



MAYOR MICHAEL P. BYRNE'S CITYVIEW

CITY OF PARMA HEIGHTS

Summer, 2020

WE ARE HERE WORKING FOR YOU

Dear Residents,

As we navigate the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Parma Heights is continuing to work as efficiently as possible for you. Every step of the way, we have made modifications: adjusting our hours of operation, instituting pay cuts, and in some instances laying-off or furloughing employees all without ever losing sight of the important issues of concern to you, our residents. We work for you and I am proud of the people who work for our city and do their very best to serve you.

FLOODING

Numerous residents have contacted my office and inquired about our plans to solve the flooding problem many have experienced. Over the past few years, working with you our residents, and sewer engineering experts along with community partners, a decision was made to build a retention basin to address the flooding problem primarily in the area south of Pearl Road and west of York Road.

I appreciate your patience during this long and complicated process. As we leave the planning phase and move towards implementation, I want to take this opportunity to share how my administration and we, as a community, tackled this problem together.

Along with other communities across NE Ohio, in 2017, we experienced a "50-year flood" (as defined by weather experts), and it was determined that no sewer system anywhere could handle that volume of water in that short amount of time. When substantial flooding from a "100-year storm" followed in 2018, our City Engineer (Neff & Associates) immediately contacted the Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works and AECOM (a multinational design, consulting and construction firm) to conduct a study to better understand our flooding problem, what causes it, and how to address it.

EVALUATION-RECOMMENDATION

The first Storm Sewer Evaluation was a hydraulic analysis that moni-

tored the flow of water in storm sewers in a targeted area west of Pearl Road between York Road and West 130th Street. In May, 2018, City Council approved an expanded and even more comprehensive evaluation of storm sewers citywide. In Phase II, fourteen (14) flow meters, two (2) rain gauges, and one (1) stream gauge were deployed and the result evaluated by experts.

These evaluations were used to propose and recommend alternatives for improvement. One recommended action that was ultimately chosen was to construct a storm water retention basin in Nathan Hale Park.

As a first step to implement the plan, the city applied for a grant from the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) to fund the construction of that basin. Our first application was not successful but our second application resulted in an award of a \$1 million Community Infrastructure Grant.

We have recently filed and are awaiting approval of a comprehensive application required by the National Park Service to begin construction of a retention basin at Nathan Hale Park.

You can view the application and all the exhibits on our website home page: www.parmaheightsoh.gov.

COMMUNITY INPUT

With funding in place, public meetings were held with residents on May 7 and May 15, 2019 to make an initial presentation of the basin project. On July 25, 2019, a stakeholder meeting was held with the NEORS and officials from the neighboring City of Parma and Tri-C to get their input and discuss joint plans to alleviate flooding problems in the area. The City of Parma, in conjunction with the NEORS, is currently implementing flooding remediation plans and Tri-C is completing a parking lot improvement project as well as a culvert cleaning and restoration.

Based upon comments of those who attended those meetings, a revised plan for the basin was presented at a public meeting on October 7, 2019. The proposed revised plan includes, but is not limited to: deep and shallow water areas, walking path, pedestrian bridge, benches, educational signage, spray fountain, gazebo, grading and landscaping with appropriate trees/shrubs/ornamental grass, a new building with a pavilion and bathrooms, soccer field improvements, and a resurfaced parking lot.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CONCERNS

The plan to build the basin could not move forward immediately because Nathan Hale Park was deeded to the city in 1971 by the federal government for recreational purposes per a Program of Utilization submitted by the city at that time.

The city engaged the services of several consultants and received cooperation from community partners to address the concerns of the National Park Service that the property be maintained for the public purposes for which it was conveyed to the city while at the same time emphasizing the need to address local flooding issues.

The city retained the services of CT Consultants who reported that conditions have changed significantly since 1970 when Parma Heights originally submitted the Program of Utilization Application for the park land. For example, our population never reached the estimated 35,000; baseball program participation declined from 1,700 (1970) to 336 (2019); and there is an increased need for a range of recreational amenities for our residents.

REQUEST TO AMEND

Our request to amend the original Program of Utilization continues to preserve open space and does not negatively impact the existing two (2) parking lots and six (6) soccer fields. Our proposal adds new amenities: a walking path, educational panels, picnic pavilion, gazebo, etc., that are consistent with the city's original recreation goals. The report states that construction of the proposed stormwater basin at the expense of one baseball field and two soccer fields is a prudent investment in the city's future.

