



the friendly

# city magazine

WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS

Fall 2020

## GROWING TOGETHER: a new move and big changes





## Happy Fall!

**As the days become shorter, leaves change color and temperatures start to drop, we're looking forward to the autumn season.** In the midst of these very turbulent times, I hope you had a safe summer here in Warrensville Heights. Over the past several months, we've continued our efforts to move this city forward by working on our long-term strategies!

**We have taken the necessary precautions to resume work in person in our new offices.** Everyone has returned to their respective offices, and CDC recommendations/guidelines are being enforced daily. Social distancing, sanitizing and hand washing are required of all employees, and we've provided soap, hand sanitizer, plexiglass and cleaning supplies to ensure they're followed successfully.

**On September 1, we quietly moved into the vacated South University Building and have renamed our home, The Warrensville Heights Municipal Center.** Our new location is at 4743 Richmond Road. We're now happy to handle most matters in one central location. We will have an open house for the community on October 26 from 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Sign up required, please call, 216.587.6500.



# Message from the Mayor

**We will make use of our new space by creating a 'one-stop shop' for residents.** Approximately 103 people from administration, city council, the police department, building department, and the board of education will be located here as well, making local matters more accessible and convenient for everyone.

**The building is much more than an architectural structure here in Warrensville Heights.** It's a part of our community, and we want it to play the part by serving you.

**Since Sherwin-Williams plans to leave the Warrensville Center Road building in 2024, we're already weighing our options regarding the possibilities of re-purposing the 100-acre site.** While we're sad to see Sherwin-Williams go, we could have plenty of space and opportunity to continue to redevelop our "Friendly City."

**In December, we'll have made major progress on our new school buildings, which is very exciting for students, parents and the community at large.** We'll be sure to stay on top of this, and continue to work with Warrensville Heights City School District as they work to complete their project on time and within their budget - the new elementary school is almost finished, and we're breaking ground on the high school in the spring of next year.

**Our city's future is looking very bright.** There are plenty of growth opportunities for both businesses and young families - we're a great place to work, learn, and most importantly, live.



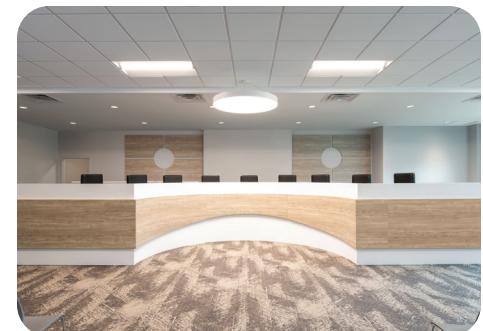
**Before I close, I want to remind you of voting registration and a few important dates to keep in mind:**

- Monday, October 5: The last day to register to vote online, in person and by mail.
- Tuesday, October 6 through Monday, November 2: Early voting period.
- Tuesday, November 3: Election day.

Save the date for November 3. It's beyond important to cast your vote and make your voice heard! If you are voting in person, all precincts will vote at the Warrensville Heights Recreation Center, located on the north end of the high school, 4270 Northfield Road.

**Another reminder - everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend our bi-weekly city council meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month.** Due to current circumstances, each meeting takes place over Zoom. Visit our website, [www.cityofwarrensville.com](http://www.cityofwarrensville.com) for more information on how to join.

**As always, I'm pleased with the progress we've made this past year, and am eager to see what we accomplish in the coming months and years, as we strive towards positioning our city for the next 100 years!**



**Photography by:** Harry Dempsey

# "OUR NEW NORMAL"

Nicole McKinney-Johnson, Human Resource Director

March 2020 is a month we will never forget! Our day-to-day processes as we knew them came to an immediate halt when our Governor, Michael DeWine, issued the first Stay-At-Home order for the State of Ohio.

With more COVID-19 cases being reported daily to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Cuyahoga County Health Department, The City of Warrensville Heights acted quickly to ensure the safety and well-being of our employees.

Under the great leadership of Mayor Bradley D. Sellers, our Chief-of-Staff, Kelli Wilson, and our Law Director, Teresa Beasley, I was able to research, create and implement best practices relating to COVID-19 Policies and Procedures.

Adhering to the directives and understanding the drastic measures that would impact our employees, the goal was to keep lines of communication with our directors and their support staff open and available as we navigated a plan that would be most effective.

