

## The Mayor's Message

### Building Connections: Events and Initiatives

Dear Beachwood Residents,

As we settle into February, I want to take this opportunity to reflect on our city's progress, share exciting upcoming events, and introduce new initiatives.

First, I thank Public Works Director Chris Arrietta and his exceptional team for keeping our streets safe and accessible during the challenging winter months. Snow removal is no small task, yet our Public Works Department consistently exceeds expectations, ensuring that residents and visitors can travel safely. Their dedication to maintaining our city during even the harshest conditions is a testament to their professionalism and commitment to service.



Mayor Berns with Chief Holtzman, Asst. Chief Domonkos, and Olaf at last year's Feb. Freeze.

Looking ahead, I encourage you to attend our annual **February Freeze**, a winter highlight that promises fun for all ages. This year's event, presented by Crestmont, will occur on **Thursday, Feb. 13, 2025, from 6:00–8:00 p.m. at the Beachwood**

**Community Center.** Alongside an exciting mix of indoor and outdoor attractions, including immersive glow experiences and entertainment, the event will feature a pajama donation drive in partnership with Sweet Dreams for Kids. Attendees are encouraged to bring a new pair of kids' pajamas to donate at the entrance, helping to provide comfort and a sense of home to pediatric hospital patients. This is an excellent opportunity to come together as a community, enjoy creative programming, and make a positive impact. I look forward to seeing many of you there!

Another significant upcoming event is Beachwood's **State of the City** address. Join me on **Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. at SITE Centers** as I provide a comprehensive

overview of our 2024 accomplishments and outline our vision for 2025. This event is a chance to reflect on our community's progress and explore opportunities for growth in the year ahead. Please register through the Chamber of Commerce by Feb. 14 to secure your spot. I'm excited to share how our collective efforts have shaped our city.



Lastly, I want to announce a new program tailored to our senior community: **Breakfast Bites and Insights**. This monthly breakfast series, created by Jayme Jirousek, Beachwood's Senior Adult Manager, will foster meaningful dialogue between residents and city leaders, offering a platform to discuss ongoing initiatives and explore how we can better serve Beachwood's seniors. I'm honored to be the guest speaker on **Friday, Feb. 28, 2025**. This program is part of our commitment to creating more inclusive spaces for engagement and collaboration with residents. Preregistration is required at no cost; call Community Services at 216.292.1970.

As always, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as your mayor. Beachwood thrives because of the dedication and involvement of its residents, businesses, and city staff. I look forward to connecting with many of you at our upcoming events and continuing to work together to make our community 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](mailto:FirstName.LastName@BeachwoodOhio.com)



**Alec Isaacson**  
Council President  
216.291.2797



**Danielle Shoykhet**  
Council V.P.  
216.212.9212



**Jillian DeLong**  
216.509.3514



**Joshua Mintz**  
650.464.6788



**Ali B. Stern**  
240.706.7478



**June E. Taylor**  
216.533.7640



**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

# City Council Updates: New Rules and Search for New Member

The Beachwood City Council has implemented new rules for 2025 and is nearing the conclusion of its search for a new council member to fill a recent vacancy.

## New Council Rules for 2025

Effective this year, new rules govern resident remarks during council meetings. While the total time allotted for public comment remains at 30 minutes, individual speaking times have been reduced from five minutes to three. These changes, approved during a Committee of the Whole meeting on Dec. 2, 2024, aim to enhance meeting efficiency and allow more residents to participate in the public comment period.

Residents with comments or questions requiring more than three minutes are encouraged to contact council members, department directors, or city staff directly. Beachwood leadership is committed to being a responsive government and values ongoing communication with residents.

## Update on the Search for a New Council Member

The council is also finalizing its selection of a new member to fill the vacancy left by Eric Synenberg, who recently departed to represent the 21st District in the Ohio General Assembly. Nine residents applied for the position, and interviews with each candidate have been completed.

The City Council plans to announce its decision at an upcoming meeting and introduce the new member in the March issue of *The Beachwood Buzz*. This new appointee will help guide Beachwood's continued growth and progress. They will fill the city council vacancy for Mr. Synenberg's unexpired term, which ends Dec. 31, 2025.

