

**A Word From Mayor John Donnellon**

As we welcome in the new year, great things continue to happen in the city of Deer Park. Congratulations to the Wade family, who were chosen to light the community Christmas tree in Chamberlin Park in late November, with a special visit from St. Nick himself!



Another thank you to all those who submitted the many nominations for the NEW Holiday Spirit Decoration Award! Congratulations to all the award winners! Let's light up Deer Park bigger and better next holiday season! The winner's names are posted on the city webpage.



On December 1st the new City Charter went into effect. Having our own Charter allows the City to design a form of government tailored to the needs of our community. Some of the changes that have already been made are Council members now run at large and not ward by ward. The terms of office for Council members are now four year terms instead of two years and they are staggered so all members do not run at the same time. Please make note that City Council meetings have been changed to the first and third Mondays of the month, effective immediately. We eliminated the elected four year term Auditor position and added a Finance Director that is now an employee, which allows for more continuity and control over such a critical part in the operation of the City. The charter is published and can be found on the City webpage under the Government tab.

The new City Council was also sworn in on December 1st. Welcome to the new members of Council and we want to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing members for your years of service. Thank you to everyone who came out and voted in November, we look forward to serving and representing the community!

On December 10th, the new Deer Park branch of the Cincinnati Public Library officially opened its doors! Make sure to stop in and check it out. Also take advantage of the expanded hours of operation, Monday through Thursday, 10:00am to 9:00pm, Friday & Saturday, 10:00am to 6:00pm, and NEW Sunday hours, 1:00pm to 5:00pm!

Wishing everyone a safe, healthy, and prosperous new year!

**Did you know the Deer Park Library offers classes for Mom's and Preschool Kids?**

Check these out!

**Movers & Shakers**

You and your child will shake it together  
Sing, dance and enjoy music,  
movement and fun.  
Recommended for ages 1 – 4.

**Upcoming classes**

Tuesdays 10:30 – 11:30am  
January 18<sup>th</sup> & January 25<sup>th</sup>  
February 8<sup>th</sup> & February 15<sup>th</sup>

**Preschool Storytime**

Enjoy books, songs, activities,  
and more, while building  
early literacy skills.  
Recommended for ages 3 – 6.

**Upcoming classes**

Thursdays 10:30 – 11:30am  
January 20<sup>th</sup> & January 27<sup>th</sup>  
February 3<sup>rd</sup> & February 10<sup>th</sup>



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

The New Year brings fresh opportunities for economic redevelopment with our main focus on the Blue Ash Road corridor. We are currently working on several opportunities for future development.

- Redevelopment of the property along Blue Ash Road from Matson Avenue to Scheck Avenue
- We have received a grant to purchase the old Movie Theater for redevelopment
- Road construction at the new Townhomes at Wentworth is almost complete, and the first model home should be available by Spring of this year
- Funding for Phase Two of the Blue Ash Road Streetscape project is under way, with applications for federal and state funds being submitted. Phase Two will cover Blue Ash Road from Duneden to the Silverton corporation line to include a gateway sign as you enter Deer Park.
- We received a grant from SORTA for \$680,000 to mill and grind Plainfield Road
- We have applied for an Electronic Vehicle (EOV) Grant to place car charging stations in crucial parking areas throughout the city.
- We reported last quarter on the grant we received to have free Wi-Fi access along Blue Ash Road, Galbraith, Plainfield, and Hegner Avenue. The project is almost ready to go live, however, we still need two access points on Plainfield Road, from O’Leary to St. John’s. If you are the owner of property in this area and would be willing to have the equipment installed free of charge, please contact Tyra at the City Office at 513-794-8860.

On December 6th, 2021, City Manager BJ Jetter along with our partners on the Chamberlin Park Renovation, traveled to Columbus to present a request for funding of a Music Pavilion and Water feature in the Park. These were features suggested by residents to improve Chamberlin Park. Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the Park survey. We had a phenomenal response! To see a video that was included in the presentation of an artist’s preview of the proposed changes, visit the City Facebook page.



Please be mindful of your health along with that of your family members. The simple act of washing your hands or wearing a mask, could save someone in your family.

---

## *Fun Facts – The Firsts of Deer Park*

Our Community was first settled in 1793 and was known as Deer Lick. In 1886 the name was changed to Deer Park, and in 1912 we were incorporated as the Village of Deer Park. Not until 1952 did the U.S. Census show our population had grown to 7247 residents and we became the City of Deer Park.

