

## THE MAYOR'S MESSAGE

### A YEAR OF PROGRESS & COMMUNITY

Dear Beachwood Residents,

As we approach the end of another year, it's a wonderful time to reflect on what we've accomplished together in 2024 and to look ahead with optimism. This year was remarkable for Beachwood, filled with new projects, community involvement, and milestones that will benefit our city for years to come.

One of our proudest achievements this year was the grand opening of our new playground. This space has quickly become a favorite for families and children, creating a welcoming and safe environment for play and connection. It's exciting to see our youngest residents enjoying this new addition, and we look forward to the memories it will help create in our community.

Another milestone was the city's acquisition of the Fairmount Temple property. This purchase opens a world of possibilities for our city as we work toward transforming this valuable space to serve Beachwood residents in new ways. The potential here is enormous, and I look forward to sharing updates with you as we shape this vision.

We also took significant steps to enhance public safety. This year, I appointed Chief Grispino to lead the Beachwood Police Department. He is settling into his new role well and will share his vision and goals for the department soon. The Beachwood Fire Department added a new ladder truck and ambulance to its fleet. These investments are essential to keeping our community safe and ensuring that our first responders have the tools they need to provide rapid and effective service.

Our recent Community Engagement Forum was another highlight, with 114 virtual and around 80 in-person attendees. Seeing such strong participation from residents who care deeply about Beachwood's future was inspiring.

I want to thank our Communications Manager, Ben Lombardi, for organizing and moderating this successful event. The forum featured a knowledgeable panel that included City Planner George Smerigan, Public Works Director Chris Arrietta, Community Services Director Derek Schroeder, and

Finance Director Larry Heiser. Each panel member offered valuable insights into the potential options for this 17-acre property.

Most importantly, thank you to our residents for your thoughtful questions, feedback, and ongoing engagement. My administration will use your input from this forum in consideration of our upcoming city projects as we strive to make decisions that reflect the interests and needs of our community.

As we look ahead, we're excited about the upcoming events planned for early next year. Our annual February Freeze event is scheduled for February 13, and I encourage you to bundle up and join us for some winter fun! Additionally, we're planning our State of the City address for late February, where I'll provide updates on ongoing projects and my administration's priorities for 2025. We will also begin communicating our plans to transform the Fairmount Temple property.

Thank you for your continued support, involvement, and trust. Together, we are building a Beachwood community that will thrive for years. I wish you a joyful holiday season and a wonderful New Year.

Sincerely,



**Mayor Justin Berns**

MayorBerns@beachwoodohio.com



## BEACHWOOD CITY COUNCIL



HOW TO EMAIL A COUNCIL MEMBER: [FIRSTNAME.LASTNAME@BEACHWOODOHIO.COM](mailto:FIRSTNAME.LASTNAME@BEACHWOODOHIO.COM)



**ALEC ISAACSON**  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT  
216.291.2797



**DANIELLE SHOYKHET**  
COUNCIL V.P.  
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**JILLIAN DELONG**  
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**JOSHUA MINTZ**  
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**ALI B. STERN**  
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**ERIC SYNENBERG**  
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216.595.3712

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**CLERK OF COUNCIL**  
216.595.5493

**COMMUNITY SERVICES**  
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**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

## CONGRATS TO COUNCIL MEMBER ERIC SYNENBERG; ANTICIPATED CITY COUNCIL VACANCY



Eric Synenberg

Beachwood City Council Member Eric Synenberg has achieved a significant victory, winning the position of State Representative for Ohio's House District 21. In the Nov. 5 general election, Synenberg earned an impressive 79.24% of the vote, decisively defeating his opponent, Joshua Malovasic of Euclid, who received 20.76%. These results, as reported by the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections, highlight the strong support Synenberg received from voters across the district.

Synenberg's election marks a transition in leadership, as he will succeed incumbent Elliot Forhan of South Euclid, who has held the seat since 2022. This win positions Synenberg to bring his extensive background in law, public service, and economic development to the state level.

As an attorney with a master's degree in tax law, Synenberg has been a dedicated member of the City Council since 2018. During his tenure, he served as Chair of multiple vital committees, including Economic Development, Finance, Safety, and Legal and Personnel.

Synenberg will vacate his council seat on Dec. 31, opening a new chapter for Beachwood City Council as his colleagues work to appoint his successor. The chosen appointee will hold the position until Dec. 31, 2025, when they must run in the next election to retain the seat.

