

the friendly magazine city



Winter 2026

A New Year

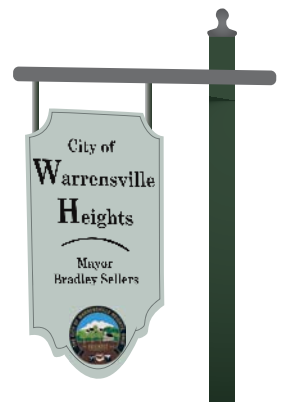
filled with possibilities

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FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK



Community Strength, Shared Progress

A new year has dawned, bringing fresh opportunities and the promise of new beginnings. As we step into 2026, it's a time to reflect on the achievements of the past year and to build on the momentum we've gained together.

First of all, thank you! I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our residents for your overwhelming support in the November 4, 2025 election and the successful passage of the three renewal levies—supporting our Police Department, Fire Department, and Municipal Facilities. Your votes ensure that we can continue to provide quality police and fire services, maintain essential equipment, and make necessary improvements to city facilities. These renewals reaffirm our shared commitment to maintaining a high quality of life and ensuring that Warrensville Heights remains a community we can all be proud to call home.

Congratulations to our council members who were reelected in the November election: Elona C. White, Matthew Howard, Stanley Anderson, and Johnny Williams. We commend them on their reelection and continued service to our community.

On November 22, we proudly held our first-ever Holiday Turkey Giveaway — and what an incredible day it was! Hundreds of residents came out to the Municipal Center, creating an atmosphere filled with community spirit, gratitude, and holiday cheer. We are truly thankful for everyone who joined us and helped make this event such a success.

(See photos and read more on page 12)

This winter, the Warrensville Heights Civic & Senior Center remains a vital hub for our community, offering programs to keep residents active, healthy, and connected. Regular physical activity strengthens the body, supports the immune system, and boosts overall mental well-being. With a variety of classes and activities, there's something for everyone to stay energized throughout the colder months.

As February 2026 approaches, we prepare to celebrate Black History Month—a time to recognize the achievements, resilience, and lasting contributions of African Americans. This annual observance also provides meaningful learning opportunities for our youth. We invite you to join us for the 2026 Black History Program, a live event featuring powerful presentations and uplifting musical performances.

Winter weather also brings its share of challenges. With lake-effect snow always a possibility, we ask for your cooperation in staying informed. During heavy snowfall, please visit cityofwarrensville.com for updates on parking bans. You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram—links are listed on the back of this magazine—for timely notices. Remember, parking bans go into effect when snowfall exceeds two inches within a 24-hour period.

Looking ahead, 2026 is shaping up to be an exceptional year for Warrensville Heights. Our signature events—including the Black History Program, Senior Luncheon, Memorial Day Parade on May 25, and the August Summer Festival—promise a full and exciting lineup of celebrations for residents of all ages.

As we welcome the new year, I wish you and your family a joyful, prosperous, and successful 2026. Warrensville Heights is poised for growth and new opportunities. Together, let's make this year truly memorable.

As always,

Bradley D. Sellers

Dr. Evan Morse: A Lifetime of Veterinary Excellence

Dr. Morse made history as one of Ohio's first African American veterinarians when he founded the Warrensville Animal Hospital in 1972. For five decades, his clinic has provided exceptional care for pets, serving as both a medical resource and a community hub. Beyond treating animals, Dr. Morse has mentored countless aspiring veterinarians with his integrity and service, inspiring new generations as they pursue their careers.

In 2022, the clinic celebrated its 50th anniversary, a milestone marking Dr. Morse's unwavering commitment to Warrensville Heights. The anniversary highlighted his dedication not just to veterinary medicine but to the people and pets of the community who have relied on his expertise and kindness over the years.

Dr. Morse's contributions extend far beyond veterinary care. During his time at Tuskegee University, he actively participated in voter registration drives and civil rights activism. Later, he worked to promote diversity and inclusion in the veterinary field, serving as chairman of the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association's Diversity Committee. His efforts earned him national recognition, including awards for distinguished service and advocacy for underrepresented communities.

