

The City of Parma

NEWSLETTER

Residents celebrate return of outdoor gatherings

By Tim DeGeeter



Summer marked a return of some normalcy for Parma.

In 2020, it was difficult but necessary to cancel one event after another because of the pandemic. Announcing our return to hosting parades and outdoor events meant so much to our city after a year we will not soon forget.

The Independence Day Parade, for example, demonstrated our community was ready to celebrate together again. An estimated 4,000 residents lined Ridge Road to watch 500 participants march in this traditional event that dates back to the mid-1960s. Volunteer Parade Director Chris Knebusch said it was the biggest turnout he has witnessed in his 20 years of organizing the 90-minute parade, now sponsored by the community nonprofit group We Are Parma Proud. The city had some smaller events in June, but you could see the sheer excitement of the crowd during the Independence Day Parade.

Council members and safety forces were also able to connect on a more personal level this summer with residents during ward safety meetings and the Safety Fair. These programs give community members an inside look at how our police and fire departments and the dispatch center work

together to keep them safe. We had a large turnout for the August Safety Fair, where parents and their children had the opportunity to climb into emergency vehicles, watch demonstrations and hear safety tips. These interactions help first responders better serve our community. The highlight of the day was the landing of University Hospitals AirMed helicopter.

In addition to restoring these events, the city reopened the pools, brought back the Summer Band Concert Series, returned to Progressive Field for Parma Night and hosted the We Are Parma Proud Picnic in Anthony Zielinski Park.

This summer also was a busy season for our parks as residents took advantage of a wide range of athletic activities. James Day Park saw a jump in activity with the opening of our Warrior Fitness Course, which attracted people of all ages throughout Northeast Ohio. Recreation Department Director Mickey Vittardi said he believes it is the only one of its kind in the region. Children play on it, teens use it for training, and young adults turn it into a workout.

Beyond these outdoor activities, parades, festivals and other events, this summer reinforced our strong neighborhoods.

Well-maintained properties, good schools, thriving retail shops, a variety of restaurants, proximity to downtown Cleveland and a recreation department that offers activities for all ages and athletic interests are reasons why our city is an excellent place to raise a family.



The UH AirMed landing was a highlight at the well-attended Safety Fair.

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Budget hearings give residents chance to see how tax dollars will be spent



Auditor Brian Day

I always encourage residents to attend council meetings to have a better understanding of how elected officials conduct city business and how dollars are being used. With regards to the budget and finances, it can be challenging if you don't understand some governmental accounting terminology. Following is a broad overview:

A **budget** is a legal requirement to make sure the city does not incur a deficit. The city can operate on a temporary budget through March but must pass a permanent budget by the end of March.

The city operates on a fund-based accounting system. A **fund** separately accounts for revenues and expenditures based on established specific purposes. Each fund has its own budget and cannot be combined with the activities of another fund. Examples of some funds are general, special revenue, debt service, capital, enterprise and internal service.

Estimated resources is the revenue the city can expect to receive during the year, and this comes, for example, in the form of income taxes, property taxes, charges for

services, fees, fines or permits. Taking an unencumbered carryover balance from the previous year and adding in estimated resources for the current year determines how much of total resources will be available.

In the budget process, resources are appropriated in different funds. The legislative body or, in our case, Parma City Council authorizes an appropriation to incur liabilities for the purpose specified. An **appropriation** is an estimate of a fund's needs and must be equal to or less than the total available resources.

Based on city policy, an expenditure more than \$500 requires an encumbrance as a purchase order prior to committing to a purchase. An **encumbrance** is a legal obligation to make an expenditure. For example, if the city needs to purchase a new police car, before the car is ordered, a purchase order is completed, and an encumbrance is taken from the equipment line item, which then reduces available appropriations.

In February 2022, the city will conduct budget hearings. At these hearings, each department will present its budget to City Council. This is a great opportunity for residents to see how their tax dollars are being spent. I encourage you to attend these budget hearings. To see when they are being held, visit the city's website at www.cityofparma-oh.gov and go to the Calendar page.

Residents celebrate

(Continued from page 1)

Safety is another factor families consider when choosing Parma.



I enjoyed marching in the Independence Day Parade and seeing people gather and celebrate.

Because of the diligent work of our Parma Police Department, we sleep soundly in this city. Their work is why the Police Levy tax renewal, Issue 52, is important to our city. The renewal will continue to provide vital personnel and equipment needed to keep our neighborhoods safe.

Additionally, our Parma Beautification Award program is a showcase of our strong housing market and vibrant neighborhoods. Reestablished in summer 2020, the city gives awards to homeowners who show pride in their properties.

This summer and early fall, city council members gave Parma Beautification Award yard signs to residents with beautiful homes, manicured lawns and picturesque landscaping. Photos of the winners' homes were posted on social media.

These homes make Parma what it is. The homeowners appreciate receiving the yard signs, and we like promoting our beautiful neighborhoods. It's a collective sense of pride.

As a reminder, follow us on Facebook @CityofParmaOhio or follow me on Twitter @ParmaMayor for the latest informaton about what's happening in Parma.



