

# the friendly magazine

# city



WINTER 2024



**WINTER SKETCHES**  
from WHCSD high school artists

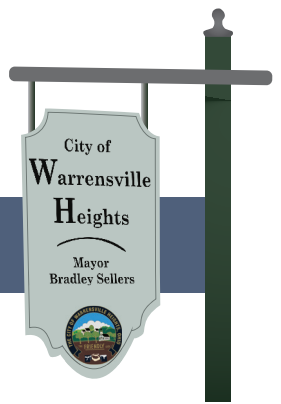
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## The Mayor's Message



### Embracing the new year

A new year has dawned, bringing with it new opportunities and fresh beginnings. As we step into 2024, it's a time for reflection on our past achievements and a chance to build on the momentum we gained in the previous year. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the voters who actively participated in the November election. Often, our journey is uphill, but your unwavering commitment is the driving force behind our progress.

With the demolition of the John Dewey School coming, many of you will notice the vast expanse of land left behind. Early last year, we embarked on a collaborative endeavor with the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission and the school district to repurpose this land into something extraordinary – The Friendly City Park.

Many of you took part in surveys, attended community meetings, and shared your insights at events to help shape this space. We are currently at a very preliminary stage that will evolve over time. Using community ideas and combining them with expert experience, this park can serve as an extension of Green Road Park, introducing exciting, new places to gather, play, exercise, relax, and hold events. This idea is a generational opportunity. The Civic and Senior Center will remain as one of the anchoring elements of this new park. We have been building Warrensville Heights up, brick by brick.

During these winter months, I encourage you to look what programs may be happening at the Civic and Senior Center. Now that the roof has been completed, activities are back in swing. It is a great place to engage in numerous programs and activities, share time with friends or learn a new skill.

February marks the observance of Black History Month, recognizing and honoring the significant achievements and enduring spirit of African Americans. This annual observance serves as a poignant reminder of the civil rights movement and offers an educational opportunity for all children in our community. We warmly welcome you to participate in our 2024 Black History Program, a live event enriched with inspiring moments and uplifting music.

In moments when adverse conditions, such as lake-effect snow, necessitate swift action, we rely on your support. If snowfall begins to cover our streets, please check our website at [cityofwarrensville.com](http://cityofwarrensville.com) for updates on parking bans.

You can also find information on our Facebook, Twitter (X), or Instagram social media accounts. All the social media addresses conveniently listed on the back of this magazine. Remember that a parking ban is in effect when the streets receive two or more inches of snow within a 24-hour period.

As we anticipate the year ahead, 2024 promises to be a significant year in the City of Warrensville Heights. Our beloved events like the Black History Program, Senior Luncheon, Memorial Day Parade on May 27th and the Summer Festival in August, will make 2024 another great year in our city.

In closing, I want to wish you and your families a Happy New Year filled with prosperity, joy, and success in 2024.

Bradley D. Sellers

# High School Artists

Amia Turpin and Eddie Johnson, students at Warrensville Heights City School District, have graced the cover of our winter edition magazine with their outstanding artwork.

Amia is an aspiring nurse and has uniquely captured the essence of patient care in her latest artwork. Choosing a snowflake as her subject, she draws a parallel between its unique shapes, sizes and the diverse nature of the patients she will encounter in her nursing career. The snowflake, in her view, represents the delicate and individualized attention required in nursing.

Her artistic process involved using black paper with a white charcoal pencil to create the snowflakes, further enhanced with a silver gel pen for depth, mirroring the precision and care she anticipates in her future profession. Amia expresses gratitude for being able to showcase this meaningful work, highlighting her journey as an artist and a budding healthcare professional.

Eddie Johnson's artwork is making waves. His piece, features an original character named Ronin which captures the essence of winter and its emotional depth. The drawing depicts Ronin looking up at the sky, surrounded by falling snow, with each snowflake symbolizing a memory from the past year.

Eddie's inspiration for this artwork stems from his personal connection with the winter season, viewing it as a time of love, joy, and reflection. Through Ronin, who serves as an alter ego, Eddie portrays a range of happy emotions associated with the season's end. His ability to channel his creativity in this college-level class highlights his artistic skill and the emotional depth he brings to his work, offering a glimpse into his interpretation of the winter season's beauty and significance.



