

### Mayor's Message

I'd like to start off by thanking all those North Ridgeville residents who exercised their right to vote in November. I am grateful that Issue 16 passed which will lead to the construction of a much-needed new high school for our growing city. I would also like to express my appreciation to voters for giving me the opportunity to continue serving as your mayor. North Ridgeville is truly a great place to live, work and raise your family. I will be working with Council members and my administrative team to continue our forward momentum.



There is much to accomplish on the horizon! In 2024 we will be completing our citywide master plan which will provide a roadmap for our future. We will be opening a new police station and constructing several major roadway improvements. We will be placing a renewed focus on economic development, public safety and community character to positively impact our quality of life.

Also in the New Year, we will be improving the ways that the City communicates with the community. To provide more frequent and timely information to residents, we are launching a monthly eNewsletter that will be delivered right to your email inbox. While this *Community Connection* quarterly newsletter will be discontinued, we will still use opportunities to periodically share information with you in your utility bills. The eNewsletter will be sent to emails on file with our Utilities Department or you can sign up to receive it on our website at [www.nridgeville.org](http://www.nridgeville.org). And speaking of our website, we are in the process of redesigning and refreshing our City website to better serve residents, visitors and those doing business in the City. Our new website should be up and running in the first quarter of 2024.

While we are working to improve our digital communications, face-to-face conversations and opportunities for open discussion are important to me. I'll continue to host monthly Coffee and Conversations in 2024. Upcoming coffees include December 13, January 16, February 12 from 8:30-9:30 a.m. and March 7 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. I hope to see you there.

I wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

*Mayor Kevin Corcoran*

#### Welcome New and Future North Ridgeville Businesses:

- Biggby Coffee, 35111 Center Ridge Road
- Hair by Gradiel, 39043 Center Ridge Road
- KLT Insurance, 6480 Pitts Boulevard
- Kennedy Health and Fitness, 32672 Center Ridge Road
- Ridge Barbershop, 34131 Center Ridge Road
- Thriving Smiles Pediatric Dentistry, 34155 Center Ridge Road

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## Steps Towards Sidewalks

On August 21, 2023, Council approved an ordinance adopting new requirements for sidewalks within the City of North Ridgeville. The intent of the ordinance was to promote connectivity and walkability by expanding where sidewalks are required and updating standards for sidewalk construction. Some key elements of the ordinance are as follows:

- Previously sidewalks were required for new residential and commercial construction (only new construction). Now, Planning Commission has the ability to require sidewalks when commercial additions are made. Also added was a specific requirement for sidewalks to be constructed along the boundary of development areas that border on public streets.
- Construction requirements for sidewalks were improved. Minimum sidewalk width was increased and a requirement for ADA curb ramps adjacent to crosswalks was added.
- Previously, properties separated by a minimum distance from existing sidewalks or schools could seek approval to waive the sidewalk requirement. Those waiver provisions were removed. In the rare case a property owner meets the burden not to provide a sidewalk, the ordinance requires that owner to pay a “fee in lieu” so funds can be captured for future activities that promote connectivity and walkability in the City.

For the specific text of the ordinance, see Ordinance 6097-2023 or Chapter 1024 of the North Ridgeville Codified Ordinances available at:

[northridgeville.municipalcodeonline.com](http://northridgeville.municipalcodeonline.com)

## Total Eclipse

The North Ridgeville Police Department would like to reach out to our citizens to make you aware, if you are not already, of the total solar eclipse that is to occur on April 8, 2024.

A total eclipse is one of the rarest and most spectacular events in nature. During the partial phases just before and after totality, the landscape around you is transformed by eerie dim light and strangely sharp shadows. During totality, the sky becomes as dark as deep twilight, bright stars and planets appear, and the sun’s outer atmosphere, called the corona, shines around the black disk of the moon’s silhouette. Only people in the direct path of the eclipse will also be able to see the corona, which is also usually obscured by the light of our home star. Changes in temperature, winds, and animal behavior occur during the time around totality. The experience is emotionally powerful and unforgettable.

