



**City of Parma**  
**6611 Ridge Road**  
**Parma, Ohio 44129**



PRESORTED  
FIRST-CLASS MAIL  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
CLEVELAND, OHIO  
PERMIT NO. 983

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

T<<Tray Number>> <<Endorsement Line>>

The <<Last Name>> Household

<<Address Line 1>>

<<City>>, <<State>> <<ZIP Code>> <<Sort Position>>



6611 Ridge Road  
Parma, Ohio 44129

---

August 8, 2011

Dear Resident,

Thank you to those residents who were able to attend the Council meeting on Monday, August 1, 2011. The additional information is helpful as our Service Department and the County Department of Public Works (formerly the Cuyahoga County Engineer) continues to assess the flooding issues throughout our City.

This communication has been developed in response to questions posed at that meeting, and from those that have communicated questions via email. We realize there are probably more, and you are welcome to continue to contact us as they arise.

Sincerely,

Dean DePiero  
Mayor



# Frequently Asked Questions:

## 1. Why are there income or age qualifications for the assistance offered by the City of Parma?

The federal funding used to pay for this assistance requires recipients meet the income guidelines or age restrictions without exception. The Federal Government requires that rules be strictly followed in the administration of this money.

The City is doing its best to offer some relief to residents who experienced flooding on July 19<sup>th</sup> and/or on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. As a reminder, if you need to replace appliances, rebates are also available that **do not** require any income restrictions. You may learn more about that program by visiting this page of our website <http://www.cityofparma-oh.gov/energy.aspx> or by calling the Community Service & Economic Development Department at 216-661-7372.

You may learn more about the assistance which requires recipients meet the income guidelines or age restrictions by visiting <http://www.cityofparma-oh.gov/flood-prevention.aspx> or by calling the Community Service & Economic Development Department at 216-661-7372.

## 2. Where can I find the most up to date information

The City of Parma website has the most current information for this most recent flooding incident as well as current information on capital projects and progress with our partnership with the Cuyahoga County Public Works Department for maintenance of our sewers. The City of Parma website can be found at [www.cityofparma-oh.gov](http://www.cityofparma-oh.gov).

My administration will continue to send letters when appropriate.

## 3. What should I do with items I need to dispose of from my basement/garage?

If you have rubbish to be removed from your property on a day other than your regular rubbish collection day, please contact our Service Department at 440-885-8189 when the trash has been placed on your tree lawn. A crew will be out the next day, to the best of our ability, to collect the trash.

The next Household Hazardous Waste Round-up will be held on Saturday, September 17, 2011. Items that cannot be placed for regular curbside pick-up can be dropped off at the Parma Service Garage, 5680 Chevrolet Blvd., between 7:30 AM and 2:30 PM on this date for proper disposal. Items that will NOT be accepted at the Round-up include latex paint, propane tanks and lead acid batteries.

## 4. How do I file a claim for reimbursement with the City?

All state and local governments, including the City of Parma, are vested with statutory sovereign immunity. Sovereign immunity, with certain exceptions, precludes recovery against cities. Please see Ohio Revised Code Chapter 2744 for further details. You can review this chapter from a link on the Law Department page of the website – [www.cityofparma-oh.gov](http://www.cityofparma-oh.gov).

You are advised to contact your homeowner's insurance company **first** to make a claim.

Any claim submitted to the City of Parma will first be investigated by the City Service and/or Engineering Department. Due to the potentially high volume of claims, it may take an extended period of time to investigate and process the claim.

Claim forms may be obtained on the 2011 Flood Information page of the website (<http://www.cityofparma-oh.gov/flood-prevention.aspx>), or in person at the Law Department located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of City Hall, 6611 Ridge Road, Parma, OH 44129.

## 5. What is the City doing to address blockages in area creeks - especially Baldwin Creek?

The City of Parma will partner with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) for a pilot creek cleaning along Baldwin Creek. Responses from contractors are expected at NEORS this week. Once responses are reviewed a contractor will be selected and work will begin. Our hope is that work will commence by the end of the month.

## 6. Should I install a backwater valve or not?

The Ohio Plumbing Code does allow backwater valves. There are several types including some, but not limited to, those that are placed at the test tee at the street, and some that are placed in the basement floor.

The City of Parma does not recommend interior installations because it does not alleviate water pressure on the outside of the basement walls and floors. Excess pressure can cause buckling of basement floors and walls as a result of this pressure.

The City of Parma and the Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works do not permit valves to be placed at the test tee by the public sidewalk.

Generally, backwater valves if installed correctly may work, but can cause problems with interior water flow during heavy rainfalls (limit the use of sanitary facilities in the house – showers, laundry, etc.). They also may cause problems for neighbors without them, and need regular maintenance to work properly.

## 7. What is the plan for cleaning City of Parma storm sewers?

The City of Parma is working with the Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works to expand their role in cleaning and televising the storm sewers. Legislation will be considered by both Parma City Council and Cuyahoga County Council to reallocate the funds, \$2.15 per front foot assessment, to the Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works for cleaning and maintenance. Under consideration would be an allocation to increase the storm sewer component of the assessment to \$.40 a foot from \$.25. **This change will not affect the current assessment on your property.**

We have met and will continue to meet with them to develop a systematic plan. The intention is to have a draft plan presented to Parma City Council at their Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Once presented and approved, the plan will be available on the City of Parma website at [www.cityofparma-oh.gov](http://www.cityofparma-oh.gov).

## 8. How will the plan be developed?

Information will be gathered in collaboration with Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works and the NEORS. This information will be reviewed and prioritized to develop an initial plan to address severe issue to benefit the most number of residents first.

Simultaneously, the City is preparing to seek proposals from area engineering firms to assess our entire (sanitary and storm) sewer system. We realize that the information we have is dated, and construction has occurred in our community since our most recent report.

Once this report is completed and shared with the City of Parma, it will be incorporated into the plan. Again, once presented and approved, the plan will be available on the City of Parma website at [www.cityofparma-oh.gov](http://www.cityofparma-oh.gov).

## 9. In the event of future flooding, who should I call?

You may contact either the City of Parma or the Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works. Either entity will take your information and respond to your concern. The appropriate numbers are listed below.

Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works Sewer Service – 216-443-8201

Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works After Hours/Holiday Emergency – 1-800-683-2689

City of Parma Sewer Department – 440-885-8195

City of Parma Sewer Department After Hours/Holiday – 440-885-8980