Ward 1 — Vito Dipierro

2021 is going by too fast. We had an eventful year with all our city and ward events. It was great getting back to normalcy and seeing all our friends, family and neighbors again.

Parma residents take a lot of pride in their homes. It was nice to see the Facebook posts from all over the city of beautifully landscaped yards.

I especially had a wonderful time delivering the Parma Beautification Award yard signs to Ward 1 residents. I received more than 50 nominations before I had to cut off the program for this year. I could have easily given this award to many more Ward 1 residents. Thank you to all the residents who took the time to nominate neighbors and to all the residents who received the awards. I am looking forward to recognizing more beautiful homes next year.

We have secured Community Development Block Grant funds for streetscape improvements to Chevrolet Boulevard. New curbs, sidewalks, stamped brick, decorative planters, banner poles, and banners celebrating Parma will be installed. I am looking forward to seeing the investment in this area.

To all the Ward 1 residents who would like to receive regular city and ward updates, please email me at ParmaWard1@gmail.com to be placed on my email list.

It is a pleasure to serve Parma and Ward 1 residents. If there is anything I can do to assist you, do not hesitate to contact me. You can find me on Facebook @CouncilmanDipierro where I post updates. I am also in the process of constructing a website to keep residents informed. The domain is ParmaWard1.com. Keep an eye open for it.

God bless you and your families.



Ward 3 — Mark Casselberry

I hope you had an enjoyable summer. It was so nice to see things get back to somewhat "normal." I saw many of you in the neighborhood enjoying our parks, parades, Safety Fair and ward meetings.

This summer, I was excited to receive numerous nominations from Ward 3 resi-

dents asking me to recognize their neighbors with Parma Beautification Awards. I had the pleasure of presenting the awards and recognizing the homeowners on the City of Parma Facebook page, as well as my own Facebook page. If you are not familiar with the award, council members present Parma Beautification Award yard signs to homeowners who go above and beyond landscaping and maintaining the exterior of their homes. We will be running the program again next summer, and I will be happy to recognize you or your neighbor if nominated.

Speaking of beautifying our neighborhoods, this fall with the help of a grant

secured through the Community Development Office, 58 dead or dying flowering trees along West 54th Street between Bradley Avenue and Hollywood Drive will be taken down. Workers will then grind and remove the stumps. In spring 2022, a hardier species of flowering tree will then be planted to replace the trees that were removed.

It continues to be my pleasure to serve as your councilman. If I can be of service to you, call me at 440-842-6710 or email me at mcasselberry@cityofparma-oh.gov. For the latest updates, please follow me on Facebook @Mark Casselberry Parma City Councilman Ward 3.

Ward 2 — Debbie Lime



Events are starting to come back in Polish Village. Over the last year, the business community has worked hard to remain in business. This includes the \$20,000 grant from the General Motors Foundation. We thank them for helping to keep these businesses afloat.

Moving forward as a community, Santa will be riding through Ward 2 starting at noon, Saturday, Dec. 11. Check my Facebook page @DebbieLime for his location to make sure you and your family see the big guy.

Additionally, Christmas in Polish Village, hosted by Polish Village, will run 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., also on Dec. 11. It promises to be a great time. Bring the family.

Please email me your contact information at lime-ward2@gmail.com. I would like to add you to my Ward 2 email list for future notifications.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. My number is 440-845-1714. As always, it is a pleasure to serve you!

Happy Holidays!

Santa will be making the rounds in Ward 2, Saturday, Dec. 11, starting at noon.





Ward 4 — Kristin Saban

It was nice welcoming back Ward 4 traditions this past summer. Our Safety Meeting was in early June on a beautiful Thursday evening. It was nice seeing neighbors catching up with one another while enjoying a cookout and presentation. Thanks to my neighbor Ann Brass for making delicious treats to share.

In August, two enterprising Cub Scouts, cousins Nathan Stevens and Cameron Lewis, set up a snack stand in Ward 4 during the Parma Community Garage Sale. They raised \$150 for the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo’s new Andean Bears habitat.

Our Annual Quarry District Picnic in September was once again a huge success. We enjoyed the live music by Hoop & Co. while cheering the Browns onto victory.

The beginning of 2022’s main focus will be the Quarry District Committee. We will host our first meeting at 6 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 26 at Cuyahoga County Public Library in the heart of Quarry District. All are welcome to attend. The meeting’s focus will be how to brand the area and give the district its own identity. I am planning to have monthly meetings throughout the year.

With the holidays fast approaching, my husband Bruce, my son Logan and I wish you and your loved ones a happy and healthy holiday season. If I can be of assistance, don’t hesitate to call me at 216-398-1770 or email me at ksaban@cityofparma-oh.gov. Please follow me @Kristin Saban, Parma Ward 4 Council.



The zoo’s Executive Dir. Christopher Kuhar, WEWS and I visited the scouts’ snack stand.

Ward 5 — Allan Divis

This past summer was filled with activities that were beneficial for Ward 5 residents.

Many homeowners had trees on their tree lawns removed that were dying and causing sidewalks to heave. The project is ongoing, but a big thanks to the Parma Service Department for its hard work in helping residents.

