

the friendly magazine

city



Winter 2022

**Joe Creadon
works his magic
on city vehicles**

**Plus: The Mayor's Message, Council Spotlight,
Senior Painting, a WHHS student exceeds,
City Services and more!**



The Mayor's Message



On behalf of the City Council and everyone on staff, I want to wish you the best this New Year! As we move into the colder days of winter and past the holidays, we are hopeful that 2022 will be the year that a sense of normalcy returns. The last few years have been a challenge for all, but I believe a bright future is on its way.

As the winter snow falls, I wanted to remind our community to take it a little slower on the roads and take care walking on your walks and driveways. Our excellent Service Center road crews are out and about on snowy days doing a fabulous job clearing roads and laying down salt for your safety. I ask you to please give them space on the road as they plow - for your safety and theirs.

During these winter months, I encourage you to look what programs may be happening at the Civic and Senior Center. It is a great place to engage in numerous programs and activities during these colder months and create new friendships.



Don't forget that everyone is invited to participate in our council meetings which are on the first and third Tuesday of every month. Congratulations are in order for our council members re-elected last November 2nd: Elona C. White from Ward 3, Matthew Howard from Ward 5, Stanley Anderson from Ward 6 and Kimberly Hodge Edwards from Ward 7. Lastly, I want to warmly acknowledge our own Shontel Brown, who is now representing Ohio in the 11th District in Congress.

Our new high school and middle school are coming along nicely and we are eager for the new schools to take shape. We are on schedule to have the grand opening sometime next year, in 2023. These new buildings will add to the educational opportunities for every student. I would also like to thank you for all the support our schools enjoy through volunteerism and funding. Our schools educate the future leaders of our area.

This year we will be hoping to bring back many of the social events our residents anticipate, like the Senior Luncheon, Memorial Day Parade, 4th of July Fireworks and Summer Festival. This is all part of the ongoing process and advancement to continue making Warrensville Heights a great place to live and work.

Also, February is Black History Month. It is celebrated as homage to the achievements of all African-Americans, including those who have made a difference through the struggles of the past. Each year, it is a reminder of the civil rights struggles. These struggles continue to be a teaching moment for all children of this community and country. Let's celebrate our differences.

To conclude, I wanted to remind you that my State of the City address will happen in April. Even though it is a few months away, check our social media sites for the upcoming date. I would be pleased to see you there.

I want to wish you and your family all the best this year!



Local high school student looks to the future

Charlee Chapmon is a senior at Warrensville Heights High School. She is an exemplary student and role model in her class, in addition to the entire community at large. She has a unique combination of skills and goals, and she is always eager to learn.

Charlee is a dynamic member and president of the National Honor Society chapter at Warrensville Heights High School. She is a lively participant in the community, as well, providing volunteer service hours through various partnerships through STEAM. Some of these volunteering opportunities comprise going through neighborhoods to pass out important information about COVID-19 or helping at the annual Senior Breakfast at the high school. Moreover, she is a member of the College Credit Plus program and is on target to earn her associate's degree by this spring. Following high school, she plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in biology and later go into medicine as an anesthesiologist or cardiothoracic surgeon.

College Credit Plus is a program which provides middle and high school students the opportunity to take classes at colleges

or universities. The purpose of College Credit Plus is to enhance the readiness of students and expose them to a wide variety of courses while earning actual college credit. This program is free or has very limited cost to students that enroll.

Typically, Charlee travels from the high school to Tri-C for her classes most days. Charlee has held the course load of high school and college simultaneously for the last four years with her constant dedication and endurance. She has an extraordinary academic record, with a cumulative GPA of 4.468 and ranks first in her senior class.

When she is not in school she enjoys drawing, painting, and being with her family and siblings. Charlee states,

"I push myself in order to have a successful future."

"I want to be able to take care of myself and my family when I am older." When asked about her school experience, Charlee said "My favorite thing about the Warrensville Heights City Schools is how small and interactive it is. It makes it easier to make friends and to feel comfortable when you have to momentarily branch out of your circle and talk to other people."

