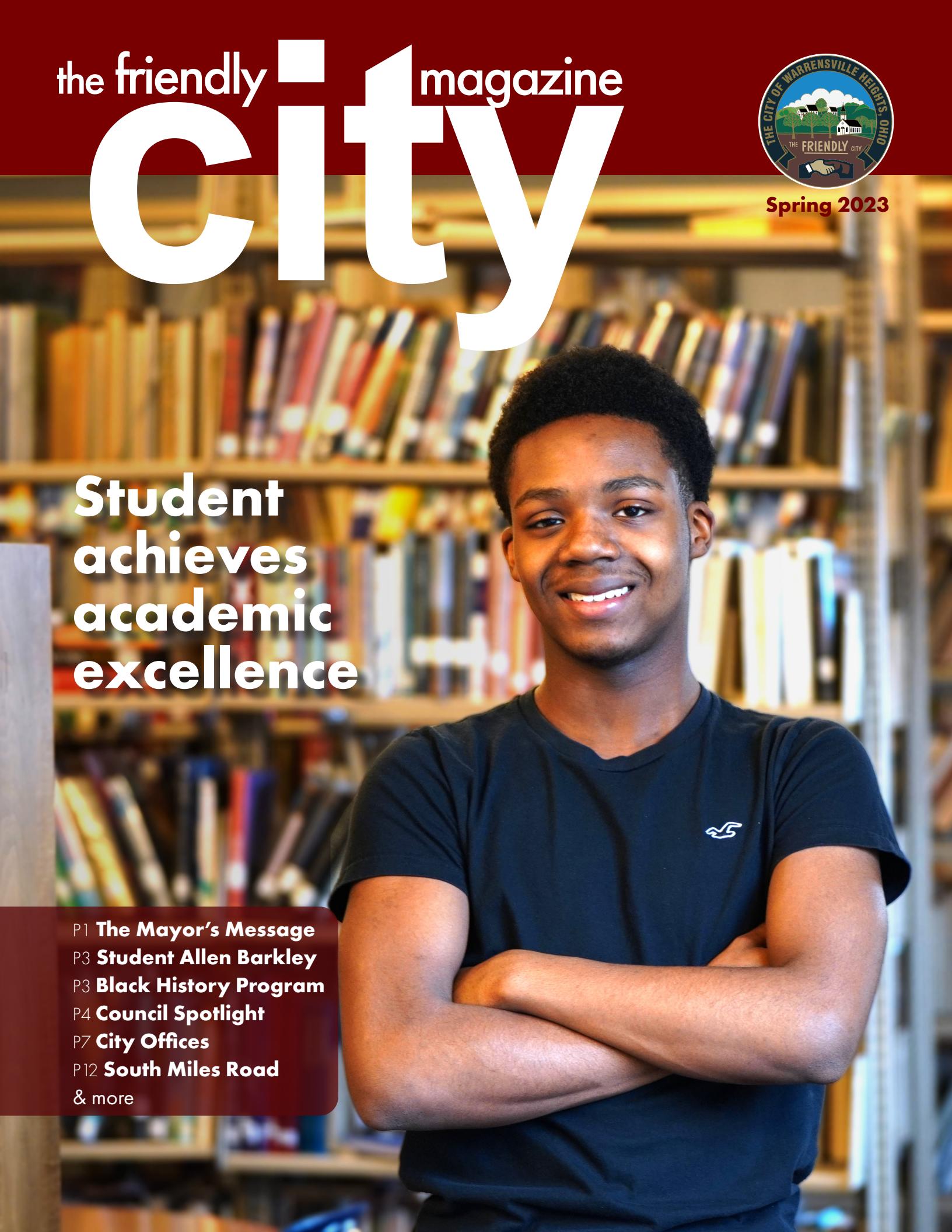


the friendly

city magazine



Spring 2023

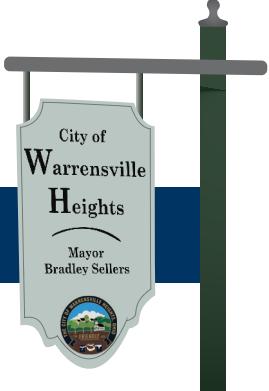


Student achieves academic excellence

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The Mayor's Message



Making strides, spring forward

It's spring, the time nature awakens from its slumber. When it starts to build the infrastructure to take advantage of the sun's stronger rays. In a way, nature is planning for its future.



