

the friendly magazine **city**



Winter 2025



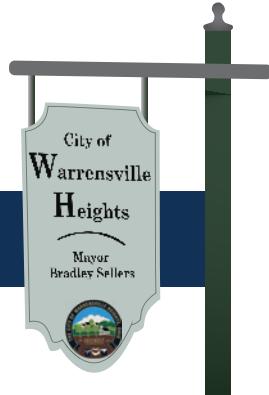
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& more

Holiday Drive-Thru Fun
Cover: The volunteers that made the
2024 Holiday Drive-Thru possible.

Inside: 8 tips to stay cozy this winter



The Mayor's Message



Community Strength, Shared Progress

A new year has dawned, bringing fresh opportunities and the promise of new beginnings. As we step into 2025, it's a time to reflect on the achievements of the past year and to build on the momentum we've gained together.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to our trailblazer, Shontel Brown, on her recent election victory in Ohio's 11th Congressional District. Her energy, enthusiasm, and dedication continue to inspire as she serves our community with passion and purpose.

Congratulations to Secretary Marcia Fudge whose exceptional leadership and commitment to public service continues to inspire us. As the 18th Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), she has championed transformative initiatives to address the affordable housing crisis, expand homeownership opportunities, and combat homelessness. Secretary Fudge has prioritized equitable access to housing, ensuring underserved communities receive the resources they need to thrive. Her distinguished career, from serving as Mayor of Warrensville Heights to representing Ohio's 11th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives, highlights her unwavering commitment to public advocacy and social justice. We celebrate her accomplishments and the positive impact she continues to make in advancing equity and opportunity for all.

This winter, the Warrensville Heights Civic & Senior Center remains a cornerstone of our community, offering programs to help residents stay active and healthy. Regular exercise not only boosts physical health and supports the immune system but also enhances mental well-being. With a variety of classes

and activities, there's something for everyone to stay fit and energized during the colder months.

As February approaches, we honor the achievements and enduring spirit of African Americans during Black History Month. This annual observance reminds us of the Civil Rights Movement's significance and provides educational opportunities for the children in our community. We invite you to join us for the 2025 Black History Program, a live event featuring inspiring presentations and uplifting music.

Winter also brings the challenges of lake-effect snow, and we ask for your continued cooperation. In the event of significant snowfall, please visit our website at cityofwarrensville.com for updates on parking bans. You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram for real-time information, via links conveniently listed on the back of this magazine. Remember, parking bans are enforced when snowfall exceeds two inches within 24 hours.

Looking ahead, 2025 promises to be a remarkable year for Warrensville Heights. Our beloved events—including the Black History Program, Senior Luncheon, Memorial Day Parade on May 26th, and the Summer Festival in August—ensure an exciting calendar of community celebrations.

As we embark on this new year, I wish you and your families a Happy New Year filled with prosperity, joy, and success. With new leadership at the national level and progress here in Warrensville Heights, we are ready to embrace the opportunities this new era brings. Together, let's make 2025 a year to remember.

As always,

Bradley D. Sellers



8 tips to stay cozy this winter

1. Dress in Layers

Wear multiple layers of clothing to trap heat effectively. Start with a moisture-wicking base layer, add an insulating middle layer like a fleece or wool sweater, and finish with a windproof and waterproof outer layer.



2. Keep Your Extremities Covered

Wear warm hats, gloves, and thick socks, as your head, hands, and feet lose heat quickly. Opt for wool or thermal fabrics to retain heat better.

3. Use Insulated Footwear

Choose insulated, waterproof boots to keep your feet warm and dry. Add thermal insoles or wool socks for extra warmth.



4. Seal Drafts and Insulate Your Home

Prevent cold air from entering your home by sealing windows and doors with weatherstripping. Use heavy curtains or thermal window coverings for extra insulation.

5. Drink Warm Beverages

Stay hydrated and warm with hot drinks like tea, coffee or hot chocolate. This helps raise your core body temperature.



6. Stay Active Indoors

Exercise helps increase body temperature. Simple activities like stretching or doing household chores can help keep you warm.

7. Take Warm Showers or Baths

A hot shower or bath can quickly warm you up and help you relax, especially before bedtime.



