

City of North Ridgeville
Mayor's Message – Summer 2018

As we move into the summer months, construction season is in full swing! When you drive around our city you will see there are a lot of projects in the works. This is certainly positive because it is a sign that we are committed to enhancing our infrastructure. Highlighted below are just a few of the many projects.

Center Ridge Road Reconstruction Project. The road widening project is progressing quite nicely. Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is overseeing the construction by Fechko Excavating and providing ongoing construction updates on their website. You can access their site via the city's website at nridgeville.org by clicking the icon "ODOT Center Ridge Road Widening Project Construction Updates." When you visit this link, you'll also be afforded the opportunity to sign up for project updates in Lorain County including the Center Ridge Road project.

New Headquarters Fire Station. The construction of the new station on Ranger Way is on schedule. The basement walls and apparatus bay footers have been poured and the first floor walls are taking shape. If you visit the city's website and click on Departments, Fire and the link "New Fire Station Progress Video" you'll be able to see an aerial view of construction progress. Every couple of weeks, a new video will be added to the library showing the progression.

Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) Grant. As a member of NOPEC, the city is eligible to participate in the grant program to finance eligible efficiency or energy infrastructure projects. Because North Ridgeville is both an electric and gas member, the city received \$6 per enrolled account for gas and \$8 per enrolled account for electric totaling \$117,100. NOPEC has approved our submitted projects to include LED conversion in several of our city-owned facilities – City Hall, Shady Drive Complex, Soccer Complex, Frontier Park and South Central Park. Also approved is insulation of our Service Department garage and installation of energy efficient HVAC in our Shady Drive recreational building to replace temporary propane heaters. These projects will begin in the coming weeks. This grant program is expected to continue for the next two years.

Lorain County Community College (LCCC): A Point Of Pride For Our County And Our City. While attending a recent dinner function at LCCC featuring their culinary students, I had the opportunity to dine with LCCC President Dr. Marcia Ballinger. It was during our conversation that I decided it was time to remind our residents how fortunate we are to have a university partnership campus in our city.

LCCC was recently recognized by the American Association of Community Colleges as first in the nation for Excellence in Student Success. The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) is the primary advocacy organization for the nation's community colleges, representing nearly 1,200 two-year, associate degree-granting institutions and more than 12 million students. AACC presented the award to LCCC President Dr. Marcia Ballinger (a North Ridgeville resident) at its annual conference on April 30. Earlier this year, LCCC was recognized for the second consecutive year in a row as first among all Ohio community colleges in student success, which is defined as completion, transfer and persistence.

LCCC is certainly a point of pride for all of Lorain County and is making a positive impact on our city and residents. In the last five years, 1,071 North Ridgeville high school students earned 4,531 college credits from LCCC at no cost to families. Additionally, all college credits earned at LCCC are guaranteed to transfer to any Ohio four-year public university, saving families \$1,812,000 at Ohio four-year university costs.

I also want to send my personal congratulations to the 200 North Ridgeville residents who graduated on May 12 earning certificates, associate, bachelor and master's degrees from LCCC and its University Partnership. They are part of LCCC's largest graduating class of 2,018 graduates in 2018!

Passing Of Two City Family Members. Most of the time my job is a lot of fun, but sometimes it is very difficult. Such was the case in the month of April when we lost two of our city family members. Police Sergeant Dean Mraz passed away unexpectedly. He served our community since 1995 and had been a member of our detective bureau, part of our motorcycle unit, a D.A.R.E. officer and a field training officer. Dean's friendly and contagious manner will be missed by all who knew him and has come in contact with him.

Also in April, our long time Director of the Office for Older Adults Rita Price passed away after a short battle with cancer. Rita served as Director for fifteen years and will be hard to replace. Rita touched so many lives in our community and those that we serve. Rita was not only a great leader, but a very energetic, caring and compassionate individual. She volunteered her time and talents to many organizations including St. Peter Church and Lions Club. Having said that, we are extremely fortunate to find someone, not to replace Rita, but to continue her leadership in her own style.

Meredith Brescilli has been with the Parks and Recreation Department for nearly three years. She came to us from the City of Barberton where she had experience working with seniors. When the position of Director of the Office for Older Adults became available, Meredith expressed interest in assuming this role. After discussing with the current leadership in Parks and Recreation and the Office for Older Adults, it became very apparent all supported this transition. As is often said, sometimes when one door closes another opens. Meredith will have big shoes to fill. I believe Meredith will be just as successful as Rita but in her own right. She has already impressed me with her enthusiasm and new ideas for expanding the role of the Office for Older Adults. Please join me in welcoming Meredith in her new position!

If you have any questions, please contact my office at (440) 353-0811. Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Sincerely,

Mayor G. David Gillock