



# The City of Seven Hills, Ohio



## DEAR RESIDENTS,

Welcome to Part II of the 2023 State of the City Address. In recent years, our City has adopted two guiding principles: **“Progress through partnership”** and **“Results, not insults”**. Part I of the State of the City focused on “progress through partnership”. This current communication contains information representing the “results” principle. In these pages, we will bring you up to date on the accomplishments of our safety departments (police and fire), building department, and service department. We will highlight infrastructure improvements completed in the past year, projects underway, and improvements planned for the near future. We ask for your patience and caution when you enter a project zone so our service department employees and contractors can work safely. Please see the following pages to learn more about the hard work and efforts many individuals have invested into our wonderful city! **Let's get started by learning a little more about our safety forces.**



## STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS - PART II:

Found within **this** mailer

- 1 Safety (Police & Fire)
- 2 Building Department
- 3 Service Department
- 4 Infrastructure (Sewers & Streets)

## SAFETY

**Seven Hills Fire Department is rated in the top 14% of all fire departments nationwide!**



An ISO fire rating reflects how prepared a community and area is for fires. The lower the number, the better the score and Seven Hills is currently rated at a "3".

**Seven Hills has been recognized as one of the Top 20 safest cities in Ohio!**



For several consecutive years, we have earned this distinction. Safewise identified the safest cities of 2023, by reviewing 2021 FBI crime report statistics (the most recent complete report available at the time of ranking) and population data.

## SAFETY: POLICE

**2022 Recap:** In 2022, we purchased two patrol vehicles and hired two new patrol officers. We also partnered with Meijer to participate in “Shop with a Cop” during the holiday season. Local kids from our school district shopped for holiday gifts and were treated to a pizza party with our officers. Our annual “Safety Fair” at Home Days featured kids fingerprinting, close-up looks at patrol and SWAT vehicles, and tours of a mobile dispatch center. Of course, the K-9 demonstration proved to be the most popular event at Home Days. Each of these activities provided great opportunities for our officers to interact and connect with our Seven Hills community.



*We were awarded a grant of approximately \$54,000 from the Ohio Department of Public Safety’s Office of Criminal Justice Services for the purchase of body cameras for all our patrol officers. Body cameras provide quality evidence in court and help to protect the officer and the public.*

**In 2019**, the Seven Hills Police Department became one of the four original member cities of the Chagrin Valley Dispatch Center located in Brecksville. As an original member city, Seven Hills is eligible to receive a rebate up to 41% of our initial investment. The rebate is funded from the fees paid when new cities join the dispatch center. **To date we have received \$47,331.29 in rebates.**

## SAFETY: FIRE

**Did you know it is estimated that over 4 million (5.8%) U.S. children have food allergies?** Epinephrine Auto-Injectors are a life-saving medication that are used when someone is experiencing a severe allergic reaction, known as anaphylaxis. Having Epinephrine Auto-Injectors in close proximity can save a life. Therefore, we are incredibly proud to announce a new partnership between the City of Seven Hills, the Allison Rose Foundation, and Code Ana USA that was created over the course of the past year. After extensive training given to many city employees, we will be the recipient of two yellow boxes (as pictured to the right). Both of these boxes will be equipped with two epinephrine auto-injectors. One will be placed at the Community Room in City Hall, and the other in the Gathering Room of our Recreation Center. The boxes and auto-injectors will be supplied from the Allison Rose Foundation free of charge to the city.



