

Englewood Council recognizes public safety efforts

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Photo by Marilyn McConahay

Englewood Mayor Pat Burnside (far right) reads a proclamation recognizing the contributions of dispatchers who answer 911 emergency calls for the communities of Englewood, Union, New Lebanon and Farmersville during Public Safety Telecommunications Week, April 1 to 16. Left to right are dispatchers Trisha Adams, Dianna Ballinger, Jo Daniel and Abby Collins. Not pictured: Adam Tanner, Matt Feltner, Josh LaPorte and Jordan Zugelder.



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Safety Patroller R. Jarrett Bruss, student at Englewood Elementary School, was among Northmont students nominated as AAA Miami Valley Safety Patroller of the Year. Left to right are Englewood Elementary Principal Beth Wyandt, Northmont Superintendent Dr. Sarah Zatik, Bruss, School Resource Officer Corey Follick and Englewood Mayor Pat Burnside.

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Englewood City Council recognized several local individuals involved in public safety at the beginning of its April 12 regular meeting.

Englewood police officers Doug Hacker, Kevin Garlitz and Tim Thomas and detectives Dave Collins and Alan Meade responded to a robbery at the Englewood Meijer store on North Main Street (State Route 48).

In recognition of the speed with which those involved solved the crime, Mayor Pat Burnside read a memorandum from Sgt. Mike Lang, thanking them for a job well done.

“On March 24, 2011, around 12:45 in the afternoon, Dwayne Simon robbed the US Bank located inside the Meijer store. Officers Hacker, Garlitz, Thomas and detectives Collins and Meade rushed to the scene. After an initial investigation, Simon was identified as the suspect since he had used his own name on a bank slip in an attempt to withdraw money,” the memorandum said.

The unsuccessful robber then enjoyed a meal at the Tumbleweed Restaurant and left without paying. By using the police department’s Interstate 70 traffic camera, Administrative Assistant Shewman was able to locate Simon walking along North Main Street.

“Guided by the efforts of dispatcher Trisha Adams and assistant dispatcher Gary Shewman, Garlitz, Hacker, Thomas and Collins were able to move in and arrest Simon without incident. Forty-five minutes after the initial call was received, the suspect was in custody,” Burnside read from the memorandum.

“The response and work by these officers, detectives and civilians is a testament to their professionalism, demeanor and teamwork. Everyone involved had a role and fulfilled perfectly. We could not have asked for a better outcome or example of how the Englewood Police Department operates,” Burnside said.

Next to be honored were dispatchers who handle 911 calls for the communities of Englewood, Union, New Lebanon and Farmersville from people who need assistance from police, fire and medical personnel.

Burnside presented a proclamation declaring April 10 to 16 as Public Telecommunications Week in Englewood.

The proclamation cites the efforts of Trisha Adams, Adam Tanner, Dianna Ballinger, Matt Feltner, Randy Thayer, Abby Collins, Josh LaPorte and Jordan Zugelder.

Adams, Ballinger, Collins and Daniel were on hand at the meeting to receive the proclamation, which reads, in part, “Public safety dispatchers are more than a calm and reassuring voice at the other end of the phone – they are knowledgeable and highly trained individuals who work closely with other police, fire and medical personnel.” The city thanked them for their dedication and professionalism.

Finally, Council recognized members of Safety Patrol at Northmont elementary schools for being nominated for the AAA Miami Valley School Safety Patroller of the Year award.

Only one patroller, R. Jarrett Bruss, a student at Englewood Elementary School, was at the meeting to receive a proclamation from Burnside citing the students’ commitment to safety, leadership and citizenship by participating in the Safety Patrol program.

Other Northmont area Safety Patrol crossing guards recognized were Kirsten Hardin of Northwood Elementary, Hannah Rowlands of Northmoor Elementary, Megan McKarns of Northmoor Elementary and Ashlyn Robbins of Englewood Elementary School, who was named the AAA Safety Patroller of the Year on March 23 at the 2011 AAA Safety Patroller of the Year awards banquet held at Celebrations Banquet Center II on Poe Avenue.

Englewood Police Officer Corey Follick, who serves as Community School Resource Officer, was named by AAA as “Patrol Advisor of the Year.” Follick was instrumental in helping to get a school zone crosswalk ordinance approved by Englewood City Council and in obtaining reflective vests for Safety Patrollers to wear while performing their crosswalk guard duties.

Turning to agenda business, Council approved the following items:

*First reading of a bill to revise appropriations for current expenses and other expenses during fiscal year ending Dec. 31, 2011.

*A resolution authorizing the purchase of four cardiac monitor defibrillators and accessories. The purchase was in the 2012 capital improvement program; however, a recently awarded FEMA Assistance to Firefighters grant of \$114,000 allows the purchase the equipment in 2011.

*A resolution to accept recommendations of the Englewood tax incentive review council (TIRC) resulting from its 2010 annual Enterprise Zone program review. The TIRC recommended the city to continue its EZ agreement with SK Tech, a maker of small auto parts, as it is meeting its goals and agreements with the city. The company receives a 75 percent exemption of real and personal property taxes for 10 years.

*A resolution to contract with Coate Construction LLC to demolish two properties considered a blight on the area, located at 806 and 808 S. Main St. in early May. Coate submitted a bid of \$34,000, which is lower than the other bid of \$34,000, received from Ajena services LLC. The city recently acquired the two properties with a CDBG grant of \$62,335 awarded last year. The city has no plans for the property beyond demolition.

A visitor, Gene Thomas of 215 Tate Ave., asked the city to make recommendations on how to solve a water backup problem common to him and several neighbors, all of whom experience a backup of water in their yards during heavy rains. The area has been inspected before by the city and by private inspectors, with no resolution. After a lengthy discussion, Burnside suggested that Thomas make an appointment with City Manager Eric Smith and the city engineer to discuss a survey of the area.