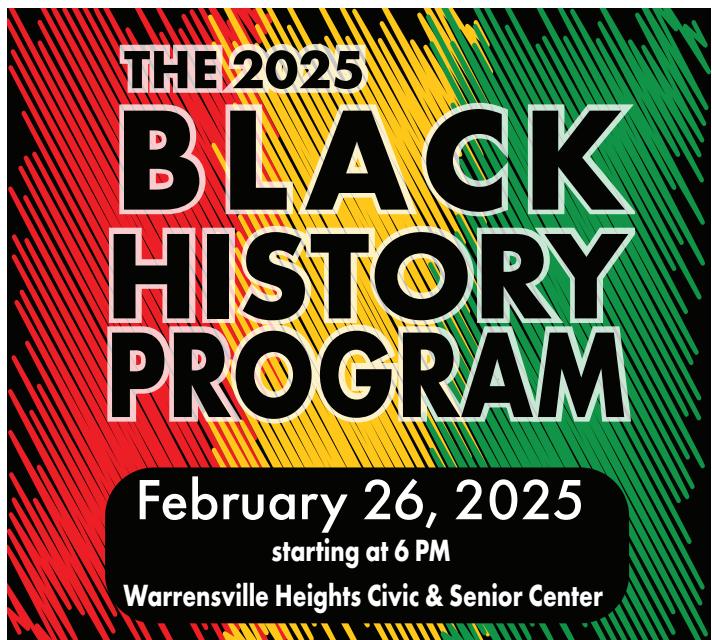
8. Eat Warming Foods

Opt for warm, hearty meals like soups, stews, and casseroles. Foods rich in healthy fats can also help keep your body insulated from the cold.

Cookout at the Senior Center



At the end of September, the Civic & Senior Center hosted its annual 2024 End-of-Summer Cookout, marking a festive farewell to the warmer months. Although the event had to be moved indoors due to wind and rain, it didn't dampen anyone's enthusiasm. Attendees enjoyed hot dogs, hamburgers, and other grilled favorites, all cooked to perfection. In addition to the delicious food, lively music and entertainment kept everyone energized, with plenty of dancing. It was the perfect way to transition into the cooler days of fall and winter, filled with laughter, great company, and lasting memories.



Council Spotlight



Dorise Thompson-Hagwood

WARD 1

Greetings! I am deeply grateful for your continued support and confidence in me. My commitment to you is to foster the growth and development of the city we proudly call home. Rather than cursing the darkness, I pledge to light a candle, to stay strong, and to be courageous.

You've welcomed me into your lives—we have grieved, celebrated, and prayed together. We are more than neighbors; we are family. I will continue to represent you with integrity, keeping you informed about the business and progress of our city government, and casting my vote in the best interest of our residents and community.

It is a blessing to share this political journey with a leader like Mayor Brad Sellers, a man of faith, courage and determination. His leadership and vision have brought remarkable progress to our city and his efforts lay a strong foundation for future growth and success. In addition, healthy discussions and disagreements within City Council are essential to democracy. This diversity of thought is how we ensure we are doing what's best for our community.

2024 was an incredible year of service and unity in Warrensville Heights. I am already eagerly planning our spring, summer, fall, and winter community events for 2025. These gatherings will continue to bring us even closer as a community.

I encourage you to stay involved by attending City Council Meetings, School Board Meetings, and actively participating in our community. Your voice is vital to our shared success. Stay safe, healthy, and well.

As always, Dorise

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Andrea Mitchell

WARD 2

Happy New Year, Neighbors, it is my sincere hope that 2025 has found you in great health, with happiness, prosperity, and safety upon arrival.

A few highlights from last year include two liquor license requests, both from businesses at the intersection of Harvard and Warrensville Center Roads. If you would like an update or wish to provide feedback about these requests, please call the non-emergency police line at 216.581.1234, or share your concerns with me, and I will pass them along.

The Fall 2024 Ward 2 Community Meeting was held at South Pointe Hospital on Saturday, October 26. It featured a lot of valuable and refreshing information shared by organizations such as the African American Cultural Garden, South Pointe

Hospital, Superintendent Jolly of the Warrensville Heights City School District, the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, the Cuyahoga County Scam Squad, and the Department of Treasury. Topics also included utility resources and addressing streetlight and power outages, among others.

Please continue looking out for each other. In December, concern about a neighbor not responding to calls or visits led to a welfare check. It was discovered that the resident had been taken to the hospital.

Remember, rubbish containers should be set out after dusk the night before trash day and brought in by dusk on trash day. Additional trash bags should be placed next to the rubbish containers. Any upholstered furniture or mattresses must be wrapped before disposal.

