

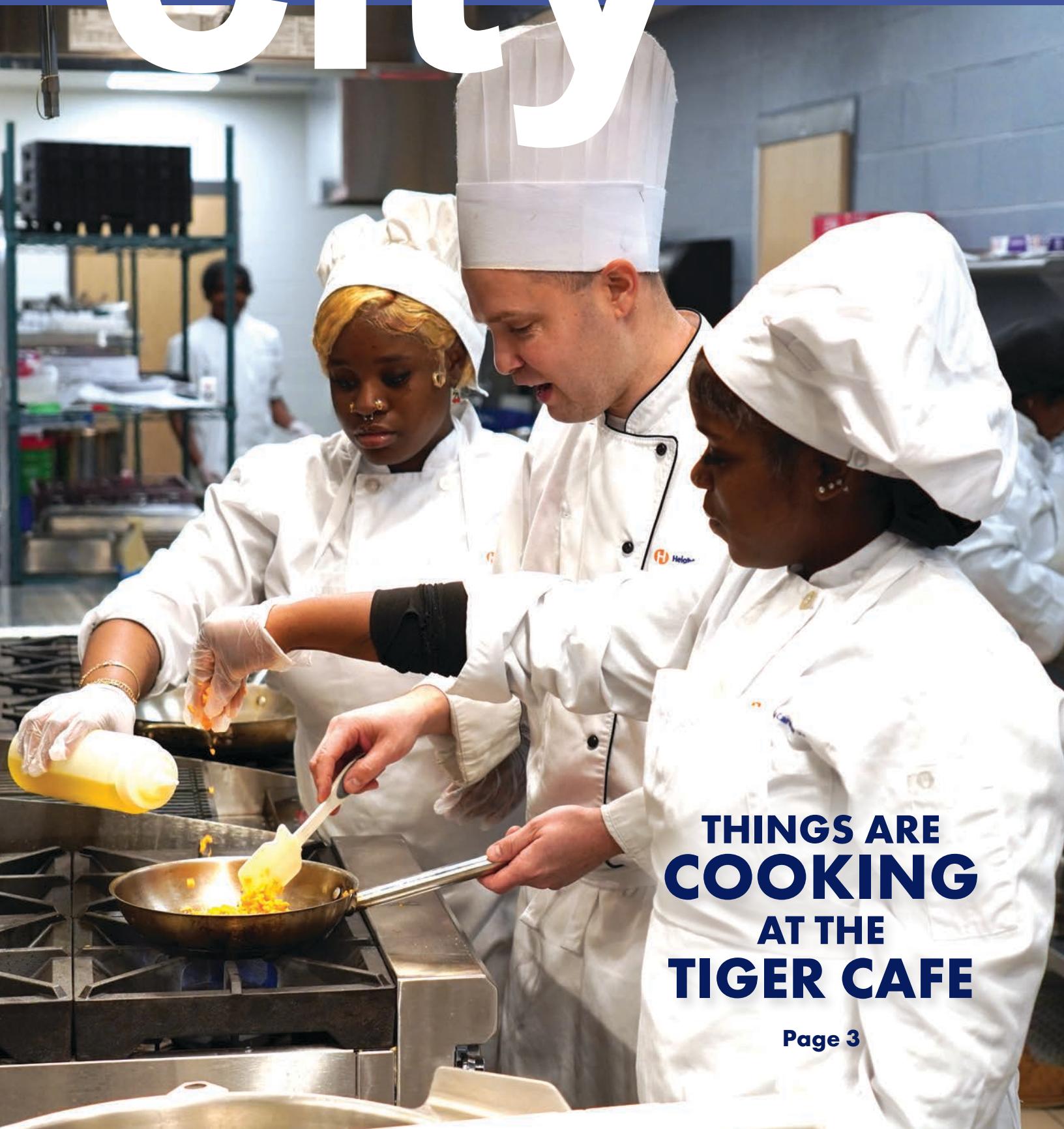
the friendly

city

magazine



Spring 2024

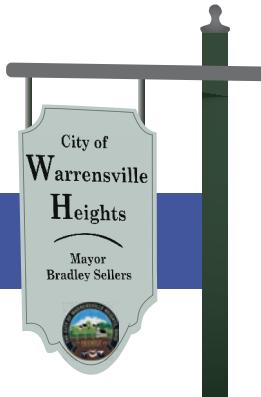


**THINGS ARE
COOKING
AT THE
TIGER CAFE**

Page 3



The Mayor's Message



Making strides, spring forward

Spring arrives, awakening nature from its winter rest, as it begins to prepare for the coming warmth of the sun. This season of growth and preparation mirrors our own efforts in planning for the future in Warrensville Heights.

