



## Community Connection, Winter 2020-2021

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...

With the holidays approaching and the number of COVID-19 cases on the rise, I would like to remind everyone the importance of mask wearing and social distancing. Governor DeWine recently signed a revised health order on November 17<sup>th</sup> as it relates to all public and private gatherings of greater than 10 people occurring outside a single residence are prohibited. We need to continue to follow these guidelines in order to get this pandemic under control.

Lorain County Public Health is a great resource for information. They recently released tips on how to reduce the risk of contracting COVID-19 during the holiday season. To lower your risk, celebrate with only the people you live with. If you plan to celebrate with people you don't live with, here are several ways to reduce your risk of getting sick and protect others:



- Wear a clean mask at all times during the gathering except when eating. Wash afterwards.
- Wash your hands and remind others to do so.
- Limit the amount of time you spend with others.
- Sit physically apart. The more distance the better between people who don't live together.
- If sharing food, have each person use their own unused utensils to dish out their food.
- Have a clean-up plan to not crowd together in the kitchen.



Merry Christmas!

Think you've been exposed? To protect others, be extra cautious for 14 days after the event:

- Stay home as much as possible.
- Avoid being around people at high risk for severe illness from COVID-19.
- Consider getting tested for COVID-19 with a PCR test, 5+ days after exposure. Find a PCR testing site at [www.LorainCountyHealth.com](http://www.LorainCountyHealth.com).
- Pick up the phone when it rings – your local health department calls all close contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases.

Please be safe and healthy as you find ways to celebrate this holiday season. May the new year bring you peace, joy, and happiness!

Sincerely,

*Mayor Kevin Corcoran*

### Winter Weather Reminders

Below are a few reminders to keep you and your family safe during these winter months:

- 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.
- 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 [www.nridgeville.org](http://www.nridgeville.org) by clicking on Departments, then Service.
- When your wipers are on, so should your headlights regardless of the time of day/night.
- Do not allow children to play in or on snow drifts near streets or roadways. Safety first!
- Please make sure fire hydrants are clear of snow and ice.
- When using indoor electric and propane/kerosene heaters, be sure to keep them a safe distance away from combustible materials such as curtains, furniture and flammable items. Propane/kerosene heaters should be utilized in only well-ventilated areas.

## Two-Month 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 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 by the Mayor that a rate holiday shall be granted for November and December 2020, where no user charges are to be billed by the City to its residential customers for the monthly trash collection fee, during the last two months of 2020. Normal monthly trash charges will resume on the December 31, 2020 utility bill, which would be for the January 2021 trash collection period. If you have any questions regarding the rate holiday, please call the Utilities Department at (440) 353-0841.

## Fire Department Offers Emergency Medical Identification Cards

The North Ridgeville Fire Department has teamed up with the North Ridgeville Senior Center and University Hospitals of Cleveland to offer Emergency Medical Identification Cards to our residents. The cards can be obtained by residents and filled out to include emergency information such as doctor's name, existing medical conditions, medications, allergies and other medical information that can be useful in an emergency. The card then slides into a magnetic sleeve that should be kept on the refrigerator. This is especially useful in times of an emergency when the paramedics respond to the home. If this information is readily available, it streamlines the process of obtaining information when a patient may not be able to supply it themselves. These cards are free and can be picked up at City Hall and both fire stations. If you cannot leave your home, but would still like to have a card, contact the North Ridgeville Fire Department at (440) 327-5311 and arrangements will be made to get one to your home.

A form for an Emergency Medical Identification Card. It includes fields for personal information, medical information, and existing medical conditions. The form is titled "EMERGENCY MEDICAL IDENTIFICATION CARD" and has a header that says "This card was completed on (Date)". It features logos for University Hospitals and the North Ridgeville Fire Department. The form is divided into sections: PERSONAL INFORMATION, DOCTORS, EXISTING MEDICAL CONDITIONS, MEDICAL INFORMATION, and ALLERGIES. It also includes a section for "NOTIFY IN EMERGENCY" with fields for name, relationship, and contact information.

## Simple Recycling Suspends Curbside Collection



Simple Recycling has temporarily suspended the weekly citywide curbside pick up until further notice. Because of the global COVID-19 pandemic, the reuse and recycling of textiles has been impacted dramatically. Simple Recycling's curbside program is operated at no cost to the city or to our community members. They fully intend on bringing this program back to our community in the future when health and market conditions improve. Residents may still schedule a free donation pickup of clothing and shoes by visiting their website at [www.DonateStuff.com](http://www.DonateStuff.com).

