



FOCUS ON COMMUNITY STRENGTHS

As I begin my second term as your Mayor, I want to assure you that my focus for our community remains consistent with the two overarching issues I highlighted at my first swearing-in ceremony in 2010 and again in my 2011 State of the City Address:

- ♦ I will always place the highest emphasis on providing a safe and secure community in which to live, raise your family and enjoy your retirement

- ♦ I believe in the block-by-block, street-by-street approach to fostering economic development and enhancing the quality of life in our community

Two Safety Awards

That focus on safety in our community has led to Parma Heights being chosen as one of the **SafeWise "50 Safest Cities in Ohio"** in 2014 and in the awarding of the **2014 AAA Platinum Award** given to participants in the AAA Community Traffic Safety Program.

These awards prove that our city is working hard to ensure security for every member of our community, in our homes and businesses, as well as on our roads.

The SafeWise "50 Safest Cities in Ohio" award was determined using the most recent FBI crime data from 2011, along with population and other ranking factors, such as unique safety initiatives and security programs implemented within the past few years. Our award was due, in part, to our becoming a member of the CodeRED Emergency Communications Network in 2012. This high-speed notification system provides city officials with the ability to quickly deliver messages by phone to the entire city, or to specifically targeted areas. There is also an option to receive weather alerts directly from the National Weather Service. If you have not already signed up to receive CodeRED messages, I urge you to take advantage of this life-saving service by calling the Safety Department at 440.884.9600 x37 or by clicking the link on the home page of our website www.parmaheightsoh.gov.

Parma Heights was one of only 51 regional winners of AAA's highest honor, the **Platinum Award**, for the second con-

secutive year. The award is given to communities that are considered leaders in saving lives and preventing injuries by conducting educational programs and promotional campaigns aimed at encouraging safe driving habits.

Our award-winning participation in the "Click It or Ticket" campaign, safe driving presentation to Valley Forge High School students and the popular "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Tailgate Party Kit" promotion exemplify our community's commitment to safe driving instruction.

Economic Development

Parma Heights is, and has always been, a small-town oasis in a convenient, central location. My goal for the future is to continue to build on and develop these strengths. Central to that goal is a grant received in January of this year from the Northeast Ohio Area-wide Coordinating Agency (NOACA). Parma Heights was one of only seven cities awarded

a highly-competitive Transportation for Livable Communities (TLCI) grant. We will be using the \$75,000 award to conduct a "Complete and Green Streets Initiative" study of our main street, Pearl Road, thereby touching on the entrance to all the side streets that flow off this main corridor. More details can be found in the Economic Development updates on page 4.

Other Developments

The Parma City School District (PCSD) has informed us that Pearl Road School has been purchased by Constellation Schools LLC, a company that operates a large charter school network throughout Northeast Ohio. We look forward to working with Constellation Schools as they formulate their plans for this historic building.

Dr. Jeffrey Graham, Superintendent of PCSD, has met with us to announce renovation plans for Valley Forge High School. The work, scheduled for later this year, will improve the school and the outdoor areas. Included in the plans are new parking lot and entrance enhancements, the removal of the deteriorated tennis courts, and ADA improvements to the sports fields.



Mayor Byrne message (continued)

Finally, as you may have heard, Parma Hospital has become part of the University Hospitals System. We have been informed that included in the acquisition agreement is the award of a \$50,000 Wellness Grant for our community. We will keep you informed as more information becomes available.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact any of our city departments if you have questions, concerns or require assistance.

Service Department

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE:

Our Property Maintenance Inspection Program will continue this spring with the goal of preserving the quality of properties through ongoing and proper maintenance. The following are typical property maintenance violations: overgrown lawns and shrubbery; noxious weeds; detached, sagging or malfunctioning gutters and downspouts; chipping and peeling paint on homes and garages; uneven sidewalks and driveways; and house address numbers missing or not clearly visible from the street.

APRIL IS FREE PERMIT MONTH

Get started on your home improvement project with a free permit which is valid for six months. Whether you do the work yourself or use a contractor, a permit is required for your home improvement project. Contractors must be registered with the Building Department. To verify contractor registration or to have permit questions answered, please call the Building Department at 440.884.9607.

