

VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD
COUNCIL MEETING
February 26th, 2026

The St. Bernard Village Council Meeting was held on February 26th, 2026, in Council Chambers.

The meeting was opened with a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call showed seven members were present: Mr. Moreton, Mr. Stuchell, Mr. Edwards, Ms. Hausfeld, Mr. Schildmeyer, Mr. Culbertson and Ms. Rytov.

A motion by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to dispense with the reading of the last council meeting minutes and approve of the written minutes of the last council meeting. Motion passed 7-0. Minutes stand as submitted.

Council Member, Mr. Stuchell- I would like to welcome Leslie Aguilar Ramos, our Population Health Specialist from Hamilton County Public Health We Thrive Initiative who is here to present the Village of Saint Bernard's 2025 Community Health Assessment. Joining her is Alex Woroncow from the Health Department Epidemiology Division will be able to provide more in-depth explanations regarding specific data points and related questions. Leslie has been working hard with me and our We Thrive team since July of 2025. During that time, she has helped us plan and implement several community initiatives including our Clean Up Saint Bernard Day, Shred Day event, and installation of our free Little Libraries. We appreciate your continued partnership and support of our community health works. And now I'll pass it on to Leslie.

We Thrive, Leslie Aguilar- Awesome, Thank you all. We're excited to be here today to talk about the work that we've done with the village of Saint Bernard and the We Thrive team. We're also excited to present the community health assessment. So, to get started, we will go over the overview of what we will review. We'll go over the data, notes, the process that we did for the community health assessment, community context, the assets, opportunities, and then we'll finalize with some recommendations. So, I'll pass this along to Alex.

Hamilton County Health Department, Alex Woroncow- Thank you very much. So, Hamilton County Public Health has a variety of access to a variety of public and private data sources at the federal, state, and local level. A list of all them is up on the screen here. I'm not going to read it out because it's just a whole bunch of me repeating the word Ohio quite a few times. But the data is a combination of data obtained from all different levels, all collected and curated, analyzed and checked for quality by Hamilton County Public Health. The time frame for the data years are going to vary by the different data points based on when data sets were finalized. So just a note, we'll make sure to mention whenever any data is not for the most recent it can be and some indicators, they cover multiple years of data. Just in general, it's very rare even for public health to have access to real time or even really recent data, especially when it comes to characterizing entire populations. So federal data sources like the census, those will generally lag behind by about two years, which is why you're seeing 2023 data for the 2025 JAW. But to align

everything we chose to present, all data with that endpoint of 2023, which is the year for which the most complete census data is available. Other indicators when there's not much data, those will include five years worth of data, just so that we can make sure it's as reliable as we can get it for all of you. In terms of geography, all the data in the report and in this presentation is presented at the level of Saint Bernard and specific to Saint Bernard, or at least as close as we could reliably get it for some data sources such as injury, death, birth and disease and cancer datasets. We do have access to the addresses of individuals who are included in those data sets, so you can place those on the map and compare them to the boundaries of Saint Bernard and say definitively they live within this area so we can get accurate count. Other data sources such as a lot of the Census Bureau data were really going based on their assessment of saying this was assessed for Saint Bernard. And so we pulled data using that as a filter and we can say that all of this data is for residents of Saint Bernard. Some data sets, however, they have less specific geographic information. Mainly, I'm talking about ZIP codes. Those were created solely for the delivery of mail and not necessarily for accurately describing townships and municipalities. So we're able to put ZIP codes up against a map and compare as best we can to the outlines of different jurisdictions. But just to note that sometimes when we present data at the ZIP code level, it doesn't mean that 100% of all that is fully within Saint Bernard, but just wanted to make that note. For the community health assessment, those considerations informed the process for the JAW. The data sources I just discussed are used to produce indicators for the community. Those are numbers and data that can be used as a point of reference for measuring population characteristics, health status, and various social, economic, neighborhood, and environmental factors that influence the health and well-being of the population. Those data are combined with an on the ground landscape review where Hamilton County Public Health worked with the Saint Bernard We Thrive team to really go boots on the ground, explore the neighborhood, identify community conditions and resources that offer context about what it's like to live in Saint Bernard. This combination of data and experience allowed the We Thrive team to file a list of assets, opportunities, and recommendations that are unique to Saint Bernard. I'm going to start off by talking about community context. As I said, all these data are from the 2023 because they're from the Census Bureau. So that's just the most recent data for which we had completed for Saint Bernard. Saint Bernard at the time of the 2023 American Community Survey had 3,998 residents with a roughly 52% to 48% split between male and female. When we look at the distribution, you can see that the age group with the largest chunk of essence is 30 to 49 years of age, which is about 29.8% of the population, then followed by those who are 50 to 64 years of age at 27.3%. But when we actually look at the overall data, we can see that on the whole Saint Bernard actually trends majority younger. So when we combine all of the individuals under the age of 15, that actually makes up more than 61% of the population of Saint Bernard. But there is still a sizable chunk of population who is 65 or older at 11.1%. In terms of racial demographics, St. Bernard is 83.7% Non Hispanic white, 9.2% Non Hispanic Black, 4.7% Hispanic of any race, 2.4% Non Hispanic Other Race, and 0.1% Multiracial. All these categories are mutually exclusive. So, that means that everybody that we were looking at would only fall in one category, not multiple. That's kind of why you see Hispanic pulled out as a as a category. If you were to look at all individuals who identified as white, the number might be a little bit higher than 83.7% because that would include individuals who had both Hispanic and non Hispanic when they were looking at ethnicity, but we tried to make sure that all the data is mutually exclusive as best we can. Looking at healthcare and health outcomes for Saint Bernard, in 2023, 1.6% of the population of Saint Bernard was uninsured and thankfully there was a very small

