



# The City of Parma

## NEWSLETTER

## Many Parma residents unite in their support of Ukraine

By Tim DeGeeter

When fighting began in Ukraine this past February, the impact was felt in Parma, 5,000 miles away. Cuyahoga County is home to 15,000 people of Ukrainian descent, with the greatest concentration of 4,400 living in Parma.

Solomia Bida, one of many volunteers who packs humanitarian aid donations of food and medical supplies at Pokrova Ukrainian Greco-Catholic Church on Broadview Road said she and the other volunteers all have family in Ukraine.

Churches, businesses and community leaders are raising awareness and funds to help millions of Ukrainians who have fled their country. On March 25, Breads and Beyond Bakery in Ukrainian Village donated \$4,000 from its sales of Ukrainian flag cookies. Rudy's Strudel



Former Ukrainian Ambassador Valeriy Chaly and I walking in Ukrainian Village parade.

and Bakery in Polish Village donated \$10,000 to Plast Worldwide Scouting Organization, which provides Ukrainian humanitarian relief. All proceeds from sales were raised through Rudy's Stand With Ukraine event on March 12. Owner Lidia Polatajko Trempe has relatives living in Ukraine.

Between Ukraine and Parma, there lies a deep-rooted connection. I have marched in many August Ukrainian Village parades and participated in the St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral's festival on State Road. In 2017, I met with former Ukrainian Ambassador Valeriy Chaly at Parma City Hall and hosted Serhiy Nadal when the Ternopil mayor visited the city in 2018. Mayor Nadal and I exchanged gifts. He gave me a traditional Ukrainian embroidered shirt, which I wear in Ukrainian parades. When I see news reports about what's happening in Ukraine, I'm in dismay. Ukrainian cities built over decades have been destroyed in weeks. Lives lost. Families split apart. Many of our Ukrainian residents are hearing reports about the devastation directly from their relatives. It is heartbreaking.

In a show of solidarity, the city has been flying a Ukrainian flag at Parma City Hall's front entrance and illuminating the building at night with blue-and-yellow lights. The city's sign shop created blue-and-yellow metal signs that resemble Ukrainian flags, which are now affixed to street posts in Ukrainian Village and at the intersection of Ridge and Ridgewood roads. Ukrainian Village straddles three city wards. Council members from those

wards worked with the city to print "We Stand With Ukraine" signs. Ward 3 Councilman Mark Casselberry, Ward 4 Councilwoman Kristin Saban and Ward 9 Councilman Rob Euerle took the signs to Ukrainian Village business owners, who then hung the signs on their storefront windows. When people saw the signs, they requested them. To accommodate everyone, a PDF of the sign was posted on the city's website at [cityofparma-oh.gov](http://cityofparma-oh.gov) for store owners and residents to print and display.

The relationship between Ukraine and Parma has caught the attention of national media and state leaders. The week of March 6, CNN and Fox & Friends visited the city to speak with residents and community leaders. On March 17, I attended Gov. Mike DeWine's summit at the St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral on State Road. DeWine brought together state, city and community leaders to discuss how we can assist Ukrainian refugees who might relocate to Ohio.

Additionally, City Council and I asked Ukrainian church and community leaders, business owners and residents to join us as we marched in the May 1 Polish Constitution Day Parade to show how Parma and Polish Village stand united with Ukraine.

Looking ahead, Parma would be a logical choice for Ukrainian refugees coming to Ohio. I have spoken to my friend Joe Cimperman, president of Global Cleveland, about how we can work together. Global Cleveland connects

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# Parma taps ARPA funds to help balance 2022 city budget



Auditor Brian Day

Every year, the City of Parma operates on a temporary budget the first three months of the year until the permanent budget is passed by the end of March. The city conducted 2022 budget hearings Feb. 15, 23 and 28.

Throughout the transparent budget process, each department presents its budget to Parma City Council at one of three budget hearings. The public is welcomed at all the hearings. During these hearings, City Council can review each department's line-item expenditures and ask questions.

As is common each year, in addition to standard expenditures, departments present initiatives or projects they would like to pursue. Depending on the available resources and the city's priorities, some of these initiatives or projects are approved, and others removed from the budget.

This year, after the initial general fund budget was presented following the budget hearings, there was a deficit of \$5.6 million. As a result, departmental adjustments were made, based on initiatives or projects that could not be justified. The Treasurer's Office also provided the estimated income tax projection for 2022, which was \$1.5 million higher than the 2021 income tax collections.

Because there was still a gap to close in order to achieve a balanced budget, the city then turned to American Rescue Plan Act funds. ARPA is a federal stimulus bill that provides funding to state and local governments. It is designed to aid public health and support economic recovery from COVID-19. A total of \$3.6 million from ARPA funds was used to cover safety forces' salaries and benefits. City Council then passed a balanced budget on March 21.

The general fund available resources was \$64.3 million, and the appropriations was \$63.2 million, thus leaving the general fund with a surplus of \$1.1 million.

## Many Parma residents unite

*Continued from page 1*

international newcomers to economic, social and educational opportunities in Cuyahoga County. If the day arrives that Ohio sees an influx of Ukrainian refugees, Parma will be ready to welcome them.

### A Summer of Coming Together

Parma Area Chamber of Commerce's Rib 'N Rock returns this summer after a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19. The barbecue rib contest and music festival runs Thursday, June 9 through Sunday, June 12 at Cuyahoga Community College's Western Campus. The four-day event culminates with June 12 fireworks, sponsored by We Are Parma Proud. For more details, visit [ParmaRibNRock.com](http://ParmaRibNRock.com).

