

# CITY OF BROOKLYN



May-June 2016

Welcome to the **City of Brooklyn, Ohio** e-newsletter.

The City of Brooklyn is a strong and vibrant community located centrally in the heart of Cuyahoga County. Brooklyn is the perfect place to live, work and play. Generations of families, businesses and workers have been proud to call Brooklyn home and we think you will too. Come see for yourself all that Brooklyn has to offer.

## TOPICS:

[Mayor's Message](#)

[News, Events, Highlights](#)

## Mayor

Katherine A. Gallagher

## Council

Kathleen M. Pucci  
Antony E. DeMarco  
Kevin Tanski  
Ron Van Kirk  
Mary L. Balbier  
Barbara A. Paulitzky  
Deborah G. Tomusko

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Thank you to University Hospital Parma Medical Center for training over 31 City of Brooklyn employees on how to perform CPR, use the in-house defibrillators, and how to assist someone choking.

As we approach the warmer weather, I would like to give a thank you to the many residents who take such great care of your homes and yards. This hard work helps to maintain property values here in the City of Brooklyn. Over the summer months, the City of Brooklyn's Building and Service Departments experience an influx of phone calls. We welcome these calls because stabilizing our neighborhoods is one of this Administration's highest priorities. Please remember, our staff can only cite property violations in plain view or if a resident permits them into his or her backyard. Here are some of the common complaints during the summer.

## COMMON VIOLATIONS & CALLS

- **High Grass or Excess Growth of Weeds** – The City's standing rule is 6 or more inches. Violators will receive 48 hours to comply with a notice. Non-compliance results in a charge of \$150 per hour for the City to perform the work.
- **Noise** – The City restricts disturbing the peace between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.
- **Outdoor Burning** – Open burning is prohibited. If you are using an outdoor fireplace or any other device that contains the fire, you must keep it 15 feet from any structure; it should be attended by an adult; only burn material that minimize the emission of contaminants; and it is only permitted when the atmospheric conditions allow the dissipation of smoke contaminants.
- **Clutter in the Yard** – the City will provide notice to remedy within 72 hours.
- **Curfew** – Children under 12 years old should not be out unsupervised past dark and those minors between the ages of 12 and 18 should not be out unsupervised between the hours of 11 p.m. and 6 a.m.
- **Garage Sales** – Permits are required through the Building Department. These are free of charge. Only three garage sales per year are permitted and they must run between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. Signs should only be displayed more than two consecutive days before the sale and must be removed on the last day of the sale.

### Meet the Mayor

The next Meet with the Mayor will be on Thursday, May 19 from 3:30-5:30pm. Please email [jludwig@brooklynohio.gov](mailto:jludwig@brooklynohio.gov) or call 216-635-4220 if you are interested.



### New Appointments

Mayor Gallagher welcomes three new members to her administration. Welcome aboard!

- Senior Center Coordinator Karen Fratto
- Prosecutor James McDonnell
- Magistrate Vince Ruffa

## NEWS, EVENTS, HIGHLIGHTS

### Cable Update

The public government access stations are running on **WOW channel 21** and **AT&T U-verse channel 99**. You may also view the council meetings online at [brooklynohio.gov](http://brooklynohio.gov). We are actively working with the School and Time Warner Cable to bring the City channel back.

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### Library

Please join us on Wednesday, May 18 at 5 p.m. as we celebrate our new refreshed branch!

On Saturday, May 7 from 11 a.m., to 1:30 p.m., the Brooklyn Library will celebrate Free Comic Book Day, a tie-in event with the national day that celebrates comic books, our local comic book stores and the love of reading! They will have a limited variety of free comic books to pass out for the day so stop by! For all ages.

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### Memorial Day - May 30

Memorial Day will be observed on Monday, May 30. Here is a lineup for the day:

- Ceremonies at West Park Cemetery begin at 9:30am.
- The parade will begin at 11:00am from Brooklyn High School. The parade will go down Biddulph Road – North to Ridge Road and West on Memphis Avenue. Ceremonies will begin upon the parade's arrival around noon at City Hall.
- There will be a Gather and Grill afterwards sponsored by the Police and Fire Departments. Proceeds will benefit the Metro Hospital Burn Unit and the City of Brooklyn's Police Department's Shop with a Cop Program.