As a jazz enthusiast, Dr. Morse has also shaped the cultural landscape of Warrensville Heights. As former president of the Northeast Ohio Jazz Society and a member of the Cleveland Council of Cultural Affairs, he brought renowned jazz artists to local stages and fostered arts education programs. Through these efforts, he has ensured that our community enjoys rich cultural experiences while inspiring young musicians and artists.



Reflecting on Dr. Morse's impact, Mayor Brad Sellers shared: "Dr. Evan Morse is a true pillar of Warrensville Heights. His lifelong dedication to our community, his trailblazing work in veterinary medicine, and his commitment to culture and equality have touched countless lives. We are fortunate to have his guidance and inspiration shaping our city."

Dr. Evan Morse embodies the spirit of service, culture, and leadership. His veterinary care, civil rights advocacy, and passion for the arts have made Warrensville Heights a stronger, more vibrant community. Residents continue to benefit from his knowledge, mentorship, and vision, making him not just a local hero but a lasting inspiration for generations to come.

A graphic for the 2026 Black History Program. It features a vibrant rainbow on the left side, transitioning into a dark background with stylized, colorful patterns. The text is prominently displayed in the center-right.

THE 2026
BLACK
HISTORY
PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 25, 2026
6:00 - 7:30 PM

AT THE WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS CIVIC & SENIOR CENTER
4567 GREEN ROAD
WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS, OH 44128

CITY COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT



Dorise Thompson-Hagwood

WARD 1

Thank you for your continued support. Public service has always been my passion and purpose, guided by empathy, responsibility, and a commitment to meaningful action.

In the first five months after I was elected—many years ago—I initiated an open dialogue with residents through town halls and community conversations. What began as a simple effort to listen and connect has grown into a lasting tradition that continues to this day. Those early conversations shaped my leadership and strengthened our sense of community and they remain at the heart of how I serve.

I continue to learn, grow, and engage—participating in leadership programs and learning from others—always striving to be a stronger voice for you. My philosophy is rooted in the pursuit of wisdom, truth, and knowledge applied daily in the work I do for our community.

If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.

I remain committed to holding your seat at the table and legislating with your best interests in mind. I am grateful to serve alongside Mayor Sellers, the administration, and my council colleagues as we move our community toward greater heights.

I am accessible, approachable, friendly, and kind. Please continue to reach out whenever I can be of service. I show up every day ready to work for you.

Yours in service, Dorise

dthagwood@cityofwarrensville.com | O: 216.587.6516



Andrea Mitchell

WARD 2

Happy New Year Neighbors and Friends!

I genuinely hope 2025 slipped away with mild fanfare, leaving you with warm memories, and brought compassion, hope, joy, love, safety, sanity and security for you this year.

A hearty greeting to the neighbors and friends who visited Ward 2 to attend the encore screening of "We Want the Funk" on Saturday, December 20th in the Warrensville Heights High School auditorium. One word, "Wow!" If you get the chance to... this is a must-see!

Quick exterior maintenance mention: do not get dinged for address signage. Regulations have changed in the last few years.

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Per the Exterior Inspection Guidelines, the property identification number/address must be prominently displayed using numbers that are at least four inches high.

As always, stay safe, stay alert and if you see something odd or concerning, say something — call the police 216-581-1234. If it is an emergency call 911.

I am here to serve, to listen, to work with you and will try my best to provide information. If you have any specific community questions, contact me via email or phone.

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

Neighborly, Andrea

amitchell@cityofwarrensville.com | O: 216.339.1279



Elona C. White

WARD 3

Greetings to the residents of Warrensville Heights!

I would like to thank everyone who voted and supported me in the 2025 elections. I have worked with City Council, Mayor Sellers, and the administration to ensure that you receive the best possible representation. As always, if you have any questions or community concerns, please contact me—I am always available to you. While I cannot be everywhere at once, with the support of our city departments, we can work together to address any issues that arise. I remain committed to serving all members of this wonderful community and am grateful for your vote of confidence in me.

