

### MAYOR'S MESSAGE

#### 2023 IN REVIEW: CELEBRATING MILESTONES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

As we stand at the threshold of a new year, it's only natural to pause and reflect on the past. I have consistently emphasized my commitment to safety within our community. The commendable, swift, and strategic response of the men and women of our Police Department is truly appreciated. Their dedication to maintaining a secure environment, especially during these challenging times, deserves our gratitude. I want to express my sincere thanks to Police Chief Katherine McLaughlin and all members of the Police Department.

In addition to prioritizing safety, the achievements of 2023 underscore the city's commitment to excellence and innovation. Below are some highlights:

#### Revolutionizing Traffic Management

We introduced an Emergency Vehicle Preemption System streamlining communication between emergency vehicles and intersections, ultimately enhancing responsiveness and safety.

#### Zoning Revitalization

We approved some significant changes to our Planning and Zoning code, underscoring our dedication to progress, equality, and community safety. These changes were carefully formulated to reinforce safeguards that protect our single-family residential neighborhoods, while fostering inclusivity by accommodating smaller institutional uses, such as places of worship, private schools, and charter schools in U-5 districts.

#### Website Enhancements

The City of Beachwood revamped its website, incorporating modern design elements and ensuring mobile compatibility. The improved site offers direct access to essential information on the homepage and features a Chatbot for effortless Q&A.

In addition to updating the Economic Development page and introducing a sustainability page, we launched a new purchasing page, underscoring our commitment to supporting local, minority, and women-owned businesses.

In our ongoing efforts to promote diversity and inclusion, the city hosted an inaugural Minority and Women-Owned Business event on November 15. This initiative aligns with our commitment to cultivate partnerships

with diverse companies, actively encouraging their participation and expanding our network to identify and connect with these businesses.

#### Enriching Community Well-Being: Recreational Facilities

The Recreational Facilities Improvement Project, featuring six new pickleball courts, one grass and two sand volleyball courts, repairs to tennis court fencing, and the permanent home of our community gardens opened on time and on budget. The new and expanded

community gardens are ADA compliant and include 86 individual garden plots. These enhancements underscore the commitment of the Public Works and Community Services Department to elevate community well-being.

#### Fiscal Responsibility

Prudent financial management is evident in maintaining the AAA bond rating and receiving a clean audit report, highlighting the city's commitment to fiscal responsibility. Congratulations are extended to the Audit Director, Finance Director, and the finance team for upholding the city's financial integrity.

#### The City of Beachwood held one of the top spots once again

in *Cleveland Magazine's* 2023 Rating the Suburbs, a testament to the collaborative efforts of our City Council, the administration, city employees, residents, and business owners.

Reflecting on the notable achievements of 2023, we're grateful for the collective efforts that have propelled our city forward. These accomplishments not only enhance the present but also lay the foundation for a promising future. City Council and I stand united in our unwavering commitment to Beachwood's growth and prosperity. Here's to a successful 2023 and the opportunities that lie ahead!



Mayor Justin Berns  
MayorBerns@beachwoodohio.com



# THE INSIDER



## DEPARTMENTS

**AUDITOR**  
216.595.3712

**BUILDING  
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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**  
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**POLICE**  
216.464.2343

**PUBLIC WORKS**  
216.292.1922

**EMERGENCY**  
Dial 9-1-1 or  
216.464.1234

## LEGISLATIVE RECAP

The legislation below includes the October 30 and November 6 council meetings.

**2023-102** – Council previously placed an ordinance amending Chapter 1121 and 1101 related to certain uses in a U-4 Integrated Business District on first reading and referred it to the Planning & Zoning Commission. The amendment proposes to update our code as it relates to Dollar Stores, Second-Hand Stores, Vape Shops, Hookah Lounges, and Paraphernalia Outlets. The intent is to make sure they are not adjacent to residential areas. The Planning and Zoning Commission reviewed this ordinance at their October 26 meeting and unanimously approved moving forward without any recommended changes. This ordinance was placed on 2nd reading, by City Council, on November 6 and a Public Hearing was set for December 18.

**2023-110 (a)** – Council authorized legislation accepting a tentative agreement with the City of Beachwood, Ohio, and Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (Dispatchers/Clerks) Union regarding wages and benefits. The Dispatch union approved the contract unanimously and we believe we reached a fair agreement.