Also, the Parma Beautification Award program continues. Council members and I will give Beautification Award yard signs to homeowners who show pride in their properties. Photos of the homes will then be posted on social media.

The city is collaborating again with the City of Parma Heights to host nine free

outdoor summer concerts in city parks. Ice cream lovers, don't miss the July 10 concert at Zielinski Park. I will be giving concertgoers free ice cream bars.

Last year, we estimated 4,000 people attended Parma's 90-minute Independence Day Parade. We expect a big turnout again when an anticipated 500 participants parade down Ridge Road on Monday, July 4.

Council members and safety forces are hosting ward safety meetings throughout the summer. The meetings give residents an inside look at how police and fire departments work together to keep Parma safe. Also returning is the Safety Fair, which is Saturday, Aug. 13. This family friendly event gives everyone an opportunity to see the city's safety equipment up close, watch demonstrations and learn safety tips.

Parma Community Night at Progressive Field is 7:10 p.m., Wednesday, July 13, Cleveland Guardians vs. Chicago White Sox. Also, We Are Parma Proud's

Picnic in the Park returns Saturday, Aug. 6, but this time, it is at James Day Park.

Although I have focused on people coming together, I also want to mention a plan that quickly came together. Starting March 21, demolition began on the Ridgewood Golf Course Clubhouse. By April 12, the Ridgewood Golf Course was open for the golf season. Staff is operating from a customized triple-wide trailer that houses restrooms, offices, a snack bar, seating area, flat-screen TVs and a bar. For more details on the clubhouse, read the article on page 14. For a list of all the summer events, turn to the back page.



Children enjoy a water-balloon toss at Picnic in the Park.



## Ward 1 — Vito Dipierro

I am looking forward to meeting with residents at city and ward events this year. We will again have our Ward 1 Safety Meeting, Fall Food Drive and Shred Event, Ward Cleanups and Parma Beautification Awards.

Last year, we had more than 50 nominations for Parma Beautification

Awards. I am excited to visit all the beautifully kept yards and recognize our wonderful Ward 1 winners this year.

The Miller Park renovation was completed last year. We are planning a ribbon cutting and cookout. I will send notifications when a date is confirmed.

We have secured Community Development Supplemental Grant funds for streetscape improvements to Chevrolet Boulevard again this year. We also have received funding to repave Pearl Road and Ridge Road (north of Pearl), along with an aggressive ward street repair program.



*Parma Beautification Awards return this summer.*

Ward 1 residents who would like to receive regular city and ward updates, please email me at [ParmaWard1@gmail.com](mailto:ParmaWard1@gmail.com) to be placed on my email list.

It is a pleasure to serve Parma and Ward 1 residents. If there is anyway I can assist you, do not hesitate to contact me. You can follow me on Facebook @CouncilmanDipierro, where I post updates. God bless you and your families.

## Ward 3 — Mark Casselberry



The year is moving fast. Unfortunately, for many of us, this year will be remembered for events that have taken place on the other side of the world.

On Feb. 24, we first heard about the start of the war in Ukraine. This war has had a great impact on our Ukrainian commu-

ity in Parma. Ward 3 is the heart of Ukrainian Village, and many of our friends and neighbors still have loved ones living in Ukraine.

I am very proud of the way our community has come together to support our neighbors and the humanitarian relief efforts in Ukraine. Many local churches, businesses and residents have held fundraisers to help our Ukrainian brothers and sisters. They have shipped truckloads of donated clothing, food and medical supplies to refugee locations. Our city will continue to support Ukrainians here and abroad as the war continues.

## Ward 2 — Debbie Lime



As we return to normal life after COVID, and more events take place, I would like to invite residents to participate in the Ward 2 Safety Meeting at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 22 in front of my home, 7618 Dorothy Ave. Police officers and firefighters will attend with their vehicles and equipment for everyone to view. It promises to be a good discussion between our first responders and residents. A rain date has been set for June 23, same time.

At the request of many folks in the ward, the annual Ward 2 Polish Village Garage Sale has returned. It will run 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., June 16, 17 and 18. Cost is \$5 for a garage sale permit. For further information, please call Renee Bukszar in the Council Office at 440-885-8092 or email me at [lime-ward2@gmail.com](mailto:lime-ward2@gmail.com).

Save the date for Treat & Greet in Polish Village. It will be 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 22. I saw a tremendous turnout at last fall's event and expect the same this fall.

Additionally, every year we hear residents ask if a fireworks display will return to the city. The We Are Parma Proud nonprofit community group worked hard to raise \$10,000 to cover the cost of a fireworks show on the last day of Rib 'N Rock, which is also returning this summer, June 9 through June 12. Fireworks can be viewed at dusk, Sunday, June 12 from Rib 'N Rock's location.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you! I enjoy talking with you and continually working together to make our community strong.

With summer fast approaching, I hope to see you at one of our many community events (see page 16). Rib 'N Rock is returning as an in-person four-day event. This summer our Independence Day Parade will be on July 4, and the Safety Fair is Aug. 13. I will also host the Ward 3 Safety Meeting, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Aug. 2 at Michael A. Ries Park, 5000 Forestwood Drive. We will gather in the pavilion.

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





## Ward 4 — Kristin Saban

I want to let our friends and neighbors in Ward 4's Ukrainian Village know we are here, standing beside you, and continue to pray for peace in Ukraine.

With summer fast approaching, I look forward to our continued traditions. This year, I have partnered with

Yurch Funeral Home at 5618 Broadview Road for a Quarry District Shred Event, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, June 4.