We have recently filed and are awaiting approval of a comprehensive application required by the National Park Service to begin construction of a retention basin at Nathan Hale Park.

You can view my cover letter, the application, and all the exhibits on our website home page: www.parmaheightsoh.gov.

The first step to solving a problem is to understand it. With this summary, I hope you can see the city has done its homework and is addressing the flooding problem with well-thought-out plans.

WHERE WE ARE TODAY

As we await approval of our application, it is important to note that Nathan Hale Park will still have a playground and soccer fields. The retention basin project was designed and re-designed to not only assist with flooding issues but to also create a "multi-use amenity," that better meets the recreational needs of our community.

Finally, some residents have asked what will happen to the excavated soil when basin construction begins. There are a number of potential end users for the excavated soil from the basin site and the Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works has committed

funding dedicated to the removal and transportation of excavated soil to an off-site location.

THANK YOU

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our residents, and our community partners (NEORSD, Cuyahoga County, Mayor Tim DeGeeter and the City of Parma, Tri-C, and Congressman Anthony Gonzalez), along with the numerous experts who have worked with us to understand and devise a plan of action to alleviate the flooding problem in our community. Again, I thank all of you, especially those who have been impacted by flooding.

HELP US WIN A TREE

As you may know, we have been challenged as a community to a census completion contest by the City of Brooklyn and the finish line is in sight! The first city to reach a 75% completion rate will win a tree from the other city. We have a slight lead and can win if only a handful more fill out the census. If you have not yet completed the census - it's easy and it only takes a few minutes to complete. Plus, all information is confidential. Simply go to www.2020census.gov or call 1.844.330.2020.

PEARL ROAD UPDATE

The Pearl Road resurfacing project is making its way from Strongsville, through Middleburg Heights to Parma Heights. We anticipate the work in our city to begin in August. The first phase in Parma Heights will be from West 130th Street to Stumph/York Road. The second phase from Stumph/York to Snow Road will be completed in 2021. This project will include new catch basins and crosswalks. Your patience during construction is very much appreciated.

As always, we are here working for you. We do our best to operate as efficiently as we can to provide you with the services you expect your tax dollars to provide. During this pandemic and times of change, we are following the wisdom of President Theodore Roosevelt who advised "Do what you can with what you have where you are."

Call us if you need us 440.884.9600.

Very truly yours,



Michael P. Byrne, Mayor

RECREATION DEPT.

Joe Tal, Director ♦ recreation@parmaheightsoh.gov
440.884.9606

This has been a difficult summer for those of us who miss the summer recreation programs and activities we cancelled due to the pandemic. August is traditionally our busiest month of community activity and this year we are missing the 5th annual Kids in the Commons, 2nd annual Big Creek Handmade Fest, Movies in the Commons, a Cassidy Theatre production, and the Summer Concert Series.

You can find a list of free activities to do at home on the Recreation Department page of our website which includes: soccer skills, yoga, workout videos, exercise classes on demand, and more! If you find any activities we can add, please share them with us!

Since so many residents walk through our neighborhoods, we are encouraging you to “Chalk Your Walk” with inspirational messages and pictures. Send us photos and we will post them on our city Facebook page.

All parks remain open for our residents to enjoy. However, be advised the playground equipment is not sanitized.

"Be creative and have fun in new ways."

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Katie Iaconis, Director ♦ iaconis@parmaheightsoh.gov

The City of Parma Heights, like all cities, has been negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. We anticipated numerous cash flow issues with the income tax filing extension to July 15.

The reduced work schedule of Cleveland Collection Agency (CCA) employees has also led to greater challenges than had been anticipated. As of mid-June, we only received collections through March and have realized a loss of nearly \$1.8 million in revenue compared to previous years. CCA has returned to full staff strength and are catching up on collections.

Since mid-March, the city has implemented several cost saving measures. City Hall staff have had their hours reduced from 35 to 30 hours a week, the service department union (Local 860) agreed to a 32 hour-per-week work schedule, Mayor Byrne and Department Directors have all taken a ten percent cut in pay, and there are five employees from several departments on temporary furlough.

We have received \$629,528 in funding from the federal CARES ACT and other grants for the PHFD. The City of Parma Heights continues to operate as efficiently as possible, doing what we can with what we have.

ANIMAL CONTROL

216.635.4291 ♦ mbraude@brooklynohio.gov

Did you know that Parma Heights has an ordinance outlining the acceptable forms of feeding wildlife?

