



The City of Parma

NEWSLETTER

Infrastructure, safety and economic development remain top priorities

By Tim DeGeeter



It is a busy season of parades, picnics, festivals, patio dining and, yes, infrastructure projects.

I realize residents do not like the inconvenience that occurs during road construction, waterline replace-

ments and sewer projects, but for the 500-plus lane miles of road and a water and sewer system with century-old pipes, it is critical work.

When local broadcaster Dick Russ interviewed me this past February for my annual State of the City address, he asked me about flooding. Over the past few years, city engineers and I have worked with Cuyahoga County and Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District to aggressively address storm-water management. Our engineers are also constantly applying for grants and earning state and federal funding to help cover the high costs of infrastructure projects. We have made progress, but there is more work to be done.



Dick Russ and I discuss important city matters at my State of the City.

As I have often stated, flooding is also a problem for our neighboring cities. Construction began April 24 on Sprague Road near Thornhurst Drive in North Royalton and east of State Road in Parma. The \$1.4 million Big Creek Flood Reduction project will help reduce flooding in Parma and North Royalton.

Additionally, our Service Department continues to maintain and replace old catch basins and headwalls. Like other large inner-ring suburbs, fixing and replacing old infrastructure is ongoing. To learn about these projects, read pages 10 and 11.

During my State the City interview, Russ also asked about our ability to attract and retain first responders. Some cities are having a difficult time filling open police and firefighter positions. I am pleased to report Parma has not had this challenge. We are at full capacity in both our fire and police departments.

Our police officers and firefighters are engaged in the community. They hold safety meetings every summer in council members' wards and host a big Safety Fair in August at the Justice Center. (See *Upcoming Events* for dates.) Our first responders have a good relationship with the community, which is one reason job candidates find our city attractive. We also offer competitive pay, excellent benefits, and the training and equipment first responders need to do their jobs well.

In addition to safe and well-maintained neighborhoods and streets, our city's economy is strong.



In January, I swore in seven new police officers.

In 2022, we saw economic growth in manufacturing, retail and restaurants. In fact, jobs and payroll numbers are higher than pre-pandemic figures. We remain optimistic about continued investments and job growth but are cautiously watching trends and inflation numbers.

Although UH Parma Medical Center and GM's Parma Metal Center continue to be our strongest economic drivers, we are starting to see a burgeoning food scene.

Lately, I have posted #ParmaFoodieTown on Twitter because we have been capturing media attention about our multi-cultural cuisine. Caribbean restaurant Twisted Taino on Pearl Road continues to earn food awards, and the new Au Jus restaurant on Broadview Road is so popular it sometimes sells out of its Chicago-style Italian beef sandwiches before closing time. On deck to open is the new Cozumel Mexican Restaurant on Snow Road.

If a visitor to Parma leaves hungry, something is wrong because we have a diverse selection of restaurants and bakeries serving delicious food.

(Continued on Page 9)

Administration, elected officials make good use of funds to move the city forward

By Treasurer Tom Mastroianni

I want to touch base on city finances and highlight what is happening in Parma.

The city budget was approved in the first quarter of 2023. The budget process entails three public hearings open to residents and in front of Parma City Council. Elected officials and directors present their budgets line by line to city council members. Residents are provided copies of every department's budget and can ask questions at the meetings. It is an open process that has worked well for many years in Parma.

Last year was the biggest year of individual income tax, business net profits and withholdings the city has collected. The Tax Department brought in more than \$50 million, which shows that companies in Parma are thriving. Community Services and Economic Development works hard to keep companies in Parma and encourages other large and small companies to open their businesses here.

One reason businesses and new homeowners choose Parma is because it is one of the 50 safest cities to raise a family in the United States, according to SaveWise, a weekly safety publication that tracks crime in our country. This is a

credit to the outstanding Police Department, which now has 117 officers – the highest number the city has ever had.

The Fire Department strives to obtain grants to offset spending, and recently received more than \$770,000 to hire five fulltime firefighters, bringing its total to 112 firefighters – the most ever in Parma. Also, the department received an improved Insurance Services Rating, which means residents and business owners could realize future insurance savings.

The Service Department started an aggressive street repair program this summer, and the Engineering Department has collaborated with Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District to address flooding. Major NEORSR projects started include the Sprague Road/Big Creek flood reduction and Upper Ridgewood Basin construction at Anthony Zielinski Park.

The Building Department recently started using CitizenServe, a program that helps the department consolidate and streamline its processes while converting paper to digital. The program allows individuals or businesses to apply for and renew licenses and registrations online. Eventually, permit applications will be included on CitizenServe.

The Donna Smallwood Activities has added numerous programs and events that help keep senior residents active.

The Recreation Department is upgrading three city parks with new equipment and recently added two new pickleball courts at Michael A. Ries Park. Plans continue for the new Ridgewood Golf Course Clubhouse and Event Center, which will be accessible to everyone, not just golfers, when it is completed.

Since I have been in office, city debt has decreased by \$7 million. The Justice Center and fire stations will be paid off in a few years, lessening the city's outstanding debt. Also, the city's bond rating has improved, which means the city should receive a better rate on a future bond.

After implementing all these new improvements in the 2023 budget, there is a big carryover of more than \$9 million in the general fund.

All these positive changes are due to the dedication of city employees who take pride in the work they do for residents. It is also a credit to the administration and elected officials who oversee the city's finances and work together to make Parma a strong, vibrant city!

