



# CITY OF NORTH RIDGEVILLE



## Community Connection, Winter 2018-19

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...

Winter will be here before we know it, so let's talk about salt! Yes, that white stuff we dump on the roads to melt the ice and snow to keep our streets clear. Sounds simple doesn't it? Well, not so fast. Each year we struggle with how much salt to order so we don't fall short or have an overabundance because it is a huge part of our budget. And, we want to ensure we maintain our streets in the manner our residents have become accustomed to! Our Service Department takes great pride in getting our streets as clean as possible after each snow storm and as quickly as possible.



Ironically, we have to order our salt each year in April/May for the next snow season. We participate in the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) salt program which provides for a guaranteed price and supply (although they don't guarantee when). As part of this program we agree to purchase at least 90% of our request with the ability to purchase up to 110% at the guaranteed price.

When I first became Mayor fifteen years ago, the City was using almost 8,000 tons of salt a year and we had fourteen snow plow routes. Our Service Department has instituted controls that although our lane mileage has significantly increased we have cut our salt purchase in half, ordering about 4,000 tons each year. Currently, we have fifteen snow plow routes but need sixteen; however, we do not make as many rounds during a shift as we had previously done.

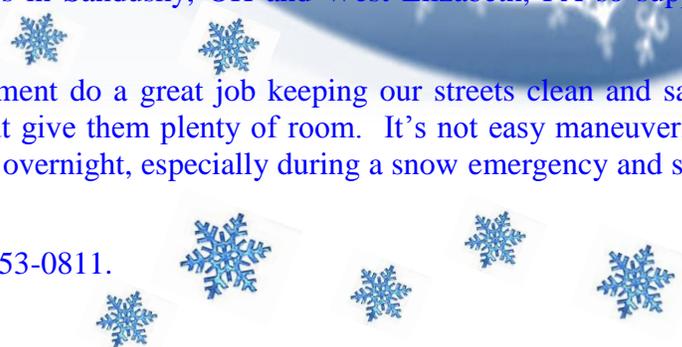
Other controls that have been established include salting only curves, hills and intersections on secondary streets. It didn't make sense to me to salt a street with a 25 mph speed limit that was straight and flat. We still plow them but spare the salt. In addition, our trucks now have spreaders that allow the driver to dial back the feed rate to conserve salt. Also, in the last few years we have begun using a brine solution that works well, especially when applied before a storm hits. This is a temporary solution and works only for relatively minor amounts of snow.

The City will see an increased cost this year in purchasing salt through the ODOT salt program. Last year's salt price was about \$37/ton at an annual cost of approximately \$150,000. This coming season our costs have nearly doubled, as it will be billed at \$71.64/ton. Each year when we inform ODOT how much salt to reserve, they combine that number with other cities in Lorain County that participate in the program along with their needs and that of the Ohio Turnpike. ODOT then goes out to bid for the best pricing. This year the only bid received by ODOT was from Compass Minerals America at \$71.64/ton. Prior to this year, Cargill Salt in Cleveland has won the bid and provided our salt every year that I've been Mayor except one about four years ago when Morton was our provider for that one season. This year's total tonnage for the county is 68,125 tons. That's 6,000 tons for ODOT, 12,000 tons for the Ohio Turnpike and 50,125 tons for local governments including North Ridgeville's 4,000 tons. Compass Minerals will have approximately 80,000 tons on hand at their storage facilities in Sandusky, OH and West Elizabeth, PA so supply should be sufficient barring an exceptionally bad year.

So there you have it! Our employees in the Service Department do a great job keeping our streets clean and safe. When you see them out there give them a friendly wave, but give them plenty of room. It's not easy maneuvering those big trucks through the snow. No parking on the streets overnight, especially during a snow emergency and stay back from the trucks at least one hundred feet to be safe.

If you have any questions, please contact my office at (440) 353-0811.

