



Community Connection, Summer 2016

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

Mayor's Message...



Moody's Debt Rating. I have more great news to share with you in this edition of the *Community Connection*. The adjacent picture was taken during a recent trip to New York City as we presented the city's financial, demographic and economic details to Moody's Investors Service. As a result of our presentation, **Moody's has upgraded** the City of North Ridgeville's **general obligation limited tax rating to Aa1** from Aa2! Citing a moderately sized and growing tax base, strong demographic trends, healthy financial operations, support for dedicated tax levies and manageable debt burden with strong managerial oversight, Moody's upgrade of the city's debt is one of few handed out in Northeast Ohio in the past several years. The only Aa1 rated cities in Lorain County are North Ridgeville and Avon.

What this really means for our great city is current bond issuance, which includes financing of the new fire station and capital improvement and refunding bonds, consolidation of outstanding notes debt and refinancing of outstanding debt issues (Series 2006 and 2008 bonds) will incur a lower interest cost for the debt. This is a potential savings of approximately \$1.7 million over the life of the bonds.

Lear Nagle Road Reconstruction Project. I have had a number of residents contact my office regarding the Lear Nagle Road widening project and the new pavement that's been installed. Rest assured this is only temporary pavement and is not the new road. When going into the project, the contractor requested to close Lear Nagle for nine months as they constructed the new road. My answer was NO, and that they needed to find a way to reconstruct the road keeping Lear Nagle open for traffic. Their resolution was to construct a temporary road on the east side of the street to allow thru traffic while they continue to work on the west side of the street. This is a much better solution than closing the road entirely!

City Names New City Auditor. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our newly named City Auditor, Kevin W. Smith. Kevin joined our staff on May 19 and has over 22 years of experience, ranging from a privately-owned company, two Fortune 500 companies, seven years working for the City of Cleveland, five years as Director of Finance for the City of Columbiana and over four years as Treasurer/Administrative Services Director for Mill Creek MetroParks. Welcome, Kevin!

Liberty Elementary School Third Graders Embark on City Hall. On May 10, City Hall was filled with 320 third graders as they rotated through six stations to learn all about city government and daily operations. What a great morning for teaching and learning. I am always fascinated with the questions that our youth ask. I, too, learned something from them during their visit and conversations. Looking around the Council Chambers, I can't help but smile and be proud of our future leaders.

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

Have a fun-filled and safe summer!

Mayor G.
David Gillock



Update on Street and Sidewalk Projects

Road Repairs. City Council approved a budget request of \$766,000 to be appropriated in 2016 for street paving and repair work. The Service Department continues to patch pot holes throughout the city and milling and paving will occur on the following streets (for the most up-to-date schedule, visit the city's website at www.nridgeville.org):

- ✓ Bagley Road
- ✓ Branch Street from Olive Avenue to Cornell Avenue
- ✓ Hickory Trail
- ✓ Island Road
- ✓ Lee Street from Hadaway Street to Helen Street
- ✓ Meadow Moss Lane
- ✓ Mildred Street from Route 83 to Ridgeview Blvd.
- ✓ Mills Creek Lane
- ✓ Race Road from Sugar Ridge Road to railroad tracks

Concrete full-depth street and sidewalk repairs

- ✓ Eastview Avenue at 5936 and from 5955 to 6005
- ✓ Highland Drive near Jaycox Road
- ✓ Helen Street curb return area as marked at Ridgeview Blvd.
- ✓ Rosebelle Avenue at 5908, 5922 to 5964, 6032, 6122, 6214, 6242 and Sycamore Street curb return
- ✓ Transverse joint replacements two feet wide as marked on Eastview Avenue near 5918
- ✓ Transverse joint replacements two feet wide on Rosebelle Avenue and Highland Drive
- ✓ Catch basin blockout replacements at 89 various locations throughout the city. Catch basin blockouts are concrete pavement located around storm sewer inlets along the roadway pavement curb. For a complete listing of locations, visit the city's website and click on the Engineering Department's webpage.