Ordinance “618.13 - Feeding Animals and Wildlife” has some important guideline language to note :

1. No person shall feed any feral cat within the city.
2. No person shall feed any wild animals in containers that are not elevated at least 48 inches from the ground.
3. Such feeding will be allowed so long as it does not create a nuisance or interfere with another's property.

Feel free to contact our Animal Control Officer, Miranda Braude, with any questions or concerns.

SENIOR CENTER

9275 N. Church Drive ♦ 440.888.4416

During COVID-19, our most at-risk population continues to be served, even though the Senior Center has been closed since March 13.

Led by Trish James and her sidekick Mike, the Senior Center (along with kitchen assistants and drivers), delivered 16,292 meals since April. In addition, they have delivered hundreds of fresh produce and dairy boxes to our seniors.

As long as food supplies are available, they anticipate being able to continue serving meals for an indefinite time. If you are a senior citizen, get in touch with our Senior Center to learn about new online activities and events to keep you healthy and connected.

We have received numerous positive comments from seniors who have been uplifted by the meals, messages, and packages of food they have received. During this pandemic, our Senior Center has exceeded service expectations and their entire staff deserves to be commended. #thisisparmaheights

We look forward to the day when we can re-open our Senior Center and see everyone's smiling face again!



SERVICE & BUILDING DEPARTMENT

440.884.9607

service@parmaheightsoh.gov ♦ building@parmaheightsoh.gov

SPECIAL WASTE COLLECTION EVENTS

The following events are scheduled but if they need to be cancelled, it will be posted on the city website on the Service Department page.

Events are held at the Service Garage in the Greenbrier Commons between 9 a.m. - Noon on the following dates:

Recycle Your Computer

Saturday, August 22

Scrap Tire Collection

Saturday, September 12

Community Shred

Saturday, October 24

Household Hazardous Waste

Saturday, November 14

These are also posted on the Service Department page of our website: www.parmaheightsoh.gov

RECYCLING

Recycling is as important as ever but it only works by participating, reducing use, reducing contamination, and recycling right. The Solid Waste District is offering "Recycle Right" online and group presentations. For more information or questions, visit their website: https://cuyahogarecycles.org/recycling_presentations.

YARD WASTE

Yard Waste is collected on Wednesdays through November 25. 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" or "YW". Small branches must be cut in lengths not exceeding 4 ft. in length, tied with rope or twine in bundles not exceeding 40 lbs., and placed next to yard waste bags or cans.

Plastic bags, dirt, stone or branches larger than 6 inches in diameter will not be collected with yard waste. There is no limit to the number of yard waste bags or containers you may place out each week. Please note that drivers will not be sent back to a residence for yard waste that was not placed at the curb properly.

BULK ITEM COLLECTION

Bulk item collection takes place the third **full** week of each month. Upcoming dates are: August 19 and September 23. A calendar schedule was mailed to your home and is posted on our Service Department webpage.

SIMPLE RECYCLING

The city partners with Simple Recycling, a free curbside service that allows residents to recycle clothing and other textiles, especially those you would not consider donating anywhere else. Simple Recycling also accepts small appliances, furniture, jewelry, toys, and other housewares. Simple Recycling bags are available by calling 1.866.835.5068 or may be picked up at City Hall. Just put the bags out at your curb on Wednesdays.

REGISTERED CONTRACTORS

If you are a contractor looking to work in the City of Parma Heights, please contact our office to register or visit the Building Department page on our website: www.parmaheightsoh.gov

If you are a resident looking for a list of registered contractors for home repairs, yard work or snowplowing, please just give us a call at 440.884.9607 and we will gladly provide the list to you.

HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The Building Department can answer any questions you have regarding necessary permits, whether you have a contractor do the work or tackle the project yourself. Please obtain the necessary permit before you start your project and call us to verify its issuance if a contractor agrees to obtain to permit for you.

Building permits ensure the work is in accordance with the applicable building code. Certified inspectors will make inspections at no extra cost and at the homeowner's convenience as the work progresses to verify the work is being done safely and correctly.

KEEP OUR SEWERS CLEAN! WIPES CLOG PIPES

The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District is reminding customers that although packaging may say "flushable," wipes should never be flushed down the toilet. They might go down the drain, but they do not break up like regular toilet paper. Wipes bind with fats, oils, and grease and can wreak havoc on local sewers and harm your home's plumbing. In addition, paper towels, facial tissues, and disinfecting wipes should be disposed of in a garbage can to save your drains.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Non-Emergency 440.884.1234

The Parma Heights Police Department is focused on keeping our city safe and is committed to working with the community to proactively solve problems and address developing issues related to COVID-19. We understand our community has concerns. Please know that your health, safety and well being are our priority.