Additionally, many sewers in the ward were jetted to help alleviate flooding. I held many ward meetings with residents and was able to address certain needs and concerns with positive results. I will continue to meet with residents about storm-water management and will be working with Ward 4 Councilwoman Kristin Saban on the 2022 Water Summit.

I was extremely pleased with the large turnout for the Ward 5 Safety Meeting at my home. The cul-de-sac was filled with many people who listened to the mayor, law director and members of the safety forces talk about new services and equipment being used to help save lives. We live in a wonderful city that has the best safety forces around. Please remember to thank them for their service when you see them.

Next year, Holy Family Catholic Parish on York Road will be celebrating its 150th anniversary. I am honored to be working with the Holy Family planning committee and Ward 7 Councilwoman Kammy Shuman on the celebration. There will be more information to come. Look for my upcoming newsletters and follow me on Facebook @Allan Divis, Parma Ward 5 Council for the latest updates. For questions or concerns, call me at 440-888-7213 or email me at allandivis@yahoo.com.



Ward 6 — Larry Napoli



I hope this newsletter finds you all in good health and enjoying quality time with family and friends. I want to let you all know about the progress that our good friends at the West Creek Conservancy have had with the Padua property acquisition.

West Creek, as of the end of 2020, completed the conservation of the former Padua

Franciscan/Camp Corde/CYO property – a property it has been attempting to acquire for 15-plus years – completing the original goal of the West Creek Preservation Committee! It is located directly adjacent to West Creek Reservation and the former Parmadale property. The entrance to the property is located at the intersection (with a traffic light) of West 29th Street and West Ridgewood Drive. It is approximately 19 acres and contains a stream and 2.4 acres of forested wetlands. In 2006, this parcel was acquired by Padua Franciscan High School for the purposes of soccer and lacrosse.

Beyond the ecological assets is the access amenities it will provide for the 18,700-plus homes within one mile of the park and trail system. At the entrance of the property is a

traffic light, access road, ample parking and an enclosed pavilion, which will be a publicly reservable space. The access drive provides direct access to West Creek Reservation and the trail that connects near Channel 55. The project is a true blend of conservation, restoration and recreational connection. The drive provides a much-needed pedestrian/bicycle friendly entrance to the park and sustainable access for safety and maintenance personnel.

Additionally, this site will undergo significant restoration. Working in concert with NEORS, Cleveland Metroparks and the city, it will turn a privately held asset into a public amenity.

To reach me, call me at 440-845-4547 or email me at deblaryn@aol.com.

Ward 7 — Kammy Coyle Shuman



I hope everyone had a healthy and happy summer. I hit the ground running this summer and loved talking, emailing, texting and Facebooking with Ward 7 residents. You are such an awesome group of people, and I am lucky to call you my neighbors.

The Ward 7 Safety Meeting on July 13 went very well. We officially opened the Warrior Fitness Course at James Day Park. I was also able to walk the ward with many of you and enjoyed every step.

As we enter the holiday shopping season, we have launched a new program. I have collaborated with the Parma Police Department, Mayor Tim DeGeeter, Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Michael O'Malley, State Representative Jeff Crossman and various third-party delivery services to help develop Parma Project S.T.O.P. (Stop Theft of Packages). This project helps deter thieves from stealing parcels from homeowners' porches and front door steps. The city has purchased GPS technology from Assisted Patrol, using monies

forfeited from criminals. This new technology will help police track stolen packages. Hopefully, Project S.T.O.P. will help keep thieves out of Parma because we know they can't run from our incredible Police Department.

Also, Holy Family Catholic Parish on York Road will be celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2022. If you want to get involved in the planning or have memorabilia, email Mark Ternes at ternestheone@gmail.com or Patrick Osysko at osyskop@sbcglobal.net.

In closing, I want to thank the Parma Fire Department and all the departments involved in the beautiful 9/11 ceremony at The Shoppes at Parma. I pray for peace for all the families affected by that day.

Don't hesitate to contact me. My email is kshuman@cityofparma-oh.gov. You can also call me at 440-884-2138 or find me on Facebook at [@shumanward7](https://www.facebook.com/shumanward7).

Peace and all good. Love all, serve all.



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Ward 8 — Linda Kohar

Some semblance of normalcy returned to Parma this past summer. We were able to resume the Independence Day Parade, We Are Parma Proud Picnic, ward safety meetings, “mega” Safety Fair at the Parma Justice Center and community festivals.



Everyone seemed to really enjoy gathering in person to greet friends and neighbors, eat favorite foods and engage in fun activities.

It was also very satisfying to give Parma Beautification Awards to homes with outstanding yards. Residents really appreciated the recognition that was a result of hard work and attention to their lawns and flowerbeds.

Every ward was granted the opportunity to pave two side streets this year. In Ward 8, Warwick Drive and Hollywood Drive were selected, much to the appreciation of their residents. It would be wonderful to do more, but given that Parma has nine wards, that meant 18 streets would be repaved in a short season.

