

# CITY OF PEPPER PIKE

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Mayor  
**BRUCE H. AKERS**

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

To: All Pepper Pike Residents

From: Mayor Bruce H. Akers

Date: October 12, 2011



Subject: (a) Next Shredding Date (g) Sanitary Sewers  
(b) Composting Seminar (h) Walkers & Joggers  
(c) Medicine Disposal Day (i) Oral Rabies Vaccination  
(d) Absentee Ballot Application (j) Wellness Program  
(e) Housing Survey (k) Adopt-A-Sign  
(f) Guardian Calling (l) City Hall Landscaping

The purpose of this letter is to cover several current topics.

(a) **Next Shredding Date**

Our next free shredding date is Saturday of next week, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. As we did in April, next week's shredding will be done in collaboration with Orange Village. Therefore, the shredding will be held at Orange Village Hall, 4600 Lander Road, which is about half-way between Harvard and Miles Roads, on the west side of Lander. The location of the shredding truck will be at the rear of Village Hall, specifically at the far end/westerly end of the rear parking lot. (Do not go to the Orange Service Department).

Again, there is no limit on the amount of personal documents, files, cancelled checks, and other private papers which you want to be shredded in order to avoid any chance of identity theft.

For those residents who are unable to drop documents off on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, bring in your items to be shredded on Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, or Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, between 8:30 am. and 4:00 pm. to the Orange Village Hall. These will be placed in secured bins inside the Village Hall front door. You should park your car in the rear parking lot, near the front door entrance to the Hall, and then enter the Village Hall to contact an Orange employee who will then wheel out one of the bins to your car in order to collect your items for shredding. These documents will be the first to be shredded on Saturday morning, the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

(b) **Composting Seminar**

The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District is offering a series of seminars to communities throughout the County to inform residents on the importance of rear-yard composting, and how easy it is to do so.

We have scheduled one of these seminars here at Pepper Pike City Hall for Wednesday, October 26, 2011, at 6:30 pm. in the Council Chambers at which Solid Waste District officials will provide helpful how-to-compost instructions and other information on rear-yard composting. They will also provide for sale two types of affordable composting bins as well as a kitchen collection container.



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We would encourage your attending the seminar. The more residents we have composting, the better it is for the environment, and it helps lower the City's land fill dumping costs.

The seminar will last only one hour, during which you may also ask any questions you have on composting. The District requests that any interested resident should register for the seminar beforehand. Therefore, if you are interested in attending, please call in and make your reservation with Kasey, in the Service Department at 216-896-6149.

(c) **Medicine Disposal Day**

The Drug Enforcement Administration has scheduled another Medicine Disposal National Take Back Day on Saturday, October 29, 2011, from 10:00 am. – 2:00 pm. to provide a venue for persons who want to dispose of unwanted and unused prescription drugs.

Medicine Disposal National Take Back Day addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. More than seven million Americans currently abuse prescription drugs, according to the 2009 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Each day, approximately, 2,500 teens use prescription drugs to get high for the first time, according to the Partnership for a Drug Free America. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including the home medicine cabinet.

Therefore, Pepper Pike is participating in Medicine Disposal National Take Back Day, for the purpose of removing potentially dangerous medications. From 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., on Saturday, October 29th residents may dispose of prescription and over the counter medicine at the Service Department.

Residents may dispose of medication in the original container or by removing the medication from its container and dispose of it directly into the disposal box. If an original container is used, please remove any identifying information from the prescription label.

(d) **Absentee Ballot Application**

As you may have seen in news reports, the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections is no longer automatically sending out absentee ballot applications to all registered voters for this year's election as they have done in the past several years.

Therefore, we have secured a supply of the absentee ballot applications for the Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> election, and they are available to be picked up in the Finance Department at City Hall. If you need for us to do so, we can also mail you one or more applications. Just call my part-time assistant, Barbara Hennen (216-896-6125) and she will be happy to handle your request.

Either way, be sure to vote this year, and have your voice heard in the results.

(e) **Housing Survey**

This is to inform you that a number of residents are to be contacted to participate in the American Housing Survey, sponsored by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, to provide data for the United States Census Bureau. They will not tell us how many residents will be called, and of course will not tell us who is to be contacted. Some of the interviews will be in person, the others by phone. So, if you are one of the Pepper Pike residents surveyed, this is to make you aware that such a survey is being conducted and why. They tell us that the interview will take 15 to 30 minutes, and questions will focus on such topics as the number of bedrooms, the number of bathrooms, utility costs, remodeling, roofing, income questions, etc.

This survey is conducted nationally every two years, is highly confidential, and they are not allowed by federal law to divulge names and addresses. That's as much as I can tell you about the survey, but I wanted to alert residents of such a possible call.