**2023-111** – Council passed legislation Amending Section 145.01 (c) to amend the membership of the Police Department to allow for the appointment of four (4) lead dispatchers.

**2023-112** – Council adopted legislation authorizing a one-time sign-on bonus for new hires for entry level and lateral transfer police applicants and new dispatchers of \$2,500, not to exceed \$30,000.

**2023-113** – Council passed legislation authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Job Creation Tax Credit (JCTC) Incentive Agreement with Masterbrand, Inc., a leading residential cabinet manufacturer in Northeast Ohio. MasterBrand anticipates bringing their headquarters location from Indiana to Beachwood with a total annual payroll of more than \$7 million.

**2023-114** – Council authorized the establishment of a Revolving Loan Fund Program to assist both businesses and commercial property owners by providing gap financing to support new investment in real or personal programs. This program will assist businesses looking to expand, create and/or retain permanent jobs by providing support for capital growth through a linked deposit program, and loans in partnership with participating financial property. Please visit our website for a detailed description of this program and its purpose.

**2023-115** - Council approved the Bills Ordinance authorizing payment for various professional services totaling \$41,542.56.

**2023-116** – Council adopted legislation amending Chapter 193 (Municipal Income Tax) of the Beachwood Codified Ordinances. HB 33 made changes to Municipal Income Tax which have been incorporated in this update.



**MAYOR**  
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### HOW TO EMAIL YOUR COUNCIL MEMBER:

FirstName.LastName@beachwoodohio.com  
Ex: alec.isaacson@beachwoodohio.com



**2023-117** – Council accepted a bid from Mr. Excavator, Inc. for the Playground project. The City of Beachwood received 7 bids including pricing for 2 alternate design options. Mr. Excavator supplied the lowest bid and was awarded the project in the amount of \$1,061,286.82. The bid primarily covers demolition and removal of existing play surfacing and footers, new fencing, concrete walkways, underground conduit, removal and installation of new storm sewers, structures, and underdrains, sitework. The playground equipment was authorized under a previous ordinance.

**2023-118** – Council passed legislation accepting a bid from Nerone and Sons, Inc., for the Cedar Road Culvert Headwall Repair Project. The City received 6 bids for the project. This bid came in well under the engineers' estimate in the contract amount of \$139,389. The scope includes the removal of all vegetation, construction of the headwall and the stabilization of the area.

**2023-119** – Council amended the Fee Schedule for Recreation and Community Services programs specifically as they relate to the BFAC daily rates for non-resident guest passes and the annual fee for Barkwood and the Community Gardens. Annual memberships for Barkwood and the Community Gardens will be \$50 per year.

**2023-120** – Council authorized the Mayor to renew a contract with T.A.C. Computer, Inc. for the Maintenance of CAD/RMS, and Mobile Data Terminals.

More information regarding these agenda items and back-up materials can be found online at [BeachwoodOhio.com/AgendaCenter](http://BeachwoodOhio.com/AgendaCenter).

### UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

**City Council:**  
December 4 at 7:00 p.m.  
December 18 at 7:00 p.m.

**Planning & Zoning:**  
December 7 at 6:30 p.m.

**Architectural Board of Review:**  
December 4 at 4:30 p.m.  
December 18 at 4:30 p.m.

# WORK-LIVE-LEARN..THRIVE

## CLEAN AUDIT, SEPARATING TRUTH FROM FICTION

Over the past several months, the city administration has been working with the Auditor of State's office to separate truth from fiction and debunk false and unsubstantiated claims. The false claims and misinformation provided to this agency largely relate to our professional engineering services.

The City of Beachwood furnished essential information and documentation to the State of Ohio effectively refuting these baseless claims. None of the allegations have been substantiated. "These false allegations had the potential to impact the city's bond rating which would cost the city's taxpayers millions. It is important to note that a AAA bond rating for a municipality is crucial because it can lead to lower borrowing costs, access to a wider pool of investors, and fosters a strong reputation for responsible financial management," said Mayor Justin Berns.

This rating not only benefits the municipality's ability to finance projects and stimulate economic development, but also promotes a culture of fiscal discipline and responsible governance. Additionally, it's a crucial tool for Economic Development, enabling Beachwood businesses to save substantial dollars in debt costs.

After countless hours of work by the administration (mainly the Audit, Finance and Law Departments) the city is pleased with the outcome. The office of Ohio Auditor of State Keith Faber released the independent Auditor's Report of the City of Beachwood



prepared by Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc., for the audit period January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022. The Audit report found no instances of noncompliance, no management letter issues, no verbal comments, no material findings, and issued an unqualified audit opinion.

