



The North Olmsted News

MAYOR'S NEWSLETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

Spring, 2023 Edition

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, May 29: 10:30am..... North Olmsted Memorial Day Parade

Sponsored by North Olmsted VFW Post 7647 and the City of North Olmsted

Monday, June 19 – Friday, June 23Safety Town Session I

Monday, June 26 – Friday, June 30..... Safety Town Session II

Tuesday, July 4, 2023..... Independence Day

Celebrate with your family and friends.

Friday-Saturday, August 11-12, 2023.....End of Summer Celebration

Fireworks at Dusk – Friday, August 11, 2023 at Great Northern Mall

Wednesday, August 23: 12-2pm A 90's Honoree Celebration

Those turning age 90 in North Olmsted will be honored at this special luncheon at the North Olmsted Senior Center, 28114 Lorain Road.

Thursday-Sunday, August 24-27, 2023 ... North Olmsted Homecoming

Sponsored by North Olmsted Community Council

Monday, September 4, 2023Labor Day Holiday

Celebrate with your family and friends.

**Wednesday, October 4: 4-7pmOctoberfest-themed
"Senior Prom"at Springvale Ballroom**

*A dinner-dance especially for seniors,
who are invited to wear their best "prom attire."
Tickets will go on sale in September.*



Welcome to the first edition of *The North Olmsted News*, a newsletter especially for residents of North Olmsted. This new quarterly publication is designed with you – our residents – in mind. My hope is that it will keep you current on what's happening in our community and continue to provide you with open, transparent communication which I promised when you elected me to serve as your Mayor.

Inside, we'll cover upcoming City events, news from our various departments here at City Hall, and we'll also shine the spotlight on the interesting people and things to do here in North Olmsted.

I know as your Mayor that we can all agree on one thing:

North Olmsted is a great place to live, work, and raise a family with a host of amenities which also make it a great destination City.

Nicole Dailey Jones, Mayor



Mayor Nicole Dailey Jones delivering her first State of the City address.

North Olmsted is Moving Positively Forward

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS – Mayor Nicole Dailey Jones delivered her first “State of the City Address” on Thursday, March 9 to North Olmsted residents at the Springvale Ballroom. Her presentation received a standing ovation from the community.

In a 30-minute presentation to the community, the Mayor stressed that the city is preparing for the future.



In case you missed it, or were unable to attend, you can watch her address in full by scanning this code with your smartphone.

Focus on Residents

That future is resident-focused, Jones said. “It will include making data-driven decisions and lots of analytical thinking to do what is absolutely best for you – the residents that we are charged to serve. You deserve nothing less. It’s not just our job, it’s our mission.”

Public Safety: Priority One

The Mayor covered a wide range of topics, with safety as priority one.

North Olmsted has hired four new police officers and created a lateral transfer program to bring in well-qualified officers to the City.

The police department is also in the process of purchasing body cameras for its officers – 50 cameras are being paid for by grant funds at a cost of \$140,000.

“In 2023, I’ve requested that a comprehensive traffic safety plan be put together to help improve not only traffic safety, but to also curtail speeding on the streets and in the neighborhoods where our children live and play,” Jones said.

Shining the Spotlight on Seniors and Recreation

The news is also good for North Olmsted Senior Citizens.

New and expanded programs are coming to the senior center as well as to North Olmsted Community Park, which will feature a gazebo renovation and relocation of existing ball fields.

Further improvements have already begun at the North Olmsted Recreation Center, where new indoor turf was installed including a new walking/running track.

“These improvements to our Recreation Center and parks are all being done with no tax increase to you, the residents,” Jones said.

North Olmsted is the only western Cuyahoga County municipal recreation facility to include an ice rink, turf field, indoor pool and fitness center.

Safe and Healthy Homes

The improvement of North Olmsted’s housing stock was mentioned with the City’s new “Safe and Healthy Homes” program, which currently has a waiting list and has received more than 100 applications from senior citizens and middle-to-low-income families seeking up to \$15,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds for home repairs such as roofing, walkways and HVAC repair/replacement.

“We want our seniors to be able to maintain and stay in their homes for as long as they want to,” Jones said.

A Major Focus on Economic and Community Development

Economic Development is a major area of focus for her administration, Jones said as she discussed the recently-created Community Investment Corporation offering programs and assistance to attract new businesses and retain existing ones.