With the completion of our ambitious project to build three new schools, we've achieved significant milestones. We've crafted extraordinary environments for our future leaders, drawing attention to our city and paving the way for its expansion. I would like to highlight all those at our schools for helping make this a reality.

One of the programs I want to highlight is the culinary program. I personally think our Tiger Cafe is awesome, providing affordable meals to the public, cooked on-site at the Warrensville Heights High School by students. To learn more, check out the story on page 3.

The demolition of John Dewey Elementary will open up a vast space, a canvas for our community's imagination. For the past two years, in collaboration with the Cuyahoga Planning Commission and the school district, we have been exploring the potential of this land with the Green Road Expansion Project. In February, we concluded the initial phase of this exploration, focusing on understanding community desires and possible uses for the area. This step, though just the beginning, is crucial. The journey ahead will require more detailed planning, dedication, and time. Keep an eye out for further updates as we delve deeper into this transformative opportunity.

After a six-month renovation, which included a roof replacement and the installation of a new HVAC system, the Civic and Senior Center reopened in time to host a significant event.

In February, the Center presented the 2023 Black History Program, an undeniably inspirational event. This year's program was themed "The Forms of Dance in our Black Culture," showcasing the rich diversity and significance of dance within Black culture.

In March, Marcia Fudge retired from public service as U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. She served as the Mayor of our fine city from 2000 to 2008. With nearly five decades of dedicated public service, she has consistently worked to enhance the quality of life for people across the nation, especially focusing on those in greatest need. Her career spans various levels of government, including her tenure as Mayor of Warrensville Heights. I wish her the best in her retirement.

The city and its residents constantly inspire me, fueling my dedication to serve as a steadfast advocate for our community. My ultimate ambition has always been to sow the seeds of progress and improvement, aiming to enrich our collective lives.

I'm proud to report that Warrensville Heights is strong financially and making significant strides. Our economic development efforts are yielding positive outcomes. I'm also pleased to extend a warm welcome to the coming new additions to our business community: ALDI grocery store and Golf Galaxy, both in Havard Park. Their arrival marks a promising step forward in our city's continued growth and prosperity.

Best to you always.

Bradley D. Sellers



Whipping up culinary dreams

Warrensville Heights High School, in a groundbreaking partnership with a consortium of high schools comprised of Bedford Heights, and Warrensville Heights has launched a comprehensive Culinary Arts Program led by instructor Mr. Mitchell Mzik, known affectionately as "Chef Mitch". This pioneering two-year ProStart Certification Course is set to revolutionize culinary education in the region.



Designed to equip students with a blend of culinary essentials and foodservice management skills, the program is a beacon of opportunity for aspiring chefs and hospitality professionals. Students will delve into customer relations, cost controls, basic accounting, marketing, purchasing, inventory management, team building, and effective communication.

The course's practical component will take place at the newly erected Warrensville Heights High School, conveniently located on Northfield Road. The kitchen utilized by the consortium is affectionately named the Tiger Cafe, paying homage to Warrensville's mascot the Tiger. This state-of-the-art facility promises an immersive learning experience,



blending theoretical knowledge with hands-on training.

A unique aspect of the program is its affiliation with ProStart, offering students not only a robust education but also access to additional scholarships and potential employment opportunities in the thriving culinary sector.

"The Culinary Arts program at Warrensville Heights High School is more than just a course; it's a gateway into the foodservice industry," said Chef Mitch. From the fundamentals of hospitality and food production to advanced concepts in dining, service operations, and restaurant management, students will journey through a curriculum rich in practical and theoretical learning. These experiences are designed to foster professionalism and proficiency in cooking, baking, cost control, nutrition, sanitation, and food marketing.



Graduates of the program will emerge not just with a certificate but with the confidence, knowledge, and professionalism needed to excel in the dynamic world of food service. Whether their path leads to further education, working through college, or immediate entry into the workforce, these students will carry with them the skills of a rapidly growing and ever-evolving profession.

