

# BROOKLYN NEWS

SUMMER 2020 EDITION



## FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK



**Mayor Katie Gallagher**

We are certainly experiencing unprecedented and uncertain times as a country and as a community. My administration has followed the guidance of the Governor on protocols, closings and re-openings. While many programs, events, facilities remain closed or cancelled we are continuously trying to provide alternative solutions. We have all learned to adapt and adjust as we move forward. I hope this latest issue of Brooklyn News answers some of your lingering questions and gives us hope for the future.

Our community rallied around each other as businesses generously donated food and personal protective equipment to our first responders and city workers. We appreciate the efforts and dedication of our neighboring hospitals and the employees of

the city who continue to provide services to residents.

As many communities struggle financially, I want to assure you that our city is prepared for these losses of revenue we are currently experiencing and we will continue to monitor and adjust as needed.

While we slowly ease back into our normal way of life, it is not lost on us that many milestone life events were altered. To the graduating class of 2020 we say congratulations, and we wish you much success on your next adventures in life. Your accomplishments will be with you forever. Until we can convene together again, stay safe and be well. ●

## Inside this issue



### Welcome Aboard

Three new police officers and two firefighters are sworn in and ready to serve! We also welcome a new Economic Development and Planning Director.

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### Summer Maintenance

Read how to get your home spruced up for summer!

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### Marquardt Revitalization

See the plans for the revitalization of Marquardt Park!

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## Recreation Center

Brooklyn Recreation is adapting to the constantly shifting regulations and guidance from national, state and local authorities. Below is our most recent update on our plans for the Recreation Center and our facilities located around Brooklyn's parks and public places.

### Recreation Programs

Spring sports (soccer, volleyball, swim, skating) . . . . .	Cancelled
Baseball/softball/T-ball . . . . .	Cancelled
Summer swim lessons . . . . .	Cancelled
Summer day camp and Safety Town . . . . .	Cancelled

We have cancelled spring and summer youth programs and are gearing up for fall sports and programs to possibly resume in some capacity. Our department is following the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control, the Ohio High School Athletic Association, and local health organizations to make these decisions and ultimately to keep our participants and patrons safe. Once we are able to resume activity we will release a plan for those programs.

Refunds have been processed for all spring activities. Summer refunds will be processed soon. If you have questions about a refund or credit contact us at (216) 351-5334 or by email at [recinfo@brooklynohio.gov](mailto:recinfo@brooklynohio.gov).

### Recreation Facilities

Pavilions . . . . .	Reopen June 1
Outdoor baseball, softball, tennis . . . . .	Reopen June 1
Weight room, cardio room . . . . .	Reopen June 22
Indoor pool . . . . .	Reopen July 6
Ice Rink . . . . .	Closed through at least June 30
Outdoor basketball . . . . .	Closed through at least June 30
Playgrounds . . . . .	Closed through at least June 30
Outdoor pool . . . . .	Closed for the summer

These dates are subject to change. All facilities to reopen will have restrictions. Please visit [www.brooklynohio.gov](http://www.brooklynohio.gov) for complete details and updates on reopenings. Although some of our facilities will remain closed due to COVID-19, we encourage residents to stay active during this time. Walking paths and open greenspace are still available for people to use. Remember to practice social distancing and proper hygiene when using any public space for an activity.



### Virtual Silver Sneakers

Search "JoAnn Leucke" on YouTube or follow the Brooklyn Recreation Department's Facebook page for daily workout videos and health tips. JoAnn has dedicated herself to helping our senior population during this time and we owe her a big thanks for doing so. We hope to see everyone back at the BRC very soon for classes.



### Virtual Jazzercise

Marisa Paulitzky is offering live classes on Facebook at the following times:

Monday to Thursday . . . . .	5:30 p.m.
Monday, Wednesday and Friday . . . . .	12 p.m.
Saturday . . . . .	9 a.m.
Sunday . . . . .	10 a.m.

Marisa is intent on keeping the Jazzercise community of Brooklyn in shape with hopes to return to classes at our facility soon. Contact Marisa at [marisajazz@yahoo.com](mailto:marisajazz@yahoo.com) or call (216) 408-2969 for information on how to join these classes.

## Senior Center

The Senior Center is taking calls Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. should you need transportation for essential groceries or for doctor's appointments. There is a limited capacity at this time in order for us to stay compliant with COVID-19 recommendations and keep you safe. If you want to just chat or are feeling lonely, please call us at (216) 635-4222 or the Ohio Department of Aging's Staying Connected line at (800) 266-4343.

