

The City of Parma

NEWSLETTER

Challenging past year gives way to summer optimism

By Tim DeGeeter



Last spring when I looked out my office window, I saw the progress that construction workers were making on Ridge Road, but I also saw a nearly vacant parking lot at The Shoppes at Parma. Little traffic meant Ridge would be completed in record time, but it also meant no shoppers at our largest retail and restaurant center.

It was challenging as we navigated a shutdown, heeded the warnings of health officials and faced an uncertain year ahead. Like other mayors throughout the country, I worried about the economic impact, as well as the public health of our community.

Despite a year like no other, Parma residents pulled together. They helped their neighbors through food drives, they ordered takeout from their favorite restaurants, and they showed their support for healthcare workers and our first responders. Residents were also understanding of our decisions to cancel parades, events and several recreational activities. Fortunately, we were able to keep Ridgewood Golf Course open after making some adjustments to meet health department guidelines. We found safe ways to open the Splash Pad and play recreation baseball and softball. Our Recreation Department also encouraged people to get outside and take advantage of park trails that were adjusted for one-way foot traffic. Our parks and beautiful West Creek Reservation saw an increased number of visitors.

I am happy to announce that this summer we will reopen pools, as well as the Splash Pad. Our golf course clubhouse will reopen and adhere to the same guidelines restaurants are following. In early spring, the mini-golf courses will be set up. We are returning to the regular summer schedule for baseball and softball, and bringing back traditional

events: Parma Night, Summer Band Concert Series and Movie Night, which will include several nights with the help of the Parma City School District. We will also unveil the Warrior Fitness Course at James Day Park.

Keep in mind that our Recreation Department events and other city activities, such as our Independence Day Parade (this year is Saturday, July 3 because the holiday lands on a Sunday) all hinge on health department guidelines. I remain optimistic, however, that we can resume these community activities as we gradually return to better and more normal times. To see what is on the calendar for summer and early fall, go to the back page of this newsletter for a list of upcoming events.

As for our Donna Smallwood Activities Center, it was the first closure we made last year and will be the last to reopen this year. Meanwhile, the staff continues to prepare and deliver meals to its homebound members, assist with senior transportation for important medical appointments and stay connected via phone calls and Zoom meetings. Yes, some of our seniors are Zooming.

Despite the pandemic, we saw critical investments in our city last year and continue to see growth. We negotiated with Prince & Izant to keep 100 jobs here and bring another 20 to Parma through a 30,000-foot expansion that will be completed this year. General Motors announced a \$6 million investment at the Parma Metal Center. Pitt Ohio finally opened its LEED-certified trucking terminal, bringing new jobs to the city. And, University Hospitals Parma Medical Center completed the first phase of a \$27.5 million investment to the facility. The health system expects to complete its final two phases of the project this year.

On the retail front, we had the long-awaited opening of Chick-fil-A, as well as the openings of other businesses such as Ace Hardware, The Current Year vinyl record store and, this past March, CLEAn Express Auto Wash. Robin Keenan, owner of Little Birdie Wine Nest, launched her new concept, Birdie Nest Social Sanctuary, which will overlook

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CARES Act support keeps many U.S. cities in the black



Auditor Brian Day

Like many communities across America, the City of Parma was affected financially as the result of COVID-19.

Financial resources that experienced the most significant impact consisted of income tax collections, court revenue, transportation revenue and recreation revenue. Keeping in

mind that income tax collections make up approximately

63 percent of the general fund revenue, the impact on the city's budget was of great concern.

In March 2020, Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). Through the Ohio Office of Budget and Management (OBM), the city received \$6,388,320 of federal assistance. The Department of Treasury then issued guidelines on how these funds could be used. OBM required the city to file reports with its office to ensure the funds were properly appropriated. As shown in the chart below, most of these funds were spent on safety forces' salaries.

CARES Act Relief Expenditures



Challenging past year

(Continued from Page 1)

the West Creek Reservation. The 8,500-square-foot venue at 6338 Broadview Road will nearly triple the size of the current location.

We have also seen a robust housing market, with sellers getting multiple offers above their asking prices. Our city has attracted more young buyers looking to purchase their first homes, and current homeowners seeing their property values increase.

There is also good news as we observe the increasing percentage of Ohioans getting vaccinated. I am grateful to Cuyahoga County Public Library and local churches that have helped residents who may not be tech savvy or have access to computers register for COVID-19 vaccinations.

Fire Chief Mike Lasky, who has led our COVID-19 response and worked tirelessly with our first responders, local healthcare leaders and county public health officials, has reported

COVID cases at UH Medical Center continue to decline.

As those numbers decrease, I see the return of our bustling streets and more vehicles pulling into the parking lots of small businesses, local restaurants and, of course, The Shoppes at Parma.

It is a better spring this year as graduating seniors look forward to proms, outdoor graduations and summer break. I am confident we all join their enthusiasm in doing more this summer . . . much more.



Ward 1 — Vito Dipierro

Save the dates! With life beginning to get back to normal, we are planning to resume city and Ward 1 traditions in 2021.

