

City of

BROOK PARK, Ohio

LATE SUMMER 2020

MICHAEL D. GAMMELLA, MAYOR

WWW.CITYOFBROOKPARK.COM



A Message From Mayor Michael D. Gammella

COVID-19 UPDATE

The COVID-19 pandemic continues. This is not pleasant for anyone.

And to make matters worse, there is no end in sight.

City services continue, along with senior transportation for essential visits. Police, Fire, City Hall staff, Recreation, Building and Service Departments remain on the job.

I want to thank them all for their dedication to this community. We are all in this together. Not only Brook Park, but the entire world.

As Mayor, I have been coming to work every day. I wear a mask, practice social distancing, wash my hands a lot, avoid crowds and basically, just use good common sense, both at City Hall and at home. I am certain most of you do the same as well.

Staying healthy and helping others stay healthy is the name of the game in a pandemic.

It is hard, especially on children. They want to run and go.

It is very tough on parents, grandparents and caregivers, especially with the school situation in flux. They have to juggle childcare, bills, education, their job, their own health concerns and, in many cases, take care of elderly parents. All of us are tasked to the limit.

YET WE ENDURE

This is the true strength of Brook Park and America. It is not our industrial might, our powerful economy, our dazzling technology, or our government.

Our strength is in our people. Our everyday people. The American people which we are ALL a part of.

The people who fought in wars, volunteered for good causes, raised families and worked hard. We ALL come from immigrant stock. From the Mayflower to today. We have ALL endured in this great melting pot known as America.

Always remember, it is our diversified society that makes America great. We will remain, "One Nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all!"

It is my honor to be your Mayor. There is an old saying... "Tough times don't last, but tough people do." They don't come any tougher or better than the residents of Brook Park.

We will come out of this pandemic stronger, better and more united than ever. In the meantime stay healthy.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Gammella, Mayor

RECEIVE CODE RED CALLS

CodeRED is an emergency notification service by which public safety can notify residents and businesses by telephone or cellular phone about emergency situations. Sign up for this alert to receive emergency notifications, general notifications and severe weather warnings for Brook Park.



For the latest city information, put your cell phone (or landline) on the city's CODE RED SYSTEM. Simply go to our city website, at the very bottom of the left hand corner you will see "CODE RED". Click onto it, fill out and submit the form electronically. Or call (216) 433-1300 and ask the receptionist to sign you up.



A big **THANK YOU** to all of who volunteered in the grocery giveaway on Saturday, June 27th, at the Brook Park Recreation Center. It was a huge success and was done in partnership with Grace C&MA church.

FREE FRESH PRODUCE



The Greater Cleveland Food Bank mobile pantry will distribute free and fresh produce (rain or shine) on a first-come, first-served basis.

WHO: Library staff, the National Guard, and community volunteers will distribute to adults who drive up.

WHAT: Each family will receive 3 pre-packaged boxes of dairy, meat, and/or produce for free, loaded into their vehicle trunk. First come, first-served basis, adults of any age, zip code, income level. Each vehicle can have up to 4 "families" (such as if single seniors are riding together). Vehicles preferred over walk-ups, for safety reasons.

WHEN: September 23 & October 28; 11am-1pm. Rain or shine!

WHERE: Pull-out parking lot/curb area near baseball fields, east of the Library building.

For more information about other Cuyahoga County Public Library mobile food pantries, please visit: www.cuyahogalibrary.org/LP/Mobile-Pantry

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Gregory M. Cingle, Director of Finance

Audit Update: The City received an unqualified (clean) audit opinion for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2019. The audit was performed by James G. Zupka, CPA, Inc., an independent public accounting firm that specializes in governmental audits.

Financial Report: The Finance Department, with the assistance of James G. Zupka, CPA, Inc., prepared a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2019. The report has been submitted to the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for review. If the report meets the requirements set forth by the GFOA, the City will be awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. We will keep the residents informed as to the results of the GFOA's review in a future newsletter.

Revenues & Expenditures: For the period ending July 31, 2020, total revenues for all funds (including transfers) were \$30,792,015. Total expenditures for all funds (including transfers) were \$26,727,185.

General Fund - For the period ending July 31, 2020, total revenues for the General Fund (including transfers) were \$13,278,319. Total expenditures for the General Fund (including transfers) were \$11,408,805. The General Fund accounts for many of the expenditures needed to operate the City, i.e. salaries, benefits, utilities, communications, professional services, salt, contracts, etc.

If any resident would like a copy of the CAFR, please contact the Finance Department or log on to www.cityofbrookpark.com and click the Finance Department link to access the report.

Questions: If any resident has a financial question in regards to the City, or even on a personal level, please call the Finance Department at (216) 433-1300. We will gladly try to assist you.



