



Liberty Township

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The Center for Local Government Newsletter

1st Quarter

CENTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON APRIL 12TH

The Center for Local Government Annual Meeting will take place at Sabin Hall at Liberty Center on Thursday April 12th. We are excited to update our membership on all of the new events at CLG, to elect a new board member, to honor new faces and ones who are moving on to different positions. We are also very excited to hear from our featured speaker, Asanga Abeyagoonasekera, a visiting scholar and diplomat from Sri Lanka.

Mr. Abeyagoonasekera has had a fascinating and varied career in public service. His first major role was to rebuild the coastline of Sri Lanka after the disastrous 2004 tsunami— a job that he took on while only in his 20s. After that, he worked as a senior level government official in Sri Lanka, and then took a position with the United Nations, traveling the world as an economic advisor. He is currently in the United States as a visiting scholar at Northern Kentucky University, and we are happy to have him speak at our Annual Meeting. In addition to discussing his background and the tsunami recovery, he will discuss how cities are taking an ever expanding role across the world as bastions of change. In 1950, 30% of the world's population lived in cities and today that number is 54%. Our work in local government is having more and more of an impact across the globe.



Besides hearing from our speaker, other events at the Annual Meeting include an election for a new Board member to fill the unexpired term of Mark Schlagheck, who has recently taken a role with Jefferson Health Plan. We will get an update on CLG's programming activities and progress over the last year. Like we did in 2017, we will honor new CAOs and those who have moved on. And this year, we are adding a RAFFLE! We will raffle off a gift card to Liberty Center (our gracious hosts for the event), as well as a CLG Leadership Academy tuition for 2019.

Thank you to those of you who have signed up so far. There is still time to register if you have not however! We will take registrations until 12pm on Thursday April 5th. Please e-mail Lori Stuckey (LStuckey@C4LG.org) to RSVP. The cost is \$30. Location details are in the CLG Events calendar in this newsletter. We hope to see you there!



The Center for Local GOVERNMENT

Effective Governance Through Collaboration

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ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION:

The Center for Local Government (CLG) located in Cincinnati, OHIO is a unique non-profit 501 (c)(3) corporation, created in 1990 as a clearing-house for inter-governmental collaboration, training and information sharing. CLG membership consists of 54 local government in 6 counties.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Vicky Earhart, Anderson Township
Jim Lukas, City of Sharonville
Kristen Bitonte, Liberty Township
Michael Rahall, Village of Cleves



CLG Staff from L to R: Lori Stuckey, Program & Data Coordinator; T.J. White, Executive Director; Andy Lanser, Program Development Director

2018 CLG LEADERSHIP ACADEMY KICKS OFF

The Center for Local Government 2018 Leadership Academy kicked off on Wednesday March 14th with our local Government 101 course at Springfield Township. This year's Leadership Academy class will be our 5th group to go through the program, but it represents a number of firsts: The main innovation with this year's Academy is that we have updated the curriculum, adding an Economic Development and Land Use course. We have also increased the lengths for each session, allowing time for more networking between the Leadership Academy participants, and more in-depth analysis of the subjects studied during the Academy. Finally, this year we will introduce "Leadership Academy Alumni Network" training sessions— opportunities for the 75 Leadership Academy graduates from the first 4 classes to continue their education with twice yearly lunch and learns.

That said, the core of the Leadership Academy's mission is still the same: To identify and train future leaders in our local governments, to help build relationships between staff members of our local governments, and to assist our governments in their transition planning efforts. Besides our new ED and Land Use class, and the Local Government 101 course that the participants went through in March, we also have leadership styles classes taught by Xavier University, a finance and budgeting class, an effective communications class, and a human resources management class. The purpose of the curriculum is to provide a well rounded education both in leadership and local government management at the department head level.

We would again like to congratulate our 2018 Leadership Academy participants.



Group Exercise during the Local Government 101 Course

<u>This year's Participants:</u>	Jessica Chaney (Indian Hill)	Sarah Donovan (Anderson Twp)	Patrick Moore (Hamilton)	Melissa Thompson (Miami Twp)
Aaron Bosko (Mason)	John Creech (Sharonville)	Randall Elder (Sharonville)	Marshall Motley (Washington Twp)	Josh Torbeck (Delhi Twp)
Brad Bowers (Anderson Twp)	Todd Day (Mason)	Emma Gentry (Miamisburg)	Jeanne Pope (Wilmington)	John Wagner (Springdale)
Jon Brown (Springboro)	Jay Dennis (Springdale)	Arian Jones-Hall (Hamilton)	Jen Poposil (Wyoming)	Jim Watkins (Liberty Twp.)