Both Amia and Eddie are in the KAP Drawing Class at Warrensville Heights High School. KAP, or Kenyon Academic Partnership, is a partnership between the Warrensville Heights City School District and Kenyon College, a liberal arts college located in Gambier, Ohio. These students are taking KAP Drawing 101 at the high school with Mrs. Roach, a seasoned educator at WHCSD for 16 years. She has taught the KAP Drawing course for the last 13 years.

These drawings exemplify the exceptional effort and skill demonstrated by KAP students in the classroom. At the end of the course, they will earn 4 college credits that will transfer to the college of their choosing. Mrs. Roach stated "It is an honor to showcase student art to the Warrensville Community."



February 28, 2024  
6 PM

at the Warrensville Heights  
Civic and Senior Center

*Inspiration, joy, celebration,  
tradition, music.*

# Council Spotlight



## Dorise Thompson-Hagwood

WARD 1

Greetings,

Throughout every step and stumble of my political journey, your unwavering support has been invaluable. I am deeply thankful for your continued belief in me, demonstrated by your vote on November 7, 2023, to extend my tenure as your representative for another four years.

Everyone carries a unique story. My journey in service began in Alabama as a 16-year-old high school senior, where I was elected President of the Alabama State Youth Parent Teacher Association (YPTA). With my mother's involvement on the State Board, serving our community has been a fundamental part of my life. I am eternally grateful for the opportunity to serve as your City Council Representative. I take immense pride in being a part of the progress that has elevated the Friendly City of Warrensville Heights to greater heights.

I am excitedly looking forward to reconnecting with you at our community meetings in 2024, including the Spring Forward Community Meeting, the Summer Community Party in the Park, the Fall Back Community Meeting, and of course, our Annual Veterans Luncheon.

Please consider this thought: **"In accepting my call to leadership, I must be prepared to face being misunderstood, criticized, opposed, accused, and even rejected."** - Braque Talley, Ph.D.

Blessings, Dorise

dthagwood@cityofwarrensville.com | O: 216.587.6516



## Andrea Mitchell

WARD 2

Happy New Year, Neighbors and Friends,

I sincerely hope 2023 faded away gently, leaving you with cherished memories, and that 2024 has welcomed you safely with happiness, health, and the prospect of prosperity. A heartfelt thanks to the more than 70 neighbors and friends who attended the first post-pandemic in-person Ward 2 Community Meeting on Saturday, October 16th, at the new Warrensville Heights High School. Updates from state, county, city, school, hospital, and community, along with informative literature shared at the meeting, sparked insightful questions, engaging discussions, and even prizes.

Attendees also enjoyed delicious refreshments—provided by

the WHHS Culinary Arts program, were treated to a tour of the building, and experienced an impromptu performance by our award-winning Warrensville Heights Tiger Marching Band. Stay tuned for details about the next Ward 2 Community Meeting.

As always, stay safe, stay alert, and if you see something odd or concerning, say something—call the police at 216.581.1234. In an emergency, call 911. I am here to serve, listen, and work with you and will do my best to provide information. If you have any specific community questions, please contact me via email (amitchell@cityofwarrensville.com), text, or phone (216.339.1279).

Thank you for your input, insight, and involvement. Great neighbors make great neighborhoods. Great neighborhoods make amazing communities. Amazing communities make the Friendly City friendly.

Neighborly, Andrea



## Walter Stewart

WARD 4

As we reflect on the past year, I recognize the many challenges and issues we in Ward 4 have faced. Some were beyond our control, but together, we stood strong against them. As we look to 2024, I'm filled with optimism. Progress and change are on the horizon, though I'm mindful that these things don't happen overnight. Remember, The tougher the obstruction, the greater the pride in prevailing over it.

I would like to remind all residents that our Granada Gardens "Ward 4 Tenants Association" meetings take place on the third Wednesday of each month. These meetings are held at the Granada Gardens Party Center and run from 4 PM to 6 PM. Mr. Lewis Brownlowe is the President of the Tenants Association. I would like to remind you that participation in these meetings is invaluable, as they offer a platform to discuss and address the various issues and concerns we all share as a community.

