

THE INSIDER

CITY OF
Beachwood
MAYOR JUSTIN BERNS

KEEPING YOU CONNECTED TO THE CITY OF BEACHWOOD!

NOVEMBER 2024

THE MAYOR'S MESSAGE

THE STRENGTH OF OUR COMMUNITY

Dear Beachwood Residents,

I am always impressed by the strength of our community, and recent events have reminded me how fortunate we are to live in such a great city. In this spirit, I would like to thank members of my administration, share exciting updates about our progressive initiatives, and emphasize the importance of continued community engagement as we look toward Beachwood's future.

Gratitude

First and foremost, I want to thank our exceptional community services team, whose efforts made this year's Fall Festival and Kickoff Concert a tremendous success despite the wet weather. Special recognition goes to Director Derek Schroeder, Program Manager Shannon Diamond, and our talented graphic designer Ryan Kennedy. Their hard work behind the scenes ensured the festival was well-organized, enjoyable, and memorable.

I also want to thank our dedicated Police, Fire and Public Works Departments. They successfully managed safety, traffic, and parking during the event so our residents and guests could enjoy the festival. Our safety teams consistently demonstrate their commitment to keeping Beachwood secure and welcoming, and I'm grateful for their efforts during these community events.

I enjoyed speaking with dozens of residents, hearing your thoughts, and sharing in the day's fun. These moments remind me why we do what we do - creating opportunities for the community to come together and celebrate what makes Beachwood unique.

Progressive Community

As we look ahead, I am excited to share a forward-thinking initiative showcasing Beachwood's dedication to innovation and progress. We are actively working on a solar street lighting pilot program, as a potential solution to enhance residential lighting throughout the city. This pilot aims to provide a more comprehensive and environmentally responsible approach, addressing our neighborhoods' lighting needs and the city's commitment to sustainability.

Over the coming months, our goal is to install the pilot program and collect data to determine if solar lighting can provide a long-term solution for our city. My administration is working to determine an effective balance between cost-effectiveness, environmental impact, and maintenance, ensuring that any lighting solution meets the needs of our community.

Community Engagement

Finally, I want to share my sincere appreciation to all residents who have participated in our recent community engagement efforts, including the residential satisfaction survey and discussions about the future use of the Fairmount Temple property.

Collaborating with residents is one of the most valuable aspects of what we do, and your ongoing support and feedback are essential to building on Beachwood's success. Whether through surveys, community forums, or day-to-day conversations, your involvement impacts our decision-making process to reflect the priorities of everyone who calls Beachwood home.

Thank you for your continued trust, engagement, and enthusiasm. I look forward to working with all of you as we continue to make Beachwood an even better place to work, live, learn, and thrive.

Sincerely,



Mayor Justin Berns

MayorBerns@beachwoodohio.com



BEACHWOOD CITY COUNCIL



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



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216.291.2797



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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

SEPT. 16, 2024 - OCT. 7, 2024

The city is focusing on six key areas essential for the city's advancement, which serve not only as a roadmap, but as a guiding light for our city's progress. Each legislative update highlights ordinances and resolutions within these critical focus areas, underscoring the measures we are undertaking within each.

Sept. 16 City Council Meeting

Fiscal Responsibility: City Council voted to approve a resolution to renew the City of Beachwood's liability insurance coverage with the Public Entities Pool of Ohio (PEP) for the next year and approving the payment. This coverage provides financial protection for the city in the event of bodily injuries, property damage, lawsuits, and other circumstances.

Oct. 7 City Council Meeting

Public Safety: City Council approved a contract to collaborate with the City of Shaker Heights to continue deer management efforts for the winter of 2024-2025. Between both cities, 90 deer will be culled, processed and the meat will be donated to local food banks. Additionally, a meeting has been set for November 13 with representatives from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to learn more about research projects involving deer sterilization as an additional deer management tactic.

City Council members voted to amend the Dangerous and Vicious Dogs ordinance to be consistent with standards in the Ohio Revised Code and State Law. The changes to the current ordinance provide clearer definitions and add additional precautions for handling dangerous or vicious dogs to protect the community. No dog breed restrictions are included in the amendments.

City Council introduced a proposal to amend a section of Beachwood's Planning and Zoning Code that would add commercial cultivation and/or processing, distribution, or sale of adult use cannabis to the "prohibited uses" section. Council members will vote on this ordinance amendment at a future City Council meeting.



