City Manager's Update

September 12, 2023



Organizational Initiatives

- Fire Department - Jeff Bowen Staff Ride
- Neighborhood Grants - Celebration
- Cloud Migration for GIS







THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Asheville Fire Department Staff Ride

- The Asheville Fire Department in conjunction with the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) conducted staff rides at 445 Biltmore Avenue (1 Hospital Dr) to discuss the building fire which took the life of Captain Jeff Bowen on July 28, 2011.
- A staff ride is an immersive learning technique that consists of walking through the actual building and hearing first-hand accounts from AFD members who were there and operated that day.
- This was the first staff ride conducted in the country and the goal is that other communities will follow AFD and share their experiences with others as well.
- Staff rides give an understanding of the challenges that were faced on July 28, 2011, and how the AFD has improved from the incident.
- There were 2 days of staff rides, one held for any AFD member who could attend, and the other held for outside departments and agencies.

Asheville Fire Department Staff Ride

- Over 40 firefighters from across the country attended this event and included firefighters from New York, Boston, Chicago, Washington D.C., Dallas, Atlanta, Charlotte, and St. Petersburg.
- These staff rides are another unique and positive opportunity for the Asheville Fire Department, its members, and the city of Asheville to continue to honor the memory of Captain Jeff Bowen who died in the line of duty on July 28, 2011.
- The staff ride promotes continuous improvement for our fire department and for the fire service nationally.
- Examples of support have been developing and implementing such things as increased minimum firefighter staffing, implementation of behavioral and physical health programs, and additional training opportunities.

The City of Asheville would like to extend a special thank you to:

- ❖ National Fallen Firefighters Foundation for conducting this staff ride
- ❖ HCA - Mission for allowing the staff ride to be conducted at their facility

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Neighborhood Matching Grant Awardee Celebration

- $159,110 allocated since program inception in 2021
- 23 participating neighborhoods
- More than 2,500 volunteer hours
- Projects include community events, invasive species removal, park improvements, capacity building



THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Neighborhood Matching Grant Awardee Celebration

"The city was very helpful in guiding us through the process, and we've been very much enjoying the partnerships and the friendships that we've made along the way through this project," Montford Neighborhood Association's Karen MacNeil







THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

GIS Migration to the Cloud

Asheville is one of the first municipalities to have our entire GIS infrastructure in the cloud

- Vision: Faster response times, more accurate data for decision making, and better customer service.
- A talented in-house team of employees built out the cloud infrastructure and deployed the software
  - Saved $100k in consulting fees
  - We own it, can maintain it
  - Eliminated fragile infrastructure - we can focus on the real work
- Community Impact
  - Better information for Community and Staff for decision making - Dashboards, Map Asheville, Simplicity
  - Improved access to maps & data from anywhere and any device, whether it's Public Safety or water crew - can access data over the internet/cell, don't have to be in City Hall
  - Better asset management
  - Modern: more secure and scalable, creating opportunities for departments like water and fire to take advantage of better tools and more accurate data
  - Resiliency especially in Emergency situations
  - Disaster Recovery-ready: can access data from anywhere, and it's faster

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