This summer, The Shoppes at Parma welcomed a new business, Walls of Books at 7783 West Ridgewood Drive. Hopefully, we will all help to make this business a success, especially because it is Parma’s only bookstore.

I would like to give a shout out to our new property inspector, Marty Baier. Marty is so conscientious, kind and hard working. He has a difficult but important job because property maintenance is crucial to preserving property values.

It continues to be a pleasure to meet and serve the fine residents of Ward 8. I wish you all a prosperous and healthy fall!



Walls of Books opened this summer. The bookstore includes a play area for children.

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Seeking applicants for Boyko academic scholarships



*Council President
Sean Brennan*

Growing up the son of a single mother of little financial means, affording college did not seem to be in the cards. Even the income from several jobs I held was not enough. Luckily, I was awarded several scholarships that helped bridge the cost. That is why I worked with former Mayor Dean DePiero, Law Director Tim Dobeck and the family of former Parma Law Director and Judge Andrew Boyko to create the City of Parma

Andrew Boyko Memorial Scholarship Foundation.

Now in its 14th year, the Scholarship Foundation has awarded nearly \$100,000 to assist young Parma scholars further their education from funds raised exclusively from donations.

Once again, the Scholarship Foundation will offer three to five scholarships with a minimum award of \$1,500 each. The board of trustees is now accepting applications for 2022. One of these scholarships will be designated for an applicant exhibiting an exceptional commitment to community service. Applications are available on the City of Parma website at www.cityofparma-oh.gov, or

students may call the Parma City Council Office at 440-885-8091 for a hard-copy application.

The Boyko scholarship is intended to provide financial assistance to high school seniors or the equivalent who are residents of the City of Parma wishing to pursue post-secondary education during the 2022-2023 academic year. Financial need, work ethic, community service and accomplishments are among the selection criteria for the scholarship. The application deadline is April 1, 2022.

For more information or to donate to the Scholarship Foundation, please call me at 440-885-8091 or email me at sbrennan@cityofparma-oh.gov.



The mayor, council members and I recognized the 2021-22 Boyko academic scholars at a summer council meeting.

Ward 9 — Roy Jech

I have lived and raised a family in Ward 9 for 42 years. Twenty-two of those years were spent serving on Parma City Council. I have met hundreds of residents throughout the years and have become close friends with many.



I try to make myself responsive to residents' concerns. My contact information is probably on many Ward 9 refrigerators because I give residents fridge magnets listing my numbers, including my personal cell number.

I often drive through the ward, checking for road damage and needed repairs. Another top concern is property maintenance. Well-maintained homes lead to higher property values. For example, a young family looking to purchase a home in Parma considers increased property values as one deciding factor.

Another factor families consider before choosing a neighborhood is community support and engagement. I try to help neighbors stay connected through events such as the summer Ward 9 Safety Meeting, September Quarry District Picnic and December Christmas Light Display on Keystone Road. Last holiday season, I dressed as a Victorian-era St. Nicholas and my wife Maureen dressed as Mrs. Claus. We collected food for families who were struggling last year, and we plan to repeat this event Dec. 17 to Dec. 19.

Years ago, my wife and I worked with Cuyahoga Community College volunteers to plant trees around West Creek Reservation wetlands. We are lucky to have this gem so accessible to Ward 9 residents. To continue with the greening of the ward, we are participating in a tree program. With the cooperation of the Cleveland Metroparks, Ward 9 will receive 25 trees yearly. The trees will be planted starting north and working south in the ward. If you live in the north section and are interested in having a tree planted this spring, call me at 216-272-6418 or email me at rjech@cityofparma-oh.gov.

Parma Police Levy: Money well spent



Law Director
Tim Dobeck

In my nearly 23 years as law director and chief prosecutor for the City of Parma, one of my greatest privileges is to work closely with the men and women of our Parma Police Department. Our Police Department, under the leadership of Police Chief Joseph Bobak and his command staff, work tirelessly to keep our city safe. Our residents can sleep comfortably at night knowing that our streets are being

patrolled by our dedicated police officers.

As the city's lawyer, I appreciate how well prepared our officers are in court. It is important to note that after an arrest, the officers become witnesses in court during prosecution. I am happy to state that through ongoing comprehensive training, our officers are very well trained and prepared.

Through initiatives such as the Citizens Police Academy,

Ward Safety Meetings and the Safety Fair, the police have developed an excellent rapport with the community and, in turn, Parma residents have responded in kind with enthusiastic support of the police.

A portion of the department's budget is funded by the Parma Police Levy. The Police Levy has provided funding for the department continuously since it was first approved by voters in 1994. In addition to using the levy funds to maintain a properly sized police force, the funds have been used to purchase state-of-the-art crime fighting equipment such as drones, K9 units, replacement motorcycles and other police vehicles.

The Police Levy renewal is on the Nov. 2 ballot. It is a 2-mill levy and will raise \$2,742,000 annually. To put it into perspective, the owner of a \$100,000 home will pay \$70 annually toward the Police Levy.

Chief Bobak is grateful for the public support the police receive. "Without levy funds, we could not fulfill our mission of protecting our residents to the highest standards expected of us," he said.