The program also includes industry-recognized credentials like the ServSafe Certification for Food Handlers, ensuring students are prepared to meet the highest standards of food safety and handling.

With the two-year program encompassing courses in Hospitality Fundamentals, Food Production, Dining and Service Operations, and Restaurant Management, Warrensville Heights High School is setting a new standard in culinary education, blending academic excellence with real-world application.



The Tiger Cafe welcomes everyone! Simply scan the QR code to see the menu for this week or to check out meals available for either take-out or dining in.

Council Spotlight



Dorise Thompson-Hagwood

WARD 1

Greetings! I encourage you to engage with our community by exploring the articles in this magazine authored by our directors, offering your support to our school district, becoming a member of our senior club, and participating in city council meetings.

I am honored and grateful for the trust you have placed in me by allowing me to serve as your councilwoman over the years. Every day, I grateful to answer the call to service.

There's a famous saying that suggests leaders are either hedgehogs or foxes. A hedgehog views the world through the lens of a single defining idea while foxes draw on a wide variety of experiences, knowing a little bit about everything. I suspect I might qualify as a fox who's been around the field a few times. Observing others, learning from this community.

My parents taught me many public values and I witnessed other leaders leading by example, providing me with a blueprint to emulate. Through this, over time, I've come to understand what civic duty is. My aim in serving isn't to gain notoriety, but rather to make a difference through my actions and contributions.

I've been fortunate to have an extraordinary extended family of individuals who have shaped my thoughts and maintained my humility and eagerness. I have realized that life is more than politics or power. It's about people.

"The leaders who get the most out of their people are the leaders who care most about their people" - Simon Sinek

Yours in service, Dorise

dhagwood@cityofwarrensville.com | O: 216.587.6516



Andrea Mitchell

WARD 2

Greetings Neighbors!

As you are aware, City Council meetings are held at 7 PM in the Municipal Center on the first and third Tuesdays from September through May, and on the third Tuesday in June through August. Residents are encouraged to be there, be aware, by attending, observing, and voicing their cheers, concerns, and questions. We are all witnesses to updated and new legislation that helps shape our city. The Codified Ordinances are the skeleton upon which the Friendly City stands. The Council passes legislation, much of which becomes part of our ordinances that guide operations.

Following is an example: On Tuesday, January 16th, in addition to other items, two legislative items introduced by the City Council Committee of the Whole were on the agenda.

- 1) Ordinance 2024-007, reflected changes to Chapter 505 and two sections: 139.08 and 1351.01, pertained to animals—specifically, clarifying animal types (fowl and livestock), structures, feeding, sheltering in the city. In short, it limits or eliminates livestock and became effective February 1, 2024.
- 2) Ordinance 2024-008, amended Chapter 121, creating a History and Archives Committee. This committee will become a resource and repository for our vibrant city history and hopefully guide our future. Stay tuned!

The weather is getting warmer. Let's keep our temperament cool and our music mellow.

Neighborly, Andrea

amitchell@cityofwarrensville.com | O: 216.339.1279



Elona C. White

WARD 3

Happy spring, to all of the residents of Warrensville Heights! I hope that you all had a safe winter. I truly appreciate Ward 3 and the Friendly City!

In 2024, Wards 1 and 3 (Councilwoman Dorise Thompson-Hagwood and Councilwoman Elona White) will continue to have our annual community events:

- **APRIL 26** - Spring Forward Community Meeting at the Civic Center from 7 to 8:30 PM.
- **JUNE 22** - Party in the Park from 12 to 5 PM. This event will be held at the Mini Park at the corner of Warrensville Center Road and Ridgewood Avenue. All are welcome!



Congratulations to Chief Herbert Waugh, who retired from the fire department after 29 years of service. Good luck Chief Waugh, you will be missed.

I also want to salute our first Black elected Mayor and the first woman elected as Mayor of Warrensville Heights, Marcia L. Fudge. The Legal Defense Fund of the NAACP writes about her, "Secretary Fudge focused on advancing racial justice and equal and affordable housing opportunities with the sensibility of a local leader and the strategy of a cabinet powerhouse."

Because of who Secretary Fudge is as a God-fearing, sincere and loving friend to so many people,

Council Spotlight

she was able to carry her humanity into every aspect of her jobs. as Mayor of Warrensville Heights, as a Congresswoman, and as the U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Congratulations to my dear friend on your retirement, and welcome back home!



