



Community Connection, Winter/Spring 2015

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

Mayor's Message...

We are off to a busy start to a new year. I want to take this time to update you on several projects that we are continuing to work on to address storm water flooding and to reduce sanitary sewer back up events.

Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Study:

URS Corporation is conducting a Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Study to identify problem areas within the sewer collection system that are potentially contributing to flooding and other related issues. There are two tasks associated with this project, manhole inspection and mainline dye testing. Each task and timeline are highlighted below:

➤ Task 1 Manhole Inspection

Manhole inspection is another tool used to confirm sewer mapping and locate sources of infill and infiltration. URS is conducting manhole inspections of approximately 300 manholes. This work began mid-December with an expected completion date of February 2015.

➤ Task 2 Mainline Dye Testing

Mainline testing, which includes testing storm sewers, catch basins or ditches that cross or parallel the sanitary sewer will identify problems within the city's responsibility to repair. These tests include adding non-toxic dyed water to the storm structures and watching to see if dye transfers to the sanitary sewer. During this testing, sewers will be plugged to create a head of water in the storm sewer similar to what occurs during rain events. Most times water is added to catch basins to fill the plugged storm sewer. Dye transfer for a "positive" test is seen in the sanitary sewer. Once identified in the sanitary manhole, a CCTV camera will be inserted into the sanitary sewer segment found to have dye in it. This camera will identify any sources from joints, cracks or laterals and quantify the severity and location of the leak. Task 2 will begin mid-February with an expected completion date of April 2015. All testing locations and findings will be reported to the city in their final report.



Mayor G. David Gillock

Equalization Basin Study:

URS Corporation is also conducting studies on the feasibility of future installation of an underground EQ basin. URS has begun flow monitoring/mapping, hydrologic and hydraulic modeling, field services and equalization basin review. This should provide relief to the local sewer system from inflow and infiltration, which are the principal cause of local basement flooding. I previously communicated these studies should be completed by March 2015, however, in order to get accurate engineering data, more rain events exceeding two inches need to occur. The above studies, with a recommendation for the exact size and location of the basin where it will have the greatest impact, will be delayed until sometime later this spring.

Storm Water Utility:

We are currently working with a consultant to institute a Storm Water Utility. We need a sustainable and well-funded program to address storm water flooding. We are unable to accomplish this using the general fund and grants. Over 100 Ohio cities have instituted Storm Water Utilities. The Storm Water Utility will have three major goals:

- **Flood Reduction Projects.** We already have a flood reduction plan that is estimated to cost about \$4 million which does not include land acquisition. This would allow us to significantly reduce flooding throughout the city, including the Pitts/Gina area and Highland Drive as well as other areas.
- **Storm System Maintenance & Life Cycle Replacement.** This includes a continuation of the cameraing of our sewer lines and repair as needed as we have been doing for years on an infrequent basis because of lack of funding.
- **Water Regulatory Compliance** is the third leg of a Storm Water Utility to make sure our system stays in compliance with EPA regulations.

The Storm Water Utility will be presented to City Council at a special meeting on January 26, 2015.

Detention Basins:

As part of the Center Ridge Road reconstruction project, four new extended detention basins to control run-off from Center Ridge Road will be installed as part of the project. City Council authorized an additional \$11,000 in the design so that the detention areas that will be built meet our standards, which are in excess of Ohio Department of Transportation's standards. This is huge storm water detention where none exists today.

We will continue to be vigilant in our efforts to minimize future flooding and sanitary sewer back up in our great city! If you have any questions, please contact my office at (440) 353-0811.

Update on Center Ridge Road and Lear Nagle Road Reconstruction Projects

Center Ridge Road widening project continues to move forward with an expected bid date of October 2016. After two failed attempts at the ballot to pass a property tax levy to pay for the city's share, legislation is in the works to increase the license plate fee by \$5 per vehicle per year. This fee will generate approximately \$140,000 per year that can be used to pay the debt service on the city's remaining obligation of about \$2.5 million. Feedback received by residents felt this to be a more appropriate funding mechanism because it applies to those that are using the road. The city's shortfall was reduced substantially because the project was unbundled to allow for funds to be used from other funding sources, e.g., \$857,368 will be used from the sanitary sewer fund to install new sewers in the project area; originally the city's obligation for the new water line was \$400,000 but the city was able to include the water line in the project using federal funds. This leaves the city with an obligation of \$75,000 for the water line which can be paid through the water fund.

Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is moving forward with the demolition work associated with the Center Ridge Road widening project. ODOT negotiates directly with the property owner to settle on an agreed upon purchase price. As the negotiations are finalized, the properties are released to the contractor to have the structures removed. There are a total of 22 structures on the removal list with an expected date of completion by June 2015. In addition, there are over 300 parcels impacted by the project and in most of these cases it is the acquisition of land only for the additional right-of-way that's needed for the widening of the road. Notices to property owners were recently mailed out to those that have existing encroachments in the right-of-way. It will be up to the property owner to relocate these items to an appropriate location at their own expense.