Police sport facial hair, pink patches and ball caps to raise awareness and funds

Fall fashion this year for the Parma Police Department will include vibrant pink patches, beards, mustaches and police ball caps – all in the name of charity.

In early October, police officers began sporting pink police patches on their sleeves in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness

Month. Male officers who pay \$60 each are allowed to put down their razors and grow facial hair. Female officers who pay \$60 each are permitted to wear blue Parma Police baseball caps.

The money raised will be donated to The Gathering Place, a facility which offers free programs and services to help support, educate and empower individuals and their families coping with cancer.



"I am proud of our police officers' participation in this fundraiser. My mother died from breast cancer, so this is personal to me," said Mayor Tim DeGeeter.

In November, many officers will take part in No-Shave WishVember, a program started five years ago with A Special Wish

Foundation. A Special Wish is a charity that fulfills the wishes of children across Greater Cleveland who are battling life-threatening illnesses.

Similar to the October breast cancer campaign, the male officers can grow facial hair, and the female officers can don baseball caps. This time, however, they will compete with 11 Northeast Ohio police departments to see who can raise the

most money. Police departments that joined Parma last year included: Bay Village, Berea, Brooklyn, Brooklyn Heights, Chagrin Falls, Euclid, Moreland Heights, Notre Dame College, Pepper Pike, Rocky River and Warrensville Heights. So far every year, Parma has earned the most donations.

Finally, in December, the beards, ball caps and fundraising will continue, but it becomes personal as officers raise funds to support a fellow officer or officer's family member who is facing a serious illness or hardship.

"These fundraisers build awareness and are a creative way for our officers to give back to the community and support each other," said Police Chief Joseph Bobak.

For more information about No-Shave WishVember or to donate, visit www.Police4Wishes.org.

State budget provides relief to schools, local government and businesses



State Representative
Jeff Crossman

One of the most significant pieces of legislation the Ohio General Assembly accomplishes every two years is the state's nearly \$80-billion budget bill. The bill is a massive statement about Ohio's priorities and is in effect for two years after its passage.

This year, the General Assembly passed House Bill 110 during the summer, and I voted to support the budget. Although there were

plenty of items in the more than 2,500-page budget bill that I could find objectionable, passing a historic fair funding formula for schools was my chief consideration because of its ability to positively impact our schools here in Parma.

Our work on the Fair School Funding Plan is a priority that immediately improves the prospects of elevating educational funding while at the same time reducing the state's long-held overreliance on property taxes to support local schools. For decades, we have called for

reforms to our broken and unconstitutional school funding formula, and this newly adopted plan, once fully funded, will be good for school districts and for students.

Our budget priorities also included support for local governments to ensure that cities like Parma can continue to provide strong services and support for small businesses hurt by the COVID-19 crisis. We also worked to include significant investments in broadband internet technology for Ohio, especially in underserved areas, which will allow Ohioans to better communicate, connect and compete. In the end, we focused on investing in the people of Ohio because by facilitating education and economic development, we will continue to move our communities and our beautiful state forward.

If you have a legislative priority of your own, please do not hesitate to contact my office anytime. We will be happy to answer your questions, listen to your comments or address your concerns. It is an honor to serve you, your family and our community every day at the Ohio Statehouse. You can contact me via email at Rep15@ohiohouse.gov, on Facebook [@crossmanforohio](https://www.facebook.com/crossmanforohio) or Twitter [@jeffcrossman](https://twitter.com/jeffcrossman).

Tuma advocates for county to complete Parmadale demolition



County Councilman
Scott Tuma

Cuyahoga County Councilman Scott Tuma recently advocated for additional county funding to assist the City of Parma with the completion of the Parmadale

demolition project. The project consists of restoring 80 acres of land for greenspace, public park development and watershed conservation that will eventually integrate with the West Creek Reservation.

The City of Parma was initially awarded \$1.3 million from the Cuyahoga County demolition fund to clear all

vacant and abandoned facilities on the Parmadale campus. The acres were once home to the Parmadale Orphanage that was built in 1918 and abandoned in 2014. Since the start of the project, 13 former dormitories have been demolished. Costly asbestos abatements, however, had elevated project costs, leaving several buildings still in need of demolition.

To keep the project moving forward, Mayor Tim DeGeeter and Executive Director Derek Schafer of West Creek Conservancy reached out to Tuma, who then contacted the Cuyahoga County Land Bank in anticipation of securing additional funding.

This past June, Parma received a \$385,000 grant from the Land Bank to finish the demolition.

"A great deal of effort went into finding a viable funding source to help with demolishing these outdated and dilapidated buildings," Tuma said. "I am proud that Cuyahoga County was able to play an integral role in helping get this project completed."

Demolition began in early September and will continue through the end of this year and into 2022.



County funds will cover costs to finish the demolition project at Parmadale.

