



City of Seven Hills, Ohio

7325 Summitview Drive Seven Hills, OH 44131

Happy Summer!

I hope that as we usher in the summer season, we will be able to take a break from the challenges 2020 has presented us and focus on all of the wonderful things that come with the season. This isn't exactly what any of us had in mind when the calendar flipped to 2020. I took the oath of office about seven months ago. On one hand, the time has passed in a blink of eye, yet at times, it seems it was an eternity ago. I am sure my experience this year is not unique.

Many have reached out stating how terrible it must be that in very my first few months of becoming Mayor of Seven Hills, we have had to deal with a global pandemic, the resulting economic disruption, and two incredibly rare weather events. While I'm deeply saddened that so many are suffering and it is stressful dealing with budget tightening, I tell them fret not. Adversity does not build character, it reveals it. This has been a trial by fire than no one could have predicted and I feel as if I was put into this role for a reason.

As we continue into the summer months, some of the emergency measures that were instituted back in March have been slowly lifting. Our Recreation Staff has done a tremendous job working diligently to ensure the safety of their members and staff. We have also welcomed back our summer campers. Beginning July 2nd, we are welcoming back our Annual Farmers' Market. It will be nice to visit the market along with trying the different food trucks that are lined up again once this year.

This spring, with a heavy heart, we announced the passing of two long time City officials, former Mayor Richard Ganim, 93, and former Councilman Robert J. Leech, 74, known as "Councilman Bob". "Councilman Bob" passed from COVID-19 and his family has asked me to remind everyone to continue to take precautions that will help prevent the spread of this terrible virus.

Further, our long-standing Home Days tradition was cancelled for this summer. This was a difficult decision. However, under the current guidelines and increasing vendor cancellations it was becoming evident that we could not present a quality event, but there was yet a more critical factor; our volunteers. The heart of our Home Days has always been our volunteers. This group is predominately made up of individuals in the highrisk category. We simply could not overlook that risk! The administration quickly went to work on a creative alternative with our Seven Hills "Stay-At-Home" Days. This event will be held on Saturday July 25th with the hope of bringing a piece of our traditional Home Days to our residents.

Seven Hills, like all cities, has been impacted financially by the economic disruption brought on by COVID-19. The city is currently forecasting \$1.2 million less income tax than budgeted. However, we acted very quickly and froze most spending in March. As of our May YTD

financials our general fund expenses are \$880,000 LESS than last year. In addition, we have identified approximately \$300,000.00 in un-budgeted revenue. Most importantly, we as a city were able to significantly increase cash reserves over the last couple of years. Utilizing a portion of these reserves will help us weather the storm without any service disruption to residents and allow important infrastructure projects to move forward. Moreover, our Safety Forces have remained and WILL remain at FULL operational strength.

Vitalia Active Adult Community at Rockside has projected an open date of late August and represents a nearly 29-million dollar investment in Seven Hills.

Recently, Fairmont Properties (Rockside Road project) announced the hiring of the architectural firm HKS Inc. to create final developmental plans. In addition, CBRE was retained to take the lead on retail leasing and CRESCO was brought in to handle the office space leasing.

Meijer remains on schedule. If you have driven by lately, you will notice that the walls to the store have gone vertical!

Council is currently reviewing two potential ballot issues. First, is a parks and recreation levy. At the end of this year the current bond issue that is at 1.65 mills will expire. The proposed initiative is 1.4 mills. I recommended this approach to Council for the following reasons: 1. It will slightly lower taxes 2. It will provide for the on-going legacy costs of the Recreation Center 3. It diversifies the dedicated use of the funds to include our parks (the parks provide recreation to all residents, not just members, and this is extremely important to me). The measure was unanimously passed by the finance committee, and if passed by Council as a whole, it will be on the November ballot.

Second, is a proposal from Dairy Queen to move into the Ruby Tuesday building. Dairy Queen is proposing a Grilln-Chill concept (new version of the old Brazier brand). If approved by Council and the Planning Commission, the required zoning will be on the November ballot.

Our Fire Department is currently performing city-wide hydrant maintenance. When they are in your neighborhood make sure you run the cold water until clear. In addition, we started an Adopt-A-Hydrant Program. Details on this program can be found on Page 4 of this newsletter.

Our Service Department took possession of brand new 10- ton truck. This truck arrived just in time to help with the clean-up of debris left behind from the microburst. This truck's primary purpose will be snow removal. However, it came with a second equipment package that included a chipper.

Lastly, as we continue to enjoy our summer activities and venture outside with businesses and other venues opening, please remember to do your part by practicing the CDC recommended safety measures whenever possible. Stay Strong Seven Hills!

Sincerely,

Mayor Tony Biasiotta