With his experience and dedication, Synenberg is well-prepared to represent and advocate for the constituents of House District 21. Congratulations to Mr. Synenberg on this new role, where his commitment to public service will undoubtedly have a broader impact across the state.

### City Council Vacancy - Serve Your Community

The City of Beachwood announces an upcoming City Council vacancy and seeks qualified applicants. Stay tuned for more info in the coming weeks and visit [BeachwoodOhio.com](http://BeachwoodOhio.com) for updates.

**Position Overview:** An appointed position where city council will interview and vote to nominate a qualified candidate. This appointment will fill a current vacancy for an unexpired term ending on Dec. 31, 2025.

**Application Process:** Submit your interest online. Details on how to apply will be available at [BeachwoodOhio.com](http://BeachwoodOhio.com) in early January.

**Requirements:** Must be a Beachwood resident for at least one year with a passion for community development and local government. Council meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month, and committee meetings are held upon the call of the committee chairman.

### STAY ENGAGED IN YOUR COMMUNITY:



Meeting agendas, minutes including legislation, live and recorded meetings are available on our website at [BeachwoodOhio.com](http://BeachwoodOhio.com) or please attend an upcoming meeting.

## CITY HALL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

A group of second-grade student leaders from Bryden Elementary School recently had the unique opportunity to visit Beachwood City Hall and meet with key city directors, including Mayor Justin Berns, Beachwood Police Chief Dan Grispino, and Beachwood Fire Chief Steve Holtzman. Organized as part of an educational initiative, the field trip aimed to give students an up-close look at their local government and help them learn more about the essential roles that city officials play in keeping their community safe and well-managed.

Accompanied by teacher Christine Mincik, who coordinates Bryden Elementary's Student Leadership Council, the students were enthusiastic about meeting the city's leadership team. Mincik organized the visit not only as a civics lesson but as an experience for young students to engage with real-world leaders and to understand the importance of civic responsibility.

During their visit to City Hall, the students toured the building and learned more about how local government operates. They heard firsthand from Mayor Berns about his responsibilities and the importance of community service. Chief Grispino of the Beachwood Police Department spoke about public safety, while Chief Holtzman from the Fire Department explained the critical role of emergency services.



Chief Grispino, Chief Holtzman, and Mayor Berns greeting student leaders from Bryden Elementary.

### UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

**City Council:**  
Dec. 2 at 7:00 p.m.  
Dec. 16 at 7:00 p.m.

**Planning & Zoning:**  
Dec. 3 at 6:30 p.m.

**Architectural Board of Review:**  
Dec. 2 at 4:30 p.m.  
Dec. 16 at 4:30 p.m.

# WORK - LIVE - LEARN - THRIVE

## FAIRMOUNT TEMPLE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FORUM RECAP

We sincerely thank everyone who joined the Nov. 7 Community Engagement Forum to discuss the future of the Fairmount Temple property. With nearly 80 residents attending in person and another 114 joining virtually, this event highlighted the strength of community interest and dedication to shaping Beachwood's future.

We are pleased to announce that a recording of the forum and the PowerPoint presentation are available for review on the city website, located at [BeachwoodOhio.com/FutureUseFairmountTemple](http://BeachwoodOhio.com/FutureUseFairmountTemple). These resources allow those who could not attend to stay informed and engaged.

The forum served as a platform for the city to gather input and hear from our residents about the property. Through thoughtful and constructive feedback, residents provided insight into four primary options identified as top choices based on previous community input: residential housing, recreation, arts and culture, and religious or institutional use.

The survey, which received 639 responses, highlighted housing and recreation as residents' top priorities for the property. These results are helping guide our next steps as we seek to meet community needs, ensure fiscal responsibility, and maximize long-term value.

In addition to survey rankings, many residents shared comments in the write-in section of the survey, advocating for the property to be used for housing or recreation. The insights shared at the forum and through the survey will continue to shape our approach as we balance community priorities with financial sustainability and long-term value for Beachwood.

Thank you once again to everyone who contributed to this meaningful conversation. We look forward to continued collaboration as we work toward a plan that serves our city's and its residents' best interests.



Over 150 residents participated in person or virtually on Nov. 7.

