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Since 1848

Celina council continues exploring DORA

By WILLIAM KINCAID
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CELINA — City council members are taking another look at pursuing a designated outdoor refreshment area where people could legally walk around outside with alcoholic beverages.

Some councilors believe such a designation might help accelerate interest in city boutiques, restaurants and other businesses and boost Celina's appeal as a destination city. DORAs are already set up in Greenville, Wapakoneta, Van Wert and St. Marys, said city safety service director Tom Hitchcock at city council's committee of a whole meeting

on Monday night. If everything goes right, it's possible a DORA could be in place by summer, Hitchcock said. Councilors seemed largely supportive of the proposal that also was backed by a handful of business owners. Unlike previous discussions that focused mostly on

the downtown, city officials are now contemplating establishing a DORA that would encompass all 26 applicable alcohol permit holders in the city. "We looked at everybody that had an applicable license as opposed to just downtown," mayor Jeff Hazel said. A DORA can cover as much as 150 acres, Hazel said.

"It's got to be contiguous. We cannot do islands throughout Celina. It has to connect," Hazel stressed. City administrators handed out draft maps showing a DORA that stretches as far south as the former Breakaway Rec Plex on U.S. Route

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Paige Sutter photos/The Daily Standard

Council cries fowl on village chickens

By LESLIE GARTRELL
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FORT RECOVERY — Council members heard first reading of an ordinance amending the village zoning code, including a clarification that owning poultry in the village is not allowed. Village administrator Randy Diller said poultry are not allowed in town, but the rule has not been enforced. "We had some discussion about poultry being allowed in town, specifically hens, that's all that was allowed — but do we want to continue that?" Diller said. "And the consensus was no, we don't want to get into that. It's not like they're grandfathered in. It was never allowed, we just didn't enforce it," he said.

Diller said he knows of three properties in town with hen houses. The amendments also clarify that shipping containers are illegal in town aside from the industrial park; made changes to setback requirements in some zoning districts; and made changes to and added some conditional uses to some districts. The village has seven zoning districts. Diller said for example, the C1 district is zoned for single-family residences and doesn't allow two- or three-family residences, but apartments are located above many storefronts in town. The zoning change also would allow medical offices and business offices in the industrial park as a conditional use. If passed on third reading, the zoning amendments would take effect on Jan. 1. In other business, council members approved under rule suspension appropriations for 2022. Diller said the village will have a budget of \$3.5 million for 2022, down from a \$3.9 million budget this year. The village has plans to purchase a lot of equipment next year, Diller said, including some trucks and equipment for the

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Light Bright



Above, Celina Insurance Group's annual Christmas lights display shimmers and twinkles on Walnut Street. The 15-minute show choreographed to music starts at 5 p.m. and plays every half hour until the last show at 10:30 p.m. The show will continue until Jan. 1.

Left, Along with festive lights, large nutcracker figures greet the public at the entrance.

Pentagon issues rules to curb rising extremism in ranks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Warning that extremism in the ranks is increasing, Pentagon officials are issuing detailed new rules prohibiting service members from actively engaging in extremist activities. The new guidelines come nearly a year after some current and former service members participated in the riot at the U.S. Capitol, triggering a broad department review. Senior defense officials tell The Associated Press that fewer than 100 military members are known to have been involved in substantiated cases of extremist activity in the past year, but they warn that the number may grow given recent spikes in domestic



Austin

violent extremism, particularly among veterans. Officials said the new policy doesn't largely change what is prohibited, but is more of an effort to make sure troops are clear on what they can and can't do, while still protecting their First Amendment free speech rights. And for the first time, it is far more specific about social media. The new policy lays out in detail the banned activities, which range from advocating terrorism or supporting the overthrow of the government to fundraising or rallying on

behalf of an extremist group or "liking" or reposting extremist views on social media. The rules also specify that commanders must determine two things in order for someone to be held accountable: that the action was an extremist activity, as defined in the rules, and that the service member "actively participated" in that prohibited activity. Previous policies banned extremist activities but didn't go into such great detail, and also did not specify the two-step process to determine someone accountable. What was wrong yesterday is still wrong today, said one

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Associated Press

Pentagon officials announce a crackdown on extremism among active military.

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Wednesday:
Partly cloudy
Low: 25 High: 35

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