Artistry in motion at Civic and Senior Center



Most Monday mornings, seniors gather at the Warrensville Heights Civic & Senior Center to show their creativity. Assistant instructor Cassie Adams walks in, pulls out her paint supplies, waiting for all her students to arrive. Once class starts, she walks around to see how each artist is proceeding with their own picture of the day. Students ask her questions on painting techniques and how best to approach their project.

Seniors say they like to paint because it is a great way to relax and keep in touch. Painting is also excellent at keeping fine motor skills engaged plus it has other unique benefits to offer. It is low impact, keeps joints limber and does not require a high degree of mobility. Sitting upright at the easel or table also strengthens the core, engaging unused muscles. The artistic activity is also important for continued cognitive health. Betty Cross comments,

"I enjoy our paint class because it gives me an opportunity to meet new friends."

"We all appreciate and encourage one another and there is no criticism of our work." Carolyn Baker Jenkins remarks "I enjoy the painting class because it allows me to socialize with other seniors in a safe, relaxing, and creative environment."

If you are interested in joining this class or other activities, call the Civic and Senior Center at 216.587.1250.

Pictured top: Inez Boone, Robin Tyree. Bottom: Denise Brazile and Cassie Adams

Engine Doctor



For over 20 years, Joe Creadon has been getting his hands dirty fixing diesel trucks for the City of Warrensville Heights. His knowledge and dedication have kept the large city vehicles and plows rolling when needed most. Some of the engines he works on can be the size of a refrigerator, or bigger. They also weigh thousands of pounds and have many complicated components.

As a youth, Joe found work pumping gas at a local gas station that had a service garage. Over time, he was introduced to the repair side of the business, starting with oil changes. Later, he moved to tune-ups, brakes and more involved automotive systems. As time progressed, Joe started working on larger trucks with complex electronic, diagnostic and heavy-duty hydraulic systems. It became necessary for him to pursue certifications in the newer technology, culminating in his master level certification in auto and heavy truck technology.

Hired in 2001, Joe found that his skills were a seamless match for the Warrensville Heights Service Department. Today, Joe repairs and maintains the city's plows, street sweeper, dump trucks, construction equipment and city automobiles.

Beyond work, Joe likes to walk, ride his bike, golf and cook. Joe recalls "One Thanksgiving, as I was putting the turkey in the oven, the phone rang and I was called into work." Joe learned that one of the snow plows had broken down as a winter storm arrived. He continued "Luckily enough, when I returned home, I pulled the bird out of the oven, and it was delicious. It always seems to snow on the holidays."

Even today, Joe is studying his next certification, ready to keep city vehicles prepared 24/7/365.

Service Department News

Ted Sims, Director

Rubbish Collection & Recycling

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

IMPORTANT: All mattresses and cloth furniture MUST be wrapped in plastic before placing on tree lawn for disposal. Plastic covers are available at the Warrensville Heights Service Department on 19700 Miles Rd.

In the event of a Kimble Trash/Recycle miss/pickup, please call (800) 201-0005 EXT. 9309. If trash issues continue, please call the Service Department.

The following items can be dropped off at the Service Garage for **disposal/recycling: Tires, Paint, Oil, Computers, Xmas Lights, Electronic Equipment.**

Please report street lights that are out to Service Department. Also any basement sewer backups call 216.587.6570.

NEW leaf and branch pickup rules in 2022!

Chipper Service

In 2022, chipper service will be available from April 1st till October 1st ONLY. Branches must not exceed 2 inches in diameter and must be stacked with the cut end toward street. Branches mixed with grass or leaves will not be picked up.

Leaf Pickup

In 2022, leaf pickup will take place October 1st to December 15th ONLY. Leaves mixed with grass or branches will not be picked up. After December 15th, leaves will need to be bagged as trash.