ONYX Health Club at 12900 Snow Road will be our host for the Ward 1 Safety Meeting, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 15. This is a great opportunity for residents to share

their safety concerns directly with the safety director, police and fire chiefs, mayor and me. Residents will also meet brave members of our safety forces who put their lives on the line for us every day. This educational meeting provides current crime trends and safety tips, showcases our new fire trucks, highlights a K9 visitor and includes a drone demonstration. It is a fun event for residents of all ages. The ONYX owner is offering a free one-month membership for any resident who attends the meeting.

Additionally, we will have our Fourth Annual Parma Fall Food Drive and Shred Event, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 30, at the Parma Armory, 5301 Hauserman Road. This event benefits residents with food insecurities and provides a secure way for residents to dispose of sensitive documents and protect their personal information. Donations from residents and businesses cover the event's costs. To donate or volunteer for the event, email me at the email address listed below.

Residents who wish to receive city and Ward 1 updates, email me at ParmaWard1@gmail.com to be added to the email list.

It is a pleasure to serve Parma and Ward 1 residents. For assistance, do not hesitate to contact me at 216-215-8877 or email me. Follow me on Facebook @CouncilmanDipierro where I post updates. God bless you and your families.



Ward 3 — Mark Casselberry

This past year has been challenging for many. The pandemic impacted our daily lives and schedules more than we could have imagined.

To beat the pandemic blues, my family and I often get outside and enjoy Parma's recreational parks and trails. We have spent many hours exploring the paved paths

and gravel trails in West Creek Reservation. We have also seen many riders navigating their way around the mountain bike trails located within the reservation.

We have also taken advantage of the many amenities located at Veterans Memorial Park. The park has a paved walking path with exercise stations. The highlight along the path is the picturesque memorial honoring each military branch. There are also brick pavers engraved with the names of some Parma area veterans.

Additionally, the park features a challenging disc golf course that attracts players throughout the region. In the summer months, visitors can use the free putt-

putt course and batting cages, as well as the upgraded tennis courts and playground equipment. Parma has many recreation activities for people of all ages. For more information, visit the City of Parma website or follow @CityofParmaRecreation on Facebook.

Speaking of parks, **Ward 3 Safety Meeting is 6 to 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 3 at Ries Park, 5000 Forestwood Drive.** We will gather at the pavilion.

It continues to be my pleasure to serve Ward 3. To contact me, email mcasselberry@cityofparma-oh.gov or call 440-842-6710. Or, follow me on Facebook @ParmaWard3.

Ward 2 — Debbie Lime



I hope you are safe and well. Although this past year was difficult, many activities took place such as neighbors donating time and money to feed Thanksgiving dinners to 183 homebound seniors. It was such a great feeling to be a small part of this, receive positive feedback and see thank you notes from folks that were not able to be with their families. I am so proud to be part of this community!

Additionally, the Cash Mob for small businesses in Polish Village was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who participated. It really made a difference to the small business community. I also want to thank General Motors for the \$20,000 donation to help support this initiative.

Unfortunately, with COVID-19 restrictions, Polish Constitution Day festivities in May have been canceled. The volunteers, however, are planning a Polish Festival around National Pierogi Day in October. Details to come.

As residents return to a somewhat normal life, I look forward to seeing you in your neighborhood and continuing to work together to make the community stronger.

This year, I am hosting the **Ward 2 Safety Meeting starting at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, June 17 on the first block of Dorothy Avenue.** Save the date and bring your folding chair.

Please continue to support your neighbors and small businesses, and be a good neighbor. If I can be of service to you, please email me at limeward2@gmail.com or call me at 440-845-1714. It is my pleasure to serve you. Remember, great neighbors make good neighborhoods!



Ward 4 — Kristin Saban

It is hard to believe that 2020 is finally in the rearview mirror. Year 2021 is showing signs of getting back to normal. I am looking forward to resuming Ward 4 traditions – maybe even starting some new ones.

I am hosting the **Ward 4 Safety Meeting in front of my home at 2513**

Brookview Blvd., 6 p.m., Thursday, June 10. We can socially distance ourselves because West 25th and West 26th streets will be blocked off. I will be providing light refreshments.

Quarry District Committee will meet this summer to discuss plans for branding. Details will follow. Our Annual Citywide Garage Sale is 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Aug. 12, 13 and 14. For all our crafters, we are bringing back our Citywide Craft Fair, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sept. 16, 17 and 18. Quarry District Picnic, a fun family event, is 1 to 4 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 19, at Keystone Pavilion, West Creek Reservation. Local band Hoops & Co. will perform.

It is an honor to represent Ward 4, the place I have called home for the last 23 years. As always, if I can be of any assistance, don't hesitate to contact me. You can call me at 216-398-1770 or email me at ksaban@cityofparma-oh.gov. Follow me on Facebook @Kristin Saban,ParmaWard4Council or Instagram @KristinSabanforParmaWard4. #ward4rocks!