amount at 0% number of children who were uninsured in 2023. In 2023, 6.4% of the individuals born in Saint Bernard were preterm births. And then looking at some of the more ZIP code level data that we have, in 2023 there were 13 emergency department visits for asthma among state residents of ZIP code 45217. 77 overdose related emergency department visits and 206 Dul Oxone kits distributed within the zip code 41517. As I mentioned before, zip codes are really good for mail, not so much for data specifically defining where people live, but these are our best estimates for Saint Bernard and thankfully this area is really covered by one zip code of 45217. When we look at HIV and sexually transmitted infections, the incidence or the new diagnosis that we saw between the years 2019 and 2023 was 5.7 new diagnosis of chlamydia among Saint Bernard residents per 1000 residents, 3.3 diagnosis of gonorrhea, 0.4 new diagnosis of syphilis per 1000 residents and 0.20 diagnosis of new HIV per 1000 residents. You'll note that there are the diamonds next to both syphilis and HIV. Those are meant to note that the data was based on observations of fewer than 20 even over the five years. That doesn't mean that the data is unreliable. It does mean that statistically, it just means it can't be compared across time. More between jurisdictions. It's full for you all to say right now we have a very low rate of syphilis and HIV within the community. Not so great for saying for the next JAW we can compare back to previous data just because at that point with the small numbers we're working with, it's hard to tell whether it's random chance or whether it's actual trend. Continuing with healthcare and health outcomes, we look at the top five leading causes of death by age adjusted mortality rates. Again, this is per 1000 residents, so heart disease tops the list at 6.3 deaths per 1000 residents, followed by cancer at 3.5 and then in descending order, COVID, stroke and accident. Those final three, they do have the same clarifier of being having fewer than 20 deaths over the five year time period. So just note that again, those are really good for looking at it right here at this point in time, not so much for comparing over time. And just as a note for why we use age adjusted mortality rates, really, when we look at health outcomes, we know that a person's health is heavily dependent on their age. Different age groups are differing levels of risk for different outcomes, especially for things like heart disease and cancer. So what we do is we actually take the real numbers for the data and sort of transform them into what we call a standard population. And this one is used by epidemiologists and Health Science scientists all across the nation for every single age adjustment they do. So that does mean that these data can be very easily compared across all jurisdictions within Hamilton County, and not only that, with other jurisdictions throughout the state and throughout the US. Looking at the rest of the data, Saint Bernard had a child fatality rate of 0.9 child deaths per 1000, and infant mortality rate of 8.5 infant deaths per 1000 residents, and an average life expectancy of 70.2 years. Based on the 2023 Census, 5% of the population of Saint Bernard reported an independent living difficulty, 10% reported a disability and 0% of children reported living with a disability. But because I know that there were some questions about that specific metric when this data was last presented, these metrics are pulled from the United States Census Bureau's American Community Survey that produces estimates of both the number and percent of people that fall into different categories. And that's all based on sampling. To put it simply, there's just too many people to do a full count for every single year. So we reserve that for the census and have to use statistical methods to make best estimates in the intervening years. Because of this, however, it's entirely possible for some of these samples, just by random chance to miss small elements of the population. For example, if there were just one or two households in Saint Bernard who had children with disabilities and the people who are conducting the survey that year happened to miss those two households. Effectively, for that year, it will look as though there's 0% of the population, 0% of

