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CITY OF
DELAWARE
OHIO

Progress Report

Summer 2025

CITY OF DELAWARE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Academy Celebrates Another Class

The City of Delaware proudly graduated 13 new students from its 2025 Citizens Academy in June, marking another successful year of civic engagement and community connection.

Over the course of four months, participants went behind the scenes of local government, gaining a first-hand look at the services

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Streets Division Technician Zak Adams, left, explains snow plow operations to Citizens Academy student Don Upshaw.

William St. Paving Highlights Summer Construction Season

Paving work on William Street, which carries U.S. 36 through the City of Delaware, will continue through most of June.

The overnight work by The Shelley Company takes place between 7 pm and 6 am. William Street is being resurfaced between Springer Woods Boulevard and Lake Street. The roadway is receiving full-width resurfacing. The existing pavement is removed by a grinding machine. Later, new pavement is put down with a paving machine. Two-way traffic is being maintained. ODOT is providing state funding for 80 percent of the cost.

Sidewalk and ADA ramp repairs were completed along William Street in preparation for resurfacing.

Elsewhere in the City this year:

Citywide Signal Updates
Signal timing updates have been completed along the William Street and Central Avenue corridors, improving east/west movement on both. By synchronizing traffic signals, the number of stops vehicles need to make are minimized, travel times are shortened, and less fuel is consumed which reduces emissions and improves air quality.

Houk Road and Merrick Blvd. Paving
Work should begin in June to repave all of Merrick Blvd., all of N. Houk Rd., and S. Houk Rd. from the railroad tracks to U.S. 36. Nearly half of the project is funded through grants from the state ($450,000) and Delaware County ($150,000).

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Make a Splash This Summer at Florance Pool!

Summer fun is back at the Jack Florance Pool, Delaware's favorite place to beat the heat!

Located at Mingo Park, 500 E. Lincoln Avenue, the pool officially opened for the season over Memorial Day weekend and will stay open through Labor Day, offering residents and visitors a refreshing way to enjoy the warm months.

Whether you're diving in with the family, enjoying a relaxing lap swim, or soaking up the sun poolside, Jack Florance Pool has something for everyone.

The pool offers a spacious swimming area, lap lanes, and plenty of room to splash, play, or just unwind.



The pool officially opened for the season over Memorial Day weekend and will stay open through Labor Day.

Pool Hours:

Summer Season: (through the start of the school year):
Weekdays: 6–7 a.m. (Morning Lap Swim), Noon–8 p.m. (Lap/Open Swim)
Weekends: Noon–7 p.m. (Lap/Open Swim)

Fall Season: (after school begins):
Weekends only: Noon–7 p.m.
Labor Day: (Monday, Sept. 2): Open Noon–7 p.m.
Final event: Doggie Dive-In on Saturday, Sept. 7

Admission Prices:
The daily admission price is unchanged from 2024.
City of Delaware Residents:
Age 17 & under – $8
Age 18 & up – $10
Non-Residents: (all ages): $10

With affordable prices and flexible hours, Jack Florance Pool is the perfect place for residents of all ages to cool off and connect with the community.

For full details, pool rules, or updates, visit the Jack Florance Pool page at delawareohio.net or phone 740-203-1450.

12th Olentangy River Festival Returns June 21 at Mingo Park

The 12th Annual Olentangy River Festival returns Saturday, June 21, from noon to 4 p.m. at Mingo Park, 500 E. Lincoln Ave., Delaware. Hosted by the City of Delaware's Public Utilities Department, the festival celebrates environmental stewardship and the Upper Olentangy River Watershed. This free, family-friendly event features live music, food trucks, fly-fishing demonstrations, environmental exhibits, a rain barrel raffle, and the announcement of the Conservation Award winners. For more information contact 740-203-1905 or lroberts@delawareohio.net.

Oak Grove Cemetery Receives National Arboretum Accreditation

The City of Delaware's Oak Grove Cemetery has been awarded national accreditation by the ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program and The Morton Arboretum. This recognition affirms that Oak Grove has met specific professional standards essential for arboreta and botanical gardens. Established in 1851 and spanning approximately 70 acres, Oak Grove is the largest cemetery in Delaware County and home to more than 21,000 interments. A hallmark of the 19th-century rural cemetery movement, Oak Grove was designed to showcase the natural contours of the landscape. Today, the cemetery features a canopy coverage of 38 percent, with over 600 trees representing a variety of species including oak, maple, hickory, and pine. This natural environment supports an array of wildlife, including deer, rabbits, squirrels, chipmunks, hawks, and numerous songbirds such as the Eastern bluebird.

City Briefs

2024 Water Report Available

The annual City of Delaware Water Quality Report for 2024 is now available. As part of a U.S. EPA mandate, water utilities across the country produce annual reports to educate and inform their customers about the quality of their drinking water. The report can be read online at www.delawareohio.net/waterreport. Printed copies are available by phoning 740-203-1901. The Public Works/Public Utilities Committee meets quarterly. For a schedule of meeting times, visit delawareohio.net.

July 4 Celebration Promises a Day of Fun, Fireworks

The City of Delaware is gearing up for another unforgettable Independence Day, with a full day of festivities planned for Friday, July 4. Residents and visitors can expect the traditional parade, a stirring outdoor concert, and a grand fireworks finale to cap off the evening.

This community fireworks display is made possible thanks to generous support from local sponsors. Byers Auto Group returns as Presenting Sponsor, Meijer as the Grand Finale Sponsor, and OhioHealth as the Community Spirit Sponsor. Additional support came from Addison Properties, JEG's Automotive, the Delaware Fraternal Order of Eagles, the Delaware Eagles Auxiliary, CT Consultants, Burgess & Niple, Holowicki McDonald's and First Commonwealth Bank.



