

Ward 2 Newsletter

Fairlawn, OH

Fall 2016

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VOTE VOTE VOTE: Election day is Tuesday, November 8th. Unless you have heard otherwise from the Board of Elections, Ward 2 votes at St. Thomas Eastern Orthodox Church, 555 S. Cleve-Mass Rd. Polls open at 6:30 AM and close at 7:30 PM. Also, as far as I know, the BOE has not approved the change for those of you who are to be moved to Ward 4; you are still in Ward 2.

Besides the National and Local candidates on the ballot, there are five local issues for Fairlawn residents.

- **Issues 13 and 14** are from petitions that were not filed in time for the last election. Their companion Issues were soundly defeated last year. These two issues deal with the landlords and rental property and rental property inspections. If passed, these two issues would put the City at odds with Federal law and Constitutional rights, and result in lawsuits in Federal court. There are documented cases that parallel our situation. Council spent over 10 months last year addressing our rental and landlord ordinances and passed ordinances that have been working very well for both tenants and landlords. I urge you to **vote NO** on both of these issues.
- **Issues 15 and 16** are proposed Charter Amendments that were filed via petition instead of through the Charter Review Board which meets every three years. These two issues are for term limits for the Mayor and City Council. Council voted against the Ordinances for terms limits this spring after extended debate and study, including comments from residents. The consensus comment was "if it isn't broke, don't fix it." Currently Council has four of its seven members who have served less than four years, and two who have served less than one year. In my opinion the churn rate on council is good. If you feel strongly enough to want a council member or Mayor out of office, use your votes to turn them out. Again, I urge you to **vote NO** on these two Issues.
- **Issue 17** is another proposed Charter Amendment that was filled via petition instead of through the Charter Review Board. This issue is to make the office of Law Director an elected position. The Law Director is appointed by the Mayor, but is approved by City Council. The job of the Law Director is to advise the Mayor and Council on the legality of Ordinances, Resolutions, and advise us on other legal matters that come before the City. It is important that the Law Director and the Mayor have a good working relationship and common goals for going forward. Ultimately, City Council has the final say on Legislation. Once again, I urge you to **vote NO** on this Issue.

GOOD NEWS---Fairlawn Gig™ (a city owned utility) is a leading edge venture, unlike any other city in the United States. FairlawnGig is the model of the future of internet connectivity. All of Fairlawn will have wi-fi and high speed fiber connection to the internet...businesses and residents alike. You have probably seen the crews working to install the conduit for the fiber cable with their colorful paint markings and flags. During business hours, you can go to the Service Center for a demonstration of the how the FairlawnGig works. The outstanding feature is **SPEED**. The speed will be symmetric, which means uploads and downloads at the same speed. Whether you chose **30 Mbps, 100 Mbps, or the Gig... 1000 Mbps**, your speed will not degrade. Reliable symmetric internet speed is the future for streaming of music and video off the internet. You do not have to use the FairlawnGig if you are happy with your current service. Construction of the FairlawnGig will not increase your taxes and there is no charge to you if you do not want to use the FairlawnGig. There are no long term contracts to sign, no box rental fees, and no connection fees when you sign up for service during the installation period. Go to www.FairlawnGig.net for more information and click on the "Ask Ernie" if you have questions. The goal is to have the entire city "lit up" by the end of July!!

MORE Good News from the Summit County Land Bank: Fairlawn has a “good” rating because we have had an increase in home values, 91% of single family homes are owner occupied, and less than 3% are renter occupied. With the help of Grants from the Land Bank and the CIC (Community Improvement Corporation), the City has been able to buy neglected homes, have them demolished, and put the vacant property up for sale. Two lots have been incorporated into the parks system.

Fairlawn Community Foundation (FCF) will again be asking for your support for the 2017 Fourth of July fireworks and Parade. The FCF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization so donations are tax deductible. Donations can be made online at www.fairlawncommunityfoundation.org This year the foundation is again supporting the following:

- Grant given to the Garden Club for KEEP FAIRLAWN BEAUTIFUL AWARD program.
- Grant given to the GASP program to help with their mission to provide permanent identification records for children.
- Grant to Boy Scouts for educational travel.

Free Radon Test Kits are available by going to Ohio Department of Health at www.drhomeair.com/OH Complete the form to request the free test kit. Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers. Kit comes with easy to follow instructions.

What's new?

- **West Point Market** has plans to open at 33 Shiawassee. They are still on track to open this year. It maybe some sort of partial opening for Christmas. We'll have to wait and see.
- **Firehouse Subs** is locating in the former Wendy's building on Market St. Watch for opening.
- **Burntwood Tavern** is now open. They are located in the former Max and Erma's
- **Kings of Vapor** has submitted plans to open a store in Fairlawn Plaza.

Trash Compactor and Recycling Center is again available to all registered residents at no charge. If you have not signed up to use the Compactor, go to the Service Center during normal business hours to sign up. Display the Compactor decal on the front windshield. **The Compactor Center is the best bargain in Fairlawn with over 80% participation!**

Reminders:

- **Leaf Pick Up** starts Monday October 24 and continues for the next six Mondays. Have your bagged leaves at the curb for pick-up.
- **Parks Department Program** was in the *West Side Leader*. If you didn't get one, check online or go to City Hall to get a copy. There's a lot happening during the fall and winter months...check it out!
- **Beggar's Night** is Sunday, October 30th, from 5 PM to 7 PM. Leave your outside lights on if you wish to participate.
- **No overnight parking** on City Streets. Please call the police department if you are planning an event that would require you or your guests to park overnight on the streets.
- **House check:** Going to be out of town? Contact the Police department and they will check your house multiple times each day while you are away.
- **Senior call program:** If you live alone and/or have medical issues, you can sign-up for the daily call program. If you cannot be reached, the police department will send an officer to your home to check. This has been a very popular and successful program.
- Call or email me if you have any questions or suggestions. I will return your calls and emails.