*Safety: Fire to continue on next page...*



**SAFewise Ranks Seven Hills as One of Ohio’s 20 Safest Cities!**

**Population:** 11,600

**VC Rate:** 2023 = 0.3, 2022 = 0.3, 2021 = 0.6

**PC Rate:** 2023 = 6.3, 2022 = 4.7, 2021 = 3.2

*VC = Violent crime per 1,000 people*

*PC = Property crime per 1,000 people*



*2022 Shop with a Cop*

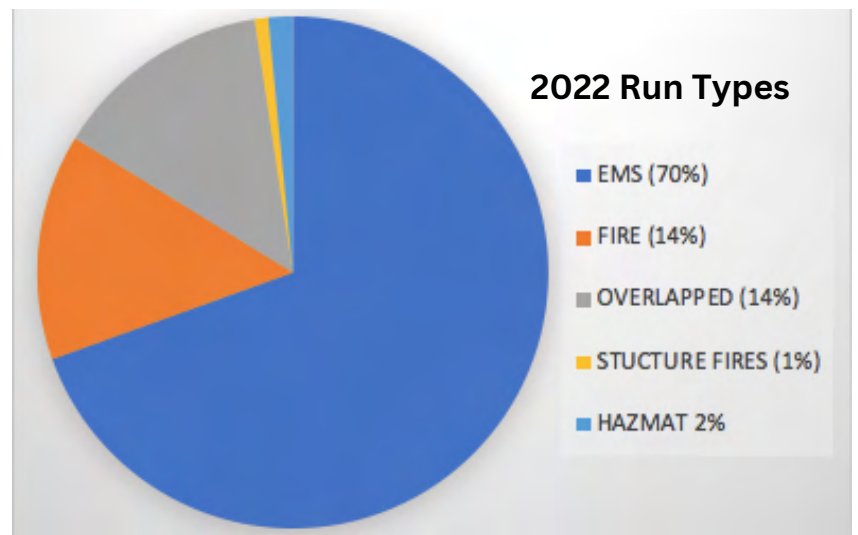
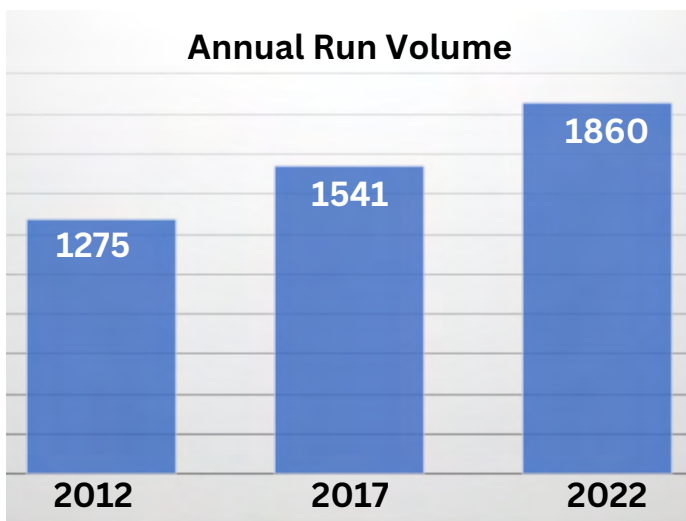
**Looking into 2023:** We aspire to hire one additional officer and add one patrol vehicle to our fleet. We also plan on adding license plate readers throughout the City. **We were awarded a grant from the Ohio Attorney General’s Office for Body Armor for approximately \$9,300 which will help pay for 75% of the cost of new body armor for officers!** Lastly, our officers will receive a minimum of 24 hours of Continuing Professional Training throughout the year. As always, we will continue to work with our community partners, such as University Hospitals, to conduct saturation patrols for aggressive drivers and provide bike and street safety tips for children to help reduce preventable injuries.

...Safety: Fire continued



Seven Hills staffs five firefighters per shift (24/7). Why is this important? This allows us to respond to multiple emergency calls at the same time. Of the 1,860 responses we made in 2022, 307 of our emergency responses (16.5%) were overlapping, meaning we had multiple apparatus responding to different emergencies at the same time. If we were unavailable when another emergency call came in, we relied on our mutual aid partners to respond to our city. Like many other fire departments in our area, the Seven Hills Fire Department has grown into an "All Hazards" department (see below). Our members respond to Hazardous

Materials responses, Fire Investigations, Technical Rescues, Water Rescues, and other specialty responses, originating within the City of Seven Hills and throughout Cuyahoga County as a part of the Southwest Emergency Response Team (SERT). The SERT specialty teams are made up of firefighters and stakeholders of 18 surrounding communities, the Cleveland Metroparks, and the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District. This partnership plays a critical role in providing our residents with life-saving speciality teams. In addition, we perform residential lock box installations, child car safety seat inspections and installations, fire prevention activities, fire station tours, public education, and we are a visible member of our community throughout the year!



### BUILDING DEPARTMENT

#### 2022 Completed Non-Residential Construction Projects -

- 4141 Rockside Rd. Patio Expansion Sweeping Corporation of America
- 4141 Rockside Rd. Office space expansion Sweeping Corporation of America
- Greystone Veterinary Hospital Office space expansion
- Charley's Philly Steaks new business
- Tebo Financial new business
- Dairy Queen Grill and Chill Final Occupancy received
- City Gazebo project completed
- Meijer Park New Restrooms building
- Calvin Park New Restrooms/ concession building
- (2) Demolitions- Valley wood Park restrooms building, Calvin Park restrooms/concession building
- (6) Office space Expansions/Renovations
- (3) Communication Tower alterations/additions

**In 2022**, the Building Department processed 681 contractor registrations, 32 rental inspections, responded to 279 Property Maintenance violations, and processed 1130 permits (i.e., 2 new homes, 19 swimming pools, 41 accessory structures, and 14 Alternative Energy permits). The Building Department also took action to rectify the site of the new home build on the corner of Rockside Rd and Skyline Dr that was abandoned by the contractor. The expense related to this site restoration was covered by the performance bond that was forfeited by contractor.

