



Community Connection, Winter 2019-2020

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

Mayor's Message...

Well, folks, I guess this is it! No more missives from Mayor G. David Gillock. My retirement officially begins January 1, 2020 after sixteen years at the helm of our great city! I will miss it tremendously. I will miss all the employees I have worked with on a daily basis. I will miss all the great contacts throughout the region, the State and the Federal level that have been developed over all those years. But mostly, I will miss the great people of North Ridgeville who I interacted with. Even those I didn't always agree with, or to better put it, didn't always agree with me.



It has been my honor and privilege to represent our great city and "act as the official and ceremonial head of the Municipal government" as our City Charter states. I want you to know that North Ridgeville has an extremely good reputation and is highly respected throughout Northeast Ohio as a growing and vibrant community, and many of those other communities are frankly a little envious of our new homes, new schools, new roads, new fire station, new businesses and new institutions like Lorain County Community College and University Hospitals.

And, over the years I have served on boards and committees such as the Mayors Association of Ohio (I am a past president), the State Auditors Regional Advisory Board, Northeast Ohio Area Coordinating Agency, Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council, Ohio Public Works Commission, Ohio Municipal League and many others that I will miss. Those boards all exist to serve the constituencies they represent and make them better. Through these boards I met some really great people.

I feel like I'm going out on top (even if Center Ridge Road isn't done yet!) and I am committed to doing whatever I can to make the next Mayor successful and build on what we already have. With that I said, I do want to take this opportunity to congratulate Mayor Elect Kevin Corcoran. I have worked with Mr. Corcoran for years as he has served on City Council, community committees and several civic organizations that I, too, have had an active role. I do firmly believe that he will continue to serve the residents in the same manner that he has as Council President – fair, honest and with the best interest of the residents and the city at the forefront. I wish him the very best as he begins his term on January 1, 2020.



Even though it is bittersweet this is my last article as your Mayor, I am looking forward to retirement and starting a new chapter in my life. That chapter will include spending more time with my family, traveling with my beautiful wife of 52 years, golfing and during boating season spending time on Lake Erie catching a fish or two! I will still be around town and hope to see you at the grocery store or at a local eatery!

Warmest thoughts and best wishes for a wonderful holiday and a happy New Year! May peace, love and prosperity follow you always.

Sincerely,
Mayor G. David Gillock



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 December 2019, 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, 2019 utility bill, which would be for the January 2020 trash collection period. If you have any questions regarding the rate holiday, please call the North Ridgeville Utilities Department at (440) 353-0841.

City Messaging System

The City of North Ridgeville has contracted with Lorain County Commissioners, administered by Lorain County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, to provide the city and county with a robust, cost-effective emergency notification and general messaging system. The service is free to residents to subscribe to receive messages by way of voice, text, and/or e-mail from the county and from North Ridgeville and other jurisdictions. Examples of messages include, but not limited to, weather alerts, water main breaks, road closures, bulk trash collection reminders, etc. To subscribe, visit the city's website at nridgeville.org and click on "Sign Up for Emergency Alerts" icon.

Renewal Levies – Fire, Police and Streets – No New Taxes

Legislation was passed at the November 18th City Council meeting to move forward with submitting to the electors of the City of North Ridgeville three important levy renewal issues of existing taxes to be placed on the Primary Election ballot to be held March 17, 2020. Briefly highlighted below are the three issues:

- **Roads and Bridges Levy** – renewal of an existing 1.9-mill tax levy for the purpose of general construction, reconstruction, resurfacing and repair of streets, roads and bridges, for a period of five years.
- **Police Levy** – renewal of an existing 1.95-mill tax levy for the purpose of providing and maintaining motor vehicles, communications, and other equipment used directly in the operation of the Police Department, including payment of salaries of permanent police personnel, for a period of five years.
- **Fire Levy** – renewal of an existing 1.9-mill tax levy for the purpose of providing and maintaining fire apparatus, appliances and buildings and sites therefor and for the payment of salaries for firefighters, for a period of five years.



These three levies combined generate about \$4.4 million in property tax revenues to the city. It is imperative that the city renew all three levies to continue the services that the residents have come to expect and deserve. Again, all three of these issues are renewal levies and **NOT an additional tax increase.**

Weather and Safety Tip 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 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.

