

news

Campus changes for Fall 2018

SAMANTHA DIDION
@SamanthaDidion

After students left for the summer, the facilities staff wasted no time tuning up campus. They have been hard at work this summer improving, securing and updating parts of campus.

Work on and around campus started once students left for summer break in May and will continue until students return in late August.

One of the most noticeable features around campus for students will be the security cameras in the dorm buildings.

“We installed 18 cameras throughout the residence halls,” Rick Ewing, Vice President, Operations and Planning said.

“Those are typically in the entryways viewing the lobby and doorways just to bring that avid level of security.”

Cameras are also being set up in buildings such as Patterson that have computer labs as an extra safety precaution.

“When it comes to the building changes, probably some of the

most dramatic will be the work we did in Myers Hall this year.”

To give Myers a fresh and updated look, the lobby was completely redone and the entire building received new carpet, a new paint job, new light fixtures and improved wifi.

Inside of the dorm rooms, there will now be tile instead of carpeting.

The other building to receive a little bit of TLC was Center for the Arts, where the computer lab in room 212 was given new computers and new teaching smart board with projector.

In the downstairs of CFA, the Journalism and Digital Media hallway had some remodeling done as well.

Two of the rooms in the JDM area were combined to make a multimedia lab to accommodate the growing major, now over 80 students.

The projects are now in the midst of wrapping up, finishing with the campus sidewalks and tying up loose ends, but there have still been a few setbacks.

“We had a pretty severe rain-

storm, it was hard and fast so within 20 minutes we received two inches of rain,” Ewing said. “When we receive that kind of rain in that short amount of time King Road overflows and we had water coming up over the road and it made its way in Kilhefner lobby. There was also some flooding in Bixler, lower convo and Clayton.”

Facilities had to put aside their other projects and were quick with clean up to ensure there was not any further damage.

“Our staff was able to get in there with shop-vacs and carpet extractors and were able to get everything cleaned up where we needed to,” Ewing said. “We shampooed the carpet again. It’s not a regular occurrence but it is something we have experienced before.”

Clean-up took a few days before they were back on schedule.

“It takes a lot of hard work to get everything done in a short amount of time, but fortunately we are in good shape to start classes and ready for the students to return.”



SAMANTHA DIDION
Left to right: Senior Lucas Cortini, majoring in supply chain management and Grant Stahl, MBA grad student, looking at paperwork in the updated Myers lobby.

Ashland: New and improved

KAITLYN MOORE
@AUCollegian

One of the biggest and most noticeable changes in the Ashland community is orange cones, heavy machinery and detour signs.

This summer has been an incredibly busy one for construction crews. In the works is the resurfacing of more than 32 streets, including the roughest spot on Claremont Avenue between Mifflin and Franklin Ave. Mayor Matt Miller said all the road work is thanks to two large grants the city received.

“We are really getting underway with construction season here in Ashland,” Miller said. “There are foundation issues in the road bed itself. We applied for a \$2 million ODOT grant and by gosh we got all of it, so in 2022 we will rip up all of Claremont southwest of the university.”

The city also received another \$1.2 million grant that will aid in a project called Center Run Trail. The name of the creek that runs through town is Center Run. The plan is to add 20 feet of green space on the sides of the creek from Broad Street to Claremont, cross the city parking lot, down to Luther Street and pick back up by Union Street.

The grant money will pay for paved walking path with benches, lighting and flowers, but also to aid in tearing down the dilapidated homes along the creek. Some of those homes are vacant and some are used as rentals, despite their

poor condition.

“It’s a shame people have to live in houses like that. But that’s why I’m glad to announce TWG Development will start working on Union Lofts, a 48 unit, three-acre apartment complex behind Home Depot,” Miller said. “It will be affordable one, two or three bedroom units.”

Those are not the only big changes. The city, in cooperation with the university, the hospital, Chamber of Commerce, Ashland city schools, the county and Mainstreet Inc. developed a targeted action plan. The group of leaders from these various sectors determined there are four projects they want to focus on.

The first is improving the route 250 corridor that turns into Main Street in a way which gives Ashland an identity. The second is working with EPA officials to get the Pump House Ministries District “mess cleaned up once and for all”, and then deciding what to do with that space.

The third project is establishing an outdoor city center downtown. The fourth is polishing up South Street, the road behind Uniontown Brewery, so that it has the look and feel of an urban warehouse district.

The city has also moved forward with extending utilities under Interstate 71. That means extending city water and sewer to the east side of Grandpa’s Cheesebarn and Fin Feather Fur Outfitters. The extended utilities will open that area



KAITLYN MOORE
Expect to see less and less of these signs throughout Ashland in the coming months.

up for more development and draw businesses to town.

Speaking of businesses, quite a few new boutiques have set up shop along East Main. Fig & Oak is a vintage, unique and homemade home decor shop. Coming within the next week or so is Priceless Treats, a local family owned gourmet cupcakery and liquid nitrogen creamery, sandwiched between the Candy & Nut Shoppe and another new business, Taproom on Main.

“We have 12 craft beer taps and seven wines, all from Ohio,” owner Diana Ragozzine said.

Taproom does not sell food: instead, they partner with different food trucks each week to provide people with unique food, and they allow people to bring in their own food – “you could even order Dominos and have them deliver it here and eat it at the bar.” The atmosphere is very laid back.

Ragozzine chose Ashland because her mutual friends live here and she liked the feel of downtown.

“It was exciting to get in, to start to be a part of that,” she said.

Several other buildings downtown are in the process of changing ownership, and students can expect to see more unique venues in the coming months, much like Buckeye Express car wash on Claremont.

“Our parent company is out of Ashland, and this is an underserved area, so we decided to build our fourth location here,” Zach Miller, director of operations, said. Their “Thunderfalls” cleaning process is fun to watch and the free self serve vacuums are powerful.

Buckeye Express is in the middle of a special monthly membership pass discount until next Friday.

After eating, shopping, exploring and getting the car squeaky clean, Brookside Park is a great place to visit and unwind with its variety of activities and 18 hole golf course.

The park, a short mile and a half walk from the university, got a big facelift this summer. Just a few weeks ago, construction crews started digging and leveling the grounds by the ball diamonds to build tennis courts.

For those who have not been, the park offers hiking trails, a pond, a pool (only open during the summer), basketball courts, a playground, a mini golf course and more.

This year, Ashland is making a name for itself as a downtown destination. Check out the new attractions this year.



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With Kasich’s election in 2011, the city of Ashland ran out of money to maintain the roads, resulting in a myriad of potholes and uneven, crumbling asphalt. With these grants, the city can finally get back on top of road maintenance.

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