**In 2023**, The Building Department will implement a much-needed Building Department Software update and introduce the new door hanger notifications. It looks to be another busy year for the Building Department in 2023!

*Building Department to continue on next page...*

2023 on the Rise -

Completed Non-Residential Projects:

- Visual Edge IT new business

Proposed Non-Residential (Commercial) Construction Projects:

- Completion of the NEO church worship hall expansion
- Demolition of the old Calvin Park Recreation Center building
- Completion of the new City Parks buildings Phase 2

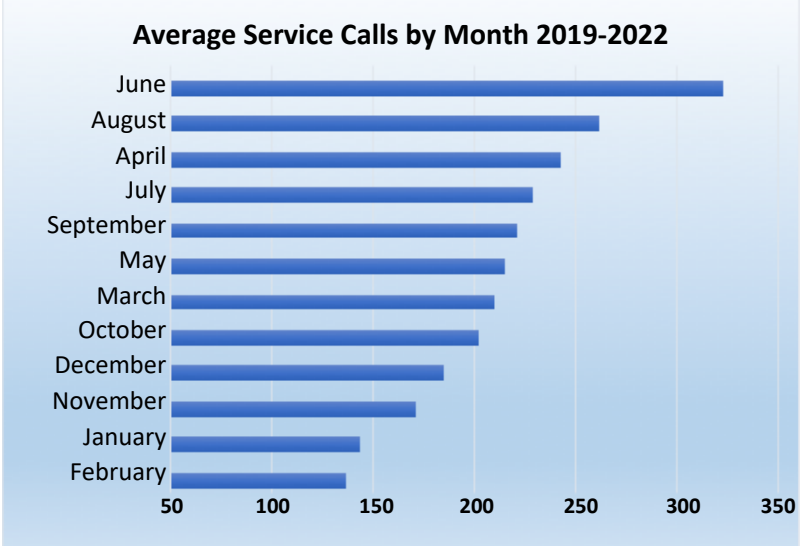
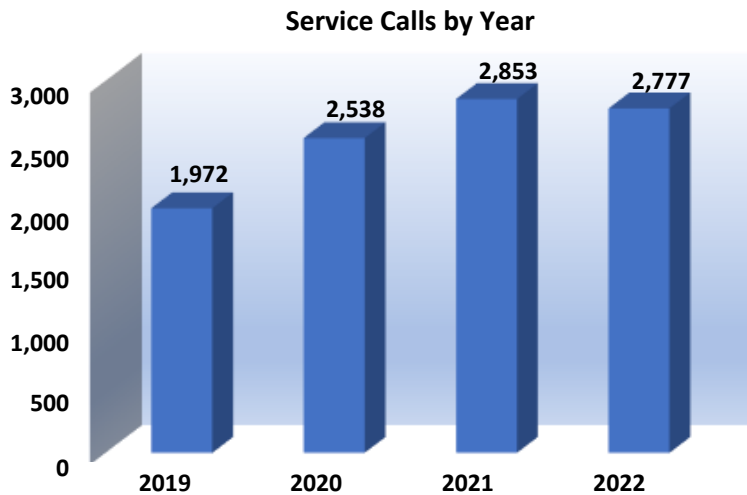
(1) New Residential Single-family Home:

- 243 Contractors registered to work in the city
- 345 Project permits processed
- 41 Rental Property Registrations, and 93 Property Maintenance violations

**Did you know?** All but minor repairs require a building permit. Your permit allows the code official to reduce potential hazards of unsafe construction to provide for public health, safety, and welfare. In addition, pulling permits assures that repairs and renovations are completed to modern standards, thus, adding more value to your property!!

SERVICE DEPARTMENT

The year of 2022 was once again a very productive year within the Service Department! This department strives to ensure residents receive the highest levels of services throughout the city. After experiencing an increase in calls during the pandemic, service calls have appeared to level off. **Please see the graphs embedded on this page (below) to view monthly, yearly, and average requests for service.**



Last year, we completed an extensive refurbishment of our street signs and all the posts were painted by our seasonal staff. The new paint should extend the usefulness of the posts several years. In addition, an inventory was created of all damaged, missing, or faded signs. We are pleased to report that each item on this list has been crossed off and all street signs should be in good condition. **If you notice a sign that needs attention, please give the service department a call at 216-525-6225.**