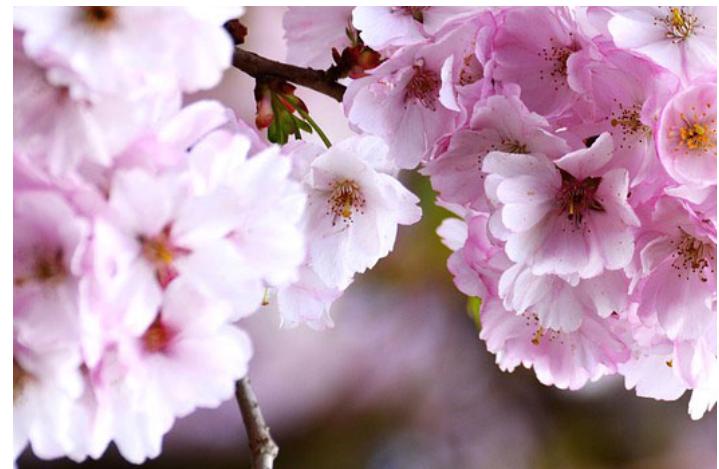
The definition of spring means, to leap, to bound, to vault. And that is what we have been doing in the City of Warrensville Heights, making strides and springing forward into our future. We are constantly thinking about the standing of our city. Trying to make bold strategic moves that will pay off five or ten years down the road. Positioning this city to be in a more advantageous position while making constant improvements. When I look back five or ten years ago, I ask myself "Are we in a better place, today?" I can surely answer that question with a resounding "Yes."

People are moving back to this city. We are continually using this momentum to reach toward our goals. Property values are up. Schools are up. Business is up. New housing is up. And, once people start to realize our city is on the move, they want to jump on-board too.

I am not saying we are finished with our work, not by a long shot. To make something great, one must continue to make changes and keep up. For example, if a business doesn't innovate and keeps doing the same thing year after year, they may seal their own fate.

This is exactly why we cannot stand still and stop innovating. I pledge to keep renewing, to look for opportunities and to make continuous improvements.

On May 1, we held the Senior Luncheon. About 400 seniors attended. I love this event as it gives me an opportunity to engage with so many from our community. I am also looking forward to our Memorial Day Parade at the end of this month which will be held at 10 AM on May 29th. Once the parade ends, do not forget to meet us at Old City Hall for the solemn flag raising ceremony conducted by our Fire Department and our Remembrance Program with local mayors, dignitaries and more. This summer, we also have a date for our annual Summer Festival, August 19th and 20th.



As we say goodbye to an old friend, the Warrensville Heights High School, let's reflect. The last class is graduating, the building will take its final bow at the end of the month. Remember the good times, the memories, the accomplishments and the fine people that have come from the efforts of teachers, coaches & administrators there. This was my high school too. I feel a bit sad as well. But I am excited for the new era to come. We will give the next generation of our children a better place, state-of-the-art schools that will be here for years to come. Constant improvement. Reaching higher.

Bradley D. Sellers

High School Senior Earns Associate's Degree

Allen Barkley is not your typical high school senior. Despite being in 12th grade, Allen has recently earned his Associate of Arts degree from Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) through the College Credit Plus (CCP) program. He has been taking post-secondary classes since 8th grade. His decision to start college early was motivated by his desire to save money on his future bachelor's degree. He also wanted to prove to his mother that he could "do it" and he has certainly achieved both of those goals.



Allen Barkley's journey was not without its challenges. As he progressed from middle school to high school, he struggled with balancing his Advanced Placement (AP) high school classes and college, all while maintaining a part-time job. Still, through hard work and determination, he was eventually able to find a balance to succeed.

Reflecting on his experience, Allen said "In college, they teach on a different and realistic level. College is a more open atmosphere where you manage your own time. It allowed me to find my own way. Because of these opportunities, it has opened many doors for my future. I am excited about the prospects that lie ahead." Next year, with his Associate's degree in hand, Allen plans to attend Kent State University to major in Criminal Justice with a minor in Psychology. He is also using his extra spare time to work and save even more money for college.

Overall, Allen's story is one of perseverance. Starting college in 8th grade was not an easy decision, but it has certainly paid off for him. His achievement is a testament to the benefits of early college credit opportunities. Allen can look toward the future and feel confident knowing that he has already accomplished so much at a young age, and that he is well-prepared to tackle whatever challenges come his way.



After two virtual years, the Black History Program draws a full house

The 2023 Black History Program highlighted the significance and importance of the Black Experience, which encompasses Black history and culture. It showcased the trials and tribulations faced by Black people and the significant contributions made in various fields that have had a lasting impact on this country. The program featured a diverse range of perspectives, including inspiring words from Director Jennifer Lastery, an opening message from Mayor Bradley D. Sellers, program coordination from Sandra Noble, storytelling by Donna Willingham, soulful singing from Connie Tremell, genealogy from Joe Houser, lively singing from Joseph Lastery, Sr. & Joseph "Ryan" Lastery Jr., Timothy James on piano, professional perspectives from Imani Edwards, and the Kings on Mission Group from Warrensville Heights Elementary School. The program underscored the enduring strength and resilience of the Black Experience.



Step Forward comes to Warrensville Hts.

On January 18th, Step Forward, the nonprofit formerly known as the Council for Economic Opportunity in Greater Cleveland, moved to its new location in Warrensville Heights at 4834 Richmond Road.



This Neighborhood Opportunity Center serves as the agency's newest satellite office and is the fourth of its kind in Cuyahoga County. It assists low-income individuals and families by addressing immediate needs while building long-term skills for success. The Step Forward staff connects clients to multiple resources like early childhood education, home energy assistance programs, emergency food assistance, clothing, rent and internet payments, personal development and much more.