Website link provides easy access to data about city government expenditures



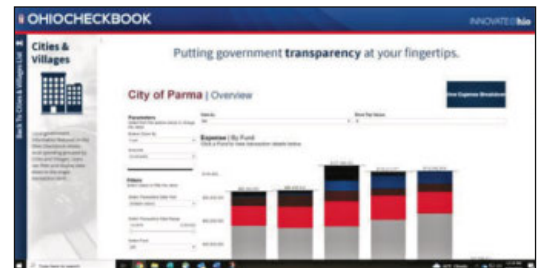
Auditor Brian Day

Years ago, I partnered with the Ohio Treasurer's Office to post city expenditures on www.OhioCheckbook.com. I want to remind residents this data is available and easily accessible via a link on the city's website at www.cityofparma-oh.gov.

Each month, my office sends financial data to the Ohio Treasurer's Office. The information is broken down by vendor, description, invoice amount, check date, check number, fund, account and department. The Treasurer's Office then loads this data into its system. The data is listed by year, going back to 2017. A visitor to the site can use filters to view the data and graphs. The user can also click on an area within a graph to drill deeper into the data.

The link for this site is listed on the home page of the city's website under Community Highlights at *Where Do My Tax Dollars Go?*, which routes the visitor to the City of Parma landing page on Ohio Checkbook.

Transparency is very important to me and how I run the Auditor's Office. Anytime government can be more transparent to its taxpayers, it is a positive for both the taxpayers and government. It is essential that Parma taxpayers can see exactly how their tax dollars are being used.





Ward 1 — Monica Wilson

I was appointed Feb. 6, 2023, as the new Ward 1 councilperson and am thrilled to serve Parma. Having lived in Parma for more than 30 years, with 15-plus years in Ward 1, I am committed to this great city. I was born and raised in a working-class union family in Detroit, and I hold bachelor's and master's degrees in

chemical engineering. Years ago, I moved to Ohio to work in the paints and coatings industry and am now a PPG global product manager. My position requires me to work across languages and cultures to successfully manage multimillion-dollar projects. These skills will help me bring jobs to Ward 1, which has prime real estate for new businesses.

I will host the annual Ward 1 Safety Meeting. This fun and informative event is 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 16 at PITT OHIO, 5570 Chevrolet Blvd. Parma police and firefighters will demonstrate equipment and share information about what their departments do to keep residents safe. We will have pizza and soft drinks available, and I encourage all our Ward 1 residents to attend. Ward 1 small business owners who wish to highlight their businesses at the meeting should email me in advance at mwilson@cityofparma-oh.gov.

Because voting requirements for 2023 have significantly changed, I encourage everyone to visit the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections website and read "Changes to the Voting Laws Starting in 2023." I want everyone to be able to vote.

Finally, I look forward to meeting everyone in the community. Feel free to contact me at 440-409-7354 or mwilson@cityofparma-oh.gov. If you see me in the neighborhood, please stop and say hello.

Ward 2 — Debbie Lime

The warm weather has arrived, and summer is here.

It is time to get busy in the neighborhoods. There are plans for painting fire hydrants and cleaning and planting in the Polish Village pocket park. Want to get involved with these projects and others in your community? It is a wonderful way to meet new neighbors, have fun and make a positive impact. If you are interested in becoming involved in your neighborhood, email me at lime-ward2@gmail.com.

Do you have wonderful neighbors and want others to know about them? Let Parma City Council help you honor them. Nominate your neighbor for a Citizen of the Month Award. Or, if they have meticulous gardening skills and beautiful landscaping, consider nominating them for a Parma Beautification Award. You can submit your nomination to me at limeward2@gmail.com.



Good neighbors make great neighborhoods. As always, it is a pleasure to serve you.

Nominate a neighbor for a Parma Beautification Award.

Ward 3 — Mark Casselberry



I hope you and your families are doing well. This year, we have many new projects scheduled for our neighborhoods.

In March, we announced the

plans for new playground equipment in Walters Grove Park. New swings, a slide and climbing stations will be installed. This was made possible through an Ohio Capital Budget Grant. Two other parks in

Parma will receive upgrades: John Petruska Park and Hetzel Park. With the growing popularity of pickleball, we are also adding two new courts at Michael A. Ries Park. All these projects will hopefully be completed this summer.

We have much-needed infrastructure projects on the horizon. Phase 1 of the Krueger Avenue sewer project began. During this phase of construction, each home between West 54th Street and West 48th Street will receive a new storm and sanitary lateral connection. Phase 2 will encompass the homes between West 48th Street and West 44th Street. Phase 2 is expected to begin late 2023 or early 2024. We will have more

information to share on Phase 2, as well as Phase 3 later this year.

Additionally, Brookpark Road will be resurfaced during 2023 and 2024. Work began in April near West 130th Street and Brookpark Road. The project will continue eastbound in several phases. Work in Ward 3 should begin during Phase 3 of this project and is expected to be completed in late 2023.

It is my pleasure to serve as Ward 3 councilman. For assistance, contact me at 440-842-6710 or mcasselberry@cityofparma-oh.gov. Follow me on Facebook @MarkCasselberryParmaCityCouncilman Ward3.



Ward 4 — Kelly Zacharias

Save the dates!