Also, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Thursday, June 16, I am hosting the annual Ward 4 Safety Meeting & Summer Cookout in front of my home at 2513 Brookview Blvd. Hot Dogs will be served, along with some other goodies. Grab a chair and join us!

The annual Citywide Garage Sale, which began in Ward 4 and grew to include all the wards, is Aug. 11 to Aug. 13.

The Citywide Craft Fair, which Ward 4's Daneen Kruezer initiated, will be returning Sept. 15 to Sept. 17. Visit @City of Parma Community Craft Fair on Facebook for more details.

We also will host the Fifth Annual Quarry District Picnic, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 18 at Keystone Pavilion, West Creek Reservation. Hoop & Co. will perform. We will have football on TV, games for the kids and a free picnic lunch for residents of Quarry District in Wards 4 and 9. With all these events already on the books, you can see why I am looking forward to once again embracing our Ward 4 traditions.

As always, if there is anything I can do, don't hesitate to reach out. Have a safe and wonderful summer. I look forward to seeing you on my evening walks.

## Ward 5 — Allan Divis

Welcome spring! I wish everyone the best of health and happiness 2022 has to offer.

My prayers for peace continue for Ukraine. I am proud to stand with Ukrainians and offer my support and love for their families here in Parma and Ukraine. God bless them.



Residents are invited to the Ward 5 Safety Meeting, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Tuesday, June 28 in front of my house at 7805 Fort Myers Court. I will have a cookout and refreshments. Bring the family and lawn chairs. Police officers, firefighters and city officials will give presentations, and there will be some demonstrations. Door prizes and fun are guaranteed.

I co-hosted the 2022 Water Summit with Ward 4 Councilwoman Kristin Saban. This year, we had a live summit at City Hall instead of a virtual event. Attendees heard presentations from the city's Service Department, Engineering Department, as well as local and regional partners about work in progress and future projects to alleviate flooding and manage the city's wet-weather resiliency.

Rib 'N Rock returns this year June 9 through June 12 at Cuyahoga Community College's Western Campus. A big thank you to the Parma Area Chamber of Commerce for bringing back this event and to We Are Parma Proud, which raised funds to cover the cost of fireworks. The fireworks display will begin at dusk, Sunday, June 12.

It is my pleasure to serve Ward 5 residents. Email me at [adivis@cityofparma-oh.gov](mailto:adivis@cityofparma-oh.gov) or call me at 440-888-7213.

## Ward 6 — Kevin Kussmaul

Serving as Ward 6 councilman, I have gone on ride-alongs with our police, fire and service departments. I have also shadowed in our dispatch center. We are fortunate to have such dedicated people serving our community.



*After a snowy ride-along*

The Ward 6 Safety Meeting is 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 4 with a rain date of Thursday, Aug. 11, same time. The location is in front of my home, 3160 Hetzel Drive.

This past winter, the city had a few water main breaks, and some residents weren't sure who to call. For water main breaks, call Cleveland Water's emergency line, 216-664-3060.

Parma's Economic Development & Community Services

Department has two programs that may be of interest to homeowners. Through the Home Improvement Program, owner-occupied, low-to-moderate income single-family households may be eligible for a 40 to 60 percent grant worth up to \$6,000 on qualified home improvements. Qualifying home improvements include roofing, plumbing, furnace and electrical replacement. Applications became available May 3.

Also, homeowners age 65 and older may qualify for an \$80 voucher for furnace cleaning by calling for an appointment starting Aug. 2. For more information, call Economic Development & Community Services at 216-661-7372.

The residents of Parma have risen to help Ukraine and Ukrainian refugees. I'm extremely proud of the donations and financial support Parma residents have provided for humanitarian relief efforts.

Please note, I can be reached at 440-823-6608 or [kkussmaul@cityofparma-oh.gov](mailto:kkussmaul@cityofparma-oh.gov).



## Ward 7 — Kammy Coyle Shuman



Welcome to spring! I hope everyone is doing well. I have been in office for more than a year and love serving you, my constituents. I currently chair the Governmental Committee and serve on the Finance and Planning Committee. Every day brings something different, and I really enjoy helping my neighbors.

Ward 7 has recently expanded and now includes residents living on the north side of Pleasant Valley between York and Ridge roads. This includes Holy Family Parish and the houses lining Pleasant Valley Road. Holy Family is celebrating its 150th anniversary with many events happening all summer. Visit the Holy Family website for details about the events. It will be a great summer!

We have many projects happening in Ward 7. I am holding a Ward Meeting, 6 p.m., Wednesday, May 25. Please join me at the American Legion Post 703, 7667 York Road. I will have a member of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District there to answer questions.

There will also be a Ward 7 Safety Meeting, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Thursday, June 30 at James Day Park pavilion. Mayor Tim DeGeeter, Law Director Tim Dobeck and the safety director will speak. Police and fire officials will be there with demonstrations. Children will be able to climb into the fire trucks, and visit with police and firefighters.

Summer is coming, and my family and I wish you many sunny days. Please reach out to me, so we can walk the ward this summer. Call me at 440-884-2138 or email me at [kshuman@cityofparma-oh.gov](mailto:kshuman@cityofparma-oh.gov). Love all, serve all.



The Shuman family wishes everyone a fun-filled summer.

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## Ward 8 — Linda Kohar

There are many exciting developments for Ward 8.

The newest addition to The Shoppes at Parma is Crumbl Cookies, a family-owned bakery offering a weekly rotating menu of specialty cookies baked fresh daily in open, tech-driven kitchens.

Customers can see their cookies



being made and baked right in front of them. The bakery is part of a national franchise.

