

The Mayor's Message Technology & Innovation in City Services

Dear Beachwood Residents,

Beachwood has established a reputation as a progressive community that embraces growth in various areas, including the delivery of city services. I am proud to highlight how our dedication to technology and innovation is transforming government operations to better serve you. Innovation is not limited to the private sector; it is fundamental to how Beachwood functions, making our city safer, more responsive, and more convenient for everyone.

Modernizing Public Safety

Public safety is the top priority for my administration, and new technology is helping us uphold that responsibility more effectively than ever. We have deployed traffic signal preemption systems that allow emergency vehicles to safely clear intersections by communicating with traffic lights. These tools improve response times, reduce collisions, and save lives.

Our Information Technology and Police Departments also oversee more than 350 cameras located throughout public property and intersections. These systems, equipped for license plate reading, traffic monitoring, and security surveillance, help ensure the safety of our residents, businesses, and visitors. In addition, flashing beacon crosswalks at key intersections, including near Beachwood Place, provide safer passage for pedestrians and reflect our ongoing dedication to innovation in community well-being.

Enhancing Convenience for Residents

Our modernization efforts extend beyond safety. The IT Department has introduced Frontline software, which enables residents to request overnight parking permission and vacation checks online. The Community Services Department has likewise launched a streamlined registration system for Beachwood camp programs, saving families time while making operations more efficient.

Recognizing that financial convenience is just as essential, the city has transitioned to a cashless payment system. Now,

Apple Pay, Google Pay, and other digital payment options are available for city fees, memberships, and registrations, making transactions faster, more secure, and more convenient.

Improving Communication and Engagement

We also understand that keeping residents informed is key to effective government. A new changeable-copy sign at Richmond and Fairmount offers timely updates on community events and announcements in a high-traffic location.

Beyond this, we are tailoring digital communications by allowing residents to opt into specific email lists. Whether your interests are senior programs, economic development, or even pickleball, you can now receive timely updates that matter most to you.

Looking Ahead

Innovation is not just about adopting new technology—it's about embracing a mindset of continuous improvement. In Beachwood, we utilize these tools to enhance city services, making them safer, smarter, and more efficient. By integrating sustainability-focused technologies, advancing digital convenience, and strengthening our communication channels, we are building a city government that reflects the needs and expectations of today's residents while preparing for tomorrow. Together, we are shaping the future for a more intelligent and better-connected Beachwood.

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

August 4 - September 15

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 these areas.

August 4 City Council Meeting

Infrastructure Improvements: City Council approved a change order to phase two of the Timberlane/Green Sanitary Relief Sewer project. During phase one of the construction, it was determined that the existing water main — originally installed in 1927 — must be replaced to ensure safe and dependable service for decades to come. The work is ongoing and is expected to be completed by late fall.

September 2 City Council Meeting

Infrastructure Improvements: Council members voted to approve the Public Works Department's recommendation for a third-party engineer to begin the design work for the Richmond/Chagrin I-271 Corridor Project. Osborn Engineering has been selected for this project. The design phase is planned for 2026–2027, with construction expected to begin in 2028 and continue into 2029.

September 15 City Council Meeting

Economic Development: City Council approved ordinances authorizing Beachwood Economic Impact Program Forgivable Loan Agreements with 911 Cellular, LLC and Surgical Theater, Inc. The program is designed to stimulate economic development, support small businesses, and encourage business attraction, retention, and expansion. These loans also aim to foster new employment opportunities, business growth, and long-term commercial sustainability in Beachwood.



Community Engagement: City Council has unanimously approved a resolution to rename City Park West as Gorden Gateway Park, paying tribute to former Mayor Merle S. Gorden for his remarkable 23 years of leadership. Mayor Gorden holds the distinction of being the longest-serving mayor in the city's history, guiding Beachwood through more than two decades of growth and progress. The renaming recognizes his lasting contributions and commitment to the community.

Details about the official renaming ceremony will be shared in an upcoming issue of the *Beachwood Buzz*.

Left: Merle S. Gorden, who served as Mayor of the City of Beachwood from 1995-2017.

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.

Halloween Fun & Safety

Halloween is just around the corner, bringing plenty of opportunities for candy, costumes, and community fun. Beachwood Police and Fire will be joining several Trunk or Treat events listed below, which are free and open to the public.

