

## **Report of the Mayor**

Benjamin Holbert III, Mayor  
February 12, 2020  
Year-three/month 2

## **State of the Village Address**

Presented remarks at the Chagrin Highlands Rotary Club January 29 at the Cleveland Racquet Club. The recap of the Chagrin Valley Times is attached as well as photos from the event. **(See attachment/ article and picture)**

## **Chagrin Boulevard Widening Grant**

The Ohio Public Works Commission awarded Woodmere a grant in the amount of almost \$1.2 million. The project is for the Chagrin Boulevard - Brainard Road East and West Corridor Improvements – Phase 2. The money will widen Chagrin Boulevard to four lanes running from Village Square to the Speedway Gas Station. The total cost is \$3.2 million and the balance of the funds will come from the federal earmark. The village will chip in \$318,000. Which is less than 10% of the entire project. **(Photos)**

## **Master Planning Update – (Open House)**

The third Public Meeting for the Master Plan was held on October 30, 2019 at the Pepper Pike Learning Center (Orange Community Education & Recreation). Representatives from County Planning gave presentations which outlined the Master Plan Process. There were five (5) stations with display boards featuring each topic area, community goal, and various strategies.

There will be an Open House scheduled potentially in March to allow residents, Planning and Zoning members and Council members an opportunity to ask final questions about the plan, the strategy, before presentation to Council. **(Pictures)**

<https://www.countyplanning.us/projects/woodmere-master-plan/>

## **Housing**

Weathervane Homes presented at Planning and Zoning as was approved to build a home on Avondale. The process will take four to six months. The builder says Woodmere is a prime location for new housing stock and there is considerable interest to build in the community.

## **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration**

Invited and attended Temple-Tifereth Israel synagogue to hear Rev. Dr. Otis Moss Jr.'s presentation on Dr. King's national holiday. The presentation was January 15, 2020. **(See Attachments)**

## **Pancake Breakfast**

The Mayor welcomed 15 village seniors for the pancake breakfast. Councilwoman Vivian Walker facilitated the program featuring comments from Police Chief Shelia Mason and Fire Chief Johnny Brewington and guest speaker from the Orange Recreation Service Center. The program featured discussion and available services for aging citizens. **(See Attachments)**

## **University Hospital Roundtable**

The Mayor, Fire Chief Brewington and Daphne Evans attended Community Roundtable to discuss the benefits of the medical center and phase two of the construction expansion project. The Village has the opportunity to work with UH to the benefit of both organizations.

## **Census 2020**

Daphne Evans continues to represent the administration on the Complete Count Committee in Cuyahoga County. It is imperative that the Village obtaining a complete and accurate count of all persons in Woodmere Village on April 1, 2020.

## **Operatives**

Met with candidates and operatives seeking consideration for President, judicial, and school board offices.

## **Village Hall Renovations**

Affinity Construction has closed out the renovations to the fire department. Final payment has been executed. Cosmetic issues that have been of concern are being addressed by the Woodmere Village Service Department personnel to minimize cost and alleviate the need for Affinity to perform these services that would undoubtedly come at a must greater cost than in-house carpentry and millwork.

This concludes the report in progress of the Mayor.

## STATE OF THE VILLAGE

A6 The Times, February 6, 2020

# Mayor Holbert sets growth and beautification as goals for 2020

By JULIE HULLETT

Woodmere Mayor Ben Holbert shared his goals of economic development, beautification and promotion for the village in 2020.

He spoke at the weekly meeting of the Chagrin Highlands Rotary Club this past Friday at the Cleveland Racquet Club in Pepper Pike, where he shared details of Woodmere's recent accomplishments and his vision for the future.

"Our objective continues to be that people recognize that when they come into the village, they recognize that they are in the Village of Woodmere, and that this community is in fact a gem," he said.

Mayor Holbert said that the village is proud to be home to 300 businesses, including high-end retail shops and restaurants at Eton Chagrin Boulevard and local favorites at Village Square such as Corky and Lenny's and Malley's Chocolates. In the last two years, Mayor Holbert said that the village has contacted every business to address any needs or concerns that they may have. Gary Murphy of Stone Mountain Group, LLC has a contract with the village to serve as an economic development consultant.

"This administration wants to be business-friendly," the mayor said.

