

# the friendly magazine

# city



Summer/Fall 2024

Civic Center Jewelry/Crafts Class

## GIVING BACK



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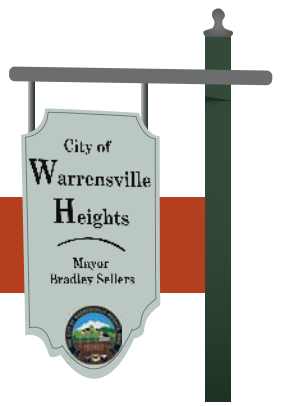
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## The Mayor's Message



### Summer sparkled, autumn unfolds

Fall is upon us as summer fades away. The tree-lined streets of our community will soon display their annual change of colors. As we witness this transformation, we reflect on the events that made this summer one to remember.

On May 27th, despite some morning rain, the Memorial Day Parade was a successful event, featuring over 60 groups marching, dancing, cheering and singing. The sun came out just in time for the start of the parade and spectators lined the streets to show their support. After the parade a ceremony included heartfelt speeches, a flag raising and a moment of silence with the playing of "Taps."

Thanks to everyone who came out on July 1st for my State of the City Address at the Municipal Center. The presentation highlighted significant achievements and future plans for Warrensville Heights.



Over the past year, we have seen substantial improvements in infrastructure and community services. In 2023, we completed major projects including the repair and resurfacing of key roads, and the enhancement of our stormwater systems. We have also been talking with developers to meet our city's new housing needs and installing new lighting near Harvard Park.

Our police department has effectively leveraged technology like Flock Safety's license plate readers and ShotSpotter's acoustic gunshot detection to improve safety and response times. Additionally, our fire department has a new chief, Michael Petti, who is committed to enhance the departments emergency response capabilities.

Economic development remains a priority, and we have successfully attracted several new businesses and retail establishments despite national trends of closures and relocations. Notable new arrivals include Phantom Fireworks, Kindred Spirits Behavioral Health, Aldi, and Golf Galaxy.

Our commitment to economic growth is evident in our efforts to create an attractive environment for new businesses through strategic site locations and infrastructure improvements. These businesses also add to our tax base which keeps our cherished programs and institutions strong.

Looking forward, my top goals include visionary planning with a focus on enhanced housing options for seniors, continued safety improvements, impactful community development. Our financial management demonstrates a proactive approach to balancing revenues and expenditures, ensuring a stable economic foundation for future growth.

On August 17-18, the Summer Festival once again brought the community together for two days of vibrant celebration. Despite occasional interruptions from rain, the unwavering spirit of the residents, vendors, and entertainers uplifted us all. We can't wait to see you again at the 2025 edition!

Our community is eagerly anticipating the annual Trunk-or-Treat event Thursday, October 17 from 6-7:30 PM. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of students from Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine and various partners across the city, we've ensured this event will provide a safe and delightful Halloween experience for our children.

With its robust, diverse, and dynamic foundation, Warrensville Heights is set to uplift and lead the way into a strong future.

Bradley D. Sellers



## Door Signs at The Avenue

The Warrensville Heights Senior & Civic Center art class embarked on a heartwarming project, creating personalized door signs for the residents of the Avenue at Warrensville. This initiative, conceived by the crafts class, showcases their creative vision and offers a personalized touch to each resident's doorway.



Each sign was a work of art designed by members of the class. The designs were made with a variety of different materials. Many of the signs were messages of welcome.

Each of the residents selected a sign that appealed to them. For example, a resident with a love for gardening might receive a sign adorned with hand-painted flowers and greenery, while an avid fisherman's sign might feature a serene lake scene complete with a fishing rod.

This project not only beautified the living environment but also fostered a stronger sense of community. It allowed the senior participants to engage actively with their creativity while contributing meaningfully to their fellow residents' happiness.



Additionally, it sparked conversations and connections among residents, who appreciated the thought and effort put into each unique sign.

