



# the friendly city magazine

WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS

Summer 2019



INSIDE:  
*Mayor Shares Future Plans*

Resident Celebrates Big Birthday

## THEY'RE ALL FIRST CLASS!

Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine 2019 Graduates  
Are First to Earn Degrees From Warrensville Heights Location



When opportunity knocks, it can be very advantageous to heed its call. Right now, it's rapping on our door and we are poised to respond.

The situation we find ourselves in, with aging and declining city buildings, is coming into sharper focus as we consider the vacancy of the former South University building on Richmond Road and the readaptive use opportunity that it presents.

We have been in communication with Geis Companies, which owns and manages the property, regarding such adaptive use. Presently, they're handling the expenses related to the building and they are seeking to secure a tenant soon. We are looking to engage in that conversation.

The impetus for our interest in this property is manifold. We have ongoing issues. But we also have solutions. We are well aware that the structural challenges we face are affecting the residential and business communities, as well as other sources of pedestrian traffic which flow through our buildings daily. Those under evaluation are the City Hall, police and building departments.

To be clear, we have some key areas of inefficiency in our locations. Those include:

**JAIL** – The State of Ohio is mandating changes in jails throughout the state, and we will be required to comply with new regulations which would be an extremely challenging and expensive proposition in our current location.

# Message from the Mayor

## CITY HALL –

- The 70-year-old building, which actually started as a house back when Warrensville was in its early phase, has undergone several structural additions. Currently, we have run out of space to meet our needs and it's shortchanging our ability to properly handle the ever changing needs of the community. We often run short on necessary meeting space to conduct civic business.
- Residents are finding it harder to handle their day-to-day transactions with police, finance, economic development and tax departments within this facility.
- We have climate control problems and costly internal and external structural deterioration matters, including the parking lot.
- There are foot traffic patterns that overlap in undesirable ways, with police department visitors crossing paths with administrative city business constituents, media, parents and children, and deliveries.

**ALL BUILDINGS** – Currently, we are not fully ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant and, in some cases, it would be prohibitively expensive to remedy the problems. We have resorted to makeshift workarounds in the meantime.

We are looking at smarter, more conducive ways to transact business, rather than having the present fragmented approach. The grand proposal here could involve achieving maximum efficiency through combining multiple departments and having them operate within a unified location which potentially could be the former South University building.

The idea is to combine locations for the city hall (administration, finance, communications, personnel, economic development, tax and law departments, as well as city council), building and police departments and potentially house them all under one roof. Also, this would enable us to comply with new municipal jail requirements, in part by placing the police department in its own sectioned-off area, with its own entrance.

As Mayor, I have no desire to engage in a project of this scale by placing additional tax levies on residents. The project would need to be creatively financed, involving reallocation of tax revenues, and dollars derived from cost efficiencies from reduced expenses related to no longer operating multiple locations.

The current City hall could become Public Safety Building #1, belonging to the fire department. The service department and Civic and Senior Center would remain in their current locations.

Another bonus: not only would we become more efficient, but we could infinitely increase the convenience factor for anyone conducting business with the city, whether that's residents or business community members. We also could offer public meeting rooms that are severely needed.

We see this chance to relocate as a golden opportunity. The timing is just right, too. We are bursting at the seams, and we could serve the community in a far more beneficial fashion by operating out of a single, unified location, in the heart of a thriving commercial corridor.

Progress isn't easy, but it is necessary.

Mayor Bradley D. Sellers  
City of Warrensville Heights

# Celebrating 96th Birthday is a Piece of Cake

Vera Porter, Warrensville Heights resident



**"Everybody has a story and there is something to be learned from every experience. Use your life as a class."**

**- Oprah Winfrey, said during introductions to her *Master Class* podcast**

Turning 96 recently may have been just another day in Vera Porter's life, but it's been a life lived with poise and dignity, despite obstacles and a few setbacks. She certainly has learned from every experience and she knows how to take everything in stride. She patiently shared some of her stories from the comfort of her Warrensville Heights home.

Ms. Porter is a native of Drew, Mississippi, a tiny town encompassing one square mile in the northwestern part of the state. As child #6 of 9 siblings (three boys and six girls), she spent a lot of time in her youth during the 1930's at her parents' successful diner called Silver Moon on a main highway where she waitressed and washed dishes.