Ward 4 Safety Meeting returns this summer. (Photo: Lexi Burnette)

Ward 6 — Larry Napoli

The summer **Ward 6 Safety Meeting is 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 29 in the front parking lot of Normandy High School.** Safety officials and I look forward to seeing you there.

The West Creek Conservancy has made another incredible addition to Parma's greenspace! The land conservation nonprofit announced in March that it paid \$1.2 million for the 18.67-acre Padua Park at 2901 West Ridgewood Drive in Ward 6. Formerly known as Camp Corde, the Padua Franciscan High School land was



originally purchased in 2005 from Catholic Charities. The private school used the park for team sports, retreats and gatherings but no longer needs the land, which includes a soccer field, enclosed pavilion and wooded area. The park will be integrated into Metroparks West Creek Reservation, creating new trail connections, increasing entryways and providing more public spaces for Parma and area residents.

To get involved with West Creek Conservancy or to donate, contact: West Creek Conservancy, 7381 Camelot Drive Parma, Ohio 44134, call 216-749-3720 or email info@westcreek.org. The mailing address is P.O. Box 347113 Cleveland, Ohio 44134.

If you need to reach me, call 440-845-4547 or email me at deblaryn@aol.com. It is an honor to serve you.

Ward 5 — Allan Divis

I hope everyone is staying safe, healthy and positive for a fun prosperous spring and summer. I also hope many residents received their COVID-19 vaccinations. Those who have not, please make appointments. As the number of Coronavirus cases decreases, our normal lifestyle will return sooner.



I will host my **Ward 5 Safety Meeting, 6 to 8 p.m., Tuesday, June 8, at my home at 7805 Fort Myers Court.** I will provide food and refreshments for all the adults and children who attend. Mayor Tim DeGeeter, Law Director Tim Dobeck and Safety Director Tom Weinreich will speak. Police and firefighters will give some demonstrations.

This year, due to COVID-19 restrictions, Ward 4 Councilwoman Kristin Saban and I presented a Virtual Parma Water Summit. The need to update everyone about the city's ongoing storm-water projects was too important to skip the event this year. We brought together representatives from the Parma Service Department, Cuyahoga County Public Works, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, Cleveland Water and West Creek Conservancy. Two studies were approved in Ward 5 for Fenway Drive and Hollenbeck Lake. To view the presentation, visit www.cityofparma-oh.gov and click on the Virtual Water Summit Video Presentation link.

Finally, a word of caution. Spam calls are on the rise again. Residents should not share personal information such as bank account or Social Security numbers with callers. Banks, utility companies and Social Security will never ask for personal information over the phone.

For questions or concerns, call me at 440-888-7213 or email me at allandivis@yahoo.com.

Ward 7 — Kammy Coyle Shuman



As the newest member of Parma City Council, I am filled with excitement to serve Ward 7. Growing up in Parma, my love for this city grows each day. Thank you for welcoming me with open arms.

Can you feel the excitement in the air? I sure can! With more vaccines rolling out and warmer weather coming, I see the light at the end of the tunnel.

I want to thank the City of Parma for remaining so strong in these hard times. From the Mayor's Office down, this city has supported its residents. A special thank you to Director JoAnn Mason and the Donna Smallwood Activities Center. She and her staff have found ways to bring essential goods to the most vulnerable in the community.

As you plan for summer, please keep **Tuesday, July 13 open 6 to 8 p.m. to celebrate the new Warrior Fitness Course and attend the Ward 7 Safety Meeting at James Day Park.** You can bring your children and meet members of the city's police, fire,

and safety departments, as well as test the obstacle course that features 10 workout stations and a sprinting path. As an exercise enthusiast, I am really looking forward to seeing this addition to the southwest corner of James Day Park!

With the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions, the city will add more in-person activities. Please follow @CityofParmaOhio on Facebook for news about upcoming events and activities.

I appreciate all the emails and phone calls I have received. Contact me anytime by email at kshuman@cityofparma-oh.gov or phone at 440-884-2138. Or, follow me on Facebook @kammycoyleshumanparmacouncilward7.

Donna Smallwood Activities Center's staff prepared and delivered nearly 25,000 meals to its senior members over the past 12 months.



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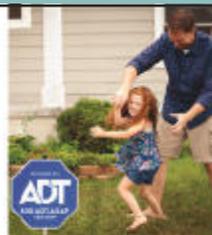
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Ward 8 — Linda Kohar

Spring has arrived and with it our hopes for a better year to come.

To deal with the terrible effects of the pandemic, we have all pulled together: helping our neighbors, donating food and, importantly, wearing masks to prevent the spread of COVID. As we know, this simple but inconvenient act is our best weapon to prevent the spread of the virus, hampering its ability to replicate and mutate into possibly even more deadly variants. Thankfully, we are getting vaccinated at an increasing rate due to a third vaccine now available, but we must keep up our guard to ensure a return to normalcy as quickly as possible.