SECRET SHOPPER PROGRAM FORMING

CLG is on the verge of launching a new program for our members. The new program, the CLG Secret Shopper Program, will enable CLG members to measure the quality of services it provides to its residents. Based on similar tools used in the private sphere, the CLG Secret Shopper Program will utilize staff from member jurisdictions to pose as residents to contact departments under the guise of making a service request. From there the individual then observes their interaction with staff and assesses the performance based on specific pre-defined criteria determined by the requesting party. Although measuring customer service quality will undoubtedly be a major aspect of this program, it is not the sole focus of the program. In fact we envision this program being used to measure any and all aspects of service provision including staff members adherence to internal and external regulations and even the quality of service operations. This adaptability of the program is the real innovative feature of it. The program is designed to enable each participating jurisdiction to tailor its survey to any aspect of service provision, for any department it desires. All and all it is hoped that this program will provide our members with a tool to not only improve service quality, but to also provide a mechanism to recognize and reward staff and departments for outstanding service.

Participation in the program is open to all CLG members. However, in order to participate in the program, each jurisdiction must permit their staff to serve as “secret shoppers” as requests are made from other jurisdictions.

It is hoped that the CLG Secret Shopper Program will be launched later this year. For more information on the program or to serve on the program’s Taskforce, feel free to contact CLG Program Development Director, Andy Lanser at ALanser@C4LG.org.

GREATER CINCINNATI WATER WORKS LEAD PIPE PROGRAM MEETING

The Center for Local Government is facilitating an effort between the Greater Cincinnati Waterworks (GCWW) and local governments who utilize their water services to make the replacement of lead pipes more affordable for local families. In 2017 the City of Cincinnati passed an ordinance to replace all lead pipes within GCWW’s infrastructure. Part of this legislation involved a provision that as pipes were replaced, GCWW would not hook in to a lead pipe on the private property side (which is the responsibility of the homeowner). In response to this, Cincinnati also provided a provision for a grant of up to \$1,500 to assist homeowners in lead pipe replacement, plus a property tax special assessment to help pay for the rest of the replacement. This grant and special assessment is only available to homes inside the City of Cincinnati.

On January 22, CLG hosted a meeting between GCWW and the CLG member governments to discuss this program. As a result of that meeting, there was interest in a follow-up meeting to discuss how governments who use GCWW can potentially adopt a similar grant and special assessment program. The goal of the meeting is to set the state for the development of a boilerplate intergovernmental agreement between GCWW and participating governments to help finance the replacement of private property lead pipes. In our role as a facilitator and advocate for local governments, CLG has taken the lead in setting this meeting up.

In addition to representatives from GCWW and the CLG members, there will also be representatives from Hamilton County, the Hamilton County Auditor, and other relevant agencies. We strongly encourage any CLG member community who has a relationship with GCWW and may have lead pipes to attend this meeting, along with your community’s solicitor. The meeting will take place on April 17th at the GCWW facility 4747 Spring Grove Ave. If you are interested in attending, please contact T.J. White at TWhite@C4LG.org no later than Friday April 13th so that we can make sure there is room. If you are unsure if your community has any lead service lines, CLG and GCWW have a spreadsheet of all of the lead service lines that we know exist, at least inside Hamilton County. This is available by contacting T.J. White as well (TWhite@C4LG.org).

We would like to thank the Waterworks and Hamilton County for their efforts to bring everyone together. We would also like to thank the many CAOs who brought this issue up for the first time during our November CAO forum in Indian Hill.



The Center for Local GOVERNMENT

CLG AND HAMILTON COUNTY PARTNER FOR NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS TRAINING

On January 20th, the Center for Local Government and the Hamilton County Regional Planning Partnership hosted 55 elected officials from around the region for the first semi-annual “CLG / HCRPC Newly Elected Officials Training.”