Jaycox Road Reconstruction Project, Phase 2

Reconstruction of Jaycox Road from approximately 400 feet north of Drake Street to Mills Road will move forward in late summer of 2016. This will include six inches of pulverized asphalt base and three inches of new asphalt intermediate and surface courses to provide two eleven-foot lanes with two-foot wide asphalt shoulders. The city received a grant from Ohio Public Works Commission for \$358,233 of the \$607,175 needed for this project.

Safe Routes to School Project

The city has received a grant administered through the Ohio Department of Transportation to hire Smith Paving and Excavating, Inc. for \$338,970.75 for the construction of the Safe Routes to School Project. The purpose of this project is to provide well-connected pedestrian and bicycle networks so that school children can safely walk and bicycle to school. The purpose of this project is also to create a vision of North Ridgeville as a place where all modes of transportation are to be respected, to create an environment where students understand that walking and biking are good for the body and the earth, and to improve bicycling skills of students in order to prevent crashes. The work includes upgrading crosswalks, curb ramps, pavement markings, traffic control signage, adding rear-facing school flashing beacons, adding bicycle racks, and providing new sidewalks at gaps in the existing sidewalks at various locations for Liberty, Wilcox and Lear North Elementary Schools. Sidewalks will be constructed on Jaycox Road, Drake Street, Ridgeview Blvd., Rosebelle Avenue, Fairacres Road, Poplar Street and Mildred Street. Storm sewer and drainage modifications may be necessary at a few sidewalk locations. Work is expected to begin in early June and be completed before school begins in the fall. Tree lawns, drives and other property disturbed by construction will be restored by the contractor at their cost. K.E. McCartney & Associates has been hired using grant funds of \$34,600 to provide construction inspection services for this project.

Aurensen Road Sidewalk Project

The city collaborated with the North Ridgeville City Schools and the North Ridgeville Branch Library to apply for a mini-grant from the Lorain County General Health District. A grant of \$35,810 was awarded for the construction of sidewalks on the north side of Aurensen Road. The purpose of this mini-grant is to increase sidewalk usage and/or physical activity and the community health status to decrease the incidence of chronic disease. The sidewalk will increase access to the Town Center including the Senior Center, South Central Park, North Ridgeville Branch Library, Wilcox Elementary, the High School and the new grades 3-8 school complex from the Aurensen Road neighborhood and the future Cross Creek subdivision to be located west of the Aurensen Road neighborhood. The Aurensen Road sidewalk will connect to a planned sidewalk to be constructed on Avon Belden Road. The Aurensen Road sidewalk project will tie in with the Safe Routes to School project and a joint ribbon-cutting ceremony and festivities will be held at **9:30 AM on Thursday, September 8** on Aurensen Road. More information will be made available closer to the event date. Discount Cement Contractors, Inc. has been hired by the city for \$29,838 to construct the Aurensen Road sidewalk. Bramhall Engineering & Surveying Co., Inc. has been hired by the city for \$1,500 to provide survey to locate the Aurensen Road right of way line. Grafton Ready Mix has been hired by the city to supply concrete for \$8,512. Construction is expected to begin by June 1 and be complete by July 1, 2016.

With the addition of the sidewalks on Aurensen Road, Avon Belden Road, the Safe Routes to School sidewalks, the Center Ridge Road widening project sidewalk and multi-use path, and the Lear Nagle Road widening project sidewalks, North Ridgeville will have a well-connected sidewalk network and a physical environment that encourages walking and bicycling to school, the public library and South Central Park.

The North Ridgeville Fire Department Receives Donations for Medical Equipment and Promotes Summer Grilling Safety



The North Ridgeville Fire Department has received generous donations from the community to purchase life-saving medical equipment. Three McGrath Mac video laryngoscopes were purchased and one was placed in each of the fire department's three front-line ambulances. This device uses a small camera and video screen to assist the paramedic in placing a breathing tube in the trachea of a critically-ill patient. In the past, the paramedic had to get up close with a laryngoscope blade and visualize the patient's vocal cords before passing the breathing tube down the trachea. The McGrath Mac allows the paramedic to put some distance between him/herself and the patient while obtaining a more accurate view of the vocal cords. The result is an increase in the number of successful breathing tube placements with fewer traumas to the patient. Successful breathing tube placement can be the difference between life and death in a critically-ill patient.