Changes are happening at the former BP station located at the corners of Smith and Snow Roads. Gasoline storage tanks are being removed from the ground and further EPA studies will be made. The site will be demolished to make way for a new business on that corner lot.

AUDREY'S OUTREACH

Audrey's Outreach is our city's food bank. It is the only food pantry in Brook Park and serves people in Cuyahoga County. If you would like to make a donation, please call Audrey's at (216) 433-1515.

No donation is too small. Audrey's is located 16845 Holland Rd. adjacent to I-71. Please call or go to their website for more information and/or donation hours. www.audreysoutreach.org

EARLY VOTING APPLICATIONS



With this ongoing pandemic voting by mail will be essential to keep both poll workers and voters safe. For early voting information you can visit the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections website, go to the early voting link, or by telephone at (216) 443-8683 (VOTE) to have them send you your application to get your ballot sent to your home for early voting.

We also have applications for your ballot at City Hall available from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Again vote early to keep everyone and yourself safe.

As Mayor, I will vote early.

SERVICE DEPARTMENT

GUIDELINES FOR MONTHLY BULK RUBBISH PICKUP
RUBBISH HOT-LINE: (216) 433-7189

- 1) Bulk items will be picked up on your regular rubbish day.
- 2) Put your bulk items out no earlier than 5:00pm the day before your regular rubbish day.
- 3) Keep bulk items away from your rubbish carts.
- 4) You can drop off bulk items at the Service Garage: 19065 Holland Road Weekdays from 7:30am – 7:00pm and Saturday from 8:00am – 2:00pm
- 5) Mattresses and box springs must be in bags or wrapped in plastic for disposal.

CLIP AND SAVE BULK PICK UP:

The week of **SEPTEMBER 14** on your regular rubbish day.

The week of **OCTOBER 12** on your regular rubbish day.

The week of **NOVEMBER 9** on your regular rubbish day.

The week of **DECEMBER 14** on your regular rubbish day.



PLEASE NOTE:

The large yellow and green recyclable bins throughout our city can now take cardboard. Remember to flatten all boxes.

SENIOR SERVICES

Senior Services and Senior transportation for essential visits has and will continue through this pandemic.

BROOK PARK SOLAR HOME



A home on Franklyn Drive in Brook Park is a solar home.

It is the residence of Craig and Chris Cooper, along with their two children.

Going solar was a family decision, Craig said. We know where our energy is coming from. Ninety percent of the time we run on our own power.

The solar home is augmented by three Tesla batteries to store power. Even on cloudy days they still absorb solar energy – enough to also charge their two electric cars. There is even a storm feature that will allow them to go on the grid to store power if necessary.

This way, if an outage does occur, they are “fully charged.”

This system has severely cut their utility bills.

It is a matter of leaving it better than you found it, Craig stated. You know the energy you are using is environmentally friendly.

One day it will be like central air conditioning. Fifty years ago, few homes had it. Today, central air is common. Solar power will become a new way of life for all of us.



DO NOT KNOCK

With everything going on as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic NOPEC is offering **DO NOT KNOCK** (stickers) for your front door.

If you are interested call us at (216) 433-1300, leave your name & address and we will send you one. Or email us the information at info@cityofbrookpark.com

POLICE DEPARTMENT

UPDATED PARKING NOTICE

The moratorium of enforcement of overnight parking from 2:00 a.m. till 6:00 a.m. daily, will expire on September 7th, 2020.



City of Brook Park - City Hall
6161 Engle Road
Brook Park, OH 44142

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BUILDING DEPARTMENT

CREATING CURB APPEAL



The building department has received numerous concerns regarding the appearance of properties not following the ordinances and guidelines.

In an attempt to clean up our neighborhoods, please do your part in keeping Brook Park looking good.

- Garbage cans **MUST** be stored beyond the rear line of the home.
- All parking **MUST** be on hard surface concrete or asphalt.
- Commercial vehicle parking in residential areas are prohibited.
- Bulk pick-up is the 2nd full week of the month, **NO** bulk items should be placed on the tree lawn until after 5pm the night before your assigned garbage day.
- Keep all flower and plant beds free of weeds.
- Keep all grass and shrubbery free of overgrowth.

- **DO NOT** blow your grass debris after mowing into the street.

It collects in our catch basins and clogs up the sewer drainage system which leads to our storm water not evacuating the ground and system properly which then creates potential flooding in residential areas and city streets.

If we all do our small part, we can keep Brook Park a beautiful place to live, work, play and be proud of!

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



The former Council Chambers and City Hall were razed earlier this summer for the start of a new campus plan. More to come soon.