



# A COMMUNITY OF CONNECTIONS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## Parma Heights Neighbors and Friends,

Here in our town, 2017 has been filled with many opportunities to connect with one another; that connectivity continues to remind me of how lucky we are to live in a community where there is such a close-knit feeling. I think this is one of the things that makes Parma Heights such a special place to live, work, play, raise a family or own a business.

This year I've had the opportunity to meet many of you personally, whether it was during our "Kids in the Commons" event in August, at the Ward 3 Garage Sale, walking or biking, meeting with the families of our veterans during the annual Ohio Flags of Honor memorial or at the Korean War Veterans event, or even during the year at various meetings, such as our successful Parma Heights Business events. Perhaps we saw each other at a neighborhood block party, ran into each other at one of our parks, or at the Parma Heights Senior Center. We may have encountered one another on your street or at the recent community forum, held to discuss solutions to the flooding problem that had taken place this spring and summer.

Regardless of the circumstances, I continue to be impressed with how you enjoy each other's company, support and care for one another, and are not afraid to extend a neighborly helping hand. Life is filled with many special moments and these types of interpersonal connections are what give life to our community and bring joy to others.



One common question I receive in my conversations and interactions with Parma Heights residents is about the Cornerstone property: "What is going on with that large vacant parcel of land near the intersection of Pearl Road and West 130th Street?" Those residents who have lived here for a longer period of time may remember this parcel as the location of various commercial enterprises including Tops Discount Store, Barney's Wholesale Foods, Tops Grocery Store, USA Skates, Honey Hut Ice Cream and Meineke Muffler.

This property was purchased by a private owner, who in partnership with a commercial land developer approached the former city administration with the plans for a mixed-use retail and residential development. The owner had legal issues which resulted in the property coming under the control of the Common Pleas Court.

A subsequent developer acquired the property through a court ordered auction. This new developer had its own legal issues (unrelated to the Parma Heights development) and the property was foreclosed upon by Wells Fargo Bank. As a result of the foreclosure, Wells Fargo of Charlotte, North Carolina became the new owner of this property and remains the current owner.

The original owner petitioned the City of Parma Heights to place a special assessment on the property for the installation of streets and utilities. This special assessment acts as a lien against the property.

Litigation about the various parties' positions regarding the special assessment, mechanics liens, and debt owed to lenders is ongoing. The matter is currently pending in the Court of Appeals. This litigation has made it difficult to attract developers to the site.

Over the years we have realized that many people think that the City of Parma Heights owns or can develop this property. This is not the case, as Wells Fargo Bank is in full control of the disposition of the land. While many people have suggested creative ways to develop the land, such as developing it into a public park, only Wells Fargo can make that decision. I agree with the many residents who want this property to be sold to a developer with a viable development concept.

We continually and aggressively require property maintenance, provide assistance in marketing the property to potential developers, and forward potential leads to Wells Fargo for its consideration. We have had encouraging and positive discussions with several interested parties over the years, and have worked diligently to facilitate new development.

Please be assured that the city is committed to continuing to do everything we can to work with Wells Fargo to secure an appropriate buyer for this property.

### Finance Award

Congratulations to our Finance Department and Director Terry Hickey for receiving the *Auditor of State Award*. Dave Yost, Auditor of State says, "Clean and accurate record-keeping are the foundation for good government, and the taxpayers can take pride in your commitment to accountability."



### The Holidays Approach

The holiday season is the perfect time to reach out to others. I encourage you to continue to spend time with your family, friends, and neighbors. As you connect with one another, you will enrich your life and make our community stronger and more vibrant.

Parma Heights continues to be a community of choice because we are recognized as one of the safest cities in Ohio and one of the best suburbs for young couples. I invite you to connect with your neighbors through these upcoming community events:

### Father-Daughter and Mother-Son Dances

We are excited to be hosting two dances for families in the community. A "Father-Daughter" dance will be held on Saturday, November 11; and a "Mother-Son" dance will take place on Saturday, November 18.

Both events will be held from 7-9 p.m. in the recently renovated Community Rooms located on the lower level of the Cassidy Theatre, 6200 Pearl Road.

Advance tickets only are \$20 for one parent/child, and \$5 for each additional child and are on sale online at [www.parmaheightsoh.gov](http://www.parmaheightsoh.gov) or in person at City Hall.

Bill Gaglione, Parma Heights resident and DJ, will entertain. There will be a photo booth, door prizes, refreshments, and lots of fun.