Neighborhood Opportunity Centers are designed to meet people in need where they are," Douglass Bennett, Step Forward's Vice President of Community Services and External Affairs, said. "Poverty doesn't have a face. It isn't isolated to just downtown Cleveland. As an agency, we want to be accessible to people everywhere."



According to staff, the location in Warrensville Heights was strategic. In 2022, with help from The Center for Community Solutions, Step Forward published a needs assessment. The data indicated what services were needed in the region. The information gathered indicated that Warrensville Heights was a prime location that could benefit the from a new

Neighborhood Opportunity Center.

"With the assistance of Step Forward, many people in our community and the region can move toward their goals of making a better life," Warrensville Heights Mayor Bradley D.

Sellers, said. "All of these efforts create a way "forward" for those of us who need a little help. I welcome Step Forward to their new offices in the City of Warrensville Heights. They are a welcome resource."

The Warrensville Heights office celebrated its grand opening with a ribbon cutting. Ohio Congresswoman Shontel Brown (OH-11), Cuyahoga County Executive Chris Ronayne, Cuyahoga County Councilwoman Meredith Turner, Warrensville Heights Mayor Bradley D. Sellers and Karen Johnson, Warrensville Heights Area Chamber of Commerce Board Chair, attended.



"Opening doors to a world of opportunity begins locally," Congresswoman Brown said. "Step Forward's new neighborhood opportunity center in Warrensville Heights is a major step toward strengthening our local community. Because each person's story is unique and complex, meeting them where they are is important, which is precisely what this Neighborhood Opportunity Center will do."



The new Neighborhood Opportunity Center is open to clients from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Council Spotlight



Dorise Thompson-Hagwood

WARD 1

Salutations! As always, thanks for your encouragement, support and walking this journey with me. I am grateful for the opportunity to hold your seat at the table.

Governance for the people has been my mission. I acknowledging that politics can trouble folks sometimes. However, I am so glad our people endure, engaging and working with the leaders in this community. It is this fortitude that can and has brought the Friendly City to Greater Heights!

This is one of the most silent attacks on our children. Parents/guardians please check cell phones, tablets or computers.

WHAT ABOUT THE CHILDREN?

There is an African proverb that says "**Kasserian Inger**", an African warrior tribe greeting which means "and how are the children? The response is typically "**Sapati Ingera**" which means, "All the children are well" we should ask ourselves, are the children well? **WHAT ABOUT THE CHILDREN?**

James Woods died by suicide on Saturday, November 19, 2022. He was 17-year-old Streetsboro High School senior and a member of the cross-country team. The Streetsboro Police Department confirmed that James was not the only victim of sextortion (when someone tries to blackmail based on a victim's private and sensitive material, usually images).

Since, his parents launched the "Do it for James" Foundation to bring attention to this devastating SCAM attacking our children.

Ohio Lt. Governor Jon Husted at a news conference, announced legislation, ' Social Media Parental Notification Act'. **WHAT ABOUT THE CHILDREN?** "Our children bring more than books to school in their back packs" – Hunger, being bullied and personal issues too embarrassing to share. **Please pay attention to the children. Talk to them.**

On a more positive note, I have some great news to share! The much-loved "**Party in the Park**" is making a comeback on Saturday, July 15th. This is a cause for celebration as we can all anticipate the joy of gathering together this summer to revel in our community's spirit and with some outdoor time.

I encourage everyone to take the time to read the articles from each department and to attend your City Council meetings. These are important ways to stay informed and engaged in the issues that affect our community.

Thank you for believing in me! Yours in service, DORISE

dhagwood@cityofwarrensville.com | O: 216.587.6516



Andrea Mitchell

WARD 2

This year, voting regulations have undergone significant changes in Ohio as a result of Ohio House Bill 458, which went into effect on January 6. Notably, current utility bills, paychecks, and government

documents are no longer accepted as valid forms of identification. Instead, voters are required to present a current, unexpired, and valid identification with a photo such as a driver's license, state ID, or passport to vote in person. For Voting-by-Mail, a valid Ohio driver's license number, Ohio state ID card number, or the last four digits of the voter's social security number (SSN) are required. The deadline for applying for a Vote-by-Mail ballot has changed to the seventh day or Tuesday before Election Day, and all Vote-by-Mail ballots must be returned by the fourth day after the election to be counted.

The air is warmer in the city and occasionally a few tempers may be as well. While we enjoy our music, celebrations and property maintenance, we should not expect our neighbors to feel the same way. Per noise ordinance 511.01 – between 9 PM and 7 AM:

No person shall make, continue or cause to be made or continued any loud, disturbing or unnecessary noise or any noise which either annoys, disturbs, injures or endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace or safety of others, within the limits of the City.

Remember, good neighbors make great neighborhoods. Great neighborhoods make pleasant communities. Pleasant communities comprise friendly cities.

So, if you hear something disturbing:

- 1. Call the police or essential department**
- 2. Contact me and I will follow up**

Neighborly, Andrea "Your Friend in the Friendly City"

amitchell@cityofwarrensville.com | O: 216.339.1279



Elona C. White

WARD 3

Greetings, Ward 3! Springtime is perfect for continuing to work our way back to a sense of normalcy. This year, we plan to bring back some of our enjoyable activities. We hope to see our community members at each event.

