

North Ridgeville Community Connection

Quarterly Newsletter of the City of North Ridgeville ~ January 2014

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Mayor's Message...

I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays as much as I did and that your 2014 is off to a great start. We anticipate a very busy year with major projects underway and more to come with the widening of Lear Nagle and Center Ridge Roads. Let me share with you where we stand with both of these major projects.

When I came into office a little over ten years ago, our primary goal was to get Center Ridge Road widened. Former Safety Service Director Denny Johnson and I were brand new, had no idea what we were doing or how to go about what we wanted to accomplish, but we were willing to find out. One of our first phone calls was to the District 3 Office, Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), to find out how we go about getting the funds to widen a road.

On March 24, 2004, just a few months later, we met with Ken Wright from ODOT who told us we would have to spend some money and take risks to accomplish this goal. We would first have to hire an engineering firm to identify the problem and recommend a solution. After interviewing several engineering firms we retained Burgess & Niple for \$190,000. I remember thinking, "Wow, that's a lot of money!" Little did I know.



Mayor Daniel Millone

A couple of years later during an ODOT open house, I found a project already on the books to widen Lear Nagle Road. Approximately \$4 million had been set aside by Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) for the project. When I asked the ODOT representative what was happening with the project, the reply was that they were getting ready to take it off of the NOACA Transportation Improvement Plan because of lack of interest. I told him we were definitely still interested and the project was salvaged. We ended up borrowing \$600,000 from the Lorain County Engineer's Office to begin the detailed engineering necessary to move the project forward.

Now, ten years later we are at a critical point in our journey on both of these projects. Both projects have or are near completion of the necessary detailed engineering work and EPA studies. Center Ridge Road land acquisition is underway with notification letters mailed to property owners impacted by the project earlier this month. Land acquisition for the Lear Nagle Road project will begin sometime in March. Lear Nagle Road project is scheduled to go out to bid in June 2015 and the Center Ridge Road project in October 2016.

The City is now at the point that we have to put up our share of the construction dollars. And while they are significant, we have leveraged our obligation that the City will pay about 12.5% of the total cost of the two projects. Without any contingencies built in we must contribute \$6,602,390 towards total construction costs of over \$52,458,470 barring any further grants. In December 2013, City Council passed a resolution to have the County Auditor certify the exact millage necessary to generate \$8 million in order to build in contingencies. On January 8, 2014, the City received the certification from the County Auditor's Office. In order to generate \$8 million over 20 years, it would be .86 mills for each one dollar of tax valuation, which is eight and six tenths cents (\$0.086) for each one hundred dollars of tax valuation. The next step in the process is to have City Council approve a "Resolution to Proceed" to allow the City to place the issue on the May 6, 2014 ballot. The deadline to submit this information to the Lorain County Board of Elections is February 5, 2014. I anticipate City Council will approve and move forward with this action prior to the arrival of this newsletter in your mailbox.

Finally, everyone wants to know what this levy would cost. With the successful passage of an .86 mill levy, the cost would be:

<u>Home Value</u>	<u>Monthly Cost</u>	<u>Yearly Cost</u>
\$100,000	\$2.51	\$30.10
\$150,000	\$3.76	\$45.15
\$200,000	\$5.02	\$60.20

Folks, it has been a long journey and it's not over yet. But for those that have always said it couldn't be done, this is one of our last major hurdles. It can and will be done in the next couple years assuming voters approve the levy on May 6th. I am asking for your support at the ballot in May so we can widen both of these major thoroughfares and also give the City the opportunity to actually create a town center.

If you have any questions, please contact my office at 440-353-0811.

Looking Back at 2013

The year 2013 was a busy year for the City of North Ridgeville. You'll find on the next two pages, a partial list of projects and/or statistics of interest for several city departments. Without the community's support, these accomplishments would not have been made possible.

