



IMPORTANT CITYWIDE ISSUE ON YOUR NOVEMBER 3, 2015 BALLOT

On General Election Day, Tuesday, November 3rd, you will be confronted with Issue 91, an issue specific to the future of Parma Heights. As your Mayor, it is my responsibility to ensure that you have all the facts regarding Issue 91 so that you can make an informed decision.

General Elections in a non-presidential election year typically don't generate significant interest, unless there is a state or local issue of importance. In our case, a special interest group has circulated petitions to have an issue placed on the ballot to create a change to accommodate their interests.

Issue 91 has been placed on the November 3rd ballot pursuant to a petition drive engineered by Parma Heights Firefighters, *not by my office*. These firefighters have proposed ballot language to change our City Charter in a way that will significantly impact the management of the Parma Heights Fire Department, and indirectly the remainder of our city services.

Please consider the following:

- Issue 91 mandates that a minimum of six firefighters/EMTs (Emergency Medical Technicians) be on duty each day.

Note: Parma Heights currently maintains a minimum of six firefighters/Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) each day.

- Issue 91 will circumvent State Law by asking the voters of Parma Heights to establish minimum manning for the Fire Department. State of Ohio labor law has established that determining the size/adequacy of the workforce is a management right, subject to the collective bargaining process.

- Issue 91 will permanently eliminate the city's ability to control fire department overtime expenses.

☞ Due to scheduled time-off taken by our firefighters/EMTs (vacation, holiday, or special days known as K or Kelly-days), there are many days where the required six men are not available through regular staffing.

☞ Each time the available manpower falls below six, an off-duty firefighter is called to fill-in the vacancy at an overtime rate of pay. In 2015, scheduled time-off will have created a need to call in overtime fill-in coverage on 182 days; at an overtime cost of approximately \$182,000. This overtime expense only increases as firefighters take time off for personal illness, on-duty injury and compensatory time-off.

- Issue 91 prohibits the privatizing of firefighting and EMS services. Privatizing city services, including emergency medical services, is a trend that is gaining ground in some areas of the country.

☞ In times of tight finances the City must look to reduce all areas of city expense in an effort to stay within our revenues. Issue 91 permanently prevents the city from saving money by negotiating staffing levels with the fire union through the collective bargaining process.

☞ Be assured, despite insinuation, the City of Parma Heights HAS NOT investigated privatizing the Fire Department.

As your Mayor it is my responsibility to effectively manage and direct the city's effort to provide the best municipal services that your tax dollars can provide. To this end, I encourage you to examine Issue 91, and to consider the impact it will have on the provision of firefighting and emergency medical services, and potentially other services in Parma Heights.

~Mayor Michael P. Byrne

Renovations at YOUR City Hall (6281 Pearl Road) are almost completed. After all employees and departments return and reorganize, there will be an open house for all residents.

Please pay attention to the ways we communicate with you listed on page 2 of this newsletter for more details about dates and times.

Thank you for your support and patience.

WAYS WE COMMUNICATE WITH RESIDENTS

On our website
www.parmaheightsoh.gov

New and improved!

NEW



Through social media



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PARMA HEIGHTS



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PARMA HTS

Electronic Sign

In front of City Hall at 6281 Pearl Road.
Check it out when you drive by.

ReadyNotify

Sign up to receive important messages via home phone, cell phone, email, text or fax. Register online at: ReadyNotify.CuyahogaCounty.us.

An email address is required to register. To learn how to get a free email address, visit the Parma Heights branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library in the Greenbrier Commons at any time.

Publications

This *Cityview* newsletter is published several times a year. Mailed to your home each year are a Recreation Brochure that lists all our programs with a calendar of events and a magazine called *Take A Look At Parma Heights* with community features and advertisements from local businesses. Our Senior Center publishes a monthly newsletter. To be included on their mailing list, please just call 440.884.4416. Links to all publications are also posted on our city website.

SENIOR CENTER

440.888.4416

seniorcenter@parmaheightsoh.gov

The Parma Heights Senior Center is located in the Educator Apartment building at 9725 North Church Drive and is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Parma Heights residents ages 60+ are welcome to take advantage of the many services and programs offered through the Senior Center. Just stop by and register to begin.

Regularly scheduled activities at the center include chair dancing, chair yoga, aerobics, card games, movies, bingo, health screenings, educational speakers and a book club.

A congregate meal lunch is served Monday-Friday at 12:00 p.m. Meal reservations are required and can be made a week in advance but there are often daily openings if you just stop by. Home delivered meals are available to seniors who qualify through the Meals on Wheels program and specialized diets are available from University Hospitals Parma Medical Center.

Special programs are offered at the Senior Center throughout the year. A Cleveland Food Bank representative comes the first Wednesday of each month at 11:00 a.m. to link residents of all ages with assistance programs. The Parma Heights library comes twice a month with books to check out and to host our book club discussions.

The Senior Center also provides door-to-door transportation to senior citizens, handicapped and disabled residents. Whether it's for shopping, a medical appointment, a beauty/barber appointment, or to go to a bank, drugstore or local hospital, we can help get you there. Call the Senior Center at 440.888.4416 at least two working days in advance to schedule your transportation.

Our senior van provides transportation to after hours and week-end destinations such as restaurants, ball parks, museums, farmers markets, malls, festivals and concerts. Be sure to sign up for our mailing list to receive a monthly newsletter and calendar or visit our website at www.parmaheightsoh.gov.

TRICK-OR-TREAT

SATURDAY,

OCTOBER 31st

from 6-8pm

Rain or Shine



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SERVICE DEPT.