The impact of such projects goes beyond the aesthetic enhancement of a living space. They imbue the environment with a sense of belonging and personal identity, making the Avenue at Warrensville feel more like home for everyone involved. This initiative is a beautiful example of how creativity can be harnessed to bring joy and unity to a community.

## Summer Internship Program

In the heart of Warrensville Heights, the Summer Internship Program shines as a beacon of opportunity for the city's youth. With a mission rooted in strengthening the community, the program aspires to mold young minds through personal growth and achievement, emphasizing diligence, responsibility, and leadership.



2024 cohort of summer interns

As summer approaches each year, the city welcomes applications from eager students ready to make a difference.

This initiative, known as the Student Summer Employment Program, offers invaluable training and work experience over the summer months. For a span of six to eight weeks, participants dive into a diverse range of job opportunities, working 25 to 40 hours each week.

"I have garnered invaluable professional experience during my tenure with the City of Warrensville Heights," stated Chloe Thomas, an intern at the city. "Witnessing firsthand the seamless collaboration among the city's various departments has been enlightening. This internship has also endowed me with a heightened sense of responsibility and a profound appreciation for the intricacies of public service."

Eligibility for this enriching program is straightforward yet exclusive. Applicants must be residents of Warrensville Heights, current students, or recent graduates enrolled in college, and at least 14 years old. This ensures that the opportunity is accessible to those who are part of the local community, nurturing a sense of local pride and investment. As the city gears up to begin accepting applications, the anticipation builds. Young residents look forward to a summer filled with growth, learning, and the chance to contribute meaningfully to their community.

The Warrensville Heights Summer Internship Program stands as a testament to the city's commitment to its youth and their bright futures.



# Council Spotlight



## Dorise Thompson-Hagwood

### WARD 1

Greetings! I am deeply honored and grateful for the trust you've placed in me as your City Councilwoman. My mission is to ensure that your voice is heard in the city's regulations, laws, and policies.

Serving and helping people is in my DNA, and I am passionate about my responsibility to serve our community. This journey has been a long one, and I couldn't have reached this point without your encouragement, inspiration, support, and help. I am eternally grateful for your kindness.

**A special thank you shoutout goes to my loyal Advisory Board Members—you are truly appreciated.**

I hope you had the chance to attend Mayor Sellers' 2024 State of the City Address. It was an inspiring event that showcased the remarkable progress our city is making. As we strive for greater heights, it's exciting to see our efforts will shape a brighter future for all our residents. Your continued support and engagement are crucial as we work together to achieve our shared goals.

Please remember to:

- Read the articles from your city directors.
- Attend your City Council and School Board meetings.
- Avoid parking on city streets on garbage collection day until after the garbage pickup.

Mark your calendar for the Ward 1 and Ward 3 Fall Community Meeting on Friday, September 13, 2024 at the Civic Center at 7 PM. All Residents are welcome, you don't want to miss this one! Blessings, Dorise

dhagwood@cityofwarrensville.com | O: 216.587.6516



## Andrea Mitchell

### WARD 2

Greetings Neighbors! School bells are ringing as students are back in classes. Please keep an eye out for students heading to and from school. Sometimes students take chances and dart into the streets, so we need to stay alert.

Please keep in mind: passing a school bus with its lights and stop sign activated is a misdemeanor with a minimum fine of \$165 and a mandatory court appearance.

Also, please be mindful of your speed when driving, especially in school zones.



Exceeding the posted school speed limit—333.03 A(1)—is a misdemeanor of the first degree with fines starting at \$165. Speeding 20 miles or more over the posted limit will automatically incur a higher fee plus a mandatory court appearance. Remember, if you see something, say something.

Speaking of education, please watch for the fall Ward 2 Community Meeting in October. There will be helpful information and plenty of news you can use. Stay tuned for details about the next Community Meeting in Ward 2.

