A Message from Mayor Clough

Dear Westlake Resident:

As we look ahead to Spring with flowers cropping up throughout the city, it seems an appropriate time for a brief progress report on some of our most notable building and development projects.

You will soon see visible signs (orange barrels) of the scheduled infrastructure improvements for 2020. These construction projects will be funded from the designated 3/8% income tax that was renewed on the November 2019 ballot with your support. Two of the projects will include installing a new water line and street rehabilitation on Bassett Road, from Dover Road to Hilliard Blvd. There also will be Hilliard Blvd. resurfacing from Columbia Road to the Rocky River city limit. More road improvements are in the works for this year, as listed on the city’s website.

I am pleased to report that construction on the new Community Center is currently ahead of schedule and the Center-Ridge Corridor Master Plan is taking shape with the help of input from residents, community leaders, public institutions, along with guidance from our city’s department heads. These projects, as well as the city’s 2020 Budget, will be covered in-depth during the annual State of the City address, scheduled for Tuesday, April 21, at 11:30 a.m. at Carrabba’s Italian Grill, 25054 Sperry Dr. I’m looking forward to delivering an overview of the city’s initiatives – both present and future – as well as the overall status of the City of Westlake. For reservations, contact the Chamber of Commerce at 440-899-3544.

Sincerely,

Dennis M. Clough
Mayor
Senior and Community Services Department News

In working to fulfill its mission to “Engage, Enrich and Empower” Westlake’s Fifty Plus population and all residents in need, the Senior and Community Services Department strives to ensure our facility serves as both a community center AND a senior center. The department is constantly seeking feedback on how to improve programming to offer something for everybody whether you like dancing, playing bocce or simply socializing in an inviting setting. Learn more by going to our website (www.cityofwestlake.org/community-services), visiting us at 29694 Center Ridge Road (located on the Meadowood Golf course facility), or by calling 440-899-3544. Also, learn how you can get involved. Sign up for the department’s monthly newsletter (available online, via email or in hard copy).

Ballroom Dance Returns
Monday, March 30, 2-4 p.m.
Residents are invited to come dance or simply watch, listen and enjoy light refreshments as John Kowalski delights with all of your favorite dance music. This popular Fifty Plus activity is sponsored by Danbury Senior Living, Rose Senior Living, O’Neill Healthcare, Right at Home and Symphony at Olmsted Falls. Upcoming dances throughout the year are scheduled for June 29, Aug. 31 and Oct. 26. The cost is $5, payable day-of.

SAVE THE DATE: What’s Brewing in Westlake?
Thursday, July 23, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Equity Trust Company, Sibling Revelry Brewing and Rosewood Grill have teamed up to host the 3rd Annual “What’s Brewing in Westlake?” fundraiser, benefitting Westlake Senior and Community Services programs geared toward the most vulnerable citizens in our community.
This year’s happy-hour networking event will be held at Sibling Revelry and feature live music entertainment, hors d’oeuvres and libations. 100% of event profits are utilized to help our residents. Visit the department’s webpage, click on the What’s Brewing Event (to the left of the screen) for ticket information. Early birds receive extra chances to win wine and gift baskets! You can also call our department at 440-899-3544 to be added to the electronic invitation list.

90 and Over Celebration
Calling all Westlake Residents who are 90 or older! Let us know who you are so we can send you an invitation to Over 90 Celebration. This annual event, cohosted by the Senior and Community Services department and the Westlake Women’s Club, will be held in the Westlake Recreation Center’s Community Room. Brunch will be served, followed by birthday cake. Mayor Clough will be on hand to award official proclamations to all honorees, making for ideal photo opportunities. Please contact Cindi Lindgren at 440-899-3544 to add your name and address to the invitation list.

Emory Crowder receives a proclamation from Mayor Clough at the 2019 event.