2025 Presented by the Beachwood Chamber of Commerce

# STATE OF THE CITY

BEACHWOOD, OHIO

February 19, 8:00-9:30 a.m.  
SITE Centers (3300 Enterprise Pkwy.)

Register by Feb. 14: [public.beachwood.org/events](http://public.beachwood.org/events)

## STAY ENGAGED IN YOUR COMMUNITY:



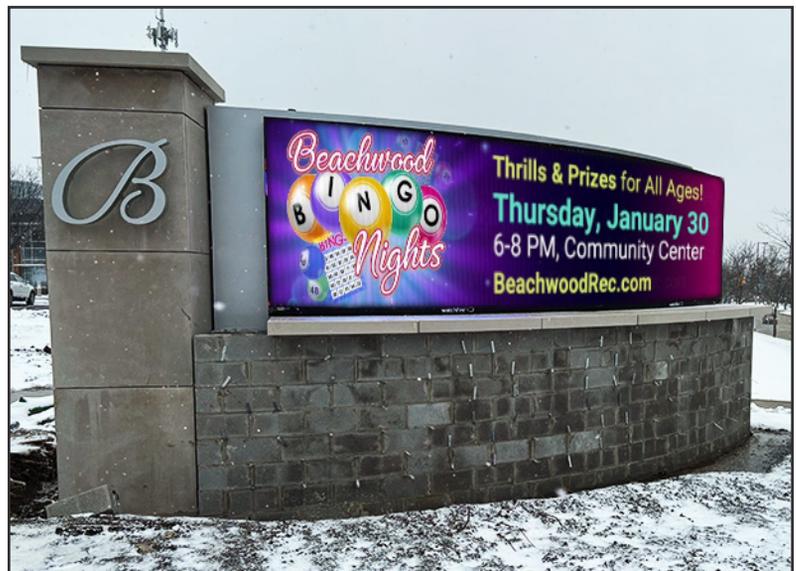
Meeting agendas, minutes including legislation, live and recorded meetings are available on our website at [BeachwoodOhio.com](http://BeachwoodOhio.com) or please attend an upcoming meeting.

# Changeable Copy Sign at Fairmount & Richmond

We're excited to announce the installation of a new changeable copy sign at the corner of Richmond Road and Fairmount Boulevard. This 105-square-foot sign serves as a communication tool, keeping residents informed about upcoming community events, meeting announcements, and important city updates.

While the final design of the sign's façade is still being completed, the messaging displayed is current, accurate, and updated regularly. This new resource is part of our ongoing efforts to enhance city engagement and improve the flow of information within our community.

Thank you for your patience as we finalize the finishing touches. We look forward to seeing this sign strengthen the city's communication with the community.



## UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

**City Council:**  
Feb. 3 at 7:00 p.m.  
Feb. 18 at 7:00 p.m.

**Planning & Zoning:**  
Feb. 27 at 6:30 p.m.

**Architectural Board of Review:**  
Feb. 3 at 4:30 p.m.  
Feb. 18 at 4:30 p.m.

# Work - Live - Learn - Thrive

## A Proactive Approach to Policing: Chief Grispino's First 100 Days

Since stepping into his role as Beachwood Police Chief in mid-September, Dan Grispino has committed himself to thoroughly understanding the Beachwood Police Department from all angles. In his first few months, he has spent considerable time analyzing the department's operations, identifying strengths, areas for improvement, and opportunities to enhance efficiency.



Dan Grispino, Chief of Police

Upon leading the Beachwood Police Department, Chief Grispino has worked closely with Mayor Berns to ensure public safety remains a top priority for the city. Their consistent collaboration has created a unified approach to addressing challenges, enhancing security, and building a safer community for all residents.

### A Leadership Style Rooted in Trust and Building Relationships



Chief Grispino's leadership philosophy centers on building relationships, trust, and accountability. He emphasizes the importance of personal connections within the department and the community. "The foundation of any successful organization, whether public or private, is trust and relationships," he said. "My officers need to know and believe that I am here to support them."

