



City of Strongsville News and Updates



Water Tower to be Painted in 2018

The Strongsville water tower is due for a sprucing-up this year, including a fresh coat of green paint.

The Cleveland Division of Water has agreed to repaint the tower.

That means cartoon character Ziggy, who has watched over the town since 1975, will be erased.

Cartoonist Tom Wilson painted Ziggy on the tower after some teens climbed up and spray-painted 'Ziggy 75' one night. Although many assumed the graffiti referred to the cartoon, some say it was actually a tribute to David Bowie's Ziggy Stardust character.

More Improvements to Strongsville's Town Center

The city has received a \$141,000 federal grant aimed at making the Town Center area more pedestrian-friendly.

The grant will help pay for improvements to the Pearl-Royalton roads intersection, including new countdown signals that let pedestrians know how much time they have to cross the street and traffic "islands" where walkers can wait if they don't make it across in time.

Construction is expected to start in the summer.

Signal poles and mast arms will also be replaced and new stamped concrete crosswalks



will be added on Westwood Drive and at Strongsville Middle School. Sloped curbs and tactile pavement for the physically and visually impaired will be installed.

Bike racks will be added at the Ehrnfelt Rec Center, as will signs directing bicyclists around the area.

The city will contribute about

\$200,000 to the project, which is part of a comprehensive Town Center District Redevelopment Plan done by the Northeast Ohio Area-wide Coordinating Agency. The plan suggests improving pedestrian and biker safety.

The city has already installed stamped concrete crosswalks along parts of Zverina and Westwood.

Yes, It's Brisk, but Don't Take the Risk: Lock Your Car Doors

Don't think the colder weather is keeping thieves off the streets these winter nights.

Strongsville police continue to receive reports of thefts from vehicles, nearly always from unlocked cars left overnight in the driveway.

In recent cases, thieves have stolen wallets, cash, tools and



other items from vehicles parked in driveways and garages.

"The most important things you can do are lock your car doors

and keep your garage door closed, especially at night," Deputy Chief John Janowski said.

Also, don't leave valuables in your car. While many thieves target only unlocked vehicles, the sight of a purse, wallet or laptop could entice them to break a window. If you must leave your car outside at night, try to park in a lighted area or invest in motion-activated lights.

Save the Dates

- Historical Society's Soup Supper (Recreation Center) — **Jan. 23**
- Arts in Strongsville's Wine, Music & Mardi Gras (Recreation Center) — **Jan. 27**
- Father/Daughter Dance (Recreation Center) — **Feb. 16**
- Strongsville Rotary's Chili Open (County Fairgrounds) — **Feb. 24**
- Strongsville Community Band Concert (Recreation Center) — **Feb. 25**
- Breakfast with the Easter Bunny (Recreation Center) — **March 10**

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

Population Holds Steady; Median Age Rises

The U.S. Census Bureau has released new estimates for 2012-2016 that show Strongsville's population is shifting a bit. Here are a few items from the data:



Population: 44,622. The official 2010 tally was 44,750.

Median age: It's now estimated at 45.9, up a fraction from 45.8 in 2010. About 51 percent of residents are 18 to 64; 28 percent are 65 and older; 21 percent are under 18. Median age in Ohio is 39.3.

Diversity: Asians now make up 4.4 percent of the city's residents; another 2.7 percent are black or African American. Also, about 5,000 residents 5 and older speak a language other than English at home.

Heritage: About 24 percent of residents report German ancestry; 16.6 percent Irish, 13.2 percent Italian, 12 percent Polish, 9.3 percent English, 6 percent Slovak, 4.6 percent Hungarian and 2.6 percent Arab.



Kids Garage Sale is Feb. 3 at the Rec

The next Kids Garage Sale is set for Feb. 3 at the Recreation Center.

Rent a table to sell your gently used maternity, baby and kids' items, or come and shop more than 50 tables of toys, clothes and more. Earlybird shopping starts at 9 a.m. for \$3 admission (please have exact change) or shop free 10 a.m. to noon.

New App is Up and Running; See Local News and Events

Strongsville is part of a new mobile app that lists events and news announcements in area communities.

You can download Civically free from Google Play or the App Store.

On it you'll find local news and announcements from the city of Strongsville, as well as a list of upcoming events.

What's more, you'll be able to see events in other nearby communities so you can plan outings. And residents in those other cities will also see Strongsville's listings,

giving our charitable events greater exposure.

Strongsville did not develop the app, but contracts with the Civically group to be a

part of it.

So far, Olmsted Falls, Fairlawn, Oberlin and Woodmere are part of the app, with more expected in 2018.

Businesses on the Move

Seven Strongsville businesses were named to the Weatherhead 100 list of the 100 fastest-growing companies in northeast Ohio. The companies must have sales of at least \$1 million and over 16 employees.

Artwall, located in the Strongsville Business and Technology Park, was ranked No. 1 on the list. Also named were: **Payroll4Construction.com** (No. 30) **Infinium Wall Systems** (46), **Foundation Software** (66), **TestOil** (85), **Five Points Dentistry** (89) and **National Automotive Experts** (97).

Kiwi Creative was No. 10 in the Upstart category (15 or fewer employees and less than \$5 million in sales), and **Union Home Mortgage** was No. 6 in the Centurion category (net sales over \$100 million in 2016).