



City of Strongsville News and Updates



Don't 'Block the Box' at Pearl and Westwood

New pavement markings -- as well as additional signs -- have been added to Pearl Road at Westwood Drive to remind motorists not to block the intersection.

Police are trying to eliminate gridlock at that corner, typically caused by southbound vehicles blocking the intersection so that Westwood traffic can't get through on a green light.

The solution? Don't enter the intersection unless you can make it all the way through.

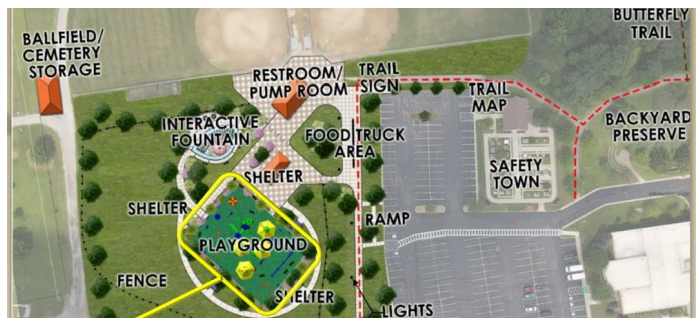
That way, you're not causing traffic jams and safety issues.

Enhancement Plan for Town Center is Unveiled

A new enhancement plan for the city's Town Center calls for new recreational amenities in the area of Commons, Rec Center, Castletown Playground and Strongsville Library.

The Strongsville Town Center Enhancement & Walkability Initiative includes a series of new amenities -- including an interactive fountain/splash pad, a new pavilion with a fireplace and a new community playground -- that would be added to the area west of the Rec Center.

City officials will seek grants to pay for the projects, estimated to cost about \$3 million.



The plan also includes a family restroom, fenced-in green space for activities like outdoor movies and a staging area for events like farmers markets or food truck rallies.

All the amenities, including the new playground, will accommodate children with disabilities. Castletown Playground has recently been renovated and painted and will remain.

There will also be upgrades to existing walkways and trails, including Freedom Trail, to better access the Backyard Preserve, hiking trails and new amenities. A new entryway on Zverina Drive is also in the works.

A splash pad and new playground were among the top amenities chosen by residents in a survey conducted in the fall.

Police Department is 'Agency of the Month' in Ohio

The Strongsville Police Department has been selected "Ohio's Best Agency for the Month of December 2021" by the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police.

Police Chief Mark Fender said the award reflects the outstanding achievements by officers, support staff, South-



west Emergency Dispatch and corrections officers.

Strongsville was selected for

recognition because of its superior community policing programs, which include its canine teams, Safety Town, Shop with a Cop, the "look before you lock" initiative, DARE, drug takebacks, the Quick Response Team, citizen police academy, bike helmet program and its work with military veterans.

Save the Dates

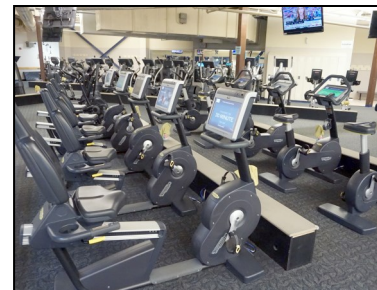
- Lunar New Year Concert (Strongsville Library) — **Jan. 22**
- Father-Daughter Dance (Recreation Center) — **Feb. 18**
- Strongsville Community Band Concert (Middle School) — **Feb. 20**
- Kids Garage Sale (Recreation Center) — **March 19**
- Fun & Photos with the Easter Bunny (Rec Center) — **March 26**

Check Strongsville.org or cable TV channel 21 (WOW) or 1020 (Spectrum) for more events.

Fitness, Exercise Classes are Going Strong

Looking to get back in shape after the holidays?

In addition to the cardio equipment available at the Ehrnfelt Rec Center — including ellipticals, treadmills and bikes — there are any number of exercise classes available.



They include group classes like Zumba, PowerHour, Group Cycle, Muscle Mix, Kickboxing and Pure Strength

Or you can look into YogaFlow, Pilates or maybe Barre Fusion — a class that combines yoga, Pilates and barre. Or choose a personal training program.

There's also 42x82 Strength and Conditioning, with sessions starting in early January.

There are youth fitness programs, too — like Introduction to Youth Strength Training and Yoga for Tweens.

To learn more, stop into the Rec Center or call (440) 580-3260.



City has few assaults: study

Strongsville has the 7th lowest assault rate in the nation, a study by 24/7 Wall St. says.

The study used data from the FBI's 2020 Uniform Crime Report to identify the 50 cities with the fewest aggravated assault cases. It found that Strongsville, with a population of about 45,000, had only four assaults reported.

City will again Recycle Christmas Trees, Old Lights

The city will again recycle Christmas trees to keep them out of landfills.

When you're done with your live tree, remove ALL the lights, ornaments and tinsel and leave it at the curb on your regular trash day.

It will be picked up and taken to a state-approved compost facility instead of going to a landfill.

The service will run through January, but it's weather dependent. If it snows, crews may instead be assigned to plowing duties.

To recycle old Christmas lights, bring them to the Service Center, 16099 Foltz Parkway and leave them at the computer drop-off window.

The city will take them to the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo for its Lights for Lions program, which recycles lights to benefit lion and cheetah conservation efforts.

Businesses on the Move

Discount Drug Mart had its official grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony Dec. 11 at its newly constructed store at Pearl and Whitney roads, in front of Lowe's. It is the second Drug Mart in Strongsville, joining the original at the corner of Royalton and Prospect roads.

Freddy's Frozen Custard and Steakburgers is planning to open in January at 12380 Pearl Road, in the former Burger King building. The business features fresh frozen custard, steakburgers, hot dogs, chicken and sides.

Barrio Tacos has opened for business at 13169 Prospect Road, in the former Molly McGhee's location.