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.

BPD OFFICER TO SERVE ON JTTF

A Beachwood Police Officer has been selected to join the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF), a specialized unit dedicated to uncovering and preventing acts of terrorism across the United States. This task force plays a critical role in safeguarding national security by developing close collaboration between federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.



Photo Credit: fbi.gov

As part of the JTTF, the Beachwood officer will coordinate advanced counterterrorism training, investigate emerging threats, and enhance the communication and security relationship between the Beachwood Police Department and key community organizations, including the Cleveland Jewish Federation. This appointment reflects the officer's expertise and the department's ongoing commitment to protecting the community from potential threats.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for both our department and the community," said Beachwood Police Chief Dan Grispino. "Having one of our officers embedded within the Joint Terrorism Task Force ensures that we're at the forefront of emerging threats and counterterrorism strategies. The relationships and intelligence gathered through this collaboration will directly enhance the safety and security of Beachwood and across Northeast Ohio."

The officer will officially begin their service with the JTTF following the completion of a comprehensive FBI background check and security clearance.

UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

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

Planning & Zoning:
Dec. 12 at 6:30 p.m.

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

WORK - LIVE - LEARN - THRIVE

SUSAN GORDON MERDLER'S RETIREMENT: CELEBRATING 26 YEARS OF DEDICATION AND SERVICE

After 26 years of dedicated service, Susan Gordon Merdler, Beachwood's Community Services Senior Adult Manager, is retiring. Her journey with the city began as a part-time employee in what was then known as the Human Services Department. Over time, her role blossomed into a full-time position, where she designed and implemented programs enriching the lives of Beachwood's senior citizen community.



Susan Gordon Merdler

Susan's contributions to the Community Services Department have been vast and varied. Her responsibilities included:

- Curating and installing art exhibits.
- Organizing summer music concerts.
- Writing program copy for the city's recreation guide.
- Organizing and escorting community day trips.
- Working as a team member with departmental expectations and responsibilities.

However, she takes the most pride in developing programs that have not just impacted but also formed personal connections with older residents, helping them explore new interests and maintain a sense of community.

"I am most proud of my ability to enrich the lives of those over 60 through quality and varied programs, educational opportunities, and life experiences," she shared. "It has always been important for me to honor and enhance the experience of seniors, allowing and encouraging them to continue learning, socializing, and staying physically active."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, when in-person programs ceased, Susan helped maintain connections with the city's senior population by participating in daily wellness calls. These conversations ranged from casual chats to in-depth storytelling about life experiences, revealing the resilience of many Beachwood seniors. "A sense of community and normalcy was needed during that time," Susan recalls. As programs resumed, Susan says she felt the excitement among seniors to return and actively participate in events like exercise classes, mahjong lessons and games, bridge games, art classes, and monthly luncheons.

Over the years, Susan has also developed creative events like a "corny party" celebrating corny jokes while eating corn on the cob (Szalays, of course) and National Senior Adult Day's "toast to you" party featuring various breads and sparkling beverages. "These small group gatherings allowed everyone to be noticed, heard, and interact," she said.

Susan says it has also been exciting to be creative in formulating art exhibits. "The responsibilities of recruiting artists from shows near and far, offering them the opportunity to 'show & share' in our dedicated art space, installing the show and watching the positive reactions of the artists has always been awesome!"

Her thoughtful approach helped foster a sense of belonging and engagement among the participants of Beachwood's programs, which she hopes will continue with her successor.

Reflecting on her career, Susan expressed gratitude for all of the opportunities presented to her and said she was inspired by the community she served.

Looking ahead, her retirement plans include some well-deserved rest, spending time with family and friends, exploring new interests, revisiting existing hobbies and seeking volunteer opportunities.

VETERANS DAY SALUTE:

Annual Ceremony at the Beachwood Cemetery | Sunday, Nov. 10 at 11:00 a.m.

Please join us for this special occasion featuring local dignitaries, veterans and the presentation of colors.

NEW AMBULANCE IN SERVICE

The Beachwood Fire Department's new ambulance, Squad 5, is now in service. Built on a 2023 International chassis by Lifeline Ambulance in Iowa, Squad 5 will serve as the primary unit at Station 1, the department's busiest. This addition brings the total number of ambulances in Beachwood's fleet to five, allowing the department to better meet service demands as build times for new ambulances now approach three years. Equipped with advanced features such as a cot load system, acquired through a grant from Workmen's Compensation, the new ambulance enables paramedics to load patients without heavy lifting, improving safety for both crews and patients.



