

### **A Word From Mayor John Donnellon**

As we welcome in the Spring, great things continue to happen in the city of Deer Park. I would like to take a moment to thank the Deer Park Service Department for their efforts during the snow and ice we had in February. From plowing streets to chipping ice away from the sewers throughout the city, those things do not just happen, and they did an excellent job.

In February, I was honored to attend the ceremonial signing of the inaugural SORTA Transit Infrastructure Fund. Deer Park was fortunate to receive a \$680k grant from SORTA for Plainfield Road re-pavement and reconstruction this year.

The Park Board has completed scheduling summer concerts for the upcoming season of Party in the Park, formerly Music in the Park! The complete schedule can be found on the Park's Facebook page. @DeerParkChamberlin. With an amazing lineup, we look forward to seeing you at all these events as we move into the warmer weather and summer fun!

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS.** On Tuesday, May 3rd, Deer Park voters will have the opportunity to vote on Issue 3, a RENEWAL of the 5-year, 6.9 mill Deer Park Operating Levy. Fifteen years ago, Deer Park residents decided to fund operations through a property tax rather than a change in our Earnings Tax.

The levy generates approximately \$709k a year and represents 25% of our General Fund budget. General Funds are used to fund the public safety department (police), maintenance department (including leaf and brush pickup, snow removal), and the administrative staff. It also provides funds for the general operating costs of the city.

This is a renewal of the levy and will not increase your taxes. We ask for your support and remind you to please come out and vote FOR Issue 3 on May 3rd.



### **Mark Your Calendars:**

More information on these events can be found on the City Website

- 4-11-22 Council Information Session 7:00 – 8:00, Deer Park Library
- 4-18-22 Tax Filing Due Date
- 4-23-22 We Thrive “Clean Days in the Park” 10:00 – Noon, Chamberlin Park
- 4-23-22 Armchair Races at the Community Center 7:00pm, Everyone is WELCOME
- 5-3-22 VOTE YES for Issue 3 – Deer Park Operating Levy
- 5-7-22 Yoga in the Park returns! Every Saturday 10:00, Chamberlin Park
- 5-21-22 Party in the Park 2022 - The Remains 7:00 -10:30, Chamberlin Park Upper Shelter
- 5-30-22 Memorial Day Parade 10:00am

did you know?

#### **ATTENTION PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS!**

- In 2020, the Ohio Governor started “The Ohio Governor’s Imagination Library” program through a partnership with Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, that mails kids one book each month until their 5th birthday.
- All kids in Ohio are eligible and this program is available at no cost to all families.
- Your child will receive an age-appropriate book each month from birth until the age of 5, **FREE!** If you have more than one child, you just need to sign them up individually.
- To enroll visit [ohioimaginationlibrary.org](http://ohioimaginationlibrary.org)



## **Deer Park News – City Manager BJ Jetter**

As Spring arrives it highlights the start of our outdoor activities, including spring cleanup around our homes. The city has several home improvement savings programs for residents looking to upgrade their home.

We have a Residential Community Re-Investment Area (CRA) program, which provides a tax abatement on the increase in property valuation resulting from the improvements.

The other program is the city sidewalk program which helps with replacing sidewalks that need repair. The city has earmarked funds for residents to repair and replace broken sidewalks. Application forms and more information on these two programs can be found on the Residents page of the city website.

This Spring the Service Department will update the Veterans memorial with new plantings and landscaping improvements and plans to have everything completed by Memorial Day.

We received notice from the State of Ohio that the grant we requested for the Chamberlin Park Renovation Project was not selected for funding. The City is now looking for private and public funds to renovate the Park. After a year-long study and development input from the residents, the planned project will create expanded amenities for the park with the urban community in mind. The study revealed residents are looking for centralized activities in the park and the ability to walk along the Blue Ash Road business district for food and entertainment venues.

The Townhomes at Wentworth should see a construction start date by the end of May, with a model for visitors to tour and enjoy by July 1st. In addition, this new project has brought more interest in transforming other Blue Ash Road properties into mixed-use with residential and business use. Updates to follow.

The City website has recently gone through an update! We are working to make it easier to find the information you need quickly. At the top of each page is a search box where you can type what you are looking for and go directly to the page with that information.



We are also in the process of updating all the forms on the website to be fillable forms that you can complete online and then download and scan or email to submit. Most of them have already been converted to fillable but a few still need to be updated. Once all the forms are updated, we will have a link on the front page to a page with all the forms on the website listed in one place.