Road Construction News

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

- This summer and early fall, *\$2.5 million* was spent on asphalt repaving mill-and-fill and/or curb repairs for the following streets:

Ward 1: Cambridge Drive (Kenyon Drive to Amherst Drive) and **Overlook Road** (West Moreland Road to Evergreen Drive)

Ward 2: Gerald Avenue (Ridge Road to West 54th Street) and **Jameson Road** (Ridge Road to Pearl Road)

Ward 3: Walter Avenue (State Road to the dead end) and **Woodrow Avenue** (State Road to West 54th Street)

Ward 4: Hillsdale Avenue (Broadview Road to West 9th Street) and **Parkleigh Drive** (Broadview Road to West 9th Street)

Ward 5: Terrace Court (Dell Haven Drive to the cul-de-sac) and **Cocoa Drive** (concrete repair from St. Petersburg Drive to the cul-de-sac)

Ward 6: Augustine Drive (West Parkview Drive to the cul-de-sac) and **Jeanne Drive** (State Road to West Parkview Drive)

Ward 7: Johnson Drive (Lawrence Drive to Nassau Drive), **Munich Drive** (entrance to the development) and **Vienna Drive** (entrance to the development)

Ward 8: Warwick Drive (West 54th Street to Ackley Road) and **Hollywood Drive** (West 54th Street to Ridge Road)

Ward 9: Thorncliffe Boulevard (cul-de-sac to the dead end) and **Ingleside Drive** (State Road to South Park Boulevard)

- The *\$4.5 million* Ohio Department of Transportation project to repair and resurface **Ridge Road** between West Pleasant Valley Road and Pearl Road will be completed this October. Also, the *\$5 million* Cuyahoga County Public Works project to repair and resurface Ridge Road between Pearl Road and Flowerdale Avenue in the cities of Parma, Cleveland and Brooklyn, should start in early summer 2022 with possible completion in fall 2022.
- Cuyahoga County Public Works, Parma and Parma Heights shared the costs of a *\$4.4 million* project to repair and repave **York Road** from West Pleasant Valley Road to Pearl Road. Parma paid \$250,000 for construction work from Pleasant Valley Road to just



north of Boundary Lane on York Road. Construction, which began last March, is being completed this October.

- The *\$2.2 million* Ohio Department of Transportation project, which includes repairing and resurfacing of **Pearl Road** between Snow Road and Brookpark Road will be divided in two phases. Phase 1, which is from Brookpark Road to Ridge Road, began in September and should be completed in December. Phase 2, which is from Ridge Road to Snow Road, will start in spring 2022 and should be completed in October 2022.
- The *\$11.9 million* Cuyahoga County Public Works project to widen **Sprague Road** between West 130th Street and York Road in Parma and North Royalton also includes sanitary and waterline improvements. Construction is scheduled to start in November and should be completed in October 2023.
- Funding for road repairs and resurfacing on **West Ridgewood Drive** between Ridge Road and State Road was approved last spring. Cuyahoga County Public Works 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. The project is slated to begin in spring 2022 and should be substantially completed by December 2022.

"A total of *\$32.5 million* is being invested in our roads over the next two years," DeGeeter said. "Our Engineering Department does an excellent job of applying for and receiving funding for infrastructure projects. The city will continue to seek county and state funds to help offset future road construction costs."

Note: The City of Parma, City of Brooklyn and Old Brooklyn Community Development Corp. received a \$100,000 grant for the study of streetscape improvements to enhance the resurfacing of Brookpark Road. Issues such as traffic flow, beautification, storm-water management, wayfinding and signalization are being studied. The study will assist Parma and its neighbors with receiving additional grant funding to make the improvements a reality.

Donna Smallwood Activities Center welcomes its new director



Activities Center Director
Erin Lally

I am delighted to join Mayor Tim DeGeeter's administration as the director of Donna Smallwood Activities Center and Office on Aging.

JoAnn Mason recently retired and, like her predecessor and

friend Donna Smallwood, she leaves a legacy of outstanding service and lifelong friendships from her distinguished career serving Parma's senior residents. I hope she is a frequent visitor and member of the Activities Center.

As some of you may know, I am coming to the City of Parma from the City of

Parma Heights, where I served as the assistant to Mayor Mike Byrne for the past 10 years. I also had the great honor of being twice elected to the Ohio House of Representatives and served with former Parma Mayor Dean DePiero. Having this opportunity to bring my passion, gifts and skills to the Activities Center is as exciting as it is challenging.

On a personal note, I have been happily married for 22 years to my husband Francis Lally, who is a lieutenant with the Cleveland Fire Department and president of Local 93. We have five children, ages 20 to 14. In addition to football, cross country, wrestling and track, "master juggling" is one of our favorite sports!

In the coming months, I look forward to meeting you and

learning what our staff can do to make our Activities Center a place for the senior community to gather and enjoy life. The past 18 months have been difficult for everyone, in more ways than one. Staying connected with each other and having a safe space to socialize, exercise and participate in a wide variety of programs is what we will continue to provide and expand. Please stop in to join us at the Activities Center anytime.



Seniors exercise at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center.

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Storm-water Management and Waterline Replacement Update

Mayor Tim DeGeeter and Parma City Council are working with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District and Cleveland Water Department to address storm-water management and aging infrastructure.