Building Department News

Benjamin Brown, Building Commissioner

The winter months are here. Many homeowners will install temporary snow fencing around critical locations of their property to effectively trap and control blowing and drifting snow. Chapter 1169.03 of our City ordinance does allow for this installation as long as the following is met.

- The fence is not installed prior to October 1st, and is removed by May 1st.
- The fence is not in excess of four (4) feet.
- The fence is maintained in good condition, structurally sound and attractively finished at all times.

Snow and Ice Removal

Chapter 543.03 of our City ordinance specifies the following requirements for snow and ice removal on your property.

- It shall be the duty of the owner and tenant of each and every parcel of real estate in the Municipality abutting upon any sidewalk to keep such sidewalk abutting his premises free and clear of snow and ice and to remove therefrom all snow and ice accumulated thereon within a reasonable time, which will ordinarily not exceed twelve (12) hours after the abatement of any storm during which such snow and ice may have accumulated.
- No person removing snow from any driveway or sidewalk within the City shall deposit same on the pavement or sidewalk of any public street or on any tree lawn in any public street, except the tree lawn immediately in front of the premises from which the snow is removed.

Heating Facilities

Chapter 1377.12 (Heating Facilities) of our City ordinance requires that:

- Every dwelling unit shall be provided with approved heating facilities capable of maintaining an average temperature of 68° - 70° degrees Fahrenheit in all habitable rooms, kitchens, bathrooms and water closet compartments when the outdoor temperature is minus five (5) degrees Fahrenheit, without forcing the facilities to operate in excess of their design capacity.
- No electrical or gas appliance shall be used to supply general heat in any dwelling unit unless specifically designed and approved for that purpose.

Supply of Heat

Chapter 1337.13 (Supply of Heat) of our City ordinance requires that:

- The owner, operator or agent in charge of a dwelling structure, who rents or leases any dwelling unit therein under an agreement, express or implied, to supply or furnish heat to the occupants thereof, shall supply heat adequate to maintain an inside temperature of not less than 68° - 70° degrees Fahrenheit in all habitable rooms, bathrooms, water closet compartments and kitchens whenever the outside temperature falls below sixty (60) degrees Fahrenheit. Such inside temperature shall be measured in approximately the center of each room, approximately three (3) feet above the floor. The provisions of this section shall not apply where

the failure to meet minimum standards is caused by a general shortage of fuel, negligent or malicious act of the occupant or any cause beyond the control of the owner or occupant.

Safety Tips and Winterization Reminder

- Have furnace and heating system serviced by a licensed technician.
- Have fireplace cleaned/swept by a licensed technician.
- Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors for proper operation.
- Store a fire extinguisher.
- Check doors and windows for gaps and winterize with caulk and weather-stripping.
- Insulate walls and attic.
- Insulate water lines particularly the ones that run along outside walls.
- Drain and turn off outdoor faucets and irrigation systems. Cover all older faucets that are not the frost-proof type with a Styrofoam faucet cover.
- Clean any debris off the roof and gutters, and make sure downspouts are clear. Make sure gutter or properly secured.
- Look at installing roof and gutter de-icing system to prevent ice-dams.

Community and Economic Development News

Raymon Turner, Community Development Manager

Shred Events:

In 2021, we saw the return of our two annual shred events held at new Municipal Center after a forced hiatus in 2020 due to COVID-19. The shred events were funded by a grant administered through the Cuyahoga County Waste Management Program. The two combined events served over 730 participants, providing them with a secure method of disposing documents and personal records. We anticipate bringing our annual shredding events back in 2022.

Exterior Maintenance Program:

This year was extremely challenging for residents seeking to take advantage of the city's Exterior Maintenance Program. The program is a partial reimbursement grant administered through the city. It was put in place to help residents that had received exterior maintenance violations and were mandated to make repairs. Last year's program was hindered by the lack of contractor availability and contractors' willingness to quote and initiate jobs. In spite of all roadblocks, the City was able to assist a number of residents with a program total of \$19,680 in reimbursements. The Exterior Maintenance Program is scheduled to resume on April 1, 2022, budget permitting. Contact Raymon Turner at 216.587.1144 or rturner@cityofwarrensville for further information.