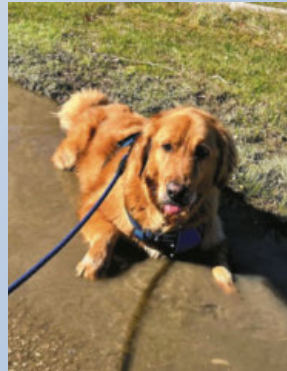
Tuesday, June 6, is the Ward 4 Safety Meeting, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at 1115 Clearview Ave. This is a great opportunity for residents to discuss safety concerns directly with the safety director, police officers, firefighters and me. This

educational meeting provides safety tips, addresses current safety issues and showcases the city's new police vehicles and firetrucks. Maybe a K9 officer will stop by.

To make the most of the summer months, we have several events and parades. The annual Rib 'N' Rock returns June 8 through June 11. We Are Parma Proud will sponsor the fireworks on June 8 at James Day Park. The Independence Day Parade is July 4, and the Ukrainian Village Parade is Aug. 26. We Are Parma Proud will host its Picnic in the Park, Aug. 5. To see a full list of events, check the back page *Upcoming Events*.

There is always West Creek Reservation to enjoy a stroll, and for our four-legged companions like my dog, a mud bath.

I can be reached at kzacharias@cityofparma-oh.gov, 216-290-2644 or Council Office at 440-885-8087. Follow me on Facebook @KellyZacharias4ParmaWard4.



Oliver enjoys a mud bath.

Ward 5 — Allan Divis

This year, I was chairman of the Sixth Annual Water Summit on March 25 at the West Creek Watershed Stewardship Center. The Water Summit has always been a great way for residents to learn how the city and its partners are working together to address flooding.



In addition to moving the venue from City Hall to West Creek, we changed the format to a fun family friendly event celebrating all things H2O. The Watershed team planned several interactive educational activities the children enjoyed. The event was a huge success and attracted steady crowds throughout the day.

Mayor Tim DeGeeter, Service Director Tony Vannello, Law Director Tim Dobeck, County Councilman Scott Tuma, Channel 19 Meteorologist Kelly Dobeck, city engineers and council members attended. Representatives from Cuyahoga County Public Works, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS), Cleveland Public Water, West Creek Conservancy and Cleveland Metroparks discussed regional projects and answered questions.

At the event, we shared information about upcoming sewer improvement projects on Fenway Drive, Krueger Avenue and Green Acres Driver. There also was an update about the NEORS \$3.4 million Upper Ridgewood Basin construction project at Anthony Zielinski Park. The project is converting Ridgewood Lake Park into a retention basin that will mitigate flooding in the area.

It is my pleasure to serve Ward 5 residents. I can be contacted at adivis@cityofparma-oh.gov or 440-888-7213.

Ward 6 — Kevin Kussmaul



I am working with council members to upgrade sound and audio equipment in the Council Chambers and allow online streaming of City Council meetings.

In December 2022, Councilman

Rob Euerle and I hosted our inaugural WinterFest Event at West Creek Reservation. The event was a success, and we will be doing it again later this

year. Look for details this fall.

In January, Congressman Max Miller opened his Parma office at 7335 Ridge Road. I presented him with map prints of Parma for his Parma and Washington, D.C. offices, made by a Ward 6 business, Whereabouts Shop.

Hetzel Park received an Ohio Capital Budget Grant for much-needed improvements this summer. For more details, read the article on page 12.



Residents who see a streetlight out can report it to FirstEnergy by calling 1-888-544-4877 or visiting www.firstenergycorp.com.

Through the city's Community Services and Economic Development Office, a homeowner over the age of 65 can get an \$80 voucher for furnace cleaning, starting the week of July 24. For more information, call Community Services at 216-661-7372.

The Ward 6 Safety Meeting is 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 3 at my home, 3160 Hetzel Drive. A rainout date is scheduled for 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 10. Residents can reach me at 440-823-6608 or kkussmaul@cityofparma-oh.gov.

Ward 7 — Kammy Coyle Shuman



Happy summer to all! I hope everyone is having a great year. I have been in office more than two years and love serving you! I have met so many Ward 7 residents and enjoy helping you when you call, text, Facebook direct message or email me.

We had a successful ward meeting in March. Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District went over the \$20

million in projects happening in Ward 7. We will have storm-water projects happening at Dell Haven Basin, Stormes Drive and Bonny Banks Basin, as well as Big Creek restoration near Ridge Road. These projects will help alleviate flooding in the ward. If you would like to view the complete presentation from the meeting, go to www.kammyshuman.com.

The Sprague Road project is expected to be completed in December 2023. Thank you for being patient. I know it has not been easy, but it will be beautiful when completed.

The Ward 7 Safety Meeting is scheduled 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.,

Wednesday, Oct. 4 at Cuyahoga Community College's Public Safety Training Center at the Western Campus. I am collaborating with the safety director, fire chief, police chief, law director and mayor. Please join us to hear directly from our incredible safety forces and city leaders. More information will be on my website closer to the date.



Kammy Shuman's daughter will join her son at OSU next fall.

Our family is excited for the summer. My daughter, Elizabeth, will be graduating from high school. She will join my son at The Ohio State University next year and plans to study pharmacy.

Every day is a gift, that is why it is called the present. Let's all take time to enjoy every day and be kind and generous to our neighbors.

Please contact me so we can walk the ward this summer. I can be reached at 440-884-2138 or kshuman@cityofparma-oh.gov. Love all, serve all.

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Ward 8 — Linda Kohar

Hope everyone enjoyed the relatively mild winter. Summer beckons with the promise of fun warm-weather activities and events like Rib 'N' Rock and We Are Parma Proud's Picnic in the Park.