Below is the timeline of events that took place regarding the rollout of the COVID-19 protocols:

**March 6, 2020:** Mayor Sellers issued a statement and rolled out our Travel Restrictions Policy related to COVID-19.

**March 11, 2020:** Communication was sent to all employees – The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) opened a call center to answer questions regarding COVID-19. The call center is open seven days a week from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and can be reached at 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634). That same day, Governor DeWine held a press conference mandating all Senior Centers close immediately. The City of Warrensville placed this announcement on the city's website.

**March 12, 2020:** Cancellation of all Warrensville Heights ward meetings until further notice.

**March 17, 2020:** A conference regarding necessary COVID-19 protocols with all Directors and staff took place. A mass supply order was sent for extra cleaning supplies (Clorox wipes, hand sanitizers and gloves) - these items were supplied in all work areas and restrooms.

**March 18, 2020:** Notifications were sent via email stating that all employee "Wellness Wednesday" face-to-face events were cancelled until further notice. "Be Well" visits with our Cleveland Clinic nursing staff were also cancelled until further notice.

**March 19, 2020:** Employees received information from our Health Benefits Provider regarding COVID-19 authorized testing from their Primary Care Physician (PCP).

**March 20, 2020:** City Hall placed the Summer Employment Program on hold until further notice.

**March 22, 2020:** Under the direction of Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton, M.D., MPH issued a director's order requiring Ohioans to stay in their homes to prevent further spread of COVID-19, which began at 11:59 p.m. on Monday, March 23 until 11:59 p.m. on Monday, April 6.

**March 23, 2020:** A meeting with the Chief of Staff and Communication Director took place to establish "work from home" guidelines, expectations, and a plan of action. Details were distributed to the staff regarding the updates to the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

**March 24, 2020:** Implemented policies and procedures relating to the return of work, tentatively scheduled on or after May 1.

**March 26, 2020:** Telecommuting was granted for Directors and selected support staff. Laptops were distributed from the IT Department. Personnel schedules were distributed internally to indicate which employees were to remain at City Hall and which were able to telecommute.

**March 27, 2020:** Essential Worker letters were given to all personnel, in the event they were stopped by law enforcement after recommended travel hours.

**March 31, 2020:** An Employee Assistance Program (EAP) conference call took place to discuss employee programs available to those facing mental health challenges resulting from COVID-19.

**April 23, 2020:** Employee policies regarding returning to work protocols were drafted, and tentatively slated for May 1.

**May 9, 2020:** Distributed our COVID-19 Policy, Face Mask Covering Policy and COVID-19 HR Forms for signatures to all employees.

**May 14, 2020:** Director's call via Zoom regarding updated COVID-19 policies and procedures, as well as moving forward with departmental temperature check procedures.

**May 19, 2020:** An all-employee call took place via Zoom regarding the reopening of all public buildings with the City of Warrensville Heights.

**May 26, 2020:** Distributed HR packets to all Directors that included HR forms for all departments. The packets consisted of:

- COVID-19 Acknowledgement Form to be placed in employee HR file
- Face Covering / Face Shield Policy
- Daily Temperature Check Log
- City of Warrensville Hts. COVID-19 positive test checklist
- STOP! Entry form to be posted at the entrance of each department
- "Stop the Spread of Germs" poster
- U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Face Covering Tutorial
- Ohio Department of Health – "Responsible Restart Ohio" – General Office Environment Requirements

**May 27, 2020:** A meeting with the Service Department took place to discuss new policies and procedures.

**June 2, 2020:** City Hall reopened to the public. Employee daily temperature checks were implemented. Social Distancing and 6ft. spacing signage and stickers were posted in all high traffic areas. Face masks for all visitors recommended.

**June 11, 2020:** Voluntary free employee antibody testing with Sterling Pathology was conducted at our Civic & Senior Center. A total of 77 employees were tested.

**June 24, 2020:** Participated in a panel sponsored by The Warrensville Heights Area Chamber of Commerce: "6 Must Know Ways to Safely Reopen Your Business."

With the suddenness of the COVID-19 pandemic and its drastic impact upon all of us, our amazing partnership with Cleveland Clinic's Employee Assistance Program (Lifestyle EAP) has committed to providing resources 24/7 via their website and COVID-19 Helpline.

For the latest information on COVID-19, visit [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov). Questions about COVID-19 can be answered through the Ohio Department of Health hotline (1-833-4-ASK-ODH).

Remember: We are all in this TOGETHER! Stay safe and look out for one another!



# LOCAL RISING STAR – WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS STUDENT EXCELS IN SPORTS AND ACADEMICS

By Alexa Gullie

**B**ecoming the youngest student in the Warrensville Heights City School District to graduate from Cuyahoga Community College is a big deal. Cameron Ray, a 16-year-old teenager, did just that when he graduated from Tri-C's Eastern Campus last December with an Associate's Degree in Arts through the College Credit Plus program.

