



Community Connection, October 2014

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

Mayor's Message...

It is hard to believe summer is over, leaves are beginning to fall and we are just one week away from election day. On November 4, you will have an opportunity to guide the direction of the city's future. There are three city issues on the ballot – Issue 19 is a proposed charter amendment, Issue 20 is a bond issue to address the Center Ridge Road and Lear Nagle Road reconstruction projects and Issue 21 is a proposed income tax increase of .85% which is estimated that 83% of the residents **WILL NOT** be impacted by the increase. More details on each of the issues are contained in this month's newsletter on the following pages.



I do want to take this opportunity to address concerns of our residents pertaining to storm water management and flooding. As reported in the July 2014 issue of the *Community Connection*, we are continuing to work on storm water issues. I do want to stress that the Center Ridge Road and Lear Nagle Road reconstruction projects, Issue 20, will include installation of storm sewers and storm water management systems as part of the project. These do not currently exist today. With the added storm sewers and construction of four detention basins, this should help to alleviate flooding.

The City has recently contracted with URS to begin flow monitoring/mapping, hydrologic and hydraulic modeling, field services and equalization basin review for possible future installation. If the EQ basin proves feasible, the exact location will be determined and the underground basin will be installed. This should provide relief to the local sewer system from inflow and infiltration, which is the principal cause of local basement flooding. The above studies should be completed by March 2015 with a recommendation for the size and location of the basin where it will have the greatest impact.

The City will continue to be vigilant in its efforts to work on storm water and sanitary sewer concerns. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (440) 353-0811.

Mayor G. David Gillock



SPECIAL LEAF COLLECTION, OCTOBER 27-NOVEMBER 25

Leaves may be placed at the curb in **plastic bags** beginning the week of October 27 through November 25 on the regular trash pick-up day. After November, leaves in plastic bags can only be left out as extra garbage the first full week of each month. From April through October each year, yard waste must be placed in brown yard waste bags for weekly collection. Please call the Utilities Department at 353-0841 with any questions.

ISSUE #19 PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT

Issue 19 is a proposed charter amendment. The current city charter requires the Planning Commission to meet monthly to conduct business. The charter amendment will allow the commission to cancel a meeting when there are no applications or issues pending before the city. With a majority vote, the successful passage of this issue will allow the city to conduct business in a more efficient manner.

MOVING NORTH RIDGEVILLE FORWARD!



City Administration and Council met over three days to plan for the future of North Ridgeville. After considering feedback from department heads and community members, the following list of priorities was developed:

- Storm Water Management and Sanitary Sewer Management (Flooding)
- Center Ridge Road and Lear Nagle Road Reconstruction Projects
- New Fire Station to Serve as Headquarters
- Engineering Projects:
 - Road Improvements and Repairs
 - Bridge Repairs
 - Water Line Replacements
 - Additional Water Tower



After considerable discussion on how to pay for these much needed projects, City Council voted and approved to place two issues on the November 4, 2014 ballot.

Keeping the cost affordable for residents of North Ridgeville was a top priority in making this decision.

As a result, a proposed .85% income tax increase was recommended, impacting only 17% of residents. In addition, a .84-mill levy to generate \$8 million for the Center Ridge Road and Lear Nagle Road reconstruction projects will appear on the ballot as a separate issue.

ISSUE #20 BOND ISSUE - Center Ridge and Lear Nagle Reconstruction Projects

Project Overview

Center Ridge Road from Stoney Ridge to Lear Nagle will be widened from three to five lanes. Lear Nagle Road will be widened from two to three lanes from Center Ridge to Lorain.

Major Benefits

- Storm Sewers and Storm Water Management Systems will be added which do not currently exist today. This should help to alleviate flooding issues.
- Both roadways are exceeding their capacity which has resulted in increased traffic accidents. From 2012 through August 2014 a total of 347 traffic accidents have been reported. This number reflects 22% of the total accidents citywide. The widening of these two roads and improved intersections will increase safety and reduce the number of accidents.
- These projects will improve safety, roadway conditions, relieve congestion, add pedestrian/bicycle facilities and encourage economic development.
- Installation of a six-foot wide sidewalk on the north side of Center Ridge and ten-foot wide multi-use path on the south side and five-foot wide sidewalks on Lear Nagle.
- Improved Intersections - Lear Nagle at Lorain/Cook and Chestnut Ridge will be widened. Ridgeview/Root and Ridge Plaza/First Merit Bank will be realigned to remove the offset intersection.