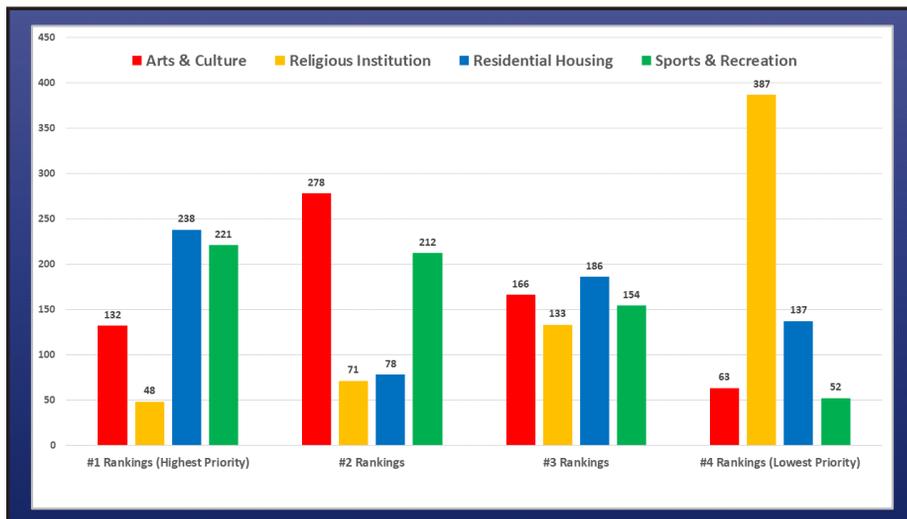
### Survey Results Summary

**Housing:** With 238 respondents selecting it as their top priority, housing emerged as the most popular option. The feedback suggests a strong community interest in expanding Beachwood's residential offerings, indicating this is a key focus for future planning.

**Recreation:** Close behind housing, recreation was the top choice for 221 respondents and received 212 second-choice rankings. Many residents emphasized a desire for more recreational facilities, especially winter-friendly options.

**Arts & Culture:** While not the most popular, arts and culture received substantial support as a preferred second or third choice. This option had a total of 278 second-choice rankings and represented a meaningful alternative in the eyes of the community.

**Religious/Institutional Use:** This category ranked lowest overall, with 387 respondents placing it in fourth place, indicating a lower priority for this type of development.



## NEW SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER HIRED

Welcome to Beachwood, Scott Safenovitz! Scott was recently sworn in by Mayor Berns as our newest school resource officer. Scott comes to us with a wealth of experience from Chagrin Falls Police Department, and is a graduate of the Beachwood School District!

*Mayor Justin Berns swearing in Scott Safenovitz, Beachwood Police Department's new school resource officer.*



## SNOW PLOW SEASON UNDERWAY

With dropping temperatures and snowfall, here are a few 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 a snowbank or a roadway.



Photo courtesy of Rob Jamieson.

- 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.

## NEW CHANGEABLE COPY SIGN COMING SOON OUTSIDE CITY HALL

Installation of a new changeable copy sign at the intersection of Fairmount Boulevard and Richmond Road is underway and should be up and running by late November or early December. This impressive digital display will span 21-feet by 5-feet and sit atop a stone base, bringing the total height of the sign to approximately 10 feet.

The new sign will serve as an additional communication tool, allowing the city to share information about events, meetings, and other important updates. With advanced programming capabilities, the sign can display a variety of content, including video and segmented messages, to keep residents informed.



Mayor Berns outside City Hall at the site of the new changeable copy sign at Fairmount and Richmond.



Mayor Berns with Assistant Public Works Director Mark Lopez.

## RECYCLE BROKEN HOLIDAY LIGHTS & POWER CORDS

The Public Works Department accepts broken holiday lights and power cords dropped off for recycling in January, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.



## CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING PROGRAM

The city will collect Christmas trees (real – not artificial) from tree lawns and deliver them to the compost facility on Shaker Boulevard. We recycle 100% of trees, brush and leaves by shredding and utilizing them on city grounds and for the planting program. Please call Public Works at 216.292.1922 to advise that the tree has been placed on the tree lawn for collection.



## HOLIDAY RUBBISH COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Due to Christmas Day and New Year's Day, rubbish and recycling will not be collected by the city on Wednesday, Dec. 25, or Wednesday, Jan. 1. Collections for Wednesday and Thursday will be delayed one day for those weeks only. Please note Monday and Tuesday will remain on regular schedule.