On **Oct. 31 from 6-8 p.m.**, if you're participating in **Trick or Treat**, please turn on your porch light. Pedestrians are encouraged to cross streets carefully, and drivers are reminded to use extra caution on the roads that evening. Beachwood Police will also be out patrolling and available to assist with any concerns.

- **Cuyahoga Community College Annual Trunk or Treat**
Wednesday, Oct. 22, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Tri-C Eastern Campus, 4250 Richmond Rd., Highland Hills, OH 44122
- **Beachwood Schools PTO Third Annual Trunk or Treat**
Sunday, Oct. 26, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Beachwood High School, 25100 Fairmount Blvd., Beachwood, OH 44122
- **Operation Safe Halloween Trunk or Treat**
Thursday, Oct. 30, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Cleveland Justice Center, 1200 Ontario St., Cleveland, OH 44113



UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

City Council:
Oct. 20 at 7:00 p.m.
Nov. 3 at 7:00 p.m.

Planning & Zoning:
Oct. 30 at 6:30 p.m.

Architectural Board of Review:
Oct. 7 at 4:30 p.m.
Oct. 20 at 4:30 p.m.

Work - Live - Learn - Thrive

Partners in Progress: City and Schools Building a Stronger Beachwood

Beachwood thrives on collaboration. From our neighborhoods and businesses to our classrooms, partnerships make our city the model community it is today. One of the strongest examples of that teamwork is the relationship between Beachwood City Schools and the City of Beachwood. Together, they're ensuring that our residents benefit from excellent schools, safe neighborhoods, and responsible financial decisions leading to stable tax rates.

Keeping Taxes Low, Building for the Future

This summer, Beachwood City Schools announced that it will use a portion of the settlement it received from its lawsuit against Warrensville Heights City Schools to help fund construction of two new elementary schools, Hilltop and Bryden, without raising the community's effective tax rate.



Bryden Elementary Groundbreaking

Superintendent Dr. Bob Hardis, Board of Education President Megan Walsh, and Treasurer Matthew Brown shared the news at a special City Council meeting on Aug. 4.

Walsh thanked Council members for their support: "By making this commitment, Beachwood Schools was able to finance the borrowing for our elementary school construction project in such a way that taxpayers saw no increase in their effective tax rate."

Brown added, "We've been very appreciative of this collaboration and are pleased to announce the Board of Education's continuation of maintaining low taxes for our community members."



Dr. Bob Hardis

Dr. Hardis echoed their appreciation, explaining that the settlement funds will allow the district to cover costs without raising the community's effective millage rate: "We're very proud that this partnership with the City of Beachwood will result in our community adding modern elementary school facilities while ensuring that taxpayers see no increase — keeping effective property tax rates flat through 2030."

A Financial Strategy Benefiting the Community

This move builds on a 2022 decision by City Council to pause the collection of its 2.4-mill charter assessment for three years, allowing the schools to direct those funds, more than \$2 million each year, toward district improvements. That partnership kept property tax rates flat while making progress possible.

Beachwood's leadership has shown that smart, forward-thinking planning can benefit everyone—our schools, our homeowners, and our city as a whole. By 2027, the city will recoup those funds and reinvest them in transformative projects, enhanced

city services, and initiatives that will continue to strengthen Beachwood's financial foundation for years to come.

"Every decision we make is with our community in mind — whether that's providing resources for our schools, ensuring financial stability for our city, or keeping taxes steady for our residents," said Mayor Justin Berns. "This partnership proves that when we work collaboratively, everyone in Beachwood benefits."

"I am very proud of the fact that the city and schools have built a strong partnership over the years, so that when this unique and innovative opportunity came along, we were able to immediately get to work on the details, benefiting every property taxpayer in our city without delay," says Beachwood City Council President Alec Isaacson. "The city's financial strength and stability gave us a 'win-win-win', permitting us to seize this opportunity to provide our residents with brand new school buildings, without risking any reduction to our high-quality city services, and while keeping every resident's property tax rates flat until at least 2030."



SRO Colton Pekarski, Bike to School Day

Safe Schools, Safe Community

Collaboration doesn't stop at finances. Beachwood City Schools and the Beachwood Police Department have partnered to assign School Resource Officers (SROs) to every school building. Beachwood is one of the few districts in the state to have designated SROs in every building. These officers provide security, conduct patrols, and, just as importantly, build positive relationships with students, staff, and families.

