

Mayor's Message, Winter 2016-2017

It's hard to believe that the holiday season is upon us. I love this time of the year – time with family and friends, and let's not forget those that are less fortunate than us. North Ridgeville Community Care does a fantastic job doing just that. Community Care draws predominantly on volunteers and private donations to provide goods and services including free food, clothing, rent and utility assistance, counseling and holiday programs for those less fortunate. As you are out and about doing your holiday shopping or making out your Christmas list, consider Community Care. If you have questions, call Community Care directly at (440) 353-9716.

Update on NOPEC Electricity Supplier

As many of you may already know, the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) has reached an agreement for NextEra Energy Services Ohio, LLC (NESO) to become the new supplier of electricity effective January 2017. FirstEnergy Solutions in late October announced it was terminating its contract three years early. NOPEC immediately began negotiating with suppliers on behalf of the communities it serves to reach a new agreement to insure its customers will continue to receive the benefits of NOPEC membership which have resulted in about \$250 million of electric cost savings to date.

By Ohio law, NOPEC is required to mail opt-out notices to its electric customers every three years. You should have received a mailing within the last few weeks to give you the option to opt-out of the program. If you want to remain in the NOPEC program, you need to do nothing. You will automatically remain in the NOPEC program and will continue to receive discounted aggregate pricing under the current supplier as well as the new supplier beginning January 2017. If you have any questions regarding the NOPEC-NESO electricity agreement, visit NOPEC's website at nopecinfo.org/electricupdate or call 1-855-667-3201.

Tobacco-Free Workplace Environment Policy

I am happy to announce that effective January 1, 2017 the City of North Ridgeville will be joining our already tobacco-free Park and Recreational Facilities. In order that we may properly promote the health, safety and wellness of our employees, to eliminate the well-known risks associated to second-hand smoke, as well as to enhance the quality of life of all those whom we serve including residents who may visit our public City facilities and related areas; and in part to implement Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3794 (Smoke-Free Workplace Law), the City of North Ridgeville establishes a tobacco-free workplace environment.

The use of tobacco will be **prohibited** on all outside property or grounds owned, rented or leased by the City of North Ridgeville including in or on private vehicles while parked on City property. Use of tobacco means all uses of tobacco, including inhaling, exhaling, burning, vaping or carrying any lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe, vaporizer, other lighted smoking device or papers for burning tobacco, or any other plant; chewing tobacco, snuff, or any other matter or substances that contain tobacco.

Our complete Tobacco-Free Workplace Environment Policy will be made available on the City's website in the coming weeks along with helpful resources. In addition, the Lorain County General Health District (LCGHD) offers residents a wealth of information and Tobacco Cessation tools including Ohio Quitline at 1-800-QUITNOW. Visit LCGHD's website at loraincountyhealth.com for helpful facts, tools and resources.

In closing, I would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Mayor G. David Gillock