Grant & Awards:

In 2021, the city was able to obtain both CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) and CDSG (Community Development Supplemental Grant) funding through the Cuyahoga County Department of Development in the total amount of \$200,000. The competitive grants dollars awarded allowed for the completion of phase 2 of the Clarkwood Parkway road reconstruction project. We hope to receive grant funding for phase 3 soon.

City Offices

Additionally, we were awarded grant dollars from the Clean Ohio Grant to initiate the first phase of the Bear Creek Enhancement Riparian Project aimed at cleaning up Bear Creek, removing invasive plant species, and replacing them with native species. This impacts the section of Bear Creek behind the library and YMCA. Phase 2 will include the addition of a park.

Current Development Projects:

Floor & Décor is a national chain specialty retailer of upscale flooring and related accessories. This store is going up now, adjacent to BJ's Wholesale Club. Tremco Commercial Sealants and Waterproofing is located on Miles Road. They are adding an extension to their current manufacturing facility. This is a Joint Development Economic Agreement JEDA between the cities of Cleveland and the City of Warrensville Heights. ICP (Industrial Commercial Properties) is currently building a speculative building on the former Macy's retail site. This is also a (JEDA) between the City of Warrensville Heights and the Village of North Randall.

Hub District:

"The Hub District" is the city's vision for intergenerational living, socializing, dining and entertainment. It's a neighborhood concept to be created near the Warrensville Heights Library and YMCA. It will include apartments, townhouses, senior living, small unique retail venues, green space and a park.

Sherwin-Williams:

The city has been in negotiations relating to the upcoming use of the current Sherwin Williams property. West Creek Conservancy was brought in as a collaborator with regard to developing a Mill Creek Conservation Easement on the property. Establishing a transition plan now will allow for future development to help stabilize tax revenues to the city for years in the future.

Senior and Civic Center News

Jennifer Lastery, Director - Sandra Noble, Program Coordinator

4567 Green Road, Warrensville Heights, Ohio 44128
216-587-1250, Monday – Friday 9a – 5p

What the center provides and offers

The Civic Center is a municipal facility whose primary mission is to provide services and activities for the adult community of Warrensville Heights. The Center currently offers a variety of activities and classes, which includes: Aerobics, Ceramics, Crocheting/Knitting and more. We also provide social activities for our seniors such as an Annual Luncheon with the Mayor, Cleveland Playhouse, and programs based on the interest in the community.

Transportation

Transportation Services are provided for seniors 60+ years of age for medical appointments and grocery shopping from 9am until 12:30pm. Based on availability.

Senior Club

The Senior Club (for Warrensville Heights residents 60 years and older) meets twice a month and encourages neighbors to meet and socialize. The club has an annual picnic and

other fun and informative activities. Each month during their meetings, club members receive updates on current affairs in the City from the Mayor, City Council members, Board of Education members and city departmental directors.

Hot-line for Seniors

Cuyahoga County has a hot-line to help seniors and disabled adults connect with services. Call 216.420.6700 or visit dsas.cuyahogacounty.us to learn more about:

- Available services for people 60 or older, or adults with disabilities between ages 18 and 59 who are living in private residences.
- Basic resources including benefits, income assistance, housing and medical care.
- Ways to report suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Rentals

The Civic Center as well as the Chateaux of Emery Woods has space available for rental by residents ONLY on Friday evenings and all day on Saturdays for community or adult events.



Police Department News

Wesley Haynes, Chief of Police

The Warrensville Heights Police Department is constantly finding new technology to protect the citizens and businesses of this community. We will be partnering with Flock Safety, a company that provides license plate readers throughout the United States. This technology will help officers locate stolen vehicles, assist with investigations and interface with surrounding communities including Beachwood, Orange Village, Cleveland Heights, Maple Heights and Solon among other cities.

