



Beechwood Village

www.beechwoodvillage.org **NEWS**

FOURTH QUARTER | 2020

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Show Your Holiday Spirit

The Beechwood Village Holiday Decorating Contest is back this year, bigger and better than ever.

This year, we invite all residents to help choose the most festive homes in the village! Just visit our new and improved website at www.beechwoodvillage.org to find the link to vote. Here's what you need to know:

- Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, based on number of votes. These gift baskets will include lots of great items from neighborhood businesses (including Nothing Bundt Cakes and Trader Joe's).
- For everyone decorating outside this year, please be sure your house number is clearly marked and visible. That makes it easy for residents to vote for your address.
- Voting will begin December 19 and end at 6:00 pm on December 22.
- On December 20, 5:30 - 7:30PM, put on your mask, grab your favorite beverage, and stroll through the village to view the decorations and select your favorites. Greet your neighbors (from at least 6 feet away), and make it a fun evening.
- Winners will be announced on the Beechwood Village website, Nextdoor, and the Beechwood Village Facebook page on December 23.

Let's make this event a new village holiday tradition!



Making Our City Better

2020 has been a busy year for infrastructure improvements in Beechwood Village. Three major projects have been completed:

Streetlights – The city has significantly upgraded nighttime lighting on our streets. This has made our city safer for walkers, bikers, joggers, and drivers.

Drainage – By completing Phase #2 of the Header Line construction project, the city has reduced sump pump outflows onto our streets. That cuts down on standing water and generally improves drainage in the city.

Paving – Driving has become smoother with fresh, new pavement on Sage Road, Ring Road, and Cordova Road.

Your city government works hard to make Beechwood Village an even better place to live, work, and raise a family. We look forward to more improvements in 2021!

Your New City Council

The votes have been counted, and your new Beechwood Village City Council is ready to go to work. The Council welcomes Mary Ellen Baker as a new member in 2021.

Returning to the Council are current members Phyllis Skonicki, Mary-Gwynne Dougherty, Lora Coomes, Andrew Conlisk, and Kelly Carls. Current member Kevin Bilbrey will be retiring from the Council at the end of 2020, and the city thanks him for his service to Beechwood Village.

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, December 8

6:30PM: Monthly City Council Meeting

Sunday, December 20

5:30-7:30PM: Holiday Decorating Stroll
and Judging

Tuesday, January 12

6:30PM: Monthly City Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 9

6:30PM: Monthly City Council Meeting

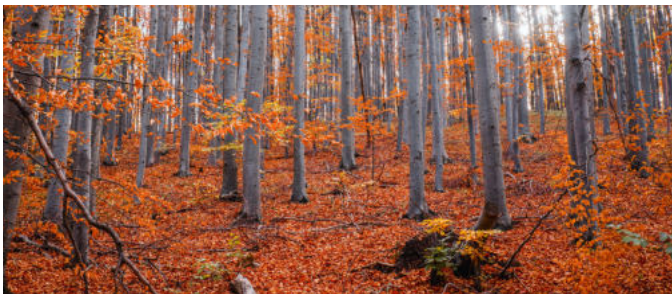


Get Ready For Winter

Now is a good time to do some seasonal home maintenance. After all, a bit of attention today can save costly repairs and aggravation tomorrow.

Interior Maintenance

1. **Check for drafts.** If necessary, replace seals and repair caulking around window and door frames.
2. **Have your furnace inspected.** Hire an HVAC professional to test for leaks, check heating efficiency, and change the filter.
3. **Winterize air conditioning.** It may be necessary to cover your outdoor central air unit for winter. If you use window air conditioners, remove them or cover them.
4. **Programmable thermostat.** Get a programmable thermostat to lower the temperature automatically at night and when you're not home.
5. **Test home safety devices.** Replace the batteries in all smoke detectors and carbon monoxide devices, and test to make sure they're working properly.



Exterior Maintenance

1. **Do a roof check.** Do a visual inspection of the roof from the ground. Look for missing, damaged, or loose shingles. You may need to remove leaves and debris.
2. **Check the chimney.** If you have a wood fireplace, have your chimney cleaned and inspected by a professional.
3. **Clean the gutters.** Hire a service, or do it yourself. Remove leaves, nests, and debris from gutters and check for leaks.
4. **Check water drainage.** Clear downspouts of obstructions and direct water away from foundations, walkways, and driveways.
5. **Turn off faucets and store hoses.** Drain garden hoses and disconnect them from the outside spigots. Shut off exterior faucets.
6. **Inspect trees.** Check for damaged limbs that may break, or that are too close to power lines or the roof.
7. **Leaf removal.** Rake and remove leaves from the lawn. Put them into paper yard waste bags and leave at the curb for Monday pick up.

Preventative maintenance can save money on expensive emergency repairs and wasted energy costs. Properly maintaining your home also enhances its value and appeal. When the winter winds blow, your home will be ready.



