



TOLEDO

City News

January 2024

Mayor's Message

The New Year is upon us! Resolutions and promises are made... and then as the long year goes by, they are usually dropped. It's human nature to aim high and set lofty goals. This year will be no different, and you will hear even more, as this is also an election year.

Promises will be made and lofty goals will be set. Grand plans and dreams will be spoken of. We are all susceptible to these, since we all seek for what is good for us, our neighbors, our city, our State and our Country.

We need to first look at what we do have, right here in Toledo. We are blessed to live in an area with clean air and water, a moderate climate, and people who care enough to donate their time, money and expertise to help others. These things can and will dwindle if we do not steward them.

Our resources need to be cared for and planned for future growth and development. Toledo must look to protect those resources while also providing safe and affordable services to our citizens.

It has been observed that "volunteerism" is dying. I believe that is mostly due to our expectation that it will "always be here". Volunteerism is just like anything else. It needs to be nurtured and encouraged in all of us, from youngsters to the elderly.

We have many civic groups (Rotary, TAG, and the Elks to name a few), schools, Chamber of Commerce, churches, and even City Departments (Fire and Library) that all need volunteers. All of our governmental committees need volunteers also: Planning Commission, Budget Committee, and Contribution Committee.



I have found travel to be a great reminder of all the great things we have here! Last month my lovely wife and I traveled to Southern California to visit one of our sons. The smog, congestion and chaos were everywhere. The tranquility of our town was sorely missed. The people were friendly, but you could tell they were on edge. Inflation and housing were a strain for them also.

We were glad to be home.



IMPORTANT UPCOMING COUNCIL BUSINESS

The City Council will continue meeting on the livability ordinance and be taking additional public comment in January. We thank everyone for their input thus far, it has been very constructive. Council did move the final reading and comment period to January 17, 2024.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!!

Holidays often a time of joy and community, but for people with an abusive partner, the holidays (or even a long weekend) can be stressful and dangerous. Spending time with family and friends, dealing with extra stress, and traveling can challenge safety planning during any holiday or long weekend. Family and friends may struggle to help or support a survivor during this time. We suggest safety planning for holidays and weekends to help families and survivors feel safer during these

moments. Below we have created a list of potential signs that you may be in an abusive relationship:



Common Signs of Abusive Behavior in a Partner

- * Telling you that you never do anything right.
- * Showing extreme jealousy of your friends or time spent away from them.
- * Preventing or discouraging you from spending time with others.
- * Insulting, demeaning, or shaming you, especially in front of other people.
- * Preventing you from making your own decisions, including about working or attending school.
- * Controlling finances in the household without discussion.
- * Pressuring you to have sex or perform sexual acts you're not comfortable with.
- * Pressuring you to use drugs or alcohol.
- * Intimidating you through threatening looks or actions
- * Insulting your parenting or threatening to harm or take away your children or pets.
- * Intimidating you with weapons like guns, knives, bats, or mace.
- Destroying your belongings or your home.

Do you or someone you know need help?



Toledo Police Department Non-Emergency 541-336-5555

MSP (My Sister's Place/My Safe Place)

Phone: 541-574-9424

Crisis Hotline: 541-994-5959

WINNERS of the \$25 water credit giveaway:

Lynda Pace

Marc Maislen

Barbara LePine Sandra Snyder

Happy New Year 2024

From The Toledo Public Library
Nancy, Andrea, Denyse, Harrison, and Deborah

H2O-Program

The City of Toledo asks for your help participating in a donation program to support individuals and families in need of assistance paying their water bill. Donations will be used to provide assistance for those who are experiencing financial difficulties.