One specific goal that Mayor Holbert mentioned is to create more class-A retail space in the village. He said that the village wants the entire expanse of Chagrin Boulevard to be a destination location. He recalled when Bob Stark of Stark Enterprises first took over the management of Eton Chagrin Boulevard. Mayor Holbert said that Mr. Stark wanted his property to be "the Rodeo Drive of this region."

The mayor said that Mr. Stark's vision has come true as stores like Tiffany's and Kendra Scott thrive at the shopping center, which is lined with luscious gardens in the summer months. He also said that popular restaurants, such as Paladar and Mitchell's Fish Market, are a great place to meet up with friends and

family or take clients out to lunch.

According to Mayor Holbert, Woodmere will "rebound" in 2020. He said that the finance department uses a "sharp pencil" in maintaining fiscal responsibility for the village. Last month, Village Treasurer Rhonda Hall resigned and the village is currently seeking a replacement. The mayor added that the village will not be paralyzed by fear and must find ways to be innovative, creative and visionary leaders. He said that village leaders cannot assume that things will go well, but instead must be intentional with their actions.

"The horizon is very bright for our community," Mayor Holbert said.

He also mentioned recent accomplishments in the village, including Woodmere's first K-9 officer Revan, who was born in November of 2018. He was sworn in as an officer in January of 2019 and his handler is Officer Christopher Dotson. Revan is used for handler protection, narcotics detection and tracking missing people and fleeing suspects.

In addition, in 2018 Woodmere received an in-kind grant for master planning services from the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission to shape the village's future in terms of marketing, housing, branding, wellness and mobility. Village Council is awaiting a presentation on the commission's findings.

The Ohio Public Works Commission awarded Woodmere a \$1.2 million grant for the widening of Chagrin Boulevard in 2021, which will add one westbound lane from East Brainard Road to Orange Place Drive, he added.

Mayor Holbert said that the village is looking forward to collaborating with county officials, state and federal representatives and senators, the Orange City School District and other local organizations to advance the village while also giving back to the community.

"This year is an opportunity to escalate the village in many respects," he said.

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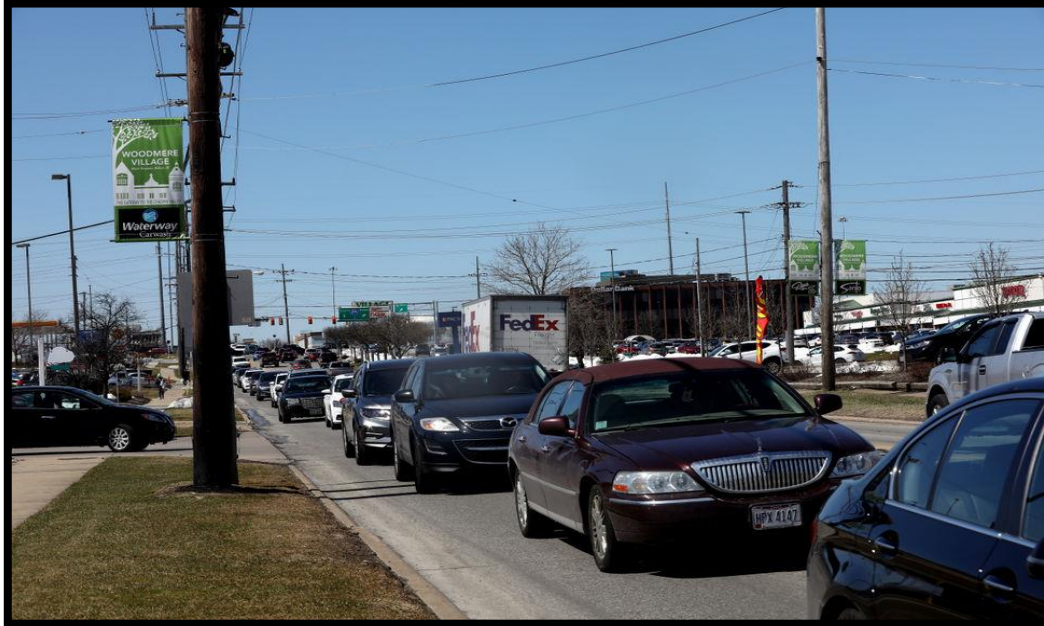
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STATE OF THE VILLAGE



# CHAGRIN BOULEVARD WIDENING



# PANCAKE BREAKFAST



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Featuring Rev. Otis Moss



# MASTER PLANNING MEETING