Chief Grispino has held one-on-one meetings with every department employee to build this trust, encouraging open dialogue and a shared investment in the department's mission. His approachable leadership style also extends to the broader community, prioritizing attendance at local events and engaging with residents.

"Having a servant's heart is the most important thing I have learned from those who have mentored me throughout my career," Chief Grispino shared. "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."

### Collaboration for a Safer Community

Recognizing the unique safety concerns of Beachwood's Jewish community, Chief Grispino has taken a proactive stance to enhance security. "We have ongoing communications with the Jewish Federation of Cleveland (JFC) and the FBI to address safety concerns and to strengthen collaboration with these organizations."



Chief Grispino assigned one officer to work full-time on the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF), and he volunteered to serve on the executive board of Cleveland's JTTF. The department also conducts joint training with JFC staff. These efforts allow us to stay ahead of local and national trends while creating stronger partnerships.

### Focus on Officer Training and Community Engagement

Chief Grispino has prioritized officer training and education to equip the department with the skills needed to meet modern policing challenges. He has outlined ambitious initiatives, including obtaining re-accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), a mark of excellence in policing standards. "This accreditation is not only about recognition but also about ensuring we deliver the best possible service to our community," he says.

Chief Grispino has collaborated with the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, naming Beachwood the first Store It Safe City. The "Store It Safe" program promotes responsible gun storage to improve public safety, protecting children and adolescents from firearm injuries. Chief Grispino's commitment to collaboration and preparedness remains central to his plan of moving the department forward. He prioritizes joint training and inter-agency coordination, as exemplified by the department's work during the Oct. 7 remembrance event. "All of these partnerships are important to keep our community safe," he affirmed.



National Walk to School Day at Hilltop Elementary, Oct. 2024

Community engagement remains a cornerstone of Chief Grispino's vision, with plans for programs like the relaunch of "Coffee With a Cop" to encourage informal and open communication between officers and residents.

Chief Grispino's proactive approach and dedication to collaboration, trust, and community engagement promise to leave a lasting impact on Beachwood. As he leads the department into 2025, his commitment to fostering strong partnerships and enhancing public safety continues to set a high standard for the city.

# Nominate A Hometown Hero

The Beachwood Historical Society and the City of Beachwood announce the return of our Hometown Heroes celebration in 2025! We're calling on the community to help us honor those who make a difference. Nominate your hero online today by visiting [BeachwoodOhio.com/HeroNominations](http://BeachwoodOhio.com/HeroNominations). Submissions are open online through Feb. 28 — here's your chance to shine a spotlight on someone extraordinary!



The 2024 Class of Hometown Heroes



# Power Outages

If your power goes out due to an accident or force of nature such as high winds, lightning or storms, call First Energy at 888.LIGHTSS (888.544.4877), not 911. This will allow the power company to track and repair outages while leaving our dispatchers free to handle emergency calls. You may also report outages by texting REG to 544487 (LIGHTS). You will need your account number and ZIP code.



# New Hire Announcement: Staff Engineer, Gary Yelenosky



Gary Yelenosky

The City of Beachwood proudly welcomes Gary Yelenosky as our new Staff Engineer. A licensed Professional Engineer (PE) and certified land planner (AICP) with over a decade of experience, Gary has led major infrastructure projects as City Engineer of Broadview Heights and Township Administrator for Olmsted Township.

Gary will oversee Beachwood's infrastructure, including streets, sewers, and stormwater systems, ensuring efficient project management and long-term improvements. His leadership will streamline key initiatives such as the Richmond/Chagrin I-271 Corridor and Chagrin Boulevard repaving, saving time and costs by reducing reliance on outsourced oversight.

"Beachwood is a vibrant community, and I am excited to contribute to its growth and sustainability," says Gary. "I look forward to working with a dedicated team to enhance infrastructure and support residents, businesses, and visitors."

With Gary's expertise, Beachwood is well-positioned for continued success in infrastructure development. Welcome aboard, Gary!

