

# CITY OF *Beachwood* Insider

March 2022

## Contact Info

**BEACHWOOD CITY HALL**  
25325 Fairmount Blvd.  
Beachwood, OH 44122  
216.464.1070  
www.BeachwoodOhio.com

**TV PROGRAMMING**  
Spectrum - Ch. 1020  
AT&T U-Verse - Ch. 99

**EMERGENCY** Dial 9-1-1 or  
216.464-1234

## Departments

**AUDITOR**  
216.595.3712

**BUILDING & COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT**  
216.292.1914

**CLERK OF COUNCIL**  
216.595.5493

**COMMUNITY SERVICES**  
216.292.1970

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**  
216.292.1915

**FINANCE**  
216.292.1913

**FIRE & RESCUE**  
216.292.1965

**LAW**  
216.595.5462

**MAYOR'S OFFICE**  
216.292.1901

**POLICE**  
216.464.1234

**PUBLIC WORKS**  
216.292.1922

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Beachwood residents and business community members,

After serving as your mayor for nearly two months, **I am happy to report that the transition to a new administration is going very smoothly.** With everyone's help here at City Hall, including city department directors, City Hall staff and City Council members, **I believe we have pulled together and are building a strong team** that is truly interested in Beachwood's progress and success.

### STAFF

As you can see on these pages, we recently **added some new people to our staffing, and I can assure you that they all are fully committed to the City of Beachwood.** As part of an administrative office reorganization, I'm pleased to report that **Brittany Rutkowski** will serve in the new position of executive assistant, and she will work along with **Tina Turick**, who manages city operations. Also, **June Scharf** will serve in the new position of public relations consultant. Further details about each are in this section.

We also devoted great time and energy to selecting **our newest City Council member, Danielle Shoykhet** (details on next page). She is filling the vacant seat created when I was elected mayor. Council members interviewed a number of candidates and deliberated at length over this decision. There were many well-qualified residents, and we hope those who pursued this opportunity will continue to stay involved with the city.

I'm in daily contact with our **city directors who work hard every day to keep this city running efficiently.** We cover issues they face and accomplishments they've achieved. You too can learn more about their work when they share information at our City Council meetings. We invite you to attend our Council meetings in person, tune in live or watch recordings at your convenience. Live and recorded streaming is available on the city's website.



### CITY HALL POLICIES

I have reviewed, updated and enforced several city policies. Generally, administrative employees report to the office between 8 am – 4:30 pm. **I believe it's essential for our administrative employees to work normal business hours and to be present with a polished image. It's important** for us to be available and bring back the customer service that you have come to expect and that you deserve.

### INFRASTRUCTURE

We plan to **replace our 30-plus-year-old traffic signals with decorative poles and stanchions.** As part of this project, we will relocate the traffic signal poles so they are out of the crosswalk ramps and upgrade them to meet current standards. We anticipate starting this project in 2024.

A real step forward in Beachwood exists with the financial support we received in the form of a **grant to acquire electric vehicle charging stations.** We are in the process of obtaining them, and we already identified convenient public areas in which we will locate them. We anticipate that one station will be installed in the area adjacent to the end of the BFAC parking lot near the tennis courts, and the other in an area next to the Barkwood parking lot.

We are continuing our **sewer improvement program** to provide relief to residents from flooding.



**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK**  
Facebook.com/BeachwoodOH  
Facebook.com/BeachwoodPolice



**FOLLOW US ON TWITTER**  
Twitter.com/BeachwoodPolice  
**REGISTER FOR BEACHWOOD eLIST**  
elist@beachwoodohio.com

**EMAIL YOUR COUNCIL MEMBER**  
firstname.lastname@beachwoodohio.com  
Ex: barbara.janovitz@beachwoodohio.com

**MAYOR  
JUSTIN BERNS**



216.292.1901  
MayorBerns@beachwoodohio.com

**ALEC ISAACSON**



**COUNCIL PRESIDENT**  
216.291.2797

**ERIC SYNENBERG**



**COUNCIL V.P.**  
216.401.0074

**MIKE BURKONS**



216.832.6771



### COLLABORATION

**We are working with various nonprofit organizations and are pursuing some health initiatives for our residents.**

Potential ideas include nutrition and medical messaging, new exercise equipment in our parks, and programming.