His humble and appreciative spirit proved he is well-deserving of this honor and he hopes others will be encouraged to follow in his steps.

Cameron, the youngest of two boys, resides in our city with his parents and proudly proclaims that his "favorite person in the world" is his 4-year-old nephew.

Growing up, he played a lot of sports and loved to explore the neighborhood. At 2 years old, his mom would often find him all the way down the street, just exploring. An accomplished athlete, Ray found time to balance sports, both high school and college coursework, extracurricular activities and hanging out with his friends and family. He

currently runs indoor/outdoor track. He has lettered in track, cross country and baseball since 9th grade, and is ranked number two in the state in indoor track. Last year, Cameron received regional recognition from the Lake Erie League academics for junior varsity and varsity basketball and continues to be on the Lake Erie League academics honors for every sport, every season. He's a part of his high school's National Honor Society, a Dean's List student at Tri-C and was even invited to join Tri-C's National Honor Society. Additionally, he does service at local community centers, and assists with **STEAM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) fairs at school – an interactive fair showcasing fun activities created by Warrensville Heights scholars from all

grade levels. Not to mention, he recently broke and holds the new school record for the 400 meter in track.

On a typical day, Ray splits his time attending high school classes and travelling to CSU for his college coursework. On practice days, he still attends school and manages to work out several times a day, including a workout with his dad at the Warrensville Heights YMCA.

Cameron began his College Credit Plus journey in the 8th grade. College Credit Plus is a dual enrollment program providing students in grades 7-12 an opportunity to earn college credits while still acquiring high school credits simultaneously by taking courses at Ohio colleges or universities - at little to no costs to students or families.

When reflecting on his time at Tri-C, Ray discussed the difficult transition. "It was different at first, the hardest part was being away from my friends." Ray spent his freshman year of high school at Tri-C for the first half of the day and then returned to the high school for the remainder of his classes. Some days were different, however, he sometimes spent the first half of the day at high school and the afternoon at Tri-C. During his sophomore and junior years, he took five classes and spent the whole day away from his friends. At Tri-C, Ray was the youngest in his class alongside his adult peers but he didn't let the age of his classmates, or himself, intimidate him or affect his participation in class. If he knew the answer to something, he would raise his hand without hesitation.

Since Cameron completed his associate's degree at Tri-C, he remains in the College Credit Plus program and is now taking classes at Cleveland State University, working toward his bachelor's degree. If he continues with the program, he will have one semester of college courses left to obtain his degree by the time he graduates high school. In other words, he could have his bachelor's degree at 18 years old and he will shoot for his master's degree next. While it may sound like there's no downfall to the College Credit Plus program, he still wants to have a 'real' college experience, living on campus and really being a part of

college life. The biggest difference between Tri-C and CSU are how old students are. While there are older students at Tri-C, he noticed younger, more relatable faces at his new college campus. Although being away from friends was a harsh reality, Cameron recommends the College Credit Plus program to everyone. He feels that the program is beneficial, outweighing being away from friends which proved to be one of his obstacles. Above all he enjoys meeting new people and having more independence most about college, as he feels like he needs it. He liked the feeling of 'being on his own' that he received from his college instructors, something you don't get to experience in high school. But don't be fooled, although Cameron has excelled and is ahead of the game, it was not an easy process. During the program, he had second thoughts and felt he should have just gone the normal course – only taking high school courses, graduating and then pursuing a college or university. Now, having completed it, he would do it again. While the thought of being away from his friends was constant at Tri-C, he admits: "to achieve some stuff, you just have to be alone sometimes."

The wise 16-year-old encourages others in his shoes, "continue to be you, everything that you are just let it shine, don't be afraid and don't dull your light for anybody else because it will just make everyone else around you shine."

When it comes to all the attention he has received since December, Ray says he's not proud for himself but proud for his family. He's proud of the people and the school he represents. Ray claims he doesn't feel like a complete intellectual. He takes pride in being a student athlete, which he feels is especially important to him being African American. He reflects, "I am proud to make others proud."



