



## FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER

### Message From **MAYOR MARIE GALLO**



Dear Residents,

I hope you had a great summer! The falling leaves will be followed by snow, so this newsletter contains helpful information regarding residential leaf collection and snow removal tips to help keep our streets clean and your neighbors happy. Also, make sure you check out our new and improved website at [www.parmaheightsoh.gov](http://www.parmaheightsoh.gov) to keep current with city events and updates.

If you're looking for something to do during the fall and winter months, our recreation department and senior center offer fun activities and opportunities to socialize and have plenty of fun! Stay warm, and we hope to see you soon!

Sincerely,

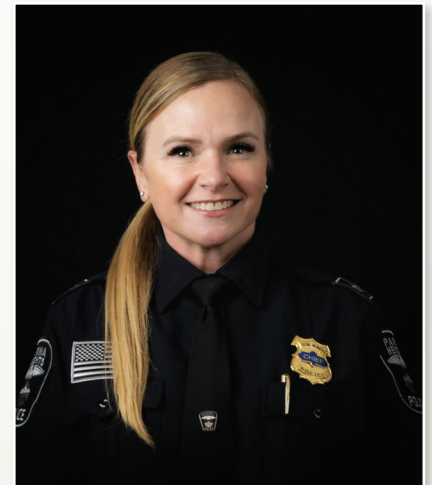
Mayor Marie Gallo

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## MEET YOUR NEW POLICE CHIEF – TANYA CZACK

Mayor Gallo swore in the new Interim Chief of Police Tanya Czack to the Parma Heights Police Department on Monday, September 11, at the Greenbrier Commons Gazebo. Mayor Gallo was honored as the first female mayor of the city to also swear in the first female Chief of Police. She looks forward to working closely with Interim Chief of Police Czack as she transitions into the permanent role of Police Chief once her interim assignment is completed. For the past 34 years, Czack has been a part of the Parma Heights Police Department serving in almost every division of the department. We welcome Chief Czack's strong leadership, commitment and dedication to our department and our city!

*Photo credit David Sands Photography*



# POLICE *Department*

## POLICE CHIEF SCHARSCHMIDT RETIRES

Chief Steve Scharschmidt began his career with the City of Parma Heights 33 years ago. After 8 years in the patrol division, he was assigned to the detective bureau where he served for 20 years as a detective, Administrative and Detective Bureau Sergeant and Captain. Some of his many accomplishments include never having an unsolved major case and he has several murder convictions among the numerous cases that he has investigated. Assisting victims of crime was his passion. Chief Scharschmidt also received awards from the Livonia Police Department and the Michigan State Police for his assistance with the Oakland County Serial Child Killer investigation that dates back to the 1970's. Chief Scharschmidt was also the primary detective responsible for the largest seizure in the city's history. After being promoted to Chief in March 2018, he brought the department to full staffing. In August 2020, the Parma Heights Police Department was named by the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police as the Agency of the Month for their community policing efforts. He introduced a Citizen's Police Academy, upgraded handguns, rifles and tasers for the department, hired the city's first Animal Control Officer, worked with the school district for a School Resource Officer and brought on the first K-9 in the city's history, Gunny Bennett. The Chief also started a drone team and implemented license plate reading cameras throughout the city that have led to solved cases and multiple felony convictions. Chief Scharschmidt is extremely well respected by his peers and staff as well as the citizens of Parma Heights. He will leave behind a great legacy of compassion and devotion to his department and will be missed by all.



## PROMOTIONS AND NEW HIRES



Sergeant Adam Sloan



Officer Duane Parish



Officer Christopher Rinderle



Officer Mena Garas

Sergeant Adam Sloan began his career with Parma Heights Police Department in 2013. During this time, he was assigned to Uniform Patrol Division for three years before his assignment to the Detective Bureau in 2016. He has served in many roles including Mobile Field Force, Public Information Officer, Evidence Tech, and the Drone Unit. On Thursday, September 7, 2023, he was sworn in as Sergeant for the Parma Heights Police Department. Sergeant Sloan has over 10 years of service in our community, and his knowledge and experience make him an incredible asset to our department. Duane Parish grew up in Garfield Heights and Lyndhurst, Ohio. He graduated from Brush High School in 2015. He was in the United States Navy for 4 years, separating with an honorable discharge. After his military service, he attended welding school but always had a vision to be in law enforcement. On July 6, 2023, he was sworn in as a Police Officer with the Parma Heights Police Department. Officer Christopher Rinderle grew up in Mentor and graduated from Mentor High School. He attended Kent State University and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Criminology and Justice Studies in 2022. On September 25, 2023 he was sworn in as a Police Officer with the Parma Heights Police Department. He is attending the Cleveland Heights Police Academy and will graduate by the end of the year. Officer Mena Garas was born and raised in Egypt. He came to the United States in 2011 and earned his citizenship in 2016. He attended the Polaris Police Academy in 2018. On September 25, 2023 he was sworn in as a police officer with the Parma Heights Police Department. We would like to congratulate all three of these officers!





# FIRE Department

Fall is fast approaching and that means there will be cooler nights, leaves to rake and our favorite fall time change on November 5th. Please remember to change the batteries in your smoke detectors. Dead batteries caused one-quarter 26% of smoke alarm failures and your risk of dying is 55% lower in homes with working smoke alarms. With cooler temperatures on their way, we also advise you to have your furnace serviced since gas furnaces and space heaters are the number one cause of carbon monoxide. This tasteless, odorless gas is a killer sending over 50,000 people in the United States to the hospital each year. Please make sure you have a CO detector on every floor of your home and preferably close to your bedroom.



Hear the **BEEP** where you **SLEEP**

Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm!

