

The Mayor's Message Leadership, Collaboration, and Innovation in Action

Dear Beachwood Residents,

As we move closer to spring, I am excited to share several important updates and acknowledgments that highlight the spirit of our community.

This month, I am delighted to welcome Pete Smith, our newest City Council member. Pete was sworn in on Feb. 3 at Beachwood City Hall, where his oath of office was administered by former City Council President James Pasch. With his commitment to service and forward-thinking approach, Pete will make lasting contributions to our community. His perspective and dedication to our community will enhance our collaborative efforts to address the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

I would also like to acknowledge the Beachwood Fire Department for their extraordinary mutual aid response during a fire at an under-construction apartment in Cleveland Heights. Beachwood's ladder truck, Unit 1021, remained on the scene for over 20 hours, with four different crews rotating in shifts. During their response, they pumped an estimated 1.5 million gallons of water to extinguish the fire. Their swift and decisive efforts were instrumental in mitigating the threat. I'm proud of our department's response and their role in safeguarding not only Beachwood but our entire region.

I was also honored to attend a comprehensive "tabletop" training exercise hosted by the Jewish Federation of Cleveland. This event brought together over 140 attendees from various law enforcement agencies, local religious congregations, and community partners. The exercise, which simulated a terrorism incident, was designed to strengthen preparedness and mutual aid response protocols. I was particularly proud to see the Beachwood Police Department Command Staff take the lead as the initial responding local law enforcement agency. Their proactive role and the collaborative effort of all involved affirm our commitment to protecting our city's religious congregations. Events like this

fortify our readiness and highlight the importance of unity in safeguarding every member of our community.

Furthermore, I wish to acknowledge the tireless work of our Public Works team in addressing the lingering challenges of winter weather in Northeast Ohio. Their efforts in maintaining safe and accessible infrastructure emphasize their professionalism and commitment to our residents.

Looking ahead, our Community Services Department is preparing to distribute the Recreation Guide for spring and summer 2025. This guide will highlight various engaging programs and activities designed to unite our community. Among these programs, we are proud to continue our same-gender swimming events, building on the success of last year's pilot program and reflecting our commitment to inclusivity and equal access for all residents.

Lastly, I invite you to watch for the upcoming April issue of *Beachwood Buzz*, which will feature a story on my State of the City address. This feature promises to shed light on Beachwood's accomplishments in 2024 and to provide a look ahead to our goals for the remainder of this year.

Thank you for your ongoing support and for being an essential part of our thriving community. Together, we will continue to build a community defined by leadership, collaboration, and innovation.

Sincerely,



Mayor Justin Berns
MayorBerns@beachwoodohio.com



Beachwood City Council



How To Email A Council Member: 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



Pete Smith
216.299.3557



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

Legislative Update

January 21, 2025 - February 3, 2025

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.

Jan. 21 City Council Meeting

City Council Appointments:

- Jillian DeLong - Member of the Planning and Zoning Commission
- Danielle Shoykhet - Member of the Tax Incentive Review Council (TIRC)
- Josh Mintz - RFQ Selection Committee for the Fairmount Temple Property
- Pete Smith - City Council Member

Public Safety:

The City Council voted to approve the installation of new computers and modems in a portion of the police vehicle fleet. These will replace the current technology in these vehicles.

Community Engagement:

The city will continue its agreement with Picklebill Pickleball Academy for 2025. This service provides pickleball lessons and clinics at a nominal fee for residents.

Feb. 3 City Council Meeting

Infrastructure Improvements:

The city accepted a proposal from Fonroche Lighting America for a solar lighting pilot program. The city will install residential lights on Beachwood Boulevard and Ranch Road. for a prescribed amount of time to determine their effectiveness before moving forward with a community-wide residential lighting solution.

Public Safety:

City Council approved the purchase of four vehicles for the police fleet. Three Ford Explorer Police Interceptors will replace older police vehicles in the fleet. A Ford F-150 will also be purchased for the traffic bureau to efficiently deploy speed trailers, traffic signs, and generators.