The McGrath Mac video laryngoscopes cost \$2,750 each and come with disposable replacement blades. The North Ridgeville Fire Department received generous donations from both the North Ridgeville VFW Post 9871 and the North Ridgeville Corn Festival Committee. The devices were completely purchased with donations. Thank you to our donors and the example they set in making our community a better place to live.

Now that the weather is finally becoming warmer, the North Ridgeville Fire Department would also like to offer some grilling safety tips. There's nothing like outdoor grilling. It's one of the most popular ways to cook food. Unfortunately, a grill placed too close to anything that can burn is a fire hazard and can ruin a cookout. Grills can also be very hot and increase the risk of burn injuries. You can follow these simple tips and you will be on your way to safe grilling:

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- The grill should be placed well away (at least 10 feet) from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and trays below the grill.
- Never leave your grill unattended.
- Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.

If you would like more information on grill safety, you can consult the manufacturers' recommendations that came with your grill or go to www.nfpa.org/education for more tips on grill safety. The North Ridgeville Fire Department would like to wish everyone a safe and happy summer!

Did You Know...?

- Building permits are required for most home improvement projects including additions, alterations, decks, sheds/barns, fences, swimming pools, replacement windows, re-siding and re-roofing. And, prior to hiring a contractor to conduct any work on your property make sure they are licensed and bonded to work in the city. When in doubt if a permit is needed or if the contractor is registered, contact the Building Department at (440) 353-0822.
- Grass clippings being blown into the street will be washed down the storm sewers which will clog inlets and restrict the flow of the sewers resulting in street flooding. Keep stacks of firewood, tree limbs and yard equipment away from creeks, ditches and waterways. When the water rises it will take these stored items with it causing blocked waterways.
- Dog walkers are required to pick up after their dog when they leave a deposit in a neighbor's yard or on a tree lawn and to properly dispose of the feces in a sanitary manner in a proper receptacle.
- Domestic power tools may not be used from 9 PM until 7 AM or on Sunday before 9 AM.
- Recreational fires require a permit that can be obtained online at no cost and is valid for one calendar year. To obtain a permit, visit the Fire Department's webpage at www.nridgeville.org/Fire.aspx.
- Trash/Garbage is not permitted to be placed on the curbside earlier than thirty-six hours before the designated date of collection.
- "Watch Your Speed...Please Drive Safely" signs are available at no cost to residents that would like to display one in their front yard. Stop by the Mayor's Office at City Hall to pick one up today.
- The city allows for a sanitary sewer credit based on the water consumption needed to fill a swimming pool. You must call the Utilities Department at (440) 353-0841 prior to filling the pool and the pool must be a minimum of four feet deep and the amount of water used must be equal to at least 80% of the volume needed to fill the entire pool.
- 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.
- You can sign up to receive important text and/or e-mail messages from the city. Visit www.nridgeville.org and click on the "eNews Signup" tab.