The warmer weather has revealed a lot of “unloveliness.” Those of us who are pet owners should be considerate neighbors and pick up after our pets. Our neighbors will thank us. Also, city snowplows may have damaged some of our tree lawns. Damage can be reported by calling Resident Services at 440-885-8083 or completing the online form on the city’s website at www.cityofparma-oh.gov. Look for the Resident



Services tab near the top right of the home page. All submitted complaints are placed on a repair list. Repairs start in spring.

I recommend everyone view the mayor’s State of the City address. Normally, it is presented before a live audience but, due to COVID, it was recorded and posted in late February on the City of Parma website’s home page, under the mayor’s photo and message. His address really brings home all that we have accomplished together and what the future holds.

Save the Date: The **Ward 8 Safety Meeting is 6 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, June 23 at Anthony Zielinski Park pavilion, 7620 Ridgewood Drive.** Light refreshments will be provided.

It continues to be an honor and privilege to serve Ward 8 residents. For any questions or concerns, call me at 440-345-5180 or email me at lkohar@cityofparma-oh.gov.



A sign of spring at a city park.

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Run-Walk for Pierogies returns this summer



Council President
Sean Brennan

Lace up your running or walking shoes for the 10th Parma Run-Walk for Pierogies, sponsored by Perla's Pierogies. The event is 7:30 a.m., Saturday, July 3 at Cuyahoga Community College's Western Campus. Parking is free.

Those who know me know that running is my passion. Ten years ago, I combined my love for running, pierogies and giving back to the community by creating what has become one

of our city's signature summer events.

You may either run or walk the 5k (3.1 miles) or walk the one-mile course. Pre-registration is only \$25 (\$15 for ages 11 and under) and may be completed online at www.runsignup.com/Race/OH/Parma/runwalkforpierogies. Same-day event registration is \$30. You can also e-mail us at pierogie5k@gmail.com or call me at 440-885-8091 for a mail-in registration form or for sponsorship opportunities.

The Run-Walk takes place on the beautiful Tri-C Western Campus, which makes for a flat course. If you place in

one of the top three spots in your age group, you will earn a signature pierogi necklace award. The first 600 participants who pre-register will each receive a Parma Run-Walk for Pierogies T-shirt, so register early. When you complete the event, David and Daniel Serban from Parma's own Perla's Pierogies will generously provide you with a certificate for a half dozen of their award-winning pierogies.

Proceeds from the Run-Walk will benefit many local charities and community projects. For the latest updates, find us on Facebook and Twitter @pierogie5k.



It's on!

The 5k at Tri-C's Western Campus is expected to attract runners from all over. Last summer's race was canceled due to COVID. This year's race has the green light.

(Right, green shirt) Sean Brennan stands with 2019 race winners.

Ward 9 — Roy Jech

I hope all is well with everyone, and we can finally be optimistic about moving on from this terrible pandemic. During this past year, I have tried to remain accessible to everyone as safely as possible while still addressing Ward 9 residents' questions and concerns.



I appreciated everyone's generosity during my holiday season food drive, which was a success thanks to social media. Unfortunately, due to postal delays throughout Greater Cleveland, my postcards about the drive were delivered after the event.

By the time this newsletter lands in mailboxes, the monthly

Baba's Yard fresh produce distribution will have already begun. It is the first Tuesday of every month, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Snow Road library branch.

Other upcoming events for this year, presuming we continue in the right direction, include the Memorial Day Service, 11:45 a.m., Monday, May 31, at Veterans Memorial Park.

The Ward 9 Safety Meeting is 6 to 8 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 12 at the Keystone Pavilion, West Creek Reservation. Also at the Keystone Pavilion is the Quarry District Picnic, 1 to 4 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 19. Ward 4 Councilwoman Kristin Saban, State Representative Jeff Crossman and I are sponsoring the picnic.

I am confident everything will get better, and we can enjoy life again soon. Feel free to contact me anytime with questions or concerns. I can be reached at rjech@cityofparma-oh.gov or at 216-272-6418. I wish everyone a great spring and summer.

City of Parma joins NOPEC electric aggregation program

After being a member of Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council's natural gas aggregation program for more than 10 years, the City of Parma recently decided to also join NOPEC's electric aggregation program.

NOPEC is a nonprofit group of 240 Ohio communities in 19 counties that negotiates lower utility rates for more than 950,000 residents and small businesses. As Ohio's largest governmental energy aggregator, NOPEC buys gas and electricity in bulk to help lower customers' utility bills. Over the past 20 years, NOPEC has saved Ohio consumers millions of dollars on their energy costs.

Eligible electric customers recently received an enrollment letter detailing NOPEC's program options and the various rates available.

NOPEC provides a variety of programs, including ones with competitive variable rates, predictable fixed-term programs and 100 percent renewable electricity options. Customers are not locked into a contract, giving them the flexibility to switch to the NOPEC rate plan that works best for them at anytime without incurring termination fees.

Once enrolled in the aggregation program, NOPEC/NextEra Energy Services should begin appearing as the new electric supplier on customers' June 2021 utility bills.