the child population with a disability. Even if we know that, we may know a few people who are children living with disability. Again, we try to get our best estimates as best as we can, but not everything can be captured, at least when we're looking at sampling. Moving on to economic indicators, 2.5% of the population of Saint Bernard who was 16 or older was unemployed in 2023. 65% of housing is owner occupied and 35% is renter occupied. 5.9% of households in Saint Bernard were receiving SNAP benefits in 2023. Looking at poverty metrics, 6.6% of the total population was living in poverty, but 0% of the children in Saint Bernard were living in poverty. Just as a note, poverty is defined by the set household income at the federal level. So this amount doesn't change based on local cost of living or any other consideration. So it's kind of applied as a set threshold everywhere in the nation. What this means is while it can be applied everywhere, it also means different cities may have different thresholds for what realistically is considered to be an actual livable household income. When we look at income specifically, the median household in Saint Bernard makes \$74,911.00 per year and per capita income is \$40,094. We use median here because that is a term that best describes the middle value of the data. Basically, if we arrange all the data from lowest to highest, the median is exactly the exact middle of that, and it's especially useful to use this measure for income because it helps us more truthfully represent the middle of the road. One household with an incredibly high income or one household with an incredibly low income could shift the actual average as we know it, which is total everything up and then just divide by the total number of people, really heavily one way or another. An example that I like to give is if you have a room full of 10 people, zero of whom have no dollars and one of whom has \$10 million, the average person in that room has \$1 million and the median would be \$0.00. And then the per capita amount that is just saying based on what we know of the average household size within Saint Bernard and what the median household income is, that's just saying this is what one person in the median household, in Saint Bernard makes. 21% of Saint Bernard residents experienced a housing cost burden in 2023. That is defined as spending 30% or more of their after post tax income on housing costs and 9.5% of households have no vehicle available. I'm ending with neighborhood and the built environment. So just describing some of the physical characteristics of Saint Bernard. We do present data on crash motor vehicle crashes, and 0.8% of motor vehicle crashes within the boundaries of Saint Bernard involved a pedestrian or a bicyclist. 13% of motor vehicle crashes involved a child or teenager, 5% of motor vehicle crashes involved drugs or alcohol, and 0.5% involved were fatal crashes. You'll note the diamonds there do still mean the same thing. There are fewer than 20 within that within that measurement. So good for this year. Not so great for comparing across geographies or across time. I will also note that this data set that we use is based entirely on where the crash occurred, not the actual residence address of the individuals involved in the crash. So it's entirely possible, well, we know that some of these crashes do involve people who do not live in Saint Bernard and some people who live in Saint Bernard had crashes that occurred outside of the boundaries. Saint Bernards has a 0.18 on the social vulnerability index. This is a measure that was created to describe how resilient communities are to just very broadly, disaster. Essentially, the higher the number, the more vulnerable the community. So with Saint Bernard being at 0.18, that means that as a community, Saint Bernard is extremely resilient to what we would call a disaster. So, things like fire, earthquakes, storms etcetera. But it's also useful for a good proxy for health measures because the same things that make a community healthy are also the same things that make a community more likely to be able to weather a storm either metaphorically or literally. In terms of lead exposure, 2.7% of children in Saint Bernard aged 5 and under had an elevated blood lead level between 2019 and 2023. And that is related to the

next metric, which is that 82% of housing in Saint Bernard was built prior to 1979. 1979 is when lead paint was outlawed. So we can use that as a metric for in lieu of being able to test every single person's blood lead levels, we use that as a metric for saying to at risk communities for exposure to exposure to lead. But as you can see, with only 2.7% of children and Saint Bernard testing positive for elevated blood lead levels, the risk is still very low within the community. Saint Bernard has 37% green space on the ground surface. Essentially anything that is green, grass, trees, really anything that is a natural or unpaved or unbuilt space. So 37% of the entire environment within Saint Bernard is devoted to green space. Saint Bernard has above average walkability per the walkability index published by the CDC. Looking at food access, we can definitively say that at least as of 2019 when the data was collected, St. Bernard is not the food desert because 0% of the population who is low income and over a mile from supermarket. That being said, there are four stores within the Saint Bernard that accept SNAP benefits. And then finally, 93% of households in Saint Bernard have Internet access. And a really good metric, 0% of the youth in Saint Bernard aged 16 to 19 are neither working nor in school, which is a very good thing. For assets, opportunities and recommendations, I'll turn it back over to Leslie.