Topics covered included an overview of sunshine laws, Ohio ethics law, finance and budgeting, and planning / zoning. The day ended with a forum of experienced elected officials sharing their best practices and tips for being an effective office holder. CLG would like to thank Montgomery City Councilmember Gerri Harbison, Anderson Township Trustee Josh Gerth, Alex Linser (Chief of Staff for County Commissioner Denise Driehaus), Hamilton County Commissioner Todd Portune, Sharonville Mayor Kevin Hardman, and Fairfield Mayor Steve Miller for their insights as panelists.

CLG and the Hamilton County Regional Planning Partnership will hold this event every other year after the local election cycle is complete. We are excited to continue growing the event and providing an outlet for new elected officials.



Newly elected officials listen to a presentation on Ohio Ethics Law at the CLG / HCRPC Newly Elected Officials Training on Saturday January 20th

NEW FACES IN NEW PLACES

2018 has already been a significant year for personnel changes within the CLG membership, as many of our long time City Managers and Township Administrators are moving into new roles. Mike Hinnenkamp retired in March after leading Springfield Township for 22 years as Township Administrator. Mike helped found the CLG Leadership Academy, and has been instrumental in helping guide CLG. Mark Schlagheck has left Bellbrook to take a position with the Jefferson Health Plan. Mark served as CLG Board President, CLG Benefits Pool Treasurer, and as an instructor for the CLG Leadership Academy. Finally, Larry Fronk came out of retirement to serve as the Interim Administrator in West Chester. With their hiring of a permanent Administrator, Larry will be leaving us once again. He previously served as Miami Township Administrator.

CLG would like to welcome new faces as well! Larry Burks is the new Township Administrator in West Chester. Mr. Burks recently worked in Bellevue Nebraska as Assistant City Manager. We also have some familiar faces in new positions. Brian Riblet has been promoted to City Manager in Montgomery. Chris Gilbert has been promoted to Township Administrator in Springfield Township. Additionally, Jerry Thamann is the Village Administrator in Newtown, and Loretta Rokey has moved from Glendale to Pierce Township as Township Administrator. Walter Cordes has taken over in Glendale. Please take time to contact these individuals and welcome them to CLG!



Larry Burks



Chris Gilbert



Brian Riblet



NEWS BITS

CLG is on Social Media

The Center for Local Government has entered the world of social media with a Twitter presence. We can now be found at [@C4LG2018](https://twitter.com/C4LG2018). We joined Twitter because we thought that was the best platform to provide information to our audience of local governments and local government staff members / officials. This will supplement our normal communications tools, and will be a good way to get insights from our trainings, meetings, and other initiatives as they happen. We will also use this platform to help inform you about interesting news from our member governments.

Outreach Visits This Summer

The Center for Local Government will conduct its annual outreach visits starting this spring into this summer. We used these as opportunities to take the temperature of our member communities, to identify areas of need for potential new programs or trainings, and to make sure our lines of communication are open. We will start with any governments that we missed in 2017, with a goal of trying to get to as many of our members as possible. Usually, these visits will consist of the Executive Director and Program Development Director, but others may come as well. We will be in touch!

Leadership Academy Alumni

Trainings

As the CLG Leadership Academy continues to evolve, we are offering continuing leadership education training opportunities for our alumni base starting this May. Our first topic will be Emotional Intelligence Quotient, taught by retired Green Township Administrator Kevin Celarek. We hope to offer two of these training sessions per year. Leadership Academy alumni will get first priority in registration, but these will be open to the general CLG member population as well, including governments from our training partners at MVCC and MVRMA. We hope you can make it.

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP AND MIDPOINTE LIBRARY SYSTEM PARTNER ON STORYTIME IN THE PARK

Liberty Township and the MidPointe Library System are happy to introduce the new *Storytime at the Park* series to area families. *Storytime at the Park* will take place the second Monday of the month, April – October, from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at various Liberty Township parks. Visitors will enjoy a 20-minute story and have access to MidPointe’s new Library on Wheels, a 30-foot bookmobile packed with library materials for the whole family.

“We are excited to partner with Liberty Township to bring these amenities to families in our community,” stated Cari Hillman, Public Relations Manager, MidPointe Library System. “*Storytime at the Park* will offer a special opportunity for families to enjoy Liberty Township’s beautiful parks together with MidPointe’s popular storytimes and brand new bookmobile.”

Storytime at the Park dates and locations include:

April 9	Fort Liberty Playland	May 14	Liberty Park
June 11	Reserves Park	July 9	Dudley Memorial Park
August 13	Fort Liberty Playland	September 10	Dudley Memorial Park
October 8	Reserves Park		

Members of the Liberty Township Fire Department will serve as special guest readers on May 14, September 10, and October 8.