I also want to thank the Tri-City Democratic Club and Chairperson Deborah Hill for sponsoring the "Meet the Candidates" forum. It was a fantastic opportunity for the community to engage with those seeking your vote. The turnout was excellent, and the event provided valuable information for all voters. Thank you, Ms. Hill, for making it possible.



A special shout-out to Tristan Pace, who voted for the first time along with his mother. It is vital that our young people understand the importance of voting and staying engaged in our community. Congratulations to Mom for leading by example!

Our Trunk-or-Treat event was another great success! Thanks to the staff and students of Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, the City of Warrensville Heights, and our police officers and firefighters.

CITY COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT

We welcomed over 950 participants who enjoyed this fun, family-friendly event.

I look forward to connecting with you at upcoming events, including the Ward 1 and Ward 3 Spring Unity event, our annual Veterans Cookout, and the Party in the Park. Dates will be shared soon. Please don't hesitate to call or email with any questions or concerns.



Warrensville Heights has grown in many ways over the years. Here is a flashback photo from the demolition of the old Zayre property, which made way for the Cuyahoga County Library and the YMCA—facilities that continue to serve our community. Pictured are Councilwoman Deborah Hill, Councilwoman Ruby Nelson, Mayor Marcia L. Fudge, Councilwoman Elona C. White, and Councilwoman Kimberly Hodge Edwards.

ewhite@cityofwarrensvilleheights.com | C: 216.244.4692



Walter Stewart

WARD 4

The year 2025 was marked by unprecedented challenges and significant hardships. The government shutdown placed immense pressure on working families and those most in need, becoming the longest in

U.S. history. Social programs that Americans rely on—such as SNAP, the U.S. Postal Service, FEMA, VA benefits, local fire and police departments, public education, and food banks—were heavily impacted or threatened, leaving communities across the nation struggling.

2026 must be a year of change and hope. Real progress begins in the communities where we live—by working together, communicating openly, and organizing against crime, poor housing conditions, and irresponsible landlords.

Safety is not optional; it is the responsibility of every member of our community. A threat or crime against one person is a threat against all of us, affecting families, neighbors, and the well-being of everyone. If you see something, say something immediately to protect our community.

Contact the Warrensville Police Department at 216-581-1234, and in an emergency, always call 911. I can also be reached at 216-868-5695.

The stumbling blocks and challenges that we faced in 2025 must be defeated, overcome, and transformed into Stepping Stones of Victory and Progress in 2026 for our entire community

wstewart@cityofwarrensville.com | C: 216.868.5695



Matthew Howard

WARD 5

Greetings all and Happy New Year.

As we enter 2026, I would like to thank you all for your continued support over the years. In 2025, I successfully ran for re-election to represent the residents of Ward 5 and our beautiful city.

During my campaign, I had to reflect on the last 11 years of my accomplishments, appointments, involvements, and opportunities. I had never just sat down to tally up and journal everything. I have been the chair, co-chair, board member, secretary, minute taker, advisor, and so on for numerous organizations. And it has all been thanks to my supporters.

At a conference in November, I was elected to the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials as the Midwest Regional Director—a position that I'm very proud of.

I also continued to serve at the national level on two committees that directly affect us at home and in communities like ours: the Racial Equity and Leadership Council and the Small Cities Council. I am so honored to be your representative on both the local and national levels.

Leadership is a decision to be a good steward of the people we serve. And as I said on many campaign trails, "You all have made an investment in me, and I will do the best I can to serve our community on all levels." Many thanks to the volunteers of Ward 5 for a great Christmas party. Thank you to all who came out; I look forward to this event every year. We are still looking for street reps for a few streets throughout the ward. Please contact me if you are interested.

Once again, thank you to everyone who came out in large numbers to re-elect me. I will continue to work hard for you, and I appreciate the opportunity.

mhoward@cityofwarrensville.com | C: 440.561.7990

CITY COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT



Johnny L. Williams Jr.

WARD 7

Neighbors and residents, in 2026, I encourage you to make a New Year's resolution to take part in the many events and organizations that "The Friendly City" of Warrensville Heights has to offer.

