



**WEST
CARROLLTON**

Issue #68 | October - December 2025

CITY NEWS

YOUR SOURCE FOR CITY NEWS & EVENTS



Monster Mash

Thursday, October 30 | 6-8 pm
Weidner Park, 150 East Central Avenue



Sanner Way: A Tribute to Former Mayor Jeff Sanner

Former Mayor Honored

On July 8th, the City of West Carrollton held a special dedication ceremony honoring the legacy of former Mayor Jeff Sanner. The ceremony took place prior to the City Council meeting, where Council also recognized him with a formal Resolution. The event marked the official naming of the new spine road in the River District development as “Sanner Way.” This designation stands as a lasting tribute to Mayor Sanner’s decades of leadership and unwavering commitment to the West Carrollton community.

Jeff Sanner served the city for 36 years, first as a council member beginning in 1988, and then as mayor from 2008 until his retirement in 2023. During his tenure, Mayor Sanner played a key role in several major city projects, including the long-anticipated River District redevelopment and the Exit 47 interchange improvements. His leadership helped lay the groundwork for growth, investment, and revitalization in the area now served by Sanner Way.



The newly named road, located near the recently opened Culver’s, runs through the heart of the River District. It serves not only as a critical piece of infrastructure but also as a meaningful symbol of the progress and vision Mayor Sanner championed throughout his career.

Mayor Sanner passed away in 2024. He was widely respected for his dedication to public service, approachable leadership style, and deep care for the people of West Carrollton.

The naming of Sanner Way honors that legacy, offering a permanent reminder of the path he helped pave for future generations.

The City of West Carrollton is proud to recognize Mayor Sanner’s contributions and is grateful to his family for sharing his time, energy, and passion with our community. As the River District continues to grow, Sanner Way will stand as a visible and enduring symbol of a life dedicated to public service and the betterment of our city.



Culver’s Opens in West Carrollton: A Delicious First Step in the River District Vision



The City of West Carrollton is proud to welcome Culver’s to our community, marking a historic milestone as the first business to open in our transformational River District development.

Located at 1100 E. Dixie Drive, just off I-75, Culver’s opened its doors on July 7 to enthusiastic residents, city officials, and visitors alike. The day was filled with excitement and celebration as Culver’s founder Craig Culver joined local leaders and franchise owner Claudio Zeledon for a ribbon-cutting ceremony that ushered in a new chapter for West Carrollton.

Culver’s represents the first tangible success in the vision to revitalize the riverfront corridor into a vibrant, walkable, mixed-use district. The River District is designed to blend dining, retail, housing, recreation, and green space in a way that redefines how residents and visitors experience our city. Culver’s is the beginning and a flavorful one at that.



“This is the first business to help get things rolling,” said Mayor Rick Barnhart. “We’ve talked about the River District for years, and now our residents can see the progress for themselves. It’s real, it’s happening, and Culver’s is leading the way.”

Serving up its signature ButterBurgers and freshly churned frozen custard, the fast-casual favorite is already making an impression. On opening day, drive-thru lines stretched through the parking lot as the community showed up in force to support the new addition. The restaurant is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., offering a friendly atmosphere and high-quality meals.

City Manager Amber Holloway summed up the moment perfectly, “This opening isn’t just about one restaurant. It’s a signal to the region that West Carrollton is open for business and that the River District is coming to life. There’s more on the horizon.”

The City of West Carrollton extends our heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make this possible, from our city staff and partners at Woodard Development to the residents who continue to support in the shared vision.

We invite you to stop by Culver’s, enjoy a meal, and witness the first step in a brighter, bolder future for West Carrollton.

The River District has officially begun, and it’s delicious.

RIVER DISTRICT PHASE II: INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE



The City of West Carrollton is proud to announce forward momentum on the River District Phase II Infrastructure Project, which includes the area of city-owned property located north of E. Central Ave. along the Great Miami River from the South Town Self Storage to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Longtime Public Service Director Rich Norton has played a crucial role in advancing the River District's development. He explained, "This phase of the project will include installing a new traffic signal at the intersection of

Manchester Rd. and E. Dixie Dr., as well as building a larger sanitary sewer lift station to accommodate future demand in the River District." He went on to explain that, to build 21 waterfront townhomes and up to three restaurants, the city must first improve a portion of Manchester Rd. on the north side of E. Central Avenue.