Building Department

A total of 224 new house permits and 6 apartment buildings (total 29 apartments) were issued in 2013 compared to 249 in 2012 as well as 1,001 miscellaneous permits (decks, additions, alterations, swimming pools, outbuildings, re-roofs, etc.), 81 electrical permits, 208 mechanical permits, 303 plumbing permits and 72 commercial permits. There were 9,115 inspections performed during this same time frame.

Looking ahead to 2014, the Building Department will begin using electronic plan review which will allow users to upload applications and drawings for permits through the internet for review. Users will be able to track the status of their plan review and know when their permit is ready for pick up. This will result in less time and travel involved in dropping off applications for homeowners and contractors who use the system. Additionally, the Building Department's goal is to become paperless in 2014.

Computer Services Department

In the first quarter of 2013, the Computer Services Department upgraded the City's network infrastructure, providing speeds and reliability that support modern software and services, making all City departments more efficient. In the summer of 2013, the department in partnership with Lorain County Community College, mentored the City's first Information Technology intern, a program the City hopes to continue in the future. In December 2013, the City transitioned to a new Voice-Over-IP telephone system, which will provide the City's staff with advanced features to better handle calls from residents and increase the number of simultaneous calls that can be received, while reducing the monthly telephone bill.

Engineering Department

Denise Drive and South Barton Road waterline projects are nearing completion. The Denise Drive new waterline is installed and connections to the homes are underway. This project upgrades a line with a history of breakages and should provide many years of problem-free service to the residents on Denise Drive. The new South Barton Road waterline is installed and all customers are tied into the new line. This project replaced an aging six-inch line with a new eight-inch line. This will improve water quality for residents and provide better fire suppression capabilities. The contractors will return in spring 2014 to conduct the final restorations on both projects.

The final phase of the Cornell Avenue waterline project started late in 2013. This project replaces a six-inch line with an eight-inch line. In addition, a line will be added across the CEI easement eliminating two dead end runs which will provide better circulation and the ability to service the lines with minimal interruption to residents. This project should be completed in spring 2014.

Fire Department

In 2013, the department responded to 545 fire emergencies and 2,371 medical emergency calls for assistance. In addition to responding to emergency calls, CPR classes were offered to residents, provided safety education in the schools and at Safetyville, and performed fire safety inspections at city businesses.

In May 2013, the Fire Department received a grant in the amount of \$40,000 from the Bureau of Workers' Compensation to install automated patient cots in ambulances. These cots allow paramedics to load patients into the ambulances without getting injured while also ensuring the safety of the patient. The North Ridgeville Kiwanis Club made a generous donation of four Pedi-Mate units. These units are pediatric transport systems that securely hold infants and toddlers in place while being transported to the hospital. In December 2013, the department applied for a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant in the amount of \$114,000 to update cardiac monitors/defibrillators, to purchase automatic external defibrillators for all fire trucks, and to provide command training for all firefighters. Grant awards will be announced in spring 2014.

Office for Older Adults (Senior Center)

In 2013, the Office for Older Adults had a minor facelift. Flooring was replaced throughout the Senior Center including new carpeting in the back offices. Many of the offices and rooms have been painted. Thanks to North Ridgeville Seniors, Inc., new landscaping now welcomes visitors when they come in the front door.

In addition to the Meals-On-Wheels program which serves over 10,000 meals annually, the Senior Center partners with several churches throughout the year to help older adults. Once a month the Sugar Ridge Baptist Church (Women's Bible Study) prepares homemade meals, freezes them and then delivers them to several senior households. In November, many of the Meals-On-Wheels clients receive a special Thanksgiving Day meal from St. Julie Billiard Church. These meals are delivered by volunteers early Thanksgiving afternoon. The North Ridgeville Girl Scout Unit and first graders from St. Peter School also make beautiful placemats and cards for homebound seniors throughout the year.

Department of Parks and Recreation

As we kick off 2014, the Department of Parks and Recreation would like to reflect on several accomplishments in 2013 that demonstrated the department continuing to take steps to enhance programming and partnerships in the community.