As always, stay safe and be a helpful neighbor. If you see something, say something. For streetlight outages, contact me directly. For other concerns, please report them immediately to the appropriate department (Police, Fire, Service, or Building). Afterward, follow up with a call to me, and I will take further action if needed.

As always, if you have questions, comments, or concerns, feel free to call or send an email message.

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Elona C. White

WARD 3



Happy New Year to all the residents of The Friendly City of Warrensville Heights! As we step into this New Year, let us be mindful of all we have to be thankful for and strive not to let anyone or anything steal our joy.

Congratulations to Chief Wesley Haynes on being recognized as the Citizen of the Year by the Omega Psi Phi - Zeta Kappa Kappa Chapter. Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost visited The Friendly City to present Chief Haynes with this prestigious award, honoring his unwavering commitment and dedication to the community. Thank you, Chief Haynes, for everything you do for the citizens of Warrensville Heights and beyond!



Congratulations to Ray Freeman for being recognized as the All-Ohio School Board Northeast Region Recipient, presented by NE OSBA's Reno Contipelli. This is a well-deserved recognition for such a dedicated and deserving individual in our community.

Council Spotlight

Thank you to Coach Demetrius Johnson and the Boys' Basketball team for hosting a community dinner for seniors. This group of polite and respectful young men provided exceptional service, treating us as if we were royalty. I am so proud of these young gentlemen and pray they have a fantastic basketball season ahead!



Additionally, at the same school board meeting, I had the privilege of witnessing the Warrensville 7th Grade Girls' Volleyball Team being honored for their outstanding achievement as 2024 Junior LEL Champions. Congratulations on an incredible season!

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Walter Stewart

WARD 4

As we move from 2024 into 2025, this year will undoubtedly be remembered as one of the most challenging times for the residents of Ward 4.

Ward 4 is predominantly made up of renters, with only a small percentage of homeowners. The area features four, high-rise apartment buildings, a small number of townhouses, and four rows of two-story, garden apartments.

Granada Gardens, one of the largest residential properties in Ward 4, is currently under receivership. Residents were recently informed that on October 17, 2024, the Federal National Mortgage Association, also known as Fannie Mae, filed a lawsuit against Granada Gardens LTD.

As a result of this lawsuit, a court-appointed receiver has taken control of Granada Gardens. Granada Gardens LTD and its representatives, including Integra, Ohaven, and Carlyle, no longer have authority to collect rent or access tenants' apartments. The receiver has hired GoldOller Real Estate Investments as the new property management company to oversee operations at Granada Gardens.

To the residents of Ward 4: I know this has been an incredibly difficult and painful situation. It is important to remember that this ordeal was beyond our control.

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We did not cause this crisis, but we have been forced to bear its impact.

Despite the challenges, I want to express my gratitude for the unity, strength, and determination of our community. Even in the face of this injustice, we remain steadfast and resilient. Together, we will endure this hardship and emerge stronger.

With faith and optimism, I firmly believe that truth and justice will prevail for the residents of Ward 4.

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Matthew Howard

WARD 5

Happy New Year to all!

As we transition into 2025, I'd like to highlight a few key moments from 2024. The federal presidential election may or may not have gone your way; however, we have state, county, and municipal issues to focus on. I encourage everyone to stay involved or get engaged in local initiatives that directly affect our communities. Over the past year, Council has reviewed numerous grants, programs, and policies that will be instrumental as we move into the new year. More discussions are still needed.

A heartfelt thank you to all my supporters and volunteers in Ward 5. This year, we organized garage sales, neighbor events, summer festivals, a Christmas party, a voter registration drive, voter awareness initiatives, personal visits from our state representative, and representation from our Congresswoman, who is a proud Ward 5 resident. These efforts could not happen without dedicated supporters like you who care deeply about our community. Once again, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Negotiations and discussions are ongoing regarding the development of John Dewey and Green Road Parks. Additionally, the Sunoco on Emery has undergone an exterior remodel, with plans to revamp the corner lot in the near future. New businesses have opened in Harvard Park, and many long-standing businesses in the plaza have continued to thrive.

The YMCA Warrensville branch has been an outstanding partner to the city, the school district, and the senior center since its inception. Food drives, turkey giveaways, school supply donations, membership grants, donor opportunities, and a wide range of programs have made a meaningful impact. If you haven't already, please stop by and support the YMCA.