## Columbia Gas Announces Winter Bill Assistance Available

Many Ohio families are struggling to pay their bills because of COVID-19's impact on the economy. There are several resources available to help customers maintain or reconnect gas service.

- The Winter Reconnect Order went into effect October 5. Customers whose service has been shut off because of non-payment, or who have received a shutoff notice, can reconnect for \$175 plus a reconnection fee, no matter how much is owed. The order runs through April 21, 2021. Call Columbia Gas at 1-800-344-4077.
- The Winter Crisis Program begins November 1. This program provides grants to income-eligible customers who have either been shut off or are currently facing shut off. Those interested should contact their local Energy Assistance Provider to learn more and verify income. These organizations can also connect customers to other helpful assistance programs.
- Columbia Gas also offers a wide variety of payment plans to help make bills more manageable.

For more information on winter bill assistance and available help, call Columbia Gas at 1-800-344-4077 or visit [www.ColumbiaGasOhio.com/WinterHelp](http://www.ColumbiaGasOhio.com/WinterHelp).



## Yard Waste News

It's important to remember the guidelines on the disposal of yard waste with your weekly trash and recycling collection, especially during the winter months. Below are several reminders:

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency rules state that NO 'Source Separated' yard waste can be disposed of in ANY solid waste landfill in the state. What that means is that every year, from **December through March**, yard waste must be placed in your blue trash cart each week as space allows. By placing the yard waste in the blue cart, it simply becomes trash and is not 'Source Separated' by the customer as yard waste and can therefore be collected on trash day.

From **April through November**, all yard waste must be placed in compostable brown paper bags or if loose, placed in a container that is clearly marked 'Yard Waste' but cannot be larger than 32 gallons nor exceed 50 pounds in weight. If too large for bags or containers, any twigs or branches must be in bundles that are tied securely with string or twine (no wire) and should not exceed 4 feet in length nor exceed 50 pounds in weight. During this collection period, yard waste will be collected in unlimited amounts each week on your regular trash and recycling collection day, as long as they are contained and placed at the curb according to these guidelines.

During the Fall, when leaves make up the majority of yard waste, there are five weeks of special collection of yard waste where you can place your leaves and yard waste in **plastic bags**. This allows our residents with an overwhelming amount of Fall leaves to place them in the less expensive plastic bags instead of the costlier compostable brown paper yard waste bags. The five weeks of 'Special' collections are generally the last five yard waste collections of the season.

## Recycling As Simple As 1-2-3

When it comes to recycling, everyone has a part to play. When we all work together we can make sure recyclable materials don't end up in our lakes and landfills. We believe in a cleaner, safer and healthier world where people thrive – not just for today, but for generations to come.

1. **Know what to throw.** Your recycling container should only contain cardboard (flattened), paper, metal cans, glass, plastic bottles and jugs. There will be times when you just aren't sure if something should be recycled or not. It's best to toss the item in the waste bin when that happens. For example, a pizza box is made of cardboard, but if grease and cheese are stuck to the box, it can't be recycled. Same goes for to-go coffee cups, paper plates, napkins and towels. When in doubt, throw it out.
2. **Empty. Clean. Dry.** Keep all recyclables free of food and liquid. Just one dirty bottle or item can contaminate the contents of your recycling container. Once cardboard or paper comes into contact with food or liquid it can no longer be recycled.
3. **Don't Bag It.** Don't bag your recyclables. Instead, place them in the recycling container loosely. Plastic bags can get tangled up in the machinery and jam up the whole process. The best thing you can do with grocery bags is return them to the store, don't use them at all, or put them in the trash. To avoid this problem altogether invest in reusable bags.



**NEVER** place these contaminants in the recycling container: plastic bags and wrappers, styrofoam, greasy pizza boxes, food, electronics and batteries, yard waste, diapers, soiled paper, clothing and shoes, tools, toys, construction waste, medical waste and scrap metal.