In 2024, I also plan to share the importance of reintroducing some of the Family and Community Projects that thrived in Ward 4 before the pandemic. These initiatives were vital in strengthening our local community, and it's time to bring them back.

Lastly, I cannot express enough gratitude to you, the residents of Ward 4, for your unwavering faith, confidence, courage, commitment, and determination. It's your spirit that drives us to press forward for change and a better quality of life. Together, we'll continue to face our challenges and work towards a brighter, more prosperous future in Ward 4.

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# Council Spotlight



## Elona C. White

WARD 3

Greetings, caring and concerned neighbors of Warrensville Heights! Thank you for your continuous support. It is my pleasure to serve the residents of Warrensville Heights.

We continue to celebrate our community! On September 15, Wards 1, 3, and 6 had their year-end volunteers' appreciation dinner, a special thank you to all our volunteers. We cannot thank you enough. I would also like to express gratitude to the Warrensville Heights administration for serving at this event, allowing our volunteers to enjoy themselves.

Congratulations to Kenneth White and Earl Locklear on their championship win in the Cornhole game.



We also recognize Carla Pleasant as one of Warrensville's finest teachers. Ms. Pleasant was acknowledged for her contribution to elementary literacy, her hard work, and dedication to the students of Warrensville. Carla Pleasant works diligently to prepare the children as they learn to read at an early age.

As always, our Trunk or Treat event was a big success! Thanks to the staff and students of Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, along with the City of Warrensville Heights. We had over 900 Trunk or Treaters come out and enjoy this family-friendly, fun activity.



At our first meeting in November, the council voted unanimously to recognize Juneteenth as a paid holiday for all city employees. It is imperative that we celebrate our stories and recognize this momentous occasion.

If you have any issues or concerns, please email me at [ewhite@cityofwarrensville.com](mailto:ewhite@cityofwarrensville.com). Feel free to contact your Councilwoman by phone at 216-581-3899, 216-587-6516, or 216-244-4692.

For more information on the city's ordinances, please go to [conwaygreene.com](http://conwaygreene.com), or you may pick up a list of common ordinances from the City Council office.



I would like to wish one of Ward 3's residents, Ms. Rose Jackson, a Happy Birthday! On November 25, 2023, Ms. Jackson turned 100 years young while surrounded by family and friends. She is truly loved, and Ms. Jackson is one of my supporters in my community. Most importantly, she is my friend. Happy Birthday, Ms. Rose Jackson. Enjoy your special year!

I want to wish you and your family a Happy New Year! Let's make 2024 a great year! *"My life belongs to the whole community, and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatsoever I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work, the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no 'brief candle' to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to the future"* - George Bernard Shaw



## Matthew Howard

WARD 5

I would like to thank everyone for their support in 2023. Thank you to all of the volunteers for the Summer Festival. A special "Thank You" goes out to all the volunteers at the Ward 5 Christmas Party and to everyone

who came out. 2023 was a bit challenging because the Civic Center was under construction and we needed an affordable place to host our annual celebration. Recognition also goes out to our community partners at the Warrensville Board of Education for allowing us to use the new elementary school and saving the day. This event is a highlight for us each year. Additionally, I extend profound thanks to the Clarkwood Estates Residents Association for their affection, support, and generous contributions.

As 2024 is now upon us, let us come together stronger and more united than ever before to help this community grow to its full potential. Let's work together to support the youth, the elders, and everyone in between. Let us be more loving and caring to our friends, family, and neighbors. Let us be the shining example to others of what the word community really means and looks like. Post-Covid has been very challenging, to say the least, but we always seem to make it through hard times. If you haven't been to a city council meeting recently, be my guest on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. Please call my office or contact me if you need me at 216-587-6516. Cell: 440-561-7990.

# Council Spotlight



## Stanley Anderson

WARD 6

To the residents of Ward 6, the persistence of COVID-19 is still a concern in the winter months. Because of this, I have been meeting with our residents in small groups instead of large groups for the safety of those with reduced immunity. Yet, I know that many of you are disappointed and I have received many complaints because we did not have a Ward 6 Holiday Party.