**In 2022, we planted 100 street trees! We planted 61 trees of a species known as Malus 'Rezjam' Rejoice, blossoming in the spring with a pink bloom. We also planted 19 Crataegus viridis 'Winter King', 10 Prunus virginiana 'Canada Red', 10 Syringa reticulata 'Ivory Silk' trees.**

*...Service Department continued*

Part of our overall strategy to address drainage issues is to be aggressive with our sanitary and storm sewer cleaning. The long-time policy of the city has been to clean all sewers city wide on a 7-year cycle, with exceptions for problem areas to be cleaned more frequently. This calculates to a goal of 6.7 miles of sewers per year. **We are pleased to announce that last year, we cleaned 19 miles of sanitary sewer and 19 miles of storm sewer in addition to 217 catch basins...well ahead of schedule!!** This was accomplished in part by contracting with the county for use of their sewer related services in addition to our own sewer department crew.

**Over the last four years, all our sewers have been cleaned (three years ahead of policy)!!**



*A part of our sewer maintenance program includes rebuilding catch basins and pipe repairs.*



*Our City Sewer Vacuum Truck performing maintenance*

**At the conclusion of this year's road program, we will have invested over \$15 million in our roads since 2015.** It is critically important that we protect that investment. Therefore, we will perform two preventive maintenance programs on our streets. The first is crack sealing. In doing this, we will prevent water from penetrating into existing cracks in the pavement and **extend the life of our streets.** If water gets into these cracks and freezes, it will expand and create potholes and other damage. The second is a product called Reclamite. This is applied to streets that have been resurfaced within the last 2-3 years. Reclamite is an asphalt-based product that rejuvenates and extends the life of the pavement. **Residents, please be advised that it is safe to drive on streets shortly after the product has been applied.** Please see below to view the lists of roads that will receive preventive road maintenance this year.

***We have scheduled the following streets for crack sealing for this year:***

EAST DAWNWOOD DRIVE	KRISTEN COURT
EAST ENGLEWOOD DRIVE	RACHEL COURT
VOYAGER CIRCLE	EDUCATIONAL PARK DRIVE
CABRINI LANE	LINDA LANE
BAYBERRY DRIVE	LUDWIN DRIVE
BITTERSWEET DRIVE	RUSTIC OVAL
DRIFTWOOD DRIVE	PARMALEE DRIVE
MARON LANE	PASADENA DRIVE
PRIMROSE DRIVE	MAGNOLIA DRIVE
SKYVIEW DRIVE	CHERRYWOOD LANE
ST MARON DRIVE	ELM COURT
WAXBERRY DRIVE	ELMHURST DRIVE

***The following streets will be treated with Reclamite:***

CROSSVIEW ROAD	NORTH MARY LANE
HILLSIDE ROAD	SOUTH MARY LANE
CHESTNUT ROAD	NEMET DRIVE
EAST SPRAGUE ROAD	KAREN DRIVE
MCCREARY ROAD	SEVEN HILLS BLVD
EAST CLEAR VIEW AVE	TWILIGHT DRIVE
EAST DECKER DRIVE	SUMMITVIEW
EAST HILLSIDE AVE	MAPLEVIEW DRIVE
WEST 9TH STREET	JASMINE
TANGLEWOOD LANE	MAPLE HILL DRIVE
PARKGATE OVAL	ELMHURST DRIVE
CHERRY LANE	EVELYN AVE
MARY LANE	PLUMWOOD LANE

*Service Department to continue on next page...*

*...Service Department continued*

We have begun repairs to concrete streets and maintenance on asphalt streets. Wynde Tree, Pleasant View, and Sparrow Flight have been selected from last year for additional work. We also plan to work on Shelly, Vincent, East Dawnwood, Alla, and Laura Lee for 2023. See below for examples of some of that work!



*Concrete Repairs Underway*



*Completed Concrete Repair*

**INFRASTRUCTURE: SEWERS & STREETS**


**WATER MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE**

**Proposed Calvin Park Phase II Improvements:** Dredging of the Somerset Basin, realigning the existing stream within the basin, and reinforcing the stream upstream of the basin to control velocity and minimize erosion to the basin.

Low Bidder Construction Cost:	\$514,010
ODNR Grant Award:	\$150,000
NEORS Community Cost Share:	\$198,000
<b>Final Cost to Seven Hills:</b>	<b>\$166,000</b>

**Proposed Driftwood Drive Basin Improvements:** Minor improvements to the existing storm water management facility to improve function.