*Mayor G. David Gillock*



# UTILITY DEPARTMENT NEWS

## Rate Holiday for Trash Collection



Good news for our utility customers. Due to the excess balance of funds that are above what is needed for continued operations in the solid waste account, it is the desire of the Administration and City Council to return any excess cash balance to our customers in the form of a rate holiday. In accordance with city ordinance #5479-2017, it has been hereby declared that a rate holiday shall be granted for

December 2018, where no user charges are to be billed by the City to its residential customers for the monthly trash collection fee. Normal monthly trash charges will resume on the December 31, 2018 utility bill, which would be for the January 2019 trash collection period. If you have any questions regarding the rate holiday, please call the North Ridgeville Utilities Department at (440) 353-0841.

## Automated “Pay by Phone” System is Here!

In keeping with the Payment Card Industry (PCI) Data Security Standards, that seek to increase controls around cardholder data and reduce credit card fraud, all while improving the overall customer experience, we’ve implemented a fully automated “Pay by Phone” system.

Utility Department employees will no longer physically handle the customer’s credit/debit card or checking account information, either in-person or over the phone. The sensitive payment information will remain in the hands of the customer, who will be in complete control of the credit/debit card or checking account information at all times. The office staff will simply assist the customer and guide them through the payment process when making a payment inside City Hall.

All credit/debit card payments that are made directly to the City of North Ridgeville can be done by utilizing the UBILL online payment portal on the city’s website at [nridgeville.org](http://nridgeville.org) or through the automated “Pay by Phone” system, where you’ll be asked to enter your account number and payment information on your touch tone phone. You should have your current utility bill and payment information with you before you call the automated system to make your payment.

It’s important to note that we can no longer accept credit/debit card payments at the drive-up window but you’re always welcome to come inside city hall and we’ll gladly help you process those payments at the inside window. Of course, you can also continue to pay your North Ridgeville utility bill through the mail with the return envelope provided with your bill, at the drive-thru window (cash or check only) and, as mentioned before, at the Utilities Department service windows inside City Hall during our normal business hours of 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

We’re always striving to bring our customers the best and latest technology to allow them to make their utility payments easily, safely and securely. We sincerely believe that these measures, while new and different, will increase the security of your sensitive credit/debit card and banking account information and additionally, offer both the UBILL and “Pay by Phone” services for our customers to access anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.



You may access the automated “Pay by Phone” system by dialing direct at 1-855-400-3441. If you have any questions regarding the new “Pay by Phone” system or any of the many payment options that we offer, please call the Utilities Department at (440) 353-0841 and we’ll be happy to assist you and answer any questions that you may have.

## Republic Services Policy Change

Republic Services now requires mattresses be placed in mattress bags or wrapped in plastic and sealed with heavy duty tape for disposal during bulk pick up week only.

## **North Ridgeville Fire Department Strategic Plan 2018-2023**

The North Ridgeville Fire Department has recently completed the process of developing a community driven strategic plan. The plan was developed through multiple work sessions that took place over the course of several days. Input was received from both internal and external stakeholders from within the community as well as the department membership. The department membership used the community input to develop five major goals that are based on the stated needs and wishes of the community members. These goals were then further defined by developing objectives, critical tasks, and timelines that are vital to accomplishing each goal. This community driven plan will be used over the next five years as a tool to guide the decision making process when steering the direction of the North Ridgeville Fire Department. To obtain a copy of the 2018-2023 Strategic Plan, please visit the Fire Department's webpage at [nridgeville.org/Fire.aspx](http://nridgeville.org/Fire.aspx) or contact Fire Chief John Reese at (440) 353-0803.



The new fire station headquarters is moving along nicely. The roof will soon be on and weathertight so as to allow progress to continue throughout the winter months. When you have an opportunity, drive down Ranger Way to see for yourself! Don't forget, you can access aerial view progress videos from the Fire Department's webpage at [nridgeville.org/Fire.aspx](http://nridgeville.org/Fire.aspx).

## **Center Ridge Road Reconstruction Update**

The Ohio Department of Transportation is reporting that the Center Ridge Road reconstruction project has been delayed due to extensive utility delays and conflicts. Because of these issues, the timeline that was previously communicated that the east end from Lear Nagle Road to Jaycox Road will be completed this construction season is no longer an accurate statement. Fechko Excavating will have three lanes maintained through the winter months on the north side of Center Ridge and they will continue to work through the winter on the bridges at Root Road and over French Creek adjacent to St. Peter Church. Asphalt work will resume mid-to-late April when the plants reopen. The overall project completion date will remain the same of October 2019.