Community Calendar

- Daily** **Splash Pad** at South Central Park is open from 10 AM-8 PM thru Labor Day. The splash pad is free and open to North Ridgeville residents only.
- June 6, 7** **Bulk/Extra Trash Collection Days**
- June 6, 20** **City Council Meeting** at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
- June 7** **Heart & Sole Challenge Healthy Strides** combines a casual 30-minute walk, preceded by a brief informative talk. Come walk with us at 6 PM at South Central Park, Pavilion #1. Mayor David Gillock and Cary Borland, DO, Cleveland Clinic will be the guest speakers. For more information visit www.NRheartandsole.com.
- June 15-July 15** **Garden Club's Annual Curb Appeal Recognition Event (CARE)** – Nominate a beautiful North Ridgeville front yard (even your own) and seven winners will receive a \$25 garden center gift certificate and more. E-mail gcnrinfo@gmail.com or call (440) 365-8522 with your nominations.
- June 15-18** **Citywide Garage Sale Days** – To register, visit the Chamber of Commerce/Visitors Bureau between June 1-10 at 34845 Lorain Road or call (440) 327-3737 for more information. Please note: No garage sale permit from City Hall is needed to participate in this event.
- June 20** **Coffee & Conversation with Mayor Gillock** from 8-9 AM at City Diner, 34900 Center Ridge Road. Stop in to enjoy a cup of coffee and casual conversation with the Mayor.
- June 21** **Heart & Sole Challenge Healthy Strides** combines a casual 30-minute walk, preceded by a brief informative talk. Come walk with us at 6 PM at South Central Park, Pavilion #1. Jennifer Smith, PT, Cleveland Clinic will be the guest speaker. For more information visit www.NRheartandsole.com.
- July 2**  **Independence Day Celebration** – Party in the Park at South Central Park from 7-9:30 PM. Fireworks at dark. Food vendors, bounce houses, balloon twister, face painting and live entertainment by Sorry William, and much more! *Rain date is July 3 – fireworks only.*
- July 4** **Independence Day** – City Hall closed in observance of the holiday.
- July 5, 6** **Bulk/Extra Trash Collection Days**
- July 5, 18** **City Council Meeting** at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
- July 5** **Heart & Sole Challenge Healthy Strides** combines a casual 30-minute walk, preceded by a brief informative talk. Come walk with us at 6 PM at South Central Park, Pavilion #1. Street Foreman Jon Montgomery, City of North Ridgeville, will be the guest speaker. For more information visit www.NRheartandsole.com.
- July 19** **Coffee & Conversation with Mayor Gillock** from 8-9 AM at City Hall in the Conference Room. Stop in to enjoy a cup of coffee and casual conversation with the Mayor.
- July 19** **Indoor Yard Sale** at the Senior Center from 10 AM-2 PM to sell many overstock items at reduced prices. All proceeds benefit the Office for Older Adults.
- July 19** **Heart & Sole Challenge Healthy Strides** combines a casual 30-minute walk, preceded by a brief informative talk. Come walk with us at 6 PM at South Central Park, Pavilion #1. Polly Dengel, MD, Cleveland Clinic will be the guest speaker. For more information visit www.NRheartandsole.com.
- July 29** **"Dino to Diamond" Concert** with Scott Brotherton from 2-3 PM at the North Ridgeville Education Center, 5490 Mills Creek Lane. Presale tickets are \$6 and can be purchased at the Senior Center; \$8 at the door.
- August 1, 15** **City Council Meeting** at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
- August 1, 2** **Bulk/Extra Trash Collection Days**
- August 2** **Heart & Sole Challenge Healthy Strides** combines a casual 30-minute walk, preceded by a brief informative talk. Come walk with us at 6 PM at South Central Park, Pavilion #1. City Engineer Scott Wangler will be the guest speaker. For more information visit www.NRheartandsole.com.
- August 12-14** **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 or call (440) 218-9802.
- August 16** **Heart & Sole Challenge Healthy Strides** combines a casual 30-minute walk, preceded by a brief informative talk. Come walk with us at 6 PM at South Central Park. Pastor Tom Joyce, Fields United Methodist Church, will be the guest speaker. For more information visit www.NRheartandsole.com.
- August 24** **Coffee & Conversation with Mayor Gillock** from 8-9 AM at Kim's Restaurant, 37863 Center Ridge Road. Stop in to enjoy a cup of coffee and casual conversation with the Mayor.
- August 30** **Heart & Sole Challenge Healthy Strides** combines a casual 30-minute walk, preceded by a brief informative talk. Come walk with us at 6 PM at South Central Park. City Council President Kevin Corcoran will be the guest speaker. For more information visit www.NRheartandsole.com.
- September 5** **Labor Day Day** – City Hall closed in observance of the holiday.
- September 6, 7** **Bulk/Extra Trash Collection Days**
- September 6, 19** **City Council Meeting** at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.