"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members." - Coretta Scott King

ewhite@cityofwarrensvilleheights.com | C: 216.244.4692



Walter Stewart

WARD 4

Greetings everyone,

As we enter the vibrant spring and summer months, filled with numerous city events and activities, it's crucial to keep safety at the forefront of our minds for ourselves and our loved ones. It's equally important to look out for our neighbors and ensure their well-being.

Ignoring crime and remaining silent when witnessing unlawful acts do not contribute to a safe community. It's imperative to speak up against criminal behavior. Unreported crime, whether violent or not, can have a profoundly negative effect on families and communities at large, leading to a pervasive sense of insecurity.

Every individual, family, neighborhood, and community deserves to live in an environment that feels safe and secure, free from the shadow of fear. This underlines the significance of ongoing communication and concern for the safety and welfare of our neighbors, akin to that for our own families.

The Granada Gardens Tenants Association convenes on the third Wednesday of each month at 4 PM. Our meetings take place at the Granada Gardens Party and Community Center, located at 4340 Clarkwood Parkway, next to the Leasing Office. These gatherings are a platform for addressing safety concerns and various issues pertinent to our residents.

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Thank you for your attention and commitment to our community's safety and well-being.

wstewart@cityofwarrensville.com | O: 216.587.6516

Matthew Howard

WARD 5

Greetings all,

Happy spring to everyone as we welcome warmer weather and outdoor activities. Deer and rabbit numbers are expected to be higher than usual, so if you have hostas, flowers and gardens, don't forget to spray "deer off" after every rain to keep the nibblers away from your beautiful plants.

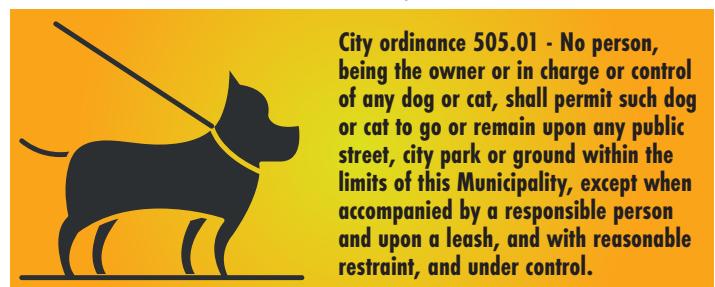
A special thank you to all of my volunteers for the annual Ward 5 Christmas party. And thank you to everyone who came out. Congratulations to all of the raffle winners. Planning for 2024 party will start around September. Numerous events are being planned, like our annual Senior Luncheon, Memorial Day parade, July 4th, and the Summer Festival.

Please Note: City Council has passed legislation recognizing **Juneteenth** as an **official holiday** in the City Of Warrensville Heights. City Hall will be closed that day so that families can get together and celebrate however they decide. Every year there are more and more activities, events, parades, and so forth in place to recognize Juneteenth.

I have served as Planning Commission Chairman for numerous years and have watched many businesses come and go. Storefronts have held steady this past year and there are not many available. There is a new takeout restaurant at 23091 Emery Road named "Hooked" across from Family Dollar. Plans are underway for one of the vacant lots at the corner of Emery and Green to be sold and developed soon. Home values "on average" are now hovering around the \$200k mark in Clarkwood Estates and Angela Belfiore Estates while holding very close in other areas of the city. Discussions are still ongoing about finalizing the John Dewey School property after demolition.

I thank you all for your continued love and support over the years. If you have any questions or concerns, please call me. I would love to hear from you.

mhoward@cityofwarrensville.com | C: 440.561.7990



City ordinance 505.01 - No person, being the owner or in charge or control of any dog or cat, shall permit such dog or cat to go or remain upon any public street, city park or ground within the limits of this Municipality, except when accompanied by a responsible person and upon a leash, and with reasonable restraint, and under control.

Council Spotlight



Johnny L. Williams Jr.

WARD 7

Since retiring as a Pharmaceutical Sales Executive (27 years) and former Army Captain (10 years) in 2018, I've remained physically active by umpiring high school baseball and refereeing high school and middle school basketball. It's joyful for me to engage with young people in a setting where they are learning many life lessons through sports which will enhance their chosen careers.