We Thrive, Leslie Aguilar- Well, you just heard a lot of data that is in Saint Bernard and to bring it back, we'll also highlight some assets that Saint Bernard has. We talk about community connectedness and something that is done very well are the community events that you all host to bring community together. See some examples there like the German Luau and Safety Day. Then we also see that Saint Bernard also has an organized composting program through the Garden Club and that enhances environmental health. We can also see traffic calming measures, which are really great for safety, especially pedestrian safety and as Alex mentioned, the green spaces. There are numerous parks within the village within reasonable walking distance to most homes and that allows people to engage in physical activity. And as we also saw, the uninsured rates for all residents is low and in fact it is 2.9 times lower than in other villages in Hamilton County and the unemployment rate is 2 times lower than other villages within Hamilton County. We also see some opportunities that Saint Bernard can work towards. There aren't any fall prevention programs within Saint Bernard, and this is something that can be extremely helpful and important for the 65 and up population. As an example, the Ohio Department of Health offers free training to become a facilitator, so this can be done something to provide this program to this population. There are also no idle free zones within Saint Bernard. To explain what idling is or idle free zones, idling is when you leave a vehicle running, and it's either parked and you're not driving. All of that contributes to the air quality and air pollution and so if there are idle free signs that can reduce the amount of chemicals that are going into the air. That's also helpful for kids as they inhale a lot faster and a lot more than adults do. So, it can affect their air quality. We also see the elevated blood level is 2.6 times higher in children below the age of five. We can explore opportunities and recommendations specifically for that. The percentage of motor vehicle crashes involving drugs and or alcohol in Saint Bernard is 1.7 times higher than in other villages within Hamilton County. And then we also see that the rate at which Saint Bernard died from heart disease is 1.5 times higher than in other villages within Hamilton County. And to also look at the recommendations for those opportunities. We also want to highlight to continue practicing overdose prevention strategies by continuing to partner with the village Police Department to promote the prescription drug drop off. That's a really great opportunity that you guys already have available and it's great to enhance that and promote that to the community. In relation to the blood lead levels, to continue to protect children from those illnesses by

continuing to partner with Hamilton County Lead Hazard Reduction program. It's a really great program that partners with families. They do have an income threshold, but they do provide a really great opportunity for lead abatement. They also help families if they need to move out of the house and help them with temporary housing while that work is done. We do have a QR code that shows you our data notes if you want to take a deeper dive into the data used. I know Alex did a wonderful job at explaining the data, but if you want to look more specifically at some of that data, you can scan that. You can also contact us if you have any questions or we would be happy to take them now.

Council Member, Mr. Edwards- I have a question about the population. When we have a census really about every 10 years, that number is the lowest population I have ever seen for St. Bernard. So, I am curious, where do you get your information?

Hamilton County Health Department, Alex Woroncow- So the information about the population is taken from the American Community Survey's five-year estimates. Those are done independently of the census. The census is done as you said, every 10 years, and is a person to person count of the total amount of people who are living within the defined areas. The American Community Survey is a sampling based procedure where they are really just have a list of all the households in the United States and they do, through a combination of e-mail, phone, and some physical on the groundwork, go out to those households to perform interviews, count the number of people who live within households and just try to their best to produce estimates of the number of people who live within any given area. So that combines their on the ground count that they performed through those interviews along with information on what we know, like the number of births is for an area, the number of deaths for an area, as well as information on immigration. All that combined does mean that it is our best estimate, but it is based on real sampling of individuals who live in Saint Bernard. It doesn't necessarily give an underlying reason why a population might be growing or lowering. That's more for exploring through other survey methods, but that is kind of why it differs from the census estimates that are done every 10 years.

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- When you talked about the elevated blood levels, it says 2.6 times higher than over villages in Hamilton County, first is this just villages or villages and cities? Second, you mentioned it correlates a lot with the age of the houses.

