

Dear Friend:

I have always considered myself an environmentalist. When I was younger, I found joy spending time out at city parks, metroparks, or the nearby Cuyahoga Valley National Park. I still often find myself at parks on the weekends, or occasional weekday sunset walks. They are places for me to find peace, solace, and adventure all in one. When I applied to serve on a commission for the City of Twinsburg years ago, to say I was hoping to be appointed to serve on the Environmental Commission would be an understatement.

Since my appointment to the Environmental Commission, I have brought new energy to the commission along with a plethora of ideas to help keep Twinsburg “*naturally beautiful*”. The scope of the environmental commission is broad, so naturally, we collaborate with a number of entities around and through the city. I recently had the privilege and joy of representing the Environmental Commission in planning a joint Earth Day and Arbor Day event in collaboration with the Parks and Recreation Department, the Twinsburg City School Environmental Science Class, the Twinsburg Native Habitat Association, the Twinsburg Garden Club, and Tinkers Creek Watershed. This inaugural joint event is the first of what I hope will be many and will have a number of station activities to keep kids and families busy on April 26th at the Community Center, from 9-11 AM.

When I am in meetings on behalf of the Commission, I carry the perspectives of my passions. A few of those passions are for history, and education. I imagine this is why I became a Government educator. At every commission meeting we often have great discussions on what more we can do to connect with the residents of the city, encourage recognition of those doing great things, and promote positive ideas. At these meetings, I am always advocating for educational events, and/or events that can share the history of people and places in terms of the environment. Thankfully, we have done a lot of work, and I look to continue on with the positive work for the future.

If I can ever be of assistance to you, or help make an idea you have come to life, please do not hesitate to reach out!

Sincerely,



Jonah T. Pichette

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Winter Weather Updates

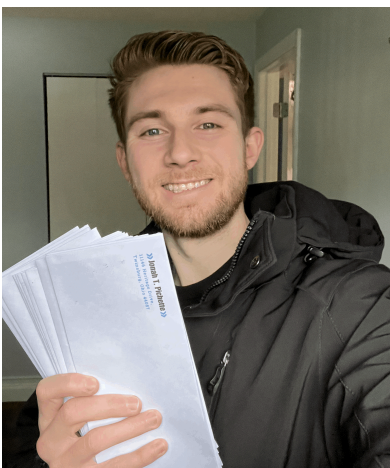
Between the freezing arctic cold, and endless snow, January reminded us that winter is certainly here. On my way to work every morning, I drive through six municipalities, villages, and/or townships. The smoothest part of my wintery drive is always through Twinsburg. This is thanks entirely to the Service Department of our wonderful City. Their hard work and dedication ensure we have some of the cleanest roads in NorthEast Ohio. At one of the recent council meetings I was chatting with our Service Director to better understand the complexities of snow plowing. What I uncovered in this conversation is the true science behind it. I left with a greater appreciation for the effort put into maintaining the roads during extreme weather events, and gratitude knowing that many of the plow drivers care just as much about the roads and our safety as we all do. A few reminders to pass along;

- 1) During winter weather, be sure not to park on the road as this makes it harder for plow drivers to keep our roads clear;
- 2) Leave space between yourself and other drivers, even if the roads appear clear. It's better to be two minutes late than end up in an accident (or worse);
- 3) Be patient with the plows during extreme weather situations. The main roads, hills, and high traffic areas will always be taken care of first before side streets and cul-de-sacs.



Warm Welcome Program Starting Back Up

When Colleen and I first moved to this City a few years ago, we were welcomed beyond our wildest expectations by our neighbors. They offered to loan us tools to make fall leaf pick-up easier, brought winter chocolates over, and invited us to campfires. As the years progressed, we grew closer and would return the favors when we could. However, I began to wonder if every new resident in the city received as warm a welcome as we did. Surely, that was not possible. But it should be. So in January 2024, I partnered with Lucy Loper, a local REALTOR and started what I call the “Warm Welcome” program. This is where every new resident of the city receives a welcome letter from me, along with other information on the city and schools. In December, I briefly paused the program to find ways to provide more information to all new residents. I am happy to announce that this program has been restarted, and new residents should be receiving their *warm welcome* soon! You can [read more about the program here](#).



Flint and Fun

Living so close to the Liberty Park Nature Center of the Summit County MetroParks is a blessing. They always put on exciting programs for residents and non-residents alike to attend. In January, they held a program called “Flint: Ohio’s Gemstone”. During this program there was a presentation on how the gemstone itself is formed, and was historically used. They additionally discussed how historic pieces of flint like arrowheads and knives in Ohio were formed by the indigenous people. This was a great event, and Wade Wilcox gave a great demonstration on shaping flint. I am excited to attend more of their upcoming events! Hope to see you there. Check them out here:

<https://www.summitmetroparks.org/programs-events/>



Photo of polished flint received for attending the event.