NOPEC member communities and their residents benefit from exclusive money-saving and energy-saving programs. These benefits include awarding nearly \$40 million in grants to NOPEC communities to make energy-efficiency upgrades. The City of Parma has been able to apply these funds to projects such as upgrading the hot-water system at its fire stations and replacing the evaporator condenser at the Ries Ice Rink. NOPEC even provides funds to support local community events through its Community Event Sponsorship program.

The City of Parma also participates in NOPEC's Do Not Knock program, a free service created to stop predatory solicitors from knocking on residents' doors. Residents can visit www.blocktheknock.com to register their addresses.

With NOPEC's stable, competitive electric and natural gas rates and easy-to-understand contracts, Parma residents and small businesses can enjoy peace of mind in a volatile energy market. NOPEC can also help reduce energy consumption with its monthly *Energy Connection* newsletter, maintenance reminders and valuable cost-saving energy tips. Residents can access these valuable resources at www.nopec.org.

For more information, to check electric or natural gas rates, or to enroll, visit nopec.org or call NOPEC Customer Care Center 24 hours, seven days a week at 855-667-3201.



Summer Band Concert Series returns with a lineup to satisfy many musical tastes

The cities of Parma and Parma Heights will once again host the Summer Band Concert Series. Residents should bring their lawn chairs or blankets to attend the free concerts, which will start at 6:30 p.m. on the following Sundays:

Parma, Anthony Zielinski Park

June 13 – **Mike Jacobs & The Highlighters**
Big band sound

June 20 – **Dave Michaels & Gemini**
'50s, '60s, '70s, Elvis and country

June 27 – **Brian Dorr**
Great American Songbook selections

July 4 – **NorthCoast Mix**
Diversity in musical styles

July 11 – **Paradise Sunset**
Summer party favorites
Mayor Tim DeGeeter's Ice Cream Social

Parma Heights, Greenbriar Commons

Aug. 8 – **Don Disantis**
Music from the Rat Pack era

Aug. 15 – **Akron Symphonic Winds**
Professional wind ensemble

Aug. 22 – **Alley Katz with Logan Wells**
Variety music

No rain dates scheduled for any concerts.

Crossman provides update on Statehouse priorities



State Representative
Jeff Crossman

Thank you to the City of Parma for allowing me to update you on what is happening at the Ohio Statehouse. Much of what affects local government happens in Columbus, so it is important to keep an eye on what we are doing there for you.

The first half of a new Ohio General Assembly is typically busy, and this year is no

different. Ohio's 134th General Assembly began on Jan. 4 and is now fashioning the state's \$80 billion budget that for the next two years will reflect Ohio's spending priorities. The budget allows us to focus on education, healthcare access, senior services, public transportation and infrastructure, to name a few. The Ohio House will complete its portion of the budget before sending it to the Ohio Senate and then to Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine for signature. These steps must be accomplished by June 30, before the state's new fiscal year begins on July 1.

In addition, we continue to prioritize constituent services – much of which has focused on resolving issues with unemployment benefits over the last year due to the fallout from the pandemic.

We also remain focused on other services such as resolving issues with Medicaid and connecting constituents to resources for utility support, rent relief and food assistance.

At the Ohio Statehouse, we recognize special events. If you know of someone who is celebrating an achievement or reaching a milestone, let me know. My colleagues and I would be pleased to join in the recognition with a commendation from the Ohio Statehouse.

As a resident of Parma, I am proud of the work I am doing in Columbus for our community, and I encourage you to contact me anytime to discuss anything important to you – especially regarding legislation under consideration. Contact me by email at rep15@ohiohouse.gov, my office line at 614-466-3485 or my Parma home office number at 216-373-6926. I look forward to hearing from you.

County approves funds to repair West Ridgewood Drive



County Councilman
Scott Tuma

As Cuyahoga County Councilman for District 4, I am pleased to announce the approval of funding for road repairs on West Ridgewood Drive.

The project's purpose is to properly maintain the county's infrastructure, as well as support local cities' efforts to preserve roadways in surrounding communities throughout the county.

As we continue to deal with a global pandemic and reduced revenue

streams, it has been difficult for many local governments to fund infrastructure projects on their own.

Cuyahoga County will provide 80 percent, or \$1.6 million of the project's total cost of \$2 million. The City of Parma will pay the remaining cost of \$400,000. Repairs to West Ridgewood Drive will stretch from Ridge Road to State Road. The project is slated to begin in March 2022 and be completed by June 2023.

As chairman of Cuyahoga County's Public Works, Procurement and Contracting Committee, I am

proud Cuyahoga County continues to partner with municipalities to fight the ongoing battle against aging roads and infrastructure.



West Ridgewood Drive repairs scheduled March 2022.

Road Construction News

Mayor Tim DeGeeter and Parma City Council offer the following road construction update:

- County Public Works, Parma and Parma Heights will share the costs of a \$4.4 million project to repair and repave **York Road** from Pleasant Valley Road to Pearl Road. The work started in mid-March. Parma is paying \$250,000 for construction from Pleasant Valley Road to just north of Boundary Lane on York Road. Concrete repairs will be completed before paving begins. The estimated completion date is December 2021.
- The city will fill and reseal cracks on **Snow Road** from West 130th Street to Broadview Road this summer. Public Works will reimburse the city up to \$19,580.
- The \$11.3 million Cuyahoga County Public Works project to widen **Sprague Road** from Webster Road to York Road



through Strongsville, Middleburg Heights, North Royalton and Parma is in its final stage. The project includes sanitary and waterline improvements. The Parma portion of this project from West 130th Street to York Road will begin this summer and end in December 2022.