Beachwood has also taken a leadership role in public safety. Our city was the first in Ohio to earn the Store It Safe City designation in partnership with the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. The program promotes firearm safety education and has expanded into the schools, led by head School Resource Officer and program ambassador Colton Pekarski.

One Community, One Vision

From building new schools without raising tax rates to keeping our campuses safe, the City of Beachwood and Beachwood City Schools are demonstrating what's possible when community leaders collaborate for the benefit of their community. With Superintendent Hardis and the Board of Education leading the way in education, and Mayor Berns and City Council guiding strong, innovative governance, Beachwood continues to be a model for Northeast Ohio.



Beachwood Police Chief Dan Grispino Appointed to FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force Executive Board



Chief Dan Grispino

The Beachwood Police Department announces the appointment of Chief Dan Grispino to the executive board of the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF). This prestigious role strengthens collaboration between federal authorities and local law enforcement agencies.

The JTTF Executive Board plays a crucial role in fostering effective communication, coordination, and cooperation among task force officers and partner agencies. Board members, all current law enforcement executives from across Northeast Ohio, were selected following a rigorous selection process conducted by the FBI.

To serve, members must complete an extensive background investigation and secure a "Top Secret" federal security clearance. This clearance grants access to classified intelligence on active and potential terrorist threats and investigations throughout the region.

Chief Grispino's appointment ensures that Beachwood remains closely connected to real-time intelligence about terrorist activity. By participating in high-level briefings and interagency coordination, he will be able to apply this knowledge to strengthen the safety and preparedness of the Beachwood community.

"Chief Grispino's appointment to the JTTF Executive Board is both an honor and a significant advantage for our city," said Beachwood Mayor Justin Berns. "His access to critical intelligence will help ensure that Beachwood remains one of the safest and most secure communities in Northeast Ohio."

Shred Day Results

Thank you to all the residents who participated in our September Shred Day! 375 Beachwood residents took part, securely discarding 9,800 pounds (4.9 tons) of documents, promoting both privacy and environmental responsibility.

This free event is made possible through a Recycling Awareness Grant from the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District. The city offers two free shred days each year, one in the spring and one in late summer or early fall.



Left to right: Shannon Diamond, Derek Schroeder, Matt Olson, Matt Miller, Dano Montoni, Harvey Rose, Tony Aveni

Veterans Day Ceremony, Nov. 9

The Beachwood Historical Society and the City of Beachwood partner to commemorate Veterans Day with an annual ceremony at the Beachwood Cemetery. The location is the final resting place for 40 soldiers from the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican-American War, Civil War, Spanish-American War, World War I and World War II.

The ceremony will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 9, featuring dignitaries, local veterans and the presentation of colors. Please join us for this special occasion.



City Received Clean Audit

The City of Beachwood announces the release of its Fiscal Year 2024 audit, prepared by Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc. and reviewed and accepted by the Auditor of State's Office. We are proud to report that the audit is completely clean — with no management letter and no findings — representing the highest opinion a city can achieve. We thank Charles E. Harris & Associates for their professionalism and dedication throughout this process.

In addition, the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) has presented the City of Beachwood with the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the 2023 Fiscal Year. This award is the highest form of recognition in governmental financial reporting, honoring excellence in the preparation of financial statements that are clear, transparent, and fully compliant with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and applicable legal requirements.

October Recreation Guide

A Tail-Wagging Finale at the Aquatic Center

On Thursday, Sept. 4, the Beachwood Family Aquatic Center hosted its annual Dog Paddle, giving our four-legged friends the final swim of the season. More than 100 dogs made a splash, paddling, chasing toys, and enjoying a tail-wagging good time.

Owners lined the poolside, cheering on their pets, snapping photos, and soaking in the fun. The Dog Paddle has become a favorite end-of-summer tradition, bringing neighbors together and celebrating community in a lighthearted way.

Thank you to everyone who joined us; we couldn't think of a better way to close out the Beachwood Family Aquatic Center season than with wagging tails and smiling faces! Proceeds from the event benefit the Barkwood fund.



Our four-legged friends are always prepared for a swim.



Event photography captured by Discovery Photo.



