

## **Mayor's Message, Spring 2016**

### **Is Our Drinking Water Safe?**

With recent incidents of unsafe lead levels found in tap water in several communities, I have been approached by a number of residents asking if our tap water is safe. What better way to address this but in my column.

The city publishes annually, Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report, which is included in your May utility bill each year. Because we are part of a distribution system and do not treat our own water, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires our water be tested monthly for routine bacteria sampling. Based on the city population and Ohio EPA requirements, we have 31 sample sites throughout the city. What started as annual sampling for lead and copper at 60 sample sites, has now become 30 sample sites and conducted every three years (last done in 2014). This change was made by the EPA because of our consistent good results. There's a third set of tests conducted quarterly to insure the proper treatment process occurs and the by-product levels are at or below the allowable amounts.

The city is currently purchasing its water supply from the cities of Elyria and Avon Lake. Because these two cities treat the water, their treatment plants are under tremendous scrutiny and require additional testing and analysis on a more frequent basis (some are done as frequent as every hour) prior to water being distributed to our city.

The good news is with all of the testing and safeguards in place, we've had only one positive sample collected in our city in the past five years. To put that into perspective, that's one in 1,860 samples tested. When a sample tests positive, a set of four additional samples, both upstream and downstream, are collected and tested to insure there's no additional contamination. It was determined the sample that tested positive was confined to a sink at a commercial property.

If you have any questions regarding the Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report, please call our Engineering Department at (440) 353-0842.

### **Issue 8, Zoning Amendment**

In recent weeks, literature was mailed out to residents by Redwood Living regarding Issue 8 on the March 15<sup>th</sup> ballot. Numerous calls came into my office regarding these mailers. I want to take this opportunity to explain why this issue is required to be placed on the ballot. The City of North Ridgeville's Charter requires a mandatory referral of rezoning to electors when a parcel of property is to be rezoned for multiple family dwellings. Redwood Living has requested two parcels of property located at Center Ridge Road and Meadow Lakes Boulevard be rezoned from B-2 Central Business District and R-1 Residence District to R-2 Multiple Residence District. Redwood Living would like to expand The Retreat at Stafford luxury apartments to the adjacent properties. Such rezoning proposal shall not become effective unless approved by a majority vote of the electors of the city and of each ward in which the property is located.

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

Sincerely,  
Mayor G. David Gillock