All are welcome. Families of Military Personnel are invited to participate in the parade and ceremony at Memorial Park – please call Tina at 216-635-4283. Any resident group interested in marching in the parade should contact the Recreation Department at 216-635-4283 by May 26. Bike riders are invited to decorate their bikes. Minor children age 14 and under are required by law to wear a protective helmet when using bicycles, skateboards, in-line skates and roller skates.

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### **COUNCIL MEETINGS**

#### **March 28, 2016**

- Honored Margaret Hovan for her service to the City of Brooklyn. Congrats on your retirement.
- Welcomed new Magistrate Vince Ruffa.
- Approved Dollar Bank Manager Dave Hill to the Economic Development Committee.
- Authorized the Mayor to enter into a Service Agreement Renewal with Bailey Communications, Inc. to provide maintenance of network, software, support and other related services for the City of Brooklyn. The annual cost is \$51,641.10.
- Amended Section 1 of Ord. 2008-65, "Establishing the fee for the Evening Basketball Program within Recreation Department." The rate changed from \$20-40 for an eight week program to \$35-\$75 for a 6 to 12 week program.
- Established the fee for the Evening Volleyball Program within Recreation Department. This is a new program with a fee of \$75 for a 6 to 12 week program.
- Amended Section 1 of Ord. 2009-7, "Providing for fees for instructions in ice skating within the City of Brooklyn Recreation Department." The rates are now between \$35 and \$80 for the various programs.
- Amended Sect. 1 of Ord. 2009-23, "Providing for fees for softball/baseball/soccer field usage within the City of Brooklyn Recreation Department." The rate changed from \$15-\$75 to \$25-\$75.
- Established registration fees for the T-Ball and Baseball Programs within the Recreation Department of the City of Brooklyn" and repealing Ordinances 2010-10 and 2011-15. The rates range from \$55 to \$95.

#### **April 11, 2016**

- Honored Daniel Enovitch for his service to the City of Brooklyn. Congrats on your retirement.
- Liquor permit request (Starbucks)
- Authorized the sale of certain city owned vehicles through GovDeals, public internet auctioneers, for the purpose of disposing of city vehicles and equipment at public sale. This included a 1991 Caterpillar and a 2006 Pelican Street Sweeper.
- Established fees for advertising at the John M. Coyne Recreation Center. Banners for rink, pool, baseball fields and Zamboni ranging from \$200 to \$5,000 to advertise half of the year.

- Established the fee for participation in the City of Brooklyn's Farmers Market. These will range from \$5 to \$30 per day, per vendor.
- Authorized the Mayor to enter into a contract with Eclipse Company, LLC for construction services for Tiedeman Road, PID No. 95548 with the lowest and best bid of \$1,325,737.97. This was 2.7% over the Engineer's original estimate. Most of this cost will be covered by federal, state and county funds. Brooklyn's total share for the Tiedeman project is \$206,619.97.
- Authorized the Mayor to enter into a contract with Chagrin Valley Paving for construction services for Memphis Avenue PID 86256 with the lowest and best bid of \$1,254,326.70. This was 8.51% below the Engineer's Estimate. The cost will be covered by county funds.
- Authorized a contract with Quality Control Inspection for contract administration and construction inspection for the Tiedeman Road PID 95548 Project in the amount of \$136,792.
- Authorized a contract with Quality Control Inspection for contract administration and construction inspection for the Memphis Avenue PID 86256 Project in the amount of \$139,736.
- Authorized the Mayor of the City of Brooklyn, Ohio to enter into a contract with the Northern Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association Patrol, Sergeant and Jailer's Units. This included a 2% increase in pay and extending the time before each position reaches the top pay.