However, it pains me to see that when the national anthem is played prior to sporting events, most of the fans at predominantly black schools remain sitting. I calculate 70-80% don't stand. Trust me, I "get it!" They are voicing their disdain, distrust, and grievances with what they feel is a society and government which doesn't respect them or listen to them. I'm not here to preach or suggest to anyone whether they should or should not stand as I can appreciate their misgivings. But I'd like to suggest another option, that is, in my opinion, more impactful and long lasting, and that is to have your voice be heard through VOTING!

The voting statistics within the friendly city are an area of much needed improvement! Specifically, Warrensville has a population of approximately 13,500 neighbors and over 9,500 registered voters – which is excellent! Unfortunately, our past November election had just 2,844 voters – that is just 29%, which ranks among the bottom three statistically of the 59 municipalities in Cuyahoga County. We can do better...we must do better, we're simply better than a 29% voter turnout and within Ward 7 specifically we had just 215 voters. If you recall, there were two important matters in November which would directly impact many lives. Enabling abortion rights to remain in Ohio and whether marijuana should be legalized. These are two issues that should have brought us out in droves, especially young voters – but it didn't. And although these two issues passed overwhelmingly by over 90% of those who did vote in Warrensville, the underwhelming turnout should be concerning to us all, especially as we approach a presidential election year in which our democracy is at stake.

In March, my councilman colleague Matt Howard and I, as well as other local elected officials throughout the country, had the privilege to walk the halls of Congress in Washington DC and were able to speak at length with Senator Sherrod Brown and our own Congresswoman Shontel Brown. They each spoke of how critical it is for people to pay attention to where some people, the MAGA GOP, want our democracy to move toward autocracy. The only way to stop it is through allowing our VOTE to be our VOICE!



Scan to register to vote

If you choose to remain sitting, then sit. But I am also asking that you voice your disdain by voting for someone who best represents your values and can best enhance your way of life. Doing nothing can't be the option. No one is perfect, but our best option to scream from the rooftop is by VOTING with your head, your heart, your mouth, and your feet!

"We've got to have movements, not moments"

- Reverend Al Sharpton

jwilliams@cityofwarrensville.com | O: 216.834.9667

Building Department News

Benjamin Brown, Building Commissioner

Spring is finally here, and with the warmer weather homeowners will start to do a lot of repairs on their properties and usually have questions for the Building Department in regards to what requires a permit and finding a contractor. 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 when selecting a contractor to make sure they are reputable.

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 ensure your project is 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.

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.
- Sidewalks (outside of city replacements) and service walk replacements.
- Window replacement.
- New Electrical, Plumbing, and HVAC systems.

City Offices

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.

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 contractor's insurance must also name 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.)

Some Friendly Common Ordinance Reminders

Below are some of our most common code enforcement ordinance for the upcoming seasons.

Ord. #945 Height Limit on Weeds, Grass or Plants

It shall be unlawful for the owner, lessee, agent or tenant having charge of any lot or land to permit any weeds, grass, or plants, other than trees, bushes, flowers or other ornamental plants, to grow to a height exceeding six (6) inches. Any such weeds, grass, or plants exceeding such height will be declared to be a nuisance. The owner, lessee, agent or tenant will have three (3) days after written notice to remedy or the City will abate the nuisance.

Ord. #917 Garbage and Rubbish Collection and Disposal

1. Trash, rubbish, garbage, refuse and recyclables may be placed for collection not sooner than 7:00pm the day before the scheduled collection and all empty receptacles, trash, rubbish, garbage, refuse or recyclable, and items not picked up must be removed from the tree lawn or curb on the same day.
2. The storage of trash, rubbish, garbage, refuse and recyclables must be stored in the following locations;
 - In the rear of the house out of public view (being seen from any public street or sidewalk). Corner houses with storage in the rear must be screened behind landscaping, enclosure, or fence.

- On the side of the house, but must be screened behind landscaping, enclosure, or fence.
 - Inside of the garage.
3. All upholstered furniture, chairs, and mattresses must be placed in plastic for collection. Plastic is available free of charge at our Service Department 19700 Miles Rd. (216) 587-6570.

Ord. #1355 Temporary storage and dumpster units, temporary outdoor dumpster or storage units including flexible dumpsters, construction dumpsters, and PODS are permitted to be installed on the private property in the driveway or other paved surface with the issuance of a Building Permit.

SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

Inspections

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 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.