## HOLIDAY RUBBISH COLLECTION:

Due to **Presidents Day** on Monday, Feb. 17, rubbish and recycling collection will be delayed one day. For questions, contact Beachwood Public Works at 216.292.1922.

# Residents Make a Big Impact with Composting Program

Beachwood residents are leading sustainability efforts through the city's innovative partnership with Rust Belt Riders. In just nine months since the launch of this free food scrap composting program, 274 Beachwood households have signed up and diverted 41,578 pounds of composting material from local landfills. This milestone emphasizes the community's commitment to reducing waste and protecting the environment.

The program, which provides 24/7 access to food scrap collection bins, is free for all Beachwood residents and can accept 100% of kitchen-generated food scraps—no liquids, plastics, or trash, please. The collection bins are conveniently located behind the Beachwood Community Center alongside the public recycling bins. Residents who sign up receive a unique four-digit lock code for access, making composting easy and secure.

To surpass 100,000 pounds of composted material in 2025, the city invites more residents to join this impactful initiative. Not only does the program reduce landfill waste, but it also aligns with Beachwood's ongoing sustainability initiatives.

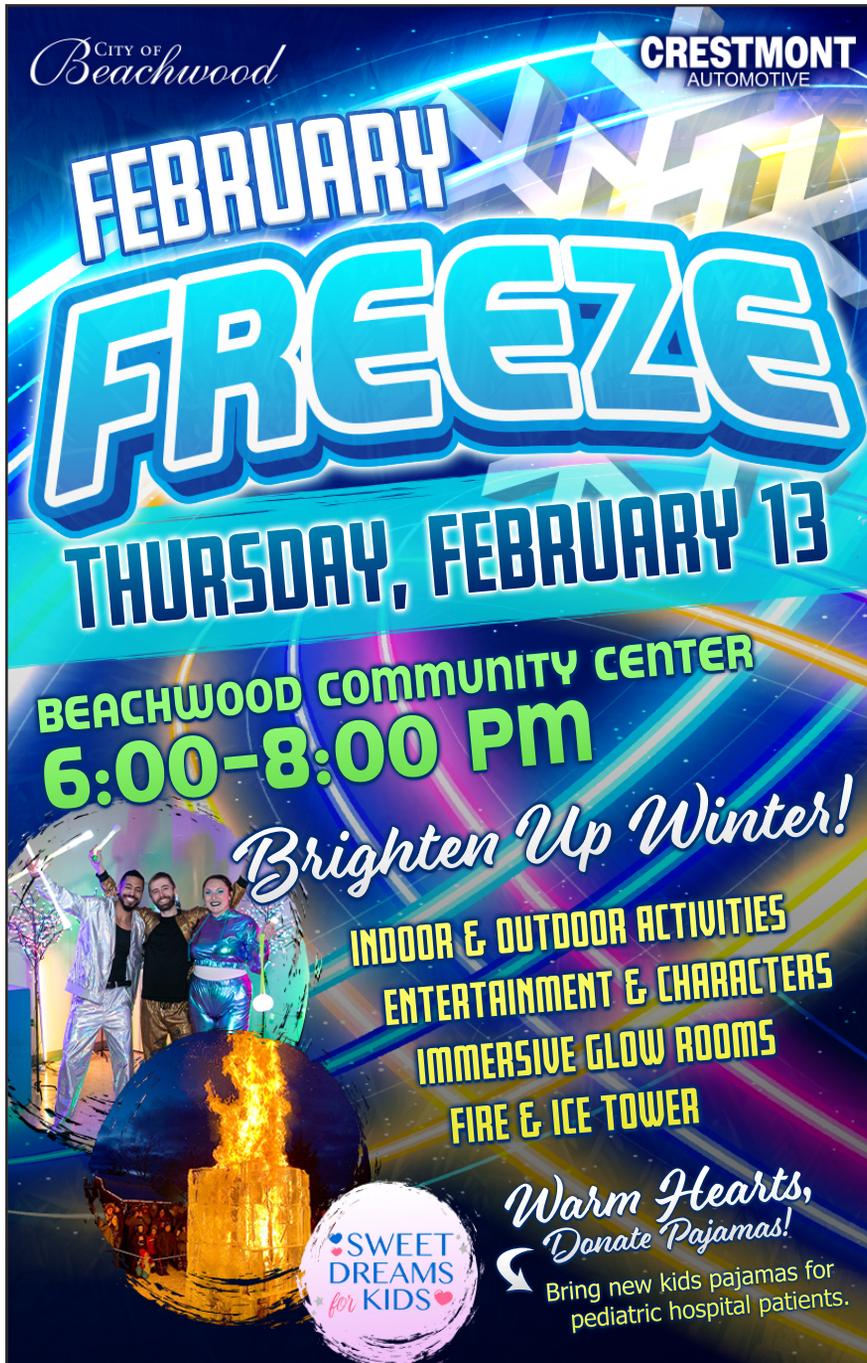
**Let's work together to keep food waste out of landfills! Signing up is quick and easy:**