Additionally, I am also pleased to welcome four new members to the Warrensville Heights Police Department. Officer Talmadge Patterson, who served with Akron Police Department for four years before joining this Department. Officers Tyler Dankovich, who served with Newburgh Heights Police Department for four years and served in the rank of Sergeant. Officer Kalin Berry, who served with East Cleveland Police Department for two years. Lastly, Officer Michael Tsevdos, who served with Bentleyville Police Department for two years. Even with the new additions, we are still looking to increase manpower for the Warrensville Heights Police Department. At this time we are conducting the necessary background checks on new recruits in hope of bringing on six new Police Officers by the beginning of 2022.

City Offices (continued)

Finance Department News

Karen Howse, Finance Director

Great news! Once again, this year the City's Finance Department received an Excellent Financial Reporting Award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the 2019 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The finance department is required to prepare a CAFR annually for previous year financial activity. Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the award was issued in late May of 2021. This distinguished award has been issued to the City's Finance Department for fourteen consecutive years. The Finance Director, Karen Howse, Assistant Finance Director, Lorie Reid and the balance of the Finance Team strive to ensure that the City's financial records are transparent and in excellent shape. The Finance Department remains optimistic that they will receive another award for the 2020 Financial Reporting year. The CAFR was submitted to GFOA for review in June of 2021. It generally takes the organization six to seven months to review and issue an award. Finance expects to hear from GFOA around May of 2022.

The year 2020 was a challenging year due to the COVID 19 Pandemic. Nonetheless, there were many great things happening in the Finance Department to enhance financial reporting and transparency. One in particular was successfully converting to a new financial software system called BS&A Software in October of 2020. There was hesitancy to move forward with the conversion due to social distancing and the State of Ohio "Stay at Home Order." However, BS&A and the Finance Department managed to successfully move forward with conversion and training through virtual communications technology. October 2021 was the one-year anniversary that the Finance Department and Administration have been using the financial software system. Thus far, the end-users have been raving about how easy it is to navigate through the system and the BS&A customer service is stellar. The first week of November 2021,

Finance had a BS&A representative conduct a three-day, in-person refresher training session held in the City's Training Room. There were a lot of "a-ha moments" and lots of "How to" questions. The refresher course was beneficial and much was learned.

In year 2020, the City of Warrensville Heights was a recipient of federal funding to subsidize revenue loss due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The federal funding was titled Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The City received approximately \$1.2 million. The administration used the funds to support Public Safety salary and wages, personal protective equipment (PPE), facial masks, gloves, hand sanitizers and disinfectant cleaning supplies and sprays. To also help reduce the spread of the virus, building improvements were done to various City-owned buildings and assets. Improvements such as touch-less toilets, faucets and soap dispensers, automatic door openers, to name a few. The City had until December 31, 2021 to expense any balances remaining from the CARES funding.

In 2021, the City was again awarded federal funding titled American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). It was allocated to the City to provide a critical source of financial relief. The total amount awarded was \$1,359,150. Fifty percent was disbursed in September 2021 and the balance will be disbursed in 2022. The funding can be used for a broad range of services to control COVID-19 outbreaks such as implementing a vaccination program, contact tracing, and public communication efforts. The funding can also be used for capital investments in public facilities to meet pandemic operational needs, water and sewer infrastructure repairs and improvements. Those are just a few of the federally authorized eligible uses. Thus far, the City has used the ARPA funding to implement a vaccination program for the City employees. However, there will be a comprehensive plan put together to address how the balance of the funding will be used in 2021 and 2022.



Holiday Drive-Thru

On December 17th, the City along with a partnership with UH Ahuja Medical Center and the Warrensville Heights Family YMCA presented the first Holiday Drive-Thru event. Cars were invited to drive through Fire Station 2 to see lights, hear holiday music, see Santa and receive a free gift. Over 300 gifts were given away at the event. It was a way for the city residents to celebrate the holidays, while keeping children of all ages safe. Thanks to everyone who made this event a success in 2021.

