

THE INSIDER

CITY OF
Beachwood
MAYOR JUSTIN BERNIS

KEEPING YOU CONNECTED TO THE CITY OF BEACHWOOD!

MARCH 2024

THE MAYOR'S MESSAGE

ENSURING SAFETY & SECURITY

When it comes to the success of our city's safety and security, it's not just about individuals—it's about the collective effort of our dedicated Police Department (PD). Under the leadership of Chief Kate McLaughlin, our PD has consistently risen to the challenge, ensuring the protection and well-being of our community.

One source of evidence exists with a letter I received from Jewish Community Federation leaders to express their gratitude for the Beachwood PD's outstanding level of security provided to the Jewish community since the terrorist attack on Oct. 7. To quote the letter:

"Police Chief Katherine McLaughlin's strong commitment to helping protect the Beachwood Jewish community during a time of rising antisemitism is greatly appreciated. Chief McLaughlin has earned the respect and admiration of the Jewish community for the outstanding security support by the Beachwood PD to ensure our community's safety. We are fortunate to have such a professional law enforcement organization, led by Chief McLaughlin, and we thank you for a job well done."

"Chief McLaughlin has earned the respect and admiration of the Jewish community for the outstanding security support by the Beachwood Police Dept. to ensure our community's safety."

Letter from the Jewish Community Federation's Leadership

As we progress, it's imperative to recognize the evolving landscape of technology-based resources within the law enforcement community. These resources play a pivotal role in augmenting our officers' capabilities, enabling them to observe and accomplish tasks beyond the scope of traditional methods. While it's essential to preserve the human element in policing, integrating these tools can significantly enhance officers' effectiveness in their daily duties.

With this understanding, the PD recently purchased a drone and led the way for the Police and Fire Departments to partner on this initiative. This technology will be useful for missing person searches, locating fugitives, crime/crash scene photography and during large-scale events. The drone is equipped with a speaker and spotlight that will be helpful in addressing large crowds, and/or spotlighting an object or people.

In order to fly a drone, pilots need to take an approved training course and pass a licensing test, administered through the FAA. The city will soon have an officer on each shift who is a certified pilot, as well as several members from our Fire Department.

We also recently purchased a mobile Surveillance Trailer Camera. This can be used throughout the city for large scale events, security details and

surveillance. It offers additional eyes in the sky, and the video feed will go directly into our dispatch center. Expected delivery is later this month.

Beachwood Place also stands as a testament to our ongoing commitment to safety. It serves as a focal point where Chief McLaughlin's vision for enhanced security has come to fruition. Through strategic partnerships and dedicated resources, such as the grant facilitating the assignment of two full-time officers stationed within CoHatch, our city has bolstered its proactive approach to safeguarding public spaces.

While the grant's expiration looms in November 2024, collaboration with Beachwood Place management remains paramount as we navigate the next steps. The resounding success of this new initiative underscores our resolve to maintain a heightened, permanent police presence, ensuring the continued safety and well-being of employees and visitors alike.

Yet another impactful initiative recently introduced is a strategic crime prevention program. This invaluable resource takes the form of a complimentary, classroom-based self-defense course facilitated by our officers. Designed to empower community members with the skills and awareness necessary to thwart crime in everyday scenarios and settings, this program has garnered significant interest.

Under the leadership of Chief McLaughlin, the PD's commitment to leveraging technology alongside its unwavering dedication to the human aspect of policing ensures that our community remains secure, setting a standard of exceptional service for law enforcement agencies everywhere.