A wonderful place to begin is by joining one of our city's not-so-hidden gems — the Senior Club. This outstanding organization has more than 150 members and is open to all residents aged 60 and above. The group meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 1:00 PM at the Civic & Senior Center. Membership is only \$12 per year, and the benefits are plentiful. Enjoy theater trips to Karamu and Playhouse Square, and take part in classes including ceramics, aerobics, gardening, quilting, photography, and much more. Do yourself a favor and become part of this incredible community.

Another beloved event is the Warrensville Heights Annual Senior Luncheon each spring, where seniors from each ward are honored for their contributions to the community. This beautiful and heartwarming event draws over 450 attendees and is always sold out. It stands as one of the most meaningful traditions of the year, showcasing the spirit of appreciation and neighborly pride.

And there's more: The Memorial Day Parade—featuring more organizations than can be named—is among the best in all of Northeast Ohio. Thousands walk the mile-long route along Warrensville Center Road, cheered on by residents, families, and children. It's a special expression of community pride and one of the many reasons Warrensville is proudly known as "The Friendly City."

But the largest, most vibrant, and most attended event of the year is the Warrensville Heights Summer Festival! This truly is the crown jewel of our community. The festival offers rides, games, food, outstanding music, and abundant fellowship. It perfectly captures the essence of why I call this small suburb of 13,500 people home.

So, please do take "advantage of the advantage" of these not-so-hidden gems in our city as we create joyful experiences for many and wonderful memories for all.

jwilliams@cityofwarrensville.com | O: 216.834.9667



Stanley Anderson

WARD 6

I am deeply honored and humbled to have been re-elected to serve as your representative for another four-year term. This opportunity is not simply a continuation of my work — it is a renewed commitment to each and every resident who makes our city such a vibrant, welcoming community.

Your trust and confidence mean everything. Over the past years, we have worked together to strengthen our neighborhoods, support local businesses, and invest in the future of our city. None of these accomplishments would have been possible without your involvement, your ideas, and your persistent dedication to helping Warrensville Heights thrive.

I am excited to continue building on the foundation we have created together. My priorities remain clear:

- **Listening to You** — ensuring your voices guide the decisions we make on your behalf.
- **Investing in Growth** — supporting initiatives that improve the quality of life for all residents.
- **Strengthening Community Ties** — partnering with like-minded organizations and initiatives to build a stronger, more connected city.

For your information, Warrensville Heights is only 4.1 square miles, yet within this small footprint lies a remarkably active and successful community:

- 13,000 residents.
- 680 companies employing more than 14,200 workers, including Fortune 500 and international businesses.
- A vibrant mix of retail and commercial businesses.
- Two reputable hospitals.
- A medical college — Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine.
- Several institutions of higher learning, including Cuyahoga County Corporate College and Tri-C East.
- State-of-the-art new city schools.

And this is only a portion of what's happening in Warrensville Heights. Our city attracts over 140,000 people every day who come here to shop, visit, work, and travel.

We have a city we can all be proud of. We are making strong progress — perhaps not as quickly as some of us would like, but the work that needs to be done requires significant investment, and we must use our tax dollars wisely.

Thank you once again for placing your trust in me. Together, we will continue to move Warrensville Heights forward with energy, vision, and unity.

anderson@cityofwarrensville.com | O: 216.587.6516

Landmark Study Aims to Diagnose and Prevent Neurological Diseases Before Symptoms Begin

Graciela Emerson recently completed her third year as a participant in the Cleveland Clinic Brain Study, a first-of-its-kind research study for neurological diseases. Launched in 2022, the project aims to follow 20,000 healthy individuals for more than 20 years to better understand why people suffer from neurological diseases and identify prevention and treatment strategies.



Emerson's decision to join the study was personal. Her father was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease prior to the COVID pandemic.

"He is in the early stages and doing well overall. He still plays dominoes – and beats us most of the time," says Emerson. "But he has problems with his short-term memory. He says something and repeats it a few minutes later, then again in another five minutes."

Emerson understands that her father's condition – and the burden on her mother and family – will worsen with time.