The total cost for widening Center Ridge Road is \$54,583,526 based on the latest estimates. In the end, North Ridgeville will pay about \$4,787,613 of the grand total. The lion's share of the project is being funded by state and federal tax dollars and not local tax dollars.

Lear Nagle Road widening project is moving forward as well. There are 92 property acquisitions needed, but no total building takes. All parcels have been appraised and an offer made to the property owner. Sixty-one of the offers have been accepted; 29 remain in negotiations and two have been submitted for appropriation. After breaking out the Lear Nagle project from the Center Ridge Road project, the city has a remaining funding obligation of \$2,525,665. Of this amount, \$799,000 will be funded through the water fund to install a new water line and the remaining balance of \$1,726,665 will be paid through the street levy fund. The hope is to secure new funding in the future rather than dilute the street levy fund for this purpose. The anticipated bid date for this project is sometime in 2016.

Lorain County Emergency Notification System

City of North Ridgeville entered into a contract with Lorain County Commissioners, administered by Lorain County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, to provide the city and county with a robust, cost-effective emergency notification system. The city will have the ability to send out emergency messages to subscribers by way of voice, text, e-mail, pager and social media. These messages may consist of weather alerts, evacuation warnings, and Amber alerts, to name just a few. Employee training of the system will occur in late January with details on how residents can sign up to receive alerts will be made available in early February. When more information becomes available from the County, the procedure and link to sign up to receive alerts will be posted on the city's website at www.nridgeville.org.

Three Levy Renewals, NO NEW TAXES, May 5, 2015

Legislation was passed at the January 20th City Council meeting to move forward with submitting to the electors of the City of North Ridgeville three renewals of an existing tax to be placed on the May 5, 2015 ballot. Briefly highlighted below are the three ballot issues:

- **Street Levy** – renewal of an existing 1.9-mill tax levy for the purpose of general construction, reconstruction, resurfacing and repair of streets, roads and bridges, for a period of five years.
- **Police Levy** – renewal of an existing 1.95-mill tax levy for the purpose of providing and maintaining motor vehicles, communications, and other equipment used directly in the operation of the Police Department, including payment of salaries of permanent police personnel, for a period of five years.
- **Fire Levy** – renewal of an existing 1.9-mill tax levy for the purpose of providing and maintaining fire apparatus, appliances and buildings and sites therefor and for the payment of salaries for firemen, for a period of five years.



These three levies combined generate about \$4 million in property tax revenues to the city. It is imperative that we renew all three levies to continue the services that our residents have come to expect and deserve. Again, all three of these issues are renewal levies and not a new or additional tax increase.

Did You Know...?

- * The Mayor delivered his annual State of the City Address on January 15, 2015. The Address can be watched in its entirety daily at 8 AM and 7 PM on the government access channel 12, with the exception of the first and third Monday of the month. The transcript of the Mayor's speech can also be found on the city's website at www.nridgeville.org.
- * No parking on any city street between the hours of 2 AM and 6 AM.
- * Snow bans are in effect when snow fall exceeds two inches within a 24-hour period. When in effect, no parking is permitted on any city street.
- * Drop boxes are located in the lobby of the Police Department for safe disposal of drugs in pill form and syringes that are expired or no longer needed.
- * In order to burn a recreational fire, a permit must be obtained from the Fire Department. Permits are free of charge and valid for the calendar year in which it is issued. Permits can be requested online at: www.nridgeville.org/RecreationalFirePermits.aspx.
- * Garage sale and vehicle sale permits are required at a cost of \$2 and can be purchased at the Mayor's Office in City Hall. Limit of two each per year.
- * The city's website provides you an opportunity to report issues online to appropriate departments for the following: pot holes, dead animals on roadways, mailboxes damaged by snow plows, and issues/complaints for follow up by building inspectors. Additional website features include: search police incident/accident reports, pay tickets online, sign up to receive eNews, access City Council and Boards & Commissions meeting agendas and minutes, read recent news items and peruse the calendar of events. Visit us at: www.nridgeville.org.
- * South Central Park pavilions and gazebo can be rented out from April 1 thru October 31. Rental fees and application can be found on the Parks & Rec website at: www.nridgeville.org/parksandrec.
- * In 2015, Jaycox Road from Forest Park Drive to Liberty Elementary will be reconstructed and repaved using Ohio Public Works Grant. The plan is to complete Jaycox from Liberty Elementary to Mills Road in 2016.
- * In 2014, the city replaced water lines on Manchester Circle and Root Road and installed a new waterline on Bainbridge Road.
- * In 2014, North Ridgeville was once again ranked highly by a national rating firm as one of the safest communities in Ohio. Movoto.com, a real estate website, ranked North Ridgeville number five.
- * In 2014, the Building Department issued 228 new dwelling permits and 13 new apartment building permits containing 77 units.
- * In 2014, the Fire Department responded to 2,436 EMS calls and 603 fire calls for a total of 3,039.
- * In 2014, the Police Department responded to 34,915 calls for service, handled 610 traffic crashes, 181 DUI arrests and 883 animal control calls for service.
- * In 2014, the Senior Center provided 9,930 Meals-on-Wheels, 2,578 one-way transportation trips and more than 150 volunteers provided over 5,500 volunteer hours of service.
- * In 2014, the Service Department repaired 15 water main breaks.
- * In 2014, the Service Department paved Mills Road from Route 83 to Jaycox, Ridgeview from Center Ridge to Bernice, Pitts from Gail to Wil-Lou, N. Lear Nagle from Mills to Adele, Lexington Way, Sugar Ridge east of Bender Road and Frontier Park. There's a total of 163.46 miles of roadway in North Ridgeville.