#### **April 25, 2016**

- Establishing the full-time position of Economic Development Director with the City of Brooklyn, Ohio. Held in Abeyance.
- Approved the appointment of John Bundy to the University Hospital Board of Trustees.
- Authorizing an agreement with James G. Zupka, C.P.A., Inc. to provide Audit Services to the City of Brooklyn for the audit periods 2015-2018, pursuant to authorization of the Auditor of State. Rates are \$27,328 for 2015; \$27,840 for 2016, and \$28,800 for 2017.
- Placed on Second Reading –
  - Providing for the issuance and sale of \$356,496 Notes, in anticipation of the issuance of bonds, to pay costs of resurfacing certain streets to be approved by City Council, together with all work incidental thereto.
  - Providing for the issuance and sale of \$303,504 Notes, in anticipation of the issuance of bonds, to pay costs of improvements to city buildings, including parking therefor.
  - Establishing Section 1360.32 "Foreclosure Filing Notification" of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Brooklyn. This makes it mandatory for the owner to notify the city if the property becomes vacant anytime during the foreclosure process.
  - Establishing Chapter 1362, "Certificate of Inspection at Point of Sale"; and Amending Section 1360.24, "Repair of Code Violations" of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Brooklyn. This mandates that the city must inspect properties any time there is a sale or lease.
- Placed on First Reading
  - Establishing a Vacant Property Registration in the

Codified Ordinances.

- Establishing the position of Part-Time Inspector within the Building Department and repealing the position of Electrical Inspector. This is an update of the ordinances to accurately reflect the duties of the Inspectors used by the City.
- Amending for the compensation for non-bargaining employees. This increases to the ranges of 8 position so the Mayor has the authority to give cost of living matches to non-bargaining units.

The next City Council Meeting is on Monday, May 9 at 7 p.m. There is also a Safety Committee Meeting scheduled on Thursday, May 12 at 4:30 p.m. Some of the topics include: Dogs in Memorial Park and Voiceless Dispatch in the Fire Department. Following the Safety Meeting, Council will hold a work session at 6 p.m. to discuss Economic Development.

Summer Recess - Please remember City Council does not meet in July or August unless necessary.



### Recreation

#### **Farmer's Market Coming to Brooklyn!**

The City of Brooklyn is seeking farmers and vendors to sell fruits, vegetables, meats and other food items as part of a Farmer's Market held at the John M. Coyne Recreation Center, 7600 Memphis Avenue. The market will be held Tuesdays – June 28 thru October 4 from 4:00pm-7:00pm. Please contact Maria McGinty at [mmcginty@brooklynohio.gov](mailto:mmcginty@brooklynohio.gov) or 216-635-4284.

#### **Brooklyn's "Spring Swizzle Skating Exhibition"**

Saturday, May 14 @ 7:00pm

Admission: 10 and older = \$3.00

Seniors - FREE

Children 9 and under - FREE

**See skaters from the Brooklyn Figure Skating Club, Brooklyn Blades on Ice Learn-To-Skate and special guests perform to a variety of music hits!**

**Day Camp registration will be from May 1 thru June 1.** To receive a Camp Brooklyn T-shirt you **MUST** register by June 1. Cost for residents is \$275.00.

**Learn-to-Skate Registration starts May 1. Cost for residents \$40.00 plus \$12.00 USFS Fee – total \$52.00.** \*(USFS Fee \$12.00 – one time charge for September 1, 2015-August 31, 2016.)

**Learn-to-Swim Registration starts May 16. Cost for residents is \$50.00.**

- First morning session starts June 13 thru July 7 and will run Monday thru Friday for 3 ½ weeks.
- Evening session starts June 13 thru August 10 and will run Monday and Wednesday evenings for 9 weeks.
- Registration for second morning session starts July 7 and classes start July 18 thru August 10.

**Swim Team Registration starts May 16.** Cost for residents is \$75.00. Swim team begins June 7 thru August 6. Practice is held Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00-8:00pm and Fridays 6:00-7:30pm.

**Fall Soccer Registration will start on June 1 thru August 15.** Cost for residents is \$60.00

**Coming Soon!** – Brooklyn Recreation Volleyball Program

**Holiday Closures** – Monday, May 30 and Monday, July 4, 2016

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### **Building Department**

The Building Department is currently launching new software and working on a modernized permit and inventory process. Starting next week, you will see City Inspectors on Plainfield Avenue. They will move north from there. Additionally, the Building Department put before Council three new ordinances dealing with foreclosures, vacant property and Point of Sales Inspections. These ordinances along with the door-to-door home inventory is the beginning part of a comprehensive Neighborhood Stabilization Plan.