Another development is the relocation of Old Time Pottery from Parma Heights to Parma. The store, which offers a wide variety of decorative items for the home and garden, will move into the vacant building next to Giant Eagle at 8201 Day Drive. It is expected to open late June.




*Crumbl Cookies now open.*

Mayor Tim DeGeeter delivered his virtual State of the City address in late February. It can be viewed at [cityofparma-oh.gov](http://cityofparma-oh.gov) under “Message from Mayor Tim DeGeeter” and is well worth the time. He explains the many efforts to move the city forward, including infrastructure projects, economic development plans and new business openings. He also talks about how the administration proactively acquires grants from federal and state resources to help with the staggering costs of projects needed for storm-water management, road construction and more.

Americans are witnessing via social media and news reports the horrific events unfolding in Ukraine. Parma is home to many residents of Ukrainian descent. In March, CNN came to Parma City Hall to showcase efforts in the city to support those who have been forced to flee as bombs destroy their homes. The mayor signed a resolution in support of Ukraine, which was highlighted on the CNN broadcast, “War in Ukraine hits very close to home in this Ohio town.” The Ukrainian people who are willing to die to keep their democracy are an inspiration for all of us.

One final note: Hope to see you at the Ward 8 Safety Meeting, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Thursday, July 14 at the Parma Circle.



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# Run-Walk for Pierogies scheduled in June



Council President  
Sean Brennan

Lace up your running or walking shoes for the 11th Parma Run-Walk for Pierogies, sponsored by Perla's Pierogies and University Hospitals Parma Medical Center. The event is 7:30 a.m., Saturday, June 25 at Cuyahoga Community College's Western Campus. Parking is free.

Those who know me know that running is my passion. Eleven years ago, I combined my love for

running, pierogies and giving back to the community by creating what has become one of Parma's signature summer events.

Participants may 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 [runsignup.com/Race/OH/Parma/runwalkforpierogies](http://runsignup.com/Race/OH/Parma/runwalkforpierogies). Day of event registration is \$30. Participants can also e-mail [pierogie5k@gmail.com](mailto:pierogie5k@gmail.com) or call 440-885-8091 to request a mail-in registration form or inquire about sponsorship opportunities.

The Run-Walk takes place on the beautiful Tri-C Western Campus, which makes for a

flat course. Those who place in the top three spots in several age groups win coveted signature pierogi necklace awards. The first 600 pre-registered participants will each receive a Parma Run-Walk for Pierogies T-shirt, so register early. Those who complete the course will enjoy Parma's own award-winning Perla's Pierogies.

Proceeds from the Run-Walk will once again benefit local charities and community projects. For the latest updates, find the event on Facebook and Twitter @pierogies5k.



The Run-Walk for Pierogies 5k at Cuyahoga Community College's Western Campus attracts runners from all over the region. (Right, green shirt) Sean Brennan stands with the 2019 top runners.

## Ward 9 — Rob Euerle

Thank you, neighbors, for trusting me to be your Ward 9 voice in Parma City Hall.

Looking back as a lifelong resident of Parma, I see a kid who enjoyed so much that Parma offered with little awareness then of how it was possible. As a teen starting my first tiny business in Parma, I began to understand and utilize the wonderful opportunities that abound in our city.

Today, with both feet firmly planted on its soil, Parma is the home of my businesses, my loves and my future. Thank you for



making it possible for me to share my future with you as your Ward 9 councilman.

### A Pledge to My Neighbors:

*"I will remain cognizant of Ward 9's uniqueness, as well as its part in concert with the City of Parma. For your benefit, engaging with residents of all ages, interests and needs – as well as with businesses and city officials – will be paramount. Helping to enact sensible local legislation and appropriate budgets are key goals. Keeping you safe and informed is my highest priority. I work for you. When you need me, I am only a phone call or email away. Now that you know my face, I hope you will say 'Hello' when we meet in our great neighborhood."*

To reach me, email [reuerle@cityofparma-oh.gov](mailto:reuerle@cityofparma-oh.gov) or call 216-418-8342.



## NOPEC offers numerous product options for gas and electric customers

After being a member of Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council's natural gas aggregation program for more than 10 years, the City of Parma joined NOPEC's electric aggregation program last year.



For natural gas, NOPEC offers a monthly variable price that is guaranteed \$0.02/MCF less than the utility's monthly standard choice price. Enrollment under this option is limited and subject to availability.

NOPEC is a nonprofit group of 242 Ohio communities in 19 counties that negotiates lower utility rates. As Ohio's largest governmental energy aggregator supplying electricity and natural gas to more than 1 million accounts, NOPEC buys gas and electricity in bulk to help lower customers' utility bills, thus providing stability for customers in a volatile energy market. Eligible customers are automatically enrolled in NOPEC's standard program price option for both electric and natural gas.

Additional program choices include 12- and 24-month fixed-term products.

NOPEC member communities and their residents benefit from exclusive money- and energy-saving programs. These benefits include awarding more than \$44 million in energy-efficiency grants since 2001 to NOPEC member communities. For example, Parma used funds from these grants to upgrade the hot-water system at its fire stations and replace the evaporator condenser at Michael A. Ries Ice Rink.

For electric, NOPEC also offers a monthly variable price program that is a guaranteed 6 percent off the utility's monthly price to compare for residential customers and 4 percent off the utility's monthly price to compare for small business customers. Enrollment in this program is limited and subject to availability. Additional program choices include 12- and 24-month fixed-term and 100 percent renewable options.

Additionally, Parma participates in NOPEC's Do Not Knock program, a free service created to stop predatory solicitors from knocking on residents' doors. Residents can visit [blocktheknock.com](http://blocktheknock.com) to register their addresses.