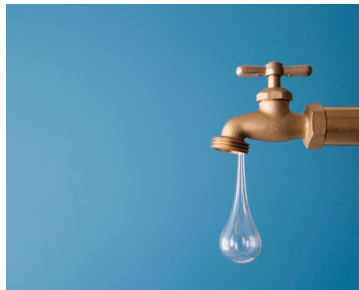
Donations can be made a number of ways:

1. Customers can write in a donation amount on the return slip of their billing when making their monthly payment.
2. One time donations can be made.
3. Customers choosing to provide a continuing donation can contact City Hall and have that billed on their water bill. The amount will then be included with their regular monthly utility billing.

**The donation amount can be changed or stopped at any time by written request to the Utility Billing Office.*

All funds collected are turned over to a local social services organization to administer on behalf of the City. The program is designed to help make up the difference between what a customer can pay and what they owe.

Donations may qualify for a tax deduction; however donors should consult their tax preparer or lawyer to be sure.



AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

WHAT IS IT?

The Affordable Connectivity Program is an FCC program that helps families and households connect to the internet and save.

The benefit provides:

- Up to \$30/month discount for internet service;
- Up to \$75/month discount for households on qualifying Tribal lands; and
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet purchased through a participating provider.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

A household is eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program if the household income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or if a member of the household meets at least one of the criteria below:

- Participates in any of the following assistance programs: SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, Veterans Pension or Survivor Benefits, SSI, WIC, or Lifeline;
- Participates in any of the following Tribal specific programs: Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribal TANF, Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, or Tribal Head Start (income based);
- Participates in the Free and Reduced-Price School Lunch Program or the School Breakfast Program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision;
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year; or
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating broadband provider's existing low-income internet program.

TWO STEPS TO ENROLL

1

Go to [GetInternet.gov](https://www.getinternet.gov) to submit an application or print a mail-in application

2

Contact your preferred participating provider to select an eligible plan and have the discount applied to your bill.

Some providers may have an alternative application that they will ask you to complete.

Eligible households must both apply for the program and contact a participating provider to select a service plan.

LEARN MORE

📞 Call 877-384-2575, or

🌐 Visit [fcc.gov/ACP](https://www.fcc.gov/ACP)



HOW TO SPOT HOLIDAY SCAMS

If you believe you may be victim over the past holiday season, please contact the Toledo Police Department.

Here are the most common scams that consumers may encounter during the holiday season this year:

Fake Online Stores or "Lookalike Stores." Be on the lookout for online stores that are either entirely fake or made to look like a legitimate store. Watch out for red flags, such as deeply discounted prices especially for in-demand items, like electronics, jewelry, and clothing. Be particularly careful with social media ads that link you to bogus online stores or product listings.

Missed Delivery/Non-Delivery Notification. With the rise in online shopping, lots of packages arrive at our front door during the holiday season. Beware of fake delivery notification emails or text messages alerting you of a missed package delivery.

Gift Card Scams. Gift card scams involve either scamming consumers into buying fake gift cards or tricking consumers into using gift cards to pay for fraudulent goods or services.

Fake Charities. During the holidays, cybercriminals seek to take advantage of consumers' generosity through fraudulent charities, GoFundMe campaigns, and other charitable causes. If donating online, research the charity thoroughly, check with the Better Business Bureau, and take a look at the charity's URL and website for telltale signs of fraud.

Phishing Emails or Texts. Cybercriminals take advantage of the hustle and bustle of the holiday season to dupe consumers via phishing emails or texts that contain suspicious links. Be mindful of purported communications from your bank or credit card company, warning you that your account has been compromised. These phishing emails or texts prompt you to click on a provided link to log into your account to update your information. For example, if it's an email related to a compromised bank account, instead of using the link in the email, go to your bank's main website to log into your account.

Fraudulent Seasonal Jobs. Employment scams tend to increase during the holiday season, as scammers prey on individuals seeking to make extra money. Be particularly mindful of money mule schemes, in which a fake employer asks you to cash a check through your bank, keep a portion of the money, and then send the rest of the money back to the employer.

Toledo City Council Contact Information:

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City Hall: 541-336-2247

www.cityoftoledo.org

Non - Emergent / After Hours

Call Out: 541-336-5555