



Call The Roll

An E-Publication of Columbus City Council

September 2004

COUNCIL WELCOMES NEW MEMBER, MARY JO HUDSON

Columbus City Council colleagues tapped [Mary Jo Hudson](#) to serve Columbus citizens as Council member. Hudson took the oath of office at Council's September 13th meeting. **"I am excited to welcome Mary Jo to**



2004 SNP *Mary Jo Hudson*

City Council, knowing she brings a history of strong commitment and community service," said Habash. **"Mary Jo possesses the right mix of talent and dedication to help Council deal with tough issues. More importantly, her extensive experience working with small business means she knows how to create jobs."** Hudson will put her business savvy to work as the chair of the newly created committee of Jobs and Economic Development Committee.

Hudson, a Columbus attorney, currently serves on the Columbus Civil Service Commission. Her resume includes volunteer stints with a number of area nonprofit organizations, including the United Way; the Center for New Directions; the Women's Fund of Central Ohio, which provides grants that benefit Central Ohio women and girls; and the Human Rights Campaign and Human Rights Campaign Foundation.

"It's more than an honor to have this opportunity to serve the citizens of Columbus as a council member—it's a privilege and a dream come true," said Hudson. **"I work with small business owners nearly every day, so I understand their challenges, and the challenges Columbus faces in attracting new jobs and keeping the ones we have. I want to put my energies toward creating employment opportunities for our citizens. It's my top priority."**

President Matt Habash announced the selection at SpinLife, a German Village-based small business that manufactures medical equipment, such as custom-built wheel chairs. **Owner Lisa Stein called Hudson "a great selection. Mary Jo is a fighter,"** Stein said. **"She knows what good jobs mean to a community's quality of life, to an individual and a family."**

Good luck, Mary Jo!

NEW RECREATION CENTER COMING TO THE FAR NORTH

The wait for a community recreation center on Columbus' far north side is nearly over, as residents recently joined City officials to break ground for the City's newest recreation center—the first since 1993 and the first outside of the I-270 outerbelt. Located off Sancus Boulevard at Lazelle Woods Park, the center was designed in cooperation with the Worthington Library Board, which plans to build a future library on adjacent ground. [Kevin L. Boyce](#), chairman of Council's Recreation and Parks Committee, said the project represents the wave of the future. **"Innovative partnerships like this will be key to developing new parks and, just as importantly, maintaining them. That's the kind of thinking behind City efforts to develop and implement new growth policies throughout the City, particularly around the outer belt where Columbus touches fast-growing suburban neighbors."**



At 30,000 square feet, the nearly \$4.9 million center has a January 2006 expected completion date. As a full-service center it will include a gymnasium, multi-purpose room, fitness room, game room, arts and crafts room, and other space amenities, to complement the existing 39-acre park.

Kevin Boyce joins far northside residents as they break ground for the facility; Boyce speaks at the ceremony announcing the City's newest recreation center at Lazelle Park.



NEW JOBS COMING TO MORSE ROAD

650 jobs are coming to Morse Road thanks to Huntington Bank and the City's commitment to reinvigorate this mid-ring business corridor. Huntington executives gathered with City officials August 25th to celebrate completion of the two-year, \$11 million renovation of Huntington's facility located at Morse Road and Cleveland Avenue. CEO Tom Hoaglin said the Center "adds to the growing momentum of the Northland Community, and complements the City's efforts to revitalize the Morse Road corridor."



Habash helps unveil Huntington's new Morse Road facility.

Council President, [Matt Habash](#), joined Council member and Development Committee chair, [Maryellen O'Shaughnessy](#), and Mayor Michael Coleman at the event and reminded the audience **"Northland is more than a mall. It's a neighborhood of thousands of hard-working families and persons looking for what we all look for, a high quality of life for our families and ourselves. This project helps the community secure that dream."**

Since the mall's closure in 2001, Council and the Mayor have targeted nearly \$15 million in public investment in the business corridor to encourage private investment—primarily in the form of road improvements, in addition to tax incentives. On the abandoned mall site itself Retail Ventures Inc., an affiliate of Value City Department Stores, is in the midst of its own \$19.5 million project to bring 650 new jobs to the area as it relocates its headquarters. Expectations are that total private investment at the mall site will reach \$150 to \$200 million.

SUBURBS JOIN COLUMBUS IN PROMOTING CLEAN INDOOR AIR

Several Columbus neighbors agree that secondhand smoke is a lethal health hazard that requires public action. City Councils in Worthington, Bexley, Upper Arlington, Grandview and Powell have promoted clean indoor air in passing legislation similar to that Columbus enacted in June protecting workers and patrons of entertainment establishments. Columbus voters get to decide the fate of the Columbus law in the upcoming November election after a referendum drive to place the issue on the ballot.



A “yes” vote on **Issue 12** endorses the recently passed Clean Indoor Air act. Visit Council’s website to learn more:

www.columbuscitycouncil.org/cleanair

Columbus Dispatch August 7, 2004 Editorial: “The public’s health must come before the rights of businesses to decide whether to allow smoking or the rights of individual’s to smoke.” And, “ Research.... has shown that business usually does not decline and often increases when a town goes smoke-free.”

COLUMBUS VOTERS TO DECIDE IMPORTANT ISSUES

When Columbus voters go to the polls this November 2nd, at least nine local ballot issues should attract their attention. A “yes” vote on **Issues 4 through 11** means passage of eight City bond issues to drive more than \$600 million in new investment for neighborhood projects—**without raising taxes**. Visit Council’s website to learn more:

www.columbuscitycouncil.org/bondpackage

TAVARES TO HOST TOWN MEETING

The National League of Cities wants its members to conduct a day of deliberation and commitment – America’s Cities and Towns Working Together to Resurrect the American Dream. The campaign emerged from the organization’s 2003 Advisory Council report, *Divided We Fall: Inequalities and the Future of America’s Cities and Towns*, which documented problems of inequalities by race, class and geography that threaten the well-being of entire regions and the nation as a whole. [Charleta Tavares](#), chairs the NLC’s Human Development Steering Committee, will host a town meeting in Columbus on September 28th. Look for more details to follow.



THOMAS CONTINUES TO PUSH AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATION (AED)

- ⚡ Council will designate October 4th as Columbus AED Day and thank the more than 325 City employees who have been trained this year to operate AEDs.
- ⚡ Thomas is working with the Administration to soon solicit bids for a Public Access Defibrillator Program (PAD) to further promote the wider distribution of AED units within the greater Columbus community. **“AEDs save lives,” [Patsy A. Thomas](#) notes. “They have proven to increase survival rates from heart attacks outside of a hospital from about 5 percent to more than 50 percent.”**