To learn more about program choices, cost-saving energy tips and rates, visit [nopec.org](http://nopec.org). To enroll in the available options, call the Customer Care Center at 855-667-3201.

### Ready Notify and Facebook keep residents informed about emergencies

This past winter when Northeast Ohio was slammed with severe snowstorms, the city's Safety Department notified residents who are registered



with the county's Ready Notify CodeRed service about parking bans. Those notices were also posted on the City of Parma's Facebook page. The city uses these communications tools to quickly and easily reach a large audience about emergencies and important information.

Although the city has communicated to residents in the past about how to register for CodeRed alerts, there are still many people not taking advantage of this free service.

"This is the fastest way to get weather and emergency alerts. I encourage residents to sign up for this valuable service," Mayor Tim DeGeeter said.

#### How to Enroll

Visit [ready.cuyahogacounty.us/en-us/readynotify](http://ready.cuyahogacounty.us/en-us/readynotify). A valid email and phone number are needed to enroll. During registration, you will be asked for your ad-

dress, language preference and if you need any special assistance during an emergency. When registering, you have options to choose how to receive messages such as a call to your home, work or cell phone, text message, TDD transmission and/or through the mobile app CodeRed Mobile Alert. You can also have alerts sent to multiple devices and from more than one city, such as the city where you live and city where you work.

Additionally, following @CityofParma on Facebook will also keep you informed about emergency notifications, as well as news and events.

## Rep. Crossman supports property tax relief at the Ohio Statehouse



State Representative  
Jeff Crossman

One of the most frequent issues our office has heard about in recent years relates to local property taxes. As home values have risen dramatically, so have property taxes, impacting our senior community the hardest. This is the reason I support efforts to minimize the impact of property taxes on seniors who live on fixed incomes by co-

sponsoring House Bill 207, which seeks to update the homestead exemption for qualifying seniors and the disabled.

This statewide program allows our seniors and disabled community members to qualify for a reduced tax burden by providing a homestead discount, which minimizes the effect that increased property values have on housing costs. Unfortunately, the program has not been adjusted since Gov. Ted Strickland's term ended in 2010.

Under current state law, the homestead exemption allows an eligible homeowner to exempt the first \$25,000 of the home's appraised value from taxation. House Bill 207 would update the exemption by

increasing the exemption to \$31,200 in value. If passed, the bill would no longer require an update because the exemption would automatically increase if inflation increases.

Those of us that support this common-sense update to the homestead exemption believe it is important to continue supporting policies that assist our seniors and help keep our communities whole. This is why Rep. Dan Troy (D-Willowick) and I held a press conference recently in Columbus to pressure the Republican majority controlling the Ohio Statehouse to finally pass this important legislation. Ohioans who have earned their retirement should be permitted to retire with safety and security in the communities they choose to live in. Residents who have questions regarding their eligibility for the homestead exemption can contact the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Office at 216-443-7050. The county administers this program locally.

*If you have any legislative priorities or suggestions, do not hesitate to contact my office anytime. We are happy to answer your questions, as well as listen to your comments and concerns. You can contact me via email at [rep15@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:rep15@ohiohouse.gov) or by phone at 614-466-3485. It is an honor to serve you, your family and our community.*

## Polish Village and Ukrainian Village street-scape work enters fourth phase



County Councilman  
Scott Tuma

As Cuyahoga County Councilman for District 4, I am proud to continue supporting legislation to assist in funding improvements to Par-

ma's Polish Village and Ukrainian Village. This multi-phased project has upgraded the visual aspects of these main arteries and made the areas more desirable locations for businesses and residents.

I am excited to announce that the City of Parma was recently awarded \$50,000 from the County's Community Development Supplemental Grant program for Phase IV of this ongoing project.

CDSG is a highly competitive program and only approves awards to applicants who appropriately add to a city's community development. The proceeds from this grant will be used to continue street-scape improve-



*A bench awaits a visitor along the paved Polish Village street-scape.*

ments in Polish Village and Ukrainian Village. I expect that we will see progress on Phase IV continuing through summer 2022.

Mayor Tim DeGeeter and Parma City Council have worked diligently with me to obtain the necessary

county proceeds for all phases of this project. I am proud to assist with procuring the funding for this vital work and look forward to watching Polish Village and Ukrainian Village continue to thrive in the community.

# Storm-water Management and Waterline Replacement Update

Mayor Tim DeGeeter and Parma City Council offer the following sewer and storm-water line improvement update:

## Recently Completed Projects

- \* 2021 Catch Basin Repair Program, \$500,000
- \* Broadrock Court & Old Rockside Road septic conversion, \$2 million
- \* South Canterbury Road culvert improvement, \$200,000

**Total Cost: \$2.7 million**

## 2022/2023 Projects

- \* East Linden Lane pump station replacement, \$750,000
- \* Krueger Avenue sewer improvement, Phase 1, \$1.75 million
- \* Jeanne Drive sewer improvement, \$500,000
- \* Royalview Drive & Pecan Drive/Big Creek stream restoration, NEORS, \$95,000
- \* Sprague Road/Big Creek flood reduction, NEORS, \$675,000

**Total Estimated Cost: \$3.77 million**

## Future Projects

- \* Fenway Road sewer improvement, Phase 1, \$250,000
- \* Green Acres Avenue sewer improvement, \$1 million
- \* Krueger Avenue sewer improvement, Phase 2, \$1.75 million
- \* Meadow Lane headwalls and drainage improvement, \$1 million
- \* Rustic Trail sewer improvement, \$250,000
- \* State, Valley Villas & York roads septic conversion, \$2 million

**Total Estimated Cost: \$6.25 million**

## Cleveland Water's Waterline Replacements

Cleveland Water replaces 100-year-old waterlines county-wide via its Suburban Water Main Renewal Program.

