

Engage Toledo Newsletter

Paula Hicks-Hudson, Mayor

From the Mayor's Office...

Thank you for your continuing service to the citizens of Toledo. The work that you do keeps our community safe and helps us to move forward. We are making some real progress building Toledo into a 21st Century City. We're taking great care with water, wastewater and storm water management and working every day to make our neighborhoods cleaner and safer. There are a lot of activities happening in the City.

Our water treatment professionals have found a way to design and install the needed \$40 million ozonation treatment process at Collins Park without raising the water rates in place now through 2018. Ozone is widely considered the "silver bullet" to eliminate microcystin and other contaminants found in source waters. The Toledo Waterways Initiative is protecting our waterways by reducing combined sewer overflows in areas where projects have been built.

Progress is being made keeping our neighborhoods cleaner and safer. Large items placed to the curb are being removed regularly through increased bulk pickups. The Streets Division has already cleaned the majority of the City's alleys once this year. The Department of Neighborhoods is streamlining nuisance property inspections, issuing citations and resolving complaints. Sewer & Drainage Services Division is implementing its heavy rain protocol to reduce flooding in problem areas. Toledo Police have issued nine tickets for overweight trucks since renewing enforcement efforts yielding more than \$10,000 in fines and sending a clear message that we will not tolerate misuse of our roadways. The Arson Unit is aggressively pursuing arsonists and working with our court system to prosecute those intentionally burn properties, putting lives at risk and depressing neighborhoods.

These are just some of the examples of the good work being done.

Without the increase in the ¼% temporary income tax we will transfer from the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to pay for basic General Fund expenses in 2016. This is the last time we can do so under current authorization. The budget is very tight. Thus, we must all work together to conserve our resources and be good stewards of our citizens' taxes and fees.

We'll closely monitor our actual revenues and expenses against the budget throughout the year. We commit to hiring only essential employees (those who generate revenue, required by regulation, etc.) Only travel expenses for certification or as a regulatory requirement will be reimbursed. Expenditures are being carefully scrutinized and I expect all Departments to operate more efficiently and effectively. We can no longer conduct "business as usual."

We're going to evaluate a different budget review process and are currently seeking an independent consultant to assist us with this activity. We intend to review our processes to find efficiencies and economies. Basically, we're aggressively looking for many ways to save the City dollars at the same time we increase service delivery.

This will no doubt be an interesting and challenging year. As we set our hearts and minds to these tasks ahead, let's do so with both courage and kindness toward one another. I'm confident that if we resolve to find better ways to perform to a higher degree, we will not fail. Our community expects and deserves our best.

Sincerely,

Paula Hicks-Hudson



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Youth Job Fair April 30, 9am-2pm

NEWS BITS

**Toledo Sister Cities
International Festival**
University of Toledo
Saturday, April 16, 2016
10 am to 6 pm

*Bring the family to
celebrate the cultures of
Toledo's Sister Cities with
entertainment, ethnic foods
and crafts!*

Alcohol Awareness Month At-Risk Drinking Levels

Men: More than 4 drinks
per day or more than 14
drinks per week

Women: More than 3 drinks
per day or more than 7
drinks per week.

Over 65: More than 1 drink
per day.

SIGNS OF ABUSE

If you answer "Yes" to
questions below you may
have an alcohol problem:

- * Do you drink alone
when you feel angry or
sad?
- * Has drinking ever made
you late for work?
- * Does your drinking
worry your family?
- * Do you drink after tell-
ing yourself you won't?
- * Did you ever forget
what you were doing
while drinking?
- * Do you get headaches
or have a hangover
after drinking?

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Recognize warning signs.
Know where to go for
treatment.

Seek treatment if someone
you know needs help.

Your Employee Assistance
Program can help.

**Call Workplace Resources
at 419-539-4499.**



Youth from ages 16 to 24 are invited to attend a Youth Job Fair Saturday, April 30th at the SeaGate Centre in downtown Toledo, where they will meet prospective employers and apply for summer work. There is no admission charge.

Young people will have the opportunity to meet and speak with potential employers and should dress for the Job Fair as they would for a job interview.

The Job Fair is sponsored by the City of Toledo Youth Commission, the Lucas County Commissioners and the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Register online at www.eventbrite.com and call 419-245-1417 for more information.

Toledo-Lucas County Health Department Holding Minority Health Fair and "Medication Take Back Day"

On Saturday, April 16th the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department will host a Minority Health Fair from 11 am to 3 pm at Robinson Middle School at 1075 Horace Street.

The Health Department is also holding a "Medication Take Back Day" on Saturday, April 30 from 10 to 2 pm. Items that CAN be accepted: Prescription medications, narcotics, over-the-counter meds, medication samples, vitamins. Items that CANNOT be accepted: Needles, syringes, lancets, IV bags, hydrogen peroxide, aerosol cans, personal care products, bloody or infectious waste, inhalers or liquids, ointments or lotions.

Toledo Named 2015 Tree City USA

Toledo was recently named a 2015 Tree City USA in honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management.

Trees provide multiple benefits to communities when properly planted and maintained. They help to improve the visual appeal of neighborhoods, increase property values, reduce home cooling costs, remove air pollutants and provide wildlife

habits. In late 2015 The City of Toledo received \$50,000 from the U.S. Forest Service Great Lakes Restoration Ini-

tiative for two projects to plant urban tree canopies to increase beauty and "green livability" in the central city area.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Tree City USA program, sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in partnership with the National Association of State Foresters, whose mission is to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees.