"It's a hard journey," says Emerson. "I hope that by participating in the Brain Study I can help improve care – maybe not for my father, but for younger generations."

Changing the Course of Neurodegeneration

One in six people around the world lives with a neurological disorder such as Alzheimer's disease, epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis and stroke. While people can make lifestyle changes to decrease the risk of developing these conditions, doctors still can't pinpoint exactly why some people get them and others don't.

The main goal of the Cleveland Clinic Brain Study is to identify biomarkers, or signs that point to an individual's risk of developing a brain disease.

"We have the potential to discover causes of neurological disorders and what happens before symptoms become obvious – the silent phase," says Andre Machasdo, M.D., Ph.D., chief of the Cleveland Clinic's Neurological Institute and a leader of the Brain Study. "Our hope is to change the course of neurodegeneration, with the long-term goal of curing diseases in their earliest stages, years before symptoms are even seen."

As of September 2025, the Cleveland Clinic Brain Study had more than 4,100 enrollees. Men and Women of all races/ethnicities age 50+ with no known neurological disorder, or neurologically healthy adults age 20+ who have a first-degree relative (e.g., parent or sibling) diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, are eligible to enroll in the Brain Study. Volunteers undergo yearly assessments including a neurological examination, bloodwork, brain MRIs, sleep studies and other cognitive function tests.

Casting a Wide Net for Participants

Emerson learned about the study while working at Cleveland Clinic's Stephanie Tubbs Jones Health Center. She leads a team of community health workers who collaborate with patients who experience barriers to accessing medical care and daily essentials such as food, housing, employment and childcare.

Not only did Emerson decide to enroll, but she made it a priority to encourage others to get involved, including in the Black and Hispanic communities. Data shows that Black and Hispanic Americans are two times and 1.5 times more likely to develop Alzheimer's or another type of dementia, respectively, compared to White Americans.

"Since I work with a lot of people in the Latino community, I've been able to spread the word about the study," says Emerson, who serves as a board member of the Mexican Committee of Cleveland. "I think it's super important to recruit participants from all backgrounds. You cannot have comprehensive data without a mix of participants."

Emerson says she has encouraged around a dozen people to consider enrolling in the Brain Study, including co-workers and neighbors. The research team strives to reach the 20,000-participant enrollment goal as quickly as possible, so there's more work to be done. For Emerson, that often means breaking down misconceptions.



"A lot of people are really skeptical when it comes to research for many reasons," she says. Emerson can put them at ease by explaining that the Brain Study is an observational study; participants aren't taking experimental medication or undergoing invasive procedures.

Participating in a Groundbreaking Brain Study

The Brain Study research team collects data year after year from a variety of assessments, then uses advanced computing and artificial intelligence tools to uncover potential risk factors of neurological diseases and to observe changes in the brain over time.

"Our hope is to be able to understand what happens to the brain as the brain ages," says Dr. Machado. "What are the events that are occurring in the brain before disease becomes obvious?"

Cleveland Clinic is seeking volunteer participants from all communities to gather important information needed to help future generations. If you're interested in enrolling, visit clevelandclinic.org/brainstudy.

"I try to let everybody know that I'm part of the study and they should consider it, too," says Emerson. "Together, we can make a difference in brain diseases."

Building Department News

Benjamin Brown, Building Commissioner

Temporary Snow Fences

In preparation for the upcoming winter month's homeowners will begin to install temporary snow fencing around critical locations of their property to effectively trap and control blowing and drifting snow. Chapter 1169.03 of our City ordinance does allow for this installation as long as the following is met.

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

Snow and Ice Removal

Chapter 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 located 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.

Chapter 727.01

(d) All parking lots within the City shall be maintained free of dust, weeds, papers, trash, snow, ice and other undesirable materials. All snow and ice shall be removed with a reasonable time, which will ordinarily not exceed twelve (12) hours after the abatement of any storm during which such snow and ice may have accumulated. No person removing snow and ice from any parking lot within the City shall deposit same on the pavement or sidewalk of any public street or on any tree lawn in any public street, except the tree lawn immediately in front of the parking lot from which the snow and ice are removed.