### 2022/2023 Projects

- \* Includes new waterlines, connections, fire hydrants and asphalt overlay on the following streets:
  - Russel Avenue, State Road to West 51st Street
  - Torrington Avenue, State Road to West 24th Street
  - Tuxedo Avenue, State Road to West 24th Street

**Total Estimated Cost: \$2.7 million**

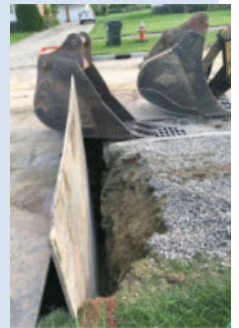
### Future Projects

- \* Brookdale Avenue, West 16th Street to Broadview Road  
Estimated \$247,809

- \* Sprague Road, West 130th Street to York Road (under construction and part of Sprague Road widening project)  
Estimated \$1.8 million

- \* Velma Avenue, West 54th Street to Pearl Road  
Estimated \$561,892

**Total Estimated Cost: \$2.6 million**



## NEORS will build Upper Ridgewood Basin to address flooding in the area

In late summer, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District will start work on a \$3.4 million redesign of Upper Ridgewood Basin, known as Ridgewood Lake. NEORS will increase the wet basin's storm-water capacity to help alleviate flooding. It is expected to be completed in 2023.



*Rendering of Upper Ridgewood Basin and view near Roycroft Drive*

Many area residents have reported flooding, and NEORS's research indicates 150 structures would flood in a 100-year rain event. When the project is completed, NEORS expects a 40 percent reduction in flooding in neighborhoods north of Anthony Zielinski Park.

The Upper Ridgewood Basin project includes planting of trees, grass, wildflower

ers and colorful foliage native to Ohio. The plan will add an ADA-compliant path, connecting Ridgewood Lake Drive to the Splash Pad, pavilion and gazebo.

NEORS Watershed Team Leader Donna Friedman noted Big Creek will be flowing through Ridgewood Basin, which means the basin will always con-

tain moving water. "We know residents are concerned about how the redesigned basin will look, but we are working with the city to make sure the park will be aesthetically appealing."

A second NEORS project is the conversion of Veterans Memorial Park pond into a retention basin. Engineering and design meetings are currently taking place. NEORS will pay for the project and start construction next year.

Mayor Tim DeGeeter said, "These projects will enhance the parks, increase basin capacity and keep water out of homeowners' basements. Residents asked the city to tackle our flooding issue, and that's what we are doing with the help of the Regional Stormwater Management Program."



# Road Construction News


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



- Cuyahoga County Public Works, Parma and Parma Heights shared the costs of a \$4.5 million project to repair and repave **York Road** from West Pleasant Valley Road to Pearl Road. Parma paid \$250,000 for construction from West Pleasant Valley Road to Boundary Lane on York Road. The project was completed this past fall.
  - Ohio Department of Transportation's \$4.5 million repairing and repaving of **Ridge Road** between West Pleasant Valley Road and Pearl Road was completed this past fall.
  - The \$5 million Ohio Department of Transportation project to repair and repave **Ridge Road** between Pearl Road and Flowerdale Avenue in Parma, Cleveland and Brooklyn will start this summer with possible completion in spring 2023.
  - The \$2.3 million Ohio Department of Transportation project to repair and repave **Pearl Road** between Snow Road and Brookpark Road will enter Phase 2.
- Work from Ridge Road to Snow Road started this spring and should be completed in October 2022.
  - The \$12 million Cuyahoga County Public Works project to widen **Sprague Road** between West 130th Street and York Road in Parma and North Royalton includes sanitary, storm-water and waterline improvements. Construction is underway and should be completed in October 2023.
  - Repairing and repaving of **West Ridgewood Drive** between Ridge Road and State Road begins this summer. Cuyahoga County Public Works will provide 80 percent, or \$1.9 million of the project's total cost of \$2.4 million. Parma will pay the remaining \$500,000. The project should be completed by spring 2023.
  - The city will spend more than \$5 million on roadway repairs of neighborhood streets during the 2022 and 2023 repaving seasons.

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# Residents encouraged to attend Shred Day and Safety Fair

The **Shred Day & Food Drive** has been moved back to spring. The event is 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, May 21, rear parking lot of Parma Senior High School, 6285 West 54th St. Although the service is free, participants are asked to make non-perishable food or monetary donations to All Faiths Pantry.

“To have confidential documents safely shredded, a resident must show proof of residency with a driver’s license, gas bill or electric bill. There are no limits on the amount of documents shredded,” Mayor Tim DeGeeter said.

Residents do not need to stay while documents are being shredded, but they are required to secure the documents in tied bags or covered boxes. Documents can’t be bound with rubber bands, paper clips or binders, and no plastic folders are allowed. These materials jam the shredder.

A grant from Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District is covering the costs.

Additionally, the **Parma Safety Fair**, which was moved to August last year due to COVID restrictions, will remain a summer event. Turns out, the new date was a good move.

“The weather was nice, which also made it easier for the UH AirMed helicopter to land – a big draw at this event. We also saw really high attendance. It’s an activity that allows our first responders to interact with residents in a fun and informative way,” DeGeeter said.

The free event, now in its 20th year, is 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 13 at the Parma Justice Center, 5555 Powers Blvd.

