



City of Strongsville News and Updates



Take a Walk through the Winter Wonderland

The Winter Wonderland Lighting Celebration drew thousands of people to the Commons Nov. 23, and the celebration continues in the center of town throughout the holiday season.

Everyone is invited to get in the holiday spirit by taking a walk through the festive park, where lights are twinkling and music is playing each evening.

Take pictures among the many lighted displays, the giant Christmas tree and the gazebo.

The lights will be on through New Year's Day.

A flurry of Retail, Restaurant Activity in 2025

Strongsville saw a major influx of commercial growth this year.

A quick rundown of businesses that have opened or are coming soon:

Sir Troy's Toy Kingdom, Barnes & Noble (opening in January), Grocery Outlet (opening soon) fill three of the larger storefronts here.

Also: Dick's House of Sport at SouthPark Mall, The Little Gym, StretchLab, HealthSource of Strongsville, KidStrong, Union Savings Bank, SWTHZ (SweatHouz), Aqua-Tots Swim School, Ashleigh Clark Interior Design, Alloy Personal Training, Boot Barn, Activate Games, Play Haven Café.



Three breakfast-lunch spots have opened: **Another Broken Egg Café**, **The Original Pancake House** and **First Watch**.

Other food-related businesses and restaurants open or coming to the city: **Gusto**, **Dolce Italian Bistro**, **Cyclo Vietnamese Cuisine**, **Mochi-nut Donuts**, **Qahwah House**, **ZEST Pastry and Coffee Co.**,

El Taco Macho, **The Bunny Boba Tea**, **Wingstop**, **Qdoba**, **Lao Sze Chuan** and **More' Indian Supermarket**.

New construction this year included: **The Learning Experience**, **Brightpath Child Care**, **Take 5 Oil Change**, **Dollar General** (under construction) and **Bruster's Real Ice Cream** (under construction).

City of Strongsville Retains its Aaa Bond Rating

Moody's Investors Service has reaffirmed the City of Strongsville's Aaa credit rating, the highest rating a municipality can receive.

The City of Strongsville is one of only 14 cities in Ohio, and roughly 250 cities nationwide, to hold a Aaa rating.



In its detailed review of the city's finances, Moody's cited Strongsville's "solid budget

management," "fast-appreciating property valuations," and "robust income tax revenues" as key strengths of the community.

Maintaining the Aaa rating allows the city to borrow at the lowest possible interest rates, which means significant savings for taxpayers.

Save the Dates

- Strongsville Chamber of Commerce Holiday Scholarship Dance (Encore) — **Dec. 5**
- Fun & Photos with Santa Claus (Rec Center) — **Dec. 6**
- Christmas in the Village (Historic Village) — **Dec. 6-7**
- Strongsville Community Band Holiday Concert (Middle School) — **Dec. 14**
- Chamber of Commerce Holiday Luncheon (Rec Center) — **Dec. 16**
- Daddy/Daughter Dance (Rec Center) — **March 21**

Check Strongsville.org for more information on events.

Little Firestone Owes his Life to Local Business

A local business, Animal Control Officer Chuck McCleary and two police officers get the credit for saving the life of a tiny kitten recently.

McCleary was called to the parking lot in front of the former Big Lots store because a kitten was stuck in the engine compartment of a vehicle.

With help from Sgt. Ron Stolz and Officer Dave Gallagher, McCleary spent almost two hours trying to rescue the kitten, but couldn't reach him. One of the officers called Firestone, where the manager immediately agreed to free up a car lift to gain better access. The auto techs removed panels from the underside of the vehicle, and the kitten ran out into the shop.

McCleary took the 8-week-old kitten home with him for the weekend, where the little guy was treated for fleas and de-wormed, then to Berea Animal Rescue. His name? McCleary is calling him Firestone.



Holiday Hours at the Rec Center

The Ehrnfelt Recreation and Senior Center will be closed on Dec. 25, Christmas Day, and on New Year's Day, Jan. 1.

On Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, hours will be 5 a.m. to 1 p.m.

On New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, hours are 5 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Don't Be a Victim this Holiday Season: Strongsville Police

Thieves are out in force over the holidays, taking advantage of crowds of distracted shoppers.

Police say you should:

Guard your wallet — Make sure your purse is zipped or snapped shut, and never put it in a shopping cart. Pickpockets can reach inside in a flash. Men should carry wallets in a front pocket or zipped jacket pocket.

Don't leave stuff in the car — Bags of merchandise are too tempting for a thief. Put your purchases in the trunk.

Shut out thieves at home — Burglars know you have gifts in your house. Make sure your doors and windows are locked, and leave lights on. Don't leave valuables in your

car, and lock your car doors.

Don't give till it hurts — Fake charity scams are everywhere this time of year. Double check before donating.

Businesses on the Move

Meijer is seeking to build a store in the south end of town. The company is asking to rezone a parcel of land on Pearl Road at Rockglen Drive — not far from Boston Road — for a grocery store. The store would include a pharmacy with a drive-through, but would not have an adjacent gas station. The chain currently operates more than 500 stores in the midwest, including ones in Brunswick, Medina and Seven Hills.

Work is continuing on a **Barnes and Noble** bookstore at the Plaza at SouthPark. The store, which is to include a coffee shop, is taking over the former Bed, Bath & Beyond space in the shopping center. A January opening is projected.