### Trick-or-Treat

Trick-or-Treat will be observed on Halloween - Tuesday, October 31 from 6-8 p.m. (rain or shine). If you are passing out candy, please turn on an outdoor light so the parents and children know to stop at your home.

### Annual Tree Lighting Tradition

Mark your calendars now and join us for the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Gazebo in the Commons on Sunday, November 26 at 5 p.m. There will be hot chocolate donated by Cleveland Vineyard Church, caroling with the Holy Name High School choir, gift bags with donations from local businesses, and a visit from Santa Claus himself.

*If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, please contact Rick Haase at [haase@parmaheightsoh.gov](mailto:haase@parmaheightsoh.gov) and you will be added to the list of email recipients. Please know that you will continue to receive a printed newsletter delivered to your home.*

## VOTE BY MAIL

[www.443VOTE.com](http://www.443VOTE.com) • 216-443-VOTE (8683)

**The general election is Tuesday, November 7, 2017.**

All registered voters may enjoy the convenience of voting by mail. Vote by Mail applications are available at the Board of Elections website: [www.443.VOTE.com](http://www.443.VOTE.com) or by calling the Board of Elections at 216-443-VOTE (8683). Vote by Mail ballot applications are also available at all public libraries.

# RECREATION DEPT.

440.884.9606  
recreation@parmaheightsoh.gov

## Cassidy Theatre

The theatre is presenting Nuncrackers, the Nunsense Christmas Musical, from December 1-17, with book, music and lyrics by Dan Goggin.

In the story, the Reverend Mother has built a public-access television studio in the basement of the convent in order to film a holiday television special. The audience gets a behind-the-scenes look as everyone's favorite nuns, Father Virgil, and four of Mount Saint Helen's most talented students prepare for the show.

Reservations can be made by calling 440.842.4600. Season tickets for 2018 are also available if you are in search of a great holiday gift. Why not pair theatre tickets with a gift card to one of the many Parma Heights restaurants?

## Community Rooms for Rent

Our newly-renovated Community Rooms located on the lower level of the Cassidy Theatre, are now available for rent. Two rooms are available, with one holding 50 guests, and the other 100 guests. Both rooms can be combined to accommodate 150 guests. Kitchen facilities and tables/chairs are included in the rental. For more information, call 440.884.9606.

## Yoga with Pilates

MONDAY 7-8 p.m.  
THURSDAY 6-7 p.m. (NEW)

Classes run November 13 through December 18 in the Community Rooms at the Cassidy Theatre, 6200 Pearl Road, in the Greenbrier Commons.

Each \$40 session consists of six one-hour classes.

Register online through October 23 at [www.parmaheightsoh.gov](http://www.parmaheightsoh.gov). In person registrations are also being accepted M-F from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. through November 8 at Parma Heights City Hall, 6281 Pearl Road. *Cash or check only please.*

## Open Swim at VFHS

The City of Parma Heights, in partnership with Valley Forge High School and the Parma City School District will again offer a FREE OPEN SWIM to Parma Heights residents on Tuesdays from 7-9 p.m. beginning November 14, 2017 through April 24, 2018 at the Valley Forge High School swimming pool.

## Tree Lighting

Join us at the Gazebo in the Commons for hot chocolate, caroling and a visit from Santa Claus on Sunday, November 26 at 5 p.m.

# COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

440.340.4810  
ced@parmaheightsoh.gov

## Shop Parma Heights

Click on the Shop Parma Heights logo on our website home page – [www.parmaheightsoh.gov](http://www.parmaheightsoh.gov) – to search for businesses, get coupons and specials, find job openings, or sign-up for email notifications.



If you own a business in town, contact us at 440.340.4810 or at [ced@parmaheightsoh.gov](mailto:ced@parmaheightsoh.gov). to find out how Shop Parma Heights can help you.

## Small Business Saturday

Join us in supporting our local businesses and Shop Parma Heights on Saturday, November 25. Founded by American Express in 2010, Small Business Saturday is a nationwide movement that helps bring attention to the importance of supporting small businesses in communities across America. Shopping locally has a tremendous positive impact on our local economy.