Left to right: Jeff Robertson, JFC's Deputy Director of Training; Chief McLaughlin; Matt Capadona, JFC's Deputy Director of Operations; Jim Hartnett, JFC's Director of Community Wide Security

Mayor Justin Bernis | MayorBernis@beachwoodohio.com

BEACHWOOD CITY COUNCIL



HOW TO EMAIL A COUNCIL MEMBER: FIRSTNAME.LASTNAME@BEACHWOODOHIO.COM



ALEC ISAACSON
COUNCIL PRESIDENT
216.291.2797



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216.212.9212



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216.464.1070



BeachwoodOhio.com



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AUDITOR
216.595.3712

BUILDING DEPARTMENT
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
216.464.2343

PUBLIC WORKS
216.292.1922

EMERGENCY
Dial 9-1-1 or
216.464.1234

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The legislative update below includes the January 22 and February 5 council meetings.

In the recent 2024 State of the City presentation, Mayor Berns articulated six pivotal focus areas essential for Beachwood's advancement. These areas not only served as the cornerstone for our accomplishments of 2023, but were also used to articulate our path for 2024. In this legislative update, we've highlighted these key focus areas and the measures we're implementing within each category.

Fiscal Responsibility – Fostering Accountability and Efficiency

In addition to our normal business of approving the professional service bills, City Council passed **Ordinance 2024-21** amending appropriations and the transfer of funds to create the Revolving Loan Fund introduced by the Department of Economic Development.

Council also passed **Resolution 2024-1** authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Agreement with NOPEC, Inc., the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council for an Energized Community Grant. As a NOPEC community, the City of Beachwood can utilize this grant for energy-related projects, and the first step of the 2024 process is to enter into this agreement.

Infrastructure Improvements – Enhancing Quality of Life and Community Service

Council recently approved motions to authorize the clerk to advertise for bids for two separate projects in this category:

1.) A motion authorizing the clerk to advertise for bids for a changeable copy sign to be located at the corner of Richmond and Fairmount. The administration has been working with Guide Studios, experts in wayfinding, to design a signage package to make our city more navigable, cohesive and visually appealing. This is the first step in a larger program that will be implemented over time.

2.) The city annually reviews which streets will be part of our road program – prioritizing them based on a number of criteria and balancing it with the annual budget for such improvements. The city has determined the 2024 program and is seeking qualified bids.

Council also passed **Ordinance 2024-23** accepting a Certain Bid from J.D. Striping Services, Inc. for our annual Street Striping Program.

Ordinance 2023-144 was adopted providing preliminary site plan approval and approval of a conditional use permit to allow multi-family residential apartments above the first floor of the property located at 23240 Chagrin Blvd.



A rendering, provided by Guide Studios, of the changeable copy sign.

STAY ENGAGED IN YOUR COMMUNITY:



Meeting agendas, minutes including legislation, live and recorded meetings are available on our website at BeachwoodOhio.com or please attend an upcoming meeting.

Economic Development – Stimulating Growth and Prosperity

Council approved **Ordinance 2024-18** authorizing and expanding the Beachwood Economic Impact Program. The administration recommended this move in an effort to expand financing and loan resources for the purpose of supporting small businesses and new employment opportunities, as well as stimulating economic development and business growth for our city.

Public Safety – Strengthening Community Resilience

Council passed **Ordinance 2023-102** to create a buffer and not allow certain small box discount stores to directly abut residential areas (single family homes [U1] or attached single family homes [U2A]). Some examples of a small box store include second-hand stores, pawn shops, vape shops, tattoo parlors, etc. The legislation also provided additional definitions for second-hand and thrift shops.

Council placed **Ordinance 2024-22** on first reading and referred it to the Planning and Zoning Commission for review. This ordinance suggests reclassifying several properties presently utilized for institutional and public assembly purposes. The proposed rezoning would assign these properties to the U-5 zoning category, which is specifically designed to accommodate institutional activities, and to provide appropriate safety regulations for gatherings held at these locations.

For a complete list of all our ordinances, resolutions, or motions passed by City Council, or for more information regarding these agenda items and backup materials, please visit our website: BeachwoodOhio.com/AgendaCenter.

LIVE & RECORDED MEETINGS

Scan the QR code or visit our website at BeachwoodOhio.com/WatchMeetings.



UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

City Council:
March 4 at 7:00 p.m.
March 18 at 7:00 p.m.

Planning & Zoning:
March 21 at 6:30 p.m.

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

WORK - LIVE - LEARN - THRIVE

FIRE DEPARTMENT HONORS 2023 FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

Fire Department Chief Steven Holtzman recently announced that the 2023 Firefighter of the Year is Dan Wochele. He was honored at a City Council meeting in February with family and friends present. He has become the department's fifth Firefighter of the Year and has worked as a respected member of the Fire Department for just over 20 years.

"Since day 1, he has always had a great demeanor and positive attitude and served as a great role model within our department," states Chief Holtzman.

The legacy of other department members' contributions is important, so over the past several years, Mr. Wochele also has worked with the administration and has spent countless hours compiling over 40 years of members' history and the material was put on display in the city's firehouses. This celebrates past members' service to the City of Beachwood, and they are thankful for being recognized.



2023 Firefighter of the Year, Dan Wochele



Left to right: Mayor Berns, Dan Wochele and Chief Holtzman

Mayor Justin Berns expressed his gratitude for Mr. Wochele's service. "We are deeply thankful for all of Mr. Wochele's hard work serving the entire Beachwood community. Our lives depend on his skills and judgment, and for that we owe him our tremendous appreciation."

BEACHWOOD ART GALLERY: Ileen Kelner Juried H.S. Art Show | Open through March 29 | Presented by Beachwood Arts Council
Out of this World Exhibit | April 6-27 | Artists' Reception, April 14, 1:00-2:30 p.m.

NEW HIRES, BEACHWOOD FIRE

The City of Beachwood recently welcomed two new members to the Fire Department. Quentin Brown joined after serving as a full-time firefighter for the Cleveland Division of Fire since 2018, where he also served on the SWAT team as a SWAT medic. Zach Tisdale, who will serve as a firefighter/paramedic, previously worked as a part-time firefighter for the Richfield Fire Department and recently completed paramedic training.



Quentin Brown pictured with his family, Mayor Berns and Chief Holtzman.



Left to right: Mayor Berns, Christina Tisdale, Zach Tisdale and Chief Holtzman

FIRE DEPARTMENT PROMOTIONS

Beachwood Fire Department Chief Steven Holtzman recently announced the promotion of two members of the department, Don Balog and Rob Searles, to lieutenant.

Don Balog just surpassed his 25-year anniversary in Beachwood and is well known in the area, having served in many roles, including team leader for the East Tech Technical Rescue Team, as well as commander for the Beachwood Honor Guard, for which he also is a member of the training committee. Additionally, he was awarded 2022's "Firefighter of the Year."

Rob Searles has served with the department for almost 12 years while filling many roles, including CPR instructor, Rescue Task Force instructor, a member of the Social Media Committee, as well as the training committee. Lt. Searles also is a member of the newly formed Drone Team.

Mayor Justin Berns congratulated both men at a recent City Council meeting. "We look forward to Lt. Balog and Lt. Searles' continued skilled service and their loyalty to our fire department. They both help strengthen the city's rescue capabilities."



Left to right: Mayor Berns, Lt. Balog, Margie Balog and Chief Holtzman



Left to right: Mayor Berns, Lt. Searles, baby Bo, Sarah Searles and Chief Holtzman

CITY EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE MILESTONES

In January, the City of Beachwood held its annual employee appreciation event at the Beachwood Truck Park. During this gathering, employees are recognized for achieving service milestones. The dedication of these individuals and all city employees is greatly appreciated, making Beachwood a great place to work, live, learn and thrive.

