



# CITY OF BROOKLYN OHIO

Spring 2015

## Mayor Balbier gives annual State of the City address



Mayor Balbier gave his annual State of the City address at the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce luncheon, and Brooklyn Democratic Club meeting . The Mayor highlighted the early completion of the Ridge Rd construction project with the tree lawns and street signs being completed in the spring. The Mayor also stated that the Fire Department took in \$350,000 in ambulance fees. The Building Department in 2014 took in \$533,705 in permit fees with over \$34 million in construction projects. New businesses for 2015 will include LA Fitness, Blue Jay Communications who established their NE Ohio headquarters in Brooklyn, North Shore Gastroenterology & Endoscopy Center, Lumen Park (Assisted Living), and Menards. A new turning lane onto I-480 in front of the Plain Dealer will also be constructed. The City's finances are in good shape with a total revenue for 2014 totaling \$26,749,149.21. Total expenses were \$24,918,933.62 with a General Fund ending balance of \$9,800,737.00. The Budget Stabilization fund totals nearly \$3 million and there is \$4 million in the Landfill fund. New additions in 2015 will include a handicap accessible ramp at City Hall and bocci ball court at the Senior Center. New vehicles will include a senior van obtained through a UH Parma Medical Center grant, fire truck, and mechanics truck. The purchase of a hot box will help with potholes and cracked roads this spring. A top priority is the need for a new Police station. The Police Department took 27,384 calls, 1,476 prisoners and made 109 felony arrests. Brooklyn has joined Parma and Parma Heights to have a Central Dispatching Center, which will handle all Police and Fire calls. The Center will be located on Ridge Road near Pleasant Valley, set to open this summer. A \$1 million grant from the County helped to fund this project.

**Mayor**  
Richard H. Balbier

**City Council**  
**Katie Gallagher, President**  
**Ron Van Kirk, Pro Tem**  
**Kathleen M. Pucci**  
**Antony E. DeMarco**  
**Kevin Tanski**  
**Mary L. Balbier**  
**Andy Celcherts**

### **IN THIS ISSUE:**

Economic Development.....	2
City Council .....	2
Building and Service .....	2
Heritage Home Program.....	3
Beautify Brooklyn .....	3
Police and Fire.....	3
Entry Form for Beautify Brooklyn .....	4

## **Memorial Day-May 25**



Memorial Day will be observed on Monday, May 25. The parade will begin at 11:00 am from Brooklyn High School and proceed down Biddulph Road to Ridge Road to Memphis Avenue ending at City Hall at approximately 11:45 am. City Hall services will begin at Noon. Families of Military personnel are invited to participate in the parade and any resident group

interested in marching should contact the Recreation Department at 216-635-4283 by May 22. Students may participate in the Ride Against Drugs. Bike riders are invited to decorate their bikes. Minor children age 14 and under are required to wear a protective helmet when using bicycles, skateboards, in-line skates and roller skates. A Gather and Grill will take place following service. Enjoy a picnic lunch at the Grand Pavilion prepared by the Brooklyn Police and Fire Departments. Boy Scout Troop 319 will have activities and demonstrations. Thank you to those who served and are currently serving our country.

## **Parks and Recreation**



Reservations are being taken for Pavilion Rentals - call 216-635-4283. Summer registration for Learn to Skate will begin May 1 and registration for Learn to Swim will begin May 9. A great way to promote your business

and support activities for the children of our community is to sponsor a youth uniform shirt! Sponsorship fee is \$200 and will include the name of your business. Call 216-351-5334 or go to [www.brooklynohio.gov/recreation](http://www.brooklynohio.gov/recreation). Watch your mail for the 2015 Recreation Brochure highlighting all classes and activities available at the Recreation Center.

**Economic Development**



Arrow International committed to retaining their new expanded headquarters here in Brooklyn. The City provided a business development grant of \$200,000 to Arrow to help offset the costs associated with a \$2 million expansion. Our assistance retained 490 jobs and created 40 plus jobs at the headquarters.

CENVEO, an envelope manufacturer, purchased their largest competitor and consolidated their operation to Brooklyn. We provided a business development grant of \$20,000 to CENVEO to help offset the costs associated with necessary electrical upgrades for new equipment, retaining/creating over 160 plus jobs. North Shore Gastroenterology & Endoscopy Center will open in the spring at 7580 Northcliff Avenue bringing 20 professional medical jobs. The former Opinionation building at Memphis Avenue And Ridge Road is under contract for acquisition by Today's Dentistry. This real estate opportunity will allow Today's Dentistry to expand their practice here in Brooklyn with an opening by summer. The Cuyahoga Land Bank has been active in Brooklyn razing the Brooklyn owned property at 7580 Memphis Avenue for future development; redeveloping a foreclosed property; cleared and cleaned the entire inside of the former old library which is now the Loving Cup Day Care. The Land Bank has spent approximately \$80,000 in Brooklyn helping with economic development.