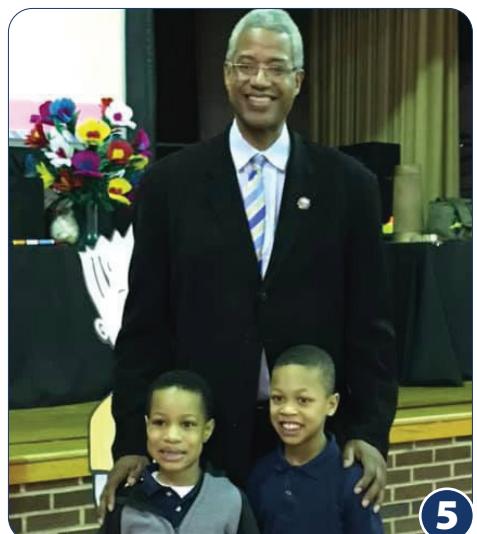
**"Continue to be you, everything that you are just let it shine, don't be afraid and don't dull your light for anybody else because it will just make everyone else around you shine."**

- Cameron Ray

Out of all the news channels reaching out to him, posting his story, the most impactful one for him came from The Shade Room, a well-known social media outlet that posts the latest trending celebrity news. It impacted him the most because social media is how he keeps up with current events - and seeing his name there, especially among celebrity stories, was truly a surreal real moment for him. Receiving all that attention is, in his words, "different" but he is very appreciative of all of the love he has received. He feels that "everything fell together by God's hands."

What's next for Cameron? He isn't totally sure of his next move after Cleveland State, but he is leaning towards The Ohio State University and Auburn University in Alabama. Regardless of his future school plans, he will most likely stay a resident of Cleveland because of all the things to do here, and, after all, home is where the heart is. **WH**

# faces in the community



1-3 Residents, Councilwoman Elona White and Council President Matthew Howard at the annual Black History Program

4-5 Warrensville Middle School and Westwood Elementary School attendance challenge winners

6 Team members at the Mind Challenge 2020

7 Superintendent Jolly, Board Vice President Ray Freeman, Matt, Ned and Mayor Sellers attending Ned's Kindness Adventure

**HAPPY FALL!**  
from the Friendly City

# CELEBRATING THE GRAND OPENING OF THE EASTWOOD COMMUNITY FITNESS & WELLNESS PARK

On Wednesday, July 29, the City of Warrensville Heights held its Grand Opening and Celebration of the Eastwood Community Fitness & Wellness Park. This park project was a \$230,000 investment from a partnership between our city, Cleveland Clinic South Pointe Hospital, Brentwood Foundation, and Cuyahoga County Office of Economic Development. The park features a labyrinth, fitness equipment, game tables, and a walking path.



## THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS IS CHANGING THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATORS TO COLLECT CITY'S LOCAL INCOME TAX

The City of Warrensville Heights is changing third party administrators, which collects the City's local income taxes. Currently, the City of Cleveland's Tax Division - Central Collection Agency collects local taxes on the City's behalf and has done so for over 40 years. However, effective at the start of next year, the Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) will start collecting the City's income tax. We appreciate the City of Cleveland's many years of service and wish them well. Notices of said change will go out to the City's residential and business community later this year.

**As stated on RITA's website:** "RITA provides services to collect income tax for municipalities in the State of Ohio. RITA's Board of Trustees is authorized to administer and enforce the income tax laws of each of the participating municipalities. However, each municipal corporation retains its right to administer and enforce its own income tax laws concurrently with the Board. RITA offers comprehensive tax collection from registration through litigation.

RITA was formed in 1971 to administer the income tax ordinance of any Ohio municipality (city or village in Ohio) that joins the Agency through the Regional Council of Governments (RCOG). Although not every Ohio municipality is a Regional Council of Government (RCOG) member, but currently over 300 Ohio cities and villages (approximately 50% of Ohio municipalities with an income tax) utilize RITA to handle their municipal income tax collection and enforcement efforts."

For more information about RITA and the communities they serve, visit [www.ritaohio.com](http://www.ritaohio.com).

The City of Warrensville Heights is excited about the change and look forward to working with RITA next year.

### DRIVE-THRU TRUNK-OR-TREAT

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28  
6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.**

South Pointe Hospital parking lot  
4180 Warrensville Center Rd.

# city council spotlight



## Dorise Hagwood

WARD 1

Greetings! Thank you for trusting me to serve as your representative - you will always have a seat at the table. Being an effective legislator involves listening to constituents, translating their concerns into workable proposals, and building consensus to implement them. I could not do this job without the involvement and openness of the people I represent. You have taken the time to share with me your ideas, your concerns, and your aspirations. Not only have you entrusted me with the responsibility of speaking on your behalf as your representative, but you have walked this journey with me. For that, I am grateful. I look forward to continue working with "YOUR" City Government Team, representing the #1 Ward in this great city, a place where people of all ages can count on the future.

"We will muscle our way through this," said Mayor Brad Sellers. "We isolate now - so that when the pandemic is over - no one is missing."