Virtual City Council Meetings

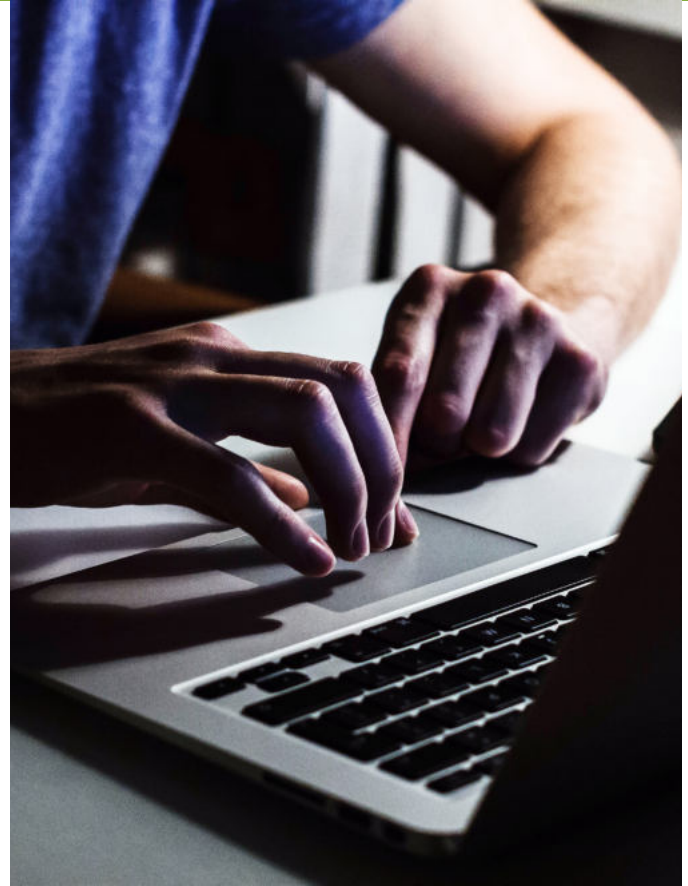
In accordance with the Governor's Healthy At Work initiative, the Beechwood Village City Council is meeting online during the COVID-19 pandemic. Meetings are open to the public, and all residents are welcome to attend.

City Council Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM. You may attend by using the Zoom app, a web browser, or a telephone.

In the Zoom app, simply click "Join," and enter the Meeting ID: 997 8690 1326.

With a browser, go to: www.zoom.us/join. Enter the Meeting ID: 997 8690 1326.

To join by telephone, dial (312) 626-6799. When prompted, enter the Meeting ID number: 997 8690 1326.



City Information Is Easier To Find

The Beechwood Village city website has been completely redesigned to make it even easier to find what you're looking for.

You can find updates on community events, city services, and ongoing projects. Village ordinances are also posted there, as well as important contact information for city officials, government agencies, and service providers.

The new website is specifically designed to be compatible with any device, whether you're using a PC, tablet, or smartphone. Check out what's new in our city at: www.beechwoodvillage.org.



Have A Safe Holiday Season

Here are some tips to ensure your holiday season is safe and accident-free:

1. **Keep trees away from heat sources.** Place your tree away from fireplaces and heaters, and keep a fire extinguisher near your tree.
2. **Hydrate your live tree.** A dried-out tree can catch fire faster than one that has been properly watered. Check the water level every other day.
3. **Ask for help.** When stringing lights and decorations above your normal reach, be sure to use a proper ladder with someone supporting the base.
4. **Double-check your lights for safety.** Replace any lights that have frayed wires, broken sockets, or loose connections.
5. **Power down at bedtime.** Turn off all lights when you go to bed and before leaving the house to avoid a short circuit that could start an electrical fire.
6. **Prevent electrical cord damage.** Don't mount lights in a way that might damage the cords, and avoid using nails or tacks to hang lights. Use hooks or insulated staples, instead.
7. **Secure candles.** Keep candles on a sturdy base to prevent tipping. Never leave a lighted candle unattended.
8. **Use unbreakable ornaments.** If you have fragile ornaments, place them out of the reach of pets and kids.
9. **Keep it real.** Avoid decorations that look like candy or food if you have young children — or pets — in the house.
10. **Beware of poisonous plants.** While festive, poinsettias are poisonous when eaten. So, keep them out of reach of children and pets.



Keep Our Community Looking Good

When homes and properties are well-maintained, everyone in the community benefits. The city looks attractive, and property values remain strong. That's why Beechwood Village enforces ordinances covering appearance and maintenance standards.

Some of the most common issues include peeling paint on homes and garages, overgrown lawns or weeds, dead trees, excessive yard waste, trash or junk in lawns and driveways, sporting equipment in the public right of way, and storage of inoperable vehicles.

City ordinances allow for fines and assessments for the costs of compliance.

General information about appearance and maintenance standards is available at: www.beechwoodvillage.org.

If you wish to report a property requiring maintenance, please email code@beechwoodvillage.org.