COVID-19 continues to be a presence, and I have chosen to err on the side of caution. However, there are different perspectives to consider. Perhaps we will revisit the idea of a party at a different time in 2024.

I plan to continue to meet with residents in small, safer groups. These meetings will be an opportunity for everyone to voice their preferences and ideas about how and when we can safely organize our cherished celebrations. I will be reaching out soon to arrange these discussions. In the meantime, please prioritize your safety and the well-being of those around you. Remember, my commitment to our community remains as strong as ever.

I love you all "to the moon and back." Let's work together in the New Year to celebrate our community's resilience and unity.

sanderson@cityofwarrensville.com | O: 216.587.6516



## Johnny L. Williams Jr.

WARD 7

Happy New Year, Neighbors!

I gave up on making New Year's resolutions years ago. However, I do use the increased downtime during the holidays to relax and reflect on the past year's proud moments and disappointments, as well as to prepare for the coming year's potential accomplishments and concerns. More importantly, I consider how I can impact the things I'm most passionate about—my family, my friends, and the community where I live, work and play: The Friendly City.

A little background about why I'm so passionate, and at times, "spirited" in my communication: I've always been a "love hard, work hard, laugh hard" person, transparent and candid to a fault—at least, that's what my wife and those closest to me often say.

With that said, I'm very fearful for the future of our democracy. I feel strongly that the presidential election of 2024 is the most consequential in our lifetime. If Trump, whom I refer to as "45", gets back into office, I believe the pillars of our democracy will never be the same. He's been clear about his intentions, but I fear too many Americans aren't taking him seriously or are simply apathetic to the red flags of a would-be autocrat and the cult following he's amassed.

## So, what can we do about it? Vote!

Yes, I know it's only January, but I believe anyone who's taken the time to read this article is a voter. However, more effort from you is needed. I'm asking each of you to actively influence everyone in your circle of family, friends, and neighbors to vote. We cannot accept apathy as an excuse. We need to 'control the controllables' by ensuring our voices are heard through our voting. I often hear how disgruntled and disappointed citizens are with the current administration and feel they should do more. My answer is that we strive to always be better and do better, and that will never change. But would you be happier with the alternative of '45' or by sitting on the sidelines and not voting at all?

Fact: No ward reached 40% voter participation during the November 7th election, with ranges from a low of 22% to a high of 39.88%. The election was significant because it included two items of interest that impact our community—abortion and marijuana.



Scan to register to vote

Ohio, once considered a swing state, is no more; '45' won the state by eight points in both 2016 and 2020. We are now solidly red, which includes a supermajority at the state level for the GOP in the house, senate, and most every statewide position, except for Senator Sherrod Brown's, which is a high-priority target for Republicans.

I assure you that I will continue to be your voice for all that you deem important. But we've all got to raise our bar to ensure that our children and grandchildren can live in a democracy that enables them to speak their voice... loudly!

**"Good better best, never let it rest, until your good is better and your better is best" - St. Jerome**

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# City Offices

## Job Fair pays dividends

Warrensville Heights participated in the E4me job fair in Independence on October 11th, where the city shared what qualifications that are needed for employment opportunities. These positions encompassed roles in the Police Department, Fire Department, Service and Public Works, and Administrative positions.



Over 300 high school students from 17 regional school districts attended and learned about the application process, salary and benefits packages, opportunities for professional growth, and the city's commitment to diversity and inclusion. This information will help future job seekers to understand the available opportunities.

Laura Cline, Warrensville Heights Human Resources Director stated "It is important to meet candidates in a more open environment, where they are free to ask questions. This type of program can make a meaningful impact in our community."

## Police Department News

Wesley Haynes, Police Chief



Since the last time I wrote in Friendly City Magazine, two new officers have joined the Warrensville Heights Police Department: Mark McKinney, who served five years with the Canton Police Department, and Rami Yacoub, who served three years with the Cleveland Clinic Police Department. Additionally, in August, Robert Nolan became our new animal warden. Robert Nolan was employed with the City of Cleveland ACC for nine years and with A&S Animal Control since 2018.