**The Beachwood Chamber of Commerce** has met with us to determine ways we can work together to ensure that our existing businesses and new arrivals thrive. We want to know that they have the tools they need to succeed. We also want to expand our economic development outreach.

**Beachwood Place's mall security** is regularly in touch with our safety forces and we are very pleased with Chief Kate Dolan's team's recent drug, cash and weapon seizure.

### COMMUNICATIONS

We will be **reenergizing the content on these pages inside the Buzz** with a fresh look and expanded coverage. **We also will be communicating with you in new ways, such as reaching you through video content** when appropriate, which will be disseminated through social media and the city's website. You can continue to rely on our **digital communications** through our website, Facebook and Twitter for current city information as well.

My door is always open, literally and figuratively, to hear your concerns, but also to learn what is making you happy about living here in Beachwood. I look forward to exchanging news and other information with you again soon!

Mayor Justin Berns

## DANIELLE SHOYKHET APPOINTED TO CITY COUNCIL

Beachwood City Council unanimously appointed Danielle Shoykhet on Feb. 7 to fill the vacancy created when Justin Berns was elected Mayor in the Nov. 2 election. She will serve until Dec. 31, 2023. Danielle was one of 12 people interviewed by City Council in executive session, Feb. 1 and 2.



She says she is very happy to assume this new post. "I'm interested in working with my fellow City Council members, and I'm especially proud to be an additional representative of the second largest demographic in Beachwood, the millennials, and to offer a female perspective."

Danielle is a senior manager in global merchant services at American Express. She previously worked as a business development officer for UPS Capital. She has lived in Beachwood since 2010. She earned her bachelor's

degree in business from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and she holds an American Express & Harvard Certificate in Leadership Excellence.

Danielle points out that she has "a proven track record, both personally and professionally, of bringing a diverse group of people together for creative problem solving and critical thinking," as she stated in her application for the position. Additionally, she noted her top three goals are economic development, public safety and citizen engagement.

Initially, 16 candidates applied, including Ali Amini, George Carr, Alexander Cohen, Dr. Howard Darvin, Steven E. Eisenberg, Alan L. Erenrich, Jen Ferns, Maggie Keenan, Anthony Hill-McShepard, Karen Sidel, Steve Sender, David J. Seiger, Danielle Shoykhet, Brad Swimmer, David Weinstein and Ami Zukowsky. Ali, Maggie and Steve withdrew their candidacies, and David's written responses were not received in time for the deadline.

### GOT AN ISSUE? TEXTMYGOV!

Need to report a pothole, request a special rubbish collection, etc.? Use our new TextMyGov communications system by texting "Hi" (no quotes) to 216.545.0041.

**All public meetings are now held in-person at Beachwood City Hall.**

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### CITY COUNCIL

Monday, March 7 at 7:00 PM  
Monday, March 21 at 7:00 PM  
Questions? Call 216.595.5462

### PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

Thursday, March 31 at 6:30 PM  
Questions? Call 216.292.1914

### ARCHITECTURAL BOARD OF REVIEW

Monday, March 7 at 4:30 PM  
Monday, March 21 at 4:30 PM  
Questions? Call 216.292.1914

BARBARA BELLIN JANOVITZ



216.406.5914

JOSHUA MINTZ



650.464.6788

JUNE TAYLOR



216.533.7640

## CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION APPOINTMENT

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Larry Gordon to serve as a member of our Civil Service Commission. He has served in fire safety for the majority of his career, with 41 years invested in a range of capacities, including a firefighter paramedic for the City of Pepper Pike. He has resided in Beachwood for 51 years, and is member of Beachwood High School's Class of 1971.

Larry is more than qualified to assume this post because he has a complete understanding of the

issues involved with public safety work. His keen perspective was shaped, in part, from working as an instructor at the Fire Training Academy for 29 years. Our own Fire Chief Steven Holtzman attended the Fire Academy when Larry was one of the instructors. He's seen a lot of people enter the program, and he's had to evaluate them.

It takes a high level of commitment to perform well in civil service work, and Larry has a long, successful track record.



Larry Gordon being sworn in by Mayor Justin Berns.

## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF REORGANIZED Adds Scharf, Rutkowski

The City of Beachwood announces two hires to strengthen its administrative staff. June Scharf has been selected to serve as the Public Relations Consultant and Brittany Rutkowski has been promoted to become Mayor Justin Berns' Executive Assistant.