Deputy Mayor Angie Fryman explained, "We are proud of our team's efforts to stretch the value that we get out of every tax dollar.

Our team worked to deliver Sanner Way at more than \$552,000 under the original estimate. Those savings have been carried forward to Phase II, and will be supplemented by an additional \$250,000 Ohio Department of Transportation grant that was secured through a partnership with the Montgomery County Transportation Improvement District."

Councilmember Mike Boyle added, "River District funding also includes a recent

\$500,000 One-Time Strategic Community Investments Fund Grant from the State of Ohio, which was championed by Representative Tom Young." This fall, the city plans to apply for up to \$550,000 in Ohio Public Works Commission funding in the form of a 50% grant and 50% interest-free loan to address the sanitary sewer improvements.

Together, these funds support an estimated \$1.8 million construction project focused on essential improvements to prepare the River District for future development. In plain terms: we're making the streets safer, the sewer system stronger, and the infrastructure smarter, all while preparing the River District for private development.

Thanks to thoughtful planning and strong partnerships, these upgrades are laying the groundwork for West Carrollton's next chapter. It's not just about pipes and pavement; it's about people, possibility, and progress.

WHITewater PARK PROJECT: MAKING WAVES IN WEST CARROLLTON

West Carrollton is thrilled to announce major progress on one of its most exciting and transformative projects, the Whitewater Park. This initiative is designed to provide a unique amenity to residents and to make West Carrollton a regional hub for outdoor adventure and riverfront revitalization, while creating economic growth.

In August 2024, the city completed preliminary design funded by a \$750,000 grant from the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners using American Rescue Plan Act funds. On July 22, 2025, the West Carrollton City Council authorized a \$2,799,000 professional services agreement with Muller Engineering Company to complete final design and engineering, permitting, and development of detailed price estimates and construction documents. Mayor Rick Barnhart noted, "Thanks to strong support from state and federal partners, the city has secured a total of \$5 million in grant funding without being required to provide local matching funds. This means that the great services that we have the honor of providing to our residents will not suffer due to project expenses."



The city has no plans to propose modifications to property or income taxes to finance the project. Bond financing for the construction of the Whitewater Park will be paid with revenues from the tax increment financing district and the new community authority that was established by the city in the River District. The grants that have been awarded to the city are restricted to being used for advancing the Whitewater Park project by law, including:

- \$1.25 million in Ohio Department of Natural Resources Capital Budget funds
- \$750,000 from Montgomery County
- \$3 million in Congressionally Directed Spending through the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development

According to City Manager Amber Holloway, the planned Whitewater Park will feature world-class river surfing, whitewater kayaking, public fishing access, observation areas, public restrooms, and an operations center along the Great Miami River. She said, "This amenity is expected to draw up to 100,000 people to West Carrollton each year, and will grow our local economy." She went on to explain that the project also includes critical civil and environmental work such as reducing the risk of drowning, ensuring that the flood protection area is not impacted, and improving the health of the river's ecology.

Final design of the park will begin in late 2025. Depending on the availability of funding, construction to improve dam safety could begin in early 2027, and the whitewater course could be completed in early 2029 or 2030.

Oath of Office Marks Career Milestone for Three Firefighters

Welcome Danny, Brendan, and Tristan!

At a recent City Council meeting, the City of West Carrollton proudly welcomed three new full-time firefighters: Danny Morgan, Brendan Kirts, and Tristan Burns, during a formal Oath of Office ceremony. Surrounded by fellow firefighters, city leaders, and supportive family members, the trio pledged to serve the community in alignment with the department's motto, "Dedicated professionals providing exceptional service to our community." With professionalism and integrity, each firefighter committed to upholding the values that define West Carrollton's fire service.



Each firefighter brings a unique perspective and passion to the role. Danny Morgan shared that his path to the fire service was guided by a deep calling to help others and stay actively involved in the community. "The hands-on experience has taught me things no classroom ever could," he said. "Understanding day-to-day operations, building relationships with the team, this job is all about real-life growth."

Brendan Kirts was drawn to the fire service as a stable and meaningful way to support his family while helping others. "I've learned so much from my peers and superiors. The conversations we've had around the table have been just as important as the formal training. It's helped me learn how to handle myself in the field," he said. He described the move to full-time as both a personal and professional milestone, one that allows him to grow in his role while spending more time with loved ones.