Some of our upcoming events for Senior Center members:

- Free activity bags for pick-up on Thursday, June 25 between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m.
- Drive-up ice cream day Thursday, July 16 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.
- Virtual and Robo Trivia calls: a call will be sent via MySeniorChitchat and a prize will be delivered to the winner's houses.
- Tune in to watch the Virtual Mind Challenge Regional Competition on June 16 at 1 p.m., where two of our Brooklyn teams will be featured on Facebook Live. The link can be found at [www.themindchallenge.com](http://www.themindchallenge.com).

## FOOD ASSISTANCE

Any senior citizen resident needing food or help shopping should contact the Senior Center at (216) 635 4222.

Baba's Yard also continues its fresh produce distribution to all members of the community on the fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 3:30 p.m. There are no residency restrictions and the event is open to all households with limited incomes. Pick up your produce at the Brooklyn Recreation Center 7600 Memphis Avenue. Please enter off Memphis Avenue and remain in your car.



# A FOND FAREWELL TO...

**Carmen Canzona** and **Gary Husak** both retired this past March. Canzona, a Navy veteran, spent 28 years with the Brooklyn Fire Department. During his career, he earned a Chris Holt Award from Metro Hospital and a MetroHealth Excellence in Emergency Medical Service Award. Husak, a 33-year veteran of the department, grew up in Brooklyn, and also was a recipient of the MetroHealth Excellence in Emergency Medical Service Award. Both of these firefighters' experience and knowledge will be greatly missed.



**Carmen Canzona**



**Gary Husak**

**Tina Westfall** is set to retire from her service to the City of Brooklyn after 27 years. Tina has been a lifelong resident and she began her career in the Income Tax Department before being promoted to payroll coordinator and moving onto the Recreation Department as the secretary supervisor. Tina was the behind-the-scenes person for park rentals and ice rentals and served as the general finance person for the Recreation Center. She assisted at our community's special events and filled in at the front desk as a cashier when needed. Thank you, Tina! ●

## CENSUS 2020

Get Counted!

There are three easy ways to complete the Census:

Online, at [www.my2020census.gov](http://www.my2020census.gov)

By phone, at (844) 330-2020

By submitting a paper form in the mail

For every person not counted, Ohio loses \$1,200 in funding that goes towards vital school, safety, health and medical care.

Please do your part!

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Census  
2020

# WELCOME ABOARD!

The Brooklyn Fire Department is proud to announce the hiring of **Zach Shells** and **Dominic LaMarca**, who were both sworn in on April 17 by Mayor Gallagher. Shells is a 2015 graduate of Olmsted Falls High school and had been a part-time firefighter with Brooklyn for over a year. LaMarca is a 2017 graduate of Brecksville-Broadview Heights High school and had worked part-time for a month prior to becoming full-time with Brooklyn.

The Brooklyn Police Department added three new officers, **Michael Spisak**, **Joseph Chessar** and **Kyle Young**, on May 4. Young, of Strongsville, comes to Brooklyn from the Cleve-

land Clinic after working as a police officer at Lutheran Hospital. Spisak was a part-time officer for the Fairport Harbor Police Department and grew up in Mentor. Chessar, an army veteran and reservist, is from Mayfield Village and recently graduated from the police academy.

In late March, Brooklyn also welcome a full-time Economic Development and Planning Director **Jeremiah Rowan**. With over 15 years of economic development and planning experience in Independence, Akron and the private sector, Rowan will be a great addition to help with business retention, expansion and executing the city's master plan. ●



**Zach Shells**



**Dominic LaMarca**



**Michael Spisak**



**Joseph Chessar**



**Kyle Young**



**Jeremiah Rowan**

# SUMMER HOME MAINTENANCE

The City of Brooklyn has experienced a 49% increase in median home values since 2014, jumping from \$76,560 to \$114,000. In just the last year, the median listing price in Brooklyn increased by 16.3%. These are tremendous improvements for our community and a result of our continued focus on working with our residents to maintain and enhance our housing stock. To build on this momentum and continue to increase our home values to pre-recession levels, the city is excited to offer residents the following tips, resources, and programs as they undertake spring home maintenance. ●

**INSPECT THE CONCRETE:**  
Winter weather is tough on driveways and walkways. Take a walk around your property to look for cracking in the concrete or asphalt. You can fill cracks with concrete filler or silicone caulk, and potentially patch asphalt, but if there is severe damage, you may need to replace it entirely.