What Will A “Yes” Vote Cost Me?

The combined cost for the projects is estimated to be \$67 million. The State of Ohio is funding nearly 90% leaving the city to fund \$8 million towards the two projects. Issue #20 is a .84-mill bond issue levy paid over 20 years.

Homeowners would see an increase in property taxes of about \$29.40 a year or **\$2.45 a month** per \$100,000 of home valuation.

ISSUE #21 PROPOSED INCOME TAX INCREASE

Overview Of Issue #21

Issue #21 is a proposed income tax increase of .85% for residents working in the city. It is estimated that 83% of the city's residents **WILL NOT** be impacted by the increase. Residents working outside the city will see an additional tax credit to offset the .85% increase and many senior citizens do not have taxable income, therefore, they will not be impacted by the additional tax. Issue #21 is projected to generate \$2.6 to \$2.8 million annually.

How Will These Additional Funds Be Used?

- New Fire Station to serve as headquarters and to improve overall average response
- Replace aging water lines
- Repair roads
- Repair bridges
- Offset the loss of state funds
- Additional Water Tower is needed to improve water pressure

Issue #21 Will Secure Funding For A New Fire Station

Looking Back to 1957...

- Fire Station #1 located on Route 83, a 5,400 square foot facility, was originally built in 1957 as a volunteer fire station.
- When built the volunteer fire station served less than 8,000 residents.

Fast Forward to 2014...

- Fire Station #1, more than 50 years later, is now serving over 31,000 residents.
- The Department currently employs 36 full-time firefighters/paramedics.
- An office trailer was added seven years ago to serve as living quarters and is still in use today.

Benefits of a New Fire Station

- Proposed replacement is a 22,594 square foot, two-story fire station.
- Includes added space needed for safety apparatus and equipment to include four apparatus bays, unisex dormitory and bathroom, fire prevention office and instructional space.
- Relocation of the fire station will improve overall average response times and provide for increased safety and efficiency.



REPORTING EXCESSIVE TRAIN HORNS IN THE RAILROAD QUIET ZONE

The North Ridgeville Railroad Quiet Zone extends along the Norfolk Southern Railroad from the west corporation line at Elyria to the east corporation line at Olmsted Township. To report excessive train horns heard near the North Ridgeville Railroad Quiet Zone crossings at Race Road, Maddock Road, Root Road and Chestnut Ridge Road, residents may call the Norfolk Southern Railroad Dearborn, Michigan dispatch center at (313) 323-5806 or the City's Engineering Department at (440) 353-0842. Callers will need the date and time that they hear the trains along with the milepost number at which they hear them (Race Road is 203.76, Maddock Road is 203.3, Root Road is 201.69, Chestnut Ridge is 201.3). Callers will also need to tell the dispatch center that they checked with the city and the quiet zone beacons are in working order.

Please remember that train engineers are authorized to blow their horns if there is a vehicle, pedestrian, animal, or train crew in the vicinity of the railroad tracks. Train horns must be sounded in a standardized pattern of two long, one short and one long blast. The pattern must be repeated or prolonged until the lead locomotive or lead cab car occupies the grade crossing.

The Federal Rail Administration rule requires that train horns shall begin to be sounded at least 15 seconds, but no more than 20 seconds, before the locomotive enters a crossing. The engineer may also sound their horn not more than 25 seconds before the locomotive enters a crossing if the engineer is unable to precisely estimate the time of arrival of the train at the crossing. Eastbound trains may sound their horns up to a quarter mile west of the Bronson Road crossing in Olmsted Township because Olmsted Township does not have a railroad quiet zone. These horns may be heard at the east corporation limits of North Ridgeville.