5 Years of Service

Kimberly Gall – Dispatch
Lindsay Kay Nelson – Dispatch
Jessica Nevison – Fire
Christopher Titterington – Fire
Luke Combs – Police
Michael Neibecker – Police
Derik Rodriguez – Police
LaCameron Workman – Police
Jason Ambrose – Public Works
Joseph Jenkins – Public Works

10 Years of Service

Vyredia Williams – Crossing Guard
Emily Joseph – Dispatch
Michael McDermott – Fire
Luke Ockenden – Fire
Wesley Unger – Fire
Brittany Rutkowski – Mayor's Office
Benjamin Bouw – Police
Anthony Gray – Police
Robert Love – Police
Robert Scott – Police
Antonio Settles – Police
Ronnie Bryant – Public Works
Davidson Taylor – Public Works

15 Years of Service

Therese Ferritto – Fire
Andrew Calvey – Police

20 Years of Service

Robert Santucci – Building
Judy Defrench – Community Services
Matthew Domonkos – Fire
Anthony Kustra – Fire
Chad Russell – Fire
Andrew Spisak – Fire
Daniel Wochele – Fire
Robert Moore – Police
Sherri Wilcox – Police
Thomas Smith – Public Works
David Trentanelli – Public Works

25 Years of Service

Kelly Hill – Dispatch
Susan Gordon Merdler – Community Services
Charles Piro – Police

30 Years of Service

Charles Durand – Police
Timothy Kolat – Public Works

35 Years of Service

Tina Turick – Mayor's Office

40 Years of Service

Annette Patterson – Public Works



Mayor Justin Berns with Robert Santucci (left) and Therese Ferritto (right).

I returned to my home in January to find my three basement drains backing up. When I called the Public Works Department on a Sunday, the message indicated to call the Police to have someone from Public Works dispatched. Within minutes, I received a call from Tim who said he would do everything in his power to get a crew dispatched from their residences ASAP. Five minutes later, Tim called me back to say a crew was on its way. Within 45 minutes, a crew arrived at my house, diagnosed the problem and immediately fixed it. I hope they know how much I appreciated them coming out at 11 p.m. in the freezing cold and after a painful Browns loss!

I always say that Beachwood has the best Public Works Department, and between Tim and the crew, they were simply amazing. We're very lucky to live in Beachwood, they do an amazing job. Kudos to your crews!

Alan Feuerman, Resident

HERITAGE HOME PROGRAM

The City of Beachwood is participating in the Heritage Home Program (HHP) of the Cleveland Restoration Society (CRS) again this year. This program provides owners of homes that are over 50 years old with access to guidance and low-cost financing for home improvement and maintenance projects.

The Heritage Home Program provides free technical assistance for home repair and maintenance projects, including remodeling advice, locating contractors, color consultation for painting and more. The technical assistance and advice offered by the Heritage Home Program is free, impartial and independent. CRS does not have any products or services that it sells to the homeowners and does not charge the homeowner for advice.

The Heritage Home Program also offers low-interest equity loans for home improvement projects. At fixed rates as low as 2%, these loans are made by local banks to homeowners for interior and exterior improvements.

The City of Beachwood is hosting a HHP Information Session at City Hall on Wednesday, May 1, at 6:00 p.m. Invitations will be mailed to homeowners in early April. Residents can learn more about the Heritage Home Program by calling 216-426-3116 or visiting heritagehomeprogram.org.



Contractor installing new flooring.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT WELCOMES INSPECTORS

The Building Department has filled two positions made available by recent promotions from within the department. Scott Davis will serve as the city's Electrical Inspector, bringing 30 years' experience in the electrical trades. He holds Electrical Safety Inspector and Residential Building Official certifications, and he is currently studying for his Commercial Building Inspector Certification.

Sean Graham will serve as the city's Plumbing Inspector. He brings 35 years' experience in the plumbing trade, and he's studying for his Commercial Building Inspector Certification.



Scott Davis



Sean Graham

MARCH RECREATION GUIDE



BEACHWOOD
BLACKOUT
2024

**SOLAR ECLIPSE
WATCH PARTY**

Monday, April 8
2:00-4:30 p.m.
Beachwood High School Stadium

*Games, Crafts, Movie Truck
DJ, Snacks, Refreshments*

Free eclipse viewing glasses, courtesy of Crestmont, while supplies last!