Your right. Your choice. Your voice. Your responsibility to VOTE! Create good trouble, necessary trouble. Speak up, speak out and PLEASE VOTE!

Stay safe and be well.

Blessings, Dorise

[dhagwood@cityofwarrensville.com](mailto:dhagwood@cityofwarrensville.com)



## Andrea Mitchell

WARD 2

Greetings Neighbors, I hope all is well with each and every one of you. I'd like to send a round of thanks to everyone who attended our safe Ward 2 Summer events:

The June Zoom Ward 2 Community Meeting on August 27. Technology found a way to keep us connected. I hope it was as informative for you as it was for me.

The Eastwood Park "Mini Park" Ribbon Cutting on July 29. More than 30 neighbors attended this beautiful, touching and socially distanced ceremony.

The 2020 Community Check-Up at the High School on August 1. Social distancing was key to this mobile event, which attracted more than 250 people. Medical partner Care Source even ran out of COVID-19 tests! State Representative Juanita Brent, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity and more than sixty volunteers welcomed residents, distributed food, provided voting and Census information kept cars moving. We all succeed when we work together!

As always, If you see something, say something... call 216.581.1234. Please keep an eye out for our community (especially for neighbors who may be ill or shut in).

Finally, let's work together to eliminate extra debris. Remember: when setting out rubbish, Kimble will remove trash bags ONLY when the can is present.

"We must reject not only the stereotypes that others have of us, but also those that we have of ourselves." – Shirley Chisholm

Be safe, stay well!

Your Friend in the Friendly City

[amitchell@cityofwarrensville.com](mailto:amitchell@cityofwarrensville.com)  
216.339.1279



## Elona C. White

WARD 3

Greetings to the caring and concerned neighbors of Warrensville Heights! In light of the pandemic, all future meetings and activities have been cancelled. Many of you have reached out to me with issues whether it be with Service, Building, Housing or the Police Department. I hope we assisted you in a timely fashion. If you have any questions, concerns or problems, please don't hesitate to contact me.

[ewhite@cityofwarrensville.com](mailto:ewhite@cityofwarrensville.com)  
Home 216.581.3899  
Office 216.587.6516

## COUNCIL COMMITTEES

**Chair:** Councilwoman Dorise Hagwood  
**Committees:** Utilities and Building

**Chair:** Councilwoman Andrea Mitchell  
**Committees:** Tax Review and Planning Commission

**Chair:** Councilwoman Elona White  
**Committees:** Personnel & Compensation and Transportation

**Chair:** Councilman Walter Stewart  
**Committees:** Safety, Community/ Recreation Activities and Economic Development

**Chair:** Stanley Anderson  
**Committees:** Property & Supplies and Senior Citizens

**Chair:** Council President Matthew Howard  
**Committees:** Service and Youth

**Chair:** Councilwoman Kimberly Edwards  
**Committees:** Finance and Special Legislation



## Walter Stewart

WARD 4

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ward 4 Youth Program has avidly and consistently assisted our residents. We're a strong and united community, determined to overcome the many challenges that come along with this crisis. We truly thank the school district for distributing school lunches through the mobile lunch program and we were very happy to assist them in Ward 4.

Recently, the Ward 4 Youth Program passed out food that was donated by Giant Eagle. We are forever grateful to Myrtis Taylor for the donation of clothing, and school supplies to our residents. We've networked with the HNFoodRescue, the USDA and Inspire Hope in which during the summer months we started a weekly "Grocery and Meal Giveaway Program," where we gave out 100 meal boxes each week. We will get through this crisis. Please remember that the General Election is on November 3. The deadline to register to vote is October 5 and Early Voting begins October 6. Black Lives Matter.

**wstewart@cityofwarrensville.com**

**Office 216.587.6516**

**Cell 216.868.5695**



## Matthew Howard

Council President  
WARD 5

I'm extremely pleased that we're redistributing our quarterly magazine. A lot has happened this year, and I'm sure you don't need me to tell you that. Most of my Ward 5 residents have received my early summer newsletter with some valuable updates and resources. All council members have provided updates to the residents via email, in person or magazine. We work hard to keep you informed during these troubling times.