Innovative Partnerships

The city continued its relationship with the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) to receive additional grants toward energy savings-related projects. The city has over \$78,000 to use toward applicable projects.

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.

Beachwood Police Department Welcomes New Officer



The Beachwood Police Department proudly welcomes Jeff Garcia Jr. as our newest lateral entry police officer.

Jeff joins us from the Brunswick Police Department, where he dedicated the past 10 years to serving his community. In addition to his extensive law enforcement experience, Jeff has a 15-year

military career with the Ohio Army National Guard, serving as a captain and military police officer. His service includes a tour in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom.

A graduate of the University of Akron, Jeff holds a bachelor's degree in political science and criminal justice. Beyond his professional achievements, Jeff is a devoted husband Jena, and a proud father of three daughters. Please join us in welcoming him to our community!



Officer Jeff Garcia Jr. with Mayor Berns and Beachwood Police Department personnel.

UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

City Council:
March 3 at 7:00 p.m.
March 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Planning & Zoning:
March 20 at 6:30 p.m.

Architectural Board of Review:
March 3 at 4:30 p.m.
March 17 at 4:30 p.m.

Work - Live - Learn - Thrive

Pete Smith, Beachwood's Newest City Council Member

Beachwood welcomed its newest City Council member, Pete Smith, who was officially sworn in during the Feb. 3 council meeting at Beachwood City Hall. Former Beachwood City Council President James Pasch administered Smith's oath of office.



Pete Smith

After taking the oath, Smith remarked, "Leadership is service, and service implies accountability."

Before taking his seat at the council table, he shook hands with each council member and expressed his gratitude. "I want to thank the council for your decision. I promise you I'll give it my very best and my most sincere efforts, and to the City of Beachwood, thank you for your trust in me."

Smith was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Eric Synenberg, who was sworn in to the Ohio General Assembly on Jan. 6 to represent the 21st District. Smith's current term runs through Dec. 31, 2025, and he will need to run for reelection in Nov. 2025.

Mayor Justin Berns presented Smith with a public service recognition certificate in honor of his six years of leadership as a member of the Beachwood Civil Service Commission, which he had chaired since 2020.

"We're going to miss you on the civil service commission; somebody is going to have some big shoes to fill," Berns said. "Thank you for your service. We appreciate it, and I look forward to working with you on City Council." Following Smith's transition to city council, the mayor will appoint a new member and chair for the commission.

A 17-year resident of Beachwood, Smith has a strong background in public service and a vision for the city's future. As a council member, he plans to focus on maintaining Beachwood's economic stability, ensuring public safety, and investing in sound infrastructure. He is also passionate about attracting and retaining young families and developing sustainable energy solutions for public facilities.

Professionally, Smith is an experienced sales and marketing leader in the pharmaceutical industry, with over 25 years of experience at companies like Johnson & Johnson and Teva Pharmaceuticals. He currently works as a consultant in the field, bringing his leadership and strategic expertise to his new role in city governance.

With a commitment to service and a forward-thinking approach, Smith will bring valuable insights and contributions to Beachwood City Council.



City Council Left to Right: Ali B. Stern, Pete Smith, June E. Taylor, Alec Isaacson (President), Mayor Justin Berns, Danielle Shoykhet (Vice President), Joshua Mintz, Jillian DeLong

COMMUNITY CENTER ROOM RENTALS:

Beachwood residents, Beachwood businesses and community groups are able to rent rooms for meetings, events, and parties. Details and rental forms are available at BeachwoodRec.com.

Pickleball Court Reservations

After a successful mid-August launch last summer, the YourCourts pickleball reservation system will continue this season. YourCourts is an exclusive benefit for Beachwood residents, allowing them to reserve pickleball courts at no cost. The platform is accessible via an app for Apple and Android or through any web browser on a laptop, tablet, or other device. You are able to view the court schedule on-demand, 24 hours per day.

Residents can reserve courts for up to 90 minutes, up to four days in advance, with a limit of one reservation per day and three per week.

To gain access, residents must show proof of residency in person at Beachwood City Hall. If you signed up last summer, your account remains active, and there is no need to re-enroll this year.