SWIMMING POOL PERMITS:

Please be aware that permits are required for above and in-ground swimming pools meeting one or any of the following guidelines:

- ♦ Any pool having an area of 400 sq. ft. or more
- ♦ Any pool having a depth of 24" or more
- ♦ **Any TEMPORARY above-ground pool (for example: inflated, rigid metal sides with metal supports, plastic sides with plastic supports, "baggy" soft sided, etc.)**

Additionally:

- ♦ Any pool with a pump, heater, or filter must have the equipment on a concrete pad or patio block
- ♦ Pool must be located 10 ft. from any property line, house or deck and 3 ft. from an accessory structure
- ♦ Any yard in which a pool is located must be either completely fenced in with a lockable gate or the pool itself must have a fence attached with a lockable ladder.

Please refer to the Building Department page of the city website for a complete list of regulations or contact the Building Department directly at 440.884.9607.

GREEN REFUSE AND RECYCLING:

Republic Services will once again be mailing out calendar magnets to all residential customers. Magnets should arrive in homes by early March. Please watch for yours!

Yard Waste Collection

Yard waste is collected on Wednesdays, from April 15th to November 30th. Yard waste, including grass clippings and leaves, can be placed in brown paper yard bags or loose in a 32 gallon can clearly marked "yard waste". Small branches must be cut in lengths not exceeding 30 inches, tied with rope or twine in bundles not exceeding 40 lbs., and placed next to yard waste bags or cans.

Special Waste Collection Spring Schedule

The city offers multiple Special Waste Collection Events throughout the year. These events provide our residents with an environmentally safe and convenient way to dispose of a variety of materials. All events are held at the Parma Heights Service Garage, 6184 Pearl Road, in the Greenbrier Commons from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m on the dates indicated below. Please visit the city website or contact the Service Department for more information.

Household Hazardous Waste

April 12th, 2014

June 14th, 2014

Recycle Your Computer

April 26th, 2014

Community Shred

May 10th, 2014

COMPOSTING SEMINAR:

This popular event will once again be held at the Cassidy Theater on Tuesday, April 29, 2014, at 7:00 p.m.

The seminar, conducted by the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District and open to all Cuyahoga County residents, will provide information on how to properly compost your household yard waste and food scraps. Compost bins will be available for purchase at the conclusion of the seminar. Pre-registration online at www.cuyahogaswd.org or by calling the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District at 216.443.3731 is encouraged but not required.

Tax Department

The Parma Heights Income Tax Department has joined the ranks of many businesses and governmental agencies that have gone “green” in an effort to reduce the volume and cost of paper, printing and other supplies used in the course of their operations.

As announced in 2013, Parma Heights eliminated the mailing of tax forms and instead mailed out a postcard to all of its city income tax filers in January of this year. This postcard contained a secure website address (“parmaheights.docgateway.com”) and a personalized access code, to allow the taxpayer to access an online personalized copy of their 2013 Parma Heights Tax Return. Your personalized tax form will reflect the quarterly payments that you have already paid toward your 2013 tax liability. This online form is a tool to assist in completing your 2013 tax return. (NOTE: Your tax form is **NOT** electronically filed!) **After completing the form online you will be required to print, sign and mail the form, along with any required attachments to the address shown on the form.**

Tax return forms for 2013 are also available online on the city website (www.parmaheightsoh.gov) by clicking on the Income Tax tab found on the left side of the home page. In addition, blank tax forms are always available from the Income Tax Department at City Hall, 6281 Pearl Road.

TAX FILING REMINDERS:

* **APRIL 15th** – Deadline for BOTH the filing and payment of 2013 City Income Tax returns.

* **Mail-in Tax Computation Service** – Mail your tax information to the Income Tax Department by March 15th. Your taxes will be computed and a bill for the tax due will be mailed to you. Payment deadline is April 15th. (See city website - Income Tax link for “Mail-in” instructions)

* **In-person Tax Assistance** at the Income Tax Department is available Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

* **Extended Hours:** During the first two weeks of April the Tax Department will be open until 6:00 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays; and on Saturday, April 4th and 11th, from 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Senior Center

The Parma Heights Senior Center, located in the Educator Apartment building at 9275 North Church Drive, is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Regularly scheduled activities at the Senior Center include chair dancing, chair yoga, aerobics, card games, Wii, movies, bingo, health screenings, educational speakers and a book club. A Congregate Meal lunch is served Monday through Friday at 12:00 p.m. Meal reservations can be made one week in advance, but if you are in the neighborhood there is always a possibility that you can come and be seated on a stand-by basis. Home delivered meals are available to qualified home-bound senior residents, including specialized diets available through the University Hospitals Parma Medical Center.