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## **Blue Ash Road Street Scape Project Recognized On National Level**

We were recently notified that we received National Recognition for the Blue Ash Road Street Scape Project for Engineering and Design in conjunction with our engineering firm, The Kleingers Group. “Congratulations! Your firm and the City of Deer Park’s Blue Ash Road project have achieved a National Recognition Award in the American Council of Engineering Companies 2022 Engineering Excellence Awards competition—the “Academy Awards of the engineering industry”. The National Recognition Award is a prestigious distinction honoring projects which achieved exceptional engineering excellence.”

Kleingers reported. “We not only won at the state level; the Ohio committee recommended our project to compete at the National Level. While not a top 36 project in the US, we were excited to receive a National Recognition Award. I believe the tenacity of the City’s effort to deliver this project, innovative parking, railroad, signal work, history of the corridor, utility work, and other factors when all combined together, set the Blue Ash Road project apart at the national level. We appreciate the city for including us in the project and participating in the exciting redevelopment of the City.”

## **From the Desk of Police Chief Michael Schlie**

The Deer Park Police Department is in the process of hiring a new police officer. The department hopes to start the new officer in April of 2022. We recently gave a test to establish a list for Police Lieutenant. Personnel changes are anticipated due to upcoming retirements of veteran officers/supervisors, and we will be giving another police officer test in June or July to establish a new eligibility list for future hires.

The Police Department has received several complaints regarding disorderly juveniles in Chamberlin Park since the weather is warming up. Please remind your children to be respectful while utilizing the amenities we have in Chamberlin Park. Everyone should be able to enjoy the Park.

The Department has been working closely with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) investigating the Bank Robbery that occurred at Huntington Bank in December of 2021. We believe the case will be closed shortly.

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## **Tax Department Update: Tax Filing Deadline is Monday, April 18th, 2022**

**If you need assistance with your return, here's how we can help:**

- **Schedule an appointment and we'll prepare your return for free:** If you would like to have a staff member prepare your return while you wait, schedule an appointment by calling our office at 513-794-8863. Appointments are available Monday through Friday from 8:15 AM – 4:00 PM. Note: You MUST have an appointment to have your return prepared; walk-in service is NOT available.
- **Have us prepare your return:** Submit your documents (W-2s, W-Gs, 1099's, Federal Form 1040, Schedule E or C) and we'll prepare your return for you. You can mail your documents, upload them electronically to the secure email link on our website, or put them in the physical drop box at the municipal building. Be sure to include contact information with your documents so that we may call or email you with questions.
- **You can E-file your return:** All residents now have the ability to e-file your tax return. Using the e-file link, the program walks you through entering your information and uploading your documentation. Click submit and you are done. If you owe taxes you can pay those online with our secure payment link. If this will be the first ever tax return you file with the City of Deer Park, you must first set up an account by contacting the tax office. If you have filed a return in the past, you already have an account and can access the e-file link now.

**(All of the links referenced above can be found on the Residents page of the City Website)**

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Waste Collection tidbits:

A reminder that trash & recyclable receptacles should not be placed at curb prior to noon the day before your pick-up day and should be retrieved back from the curb by end of day of pick up.

Mattresses and other upholstered furniture need to be completely and securely wrapped in plastic for Rumpke to pick them up on your trash day.

Please contact Rumpke with any collection issues: 513-742-2900



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**Meet your Deer Park  
City Council Members**

Join us on April 11th for the first Council Information Session.

Council members will be available for an informal 'meet and greet' to hear your comments and concerns at the Deer Park Library located in the Dillonvale Shopping Center on Monday April 11th from 7 pm - 8 pm.

This will be the first of 4 quarterly events scheduled for 2022.

Future sessions will be  
June 13th, Sept. 12th, and Dec. 12th.

We hope to see you there.



**JOIN THE FUN!**

Gather your family and friends and join us  
for Armchair Horse Racing at the  
Community Center in Chamberlin Park.

Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022

Doors open 6:30pm

First Race at 7:00pm

The event features videotaped horse  
races complete with betting sheets  
showing the odds for each horse. Place  
your bets, cheer your horse to victory and  
collect your winnings!

This event is sponsored by "Friends of Chamberlin  
Park". All proceeds will benefit Chamberlin Park.