

CITY OF Beachwood Council Update

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CITY RECEIVES EXCELLENT FINANCIAL AUDIT

A recent state audit of the City's finances found no areas of concern and gave the City an "unmodified" audit opinion – which is financial lingo for the best opinion a City can receive. Here's a Q&A with Beachwood Finance Director Larry Heiser about the state of our finances:

Q. WHAT IS THE STATE OF THE CITY'S FINANCES?

Beachwood's finances are in excellent condition. The City is in an enviable position with its substantial cash balance and excellent bond ratings. We regularly receive the best bond ratings a municipality can earn – which means lower costs for the city and its taxpayers, because we do have to borrow money for larger capital projects.

We ended last year with a balance in the General Fund – which is used to pay for municipal programs and services -- of \$29.1 million at the end of 2016, an increase of nearly \$3 million over the prior year.



It's a tribute to the City that it is able to give a 100 percent income tax credit to its residents – one of only a handful of communities in Cuyahoga County to do so – which allows residents working in locations outside of Beachwood to receive 100 percent credit for all income taxes paid to other taxing districts. That income tax credit, coupled with the City's low property tax rates, are factors that make Beachwood a desirable community.

Q. WHAT IS THE OUTLOOK IN UPCOMING YEARS?

Beachwood is well-positioned for the future. We will continue to budget conservatively and have enough money to keep providing the same level of services our citizens are accustomed to. We are very prudent about using the reserves, but we believe it is in the best interests of our residents and our businesses to sometimes use these funds to pay for capital improvements and thus save borrowing costs.

By state law, a public entity is not allowed to run a budget deficit and any city would be cited if appropriations exceeded revenue. And we not only adhere to state law, but to have a cash balance (our "savings account" so to speak) of more than \$20 million is virtually unheard of in Northeast Ohio. These funds are sometimes used for minor capital projects – such as street

continued on next page

City Contact Information

CITY OF BEACHWOOD
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216.464.1070
www.beachwoodohio.com



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EMERGENCY
Dial 9-1-1

CLERK OF COUNCIL
216.595.5493

WHEN YOU'RE IN *Beachwood*, YOU HAVE ARRIVED!

improvements. By paying for such projects in this manner, it saves the City and its taxpayers from paying the fees and costs associated with borrowing money for these projects. And even so, our ample cash reserves are not being drained – the General Fund balance is roughly at the same level today as they were last year. For all of these reasons, Beachwood has a healthy financial outlook and fund balance. There is no consideration being given to tax increases or service cuts of any kind.

Q. DO OTHER FISCAL PROFESSIONALS SHARE YOUR UPBEAT OVERVIEW OF THE CITY'S FINANCES?

Yes. New York bond-rating agencies routinely give Beachwood the best bond ratings a municipality can earn. This is a source of pride in the City, because it's an independent validation of our prudent fiscal management. By having the highest bond ratings, it means we are deemed an exceptionally safe investment – which also means that the interest we pay to retire these notes and bonds are lower because the risk to the buyer/investor is lower.

To view the audit go to: <http://ohioauditor.gov/auditsearch/search.aspx> and search "Beachwood".

SAFE INTERNET PURCHASE EXCHANGE LOCATION

Beachwood has established a Safe Transaction Zone for conducting legal online purchases. A sign designates the area located in the Beachwood Police parking lot (2700 Richmond Rd). This area is under constant video surveillance.



"People are doing more and more shopping online. This service allows for a safe place to make an exchange," stated Mayor Merle S. Gorden. "Even at a police department things can happen. Using this area is safer than a random location or having the buyer go to your residence," said Police Chief Gary Haba. Questions? Call 216.464.1234.

PERSONAL SHRED DAY

ALONG WITH

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY RESTORE DROP-OFF

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

9 A.M. – NOON

BEACHWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER
PARKING LOT

Beachwood residents can have up to 12 blue grocery bags or 6 banker boxes shredded on site for free. Proof of residency required. Rain or shine.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Donate to Habitat for Humanity with usable household items and construction/rehab materials. Accepted items include furniture, appliances (stoves, dishwashers, washer/dryers), sinks, toilets, vanities, counter tops, tile, tools of all kinds, landscape materials, doors, electrical fixtures, plumbing materials, wood (6 – 8 ft.), bricks/blocks, tables/chairs, kitchen cabinets, etc. Items must be complete, clean and usable. A tax receipt is available. Pick-up arrangements can be made for larger items by calling 216.429-3631.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

CITY COUNCIL

Usually meets the first and third Mondays of each month at 7:00 p.m. Upcoming meetings: Tuesday, September 5, Monday, September 18 & Monday, October 2. Questions? 216.595.5462.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Usually meets the last Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Upcoming meeting: Thursday, October 26. Questions? Call 216.292.1914.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD

Meets at 5:30 p.m. Upcoming meetings: Tuesday, September 5, Monday, September 18 & Monday, October 2. Questions? 216.292.1914.

