

Grant funds awarded for tree projects

Mentor, Mayfield,
Richmond Heights,
Lyndhurst to see
plantings

By Betsy Scott

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A handful of area communities will be getting a little greener, thanks to a federal grant.

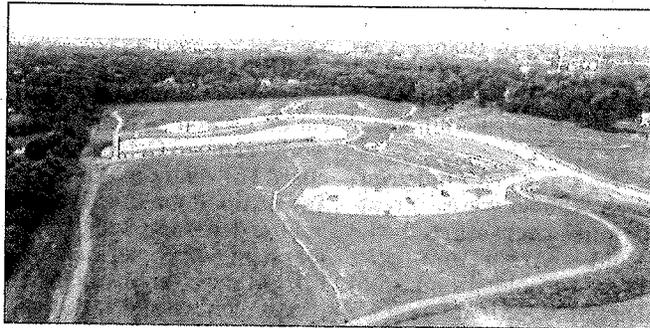
Among them is Men-

tor, which recently was awarded more than \$70,500 through the USDA Forest Service Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

The funds will be used toward the purchase of 200, 1.5-inch caliper trees to be planted at Springbrook Gardens Park and another 25 at the Civic Center campus.

The city will meet the \$17,628 match requirements through in-kind

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SUBMITTED

Springbrook Gardens Park in Mentor is targeted for 200 new trees, thanks to a grant obtained by the city.

Trees

FROM PAGE 1

contributions, including watering and maintenance for the trees.

“The purpose of this project is to intercept rainfall and reduce stormwater runoff with the selection of trees that maximize filtration and infiltration,” Mentor City Manager Ken Filipiak said.

The selected native species will consist of black oak, scarlet oak, black walnut, bitternut hickory, bur oak and eastern redbud.

Springbrook Gardens Park is a 53-acre former nursery which was purchased by the city in 2014 with the intent of creating a passive-use park.

To date, improvements at the park include the installation of strategic mounds, expansion and grading of a 3-acre pond, building 1.7 miles of paved walking trails and a boardwalk over the pond, and native grass plantings.

Recently, work was also completed on Phase 1 of a

stream restoration project, which created about 3 acres of wetlands to help reduce stormwater runoff and improve the wildlife habitat.

Tree planting is expected to begin in the spring.

The grant is being administered through a partnership with Chagrin River Watershed Partners and the Lake County Soil & Water Conservation District.

“Both of these agencies have also played an integral role in implementing the stream restoration at Springbrook Park,” Mentor Grant Supervisor Stephanie Johnson said.

“This is an exciting project as it furthers the city’s goal of making Springbrook Gardens Park a recreational retreat for Mentor residents.”

The grant program is a collaborative effort with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to advance the restoration of the Great Lakes through a variety of forest conservation activities.

The total federal funding awarded by the program this year is nearly \$216,000, said CRWP Senior Project

Manager Kristen M. Hebebrand. More than 2,600 native trees and shrubs will be planted across seven sites, covering an estimated 19.5 acres to intercept 579,000-plus gallons of rainfall yearly, she said.

CRWP led the writing of the proposal in partnership with Central Lake Erie Basin Collaborative watershed organizations, comprising Richmond Heights, Lyndhurst, North Royalton, Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, Mayfield Village and Mentor.

Other area projects are:

- Euclid Creek Watershed Program/Cuyahoga SWCD — Public riparian parcels at Ridgebury Park, Roland Park and Richmond Road in Lyndhurst, and Claribel Creek and Community Park in Richmond Heights

- Chagrin River Watershed Partners — Beech Hill Road and Bonnieview Road Park in Mayfield Village

Along with reducing polluted stormwater runoff, the program also highlights partnerships among various entities, Hebebrand said.

MAYFIELD VILLAGE

Complaints *Wilson Mills Road*

A caller said Oct. 1 that there was a political sign posted that was larger than the size allowed according to the city ordinance. Officers located the sign and confirmed it was not a visual hazard to traffic in the area. The building department was advised to investigate the matter regarding its size.

Juvenile complaint *Hunt Circle*

Officers responded Sept. 30 to a report of a child lying in the roadway but only found a child waiting for a ride for football.

SEE POLICE BLOTTER, A3

Police blotter

FROM A2

Suspicious vehicle *Thornapple Drive*

A woman said Oct. 1 that an occupied vehicle with tinted windows was parked in the street while the school bus was dropping off her daughter. Officers did not locate the vehicle but learned it belonged to a friend of a new resident. He was having trouble finding an address and that was the reason for the suspicious driving.

Harassing communication *Ridgebury Boulevard*

A woman reported Oct. 4 that her adult son's former roommate was making threatening calls to her. Officers learned the matter was regarding arrangements being made to have her son's belongings moved from the home. Officers later escorted the woman and her son to the home to retrieve the remainder of his belongings.

Disturbance *Wilson Mills Road*

Officers responded Oct. 5 to the parking lot of a veterinarian's office for a report of a man and woman fighting in a vehicle. They did not locate the vehicle, but a witness said the woman was hitting and jerking the steering wheel and the man hit her with a pillow.

Property damage *Hanover Road*

A resident's mailbox was reported Oct. 5 to have been broken on the ground. It was unclear how the damage occurred.

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HIGHLAND HEIGHTS

Mayor Chuck Brunello Jr. announced this week that door-to-door trick-or-treating will take place from 6-8 p.m. Oct. 31. The city's website states, "If you choose to participate, please make sure your front porch lights are on. All trick or treaters should only go to homes that have their exterior lights on. Please follow the Ohio Department of Health's recommended best practices and guidelines to ensure a safe Halloween."