In 2013, the department offered 120 tot, youth, adult programs and special events which was an increase in numbers from the previous year. The 1st Annual Zumbathon® was held in September that raised \$600 and was donated to the Alzheimer's Association. Improvements were made throughout the parks: resurfaced the outdoor basketball courts in South Central Park; added Diamond Pro® to infields at Shady Drive Complex which reduced rainouts in half; expanded the parking lot at the Soccer Complex to help alleviate congestion and offer additional parking for the soccer program; the Service Department was able to address flooding issues at Frontier Park by adding drainage around the concession stand and cleaning the ditch lines; complete renovation to the South Central Park bathroom facilities, which are now ADA compliant, with the help of a grant through Community Development Block Grant. The department was able to secure funding and hire Brandstetter Carroll Inc. to roll out a comprehensive master plan that will help guide the department with future development. It was a long process and it couldn't have happened without the help of city administration, the North Ridgeville community, and the 12-member steering committee.

Police Department

In 2013, the Police Department had responded to 35,753 calls for service. Calls for service not only include making criminal and traffic arrests, but also answering alarms (752), issuing warnings (3,646), performing vehicle lockouts (644) and handling motor vehicle crashes (581).



If you observe a crime in progress or have the smallest bit of information to share regarding an incident, please let the Police Department know about it. Your information could be the lead that stops criminals from further victimizing the city. By working together and sharing information, we can continue to make North Ridgeville a safe place to live and work.

The North Ridgeville Police Department participated in the 12th annual Zero-Proof Mix-Off, a non-alcoholic drink competition and public service announcement, held at the Lorain County Community College in December. North Ridgeville walked away a winner, taking Best Overall for their "Merry Kiss-Mas" drink concoction. As evidenced in the photo, they also dressed the part. Pictured from left to right are Patrolman Randall Young, Lieutenant Greg Petek, Sergeants Matt Gorski and Adam Freas.

For your enjoyment, included is their winning recipe: Ingredients - 1 ounce cream, ¼ ounce coconut cream, 1 ½ ounces cherry juice, 1 dash grenadine syrup, 1 ½ ounces pineapple juice, ½ cup ice. Directions - Blend all ingredients together. Makes one serving.

Service Department

In 2013, the department paved the following streets: Chestnut Ridge Road from relocated Route 83 to the Eaton line, Barres Road from Meadow Lakes Drive to Otten Road, and Cross Street from Olive to Cornell Blvd. In addition, chip sealed 2,275 feet of Otten Road and 3,650 feet of Bender Road. The department repaired 21 water main breaks, repaired 16 service lines, replaced 101 curb boxes and replaced 24 fire hydrants. Also, replaced 42 sanitary manhole lids and sealed and realigned another 25. Westfield Sewer Plant was upgraded with two new larger pumps to ease flooding for Westfield Drive residents. Over 4,172 feet of ditches were cleaned and blockages removed to facilitate drainage. Four multipurpose dump trucks were purchased and are being utilized this winter to salt and plow the streets. Replacement of the box culvert bridge on Stoney Ridge Road was another major repair.



Refuse/Recycling Collection 2014

In accordance with city ordinance 2387-89, "No person shall cause or allow trash, garbage, waste, rubbish, refuse or other materials or substances to be placed on the curbside earlier than thirty-six hours before the designated day of collection." All trash carts and containers should also be removed from the curbside and properly stored at the premises no later than the following day after the designated collection.

Bulky waste items such as furniture, mattresses, stoves, washers, dryers and water tanks and extra trash may only be left at the curb for collection on the first full week of the month. This includes old furniture and appliances and up to six regular sized trash bags or three 35-gallon trash cans. Below is the bulk pick-up schedule for 2014.