Sidewalks Affected by Tree Roots

Sidewalks deemed to be a safety hazard for natural causes like tree roots will be replaced by the Service Department at no cost to the homeowner. If you receive a violation notice outside of the annual inspections for sidewalk blocks affected by tree roots, please contact the Service Department at (216) 587-6570.

Commercial, Condominium, Apartment Sidewalks

Defective and hazardous sidewalk blocks that need repair or replacement at commercial, condominium, and apartment complexes will be the responsibility of the property owner.

EXTERIOR PROPERTY 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 2024 from April 15th to November 22nd. These inspections are conducted from the public right-of way.

Glenview, Lee Heights, Cricket, Hickory, Larkspur, Preston, Lanbury, East and West Gladstone, Shakerwood, Balfour, Felch, Jennings, McCann, Holiday, Shadywood, Brookton, Montville, Glenmere, Hillcroft, Donover, Longman, Cinema Park, Emery Woods, Stone's Throw.

Black History Program

The Warrensville Heights 2024 Black History Program, titled "The Forms of Dance in our Black Culture," was held at the Civic and Senior Center on February 28th. This year's program featured music, dance, and inspiring words. Speakers included Mayor Bradley Sellers, Jennifer Lastery,

Sandy Noble, Councilwoman Dorise Thompson-Hagwood and Rev. Eugene Griggs. The Woman of Wisdom and Angela Hanley performed as well as The Blakk Jakk Dance Collective, a community project-based dance company. Dance styles featured included Hip-Hop Fusion, Modern, Afro Beats, and Stepping. The Black History Program is part of the city's annual events calendar and will return again in February, 2025.



The 2024 Warrensville Heights

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

May 27th at 10 AM

On Warrensville Center Road from Wickfield Ave. to Old City Hall

We Will Never Forget

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**

2024 is going to be busy, and the Center is ready. No buckets will be needed to catch the drops of spring rain, not with our new roof.

Director Jennifer Lastery and Program Coordinator Sandy Noble are crafting a kaleidoscope of new adventures for everyone in Warrensville Heights to explore! Paint and Sip is making its long-awaited return, along with a picnic and outdoor games in the park.

In March, we kicked off our Wellness Series with a session focused on making healthier food selections from dining establishments in the Tri-City area. Dr. Carmen Blakey, a renowned nutritionist from Kent State University, led the presentation. For those interested, we've compiled a list of nutritious dining options available at local eateries in the Tri-City area.

On April 25th, our upcoming wellness activity will delve into the pursuit of happiness and positivity, uncovering strategies to discover joy in our lives. One way to bring happiness to your life is to attend our event "A Little Blues and Some Soul" this June. Other events include a bowling party, or attending our fall Picnic in the Park.

On May 6th, get ready for the annual Senior Luncheon where the city honors its senior citizens. Hubbs Groove will be the entertainment. Registration starts on Monday, April 15th. And we are excited to announce MJ, the musical is coming in August. Also stay tuned for other events being announced this spring and summer.

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 & Council, 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 the Center with 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 Class – Tuesdays at 2:30 PM

Bid Whist/Spades - Wednesdays at 12:30 PM

Gardening Class – Thursdays 10 AM

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

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

Bid Whist/Spades - \$25.00 per year

Corn Hole - \$25.00 (12 weeks)

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



City Offices

Service Department News

Ted Sims, Director

Chipper Service Dates

In 2024, chipper service will be available from April 1 until 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.

Community and Economic Development News

Nicole Harris, Economic Development Director

The start of 2024 has marked a robust beginning for the Office of Community & Economic Development. Prior to the end of 2023, the Sherwin-Williams 100-acre site was acquired by Industrial Commercial Properties LLC (ICP). For more details about this sale, please [refer to Page 12](#).