Council Spotlight



Dorise Hagwood

WARD 1

Greetings! Thank you for your continued support, encouragement, and trust placed in me to represent you. The residents and our business neighbors drive my passion for public service. When we think of public service, too often we think of just people. In this news article, I am spotlighting and recognizing "CASE VISION CARE", a business that has called The Friendly City home for over 50 years! Located at: 3972 Warrensville Center Rd., Warrensville Heights, Ohio.

Eddie Kawa, WCHSD, Class of 1971, and his wife, Sandy Kawa, WCHSD, Class of 1972, have changed the landscape of vision optical care with an "eye-catching, one-stop shop." Case Vision Care offers quality, fashionable eyeglasses manufactured on site with an eye lab, repair service and an optician on site. You'll find reasonable prices with friendly and professional service – and you'll be treated like family.



Thank you for walking this journey with me. I am grateful for you! We have served together, celebrated together, prayed together and grieved together. Like a forest of trees and undergrowth plants, we are rooted in this soil, unified as community. I am approachable, available, and accessible, just call, text or email me. I work for you. Stay safe and be well, Dorise

dagwood@cityofwarrensville.com | O: 216.587.6516



Andrea Mitchell

WARD 2

Happy New Year neighbors. It is my sincere hope that you have welcomed 2022 with great health, happiness, prosperity and safety. The last two years have been extremely unpredictable- to say the least.

Despite an unusual climate, unity and growth remains evident in our city. In 2022, residents on the twenty-two streets that comprise Ward 2 will bear witness to significant change. Both Maze- Featuring Frankie Beverly and musician Tyrone Davis said it best in their lyrics,

"...What Goes Up, Must Come Down..."

Going up: A new upper school - Warrensville Heights Middle and High School on Northfield Road - will continue to take shape. There will also be new construction, as at least three new houses, built on Longbrook Road in Brentwood.

Coming down: We will also witness the end of an era, as abatement ends and two of the oldest schools in the district, the Junior High/Middle School on Warrensville Center Road and Eastwood Elementary School on Eastwood Lane come down.

As always, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact me. Neighborly, Andrea.

amitchell@cityofwarrensville.com | C: 216.339.1279
O: 216.339.1279



Elona C. White

WARD 3

Greetings to the residents of Warrensville Heights! This past year was a difficult one for many people and businesses, as COVID-19 has influenced our way of life. We have

had to rely on our faith and dependence on community as we navigate new ways of living. As 2022 begins, we know we must remain resilient as we do what it takes to combat the changes brought on by our new normal. As the New Year progresses, we must remain steadfast as we stick to the protective behavior we have all come to learn. We must wash and sanitize our hands often, wear our masks, maintain social distancing, and try to quarantine as much as possible. We must avoid crowds and large gatherings. In essence, we must change the way we live in order to beat this virus.

Our heroes include the doctors, nurses, nursing assistants, and EMS workers who go over and beyond the call of duty in caring for patients. We value our essential workers like bus drivers, home health aides, police and firefighters who work tirelessly, despite the dangers of this virus. We can beat COVID, but it will require our continued sacrifice and commitment to all the behaviors that will help to stop this virus in its tracks. When the vaccine becomes available, we must all participate in getting it in order to keep us and our loved ones healthy. We can do this if we all work together to get it done. Let us remember, we are neighbors in the Friendly City. We look out for one another and love knowing we are one of the best communities in northeast Ohio. As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stated, "Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." We can do what is necessary to minimize the effects of COVID-19 in our community. I believe in the citizens of Warrensville Heights.

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Council Spotlight (continued)



Walter Stewart

WARD 4

Season's Greetings. I pray that everyone has had a very happy and safe Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

Over the past two years we have been facing and experiencing very difficult challenges with the spread of the Delta variant of COVID-19 and now Omicron.

