



## *Community Connection, July 2014*

*7307 Avon Belden Road, North Ridgeville, OH 44039 Phone: (440) 353-0819 Visit us at [www.nridgeville.org](http://www.nridgeville.org)*

### *Mayor's Message...*

Due to all the recent flooding I felt that now would be an opportune time to tell you what the City is doing to address some of those issues. The City has been working on storm water issues for several years but often what is being done is not easily seen by residents.

I have advocated regional discussions of storm water management for several years. Regardless of what we do locally, if the storm water can't exit the community it will back up. The Mayors of Avon, Avon Lake, Sheffield Village, Sheffield Lake and I have met to discuss opportunities to work together to move all of our storm water to Lake Erie as fast as possible.



*Mayor G. David Gillock*

Working with a local engineering firm, we have modeled a portion of the North Ridgeville drainage system, and we are currently completing the modeling that will give us a tool that we can use to identify and analyze improvements. For example, it was thought that the bridge behind St. Peter Church restricted the flow of the French Creek. We found out from the model that it doesn't. However, we did find that by adding detention on city-owned property off of Jaycox Road that it would help reduce flooding in the Highland area. This detention basin was added last year at a cost of \$150,000.

Recently, the City was able to negotiate a deal with a local developer to enlarge the West Point retention pond. The developer needed fill material and removed 8,000 cubic yards of dirt from the West Point retention pond at no cost to the City. This will allow approximately 1.6 million gallons more of water storage capacity during storm events. Another improvement underway at the West Point basin is the design of the weir/restrictor in French Creek. The modification of the restrictor will further restrict French Creek and take full advantage of the storage capacity of the West Point basin, including the additional storage created by the recent expansion.

City Council passed legislation requiring new construction to add detention that will substantially reduce run-off so that it is actually less than what would have entered the ditches and streams before construction. In most cases, as recently seen in the NorthBorough development, the new detention helps to reduce flooding. Center Ridge Road currently has no detention but the new road reconstruction plans have substantial detention. In fact, we are currently in discussions with the Ohio Department of Transportation because our requirements for detention exceed the state standards.

The Service Department has made modifications in the backyards of the Hersey Circle neighborhoods to repair/restore the integrity of the Robinson Ditch drainage basin. Under heavy rains it was possible for water from adjacent drainage basins to overflow into the Robinson Ditch drainage basin. Structures have been completed to stop this from happening. We also have two employees that work almost full-time cleaning and clearing ditches. Our ditches are on a five-year schedule to be cleaned and cleared. But, because of storm debris, branches, etc. that get into the waterways, we often are in the ditches more frequently.

We have completed a study that recommends improvements that will additionally help address flooding at a cost that exceeds \$4,000,000. We continue to work on that plan to first verify that the plan will work as recommended, identify ways we can implement phases of the plan in a timely manner and look for ways to fund the program. City Council has been studying funding methods to address our storm water management needs, and we will soon be meeting with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to discuss flood mitigation plans.



## **Mayor's Message (cont'd)**

City Council recently agreed to support an effort to institute a storm water utility fee to establish a dedicated funding source to address storm water management needs. The next step will be to retain an engineering firm to help us quantify how much the storm water fee should be to meet our needs. Currently, more than 95 communities in Ohio have storm water utility programs. Recently, Elyria enacted a similar monthly residential fee of \$4.33. Other surrounding communities that have storm water utility fees in place include City of Lorain, \$5.00; Sheffield, \$2.50; Sheffield Lake, \$4.85; and, Wellington, \$3.50.

I do want to assure you that we are and will continue to work on storm water issues. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call my office at (440) 353-0811 or the Engineering Department at (440) 353-0842.

## **Rate Changes Are Coming To Your August 2014 Utility Bill**

On July 7, 2014, City Council passed an ordinance to increase the sanitary sewer user rates by 3%. The ordinance also approved an increase of the monthly base rate for sanitary sewer from \$1.82 to \$9.00. These rate increases are needed for improvements to the city's sanitary sewer system. Both of these new sanitary sewer rate increases will be reflected on the customer's August 2014 utility bill.

In addition, City Council also approved a \$2.50 permanent reduction in the monthly solid waste/recycling collection fee. This reduction will drop the regular monthly refuse/recycling collection charge on the customer's bill from \$22.05 to \$19.55. The senior citizen rate will drop from \$21.05 to \$18.55 and the senior citizen with approved homestead exemption rate will drop from \$20.05 to \$17.55. These new rates will remain in effect until the next two contractual rate increases of \$0.65 are implemented beginning with the February 2015 and the February 2017 utility bills.

Residents paying for refuse/recycling collection will also notice a \$2.50 credit on their August 2014 utility bill, in addition to the permanent \$2.50 monthly rate reduction. The \$2.50 credit is temporary and will appear on the monthly bill for the next 24 months as the surplus in the Solid Waste Fund is returned to residents paying for monthly refuse/recycling collection.