The wet weather we had this winter was not favorable for Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District's Upper Ridgewood Basin construction project. The dredging of the basin is now completed. Shaping of the interior basin began this spring, and the perimeter work will be next. Major grading will take place this summer, followed by planting and seeding in the fall. Anthony Zielinski Park will remain open throughout construction.

Substantial project completion is expected by the first quarter of 2024. Total construction cost is \$3.4 million, paid for through the Regional Stormwater Management Program. The city will contribute funding for park amenities such as the paved paths, benches and trashcans.



The new Ridgewood Golf Course Clubhouse and Event Center is in the planning stage, and legislation regarding future steps should come before council this summer. It will be a huge boost for Parma to have a new clubhouse/event center at the golf course – a real jewel for the city.

The Ward 8 Safety Meeting is 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Wednesday, July 19 at Parma Circle. Hope to see you there!

It continues to be an honor to serve Ward 8 residents. To reach me, call 440-345-5180 or email lkohar@cityofparma-oh.gov.



At the 2022 Safety Meeting, Ward 8 residents visited with a K9 officer and his four-legged partner.

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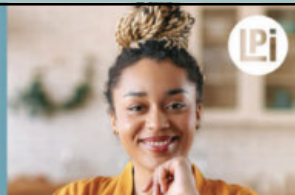


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Dipierro takes on new role



Council President
Vito Dipierro

In January, former Ward 1 Councilman Vito Dipierro took on a new role as City Council president, filling the position vacated when Sean Brennan began serving at District 14 state representative.

"It is an honor to serve this great city I am proud to call home. I am excited to continue my work in public service and moving the city forward, alongside my council colleagues, the mayor and his administration," Dipierro said.

Although his responsibilities have changed, Dipierro will continue his involvement in an annual fall food drive and document shredding event he has cohosted in the past with Councilman Rob Euerle. "We bring in a lot of food donations for the Parma Hunger Center that day," he said. "It's a good cause, and I enjoy working with Rob on this event."

Ward 9 — Rob Euerle



I will host the Ward 9 Safety Meeting at 6 p.m., Thursday, June 15 (rain date, July 27) in my front yard at 6196 Jamestown Drive. Light refreshments will be served, and lawn chairs are welcomed. I appreciated the safety suggestions I heard last year from residents who attended. I hope Ward 9 residents will come again and, between now and the event's

date, note ways to improve safety in our neighborhoods. Similar to last summer's meeting, police officers, firefighters, the safety director and other city leaders will talk to residents about how first responders work together to keep the city safe.

Later this year, City Council President Vito Dipierro and I will help residents stay a step ahead of identity thieves when we host a free drive-through shredding event, rain or shine, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 30 at 5301 Hauserman Road. We are asking those who attend to donate nonperishable food items, which we will give to the Parma Hunger Center. The Hunger Center supplies food to approximately 350 low-income families each month.

I can be reached at the Council Office at 440-885-8091, my direct line at 216-418-8342 or via email at reuerle@cityofparma-oh.gov.

Mayor and Council recognize residents

From honoring longtime Parma business owners to celebrating championship teams and their coaches, Mayor Tim DeGeeter and Parma City Council members enjoy recognizing standout athletes, businesses and citizens.

"It's a favorite part of our council meetings," said Mayor Tim DeGeeter. "As a parent of two children active in sports, I particularly like seeing student athletes in the chamber. On those special occasions, the parents and coaches join us; there's a lot of applause and cheering; and the 'parent paparazzi' are snapping pictures. It's lively and fun. Plus, our young residents get a glimpse at city government in action because they are attending during a regular council meeting night."

(Clockwise): Mayor Tim DeGeeter applauds Tim Wenzel Sr., TJ's Esquire Room owner and local barber who celebrated his 50th anniversary of serving clients. DeGeeter meets with players after their coach receives an award. Ward 6 Councilman Kevin Kussmaul and DeGeeter present certificates to Normandy High School Girls Basketball champions. Ward 8 Councilwoman Linda Kohar (left) and Ward 2 Councilwoman Debbie Lime (middle) join the mayor as he presents awards to Joey's Rockin' Poppin' Popcorn owners on National Popcorn Day.



Residents should have received letters from NOPEC in April

Eligible residents and small businesses in NOPEC member communities should have received enrollment letters for NOPEC's natural gas and electric aggregation programs in April. NOPEC is a governmental energy aggregation chosen by 240 Ohio communities to supply natural gas and electricity to residents and small businesses.

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) requires NOPEC to send enrollment letters to eligible natural gas customers every two years and to eligible electric customers every three years.

To enroll in NOPEC's Standard Program Price Options for either gas or electric, customers do not need to take any action. They will be automatically enrolled beginning with the June 2023 meter read date. This makes it easy and convenient to take advantage of being a member of Parma's chosen aggregation program. NOPEC's program price is negotiated exclusively for NOPEC member communities to deliver consistent, competitive pricing.

NOPEC also offers monthly variable rate programs, 12- or 24-month fixed term programs and 100 percent

renewable electric options. To enroll in one of these options, consumers can call NOPEC's Customer Care Center at **855-NOPEC-01 (855-667-3201)**. Monthly variable rate program enrollment is limited and subject to availability. Current customers already enrolled in a monthly variable rate option can contact NOPEC's Customer Care Center to elect to stay with the variable rate program. For more information, residents should visit nopec.org/letter.

If a consumer does not wish to participate in NOPEC's natural gas or electric aggregation, the resident must notify NOPEC by completing and mailing back the opt-out form attached to the enrollment letter received, faxing the opt-out form to 440-774-4422 or calling NOPEC's Customer Care Center at 855-667-3201.