“When I am talking to residents and they ask about flooding, I tell them we are addressing these issues, whether it is through our community partners or applying for grants. Our Engineering Department and Service Department are constantly looking as ways to manage storm water,” DeGeeter said.

Following is a list of projects:

Storm-water and Sewer Management

The city is making many storm-water and sewer line improvements throughout Parma. The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) is handling three of those projects.

Total Estimated Project Costs: \$6.58 million

Completed Projects

- * Parma Service Department staff improved storm-water detention on the property north and east of Busch Funeral Home at the southeast corner of Ridge Road and Pleasant Valley Road to help manage water during heavy downpours, \$70,000
- * Hickory Hills Drive storm-water/sewer improvement, \$90,000
- * Lourdes Drive storm-water/sewer improvement, \$130,000
- * West Ridgewood culvert replacement between State Road and Broadview Road, \$500,000

Cost of the four projects: \$790,000

Current Projects

- * Broadrock Court and Old Rockside Road sewer improvement, estimated \$2 million

* 2021 Citywide Annual Catch Basin Repair and Replacements:
This is an ongoing project because there are 5,000 catch basins citywide. By the end of this year, 675 catch basins are expected to be repaired, \$550,000

Cost of the two projects: estimated \$2.55 million



Upcoming Projects

- * South Canterbury culvert rehabilitation, \$240,000
- * Sprague Road sewer and waterline as a part of the street widening project, \$3 million

Cost of the two projects: estimated \$3.24 million

Future Projects

- * Baldwin Creek relief storm-water/sewer improvement from Bonnie Banks detention basin to Stormes Drive by NEORS
- * Fenway Road storm-water/sewer improvement
- * Green Acres Avenue sewer improvement
- * Hollenbeck Lake Dam repair study
- * Krueger Avenue sewer improvement
- * Meadow Lane headwall repair and drainage improvement
- * Rustic Trail storm-water/sewer improvement
- * Sprague Road and Big Creek Crossing flood reduction by NEORS
- * Upper Ridgewood Lake detention capabilities improvement by NEORS
- * Valley Villas Road, York Road and State Road septic abandonment and new sewer lines

Ten projects above are in the design and engineering phase.

Cleveland Water’s Waterline Replacements

Cleveland Water Department is replacing 100-year-old waterlines countywide through its Suburban Water Main Renewal program.

Total Estimated Project Costs: \$5.48 million

Completed Projects

- * Fortune Avenue from State Road to West 24th Street
- * Grovewood Avenue from State Road to West 24th Street
- * Brookdale Avenue from State Road to West 24th Street

Cost of the three projects: \$2.78 million

Upcoming Project

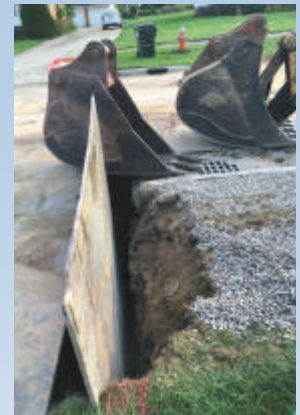
- * Project includes new waterlines, connections, fire hydrants and asphalt overlay. Construction expected to start next year, impacting the following streets:
 - Russel Avenue from State Road to West 51st Street
 - Torrington Avenue from State Road to West 24th Street
 - Tuxedo Avenue from State Road to West 24th Street

Cost: estimated \$2.70 million

Future Projects

- * Brookview Boulevard from State Road to Broadview Road
- * Velma Avenue water-main replacement

The two projects are in the design and engineering phase.



Activities Center earns award; JoAnn Mason Way unveiled

As her final act as director of the Donna Smallwood Activities Center, JoAnn Mason, along with her staff, received a 2021 Best of Cleveland Award for their exemplary service to the community.

“This honor came as a complete surprise,” Mason said about the award. “I love our community. It’s the seventh largest city in the state, yet it has a wonderful small hometown feel. It was never *if* I would serve the city, but *how* can I serve our Parma.”

A Parma native and Valley Forge High School alumnae, Mason committed to serving the city and its senior residents for 16 years. She was also close friends with the late Donna Smallwood, and viewed her role with the city as one way to carry on her friend’s legacy.

Over the years, she grew the membership, as well as the services and activities offered. During the pandemic, she pivoted to having meals delivered to members who needed the service, and even Zoomed with members to keep them connected. After rebooting the Center in July following a nearly 16-month closure due to the pandemic, Mason announced her retirement in late summer. Sept. 3 marked her last day.



To honor her hard work, the City of Parma named the roadway leading to the Activities Center “JoAnn Mason Way.” Mayor Tim DeGeeter and former Mayor Dean DePiero surprised her with a sign unveiling the day of her retirement.

“She made a positive impact on thousands of Parma area senior residents during her time as the Activities Center’s leader. Her warm smile at City Hall meetings will be missed,” DeGeeter said.

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Warrior Fitness Course attracting attention

An outdoor fitness course installed this past summer at James Day Park has attracted children, young athletes, exercise enthusiasts and fans of the *American Ninja Warrior* show.