2022: A Year of Learning, Investigating and Listening

“In 2022 we went over everything with a fine-tooth comb,” Jones said. “I spent a great deal of time meeting one-on-one with residents, and business and community leaders to really hear their concerns. We will continue to effect positive change so that we can continue to deliver the best possible programs and services for everyone who calls this wonderful City their home.”



NEW FIREFIGHTERS

At left, the City recently hired three new firefighter/paramedics to keep residents safe.



NEW POLICE OFFICERS

North Olmsted has also hired four new police officers and created a lateral transfer program to attract well-qualified officers to the City.

Some Property Maintenance Tips from the North Olmsted Building Department

Vegetation

All hedges, bushes, trees and other vegetation, both within or without of the right-of-way shall be kept trimmed and from becoming overgrown so that such growth does not interfere with the safe flow of traffic, or is an obstruction to traffic sight lines or otherwise blocks, impedes or interferes with appropriate traffic safety signs. Bushes, shrubs or vegetation in front yard areas shall be cut to a maximum height of three feet, and for a distance of 20 feet from the inside edge of the sidewalk.

Weeds and Plant Growth

All premises and exterior property shall be maintained free from weeds or plant growth, including cultivated lawns, in excess of six inches. All weeds and plant growth in excess of six inches shall be cut and destroyed within 48 hours after service of a Notice of Violation from the City Building Department.

Yard Waste

Yard clippings, leaves, including tree branches, shrubbery or other similar trimmings, shall not be stored, placed or permitted to accumulate on the tree lawn or within the right of way, except in conjunction with scheduled municipal service and in accordance with removal regulations.

Firewood

The storage of firewood is only permitted on the side and rear yard, and must be neatly stacked in a pile not to exceed five feet in height; minimum distance of five feet from rear and side lot lines; minimum distance of 15 feet from adjacent, neighboring structures; and must be stored in such a manner as to avoid fire hazard, nuisance due to deterioration or pest infestation.

Delayed Refuse Pick-Up Schedule

All refuse collections will be delayed one day due to the following holidays:

Memorial Day	June 1-2, 2023
Independence Day	July 6-7, 2023
Labor Day	September 7-8, 2023
Thanksgiving Day	November 23-24, 2023
Christmas Day	December 28-29, 2023
New Year's Day	January 4-5, 2024

Building Department Conducts Property Maintenance Inspections in Ward One of City

This spring the Building Division will conduct exterior property maintenance inspections of all residential properties in Ward 1. Each North Olmsted household should have received a postcard about the program in early March. The program has been on hold since 2020 due to Covid-19.

When inspections begin, you will notice City inspectors walking your streets and neighborhoods. All will carry City identification. Those property owners who have exterior property maintenance items that need to be addressed will be notified by mail and will be given a reasonable amount of time to correct the violations. Issues that need immediate attention will result in a correction notice being hung on the front doorknob.

Working together, we can keep North Olmsted an attractive and welcoming community and one in which you are proud to own property.

2023 "Saturday in the Park" Summer Concert Series Set for North Olmsted Community Park

A Summer Concert series featuring nationally-known entertainment is coming to North Olmsted Community Park this summer.

Six different bands will entertain over the course of the concert series, which will take place on Saturdays beginning June 10 and continuing through August 12.

"There will literally be something for everyone," said North Olmsted Mayor Nicole Dailey Jones. "We think the groups we have lined up will be incredibly popular."

Concerts will run from 6-9 p.m. at the Gazebo in North Olmsted Community Park, said Director of Recreation & Public Engagement Tim Pinchek.

At right is the schedule for all concerts which are free and open to the public.

Food trucks will be on hand, and residents will also be able to enjoy alcohol at the events.