- Visit [BeachwoodOhio.com/composting](http://BeachwoodOhio.com/composting).
- Complete the online registration.
- Enjoy 24/7 bin access, which is free to residents, and cancel anytime.

We encourage more residents to join this green initiative and help Beachwood reach its 2025 sustainability goal—sign up now and start composting today!



# February Recreation Guide



**CITY OF Beachwood**  
**CRESTMONT AUTOMOTIVE**

# FEBRUARY FREEZE

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

**BEACHWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER**  
**6:00-8:00 PM**

*Brighten Up Winter!*

**INDOOR & OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES**  
**ENTERTAINMENT & CHARACTERS**  
**IMMERSIVE GLOW ROOMS**  
**FIRE & ICE TOWER**

*Warm Hearts, Donate Pajamas!*  
Bring new kids pajamas for pediatric hospital patients.

**SWEET DREAMS for KIDS**

## Upcoming Programs

- **Crayola Imagine Arts Wild World: The Art of Conservation**  
Mon, Feb. 10-Mar. 10  
Grades K-2, 3:15-4:15 p.m., Bryden  
Grades 3-5, 2:40-3:40 p.m., Hilltop  
Residents \$90, Non-Residents \$108  
\*No class on Feb. 17.
- **Belly Dance Fitness (Adults)**  
Wed, Feb. 19-Mar. 19, 6:30-7:25 p.m.  
Beachwood Community Center  
Residents \$81, Non-Residents \$97
- **Beat Busters Hip-Hop (Ages 3-5)**  
Tues, Feb. 25-Mar. 18, 3:00-3:45 p.m.  
Fairmount Early Childhood Center  
Residents \$78, Non-Residents \$94
- **Pottery for Kids (Ages 7-11)**  
Sat, Mar. 1-Mar. 29, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
Beachwood Ceramic Guild  
Residents \$206, Non-Residents \$247
- **The Business of Babysitting (Ages 11 & up)**  
Sun, Mar. 2, 11:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.  
Beachwood Community Center  
Residents \$90, Non-Residents \$108
- **Adult CPR Course**  
Tues, Mar. 4, 8:30-11:00 a.m.  
Beachwood Public Safety Center  
Residents \$35, Non-Residents \$50