The Fuel Recovery Fee will remain a part of the monthly bill since it is a contractual obligation. The Fuel Recovery portion of the bill is adjusted quarterly by adding/subtracting seven (7) cents per residential unit for every ten (10) cent change in the per gallon price of diesel fuel above or below \$3.00 per gallon. The fuel surcharge is based on the Department of Energy price for the Midwest Region on the first Monday of each calendar quarter.

If you have any questions regarding either of these rate changes, please call the Utilities Department at (440) 353-0841.

## **Street Paving Underway**

The following streets are on the Service Department's list to be paved this season: Mills Road between Route 83 and Jaycox Road; Ridgeview Blvd. between Hadaway and Bernice; intersection at Stoney Ridge and Mills; Pitts Blvd. between Gail and Wil-Lou; Lear Nagle north of Adele; Case Road north of Avalon; Sugar Ridge Road east of Bender. Also, Bender Road will be chip sealed.

## **Town Center Trail Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**



On July 1, a ribbon cutting ceremony took place at South Central Park to celebrate the opening of the Town Center Trail. The trail is a 1.2-mile and 10-foot wide asphalt multi-purpose trail that connects South Central Park, Senior Center, City Hall, North Ridgeville Library and North Ridgeville Middle School.

North Ridgeville Parks & Recreation recently received recognition from the 2014 Greater Cleveland Trails and Greenways for the newly opened trail. The recognition reads as follows, "Recognized for an exemplary example of a citizen-initiated project with great intra-community connections of relevant assets; with "kudos" to the Girl Scouts and Friends of the Park."

Pictured (left to right): Parks & Rec Director Kevin Fougerousse, former Girl Scouts Caitlyn Tipple and Morgan Rogers, Mayor G. David Gillock as they proudly cut the ribbon at the official grand opening of the Town Center Trail.

## Planning for the Future of the City

The administration and City Council met on three separate occasions for more than 14 hours at the end of June and early July to discuss the future needs of the City and more specifically a five-year plan. Each department presented their needs totaling more than \$86,400,000 and at the end of the presentations the list was prioritized. At the top of the list are the following: storm water management, Center Ridge Road/Lear Nagle Road widening projects, and capital expenditures such as a new fire station, road improvements, bridge repairs and waterline replacements.

As a result of the discussions, legislation was submitted to move forward with placing a bond issue for street improvements on the November ballot to generate up to \$8 million to finance the city's portion of the \$67 million project to widen Center Ridge Road and Lear Nagle Road. As part of the Center Ridge Road reconstruction project, storm sewers will be installed which do not currently exist, and should ease storm water runoff issues. As of the printing of this newsletter, the millage had not been certified by the county auditor. Based on the May 2014 ballot issue, the millage was .86-mill levy which would have cost homeowners about \$30.10/year per \$100,000 of fair market value. It is anticipated the November issue will be about the same calculation or slightly less.

In addition, legislation is being prepared to move forward with placing an income tax increase on the November ballot. The current income tax rate in North Ridgeville is 1% and provides for a .10 percent tax credit for residents working outside the city resulting in a .9% tax rate for most of the city's residents. The proposed increase of .85% will raise the total tax rate to 1.85% with an offsetting tax credit resulting in no additional tax to most residents working outside the city. The proposed income tax increase will generate approximately \$2.6-2.8 million in additional revenue. The additional revenue is needed to fund the increasing cost of operations as well as capital projects to include road improvements, safety equipment, and bridge repairs, to name just a few.

The voters will also see on the November ballot a proposed charter amendment to the City's Charter. Section 8.6 of Article VIII, Planning Commission, currently states the commission shall meet at least once a month. The proposed amendment is to eliminate the requirement for monthly meetings when there are no applications or issues pending before the body.

As previously mentioned, the above three ballot issues are in the process of being finalized. As more information becomes available, it will be posted on the city's website at [www.nridgeville.org](http://www.nridgeville.org). If you have any questions, please call the Mayor's Office at (440) 353-0811.

## Watch Your Speed...Please Drive Safely



The City purchased "Watch Your Speed...Please Drive Safely" signs made of recycled material with grant money received through the Lorain County Solid Waste Management District. These signs are available at no cost to residents that would like to display one in their front lawn. Please stop by the Administrative Offices at City Hall to pick one up today.

Let's work together to keep our children safe!

## Safetyville 2014 a HUGE Success!

This year's Safetyville Program held in mid-June was a tremendous success. The program provided an educational setting for near-record-breaking numbers of 247 children entering Kindergarten in the fall. The children were taught vital skills such as traffic, school bus, bicycle and pedestrian safety, stranger danger, 911, drug safety and fire safety.



## Parents, Did You Know?

If you are a parent, have custody of, or are in control of a child **under the age of 16** you cannot permit them to congregate, wander, loiter or play upon the streets, sidewalks, public places or places of amusement and entertainment, or to remain away from his or her residence or on unenclosed lands within the city, between 11:00 PM and 5:00 AM of the following day, unless accompanied by a parent, guardian, a responsible person over twenty-one years of age or a member of his or her family eighteen years of age or older. For children, **ages 16 and 17**, the restricted hours are between midnight and 5:00 AM of the following day. Exceptions include emergencies, work related functions and extracurricular activities (e.g., school, church, clubs and the child needs to be home one hour after planned activity has ended).