There is a mobile food bank hosted at the Warrensville high school on the first and third Wednesday of each month at noon. All are welcome, and I'd like to send a big thank you to Ms. Levert and her team for keeping it going all this time and serving so many of our families in the tri-city area. Our community partner, YMCA, has issued a national public statement supporting the Black Lives Matter movement, and has called for the upliftment of brown people in this country. It was a very powerful statement to make, and it shows the commitment of their organization to our communities. I am beyond inspired by and grateful for the stance they have taken. Most events and activities in the city have been cancelled until further notice, including the Ward 5 annual Christmas party. Sorry folks! Safety first is a popular phrase among council and the administration these days, and we're adhering to the Governor's mandate. Council has adopted multiple policies that allow for some home rule flexibility to move forward with our own orders, if need be. I have the utmost respect for our safety forces and first responders who work fearlessly to keep this city safe daily. For more details about services offered and programs available, please call city hall (216) 587-6500, council office (216) 587-6516 and/or your respective council person. I leave you with these comforting words: "With confidence, you have won before you've started."

**mhoward@cityofwarrensville.com**

**440.561.7990**



## Stanley Anderson

WARD 6

Hello Residents of Warrensville Heights,

Please exercise your right and civic duty to VOTE on November 3. Stay well and be safe in these uncertain times. Contact me or the Council Office if you have any questions or concerns.

**sanderson@cityofwarrensville.com**

**Office 216.587.6516**

**Cell 440.719.9444**



## Kimberly Edwards

WARD 7

Hello Ward 7 and The City of Warrensville,

Autumn is approaching and I, like many others, am looking forward to the coolness of the season. Fall allows us to enjoy and appreciate the many colors that nature will bring us outdoors. It's the perfect time to check in with your family, friends and neighbors to be sure that they are registered to VOTE!

Yes, it's that time again! The Presidential Election among others will take place on November 3. If you plan to vote by mail this election cycle, request your absentee ballot application TODAY! As soon as you receive your application, complete and return it immediately. By doing so, you will be among the first to receive your voting ballot starting October 6. When you receive and complete your ballot, plan to drive it directly to the Board of Elections when you are able to. Not sure if you're registered or need to update your address? Visit: [www.sos.oh.us](http://www.sos.oh.us) to check your voting status.

### Important 2020 Election Dates:

October 5 - Deadline to register to vote

October 6 - Early Voting begins

November 2 – Date mailed ballots must be postmarked by

"By voting, we add our voice to the chorus that forms opinions and the basis for action." - Jens Stoltenberg

**kedwards@cityofwarrensville.com**

**Phone 216.570.5978**

## Economic and Community Development

Jerome A. DuVal, Director

Raymon Turner, Community Development Manager

### Industry Leading Technology Firm Digital Forensics Corporation (DFC) Relocates New Headquarter to Warrensville Heights

Digital Forensics Corp. (DFC), a dynamic North American leader in the growing field of digital forensics, has moved into its new headquarters at 4400 Renaissance Parkway. The company purchased the building to relocate 50 mid-level jobs and invested \$1 million of improvements and technology upgrades to the existing building.

The DFC was first founded in 2009, and works with corporations, attorneys, private investigators and various individuals across the country and internationally to uncover digital evidence to support their civil, criminal and business investigations. Their specialty is extracting and analyzing digital evidence from computers, phones and other electronic devices. Listed below are a few of their specific duties:

- Responding to data breaches, ransomware and other cyberattacks.
- Protecting victims of cyber harassment and online blackmail.
- Performing network and website penetration tests to help clients bolster their IT security and infrastructure.
- Performing data recovery on anything from a single smartphone to a large corporate RAID array.
- Assisting with many common investigations, such as missing persons, audiovisual forensics, divorce cases and much more.

The company's new state-of-the-art clean room facilities and cutting-edge forensic software ensures that vital evidence is preserved in accordance with forensic procedures, and the work product is presented in a way intended for use in legal proceedings.

"During COVID-19 we're still experiencing new business growth and expansion in the technology and manufacturing industries. I am excited to welcome the DFC to 'The Friendly City,'" said Jerome DuVal, Community and Economic Development Director. The company will establish paid summer internships and training opportunities for Warrensville Heights High School students.

### Mobile Food Pantry

Since most of our Mobile Food Pantry volunteers (seniors) are considered high risk for contracting and having more severe complications from COVID-19, the City has decided to shelf our Mobile Food Pantry at this time. This decision was made out of an abundance of caution and concern for the well-being of our volunteers, employees, residents and other participants. COVID-19 spread throughout all 50 states and Cuyahoga County has recently reached record numbers. For this reason, our Mobile Food Pantry will remain closed until we feel it is safe to resume distribution. Until that time, we will continue to support the Warrensville Heights City School District (WHCSD) in their efforts to distribute food on the first and third Wednesday of each month, and provide information on those distribution agencies in and around the community that have continued their distribution efforts. Please visit our website at [www.cityofwarrensville.com](http://www.cityofwarrensville.com) or contact Program Manager, Raymon Turner, at (216) 587-1144 for more information.