NOPEC only provides the natural gas or electric supply the consumer uses. The local utility provides all the other functions, including delivery, repair, billing and customer service. The customer will continue to receive only one bill. For more information about NOPEC, visit www.nopec.org.

Hyundai and Kia offer theft-deterrent software for afflicted vehicles



Law Director
Tim Dobeck

In recent months, there has been a surge in the theft of Hyundai and Kia brand vehicles. Statistics show certain Hyundai and Kia vehicles are twice as likely to be stolen

than similarly aged and marketed vehicles.

This increase in theft is due to the absence of an anti-theft device known as a passive immobilizer, which is an electronic security device that prevents a car from being started without the correct key. Passive immobilizers are widely used in most cars.

In 2015, immobilizers were standard in 96 percent of all manufactured vehicles

but were only installed on 26 percent of Hyundai and Kia models. The list of affected Hyundai models includes Accent, Elantra, Kona and Palisade. The Kia models impacted are Forte, Optima, Rio, Sedona, Soul and Sportage. Most of these vehicles were manufactured between 2015 and 2019.

This increase in theft has impacted many residents and become a drain on local police resources. The City of Parma is working tirelessly to protect residents. In December 2022 and January 2023, Parma Police and the Law Department acquired steering wheel locks and distributed them, via Parma City Council, to residents who own these vehicles. The supply is now depleted, but the city has requested more steering wheel locks.

Currently, Hyundai and Kia are offering theft deterrent software. For more in-

formation on the free update, contact Hyundai at 1-800-633-5151 or www.hyundaiantitheft.com and Kia at 1-800-333-4542.

The Law Department will be joining a lawsuit filed against Kia and Hyundai to recover, among other things, law enforcement resources used to respond to these thefts.

Additionally, Hyundai has partnered with an insurance company to offer coverage to impacted vehicles. For more information on the insurance coverage and guaranteed software, visit www.hyundainews.com/en-us/releases/3810. *

** Providing these resources does not constitute endorsement, recommendation or legal advice by or from the City of Parma.*

Brennan changes roles and now serves District 14 as state rep



State Representative
Sean Brennan

It was an honor to be sworn in earlier this year as the new state representative for District 14. My wife of 28 years, Deena, held the family Bible, and our children and friends stood by my side during the swearing-in ceremony at the historic statehouse in Columbus, Ohio.

To be one of 99 Ohioans representing our fine state in the Ohio House of Representatives is an indescribable honor. Rest assured, I will remember my oath “to support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Ohio . . . as I shall

answer unto God” in my daily work on residents’ behalf. As a former member of Parma City Council for nearly two decades, I prided myself on being an accessible public servant. That commitment will not change in my new position. In fact, Parma residents can contact my office via phone at 614-466-3485 or email at Rep14@OhioHouse.gov if they need my assistance.

Visit my website at ohiohouse.gov/members/sean-p-brennan to read press releases, follow the bills I am working on and sign up for my District 14 newsletter. I also hold office hours throughout the district and post the times, dates and places on my website.

Thank you for the honor of serving District 14 and representing Parma, Parma Heights and Cleveland.

County helps support Parma infrastructure



County Councilman
Scott Tuma

As chairman of the Public Works Committee, I approved numerous pieces of legislation to provide funding for infrastructure projects in Parma. Working collaboratively with Mayor Tim DeGeeter and his staff, millions of dollars of projects have moved forward in the city.

Listed in the box below are infrastructure projects over the past four years and dollar amounts affiliated with each one.

In addition to these significant road projects, Cuyahoga County has awarded Parma nearly \$500,000 through its roadway maintenance program. The money will go towards crack sealing, road patching, pothole repair, road striping and catch basin repair and replacement. Maintaining infrastructure is a costly and time-consuming process but essential. I appreciate residents’ patience during this construction season.

County-funded Infrastructure Projects

2019	West 10th Street	\$4.5 million
2020	Sprague Road Widening, Part 1	\$7.3 million
2021	York Road	\$4.0 million
2022	Sprague Road Widening, Part 2	\$11.8 million
2022	West Ridgewood Drive	\$2.7 million
2022	Ridge Road	\$4.6 million
Total:		\$34.9 million

Infrastructure, safety, economic

(Continued from Page 1)



I joined chamber members at Au Jus’ ribbon cutting.

Finally, we seek to break ground this year on the new Ridgewood Golf Course Clubhouse and Event Center. We expect this economic development project to attract more golfers, as well as non-golfers, to our beautiful Ridgewood Golf Course. The center will serve as a year-round meeting place for residents celebrating important life events such as weddings, anniversaries and birthdays. Private and public groups will be able to rent the space.

After a lengthy selection process, we chose an architectural firm and are now developing plans for the \$9 million structure. We will keep residents posted as the project progresses. Meanwhile, the golf course remains open and is doing quite well operating with a triple-wide trailer as a temporary clubhouse. Our golf course is a hidden gem, but now it is time for everyone to see that gem shine.