If a child is found to be in violation of curfew, the parent can be cited for the violation, which is a misdemeanor of the 4<sup>th</sup> degree. If you have any questions, please contact the North Ridgeville Police Department at (440) 327-2191.

## Community Calendar

- Daily** **Splash Pad** at South Central Park opens daily from 10 AM-8 PM thru Labor Day. The splash pad is free and open to North Ridgeville residents only.
- August 4** **City Council** meeting at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
- August 4, 5** **Bulk/Extra Trash Collection Days**
- August 8, 9, 10** **Corn Festival** on Bainbridge Road between Root & Avon Belden Roads, Friday 6-11 PM; Opening Ceremonies at 7 PM; Golden Kernel Award 7:15 PM; Saturday 11 AM-11 PM; Sunday 12-6 PM; Grande Parade 1:30 PM. For more information and a complete listing of events, visit [www.nrcornfest.org](http://www.nrcornfest.org) or call (440) 218-9802.
- August 15** **“Dino to Diamond” Concert** with Scott Brotherton at the North Ridgeville Education Center, 5490 Mills Creek Lane, from 2-3 PM. Advance tickets are \$6 and can be purchased at the Senior Center; \$8 at the door.
- August 18** **City Council** meeting at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
- September 1** **Labor Day** – City Hall closed in observance of the holiday; trash pick-up delayed one day.
- September 2** **City Council** meeting at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
- September 2, 3** **Bulk/Extra Trash Collection Days**
- September 8** **Blood Drive** by LifeShare Community Blood Services from 1-5 PM at the Senior Center.
- September 15** **City Council** meeting at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
- September 24** **Big Band Dance** at DeLuca’s Place in the Park, 6075 Middle Ridge Road in Lorain, from 7-10 PM. Advance tickets can be purchased for \$8 at the Senior Center with proceeds benefiting the Senior Center. Tickets can also be purchased for \$10 at the door. Sponsored by Hickman & Lowder Co., L.P.A., Attorneys at Law.
- September 26** **Spaghetti Dinner** at the Senior Center from 5-7 PM. Cost: \$6 adults, \$5 seniors and \$4 children 10 and under. Take-out available.
- October 6** **City Council** meeting at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
- October 6, 7** **Bulk/Extra Trash Collection Days**
- October 10, 11** **Spookville** at South Central Park from 6-9 PM. Visit the frightful forest; this can be enjoyed by children of all ages. Cost \$2 per person. Spookville is presented by the North Ridgeville Lions Club.
- October 11** **FallFest** is a free event that is held from 4-6 PM at South Central Park. Come out and enjoy a Fall Day while enjoying an interactive DJ, pumpkin painting, face painting, magic, straw fight and hay rides (weather permitting); and food vendors to satisfy your appetite. Sponsored by the North Ridgeville Parks & Recreation Department.
- October 18** **Lorain County Shred Day** at the Lorain County Solid Waste District Collection Center, 540 South Abbe Road in Elyria, from 9 AM-noon. Free to Lorain County residents; must present ID to show proof of residency. Limit 5 boxes or 5 blue grocery bags per vehicle. For more information, call the Collection Center at (440) 329-5440.
- October 20** **City Council** meeting at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
- October 24** **Spaghetti Dinner** at the Senior Center from 5-7 PM. Cost: \$6 adults, \$5 seniors and \$4 children 10 and under. Take-out available.
- October 31** **Tots Trick-or-Treat** at 1:00 PM at City Hall. Bring out your little witches and goblins to march in a parade and gather treats donated by city employees. This is a free event for ages up to 5 years old. Please pre-register by October 29 by visiting the Parks & Recreation’s website or by calling (440) 353-0860.
- Trick-or-Treat** will be observed 6-7:30 PM – citywide.

### Parks & Recreation Department

*For up-to-date class and program information, please visit the Parks & Recreation’s website at: [www.nridgeville.org/parksandrec](http://www.nridgeville.org/parksandrec) or call (440) 353-0860. Watch for the fall issue of the Rec Gazette in your August utility bill for a detailed listing of events.*

### Senior Center

*Reservations are required for the following events. Call (440) 353-0828 to make reservations or to obtain a complete listing of activities.*

- July 31** “Young at Heart” Breakfast at 9:30 AM at the Senior Center, “A Day at the Beach.” Cost \$3.
- October 30** “Young at Heart” Breakfast at 9:30 AM at the Senior Center, “Halloween Celebration.” Cost \$3.
- Ongoing:** Social, Lunch & Bingo meets every Wednesday at the Senior Center from 10 AM-2 PM. Cost \$4.  
Men’s Breakfast, first and third Thursday each month at the Senior Center from 9-10 AM. Cost \$3.  
Women’s Brunch, fourth Thursday each month at the Senior Center from 10:30-11:30 AM. Cost \$3.  
Super Thursday Lunch, second Thursday each month at the Senior Center at noon. Cost \$5.