Although not everyone has access to or regularly uses email, it is the most expedient (and cost-effective) way to communicate "breaking news" or information within a short time frame. As such, when presented with important information, I will sometimes send a message (anonymously) to those whose email I have. Please share the information with neighbors who do not have email access. This is always strongly encouraged.

**If you would like to be added to the Ward 2 Email List, please send your email address to: [amitchell@cityofwarrensville.com](mailto:amitchell@cityofwarrensville.com) and include "Please Add Me to the Ward 2 Email List".**

Finally, if you are free at 7:00 PM on the first and third Tuesdays of the month (September-May) or the third Tuesday (June-August), please mark your calendar and plan to attend the City Council meetings. It is always wonderful to see and hear from residents at these meetings.

Be aware. Be informed. Be safe. Neighborly, Andrea

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



## Walter Stewart

### WARD 4

The 2024 General Election is set to take place on November 5, 2024. Here are the key dates and information regarding the **voting schedule**:

- Military & Overseas Absentee Voting: Begins on September 20.
- Deadline to Register to Vote: October 7, with boards open until 9:00 PM.
- Early In-Person Voting: Starts on October 8 and includes the two Saturdays and two Sundays before Election Day.
- Absentee Voting by Mail: Begins on October 8.
- Election Day: November 5, with polls open from 6:30 AM to 7:30 PM. Absentee ballots must be received by your board of elections by 7:30 PM if not returned by mail.

**Safety is a significant concern** in Ward 4, extending beyond its boundaries. Issues such as gunfire, auto break-ins, theft, domestic violence, a recent homicide, and trafficking are prevalent. It is crucial for residents to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities.

# Council Spotlight

The principle of “if you see something, say something” is essential in keeping the community safe. Whenever a resident becomes a victim of crime, it impacts the entire community. Therefore, cooperation and communication among residents are vital in addressing and mitigating these safety issues.

## Tenant Concerns and Legal Protections

There has been a growing number of residents inquiring about putting their rent into escrow due to ongoing and continuous maintenance issues. Many are concerned about potential retaliation from property management companies. In Ohio, landlords are prohibited from retaliating against tenants by increasing rent, decreasing services, terminating or failing to renew a rental agreement, or evicting or threatening to evict the tenant because the tenant has complained to a public official, complained to the landlord, or organized a group of tenants. Tenants who experience retaliation should contact Legal Aid at 888-808-2800 for assistance.

By staying informed about the election process and being proactive in addressing safety and housing concerns, residents can contribute to a safer and more supportive community.

wstewart@cityofwarrensville.com | C: 216.868.5695



## Elona C. White

WARD 3

As we move into fall and winter, let's not forget some safety tips. Remember to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and have your furnace and fireplace serviced and cleaned.

Thanks to all who attended Wards 1 and 3's spring meeting and party in the park, sponsored by Councilwomen Dorise Thompson Hagwood and Elona C. White. We honored Mayor Brad Sellers and Superintendent Donald Jolly for their dedication and outstanding leadership in our community. Also featured in the photo are Warrensville Heights Schools' Board President Earl D. Roberts and Board Member Ray Freeman. Thank you all for your support and for making this community a better place to be educated!



Congratulations to the Warrensville Heights High School Marching Band, under the direction and leadership of Donshon Wilson.

The band has been invited to perform on December 7, 2024, in honor of The Pearl Harbor Memorial Day Parade in Honolulu, Hawaii. What an honor and privilege for these well-deserved students.



As always, it is an honor to serve the residents of Warrensville Heights. Stay safe and enjoy the upcoming holiday season!

“I am a Queen, and I demand to be treated like a Queen.”

~The late Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee. RIP: January 12, 1950 - July 19, 2024

ewhite@cityofwarrensvilleheights.com | C: 216.244.4692



## Matthew Howard

WARD 5

Greetings everyone. I hope this message finds you all in peace. As we wrap up the summer of 2024 and the rest of the year, I always like to thank everyone for their support throughout the year. A special thank you to all of our residents who show up to city council and special events, as well as to all sponsors and business partners in and out of our community.