June's duties include contributions to content across all platforms, including social media, website, print and broadcast/digital



June Scharf



Brittany Rutkowski

publications; media relations; marketing outreach; speech planning; support for economic development initiatives; editing of department materials; and generation of public relations initiatives based on city activities and events.

Formerly, June was the director of communications and activities for the City of Warrensville Heights.

She is as regular contributor to *Beachwood Buzz*, and she serves as a writing coach to clients

seeking to publish materials. She also has hosted more than 50 podcast episodes, and she has created websites for multiple clients. She graduated from Beachwood High School with the Class of 1987.

Brittany formerly worked in Beachwood as an administrative assistant in the Public Works Department, starting in 2014. Previously, she worked for KeyBank as a relationship manager.

She earned a bachelor's degree in speech pathology and audiology from the University of Akron. During college, she worked summers and Christmas breaks at the Cuyahoga County Engineers Office in its Fiscal Department.

## Free Residential Mulch Program Suspended

Nearly eight years ago, the City of Beachwood started a program to distribute to our residents the excess mulch the city produces from the brush it collects. The city allowed residents to purchase, on a first-come, first-serve basis, a limited amount of bagged mulch. Eventually, the program was upgraded, and residents lined up to receive their bagged mulch free of charge, which increased the demand. Last year, the demand for mulch far exceeded the city's supply, and we received a number of complaints from those residents who were shut out from receiving any mulch.

Foremost among the program's present challenges is diminished space available in the city's Public Works building to process mulch, combined with the city's increasing need to utilize this mulch for its beautification program.

While we understand some residents may be disappointed that we can no longer provide free mulch, rest assured that this mulch will go to good use and our grounds and facilities will continue to be maintained in a manner of which we can all be proud.

## NEW MOBILE APP!

The City of Beachwood's NEW mobile app is now available for iOS and Android. The new app features a streamlined design, and includes immediate access to Beachwood's new TextMyGov function, city departments, activity registration, government updates and more. The app was coded by CivicPlus, and we encourage people who live, work and play in Beachwood to download it!



## MUNICIPAL TAXES



Beginning January 1, 2022, employers must withhold municipal income taxes based on where their employees work. If a Beachwood resident is working from home in Beachwood 100% of the time, then all of his or her withholdings should be for Beachwood.

If an employee is working a hybrid work schedule, the employer must withhold for both municipalities. For example, if a Beachwood resident is working from home four days a week and in the office in Solon one day per week, the employer should be withholding 80% of the Beachwood resident's salary for Beachwood and 20% for Solon.

As for 2021: If a Beachwood resident did work from home in 2021 and his or her employer withheld for the city where the business is located, for example Macedonia, the Beachwood resident would be allowed to request a refund from Macedonia. However, the Beachwood resident would then be required to pay

income taxes on those wages to Beachwood. As an example, if the Beachwood resident was paid \$50,000 in wages, the withholdings for Macedonia would be \$1,250 (2.5% rate). The Beachwood resident would then file a Beachwood return for the same \$50,000 and the amount due would be \$1,000 (2.0% rate). Therefore, the Beachwood resident would pocket the \$250 difference.

*If an employee is working a hybrid work schedule, the employer must withhold for both municipalities.*

If there are any questions, please call and speak with Finance Director Larry Heiser at 216.292.1903, Audit Director Harvey Rose at 216.595.5492, or Tax Administrator Robert Forester at 216.595.3716 to discuss the various situations and concerns.

## SENIOR RUBBISH ASSISTANCE

Are you 80+ years of age or disabled with no one in your single-family home to assist you with your rubbish and recycling bins? We can help. Call 216.292.1922 to register.



## RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Blood donations are by appointment only. Please call the Red Cross at (800) 733.2767 or visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) to schedule your appointment.

**BEACHWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER**  
Friday, April 22 • 1:00 — 7:00 PM



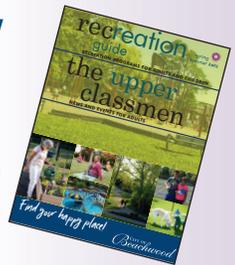
## SEVERE WEATHER



When Beachwood City Schools are closed due to severe weather, all Beachwood Recreation and Upperclassmen programs will be cancelled.

## SPRING REC GUIDE/UPPERCLASSMEN

The Spring Recreation Guide/Upperclassmen will be delivered later this month! Be sure to check out our programming!