RESIDENTIAL SATISFACTION SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS & RESULTS

The City of Beachwood recently conducted a Residential Satisfaction Survey to gather valuable insights into residents' perspectives on city services and identify areas for enhancement. This effort confirms our ongoing commitment to better serve the community. Mayor Berns and City Council extend sincere thanks to all residents who participated, as your feedback will play a key role in shaping our future initiatives and improvements.

Key Highlights

- **Quality of Life:** Most respondents rated their quality of life in Beachwood as very high, with 68% giving the city a 5 out of 5.
- **City Recreation Facilities:** Beachwood's parks, aquatic center, and other facilities received strong ratings, with 64% rating them as excellent.

Areas of Success

- **Public Works Services:** Residents praised Beachwood's public works for reliable trash collection, snow removal, and well-maintained streets. An overwhelming 80% of respondents expressed high satisfaction, and many highlighted the department as one of the best in the region.
- **Public Safety:** Respondents expressed high satisfaction with the visibility and professionalism of the Police and Fire Departments, with 63% feeling very satisfied with neighborhood patrols and 72% rating direct interactions with the police as excellent.
- **Recreation and Community Events:** The city's recreation facilities and events were another favorable area, with 64% of residents rating them highly. Popular events like the annual Fall Festival and Beachwood Beats Summer Concerts received positive feedback for community engagement.

Opportunities for Improvement

- **Street Lighting and Sidewalks:** Residents highlighted the desire for increased street lighting and expanded sidewalks, especially on side streets, to improve safety and walkability.

- **Traffic Safety:** Respondents expressed concerns about traffic safety, highlighting specific intersections and streets where drivers frequently speed or disregard traffic rules. Excessive speeding on certain streets was a particular issue, prompting suggestions for additional safety measures to improve overall road safety.
- **City Leadership and Communication:** While most respondents found city leadership accessible, some called for greater transparency in decision-making, especially concerning new developments and infrastructure projects. Residents also requested more communication about crime prevention and safety programming in the community.

Moving Forward

The city administration is carefully reviewing the write-in responses, particularly those that address specific community needs and concerns. We will use this valuable feedback to guide improvements in city services and ensure that Beachwood continues to be a great place to work, live, learn, and thrive.



SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

280 Responses

Participation by Age

- 65 & Better: 131 (48.8%)
- 51-65 Years: 72 (25.7%)
- 36-50 Years: 66 (23.6%)
- 18-35 Years: 11 (3.9%)

View the complete survey results by scanning the QR code or visit our website at BeachwoodOhio.com/SatisfactionSurvey.



RECYCLE RIGHT

Don't let your recycling efforts go to waste

Please DO NOT bag recyclables!

ONLY THESE ITEMS GO IN YOUR RECYCLE CAN



CANS
Empty & Rinse



CARDBOARD
Flatten Boxes



GLASS
Empty & Rinse



PLASTIC BOTTLES & JUGS
Empty, Rinse & Replace Cap



NEWSPAPER & MAGAZINES



OFFICE PAPER

Public Works will periodically check recycle can contents and give notices to those who are not compliant.

WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT!

Please no "Wish-cycling" or bagged recyclables. If it is not specifically listed above, throw it out as contaminated loads lead to higher recycling rates to Beachwood.

BEACHWOOD PUBLIC WORKS • 23355 MERCANTILE RD • 216.292.1922

THANKSGIVING RUBBISH COLLECTION

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday, Nov. 28, please note the following:

- If your normal rubbish/recycling day is Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, your schedule will not change.
- If your normal rubbish/recycling day is Thursday, your collection day will be Wednesday, Nov. 27, for the Thanksgiving holiday week only.
- Please refrain from placing rubbish/recycling at the curb after Wednesday, Nov. 27.
- If you have a lot of holiday rubbish, please contact the office on Monday, Dec. 2, to arrange for a special collection. Then it can be placed curbside no earlier than 6:00 p.m. Sunday but before 7:30 a.m. Monday (Ordinance 660.21).

SUBSCRIBE TO THE BEACHWOOD eLIST FOR NEWS DELIVERED TO YOUR INBOX AT BeachwoodOhio.com!