On Monday, May 29th, we will be having our annual Memorial Day Parade. Come out to meet us along the parade route and enjoy the wonderful sights and sounds.

In July, we hope to see you and your family at the “**Party in the Park**” sponsored by Councilwoman Dorise Hagwood – Ward 1, and me, Councilwoman Elona White – Ward 3. The party will be on Saturday, July 15th, at the park on Warrensville Center Road and Ridgewood Avenue. Join us from 12 PM until 4 PM for food and fun.

I want to take a moment to mention the passing of Fannie Dean, a longtime employee of the Warrensville schools. The students and teachers loved Mrs. Dean, who served for over 60 years. She will forever be thought of with fondness. We also lost another memorable person in our community, Barbara Walker, who served in City Hall under three mayors. Her hard work, dedication, and reputation as a loving friend will be missed. I also want to acknowledge the passing of a longtime employee of the city and dedicated volunteer in the schools, Melvin Lester. He will be remembered as a loving husband, devoted father, and a strong community member that people could rely on.



Congratulations to the Warrensville Heights Drama Club and the Karamu House for their production of “*The Wiz*.” It was an amazing representation of our children’s talents and potential for greatness in the arts.

Also, I would like to acknowledge Mr. and Mrs. Donald King, who have been long-time residents of Ward 3 and have shown true dedication and commitment to this community.

I want to leave you with this thought: **“In every community, there is work to be done. In every nation, there are wounds to heal. In every heart, there is the power to do it.”** ~Marianne Williamson

Let’s continue to do what is needed to maintain our designation as “The Friendly City.”

ewhite@cityofwarrensvilleheights.com | C: 216.244.4692



Walter Stewart

WARD 4

I have recently engaged in discussions with numerous Ward 4 residents who have inquired about the “Pay to Stay” legislation in Warrensville Heights.

This legislation grants tenants the right to remain in their rental unit if they attempt to pay their overdue rent and legal fees. The Warrensville Heights City Council passed this ordinance, known as Ordinance 2022-122, on December 6, 2022. It applies to tenants in Warrensville Heights who are behind on rent or facing eviction due to nonpayment of rent.

The legislation provides residents facing eviction for nonpayment of rent with an opportunity to pay their overdue fees and court costs prior to a move-out or eviction hearing. It is important to note that landlords are not required to accept partial payments. To utilize Pay to Stay as a defense against eviction, tenants must offer payment for all rent and fees. It is essential to note that Pay to Stay only prevents eviction for nonpayment of rent and is not a defense against other grounds for eviction.

If a tenant receives a Three-Day Notice, they can still pay their rent if they offer to pay all past due and reasonable late fees, and the landlord must accept the payment. The ordinance limits the amount of late fees landlords may charge, capped at 25% or 5% of the monthly rent, whichever is larger.

If the landlord refuses to accept the tenant’s rent, the tenant must document all attempts to pay the rent and the landlord’s refusal. Bring a witness with you if you try to pay in person. If your landlord returns your payment, save the payment and save texts or emails between you and your landlord to show that you tried to pay. The court will decide if your attempt to pay is an affirmative defense. The court will decide if it applies and whether to order the landlord to accept your rent. If the tenant did not offer to pay the rent before the eviction was filed, the tenant may offer to pay all past due rent, reasonable late fees, and court costs. The tenant’s offer must be genuine, meaning you must actually be able to pay.

If the tenant has a move-out date scheduled, they may still have the opportunity to stop the eviction by paying all past due rent, reasonable late fees, court costs, and the landlord’s expenses for obtaining the court order (known as a “writ”) that set the move-out date.

For any questions regarding tenants’ rights, residents may call the Tenant Information Line at 216.861.5955.

wstewart@cityofwarrensville.com | O: 216.587.6516

Council Spotlight continues on the next page

Council Spotlight



Matthew Howard

WARD 5

Hello everyone, I hope you're enjoying the arrival of spring after a mild winter. Unfortunately, we lost two of our long-time residents recently: Jonnie Cooper, the immediate past President of the Clarkwood Estates Residents Association, in December, and former Councilman Darnell Robertson in March. Both of these individuals have contributed countless efforts to our community over the years, and as we honor their lives, we extend our condolences to their families.

This spring and summer, we are thrilled to have several of our annual community events, such as the Senior Luncheon, Memorial Day Parade, and the Summer Festival which will occur on August 19th and 20th.

Additionally, the Warrensville Heights area of Richmond Road is undergoing a transformation, and we are in negotiations with a new Ford and Lincoln dealership that is set to arrive soon, located next to BJ's wholesale.

For those interested, the Clarkwood Estates Residents Association will be holding meetings on the Fourth Thursdays of April, May, and June at 7 PM at the Civic Center. We are also excited to announce that our new high school and middle school will be opening this fall.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

mhoward@cityofwarrensville.com | C: 440.561.7990



Stanley Anderson

WARD 6

Research conducted by social agencies, law enforcement, and the judicial system reveals that incidents of domestic violence have rapidly increased during the

COVID-19 pandemic. Shockingly, some studies indicate that one in four women and one in seven men will experience domestic violence in their lifetime. Cuyahoga County has ranked number one in Ohio with nearly 7,500 incidents and an average of 16 domestic violence deaths annually.

Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court was awarded a \$1 million grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Innovations in Supervision, to establish the High-Risk Domestic Violence Court docket for a period of three years. This court will handle up to 50 cases per year or 150 cases over the grant's life. Case Western Reserve University will evaluate the High-Risk Domestic Violence Court's effectiveness.

Furthermore, the Domestic Violence Center offers comprehensive and coordinated programs and services that address the immediate and long-term needs of victims, their children, and abusers.

If you feel that you or members of your household are in imminent danger, please call 911 or your local police for immediate assistance.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CENTER HELPLINE PHONE 216.391.HELP (4357)

sanderson@cityofwarrensville.com | O: 216.587.6516



Johnny L. Williams Jr.

WARD 7

School systems are the life blood of any community that aspires students to thrive higher! As the school year closes, I'd like to recognize our Warrensville Heights Superintendent, Donald Jolly II and Board of Education members: President, Traci Mitchell, VP, Earl Roberts and Ray Freeman, Mimi Gaiter and Barbara Mumin. This team has done an OUTSTANDING job in bringing the Warrensville School System from the bottom-ranked school system in Ohio in 2015-16 (607 of 607), to a current ranking of 298! CONGRATULATIONS!

That is yeoman work of delivering results! I salute these educational leaders who with the support of City Administration, City Council and the community have put our schools on a trajectory of continuous improvement. With unwavering commitment to our students' success, they have inspired us all to strive higher and reach for our dreams. Let us continue to work together to ensure that our community thrives.

Take note of a few select very impressive statistics:

- **A 28% increase in graduation rates to 93.5%**
- **A Five-Star rating in Closing the Gap**
- **A Four-Star rating in Progress**
- **A Four-Star rating in Graduation Rates**

This has led to a 21% increase in enrollment! Through their strategic vision and setting a culture of "Inspect what they Expect," the best is yet to come! This would not be possible without the entire community's investment and commitment.

Warrensville Heights schools will have state of the art learning facilities which, in Superintendent Jolly's words, "will not only look and feel great, but will support academic achievement and career preparation for our scholars to be leaders of tomorrow!"

As summer approaches, consider visiting the new schools to see these unparalleled facilities for yourself. We can all take pride in Warrensville Heights' bright future and the progress made towards our goals.

"I can alter my life by altering my attitude of mind"
~ American philosopher William James

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City Offices

Building Department News

Benjamin Brown, Building Commissioner

Spring is here, and with the warmer weather homeowners may want to make repairs on their properties. Just like remodeling your kitchen requires a comprehensive plan, so does hiring a quality contractor. You will need to do your homework to protect your home and your finances by selecting a contractor to make sure they are reputable. How to I find a Licensed Contractor?

Our department maintains a list of licensed and bonded contractors who have registered with the City. Contractors who register with the City must provide a surety bond and certificate of insurance. The contractors insurance must also name the City as an additional insured in the event a claim has to be filed. It shall be at the discretion and the responsibility of the property owner to require a performance bond to be submitted by the contractor, guaranteeing protection against possible losses in the event they fail to perform or is unable to deliver the project per the established private contract.

Can I pull a homeowners permit?

Homeowners Permits can be pulled for general construction only (roofs, concrete, fences, siding, storage sheds etc.)

When do I need a Building Permit?

The best way to find out if you need a permit is to contact our Building Department. Our staff is here to serve the public and will answer any questions that you may have. Be sure to discuss your plans with us before you begin construction to determine whether you need a permit, or if your project requires Planning Commission Architectural Review Board, Board of Zoning Appeals, or Council approval first prior to submitting for permitting. Permits are required for the following including but not limited to:

- New buildings
- Room additions
- Decks, garages, fences, storage sheds, roof replacement
- Renovations/Alterations (garage conversions, basement remodeling, kitchen expansions, etc.)
- Driveway replacement, resurfacing.
- Sidewalk and service walk replacement.
- Windows
- New Electrical, Plumbing, and HVAC systems.

What are the benefits of having a permit?

Increased value, your home or business is an investment. If your construction project does not comply with the codes, the value of our investment could be reduced. Property insurer may not cover work done without permits and inspections. The City may require work performed and concealed without permits to be exposed or removed, leading to costly expenses and time.

Protects a property owner who can show that code requirements were strictly and consistently met, has a strong

ally if something were to happen with the installation. Ensures Safety, a permit also allows our department to protect the public, safety and welfare by reducing the potential hazards of unsafe construction. By following the State and Local code guidelines, your completed project will meet minimum standards of construction and will be less likely to cause injury you and your family.

What is a building permit?

A building permit gives you legal permission to start the construction of a building project in accordance with the approved plans and specifications. Building Permits are very beneficial to you as the property owner. By working with our state certified building department, you will benefit from our knowledge of the state and local codes to insure is it built right, safe and will last. Safe construction practices help protect you, your family, your friends and your investment. Be sure to get our Building Department involved with your project, because we will be on your side to make sure all of the requirements are met.