Please join us in welcoming these new businesses to our community:

**Accurate Medical Supply**  
6269 Pearl Road

**Action Defense LLC**  
6287 Pearl Road, Suite 42

**Larock Healthcare Academy**  
6500 Pearl Road, Suite 102

**Bohar Donuts**  
6227 West 130th Street

## FIRE DEPARTMENT *New Ambulance in Service*



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# ENGINEERING PROJECTS INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

## BERESFORD AVENUE RESURFACING

The City of Parma Heights received a grant from Cuyahoga County for \$150,000 to repair storm catch basins and resurface Beresford Avenue from Pearl Road to just south of Oakdale Drive. The construction began October 5, 2017 and will be completed on or about November 15, 2017. There will also be a short section of North Church paved as well from Greenbrier to the North Church Bridge. The total project cost is \$354,025.

## COLOMBO PARK STREAM RESTORATION

Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) has completed construction documents for the stream bank restoration of a portion of Big Creek. The project will include substantial bank stabilization, expansion of the floodway, and plantings. The project is slated to begin in early in 2018 with completion in 6-8 months. Financing of this estimated \$1.6 million project will be provided through the new NEORS Storm Fund.

## NEORS MASTER BASIN APPLICATION

It has been a year of unusually heavy rainfall resulting in extensive flooding. Many home and business owners have experienced some damage due to stormwater back-up. The city started looking for solutions several years ago, and in August of this year made application for a grant from NEORS to construct a master storm water retention basin at Nathan Hale Park. The grant application process is competitive, and we are hopeful our application will score well and lead to a grant award. The grant request is for \$1 million with a local match of approximately \$350,000 for a total estimated cost of \$1,350,000. If we are successful in obtaining a grant, construction could commence in fall of 2018. This basin will help reduce flooding from York Road to West 130<sup>th</sup> and Pearl Road (the quadrant in our city that is always hit the hardest).

## CASSIDY THEATER EXTERIOR RENOVATION

In addition to the grant we received from the State of Ohio for interior renovations, Parma Heights has received a second grant from Cuyahoga County for exterior renovations to the Cassidy Theater. The \$50,000 grant funding will be used to install vinyl over the existing deteriorating wood siding on the upper level of the Cassidy Theatre. The project will be completed in the fall of 2017.

## STORM & SANITARY MAINTENANCE

The city, with assistance from Cuyahoga County Public Works, spends an annual average of almost \$1.2 million on storm and sanitary maintenance and repairs. As part of these funds, we reline our sanitary sewers to reduce the amount of infiltration and risk of sanitary sewer back-ups. Cuyahoga County has just awarded a contract to reline a section of the 20 inch sanitary main on Parma Park Boulevard. Work should be completed in the next few months.

# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

If you have had to call Mayor Byrne's office any time in the past five years, chances are good that you spoke with his assistant, Erin Sullivan Lally.

Some of you may remember her as Erin Sullivan when she served as our State Representative from 1998-2001. "It was a great honor for me to serve and represent the people of the 18<sup>th</sup> House District.



Former Mayor Paul Cassidy was one of my biggest supporters and the truth is that I never would have been elected if it were not for his support and the voters of Parma Heights. Working in the Mayor's Office is my way of giving back to this wonderful community."

Erin not only answers the phone and emails, but is responsible for many of the partnerships and special events that have been established, like the Kids in the Commons, Business Forums, and upcoming dances. In addition, she manages our social media, the electronic sign in front of City Hall, and this *Cityview* newsletter.

"The best thing about this job is being able to help people, but the hardest thing is not always being able to. What I like the most about Parma Heights are the people," says Lally "who are kind, respectful, honest, patient, and down-to-earth."

"I am very fortunate to have Erin assisting me," says Mayor Byrne, "Her experience in government is not limited to the state level. Erin has held a variety of positions ranging from Communications Director of Cleveland City Council to Executive Assistant to the Mayor of Brook Park. Her experience and knowledge are invaluable in running an efficient Mayor's Office. However, her commitment and dedication to the City of Parma Heights and our residents is what I place a high value on."

Erin and her husband, a Cleveland Fire Lieutenant, have five children ages 16-10....and that's a whole other job.

## In Memoriam Sergeant Robert W. Bennett

This year marks the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Parma Heights Police Sergeant Robert Bennett, who died in the line of duty on October 25, 1972.

Bennett was shot and killed while responding to a bank robbery at the former Centennial Savings Bank on West 130<sup>th</sup> Street. Two suspects were dressed as police officers and took a woman hostage as they were leaving the bank. Sergeant Bennett arrived on scene as one of the suspects and hostage exited the rear door. The suspect and Sgt. Bennett exchanged fire and both were fatally wounded. The other suspect was captured, convicted, and sentenced to 102 years in prison.