Community Calendar

- February 2, 3** **Bulk/Extra Trash Collection Days**
- February 2, 17** **City Council Meeting** at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
- February 16** **Presidents' Day** – City Hall will be closed in observance of the holiday.
- February 19** **Chili Cook-Off** from 5-7 PM at the Senior Center. Tickets are \$5 in advance or \$6 at the door. Taste delicious chili from a wide selection of organizations. Chili, bread, dessert and drinks are all included in the ticket price. For more information, call the Senior Center at (440) 353-0856.
- March 2, 3** **Bulk/Extra Trash Collection Days**
- March 2, 16** **City Council Meeting** at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
- March 3** **R.I.T.A. Municipal Taxpayer Assistance Event** from 1-7 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road. RITA representatives will be available to assist with municipal income tax return preparation at no cost, first-come, first-served basis. Visit the City's website for more information on what to bring to the event to receive assistance.
- March 8** **Daylight Savings Time** begins. As a reminder, turn your clocks ahead one hour.
- March 19** **State of the Schools Address** by Superintendent Dr. James Powell 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 (440) 327-3737.
- March 19** **Dine to Donate Fundraiser at Chipotle** from 4-8 PM. Present the flyer (available on the City's website) to the cashier and 50% of proceeds will be donated to the North Ridgeville Seniors, Inc.
- March 28** **Easter Egg Hunt** at 2 PM at the Ranger Stadium, North Ridgeville Middle School, ages 1-9. Gates open at 1:30 PM. Sponsored by the Rotary Club of North Ridgeville.
- April 3** **Good Friday** – City Hall will be closed in observance of the holiday.
- April 4** **Zumbathon** from 9-11 AM at the North Ridgeville Education Center. Dance your way to fitness and raise money for the Ody Family. Ages: 15 and up. Cost: \$10 resident/non-resident or \$15 day of the event. To register, visit the Parks & Recreation's website at: www.nridgeville.org/parksandrec.
- April 6, 7** **Bulk/Extra Trash Collection Days**
- April 6, 20** **City Council Meeting** at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
- April 24** **Spaghetti Dinner** at the Senior Center from 5-7 PM. Cost: \$7 adults, \$6 seniors and \$4 children 10 and under. Take-out available.

Parks & Recreation Department

For up-to-date class and program information or to register for an event, please visit the Parks & Recreation's website at: www.nridgeville.org/parksandrec or call (440) 353-0860.

- February 14** **Daddy Daughter Dance** at 7-9 PM at the North Ridgeville Middle School. Cost per couple is \$30 resident/\$40 non-resident, each additional child \$10. Ages: K-5th Grade. Registration is January 5-February 6.
- February 28** **Heart & Sole Challenge** at 9 AM-noon at the North Ridgeville Education Center. Free for all ages. Enjoy health screenings, interactive displays, speakers and demonstrations. Registration January 1-February 21.
- March 21** **Mom & Son Game Night** at 7-9 PM at the North Ridgeville Middle School. Cost per couple is \$30 resident, \$40 non-resident, each additional child \$10; Ages: K-5th Grade. Registration is January 5-March 14.

Senior Center

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

- February 5, April 2** **Hearing Testing** from 1-2 PM at the Senior Center.
- Feb. 12, Mar. 12, Apr. 9** **Super Thursday Luncheon** with entertainment at noon. Cost \$5.
- April 30** **"Young at Heart" Breakfast** at 9:30 AM at the Senior Center. 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 Thursdays of the month at the Senior Center from 9-10 AM. Cost \$3.
 Women's Brunch, fourth Thursday of the month at the Senior Center from 10:30-11:30 AM. Cost \$3.