There was a very good turnout for the county property value meetings. Although some of you received some very good news about your property values, some did not, and some didn't change much at all. Please follow up with the county as directed if you are in disagreement with your appraised value at 216-443-7420.

If you know someone who is not registered to vote, please encourage them to exercise their rights and vote in this upcoming presidential election. We need every able-bodied person to show up and cast their ballot. There is too much on the line this time, and we cannot sit on the sidelines and watch the world change in ways that will not benefit our community.

Thank you to our community manager and Economic Development Team for arranging our Food Truck Thursdays in the municipal parking lot. It's always a good turnout and a very diverse crowd.

Ward 5's annual Christmas party will be Friday, December 6 at 6 PM at the City Civic Center. We will need volunteers to help in making the event a success as usual. It's always a great time and a beautiful turnout.

As we protect the integrity of our community, we believe in the policy of “if you see something, say something.” Please call City Hall or your respective council person if you see something that needs attention, or call the police if it is a criminal matter.

Thank you, everyone. Councilman Matt Howard.

mhoward@cityofwarrensville.com | C: 440.561.7990

# Council Spotlight



## Johnny L. Williams Jr.

WARD 7

In my three years on City Council, I've consistently taken the opportunity to address the importance of ensuring your VOTE is your VOICE! I'm passionate about the need to VOTE because it is the only way for most Americans to demonstrate their civic responsibility and privilege that our ancestors protested, fought, and even died for.

Candidly, the VOTING turnout in Warrensville has been woeful at 29% as a city, which ranks 56th of 59 Cuyahoga County municipalities, and only 21% in Ward 7 specifically. "We can do better...we must be better, we're simply better than this!" We are now under two months from the most consequential presidential election of not only our lifetimes but the future lives of our children and grandchildren, which will be impacted – for better or worse – depending on voter turnout.

If you are not familiar with Project 2025, I'd strongly encourage you to please familiarize yourself with this disturbing 900-page blueprint for what the Trump administration plans to accomplish if he's reelected as president. It's extremely frightening and unthinkable to fathom they'd want to 'take away' some of these current agencies and rights: reduce social security and Medicare, ban abortions nationally, end the Affordable Care Act, end civil rights and DEI protections, eliminate the Dept. of Education, eliminate the FDA and EPA, and ban African American and gender studies in all levels of education, to name just a few! We can't afford to have anyone stand on the sidelines to allow this to happen to the future of our children and grandchildren!

We now have a binary choice between electing Kamala Harris as the first female President ever or electing the first former president who's a convicted felon, sexual assaulter, fraudster, divider, and blatant racist as the leader of the free world. We simply can't sit this election out. From the top of the ticket to the bottom, your VOTE matters – more than ever! October 7th is the deadline to register to vote in the November 5th election. We have numerous motivations, and fears frankly, to turn out and VOTE even more than we did in 2008 when electing Barack Obama. The stakes are too high, and failure is not an option considering the unworthiness of the convicted felon and his MAGA base who would like us to return to the Ozzie & Harriet 1950s before the Civil Rights Act and Voting Rights Act were enacted.

We now have a chance to be a part of history – for better (Kamala Harris) or horribly worse (the convicted felon, sexual assaulter, and fraudster). The monumental consequences of this election make me more fearful now than I have ever been in my lifetime. It will take each of us to do more by engaging

low-frequency or non-VOTERS by persuading them that their VOTE matters and will absolutely matter in Ohio for the Senate choice of Sherrod Brown or yet another 45 sycophant who wants to take away your rights.



It's on us, each and every one of us, to decide what the future of our country will be. I am hopeful and prayerful that we stand up and be counted through the most powerful action we can take – VOTE!