The Department remains committed to diligently altering the narrative and perception of the Friendly City, both within our region, across the State of Ohio, and nationally. Despite the challenges of businesses closing or relocating, we consistently see a mix of small and larger businesses keen to set up in our city. As we begin the first quarter of the year, we are excited to extend a warm welcome to:

- Hooked Restaurant, 23091 Emery Road
- To the Last Drop 2.0, 20005 Harvard Road;
- Chandler Unlimited LLC, 23713 Emery Road;
- Horizons Inc., 18531 South Miles Road;
- T/R Luxury Haircare (The Tress Room), 4640 Richmond Road, Unit #130;
- Kapruka Ohio, LLC, 4364 Cranwood Parkway;
- AO Care, LLP, 4630 Richmond Road, Unit #270

In 2024, the residents of Warrensville Heights will also benefit with these new retailers locating to our city, this coming spring and summer:

- Aldi, Harvard Park;
- Golf Galaxy Performance Center, Harvard Park;
- Phantom Fireworks, Miles Road

In the domain of new housing, we've actively collaborated with developers locally and nationally, identifying opportunities that align with our vision for improving housing options in the City. Through these endeavors, we've garnered the attention of a leading development group from Louisville, Kentucky. This group stands out as one of the top 5 national affordable housing developers and comes with 25 years of experience. They've shown a strong interest in visiting our city to explore potential collaborations.

Moreover, we are in ongoing discussions with a real estate investment firm that has both national and local presence. This firm has introduced a conceptual house design that could be implemented throughout the city on scattered lots, serving as an infill project. These discussions are among several we're engaged in with developers, all aimed at enhancing the construction of new single-family and multi-family homes in our community.

The city has successfully acquired vacant lots through the Sheriff Sale process and is collaborating with private landowners interested in donating vacant sites and lots that complement our vision for future development opportunities.

In response to the needs of our senior population, we've been attentive and proactive. We've pinpointed two potential sites for building our next residential complex designed for individuals aged 55 and older. Although there's still considerable preparatory work to be done for these future housing development projects, rest assured, we're dedicated to providing you with regular updates.

Green Road Park Expansion

Following 15 months of dedicated effort towards the Green Road Park Expansion Plan, in partnership with the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, we've achieved significant progress. This initiative, driven by the community, focuses on developing an innovative intergenerational park and green space, with a special focus on repurposing the former John Dewey Elementary School site. During this time, we've meticulously collected, organized, and analyzed data from community engagement meetings, surveys, stakeholder interviews, internal discussions, and direct feedback from the community. In March, the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission completed its planning process and presented their recommendations to the City Council. We extend our deepest gratitude to everyone involved for their invaluable contributions and suggestions, which are vital to the project's success.

Exterior Maintenance Program:

The Exterior Maintenance Program is a partial reimbursement grant offered by the City to aid residents who have received exterior maintenance violations from the Warrensville Heights Building Department. This program began on April 1, 2024, and will continue through November 1, 2024, or until funding is depleted. To apply for a grant, please contact Raymond Turner at 216-587-1144 or email rturner@cityofwarrensville.com.

Shred Events:

The city is excited to host our two annual shredding events, designed to offer residents a secure and efficient way to dispose of unwanted papers and documents that they may not wish to discard with their regular curbside trash pick-up. Both events will take place at our Municipal Center, located at 4743 Richmond Road. The dates and times are as follows:

- Saturday, June 22 from 11 AM – 2 PM
- Saturday, October 5 from 11 AM - 2 PM

Food Truck Days:

In conclusion, the city is excited to announce the return of Food Truck Thursdays at the Municipal Center. The dates and times are as follows:

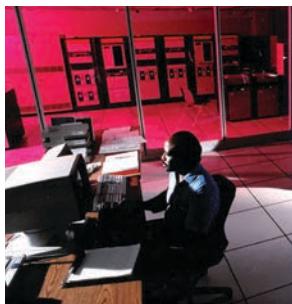
- Thursday, May 9 from 11 AM to 2 PM
- Thursday, June 13 from 11 AM to 2 PM
- Thursday, July 11 from 11 AM to 2 PM
- Thursday, August 8 from 11 AM to 2 PM

Instructor Shares Expertise



Ed Hicks once spearheaded innovative processes at American Greetings as a Digital Assembler and Editor. Throughout his career, he developed novel processes that significantly contributed to the company's greeting card production.

Leveraging his extensive background in design and digital editing, Ed now imparts his wisdom through a photography class at the Warrensville Heights Civic and Senior Center. His journey from working on greeting cards to exploring the artistic realms of photography underscores a seamless transition from professional to educator. Retiring in 2010, Ed didn't put his camera down. He now guides locals in mastering the art of digital photography.