All smiles for a good game of fetch, poolside or in the flower bed!



BEACHWOOD ART GALLERY: A Celebration of Life | Oct. 22 - Nov. 18 | Reception on Oct. 26 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.
An exhibition under the direction of Herbert Ascherman and the Beachwood Photo Group.

Camaraderie and Celebration at Inaugural Senior Picnic

On Aug. 20, the City of Beachwood proudly welcomed 85 seniors to our inaugural Senior Picnic at the Beachwood Family Aquatic Center! Guests enjoyed food, games, music, and a heartfelt celebration of our newest 50-year residents.

On behalf of Mayor Justin Berns and City Council, certificates were presented by Council Vice President Danielle Shoykhet, along with commemorative blankets to honor this incredible milestone.

Congratulations to our honorees: Sharon Comet-Epstein, Ellie Davis, Rebecca Duncan, Barbara Firstenberg, Erika Gold, Judy Kahn, Carol Mandel, Ellen Miles, Martin Saltzman, Doris Simpson, Ezra Steiger, and Karen Steiger.

Thank you for 50 years of dedication, residency, and contributions to the spirit of our Beachwood community!



Council V.P. Danielle Shoykhet (left) pictured with Beachwood's 50-year residents.



Paddle Up Champions

Paddle Up Pickleball Club completed its second summer session in August, celebrating another season of exciting competition and crowning new champions. The Tuesday night intermediate league featured 12 competitive teams, with the Carbon Bros. — led by Jason Miller and Mark Nosin — emerging as champions. On Sunday mornings, the beginner league wrapped up with Tanutda and Dennis Devine of Simply Devine claiming the top spot.

Paddle Up is now hosting its fall league to close out the 2025 season. The City of Beachwood extends sincere appreciation to Paddle Up's dedicated staff for their hard work and commitment in organizing league play this year.



Tuesday League: Carbon Bros.



Sunday League: Simply Devine

FALL 2025

Youth BAKING

Ages: 3-10 years

Beachwood Community Center

Seasonal fun with your little one through our Adult & Me opportunities or turn your young baker loose with an Independent Baking Class! Our fall-themed one-day sessions teach basic baking skills, and the best part—no mess at home!

Adult & Me: Ages 3-6
Independent: Ages 6-10

Upcoming Sessions:

- 🍁 Monster Snack**
Sunday, October 26
Adult & Me: 3:00-4:00 PM
Residents \$34, Non-Res. \$41
Independent: 4:30-5:30 PM
Residents \$39, Non-Res. \$47
- 🍁 Pumpkin Bread**
Sunday, November 23
Adult & Me: 3:00-4:00 PM
Residents \$32, Non-Res. \$38
Independent: 4:30-5:30 PM
Residents \$39, Non-Res. \$47

REGISTER ONLINE:
[BeachwoodRec.com](https://www.beachwoodrec.com)

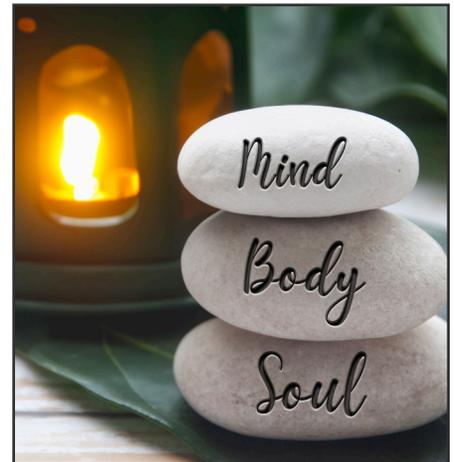
Wellness Retreats with Julie Konrad

Join Julie Konrad, veteran yoga and meditation instructor and health counselor, for an uplifting afternoon designed to boost your mood, mind, and body. Julie will share simple concepts and demos to help you balance your body, stimulate your mind, and revitalize your health. Participants will also be guided through a gentle movement practice for all abilities.

If you're looking for practical ways to prevent illness, stay vibrant, and support your immunity — all while having fun — this retreat series is for you! Each session includes surprises and gifts for a special experience. Register for one retreat or multiple at [BeachwoodRec.com](https://www.beachwoodrec.com). Just \$31 for residents and \$37 for non-residents per session.

