



Community Connection, Winter 2021-2022

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

Mayor's Message...

Let me start by saying **THANK YOU** to our residents for the overwhelming support you showed our Police Department at the polls in November. With the successful passage of Issue #11, plans to build a new police station on Ranger Way next to the Fire Station and across the street from the North Ridgeville Academic Center and High School, will move forward. Engineering and design is tentatively scheduled to begin in the spring with construction to follow. As more details become available, subsequent updates can be found on the City's website and in future newsletters.



As we are moving into the winter months and possible inclement weather, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that if you haven't already signed up to receive text or email alerts, I would suggest that you do so. Visit the City's website at www.nridgeville.org and click on the "Sign Up for Emergency Alerts" icon. We have partnered with the county to provide a cost-effective emergency notification and general messaging system. This service is free to residents to receive notifications, e.g., weather alerts, road closures, water breaks, bulk trash

collection reminders, etc.

The North Ridgeville Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the annual State of the City Address luncheon on Monday, January 10, 2022 at 11:30 AM in the cafetorium at the North Ridgeville Academic Center. I would like to extend an invitation for you to attend so you can hear about recent accomplishments and learn what's planned for the future of our city. If you are interested in purchasing tickets, please contact Marjorie Snyder at the Chamber of Commerce at (440) 327-3737. I hope to see you there!

Best wishes for a joyous Christmas filled with love, happiness and prosperity!

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 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.

Utilities Department Update

One 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 declared by the Mayor that a rate holiday shall be granted for December 2021, 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, 2021 utility bill, which is for the January 2022 trash collection period. If you have any questions regarding the rate holiday, please call the Utilities Department at (440) 353-0841.



Our New Payment Portal Is Here!

The City launched a new payment service in November, offering you greater flexibility to view and pay your utility bill online. Additionally, you have more choices to pay your bill, including by text message.

You now can:

- Pay your bill any time via an easy-to-use online portal
- Manage your account and view up to two years of payment history
- Receive email reminders when your bill is ready, when a scheduled payment is pending and a confirmation after making a payment
- Set it and forget it with AutoPay ... save time and avoid late or missed payments
- Pay with credit/debit card, e-check, Apple Pay and Google Pay

What this means for current AutoPay, Paperless and ACH Bank Draft customers:

If you were enrolled in AutoPay with ACH Bank Draft through UBILL or through the Utilities office, you will need to re-register in AutoPay with the new payment system. If you are a current UBILL AutoPay customer paying with credit, echeck or debit, you will also need to re-register in AutoPay with the new system.

If you are a current paperless customer, you will need to re-enroll in paperless with the new system. Your bills will come to you as a paper copy until you do so.

Please visit www.nridgeville.org and click on “Pay Utility Bill” on the left side of the page. You will need your account number and CID number. You can find your CID number on your November invoice payable in December. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we transition to this new system.

Use your smartphone camera option to scan the code to be taken directly to the payment portal.

If you should have any questions, please contact the Utilities Department at (440) 353-0841.



Project Updates

Planned projects are at a minimum because of weather conditions. There are, however, two projects highlighted below that construction will occur during the upcoming winter months.

- **Center Ridge Road Sanitary Sewer Extension Project.** All of the preliminary work and design has been completed for the project area on Center Ridge Road from Barton Road east to the city limits (approximately 3,200 feet). The project was bid in late November, to be awarded in December with construction to begin late January with an estimated completion date of July 1, 2022.
- **Lorain Road Water Main Extension.** Design and engineering services for the extension of the existing 12” water main along Lorain Road from a point east of Lear Nagle Road to a point west of Bliss Parkway have been completed. The project will go out to bid in December, award the project in January with an estimated completion date of July 1, 2022.

Natural Gas Aggregation Enrollment Mailers

Eligible residents and small business owners in the city should have received in November a natural gas enrollment letter for the City of North Ridgeville's natural gas aggregation program through NOPEC. NOPEC is required by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) to send these letters to all eligible residential and small business customers in NOPEC member communities every two years. Letters were mailed in November for enrollment into the natural gas program for the period beginning January 2022 through June 2023.

If you want to enroll in NOPEC's Standard Program Price, you don't need to take any action when you receive your enrollment letter. You will automatically be enrolled. Additional program options including fixed term and monthly variable pricing can be viewed online at nopec.org/checkrates or by calling NOPEC's Customer Care Center at 1-855-667-3201. If you don't want to enroll in the natural gas aggregation, you must return the opt-out form included with your enrollment letter to NOPEC by mail or by fax to (440) 774-4422 no later than December 13, 2021.

Columbia Gas Energy Assistance Programs

If you are struggling financially, Columbia Gas offers financial support through a variety of programs. Below are just a few of the offerings. For a complete list, visit ColumbiaGasOhio.com/AssistancePrograms or call 1-800-344-4077.