### Meet the Mayor Luncheon



Wednesday  
**March 23**  
11:30am - 1pm

**Meet with Mayor Justin Berns**  
Learn about his vision for our city, ask questions and get to know our new administration

**Cost**  
\$20 - Chamber members  
\$25 - Non-members

Open to businesses and residents

**Register at [www.beachwood.org](http://www.beachwood.org)**

**Location**  
Beachwood Community Center  
25225 Fairmount Blvd.  
Beachwood, OH 44122

Limited tickets available

# ART EXHIBITS

BEACHWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER

BEACHWOOD ARTS COUNCIL ILEEN KELNER  
JURIED HIGH SCHOOL ART SHOW

Now - March 18

This special exhibit will feature inspiring artwork by students who represent more than 20 regional high schools. Judges are well-known local artists Augusto Bordoelois, George Kozmon and Susan Cone Porges.



## BEACHWOOD K-12 ART SHOW

March 24 - April 21

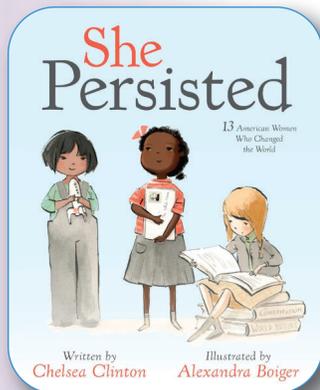
Open House: Thursday, March 24 • 6 - 7:30 p.m.

View the creative talents of Beachwood K-12 students at this exhibit of collages, paintings, drawings and sculptures.

Gallery Hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

For weekend appointments, please call 216.292.1970.

# STORYWALK



The March book featured on the StoryWalk® in Beachwood City Park East is "She Persisted," by Chelsea Clinton, illustrated by Alexandra Boiger. This story profiles the lives of thirteen American women who have left their mark on U.S. history, including Harriet Tubman, Helen Keller, Margaret Chase Smith and Oprah Winfrey.

The StoryWalk® Project was originally created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT, and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library to help build children's interest in reading, while encouraging healthy activity for children and adults. StoryWalk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson.



# SNOW SAFETY

Please make sure your exhaust vents for your furnace, hot water heater and any other appliances are clear. If they become blocked by snow, they can cause deadly carbon monoxide. Also, after the last storm, Beachwood firefighters were out clearing hydrants for three days. Please help us keep them clear.

## KEEP'EM CLEAR

If there's a fire hydrant near your house, help keep it accessible this winter:

**DO YOUR PART SO THEY CAN DO THEIRS**



# INTRODUCING NEW RECREATION WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE

Beachwood Community Services has a new website, [www.BeachwoodRec.com](http://www.BeachwoodRec.com), and Facebook page, [www.Facebook.com/BeachwoodOHRec](http://www.Facebook.com/BeachwoodOHRec), to enhance your experience. It is now easier to find information about programs, special events and registration deadlines, and view photos from past events. We invite you to visit our website, 'like' our Facebook page, and participate in all we offer!

# USE CAUTION AND BE SEEN

Use caution when walking at dawn, dusk and evening hours. Add reflective items to your clothing. When and if it is necessary to walk in the street, please walk facing traffic and if in a group, single file.



# NOW HIRING!

Looking for a FUN summer job with competitive wages?

Join the Community Services Team as a DAY CAMP COUNSELOR or a LIFE GUARD!

For job descriptions and to apply, visit [www.BeachwoodOhio.com/jobs](http://www.BeachwoodOhio.com/jobs)



Be Part of Our Team!

## BEACHWOOD SUMMER DAY CAMP REGISTRATION

Registration is now open to Beachwood residents and non-residents! Register for Kidz, Bison, Sports, Teen Travel and Theater Camp between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, at Beachwood City Hall. Phone, fax or online registrations are not accepted. For more information, please refer to the current Recreation Guide or call 216.292.1970.

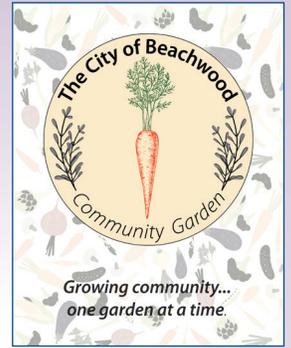


## BEACHWOOD VAN SERVICE

The Beachwood Community Services Department provides van service to disabled and senior residents for medical appointments and to pick up pre-paid grocery and pharmacy orders. For more information, please call 216.292.1971.