Community Calendar

- October 30** **Trick-or-Treat** will be observed 6-7:30 PM – citywide.
- 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.
- November 3 - December 12** **Holiday Food and Toy Drive** to benefit Community Care. Non-perishable food items and new toys in original packaging may be dropped off at City Hall, Parks & Recreation and Senior Center.
- November 2** **Daylight Savings Time** ends. As a reminder, turn your clocks back one hour.
- November 3, 17** **City Council Meeting** at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
- November 3, 4** **Bulk/Extra Trash Collection Days**
- November 4** **Election Day** – Exercise your right to vote. Polls open at 6:30 AM and close at 7:30 PM.
- November 11** **Veterans Day** – City Hall will be closed in observance of the holiday.
- November 27, 28** **Thanksgiving Holiday** – City Hall will be closed in observance of the holiday.
- December 1, 15** **City Council Meeting** at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
- December 1, 2** **Bulk/Extra Trash Collection Days**
- December 6** **Holiday on the Ridge** is the city’s kick off to the holiday season. The self-guided tour from 9 AM-8 PM takes you to multiple craft shows, business open houses and special events. *Sponsored by North Ridgeville Visitors Bureau.*
- Senior Center Christmas Craft Show** at the Senior Center from 9 AM-3 PM.
- Tree Lighting Ceremony** at South Central Park Gazebo at 5 PM. This is an annual tradition where local scouts decorate the tree, High School Choir will lead the spectators in festive songs of the season while Mayor Gillock lights the community tree.
- December 24, 25** **Christmas Holiday** – City Hall will be closed in observance of the holiday.
- December 28** **Singing Angels** will perform at St. Julie Billart Church, 5500 Lear Nagle Road, for a free concert. Doors open at 2:30 PM; sponsored by O’Neill Healthcare, North Ridgeville and The Abbewood, on behalf of the Senior Center.
- January 1** **New Year’s Day** – City Hall will be closed in observance of the holiday.
- January 5, 6** **Bulk/Extra Trash Collection Days**
- January 5, 20** **City Council Meeting** at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
- January 15** **State of the City Address** by Mayor G. David Gillock at the North Ridgeville Education Center. The event is sponsored by the North Ridgeville Chamber of Commerce. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 327-3737.
- January 19** **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day** – City Hall will be closed in observance of the holiday.
- January 30** **Spaghetti Dinner** at the Senior Center from 5-7 PM. Cost: \$6 adults, \$5 seniors and \$4 children 10 and under. Take-out available.

Parks & Recreation Department

For up-to-date class and program information, please visit the Parks & Recreation’s website at: www.nridgeville.org/parksandrec or call (440) 353-0860. The winter issue of the Rec Gazette will be included in the December utility bill.

- November 8** **4th Annual Turkey Shootout** at 1 PM at the North Ridgeville High School. Cost is \$5 per resident team, \$7 per non-resident team; ages 3-18. Registration is October 1 through November 7. For more information or to register, visit the Parks & Recreation website.

Senior Center

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

- October 30** **“Young at Heart” Breakfast** at 9:30 AM at the Senior Center, “Halloween Celebration.” Cost \$3.
- November 10** **AARP Safety Driving Classroom Course** from 11 AM-3 PM. Cost \$15 members and \$20 non-members.
- December 4** **Hearing Testing** from 1-2 PM at the Senior Center.
- December 11** **Super Thursday Holiday Party** with entertainment at noon. Cost \$5.
- January 5** **Life Line Health Screening** at 9 AM. Stroke, Vascular Disease and Heart Rhythm Package. Cost \$139. Call 1-888-653-6441 for more information or to preregister.
- Ongoing:** **Social, Lunch & Bingo** meets every Wednesday at the Senior Center from 9 AM-2 PM. Cost \$4.
- Men’s Breakfast**, Thursdays November 6, December 4 and January 8 at the Senior Center from 9-10 AM. Cost \$3.
- Women’s Brunch**, Thursdays November 20, December 18 and January 29 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.