- **HEAP.** You may be eligible to receive state and federal assistance to help pay your Columbia Gas bill from the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP). HEAP provides one-time payment assistance to your Columbia Gas account. To apply, you can contact Lorain County Community Action Agency at (440) 245-2009 or apply online at development.ohio.gov.
- **Winter Crisis Program.** This program provides assistance once per heating season if you're eligible and disconnected or threatened with disconnection for nonpayment. To be eligible, you must sign up for PIPP Plus or another payment plan. Applications are accepted November 1 through March 31 each year, and are available through Lorain County Community Action Agency at (440) 245-2009. Learn more at development.ohio.gov.
- **Percentage of Income Payment Plan Plus (PIPP PLUS).** This payment reduction program allows you to pay just six percent of your monthly household income or a minimum of \$10 for your gas service each month. PIPP Plus enrollment is provided by Lorain County Community Action Agency at (440) 245-2009. Learn more at development.ohio.gov. 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.
- **Flexible Payment Plans.** A wide variety of flexible payment plans to help make bills more manageable are also available. Full details can be found online at ColumbiaGasOhio.com/PaymentPlans.

FirstEnergy Ohio Bill Assistance Programs

FirstEnergy Ohio customers are encouraged to arrange payment plans and apply for bill assistance programs. Below are just a few of the offerings. For a complete list, including installment payment plans and budget billing, visit firstenergycorp.com/billassist or call Ohio Edison customer service at 1-800-633-4766.

- **Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP).** Allows customers to pay a set percentage of their income toward their electric bill, regardless of the balance. Customers who maintain their payment plans may be eligible for debt forgiveness. Eligible customers should have income below 150% of federal poverty guidelines. To apply, call 1-800-282-0880 or visit energyhelp.ohio.gov.
- **Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP).** Provides eligible customers with cash grants for home heating bills and emergencies. Customers must have gross income below 175% of federal poverty guidelines. Call the Ohio Development Service Agency at 1-800-282-0880 or visit energyhelp.ohio.gov for more information.
- **2-1-1 Helpline.** This nationwide resource and information helpline identifies locally available programs that may assist customers with utility bills or other needs. For more information, dial 211, text your ZIP code to 898211 or visit 211.org.

Community Calendar

The calendar below is subject to change. Check the city's website at www.nridgeville.org for the latest updates.

- Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23** **Indoor Walking** every Thursday at LCCC University Partnership Ridge Campus from 6-7:30 PM. Walking is on the second floor (elevator available), face masks are required, and no cost to attend.
- December 4** **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 6, 20** **City Council Meeting** at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
- December 7, 14** **Bulk/Extra Trash Collection Days** (12/7 SR 83 and all homes east; 12/14 all homes west of SR 83).
- December 8** **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.
- December 23, 24** **Christmas Holiday** – City Hall will be closed in observance of the holiday.
- December 31** **New Year's Holiday** – City Hall will be closed in observance of the holiday.
- January 3, 18** **City Council Meeting** at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
- January 4, 11** **Bulk/Extra Trash Collection Days** (1/4 SR 83 and all homes east; 1/11 all homes west of SR 83).
- Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27** **Indoor Walking** every Thursday at LCCC University Partnership Ridge Campus from 6-7:30 PM. Walking is on the second floor (elevator available), face masks are required, and no cost to attend.
- January 7** **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 10** **State of the City Address** 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 of Commerce at (440) 327-3737.
- January 17** **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day** – City Hall will be closed in observance of the holiday.
- Feb. 1-Apr. 5** **AARP Tax Preparation** at the Senior Center by appointment only. To schedule, call (440) 353-0828 beginning **January 3, 2022** (space is limited). Free of charge to North Ridgeville residents age 60 and older.
- Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24** **Indoor Walking** every Thursday at LCCC University Partnership Ridge Campus from 6-7:30 PM. Walking is on the second floor (elevator available), face masks are required, and no cost to attend.
- February 7, 22** **City Council Meeting** at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
- February 8, 15** **Bulk/Extra Trash Collection Days** (2/8 SR 83 and all homes east; 2/15 all homes west of SR 83).
- February 15** **Coffee & Conversation with Mayor Corcoran and special guest North Ridgeville City School District Superintendent Roxann Ramsey-Caserio** from 8:30-9:30 AM at City Hall in Council Chambers. Stop in to enjoy a cup of coffee and casual conversation.
- February 21** **Presidents' Day** – City Hall will be closed in observance of the holiday.
- Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24** **Indoor Walking** every Thursday at LCCC University Partnership Ridge Campus from 6-7:30 PM. Walking is on the second floor (elevator available), face masks are required, and no cost to attend.
- March 7, 21** **City Council Meeting** at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
- March 8, 15** **Bulk/Extra Trash Collection Days** (3/8 SR 83 and all homes east; 3/15 all homes west of SR 83).
- March 13** **Daylight Savings Time** begins. As a reminder, turn your clocks ahead one hour.