There are also many special programs offered at the Center throughout the year that are available to residents of all ages. The first Wednesday of the month at 11:00 a.m., a Cleveland Food Bank representative assists residents by linking them to available county programs. The Parma Heights Library comes to the Center twice a month to bring books for residents to check out, and to host our book club discussions.

Door-to-door transportation to senior, handicapped and disabled residents is available Monday through Friday from 8:15 a.m. - 2:45 p.m. for shopping, medical appointments, beauty/barber appointments, banking, drug store and local hospital visits. Call the Senior Center at 440.888.4416 at least two working days in advance to schedule transportation appointments. Transportation to special events and destinations such as restaurants, ball parks, museums, farmers markets, malls, festivals and concerts are announced in the Senior Center newsletter.

For more information about our many activities and programs, stop by the Senior Center to pick up a newsletter, call us at 440.888.4416 to be included on our mailing list or visit our Parma Heights website at: www.parmaheightsoh.gov.

NEW HOTLINE FOR SENIORS AND DISABLED ADULTS 216.420.6700

Find out about available services, such as benefits, income assistance, housing and medical care, for people 60 or older, or adults with disabilities between ages 18-59 who live in private residences. This hotline can also be used to report suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Recreation Department

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL/COACH PITCH T-BALL

Registration will be held Saturday, March 1st & 8th from 9:00-11:00 a.m. at Parma Heights City Hall. Fees: Residents/\$30 and Non-Residents/\$50 (cash or check only). There will be a \$10 late fee starting March 9th. Teams will practice (twice-a-week) during the month of May until the season begins Opening Day May 31st. An average of two games per week will be played through August 5th. All games will be played weekday evenings or Saturday mornings. All teams (ages 9 and older) will have the opportunity to play two games under the lights at Kurtz Park!

UMPIRES NEEDED

We are looking for Junior Umpires (ages 12-17) and Adult Umpires (18 years and older) for our youth games. Classes will be held on Saturdays, March through early May. If you are interested, call the Recreation Department or come to the Baseball/Softball/T-ball registration to sign up for classes.

SPECIAL EVENTS

We will offer two events this year: the Scott's PitchHit&Run Event (FREE to kids ages 7-14), and a Parma Heights Night with the Cleveland Indians. Time and date for both events will be announced on our website and Facebook page or you can call the Recreation Department after March 1st for more information.

OPEN SWIM

A free open swim for Parma Heights residents at Valley Forge High School (9999 Independence Blvd.) continues on Tuesday evenings from 7:00-9:00 p.m. through April 29th (except April 22nd). Children 12 and younger must be accompanied by an adult and proof of residency is required.

YOGA WITH PILATES

Our next 6-week session of Adult Yoga w/Pilates class starts on Monday, March 10th and will be held in the Yorktown Lanes party room. The fee is \$40. Please register at City Hall no later than Thursday, March 6th.

RECREATION CENTERS

Please don't forget about our recreation partnerships with the Cities of Brooklyn and Brook Park. You can contact the Brooklyn Recreation Center at 216.351.5334 or www.brooklynohio.gov and the Brook Park Recreation Center at 216.433.1545 or www.cityofbrookpark.com for activities and schedules.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Recreation Department by phone at 440.884.9600 x37 or by email at recreation@parmaheightsoh.gov. We look forward to seeing you in the parks!

Economic Development Department

On January 10, 2014, the City of Parma Heights was one of seven communities in Cuyahoga County that received funding from the Northeast Ohio Area Coordinating Agency's (NOACA) Transportation for Livable Communities (also known as Complete and Green Streets Initiative) grant program in the amount of \$75,000.