**"Let's Find a Way, Make it Happen & Get it Done!"**

jwilliams@cityofwarrensville.com | O: 216.834.9667



## Stanley Anderson

WARD 6

Residents of Warrensville Heights, I'm excited to share information about two programs designed to enhance your home efficiency and ease your property tax obligations.

First, the **Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP)** provides eligible Ohioans with assistance to improve the energy efficiency of their homes and reduce their energy costs. Ohioans with a household income at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines are eligible. Priority is given to those over 60, individuals with disabilities, families with children, and households with high energy usage or burden. An application must be submitted to apply for services. For more information, call 800-848-1300.

Second, for those who do not pay their property tax through a mortgage, **Easy Pay from the Cuyahoga County Treasurer's Office** might be the solution. Many people find that making monthly or bimonthly payments is the most convenient way to pay their property taxes, especially if they have recently paid off a mortgage or prefer smaller installments rather than a large lump sum.

**What is Easy Pay?**

Easy Pay is a free and convenient service that allows property owners to prepay future real estate tax bills with a payment every two months.

**Auto Pay & Pre-Payment Coupons**

These programs are designed to ease financial burdens and improve the quality of life for Warrensville Heights residents. To call the Treasurer's Office about the Easy Pay program dial 216-443-7400. Note that Easy Pay cannot be used to pay delinquent taxes.

Don't miss out on these valuable opportunities!

sanderson@cityofwarrensville.com | O: 216.587.6516





Mayor

Grand Marshal



## Memorial Day Parade

The 2024 Memorial Day Parade was a huge success despite the initially uncooperative weather. Over 60 participating organizations persevered, and by the time the parade started at 10 AM, the sun was peeking out. Following the parade, a solemn ceremony of remembrance and honor was led by our Mistress of Ceremonies, Angela Hanley, and included speeches by Mayor Sellers, Mayor Booker, members of Council, and our Grand Marshal Donald J. Jolly II. The Warrensville Heights Fire Department conducted the wreath-laying and flag-raising ceremony.



## Honor & Respect



## Building Department News

Benjamin Brown, Building Commissioner

This past spring and summer, the Building Department conducted our annual Exterior Property Maintenance inspections on both residential and commercial properties throughout the City to ensure compliance with our maintenance standards. If you own a residential property and received a property maintenance violation, you are eligible to apply for our City Exterior Maintenance Grant to offset some of the repair costs needed for your property. You can contact our Community/Economic Department for the program guidelines and application or visit our City website at [cityofwarrensville.com](http://cityofwarrensville.com).

Additionally, the City has passed several new amendments to sections of our zoning, business, and building codes, which went into effect this past summer. These amendments are listed below:

### Chapter 755.07 Time Limitations Operating Hours Self-Service Filling Stations

1. Self-service filling stations which are located less than one (1) miles from an interstate highway or freeway on-ramp or off-ramp may remain open twenty-four (24) hours a day in order to safely serve the motoring public.
2. Self-service filling stations which are located more than one (1) mile from an interstate highway or freeway on-ramp or off-ramp shall cease all operations, including fueling and retail sales, between the hours of 10:00PM and 6:00AM daily.

### Chapter 1121.311 Restaurant

"Restaurant" means a business located in a permanent building, with a commercial kitchen that includes at a minimum a full-size stove, oven and refrigerator, where meals are prepared, served and sold on-site to customers in exchange for the payment of money as the principal business of the place.

### (Decks) Chapter 1333.13 (All Districts) Fees for Plan Registrations, Administration and Filing

All plans for new buildings or exterior alterations, other than decks of less than 150 square feet, must be submitted to the Planning Commission/Architectural Review Board, together with separate administrations and registration fees, specifications are submitted and before the Planning Commission/Architectural Review Board.