	JUNE 10	THE SOUL MEN, BLUES BROTHERS TRIBUTE WITH THE SWIZZLE STICK BAND MOTOWN, FUNK, SOUL & ROCK N ROLL 6:00-9:00 PM
	JUNE 24	OFF THE RECORD ROCK & COUNTRY HITS FROM 60'S TO TODAY 6:00-9:00 PM
	JULY 8	BOATERHEAD YACHT ROCK 6:00-9:00 PM
	JULY 22	REVOLUTION PIE RECREATING SOUNDS OF THE BEATLES FROM LOVE WE GO TO LET IT BE 6:00-9:00 PM
	AUG 12	E504P3 THE JOURNEY TRIBUTE 6:00-9:00 PM

CITY OF NORTH OLMSTED
Parks & Recreation

Springvale Ballroom Centennial: A Historical Look Back

Springvale Golf Course and Ballroom are public facilities located on Canterbury Rd. south of Butternut Ridge Rd., in the city of North Olmsted, which owns and operates them. The ballroom, which is one of the oldest still operating in Ohio, was built by Fred Biddulph on a 100 plus acre farm settled in 1865 by his grandparents John and Christina Biddulph, immigrants from England. Originally called “Spring Vale Dance Hall,” it opened to the public on May 19, 1923, but closed just four years later, in 1927, when illness and financial need forced Fred Biddulph to sell his grandfather’s farm to a real estate developer. L. H. Heister, Jr., Inc., the developer who purchased the farm, proposed to build an eighteen-hole golf course and residential subdivision upon it and adjacent land. The golf course, called Homelinks, opened the following year with Biddulph’s dance hall serving as its clubhouse. However, with the onset of the Great Depression in 1929, the rest of the proposed residential development foundered and the developer went bankrupt.

In 1936, the Biddulph family, which had sued L. H. Heister, Jr., Inc., in Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court to recover its farm, obtained a judgment against the developer and regained possession of both the farm and the vacant dance hall building, which had been abandoned as a clubhouse several years earlier when Homelinks Golf Course (renamed Links Golf Course in 1989) opened its new clubhouse on John Road in Olmsted Township. On April 29, 1936, the Biddulph family reopened the dance hall and renamed it “Spring Vale Ballroom.” Several years later, “Spring Vale Ballroom” became “Springvale Ballroom.” During the height of the popularity of ballroom dancing in the decades of the 1930s and 1940s, it was a popular destination for Clevelanders. In subsequent decades, the ballroom has catered to smaller groups interested in learning the art of ballroom dancing and has also served as a site for wedding receptions and other events.

When the Biddulph family recovered its farm and dance hall in 1936, it also gained possession of a five-hole golf course. Five holes of the Homelinks golf course which had opened in 1928 had been built on Fred Biddulph’s farmland. In 1939, George Biddulph, Fred’s son, took four of the existing holes on his father’s land and added five more to create a nine-hole course called Spring Vale Golf Course. It remained a nine-hole course until 1952, when George expanded it again, constructing a new clubhouse and adding nine additional holes. Known as Springvale Country Club, the course operated thereafter as a semi-private course for club members and, on a pay-as-you-play basis, for members of the public. Fred Biddulph died in 1957, and in the years that followed George Biddulph continued to manage the golf course and his sister, Rose Biddulph Scheef, and then his daughter Bonnie DeLorenzo, managed the ballroom.

Springvale Ballroom and Country Club were operated by the Biddulph family until 1994 when both the ballroom and golf course were sold to the city of North Olmsted, which purchased them in order to preserve the ballroom and to retain the golf course as greenspace. The private club closed after the golf course became municipally-owned, and the two facilities became known as Springvale Golf Course and Ballroom. Over the years, the city of North Olmsted has made numerous improvements to the ballroom and the golf course, both of which are open to the public.

*James Dubelko,
former Director of Law, City of North Olmsted*



Community Dance Planned to Celebrate 100 Years of Springvale

At 6 p.m. On Thursday, May 18, the City of North Olmsted Department of Recreation & Public Engagement will present a centennial dance in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Springvale Ballroom.

It is being billed as “The Springvale Ballroom Hop: Commemorating 100 Years of Dance.”

The event will celebrate this milestone anniversary of Springvale featuring 10 decades of music provided by DJ Carl Schanz.

The North Olmsted Landmarks Commission is producing a special video presentation to coincide with the event.

Guests are invited to attire themselves in fashion from their favorite decade from 1923-2023.

Tickets for the event will be \$10 per person, and are available at the door.



In the Employee Spotlight

Tony Farrella

City of North Olmsted Service Department Fleet Manager

Age: 58

Residence: Eaton Township

Family: Wife of 30 years, Dawn; seven dogs, three cats, 24 chickens and a mini-pony named Henry.