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### **Senior**

[Click here](#) for the May-June Chit Chat

Laurel Garden Club Plant Sale  
Date: May 24th  
From: 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
In the Grand Pavilion behind City Hall

There will be a Coffee with the Mayor on Friday, June 3, 2016 at 9:30am at the Senior Center. Please call 216-635-4222 to register.

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### **Service**

The composting program is underway and will continue until December.

### Ridge Road Sewer Replacement

Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District took ownership of the sewer system on Ridge Road north of Memphis. Consequently, the County's contractor, Fabrizi, was removed from the job. The job had to go out to bid and was awarded to Independence Excavating. This caused a delay in the project that will resume shortly.

### Construction Updates

- Construction will begin in late May on Memphis Avenue and Tiedeman Roads.
- Construction began on Heather Lane. After Heather Lane is complete, concrete will be poured on Autumn Lane and Brookhigh Drive. The preliminary finish date for these streets is mid to late May depending on the weather.
- The contractor's preliminary schedule for the rest of the streets:
- Applecreek and Pepper Ridge should be completed by June 18th.
- Delora, Melody and Ira (W) should be completed by July 5
- Sunny Lane, W. 62nd, Vandalia and Saybrook will begin on or around May 9th.

Notices will be sent to residents in each area as work progresses.

### Recycling

In 2015, the City of Brooklyn had a 40.38% recycling rate. In order to keep garbage collection in-house and free, we depend on residents to recycle. Attached is a brochure to understand what is recyclable. [http://www.brooklynohio.gov/pdf\\_brooklyn/en-US/Mandatory%20recycle.pdf](http://www.brooklynohio.gov/pdf_brooklyn/en-US/Mandatory%20recycle.pdf)



### Tree City/Arbor Day

The City of Brooklyn just celebrated 31 years as a Tree City. As part of the importance of educating citizens on the importance of trees, each year the city welcomes the Third Grade class from each school to learn more about trees, help plan on the City grounds, and bring home their own tree to plant in their yard.



### Police

- Congratulations to **Peggy Hovan** who retired after 28 years of loyal and dedicated service to the City of Brooklyn and the Police Department.
- **Jacqueline Ans** was named as the Chief's new secretary.
- For 2016 the State of Ohio requires all Police Officers to receive

**Continuing Professional Training** on the following subjects:

- Community-Police Relations with a suggested focus on implicit bias, procedural justice, and Blue Courage
  - Crisis De-Escalation with a required focus on mental illness
  - Constitutional Use of Force
  - Human Trafficking
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- In addition to the above required training the Brooklyn Police Department has received training on the administration of Nasal Narcan (Naloxone) in the event of a suspected opioid overdose and; how to control bleeding of traumatic wounds through the use of a CAT (Combat Application Tourniquet), compression bandaging, and clotting agents.
  - The **Bicycle Patrol** rolled out on April 4. We will be out on the Safe Routes to School Patrol Monday through Friday for 2 hours before and after school. Starting Memorial Day weekend and through the summer, the Police will be on patrol on the weekends.
  - As part of the increased **Community Policing** efforts, officers now do weekly drop-ins at the Senior Center to introduce themselves to residents in the community.



**Fire**

The blood drive held at The Brooklyn Fire Department in partnership with The Brooklyn Recreation Center on Wednesday, March 23rd had a goal to collect 19 pints of whole blood. The Brooklyn community had 14 people register to donate. The Red Cross collected a total of 15 pints of whole blood – 79% of goal. Thank you to The Brooklyn Fire Department and The Brooklyn Recreation Center for your support of this life saving mission. The next Blood Drive will be June 24 at the Brooklyn Fire Station.

**Part-time firefighter** job postings are on the City website and Cleveland.com.

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**New Light Fixtures in Cpl. Knight Commons**

A big Thank You to Brooklyn resident Andy Celcherts who purchased 11 light fixtures for the City of Brooklyn for Cpl. Timothy Knight Commons. While on City Council, Mr. Celcherts actively participated on the Public Works committee and energy efficiency was one of his top priorities. Thank you for helping make Brooklyn beautiful and your generous donation.

