

# CITY OF PEPPER PIKE

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**Mayor**  
**BRUCE H. AKERS**

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[www.pepperpike.org](http://www.pepperpike.org)

My Fellow Citizens of Pepper Pike:

For the past 20 years, I have had the high honor and privilege of serving as your Mayor. However, I feel the time has come to step aside, to pass the responsibility and privilege of leadership to others, and to allow for a new face, some fresh blood, and a younger perspective in the Mayor's chair.

It was not an easy decision because in the two decades as Mayor, preceded by 16 years on Council, I have endeavored to serve this great community as earnestly and effectively as I possibly could. I can only hope that with the perspective of time my endeavors will have proven to be the case.

It has been my goal to be as responsive a mayor as possible, to run an efficient and progressive administration, and I have endeavored to use my best judgement to make decisions in a sound, objective and responsible manner. While I know that I have had to make decisions and take positions as Mayor with which some individuals have disagreed, I earnestly hope that those individuals will at least recognize that I have sincerely sought to do what I thought was in the best long-term interests of all of Pepper Pike.

With the cooperation of Council, and due to the dedication and commitment of our outstanding department heads and our very dedicated employees, we have been able to achieve a number of results which have helped maintain Pepper Pike as an excellent and fine community. Some specific examples of what has been accomplished to enhance Pepper Pike:

- Launched our Disaster Preparedness Course in conjunction with the Red Cross to teach residents CPR/AED/first aid and home preparations for emergencies; so far, over 600 residents have taken the training.
  - Took the lead in engaging the Chagrin Valley communities to start organizing a POD (Point of Dispensing) to be prepared in case of a pandemic flu or smallpox outbreak. We conducted the POD twice in dealing with the H1N1 virus.
    - Appointed a police officer to serve in Orange High School as a School Resource Officer to work with students, faculty and the school administration to help defuse, or deal with student problems and situations before they become more serious.
- Set up an ambulance billing system to collect from insurance companies for EMS runs, as well as to collect from non-residents using our EMS service.
  - Once again awarded an Aaa bond rating from Moody's Rating Agency.
    - Continued to receive absolutely clean audits from the State Auditor.
- Placed Automated Electronic Defibrillators in all our police cars; only the second City in the state to do so.
  - Placed in-car camera systems and mobile data terminals in all our police vehicles.
    - Set up our Citizens Police Academy to train residents on all aspects of law enforcement.

- Organized our Municipal Emergency Response Corp. (MERC), whereby interested residents can train and be prepared to back up our safety forces in case of emergencies.
  - Constructed a walking/jogging path along the southern edge of our Shaker detention basin and around Brainard Circle, over to our park; it also connects to the Beachwood path system.
- Launched our web site.
  - Launched our own HAR (Highway Advisory Radio) radio station to broadcast information to residents in the event of emergencies, and otherwise to provide community information/announcements.
    - Organized the Pepper Pike Park Ice Cream Social.
- Successful in getting Smith Barney to relocate in Pepper Pike.
  - Our Building Department became fully certified.
    - Launched our Pepper Pike Community Band
- Continued to be one of the top three cities in the County in percentage of our waste being recycled.
  - Received the Tree City USA award for 10 years now, from the National Arbor Day Foundation.
    - Introduced a shredding program whereby residents could easily dispose of records, files, etc. to help avoid identity theft. Over 77 tons shredded so far.
- Launched our Container Drop-Off program for residents to dispose of debris/material when doing a major DIY project indoors or outdoors.
  - Planted 570 trees on Gates Mills center strip.
    - Took the lead in developing a sensible salting police for all the county, significantly lowering our salt usage and costs.
- Constructed the Shaker Road detention basin as well as one on Gates Mills Boulevard.
  - Established Pepper Pike Park behind City Hall.
    - Reconstructed Shaker Boulevard, South Woodland Road, Fairmount Boulevard, and Gates Mills Road, as well as the widening of Gates Mills.

The credit for all of these accomplishments, as well as others not mentioned above, belong to our great employees, as well as their supervisors. I cannot adequately express what all they do for this community, day in and day out. We are truly blessed with a fantastic staff.

Like most all communities, we have both our challenges and our opportunities, and in the final months of my term I will continue to work hard in addressing both. I am very optimistic and confident about Pepper Pike's future, and I believe we have helped lay some of the foundation for that optimism.

Thank you for your support, your communications, your help, your encouragement, and for giving me the opportunity, the privilege and the honor to serve you and this great community.

Sincerely,

Bruce H. Akers  
Mayor