Tony Farrella is the Fleet Manager within the City of North Olmsted's Service Department. He has worked for the city since 2002 and was promoted to supervisor in 2017. City departments rely on his expertise to outfit and repair all types of vehicles and equipment, from fire engines to street sweepers to snow plows.

As a kid, Tony would read hot rod magazines and admire cool cars with slick paint jobs. He grew up in North Olmsted schools, and in his sophomore year he was encouraged to attend Polaris JVS to focus on auto body and paint. Tony would cover his homework pages with pen and ink drawings, impressing teachers with his artistic skill. For a little money, he would create murals on the bottoms of kids' skateboards and draw scenes on people's mailboxes. He graduated Polaris at the top of his class and, in addition to his diploma, he received a full scholarship to attend a program for commercial art.

The first car Tony built was a 1968 Firebird. He remembers cruising up and down Lorain Road with high school friends, *occasionally* exceeding the speed limit, and in the process, sometimes getting to know the local police. After graduation, one of his earliest jobs was at an auto shop in Fairview Park building alternators, starters and generators. Tony quickly learned he preferred being his own boss and started a company in 1990 called Olmsted Auto Electric, Inc., eventually purchasing a large rural property that he and his wife, Dawn, have developed over time to suit their needs.

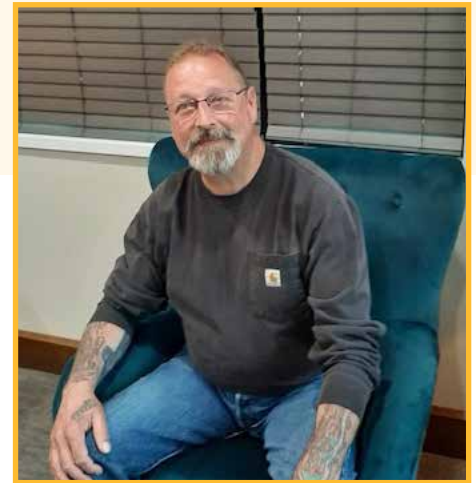
Tony's unique blend of mechanical and artistic skill have resulted in hundreds of custom cars, trucks and motorcycles, which continue to provide one of his greatest sources of enjoyment and pride. Tony's paint jobs have appeared in magazines and received numerous awards. Black Betty, his prized 1936 Chevy

truck, was completed in 1995 and won Best in Show for all street driven vehicles at the Cleveland Auto-Rama. Black Betty also appears in ink on Tony's right arm.

Through his business, Tony developed contacts with area fleet and service managers and made lasting relationships within the industry. His contacts in North Olmsted encouraged and finally convinced him to take a job with the city. Tony started working in fleet as a mechanic building police cars and repairing salt trucks. He jokes that when he began working for the city, one of the police officers who recognized him from his youth said, "At least we know the cop cars will go fast now."

Tony was direct when asked how he felt about his role as fleet manager. "It's kick ass! It's so cool, I love it so much!" Tony's enthusiasm and positive energy are infectious at city hall. While he focuses serious attention on making safety and efficiency top priorities for his crew, his compassion and understanding create a strong, unified team. As a supervisor, Tony appreciates the opportunity to mentor youth assigned to community service hours, encouraging good decision making and a positive outlook that will lead to greater opportunities.

On the technical side, Tony ensures each new vehicle or piece of equipment is thoroughly researched prior to purchase. He began collaborating with other departments to ensure the operators were able to review equipment and provide feedback into the selection process. Tony reflected on the recent Vactor truck purchase used in maintaining the city's sewer system. "I thought, who operates the truck? It's the guys out there that are running them. Why not include them in the purchase of the truck? So why don't we demo all the trucks we need to demo, and they can see which one will do the best job for the



city. And then they are part of it, take ownership in it and there's pride."

Tony says ongoing training and education will be key to the team's continued success, especially with new technologies on the horizon. For example, with the expected growth in electric vehicles, his crew will need to be prepared to maintain and repair new vehicle systems. The city currently has one fully electric vehicle assigned to the Fire Department, but the EV fleet is expected to grow in time.