## COMMUNITY GARDEN AVAILABILITY

Interested in gardening? Community Garden plots are available! Call 216.292.1970 for details, and come grow with us!



## SAVE THE DATES!

Cleveland Pops Orchestra • May 15  
More info in next month's Buzz!



Light Ohio Blue (Police Week) • May 15-21

Stop by Beachwood City Hall, beginning May 2, to pick up your blue light bulb to place in your porch light for the week (May 15-21) to show your support. Can't change your bulb? Wrap your tree with a blue ribbon, place a blue spotlight in your yard, or wrap blue cellophane around your light.

May 22 • Shred Day

Beachwood Community Center Parking Lot

Bring all your personal documents, mail and files to be shredded on-site for FREE! Service is available to all Beachwood residents (proof of residency required). Shred up to 6 banker boxes OR 12 blue grocery bags at no charge. Staples, paper clips, metal, or plastic binders accepted. Event will take place, rain or shine.

## RX DRUG DROP BOX

A prescription drug drop-off box is located in the Police Department lobby. Residents can deposit unused, unwanted or expired prescription pills Monday – Friday between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM. No liquids or needles are allowed.

# BEACHWOOD FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER PASSES

Passes go on sale March 14 at Beachwood City Hall, Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM – 4:15 PM. Please remember to bring your driver's license and a current utility bill as proof of residency.



**SAVE 20% ON MEMBERSHIPS IF PURCHASED AT CITY HALL PRIOR TO POOL OPENING!**

Rates	Prior to May 28	May 28 & After
Per Person	\$ 60	\$ 72
Family of 2	\$115	\$138
Family of 3	\$165	\$198
Family of 4	\$175	\$210
Each additional member	\$ 25	\$ 30
Senior (60+ years of age)	\$ 35	\$ 42
Governess	\$ 70	\$ 84
Employed in Beachwood*	\$110	\$132

\* Restrictions apply



## MIND CHALLENGE FOR THE NEW MAJORITY



Introduced in 2019, this program involves a series of trivia contests held at community centers throughout Northeast Ohio. Modeled after the NCAA's basketball tournament, community center teams are asked a series of trivia questions and competing teams must make their way through six tournament rounds.

There are four to six players per team, and teammates collaborate to find solutions, a true team activity. Last year, Team Beachwood advanced through several rounds!

The City of Beachwood will be hosting the competition for the Southeast region, starting with team formations on Monday afternoon, May 16.

We welcome you to be a part of this exciting program that promises to enlighten and energize you. Come use your knowledge, share in your friendship, cheer on others, and join Team Beachwood!

For more information, call Senior Adult Manager Susan Gordon Merdler at 216.292.1911 before May 8.

## LAKE ERIE: DON'T WASTE IT! Don't Poop Up the Water

Pet waste is teaming with E. Coli and other harmful bacteria including fecal coliform bacteria, which causes serious kidney disorders, intestinal illness, cramps and diarrhea in humans.

There are more than 90,000 dogs in Cuyahoga County creating around 45 tons of waste per day (NEORS). There are 23 million fecal coliform bacteria in a single gram of pet waste – over 10 million more per gram than human waste. When our pets leave those little surprises, rain or melting snow washes all that pet waste and bacteria into our storm drains. Then it flows into Lake Erie and pollutes our waterways.

Please pick up pet waste and dispose of it properly. **Pick it up. Bag it. Trash it.**



### 2022 BEACHWOOD SCHEDULE



- April 13th
- May 11th
- June 8th
- July 13th
- Aug 10th
- Sept 14th
- Oct 12th

**4p-8p Wednesday Night Food, Shopping, Fun**

25325 Fairmount Blvd  
City Hall Lot



## FOLLOW US

Stay informed by following the City of Beachwood online:

- [WWW.BEACHWOODOHIO.COM](http://WWW.BEACHWOODOHIO.COM)
- [FACEBOOK.COM/BEACHWOODOH](https://FACEBOOK.COM/BEACHWOODOH)
- [TWITTER.COM/BEACHWOODOH](https://TWITTER.COM/BEACHWOODOH)



We continue to encourage residents to claim a free CodeRED emergency communications account. Click the red circle on [www.BeachwoodOhio.com](http://www.BeachwoodOhio.com)