- The \$1.7 million Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) project to repair and repave **Pearl Road** from Snow Road to Brookpark Road is slated for fall 2021. Half of the construction will be completed this year; the other half in 2022.
- Parma Service Department and City Council will soon announce work on neighborhood streets. Details will be posted on the city website and social media pages.

Waterline Replacement and Storm-water Management Update

Mayor Tim DeGeeter and Parma City Council are working with city partners to address aging waterlines and storm-water issues. Following is a list of current and future projects:

NEORSD's Storm-water & Sewer Management Projects

The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District is making storm-water and sanitary sewer improvements throughout the city.

Current Projects

* 2021 Citywide Annual Catch Basin Repair: There are 5,000 catch basins citywide. To date, 500 have been repaired or replaced, and 175 catch basins are slated for work in 2021. Estimated cost is \$500,000.



* Lourdes Drive storm-water and sewer improvements

* Hickory Hills Drive storm-water and sewer improvements
* West Pleasant Valley Road and Ridge Road detention basin work and storm-water improvements

Estimated total cost for all four projects is \$800,000.

Future Projects

* Fenway Road and Rustic Trail storm-water improvements
* Stormes Drive relief storm-water and sewer improvements

* Meadow Lane headwall repair, as well as storm-water and sewer improvements

* Krueger Avenue area and Green Acres area sanitary sewer improvements

* Valley Villas, York Road and State Road septic abandonment and new sanitary sewers

* Big Creek Stream restoration by Ridge Road and Hidden Valley Road

* Sprague Road culvert replacement between State Road and Broadview Road

* Hollenbeck Lake engineering recommendations and dam repair study

* Upper Ridgewood Lake detention capabilities improvements

Nine projects above are in the design and engineering phase.

Cleveland Water's Waterline Replacement Projects

Cleveland Water is replacing 100-year-old waterlines county-wide through its Suburban Water Main Renewal Program.

Current Projects

* Fortune Avenue (State Road to West 24th Street)

* Grovewood Avenue (State Road to West 24th Street)

* Brookdale Avenue (State Road to West 24th Street)

Estimated total cost for all three projects is \$2,778,953.

Future Projects

* Russel Avenue (State Road to West 51st Street)

* Torrington Avenue (State Road to West 24th Street)

* Tuxedo Avenue (State Road to West 24th Street)

* Brookview Boulevard (State Road to Broadview Road)

Estimated total cost for all four projects is \$3,913,693.

New wheels help deliver meals to seniors

In January, Donna Smallwood Activities Center and Parma Office on Aging purchased a white 2021 Buick Encore from Axelrod Buick GMC with grant funds from Cuyahoga County.

The Encore and a 2010 silver GMC Terrain that Barry Axelrod donated in 2020 are helping staff drive prepared meals to its eligible senior members. Since March 2020, nearly 25,000 homebound and community meals have been delivered.

Additionally, Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) has awarded the city a grant for an 11-passenger lightweight transit vehicle, which will be purchased this summer.

"I want to thank County Councilman Scott Tuma, County Executive Armond Budish and the Axelrod family for helping us with these vehicles. They were needed and have already been an asset to our

Activities Center," Mayor Tim DeGeeter said.

The demand for the Center's two meal programs doubled last year and has remained high. "We need these vehicles to help us feed our homebound seniors," said Activities Center Director JoAnn Mason. "We might also use the vehicles to help transport members to medical appointments when our center reopens."

The Center has remained closed throughout the pandemic. Mason does not know when the center will reopen. Meanwhile, she and her staff help seniors remain connected through the Tuesday Support Group. "We went from meeting weekly in person to conference calls and now Zoom meetings. We brought technology to our seniors," she said.



Top: Buick Encore purchased with a county grant.
Bottom: GMC Terrain donated by Axelrod family.

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Photo enforcement modified to keep students safe



Parma City Schools returned to a five-day, in-person schedule as private schools are continuing their full schedules. With all students back to full days, their safety remains a top priority.

The City of Parma has operated a school zone photo enforcement program since 2009. With students' full return to classes, photo enforcement

will resume in six city school zones. The zones have cameras mounted on poles about 12 feet above ground level that record vehicles traveling both directions. The cameras are for speed enforcement in the 20 mph posted school zones only. Photo enforcement tickets will be issued during designated times when schools are in session and school zone lights are flashing.

According to Ohio law, the ticket is a civil violation, resulting in a fine and court costs but no points against a driver's record. In comparison, a traffic ticket may result in a fine, court costs and points.