Spring Shred Day

Bring personal documents, mail, and files to have them shredded on-site. This is a free service for Beachwood residents! Proof of residency (driver's license) is required. Please use paper bags and banker boxes only; no plastic grocery bags, please.



A Recycling Awareness Grant from the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District supports this community service. Join us Friday, May 9, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmount Temple property parking lot (23737 Fairmount Blvd.) — rain or shine.

Residential Solar Streetlight Pilot Program

The City of Beachwood is taking a significant step toward sustainable urban development with a new residential solar streetlight pilot program. In response to resident feedback—nearly 70% of whom have called for street lighting—the administration has collaborated closely with city council to develop a practical and fiscally responsible solution.

Under the pilot, solar-powered streetlights will be installed along Beachwood Boulevard and Ranch Road, with units placed approximately 150 feet apart. The installation is tentatively scheduled for Spring or early Summer of 2025. Through a proposal process, Fonroche Lighting America has been selected to supply its innovative SmartLights for this initiative. The pilot's duration remains to be determined, as city officials plan to evaluate the performance and overall effectiveness of the SmartLights before considering a community-wide rollout.

The Fonroche solar lights are designed with environmental sustainability in mind. Every component — from the solar panels to the light poles — is between 95% and 99% recyclable. These lights operate with zero emissions and reduced energy consumption, aligning with the city's commitment to green initiatives. The SmartLights are dark-sky compliant, providing necessary illumination while minimizing light pollution to

protect the natural night sky.

One of the standout features of these lights is their adaptive lighting profile. The system is programmed to deliver maximum brightness for a set number of hours after sunset and before sunrise, ensuring well-lit roads during critical times. The lighting is automatically reduced for the remainder of the night to conserve energy while providing sufficient visibility. In addition, wireless connectivity allows for real-time control and performance monitoring, potentially reducing future maintenance costs.



Solar lighting visual example.

If the pilot program proves successful, Beachwood anticipates that the solar streetlights will not only enhance neighborhood visibility and reduce light pollution but also lead to substantial long-term savings in utility costs. This initiative represents a forward-thinking blend of technological innovation, environmental stewardship, and community-focused planning, setting the stage for a brighter, greener future in Beachwood.

BFD's Mutual Aid Efforts in Cleveland Heights Apartment Fire

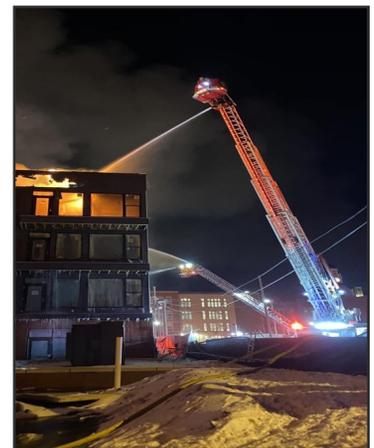
On Jan. 24, 2025, around 7:30 p.m., the Beachwood Fire Department was dispatched for mutual aid to Cleveland Heights, responding with a ladder truck to reports of smoke near Cedar Road and Lee Road. The situation quickly escalated into a four-alarm fire involving a four-story apartment building under construction, with intense fire conditions upon arrival.

Beachwood's unit 1021 arrived on the scene 10 minutes later and was assigned to the left side of the structure. Incident command initially considered sending crews inside to contain the fire. However, after evaluating the conditions, they determined that the interior operations were too dangerous due to the heavy fire engulfing the roof. As a result, they opted for a defensive strategy, prioritizing containment and prevention of the fire's spread.

Firefighters faced multiple challenges while battling the fire. Upon arrival, heavy fire had already breached the roof. The initial placement of police cruisers created delays in positioning fire trucks, further complicating access to the site. The extreme cold, with temperatures around 10 degrees Fahrenheit, added strain as hoses froze, ice formed on surfaces, and firefighters faced increased physical stress.