Heating Facilities

Chapter 1377.12

(a) Every dwelling unit shall be provided with approved heating facilities capable of maintaining an average temperature of 68° - 70° degrees Fahrenheit in all habitable rooms, kitchens, bathrooms and water closet compartments when the outdoor temperature is minus five (5) degrees Fahrenheit, without forcing the facilities to operate in excess of their design capacity.

(b) No electrical or gas appliance shall be used to supply general heat in any dwelling unit unless specifically designed and approved for that purpose.

Supply of Heat

Chapter 13377.13

The owner, operator or agent in charge of a dwelling structure, who rents or leases any dwelling unit therein under an agreement, express or implied, to supply or furnish heat to the occupants thereof, shall supply heat adequate to maintain an inside temperature of not less than 68° - 70° degrees Fahrenheit in all habitable rooms, bathrooms, water closet compartments and kitchens whenever the outside temperature falls below sixty (60) degrees Fahrenheit. Such inside temperature shall be measured in approximately the center of each room, approximately three (3) feet above the floor. The provisions of this section shall not apply where the failure to meet minimum standards is caused by a general shortage of fuel, negligent or malicious act of the occupant or any cause beyond the control of the owner or occupant.

Winter Safety Tips and Winterization Reminders

- Have furnace and heating system serviced by a licensed technician.
- Have fireplace cleaned/swept by a licensed technician.
- Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors for proper operation.
- Maintain a functioning fire extinguisher
- Check doors and windows for gaps and winterize with caulk and weather-stripping.
- Insulate walls and attic.
- Insulate water lines - particularly the ones that run along outside walls.

Service Department News

Ted Sims, Director

THANK YOU WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS!

After more than 19 rewarding years serving in the Building Department and as Director of Public Service for the City of Warrensville Heights, I retired as of December 2025. It was an honor to serve this community, support our residents, and build lasting friendships along the way.

I watched our city grow—from new housing developments such as the Chateaux of Emery Woods, Stones Throw, and Cinema Park, to the arrival of new businesses, and the consolidation of our Elementary, Middle, and High Schools. I was proud to know I had a part in these positive changes.

I want to thank the Mayor, City Council, city staff, and the residents for their support, patience, and cooperation throughout my years of service. Together, we took meaningful steps to strengthen and improve our city.

God bless you all. You will always remain in my thoughts.

~Ted Sims

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

Looking Ahead to 2026

The Civic Center is excited to announce a full schedule of activities planned for 2026. As always, you can expect plenty of opportunities to visit interesting places, meet new people, and enjoy a wide range of engaging events throughout the year.

Technology for Seniors: ICONNECT Program

Are you unfamiliar with QR codes—those small squares filled with dots—or curious about artificial intelligence (AI)? Starting in February, the Civic Center will introduce the ICONNECT Program, specifically designed for seniors. This program will explain the purpose and importance of QR codes and AI, and provide hands-on guidance to help participants understand and use these technologies confidently.

Plays and Performances: Don't Miss Out

Plays at the Civic Center are always popular, and tickets tend to go quickly. Once the upcoming plays are announced, a sign-up sheet will be available at the Center for those interested in attending. To ensure your spot at these sought-after events, be sure to sign up as soon as possible.

February Highlights

February is shaping up to be a busy month at the Civic Center. We will showcase a variety of films that reflect our community and its stories. The Annual Black History Program is scheduled for February 25, 2026, at 6:00 PM.



On Thursday, February 12 at 4PM, there will be a special screening of the movie "Sarah's Oil," paired with a delicious spaghetti dinner for \$10.00. In addition, three more movies will be shown in the late afternoons, each accompanied by snacks and sodas. These screenings will continue into March. For specific dates and times, please refer to the February event schedule.

April Event: Jubilee Performance

On Sunday, April 12 at 3 PM, Karamu will present Jubilee, a performance celebrating the historic Fisk Jubilee Singers. This remarkable group played a crucial role in raising funds for the establishment of Fisk University and shared their powerful music with audiences around the world.