Pictured: Rami Yacoub, Mark McKinney and Robert Nolan

Here are some statistics for the calendar year 2023 with regard to our safety forces. The city had a total of 17,898 calls. The Fire Department responded to 3,555 medical emergencies. The Police Department responded to 1,567 alarm calls and 1,075 vehicle accidents. The Warrensville Heights Police Department, as always, is dedicated to our residents and businesses. Remember, if you notice something, do not hesitate to call.



## Trunk-or-Treat October 24, 2023

## Building Department News

Benjamin Brown, Building Commissioner

### Temporary Snow Fences

During the winter months, homeowners can install temporary snow fencing in blustery parts 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.

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

### Snow and Ice Removal

Chapter 543.03 (a) and (b) and 727.01 (d) of our City ordinances specifies the following requirements for snow and ice removal on your property.

#### 543.03

(a) 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 or her premises and any driveway locate on his or her 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.

(b) No person removing snow and ice 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 and ice are removed.

#### 727.01

(d) All parking lots within the City shall be maintained free of dust, weeds, papers, trash, snow, ice and other undesirable materials. All snow and ice shall be removed with 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 and ice from any parking lot 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 parking lot from which the snow and ice are removed.

### Heating Facilities

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

(a) 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.

(b) 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 13377.13(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.

### Winter 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.
- Look at installing roof and gutter de-icing system to prevent ice-dams.

**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.**



# City Offices

## 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

### NEW NEWS!

2023 has been a year of challenges and changes at the Center due to necessary construction, leading to the cancellation of many special events. However, 2024 promises to be a year of revitalization. The leaks will be fixed, our unique version of a nightclub will resume, and most excitingly, “MJ, the Musical,” a tribute to Michael Jackson, is set for July, with high anticipation for tickets.

Prioritizing the health and happiness of our Warrensville Seniors, we’re initiating a series of activities centered on food. This includes exploring local restaurants and food establishments, evaluating their healthy options, organizing food-tasting events, and discussing various aspects of food and nutrition.



We’re always open to new ideas for our programs. Recently, we’ve added Cornhole, which has become both a popular sport and a source of pride at the Center, with our team, led by Earl Locklear and Kenneth White, winning a championship in a Michigan tournament in September.

Looking ahead, we’re excited to explore Pickleball, a rapidly growing sport ideal for seniors, and delve into social media to enhance our community’s engagement and knowledge, in line with the city’s digital outreach efforts.

### 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.

### What the Center Provides and Offers

The Civic & Senior 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 include: Aerobics, Ceramics, Crocheting/Knitting and more. We also provide social activities for our seniors such as an Annual Luncheon with the Mayor and City Council, trips to the Cleveland Playhouse, and programs based on the interest of the community.

### Senior Club

The Senior Club (for Warrensville Heights residents 60 years and older) normally meets twice a month, on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday at 1PM. The Senior Club allows an opportunity for neighbors to meet and socialize with each other. The club has an annual picnic and plans other activities that are informative and fun. Each month during their meetings, club members receive updates on the current affairs in the city from the Mayor, City Council, Board of Education and departmental directors.

### African American Quilt and Doll Guild

Make traditional or art quilts or soft dolls. New participants must know basic sewing and have a sewing machine.  
1st & 3rd Saturday | 10AM – 1PM

### Ceramics

Winter break class resumes March 1st  
Decorate and glaze figurines, bowls and other items.  
Hand build pots from clay and glaze.  
Friday | 10:00AM – 12:00PM

### Jewelry Making/Crafts

Create jewelry with glass and other materials such as leather. Crafts produces unique creations such as copper or brass African masks.  
Friday | 12:30PM – 2:30PM

### Knitting and Crocheting

Learn to knit or crochet, make Afghans, shawls and other knitted and crocheted items.  
Thursday | Noon – 2:00PM

### Painting

Winter break class resumes March 4th  
Drawing and painting using a wide variety of materials and techniques.  
Monday | 11:00PM – 2:00PM