## Lorain County Solid Waste Management District (LCSWMD)

**Collection Center:** Lorain County residents may drop off to the center household hazardous waste, cooking oils, electronic waste, fluorescent lamps and ballasts, scrap tires (up to 20" rim diameter), and papers to be shredded. There is no charge for this service when providing proof of residency (valid driver's license or other acceptable form of photo ID). The Center is located at 540 South Abbe Road in Elyria and the hours of operation are Wednesdays from noon-6 PM and Saturdays 9 AM-3 PM. For a complete list of accepted items, visit the city's website at [www.nridgeville.org/Refuse.aspx](http://www.nridgeville.org/Refuse.aspx) or the county's website at [www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste](http://www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste).



**Community Recycling Incentive Grant:** The City has received grants for the last 28 years from LCSWMD for our community's recycling efforts. The funding is based on the total tonnage of recycling collected. These grants have been used to purchase items such as trash receptacles, picnic benches, lounge chairs for the parks, traffic cones, barrels and barricades, rubber mulch for playground areas, signage at city cemeteries, playground equipment, wood chipper, copy paper and office supplies, educational materials and supplies for Safetyville, etc. Items purchased have either been made from recycled material, can be recycled further or aids and educates on the merits of recycling. Thank you to our residents for your conscious efforts in participating in weekly recycling collections at curbside. Without your support, these grants would not be possible.



# Community Calendar

**Please Note: The calendar below is subject to change because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Check the city's website at [www.nridgeville.org](http://www.nridgeville.org) for the latest updates. \*\***

- December 5**      **Holiday on the Ridge** is the kick-off to the holiday season. Sponsored by the North Ridgeville Visitors Bureau, this self-guided tour takes you to multiple craft shows, business open houses and special events.
- Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony** will take place at 5 PM at South Central Park Gazebo where scouts will decorate the tree, High School Choir will lead spectators in festive songs of the season and Mayor Corcoran will flip the switch to light the community tree.
- December 7, 21**    **\*\*City Council Meeting** at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
- December 8, 15**    **Bulk/Extra Trash Collection Days** (12/8 SR 83 and all homes east; 12/15 all homes west of SR 83).
- December 16**      **\*\*Coffee & Conversation with Mayor Corcoran** 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 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 4, 19**      **\*\*City Council Meeting** at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
- January 4**           **Restorative Sound Bath** from 6:30-8 PM at Shady Drive batting cages, 37077 Shady Drive. Take a 90-minute relaxation journey with 60 minutes of easy restorative yoga and an extended 30-minute Savasana. Cost is \$25 resident and \$30 non-resident and pre-registration is required by visiting the Parks & Recreation Department website at [nridgeville.org/parksandrec](http://nridgeville.org/parksandrec).
- January 5, 12**      **Bulk/Extra Trash Collection Days** (1/5 SR 83 and all homes east; 1/12 all homes west of SR 83).
- January 13**        **\*\*Coffee & Conversation with Mayor Corcoran** from 8:30-9:30 AM at City Hall in Council Chambers. Stop in to enjoy a cup of coffee and casual conversation with the Mayor.
- January 18**        **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day** – City Hall will be closed in observance of the holiday.
- February 1, 16**    **\*\*City Council Meeting** at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
- February 2, 9**     **Bulk/Extra Trash Collection Days** (2/2 SR 83 and all homes east; 2/9 all homes west of SR 83).
- February 10**      **Valentine's Special Sweet Treat Cooking Class** from 6-8 PM at the Senior Center. Come learn to make fresh, healthy, sweet treats all while having fun. Ages 6-12 years old. Parents are welcome to join their child during the class. Cost is \$20 and pre-registration is required by visiting the Parks & Recreation Department website at [nridgeville.org/parksandrec](http://nridgeville.org/parksandrec).
- February 11**      **\*\*Coffee & Conversation with Mayor Corcoran** from 8:30-9:30 AM at City Hall in Council Chambers. Stop in to enjoy a cup of coffee and casual conversation with the Mayor.
- February 13**      **Couples Yoga** from 6:30-8 PM at Shady Drive batting cages, 37077 Shady Drive. Cost is \$30 resident and \$35 non-resident per couple and pre-registration is required by visiting the Parks & Recreation Department website at [nridgeville.org/parksandrec](http://nridgeville.org/parksandrec).
- February 15**      **Presidents' Day** – City Hall will be closed in observance of the holiday.
- March 1, 15**       **\*\*City Council Meeting** at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
- March 2, 9**        **Bulk/Extra Trash Collection Days** (3/2 SR 83 and all homes east; 3/9 all homes west of SR 83).
- March 14**          **Daylight Savings Time** begins. As a reminder, turn your clocks ahead one hour.