<b>Est. (conceptual) Cost Estimate:</b>	<b>\$56,000</b>
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**UTILITIES** 

**Skyview Drive Watermain Replacement:** replacement of the approximately 1,315 LF of 8" diameter watermain with a new watermain, service connections for each home, and existing hydrants. If determined that the connection from the street to the house is a "lead based" material that line will be replaced with a new line. **The estimated cost of this project is \$370,000 and will be completely covered by the Cleveland Water Department.**

**2022 ROAD PROGRAM (COMPLETED)**

**Resurfaced 5 streets and 3 parking lots**

1. Belmont Drive
2. Mayfair Drive
3. E. Dartmoor Avenue
4. Hickory Lane
5. Meadowlane Road
6. City Hall Soccer/Pavillion Parking Lot
7. Fire Station Parking Lot
8. Meijer/Valleywood Park Parking Lot

Construction Cost:	\$2,259,100
Brooklyn Heights Share:	\$100,570
ARPA Funds:	\$1,216,490
<b>FINAL COST to Seven Hills:</b>	<b>\$942,040</b>



## 2023 ROAD PROGRAM

1. St. Francis Drive
2. Greenlawn Drive
3. Somerset Lane
4. Justo Lane
5. E. Parkhaven Drive
6. Cricket Lane (off Jasmine Drive)
7. Jasmine Drive (portion)
8. S. Cricket Lane
9. Lotus Lane
10. Applewood Drive

**Est. Construction Cost: \$2.5 million**

Bryant Lane's existing road is severely deteriorated and not a good candidate for resurfacing. **It will be rebuilt at the estimated cost of \$170,000.**

Additional work will be performed on both Justo Lane and E. Parkhaven Drive. Due to the condition of the current curbs and gutters, they will be rebuilt at the time of the street resurfacing. **This work is estimated at \$562,000.**



**The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) is currently working on their Hemlock Creek Stream Restoration Project (pictured to right) in Seven Hills. This will improve stream conveyance, reduce erosion, and reduce flooding to buildings and roads. This project will also restore approximately 600 linear feet of Hemlock Creek and replace two roadway crossings, which are currently undersized and in poor condition. This is an area where homes were impacted by flooding and erosion due to the unnatural stream channel alignment in the neighborhood. The NEORS acquired eight properties in the area to create enough room for the restoration project.**



The streams will be realigned to a more natural state. The eroding stream banks will be laid back to more gentle slopes and a designed floodplain and wetland will be created to allow water to escape the banks and soak up into the ground during higher rain events. Disturbed areas will be reseeded and planted with native grass, shrubs, and trees. The new crossings will be larger to allow more flow to pass through. There will be a stepped concrete

drop structure at the inlets that allows water to slow down as it flows over them. This energy dissipation helps with the flow velocity downstream. The design contract was awarded to GPD Group for \$434,608 and the planning estimate for construction is estimated at \$3.6 million. The project recently reached the 100% design stage. **I want to thank our wonderful partners at the NEORS: Project Manager, Derek Vogel, Watershed Team Leader, Anne Schilling, and Manager of Community Watershed Coordination, Donna Friedman. The estimated start of construction is August 2023.**

## YOUR CITY LEADERS

**Anthony Biasiotta - Mayor**

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**Norman Martin - Councilperson - Ward 2**

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**Michael Morrow - Councilperson - Ward 4**

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**Patrick Elliott - Councilperson-At-Large**

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**Stacey L. Kelly - Council President Pro-Tem - At-Large**

216-642-3722 / Email: [slk7hills@gmail.com](mailto:slk7hills@gmail.com)

**Justin Costanzo - Councilperson-At-Large**

216-408-2314 / [jcostanzo@sevenhillsohio.org](mailto:jcostanzo@sevenhillsohio.org)

## CONCLUSION

I would like to congratulate the voters of Seven Hills for their overwhelming support of our trash renewal levy (Issue 20). I'm continually humbled by the faith our voters have in our leadership. On behalf of all your leaders, thank you for that support. The outcomes reported in this address did not happen by accident but were earned by teamwork, hard work, and personal sacrifice. If you see any one of our city staff, whether it be a first responder, recreation staff, service department or city employee or director, please join me in thanking them for their contribution to these achievements. We are striving to create a better sense of community and to restore pride in our great city. Your city leadership team is proud of what has been accomplished to date and we hope you feel the same way. That being said, we know that there's still much work to be done and we look forward to each of those opportunities. Please look for our next and final address, it will be completely dedicated to our Parks & Recreation Department to highlight the abundance of operations / improvements. **As always, I hope to see you at an upcoming event or two. Until then, have a fun and safe start to summer 2023!**



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony D. Biasiotta". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Anthony D. Biasiotta  
Mayor of Seven Hills