NOVEMBER RECREATION GUIDE

BIG TOP MOMENTS: SCENES FROM SEVENTH ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL



The Greatest Fall Festival on Earth kept the fun coming, no matter the weather on Sept. 28 and Sept. 29. Photography by Discovery Photo. See more on page 36.

BEACHWOOD ART GALLERY: Unique Voices | Nov. 23 - Jan. 2 | Artists' Reception: Saturday, Nov. 23, 5-7 p.m.
Beachwood Arts Council presents an exhibit featuring five emerging artists living with varied challenges.

CITY OF Beachwood THEATER

THE WIZARD of OZ

LIVE ON STAGE! FREE ADMISSION!

Youth Production by Directors: Julie Matthews & Debi Lewin

November 9 at 2 PM
November 10 at 1 PM
Beachwood Middle School

★ BEACHWOOD YOUTH BOYS & GIRLS ★

BASKETBALL LEAGUES

GRADES 3-6

CITY RESIDENTS \$75
NON-RESIDENTS \$95

SIGN UP TODAY!

BeachwoodRec.com

Progress with Chess presents

WINTER BREAK Chess Camp

December 23-January 3
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Community Center
Monday/Thursday/Friday

Full Day Enrollment
Residents \$359, Non-Res. \$431
Half Day (AM or PM)
Residents \$219, Non-Res. \$263

Sign up today:
BeachwoodRec.com

MORE WAYS TO PLAY

The City of Beachwood takes great pride in offering recreational amenities for year-round enjoyment. Even as temperatures cool, the fun doesn't have to stop! Here are a few opportunities available 365 days a year:



Barkwood Dog Park: Does your four-legged friend need to burn some energy? Too muddy to play in the backyard? Take a ride up to Barkwood, Beachwood's one-of-a-kind turf dog park available exclusively for residents. Get your annual membership (\$50) and key fob inperson at City Hall.

City Park East & West: Take in the beauty of every season on the multi-purpose trails. Whether you're walking, running, biking, or skating, these trails provide a scenic escape. And when the snow falls, enjoy family fun on the sledding hill at City Park West.



Beachwood Fitness Park: Health and wellness at your fingertips in an outdoor, open-air setting within City Park East. Body-weight style machines are accompanied by a sleek, modern fitness court with exercise zones for a full body workout. All the equipment is completely weatherproof and open year-round!

Beachwood Playground: Opened in May 2024, the fully ADA accessible playground features rubber and turf surfaces for year-round play, whether you're swinging, sliding, or climbing. This family-friendly space is stroller-friendly too. Pack a picnic and enjoy the pavilion!



Pickleball Courts: Beachwood's six dedicated pickleball courts will have their nets up even during the offseason. Take advantage of every sunny day Northeast Ohio offers. Courts will be first come, first serve beginning Nov. 1. No reservations.

For more information, visit BeachwoodRec.com and keep an eye out for the Winter Recreation Guide, anticipated for late November.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- **Care & Keeping of Grown-Up You (Adults)**
Sunday, Nov. 10, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Beachwood Community Center
Residents \$36, Non-Residents \$43
- **Ballet & Creative Movement (Ages 5-8)**
Tuesday, Nov. 12-Dec. 3, 6:00-6:30 p.m.
Beachwood Community Center
Residents \$50, Non-Residents \$60
- **Hop Hop & Cheer (Ages 5-8)**
Tuesday, Nov. 12-Dec. 3, 6:30-7:00 p.m.
Beachwood Community Center
Residents \$50, Non-Residents \$60
- **The Naturing of Nature (Adults)**
Wednesday, Nov. 13, 11:00 a.m.-Noon
Beachwood Community Center
Residents \$22, Non-Residents \$26
- **Mad Science Brixology (Grades K-5)**
Wednesday, Nov. 13-Dec. 11
Bryden Elementary (3:15-4:15 p.m.)
Hilltop Elementary (2:40-3:40 p.m.)
Residents \$90, Non-Residents \$108
- **Thanksgiving Adult & Me Baking (Ages 3-5)**
Sunday, Nov. 24, 3:00-4:00 p.m.
Beachwood Community Center
Residents \$30, Non-Residents \$36
- **Thanksgiving Independent Baking (Ages 6-8)**
Sunday, Nov. 24, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Beachwood Community Center
Residents \$36, Non-Residents \$43

