

ANSWERS ABOUT BROOKVILLE'S TWO LEVIES ON THE MAY BALLOT

Brookville City Council adopted Resolution No. 21-04 and Resolution No. 21-05 in February 2021, which placed two levies on the May 4, 2021 Primary Ballot.

We are providing our constituents with information that will address the reasons for placing two levies on the Primary Ballot. Below are answers to some of the questions that may be asked about the two levies.

What is Issue 1?

If approved by the electors of the City of Brookville at the May 4, 2021 Election, Issue 1 is a five-year levy that would generate approximately \$118,304 annually for parks and recreation purposes.

Why is Issue 1 necessary?

The issue is necessary for the purpose of maintaining city parks by preserving and enhancing playground equipment, installing walking paths, improving our basketball and tennis courts, replacing trees that were removed due to the Emerald Ash borer, adding healthy activities within our parks such as a pickleball court, a frisbee golf course, an outdoor fitness park, and a dog park to name a few. Funds generated will also allow us to maintain the life of our existing buildings and sports fields at our parks.

This levy will generate approximately \$118,304 annually for five years. Our General Fund has seen a dramatic decline of income tax due to the loss of five major employers in the City over the last six years and the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. The funds generated by this levy will be deposited into our Parks & Recreation Fund.

What is Issue 2?

If approved by the electors of the City of Brookville at the May 4, 2021 Election, Issue 2 is a five-year levy that would generate approximately \$474,447 annually for the purpose of general construction, reconstruction, resurfacing and repair of streets, roads, and bridges in the City of Brookville.

Why is Issue 2 necessary?

This levy will generate approximately \$474,447 annually for five years and these funds will be used to restore our annual street repaving program for our 34½ miles of roadway within the city limits.

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Who pays the tax and what is taxed?

All owners of property within the City of Brookville limits. Property owners pay tax on 35% of the value of their land and improvements on their parcel.

Issue 1, the Parks and Recreation levy, will cost a homeowner, with a home valued at \$150,000, \$50.59 annually, or \$0.97 weekly.

Issue 2, the Streets, Roads and Bridges levy, will cost a homeowner, with a home valued at \$150,000, \$202.36 annually, or \$3.89 weekly.

Why is it important for our City?

The additional funds from Issue 1 and Issue 2 will generate approximately \$592,751 annually which will provide funding for our streets and parks. These funds will allow the City to continue to maintain our 100+ acres in our six parks and to restore our annual paving of our streets to maintain and improve our 34½ miles of roadways within the City.

Levy Questions continued...

Why Now?

The City has seen a dramatic decline of income tax due to the loss of five major employers in the City over the last six years and the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. The levy funds will help to minimize the revenue deficiencies in the Street Maintenance & Repair Fund and in our Parks & Recreation Fund.

I still have questions. Who can I call for more information?

Our website, www.brookvilleohio.com, has four presentations on Revenue Insufficiencies – Moving Brookville Forward that provides detailed information on our decline in revenues and the projected projects if both levies receive voter approval.

You can visit the Montgomery County Auditors website to see what the two levies will cost you, <https://www.mcrealestate.org/search/commonsearch.aspx?mode=address>, type in your address, select your parcel, and select the New Levies tab.

You can phone City Manager Sonja Keaton, 937-833-2135 x104, or email her at skeaton@brookvilleohio.com, or phone Director of Finance Michelle Brandt, 937-833-2135 x103, or email her at mbrandt@brookvilleohio.com.

Utility Discount Guidelines for Seniors/Disabled

The City of Brookville allows a 10% discount on the quarterly water, sewer, stormwater, and refuse billing for senior citizens or permanently and totally disabled citizens who apply and qualify for the discount.

Applicants shall meet all the following guidelines:

- (1) Be at least 65 years old, or permanently and totally disabled at the time of application; and
- (2) Have a total household income that does not exceed \$30,000 in the previous year; and
- (3) Own or rent your residence in the City of Brookville at the time of application for the discount and reside in that residence.

Applications can be picked up at the City Office or downloaded online at www.brookvilleohio.com. An application for this discount shall be completed annually and the applicant *must provide proof of income, such as a tax return, Social Security 1099, Interest 1099, or other evidence of income deemed appropriate by the Finance Director* to establish that the applicant qualifies for this discount. Upon approval of the application, the discount shall apply to the next quarterly utility billing. The 10% discount shall continue for a period of one (1) year from the date of application, and then the applicant must reapply to continue to receive the discount if eligible.