Departments

AUDITOR
216.595.5492

BUILDING DEPARTMENT
216.292.1914

COMMUNITY SERVICES
216.292.1970

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
216.292.1915

FINANCE DEPARTMENT
216.292.1913

FIRE DEPARTMENT
216.292.1965

LAW DEPARTMENT
216.595.5462

MAYOR'S OFFICE
216.292.1901

POLICE DEPARTMENT
216.464.1234

SERVICE DEPARTMENT
216.292.1922

INTERNATIONAL REACCREDITATION STATUS AWARD

The Beachwood Department of Fire-Rescue has received Accredited Agency status for the third time with the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI). It is one of only 239 agencies internationally to achieve this status with the CFAI and Center of Public Safety Excellence (CPSE); the only one in Northeast Ohio and one of only nine in Ohio.

CFAI is dedicated to assisting fire- and emergency-services agencies throughout the world in achieving excellence through self assessment and accreditation in order to provide continuous quality improvement and the enhancement of service delivery to their communities.

The Beachwood Department of Fire-Rescue was first accredited in 2007 and was re-accredited in 2012. The department's performance is continually evaluated through annual strategic planning.

The accreditation process includes a self-assessment, community risk assessment and standard of cover process. Upon completion, a four-member peer review team verified and validated that requirements were met and recommended the Beachwood Department of Fire-Rescue for accreditation. The department then presented to the CPSE 11-member board of commissioners in North Carolina to defend the recommendation.

To maintain the accreditation, the department must submit annual compliance reports indicating the progress made on the peer-team recommendations and compliance with all required criteria. The department will repeat this entire process in 2022.



Presenters included: (L to R) Firefighter Dave Peterson, Captain Phil Corpora, Lieutenant Jimmy Leffler, Commission Chairman Steven Westermann, Accreditation Manager Lieutenant Michael Bell, Fire Prevention Officer Shaun Lutz



**Commission on
Fire Accreditation
International**

18th Annual

HONKIN HAULIN

HANDS-ON TRUCKS

FREE

CITY OF
Beachwood

Sunday, Sept. 17
12:00 Noon - 3:00 p.m.
Beachwood Municipal
Service Center
23355 Mercantile Road

WWW.BEACHWOODOHIO.COM

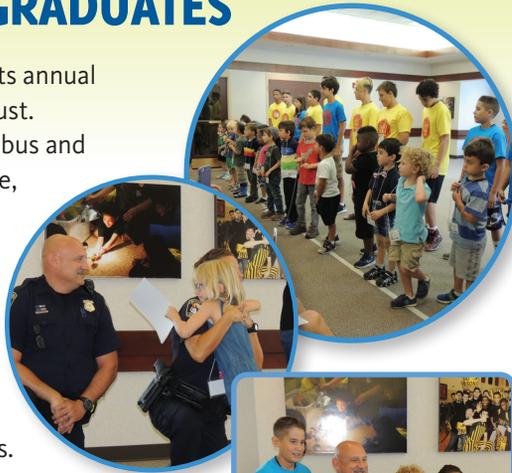
Get into the driver's seat of over 30 trucks!

Council Update

SAFETY TOWN GRADUATES

Beachwood Safety Town held its annual graduation ceremonies in August. Children learned about traffic, bus and bicycle safety, how to recognize, understand and enlist help from our City's safety forces, playground safety and how to cross the street.

Patrol Officers Jamey Appell and Jackie Schuld served as this year's Safety Town Officers.



BEACHWOOD
SAFETY
TOWN



OF SPECIAL NOTE

Drivers seeing a stopped school bus with the stop arm out and lights flashing are to stop at least 10 feet from the front or rear of the bus and not move until signaled to do so by the bus driver. A driver does not need to stop for a school bus approaching from the opposite direction when traveling on a highway with four or more traffic lanes.



RESIDENT HAZARDOUS WASTE ROUND-UP

Dispose of unwanted oil-based paint, pesticides and other household hazardous waste (no materials from a commercial source).

SEPTEMBER 11 – 16, 2017

7:30 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.

BEACHWOOD SERVICE DEPARTMENT
23355 MERCANTILE ROAD

MATERIALS ACCEPTED

- Oil or solvent-based paint, sealers, primers, or coatings (aerosols or liquids)
- Varnishes, polyurethanes, shellacs
- Paint thinner, mineral spirits, turpentine
- Pesticides, herbicides, fungicides
- Caustic household cleaners
- Automotive fluids, motor oil, car batteries
- Adhesives, roof tar, driveway sealer
- Kerosene, gasoline, lighter fluid
- Mercury, fluorescent bulbs

MATERIALS NOT ACCEPTED

- Latex paint
- Explosives, gun powder, ammunition, flares
- Medical waste, pharmaceuticals, sharps
- Radioactive waste (i.e. smoke detectors)

QUESTIONS - CALL 216.292.1922

ART EXHIBITS

Beachwood Community Center

MON – FRI • 9 A.M. – 4 P.M.

SAT • 10 A.M. – 3 P.M., SUN • 10 A.M. – 1 P.M.



OUR FINE ARTS

NOW – SEPTEMBER 16

Bobbi Koplow -
expressionistic painter
Linda Merchant -
wildlife and
contemporary realism
Betty Skufca -
vibrant oil paintings

FREE

IT'S IN THE DETAILS

SEPTEMBER 20 – OCTOBER 13

Featuring Val Lesiak – whimsical
illustrations
April Couch - beautiful and intricate
Zentangle-inspired art
Deborah Shapiro – magazine paper
collage artist

Artists' Reception:

Sunday, Sept. 24 from 1 – 2:30 p.m.