Waste- & Storm-water Management Update

Mayor Tim DeGeeter and Parma City Council offer the following update on sewer and storm-water improvement projects city engineers are overseeing:



Recently Completed Project

* Jeanne Drive sewer improvement, \$260,000

2023 Projects

- * Daleside Drive (Woodway Avenue to Brookpark Road) sewer improvement, \$175,000
- * East Linden Lane pump station replacement, \$750,000
- * Fenway Drive/Arcadia Drive storm relief sewer improvement, Phase 1, \$250,000
- * Krueger Avenue sewer improvement, Phase 1, \$1.75 million
- * **Total Estimated Cost: \$2.9 million**

Future Projects

- * Green Acres Avenue sewer improvement, \$1 million
- * Krueger Avenue sewer improvement, Phase 2, \$1.75 million
- * Meadow Lane headwalls and storm-water drainage improvement, \$1 million
- * Rustic Trail cul-de-sac area sewer improvement, \$250,000
- * Valley Villas, York and State roads septic conversion, \$2 million
- * **Total Estimated Cost: \$6 million**

Cleveland Water's Waterline Replacements

Cleveland Water works with the city to replace 100-year-old waterlines via its Suburban Water Main Renewal Program.

2023 Projects

- * Sprague Road, West 130th Street to York Road (under construction and part of Sprague Road widening project), \$1.8 million
- * New waterlines, connections, fire hydrants and asphalt overlay on the following streets:
 - Russel Avenue, State Road to West 51st Street
 - Torrington Avenue, State Road to West 24th Street
 - Tuxedo Avenue, State Road to West 24th Street

Cost for three streets: \$2.7 million

Total Estimated Cost: \$4.5 million

Future Projects

- * Brookdale Avenue, Broadview Road to West 16th Street, \$450,000
- * Brookview Avenue, State Road to Broadview Road, \$1.5 million
- * Grovewood Avenue, West 24th Street to Broadview Road, \$550,000
- * Laverne Avenue, Pearl Road to West 54th Street, \$1 million
- * North Avenue, State Road to Broadview Road, \$1.5 million
- * Velma Avenue, Pearl Road to West 54th Street, \$2.3 million
- * **Total Estimated Cost: \$7.3 million**

Latest news on storm-water and sewer projects NEORSD manages in the city

Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District works closely with city engineers to manage storm-water and sewer projects impacting the city. Following is a list of NEORSD projects:

Stormes Drive Relief Pipe

Last fall, construction began on a storm-water relief pipe to help mitigate flooding in the Stormes Drive area. The relief culvert will create more capacity in the storm-water and sewer system. Restoration has begun.

Upper Ridgewood Basin

Construction began last September on the \$3.4 million redesign of the Upper Ridgewood Basin, known as Ridgewood Lake. NEORSD will increase the basin's storm-water storage capacity to help alleviate flooding. The project includes planting trees, grass, wildflowers and colorful foliage native to Ohio. An ADA-

compliant path, connecting Ridgewood Lake Drive to the Splash Pad, pavilion and gazebo will be added.

Big Creek Flood Reduction

Construction began April 24 on Sprague Road near Thornhurst Drive in North Royalton and east of State Road in Parma. The \$1.4 million Big Creek Flood Reduction project will help reduce flooding in Parma and North Royalton. Also, the Big Creek stream restoration at Pecan Drive will begin this summer.

Projects Under Design

Expansion of the dry basin east of Bonny Banks Park is at the 90-percent mark. Construction is expected to begin the first quarter of 2024.

The acquisition of property from Parma City School District and Holy Family Catholic Parish is nearing completion for the Dell Haven Basin project, which will help

manage storm water at Pleasant Valley and York roads. A public meeting will be held in early fall to present design plans.

Construction is expected to begin in 2024 on a project to stabilize banks upstream and downstream of Ridge Road near Hidden Valley Lane.

A November 2022 public outreach event at Watershed Stewardship Center gave residents a chance to learn about the Veterans Memorial Park Basin project, speak with NEORSD staff and share preferences and concerns about the basin area. Construction is expected to begin in early 2024.

NEORSD will host public open house sessions Thursday, June 1 and Saturday, June 3 at the Watershed Stewardship Center. Future details about projects will be shared in the fall/winter newsletter and on city social media.

Road Construction News

Mayor Tim DeGeeter and Parma City Council offer the following road construction update:

- As part of a \$4.6 million Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) project, the repairing and repaving of **Ridge Road** between Pearl Road and Brookpark Road in Parma was completed in 2022.
- The \$2.3 million ODOT project to repair and repave **Pearl Road** between Snow Road and Brookpark Road was completed in 2022.
- The \$2.7 million Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works project to repair and repave **West Ridgewood Drive** between Ridge Road and State Road was completed in 2022.
- The \$11.8 million Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works project to widen **Sprague Road** between West 130th Street and York Road in Parma and North Royalton includes sanitary, storm-water and waterline improvements. Construction is happening now and should be completed by the end of 2023.
- Construction work began on the ODOT project to repair and repave **Brookpark Road** between West 130th Street and State Road. In 2024, work will begin on the section between State Road and the I-480 eastbound entrance. Total cost is expected to be \$11.5 million.
- A construction project to repair and repave **Snow Road** from Ridge Road to Broadview Road will be divided into two phases: Ridge to State and then State to Broadview. Engineering design work will start this year. Phase 1 is estimated to cost \$2.5 million. Construction is not expected to begin until 2024 or 2025.
- The Parma Service Department will be spending more than \$5 million on roadway repairs of **54 neighborhood streets** during the 2023-24 repaving seasons.



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New colorful playgrounds will replace dated equipment in three parks

This summer, new playground equipment will replace 30-year-old equipment at three parks: Walters Grove, John Petruska and Hetzel.

Snider Recreation will begin work in June at Walters Grove. John Petruska will be next, followed by Hetzel. Walters Grove and John Petruska are two of the city's busier parks. All three installations of Burke playground equipment should be completed before the end of summer.