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**Class of 2016 Graduating Seniors who are enlisting in the Service:**

Devin Artis – Army  
Gilitza Diaz – OHARNG  
Ethan Porter – Marine Corps

**Congratulations to the entire graduating class of 2016!**

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**Green Cleaning Workshop**

There will be a Green Cleaning Workshop on May 25 from 6:00-7:30pm. [Click here](#) for details.

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**Cuyahoga County Treasury Department**

**EasyPay Prepayment Plans**

*EasyPay* is a *pre-payment program* that allows you to have your *upcoming* real estate tax payments automatically deducted from your checking or savings account. To participate, your real estate taxes must be current or you must be on an active delinquent tax re-payment plan. A separate form must be completed for each parcel you want to enroll in *EasyPay*. You have the following debit options:

**Monthly** - 1/6th of your estimated future tax bill will be withdrawn from your account around the 5th of each month. Each January and July the remaining balance due for the period will be withdrawn from your account on the last day of the collection period.

**Semi-Annual** - Withdrawals will occur twice a year on the last day of each collection period in January and July. You may elect to have the first payment made on the last business day of December instead of the collection closing date.

**Annual** - Your full year tax amount will be withdrawn either on the last business day in December or the last day of the January tax collection.

Regardless of which option you choose, you will receive a tax bill in June and December informing you of the final amount due. Do not send in a payment with the bill as it will be debited to your bank account.

Call (216) 443-7420 for more information.

[Easy Pay Brochure PDF](#)



**Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District**

Many Sewer District teams will be present to showcase various aspects of our work, including our upcoming rate structure.

There will be four meetings spread throughout our Service Area. Meeting dates, times and locations are:

- Thursday, May 19th, 5 – 7 p.m.  
Nordonia High School, Macedonia
- Wednesday, May 25th, 5 – 7 p.m.  
Cuyahoga Community College, Western Campus
- Saturday, June 4th, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
Cuyahoga Community College, Eastern Campus
- Wednesday, June 8th, 5 – 7 p.m.  
Cuyahoga Community College, Jerry Sue Thornton Center (Metro Campus)



**Greater Cleveland Food Bank Assistance**

[Click here](#) for information

**Harvest for Hunger**

[Click here](#) for information



**Brooklyn Relay for Life**

[Click here](#) for information on the event



**Cleveland Furniture Bank**

[Click here](#) for information on how to donate



The City of Brooklyn has many older homes that are worthy of preserving and improving. In order to help homeowners do this, City of Brooklyn has continued its participation in the Heritage Home Program into 2016.

The Heritage Home Program is a specialized service for homes over 50 years old that is operated by the Cleveland Restoration Society (CRS).

The most important feature of the Heritage Home Program is that it offers free Technical Assistance and advice to the owners of older homes.

Technical Assistance can include:

- Site visits at the property conducted by Heritage Home Program staff
- Assistance finding contractors
- Help reviewing estimates from contractors
- Color consults for exterior painting

The free Technical Assistance offered by the Heritage Home Program is completely impartial and independent. CRS does not have any products or services that it sells to the homeowners and does not charge the homeowner for the advice.

Another feature of the Heritage Home Program is its low-interest equity loan program. Homeowners can use this to cover the cost of maintenance and improvement work. The interest rate on these loans is a fixed rate of 2.0% from Key Bank. Heritage Home Program loans can be for interior as well as exterior repairs, maintenance, additions and modernization projects. Kitchen and bath remodels are two popular uses of Heritage Home Program loans. The only things that cannot be done with a Heritage Home Program loan are luxury items such as swimming pools or hot tubs, vinyl siding or windows, and landscaping.

For more information, call 216-426-3116 or visit [www.heritagehomeprogram.org](http://www.heritagehomeprogram.org). We hope you take advantage of this excellent service.

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#### **Big Creek Clean-up**

June 4th  
9am - Noon



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Be sure to LIKE us on [FACEBOOK](#) to keep up with city information!

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If you have news that you would like shared through the *City of Brooklyn Newsletter*, or would like to add an e-mail address to the distribution list, contact Jill Ludwig at [jludwig@brooklynohio.gov](mailto:jludwig@brooklynohio.gov) or 216-635-4220.



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