**City Council**



The Mayor's 2015 Budget passed and City Council would like to share with you the Capital Improvements scheduled for this year.

**Non-Discretionary items:**

- Fire Aerial Ladder Truck Lease payment .....\$102,795
- Recreation Center heating, ventilation, and air conditioning lease payment .....\$205,645
- Recreation Center lease payment for pool windows .....\$38,644
- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Sewer System Phase II work .....\$39,000.

**Discretionary:**

- 12-in-car police cameras.....\$80,000
- 30 - police body cameras.....\$15,000
- 3 - mobile data terminals for police cars .....\$15,000
- 3 - new Police cars paid by POPAS fund

\*Police were awarded a grant for part

HERITAGE **HOME** PROGRAM

Brooklyn has many older homes that are worthy of preserving and improving. In order to help homeowners do this, Brooklyn has continued its participation in the Heritage Home Program into 2015. The Heritage Home Program is a specialized service for homes over 50 years old that is operated by the Cleveland Restoration Society (CRS). The most important feature of the Heritage Home Program is that it offers free technical assistance and advice to the owners of older homes. Technical assistance can include: site visits at the property conducted by Heritage Home Program Staff; assistance finding contractors; help reviewing estimates from contractors, and color consults for exterior painting. The free Technical Assistance offered by the Heritage Home Program is completely impartial and independent. CRS does not have any products or services that it sells to the homeowners and does not charge the homeowner for the advice. Another feature of the Heritage Home Program is its low-interest equity loan program. Homeowners can use this to cover the cost of maintenance and improvement work. The interest rate on these loans is a fixed rate of 1.85% from First Federal of Lakewood or 2.05 % from Key Bank. Heritage Home Program loans can be for interior as well as exterior repairs, maintenance, additions and modernization projects. Kitchen and bath remodels are two popular uses of Heritage Home Program loans. The only things that cannot be done with a Heritage Home Program loan are luxury items such as swimming pools or hot tubs, vinyl siding or windows, driveways, and landscaping. For more information, call 216-426-3116 or visit [www.heritagehomeprogram.org](http://www.heritagehomeprogram.org).

2 - Hot water tanks at the Natatorium.....	\$17,000
Completion of the Recreation Center ice rink locker rooms	\$20,000
Natatorium lobby windows .....	\$20,000
1 - F250 truck with plow for the Recreation Center .....	\$35,000
2 - F250 pickup trucks for the Service Garage .....	\$70,000
1 - F350 pickup truck for the Service garage .....	\$45,000
1- Mechanic's truck .....	\$40,000
Fire pumper accessories .....	\$72,633
Roof at the Park Office .....	\$15,000
Falcon Asphalt recycler and hot box trailer .....	\$33,709
Service Garage fire alarm system .....	\$25,000
ADA compliant wheelchair handicap ramp at City Hall .....	\$66,500
Citywide signage .....	\$125,000
Completion of Senior Center bocci ball court .....	\$23,500
Memphis Avenue repair and resurfacing engineering .....	\$50,000
Tiedeman Road Southbound right-turn lane onto I-480 .....	\$43,000
2015 Streets Program .....	\$1,246,400
Brookhill Circle, Century Circle, Deborah Lynn, Fairway Dr. ForestEdge Dr., (north), Glen Daniel Circle, Manoa Ave., Micka Dr., Newberry Drive, Rockland Dr., Shady Ln., Southwood Dr. (south of I-480) and before Southwood.	

**Building and Service**



A permit is needed to have a garage sale in the City. Sales are limited to three times per year between the hours of 9:00 am and 6:00 pm, and cannot last for more than three consecutive days. Signs shall not be displayed more than two days in advance of the sale and all signs must be removed on the last day of the sale.

The Building Department is also here to assist residents with any questions or concerns that they have with property maintenance, and ensure that Brooklyn remains a clean and safe community. There are inspectors who will look into any concerns that are

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**Beautify Brooklyn**

**Clean Sweep** - April 26-May 23: Clean out your house and yard! **Hazardous Waste Collection & Computer/Electronics Recycling**-The Service Garage located at 9400 Memphis Avenue will be open Saturdays, May 2 and May 16 from 8am - Noon to accept these materials. For a complete list of materials accepted visit [www.brooklynohio.gov](http://www.brooklynohio.gov) or call 216-351-2133. On Saturday, May 2 from 9:00am-Noon there will be free and secure document shredding and Simple Recycling will collect used clothing and small household goods in the Recreation Center parking lot. **Pitch the Pills** - Dispose of expired or unwanted medications in our secure, drug collection box located in the lobby of the Police Station. We will also have student volunteers on Saturday, May 2 to assist senior citizens who need help in cleaning up their yards. Please call the Senior Center 216-635-4222 to sign up. We have a limited number of students so please sign-up early. Please note that the above mentioned services are for Brooklyn residents only. No materials from businesses, churches or schools will be accepted.