Engineering Department News
2020 Rain & Garden Show
Saturday, April 4, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
The City of Westlake and the Westlake Watershed Group will host the 9th Annual Rain & Garden Show at Market Square in Crocker Park. The event is FREE and open to the public. The Kid Zone is always a huge hit with the face painter, balloon clown and our special guest star Michael Roy! This year we will be extending the Kid Zone by an additional hour (11 a.m. to 2 p.m.) to provide time for new engagement activities, detailed in the Engineering Department’s section on the city’s website. Look for the “Go Green Program” tab.
The featured theme this year is “native plants,” which refers to plant-life indigenous to a given geographic area in geologic time. Native plants typically are the best choice when creating a small garden or restoring acres of land. These plants support local wildlife and play a huge role in soil and water conservation. Attendees can enjoy the assortment of eye-catching colors, shapes, and textures of these plants while also learning how they provide solutions to various environmental problems.

Community Center Construction
Thanks to a great team and a mild winter, the construction of the new Community Center is running on pace for completion in December. The new 28,000-square-foot, freestanding, single-story building will house both Community Services and the Senior Center and sit next to the Recreation Center. It will feature an exterior serenity garden, auditorium, art room, classroom, exercise studio, fitness studio, gathering hall, café and more. Every aspect of the building’s design is geared to maximize accessibility for people who may have age-related difficulties with vision, hearing and or mobility, which can make all the difference for someone who is often isolated due to their limitations.

Westlake Watershed Group
Next meeting: Friday, March 13, 7:30 a.m. at Westlake City Hall
The City of Westlake is working to improve the quality of life and our environment by keeping our local waterways clean and sustainable. Visit our webpage for details on 2020 infrastructure improvement projects. Please direct any questions to engdept@cityofwestlake.org or call 440-617-4145.
Recreation Department News

Community Safety And Wellness Fair
Saturday, May 16
The Recreation Center partners with UH St. John Medical Center to host this family-friendly event. This event provides a great opportunity to learn how to increase personal safety and wellness through health screenings, demonstrations, and expertise from more than 70 exhibitors. Kids can explore emergency and service equipment in Touch-a-Truck and playing on the inflatables and many activities designed just for them. A special thank you to First National Bank for their donations of the very popular bike helmets.

Hair donations: During the fair, Wigs for Kids will hold a cut-a-thon, gathering hair donations for wigs to be provided to children in need at no cost to them. The hair must be natural (no dyes, no perms), clean, and dry. Gray and white hair are accepted.

MEADOWOOD GOLF COURSE
Meadowood Updates With Jimmy Hanlin
Golf enthusiasts will be excited to learn, if they haven't already, that the city has hired golf celebrity Jimmy Hanlin to devise a blueprint for renovating Westlake’s own 27-hole Meadowood Golf Course in conjunction with Fry/Straka Global Golf Design. Possible updates under consideration include: an indoor/outdoor practice facility, complete with an indoor driving range and nine-hole indoor par 3 course; a putting course; a short game area; and a “reversible” 9-hole course that plays 1-9 one day and 9-1 the next.

Preliminary plans could be available by late spring or early this summer.

“The idea is to create a golf experience that is unique in not only the Westshore area, but all of Northeast Ohio” said Mayor Dennis Clough. “We have an opportunity to do something totally different than anything we’ve ever seen before, completely outside the box.”

Swing Into Spring
Saturdays: March 21 to April 4, noon-2 p.m.
The weather will be changing and the days getting longer so now is the time to break out the clubs and sharpen your game at Meadowood Golf Course. Dave Brugh will be instructing adults covering topics such as the grip and swing, short game and putting, along with some great exercise to increase your flexibility and range of motion. Lessons will be on the course and limited to groups of 8 so each participant can get an adequate amount of individual instruction. The cost is $25 for residents and $35 for non-residents.

AQUATICS
Dive In Movie Night at the Aquatic Center
March 13, 6:30 p.m.
Don your suits, bring your floats and enjoy a movie in the pool. Drift around with your family and enjoy a night of entertainment and fun! Light refreshments will be served. Admission will cost $5 for members and $10 for non-members.