Unit 1021 remained on scene for over 20 hours, with four different crews rotating in shifts. During that time, 1021 alone flowed an estimated 1.5 million gallons of water to combat the inferno. The combination of strategic resource management, teamwork, and relentless effort helped contain the fire, preventing it from spreading to adjacent buildings. Remarkably, despite the fire's intensity, no injuries were reported among firefighters or civilians, and surrounding structures remained undamaged.

The success of this operation is a testament to the dedication, skill, and coordination of the Beachwood Fire Department and the other agencies involved. Their ability to adapt to extreme conditions and overcome substantial obstacles demonstrates their professionalism and commitment to protecting lives and property. The Beachwood Fire Department's swift response and efforts in providing mutual aid were instrumental in mitigating this dangerous fire, showcasing their invaluable role in regional emergency response.



March Recreation Guide

February Freeze Brightens Beachwood's Winter

Fire, ice, and neon lights collided at Beachwood's fourth annual February Freeze, presented by Crestmont Automotive. Approximately 700 attendees lit up winter with a spectacular evening of glowing attractions and icy thrills, both indoors and outdoors, at the Beachwood Community Center on Feb. 13.

This year's event introduced a new fire and ice tower, a mesmerizing centerpiece that captivated families and friends of all ages.

Beyond the fun, February Freeze helped warm hearts by collecting new pajamas for Sweet Dreams for Kids, which will be distributed to pediatric hospital patients. Thank you to everyone who joined us for this magical winter celebration!

**CRESTMONT
AUTOMOTIVE**



The glow room with activities and fun for all ages.



LED light performers in front of the fire and ice tower at February Freeze.



Event photography captured by Discovery Photo.

BEACHWOOD ART GALLERY:

Ileen Kelner Juried High School Art Show | February 23 - March 29

Inspiring work from students representing over 20 local high schools, presented by the Beachwood Arts Council.

Summer Movie Night Schedule

The outdoor movie schedule for this summer is now available! Make plans to see these three free favorites beginning at 5:00 p.m. A great night out for the whole family. Bring your own chairs and blankets. More details coming soon at BeachwoodRec.com or follow @BeachwoodRec on Facebook.

- **Thursday, June 19**

Piece by Piece

- **Sunday, July 13**

Dog Man

- **Sunday, August 10**

Harold and the Purple Crayon



BEACHWOOD

Baseball & Softball

Boys & Girls, Ages 5-14 Years
Register: BeachwoodRec.com

Aquatic Center Memberships On Sale Beginning April 7



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 7, at City Hall. Save 20% with early bird rates through Friday, May 23. Please bring a driver's license and current utility bill as proof of residency. For more information and a membership application, visit BeachwoodRec.com.

| | Membership | Early Bird (4/7-5/23) | 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 & Better) | \$35 | \$42 |

Same-Gender Swimming Schedule Announced

Following last summer's successful pilot with approximately 300 men and 300 women attending the four initial sessions, a weekly same-gender swimming schedule will be established at the Beachwood Family Aquatic Center this year. Sessions will be held on Wednesdays (7:30–9:00 p.m.) and Sundays (9:00–10:30 a.m.), alternating genders between each day. A full schedule will be available at BeachwoodRec.com by March 31.



Memberships, available April 7, will include same-gender swimming. Drop-in rates: \$5 residents, \$10 non-resident adult guests, \$7 non-resident youth guests (4-17), \$6 non-resident senior guests (60+). Non-resident guests must attend with a Beachwood resident. Children 3 and under are free and may swim during either session.

SUGARTOWN FOLLIES
 BEACHWOOD COMMUNITY THEATER
 March 1 & March 2 at 2 PM
 Beachwood Middle School
FREE ADMISSION!

Follow us!
 @BeachwoodOHRec

Beachwood Seniors

Upcoming Programs

- Bingo Bonanza**
 Monday, March 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 or call 216.292.1970.
- Drawing Class with Marlene Weinstein**
 Tuesdays, March 11-April 15, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. or 1:00-3:00 p.m.
 Beachwood Community Center
 Explore light, composition, color and more. All artistic levels welcome. The upcoming session will cover still life drawing over the course of six weeks. Register by March 4, \$79 for residents and \$89 for non-residents.
- Beginner Mahj Lessons with Fern Grunberger**
 Mondays, April 7-April 28, 12:30-2:30 p.m.
 Beachwood Community Center
 The sound of clicking tiles will become music to your ears with this beginner class! Register by April 2, only \$48 for residents and \$58 for non-residents. No class April 14, replacement class on April 15.