Tristan Burns, who wanted something different from a traditional desk job, found purpose in the challenges and camaraderie of firefighting. "This is a big step for me. There's pride in getting here and excitement in what comes next," he said. "I grew up here in West Carrollton. I love coming to work, and I want to continue working in the city."

When asked what advice they would give to someone considering a future in the fire service, their answers were honest and encouraging. "Do it right away," said Morgan. "You'll know quickly if it's the right path." Kirts offered this advice to recruits, "Bring donuts and introduce yourself. Don't be afraid to jump in and get familiar with the bay and equipment you'll be using on the job." Burns recommended doing a ride-along. "That's what helped me realize this was where I wanted to be."

The City of West Carrollton is honored to have Firefighters Morgan, Kirts, and Burns now serving full-time. Their presence strengthens the department and deepens its connection to the community.

When to Call 911 vs. the Non-Emergency Line



Knowing when to call 911 versus the non-emergency number can make all the difference during urgent and routine situations. The West Carrollton Police and Fire Departments are here to support our community, and we want to ensure you get the right help as quickly as possible.

Call 911 for Emergencies.

If you are witnessing or experiencing an emergency that requires immediate police, fire, or EMS response, such as a fire, a medical emergency, or a crime in progress, please call 911 right away.

Use the Non-Emergency Line for Other Situations.

Not all incidents require an emergency response. This includes disabled or abandoned vehicles, loose or stray animals, incidents that have already occurred and are no longer active, general questions or concerns, and police records or reports.

Non-Emergency Line: 937-859-3688.

During Ongoing Incidents

We understand that active police, fire, or EMS incidents in your area can be concerning. While it's natural to want information, we ask that you avoid calling dispatch to ask about what's happening during an active situation. Our team prioritizes public safety, and if there is an immediate threat to the community, we will share information promptly through official channels.

Thank you for being a partner in public safety and helping us to serve West Carrollton with speed, accuracy, and care.

Officer Bowling Recognized with Meritorious Service Award

Officer Bowling was honored with the Police Department's Meritorious Service Award for his exceptional actions during a recent call involving a suicidal individual.

This award serves as a reminder of the critical role our officers play, not just in enforcing the law, but in supporting and protecting the mental health and well-being of our community members.

We commend Officer Bowling for his dedication, professionalism, and compassion. His actions are a true credit to the West Carrollton Police Department and the city as a whole.



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Information & Registration:

Please visit the City's website at www.westcarrollton.org/events or scan the QR code to the right for more registration information on community events!



SCAN HERE!

The Great Paint Escape

Date: Wednesday, October 8th

Time: 6 pm – 8 pm

Location: West Carrollton Senior Center, 10 E. Central Ave.

Cost: \$35 per person



Self Defense for Seniors

Date: Wednesday, October 15th

Time: 6 pm – 8 pm

Location: West Carrollton Senior Center, 10 E Central Ave.

Ages: 55+

Cost: \$20 per person

Monster Mash

Date: Thursday, October 30th

Time: 6 pm – 8 pm

Location: Weidner Park, 150 E. Central Ave.

Cost: Free



Personal Self Defense - Holiday Edition

Date: Wednesday, November 5th

Time: 6 pm – 8 pm

Location: West Carrollton Senior Center, 10 E. Central Ave.

Ages: 18+

Cost: \$35 per person



Father-Daughter Dance

Date: Friday, November 7th

Time: 7 pm – 9 pm

Location: Fire Station #56, 125 W. Central Ave.

Ages: 2-12+

Cost: \$20 per pair (online pre-sale), \$25 (at the door), and \$5 per additional child

Dear Santa

Date: December 1st-15th

Location: Civic Center Lobby, 300 E. Central Ave.

Cost: Free



Gingerbread House Decorating Contest

Date: Friday, December 5th

Time: 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: 300 E. Central Ave., Civic Center

Cost: Free (Registration required by December 4th)



Holiday Festival

Date: Saturday, December 6th

Time: 4 pm – 6 pm

Location: Civic Center, 300 E. Central Ave.

Cost: Free

Luminary Walk

Date: Friday, December 12th

Time: 6 pm – 8 pm

Location: Wilson Park, 350 Wilson Park Drive

Cost: Free



Noon Year's Eve

Date: Wednesday, December 31st

Time: 11 am – 12:30 pm

Location: Civic Center Lobby, 300 E. Central Ave.