Police Department News
The City of Westlake recognized two police patrolmen and a jailer for going "above and beyond" in working to protect and serve the city and its residents in 2019. Westlake Police Chief Kevin Bielozer and Mayor Dennis Clough presented the following awards:


Swinger B. Biel and Jailer Jared Schubert - 2019 Police Officer of the Year Award Patrolman Paul "P.J." Hartranft - 2019 Police Officer of the Year Award Patrolman Stephen Krebs - 2019 Police Officer of the Year Award

Fire Department News
The Westlake Fire Department is pleased to announce the promotion of Firefighter Steven Reuter to the rank of Lieutenant, effective as of Jan. 15, 2020. Steven has been a member of the department since April 6, 2010.

L to R: Chief James Hughes, Mayor Dennis Clough, Lieutenant Steven Reuter and Asst. Chief Michael Freeman.

JEMS Games
The Westlake Fire Department will again be competing in the JEMS Games Clinical Competition at the EMS Today Conference in Tampa, Fla., March 2-6. Representing Westlake and the Fire Department this year will be Lt. Ryan Clifford, Firefighters Canaan Lorek, Michael Swanker and Benjamin Erdani. This is an international competition where paramedic teams are placed in high-stress scenarios and evaluated on their ability to provide quality, competent care. Last year, the Westlake Fire Department competed in two clinical competitions, placing 10th at the JEMS Games Clinical Competition and 3rd at the National Conference on EMS Simulated Competition. Best of luck to all of our participants!

General Fireplace And Chimney Safety
The Fire Department is encouraging residents to have a professional inspect and clean their fireplaces and chimneys each year before beginning to use them for the season. If you’re using a gas or wood fireplace, open the chimney flue prior to starting the fire to let fresh air feed the flames and allow smoke to exit, then close the flue once the fire is put out.

Answering The Call
The Westlake Police and Fire Departments are always looking out for residents’ safety and their efforts recently saved a life. On Feb. 13, police and fire servicemembers responded to a call for a fire in an attached garage at a residence where a 20-year-old developmentally-disabled man was home alone. The man could not walk on his own and the city’s emergency personnel prevented the situation from turning tragic.
Service Department News

RUBBISH/RECYCLING/BRUSH - HOLIDAY COLLECTIONS
Good Friday, April 10 – No delay

RUBBISH/RECYCLING REMINDERS
On occasion, excess rubbish, weighing less than 50 lbs., can be placed only in plastic trash bags and placed next to rubbish carts on your collection day. Excess recycling cannot be placed in bags next to recycle carts. Cardboard boxes must be broken down and only items identified on the lid of your recycling cart may be recycled. Personal cans cannot be used and will not be serviced. For additional rubbish or recycle carts, contact Rumpke at 800-828-8171.

Reminder: The City of Westlake requires residents to store rubbish and recycling carts so that they may not be seen from the street. Carts may be stored inside of your garage or outside of your home. When storing carts outside, residents must place the carts so that they are screened from the street and neighbors view.

COMPUTER ROUND-UP
April 13-17, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Monday – Friday)
April 18, 7:30 a.m.-noon (Saturday)
Drop off your old computer equipment – computers, tablets / e-readers, computer monitors, computer components, printers etc. Cellphones and their accessories are also accepted at the Service Center, 741 Bassett Road. Go to https://www.cityofwestlake.org/Computer-Household-Hazardous-Waste for a complete listing of items accepted during the round-up.

SPRING YARD CLEAN-UP DAYS
April 20-24, April 27 to May 1 (weather permitting)
Leaf collection (weather permitting): Rake up your leaves to the tree lawn.

Do not place leaves in the street. Go to www.cityofwestlake.org/Daily-Leaf-Update for the daily leaf update.

Brush (tree branches/limbs): The City brush truck collects branches and limbs weekly, on your regular collection day. Reminder- branches and limbs must be bundled with the ends facing the same direction, or placed in a personal can that is clearly marked “Brush” and weighs less than 50 lbs. Bundles must be no more than 4 ft. long and 2 ft. wide and weigh less than 50 lbs. Branches/limbs exceeding these dimensions will not be collected.

Yard waste: Grass clippings, plants, flowers, leaves, etc. is collected weekly by Rumpke. Yard waste can be placed in paper bags (preferred) or plastic bags only and placed out with your normal trash collection. Bags must weigh less than 50 lbs. Personal cans/containers cannot be used and will not be serviced.