The City Council Youth Committee has convened and made decisions to continue supporting multiple programs and projects directly affecting the next generation of young adults. I am so proud to be a part of these discussions and initiatives that positively impact so many lives.

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Council Spotlight



Johnny L. Williams Jr.

WARD 7

"I ain't always right...but I'm seldom wrong!"

This is a quip I've often used with friends and family to spark dialogue, debate, or simply inject a little self-deprecating humor into discussions about topics I'd like to explore further. However, this phrase recently took on a different meaning—it has 'humbled' me in ways I hadn't anticipated. To be honest, it has been a source of disgust and even depression since the confirmation of the November 5th election results, where I was so utterly wrong.

As a self-described "news nerd" for the past decade, I was convinced Hillary Clinton would win the presidency in 2016. Fast forward to 2024, and I was even more sure Kamala Harris would emerge victorious. I naively trusted that America would do the "hard right thing" by electing a highly qualified woman of color as Commander-in-Chief. Her loss initially left me surprised, then shocked, and eventually dismayed, disgusted, and embarrassed.

The American electorate instead chose to elect a twice-impeached, convicted felon and insurrectionist who had also been found liable as a sexual assailant. This decision not only defied my expectations but also led to a reckoning with the reality that a con artist in business and education—a bigot and unabashed flame-throwing racist—was deemed by many to best represent America. To my astonishment, he even won the popular vote.

The result has plunged many into a deep malaise, a disbelief that is hard to shake. This new reality has exposed uncomfortable truths about who we are as a nation and what we value, revealing a troubling disregard for character and integrity.

As we turn the page to 2025, it's time to suck it up and move forward. I find solace in a favorite quote by legendary UCLA basketball coach John Wooden: "Things turn out best for those who make the best of the way things turn out." I know you'll make the best of it, however, it turns out, whichever lies ahead...for better or worse.

I abandoned New Year's resolutions years ago, but I can assure you that in this coming year—amidst the unknowns and challenges that will test the pillars of our democracy—I will hold myself accountable. I will work to ensure that The Friendly City of Warrensville Heights continues to uphold the standard of excellence and strives higher in our quest to become a thriving city, the envy of northeast Ohio.

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Stanley Anderson

WARD 6

Residents of Ward 6, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for the incredible support and encouragement you've shown for our holiday party,

especially with just six days to prepare! Your willingness to step up and rally together truly showcases the strength and unity of our community. Moments like these remind me of the strong connections we've built and our shared commitment to making our neighborhood a better place for everyone.

I am genuinely thankful for every message, phone call, and act of support I've received—it means more to me than words can express. These gestures are a powerful reminder of why I am so passionate about representing you. Your trust in our shared vision inspires me to keep advocating for the needs and dreams of Ward 6. Together, we can create meaningful change and continue improving the quality of life for all our residents.

In the coming months, I will reach out again—specifically in about 60 days—to provide updates on several exciting projects under consideration in our city, particularly those that impact Ward Six. I'm eager to share this information with you and ensure that you are informed every step of the way. Your input will be invaluable in shaping these initiatives, and I am committed to ensuring your voices are heard.

I hope you all enjoyed a joyful and safe holiday season. As we move forward, I'll be working to organize our next Ward Six gathering during the summer months when the weather is more predictable and accommodating. It's always a pleasure to come together, share ideas, and strengthen our bonds as neighbors.



Thank you once again for your unwavering trust and support. Let's continue working together to make Ward Six a place we are all proud to call home. Please feel free to reach out to me anytime—your thoughts and concerns are always welcome.

Stay safe, and let's continue to be good neighbors!

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Warrensville Heights Native Empowering Youth in Music

Established in May 2019 by DJ Johnny "O" Horton, a resident of Warrensville Heights, The Nerve DJ Institute: a non-profit dedicated to empowering underprivileged youth and aspiring adults through comprehensive education in music and media.



The institute's mission is to cultivate a diverse community and break down barriers in the entertainment industry, offering hands-on training in DJing, music production, radio broadcasting, and podcasting. This prepares students for dynamic careers in an ever-evolving field. Partnering with the Warrensville Heights City School District, the institute teaches DJing skills to local students.

As a non-profit, The Nerve DJ Institute promotes inclusivity, ensuring that individuals from all backgrounds can access quality instruction and mentorship. Its curriculum focuses on developing technical skills while nurturing creativity and confidence, equipping students with the tools they need to succeed in the industry.