Cost: \$5 per child (Registration required by December 23rd)



COMMUNITY

Fall Leaf Collection & Rake Rally

Weekly Leaf Collection

West Carrollton's annual curbside leaf collection runs from October 13 to December 5. Crews make weekly loops through all neighborhoods. No worries if your leaves aren't picked up right away or if a car is in the way, our trucks make rounds regularly during the pickup period.



Please place leaves on the right-of-way (grass between curb and sidewalk), keep piles free of sticks and debris, and help clear nearby storm drains to prevent flooding. Report clogged drains at (937) 859-8280.

Need help raking? Join the City Beautiful Commission's Rake Rally on November 8 from 10 AM to 12 PM. Residents needing assistance must register by November 5th at (937) 859-5182 or online at www.westcarrollton.org/event/rake-rally-2025/. We're looking for community members to lend a hand. Volunteers can sign up via phone or online. Long-sleeve shirts will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. We'll have some gardening supplies on hand, but if you're able to bring your rake or tools, it's a big help and much appreciated! Let's work together to keep West Carrollton beautiful this fall!

Tree Sale

Autumn Blaze Maple trees are sold through the Parks Department every year as part of the Tree City USA program. Trees (1" to 1.5" trunk size) cost \$150 and are planted in residents' front yards by the Parks and Recreation Staff in December. West Carrollton residents can purchase trees through October 31st either online at westcarrollton.org or in person at the Civic Center, 300 E. Central Ave., Mon-Fri, 8 am-4:30 pm. For more info, call (937) 859-5182.



Go Paperless with eBilling for Water, Sewer, and Trash Payments



West Carrollton offers convenient paperless billing and online payment options for your water, sewer, and trash bills through our website at www.westcarrollton.org/pay-your-bill/. Residents are encouraged to sign up for eBilling to help prevent mail delays or lost bills and avoid late fees.

You can also set up automatic payments directly through your banking institution for added convenience and peace of mind.

Make managing your utility payments easier and more secure; visit our website today to enroll!

Reminder: Estimated Tax Payment Due December 15

If you expect to owe more than \$200 in income tax that is not withheld at the City's 2.25% rate, you are required to make quarterly estimated tax payments. The remaining deadline is December 15th.

This includes income from self-employment, rental properties, or other sources not subject to withholding.

For your convenience, payments can be made during regular business hours or placed in the overnight drop box located at the Utilities window after hours.

Please note that a 15% penalty may be assessed on any unpaid or late estimated tax payments.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact the Tax Office at (937) 859-8288.



2025 CITY BEAUTIFICATION "YARD OF THE WEEK" WINNERS

The "Yard of the Week" award recipients are nominated by members of the community and chosen by the City Beautiful Commission for their efforts in making their homes and neighborhoods beautiful. Winners are celebrated with a yard-friendly sign placed at their homes for the week and highlighted on West Carrollton's social media pages. Thanks to all the property owners who helped enhance the appearance of our city!



2025 Winners

- 523 Wilson Park Dr.
- 741 Trina Ave.
- 447 Crusader Dr.
- 11 Elmview Circle
- 322 Cottage Ave.
- 640 Cottage Ave.
- 1357 Black Forest Dr.
- 1012 Heincke Rd.
- 4924 Marcy Rd.
- 1300 Robinhood Dr.

NEW WEST CARROLLTON ELEMENTARY OFFICIALLY OPENED FOR 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

Grand Opening!

The City of West Carrollton is proud to recognize the opening of the new West Carrollton Elementary School, which began serving second through fourth-grade students at the start of the 2025-26 academic year. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on August 13 and welcomed members of the public along with state, county, and city officials. Deputy Mayor Angie Fryman delivered remarks at the event, highlighting the significance of the new school for students, families, and the wider West Carrollton community. Following the ceremony, guests were invited to tour the new facility.



The construction of the school was made possible through the community's support of the November 2019 Building Bond Issue. The Ohio Facilities Construction Commission determined that building new schools was more cost-effective than maintaining and updating the district's existing facilities. As a result, the State of Ohio contributed 81% of the co-funded construction costs, with the community covering the remaining 19%.

Superintendent Dr. Andrea Townsend emphasized the critical role of community involvement, stating, "Without the support of the community, the new schools wouldn't have been possible."



In May, farewell events were held at Harold Schnell Elementary and Harry Russell Elementary, offering an opportunity for residents to tour the buildings one last time and share memories. These events were attended by past and present students and staff. Although Schnell, Russell, and C.F. Holliday Elementary are no longer in use, their legacy continues; elements from each building were thoughtfully incorporated into the new school, including the gazebo from Schnell, a buddy bench from Russell, and entrance woodwork from Holliday, now featured as a reading nook in the library.