Mayor Carolyn Riggle, second from left, is joined by John DuRivage of Byers Auto Group, and Cherie Smith and Keeli Stith of OhioHealth, and Wes Brubaker and Rich Cichon of Meijer, the major sponsors of the July 4 City of Delaware fireworks display.

"We are so grateful for our community partners who step up year after year to help us make July 4 such a special celebration," said Mayor Carolyn Kay Riggle. "Their generosity ensures that Delaware can continue to offer a safe, festive, and patriotic day for everyone to enjoy."

The City sets an annual fundraising goal of $25,000 to support the display. City funds also are used to cover public safety, sanitation, and traffic control for the full day of events.

The day begins at 11 a.m. with the annual parade. At 7:30 p.m., the Central Ohio Symphony will perform its outdoor concert on the Ohio Wesleyan University campus. The grand finale — Delaware's spectacular fireworks display — will light up the sky starting around 10 p.m.

What should I do with …

DKMM Solid Waste District Provides a Variety of Disposal Options, Events

The Delaware, Knox, Marion, Morrow Solid Waste District was formed by the four counties in 1989 to meet state solid waste management requirements. DKMM services include holding various disposal activities throughout the year of which residents can take advantage.

Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics
Registration has begun for DKMM's electronics and household hazardous waste collections. Locations are available by appointment on select Wednesdays from April to September. For more information visit dkmm.org.

Paper Shredding
Shredding events can be found by visiting dkmm.org, or by contacting the Delaware Public Health District at 740-203-2076.

More Green Recycling Tipcarts On The Way, Thanks To EPA Grant

Delaware residents who requested one of the city's new green recycling tipcarts can expect to receive it by the end of summer barring any unforeseen delays.



Thanks to a $200,000 grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the City of Delaware Solid Waste Division is replacing the familiar blue bins with larger, more efficient 64-gallon green tipcarts. This is the second consecutive year the City has received full OEPA grant funding for the project, allowing it to continue expanding curbside recycling services.

Deliveries of the new tipcarts began in June and are scheduled to continue through July and August. The new carts offer significantly more capacity while taking up about the same amount of space as the blue bins. They're also designed to improve collection efficiency and reduce the risk of injury for city staff.

Once a green tipcart is delivered, the blue bins will no longer be collected. Residents may keep their old bin for personal use or place it at the curb on the collection day for removal.

For questions or to opt out of the new curbside recycling program, call 740-203-1810 or visit www.delawareohio.net/

SEASON

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Pennsylvania Avenue Pedestrian crossing over CSX Railway
Improvements to the pedestrian crossing are occurring, following the conclusion of the school year.

Neighborhood Paving
Resurfacing is planned this year for Fair Ave, Oak St, Potter St (north of Central Ave), Scottwood Ct, Flintwood Dr, Hammond St, and Parker St. The majority of funding is through $650,000 in state and federal grants.

Merrick Boulevard Extension
Utility relocation should occur during the summer and fall for the extension of Merrick Blvd. from current its current terminus at Cambridge to Troy Road. Construction is anticipated in Spring 2026.

ACADEMY

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and operations that help Delaware thrive. From touring the wastewater and water treatment plants to hearing directly from department directors and elected officials, the Academy provided an in-depth look at how our city functions — and how every department plays a role in making Delaware one of Ohio's best hometowns.

"This program gave me a new appreciation for all the people and systems that keep our city running," graduate Kerry Spires said. "It was eye-opening to see how much work goes on behind the scenes."

The 10-session program featured evening classes on a variety of topics, including finance and budgeting, police and fire services, parks and recreation, planning and development, and more.

Each session was held at a different city facility, giving participants the opportunity to tour buildings, interact with staff, and ask questions in a casual, informative setting.

Registration for the 2026 Citizens Academy will open in January.

For those curious about how their local government operates — and how to get more involved — it's an opportunity not to be missed.

Students Roll Up Sleeves to Plant 150 Tree Saplings

In celebration of Earth Day in April, City staff and students from the Delaware Area Career Center and Ohio Wesleyan University planted 150 native tree saplings in Smith Park's designated no-mow pollinator area.



Together, the group planted 50 Bitternut Hickory; 50 Swamp White Oak and 50 Bur Oak.

The trees are part of an ongoing effort to create a robust and resilient tree canopy in the park while supporting pollinators and local wildlife.

Here's to growing a greener, healthier Delaware — one tree at a time.

Departments and Services

Police, 740-203-1111 (non-emergency)
Fire, 740-203-1300 (non-emergency)
Recreation, Parks & Natural Resources, 740-203-1450
Permits, 740-203-1600
Water, Sewer & Refuse Bills, 740-203-1250
Planning, 740-203-1600
City Manager, 740-203-1010
Airport, 740-203-1870
Refuse, Recycling, Snow Removal, 740-203-1810
Boards, Commissions, Committees, 740-203-1013
Engineering, Streets, 740-203-1810
Income Tax & Finance, 740-203-1200

City Council Members

Carolyn Kay Riggle, At-Large, 740-203-1057
Kent Shafer, At-Large, 740-203-1058
Catlin Frazier, At-Large, 740-203-1056
Linsey Griffith, 1st Ward, 740-203-1052
Adam Haynes, 2nd Ward, 740-203-1053
Cory Hoffman, 3rd Ward, 740-203-1054
Kevin Rider, 4th Ward, 740-203-1055