Safety experts will offer safety tips and giveaways. Activities will include fire extinguisher, drone and K9 demonstrations;



Children can climb into emergency vehicles.

free fingerprinting and bicycle helmets for children; and visits with firefighters, EMS workers and police patrol, motorcycle and bicycle units.

For the latest news about both events, follow @CityofParma on Facebook.

## Photo enforcement designed to keep students safe

The City of Parma has operated school zone photo enforcement since 2009. Six city school 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 are 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. 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 is not issued.

Below is the list of the six school zones and times of enforcement during the school year.

### Six School Zones and Enforcement Times

#### 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.

#### Constellation Schools

3400 block of Snow Road (east and west)  
7:45 a.m. – 9 a.m.  
3 p.m. – 4 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.

#### Normandy High School and Green Valley Elementary

2500 block of West Pleasant Valley Road (east and west)  
7 a.m. – 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.

#### 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.



Safety Director Thomas Weinreich participates yearly at 9-11 services.

## Weinreich retires after 36 years of city service

Safety Director Thomas Weinreich retires at the end of May after 36 years of serving Parma residents. Weinreich's career spans five mayors and four leadership roles, with the most recent as safety director overseeing police, fire, dispatch, animal control and other departments.

He has a law degree from The University of Akron's School of Law and served as a Parma assistant city prosecutor for 12 years. He also was city tax commissioner for eight years, and human resources and purchasing director for seven.

"The safety director maintains a stressful job, requiring strong communication, administrative and public policy skills, as well as patience, flexibility and tenacity. Tom embodies all these

strengths and more," Mayor Tim DeGeeter said. "He played a key role in keeping Parma safe and helping our first responders deal with the heroine epidemic, pandemic crisis, fires, weather events and other emergencies our city and other cities face."

Weinreich has served his community outside of work, too. He has held leadership positions in various professional and civic organizations, including the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court Diversion Program, Ohio Association of Public Safety Directors, Northeast Ohio Municipal Prosecutors' Association, Parma Area Chamber of Commerce and the former Parma Jaycees and Proud of Parma, among others. An active parish member, he is the finance council chairman of St. Charles Borromeo Church.

Weinreich grew up in Parma, graduated from Parma Senior High School and lives in Parma with his wife Leanne. Their son Zach is a firefighter/paramedic full time for the City of Rocky River and part time for the City of Broadview Heights.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to have spent my career serving the community I love and call home," Weinreich said. "During that time, I have been blessed to work with and for many very dedicated men and women in our safety forces and throughout the city."

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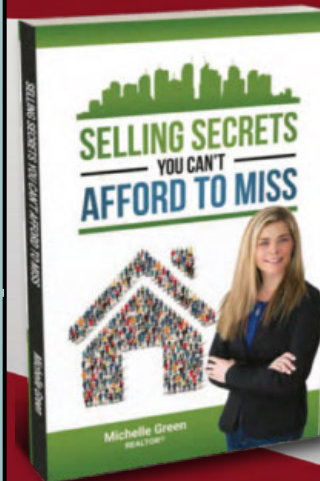
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# New era for Ridgewood Golf Course begins with clubhouse demo

Ridgewood Golf Course Clubhouse came tumbling down beginning March 21 when the city held a demolition event.

Golfers, golf leagues and community groups used the facility for decades, but the old structure had reached the point of no return. Due to the facility's condition, it no longer warranted ongoing investments. The city plans to replace the clubhouse in the future with an event center that golfers, community groups and the public can reserve for golf outings, special events and celebrations.

Cuyahoga County provided \$175,000 from its Community Development Fund, which is tied to gross casino revenues. Cuyahoga Land Bank added \$50,000 to cover the demolition cost of the city-owned clubhouse.

"It is something we have needed for a really long time," Mayor Tim DeGeeter said. "We are excited about this new chapter for Ridgewood and our city."

"I know how important Ridgewood Golf Course is to Parma and neighboring communities. For nearly 100 years, it has served as a recreational center of activity for the community. It also brings in revenue for the City of Parma," said Cuyahoga County Councilman Scott Tuma, who played a key role in making the demolition possible.

What city leaders envision for the new facility will be far different from the old building. "We respect the rich history of Ridgewood Golf Course, however, we are excited to offer to everyone an event center that can be used 12 months a year," said Parks and Recreation Director Mickey Vittardi.

An event center would go beyond a traditional clubhouse and host wedding receptions, banquets and large parties – opening up the facility to people who don't golf but want to take advantage of the beautiful golf course view and its central location in the city.

Wasting no time after the demolished building was cleared and the ground leveled, the course opened its new temporary digs



*A few weeks after demolition, a temporary clubhouse was up and running.*

on April 12. Golf course staff are now operating out of a triple-wide trailer that was customized to include restrooms, offices, a snack bar, seating area, flat-screen TVs and even a bar.

"We plan to provide the same level of service as prior years. The pavilion will also remain open," said Golf Course Manager and PGA Pro Dave Chuba.

"At the end of two years, we hope to start construction, but we know it's going to take time," DeGeeter said. "There is much to do before we have renderings to share with the public, but we took the first major step in making a new and better facility a reality."



## Progressive Field welcomes Parma residents

Parma Community Night at Progressive Field is 7:10 p.m., Wednesday, July 13 when the Cleveland Guardians play the Chicago White Sox. Lower box seats are discounted to \$28, and upper bleacher seats are discounted to \$13.

