January 8, 2009

To: All Pepper Pike Residents

From: Mayor Bruce H. Akers

Subject:
(a) Free Shredding
(b) Citizens Police Academy
(c) Red Cross Emergency Preparedness
(d) Reusable Shopping Bags

The purpose of this letter is to address several current issues.

(a) **Free Shredding**

Our next free shredding day will be on Saturday, of next week, January 17th, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, at City Hall, by the Service Department.

This is a free personal shredding service for the convenience of all residents. Any Pepper Pike resident may bring all personal documents, mail, cancelled checks and files, and have them shredded on-site for free. It is a convenient way to get rid of such papers and not have to be concerned about identity theft. The total cost to the City for the three-hour service is $325.

There is no limit in the amount of papers/documents which each resident can bring to be shredded. Residents who are not able to utilize the shredding service on Saturday are welcome to drop their documents into a secured bin on Friday (the 16th), the day before, between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. These bins will be the first to be fed into the shredder on Saturday morning.

The shredder and the bins will be located next to the Service Department. In order to insure an orderly flow of traffic and an efficient operation of the shredder, participating residents must enter the City Hall complex off of Shaker Boulevard. We will have employees directing the flow of traffic in the event we experience a rush of residents at any one moment. This program will proceed rain, shine or snow.

We have shredded nearly 24 tons of paper since we launched this service, which is that much less being dumped into landfills (for which we have to pay dumping fees), plus it is a help to the environment. Our next shredding date after next week will be on Saturday, March 21st.

(b) **Citizens Police Academy**

Three years ago we launched the Pepper Pike Police Department's Citizens Police Academy. Since then over 40 Pepper Pike residents have gone through the course, and the Department has received virtually unanimous rave evaluations from the participants at the conclusion of the course.

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So you are invited — in fact, encouraged — to sign up, and spend time with members of your police department, and get an overview on:

- Technological advances in law enforcement including Cruiser Cam, Cruiser Computers, and GPS tracking devices.
- Lethal and less than lethal weaponry.
- See what detectives really do at a crime scene. How evidence is processed, handled and stored.
- Participate in or observe actual "shoot don't shoot" training scenarios using state of the art equipment.
- Ride-along on patrol.
- See how drunk drivers are detected and prosecuted.
- Learn about SWAT equipment and operations.
- Become familiar with the court and legal system.
- See how K-9's are used to detect arson and track missing persons.

Sessions are two hours, once a week for ten weeks. We have been holding the sessions on Tuesday evenings, but if a majority of those signing up prefer another evening of the week, we'll see if we can't make the change. Please contact Sgt. Ed Matousek at 216.831.8500 for information and registration.

(c) **Red Cross Emergency Preparedness Training**

Almost three years ago, we launched an eight-hour Emergency Preparedness Training Program in conjunction with the Greater Cleveland Chapter of the American Red Cross. The course offers, for those who sign up and attend, the following specialized training:

- Certification in C.P.R./A.E.D.* Use
  *(Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation/Automatic External Defibrillator)
- Certification in Basic First Aid
- Basic in-home disaster preparedness

Over 400 residents have now taken the course and are therefore certified. A number of residents have inquired as to when we will again offer the course. The Red Cross will provide their trainers whenever we set up another course. Those of us who have gone through the course found it extremely helpful, and the trainers very professional.

Therefore, I am urging more residents to sign up and receive this valuable training. The City will again pick up the $65 per person fee. Any residents interested in taking the course should contact Fire Chief T.J. Hartman at 216.896.6139 to sign up. I strongly recommend and urge all residents to take advantage of this emergency preparedness training course so that you will be better prepared in a major emergency (natural or man-made) to help yourself, your family, your neighbors, etc., at a time when our safety forces will be tied up coping with other aspects of the disaster or emergency. This training will help many minimize fear, anxiety and suffering caused by the emergency/disaster. When enough residents have signed up, we will schedule the course. Incidentally, the eight-hour course can be taken in two four-hour sessions. Remember: **training is key to preparedness**. So sign up to be prepared.

(d) Reusable Shopping Bags

Pepper Pike is offering residents a green reusable cloth shopping bag at cost ($2.25 per bag). This is part of our effort to support the environment, and recycling, and help reduce the use of paper and plastic bags when shopping at supermarkets/grocery stores. If you wish to purchase this bag, contact Service Director Bob Girardi at 216.896.6149.

If you have any questions or comments on any of the above topics, please feel free to call me. I can be reached at area code 216: 831-9604 (home); 896-6126 (City Hall); 533-7870 (cellular). Or I can be reached via e-mail at: brucehakers@pepperpike.org.

C: Members of Council, Department Heads
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