The city also held a Children's Halloween Candy Maze on Saturday at the city's community park.

MAYFIELD HEIGHTS

In addition to holding door-to-door trick-or-treating from 6-8 p.m. Oct. 31, Mayfield Heights will conduct a socially responsible "Trunk or Treat" event from 10-11 a.m. Oct. 24 in the parking lot of city hall, 6154 Mayfield Road.

The event will take place rain or shine, and is suggested for children ages 3-9. The cost is \$5 for children, while parents enter at no cost. Those planning to attend must first register, as no one will be admitted without registration. To register or to ask questions, call 440-442-2627. Those participating will decorate their car trunks and supply candy.

MAYFIELD VILLAGE

Mayfield Village, in addition to door-to-door trick-or-treating from 6-8 p.m. Oct. 31, will hold a "Trick or Treat Trail" from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 24 along the Bruce G. Rinker Trail, west of S.O.M. Center Road.

This first-time event will include trick-or-treating, a spooky trail, games, fun, a pumpkin patch, and more.

Residents can register up to eight family members for a time slot between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. by calling 440-461-5163. Cost is \$4 per child over the age of 2.

Here's what each community has planned for Halloween in the Hillcrest area

All communities are suggesting that those participating in trick-or-treating should follow Ohio Department of Health guidelines, which can be found online.

Jeff Piorkowski *Special to Sun News*

COVID-19 has spoiled a lot of fun for both the young and old, but Hillcrest communities are doing what they can to provide some good times during the Halloween season.

Door-to-door trick-or-treating seemed to be in danger of cancellation just a short time ago, but communities such as South Euclid, Lyndhurst, Highland Heights, and Mayfield Heights have announced that youngsters will be permitted to dress in costumes — wearing masks under their scary masks — and head out into the neighborhoods on Oct. 31. All communities are suggesting that those participating in trick-or-treating should follow Ohio Department of Health guidelines, which can be found online.

Here is a look at each community and its Halloween plans.

SOUTH EUCLID

South Euclid, in addition to door-to-door trick-or-treating, is planning to hold its Sixth Annual Pumpkins in the Park event, beginning at 5 p.m. Oct. 23 at Bexley Park, 1630 Wrenford Road. Community Development Coordinator Daniel Subwick said that this year's event will be one in which residents will be asked to stay in their cars.

"Vehicles can enter Bexley Park from Wrenford Road and queue in front of the pool house to receive two pumpkins, pumpkins that were donated by Marc's and Giant Eagle," Subwick said. "This is a COVID-friendly version of our annual Pumpkins in the Park event. Pumpkins in the Park is one of our most popular events each year, but this year will be a little different."

In past years, the city would create a pumpkin patch by spreading pumpkins on the grass and allowing residents to wander about, taking pictures among the pumpkins with family members and friends, as treats were sold to attendees and fun demonstrations held. "This year we've obviously had to make some changes. This year, we're asking people to enter at Wren-

ford and we'll give each vehicle two pumpkins."

Residents are urged to stick around after getting their pumpkins as, at 7 p.m., there will be a screening of the movie "Nightmare Before Christmas." Attendees can watch the movie from their cars, parked in the park lot off Wrenford Road. Subwick said Garfield Memorial Church deserves a special thank you as it is donating for use the screen and movie projector.

"And, we'll have treats and beverages available for purchase," Subwick said. "We ask for a suggested donation of \$10 that goes to Rock the Block, to help make next year's Rock the Block the best one yet." Rock the Block is the city's annual party, held in June, along Mayfield Road.

"We are having trick-or-treat this year (6-8 p.m. Oct. 31), but we're also providing for our residents a safe and fun event with free pumpkins and a movie," Subwick said.

LYNDHURST

City Council, during its meeting of Oct. 5, voted to allow traditional trick-or-treating from 6-8 p.m. Oct. 31.

"Our administrative staff presented council with the option of a sponsored event instead of trick-or-treat," Mayor Patrick Ward stated in a release, "but the reality is that people will do what they want to do, and that is their option.

"No one is required to turn on their light, and no one is required to take their children out for trick-or-treat, and it is best we have one plan rather than a hundred different neighborhoods doing what they will."

Ward said that it is "highly encouraged" that residents coordinate activities in their own neighborhoods to allow for interactions with people with whom they are familiar.

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GATES MILLS

Door-to-door trick or treating will not be held this year in Gates Mills. Instead, the village offers a "Drive-Thru Trick or Treat" from 5-7 p.m. Oct. 30 at the Village Hall, 1470 Chagrin River Road. Residents are invited to drive through the decorated village hall lot and pick up a bag of treats.

The event will also include a pumpkin-carving contest. Those who wish to carve or decorate a pumpkin can bring them to the village hall from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 28 or 29. The pumpkins will be displayed at the Oct. 30 event. There is no limit as to how many pumpkins each resident can decorate for showing.

RICHMOND HEIGHTS

The Richmond Heights city website states that the city will allow door-to-door trick-or-treating from 6-8 p.m. Oct. 31, but does not encourage the activity.

"The city recommends that each resident should decide for themselves if they choose to participate or not," it is stated on the website. "Residents who choose to participate in 'Trick or Treat 2020' should follow the current Governor's Guidelines and be safe (by) practicing social distancing, wear appropriate face coverings, checking/disinfecting your candy wrappers, and disinfecting hands regularly throughout the two-hour time period."