City Ordinances on Recreational Vehicles

Many homeowners will soon be getting their recreational vehicles out of storage and ready for the open road. RV's can only be parked in the driveway for not more than 72 hours in a 7 day period for clean up, loading or unloading.

Recreational vehicles can be parked behind the front yard set back on a hard surface such as concrete, asphalt, or weed free compact gravel. Recreational vehicles are defined as camping trailers, pop-ups travel trailers, 5th wheel trailers, motor homes, boats, boat trailers, jet skis, and snowmobiles. If you have a question on the City's ordinance for recreational vehicles, contact Jim Snedeker at 833-2135, or jsnedeker@brookvilleohio.com.

Garage Sale Time

A permit is not required to allow residents to hold a "Garage Sale" but the City does have rules and restrictions. Garage sales shall not exceed 4 days in length and at least one month must lapse to have another. Each address is allowed 3 garage sales in a calendar year with no food or beverages sold for consumption. Each owner is allowed 1 sign 2ft x 2ft on the property of the sale for display along with 2 directional signs the same size. These signs are to be no higher than 3ft off the ground and must be taken down 24 hours after the closing of your last date of sale. No signs on utility poles, traffic/sign post, or in public right-of-way. No balloons, streamers, special lighting on sign to attract attention from motorist. Call 833-2135, or email jsnedeker@brookvilleohio.com for more information.

Spring Cleaning? Don't Forget These Fire Safety Risks

Check Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

The first thing you want to do is ensure that your family can be warned in the event of a fire breaking out. Replace the batteries in your smoke alarms and test each one. Do the same with your carbon monoxide detectors. Also, make sure that these detectors are properly placed. The Brookville Fire Department will visit and help you with that if you would like. Smoke detectors should be placed in each bedroom, in the hallway outside the bedrooms, and at least one detector on each floor (including any basement or attic). A single carbon monoxide detector should be placed on each floor, close to where you sleep. It needs to be close enough to wake you. Need a smoke or carbon monoxide detector? We have them! At no cost! Call us at 937-833-2345!

Make Your Kitchen Safe

Spills and clutter in your kitchen increase the likelihood of a fire breaking out or getting worse. Clean up food spills right away to keep grease from collecting on your counters and stove, which can easily catch fire. Also, clean up any clutter on your countertops or stovetops – combustible items must be kept away from cooking surfaces.

Inspect Electrical Cords

Electrical cords can become damaged and frayed over time. This is especially true due to pets and pests that chew on the cords. Spring cleaning is the perfect time to check every cord in your house. If they show even the slightest damage, replace them immediately. Another safe practice is to limit the number of cords running from a single outlet, as this can cause overloading to occur.

Clean Up the Clothes Dryer

Household fires are often caused by excess lint in a clothes dryer. Although cleaning should happen on a regular basis – as in, every time you run a load of clothes – this time of year is a great time to check for lint behind, under and in the exhaust duct. To be safe, keep combustible items such as boxes and clothing away from your dryer.

Look at Your Grill

The first thing you should do with your grill is check its components for potential leaks – the propane tank, hose, and all connection points. Once that has been done, clean up any grease or fat build-up (which you should do every time you grill). This will decrease the risk of fire.

COUNTRY KITTENS AND STRAY CATS

Skunks are nocturnal and do most of their scavenging at night. They will eat almost any thing and search for food anywhere. Their favorite meals are grubs and beetles, but they will also eat dog food left outside along with any uncontained garbage or trash. They like to make their dens in heavy foliage and dense wooded areas along with the darkness underneath decks and sheds.

Stray and feral cats have become a growing problem in recent years. To help prevent skunks and stray cats from becoming pests in your neighborhood here are some helpful hints.

- DON'T FEED FERAL CATS! Remove any obvious sources of food!
- Put trash in proper containers. Trash bags can be easily ripped apart by sharp claws.
- Seal up any spaces that a feral cat may see as an attractive nesting area. Some favorite places for strays, and/or skunks are underneath decks, sheds, foundations, and detached garages.
- Traps are good but be careful. A trapped feral cat can be nasty and a trapped skunk, well you're on your own. Trapped cats can be taken to the shelter where hopefully, it will be claimed or adopted.
- Pepper spray has been known to work but spray the area were the animal visits, not the animal itself.
- Do not put table scraps on an open compost pile. Use a compost bin or you'll have unwanted visitors.