### (Fences) Chapter 1147.02 Permitted Uses Class U-7C Planned Residential Districts (Emery Woods, Stones Throw, Newport Square)

Any accessory uses, other than fences, customarily incidental to any of the above uses are permitted on the same premises subject to the approval of the Planning Commission, which approval shall be confirmed by resolution of Council before becoming effective. Fences shall be approved by the Building Commissioner.

### (Fences) 1149.03 Area, Lot, and Setback Requirements U-7D Planned Residential Development District (Cinema Park)

Fencing shall conform to the requirements of this Planning and Zoning Code. No fencing shall be permitted within the front setback. No chain link fencing is permitted. Fence designs and locations shall be approved by the Building Commissioner.

### (Fences) 1169.02 General Requirements U-1 Single Family Residential Districts

Fences and freestanding or retaining walls or hedges may be permitted on, or approximately on, a property line along a side or rear yard to a height not over six (6) feet above the natural grade, provided that no such fence, wall or hedge shall extend beyond the real line of the main structure on the property to be enclosed.

### Chapter 917 (B) Garbage and Rubbish Collection and Disposal

1. Trash, rubbish, garbage, refuse and recyclables may be placed for collection not sooner than 5:00 PM 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 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. For information call 216-587-6570.

Fall is a great time to start preparing your property for the winter months, both exterior and interior. Here are some preparation ideas:

Inspect Roof Walk around your property to check for any missing or damaged shingles that might let moisture in, and have them replaced.

Driveway Repairs Waterproofing your driveway is crucial to prevent future damage and costs. Repair all cracks in your asphalt or concrete driveway. Water can fill these cracks, and when it freezes, it will expand and create frost heave, causing more damage to your driveway.

Seal Doors and Windows Gaps around your doors and windows can lead to high heating bills in winter. Seal all gaps with caulking or weather-stripping.

Heating System Have your furnace or boiler serviced by a licensed professional. Check and change any dirty furnace filters. If you have a fireplace, have your chimney checked by a licensed professional to ensure there is no creosote buildup. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Building Department at 216-587-1230.



# 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

The Civic and Senior Center continues to create an array of exciting new adventures for everyone in Warrensville Heights to enjoy!

### Plays

In August, one hundred seniors and friends attended “MJ the Musical” at the State Theater. Our next play, “Purlie Victorious,” will be in October at Karamu, followed by “Black Nativity” in December. Although “Black Nativity” is a Karamu production, it will be performed at the Hanna Theater at Playhouse Square. Sign-up sheets for these events will be available on the sign-up table starting in late August. Additionally, we have “King James,” a play about LeBron James, in March at Playhouse Square.



### Join us for these exciting upcoming events:

- **September 26:** End of Summer Cookout from 11 AM to 2 PM under the shelter at Green Road Park. Enjoy good food, music, and company, all for \$20.
- **October 25:** Harvest Moon Band at the Civic Center from 6-10 PM.
- **November 16:** “Giving Thanks” – a FREE gospel concert at “The Center” starting at 6 PM to bring in the holiday season.



In October, we are honoring requests from seniors for a holiday wreath making class. Create decorative wreaths using materials like evergreen branches, ribbons, ornaments, and other seasonal embellishments to celebrate and adorn homes during the holiday season. Classes will begin on

Wednesday, October 2, 2024 from 10-12 PM and the cost will be only \$14 for residents and \$16 for non-residents.

### 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.

### Senior Club

The Senior Club meets twice a month (second and fourth Tuesday at 1 PM) 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/Crafts – Fridays at 12:30 PM  
Quilting and Doll Guild – 1st and 3rd Saturday 10 AM

### Cost of Classes

Class prices: \$14, \$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)  
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



On May 23rd at the Senior Breakfast for the WHHS graduating class of 2024, Mya Gordon and Blessing Ibeziako each won a \$2000 Mayor's Award Scholarship. The awards were presented by Raymon Turner and Nicole Harris from the city's Economic Development Department.