The menu featured catfish, buffalofish, crawfish, frog legs, pork, chicken and beef. The family also managed a service station on the property, and both businesses were open seven days per week. It provided for the family, but it was hurt by some employees stealing

from the cash register, so her dad eventually sold it and moved away.

Her dad later became ill, so the family moved to Memphis to be with relatives. A few moves preceded that one, too, so Ms. Porter needed to switch schools several times, but she says she was good at making friends, that "it didn't matter."

She met George Leonard, the man who would be her first husband while in her teens and attending church. He was home after serving in the Army during WWII. It was his smile that first captivated her. He showed interest in her, but there was just one problem. Her dad had a strict rule: no dating. And there was no way to skirt this mandate. Though she was driving at age 13, she was only allowed to take the car to church or else she'd never be allowed to drive again.

She still managed to see George at a cafe where there was a soda fountain and at a large neighborhood park where they sat together under the shade trees

and laughed and kissed. Soon they began talking about marriage.

So one night, she went to the end of her street to get the mail under the moonlight, but also to have a secret rendez-vous with George. Her father, however, had followed her and spotted them in the distance, so George took off. Ms. Porter could see her dad was very angry and she didn't want to go back home, so she ran, too, through the soy beans where he couldn't see her or catch her. "I could run real fast," she notes with a chuckle.

George soon came by in his car to pick her up and they got married the next day. She was nearly 19. The harrowing experience wasn't over though. Her dad showed up where George worked a day later, but George had the marriage certificate to legitimize everything. Then the situation was okay. "It had to be," she adds.

Times were tough then, since WWII was in full swing so special certificates were needed to get appliances like a stove and refrigerator. Typical of her roll-with-it attitude, she recalled those days with fondness. "It was fun. We could do what we wanted. No one interfered."

The change in her living circumstances opened up an opportunity to start a new career,

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Dr. Isaac Kirstein, Dean, Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, Warrensville Heights Campus

# First Class of Doctors Graduates from Warrensville Hts. Campus

The 46 students who compose the first graduating class from the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine campus in Warrensville Heights are helping to meet a distinct need in the local community for more primary care physicians. The gap in this practice area was identified in part by the Cleveland Clinic which has played a key role in helping to establish the campus here, directly next to Cleveland Clinic South Pointe Hospital.

The school on Warrensville Center Road is an additional location of the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine in Athens, Ohio. There is another campus located in Dublin, near Columbus. All three campuses are connected by live video feeds where professors are able to interact with students remotely in real time through special camera connections.

What's unique about the Warrensville Heights campus is its focus to draw students from the local community and deliver graduates back to this area. Essentially, the hope is to serve as a pipeline for producing primary care doctors, along with other areas of specialization. The 2019 class hit those marks with two thirds of the student body originating from a five-county region surrounding Cleveland, and 80% of those are from Northeastern Ohio. Additional demographics: 54% of the students are female and 12% are underrepresented minorities (black and Hispanic).

With respect to recruitment, a substantial outreach effort was created to attract students directly from the Warrensville Heights City School District, among a few other communities. The two-year-old Aspiring D.O.ctors

Precollege Program is a comprehensive, three-year pipeline program targeting high school students from historically underrepresented backgrounds to foster their interest in pursuing careers in science and health. Students in the program visit the Warrensville Heights campus beginning in 10th grade to learn more about osteopathic medicine and other healthcare careers through participation in academic enrichment and hands-on learning activities.

Lectures, clinical experiences, case-based lessons and college/career readiness workshops are managed by the Heritage College faculty and enrolled medical students. Partners, aside from Warrensville Heights High School, include Whitney M. Young Leadership Academy and the High Tech Academy through Cuyahoga Community College.

In terms of residencies, which are part of the four-year program, 70% of the students are placed in Ohio medical facilities. The top four, in order, are Cleveland Clinic, MetroHealth, Summa Health and University Hospitals.

According to Dr. Isaac Kirstein, dean of the college here, great thought and planning is devoted to accommodating students' needs. "Medical school is all encompassing and requires a huge sacrifice, so we focus on methods for students to achieve peak performance by considering wellness, among many other factors."

Kirstein also notes that healthcare is undergoing changes in the approach to treatment, and this relates to helping people remain healthy, while not only stressing needs during sickness.