As DJ Johnny "O" Horton shares, "I find it a calling to teach students responsibility, business acumen, and the importance of giving back. It's about building a stronger future for Warrensville Heights, where young people are not only skilled in their craft but also committed to making a positive difference in the area. We're here to empower the next generation to become leaders who contribute meaningfully to the community's growth and success."

Empowering Through DJing, Music Production and More

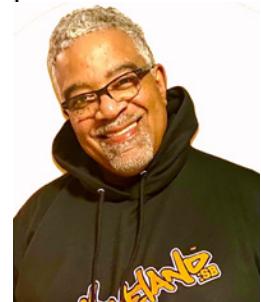
The core of The Nerve DJ Institute's program is its DJ training, where students learn the essentials of mixing, scratching, and beatmatching on industry-standard equipment. With personalized instruction from experienced professionals,

students develop their unique style and voice, fostering a supportive environment where creativity thrives.

Beyond DJing, the institute's curriculum includes podcasting, where students gain skills in content creation, storytelling, audio editing, and promotion. The program covers all aspects of producing and distributing podcasts, empowering students to share their voices on a global stage.



Music production is another key component, with students learning to use digital audio workstations (DAWs) for beat-making, sound design, mixing, and mastering. This hands-on training allows students to experiment with different genres and styles, building both technical expertise and creative capability.



The program also offers an introduction to radio broadcasting, covering on-air presentation, programming, production, scripting, interviewing, and audience engagement, preparing students for potential careers in broadcasting.

The Nerve DJ Institute is dedicated to shaping the next generation of music and media professionals by providing students with not only technical skills but also confidence and a sense of community. As DJ Johnny "O" Horton emphasizes, "Our goal is to empower students to explore their passions and build a brighter future in music and media."



The institute's commitment to breaking barriers and creating opportunities for young people and adults is evident in its mission to provide accessible, high-quality education. With the upcoming graduation ceremony, The Nerve DJ Institute continues to make a lasting impact on the Cleveland community, inspiring students to pursue their dreams in the music and entertainment world.



For more information about The Nerve DJ Institute, visit: <https://nervedjinstitute.org>

Seniors, let's go!

**The Warrensville Heights Senior Bus
for those 55+ who cannot drive.**

Convenient, Accessible, Social



**Get your free ride
to shop for groceries
and more!**

**Call 216-587-1250
to schedule a ride.**

City Offices

Building Department News

Benjamin Brown, Building Commissioner

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.

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.

New Local Agent in Charge Requirement Non-Owner

Occupied Residential Property Registration

The City amended Chapter 1376 of our Non-Owner Occupied Residential Property Registration ordinance on September 3, 2024 requiring that any owner of a non-owner occupied residential unit or units located in the City shall apply to register each unit annually on or before March 1st of each calendar year, and provide with the registration a Local Agent in Charge. A Local Agent in Charge means a natural person who is of sound mind and at least eighteen (18) years of age and who is designated by the owner; who is authorized by the owner to receive service of a Notice of Violation on the owner's behalf; and who is responsible for the maintenance and management of the residential rental unit. The Local Agent in charge shall be a natural person who resides within Cuyahoga County.

Service Department News

Ted Sims, Director

Snow Plows

During winter in Warrensville Heights, it's important for drivers to exercise caution around winter maintenance equipment on the roads. Keep a safe distance when approaching or



passing snowplows. The snow they clear may contain rocks or debris, making it safer to stay a few hundred feet behind plowing operations. Additionally, rock salt can pose a hazard if you're too close. Never pass a plow in a snow cloud; always wait until you have a clear view of the road ahead.

Trash Delays/Missed Pickup

In case of a missed Kimble trash or recycling pickup, please call (800) 201-0005 ext. 9309. If the issue persists, contact the Service Department. For large items such as appliances or furniture, please reach out to Kimble to arrange a large item pickup. Remember, all mattresses and 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.

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 Warrensville Senior and Civic Center is ringing in 2025 with exciting plans! Director Jennifer Lastery and Program Coordinator Sandy Noble are collaborating with Warrensville seniors to introduce new activities and programs tailored to our vibrant community.

Upcoming Possibilities

Photography Class: Learn to move beyond simple snapshots and explore the art of photography in a short-term beginner's course.