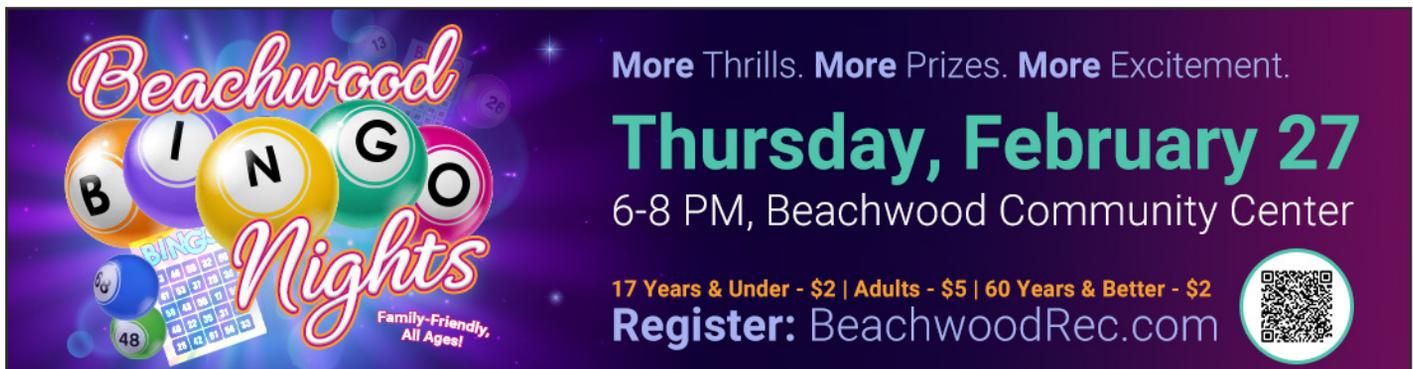


**BEACHWOOD**  
Baseball & Softball

Boys & Girls Divisions

Open to Ages 5-14 Years

**Register: BeachwoodRec.com**



# Beachwood Bingo Nights

Family-Friendly, All Ages!

**More Thrills. More Prizes. More Excitement.**

## Thursday, February 27

6-8 PM, Beachwood Community Center

17 Years & Under - \$2 | Adults - \$5 | 60 Years & Better - \$2

**Register: BeachwoodRec.com**



# Beachwood Summer Camp: Fun Awaits!

Looking for the ultimate summer experience for your child? Beachwood Summer Camp has it all! Whether it's Kidz, Bison, Sports, Teen Travel, or Theater Camp, your child will enjoy endless summer fun with exciting field trips, daily activities, games, and more.

The time is now! **Resident early bird rates end Feb. 28 at 4:30 p.m.**

Non-residents can begin registering Mar. 3 at 9:00 a.m. Registration can be completed online at [BeachwoodRec.com](http://BeachwoodRec.com) or in-person at City Hall.

## How To Register Online:

- Online registration is found at [BeachwoodRec.com](http://BeachwoodRec.com) on the homepage and the Summer Camp page.
- You must have an online account set up. If you do not, please call us and we will set it up for you over the phone at 216.292.1970. Please do not duplicate accounts.
- If you forgot your account password, click "forgot password" and follow the prompts.
- Once you are logged into your account, you can then find Summer Camps and begin your registration.
- Residents must upload a current utility bill to their account as proof of residency.

Video tutorials are available on our Summer Camp webpage offering a step-by-step guide for the registration process. The deadline for camp registration is May 23 or until full.



BEACHWOOD COMMUNITY THEATER PRESENTS

# SUGARTOWN Follies

DIRECTED BY MARQUEE SHOWCASE PRODUCTIONS

**A SWEET YOUTH PRODUCTION  
CELEBRATING ALL THINGS SUGARY!**

**FREE ADMISSION**  
March 1 & March 2 at 2:00 PM  
*Beachwood Middle School*

## Beachwood Seniors

### Upcoming Programs

- **Sanctioned Duplicate Bridge Fridays**  
Beginning Friday, Feb. 7, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.  
Beachwood Community Center  
  
New! This is an open game for all to play from 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. occurring weekly at the Community Center beginning Feb. 7. Master points are available. Cost is \$10 cash at the door.
- **Bingo Bonanza**  
Monday, Feb. 10, 1:00-2:30 p.m.  
Beachwood Community Center  
  
Join us for a friendly and fun game of bingo! Enjoy the excitement, win prizes, and connect with friends. Just \$5 per person. Registration required in advance at [BeachwoodRec.com](http://BeachwoodRec.com) or call 216.292.1970.
- **Breakfast Bites & Insights - State of the City Edition with Mayor Berns**  
Friday, Feb. 28, 10:30 a.m.  
Beachwood Community Center  
  
You're invited to join Jayme Jirousek, Senior Adult Manager, for a light breakfast with special guest, Mayor Justin Berns. Mayor Berns will give a recap of his 2025 State of the City Address and answer your questions.