In 1825, prominent citizen, Daniel Schenck, donated land for the first school in Deer Park. Mr. Schenck was given the honor of naming the school, and he chose Amity, which means friendship. After many changes and additions, the present day school was erected in 1906.

In 1940, after two failed levy attempts, the residents approved a \$15,000 bond levy and Village officials purchased 9 ½ acres of farmland from John Chamberlin for the construction of a playground. In 1952, the playground was renamed in his honor, and became Chamberlin Park.

The first church in the Village of Deer Park was St. John the Evangelist Church, in 1891 and in 1905 the school was added with an enrollment of 50 students.

## [From the Desk of Police Chief Mike Schlie](#)

The Deer Park Police Department said goodbye to Officer Joe Cornwell in December after 7 years of service to the Deer Park community. We wish him well and want to express our thanks for his years of service to Deer Park. As a result, the Police Department is currently in the hiring process to fill the open road patrol officer position.

The Police Department encourages residents to follow the Deer Park Police Facebook & Twitter pages to stay up to date on current information and for safety updates.

The Deer Park Citizen's Block Watch is a thriving organization that meets monthly on third Tuesday of the month at the Francis R. Healy Community Center in Chamberlin Park. Officer Jeremy Jordan is the police liaison for the group and along with other guest speakers, they cover topics on community safety and other areas of interest to the Community. The meetings are open to all residents and we invite you to attend.

As a service to the community, if you're going on vacation and want the police department to check your residence while out of town, you will need to complete the vacation house checks forms available on the city website.

The Police Department encourages the community to report any/all suspicious activity and please remember to keep your cars locked, valuables out of site, and leave a porch light on to deter crime.

---

## [Service Department Update - Ron Schwettman, Foreman](#)

Now that curbside leaf collection season is behind us, the Friday weekly brush chipping has resumed.

This is for branches/limbs/shrubs that are a MINIMUM of 4 feet in length. If longer than 4 feet - no need to cut them down! Longer is actually better to feed them into the chipper. Maximum diameter is 8 inches. Note: Rumpke will take yard waste on your regular trash day, but the leaves and brush need to be in a container (bag or can) or bundled into manageable sizes.

Our winter so far has been pretty mild, but we can eventually expect snow. We ask that you remove your car from the street during snow events to help the snowplow driver that will be clearing your street. This will be much appreciated!

We are already planning next years' road improvements. We are dedicated to making the most of your tax dollars to get all our streets repaired and paved as needed.

On December 1st we added a new member to the Deer Park Service Department, Richie Meece. We welcome him and his expertise as we continue providing service to the community.



---

## [Tax Department Update](#)

For the upcoming 2021 tax year, you can now E-File with the City of Deer Park.

If you are a new resident, you will need to register with our office BEFORE you can E-file on our website. PLEASE do not wait until April 15th to register if you plan to E-file for the first time.

If you have filed a tax return with us previously, you can E-File now without having to register. Use the link under the "TAX" tab on the website.

If you do not wish to E-file you can still get your information to us in several ways: by mail, using the drop boxes located inside and outside of the City Building, using the secure email link under the "TAX" tab on the website, or by scheduling an appointment.

No walk in appointments will be allowed. The due date for filing taxes is April 18th, 2022.

City of Deer Park  
7777 Blue Ash Road  
Deer Park, Ohio 45236

Presorted  
Standard  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Cincinnati, OH  
Permit #1542



### **City Council Meetings**

**NEW: 1st & 3rd Monday every month -  
7:00 pm**

City of Deer Park Municipal Building  
7777 Blue Ash Road

January 3rd & January 18th  
February 7th & February 21st  
March 7th & March 21st

---

### **Block Watch Meetings**

**2nd Tuesday every month - 7:00 pm**

Chamberlin Park Community Center  
7640 Plainfield Road

January 11th    February 8th    March 8th



Over the last two years, our Music in the Park concerts have gotten bigger and better. We love seeing everyone come out to enjoy an evening under the stars and enjoy great music.

Starting in 2022, we have changed the name of the concert series to **Party in the Park!**

The Park Board is already working on the schedule for the year. As always, volunteers are needed and welcome, to continue to make these events successful.

If you would like to get involved in the Community in a fun way, contact the City office at 513-794-8860 for more information on volunteering at **Party in the Park.**