"This is the best audit opinion a city can receive," said Finance Director, Larry Heiser. The clean audit is indicative of the city's superior record keeping and demonstrates its commitment to efficient, effective, and transparent service.

The city thanks Charles Harris & Associates for their professionalism and the State Auditor's office for assisting in releasing the report so the city could meet the filing deadline relative to the AAA rating. Preserving the AAA bond rating and consistently achieving clean audit reports are enduring accomplishments that underscore the city's commitment to fiscal responsibility.

## REVOLVING LOAN FUND APPROVED, POTENTIAL \$1 MIL BALANCE

Beachwood City Council recently approved a new Economic Development Incentive Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). The fund is expected to support a \$1 million balance over time, through non-tax revenues, to support business growth, commercial revitalization and overall community sustainability within the City.

The RLF is designed to support gap financing for small business owners and property owners making investments in real or personal property. The program also provides a Linked Deposit Program, which allows the city, through a participating financial institution, to establish a certificate of deposit linked to the company's commercial loan, therefore reducing a company's interest rate.

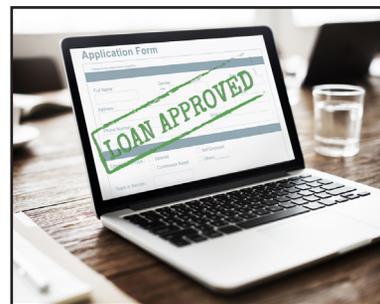
The loan fund will be administered by the City of Beachwood and all loan approvals will be facilitated through Beachwood City Council. The city will be establishing a loan review committee through the city's Community Improvement Corporation to consider loan submissions and provide support for any necessary underwriting.

"Through this revolving loan program, we are committing to continuing to support our business community, something that will further support the growth of the city," says Mayor Justin Berns.

"The city is proud to provide strategic support designed to stimulate business and entrepreneurial activity."

Eligible uses for this fund are designed to meet the city's overall objectives including supporting new business investments in machinery and equipment, commercial office buildings, façade improvements, building performance enhancements, energy efficiency and other real property investments.

"This RLF and Link Deposit Program will provide needed support for capital and real property investments to small businesses and entrepreneurs here within the city, creating jobs and furthering our strong and robust business economy," says Alec Isaacson, Beachwood City Council President.



June Taylor, City Council Economic Development Committee Chair, states, "This Revolving Loan Fund will provide opportunities for us to creatively support business investments alongside our local companies."

This RLF is designed to bring together public and private investments which strengthens the city's businesses, economy, supports private capital investment and creates jobs.

# BPD WECOMES JOHN PATTERSON

Welcome to Beachwood, John Patterson! John was sworn in on October 27 by Mayor Berns as our newest School Resource Officer. He is a former Beachwood resident and is coming to us from Woodmere PD, from whence he will retire in early 2024.

Left to right: Chief Katherine McLaughlin, Officer John Patterson, Mayor Justin Berns, Officer Colton Pekarski



As a Beachwood resident and a proud Jew, I want to thank Chief McLaughlin for all the support that she and the Beachwood Police Department have shown the Jewish community. Thanks for the extra patrols and police placements throughout the city. Your contributions have been felt throughout our community and have given us a sense of stability and safety during this time of uncertainty. I'm also a student at a college in New York, where the population of Jews is greater, and your understanding of and sensitivity toward our situation is superior to that of even New York's.

**A Beachwood Resident**

# NO SHAVE NOVEMBER DONATION

Beachwood Police Department personnel made an \$1,885 donation to The Gathering Place for the department's "No Shave November" campaign. The Gathering Place's mission is support, educate, and empower individuals and families currently coping with the impact of cancer in their lives through programs and services. They offer their services free of charge from support of donors. BPD is happy to contribute to this incredible nonprofit located in Beachwood.

Chief Katherine McLaughlin presenting a check to Adam Ross, Chief Development Officer of The Gathering Place, surrounded by members of the Beachwood Police Department.



## HOLIDAY RUBBISH COLLECTION:

Due to Christmas Day and New Year's Day, rubbish and recycling will not be collected on December 25 or January 1. Collections will be delayed one day for those weeks only.