### Exterior Maintenance Grant Program

The Exterior Maintenance Program has been terminated for the remainder of the year. The Building Department Inspectors cannot facilitate necessary code violations during COVID-19 and the drastic reduction in income tax revenues received by Warrensville Heights throughout the pandemic,

which has forced the program to shut down. It is our hope to resume the Exterior Maintenance Program next year from April 1 through November 1. Please visit our website at [www.cityofwarrensville.com](http://www.cityofwarrensville.com) or contact Program Manager, Raymon Turner, at (216) 587-1144 for more information.

### Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) Tax Abatement

Community Reinvestment Areas are property tax reductions administered through Warrensville Heights for new home construction and/or building onto an already existing structure. Homes with recently built additions have increased in value based on an assessment issued by the County on the difference between the value prior to the addition/upgrade and the value after the completion of said addition/upgrade. Our vision is to grow Warrensville Heights' population to approximately 17,000 residents. This continues to be an effective tool in attracting new residents and retaining existing residents here in "The Friendly City." Please visit our website at [www.cityofwarrensville.com](http://www.cityofwarrensville.com) or contact Program Manager, Raymon Turner, at (216) 587-1144 for more information.

### Proposed Zoning Code Changes

In 2019, City Council agreed to hire George Smerigan of Tactical Planning, LLC to work with the City's Building Department and Community & Economic Development Department to review the zoning codes throughout the City of Warrensville Heights. The result of these reviews indicated that our city's zoning code was long overdue for major updates. Significant portions of the existing code are very outdated.

There have been substantial changes to land use and zoning laws over the past 10 years. Most of the City's existing code dates back to well over 50 years, and can create issues regarding code enforcement, effectiveness and protection of residents. Although the majority of residents will remain unaffected by the proposed zoning code changes, the City held a public meeting on August 10 via Zoom to hear the thoughts of our residents and their feedback on the proposed zoning code changes. Please visit our website at [www.cityofwarrensville.com](http://www.cityofwarrensville.com) or contact our Community Development Manager, Raymon Turner, at (216) 587-1144 for more information.

### Community Recycling Awareness

The City continues to monitor and evaluate the current COVID-19 situation. With upticks in reported cases, we decided to cancel the Community Shred Day, scheduled for September 26. Please visit our website at [www.cityofwarrensville.com](http://www.cityofwarrensville.com) or contact our Community Development Manager, Raymon Turner, at (216) 587-1144 for more information and updates.

## Fire Department

Herbert Waugh, Fire Chief

### The Warrensville Heights Fire Department welcomes two new hires Gerald King

Gerald completed his fire academy training (FF Level 2) at Tri-C in May of 2018. He finished his paramedic program through the Parma medical center last October. FF. King has worked part-time as a firefighter for Chagrin Falls Fire Department for a little over a year.

### Jeff Frank

Jeff graduated the fire academy (FF level 2) from Hocking College in June 2005. He graduated his EMT in 2007 and became a fully certified paramedic in October 2009 from Cleveland Clinic's EMS program. FF. Frank has worked as a firefighter with the city of Willowick where he served for the past 11 years.

Both candidates come highly recommended by multiple local fire chiefs and fire officers, many recognizing both these gentlemen's strong work ethics and dedication to the service of their communities. They will make strong additions to our city.

## Civic and Senior Center

**Jennifer Lastery, Director**  
**Sandra Noble, Program Coordinator**

*Due to COVID-19 and Governor DeWine's recommendation, the Warrensville Heights Civic and Senior Center is closed to the public, but will remain open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. to receive US Postal mail, emails and phone calls. Activities have been canceled, such as the Fall Senior Party, Veterans Day Luncheon, and the Holiday Bazaar.*

*All classes and transportation has been cancelled until further notice. Special events have either been cancelled or postponed until a later date. Fairhill Partners are offering a series, Active Living Workshops via weekly 30 minute phone conference calls and a Self-Study Tool Kit. For details, contact the Civic Center at 216-587-1250 or Wendy Chaney at Fairhill Partners at 216-421-1350 x185.*

Voter Registration Applications and Absentee Applications are available in the Civic and Senior Center vestibule. We appreciate your encouragement and concern - we miss each and every one of you, and look forward to seeing you soon!

Distance does not mean isolation. We are in this together. There are many virtual ways to keep in contact with your family and friends, such as FaceTime, Zoom, Skype or Webex, just to name a few.