CITY OF *Beachwood*  **CRESTMONT**
AUTOMOTIVE

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- Youth Baseball & Softball**
 Summer Leagues 2024
 Ages 5-14, Beachwood & Surrounding Cities
 Residents \$75, Non-Residents \$95
- Progress with Chess Programs**
 Sundays, April 7-May 19, Various Levels
 Grades K-12, Beachwood Community Center
 Residents \$99/\$139, Non-Residents \$119/\$167
- After School Sports**
 Mondays, April 8-May 13, 3:25-4:25 p.m.
 Grades K-2, Bryden Elementary
 Residents \$95
- Adult Pickleball Lessons**
 Mondays, April 8-May 13, One-Hour Sessions
 Various Levels Available, 5:00-8:00 p.m.
 Beachwood Pickleball Courts
 Residents \$149, Non-Residents \$179
- Pre-School Adult & Me Baking Class**
 Tuesdays, April 9-May 21, 1:00-1:45 p.m.
 Ages 3-5, Beachwood Community Center
 Residents \$131, Non-Residents \$157
- Beginner Footskills**
 Wednesdays, April 10-May 22, 3:25-4:25 p.m.
 Grades K-2, Bryden Elementary
 Residents \$144, Non-Residents \$179
- Mad Science STEM Odyssey**
 Wednesdays, April 17-May 22
 Grades K-2, 3:25-4:25 p.m., Bryden Elementary
 Grades 3-5, 2:35-3:25 p.m., Hilltop Elementary
 Residents \$131, Non-Residents \$157
- Photography for Parents**
 Monday, May 6, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
 Beachwood Community Center
 Residents \$45, Non-Residents \$54



FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER MEMBERSHIPS

From splash pads to water slides, you can find it all at the Beachwood Family Aquatic Center! We're looking forward to another great summer as your go-to destination for fun in the sun. **Memberships go on sale Monday, April 8, at City Hall. Save 20% with early bird rates through Friday, May 24.** For more information and a membership application, visit BeachwoodRec.com.

Type	Early Bird (4/8-5/24)	Summer Rate
Children 3 & Under	Free	Free
Individual	\$60	\$72
Family of 2	\$115	\$138
Family of 3	\$165	\$198
Family of 4	\$175	\$210
Each additional member	\$25	\$30
Seniors 60+	\$35	\$42

FEBRUARY FREEZE, A SWEET SPECTACLE

Photography by Discovery Photo.

Beachwood's third annual February Freeze offered a sweet escape from the winter blues on Thursday, Feb. 15, despite the windy conditions. Staff worked tirelessly to bring as much of the event indoors as possible, creating a stunning atmosphere for all to comfortably enjoy. Over 750 attendees were welcomed by a unique Candy Land theme, illuminated by the glow of colorful lights. One special house in Candy Land was designed by 9-year-old resident Orli May Schwartz, winner of a February Freeze coloring contest.

In addition to the delicious ambiance, attendees enjoyed crafts, giveaways, trackless train rides, LED performers, photos with costume characters and a blazing spectacle by the Ohio Burn Unit. February Freeze was proudly sponsored by Crestmont, Beyond Healthcare and Sher Smiles Orthodontics & Periodontics.



Orli showcasing her winning design brought to life.



LED performers put on a glowing show inside the Community Center.



The Ohio Burn Unit turned up the heat for a grand finale outdoors.



A crowd favorite, Frozen!



Attendees of all ages enjoyed both indoor and outdoor festivities throughout the event.



BEACHWOOD SENIORS

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & TRIPS

- The Mind Challenge - Join Team Beachwood!**

If you are interested, call 216.292.1911 by March 31.

Represent our Beachwood team in a regional trivia competition against surrounding Northeast Ohio communities. Last year, Beachwood finished fourth and will be looking to make another strong run!