The last time this event occurred was 1806, and the next one is scheduled for 2444. So, it is truly a once in a lifetime event. Lorain County is one of only nine counties that intersect with the center line of totality with Lorain County being the longest periods of totality and highest viewing demand. Ohio is within a one-day drive of 70% of the U.S. population, meaning travel to Lorain County is within reach to many. Local population in Lorain County could triple or even quadruple.

An influx of population is expected to cause a considerable strain on our traffic patterns, place a huge increase in usage to our cellular towers, possibly causing outages. The large amount of people may cause local businesses to be flooded with customers.

Rest assured, we have already begun planning and preparing for this event. We will continue to update you as the eclipse approaches to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our residents. We recommend you take a moment and log onto [avonlakesolareclipse.com](http://avonlakesolareclipse.com) for more information and resources. Thank you!

## Winter Fire Safety Considerations

Heating, holiday decorations, winter storms and candles all contribute to an increased risk of fire during the winter months. The North Ridgeville Fire Department would like to pass along to you some winter fire prevention tips from the National Fire Protection Agency and the U.S. Fire Administration.

- Half of all home heating fires occur in December, January and February.
- 1 in every 7 home fires and 1 in every 5 home fire deaths involves heating equipment.
- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from heat sources like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators or space heaters, and candles.
- Keep portable generators outside, away from windows, and as far away from your home as possible.
- Install and test carbon monoxide alarms at least once a month.
- Plug only 1 heat-producing appliance (like a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.
- Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents every year.
- Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container, and keep it outside at least 10 feet from your home and any nearby buildings.

**For more information on how to prevent winter fires, visit [www.usfa.fema.gov/winter](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/winter) and [www.nfpa.org/winter](http://www.nfpa.org/winter).**

## North Ridgeville Veterans Memorial

The North Ridgeville Veterans Memorial is coming 2024 at the corner of State Route 83 and Bainbridge Road. We are proud to bring a dedicated space to the city to honor our fellow veterans.

To learn more about the project or to purchase a paver for a Veteran please visit [www.nrvetsmemorial.com](http://www.nrvetsmemorial.com) or scan the QR code to be taken directly to the site.



## Ridgeville Ready Update

The planning team has been hard at work crafting recommendations and action items for the Ridgeville Ready steering committee to review. Specific recommendations are based upon all of the data and public input collected throughout the process. At the steering committee's October meeting, the group covered topics of economy, mobility and infrastructure, amenities and leadership. At the December meeting, the group will be reacting to recommendations around land use, housing and the town center. Once the recommendations are refined by the steering committee, they will be presented to the community. An online round of public input will allow residents and other stakeholders the opportunity to weigh in before the plan is finalized. Stay tuned for more information regarding this input opportunity. Details will be posted on [nridgeville.org](http://nridgeville.org) and [RidgevilleReady.com](http://RidgevilleReady.com).

## Project Updates

Highlighted below is a brief summary of a few of the capital improvement projects currently underway or planned in the coming months. If you have any questions regarding these projects, please call the Engineering Department at (440) 353-0842.

### Fire Hydrant Replacement Project

The City will be replacing numerous fire hydrants on Chestnut Ridge Road, Lorain Road, Island Road, Pitts Boulevard, Wil-Lou Lane, Root Road and Reed Road over the upcoming winter months. Thirty-six fire hydrant assemblies will be replaced in total. Residents that are in close proximity to one of these hydrants may experience a reduction or loss in water pressure for a few hours during the work day. Anyone affected by the project will receive advanced notification when the project gets underway.

### Culvert Inspection Project

The City will be categorizing and inspecting all city-owned culverts up to ten feet in diameter and crossing roadways. This will be an annual project to investigate the structural integrity and water flow through the pipes.

All driveway culverts are the responsibility of the property owner to maintain and/or replace per city ordinance. These culverts shall be no less than twelve inches in diameter and in accordance with city standards. Culvert pipes shall be structurally sound and allow water to freely flow with no obstructions. All replacements or repairs will require a permit through the Building Department before work can begin.

### Mills Road, Stoney Ridge Road and Avalon Drive Roundabout

The roundabout will be a peanut-shape to improve safety and efficiency and eliminate the current intersection's offset geometry. Utility relocations delayed the project and is anticipated to be bid over the winter with construction expected to begin spring 2024.