Tickets can be purchased at the Recreation Department from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. or online at [tinyurl.com/GuardiansParma22](http://tinyurl.com/GuardiansParma22). A convenience fee will apply to online ticket sales. The Recreation Department's first-pitch throw remains tentative. When the Guardians provide more information, the city will share details on its website at [cityofparma-oh.gov](http://cityofparma-oh.gov) and Facebook @CityofParma.

# Commission on Aging helps support programming and services for senior citizens

From free tech to footwear fundraising, Parma Commission on Aging finds innovative ways to assist area senior citizens.

“In addition to providing us guidance, they fundraise to pay for additional programming and services, such as free tablets and technology training for seniors,” said Erin Lally, director of the Donna Smallwood Activities Center and Office on Aging.

Currently, the Center’s nonprofit arm is running a shoe drive. Since March 25, the



Bags of donated shoes will become money.

Commission on Aging has collected hundreds of new and gently used shoes. The drive runs to Wednesday, May 25. Anyone can drop off new or gently worn shoes in bins at the Center’s front entrance or lobby. The Center is located behind City Hall and next to the Parma Powers Boulevard library branch. All types of shoes are accepted, including casual, dress, boots, cleats, sandals and even flip-flops.

The total weight of the shoes will translate into money. Funds2Orgs is purchasing the donated footwear and then redistributing them throughout its network of microenterprise partners in developing nations. The nonprofit helps impoverished people in Central American and African countries start, maintain and grow businesses.

“We know that most people have extra shoes in their closets they would be willing to donate to not only help seniors in our community but also to help those less

fortunate become self-sufficient,” said Commission President Julia Varley.

Additionally, the Commission has partnered with Simply Virtual, a nonprofit created during the pandemic to provide technology, training and virtual content to low-income senior citizens.

The Commission has purchased tablets from Simply Virtual for Center members who do not have smartphones or working computers. Each tablet includes one-year free WiFi, one-on-one training and access to a technology help desk.

“Simply Virtual has been here the past several months to assist seniors with questions about phones, tablets and laptops. This has been an extremely popular program,” Lally said.

Lally added that eligible senior residents who want a tablet and training should call Kathryn Davidson at 440-885-8155.

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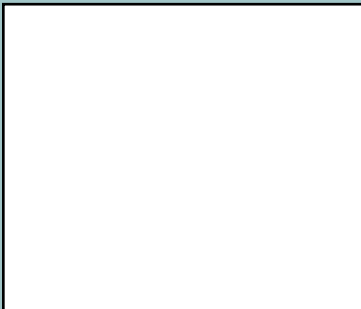
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## Upcoming Events

### May

May 21, Shred Day & Food Drive, Parma Senior High School, Rear Lot (enter from Longwood Ave.) 9 a.m. – noon  
May 25, Ward 7 Meeting, American Legion Post 703, 6 p.m.  
May 30, Memorial Day Service, Veterans Park, 11:45 a.m.

### June

June 4, Ward 4 Quarry District Shred Event, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
June 9, 10, 11 & 12, Rib 'N Rock, Tri-C West (Fireworks, June 12)  
June 12, Tony Midea & The Avanti Band, Zielinski Park, 6:30 p.m. (Polka, Big Band, Sinatra and Dean Martin)

June 15, Ward 1 Safety Meeting, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

June 16, Ward 4 Safety Meeting, 6 – 8 p.m.

June 16, 17 & 18, Polish Village Garage Sale, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

June 19, Mike Jacobs & The Highlighters, Zielinski Park, 6:30 p.m. (Big Band)

June 22, Ward 2 Safety Meeting, 6 – 8 p.m.

June 25, Run-Walk for Pierogies, Tri-C West, 7:30 a.m.

June 26, Brian Dorr, Zielinski Park, 6:30 p.m.

(Selections from *Great American Song Book*)

June 28, Ward 5 Safety Meeting, 6 – 8 p.m.

June 30, Ward 7 Safety Meeting, 6 – 8 p.m.

### July

July 3, Northcoast Mix, Zielinski Park, 6:30 p.m. (Diverse Musical Styles)

July 4, Independence Day Parade, Ridge Road, 10 a.m.

July 10, Wayne Tomsic, Zielinski Park, 6:30 p.m. (Variety Music) & Mayor Tim DeGeeter's Ice Cream Social

July 13, Parma Community Night, Progressive Field, 7:10 p.m.

July 14, Ward 8 Safety Meeting, 6 – 8 p.m.

July 17, Girls with Squirrels, Parma Hts., Greenbriar Commons, 6:30 p.m. (Variety Music)

July 24, Akron Symphonic Winds, Parma Hts., Greenbriar Commons, 6:30 p.m. (Professional Wind Ensemble)

July 28, Ward 9 Safety Meeting, 6 – 8 p.m.

July 31, Al Battistelli, Parma Hts., Greenbriar Commons, 6:30 p.m. (Variety Music)

### August

Aug. 2, Ward 3 Safety Meeting, 6 – 8 p.m.

Aug. 4, Ward 6 Safety Meeting, 6 – 8 p.m.

Aug. 6, Picnic in the Park, James Day Park, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Aug. 7, The Alley Katz, featuring Logan Wells & Patti Ann, Greenbriar Commons, 6:30 p.m. (Music for All Ages)

Aug. 11, 12 & 13, Citywide Garage Sale, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Aug. 13, Safety Fair, Justice Center, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

### September

Sept. 15, 16 & 17, Citywide Craft Fair, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Sept. 18, Quarry District Picnic, West Creek, 1 – 4 p.m.

Sept. 24, Parma Fall Food Drive & Shred Event, Parma Armory, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

### October

Oct. 22, Treat & Greet, Polish Village, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.