“We are thrilled with the new partnership that has been established between Liberty Township and MidPointe and the creation of the *Storytime at the Park* series,” stated Tom Farrell, President, Liberty Township Trustees. “We look forward to maintaining the new relationship by working together on future events.”



The Center for Local GOVERNMENT

GCEA'S "GET EFFICIENT" AND "SOLARIZE CINCY" PROGRAMS NOW AVAILABLE TO COMMUNITIES OUTSIDE CITY OF CINCINNATI

The Greater Cincinnati Energy Alliance (GCEA), a regional nonprofit dedicated to promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy, is announcing that its "Solarize Cincy" and "Get Efficient" programs will be available to municipalities outside the City of Cincinnati for the first time this year. GCEA is seeking 12 communities to become Efficiency Partners to provide these great programs to area residents.

Get Efficient is a new program to help residents understand their energy-efficiency needs and provide them with the assistance needed to make these improvements. Get Efficient is being offered to municipalities for free and is funded by GCEA and the Duke Class Benefit Fund. We are excited to offer both of these cost-saving and carbon-reducing programs throughout the Greater Cincinnati region this year.

GCEA will work with community residents to help them through the solar and home energy-assessment process, evaluate the financial benefits, recommend qualified contractors, and offer access to financing options for the improvements.

"Get Efficient" Program

The "Get Efficient" program provides a turnkey solution that allows residents to assess the energy efficiency of their homes through an online assessment tool. After residents input data about their homes into the online tool, they receive a free report showing the results of the assessment which provides energy-improvement recommendations. GCEA is the only nonprofit organization in the country to offer [this free online tool, which can be accessed on the GCEA website, www.getefficient.org](http://www.getefficient.org)

If a homeowner is interested in making energy improvements to their home, GCEA will refer them to qualified contractors that the organization has vetted and/or help homeowners obtain the financing needed to make these improvements. In some cases, energy savings generated by the improvements can pay off their costs during the term of the loan or within a few years after it is paid off.

"Solarize Cincy" Program

The annual "Solarize Cincy" program provides homeowners with a simple way to add solar energy to their homes. Homeowners interested in solar can visit www.solarizecincy.com and contact the GCEA for a free solar assessment of their home. Solarize Cincy can help homeowners leverage federal tax incentives and provide significant discounts for top-quality materials to offset or reduce installation costs as well as provide easy access to financing options to pay for the purchase and installation of a solar-energy system.

For additional information on becoming an Efficiency Partner and getting the word out about these programs, contact Kevin Tolan at 513-562-4825 or ktolan@greatercea.org



Greater Cincinnati
Energy Alliance





The Center for Local GOVERNMENT

BEECHMONT & FIVE MILE CONTINUOUS FLOW INTERSECTION: ACCIDENTS REDUCED, TRAVEL DELAY DECREASED IN FIRST NINE MONTHS OF OPERATION

Nine months after the opening of the newly configured Beechmont-Five Mile Continuous Flow Intersection (CFI) in Anderson Township, local officials and stakeholders say the project is a winner.

The primary goals of reduced vehicle delay, improved safety and accommodation of pedestrians all have been met, with accidents on track to potentially drop to one third of previous numbers, according to information from the Hamilton County Engineer's Office.

"From our viewpoint the biggest success has been in the reduction of traffic accidents," noted Eric Beck, deputy engineer/field operations at the engineer's office. "While we are still monitoring crash reports, the first six months has shown a significant reduction in crashes. If the current numbers continue for the year, the number of crashes will be a third of what it was prior to construction."

The project, which spanned more than a decade in planning and implementation, caused some concern for drivers who wondered how the new traffic pattern would work. But here's what data shows about the first six months of operation:

Crash data compiled by the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office indicated accidents are down, and the average time interval between accidents has increased by 223 percent. Five accidents were reported at the location in the initial six-month period, about one every six weeks since it opened. By comparison, in the last 10 years an average of 29 accidents a year occurred at the site, about one every 1.8 weeks.

"There is little indication of the accidents that were reported that the CFI configuration was a contributing factor," noted Steve Sievers, Anderson's assistant administrator for operations. Like other Continuous Flow Intersections the severity of the accidents has reduced he said, another benefit of the design as it "reduces the possibility for angled crashes which often result in serious injuries."