We Thrive, Leslie Aguilar- It would just be villages. We try to compare villages with around the same population within Hamilton County.

Hamilton County Health Department, Alex Woroncow- Lead paint was banned in 1979, but that didn't mean that they removed all lead paint that had already been put down before that date. So, for a lot of houses that were built before 1979, if the individuals didn't remove all the paint from the household or they, as in many cases, painted over it with non-lead paint. That does mean that there is an underlying risk for older housing stock that there is lead paint underneath there and lead dust within those households. Overall lead in any amount is bad. So, what that means is that typically we consider the overall age of a house to be an indicator of how much risk there is for lead. It's kind of different for every household. Some of them did do the work to strip down all the paint and repaint with non-lead paint. Others may have been coated with primer and put

paint on top of that and hopefully they'll last another 30 or 40 years, but it does kind of say especially with that 82% of households built prior to 1979 does indicate higher risk of exposure to lead overall.

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- I think you said 9.5% of families or households in St. Bernard don't have a vehicle, is that unusually high or normal?

Hamilton County Health Department, Alex Woroncow- That's about standard. Maybe a little bit higher than usual by like two or three percentage points but at least for especially in urban areas with decent public transportation, it's not unusual to see that number of households without a vehicle.

Safety and Service Director, Mr. Wendling- Two questions, first one, I noticed that the average life expectancy is 70 point something years. That seems very low compared to the national average. Do you have any indicators of why that might be? You also said you compared us to other villages, what is the rationale behind that given that Hamilton County is a large area? It seems arbitrary to me.

Hamilton County Health Department, Alex Woroncow- So, life expectancy unfortunately at least over the past five years, COVID did drastically reduce life expectancy calculations. They are on the way back up as we have implemented life saving measures, the vaccine etcetera. But at least nationwide we did see a reduction in life expectancy everywhere to roughly the same degree that we see in Saint Bernard. So that isn't necessarily saying that every person in Saint Bernard is now going to live a few years fewer. It's more so observing that over the five years we analyzed the data which far more people died younger. Unfortunately, we know it is due to a variety of factors, but primarily among them would be COVID, which justified a lot of the numbers. The intent to compare with other villages was to try to compare like with like as best as we could. By the Census Bureau standards, a village is anything below 5,000 population within a specific municipal boundary. So, we wanted to do our best to try and compare areas of similar size, similar resources, and similar just overall as much similarity as we get, just because trying to compare some of the smaller areas of the city with the much larger areas and just kind of there's a lot of differences in population makeup, there's a lot of differences and the resources available. So, all in all, we were just trying to do our best to compare like with like.

Council Member, Mr. Moreton- First, thank you so much for being here. I found this to be very, very interesting and super insightful, which kind of explains my first question. In this presentation, is this all of the data that you were taking a look at or all the types of data or these just the key insights that you thought were the most important to pull away? Are there other data points that might have been less interesting that were not included? Second, there are a lot of key points that you have presented today. I am curious in your opinion, because you have been giving these presentations to other communities, what jumped out about St. Bernard's data specifically that would be the most alarming?

We Thrive, Leslie Aguilar- That could be. I think we want to make sure that when presenting this data, it's easier to digest and kind of the points that would be most important for you all to know. But again, all data is really important. So, I think when looking at the data notes, you can

go in a little bit deeper and look exactly at those percentage points. This is just a way to easier understand the data. As far as what jumps out, I think it really more depends on; we present the data that is kind of the reason why we're presenting the data to the community. We want to bring in your expertise that you see in your community and what is alarming to you. Again, we're not as familiar or live in Saint Bernard, so we don't know what pressing issues there are. So that's kind of why we like to present to you all. So, I think our opinion or even as the health department opinion might be alarming to us, which may not be alarming to you all. So, it's kind of we want to hear what you are most alarmed by it or more concerned about.

Council Member, Mr. Moreton- I will say, I am definitely most alarmed by the lead count numbers.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- We thank you very much. It was very insightful as a couple people have said so, and I'm sure Mr. Gus Stuchell will keep us informed and the monthly meetings as he always does. So, thank you again.

REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- Thank you Mr. President. The St. Bernard Community Improvement Corporation entered into a non-binding letter of intent with PLK Communities for the St. Bernard Square project for a period of 180 days for the proposed multifamily residential development of the site consisting of approximately 187 residential units, together with a minimum of 5,000 square feet of commercial space, together with associated parking, amenities, stormwater infrastructure, and site improvements. Final unit count, building configuration, and site layout will be determined through the public approval process, engineering, and final design. This non-binding letter of intent is intended solely to outline key business terms to allow the parties to proceed with due diligence, environmental coordination, engineering, and pursuit of public incentives until a mutually acceptable Development Agreement is approved by the CIC and executed by the parties. The CIC will be posting the RFP for the 2026 Mowing contract. The complete application, property list and bid sheet will be available online and for pickup here at city hall starting tomorrow. The application must be returned by 5 pm, Monday, March 23rd for consideration at the March 24th CIC meeting. We also had some other good news for the village this week. Mr. Wendling and I went downtown on Tuesday for the Metro Transit Infrastructure Fund Signing Ceremony where the village was awarded a \$660,000 grant for the resurfacing of lower Washington and Tower Avenues. This is a 50% matching grant that will allow for us to continue with the aggressive street improvement projects in our village. We are very proud and grateful that we have been able to secure funding for these projects and will continue to pursue funding for future projects as well. That concludes my report.

Auditor, Mr. Brickweg- Thank you. Mr. President. I have two things on the table tonight. The first one being Resolution 4 2025. This is a resolution for many me to cover and then and now certification of a purchase order exceeding \$3,000. It will be paying Cohen Todd Kite and Stanford in the amount of \$6,194.00 from an invoice from 2025. Then the second on the agenda is Ordinance 9 2026. This is authorizing the auditor to create line item O7-11 Langley Ave Street project. This will be paying the twice-yearly payments for the construction done on Langley Ave. We received a loan at 0% interest for this project. It also authorizes the following additional

preparations: 2-I-9 Outside Council \$6,200. That is to pay the Cohen Kite invoice. 01-2-P Professional Services \$20,000. This is to cover some new recreation software we have purchased and the developer that we've contracted with. 8-A-2 Safety Center \$12,000. That is for additional elevator repair that is necessary. 07-11 Langley Ave. St. Project. We only have one payment this year which will be July, so it will be doubled for next year, but the one payment that is due in July is \$13,365. Then 31-22 Service Department for \$48,000, We finally received the amortization chart for all the vehicles, and we need to give it an additional \$48,000. That concludes my report.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenburg- No report. I do need to go into executive session to discuss pending litigation.

Treasurer, Mr. Kathman- Thank you, Mr. President, I have no report this week. Thank you.

Safety and Service Director, Mr. Wendling- Thank you Mr. President. On the agenda this evening is an ordinance that will amend Section 159.03 of the code of ordinances to provide for the purchase of a comprehensive crime insurance policy in lieu of bonding individual employees. This recommendation is in response to a request from the Ohio Plan, the Village's property and casualty insurance carrier. The current system of bonds is cumbersome due to the number of officials and employees affected, and the necessity of amending the code each time a position changes in title and duties, a position is added, or a position is eliminated. The crime policy will provide comprehensive coverage to the village for instances of dishonesty or fraud. Further, Ohio Revised Code, Section 3.061 provides for the purchase of a Dishonesty and Faithful Performance of Duty policy, otherwise known as crime coverage, to cover loss by fraudulent or dishonest actions of officials and employees in lieu of security bonds. Also, on the agenda this evening is an ordinance that will amend Chapter 1131 of the zoning ordinance that brings our code in line with case law as established by the Ohio Supreme Court. I spoke with Pam Witmer, the public relations liaison for Synthica/UGI this afternoon. She reports that they have completed the necessary repairs to the anaerobic digester. Operations are resuming at the plant, which means they are resuming processing of food waste materials. We will be keeping a close eye and nose on operations. UGI has committed to weekly updates regarding the plant. If you notice an odor, you can contact the Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency at 513-946-7777. The planning process for the Heritage District Plan is wrapping up. The focus group met last night in Centennial Hall to go over the outcomes derived from the public engagement process. There will be a follow-up meeting for the working group next week. The plan will be brought to council for adoption later this spring. The aggregation process is coming to a completion, specifically the certificate. That should be completed next week. Once complete, the program will be priced and once it's priced, opt out letters will be provided to residents in probably mid-April. This concludes my report.