Hicks at American Greetings

In his engaging classes, Ed emphasizes that capturing a great photo involves much more than a simple point-and-shoot approach. He educates attendees on the nuances of camera settings, lighting, and composition, encouraging them to see through the lens with an artist's eye. Through hands-on learning, students not only refine their technical skills but also learn to narrate stories and

preserve memories through their photographs. This course offers a unique blend of creative exploration and social interaction, making it a valuable resource for community members aspiring to elevate their photography skills. For more information on this course held on Tuesdays, call the Civic and Senior Center at 216-587-1250.



Fire Department News

Peter Patrick, Acting Fire Chief

At the March 5th Council meeting, Ryan Frank was sworn in as a new firefighter in the Warrensville Heights Fire Department. Having grown up in Eastlake, Frank is a graduate of Eastlake North High School, Class of 2016. His journey into firefighting began early, marked by valuable experiences at the Fairport Harbor and Olmsted Township fire departments.



With a solid foundation in the field, Frank is enthusiastic about the prospects of contributing to and growing with the Warrensville Heights Fire Department. "I can't wait to further develop my career at the Warrensville Heights Fire Department," said Frank. He is particularly thankful for the chance to make a difference and is poised to embrace the challenges and rewards that come with being a part of the department.

Smoke Detectors

Remember, ensuring the batteries in smoke detectors are checked regularly is vitally important, as these straightforward devices are key to protecting both lives and property from the catastrophic consequences of fires. A working smoke detector provides an essential early warning, granting people the crucial minutes needed for safe evacuation in a fire emergency. But without proper battery power a smoke detector is useless. By routinely inspecting and changing these batteries, a smoke detector can perform life-saving functions. It is advised to check these batteries twice a year, in the spring and fall.

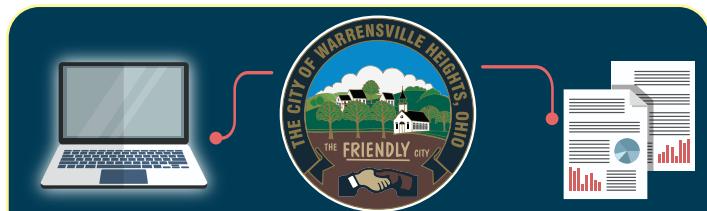


Fire Hydrant Flushing

Starting the first week of June 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.



SUMMER INTERSHIPS

The 2024 City of Warrensville Heights Summer Program is looking for bright, motivated and outgoing students to gain valuable experience. A diverse range of job opportunities are available. In order to be considered for a position:

- You must be a Warrensville Heights resident.
- A high school student (at least 14 years of age), a recent high school graduate or a college enrollee.
- Able to work 9 AM to 3 PM or 9 AM to 5 PM.
- Able to work Monday through Friday.

Applications will be accepted until May 3. To download an application <https://cityofwarrensville.com/260>

The Friendly City Magazine



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Sherwin-Williams sells to ICP

On December 15, 2023, a significant transaction in the Warrensville Heights real estate market occurred when Industrial Commercial Properties LLC (ICP), a prominent real estate developer based in Northeast Ohio, purchased the Sherwin-Williams Company's Technical Center campus. This property, a sprawling 105-acre site, is situated along Warrensville Center Road and is across the road from the Jack Thistledown Racino.

The sale marked a pivotal point for the city since Sherwin-Williams announced in 2020 the coming closure of the facility, which meant a possible loss of local tax revenue of up to \$1 million to the city.



The sale to ICP may not only compensate for the current tax base due to the departure of the 440 positions at Sherwin-Williams, but it might eventually boost the total employment in the community and generate extra tax income, surpassing the current city revenues from this property.

About the sale, Mayor Sellers said "The City was instrumental in brokering a deal with Sherwin-Williams to bring ICP into the picture to lead this critical redevelopment effort. Acknowledging that the departure of Sherwin-Williams from Warrensville will have significant financial implications for the city. We are thankful for the many years of support and jobs that Sherwin-Williams afforded our community. We're going to have to work really hard with all state and local stakeholders to navigate this redevelopment and reposition the property for future economic success to support our community."

Industrial Commercial Properties, renowned for its expertise in reinventing real estate, plans to redevelop the acquired site to support new industrial business in the community. This acquisition represents a positive move for the city and secures a partner for years to come.

ICP is considering various possibilities, including a business park with light industrial, commercial, and potentially retail components. They expect to keep and redevelop two small buildings at the southern end of the site, while most other structures will be demolished to make way for the new development.