



## **Report of the Mayor Benjamin Holbert, III**

*June 9, 2021*

*Year-four/Month 6*

- Congratulations to the graduating class of 2021. The Village had 15 seniors to receive their high school diploma. Fourteen students from Orange High School and one student who matriculated from University School. June 3, the Mayor, Education Councilmembers Dr. Culliver and Councilman Scott provided words of academic advise to students attending a recognition ceremony at the Village Gazebo. The students received a proclamation from State Representative Kent Smith.
- June 1, the Village held a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Community Garden on Brainard Road. Special Thanks to the Chagrin Highlands Rotary Club for the generous donation to make the garden possible as well as technical advice from the Ohio State Extension Service. We appreciate members of councils who attended the ribbon cutting. Several residents have already claimed their garden plots. The space is available on a first come – first serve basis.
- The mayor continues to work with the County and Cleveland State University to apply for a federal earmark for a feasibility study for an economic initiative spearheaded by the Village administration.
- Letters went out to residents along Brainard Road providing details on the summer construction of the sidewalks on the westside of the street. The Service Department is working with the Village Engineer to prepare the space. The project will go out for bid very soon.
- The mayor and administration are supporting Council President Nickerson in her initiative to provide Village residents with vaccinations here in the community. The project will be presented by the Ohio National Guard, Ohio Governor’s office in association with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health.
- The mayor wrote a recommendation letter to the Orange School Board on behalf of a resident seeking to fill a vacancy. If appointed, the Village resident would have been the first Woodmere occupant on record to serve on the school panel. The Woodmere resident is a lawyer by profession and teaches coursework at an area college. The resident indicated that they were not extended the courtesy of an interview. Moreover, they were notified that they were not selected after the appointment of another candidate was publicly announced.
- The mayor met with representatives of Fire/EMS consulting services to discuss concerns raised at the May 2021 Finance committee meeting.
- The mayor is helping to promote Darren’s Law to prevent racially motivated 911 calls to police dispatch. The measure is sponsored by Representative Thomas West of Canton and Representative Weinstein of Hudson. The bill is named after Darren Cooper who was a victim of a racially-motivated accusation in 2020, which resulted in police arriving on the scene with their guns drawn.
- Participated in the Opening Day festivities for B-Buzz Little League. Both Mayor Brad Sellers and I serve on the advisory board. 122 players are participating this season. The Cleveland Indians are co-sponsors and made a sizable donation to ensure this program moved forward.
- The administration engaged a volunteer, who asked to write a grant on behalf of the Village police department to secure body cameras. The mayor will report out if the endeavor is successful.

This concludes the mayor’s report in progress.