## Community and Economic Development News

Nicole Harris, Economic Development Director

In his State of the City address, Mayor Sellers presented his vision for Warrensville Heights, emphasizing the Department of Community & Economic Development's role in fostering the city's growth. Collaborating with our Communications Department, we launched an initiative called "Why Warrensville," a video series showcasing local businesses and their reasons for choosing our city. This initiative aims to attract new businesses by highlighting the benefits of establishing operations in Warrensville Heights.

A notable milestone in our business landscape is the grand opening of Aldi Grocery Store in July, addressing the city's previous designation as a food desert. Despite national trends of business closures, Warrensville Heights continues to attract new enterprises, including Phantom Fireworks, House of L Interior Design, Help Foundation, The Tress Room, Kindred Spirit Behavioral Health, and Hooked Restaurant. We are also preparing to welcome Golf Galaxy Performance Center in 2024.

In partnership with Industrial Commercial Properties LLC (ICP), we are redeveloping the Sherwin-Williams site to attract new businesses as Sherwin-Williams relocates to Brecksville. This strategic effort aims to offset the loss of \$1.2 million in annual income tax revenue due to Sherwin-Williams' departure.

### Residential Development:

Mayor Sellers and the administration secured an agreement with LDG Development to build approximately 200 new affordable multifamily units. If approved by the Ohio Finance Agency, the project will be funded through Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC), providing high-quality, accessible housing. Additionally, the Cuyahoga County Land Bank recently completed four new homes in the Brentwood area, setting new price benchmarks and signaling a strong real estate market. We are also in discussions to construct new housing on targeted sites and vacant lots, with plans for 15 new homes in Shakerwood Estates.

Senior housing is a priority, with an exclusive project slated for the former Eastwood Elementary School site, featuring 70 gated, ranch-style apartments. We continue to engage with developers to bring more single-family, multi-family, and senior housing projects to fruition.

### Community Enhancements:

Enhancing our community through proper planning and modernization is essential. The Green Road Park Expansion, in collaboration with the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission and WHCSD, underscores our commitment to creating intergenerational green spaces. We have secured funding from Cuyahoga County CDSG and NOPEC to install 19 new streetlights along Richmond Rd. and Harvard Ave., scheduled for installation this fall. Additionally, Phase 4 of the Granada Blvd. Road reconstruction project has been completed, and phase 5 is scheduled to be completed this fall 2024.

### Community Development Updates:

The second season of Food Truck Thursdays was a success, drawing more residents and businesses from adjacent communities. We aim to expand this event next year, offering a broader range of food options to meet diverse tastes and health preferences.

Our Annual Shred Day Event is scheduled for October 5 from 11 AM - 2 PM, at the Municipal Center, providing residents a safe way to discard important documents. The Exterior Maintenance Program, running through November 1st or until funds are exhausted, assists homeowners mandated to make exterior updates to comply with city ordinances.

Cuyahoga County has completed its Sexennial Reappraisal, which may result in significant increases in home appraisals and property taxes. We recommend that residents familiarize themselves with the appeal process if they disagree with their new evaluations. The Cuyahoga County Board of Revisions will accept and hear tax complaints from January 2025 to March 2025.

## Service Department News

Ted Sims, Director

### Trash Pickup Changes Thanksgiving Week

During Thanksgiving week trash pickup will be paused for Thanksgiving Day. So Thursday's pickup will move to Friday. Signs will be placed to remind you of trash pickup changes.

Remember, all mattresses and cloth furniture must be wrapped in plastic before placing on tree lawn for disposal. (ONLY 2 BAGS ALLOWED per pickup) Carpet is to be cut in 3-foot sections and put in trash bags.

### Trash Delays/Missed Pickup

In the event of a Kimble Trash/Recycle missed pickup, please call 216-587-6570. If your trash pickup is late, leave your trash cans on the lawn, they will be picked up late that evening or early the next morning.