BEACHWOOD SENIORS

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & TRIPS

- **Art Adventure - Highlights of the Museum**
Tuesday, Nov. 12, 10:15 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Departs from Community Center
Residents \$12, Non-Residents \$15, Register by Nov. 4
Take a docent-led walking tour of the spectacular Cleveland Museum of Art followed by lunch at the cafe. Lunch expenses are on your own. Transportation is provided. Space is limited.
- **Columbus Winterfair Trip**
Friday, Dec. 6, 9:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m., Departs from Pepper Pike Learning Center
Residents \$79, Non-Residents \$89, Register by Nov. 6
Shop hundreds of vendors this holiday season at Columbus Winterfair at the Bricker Building of the Ohio Expo Center. Lunch at your own expense. Transportation and admission included. (Co-op trip with Orange Recreation)
- **Beginner Mahj Lessons**
Monday, Dec. 9-Dec. 26, 12:30-2:30 p.m., Beachwood Community Center
Residents \$40, Non-Residents \$48, Register by Nov. 25
Mahj is a tile game that requires critical thinking, situational awareness, and social intelligence to play it well and provides countless hours of fun! Bring your official National Mah Jongg League 2024 card or purchase a card (\$15 exact change) at the first class. Please note the final class is on a Thursday.

NOV. MEET & EAT

Dynamite Duo
Thursday, Nov. 21, at Noon
Beachwood Community Center
Residents \$13
Non-Residents \$16
Program Only \$5
Register by Nov. 14

Let's travel through songs from the *Great American Songbook* with vocalist Evelyn Wright and pianist Joe Hunter. Evelyn has been a professional vocalist for over 25 years and Joe has been recognized for his love of the American Songbook. Together they make an awesome musical partnership!

Meal choices include turkey tetrazzini (turkey, pasta, veggies in a light sauce) or vegetable lasagna. All entrees served with a bread selection, side salad, beverage, and dessert.

Dec. Meet & Eat (12/19): Mary Beth Ions will have our hands clapping and our hearts smiling as she makes her violin sing! Register by Dec. 12.

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

WHERE BUSINESS IS BOOMING!

THE LATEST NEWS FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MAYOR'S BUSINESS RECEPTION, NOV. 14 AT PORSCHE

Join Mayor Justin Berns, members of city council, and the Office of Economic Development for this upcoming business after hours occasion. The 2024 Mayor's Business Reception will be proudly hosted by Porsche of Beachwood on Thursday, Nov. 14, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. The event provides an opportunity for area business owners to unwind after a busy day and meet fellow professionals in a relaxed and dynamic new atmosphere. It's a wonderful opportunity as a city business leader to engage annually in meaningful conversations that could spark new collaborations and business opportunities.

Confirmation of attendance is required by Nov. 1; please call the Office of Economic Development at 216-292-1915.



Mayor Berns speaking with Charles Payton at the 2023 reception.



DRESSCODE BOUTIQUE & ASHTON'S CORNER

The ceremonial ribbon cutting of DRESSCODE Boutique and Ashton's Corner Kids Clothing Boutique on Oct. 11 was a great success, with Tanya Manning-Grant, family, and friends joining in the celebration. Tanya's grandson, Ashton, was also in attendance for the ribbon cutting, as he is actively involved in retail merchandising and the selection of items that make up Ashton's clothing line. Visit the boutique at 3365 Richmond Rd., Suite 238.

SHOP LOCAL, SHOP BEACHWOOD

As the holiday season draws near, many of us start thinking about gift-giving. Supporting local businesses during this time not only boosts your community but also enriches your gift-giving experience. When you shop at local stores, you discover unique, one-of-a-kind items. These thoughtful gifts carry more meaning and often reflect the love we have for our community. This Nov. 30, on Small Business Saturday, and throughout the holiday season, make a plan to shop local and support your neighborhood businesses.



FEMALE ENTREPRENEUR SUMMIT



The City of Beachwood's Economic Development Office was proud to work with Renee DeLuca Dolan of Contempo Design to bring back the Female Entrepreneur Summit for its 10th anniversary event, in combination with the Beachwood Business Expo. This dynamic event featured over 100 female entrepreneurs with a mission to connect and engage them in active discussions that support the future growth of both their personal professional development and their companies.



The Female Entrepreneur Summit drew a crowd for its 10th anniversary event on Oct. 9.

**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