"The playgrounds will all be modular structures with various activities. They will have separate swing set bays," said Parks and Recreation Department Director Mickey Vittardi.

Vittardi explained that the playgrounds will have similar features, such as slides, swings and climbing structures but different color schemes. For example, the Walters Grove playground in Ukrainian Village is blue and yellow.

All three playgrounds are expected to cost \$135,000 total. A 2022 Ohio Capital Budget Grant for community recreation upgrades will cover two-thirds of the cost, with the city covering the remaining \$45,000.

"Our Recreation Department does an excellent job of applying for grant money. With 18 parks in the city, it is a lot to maintain and update. Grant dollars help us make our playgrounds and parks more attractive to families with young children," said Mayor Tim DeGeeter. "These new playgrounds will help encourage children to get outside and play. I anticipate seeing more activity at these popular parks when the new equipment is installed and play areas finished."

Assistant Recreation Director Dave Ehlert said when choosing new playground equipment, the Recreation Department considers accessibility, appearance, durability, safety and the various activities or exercises the equipment promotes. "Playgrounds have changed significantly since the time the older equipment was installed. Today's equipment is more colorful, dynamic, and multi-generational. The designers also factor in free movement, fitness and flexibility. The steep metal slides and old-school jungle gyms, seesaws and metal merry-go-rounds are long gone."



Top to Bottom: The new playgrounds at John Petruska, Hetzel and Walters Grove parks feature slides, swings and climbing attractions designed to encourage safe outdoor play and physical fitness.

Parma Safety Fair expected to draw a big crowd this August

The Parma Safety Fair is 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 12 at the Justice Center, 5555 Powers Blvd. Now in its 21st year, the free event attracts a big crowd and residents of all ages.

“A couple years ago, we moved the Safety Fair from spring to summer and closer to the start of the school year. Those two changes, as well as adding some new activities and increasing safety-related giveaways has boosted attendance,” Mayor Tim DeGeeter said.

Firetrucks, police cars, motorcycles and other safety equipment will fill the parking lot. Planned activities include K9, drone and grease fire demonstrations; free fingerprinting for children; and visits with firefighters, EMS workers and police officers. First responders will offer safety tips and answer questions. Children can test their bicycle safety skills in the Kids Zone and receive free bike helmets.

The UH AirMed helicopter is expected to return this year, weather permitting. “Everybody loves watching it land in our parking lot. It is a fan favorite,” DeGeeter said.

Another popular attraction coming back is a simulated housefire. Using small firehoses, children spray water on a fake fire to knock down pretend flames.

“Lines formed all day for that activity. Firefighters had fun showing the kids how to turn on and aim the firehoses at the house structure, Fire Chief Mike Lasky said.



With the help of a firefighter, a girl extinguishes a fake housefire at the Safety Fair.

The city partners with numerous organizations and businesses to cover event costs. “We appreciate our donors, who help make the Safety Fair possible. The event gives our first responders an opportunity to interact with the public in a fun informative way. It also shows residents how we use funds to keep them safe,” DeGeeter said.

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Titanic Tea Party educates, entertains and immerses guests

Diana Parsons' themed tea parties at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center transport fellow members back in time or to a fictional world.



Diana Parsons shows one of her reference materials.

In mid-April, her Titanic Tea Party brought guests aboard the doomed ocean liner where they sipped tea from porcelain floral teacups and ate finger sandwiches while learning about the final

hours of Titanic passengers who had a connection to Northeast Ohio. Several guests donned fancy hats, including Parsons who wore a purple fascinator to match her plum-colored attire.

Parsons immersed her guests in the experience. Formal place settings included party favors, custom-designed bookmarks and information about the Titanic. Each registered guest received a White Star Line ticket that provided details about a passenger whose story Parsons shared during her presentation. A long table displayed a framed Titanic movie poster, books and newspaper clippings about the ship, photos of passengers in antique frames and items reminiscent of 1912, the year Titanic sank.

After the presentation, guest names were randomly pulled for Titanic-themed prizes. A professional event planner would have marveled at Parsons' creativity and attention to details.



Tea party guests dress the part.

A retired Forest City Enterprises market analyst, Parsons uses her research skills to prepare for her parties. For the Titanic Tea Party, she referenced the book, *Ohio Tales of the Titanic*. She said her low boredom threshold motivates her to stay active and volunteer at the Activities Center.

She said it is important after retirement for seniors to socialize and keep their minds sharp, two factors she considers when hosting her tea parties.

Her next tea party is scheduled for 12:30 p.m., Monday, July 17 and will have an *Alice in Wonderland* theme. "It will be a fun one. We will have games and prizes." On Friday the 13th in October, she will host a Sherlock Holmes Murder Mystery Tea Party. The cost per person for all the tea parties \$5. Guests must register in advance at the Activities Center front desk.



Resident celebrates 100th birthday

In late March, Mayor Tim DeGeeter visited Jennie Ference on her 100th birthday when she joined family and friends for lunch at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center. He wished her a happy birthday and presented her with a certificate in recognition of her centenarian milestone.

Program helps inspire future leaders

Anthony Zielinski Leadership for Tomorrow program welcomed fourth graders from nine schools at Parma City Hall and the Justice Center between mid-November 2022 to late March 2023. Funded by Cox Communications, students got a glimpse into how city government and courts operate.



The live civics lesson was named after the late Treasurer Anthony Zielinski, who developed the program with Mayor Tim DeGeeter and Treasurer Tom Mastroianni in 2005. "The program helps connect the real world to what students are hearing in the classroom," DeGeeter explained.