### Feb. Meet & Eat

**Nod to Nat King Cole**  
Thursday, Feb. 20, at Noon  
Beachwood Community Center  
Residents \$13  
Non-Residents \$16  
Program Only \$5  
*Register by Feb. 13.*

Debbie Darling, singer/songwriter, and David Strieter, pianist, introduce you to the Nat King Cole you didn't know: How he started his singing career, how he bridged the gap between Blacks and whites in the entertainment industry and helped with the Civil Rights Movement.

Meal choices include macaroni, beef and cheese casserole or quinoa stuffed pepper. All entrees include a side salad, beverage and dessert.

**Mar. Meet & Eat (3/20):** Discover Julia Child's recipe for success with Ruth Pangrace from Women in History. Register by March 13.

**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

## Now Available: Beachwood Business Compass Podcast

The Beachwood Business Compass, a podcast created by the City of Beachwood's Office of Economic Development (OED) is now live! The OED created the podcast with local entrepreneurs and small businesses in mind. The city's One-Stop Business Resource Center and this podcast series are a comprehensive guide providing resources to navigate the hyper-local business community. Whether you're an established enterprise, a growing startup, or a small-business owner, the Beachwood Business Compass supplies the insight and inspiration you need to chart your path to success.

The first episode of the Beachwood Business Compass is streaming now, and we invite you to listen and subscribe to stay connected. Don't miss out on valuable insights and resources for your business. The Office of Economic Development will release the next episode the week of Feb. 24, so be sure to subscribe and stay tuned for more exciting content to help you and your business succeed.



## Female Entrepreneur Networking Event

Join us for a Female Entrepreneur Networking Event at the new Anne Cate retail-makers space in Beachwood. This networking event is focused on bringing intentional connections to each attendee and will occur on Feb. 13 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.; make reservations by calling the Office of Economic Development at 216.292.1915. This event, held in collaboration with the Female Entrepreneurs Summit (FES), is a wonderful opportunity to connect and grow networks with other women-owned businesses.

## One-on-One Business Consulting



Beachwood's One-Stop Business Resource Center now offers a One-on-One Business Consulting Program to empower local entrepreneurs and small-business owners with the tools and guidance they need to grow, innovate, and succeed. This program, which is aligned with the Small Business

Development Center (SBDC), is tailored to serve the unique needs of each business and combines mentorship, education, and direct consulting.

Whether starting a business, scaling your operations, or navigating complex challenges, there are consultants ready to provide personalized support to help achieve your goals. To take advantage of this resource, schedule an initial onboarding meeting at either your office, Beachwood City Hall, or in one of our coworking spaces here in Beachwood, including OC2, CoHatch, or Regis. Contact Catherine Bieterman, Economic Development Director, at 216.292.1915 or Catherine.Bieterman@BeachwoodOhio.com to make an appointment or contact the CSU SBDC at 216.687.6902.

## Networking & Education

**Tri-C Goldman Sachs:** The 10K Small Businesses Program is accepting applications for May 2025, with no cost for Beachwood businesses to participate. For more information, please call 216.987.3162 or visit [www.10KSBApPLY.com](http://www.10KSBApPLY.com)

**The Center for Entrepreneurship at Corporate College:** A convenient, four-track program to help you launch or grow your business. Full scholarships are available. Classes run for six weeks. Learn more at the One-Stop Business Resource Center or email [entrepreneur@tri-c.edu](mailto:entrepreneur@tri-c.edu).

**2025 Forbes Under 30 Summit:** An exclusive nationwide event returns to Columbus, Ohio, for young professionals to convene with top leaders! Visit their website at [forbes.com/connect/events](http://forbes.com/connect/events).

**Beachwood Chamber of Commerce:** Membership with the Chamber of Commerce brings you access to multiple networking opportunities within the community. Visit [beachwood.org](http://beachwood.org) to learn more and explore the benefits.

## 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