for the winter and would like for your bill statements to be forwarded please contact our office at 419-755-9787 or via email at uc@ci.mansfield.oh.us.

A friendly reminder that you may view and or pay your bill online at <http://ci.mansfield.oh.us>. You may visit our local office located at 99 Park Ave East, Mansfield, OH 44902 that is equipped with a drive through window, a secured drop box, and a fully staffed friendly customer service office with any questions or concerns that you may have.

**During the icy and snowy
winter months, please
drive safely and don't
forget...**

For our residents' safety, please keep your sidewalks free of snow and ice.