We remember the bravery and valor of the late Sergeant Bennett. The Parma Heights Police Firing Range is named in his honor.

# SERVICE & BUILDING DEPARTMENT

440.884.9607

[service@parmaheightsoh.gov](mailto:service@parmaheightsoh.gov) ♦ [building@parmaheightsoh.gov](mailto:building@parmaheightsoh.gov)

## Bulk Item Collection

Bulk Item collection takes place the third full week of each month. Remaining 2017 dates are: October 18, November 22, and December 20.

## Upcoming Holiday Refuse Delays

**Christmas Day week** collection shifts to Thursday, December 28.

**New Year's Day week** collection shifts to Thursday, January 4.

## Yard Waste

Grass, leaves and twigs can be placed out for collection on Wednesdays through November 29. Place them in a separate brown yard bag or a 32-gallon can clearly marked "Yard Waste."

## Leaf Collection

Leaf collection begins each year generally in mid-to-late October after a substantial amount of leaves have fallen.

Leaves should be piled on the tree lawn along the curb for collection.



Leaves that are piled in the street/cul-de-sac, or that have sticks, rocks or other debris will not be collected as this can cause damage to the equipment.

Leaf collection will continue, weather permitting, through Friday, December 2, as trucks need

to be transitioned from leaf collection to snow removal. Your cooperation and understanding of any unforeseen delays is appreciated.

## Snow Removal

Snow will be removed from city streets promptly and efficiently beginning 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.

## Snow Removal Contractor License

The City of Parma Heights requires that all snowplow operators be

## *New Street Sweeper*



properly registered with the Service Department. Snowplow operators can obtain their registration at the Service Department located in City Hall. We encourage all residents hiring a snow removal contractor to verify that he/she is properly licensed with the city and is aware of snow removal regulations. The Service Department may also be contacted for a list of these registered Snow Removal Contractors.

## Holiday Recycling (Early 2018)

Unbagged Christmas trees may be placed on the curb for pick up on your regular refuse day during the weeks of January 8 and 15. Holiday Lights will be collected at the Service Garage on Saturday, January 6 from 9:00 a.m. until Noon.

## SPECIAL WASTE COLLECTION EVENTS

You are asked to please bring your recycling materials to the Service Garage in the Greenbrier Commons between 9 a.m. - Noon on the following dates:

### Community Shred

Saturday, November 4

### Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Saturday, November 25

### Holiday Lights

Saturday, January 6, 2018

## RISE IN LOVE

Rise in Love is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization created to provide

resources to individuals and families in suburban communities who need assistance. They provide immediate help for families who need food, clothing or shelter. They also have numerous financial, education and employment assistance programs.

If you or someone you know is struggling and need help, or if you are willing to donate to this worthy organization, please reach out to them by calling (440) 457-7209 or email [info@riseinlove.org](mailto:info@riseinlove.org). Please visit their website for even more information:

[www.RiseinLoveCenter.org](http://www.RiseinLoveCenter.org)



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*Parma Heights, Ohio*

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# YOUR CITY COUNCIL

## City Council Roles and Responsibilities

The powers and duties of City Council are contained in state law and city ordinances, resolutions and regulations. A council representative's job is to work with the other council members to set the overall direction of the municipality through their role as a policy maker. The policies that Council sets are the guidelines for the administration to follow as it does the job of running the city.

The following are a few of the responsibilities of a Council representative:

- ♦ Adopt ordinances, resolutions, policies and regulations for the health, safety and welfare of current and future residents of the city.
- ♦ Establish policies for the effective and efficient delivery of municipal services to the city.
- ♦ Adopt the annual city budget.
- ♦ Approve expenditures of city funds.
- ♦ Participate in community strategic and long-range planning.

A Council representative's main responsibility, however, is to serve their constituents. If you have questions or concerns, please contact your representative(s):

**Marie Gallo**, Council President, Ward 4  
216-402-9019

**JoAnn Koch**, President Pro-Tem, Ward 3  
440-842-3177

**Renee Everett**, Ward 1  
440-888-3975

**Annette Danczak**, Ward 2  
216-407-1688

**Jim McCall**, At-Large  
440-667-0284

**Anthony Stavole**, At-Large  
440-623-3337

**Bob Verdile**, At-Large  
440-554-3874