### Photography

Master digital camera, use a computer to enhance photos, photography field trips for special subjects.  
Tuesday | 2:30PM-4:30PM

### Bid Whist/Spades

Play with tri-city seniors, 55+ years to build camaraderie including light snacks.  
Wednesday | 12:30PM-4:00PM

### Genealogy

Winter break class resumes March 19th  
What do you know about your family’s history? Learn how to research and use different resources to help the search.  
3rd Tuesday | 1:00PM-2:00PM

### NEW: Social Media

Two sessions of two hours each exploring social media. Learn what social media is, how to access it and how it is relevant to seniors. Call the Civic & Senior Center for times at 216-587-1250

### Trivia Club

Teams of six have fun figuring out the answers to questions.  
1st & 3rd Mondays | 1:00PM – 3:00PM

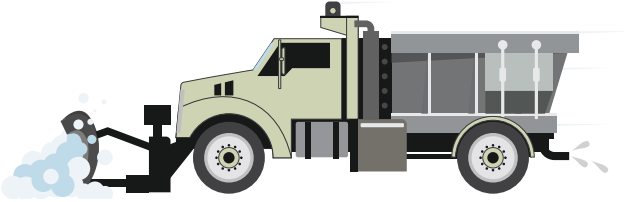
# City Offices

## Service Department News

Ted Sims, Director

### Snow Plows

With winter weather in Warrensville Heights at this time of year, drivers should remember to always pay attention when approaching winter maintenance equipment on the roads.



Be aware when you pass a plow. The plowed snow may contain rocks and other debris, so the safe choice is to stay a few hundred feet behind plowing operations. Rock salt can also be a hazard if you are too close. Do not pass a truck in a snow cloud, wait until you are sure the road ahead is clear.

### Trash Delays/Missed Pickup

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

Remember, all mattresses, cloth furniture must be wrapped in plastic before placing on tree lawn for disposal. (ONLY 2 BAGGED ITEMS ALLOWED per pickup)

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

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

### Chipper Service

Chipper service will commence again starting April 1st. 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.

An advertisement for streetlight repair. It features a photograph of a worker in a yellow safety vest and hard hat, standing in a bucket and working on a streetlight. The background is a clear blue sky. Overlaid on the image is the text "Is a streetlight out in your area?" in large, bold, blue letters. Below this, it says "Scan this code to get it fixed" in smaller blue text. A large QR code is positioned in the center. At the bottom, it says "Or call 1-888-LIGHTSS" in blue text.

## Community and Economic Development News

Nicole Harris, Economic Development Director

After a year of progress, the Office of Community & Economic Development is witnessing the realization of our plans for Warrensville Heights. Guided by Mayor Sellers, we are dedicated to transforming the city into an ideal urban community, offering top-notch services in leadership, public safety, education, affordable housing, and recreational facilities while ensuring a high quality of life for our residents.

One of our key commercial projects involves addressing the impact of Sherwin Williams' relocation. We're in talks with developers about redeveloping over 80 acres of land left vacant by Sherwin Williams' move to Brecksville, to recover lost jobs and tax revenue. To further enhance living standards, we're focusing on expanding housing options. For seniors, we're seeking suitable land for developments like Newport Square. For families, we're exploring various avenues, including infill housing on vacant city lots. Options include a new development of around 50 homes on E. Jennings Road or completing the Stones Throw project with 21 cluster homes. We're also acquiring more land through donations and sheriff sale purchases to facilitate future developments.



On another note, the City is grateful to everyone involved in our park and greenspace planning, a collaborative effort with the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission. Your feedback is shaping the future of the John Dewey site. Although no final decisions have been made, we're diligently working on cost analysis, planning, and design.

Looking ahead to 2024, our commitment is to attract new businesses and reinforce existing relationships. We plan to make personal introductions to our businesses and continue capital improvement projects, like the recent renovation of Granada Blvd., funded by a \$150,000 CDBG grant from the Cuyahoga County Department of Development.