AARP TAX PREP

Tax prep begins Friday, Feb. 13, 2026, and runs through April 10, with appointments Fridays from 9:15 AM to 1:30 PM (except April 3, Good Friday). Call AARP at 440-497-0652 to schedule your tax appointment.

The Civic Center Continues to Provide

The Civic & Senior Center serves as a municipal facility with the primary goal of meeting the needs of the adult community in Warrensville Heights by offering services and activities. We also organize social activities for seniors, such as the Annual Luncheon with the Mayor & Council, trips to the Cleveland Playhouse, and programs based on community interests.

Transportation

Transportation services are provided for medical appointments on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, and for grocery shopping on Wednesdays. This service is available to seniors aged 60+ who are without transportation. Hours of service are from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM. Please notify us at least 48 hours in advance of the desired transport.

Senior Club

The Senior Club meets twice a month—on the second and fourth Tuesday at 1:00 PM—for Warrensville Heights residents aged 60 and above to socialize and connect with neighbors. The club offers 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 (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: \$15 (\$18 non-residents) (8 weeks)
Line Dancing - \$5.00 per person per session
Tai Chi - \$20.00 per month (4 weeks session)
Jewelry Making - \$25.00 (8 weeks)
Quilting & Doll Making - \$30.00 per year
Bid Whist/Spades - \$25.00 per year
Corn Hole - \$30.00 (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

Community and Economic Development News

Nicole Harris, Economic Development Director
Raymon Turner, Community Development Manager

Warrensville Heights continues to be a premier destination for both new businesses and those looking to expand their presence in the region. Businesses relocating to the City have highlighted several key advantages, including convenient highway access, affordable rental rates, streamlined processes with the Building Department, and the dedicated support and guidance provided by the Economic Development Department.

Since our last quarterly magazine, the City has welcomed a number of new businesses and existing business expansions. The Mayor and members of the administration also proudly participated in a few grand openings and ribbon-cutting ceremonies. These events reflect our ongoing commitment to fostering a thriving business community.

Listed below are just a few of the new businesses that have made “The Friendly City” their home, or have expanded their buildings and services in the last quarter of 2025:

- *A Promise to Care East* (Grand Opening Bottom Left)
- *Angels From Above Enrichment Center*
- *Borderline Auto*
- *Burlington* (Grand Opening Top Right)
- *Cleveland Ballet Theatre* (Grand Opening Bottom Right)
- *Choice Cabinets* (Grand Opening Top Left)
- *Cocco Hair Professional*
- *Delta Property Services*
- *D&S Elite Performance*
- *GE Healthcare*
- *Gino’s Event Center*
- *Legacy Auction Group*
- *Linking Care Solutions, LLC*
- *Narsina Inspires Events, LLC*
- *New Vision’s Unlimited Counseling Center*
- *OW Salon Suites*
- *Tremco*



Housing and Development

Affordable housing remains a top priority for the Mayor and the Community & Economic Development Department. We continue to advance plans for The Greenstone, a new 186-unit affordable multifamily community located behind the Warrensville Heights branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library and the YMCA. In partnership with the developer, LDG Development, the City continues to pursue additional funding and investment critical to ensuring that the project can deliver high-quality, accessible housing options for individuals and families who wish to make Warrensville Heights their home.

GLH LLC, our residential development partner, is preparing to begin construction on four new homes in Brentwood and one new home on Amherst, further expanding high-quality housing choices in our neighborhoods. Under the City’s agreement with GLH LLC, a total of 15 new homes will be built throughout Warrensville Heights.

Exterior Maintenance Program

With aging trees across the city, the Exterior Maintenance Program has expanded to offer partial reimbursement for removal of diseased or dying trees on private property, pending verification by a certified arborist. Arborist fees will be deducted from all approved reimbursements. The Exterior Maintenance Home Repair Program runs April 1 – November 1, 2026, or until funds are exhausted. A code violation is required for eligibility. For more information, call 216-587-1144.

Green Road Park

After years of grant applications, planning, and procurement, we are thrilled to move forward with the demolition of outdated playground structures and the installation of brand-new equipment at Green Road Park.

