



City of Strongsville News and Updates



Dates set for Rib Burnoff, Homecoming

Strongsville's two major summer festivals on the Commons are right around the corner.

The Strongsville City Club Rib Burnoff will run June 21-23 with its usual array of award-winning ribbers and plenty of sides and snacks, plus inflatables for the kids and live entertainment nightly.

Strongsville Homecoming, sponsored by the Strongsville Chamber of Commerce, is set for July 25-28 with rides, carnival games, food and live entertainment daily.

It will kick off with the Homecoming Parade on July 25.

92 Percent Rate Quality of Life Here Good/Excellent

Strongsville residents are happy to be living here and are pleased with the city's services, according to a new survey.

Results show 92 percent of those who responded rated the quality of life in Strongsville as good or excellent.

About 88 percent would recommend Strongsville to others as a place to live, and 81 percent, if given the choice again, would still pick Strongsville for their home.

Mayor Tom Perciak revealed the results of the residential survey in his State of the City speech March 20.



The city partnered with Ohio State University to complete the survey, which was mailed to 14,675 homes. About 24 percent of households responded (3,529 surveys), either by mail or online.

Residents gave the city safety forces high ratings (Fire Department, 86 percent good or excellent and Police Depart-

ment, 87 percent), but took exception to the quality of streets, with 49 percent rating them good or excellent and 34 percent average.

Perciak said the city already spends \$11 million a year on roads. "I don't know how we can repair more," he said. "There's got to be a new funding source for streets."

Strongsville Sues Drug Manufacturers over Opioid Crisis

Strongsville has joined a growing number of communities to file a lawsuit against makers and distributors of prescription pain killers.

The suit notes that the city has seen a rise in drug overdoses directly related to the opioid epidemic, and has also seen its

costs related to dealing with that epidemic — police and paramedic services — increase significantly.

The city has hired two law firms to handle the litigation. The firms will only be paid if the city is awarded compensation for the lawsuit.



The Strongsville Police Department last year created two programs aimed at helping residents addicted to opioids get treatment.

Save the Dates

- Prescription Drug Take Back (Police Station) — **April 28**
- Mother-Son Night of Fun (Rec Center) — **May 11**
- Habitat for Humanity Tool and Furniture Drive (City Service Center) — **May 12**
- Arts in Strongsville's Chalk Walk (Commons) — **May 19**
- Strongsville Community Band Spring Concert (Rec Center) — **May 20**
- Touch a Truck (Senior Center parking lot) — **June 15**

Check Strongsville.org or cable TV channel 21 for information on these and other events.

State Funding Cuts have Cost City Millions

Cuts in state funding have cost Strongsville more than \$2 million a year over the last 10 years, Mayor Tom Perciak said.

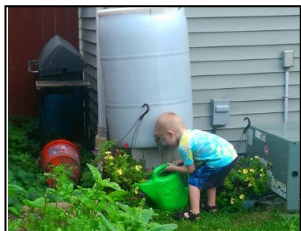
"The cities, counties, townships and schools are bearing the burden of those reductions," said Perciak, who offered an overview of the situation during his State of the City address at the Ehrnfelt Rec Center March 20. "That's a lot of money to make up."



In 2008, Strongsville received nearly \$1.3 million from the state's Local Government fund. In 2017, that amount was \$456,281. Estate taxes have also plunged, from \$1.36 million in 2008 to \$18,057 last year.

In 2017 alone, the shortfall amounted to \$2.77 million — the equivalent of repairing 2.7 miles of roads. "We get calls from people saying their street is terrible," Perciak said. "We know, but we need revenue to fix those streets. Maybe we should let our state representatives know, too."

How has the city made up the lost revenue? By focusing on increasing income tax collections by bringing new companies to its business parks, Perciak said.



Make Your Own Rain Barrel

You can make your own rain barrel at a workshop sponsored by the city May 15.

The workshop, put on by the Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District, runs 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Ehrnfelt Rec Center.

Cost is \$60. Register at (216) 524-6580, Ext. 1003.

Drop off Household Hazardous Waste May 3-5

The first of two 2018 Household Hazardous Waste Collections is set for May 3-5 at the Service Center, 16099 Foltz Pkwy.

Residents can drop off their household products 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 3 and 4, and 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 5.

Materials accepted include oil or solvent-based paint (no latex paint), varnish, mineral spirits, caustic household cleaners, adhesives, gasoline, sealers, polyurethane, herbicides, automotive fluids, roof tar, lighter fluid, primers and coatings,

shellac, pesticides, motor oil, driveway sealer, mercury, paint thinner, turpentine, fungicides, car batteries, and kerosene.

LATEX PAINT IS NOT ACCEPTED.

To dispose of latex paint, leave the lid off to dry up the paint, or mix in a drying agent, then place it out with your regular trash for collection.

Businesses on the Move

Spavia has opened in the Commons at SouthPark. The business is a luxury health and beauty spa that offers personalized massage therapy and skin, body and beauty treatments.

Aldi will build a 2,575-square-foot addition to its store at 14267 Pearl Road for storage. The business is expanding its interior storage, forcing the truck dock behind the store to relocate.

McDonald's at 14615 Pearl Road, at the corner of Cook Avenue, is planning to renovate and modernize its exterior with a new façade and new signs.

Starbucks is expected to open its new location in the Great Escape Plaza on Royalton Road this month.