Additionally, in August 2023, Warrensville Heights joined a collaborative effort led by Dr. Margret McKenzie of Cleveland Clinic South Pointe Hospital to explore the establishment of a Warrensville Heights Blue Zone. The first in the state of Ohio. Blue Zones refer to specific regions around the world where people have an unusually long lifespan, often living well into their 100s. These areas were identified through extensive demographic research and have been the subject of various studies to understand the factors contributing to their inhabitants' longevity. Key characteristics of Blue



Zones include a combination of environmental, lifestyle, and dietary factors. In contrast to the average U.S. lifespan of 77 years. We're excited to be part of this initiative that could significantly improve the health and longevity of our community members.



In collaboration with Cleveland Clinic South Pointe, the City of Warrensville Heights welcomed the Blue Zone Committee for a three-day visit from October 2nd to 4th. During their stay, we showcased our city with a tour, hosted a Blue Zone Launch Event at Tri-C Eastern Campus, conducted two focus groups, and concluded with a 'Blue Zones Ignites Warrensville' meeting. On December 11, 2023, the Committee revisited to present their assessment report and findings, which are pivotal in shaping our strategies to promote longer, healthier lives for our community.

Our 2023 Shred Events were a success, servicing over 630 vehicles across two events. This provided residents a secure way to dispose of sensitive documents, which they might be hesitant to discard curbside. Plans for the 2024 Shred events are underway, with dates and times to be determined.

In summary, these initiatives reflect our ongoing commitment to enhancing the wellbeing and security of the Warrensville Heights community, paving the way for a healthier, safer, and more connected future.

## Fire Department News

Herbert Vaughn, Fire Chief

Winter fire safety is of paramount importance as the cold season brings unique fire hazards. As temperatures drop, many households turn to alternative heating sources like space heaters, wood-burning stoves, and fireplaces to stay warm. While these can provide much-needed warmth, they also pose a significant fire risk if not used carefully. To ensure a safe and cozy winter, it is essential to follow some key precautions. Firstly, always keep a safe distance between heating appliances and flammable materials, such as curtains, blankets, or furniture. Regularly inspect and clean chimneys and flues to prevent the buildup of creosote, a highly flammable substance that can ignite if not removed. Lastly, never leave heating devices unattended and turn them off before going to bed or leaving your home.



Winter also brings an increased risk of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning due to the use of heating appliances. CO is a colorless, odorless gas that can be deadly if inhaled in high concentrations. To protect your family, install carbon monoxide detectors in your home, particularly in sleeping areas and near heating appliances. Make sure to test these detectors regularly and replace

their batteries as needed. Additionally, have your heating systems and chimneys professionally inspected to ensure they are operating efficiently and not producing excessive CO. By following these winter fire safety guidelines, you can enjoy a warm and worry-free winter season.



Recently, Mayor Sellers and City Council approved 27 sets of new firefighting bunker gear for the Warrensville Heights Fire Department. Along with \$5,000 in state funding, this high quality gear helps us fight fires more efficiently and provides additional safety by having one of the industry's highest thermal protective performance ratings of 40 (minimum 35 per NFPA Standard) and a total heat loss of 298 (minimum 205 per NFPA Standard). Another major upgrade are the new bunker hoods that are made with new technology that further protects our firefighters from cancer causing carcinogens while on a fire scene. These items include:

1. **Firefighting Bunker Coat**
2. **Firefighting Bunker Pants**
3. **Firefighting Bunker Boots**
4. **Firefighting Bunker Gloves**
5. **Cancer Retardant Bunker Hoods**



Each one of us would like to express our gratitude to the mayor, council members, and the dedicated staff for their unwavering commitment to the well-being and safety of the city's firefighters. This new equipment will protect the firefighters of the City of Warrensville Heights for years to come.

# The Friendly City Magazine



The City of Warrensville Heights  
4743 Richmond Road  
Warrensville Heights OH 44128

## Warrensville Connect

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

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Photos by Jeff Gates

## JOB FAIR

**April 3, 2024 - 11 AM to 2 PM**

at Tri-C's Eastern Campus in the Simon and Rose  
Mandel Theater Lobby.

Up to 50 organizations looking for candidates  
in a variety of fields.



## Senior Club Holiday Party



**December 5, 2023**