**INSPECT YOUR ROOF:**  
Winter can take quite a toll on the roof. When spring arrives, start by making a simple visual inspection of your roof. Look for missing shingles, metal pipes that are damaged or missing or anything that simply doesn't look right.

**REPAIR PAINT EXTERIOR:**  
Check for cracked or peeling paint. A good paint job with regular touch-ups makes your home look nice, while providing a protective barrier from the elements.

**RESEAL EXTERIOR WOODWORK:**  
Wood decks, fences, porches, and other outdoor structures will last longer and stay in better condition if they're stained or resealed every year.

## Fun Fact

### DID YOU KNOW?

Approximately 3,000 of Brooklyn's homes are over 50 years old! The majority of Brooklyn's homes were built between 1950-1970.



## SUPPORTIVE RESOURCES & PROGRAMS

### HERITAGE HOME PROGRAM

Do you own a home over 50 years old? If so, your home improvement project may qualify for the Heritage Home Program! This program provides low-interest rehabilitation loans and technical assistance from highly trained preservation professionals. To learn more, call (216) 426-3116 or visit online at [www.heritagehomeprogram.org](http://www.heritagehomeprogram.org).

### DRAIN & SEWER PROGRAMS

The City of Brooklyn offers a program through the Cuyahoga County Sanitary Engineer's Office to snake sanitary lines free of charge to residents. If you detect odors for many of the drains, or water/sewage back up in the basement in the area of your wash tubs, please contact (216) 635-4232 during

normal business hours. If you need assistance after business hours or on weekends, contact (216) 443-8201.

### HOME SAFETY EVALUATIONS

The Brooklyn Fire Department conducts free home safety surveys for Brooklyn residents. This short survey will help residents identify any existing fire hazards in your home and check the operation of your smoke and/or carbon monoxide detectors. To learn more or to sign up for a home safety survey, call (216) 635-4288.

### EXTERIOR PROPERTY MAINTENANCE INSPECTIONS

In spring 2020, the city's Building Department will continue conducting its sweep

of every home in the city to identify maintenance items that if left unattended can develop into more costly repairs. This spring, the city will focus on Delora Avenue, continuing on both east and west sides of Ridge Road going north up to Memphis Avenue. If you receive a correction notice, please call the inspector with any questions. The city will provide a list of contractors specific to the type of work needed, that are registered and insured.

The Building Department is always here to help with guidance or assistance in finding programs to help with home maintenance. Please contact us at (216) 635-4203 should you need assistance.



### CLEAN GUTTERS AND DOWNSPOUTS:

**Clogged gutters & downspouts can cause the wood trim at the eaves to rot, putting you at risk of inviting animals and insects into your home! If they're sagging, reattach the gutters, or replace them with new hardware. Use caulking to seal holes and prevent leaking. Make sure downspouts face away from the foundation of your home for proper draining.**



### CHECK SCREEN DOORS AND WINDOWS:

**As the weather warms up, you may want to open up your windows and doors. Be sure to let just the breeze in by inspecting screens for holes and tears. You can find screen repair kits at most hardware and home improvement stores.**



### CHECK FOR SIGNS OF TERMITES:

**Termites swarm in the springtime and present the greatest risk from March-June. Keep an eye out for winged insects flying in and out of a hole in your woodwork.**

# Revitalizing Marquardt Park

In late 2019, the City of Brooklyn began exploring options to totally transform Marquardt Park into an exciting, welcoming, and interactive green space. This process resulted in a design plan that will better utilize its 12.5-acre footprint and offer the Brooklyn residents updated equipment, enhanced accessibility, and improved safety. Key features of the project include trail repaving, the installation of a new updated play structure with accessible elements, and a new shade structure for park visitors and soccer spectators. Brooklyn was successfully awarded a \$150,000 grant from Cuyahoga County to assist with this project, which is expected to begin later this summer and finalized by spring of 2021. Our goal for the revitalization of Marquardt Park is to uplift the surrounding neighborhood, support active and passive recreation opportunities for residents, and make the park safer and more enjoyable for visitors of all ages and abilities. ●



Possible design options for NEW fully accessible playground features that will brighten up the landscape.

## DID YOU KNOW?

On February 10th, Brooklyn City Council adopted Ordinance #2020-1 promoting clean and healthy parks by banning smoking and the use of vaping products in all city parks.