January 6, 7	February 3, 4	March 3, 4
April 7, 8	May 5, 6	June 2, 3
July 7, 8	August 4, 5	September 2, 3
October 6, 7	November 3, 4	December 1, 2

Community Calendar

- February 3, 4 BULK/EXTRA TRASH COLLECTION DAYS.
- February 3, 18 CITY COUNCIL meeting at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
- February 5-April 9 TAX PREPARATION every Tuesday from 9:30 AM-2:30 PM at the Senior Center, 7327 Avon Belden Road. Tax preparation for low- to moderate-income taxpayers, especially those 60 and older. Call the Senior Center at 353-0828 to schedule an appointment.
- February 11 HOME & GARDEN EXPO TRIP sponsored by the Senior Center. Cost: \$20. To register, contact Shelly at 353-0835.
- February 17 CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED in observance of Presidents' Day.
- February 28 SPAGHETTI DINNER at the Senior Center from 5-7 PM. Cost: \$6 adults, \$5 seniors and \$4 children 10 and under. Take-out available.
- March 3, 4 BULK/EXTRA TRASH COLLECTION DAYS.
- March 3, 17 CITY COUNCIL meeting at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
- March 9 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME begins. As a reminder, turn your clocks ahead one hour.
- March 20 STATE OF THE SCHOOLS ADDRESS by Superintendent Dr. James Powell at the North Ridgeville Education Center. The event is sponsored by the North Ridgeville Chamber of Commerce. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 327-3737.
- April 7, 8 BULK/EXTRA TRASH COLLECTION DAYS.
- April 7, 21 CITY COUNCIL meeting at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
- April 12 EASTER EGG HUNT, 2:00 PM at Ranger Stadium, North Ridgeville Middle School, ages 1-9. Sponsored by the Rotary Club of North Ridgeville.
- April 18 CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED in observance of Good Friday.
- April 25 SPAGHETTI DINNER at the Senior Center from 5-7 PM. Cost: \$6 adults, \$5 seniors and \$4 children 10 and under. Take-out available.

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

For up-to-date class and program information, please visit the Parks & Recreation's website at: www.nridgeville.org/parksandrec or call 353-0860. See the winter issue of the Rec Gazette, enclosed in your December utility bill, for a detailed listing of events.

BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL PRE-REGISTRATION to be held January 25 from 9 AM-1 PM; January 30 from 6-8 PM; and February 1 from 9 AM-1 PM at the Senior Center. Registration deadline is March 8. Anyone signing up after March 8 will be charged a \$10 late fee. Ages 5-18.
Cost: T-Ball \$45 resident/\$55 non-resident; remaining leagues \$55 resident/\$65 non-resident.

DADDY DAUGHTER DANCE, Saturday, February 22 from 7-9 PM at the North Ridgeville Middle School, grades K-5. Registration ends February 7 and is limited to 65 couples (130) maximum participants. Cost per couple: \$30 resident/\$40 non-resident, each additional child is \$10.

MOM AND SON GAME NIGHT, Saturday, March 22 from 7-9 PM at the North Ridgeville Middle School, grades K-5. Registration ends March 14 and is limited to 65 couples (130) maximum participants. Cost per couple: \$30 resident/\$40 non-resident, each additional child is \$10.

SENIOR CENTER NOTES

*Reservations are required for the following events.
To make reservations or to obtain a complete listing of activities, please call 353-0828.*

- "YOUNG AT HEART" BREAKFAST, January 31 at 9:30 AM; cost \$3.
SOCIAL, LUNCH & BINGO meets every Wednesday at the Senior Center from 10 AM-2 PM; cost \$4.
MEN'S BREAKFAST, first and third Thursday each month at the Senior Center from 9-10 AM; cost \$3.
WOMEN'S BRUNCH, fourth Thursday each month at the Senior Center from 10:30-11:30 AM; cost \$3.
BLOOD PRESSURE TESTING, third Wednesday each month at the Senior Center from 9 AM-noon.
HEARING TESTING, Thursday, February 6 at the Senior Center from 1-2 PM. Call 353-0828 to schedule an appointment.
SUPER THURSDAY LUNCH, second Thursday each month at the Senior Center at noon; cost \$5.
CANASTA meets every Wednesday at the Senior Center from 1-4 PM; PINOCHLE and EUCHRE meets every Thursday at the Senior Center from noon-4 PM. If interested in joining a group, please call Shelly at 353-0835.