### Cypress Avenue Extension

The Cypress Avenue Roadway Extension Project will connect Cypress Avenue to Lorain Road just inside the city limits of North Olmsted. The project will include storm sewers, along with a waterline and sanitary sewers. The City intends to bid this project over the winter with construction expected to begin in summer 2024.

### Mailbox Inspection

With winter weather approaching, the City wants to ensure the safety of all community members and motorists by keeping the roadways clear of ice and snow. Because of the close proximity of mailboxes to the streets, damage to mailboxes and posts is often times unavoidable. Snow and ice are very heavy and will tend to loosen posts that are in the ground. We are asking your cooperation to inspect your mailbox annually in an effort to prevent damage.

- ✓ Make sure your mailbox post is tightly secured into the ground and there are no signs of rotted wood or rusted parts.
- ✓ Repair any loose parts and tighten the hinges on the door of your mailbox.
- ✓ Keep the path to your mailbox clear.

If your mailbox is knocked over by heavy snow being pushed against it, please contact the Service Department at which time they will investigate to determine if the mailbox/post was physically hit by the city plow. The City does not replace mailboxes unless there is evidence of an actual strike by a city plow making contact with it. Rotted posts will not be replaced by the City as this is the homeowner's responsibility.

## Community Calendar

*The calendar is subject to change. Check the city's website at [www.nridgeville.org](http://www.nridgeville.org) for the latest updates.*

- December 2** Holiday on the Ridge is the city's kick off to the holiday season. The self-guided tour takes you to multiple craft shows, business open houses and special events. *Sponsored by North Ridgeville Visitors Bureau.*  
Jewelry Extravaganza from 9 AM-3 PM at the Senior Center. Admission \$1.  
Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at South Central Park Gazebo at 5 PM. This is an annual tradition where local scouts decorate the tree; High School Choir will lead spectators in festive songs of the season while Mayor Corcoran lights the community tree.
- December 4, 18** City Council Meeting at 7 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
- December 6** Master Plan Steering Committee meeting from 6-8 PM in the North Ridgeville Police Station Training Room.
- December 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.
- December 25, 26** City Hall will be closed in observance of the Christmas holiday. Trash collection will be delayed one day with service on Wednesday, December 27, 2023.
- January 1** City Hall will be closed in observance of the New Year's Day holiday. Trash collection will be delayed one day with service on Wednesday, January 3, 2024.
- January 2, 16** City Council Meeting at 7 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
- January 15** City Hall will be closed in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.
- January 16** 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 26** Spaghetti Dinner from 5-7 PM at the Senior Center. Tickets are available for purchase at the door or in advance from the Senior Center. Cost \$8 adults, \$7 seniors, \$5 for children 10 and under. Dine in or take out. *Sponsored by the Rotary Club of North Ridgeville.*
- February 5, 20** City Council Meeting at 7 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
- Feb. 6-Apr. 2** AARP Free Tax Preparation at the Senior Center by appointment only. To schedule, call (440) 353-0828 beginning at 9 AM on January 3, 2024 (space is limited).
- February 12** 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 19** City Hall will be closed in observance of Presidents' Day holiday.
- March 4, 18** City Council Meeting at 7 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
- March 7** Coffee & Conversation with Mayor Corcoran from 6-7 PM at City Hall in Council Chambers. Stop in to enjoy a cup of coffee and casual conversation with the Mayor.
- March 10** Daylight Saving Time Begins. As a reminder, turn your clocks ahead one hour.

## Senior Center

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

- Jan. 12; Feb. 9** The Breakfast Club at 9:30 AM at the Senior Center. Enjoy a social hearty breakfast for \$4.  
**January 30** Winter Luau at 11:30 AM at the Senior Center. Warm up with a luau celebration featuring tropical food and music for \$5.
- February 13** Mardi Gras party at 11:30 AM at the Senior Center. Enjoy the fun and revelry of Mardi Gras with themed food, games and music for \$5.
- February 29** Super Thursday Luncheon and program at 11 AM at the Senior Center for \$6.