We all have a responsibility to our families, friends and neighbors to take every safety measure and precaution to stop the spread of Omicron. We may be able to slow and even stop this deadly variant if all of us do our part to protect ourselves, family and community with proper and effective measures.

I am still very optimistic that we will get through this but this effort has to be made by everyone, while respecting each other's point of view. We also must continue to live our lives as fully as possible and not be so fearful not to enjoy life. It is a balance. I want to extend my condolences to anyone who has lost a loved one as the result of this pandemic. We will get through this and I pray that the New Year will bring about an Abundance of Blessings: Joy, Happiness, Peace, and Success.

wstewart@cityofwarrensville.com
O: 216.587.6516 | C: 216.868.5695

you need some. We will get through these tough times!!! I miss you and look forward to seeing you all very soon. Please call if you have any questions - or just need to talk.

mhoward@cityofwarrensville.com | O: 440.561.7990



Stanley Anderson

WARD 6

To the residents of Ward 6, thank you for your continued support and trust in me to be your advocate at City Hall. I have served as a member of council for the past eight years and as always, I will continue to encourage Ward 6 residents to play an active role in your city government. All City Council and Standing Committees meetings are open to the public.

There were several Ward 6 projects that were put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Hopefully things will be better in 2022. I also encourage residents to be aware of the many scammers that continue to target our senior citizens. To avoid being a victim of possible violence, always be aware of your surroundings when in public. Thanks again for your continued support.

sanderson@cityofwarrensville.com | O: 216.587.6516



Matthew Howard

WARD 5

Greetings everyone. I would first like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year. The Ward 5 Christmas party was once again missed tremendously this year. We all look forward to getting together and celebrating

one another every year. It is my intent to return to doing annual celebrations this year, God willing. Thank you all for your continued support as I wrap up my second year as Council President. There is still COVID-19 restrictions relating to wearing masks. There are also updated guidelines for those who are vaccinated versus those who are not.

The new Warrensville Elementary School fully opened on Monday, January 25th, 2020. The new high school and middle school project is still under construction. Council continues to meet in person on the first and third Tuesdays of every month. Also, all commissions, boards, and committees have been meeting in person as well. I continue to encourage all associations to meet virtually if you can at this time. Most city council sponsored events have not been confirmed for 2022.

Bed, Bath and Beyond has closed. There has been talk of new tenants coming to the Harvard Park plaza in the near future. All other businesses have remained open throughout this year. We will be giving more updates about what to expect for the second half of the year as information becomes available. Please continue to be safe and socially distance yourselves. We have a limited supply of disposable masks available if

SUMMER INTERNSHIPS AVAILABLE

The City of Warrensville Heights Summer Program 2022 is looking for bright, motivated and outgoing students to gain valuable experience. The Student Summer Employment Program provides training and work experience for individuals during summer months. A diverse range of job opportunities are available. In order to be considered for a position:

- You must be a Warrensville Heights resident.
- A current Warrensville Heights student or a recent graduate of Warrensville Heights and enrolled in college.
- At least 14 years of age.
- Able to work 9 AM to 3 PM or 9 AM to 5 PM.
- Able to work Monday through Friday.

Summer applications will be accepted from April 1st to May 3rd only and must be submitted to the Human Resources Department. You must include your resume and an application form. So get ready and look out for more information soon.

Black History Month

February is Black History month. Born in Virginia in 1875, Carter G. Woodson was the son of former slaves. In his early years, his options for schooling were limited and he took work in the coal mines of West Virginia. During this time he self-educated himself in various subjects. He ultimately enrolled in Berea College in Kentucky, the first racially integrated college in the southern states.

After receiving his bachelor's degree, he became a school administrator and learned the value of educating others. He continued his impressive education by attending Harvard University, becoming the second African American to complete a PhD.