**Bulbs and Blooms**

- May 6-July 11: Beautify your house and yard! We have collaborated with the Cuyahoga County Public Library Brooklyn Branch for a kick-off program. Petitti Garden Center will present Plant Favorites for 2015 on Wednesday, May 6 at 7pm. Registration is required either at [cuyahogalibrary.org](http://cuyahogalibrary.org) or by calling 216-398-4600. Plant flowers, improve your landscaping and curb appeal. **Enter the First Annual Beautify Brooklyn Contest** - Enter your beautiful residence or business in our contest - entry form on back or call 216-351-2133. Judging will occur during the week of July 12, winners will be notified the weekend of July 18-19.

**A reception** will be held July 26 at the Senior-Community Center to award prizes and wrap-up the Beautify Brooklyn event. We have asked local businesses to support our beautification efforts by offering discounts or donating prizes - which will be announced. Rules: All residences and businesses submitted for judging must be located in the City of Brooklyn. By submitting your application, you are giving the City permission to photograph your property. Photos may be published in city publications, social media or local media.

reported or that may be in plain view. Inspections are made to keep in compliance with the City's Property Maintenance Code for occupancy. Understanding that certain situations and hardships do occur, they will work with homeowners to become compliant. Please contact them at 216-635-4201 or 216-635-4203 to report any violations or concerns.

**The Service Department** will begin picking up compost in April. All grass must be placed in compost bags or cans. Grass that is placed in plastic bags will be left behind and not picked up. Branches must be cut into four foot lengths, bundled and limited to one foot in diameter. Compost will only be picked up on your regular rubbish day.

**Police and Fire Departments**



The employees of the Brooklyn **Police Department** would like to invite you to take part in a Community Satisfaction Survey. You may fill out this survey online via our city website at [www.brooklynohio.gov](http://www.brooklynohio.gov). Your participation will allow for ways to strengthen the department by identifying ways we can better deliver our services, and by highlighting issues that we might not have considered. We understand the department's effectiveness is ultimately determined by the confidence and cooperation of the community we serve.



The **Fire Department** would like to remind residents that the following are appropriate fire and safety guidelines that will be followed when using an outdoor fireplace or any other device that contains a fire for recreational or cooking purposes: The device must be located at a minimum distance of 15 feet from any structure. The device must be attended by a responsible adult at all times while in use. Fuel, such as seasoned wood, must be used so that it minimizes the generation and/or emission of contaminants. No materials will be burned that may contain rubber, grease, asphalt, plastics and/or petroleum products. Artificial "wax" fireplace logs are permitted. The device used will only be permitted when atmospheric conditions will allow the dissipation of smoke and contaminants. The smoke must not be deemed objectionable to neighbors.



**City of Brooklyn**  
 7619 Memphis Avenue  
 Brooklyn, Ohio 44144

**Reminder:** The City of Brooklyn local income tax returns are due Wednesday, April 15, 2015. Returns can be completed at The Regional Income Tax Agency's website [www.rita.com](http://www.rita.com) or at the City of Brooklyn Finance Department during normal city hall business hours. If you need assistance you may call RITA at 1-800-860-7482 or 400-526-0900. The City of Brooklyn Finance Department can be reached at 216-351-2133.

**Reminder:** Rubbish collection will be one day late the week of Monday, May 25 due to the observance of Memorial Day.

**City Ice Show:** June 5 & 6 at 7:00 pm at the Brooklyn Recreation Center

**Friday, July 4 holiday** City buildings closed. Recreation Center will be open

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 Visit us on Facebook at [facebook.com/BrooklynOH](https://facebook.com/BrooklynOH) or on Twitter @Brooklynohiogov. Printed newsletters will be mailed twice a year.

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Beautify Brooklyn 2015 Entry Form or call 216-351-2133 to enter

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Brooklyn property to be judged: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner of Brooklyn property to be judged: \_\_\_\_\_

Entry Categories—Please check ONE category you wish to compete in:

- Residential Landscaping of Yard
- Residential Flower Gardens in Yard
- Most Beautiful Balcony or Patio (apartment dwellers)
- Business Landscaping—Best Curb Appeal (large business)
- Business Landscaping—Best Curb Appeal (small business)
- Business—Best Flower Display

Tear off and mail to or drop off in person to Brooklyn City Hall,  
 Attn: Beautify Brooklyn Contest, 7619 Memphis Ave., Brooklyn, OH 44144