During each visit, students learn about the different branches of government from elected officials and directors while seated in Council Chambers. After a City Hall tour and pizza lunch, they travel to the Justice Center where they hear a judge's presentation in a courtroom about the justice system and roles of the bailiff, lawyer and judge.

We Are Parma Proud will again sponsor fireworks display at Rib 'N' Rock

Lite the Nite Pyrotechnics fireworks display at Rib 'N' Rock was such a popular attraction last year, We Are Parma Proud is bringing it back.

"With the hope of providing an even better show, we expanded donation opportunities beyond our corporate sponsors and asked the public for online donations this spring through our Facebook page. We appreciated all the donations," said Kathy Mabin of We Are Parma Proud.

The display is scheduled for dusk, June 8, the first night of the four-day rib cook-off and music festival at Cuyahoga Community College's Western Campus, 11000 West Pleasant Valley Road.

"For years, residents have asked for the return of a professional fireworks display. This is the second consecutive year We Are Parma Proud has worked with the city to help make this happen," said Mayor

Tim DeGeeter. "The show is a fun way to start Rib 'N' Rock, which is Parma Area Chamber of Commerce's biggest event and traditional summer kickoff."

For fireworks displays, permits and City Council approval was required. Also, Parma Fire Department works closely with the organization requesting the display.

"We visit the site and determine the area that needs to be coned off. We also file with the State of Ohio Fire Marshal's Office to make sure the vendor is on the state's list of approved vendors," Parma Fire Chief Mike Lasky said. "On the day of the display, we have an inspector on site when the fireworks arrive in the shooting area. The inspector spends all day making sure shells are anchored appropriately, the safety zone is the correct size for the display and the area is free of bystanders before, during and after the show. Additionally, two fire chiefs and five

firefighters are on site during the display, in case of an emergency."

For those wondering if they can host their own fireworks displays this summer, due to a city ordinance, they cannot. "Our neighborhoods in Parma are too dense for personal fireworks. It is a safety issue," Safety Director Bob Coury said.

"Vendors are trained, certified and approved by the state for professional displays. In addition, we have firefighters on site if something unexpected happens," Lasky said, noting the differences between a professional display and a resident setting off fireworks in a neighborhood.

Residents who want to report fireworks being set off in their neighborhoods should call the non-emergency number, 440-885-1234, to report a violation of the ordinance. For a fireworks explosion injury, however, they should call 911.

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Upcoming Events

June

- June 3, Recreation Department Pools Open, noon – 8:30 p.m.
- June 6, Ward 4 Safety Meeting, 6 – 7:30 p.m.
- June 8, We Are Parma Proud Fireworks, Rib 'N' Rock, Tri-C West
- June 8, 9, 10 & 11, Rib 'N' Rock, Tri-C West
- June 11, Tony Midea & The Avanti Band, Donna Smallwood Activities Center, 6:30 p.m. (Polka, Big Band, Mix)
- June 15, Ward 9 Safety Meeting, 6 – 8 p.m.
- June 15, 16 & 17, Polish Village Garage Sale, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- June 18, Mike Jacobs & The Highlighters, Donna Smallwood Activities Center, 6:30 p.m. (Big Band)
- June 23, Parma Community Night, Progressive Field, 7:10 p.m.
- June 25, Brian Dorr, Donna Smallwood Activities Center, 6:30 p.m. (Selections from *Great American Song Book*)
- June 27, Ward 5 Picnic, 6 – 8 p.m.

July

- July 1, Run-Walk for Pierogies, Tri-C West, 7:30 a.m.
- July 2, Northcoast Mix, Donna Smallwood Activities Center 6:30 p.m. (Diverse Musical Styles)
- July 4, Independence Day Parade, Ridge Road, 10 a.m.
- July 9, Wayne Tomsic, Donna Smallwood Activities Center, 6:30 p.m. (Variety Music)
- July 14, Donna Smallwood Activities Center's AARP Driving Safety Course, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

July 19, Ward 8 Safety Meeting, 6 – 8 p.m.

July 21, Recreation Department Fall Softball Team Registration Opens

August

- Aug. 1, Ward 3 Safety Meeting, 6 – 8 p.m.
- Aug. 3, Ward 6 Safety Meeting, 6 – 8 p.m.
- Aug. 5, We Are Parma Proud Picnic, James Day Park, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Aug. 11, 12 & 13, Citywide Garage Sale, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Aug. 12, Parma Safety Fair, Justice Center, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Aug. 12, Recreation Department Pools Close
- Aug. 14, Recreation Department Volleyball Registration Opens
- Aug. 16, Ward 1 Safety Meeting, 6 – 8 p.m.
- Aug. 25, Donna Smallwood Activities Center's Picnic in the Park, James Day Park, noon
- Aug. 26, Ukrainian Village Independence Day Parade, 11 a.m.

September

- Sept. 6, Ward 2 Safety Meeting, 6 – 8 p.m.
- Sept. 30, Parma Fall Food Drive & Shred Event, Parma Armory, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

October

- Oct. 1, Quarry District Picnic, Keystone Pavilion, West Creek Reservation, 1 – 4 p.m.
- Oct. 4, Ward 7 Safety Meeting, 6 – 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 5, Katz Consultants' Landlord/Tenant Training Seminar, 6 – 8 p.m., Parma Council Chambers
- Oct. 21, Treat & Greet, Polish Village, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

For the latest updates, follow us on Facebook @CityofParma.