Part of a growing national movement to increase the livability of urban areas, the grant funding allows a community to pay architect consultant's fees for a study based on multimodal transportation as a way to redevelop a pre-determined area of a community. In Parma Heights' case, a Complete Streets study of the Pearl Road corridor will be conducted. The plan will concentrate on traffic patterns, balancing transportation modes, increasing roadway capacities, improving all users' safety and accessibility, reducing personal transportation costs, reducing air pollution, and encouraging healthier lifestyles, achieving the goal of improving the Pearl Road streetscape and overall quality of life in the community.

Public involvement is key to preparing a realistic plan for this project. Over the course of the next year, a number of public hearings will be conducted in the community to solicit input in the redesign of the Pearl Road corridor. To be effective, the public hearings need to elicit the opinions and needs of a myriad of stakeholders. The city will reach out to as many stakeholders as possible such as: residents, business owners, property owners, developers, the Ohio Department of Transportation, RTA, Tri-C West, University Hospitals Parma Medical Center, NEORS, and the Parma Area Chamber of Commerce.

When the planning process is complete, the city will receive a plan designed to be completed in phases with essential funding options provided to assist with plan implementation.

Please keep in mind that the Storefront Renovation Program offered by the Cuyahoga County Department of Development is again available. The Storefront Program assists commercial property owners with storefront enhancements. For information, call the Economic Development Department at 440.884.9600 x32.

Remember to support your local businesses and Shop Parma Heights!

Coupons and job openings can be found by clicking on the icon SHOP PARMA HEIGHTS on our website: www.parmaheightsoh.gov



Public Safety Department



Congratulations to our Parma Heights Police Department for being one of only seven Northeast Ohio police departments honored with a AAA Platinum Safety Award. Pictured here receiving the award on behalf of the department is Sgt. Mike Luzniak.



Our newest Patrolman John Vinkler III, received the oath of office at the February 10, 2014, City Council meeting and began attending the Ohio State Highway Patrol Basic Academy on February 19th.

ATTENTION VETERANS!

Cuyahoga County is now issuing ID cards to veterans that live in Cuyahoga County. These ID cards allow veterans to carry the information found on their redacted DD214 Military Discharge Form. This ID card may be used to prove U.S. veteran status and to access veteran services.

ID cards will be issued for the fee of \$1.00 and will expire four years after being issued.

For more information, call the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Office at 216.443.7010.

Our Parma Heights Fire Department never hesitates to help those in need. During this past holiday season, they were able to assist Santa Claus in delivering gifts to local children whose father had been killed in military action overseas. They also collected and delivered gifts for a local family who had lost their possessions in a house fire, and for another family who reached out to us for help. I couldn't be more proud of the men and women who serve on our city safety forces.





City of
Parma Heights, Ohio

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

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For important information and updates, **LIKE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE**
or **VISIT OUR WEBSITE** at: www.parmaheightsoh.gov

**YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS...
WORKING TOGETHER FOR YOU!**

Mayor Mike Byrne

440.884.9600 x15

mayoroffice@parmaheightsoh.gov

Parma Heights City Council

440.884.9600 x35

council@parmaheightsoh.gov



L-R: Renee Everett (Ward 1), Council President Marie Gallo (Ward 4), Lesley DeSouza (Ward 2), JoAnn Koch (Ward 3), Mayor Mike Byrne, Anthony Stavole (At-Large), Robert Verdile (At-Large), Council Pro-Tem Jim McCall (At-Large)

CITY DIRECTORY

CITY HALL ♦ 440.884.9600

- City Council**.....440.884.9600 x35
Clerk Jennifer Krepina
- Community & Economic Development**...440.884.9600 x32
Director Joseph Sebes
- Finance/Personnel Departments**.....440.884.9600 x16
Director Terrence Hickey
- Law Department**.....440.884.9600 x29
Director Michael Pokorny
- Mayor's Court**.....440.884.9600 x43
Clerk Trish Litten
- Public Safety**.....440.884.9600 x37
Director Brent Collins
Police Chief Daniel Teel
Fire Chief Bryan Sloan
- Recreation Department**.....440.884.9600 x37
Director Thomas Moran
- Senior Center**.....440.888.4416
Director Judy McLaughlin
- Service Department**.....440.884.9607
Director Dennis Patten
- Tax Department**.....440.884.9600 x71
Administrator Suzanne Alessandro