



# TOLEDO

## *City News*

December 2023

### **Mayor's Message**

The Holiday Season is in full swing! Family gatherings, office parties, shopping, community events, and so many more activities making life even more hectic than usual. Amidst all the hustle and bustle, we sometimes overlook the little blessings that we have.

Food insecurity is very real here in Lincoln County. Many of our friends and neighbors are in need this season. Please reach out to the Toledo Food Share Pantry, located on Main St, with anything that you can donate! Their number is (541) 270-0525.

As most of you know, I am a coach at TJSHS, and have worked in our community with youth for over 20 years. This time of year hits them hard. We have over 600 homeless youth in our County, and many more of them just want to have a normal holiday with toys and goodies. If you haven't yet donated to the Toledo Elks Toy Drive, please do so as soon as possible. Also, there are gift trees at several locations around town for specific gift ideas.

Many of our friends and neighbors struggle this time of year with loneliness and grief. Please remember to be kind, considerate, and understanding in your interactions with people. Be on the lookout for those that just want to be included in something festive.

Here at the city, if you are struggling to make your water bill, reach out to the Salvation Army in Newport. Their number is (541) 265-6814.

If you are in need of rental assistance, please contact Community Services Consortium at (541) 574-2280.

We all can grow and thrive here if we all work together! Please pass any of this information along to those that might need it!

Don't forget, Coffee with the Mayor will be on December 7th and 28th at 8 am at Timbers Restaurant.

We are all blessed to live in this wonderful place we call home! Toledo is a special place, where we all come together to help each other and to work on community solutions to community issues!

### **IMPORTANT UPCOMING COUNCIL BUSINESS**

The City Council continues moving forward on the livability ordinance. This important legislation will afford the City an avenue to address blighted properties, assisting tenants working on neglected issues from their landlords, and assist landlords with tenant issues. Please, we encourage the public to comment as we move through the process. Its final reading will be in December, please watch for the agenda on our web page.

The City Council will be considering the Comprehensive Plan update on December 6, 2023 that was just passed by the Planning Commission. Please see the article on the back of this newsletter.

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!!**

City Manager Doug Wiggins had a great time participating in the kids reading program in November. Can you guess what the stories were about? It was all about HATS!! Please check the Library website for the wonderful children's programs they have .



# The Magic of Christmas

A Christmas Magic Show at the Toledo Public Library

**Saturday, December 16th 4PM**

Join us for a special show with the  
**Magical Mr. B!**



ADMISSION IS FREE WITH A 50 ATTENDANCE LIMIT BASED ON FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVE BASIS.  
CALL THE LIBRARY AT 541-33-3132 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

## 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.





## TOLEDO WELCOMES BRIAN LORIMOR AS NEW PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

The City of Toledo welcomes Brian Lorimer, Toledo native, as our new Public Works Director. Brian assumed the reins of Public Works Director on November 20, 2023 and is ready to hit the ground running. Brian started working with the City Public Works Department in January of 2021. Brian came to the City with a wealth of experience after spending 15 years in the construction field and an additional 10 years working for Georgia Pacific, right here in Toledo. Brian brings a strong sense of community to the position and we welcome him to the Toledo management team. Please stop in, visit and welcome Brian to his new position.

## PUBLIC WORKS CORNER

The public works crew has been busy this past year working on many projects. There will be no shortage of them in the years to come, either. To recap 2023, public works has improved many of its manholes and lined many sewer lines throughout town. While we only got about half of what we would like to have completed, it is still a substantial haul. This is great news as we try and knock down the I&I to our sewer system. Additionally we completed paving a couple streets early in 2023 on the NE side of town. We have begun project planning on a portion of Fir Street between 7th Street and 10th Street. We hope this project to be completed by March of 2024. Phase 2 of the Mill Creek replacement was completed. This was a daunting task, but even with the weather, it was completed in about three weeks. Of course, we also have been upgrading the bathrooms at Arcadia Park and placed a new fence around the tennis courts. They should get so close to finishing up the bathrooms by the end of 2023, as we are awaiting electric and plumbing services to finish up. At the water department we have near completion of back up generation at the water plant and expect it to come online in early 2024. Lastly we have bid the first phase of the Public Safety Building to begin siding, roofing and



seismic upgrades. All of these projects are sizable and are completed while servicing our citizens. I do thank you for your time and patience as we have experienced change this past year with a new Financial Director, City Manager and Public Works Director. May 2024 be even brighter for the City of Toledo.

## TOLEDO PUBLIC SAFETY

Tis' the season of hustle and bustle. Toledo Public Safety officials want to remind you to slow down and be safe. Just over the last few weeks of November Toledo Fire and Rescue have responded to an uptick in vehicle crashes. Some of these crashes have been very serious and have required some of the specialties we train. While all crashes are serious, no

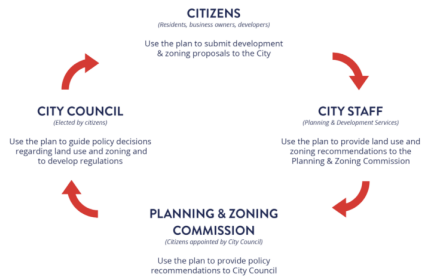


matter how big or small, much of the common



thread is to SLOW DOWN. When the roads are wet, especially this time of year, black ice can form. Believe it or not, black ice can form even when temperatures are above freezing. The City of Toledo and our fire rescue personnel want your holiday season to be a time of joy and not tragedy, please watch road conditions and watch your speed. Give yourself some extra time!

## WHO USES THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?



## TOLEDO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

The Toledo Planning Committee has been very active this past year updating the Toledo Comprehensive plan. This document is the guiding planning document for Toledo for the next 20 years. It addresses changes in population, housing, economic viability, parks, transportation, and zoning to name a few. In November, the planning commission passed its finalized version of the document to the Council for review and adoption. This hearing will be taking place on December 6, 2023 at the City Council meeting. Please contact City Hall for a copy or to have one emailed to you. Public input on this document is so important.

The Planning Commission wants to remind everyone that they changed their meeting time from 5:00pm on the second Wednesday of the month to 6:00pm.



Additionally, the Toledo Planning Commission is looking for someone to fill its vacant seat. This vacant position can be filled by either a resident or nonresident of the City of Toledo. Applications can be found at the city of Toledo website or download an application by scanning the QR code posted here. Applications should be returned to the City Recorder for consideration.



## WIN A \$25 CREDIT ON YOUR JANUARY WATER BILL



To enter please contact City Hall and answer the following questions:

1. Name
2. Address
3. How you came across the newsletter (email, mail, website, in person)

By doing so, you will be entered into a drawing to win a \$25 credit on your January water bill. Four (4) winners will be chosen from the drawing. Odds, you ask, well that will be determined by how many read the newsletter and submit their name to City Hall for the drawing. We do send out about 1200 bills every month and print a few extra along with posting on our website. All entries are due to City Hall by 5:00pm December 20, 2023. You may enter by phone, email or in person. Only one entry per utility account will be allowed. City employees/household members or councilors are ineligible to win.

### Toledo City Council Contact Information:

Mayor :

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Non - Emergent / After Hours

Call Out: 541-336-5555