## STUDENTS SHARE EXPERIENCES

"General medicine is going where osteopathic medicine never left – harnessing the body to heal itself," he explains. "Ohio University students are uniquely prepared to work in this type of environment." He also notes that medicine is becoming more of a team sport where others such as nutritionists and pharmacists become involved. With students learning and practicing in teams, the school is laying the groundwork for this reality.

When selecting candidates for the program, Dr. Kirstein says the staff looks at the entire applicant, suggesting that it's not all about test scores, but also about experiences. The acceptance rate, however, is highly competitive with 1 out of 20 being offered a spot across all three campuses. In other words, with roughly 5,000 applicants, 250 students are ultimately admitted. Students also are required to rank their campus preferences and an additional essay is needed to explain their first choice.

From his own experience and observations, he believes that to be successful in medical school and later as a doctor, people need to be passionate about the profession because it's a calling. "It's clear to us who has passion. Without it, it takes a lot of commitment to push through the 7-10 years of training." Essentially, he calls the training process "a marathon, not a sprint."

Some members of this 2019 graduating class sought a way to give back to the community and in this spirit, they created the annual Trunk or Treat event, an option to celebrate Halloween by receiving candy in the parking lot on the school's campus. Candy is passed out mainly by City Council members and students, all dressed in costumes, with 350 children in attendance most recently.

When it comes to financing the \$32,000 annual tuition, Dr. Kirstein reports that the school offers a full suite of scholarships and federally subsidized loans, along with a staff to assist with financial planning needs. He states that he is eager to accept students from Warrensville Heights, and he welcomes any inquiries students may have. He can be reached at [kirstein@ohio.edu](mailto:kirstein@ohio.edu). **WH**



Erica Crawford, Springfield, Family Medicine

"Medical school is stressful no matter where you go, but there are lots of people you can count on here. Being a small class helped us get through everything. I wanted to quit multiple times. I'd ask myself, is this what I really want to do and the answer was that there was nothing else that I wanted to do as much as this."



Bre Benjamin, LaGrange, Ohio, Orthopedic Surgery

"The first year was way more than you could ever prepare for! You need to set the end goals on the backburner because it's a long road."



Haley Mehalik, Brunswick, Emergency Medicine

"This was very difficult, but I was surrounded by a great cohort of classmates which made it a little less painful."



Cory Gotowka, Buffalo, Pediatrics

"When I got the call that I was accepted, I was driving and was in tears. Later, it was the school's connection with the Cleveland Clinic that helped me get a rotation in an area that's not offered to medical students elsewhere. The facilities here are absolutely beautiful, and we have access to our physician advisors since we see them in the cafeteria and parking lot."



Ariel Moore, Solon, Pediatrics

"I have always wanted to work with kids because they don't have a voice in their healthcare. I also want to help educate them about the importance of nutrition and exercise, and I want to help prevent infant mortality. If this is what you want to do, go for it, but it helps to have someone pushing you. My mom did that for me...she told me to follow my dreams."



Stephanie Shoop, N. Royalton, Family Medicine

"I changed my mind every day about what area I want to pursue because I liked everything! Since lectures were recorded and available to us, I often listened to the material multiple times which was very helpful. If this is your passion, you should dive in and do it!"



Effie Morway, Parma, Orthopedic Surgery

"I love the human body and how it works and I wanted to learn more. I was pretty stressed in the beginning and I relied on the school's counselors and other resources for mental health, and then I got a handle on it."



Nicole Zell, N. Royalton, Family Medicine

"I have three kids – 7, 5 and 20 months - so my parents and husband helped a lot. The school also was very accommodating. They aren't only looking for traditional students. It's very intimidating to go to medical school when you have more than medical school on your plate, but the faculty was very encouraging."

# faces in the community

Maciah Blanchard of Warrensville Heights, standing in center, started playing for the Sarasota BigCats arena football team in May. The 5' 8" wide receiver got ready for the season by training, in part, at the recreation center here.



Memorial Day Parade - left to right, clockwise: Skye Paw Patrol and Baby Shark, Rising Stars Academy dancers, Gunnery Sergeants Pamela Perry and Wynette Perry, Warrensville Heights High School students and WHHS alumni





Senior Luncheon in May at Cleveland Marriot East

# city council spotlight

## STANLEY ANDERSON



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If you are 60 or older and especially if you are an older woman living alone, you may be a special target of people who sell bogus products and services by phone. Telemarketing scams often involve offers of free prizes, low-cost vitamins and health care products, and inexpensive vacations. Senior citizens are most likely to have a "nest egg" to own their home, and have excellent credit, all of which make them attractive to con artists.