## STREET CONSTRUCTION & TRAFFIC PROJECTS FOR 2020

Local street construction includes Pelham, East Biddulph, South Springwood, Autumn Lane (south), Kennedy, East Lane, North Lane and South Lane. Our contractor this year, Chagrin Valley Paving, expects construction is to begin in June.

Independence Excavating will begin the Memphis Bridge reconstruction project (near Kiddie Park) on July 1, and this project is expected to last into 2023. Included in this project is the addition of a dedicated right turn lane on Memphis turning onto Tiedeman.

Ridge Road will be resurfaced from Memphis Avenue to Denison and Chagrin Valley Paving will begin June 1, 2020 with a finishing date in November of 2020.



The Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency has begun its signal timing optimization program on Ridge Road studying the area between Denison Road to Pearl Road. This project is expected to help coordinate signaling systems in three different communities to help traffic flow down this entire corridor.

As part of the Safe Routes to School grant awarded last year, new directional signage and striping will be added on the school property and pedestrian crossing upgrades will be installed at the Biddulph and Williamston intersection, including a flashing crossing beacon, new handicap ramps and high-visibility paint.

## STICKNEY CREEK STREAM AND FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION IN VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

On May 8, 2020, West Creek Conservancy chose the design-build team led by Biohabitats after reviewing many terrific proposals for the restoration of 2,500 linear feet of Stickney Creek in Memorial Park. After the removal most of the gabion baskets and the naturalization of the creek, approximately 6 acres of the floodplain will be planted with native plants and trees. The estimated start is in Fall of 2020 with all work wrapping up in spring of 2021. Funding for this project is was made possible with a grant from the Ohio EPA and support from Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District. ●



## SERVICE DEPARTMENT UPDATES

The city is excited to announce that it will begin to deliver compost to its residents on a first-come-first-served basis. This is made possible by the over 2,000 tons of yard waste collected throughout the year. Residents can use this compost as soil in their gardens or landscape beds. The Service Department will deliver one load of compost, which is approximately 2.5 yards. Residents must call the Service Department at (216) 635-4232 and agree to waiver language to arrange for delivery. Once delivered, the compost must be dispersed within 21 days. Second loads will be delivered after all first load requests have been made.

A reminder that residents must call or email the Service Department at (216) 635-4232 or at [servicedispatch@brooklynohio.gov](mailto:servicedispatch@brooklynohio.gov) by Thursdays if you wish to have a Friday bulk pick-up. ●

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# WE ARE BROOKLYN STRONG!

## STAY CONNECTED

ReadyNotify is an emergency notification system for city updates on not only emergencies but also construction and building closures. This is a voluntary program, but we urge you to sign up at <https://ready.cuyahogacounty.us/en-US/ReadyNotify.aspx>. The link can also be found on the home page of the city website.

With our MySenior Center service, automated calls go out each week to those senior residents registered with this database. The calls announce events or changes to events. If you wish to sign up, please contact the Senior Center at (216) 635-4222 or email Karen Fratto at [kfratto@brooklynohio.gov](mailto:kfratto@brooklynohio.gov).

## RESCHEDULED AND MODIFIED EVENTS

**August 1 | Shred-It Day at Brooklyn Recreation Center:** Residents with identification may bring materials to the parking lot to be mass-shredded from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. White paper, financial and legal documents, tax and medical records, receipts, ledger paper, envelopes, greetings cards and junk mail eligible. (No need to remove staples or paper clips.) Not accepted: newspapers, magazines, phone books, binders, books, photos, Styrofoam and folders.

**All summer | Movies in the Park:** Will be drive-in style with dates to be announced.

## EVENT CANCELLATIONS

**All summer | Summer Concerts**

**June 5 | Coffee with Mayor**

**June 20-21 | Community-wide garage sale**

**July 20 | Senior Center Summer Dance**

**August 15 | Chamber of Commerce Picnic in the Park**

**September 26 | Fall Festival**



Follow the city's website and social media pages: [brooklynohio.gov](http://brooklynohio.gov) and [facebook.com/brooklynoh](https://facebook.com/brooklynoh).

**City of Brooklyn Elected Officials**  
**Mayor:** Katherine A. Gallagher

**City Council:** Ron Van Kirk, President;  
Kathleen M. Pucci, Kevin Tanski, Mary L. Balbier,  
Andy Celcherts, Meg Ryan Shockey, Sue Grodek