Building, housing, planning, zoning code updates

The City overhauled our Zoning Code in 2020, and our Building and Housing Codes in 2021. Even with the previous changes, we are always looking for ways to improve so we are staying in compliance with current practices and removing obsolete provisions. Below are some of our new ordinances that has gone into effect.

1360.02 Special permitted use(Food Trucks)

Food Trucks may be permitted on private property in the City with the written approval of the property owner in any U-4 Retail Business District, U-5 Special Commercial and Institutional District, U-6 Limited Industrial District, U-7 Planned Commercial Development District, U-7A Planned Mixed-Use Development District, or U-8 City Hub District with the approval of and a permit issued by the Building Commissioner, or his or her designee.

1360.03 Private use is residential districts

A Food Truck may be permitted in a residential district to cater a private party or private event provided that a permit is issued pursuant to Section 1360.02 and further provided that food is served only to participants at the private party or event and that there are no retail sales of food served only to participants at the private party or event and that there are no retail sales of food or drinks to the general public.

1377.08 Required dwelling unit facilities

Every dwelling unit shall be provided with at least one complete kitchen or kitchenette with approved cooking, refrigeration and sink facilities. No such kitchen facilities shall be placed within any water closet compartment or within any bathroom. (This update will now allow for more than just the main kitchen in a dwelling).

City Offices

1163.12 Removal of signs for abandoned uses

Any sign accessory to an abandoned use shall be removed within 30 days of notification for removal by the Building Commissioner. A use shall be determined abandoned if it has ceased operations for at least ninety (90) consecutive days. Notification shall be deemed sufficient if mailed by first class mail to the last known address of the owner of the sign or to the address as shown on the records of the Cuyahoga County Recorder of the owner of the property where the sign is located.

1124.04 Notice and hearing

The Planning Commission shall hold a public hearing on each application for a conditional use permit and shall give at least ten (10) days' notice of the time and place thereof by: Sending written notice by first class mail at least ten (10) days before the date of the public hearing to owners of property contiguous to and directly across the street from the parcel or parcels which are the subject of such request.

By any two (2) of the following methods:

- Publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the City
- Posting on the City website
- Posting in a public space at City Hall

Exterior maintenance inspections

The City of Warrensville Heights codified ordinances require that all exterior property areas be maintained in good repair and free from unsafe, unhealthy, blighting, and deteriorating conditions. This includes the home exterior, grass, shrubs, fences and accessory structures. With this in mind, the City will conduct our annual Exterior Property Maintenance Inspections on the following streets for 2023 from April 24th–November 17th. These inspections are conducted from the public-right-of way.

Ingleside, Longbrook, Meadowlark, Sumpter, Wickfield, Amherst, W. Kings Highway, E. Kings Highway, Warrensville Ctr. Rd., Ascot, Brookfield, Eastwood, Shurmer, Lawrence, E. Frontenac, S. Frontenac, Emery, Wolverton, Angela, Lorient, Belfiore, Springfield, Mayfair, Harvard.

SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

The 2023 City of Warrensville Heights Summer Program 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. Summer applications will be accepted from April 3rd to May 5th only and must be submitted to the Human Resources Department. You must include your resume and an application form. For more information or to download the application:

<https://www.cityofwarrensville.com/260>

Community and Economic Development News

Nicole Harris, Economic Development Director

As the City of Warrensville Heights continues to evolve and grow, the Office of Community & Economic Development is working hard to explore all opportunities to sustain and support our current businesses, while continuing to attract new business. We have been working in collaboration with the Building Department, seeking out new housing options, while promoting and streamlining the home building process. One of our housing projects in conjunction with the Cuyahoga County Land Bank is already on line with the construction of four new homes on Longbrook in our Brentwood neighborhood. Upon completion these homes will be the first new construction of homes in that area since the 1950's – 1960's. Doing so will elevate the property values in the area and generate new comps which will aid in the promotion of future home development in the area.

The City of Warrensville Heights also applied, and was awarded a Community Planning Grant from the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission. This grant is for park and greenspace planning throughout the City, with emphasis on what will soon to become, the former John Dewey School site. The goal is to improve the City's neighborhood parks and greenspaces, strengthen connections to Green Road Park, with a vision of creating walking and biking trails, and establish intergenerational space where residents of all ages can elevate/uplift their mental, physical and emotional wellness.

This is not just the vision of the city administration, but will surely include the community. Please stay tuned for upcoming public engagement meetings to share your thoughts, suggestions and input. You can also do so by taking your phone and scanning the QR code below (picture of code). This will bring up a **survey that should take about 15 minutes to complete**.



We are asking for your valuable input as we move forward. All comments will be taken into consideration in the overall planning.

Along with the arrival of spring comes the 2023 Exterior Maintenance Program. The program is a partial reimbursement grant administered through the Office of Community & Economic Development. It opened up on April 1, 2023 and will sunset on November 1, 2023. Resident must have received a code violation from the City's Building Department, obtain a minimum of two quotes, have a completed application submitted and approved prior to the start of their project (for complete compliance information, please go to our city website).