### ***Did You Know?...***

- When snow exceeds two inches within 24 hours, a **Snow Ban** is in effect and **No Parking** is permitted on any City street to allow snow plows to pass.
- City Ordinances 660.04 and 660.05 require sidewalks, curbs or gutters to be cleared of snow and ice within a reasonable time, which will ordinarily not exceed 12 hours after any storm during which the snow and ice has accumulated.
- The removal and disposal of ice and snow from private drives or parking lots into the city streets or across the street onto a tree lawn is prohibited per City Ordinance 600.04.
- You should stay back at least 100 feet when following a snow plow or salt truck.
- If your mailbox is damaged by a snow plow, please contact the Service Department at (440) 353-0814 or you can report it online at [nridgeville.org](http://nridgeville.org) by clicking on Departments, then Service.
- When your wipers are on, so should your headlights regardless of the time of day/night.
- When traffic lights are out, exercise safety by treating all intersections as four-way stops.
- The Lorain County Solid Waste Management District household hazardous waste collection and paper shredding services are free to Lorain County residents with a valid I.D. Contact the center at (440) 329-5440 for more information.

## Community Calendar

- December 3, 17 City Council Meeting at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
- December 13 Coffee & Conversation with Mayor Gillock from 8-9 AM at City Hall in Council Chambers. Stop in to enjoy a cup of coffee and casual conversation with the Mayor.
- December 20 Fair Housing Board Meeting at 10 AM in Mayor's Conference Room at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
- December 24, 25 Christmas Holiday – City Hall will be closed in observance of the holiday.
- January 1 New Year's Day – City Hall will be closed in observance of the holiday.
- January 7, 22 City Council Meeting at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
- January 8 Bulk/Extra Trash Collection Day
- January 10 Coffee & Conversation with Mayor Gillock from 8-9 AM at City Hall in Council Chambers. Stop in to enjoy a cup of coffee and casual conversation with the Mayor.
- January 18 State of the City Address by Mayor G. David Gillock at 11:30 AM in the cafetorium at the North Ridgeville Academic Center. The event is sponsored by the North Ridgeville Chamber of Commerce. For more information or to purchase tickets, please call the Chamber at 327-3737.
- January 21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – City Hall will be closed in observance of the holiday.
- January 25 Spaghetti Dinner at the Senior Center from 5-7 PM. Cost \$7 adults, \$6 seniors and \$4 children 10 and under. Take-out available.
- February 4, 19 City Council Meeting at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
- February 5 Bulk/Extra Trash Collection Day
- February 9 Daddy Daughter Dance from 7-9 PM at the North Ridgeville Academic Center. Cost per couple is \$30 resident/\$40 non-resident, each additional child \$10. Ages K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade. Pre-register online beginning December 17 at [nridgeville.org/parksandrec](http://nridgeville.org/parksandrec).
- February 12 Coffee & Conversation with Mayor Gillock from 8-9 AM at City Hall in Council Chambers. Stop in to enjoy a cup of coffee and casual conversation with the Mayor.
- February 18 Presidents' Day – City Hall will be closed in observance of the holiday.
- March 4, 18 City Council Meeting at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
- March 5 Bulk/Extra Trash Collection Day
- March 13 Coffee & Conversation with Mayor Gillock from 8-9 AM at City Hall in Council Chambers. Stop in to enjoy a cup of coffee and casual conversation with the Mayor.

### Senior Center

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

- Dec. 11 Holiday Party Luncheon with entertainment at noon at the Senior Center. Cost \$5.
- Dec. 20; Jan. 3, 17; Feb. 7, 21 Men's Breakfast from 9-10 AM at the Senior Center. Cost \$3.
- Dec. 27; Jan. 24; Feb. 28 Women's Brunch from 10:30-11:30 AM at the Senior Center. Cost \$3.
- Jan. 10; Feb. 14; Mar. 14 Super Thursday Luncheon with entertainment at noon at the Senior Center. Cost \$5.
- Jan. 31 "Young at Heart" Brunch at 10:30 AM at the Senior Center. Cost \$3.