



CITY OF COLUMBUS

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Column #36 – All About Anne

“Under the Clock Tower”

Summer 1976...our nation was fresh off celebrating the bi-centennial, and celebrating Hank Aaron hitting his 755th, or last Major League Home Run. Deciding between Clinton or Trump? In '76, it was Carter or Ford.

In Columbus, July 1, 1976 marked Anne Donahue's first day of service to the City of Columbus. She started as part-time clerk, and has been answering any and all questions about our community from "A" to "Z" for the past **40** years!

Anne recently described the story of her hiring (sorry Anne if I stray from the full accurate account). An avid and renowned local softball player at the time, Anne was playing a game in town on the same day as her interview with former City Clerk Al Abrams. She left her game to come to City Hall for the interview and had enough time afterward to return to the ballpark and finish up the game that same day. Now that's the kind of dedication that would foretell her career with the City of Columbus.

In continuing with a softball theme, here are some other notable stats about Anne's time "Under the Clock Tower". She went full-time with the City on August 1, 1987 (so another one for the record books next year marks Anne's 30 years as a full-time employee). In 1990, Anne was promoted to City Clerk. City Clerk's are like the ultimate municipal caretakers. They are primarily charged with keeping the records for the city: tax records, property records, voting records, you name it, she's got it. With her length of service, all of Anne's record-keeping has to be a *record*. Besides being the keeper of the records, Clerks also manage the elections in the City. It's a huge undertaking, but those who have voted in Columbus know how smooth an operation it is. If you haven't voted yet, there are two elections coming up, one on Tuesday this week!

Aside from these core duties, Anne's responsibilities go far beyond that. Historian, encyclopedia, and resource are three words that help me describe what she does for the City. She's been a tremendous asset to me since I have worked for the City, and I thank her for her dedication.

At our City Council meeting this past week, Anne was surprised by Mayor Crombie & the City Council's recognition of her service by announcing that a Columbus Honor Tree will be planted in her honor. Following our standing ovation within the Council Chambers, I thought how appropriate the tree would be, a steady and reliable presence in our community for years to come – how better to describe Anne Donahue?

If you have any questions on this or any other issue before city government, please contact me down at City Hall at 623-5900 or via email at pvandersanden@columbuswi.us.

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