The opening of the new elementary school marks a major step forward in strengthening the educational foundation of West Carrollton. It reflects the community's shared investment in its future and a commitment to providing students with modern, functional, and inspiring learning environments.

The next milestone will take place in August 2027, when the new West Carrollton Middle/High School is scheduled to open.



A Heart That Never Stops Giving: The Story of Kathi Parker & SDERT



In every city, there are quiet heroes, people whose acts of kindness ripple far beyond what the eye can see. In West Carrollton, that hero is Kathi Parker.

What began as a simple gesture delivering cases of water to tornado victims has grown into something extraordinary: a full-fledged nonprofit that now serves as a lifeline for many across our region. Kathi is the founder and beating heart of the South Dayton Emergency Response Team (SDERT), an organization dedicated to helping those facing crisis, displacement, and poverty. But SDERT isn't just an organization; it's a mission born from love, grief, and an unshakable sense of purpose.

Following the devastating 2019 Memorial Day tornadoes, Kathi didn't hesitate. She got up the very next morning and began distributing supplies, including food, water, and clothing, whatever she could find. As need after need revealed itself, she and her son Brent stepped into the gap, delivering aid and support with no playbook, just compassion.

And then, heartbreak struck again. In 2022, Brent unexpectedly passed away. Most would have understandably retreated into their grief. But Kathi did what only a mother with a deep calling could do: she kept going. In every package she delivers, every family she supports, every child she comforts, Brent's legacy lives on.

Today, SDERT supports over 100 individuals and families, many of them living in cars, temporary shelters, or with no home at all. Kathi drives daily, sometimes in the early morning hours, to deliver food, clothing, tents, diapers, pet supplies, and kindness. She responds to tips from community members and first responders, often arriving where she's needed most before anyone else can.

If you would like to support SDERT or learn more about their mission, we encourage you to reach out, donate, or share their story. Visit their official website at www.sdert.org. In a world that can sometimes feel overwhelming, Kathi reminds us that generosity, kindness, and love are always within reach.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Oct 4:	Citywide Garage Sale
Oct 6-10:	Large Item/Bulk Trash Pick-up
Oct 8:	The Great Paint Escape
Oct 13:	Leaf Collection Begins
Oct 15:	Self Defense for Seniors
Oct 27:	Citywide Blood Drive
Oct 30:	Monster Mash
Nov 5:	Personal Self Defense - Holiday Edition
Nov 7:	Father-Daughter Dance
Nov 8:	Rake Rally
Nov 27-28:	Thanksgiving Day, City Offices Closed (Trash Delayed 1 Day)
Dec 1-15:	Dear Santa
Dec 5:	Leaf Collection Ends
Dec 5:	Gingerbread House Decorating Contest
Dec 6:	Holiday Festival
Dec 12:	Luminary Walk
Dec 24-25:	Christmas Eve/Day, City Offices Closed (Trash Delayed 1 Day)
Dec 31:	Noon Year's Eve 11am - 12:30pm, Civic Center
Jan 1:	2026 New Year's Day, City Offices Closed (Trash Delayed 1 Day)

WEST CARROLLTON CITY COUNCIL



West Carrollton's City Council is dedicated to serving the community and working toward its continued growth and success. Council members strive to make informed decisions that reflect the needs and interests of residents.

If you have any questions, we encourage you to reach out. Use the QR code or visit our website to access contact information and connect with your council members. Your voice matters, and together, we can make a difference!

Community Services

Bogg Food Ministry.....	937-435-6181
Bureau of Motor Vehicles.....	937-866-9511
Harvest Food Pantry.....	937-269-4439
MUM Food Pantry.....	937-249-0941
Post Office.....	937-859-5163
West Carrollton Branch Library.....	937-463-2665
West Carrollton School System.....	937-859-5121



SCAN HERE!

PLEASE JOIN US

CITY COUNCIL

2nd & 4th Tuesday 6:30 p.m.

CITY BEAUTIFUL COMMISSION

3rd Thursday 7:00 p.m.

RECREATION BOARD

3rd Tuesday 6:30 p.m.

PLANNING COMMISSION

3rd Thursday 6:30 p.m.

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

2nd Thursday 6:30 p.m.