# SNOW PLOW SEASON OFFICIALLY UNDERWAY

With dropping temperatures and our first official snowfalls, here are a few winter snow plow reminders:

- Give snow plow operators space to work. A fully loaded snow plow vehicle can weigh between 20-40 tons and cannot easily stop. Please stay at least 100 feet behind the plow when driving.
- Per Beachwood City Codified Ordinance 660.14: Advise private driveway plow operators to refrain from pushing snow in or across the roadway or in front of sidewalks. Do not snow blow or shovel snow into the street.
- Place trash cans in an accessible area (such as side of apron), NOT in snowbank or in roadway.
- Children and pets should never play in snowbanks near roadways.
- Be cognizant of plows when clearing your driveway. Snowbanks can make it difficult for plows to see people and/or pets on the apron and snow off a moving plow blade can be dangerous as it may contain ice and heavy wet snow.
- Snow plow operators cannot effectively and efficiently clear roadways when obstacles are present. This causes a safety concern for all roadway users if snow response is delayed.
- Beachwood Ordinance states when snow falls over a 24-hour period to a depth of 2 inches or more, an emergency is declared and parking is prohibited on all City streets. The City will make a reasonable attempt to notify the public by using local press and social media. Vehicle owners are responsible to comply with the emergency regulations. If possible, please refrain from running or walking in the road during snow events and/or until the roadway has been cleared.
- As a courtesy, we will make every effort to make sure sidewalks are cleared; please remember plowing roadways is always our first priority.



# DECEMBER RECREATION GUIDE

## ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL PACKED WITH FAMILY FUN

Despite the chilly fall air, the weather cleared up for a perfect Fall Festival weekend welcoming over 4,500 attendees outside Beachwood City Hall. The festival kicked off on Saturday, October 21, with a Simply Queen tribute concert that kept the crowd moving for 90 minutes of Queen's legendary rock and roll hits. Sunday's festival was highlighted by a graffiti theme where attendees created their own spray-paint art, along with crowd favorites like rides, inflatables, games, entertainment, art fair vendors and more. Beachwood's Fall Festival was proudly presented by Crestmont Automotive with support from Sweet Kiddles Flexible Childcare Center, NOPEC and Wild Republic.



The Beachwood High School Marching Band getting the festival started on October 22.



Rides and inflatables were free for all attendees.



Simply Queen performing on Saturday, October 21.



Magician Rick Smith Jr. taking a selfie with the crowd.



Photography by Discovery Photo.

**BEACHWOOD ART GALLERY:** Winter Wonderland Exhibit | Dec. 13 - Jan. 6 | Artists' reception on December 17 from 1:00-2:30 p.m. Experience the warmth and beauty of winter through the eyes of talented local artists.



### Winter Rec Guide Now Available!

Discover our latest programs, events and activities. Visit [BeachwoodRec.com](http://BeachwoodRec.com) or scan the QR code on your mobile device.



# FEBRUARY FREEZE

February 11, 6:30-8 pm  
Beachwood City Hall

More details coming soon!  
[BeachwoodRec.com](http://BeachwoodRec.com)

CITY OF BEACHWOOD  
CRESTMONT

# WOLF CAST TAKES CENTER STAGE

The talented youth cast of *WOLF* huffed and puffed and blew the audience away with an original story about the Big Bad Wolf gone good, written and directed by Julie Matthews of Marquee Showcase Productions. Debi Lewin served as the Musical Production Director. The cast members took the stage on Saturday, November 4, at Beachwood Middle School in front of family, friends and the community.

Beachwood Community Theater's next program is a Decades Showcase with rehearsals on Wednesday evenings from March 6 through April 24. The program will conclude with a performance on April 28. Open to residents and non-residents ages 7-17. For more info, visit [BeachwoodRec.com](http://BeachwoodRec.com).



# NEW PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **Jump Start Gymnastics**  
January-April, Times & Cost Vary by Program  
Jump Start Gymnastics, Ages 20 Months-9 Years  
Residents \$175-\$206, Non-Residents \$210-\$247  
(23645 Mercantile Rd.)
- **The Upcycle Academy: Fashion Design**  
January 24-February 28, Wed., 2:45-3:45 p.m.  
Hilltop Elementary, Grades 3-5  
Residents \$135, Non-Residents \$162
- **Beachwood's Got Talent**  
February 7-February 21, Wed., 5:00-7:00 p.m.  
Beachwood Community Center, Ages 5-19  
Residents \$50 - Audition required on February 4.  
(Preliminaries and finale held on February 25.)