In conjunction with orders from the State of Ohio, we have implemented procedures to keep you safe while maintaining the safety of our police officers and employees to limit possible exposure. Our front lobby access continues to remain open to the public with a phone located outside the lobby door to contact our staff 24/7.

We continue to have officers contact residents by phone for non-emergency calls. Officers have received training on responding to calls for service where an increased risk of potential exposure may be present. Officers may request to speak with you outside your home. These temporary changes are necessary to maintain safety and security in Parma Heights. Our goal is to maintain the health of our police officers who keep our community safe.

We want residents to be aware that our police officers, in accordance with the CDC, have been directed to maintain acceptable distancing as well as to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

We encourage residents to comply with the “wear a mask” mandate and appreciate your cooperation and understanding during this time. We appreciate the calls of support and are grateful for the donation of supplies, equipment, and food from the public and local businesses.

CONGRATULATIONS

I am proud to announce that the Parma Heights Police Department was recently named the August 2020 “Agency of the Month” by the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police Law Enforcement Foundation for our outstanding community policing efforts. Our P.A.C.T. (Police and Citizens Together) Unit was formed in 2017 with the support of Mayor Byrne, and these officers have undoubtedly made a positive impact in our community. Unit members not only speak with schools and community groups but they also build relationships with a successful Youth Group, provide senior programming, and host open forum Town Hall Meetings.

On behalf of the PHPD, thank you in advance for your continued support. We are all in this together doing our part to help minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus and we will come out of this a stronger community.

~Chief Steve Scharschmidt



FIRE DEPARTMENT

Non-Emergency 440.885.1717

During this COVID-19 pandemic, the Parma Heights Fire Department has continued to serve our community without interruption. We have been working diligently to seek all federal, state and county grant funding possibilities to assist the city during these difficult economic times.

We have received \$14,500 through the federal CARES ACT for cost recovery of PPE and equipment purchases due to COVID-19. Additionally, a FEMA Public Assistance grant has been submitted to the Ohio Emergency Management Agency.

We are exploring the possibility of participating in a regional application with other fire departments to apply for funding to purchase PPE.

To keep both our residents and our staff safe, we have purchased an electric air sprayer unit to sanitize fire department apparatus, vehicles, station facilities, and other city facilities and vehicles.

CONGRATULATIONS

Lt. Steve Clark, FF/M (Firefighter/Medic) Greg Skapes, FF/M Matthew Sparling and FF/M Michael Nickles for being recognized by University Hospital. On June 2, 2020, they successfully resuscitated an unconscious male in full cardiac arrest.

Additionally, The UH Parma Hospital Stroke Team has recognized FF/M Patrick Mason and FF/M Daniel Kost on their outstanding prehospital recognition and rapid treatment of a 64 year-old-male suffering from a stroke. Due to their immediate recognition, treatment, and transport the individual received medication and was discharged with marked improvement. #thisisparmaheights



NEED HELP with Unemployment?
The Bureau of Motor Vehicles?
Other state agencies?

Our state legislators are working for us!

Contact **State Rep Bride Rose Sweeney**
614.466.3350

Rep14@ohiohouse.gov

or

Contact **State Senator Nickie Antonio**
614.466.3350

antonio@ohiosenate.gov

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



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MAYOR MICHAEL P. BYRNE'S CITYVIEW
CITY OF PARMA HEIGHTS



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CITY OF
PARMA HEIGHTS,
OHIO

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Joe Sebes, Director ♦ ced@parmaheightsoh.gov

Our **Business Resource Guide** and other links to assistance available to businesses and employees during this COVID-19 pandemic can be found on the city website: www.parmaheightsoh.gov on the Economic Development page.

If you are a business that would like to receive updated information from us electronically, please email: ced@parmaheightsoh.gov.

Please help us welcome the following businesses which have opened or have new owners in Parma Heights:

- Wagon Wheel Pub, 8761 Snow Road
- Designs WWW, 6325 York Road
- Kisswani Inc., 6325 York Road
- Parma Vet Center, 6325 York Road
- Swiss Duck Designs & Printing, 6265 Pearl Road



City Council

- Council President Marie Gallo, At-Large
- Council Pro-Tem Anthony Stavole, At-Large
- Kathy Walsh, At-Large
- Renee Everett, Ward 1
- Annette Danczak, Ward 2
- JoAnn Koch, Ward 3
- Rick Haase, Ward 4

440.884.9601