People who grew up in the 1930s, '40s and '50s were generally raised to be polite and trusting. Con artists exploit these traits, knowing that it is difficult for these individuals to say "no" or hang up. Older people are less likely to report a fraud because they don't know who to report it to, are too ashamed at having been scammed, or don't know they have been scammed. Elderly victims may not report crimes because they are concerned that relatives may think the victims no longer have the mental capacity to take care of their financial affairs.

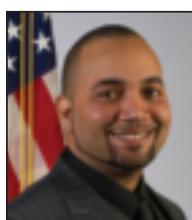
If you or a loved one have been the victim of a fraud, here's what you can do - contact local authorities:

Call Ohio Attorney General's Help Center, 1-800-282-0515 or go to [OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov](http://OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov)

For Unwanted Calls, 1-888-382-1222 or go to [donotcall.gov](http://donotcall.gov)

For Unwanted Mail, 212-768-7277 or go to [dmachoice.org](http://dmachoice.org)

## MATTHEW HOWARD



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Hopefully everyone is having a wonderful summer. Thank you to the Clarkwood Estates Residents Association for their continued support.

If you live in the Clarkwood area, please attend our meetings. Postings go out once a month. For the Angela Belfiore Estates, we need to discuss the formulation of a new association. If you are interested, please contact me by phone, email or office. I was recently appointed to the position of planning commission chairman and in doing such, I have learned about the extensive process of accepting new businesses to the city and the laws that govern them. We are always accepting applications for firemen and police officers. Please contact city hall if you or someone you know is interested.

## DORISE HAGWOOD



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Greetings Good People!

I am humbled and grateful for your encouragement and support. I am a common sense leader, so if I feel it's best for the people of this community, I fight for it...if it fails, I change my strategy and I'll try something else. But above all, I'll keep trying. I strive daily "to be the leader...I would follow." I believe that true leaders don't create followers, they build a team of leaders. We are all in this together. You will always have a seat at the table.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: WARD 1 ANNUAL PARTY IN THE PARK - Saturday, July 13, Noon - 4:00 pm, Ridgewood Park.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer. As always, please continue to contact me with any questions or concerns.

## KIM EDWARDS



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With the longer days comes increased activity. This usually means more people engaged in outdoor activities like cookouts, yard work, walking and bike riding. Such activities should invite us to be more connected with our neighbors while prompting us to be more sensitive to our surroundings.

As we head into the summer, I encourage us all to keep a watchful eye for our seniors, especially when the temperature becomes increasingly hot. Watch out for the children while they are playing and look out for both bicycle riders and motorcyclists as they increase their activity this summer. Let's be mindful of our neighbors as we all seek to enjoy the upcoming warmer and longer days.

### Tri-City 100 Business Forum

How to Do Business with Area Partners  
Wednesday, September 4 | 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  
Corporate College East 4400 Richmond Rd.

#### FEATURED TOPICS:

- Information on new market trends
- Local and county business incentive programs
- Financial lending opportunities
- Upcoming new development projects
- Municipal department presentations

## ANDREA MITCHELL



COUNCIL PRESIDENT  
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Here are three things about thinking differently to ponder:

On Memorial Day, our inspirational Grand Marshals — retired Gunnery Sergeants Pamela and Wynette Perry — imparted important details about post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in veterans. Their powerful message also implored everyone to think differently about how we describe the somber day of remembrance.

Evidence of thinking differently in Washington, DC was demonstrated on May 28th when Lonnie G. Bunch III, founding director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, was elected as the 14th secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. He is the first historian to hold the position, the first African American leader in its 172-year history and the first museum director to serve as secretary in 74 years.

Think differently about voting. Beginning with the November election, in keeping with the county and to avert future changes, voting in Warrensville will be centralized. There will be one polling location in Warrensville Heights. Every precinct will be located at the Warrensville Recreation Center on Northfield Road (adjacent to the high school). More information about this will be sent from the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections.

## WALTER STEWART



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I would like to congratulate all of the senior honorees at the recent senior luncheon. I want to especially congratulate our senior honoree from Ward 4, the Honorable Lena L. Nance.