A driver speeding in a school zone will receive a Notice of Liability letter in the mail from Parma's Automated School Zone Speed Enforcement program. The letter will explain the violation and three options available to address the violation: pay the ticket, contest the ticket or provide the driver's identity if the recipient of the letter was not the driver at the time of the violation.

The fines levied for speeding in school zones are \$100 plus court costs of \$20 for driving 28 mph to 29 mph, and \$200 plus court costs of \$20 for driving 30 mph or faster. If a driver enters a school zone right before the designated time that lights are scheduled to flash but exits when the lights turn on, the photo enforcement program allows for that lag time, and a violation will not be issued.

"Children's safety must be a critical priority for all our residents. We are grateful to the City of Parma for recognizing this importance and taking proactive steps to ensure our students can travel to and from school without incident," said Parma City School District Superintendent Charles Smialek.

"It is easier to suddenly stop a moving vehicle at 20 mph than at greater speeds. It takes the average driver 1.5 seconds to react to a situation," said Police Lt. Dean Leon, adding that every mile per hour equals 1.46 feet traveled per second. At 28 miles per hour, a driver travels 41 feet per second. "The program's goal is to make long-term changes in drivers' behavior that reduces accidents in our school zones."

Signs are posted within 300 feet of school zones with photo enforcement equipment, stating: "Traffic Laws Photo Enforced." There are also three other indicators:

1. Flashing signs to catch drivers' attention before entering an active school zone
2. Warning signs before and at the end of school zones
3. Painted markings on the pavement warning drivers entering a school zone

Six School Zones and Times of Enforcement

Constellation Schools

3400 block of Snow Road (east and west)

7:45 a.m. – 9 a.m.

3 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Thoreau Park Elementary

5400 block of West 54th Street (north and south)

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

11:15 a.m. – 1:35 p.m.

3:15 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Bethany Lutheran School

6000 block of Ridge Road (north and south)

8 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

2:50 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Normandy High School and Green Valley Elementary

2500 block of West Pleasant Valley Road (east and west)

7 a.m. to 8 a.m.

8:45 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

1:25 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Padua High School and St. Anthony Elementary School

6700 block of State Road (north and south)

7:30 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.

2:15 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Holy Family School

7400 block of York Road (north and south)

7:10 a.m. – 8:10 a.m.

2:15 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Safety Fair and Shred Event moved to later months; plans underway

The Parma Safety Fair and Shred Event will be split into two events this year and moved to late summer and early fall, due to the pandemic. Both events will be free, and no registration will be required.

State Health Department guidelines permitting, the Safety Fair will run 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 28 at the Parma Justice Center, 5555 Powers Blvd. The Shred Event will run 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Sept. 25 in the rear parking lot at Parma Senior High School, 6285 West 54th St.

At the Safety Fair, safety experts will offer advice and safety giveaways. Activities under consideration include fire extinguisher and grease fire demonstrations; drone demonstrations; free fingerprinting for children; tours of the police station, firing range and jail; and visits with the K9 Unit, bomb squad and SWAT

team. Children will be able to climb into fire trucks and see police cars and motorcycles up close. Firefighters will provide assistance to new parents who want to learn proper installation of child safety restraints in their vehicles.

“After missing a year, it is terrific to bring back the Safety Fair and have our police and firefighters safely interact with our residents. It is a fun event the whole family can enjoy,” Mayor Tim DeGeeter said.

At the Shred Event, a resident will need to show proof of residency with a driver’s license, gas bill or electric bill. There will



be no limit on the amount of documents shredded.

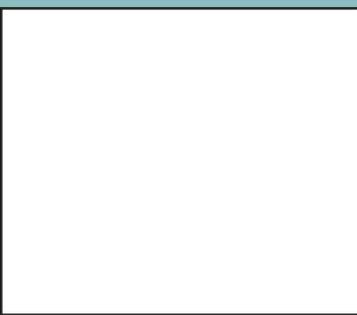
Residents will not be required to stay while their confidential documents are being shredded, but they will need to secure their documents in a tied bag or covered box if they leave. Paper documents cannot be bound with rubber bands, paper clips or binders, and no plastic folders

or sleeves will be allowed. These materials can jam the shredding machine.

A Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District grant will cover the shredding costs.

For future details about both events, call Parma City Hall at 440-885-8000 or follow @CityofParmaOhio on Facebook.

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Extreme exercise course coming to James Day Park

Exercise enthusiasts and athletes searching for a free rigorous outdoor fitness experience will like the new Warrior Fitness Course, expected to be installed in the southwest corner of James Day Park early this summer.

The \$169,000 exercise course is 45 feet wide and 120 feet long, has 10 workout stations and includes a 40-yard sprinting path.

"It is a serious workout. Athletes, fitness instructors and exercise enthusiasts will like it," said Recreation Department Director Mickey Vittardi. "I could see residents using it for training because each station focuses on different muscle groups. It is similar to a Ninja course. As far as I know, we're the first in the area to have something like this."

To pay for the course, the city used \$50,000 from an Ohio Department of Natural Resources grant, \$69,000 from the Recreation Department's budget and a generous donation from the Parma Amateur Athletic Federation.