Tax Administrator, Ms. Helmes- 2025 St. Bernard tax returns are due by April 15, 2026. A Power of Attorney is required to discuss tax matters regarding anyone but your Joint filing partner. This includes parents of adult children making payments and wanting a receipt. We can only discuss tax matters with the taxpayer or their joint filing partner.

Most Frequent Errors Made When Filing an Income Tax Return

- Failure to use correct wage figure from W-2's.

- Failure to attach W-2's and/or Federal Schedules, forms and statements to support income and deductions.
- Failure to pay total balance due as shown on tax return.
- Failure to mail return / failure to timely mail return.
- Failure to pay 2nd, 3rd and 4th quarters of estimated tax payments.
- Failure to properly allocate wages when allocating income for move-in / move-out year.
- Failure to file return for the year taxpayer moves in or moves out.
- Failure to report address changes.
- Failure to complete the estimated tax portion of return and pay estimate.
- Failure to sign tax return (and to have spouse sign if joint filing.)

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance, Mr. Moreton- Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you to those who have reached out regarding the anticipated timeline towards Electric and Gas Aggregation for our residents. For the folks who haven't reached out yet but are wondering as well, at this point, we are still waiting for our application to be approved by the PUCO, aka the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio. We expect to hear back in early March, and if approved, that will allow Energy Alliance to advance in the process. From there, notices will be sent to every account who is eligible for aggregation with listed options to opt out. Energy Alliances will later search for the best deal and present to Council their findings for us to approve or deny. If all goes as expected, aggregation will be live in the summer, just in time for folks to save money on those rapidly rising A/C bills. For the latest update on where we are in this process, please listen to Council for my report, or visit www.energyalliances.com/stbernard. Separately, I would like to again thank the folks, including Councilmember Stuchell who volunteered for our Pedestrian Safety and Accessibility Audit in the Fall of '24. That work of course helped validate the need for other pedestrian safety infrastructure like the speed humps on Greenlee and Vine, but it also served simultaneously as the We Thrive Landscape Review used in today's presentation, so again thank you. The next Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 18th at 6PM in the lower level of City Hall. Thank you, that concludes my report.

Service, Mr. Stuchell- The Waste Collection Fee for January 2026 shows that \$24,556.02 was remitted to the Village. As part of the Waste Collection Report for the month of January 2026, the Service Department completed the following:

- Spotted 22 dump trucks at residences.
- Spotted 18 dumpsters at residences.
- Hauled 148.44 tons of garbage to the landfill.
- Hauled 23.8 tons of recyclable material to Rumpke Recycling.
- Recycled 2,760 lbs. of scrap metal, 6 tires, and 4 car batteries.

As a reminder, the Service Department is currently accepting applications for seasonal employment. Applicants must be at least 16 years of age and possess a valid driver's license. Applications are available for pickup at City Hall and will be accepted until all positions are filled. Finally, I would like to thank Leslie again for her presentation this evening and for her ongoing work with our We Thrive team to improve community health in St. Bernard. Thank you, that concludes my report.

Public Improvements, Mr. Edwards- Thank you Mr. President. There was no need for a Public Improvement Committee Meeting, but I would like to report on the February St. Bernard-Ludlow Grove Historical Society Meeting. This month's program was presented by Beth Himburg of The Mill Creek Alliance. The Mill Creek Alliance has been working to clean up the Millcreek for the last 30 years. Their mission is to create a healthy ecosystem for communities along its banks to enjoy. We were told its original name was Maketewah (meaning it is black) when this area was inhabited by the Shawnee Indians. The rich black soil on the banks and the abundance of Walnut trees is the reason the creek was so dark. Wildlife was also abundant in those days before most settlers arrived around 1790. As more and more settlers arrived and started businesses along the 29-mile Mill Creek, it got more polluted and for almost the next 200 years it was a place to dump whatever f wanted to get rid of. Things started to improve in 1972 when the Clean Water Act was passed but in 1997 the Mill Creek was declared the most endangered urban river in North America. For the last 30 years, the Mill Creek Alliance has not only been working to revitalize the Mill Creek but also rehab its reputation. They are doing this by frequent water testing by volunteers, getting high schools involved when possible. Using grants to revitalize the banks and channels and to invite the public to visit its banks in groups to hike, kayak, and even fish. The Mill Creek is alive again. For more information, contact the Mill Creek Alliance at 1223 Jefferson Ave Reading Ohio 45215, call 513-563-8800 or go to the Mill Creek Alliance website. This group, with all its volunteers, is doing great work for all the communities that border this waterway. I would also like to report that I attended the CIC Meeting on Tuesday and I'm excited about the developer that is putting together a plan that will financially work for them and be exciting for the residents of St. Bernard not a done deal but appears to be very promising. I also attended a meeting with Yard and Company that is close to finalizing The St. Bernard Heritage District Plan that focuses on the revitalization of Vine Street between the Library and the strip mall by Dairy Queen. This project is also very exciting with ideas that can bring life back to our main street. Thank you Mr. President. This concludes my report.