SESSIONS:
Sundays, 1-3 p.m.
Community Center

- October 12
- November 9
- January 18
- February 1
- March 8



Beachwood Seniors

• **Seniors Create - Bottle Cap Art**

Wednesday, Oct. 15, 1:00-2:30 p.m., Community Center

Whether you're a seasoned crafter or just starting out, enjoy a relaxing and inspiring atmosphere filled with color, creativity and fun. All materials are provided. Residents are \$16 each and non-residents are \$19. Sign up by Oct. 8.

• **AARP and Alzheimer's Association Lunch & Learn**

Wednesday, Nov. 12, 11:30 a.m., Community Center

Discover the six pillars of brain health and 10 warning signs for early Alzheimer's detection. The latest research, lifestyle suggestions, and more will be shared. Registration is free. Sign up by Nov. 5.

October Meet & Eat

The Life and Music of Tony Bennett

Thursday, Oct. 16, Noon, Community Center

Residents \$14, Non-Residents \$17, Program Only \$6

Register by Oct. 9.

Tony Bennett is one of the most cherished vocalists of our time, with a remarkable career that began in the 1950s and spanned seven decades. His timeless voice and heartfelt performances have captivated fans of all ages — from millennials to centenarians. Join Debbie Darling as she takes you on a musical journey through his life and career.

Meal choices include beef Bolognese or grilled garden vegetables with couscous, served with bread, beverage, and dessert. A gluten-free option is available.

WHERE BUSINESS IS BOOMING!

THE LATEST NEWS FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Business Compass Podcast: Two-Part Summit Series

This month, the City of Beachwood's Business Compass Podcast is highlighting two significant events that will spark innovation and growth in Northeast Ohio. In a special two-part series, listeners will gain an inside look at the upcoming summits and their impact on the local business community.



Part One: Beachwood & Solon Chambers of Commerce AI Summit

Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming the way businesses operate and grow. In this episode, David Lapierre (*left*), Executive Director of the Beachwood Area Chamber of Commerce, and Charles Dull (*right*), Dean of Computer Science at Tri-C Community College, preview the upcoming AI Summit presented by the Beachwood and Solon Chambers of Commerce. Their conversation explores how AI is being applied in practical ways to support profitability, while also offering a glimpse into the networking, demonstrations, and innovative solutions that attendees can expect at the Oct. 23 event.



Part Two: The Female Entrepreneurship Summit

The second episode shines a spotlight on women entrepreneurs, whose businesses are fueling job creation and reinvestment. Renée DeLuca Dolan (*right*) of Contempo Design and Communications discusses the upcoming Female Entrepreneur Summit, a day-long symposium on Oct. 22 designed to connect and empower women business leaders, with Economic Development director Catherine Bieterman. The episode highlights the energy, inspiration, and growth opportunities the summit provides.



Women Leaders in Economic Development

Beachwood Economic Development Director Catherine Bieterman recently served as a panelist at the Ohio Women in Government meeting, where discussion focused on women's leadership and its role in economic growth. Bieterman highlighted Beachwood's initiatives to attract and grow companies, emphasized regional collaboration, and addressed barriers to investment in Northeast Ohio.



Left to right: Catherine Bieterman, City of Beachwood; Kendra Cundiff, Team NEO; Christine Nelson, Team NEO; Julia Wynn, Ohio Women in Government; Mayor Annette Blackwell, Maple Heights; Becky Watts, G2G

The panel, moderated by Kendra Cundiff of Team NEO, also included Maple Heights Mayor Annette Blackwell and Christine Nelson of Team NEO, and explored strategies for inclusive economic growth and stronger business opportunities.

New Programs Support Business Growth

Several new programs launched by the State of Ohio and regional partners are now available to support business expansion and attract top talent to the region.

The **Ohio Export Internship Program** helps small and medium-sized businesses strengthen their export efforts and compete in international markets.

The **JobsOhio Relocation Incentive** provides direct financial support for Ohio employers in 10 key sectors to attract out-of-state STEM and technical professionals, helping companies grow their specialized workforce.

The **Northeast Ohio Development Exchange (NODE)** offers business owners, economic developers, and public officials a forum to connect, collaborate, and share best practices. Regular meetings foster relationships across industries and highlight regional assets that strengthen local communities.

For more information, contact the **Beachwood One-Stop Business Resource Center** at 216.292.1915.

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