The bottom line is, do not make them feel invited or they will continue to visit your property.



City of **BROOKVILLE** **POLICE**

Chief Douglas Jerome

djerome@brookvilleohio.com



Spring Newsletter

The police department is excited for Spring and equally optimistic that 2021 will bring health, happiness, and prosperity to our community. In 2020, our department faced unprecedented operational challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I am proud to say that our officers remained safe, healthy, and vigilant while continuing to deliver professional policing services to our community. Overall, our staff used 55% less sick time in 2020 than we did in 2019.

In 2020, our Officer of The Year was Officer Mark Miller, and our Peer Nominated Officers of The Year were Major Tom Simon and Officer Blake Creager. We remain 100% compliant with all Ohio Collaborative Law Enforcement Standards, continued to take proactive steps towards criminal justice reform, completed Verbal De-Escalation Training, developed, and distributed our Organization of Accountability and Proactive History of Criminal Justice Reform which can be found on our website. Overall, we completed 4,906 DTB's (Daily Training Bulletins) as well as 802 hours of miscellaneous law enforcement training.

In 2020, we had a 38% increase in OVI arrests, 13% percent decrease in traffic stops, 37% increase in traffic crashes, 33% decrease in violent crime, 2% increase in property crime, 28% decrease in drug overdoses, 20% decrease in calls for service, and 65% increase in towed vehicles. Our community outreach programs were drastically decreased due to COVID-19 and safety concerns.

Additionally, Brookville City Council passed an ordinance creating Chapter 343 of our Codified Ordinances which provides regulations for the use of golf carts and under-speed vehicles operated on public streets. In brief, all said vehicles must be inspected, licensed, operators must have a valid driver's license, not driven on roadways where speeds are greater than 25 mph, all occupants must have a seat belt and no child being required to use a child restraint device under ORC 4511.81 is permitted to be an occupant. A list of equipment required for safe operation on City streets can be found under Ordinance 343.03. Take the time to read and understand the new Golf Cart Ordinance in its entirety to ensure that you operating within all guidelines of the law.

301 Sycamore Street

Brookville, Ohio 45309

937-833-2001

937-833-4837

Wipes, Wipes and More Wipes!

Take Care of Your Sewers

The City of Brookville Service Department is asking residents to not flush baby wipes, disinfecting wipes, disposable mop refills, paper towel, and similar items down their toilets because they are causing problems in the city's sewer system.

The Service Department is asking residents to instead throw the wipes and similar items into the trash. Wipes, disposal mop refills, paper towels and other items such as cloth towels, rags and diapers are also found in our sewer system. These items are disrupting the sewer system and negatively affecting pumping stations and damaging personal properties.

In addition, food service businesses need to control grease put into the sewer system through proper methods of disposal and required maintenance of grease traps. Grease is another major contributor to sewer problems and stoppages in the city. If major contributors are verified, they will be reported to the proper authorities.

If you have any questions concerning your sewer system, please feel free to call the city office at 833-2135.

GRASS CLIPPINGS & STORM SEWER REMINDERS

Residents are asked not to discharge or blow grass clippings into the street and curb. Over time, grass clippings can accumulate in the curb causing rainwater runoff to be altered. It can also cause storm water catch basins to become blocked resulting in street flooding during heavy rains. Grass clippings also get slippery when wet, causing portions of the street to become slick for motor vehicles and bike riders.

The City's Property Maintenance Code declares a nuisance in Section 1353.04 (d). "Refuse and waste matter which by reason of its location and character, is unsightly and interferes with the reasonable enjoyment of property by neighbors." This definition of waste includes yard waste, plant clippings, pruning's, and other discarded material from yards and gardens.

Residents are also reminded that dumping substances into storm sewers, such as motor oil, gas, paint, or other chemicals is prohibited for environmental reasons. Storm sewer flows carry excess water and release it into local streams, creeks, and rivers. Dumping illicit material could not only pollute public waterways, but also cause groundwater contamination. State and federal regulations require that cities remind the public about their responsibility to the environment.