- Mahj Tournament**

Monday, May 6, 12:30-4:30 p.m., Community Center
Residents \$17, Non-Residents \$20

An annual crowd favorite! Last year, over 75 participants competed in this exciting event. Don't miss out, join in the fun today. Registration includes snacks and prizes.

CALL FOR 50-YEAR RESIDENTS

The City of Beachwood would like to invite residents who have lived here for 50 years to join us for a moment of special recognition at the upcoming May 20 City Council meeting. Newly minted 50-year residents will receive a commemorative gift. If you have not been previously recognized at a 50-year resident salute, please RSVP by calling Community Services at 216.292.1970 by Friday, May 10.

SENIOR DAY OUT

Hello Spring

Thursday, March 21, at Noon
Beachwood Community Center

Residents \$13

Non-Residents \$16

Program Only \$5

Register by March 13.

Join in as we celebrate the spring equinox (March 19) and shine the light on the solar eclipse (April 8) with Greg Piscura, an out-of-this-world entertainer! Enjoy a star-studded repertoire of upbeat songs sure to put a spring in your step and illuminate your day!

Meal choices include a Napa Valley turkey sandwich (turkey breast, mixed field greens tossed in cherry balsamic dressing, tomato, red onion and arugula mayo on a croissant roll) or angel hair pasta primavera. All entrees served with a beverage and dessert.

April Senior Day Out: A musical program that tells the unique history of Ohio on April 18!

Register for events at BeachwoodRec.com,
City Hall or call 216.292.1970.

WHERE BUSINESS IS BOOMING!

THE LATEST NEWS FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

BEACHWOOD REINSTATES COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION

The Economic Development Office has reinstated the Beachwood Community Improvement Corporation (CIC). The CIC Board of Directors can advance the City of Beachwood's development goals by being flexible and proactive. The role of the CIC is important in overall community revitalization. The board of directors held its first meeting on Feb. 9 to review the current by-laws and formed two committees: a Loan Review Committee to evaluate loan programs and make recommendations to the CIC Board of Directors and city administration relating to loan considerations; and an Innovation Committee to foster new ideas around cluster initiatives in commercialization, innovation, technology, research and development. The CIC Board of Directors will continue to meet quarterly and dates for upcoming meetings will be listed on the city's website.



ONE-STOP RESOURCE CENTER, MARCH COFFEE HOUR

The Beachwood One-Stop Resource Center will be hosting a coffee hour on Friday, March 22, at 9 a.m. at Beachwood City Hall. The roundtable discussion will include information on business financing, incentives and key resources in the city and local area to support your specific growth needs. The City of Beachwood is here to provide you those resources, so come prepared with some thoughts on areas that would help grow your company.

WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS NETWORKING IN BEACHWOOD

There is a strong group of women-owned businesses in Beachwood that are networking and sharing resources monthly. The Beachwood Chamber of Commerce hosts this dynamic group on the second Thursday of every month. This group is sharing ideas, bringing together top speakers and providing a strong mix of resources geared toward supporting women entrepreneurs. The city's One-Stop Business Resource Center also has a Women's Resource Page offering information on women's networking, business development, financing, education and key industry support.



For more information, visit the city's One-Stop Resource Center at BeachwoodOhio.com or call the Office of Economic Development to schedule a meeting to discuss resources that support your growth at 216-292-1915.

JOB FAIR, APRIL 3 AT TRI-C

The City of Beachwood will co-host a Job Fair on April 3 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Tri-C Eastern Campus in the Mandel Theater Lobby. Employers may register via a link at BeachwoodOhio.com or by calling 216-777-8240. Registration for this event is available through March 4.



Tri-C Student Services Building entrance.

ALWAYS BE AN INSIDER, STAY CONNECTED!

OFFICIAL SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES



Facebook Pages:

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

X Accounts:

@BeachwoodOH
@BeachwoodPolice

Instagram Account:

@BeachwoodOhio

LinkedIn Account:

@CityOfBeachwood