Throughout his life, he worked tirelessly to promote Black Studies in schools and universities. His ultimate goal was to not let this history be hidden. In 1916, he started the Journal of African-American History for this purpose, which is still published today. Woodson believed that bringing history into the open and sharing with professional and social contacts, would ultimately reduce racism.

In 1926, he created an annual black history observance. Later, this torch was picked up by educators and students throughout the 1960s and 70s. In 1970, students and

educators at Kent State University started celebrating the first month-long event. In 1976, President Gerald Ford designated February, Black History Month. February was chosen because it corresponded with the birth dates of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglas who both had a key role in ending slavery.

The cause has also been picked up by the United Kingdom, Canada and Ireland, each having their own month-long event.

"No man knows what he can do until he tries."

Carter G. Woodson

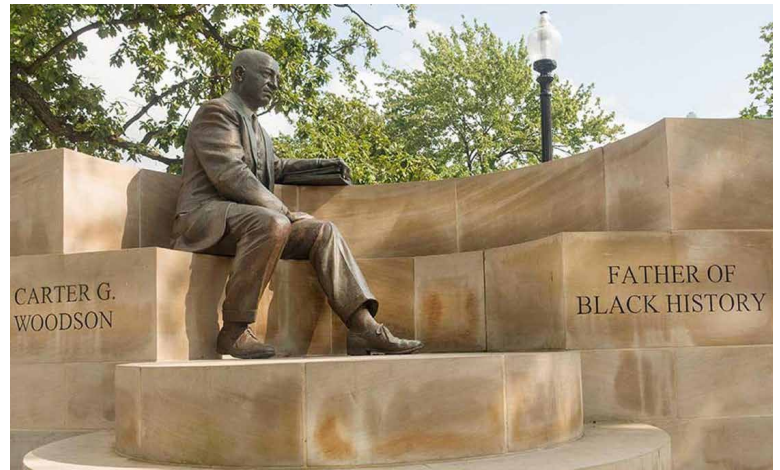


Photo courtesy of the National Park Service



Francine Lawson
1966 - 2021

The City of Warrensville Heights would like to pay tribute to an extraordinary woman we lost last year.

Francine Lawson was a wonderful person with a warm, kind spirit. She was born in Cleveland, Ohio, in October, 1966 to her parents, Otis and Gloria Lawson. She was a graduate of Warrensville Heights High school and subsequently continued her studies at Sawyer College, majoring in accounting and business. Francine started work with the city's personnel department and later worked as the traffic bureau clerk in the Police Department for 31 years.

Many in the city talked about her being a wonderful neighbor and steward of the community. She was a lifelong member of the Blessed Hope Missionary Baptist Church and served in the Willing Workers Ministry. Family was always a priority to her, and she became a caregiver, teacher and role model to her niece and nephews.

Through small acts of kindness, she spent many occasions giving help to those in need. Francine Lawson, was a unique lady that will always be missed.

The Friendly City Magazine



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Photography: Jeffrey Gates
Additional Photography: Bruce Mitchell



Over the last few months, residents and small businesses have received enrollment letters to select utility suppliers for gas or electric. NOPEC is Ohio's largest governmental energy aggregator. An aggregator is an organization that negotiates with utilities on behalf of consumers. NOPEC buys gas and electricity in bulk and advocates for consumer friendly legislation.

Every two years, NOPEC is required by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio to send enrollment letters

to all eligible customers. As a resident of a NOPEC community, current customers are already enrolled in NOPEC's standard program price. No action is required to select the standard plan. This price is exclusively negotiated for NOPEC communities, like Warrensville Heights. The goal is to deliver competitive pricing without the worry of severe price swings due to market volatility.

Remember, your bill will still come from your current utility. If you want to check current rates, plans or learn more, visit nopec.org or call 855.667.3201.

A friendly reminder from the City of Warrensville Heights.
If new snow exceeds 2 inches on streets, then a

SNOW PARKING BAN is in effect.