Cooking Demos: Discover new recipes and techniques during engaging cooking demonstrations.

Bingo: While Bingo remains a popular activity, we're exploring prize options that comply with no-gambling policies to ensure the fun continues!

Black History Month

February will feature our annual Black History Program on February 26, starting at 6 PM. Also, Look forward to collaborative teams solving Black culture crossword puzzles and screenings of the latest films celebrating Black voices and stories, along with additional culturally rich activities.

Theater Opportunities

"Hamilton" (July): The hip-hop musical sensation about Alexander Hamilton is returning! Don't miss this second chance to experience the revolutionary story.

"King James": This play explores the evolving friendship of two men bonded by their admiration for LeBron James and their shared love of basketball.

New Programs in Consideration

Musical Chorale: We're considering starting the Warrensville Civic & Senior Center Musical Chorale. This group would perform a mix of pop, R&B, and gospel—an opportunity to connect through music and create joyful harmonies. If you're interested, let us know!

2025 is shaping up to be an exciting year for our community! Stay tuned for more updates and let us know how you'd like to participate in these wonderful opportunities.

What the Center 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 such as the Annual Seniors 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 (resumes in March)

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 (resumes in March)

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



5 DAY YMCA GUEST PASS

Enjoy membership privileges for 5 days on us!
New memberships pay \$0 Joiner Fee.
(That's savings of up to \$100)

**WARRENSVILLE RESIDENTS
ENJOY 20% OFF MEMBERSHIPS!**

WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS FAMILY YMCA
4433 NORTHFIELD RD, WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS, OH 44128

City Offices

Community and Economic Development News

Nicole Harris, Economic Development Director

The Department of Community and Economic Development has actively pursued initiatives to enhance the overall health and wellness of Warrensville Heights. In 2024, significant efforts addressed obstacles such as affordable housing shortages, food insecurity, transit and mobility issues, infrastructure improvements, green space development, and new business growth to foster recovery and progress.

Key Achievements and Initiatives

Infrastructure Improvements

Critical projects advanced in 2024 with grant funding from the Cuyahoga County Department of Development. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds were used to stabilize a section of Granada Boulevard.

Additionally, \$102,861 in 2024 and \$434,764 in 2025 were secured for repairs to the Old Emery Road culvert. This project will address safety concerns, reopen the westbound lane, and improve access to industrial areas, supporting future development.

Transit and Mobility

To improve public transportation, a focus group with the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (GCRTA) was hosted at the Civic Center. Rider feedback will guide strategic updates to bus shelters and transit services, ensuring they align with ridership needs.

Housing Developments

With continued business growth and the resurgence of WHCSD, housing development remains a priority. Partnerships with development groups aim to create diverse options, including:

- A 186-unit multi-family project.
- 15 new, single-family homes in the Shakerwood Estates Community.

Groundbreaking for at least one project is expected in 2025.



Lighting the way along Harvard and Richmond

A vital lighting infrastructure project, funded by Cuyahoga County CDSG and NOPEC, in collaboration with the Chagrin Highlands Community Association, Inc., has led to the installation of 19 new streetlights along Richmond and Harvard Roads. These streetlights improve the area's modern aesthetic while addressing critical safety concerns by inadequate lighting near the Harvard Park Shopping Center.

Property Tax Assistance

The 2024 Cuyahoga County Sexennial Reappraisals increased property values and taxes for many residents. To assist vulnerable populations, the city collaborated with the Cuyahoga Department of Taxation and Communications Director Jeff Gates to provide resources, including a "Taxpayer Assistance Program" flyer and a comprehensive resource guide.

Business Growth and Economic Development

The city welcomed several new businesses, further establishing itself as an economic hub. Highlights include:

- Warrensville Heights' first grocery store, ALDI.
- Golf Galaxy, a subsidiary of Dick's Sporting Goods.

The Economic Development Department hosted a successful job fair featuring 40 businesses, including 17 from Warrensville Heights. The event, in partnership with Beachwood, Tri-C, and Ohio Means Jobs, attracted 210 registered job seekers.

Community Engagement

Food Truck Days continued to thrive, with businesses requesting weekly events instead of monthly. The "Why Warrensville" Business Campaign bolstered outreach efforts, strengthening the city's appeal as a prime business location. The Cuyahoga East Chamber of Commerce, formerly the Warrensville Heights Area Chamber of Commerce, expanded its regional membership to over 400 members.