There are many activities on the internet that may interest you as well, such as virtual tours, concerts and exhibits, painting, yoga and exercise. We want you to stay healthy and safe, so please, if you must go outside, use a mask for your own safety and the safety of others.

## Building Department

**Benjamin Brown, Building Commissioner**

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed everyone's way of life this year. A lot of adjustments were made to our department to keep both our employees and the public safe during these trying times. Our department never shut down because we're deemed essential in that we provide a valuable service to the community in safeguarding the health, safety, and public welfare of our residents through property maintenance and permit inspections.

The Building Department is open to the public Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Below are our current operations.

1. Point of sale and Occupancy Inspections: The only exception is that interior inspections will be performed if the property is vacant or vacated at the time of the scheduled inspection.
2. We have suspended our Exterior Property Maintenance Inspection Program for this year, however, our inspectors will still be out doing daily ride around inspections in their areas.
3. Permit inspection site visits: We're following social distancing guidelines, and may allow for video and picture submissions.

## OPEN HOUSE

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 26 | 4:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.**

Warrensville Heights Municipal Center  
4743 Richmond Road

SIGN UP REQUIRED, PLEASE CALL 216.587.6500

## Police Department

**Wesley Haynes, Chief of Police**

### **Farewell Sergeant Steven Eugene Harvey, Jr.**

On January 5, after 25 years of loyal and dedicated service, Sergeant Steven Eugene Harvey, Jr. retired. Sergeant Harvey was a valuable member of this department with a wealth of knowledge concerning accident reconstruction for the Police Department. Sergeant Harvey also held the position of Detective Sergeant and convicted major criminal offenders while in the Detective Bureau. We would like to thank Sergeant Harvey for his many years of service to this community and the Warrensville Heights Police Department.

### **Warrensville Heights Recognition**

The City of Warrensville Heights was recognized at the Greater Cleveland Safe Kids/Safe Communities Coalition Cuyahoga County DUI Task Force Luncheon in collaboration with University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital. I am proud to say that this year the Warrensville Heights Police Department received three awards:

1. Safe Kids Partner of the Year
2. Safe Communities Partner of the Year
3. Volunteer of the Year - Officer Jerome Thomas

These awards are symbols of how dedicated Mayor Bradley D. Sellers, City Council, the Police Department and Superintendent Donald J. Lolly II are to our city, and their efforts to keep our community and children safe.

## Service Department

**Ted Sims, Director**

### **Rubbish Collection & Recycling**

The following Holidays will have delayed trash pickup:

- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Day

Signs will be placed to remind you of trash pickup changes.

All mattresses and cloth furniture must be wrapped in plastic before placing on the tree lawn for disposal. Plastic covers are available to Warrensville Heights residents and they can be picked up at the Service Department.

In the event of a Kimble Trash/Recycle miss/pickup, please call 1-800-201-0005.

The following items can be dropped off at the Service Garage for disposal/recycling:

• Tires	• Computers
• Paint	• Christmas Lights
• Oil	• Electronic Equipment

### **Reminders**

Please report any street light outages and basement sewer backups to the service department - 216-587-6570.

### **Chipper Service**

Stack all branches with the cut ends to the streets.  
The Chipper Service will be available until the first snowfall.

### **Leaf Pickup**

Leaf pickup will begin October 5 and will continue until the first snowfall. Afterward, all leaves must be bagged.



**Warrensville Heights Municipal Center**  
4743 Richmond Road  
Warrensville Heights, OH 44128

Prsr Std  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Cleveland, OH  
Permit #1723

## WarrensvilleConnect

**City Hall** (216) 587-6500  
**Police Dept** (216) 581-1234  
**Fire Dept** (216) 587-6525

[www.cityofwarrensville.com](http://www.cityofwarrensville.com)  
 [Facebook.com/CityofWarrensville](https://www.facebook.com/CityofWarrensville)  
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 [@warrensville\\_oh](https://www.twitter.com/warrensville_oh)

### Credits:

**Editor:** Dana Shugrue

**Design by:** Contempo Design + Communications  
[www.contempocleveland.com](http://www.contempocleveland.com)

**Cover Photography by:** Harry Dempsey

# New Voting Location for All Precincts!



WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS  
RECREATION CENTER  
AT HIGH SCHOOL / NORTH END  
4270 Northfield Road

THIS FALL &  
GOING FORWARD

CUYAHOGA COUNTY  
BOARD OF ELECTIONS  
216-443-3200

ELECTION DAY  
Tuesday, November 3, 2020  
6:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

PLENTY OF PARKING AVAILABLE