Tony gets most animated when talking about his team. "My crew, Diana and all the guys, they rock! They are so talented they blow me away!" When the Service Department needed a way to pre-treat roads before snow events, Tony and the Service Department foremen looked at the equipment used in other nearby communities and by ODOT, gathering options and prices. "And I thought why don't we just make it ourselves?" The result is a tanker that has been affectionately dubbed the Road Wetter 3000. "It's our very own pre-treating tanker that rolls off the truck, just like what you could purchase, and we saved all that money."

Tony says the pride of a job well done keeps him and his crew coming to work every day looking for new challenges. "And none of that's just me, it's my team. Team Awesome! We're called Elite Fleet, we have shirts and everything, because we are. Without the trucks firemen can't put out fires, police can't get the bad guys, trucks can't plow... and we keep them all running."



CONNECTING WITH SENIORS

At left, Mayor Dailey Jones regularly visits at the North Olmsted Senior Center to help serve their weekly congregate lunches, and spend time with our elderly citizens.

RETAIL SUCCESS

Rainbow Apparel Company recently opened a location at Great Northern Mall.



City of North Olmsted
 5200 Dover Center Road
 North Olmsted, Ohio 44070

PRSR STD
 U.S. Postage
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 RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

North Olmsted City Administration

- Nicole Dailey Jones..... Mayor
- Charles Massarolo.....Special Assistant to the Mayor
- Rick Haase.....Assistant to the Mayor & Newsletter Editor
- Max Upton.....Director of Economic and Community Development
- Carrie B. Copfer.....Director of Finance
- Lisa Kidd Director of Human Resources
- Michael R. Gareau, Jr. Director of Law
- Jennifer ScofieldDirector of Public Safety
- Kevin KearneyDirector of Public Service
- Tim PinchekDirector of Recreation & Public Engagement

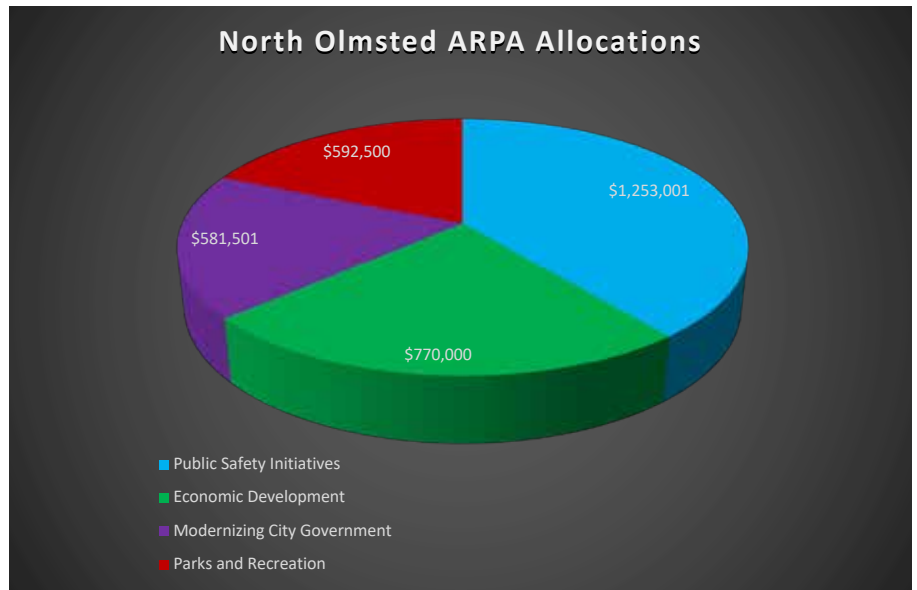
North Olmsted City Council Members

- President of Council Louis J. Brossard
- Ward I Council Member Christopher Scarl
- Ward II Council MemberChris Glassburn
- Ward III Council Member Mary Gilchrist
- Ward IV Council Member Mary Ellen Hemann

Council Members At-Large:

- Duane H. Limpert
- Mark Madden
- Angela M. Williamson
- Clerk of Council:* Beatrice Taylor

This chart delineates how the City of North Olmsted is spending American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding.



FREDDY'S GROUNDBREAKING

On Monday, March 27, Mayor Nicole Dailey Jones joined Freddy's Frozen Custard and Steak burgers to celebrate the groundbreaking of their newest location at 27350 Lorain Road. This will be the first Freddy's in North Olmsted, bringing their signature steak burgers and frozen custard treats to the community.