# DECEMBER RECREATION GUIDE



Early Bird Rates through Feb. 28!

## SUMMER BEACHWOOD CAMPS

Resident Registration: Begins December 16  
Visit [BeachwoodRec.com](http://BeachwoodRec.com) for details.



# Beachwood Bingo Nights

Family-Friendly, All Ages!

"Leave your bingo dauber at the door; this is **Beachwood Bingo!**"

More Thrills. More Prizes. More Excitement.

**Dec. 12 | Jan. 30 | Feb. 27**  
6-8 PM at Beachwood Community Center

**Registration Required:**  
17 Years & Under - \$2/person  
Adults (18-59 years) - \$5/person  
60 Years & Better - \$2/person

**Register:** [BeachwoodRec.com](http://BeachwoodRec.com)  
Registration closes one week prior to Bingo Night. Please sign up in advance.

## WIZARD OF OZ JR. RECEIVES GREAT & POWERFUL OVATION

Beachwood Community Theater's *Wizard of Oz Jr.* had a successful weekend in the Emerald City (aka Beachwood Middle School) on Nov. 9 and 10. The show brought in a wonderful crowd and delighted audiences with incredible performances, vibrant sets, and unforgettable characters. A big thank you to directors Julie Matthews and Debi Lewin and everyone who joined us, from munchkins to wizards alike!

### NEXT PRODUCTION:

A sweet stage is being set for Beachwood Community Theater's winter production, *SugarTown Follies!* Residents of the delectable city of SugarTown are gearing up to showcase their most delicious creations in a friendly competition of all things sugary. Who will take the prize? The NERDs, the M&M's, or perhaps Team Candy Bar? The youth cast, ages 7-17, will bring it all to life. Rehearsals run on Wednesdays, Jan. 7 through Feb. 25. Shows on March 1 and 2. Additional rehearsals may be required. Register your child online at [BeachwoodRec.com](http://BeachwoodRec.com).

"We took our 3-year-old grandson to his first play, *Wizard of Oz Jr.*, and it could not have been a better experience for him (and for us)! The directors did an amazing job showcasing the children who have an exceptional aptitude for performing arts, even at such an early age. They also helped to build the confidence in the other participants, who are just as important, and stand to gain just as much from this early acting experience. The sets and costumes were outstanding.

During challenging times, this performance and all that went into making it so great, provided a reminder of why it's so great to live in the City of Beachwood! Well done to all involved!"

Eric Silver, Resident



Wizard of Oz Jr. cast members



## NEW REC GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE!

Visit [BeachwoodRec.com](http://BeachwoodRec.com) or scan the QR code.



## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- **Winter Break Chess Camp (Grades K-8)**  
Mon/Thurs/Fri, Dec. 23-Jan. 3, Full/Half Day  
Beachwood Community Center  
Residents \$359/\$219, Non-Residents \$431/\$263
- **216 Cardio Dance (Teens & Adults)**  
Wednesday, Jan. 8-Feb. 5, 6:30-7:35 p.m.  
Beachwood Community Center  
Residents \$125, Non-Residents \$150
- **Pickleball Refresher Clinics (Adults)**  
Thursdays, Various Times/Skill Levels, 4 Weeks  
Hilltop Elementary  
Residents \$100, Non-Residents \$120
- **Storybook Dance (Grades K-2)**  
Friday, Jan. 10-Feb. 7, 3:15-4:15 p.m.  
Bryden Elementary  
Residents \$100, Non-Residents \$120
- **Upcycle: Creative Crafters (Grades K-2)**  
Friday, Jan. 17-Feb. 21, 3:15-4:15 p.m.  
Bryden Elementary  
Residents \$150, Non-Residents \$180
- **Upcycle: Creative Crafters (Grades 3-5)**  
Friday, Jan. 17-Feb. 21, 2:40-3:40 p.m.  
Hilltop Elementary  
Residents \$150, Non-Residents \$180
- **Unleashing the Fun Side of A.I. (Adults)**  
Thursday, Jan. 30, 1:00-2:00 p.m.  
Beachwood Community Center  
Residents/Non-Residents \$5

# BEACHWOOD SENIORS

## WELCOME JAYME JIROUSEK



Jayme Jirousek

Beachwood Community Services is proud to welcome Jayme Jirousek to the team, stepping into the Senior Adult Manager role following Susan Gordon Merdler's retirement. Jayme brings over 10 years of experience in recreation, holding a Bachelor of Science in Education with a minor in Recreation and Park Management. His background includes valuable roles with Mayfield Village Parks and Recreation, Linking Employment, Abilities, and Potential (LEAP), and Willoughby Parks and Recreation. Most recently, he served as Program Coordinator for the Willoughby Senior Center, where he led activities, coordinated trips, and managed operations for active older adults.

