

# Old Beechwood Association

A HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD

Monday, July 27, 2020

## **PRESIDENT'S REMARKS, GREGORY MYERS:**

### **Vice President Position Opening**

The OBA has received notice of Cindy Lazarus' resignation from the OBA Executive Committee to attend to family needs. Cindy has long been active in our community on many levels. She has been a positive influence in our dealings with the City, representing our wants and needs in the development of their infrastructure plans for the neighborhood. We thank Cindy for her dedication and service.

### **Leaf Pickup and Snow Removal Contract**

The Executive Committee renewed our agreement with GAG for leaf and snow removal for this fall and winter.

#### **Leaf Pickup**

Leaf pickup will take place the week of November 23 and is expected to last one week. The cost for the service is \$5,600 plus tax. An additional pickup was considered; however, a cost could not be guaranteed, but could be as great as the original contracted price based on the number of homes that participate. The amount of leaves picked up at any home a second time would not necessarily impact the final cost. For these reasons, it was decided not to contract for a second pickup.

Important information related to the leaf pickup:

- Leaves must be placed at the curb by November 23 to guarantee pickup
- Pickup begins November 23 and is expected to be completed by November 25 in ideal conditions, and by the end of the week in less than ideal conditions
- Leaves are picked up at the curb line
- Loose leaves or leaves in paper bags are acceptable; leaves in plastic bags are not acceptable
- Sticks cannot be picked up
- Placing leaves on gravel is to be avoided; gravel can damage the leaf machine

Pickup will be aided with the use of a skid loader (such as a Bobcat). This may likely be the last year a skid loader will be used. Once new roads are put down, the City advised us, and GAG agreed, that a skid loader would damage new roads.

**Important note: Only those residents who contribute to OBA dues are eligible for leaf pickup. If you are unsure whether you have paid dues, please send an email to Becca Donnally at [rrdzign@aol.com](mailto:rrdzign@aol.com) for confirmation.**

#### **Snow Removal**

Snow removal will take place when snowfall reaches 2". The cost for snow removal is \$260 each run through the neighborhood. Salting will be done on an as needed basis at a cost of \$80 per occurrence. Total cost for the season is not to exceed \$1,500 without the express approval of the Executive Committee.

## **Rustic Bridge Repair**

After a truck hit the southeast corner of the bridge, the City conducted a review of the damage and engaged a private contractor to make repairs. The evaluation of the damage revealed that some of the original stone was broken and not able to be used in the repair, requiring the contractors to locate similar stone because the quarry from which the original stone was acquired is no longer in operation.

Repairs began mid-June to rebuild and stabilize the broken portion of the bridge. While that part of the work was quickly completed, the City then needed to engage the services of a stonemason to complete the corner capstone and one wall capstone. This capstone work was completed mid-July.

The City followed up by cleaning the bridge, removing the effects of pollution and tree mold.

## **Storm Sewer and Roadwork Update**

The City's contracted engineering firm is in the last phases of completing the plans following some technical questions posed to the City. As of this writing, the City hopes to see those plans within the next two weeks. Once submitted, the plans are routed again to all the City departments. Each department checks to see that previous plan comments were adequately addressed. Once all department reviewers sign off indicating that plans are approvable, then they route the plan's Title sheet around for all Department Directors and Division Administrators to sign. And on occasion the Director might have questions that need answered before they'll sign.

Clearly, this is a time-consuming process, made even more so by remote working conditions. The OBA board will receive a set of plans for review once the City has them in hand.

If all goes as well as possible, the City expects to bid the project in November with construction starting in spring. Again, the project is getting a later start than any of us expected. However, we should take solace in that our project has not been indefinitely pushed off the City's project list given their greatly reduced revenue as a result of the pandemic.

## **Columbia Gas Work in the Neighborhood**

Just this past Friday, the City let us know that Columbia Gas will be in the area, including Old Beechwold, installing new gas infrastructure. Their schedule is not firm but could start within the next couple months.

## **TREASURER'S REMARKS, BECCA DONNALLY:**

We encourage those who have not had an opportunity to pay their dues to please submit them to me. These funds go toward snow and leaf removal and general neighborhood clean up and beautification.

If you need the dues information sent to you again, please email me at [rrdzign@aol.com](mailto:rrdzign@aol.com).

The OBA Treasurer's Report as of July 2020 is attached to the email.

## **SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

We continue to greet new neighbors with welcome packets. A positive result of this early communication has been the new residents are quick to reach out to the OBA to pay or confirm dues payment as well as join our OBA Google email group.

## **ARBOR COMMITTEE**

The Committee is requesting any assistance on Saturday, August 1, in clearing Tree of Heaven sprouts from the ravine. Tree of Heaven is a particularly invasive weed and our attention to cutting or pulling these now will be helpful to maintain the a more native look in the ravine.

Previously conducted general maintenance in the past few months include clearing honeysuckle bushes in the ravines and spreading mulch at the W. Beechwold entrance.

Members of the Arbor Committee contributed to the City's considerations in their design of the rain gardens (bio basins to be located at the circle at W. Jeffrey Place and Olentangy Blvd. and at Jastram Grove). As with the sewer and roadwork plans, these plans are not yet released.