A key part of the Mayor’s vision includes creating a dedicated play space for children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). With District Superintendent Jolly confirming a noticeable increase in ASD enrollment, this investment will help create an all-inclusive, intergenerational park designed for children and families of all abilities. Demolition and installation of a new play center are scheduled for summer 2026.

Safe Routes to School (SRTS)

ODOT’s Safe Routes to School project—designed to create safer pathways for students walking to and from school—was originally scheduled to begin in October 2022. After delays reported by ODOT, the contractor, CATTS Construction, now plans to begin work in April 2026. We look forward to improved safety and accessibility for our young residents.

Old Emery Culvert

The culvert at the southwestern entrance to the former Sherwin-Williams site, located behind Arslanian Brothers, will undergo long-awaited repairs in spring 2026. A project bid was secured in December to restore the culvert and reactivate this key entrance as the site prepares for future redevelopment following Sherwin-Williams’ full departure.

CITY SAFETY



Fire Department

Michael Petti, Fire Chief

As we enter a new year, I am grateful for the support our Fire Department receives from Mayor Sellers and City Council. Their commitment has enabled us to provide exceptional fire and emergency medical services.

This past year, the Fire Department was able to purchase a 2000 Ferrara Ladder Truck. This ladder truck will enhance the department's rescue capabilities for multi-story buildings, improve fire suppression from elevated positions, and serve as an invaluable resource for various specialized rescue scenarios.

Your Warrensville Heights Fire Department consists of 1 Fire Chief, 1 Captain, 6 Lieutenants, 22 Firefighters, and 1 Administrative Assistant, all dedicated to our mission of safely protecting the lives and property of the community we serve.



Also, this past year we had three members retire: Lt. Ray Intihar, FF Tom Boone, and FF Greg Ventura. Your Warrensville Heights Fire Department greatly appreciates their combined 80+ years of dedicated service to this community. In addition, the department welcomed four new members: Cadets Anthony Cowoski, John Kohanski, Matt Waszkiewicz, and Matt Ferris.

From January 1, 2025, to November 1, 2025, your Warrensville Heights Fire Department responded to 3,262 calls, of which approximately 74% were EMS-related and approximately 26% were fire-related. The department is on pace to respond to 3,912 calls by year-end, which would be the highest in our history.

The lives and well-being of our citizens and department members are our highest priority. We strive to provide the highest level of care and safety through Fire Prevention, Emergency Medical Services, Public Education and Community Events. We thank the community for their continued support and look forward to another safe and productive year.



Police Department

Wesley Haynes, Police Chief

The Police Department is proud to announce the hiring of three new officers in December, further strengthening our community's public safety.



Justin Williams (*left*) previously served as a Security Forces Specialist in the United States Air Force and later worked in law enforcement for University Hospitals. Joseph Nuti (*center*) is a United States Army veteran who served as a Security Specialist supporting global operations. Finally, Derek Gerstenberger (*right*) brings prior experience as a Police Officer in East Cleveland before joining the Warrensville Heights Police Department.

We are happy to welcome these experienced professionals to our team.

A friendly reminder from the
City of Warrensville Heights.

If new snow exceeds 2 inches on streets

Check the city's website for a

SNOW PARKING BAN

The Friendly City Magazine



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Warrensville Heights OH 44128

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Police Dept. (216) 581-1234

Fire Dept. (216) 587-6525

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Photos and layout by Jeff Gates, P10 courtesy Cuyahoga East CC

Hundreds came out for Warrensville Heights Turkey Giveaway

On November 22, hundreds of cars rolled through the Warrensville Heights Municipal Center parking lot to pick up free frozen turkeys for the Thanksgiving holiday. Residents expressed sincere gratitude for the event, which provided 308 individual 10–22 lb turkeys purchased by the city for distribution. City staff were on-site directing traffic and handing out the turkeys with holiday cheer. WHCSD supported the effort by providing an additional dry goods bag.

"This was a highly successful event, clearly reflecting the community's need for it." Mayor Sellers said. "We want to make sure our residents are supported during the holiday season, and because of the tremendous turnout, this may be the start of a new annual tradition for our community."