Finally, are you looking to discard sensitive documents and papers? the City will once again be hosting our two annual Shred Events located at our Municipal Center. The events are scheduled as follows:

• Saturday June 24, 2023	11AM – 2PM
• Saturday September 30, 2023	11AM – 2PM

Senior and Civic Center News

Jennifer Lastery, Director
Sandra Noble, Program Coordinator

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

Experience all that we have to offer at the Warrensville Heights Civic and Senior Center! We have a diverse range of activities to suit all interests, including sports like cornhole, card games such as bid whist and spades, and creative pursuits like ceramics, crafts, and painting. Sharpen your mind with trivia sessions, or get active with Tai Chi, aerobics, and gardening classes. Our center also hosts special events such as ladies' luncheons, field trips, and theatre outings to enhance your overall experience. So, come join us and discover the endless possibilities for fun and excitement at "The Center!"

Upcoming events include the R&B Revue featuring the Chosen Few Band and mouth-watering soul food in June. In July, the ladies will embark on a virtual trip to the race track during lunch. Additionally, a brochure covering the period from July through December will be delivered to your doorstep in early July. It will provide comprehensive information on all the activities and events taking place at "The Center."

What the Center Provides and Offers

The Civic & Senior Center serves as a municipal facility with a primary aim of catering to the needs of the adult community in Warrensville Heights through the provision of services and activities. A diverse range of activities and classes, including Aerobics, Ceramics, Crocheting/Knitting, and more, are currently offered at the center. Additionally, we organize social activities for seniors, such as an Annual Luncheon with the Mayor, trips to the Cleveland Playhouse, and programs based on community interests.

Room Rentals

Rooms are available to rent at the Civic & Senior Center as well as the Chateaux of Emery Woods. Both locations are available for rent by Warrensville Heights residents, for community or adult events.

Transportation

Transportation services are provided for medical appointments on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, and for grocery shopping on Wednesdays. This service is provided for seniors 60+ years of age who are without transportation. The hours for transportation are from 9 AM until 12:30 PM. Please call to schedule trips giving the Center 48 hours advance notice.

Senior Club

The Senior Club meets twice a month (second and fourth Tuesday at 1PM) for Warrensville Heights residents aged 60 and above to socialize and meet neighbors. The club holds informative and fun activities, including an annual picnic, and monthly updates on city affairs from the Mayor, City Council, Board of Education, and departmental directors.

Classes

- Painting Studio – Mondays at 11 AM
- Genealogy – 3rd Tuesdays 1 PM
- Photography Studio – Tuesdays at 2:30 PM
- Bid Whist - Wednesdays at 12:30 PM
- Spades – Wednesdays at 4:30 PM
- Gardening Class – Thursday 10 AM
- ABC's of Technology – Tuesdays at 4:30 PM
- Advanced ABC's of Technology – Tuesdays at 5:30 PM
- Knitting and Crocheting – Thursdays at 12 PM
- Ceramics – Fridays at 10 AM
- Jewelry – Fridays at 12:30 PM
- Piano Lessons – Private (Call for availability)
- Quilting and Doll Guild – 1st and 3rd Saturday 10 AM

Make a quilt unlike any that your grandma made or make a cloth doll that looks like an African Queen.

Cost of Classes

Class prices: \$14 (residents), \$16 (non-residents) (8 weeks)

- Line Dancing - \$5.00 per person per session
- Tai Chi - \$20.00 per month (4 weeks session)
- Jewelry Making - \$35.00 (8 weeks)
- Private Piano Lessons - \$125.00 (8 weeks)
- Quilting & Doll Making - \$30.00 per year
- Spades - \$25.00 per year
- Cornhole - \$25.00 (12 weeks)



One of our newer classes at The Center, Cornhole

Activities

You can dance, exercise or walk to lead to a healthier life.

- Line Dancing - Mondays and Wednesdays at 12:30 PM or Tuesday evenings at 6:30 PM
- Aerobics - Mondays & Wednesday at 2:30 PM
- Corn Hole – Mondays and Wednesdays 5 PM
- Tai Chi - Wednesdays at 11:00 AM

Older Adults Resource Guide

This comprehensive guide contains a wealth of reliable information about services and programs available for individuals seeking long term care services. To request the guide, feel free to contact: Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging, 216.621.0303, or at www.psa10a.org.



Please note: The Civic & Senior Center may start construction beginning in June, 2023. Please stay tuned.

City Offices

Service Department News

Ted Sims, Director

This year in 2023, there will be quite a few infrastructure projects going on in the city. Those include:

2023 Road Repair or Resurfacing Projects

- Warrensville Center & Miles Road Concrete Repairs
- Green & Harvard Crack Sealing
- Emery Road Improvements (Merrygold to East Corp Limit)

2023 Sewer Projects

- West Jennings Street Storm Sewer Replacement and Paving
- Shakerwood Area Sewer Study – Basement Flooding
- South Miles Road Emergency Culvert Repair

Miscellaneous Projects

- Senior Center Roof Replacement - ARPA Funding
- SRTS - Safe Routes to Schools Project - Design in 2023, Construction in 2024

Each year from April-November, the City of Warrensville Heights Building Department conducts its residential exterior property maintenance inspections on designated streets throughout the City. Specific streets will be inspected on a triannual basis. During the course of these inspections, we will identify public sidewalk blocks that are defective or a safety hazard and are in need of replacement.