"I look forward to meeting our Beachwood seniors and providing fun, innovative program opportunities to meet their interests," Jayme shared prior to assuming his role on Nov. 18.

Outside of work, Jayme enjoys the outdoors, riding his motorcycle, cheering on Cleveland sports teams, and spending time with his family. If you see Jayme at an upcoming activity or around the Beachwood Community Center, please feel welcome to stop and introduce yourself.

## DEC. MEET & EAT

Viola Violin

Thursday, Dec. 19, at Noon  
Beachwood Community Center

Residents \$13

Non-Residents \$16

Program Only \$5

Register by Dec. 12

Mary Beth Ions makes her violin sing, our hands clap and our hearts smile. Her ability to weave a story throughout her repertoire, meander through the crowd and share a joke are characteristics of a top-notch performance. Join in the fun!

Meal choices include shepherd's pie (beef and veggies) or mushroom pie. All entrees served with a side salad, beverage, and dessert.

**Jan. Meet & Eat (1/16):** Introducing Tom Todd, the amazing one-man band! Chase away the winter blues as Tom sings and performs on up to nine different instruments with songs from Buffett to Beatles. Register by Jan. 9.

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 AT PORSCHE BEACHWOOD

The second annual Mayor's Business Reception, held on Nov. 14 at Porsche Beachwood, brought together an impressive gathering of community leaders, local and regional legislators, prominent business representatives, and commercial property owners. The event fostered dynamic discussions between these key stakeholders about growth, investment opportunities, and new connections within the business community.

Mayor Justin Berns and the Economic Development Department extend their gratitude to all who attended and Porsche Beachwood, for hosting a productive and memorable event.

Photography provided by Discovery Photo.



Mayor Berns with Linda McCall and Sadigoh Galloway of Your Recovery Counseling.



The evening at Porsche provided key networking opportunities for all in attendance.



Mayor Berns speaking with Terry Dilisio of Millennium Control Systems.

## NEW PODCAST LAUNCH: EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES WITH LOCAL EXPERTS

The Office of Economic Development is excited to announce the launch of a brand-new podcast series, now available through our One Stop Business Resource Center. In the first episode, Economic Development Director Cathy Bierterman hosted an engaging discussion featuring Nicky Sulandari from the Collaborative Chambers of Commerce and Donald Larson from the British American Chamber of Commerce. This episode kicks off a series designed to connect local businesses with valuable resources and insights to fuel growth and success across all stages—from aspiring entrepreneurs to mid-sized companies ready to expand.

Our first topic, International Opportunities for Small and Medium-Sized Businesses, dives into the strategies and resources available to help businesses engage with global markets, reaching the 95% of consumers who live outside the U.S. Through partnerships with the Beachwood One Stop Business Resource Center, Cleveland State University's Ohio Export Center, and the Collaborative Chambers of Commerce, this series brings expert perspectives on building global connections, navigating international trade, and leveraging local resources.

Whether you're looking to grow your network or take your business across borders, tune in for practical insights from experienced professionals. Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to learn how Beachwood's support network can help expand your business internationally. Future podcast episodes will be available online in the city's One Stop Business Resource Center.

## SMALL BUSINESS EDUCATION SERIES

On Dec. 3, join Cathy Bierterman, the City of Beachwood's Economic Development Director, for the Small Business Education Series at the Cuyahoga County Public Library's Beachwood Branch beginning at noon. Cathy will present a valuable informational session about the wide range of services offered by the Beachwood One Stop Business Resource Center.

Cathy will also introduce new, innovative resources within Beachwood, such as off-site work areas, a fully equipped podcast studio, and unique meeting spaces ideal for engaging with clients or customers.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn how you can leverage these resources to fuel your business growth. Mark your calendar for Dec. 3 and make plans to attend! Preregistration is available online at [attend.cuyahogalibrary.org/events](http://attend.cuyahogalibrary.org/events).



## 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