**Resident registration begins  
December 18 at [BeachwoodRec.com](http://BeachwoodRec.com)!**  
*Early bird rates through March 1.*

# BEACHWOOD SENIORS

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS & TRIPS

- **Beachwood Trivia Challenge**  
Thursday, December 14, 1:00-2:00 p.m.  
Beachwood Community Center, Free Program  
Did you hear that Team Beachwood placed fourth in the 2023 Mind Challenge? With inspiration from them, we're hosting a monthly trivia game. This get-together will have you thinking! Register by December 11.
- **Drawing Class with Instructor Marlene Weinstein**  
Tuesdays, January 9-February 13, 1:00-3:00 p.m.  
Beachwood Community Center, Residents \$79, Non-Residents \$89  
Explore light, composition and color with different artistic materials. The first winter session will focus on still-life drawings. All levels welcome whether you're a novice or experienced hand. Register by January 2.
- **The Girl in the Diary Exhibition at The Maltz Museum**  
Friday, March 15, 11:00 a.m.  
The Maltz Museum, Residents & Non-Residents \$10  
Through historical artifacts, interactive touch screens, videos, and photographs, the exhibition explores the story of a young girl's fight for survival in the Łódź Ghetto during 1943 and 1944. Register by March 1.

## SENIOR DAY OUT

**A Musical Afternoon**  
Thursday, December 21, at Noon  
Beachwood Community Center

Residents \$13  
Non-Residents \$16  
Program Only \$5

*Register by December 13.*

Tap your toes, sway to the music, sing along to the songs of the 40s, 50s, 60s with Mike Wojtala, vocalist and musician for a delightful December afternoon.

Meal choices include a chicken cutlet or mac & cheese. All entrees served with a side salad, bread and butter, beverage and dessert.

**January Senior Day Out:** It's a joyful month of January as the musicians of OPUS 216 join us on January 18. Meal choices include a chicken pot pie with a side salad or Sedona salad. Register by January 10.

**Register for events at [BeachwoodRec.com](http://BeachwoodRec.com),  
City Hall or call 216.292.1970.**

# WHERE BUSINESS IS BOOMING!

## THE LATEST NEWS FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### MAYOR'S BUSINESS RECEPTION

Mayor Justin Berns hosted an Economic Development Business Reception last month which was well attended and brought together key community stakeholders, local and regional legislators, a robust representation of key business representatives and commercial property owners. The event inspired dynamic conversations around further growth and investment opportunities within the business community. Catherine Bieterman, Economic Development Director, shared initiatives that can support business needs. Based on the active conversations generated by this gathering, the Mayor and Economic Development Department plan to hold this event annually.

In addition, the Economic Development Department will be hosting roundtable discussions throughout the year focusing on key specific areas of focus. If your company would like to be more involved with these initiatives, please consider signing up for the City's Economic Development e-mail notifications by emailing [Catherine.Bieterman@beachwoodohio.com](mailto:Catherine.Bieterman@beachwoodohio.com).



Photography by Discovery Photo.

### BEACHWOOD WELCOMES OC2

The City of Beachwood recently welcomed OC2, a co-working space located at 3659 Green Rd.

Leasing space with OC2 offers access to administrative and phone answering services, podcast room, client greeting, monthly speaker/network events, high speed internet/phone system, copy service, fun/relax room, conference room, postage, express package service, 24-hour access, management on site, full-time maintenance, parking, on-site car wash, high speed internet, elevator, café serving breakfast and lunch, game room, daytime and nighttime cleaning service and free coffee/tea/hot chocolate.



The ribbon-cutting was attended by Mayor Justin Berns and Council President Alec Isaacson, along with OC2 owners Mauricio Rocha and Lori Martin.

### SHOP LOCAL



**ALWAYS BE AN INSIDER,  
STAY CONNECTED!**

**OFFICIAL SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES**



**Facebook Pages:**

@BeachwoodOH  
@BeachwoodPolice  
@BeachwoodFire  
@BeachwoodOHRec  
@BeachwoodPublicWorks  
@BarkwoodDogPark

**Twitter Accounts:**

@BeachwoodOH  
@BeachwoodPolice

**Instagram Accounts:**

@BeachwoodOhio

**Beachwood eList:**

Sign up at [BeachwoodOhio.com](http://BeachwoodOhio.com)