Sidewalk blocks that have been identified as being defective or a safety hazard will be marked by inspectors, and then the Service Department will begin the process of removing the panels and installing new concrete blocks. The City will incur the cost of the replacement, and there will be no assessments issued to homeowners. However, defective and hazardous sidewalk blocks that need repair or replacement at commercial, condominium, and apartment complexes will be the responsibility of the property owner.

Chipper Service Dates

In 2023, chipper service will be available from April 1 till October 1. Branches must not exceed two inches in diameter and must be stacked with the cut end toward street. Branches mixed with grass or leaves will not be picked up.

Rubbish Collection & Recycling

As of April 1st, the City started a new contract for the next 5 years with Kimble Companies for resident trash pickup, disposal and recycling. This is our existing provider. Council passed the resolution at the March 21 Council meeting.



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.

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

- Tires
- Paint
- Oil
- Computers
- Xmas Lights
- Electronic Equipment

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 at 216.587.6570.

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



Police Department News

Wesley Haynes, Police Chief



At the February 7th Council meeting, our Police Department welcomed three new officers. First, we have Officer Richard Abatangelo, who previously served with the Canton Police Department for five years. Next, Officer Charles Doctor, who has spent the last six years serving with the Cleveland Police Department. Lastly, Dominic Hoag previously served with the Cleveland Clinic Police Department. Their expertise and experience will be invaluable to our team, and we are thrilled to have them on board.

I would also like to take this opportunity to share some important statistics regarding the Warrensville Heights Safety Forces during the 2022 calendar year. Our city received a total of 17,569 calls, and our Fire Department responded to 2,591 Medical Emergency calls. Meanwhile, our Police Department responded to 1,639 alarm calls and 1,059 vehicle accidents within the city.

It is also worth noting that the Warrensville Heights Police Department covers more interstate jurisdiction within Northeast Ohio than any other agency in Cuyahoga County. Specifically, our agency covers interstates 480, 271, and U.S 422. We are proud of our department's ability to effectively and efficiently cover such a large area, and we remain committed to providing the highest quality law enforcement services to all those who call Warrensville Heights home.



Fire Department News

Herbert Waugh, Fire Chief

Our Captain Retires

On March 31st, Fire Captain Ellita Vedder took her last ride in a fire truck with her colleagues after a 28-year career with The Warrensville Heights Fire Department. It was a celebration of the contributions she has made to the department and the legacy she leaves behind.

"Captain Vedder has been a true trailblazer," said Chief Herb Waugh. "She was one of the first women to join the department and paved the way for future generations of women to pursue careers in the fire service."



Fire Hydrant Flushing

Starting June 1st and continuing for several weeks, The City of Warrensville Heights Fire Department will start its fire hydrant flushing program. Look out for posted signs on your



streets for exact dates. The process removes sediment and debris that may accumulate in the pipes and is essential for maintaining the integrity and efficiency of the fire hydrant system, ensuring that firefighters have access to reliable and safe water sources during emergency situations.

Important Fire Safety Information for Homeowners

Fire safety is a crucial issue for homeowners in Warrensville Heights. With densely populated areas, it's essential to understand potential fire hazards and how to prevent them. The city requires regular fire inspections for commercial and multi-family properties, and homeowners should take similar precautions to keep their homes safe.

Install smoke detectors and test them regularly. Have a fire extinguisher readily available, and make sure everyone in the home knows how to use it. Create a fire escape plan and practice it regularly with your family. Ensure that all exits are unobstructed and that all family members know how to use them.

One of the leading causes of home fires is cooking accidents, so it's crucial to never leave cooking unattended and keep flammable items away from the stove. Electrical fires can also occur, so be sure not to overload outlets or use damaged electrical cords. Lastly, keep flammable items like curtains and furniture away from heaters and fireplaces. By being aware of these potential hazards, homeowners can take steps to prevent fires from breaking out and keep their families safe.

In case of a fire, call 911 immediately and evacuate the home as quickly as possible. Never attempt to put out a fire yourself if it's already out of control. The Warrensville Heights Fire Department is well-equipped to handle any fire emergency, with a response time of under four minutes. By taking the necessary precautions and being prepared, homeowners can help prevent fires and protect themselves and their families.



Virtual Trip to West Africa



A few months ago, Program Coordinator Sandra Noble took everyone gathered at the Civic and Senior Center on a Tour of West Africa. This tour included not only included wonderful information about the destinations, but also African food, music, and dress. Ms. Noble stated "The colorful and elaborate African outfits exceeded my expectations. This was a sensational event."

The Friendly City Magazine



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Photos by Jeff Gates and Ed Hicks

In the spring of 2022, following an intense rainfall, the junction of Mill Creek and South Miles Road experienced a culvert collapse.

As of May 2023, the road is under repair and closed to traffic. Construction is expected to be completed sometime in July. Once completed, two-way traffic will be restored. Thank you for your patience.

S. MILES ROAD CONSTRUCTION



Honor & Remember



The 2023 Warrensville Heights

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

May 29th at 10 AM