The Warrior Fitness Course will be installed at James Day Park early this summer.

State Representative Jeff Crossman and State Senator Nickie Antonio helped the city get the funding.

"We appreciate their assistance because they arranged our meeting with

the former Senate president to pitch this new recreational concept," Mayor Tim DeGeeter said. "Because of the pandemic, people have been using the parks more, and this course gives residents an outdoor workout option."



Parma hopes to have its night at Progressive

Parma Night at Progressive Field is 7:10 p.m., Thursday, July 22. Cleveland Indians will take on the Tampa Bay Rays. Lower box seats will be discounted to \$26, and bleacher seats discounted to \$17. The Indians have not yet determined how many or when tickets will be available. The Little League pregame parade and first-pitch throw remain tentative. When the Indians provide more information, the city will share details on its website and social media.

Movie Night moved to Byers Field

Family Movie Night is back and bigger. Instead of one night in July, it will be five nights.

The Parma City School District and Parma, Parma Heights and Seven Hills recreation departments are all collaborating to host the movies at Byers Field, where residents can bring blankets, lawn chairs, snacks and beverages onto the field to view the movie on the scoreboard.

There will be hand sanitizer available and plenty of room for families to spread out. No registration will be required. Parking and admission are free. There are no rain dates scheduled. Gates will open one hour before sunset. The movies will start at dusk. Following is the list of movies and dates they will play:

- July 1 – *The Croods: A New Age*
- July 8 – *Dolittle*
- July 15 – *Onward*
- July 22 – *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*
- July 29 – *Toy Story 4*



Pandemic did not prevent two Parma women from celebrating birthdays

They have seen a lot in their lifetimes: wars, the Great Depression, recessions, space exploration and other scientific wonders such as the creation of three COVID vaccines in one year. Not only did they live through the 1918 flu, these two Parma women avoided the Coronavirus and celebrated monumental birthdays in 2021.



Mayor Tim DeGeeter and Ward 8 Councilwoman Linda Kohar recognized Pauline, who celebrated her 104th birthday this past March. DeGeeter and Ward 1 Councilman Vito Dipierro also honored Helen when she celebrated her 102nd birthday this past February.

The mayor and councilpersons did not meet face to face with the centenarians, whose families provided the Mayor's Office with photos.

"I have visited Helen in the past, but this year, we arranged with her family to leave the certificates in a drop box outside her home. We took the same precautions with Pauline," DeGeeter said. "Not sure what their secret to longevity is, but Helen's family told us she loves Parma bakeries."



Pauline (left) turned 104 in March and Helen (above) turned 102 in February.

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City events are back!

May

May 31, Memorial Day Service, Veterans Park, 11:45 a.m.

June

June 8, Landlord & Tenant Training via Zoom, 6 – 8 p.m.,
(Zoom link will be posted on the city's website.)

June 8, Ward 5 Safety Meeting, 6 – 8 p.m.

June 10, Ward 4 Safety Meeting, 6 p.m.

June 15, Ward 1 Safety Meeting, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

June 17, Ward 2 Safety Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

June 23, Ward 8 Safety Meeting, 6 – 8 p.m.

June 24, PCSD Concert starring Bill Foley, Byers Field, 6:30 p.m.

June 29, Ward 6 Safety Meeting, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

July

July 1, Movie Night, *The Croods: A New Age* *

July 3, Parma Run/Walk for Pierogies, Tri-C, 7:30 a.m.

July 3, Independence Day Parade, Ridge Road, 10 a.m. **

July 8, Movie Night, *Dolittle* *

July 13, Ward 7 Safety Meeting, 6 – 8 p.m.

July 15, Movie Night, *Onward* *

July 22, Movie Night, *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood* *

July 22, Parma Night, Progressive Field, 7:10 p.m.,

Cleveland Indians vs. Tampa Bay Rays

July 29, Movie Night, *Toy Story 4* *

August

Aug. 3, Ward 3 Safety Meeting, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Aug. 6, Parma Proud Picnic, Anthony Zielinski Park, 1 – 4 p.m.

Aug. 12, Ward 9 Safety Meeting, 6 – 8 p.m.

Aug. 12, 13 & 14, Citywide Garage Sale, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Aug. 21, Ukrainian Village Independence Day Parade,
State Road, 11 a.m.

Aug. 28, Safety Fair, Justice Center, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

September

Sept. 16, 17 & 18, Citywide Craft Fair, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Sept. 19, Quarry District Picnic, 1 – 4 p.m.

Sept. 25, Shred Event, Parma Senior High School, 9 a.m. – noon

October

Oct. 23, Treat & Greet, Polish Village, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Oct. 30, Parma Fall Food Drive & Shred Event, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.,
Parma Armory

*** Gates open one hour before sunset on Movie Nights at Byers Field. Details on Page 14.**

**** Independence Day Parade is scheduled on Saturday, July 3 because July 4 lands on a Sunday.**

See Summer Band Concert Series on Page 8 for details.

All event dates are subject to change based on State of Ohio guidelines regarding large social gatherings.