TREE CITY USA®

Celebrate Earth Day every day by being good stewards of our natural resources...

Toledo Waterways Initiative Improving Area Waterways

Toledo Waterways Initiative (TWI) continues to design and construct large projects to reduce untreated sewage from entering our area waterways. TWI is the City of Toledo's 18-year federally-mandated program to clean our waterways and reduce sewage overflows through wastewater storage, sewer separation and improved wastewater treatment.

One of the first major TWI projects, construction of the Wet Weather Facility at the Bay View Water Reclamation plant, doubled the wastewater treatment capacity.

The largest project in the program, Ottawa River Storage Facility at Joe E. Brown Park, is currently in the second year of a three-year construction duration. The Dearborn Storage Pipeline located near Front Street and I-280 will go online in May of 2016. Both of these facilities will store combined sewer overflow (CSO) during large rain events until it can be sent to the Bay View Water Reclamation Plant for treatment before being released into the Maumee River.

In addition, construction work is set to begin in International Park this August. This two-year project involves construction of a 6.9-million-gallon capacity combined sewer overflow (CSO) storage facility, dewatering pumping station and connecting structures.

At the conclusion of the Toledo Waterways Initiative, 80% of CSOs, which occur during heavy rain events, will be eliminated from our waterways.

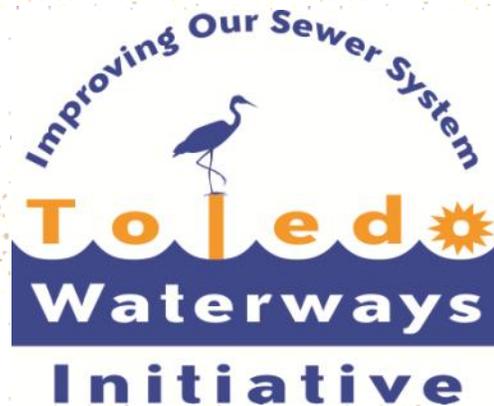
The TWI program is funded through sewer rates and managed by Julie Cousino.



Early construction photo of the 36.3 million gallon Ottawa River Storage Facility, the largest project of the Toledo Waterways Initiative.



Joe E. Brown Park will be renovated with a new baseball diamond, tennis courts and LED lighting upon completion of the Ottawa River Storage Facility.



Please provide news items to Stacy Weber at stacy.weber@toledo.oh.gov
by the 15th of each month to be considered for publication.

Read the Real Deal on the Rubbish Rates

It is important for our employees to have the facts about issues that affect our citizens. Over the past several months the Hicks-Hudson administration has worked hard to provide a balanced draft budget on schedule. The final 2016 General Fund Budget was passed in advance of the deadline, with the trash fee increase kept as small as possible.

There's more to trash collection than just collecting garbage. Refuse collected each week must also be disposed of properly. Toledo owns the Hoffman Road Landfill, but must fund its operation, follow all EPA requirements and be ready to expand when needed. We offer recycling in Toledo and it is costly to return those collected materials to productive use. The City saves by having the Department of Public Utilities bill for these services.

Question: What are the new trash fees?

Answer: New trash fees are \$11.50 per month for regular households and \$6.50 per month for Homestead households. (\$2.55 per month increase for regular households and \$1.50 per month increase for Homestead households)

Question: With the new fees, will all of the costs for trash and recycling collection and disposal be paid for by citizens?

Answer: No. The City will continue to subsidize the program in 2016 by approximately \$4 million dollars.

Question: Why wasn't the higher trash fee put in place when it was first considered in November 2015?

(\$15 for regular households and \$8.85 for Homestead households)

Answer: When the decision was made to ask voters to approve a 1/4% increase in the temporary income tax, Mayor Hicks-Hudson was concerned about the impact that both of these issues would have on our citizens. Since that time the City was able to arrive at a lower increase by making a number of budget adjustments after seeing actual first quarter revenues and expenses.

Question: Will I continue to receive 12 monthly bulk pickups at no additional charge as long as I call Republic Services by the day of my regular trash pickup?

Answer: Yes. Monthly bulk pickup service is working very well in the City of Toledo, helping to keep our neighborhoods cleaner and safer.

Question: So, what is the total expense for trash and recycling collection and disposal services?

Answer: The total cost for all of the above services on an annual basis is \$15,272,027. (\$13.42 per household per month)

Question: Why did the City want to increase the trash fee in the first place?

Answer: The rates in place before paid only for refuse collection, not disposal costs. The new charges fund some of the disposal costs as well as the collection of trash and recycling. The City's subsidy for these services is now reduced.

Trash Fee Comparisons 2015 and 2016 (Beginning April 1, 2016)

Trash Fee –Regular Household	Per Month	Per Year
2015	\$8.95	\$107.40
2016	\$8.95 (3 mos.) \$11.50 (9 mos.)	\$130.35
Trash Fee – Homestead Household		
	Per Month	Per Year
2015	\$5.00	\$60.00
2016	\$5.00 (3 mos.)\$6.50 (9 mos.)	\$73.50