440.884.9607

service@parmaheightsoh.gov

FALL COMPOSTING SEMINAR

The City will once again be hosting a Composting Seminar presented by the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District. This FREE seminar provides information on how to properly compost your fall household and yard waste into nutrient rich soil for spring gardens. Compost bins will be available for purchase and everyone who attends will have a chance to win a bin!

Tuesday, October 27, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Cassidy Theatre; 6200 Pearl Road in the Greenbrier Commons

GREEN REFUSE & RECYCLING

Bulk items are collected on the Wednesday of the third full week of each month. Please note that this does not include loose bags of refuse or yard waste. The following are the remaining dates for 2015: October 21st, November 18th, and December 22nd.

SATURDAY DROP-OFFS

Residents may drop off extra household refuse from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. ONLY on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month at the Service Garage in the Greenbrier Commons.

LEAF COLLECTION

Leaf collection generally begins in mid-to-late October. In November, when the volume of leaves increases, signs will be posted in your neighborhood announcing collections. Please bring your leaves to the curb in a timely manner after the signs are posted and they will generally be picked up within a week. The last day for leaf collection is tentatively scheduled for Friday, December 4th. Your cooperation and understanding of any unforeseen delays is greatly appreciated. See information below regarding yard waste collected by Republic Services which includes leaves.

YARD WASTE COLLECTION

Yard waste (leaves, grass, twigs) will be collected on Wednesdays until November 25th. Place yard waste at your curb in separate brown yard bags or loose in your own 32 gallon can, clearly marked "yard waste". *Leaves placed in plastic bags will not be picked up.*

HOLIDAY RECYCLING

Christmas trees may be placed on the curb for pick up on your regular refuse day during the weeks of December 30th and January 6th. Do not bag your trees as they will be taken to a composting facility. Holiday Lights will be collected at the Service Garage on Friday, January 8th from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

SNOW REMOVAL

Snow will be removed from city streets promptly and efficiently beginning first on main streets and then in residential neighborhoods. All private snow plow operators must be registered with the City of Parma Heights Service Department. Residents may contact the Service Department for a list of registered contractors.

SPECIAL WASTE COLLECTION EVENTS

As you clean out your garage, basement or around your house, hold onto recyclable items and bring them to drop off events at the Service Garage in the Greenbrier Commons between 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. on the following dates:

Community Shred

Saturday, November 14th

Household Hazardous Waste

Saturday, November 24th

Holiday Lights Recycling

Friday, January 8, 2016

RECREATION DEPT.

440.884.9600 x13

recreation@parmaheightsoh.gov

CASSIDY THEATRE

"Bonnie & Clyde" will be performed at the Cassidy Theatre on Fridays and Saturdays until October 23rd. "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" will be performed from November 20th- December 6th. Get your tickets by calling 440.842.4600. Don't forget that season tickets to the Cassidy Theatre make a great gift!

OPEN SWIM

We will again be partnering with Valley Forge High School to provide a free open swim to Parma Heights residents only from 7-9 p.m. on Tuesday evenings through March (except 12/22, 12/29, 3/15 & 3/19). Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

You are invited to the Gazebo in the Greenbrier Commons for our annual Tree Lighting Ceremony and Christmas caroling at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 29th. Please join us for a special visit with Santa Claus who will be coming all the way from the North Pole!

YOGA with PILATES

"Yoga with Pilates" classes are offered throughout the year. Classes are held on Monday evenings from 7-8 p.m. in the party room at Yorktown Lanes. The next six-week session begins Monday, November 16th. The class fee is \$40. To register, please call us at 440.884.9600 x13.

For program updates and upcoming events, keep checking our website at www.parmaheightsoh.gov

REMINDER

Refuse and Recycling carts must be removed from the tree lawn and stored out of view within twelve (12) hours of refuse collection. Failure to comply is subject to a citation into Mayor's Court.

Thank you for being a considerate neighbor.

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City of
Parma Heights, Ohio

City of Parma Heights
6281 Pearl Road
Parma Heights, Ohio 44130

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OHIO

PARMA HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL



President Marie Gallo
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Pro-Tem Jim McCall
At-Large



Renee Everett
Ward 1



Lesley DeSouza
Ward 2



Joann Koch
Ward 3



Anthony Stavole
At-Large



Bob Verdile
At-Large

NON-RESIDENTS PROPOSE CHARTER CHANGE

There is an important citywide issue, Issue 91, on your November ballot. We wanted to take this opportunity to share some additional facts with you.

Issue 91 was placed on the ballot by Parma Heights firefighters who gathered petition signatures to change our city charter. Changes to the city charter, which was written by Parma Heights residents, can only be made by a majority vote of Parma Heights voters.

If a firefighter or someone comes to your door to talk about Issue 91, we suggest you ask the following questions:

1. Are you a Parma Heights resident?
Of the 26 firefighters/emergency medical technicians who work for the city, only one is a Parma Heights resident and none of the people who circulated the petitions live in our city.
2. Did you/firefighters vote for a contract that gives the city the right to determine staffing levels for the Fire Department?
The city has filed an Unfair Labor Practice (ULP) charge against the fire union for circumventing the negotiated union contract outside of the collective bargaining process.

3. If Issue 91 passes, are you/firefighters willing to take a pay cut or cut in benefits to offset overtime costs?
This seems like a fair question.

Please take the time to get the facts before you cast your vote on any issue. If you have any additional questions regarding Issue 91 or if you ever need our assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We can be reached at:
Email: council@parmaheightsoh.gov
Phone: 440.884.9600 x4