Safety, Ms. Hausfeld- Thank you, Mr. President. Tonight I have the monthly report for January for the Saint Bernard Fire Department. Fire: Structural fires 8, other fires 5, vehicle fires 0, auto accidents 4, hazmat incidents 8, service calls 4, fire alarms 9, CO alarms 2, EMS Assists 8 for a total of 48. Mutual Aide Given: Elmwood Place 6, Norwood 3, Reading 2, Springfield Twp 1, Deer Park 1, and Lockland 1. EMS: Transports 45, Non-transports 33 for a total of 78. Mutual Aide Given: Elmwood Place 11, Norwood 6, Cincinnati 1, and Green Twp 1. Mutual Aide Received: None. All personnel completed Mayday Operations Training. We have been very busy keeping up on our hydrants making sure they are not frozen or blocked by snow. Thank you, that concludes my report.

Laws, Contracts and Claims, Mr. Schildmeyer- Thank you Mr. President. We scheduled a Laws Contracts and Claims meeting for February 25th at 6:00 PM. However, we had to reschedule that

meeting due to a conflict with other meetings. We haven't selected the new date as of yet. When we do, I'll ask that to be posted and announce it in the next meeting. That concludes my report.

Marketing, Mr. Culbertson- Thank you, Mr. President. The German Luau Committee is looking for new committee members. If you would like to be involved in the planning and operation of this event, please e-mail Recreation@cityofsaintbernard.org. This year's luau will take place on Friday, July 31st and Saturday, August 1st. There are plots available to Community Garden. The cost is \$20 per plot for the growing season plus must be reserved by April 1st. Please contact kennethprice916@yahoo.com if you are interested. And lastly, our favorite holiday of the year that shows summer is coming, Dairy Queen opens this Sunday. That concludes my report.

Business and Industry, Ms. Rytov- No report.

Committee of the Whole, Ms. Stegman- Thank you, Mr. President. Minutes from the last meeting were submitted Tuesday the 24th and I have no communications this evening.

RESOLUTION NO. 4, 2026

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF ONE INVOICE COVERED BY "THEN AND NOW" CERTIFICATION OF PURCHASE ORDER EXCEEDING \$3,000 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Edwards, to suspend with the 2nd and 3rd reading of Resolution 4 2026. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to adopt Resolution 4 2026. Motion passes 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 5, 2026

AMENDING SECTIONS OF 121.10, THE RULES OF COUNCIL, PROTOCOL, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, OF THE ST. BERNARD CODIFIED ORDINANCES.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to suspend with the 3rd reading of Ordinance 5 2026. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to adopt Ordinance 5 2026. Motion passes 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 7, 2026

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1131, BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to suspend with the 2nd and 3rd reading of Ordinance 7 2026. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Culbertson, to adopt Ordinance 7 2026.
Motion passes 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 8, 2026
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 159.03 "BONDS" OF THE CODIFIED
ORDINANCES OF ST. BERNARD, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to suspend with the 3rd reading of Ordinance 8 2026. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to adopt Ordinance 8 2026.
Motion passes 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 9, 2026
AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL
FUNDS AN CREATING A NEW LINE ITEM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to suspend with the 3rd reading of Ordinance 9 2026. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Culbertson, to adopt Ordinance 9 2026.
Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to go into executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss pending litigation. Motion passes 7-0.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- At this time, does anyone on council have anything under old business? New business?

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- I forgot to ask to be put on the agenda for the next COW meeting. Minimum wage has been raised to \$11.00. So, I want to discuss the part time pay ordinance for part time employees. Thank you.

No audience participation.

Council enters into executive session to discuss pending litigation.

Council returns from executive session after discussing pending litigation.

The next Committee of the Whole will be held on March 12th, 2026 at 7:00pm in Council Chambers.

Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passes 7-0.

Meeting is adjourned.