Half of home fire deaths happen between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., when most people are asleep.

For the best protection, install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and in the central hallway. Larger homes may need more alarms.

Test alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.

Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or if there's no sound when tested.

Some people, especially children and older adults, may need help to hear an alarm. Some smoke alarms will make a tone if the alarm alarm sounds.

When the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Do not go back inside.

Call the Fire Department from a cell phone or a neighbor's phone. Stay outside until the fire department says it's safe to go back inside.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that we have received our new fire engine. It was built by Sutphen Corporation out of Columbus, Ohio and replaces our 1995 Sutphen. Thank you to all the residents for your continued support of our safety forces and it is an honor and privilege to serve the residents of Parma Heights.

# SENIOR Center

There are great things happening at your senior center. Whether you are interested in exercise, games, trips, lunch or activities, you will find it here at the Parma Heights Senior Center. We are also pleased to announce that we will be adding a new bus in the next year, so we can continue providing transportation to grocery stores, banks, shopping, doctor appointments and leisure activities. Please pick up a newsletter at City Hall, the Senior Center or Parma Heights Library and check out what we have going on, or call us at 440.888.4416, we'd love to hear from you!



# HERITAGE HOME PROGRAM

We all like watching the show "This Old House," as it is fun to see the transformation from the beginning to the end. Parma Heights residents are fortunate to receive assistance from Cleveland Restoration Society's Heritage Home Program (HHP) for homes 50 years old and older. The HHP offers a wide variety of preservation and maintenance issues, including color consultations, advice on repairs or additions and even help in locating contractors. HHP also offers equity loans for interior and exterior improvements through local banks with fixed rates as low as 2%. For more information and to find out if your home qualifies, contact HHP at 216.426.3116 or visit [www.heritagehomeprogram.org](http://www.heritagehomeprogram.org).

# SERVICE *Department*

## LEAF COLLECTION AND SNOW REMOVAL GUIDELINES

Fall is fast approaching, and leaf season will be here before we know it. Here are some guidelines to help our service department run more efficiently during leaf collection season:

- Do not put leaves in the street.
- Leaves must be placed within six feet of the curb so the suction tubes can reach them. Stack leaves as high as possible to keep them in this area.
- Only leaves should be placed by the curb. Do not add sticks, branches, ornamental grasses, vegetables, vines, pumpkins, rocks, tarps, etc. to leaf piles.
- Try to limit parking in the streets from 7 a.m. until 5 p.m. on weekdays. To avoid damage to vehicles, leaves will not be picked up if a car is parked in front of a home.



We always anticipate winter storms since we live in Northeast Ohio. We ask that homeowners, business owners and commercial properties follow our local laws related to snow removal:

- Do not shovel or blow snow into the streets.
- Do not block any public sidewalks with driveway snow.
- Please keep your snow on your own property.



Leaf collection and snow removal updates will be posted on our website at [www.parmaheightsoh.gov](http://www.parmaheightsoh.gov) and on our City of Parma Heights Facebook page. We strongly encourage residents to register for ReadyNotify so you can get updates by text message, phone call and/or email. We appreciate your patience while our service department works hard to keep your streets clean this winter season.

## 2023 BULK COLLECTION DATES

October 18, 2023

November 22, 2023

December 20, 2023

Yard waste collection ends November 29th



## BULK AND YARD WASTE COLLECTION SURVEY

Would you prefer monthly or weekly bulk collection? We are also gathering preferences for yard waste. Please take our survey! Use the QR Code to the right, or visit our website at [www.parmaheightsoh.gov](http://www.parmaheightsoh.gov) and click on the link on the home page. We look forward to your responses!





# RECREATION *Department*

## **BEGINNER LINE DANCE – *Saturday, October 28th***

Cassidy Theatre Community Rooms, 6200 Pearl Rd.

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Join instructor Mary Harwood for a beginner lesson followed by open dancing. Walk-throughs will be available for many of the dances & requests will be taken. \$6 per person – cash only at the door.

## **CREATURES IN THE COMMONS – *Saturday, October 28th***

Greenbrier Commons Tennis Courts, 6200 Pearl Rd.

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Paint a pumpkin with Parma Heights Historical, trick or treat from local businesses & meet some cool critters with SATOO Reptiles and Aquatics! Don't forget to come dressed up! Sponsorship and volunteer opportunities are available, please contact the Recreation Department for more details.



## **OUTDOOR MOVIE – *Saturday, October 28th***

Greenbrier Commons Tennis Courts, 6200 Pearl Rd.

7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Bundle up for a movie in the park, weather permitting after Creatures in the Commons! Follow our Facebook page for the chosen film announcement!



## **HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY – *Monday, November 27th***

Greenbrier Gazebo, 6200 Pearl Rd.

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Happy Holidays from Mayor Gallo and the City of Parma Heights! Kick off the season with special visitors from the North Pole and a countdown to the tree lighting!

## **SANTA BREAKFAST – *Saturday, December 16th***

Cassidy Theatre Community Rooms, 6200 Pearl Rd.

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Start a new tradition with us at our second annual Santa Breakfast! Santa is making a special stop for a sit-down breakfast in the community rooms under Cassidy Theatre. Be sure to bring your list and a camera to capture all the smiles! Registration required. Residents only.



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** Softball, Baseball, T-Ball and Spring Soccer registration begins in February 2023. Swim team registration begins in May 2023. Fall Soccer registration begins in July 2023. Don't miss out on these opportunities to participate in these outstanding sports programs.



**CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION!** Follow Parma Heights Recreation on Facebook, Email us at [recreation@parmaheights.us](mailto:recreation@parmaheights.us) or call us 440.884.9606.