March Meet & Eat

Hello Julia
 Thursday, March 20, at Noon
 Beachwood Community Center
 Residents \$13
 Non-Residents \$16
 Program Only \$5
 Register by March 13.

Julia Child, a legendary cookbook author and television superstar, led an amazing life which Ruth Pangrace, from Women in History, will share. Julia's methods, quotes, and personality were one of a kind. Come and discover her recipe for success!

Meal choices include a nicoise salade with a croissant or Chicken Francese (lemon chicken) with a baguette. All entrees served with a cup of vichyssoise, beverage, and dessert.

April Meet & Eat (4/17): Elvis tribute artist Frank Worley is in the building! Take a trip back in time to legendary performances with his KINGtinued tribute. Register by April 10.

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

WHERE BUSINESS IS BOOMING!

THE LATEST NEWS FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Breaking Borders: Tips for Tapping into Foreign Markets



The latest episode of the Beachwood Business Compass podcast hosts a great discussion with Nicki Sulandari, Vice President of the Collaborative Chambers of Commerce, and Don Larson, Chairman of the British American Chamber of Commerce, on foreign markets and how small business owners can set strategy to explore and enter into new market areas. Accessing foreign markets can seem

overwhelming, but through regional networks, connections, and no-cost consulting services, this episode empowers listeners to identify new business growth opportunities. Episode 2 of the Beachwood Business Compass is available now on Apple Podcasts.



Female Entrepreneur Networking Event

The city's Economic Development Office recently hosted female entrepreneurs from FES (The Female Entrepreneur Summit) at Anne Cate's new makerspace in Commerce Park. The City of Beachwood and the Beachwood Chamber of Commerce are proud to support the growth of female-owned businesses through events like this and monthly women's networking meetings, held every second Thursday of the month. For more information, visit the City of Beachwood's One Stop Resource Center online.

Discover How C-PACE Financing Can Benefit Your Business

The City of Beachwood is a proud member of the Northeast Ohio Advanced Energy District, a coalition of more than 25 communities in Cuyahoga County. This district offers a unique financing option called Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE). The program helps commercial property owners implement energy efficiency improvements or add energy generation capabilities to their buildings.

C-PACE financing is an attractive option for many business owners because it typically requires little to no money down to get started. The program offers flexible repayment terms with periods that can extend over the life of your project, making it easier to manage costs over time. Additionally, the repayments are conveniently added as a voluntary assessment on your property tax bill, simplifying the budgeting process for these improvements.

Since its inception in 2010, C-PACE financing has supported over \$1 billion in energy improvements across Ohio. Projects funded through C-PACE have ranged from roof replacement to extensive multi-million-dollar renovations involving building envelopes, HVAC systems, and lighting upgrades.

We invite business and commercial property owners to our upcoming webinar on Tuesday, April 8, at noon. This session will provide an in-depth explanation of how the C-PACE program works. Attendees will gain valuable insights from local lenders who have successfully financed projects using C-PACE and hear from local businesses that have benefited from the program. Email Economic Development Director Catherine Bieterman at catherine.bieterman@BeachwoodOhio.com for a registration link.

Community Advantage Loan Program

Beachwood is taking significant steps to help small businesses secure the financing they need. The city's Community Improvement Corporation, Loan Review Committee, in partnership with Growth Capital Corporation — a nonprofit established to handle government-assisted loan requests — has introduced the Community Advantage Loan Program. This new program allows businesses to borrow up to \$350,000, which can be used for a variety of essential purposes. Because this is an SBA 7(a) loan, it can offer crucial support to businesses that may not qualify for conventional financing.

For more information on these lending opportunities, please contact Catherine Bieterman, the Economic Development Director, at 216-292-1915, or visit Beachwood.com/EconomicDevelopment.

*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