Ranger High Tech Academy Studies Natural Weathering and Erosion in the City



On November 6, 2019, over 40 fourth grade students from the Ranger High-Tech Academy STEM classes were taken by bus to tour examples of natural weathering and erosion in the city. One stop was the Greenwald Ditch in the Mills Creek Development, where they talked about such issues as bank erosion, stream bed scour, and stream bank vegetation. The tour also

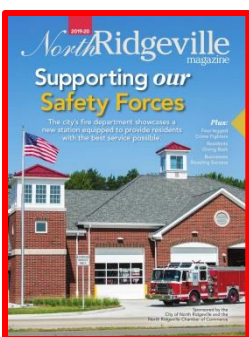


included the Academic Center's stormwater management facilities which aid in preventing erosion to the city's waterways. The tour was led by the Assistant City Engineer, Christina Eavenson.

Shady Drive Complex Fitness Trail

Shady Drive Complex is a 37-acre park that is located off of Sugar Ridge Road and is home to 13 baseball/softball diamonds, an indoor 50 x 100-foot batting cage/multi-purpose facility, two concession stands, three public restroom facilities, playground, covered pavilion and a multi-purpose field. Shady Drive hosts a variety of programs through the year and is home to the Parks & Recreation baseball/softball program. Shady Drive is also rented out by national and local organizations for tournaments and league play.

The Parks & Recreation Department was recently awarded the NatureWorks Grant in the amount of \$67,482 to expand the existing trail at Shady Drive. The current ¼-mile trail will be extended to a ¾-mile trail that residents are able to utilize for walking and biking. The total project estimate is \$169,000 and will be funded through the grant, Parks & Recreation Improvement Fund and the generous donation of \$15,000 from North Ridgeville Heart & Sole Challenge which is guided by the Lorain County Public Health and funded through the United Way. The construction phase is anticipated to begin in Spring 2020.



North Ridgeville Magazine 2019-20

The North Ridgeville Magazine, sponsored by the City of North Ridgeville and the North Ridgeville Chamber of Commerce, was delivered to residents and businesses in early November. There are extra copies of the publication available at City Hall or at the North Ridgeville Chamber of Commerce. The magazine is published annually by Great Lakes Publishing at no cost to the city and paid for by the generous support of the ad sponsors. A special thank you to the contributors of this year's publication!

Community Calendar

December 2, 16	City Council Meeting at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
December 3, 10	Bulk/Extra Trash Collection (12/3 Route 83 and all homes east; 12/10 all homes west of 83).
December 6	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 7	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 the North Ridgeville Visitors Bureau. Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at South Central Park 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 Gillock lights the community tree.
December 18	Fair Housing Board Meeting at 10 AM in Mayor's Conference Room at City Hall.
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 6, 21	City Council Meeting at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
January 7, 14	Bulk/Extra Trash Collection (1/7 Route 83 and all homes east; 1/14 all homes west of 83).
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 at 327-3737.
January 16	Coffee & Conversation with the Mayor 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 20	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – City Hall will be closed in observance of the holiday.
January 31	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 3, 18	City Council Meeting at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
February 4, 11	Bulk/Extra Trash Collection (2/4 Route 83 and all homes east; 2/11 all homes west of 83).
February 8	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 th Grade. Pre-register online beginning December 9 at nridgeville.org/parksandrec .
February 17	Presidents' Day – City Hall will be closed in observance of the holiday.
February 18	Coffee & Conversation with the Mayor from 8-9 AM at City Hall in Council Chambers. Stop in to enjoy a cup of coffee and casual conversation with the Mayor.
March 2, 16	City Council Meeting at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
March 3, 10	Bulk/Extra Trash Collection (3/3 Route 83 and all homes east; 3/10 all homes west of 83).
March 11	Coffee & Conversation with the Mayor from 8-9 AM at City Hall in Council Chambers. Stop in to enjoy a cup of coffee and casual conversation with the Mayor.
March 17	Election Day – Exercise your right to vote. Polls open at 6:30 AM and close at 7:30 PM. For more information, visit loraincountyelections.com or call the Lorain County Board of Elections at (440) 326-5900.

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. 10	Holiday Party Luncheon with entertainment at noon at the Senior Center. Cost \$5.
Jan. 2, 16; Feb. 6, 20; Mar. 5	Men's Breakfast from 9-10 AM at the Senior Center. Cost \$3.
Dec. 19; Jan. 23; Feb. 27	Women's Brunch from 10:30-11:30 AM at the Senior Center. Cost \$3.
Jan. 9; Feb. 13; Mar. 12	Super Thursday Luncheon with entertainment at noon at the Senior Center. Cost \$5.
Jan. 30	"Young at Heart" Brunch at 10:30 AM at the Senior Center. Cost \$3.