(f) **Guardian Calling**

Pepper Pike has had a service for sometime now, named Guardian Calling, and we haven't publicized it extensively. So I thought it was time to remind residents of this service.

Any resident may sign up for it through the Police Department, and in a word, it is a service by which any elderly or infirmed resident would receive a call every day at a given time of day from Police Dispatch, for the purpose of checking on that resident. If there are no problems, the resident simply punches in a short code, which tells Dispatch that there is no need for any help. If the resident doesn't answer, or does so but fails to enter the correct code, then police would be dispatched to that resident to check in on the condition of the person there.

It is a simple service to help our elderly, infirmed residents, and which lets us know if there is a problem and to then respond to it immediately. It avoids that potentially tragic problem of such a person having a fall, or having some attack, or some other debilitating situation, and no one finding out about it for possibly days afterwards.

If you wish to utilize this service, call Teresa in the Police Department (216-896-6102).

(g) **Sanitary Sewers**

With all the rain we have experienced this year, there has been a number of flooded basements. Residents have inquired about whose responsibility it is to maintain sanitary sewer lines. The Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works will maintain sanitary lateral sewers from the house to the street for residents with sanitary sewers, free of charge. Those who experience sanitary sewer back-up in their homes should contact the County for assistance at (216) 443-8201, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. The County will not respond for other plumbing issues, such as blocked drains in sinks, tubs, and showers.

(h) **Walkers & Joggers**

Daylight is getting shorter and we are about to end daylight savings time.. Again we strongly urge all walkers and joggers to carry flashlights, or better yet, to wear reflective clothing so motorists headlights will more quickly notice you on the street when it is dark. There are just too many close calls which could be avoided if walkers/joggers would take these easy and helpful precautions.

(i) **Oral Rabies Vaccination**

To help slow the westward migration of raccoon-strain rabies in Ohio, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) are once again coordinating the Oral Rabies Vaccine (ORV) baiting program to help immunize wild raccoons, foxes and coyotes against the virus. Local health departments will be distributing baits by hand throughout 14 counties along Ohio's eastern border.

This baiting zone has been established to create an immune barrier which will help prevent the spread of raccoon-rabies variant (RRV) into the remainder of Ohio. These rabies vaccination efforts began in 1997 and have been successful in suppressing rabies in affected areas and protecting the rest of the state. This baiting zone incorporates a total of 35 communities in eastern Cuyahoga County, including Pepper Pike.

(j) **Wellness Program**

We are going to be launching a Wellness Program for all our employees. Clearly, the better the health of one's employees, the less health care costs are incurred. The program is being set up in consultation with our health care consultants, and we have organized a Health Care Task Force, comprised of at least one employee from each department, to provide employee input into the planning of the wellness program.

This program will include flu shots, biometric screenings, health risk assessments, walking program, cardiovascular fitness, nutrition, weight maintenance, stress management, and monthly health topic postings. This program should help us reduce our health care costs.

(k) **Adopt-A-Sign**

We have received a number of complaints from residents on the appearance of some of our Pepper Pike signs as you enter the city limits from the north, east, south or west. Some of the signs have no plantings at the base, some have a minimal amount, and others have plantings in various stages of growth and attractiveness.

A member of the Beautification Committee has come up with the suggestion that we sound out the residents to see if there is any interest by a person, or family, or group of individuals in "adopting" one or more signs, to clean up the base of the sign, and do some plantings there, and then to be responsible for maintaining the sign plantings on an on-going basis.

We have 12 entry-way signs in our community, and we would welcome having all 12 "adopted" and maintained, and thereby giving us a more positive image as others enter into Pepper Pike. If anyone is interested in adopting a sign (or signs) please give me a call so we can discuss your interest.

(l) **City Hall Landscaping**

Over the past several years we have lost some tree and shrub plantings in front of City Hall. While not unattractive, clearly the front could look a lot better and reflect more positively on our community, as it did in the past.

Rick Eickhoff, a member of the Beautification Committee, noting the condition of the City Hall plantings, graciously offered to draw up a plan to restore a more attractive appearance of City Hall's front. We appreciate Rick's generous offer.

I mention this because you will see most, if not all, of his plantings being done in the next few weeks while weather allows for such planting, now that we are drying out after all the rain we have had. Rick's plan is estimated to be in the area of \$5,000, but I wanted the residents to know that no tax payer dollars are being used in the purchase of these trees/shrubs/bushes. The funds are from a donation made to the City by Water Way Carwash on Lander Circle. Their donation of \$10,000 was placed in the City's Beautification Fund for just such a use as this.

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](mailto:brucehakers@pepperpike.org).