Promise to Care East Initiative

Economic Development has also been working with Promise to Care East, a minority-owned business which trains and deploys healthcare workers across Northeast Ohio. The company is currently under contract to purchase the former McDonald's site on Emery Road to relocate and advance its mission in The Friendly City.

The achievements of 2024 reflect Warrensville Heights' commitment to addressing community needs, fostering growth, and building a foundation for continued success. Moving forward, the city remains focused on sustaining progress and pursuing new opportunities.

"This project was a top priority for the Mayor and the city, reflecting our unwavering commitment to improving public safety," said Nicole Harris, Economic Development Director. "Ultimately, it was our strong community partnerships that made this achievement possible."

Mayor Sellers added, "This is just one of many projects that will bring lasting value to Warrensville Heights for years to come. We continue to raise the bar every day."



Mayor Sellers with NOPEC Executive Director Chuck Keiper

Safety



Fire Department

Michael Petti, Fire Chief

The Warrensville Heights Fire Department is proud to announce and welcome Cadets Brian Fielding and Kiante Carroll to our team.



Cadet Fielding (left) joins our fire department as a fourth-generation firefighter. One of Cadet Fielding's goals has always been to become a firefighter, serve the community, and carry on his family's proud tradition. He enjoys fishing, hunting, hockey, softball, and working in his grandparents' garden.

Cadet Carroll (right) was born and raised in Tucson, Arizona. He has dreamed

of becoming a firefighter since he was a child. He began his EMS/firefighter journey in 2020. Cadet Carroll is married and has three children, ages 6 yrs., 3 yrs., and 8 months. His hobbies include fishing, cooking, baking, and exploring new foods and recipes. He also enjoys discovering the sights and attractions of northeastern Ohio with his family.

Both Cadets Fielding and Carroll are extremely hardworking and share the common goal of serving our community. The Warrensville Heights Fire Department is excited about the bright futures of Cadet Fielding and Cadet Carroll.

Luther Vandross Movie Event

On December 13th, 425 moviegoers gathered at the Warrensville Heights High School Auditorium for a special screening of *Luther: Never Too Much*, presented in partnership with the Greater Cleveland Urban Film Festival (GCUFF).



Police Department

Wesley Haynes, Police Chief

On November 19, I was deeply honored to have been recognized as Citizen of the Year by the Omega Psi Phi - Zeta Kappa Kappa Chapter - during their Achievement Week Program. Receiving this award meant so much to me, and I was truly grateful for the kind acknowledgment from the Ohio Attorney General's office. I want to thank everyone who supported me along the way—this recognition reflects the incredible people I have had the privilege to work alongside and serve. I would not have been honored without the tireless efforts and dedication of those on the police force.



This quarter, the Warrensville Heights Police Department welcomed three new officers to the force: Duane Parish, Reginald Burris and Fernando Orozco. In addition, we promoted two of our own, Gregory Curry and Lawrence McKissic. Both were promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

TRUNK-OR-TREAT



The 2024 Trunk-or-Treat was a huge success, attracting about 850 children on October 17th. It was held behind South Pointe Hospital, where families enjoyed a festive atmosphere beneath beautiful, clear skies. The City is a major sponsor, providing a safe environment for children. We look forward to another Trunk-or-Treat in 2025!

The Friendly City Magazine



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Police Dept. **(216) 581-1234**

Fire Dept. **(216) 587-6525**

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Photos by Jeff Gates and Ed Hicks



Taxpayer Assistance Program



A \$10,000 one-time financial assist is available to qualifying residents struggling with property taxes.

To qualify for direct assistance, you must:

- Maintain a primary residence in Cuyahoga County with an active certified tax delinquency
- Be the primary or joint owner
- Be aged 70 years or greater
- Have a household income of less than \$70,000 per year
- Establish a delinquent tax payment contract for any remaining delinquency
- Participate in the Easy Pay installment payment program for future taxes
- Participate in housing counseling services

Cuyahoga County Treasurer's Office

 216-443-7400, Option 1
 treascomment@cuyahogacounty.us
 cuyahogacounty.gov

CHN Housing Partners

 chnhousingpartners.org
 2999 Payne Avenue Suite 134
Cleveland

Pictures of the "Giving Thanks" Gospel Concert held at the Civic and Senior Center on November 15th. It was an evening filled with soulful and uplifting music.