Items like tires, paint, oil or electronics can be dropped off at the Service Garage for disposal/recycling Monday through Friday, 10 AM to 3 PM.

### Streetlights

Please report street light outages and issues to First Energy at 888-544-4877 for 72-hour service.

### Chipper Service

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

### Leaf Service

Leaf pickup will take place October 1st to December 15th or the first snowfall. Leaves mixed with grass or branches will not be picked up. After December 15th, or a snowfall, leaves will need to be bagged as trash.



## Fire Department News

Michael Petti, Fire Chief

At the May 7th Council Meeting, Mayor Sellers honored Lieutenant Nick Kaminsky and Firefighter Kyle Witczak with a commendation for their heroic actions during a fire on April 4, 2024. The Engine 1 crew responded to an odor of smoke call at 4339 Northfield at 0500 hours, discovering a significant fire in a third-floor apartment. With Squad 1 and Squad 2 already engaged in medical emergencies, Engine 1 was the sole responding unit. Lt. Kaminsky quickly called for a second alarm and made entry into the building, rescuing a resident from the third floor. Meanwhile, Firefighter Witczak operated the pump. The duo then advanced into the burning apartment, navigating through intense heat and low visibility to extinguish the main fire and conduct a primary search. Fortunately, the other occupant had self-evacuated before the fire department's arrival.



(Lieutenant Kaminsky and Firefighter Witczak pictured with Former Acting Chief Patrick)

The commendation highlighted the firefighters' dedication and bravery in the face of extreme danger. Their actions not only ensured the safety of a resident but also minimized structural damage. Lt. Kaminsky and Firefighter Witczak demonstrated exceptional courage by entering the burning building without the standard backup crew, adhering to the highest traditions of the fire service and the Warrensville Heights Fire Department. Their selfless commitment to protecting the community serves as an inspiring example of heroism and professionalism.

Additionally, during the the same May 7th Council meeting, Mayor Sellers administered the oath of office to Tyler Mayo, the department's newest firefighter.



*As the weather cools down, it's essential to keep your HVAC system in optimal condition for efficiency and safety. The Warrensville Heights Fire Department advises having your HVAC system inspected, cleaned, and serviced by a certified HVAC contractor. Regular maintenance improves performance and lowers the risk of fire hazards and potential carbon dioxide (CO2) leaks.*

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## Police Department News

Wesley Haynes, Police Chief

The Warrensville Heights Police Department, dedicated to enforcing laws, maintaining public order, and conducting investigations, ensures community safety with a robust workforce. Per our mention in this year's State of the City address, in 2023 the department responded to a range of incidents, including 203 police escorts, 709 parking complaints, 543 residential welfare checks, and 9,904 emergency calls. They issued 1,209 moving citations and 1,152 parking citations. The officers also responded to 1,378 residential and commercial alarms, with an average response time of three to five minutes.



On July 16, Jax, a five year old German Shepherd joined the Warrensville Heights Police Department as a K9 Police Officer. Jax will be stationed with his handler, Officer Eric Cvanciger.

Also, on the same evening Alyssa Hilderbrand was sworn in by Mayor Sellers to the position of Police Officer. She is pictured with her family and friends.



# The Friendly City Magazine



The City of Warrensville Heights  
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## Warrensville Connect

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**Police Dept.** (216) 581-1234  
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Photos by Jeff Gates, Ed Hicks and Bruce Mitchell

## Aldi opens in Warrensville Heights

The Aldi store in Harvard Park, Warrensville Heights, is one of the larger Aldi stores in the region. Conveniently located at the intersection of Harvard Road and I-271, it opened to the public on July 10 and celebrated its grand opening on July 18 with special promotions and events. The store boasts a wide selection of groceries and household items, ensuring that customers have access to fresh fruit, dairy, meat, and essentials, along with a variety of organic and gluten-free products. Aldi is known for its competitive prices and efficient shopping experience, making it a favorite among budget-conscious shoppers.