Travel delay reduction was measured at the end of 2017 by TEC Engineering, with a reduction in delay for the intersection during the morning rush hour of 57.8 percent. (Comparisons were drawn between 2005 conditions and 2017.) For the evening rush hour, the largest improvement was noted in the eastbound Beechmont traffic, with an overall afternoon rush hour reduction of 44.7 seconds, or a 60.7 percent reduction in delay. Further, traffic volumes, which dropped slightly during construction, are nearly identical to pre-construction levels.

Pedestrian access, another goal for the project, has increased, with crossing sequences now in place that do not conflict with automobile traffic. Today, many walkers, runners, wheelchair users and pedestrians with strollers have safely used the intersection, from refuge island to refuge island, with "no impact on traffic flow," Sievers noted.

Trustee Township President Josh Gerth acknowledged the driver changes necessary to maneuver the intersection might have been awkward at first. However, "the residents of Anderson Township and those who travel through here will hopefully be elated with the news of its success... Not only is the intersection logistically working but it is also dramatically decreasing the accident rate and therefore quickly becoming yet another positive beacon for our community."

ANDERSON
TOWNSHIP

225
YEARS

in the
1793-2018

MAKING



Preserving our HISTORY





CLG CALENDAR

Recognize & Respond: Police Interactions with Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder, presented by MVRMA, Session 3: April 17, 2018 at City of Blue Ash (10647 Kenwood Rd, Blue Ash, OH 45242), Registration and Breakfast at 8:30am, Program is 9:00am-3:30pm. Cost is \$40 for MVRMA, MVCC & CLG Members, \$60.00 for non-members. This session is for all law enforcement staff at all levels, law enforcement command staff and City administrators. Please contact Starr Markworth at smarkworth@mvrma.com with any questions [Click here](#) to register through the MVRMA website

Center for Local Government Annual Meeting, April 12, 2018, 11:00 (registration), 11:30-1:00 (lunch, program and speaker) at AC Marriott Liberty Center (7505 Gibson St. Liberty Township, OH, 45069) Guest speaker is Asanga Abeyagoonasekera, a visiting scholar and diplomat from Sri Lanka. [Click here](#) for more details, RSVP to [Lori Stuckey](#) by noon on 4/5/2018

ASPA Public Administrator of the Year Awards, April 20 2018 at The Phoenix (812 Race St. Cincinnati, OH 45202). [Click here to sign up](#)

CAMA: April 27, 2018, at Montgomery Inn, There will be guest speakers from both Northern Kentucky University and University of Dayton to give updates about their MPA programs. [click here to sign up](#)

INTERESTING FACT - THIS IS CLG'S FIRST MAJOR NEWSLETTER REDESIGN SINCE 2012

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP IMPROVES ITS ISO RATING TO FIRE PROTECTION CLASS 2

The Liberty Township Fire Department is pleased to announce that the Insurance Service Office (ISO) has elevated its protection rating to a Class 2. The new rating is the result of the Public Protection Classification Program (PPC) Survey which rates available fire protection in a community. Liberty Township's last evaluation was conducted in 2012 and the new rating will take effect on April 1, 2018.

The ISO rating is a numerical grading system and is one of the primary elements used by the insurance industry to develop premium rates for residential and commercial businesses. Data is analyzed using a Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS) and then assigns a PPC from Class 1 (best) to Class 10. Along with the class rating and three survey areas, the FSRS also includes a community risk reduction assessment based on the following criteria: the strength of a fire department, public fire safety education, and fire investigation.

The ISO survey areas include:

Operations, training, and deployment of rescue vehicles including fire apparatus, equipment testing, and the ability to quickly place adequate personnel on the scene of a structure fire.

Emergency communications evaluated on the strength of the county to receive the call for assistance, process the information, and alert the fire department, along with the department's ability to receive the alarm with redundant alerting systems.

The Butler County Department of Environmental Services water system which is reviewed on the strength of the system to provide adequate water at the correct volume and pressure while maintaining accurate records of flows and pressures.

"The Liberty Township Fire Department is proud of our upgraded ISO rating from a Class 4 to a Class 2 because it places the department in the top 3.5% of the nation's fire departments," stated Fire Chief Ethan Klussman. "This is quite an accomplishment considering only 0.4% of fire departments in the country have an ISO rating of a Class 1."