The new Warrior Fitness 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,” said Recreation Department Director Mickey Vittardi. “I believe we are the first in the area to have something like this. We received some nice exposure this summer about the course on the *Clewithkids* Facebook page, which gave it a glowing review. Overall, we have heard a lot of positive feedback.”

Stay connected to Rec sports

During the winter, the Recreation Department offers youth basketball, high school and adult team basketball, in cooperation with the Parma City School District. At the Michael A. Ries Ice Rink, learn-to-skate programs are available for children ages 4 and older.

Residents can register in person at the Recreation Department, 7335 Ridge Road, during open registration. Or, registration can be conveniently completed online at active-net.active.com/parmarec.

To stay informed about registration dates, and programs, visit www.cityofparma-oh.gov or follow @City of Parma Parks and Recreation on Facebook. For more information, call the Recreation Department at 440-885-8144.



Photo by Dave Ehlert

Pitt Ohio partners with the city to renovate Miller Park

What started as a conversation among Ward 1 Councilman Vito Dipierro, Mayor Tim DeGeeter and Pitt Ohio CEO Jim Fields developed into a renovated Miller Park at 11001 Aaron Drive. Both the company and park are located in Ward 1.

“In 2019, Councilman Vito and I were on a site visit at Pitt Ohio. Jim talked about Pitt wanting to be engaged in the community. A few days later, Vito followed up that conversation with Jim and asked him if Pitt would be willing to invest in Miller Park. The answer was ‘yes,’ and from that point on, we worked with Pitt to make the park renovation a reality.”

The project was initially slated to be completed in 2020, however, due to the pandemic, it began in early June 2021 when Pitt Ohio purchased new playground equipment. Since then, the city has worked with Pitt and Harrison, Ohio-based DWA Recreation to install the playground equipment, seven benches, four picnic tables, three cooking grills, concrete walkway and trees. The renovation was completed in October.

“The renovated playground is a nice improvement for the park. Families in the area can bring their children, relax

on a park bench or bring a picnic and grill. I think the kids will have fun digging with the backhoes, which is a new feature for us,” Recreation Director Mickey Vittardi said.

“We appreciate Pitt Ohio and their donors’ investment in Miller Park,” DeGeeter said. “Our city motto is ‘Progress through Partnerships,’ and this is a perfect example of how a partnership positively impacts the community.”



Playground renovation was completed at Miller Park this October.

Photo by Dave Ehlert

Fire Department earns grant money to pay for 20,000 feet of new hose

Firetruck hoses are one of the most critical pieces of equipment to fight a fire, which is why it is significant that the Parma Fire Department received \$181,000 from a Federal Emergency Management Agency grant.

The FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant will pay 90 percent of the \$199,000 to purchase 20,000 feet of hose, as well as nozzles, adapters and fittings to be shared among the five fire stations. Parma Fire will pay the remaining 10 percent, or \$18,000.

Fire Chief Michael Lasky said the current hose is nearly 30 years old. "We have a good maintenance program. We rotate, wash and dry the hoses to prevent mold and deterioration. We also have two fire station towers for storing hoses. Typically, a hose lasts about 25 years," Lasky said.

The hose will be purchased before year's end and a potential price increase. Lasky explained that the new hose will weigh less and bend easier, which means less firefighters are needed to carry the hose and watch for potential hose kinks – freeing up more firefighters to battle the blaze.

"We want to thank the grant committee because this is only costing us 10 cents on the dollar," Lasky said. "Every year, the federal government offers assistance. This 2020 grant was specific to fire hoses. It's very competitive, and took a year to get it."

In addition, the city received funds last year from FEMA's Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant program to hire new cadets.

"Grants play an important role in allowing the city to free up general revenue funds," Mayor Tim DeGeeter said. "The Fire Department continues to do an excellent job applying for and earning these federal grant awards."



Parma Fire will receive a \$199,000 grant to pay for 20,000 feet of new fire hose.

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Christmas Parade and Frosty's Fest return

The Parma Christmas Parade will return this holiday season and so will Frosty's Fest, both sponsored by We Are Parma Proud.



The parade starts at 1 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 5 at Stearns Homestead and ends at the Ridgewood Golf Course. Anyone interested in participating in the parade should contact volunteer Parade Director Chris Knebusch at 440-915-2740 or email Parmaparades@gmail.com. The deadline to register is Sunday, Nov. 28.

Immediately following the parade, **Frosty's Fest will begin at 4 p.m.** outside the Ridgewood Golf Course Club-

house. There will be photos with Santa, ice carving, food trucks, baked goods and fun activities for the kids, such as making s'mores with Parma firefighters.



For those who want to enjoy a whole weekend of fun holiday activities, Stearns Homestead will host its **Christmas at the Farm on Saturday, Dec. 4 and Sunday, Dec. 5.**

Throughout December, We Are Parma Proud will keep the Christmas spirit going with its "12 days of Recipes" on its Facebook page, where residents can share their favorite holiday meals or desserts. The page will also share holiday decorating pictures and a Santa Story Time. For the latest details, follow [@weareparmaproud](https://www.facebook.com/weareparmaproud).