She received her BS Degree from Bluefield State College in Bluefield, West Virginia and her MLS from Case Western Reserve University. She joined the Cleveland Public Library in 1965 and received a full scholarship in honor of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Cleveland Public Library, ending her career after serving at the Warrensville Branch for 17 years. Ms. Nance now spends most of her time with issues concerning over 20,000 children in foster care and kinship care in Cuyahoga County.

I wish all of our residents a very safe and happy summer.

## ELONA C. WHITE



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Greetings to the caring and concerned neighbors of Warrensville Heights!

Congratulations to Lily Holt, Ward 3 senior honoree for 2019. Thank you, Lily Holt, for all you do. Volunteering is one of the most humbling acts of kindness. At the Ward 1 and 3 spring meetings, we had the pleasure of recognizing Jimmie Waugh the first Black Firefighter to work for the City of Warrensville Hts. with 25 years of service, between 1970 and 1995! Congratulations Jimmie Waugh and thank you for your service!

PLEASE JOIN Ward 1, 2 and 3 for our annual party in the park, Saturday, July 13, 12-4 pm at Warrensville and Ridgewood - a great time for the entire family.

Need repairs on the exterior of your home? Remember to contact the Economic Development Department, 216-587-6500.

We have a number of classes for you to participate in at the Civic and Senior Center. Call 216-587-1250 for a list of dates and times.

If you have any issues or concerns, please email me at [ewhite@cityofwarrensville.com](mailto:ewhite@cityofwarrensville.com). For more information on the City's Ordinances please go to [conwaygreenecommunity.com](http://conwaygreenecommunity.com) or you may pick up a list of common ordinances from the City Council office.

**WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS PRESENTS:  
FREE ENTREPRENEUR WORKSHOPS**

**HOW TO START A BUSINESS**

*facilitated by the Urban League of Greater Cleveland*

**Wednesday, July 17**

CCPL WH Branch Library 4415 Northfield Road

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**Workshop 1**  
10 am - 12 pm

• **LARGE MEETING ROOM NORTH •**  
..... **OR** .....

**Workshop 2**  
5 am - 7 pm

• **LARGE MEETING ROOM SOUTH •**

Light refreshments will be served.  
For further details, contact  
Carletta Fellows, 216.587.6585

# Kids in the neighborhood

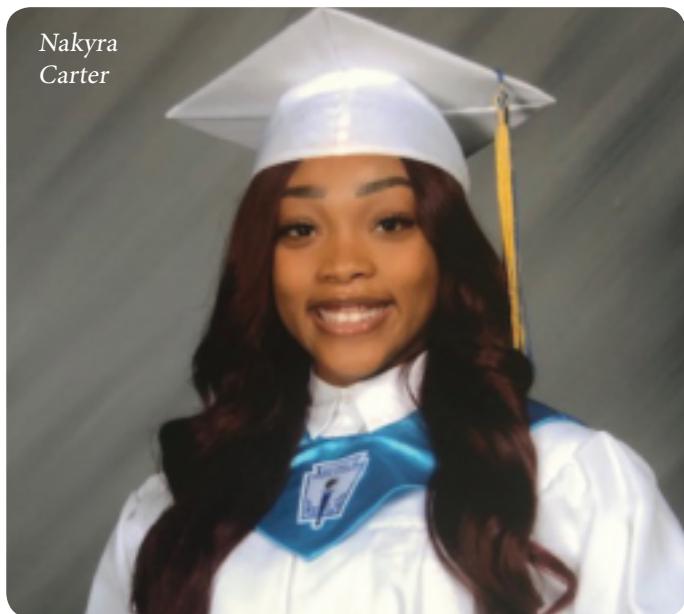
## Hearing Challenges Are No Obstacle On Senior's Journey

Nakyra Carter has the poise and beauty to arrest the attention of any listener who engages her in conversation, but without her hearing aids, she would be challenged to respond.

She was born with what's labeled "moderate to severe bilateral hearing loss," and the diagnosis was delivered when she was three years old. One revealing symptom was when she turned up the volume on the TV but that still didn't help her hear it.

Now that she has graduated from Warrensville Heights High School, she will enter Alabama A & M University in the fall where she plans to major in communication disorders and sciences. Her challenges have acted as guideposts, and they are propelling her to become an audiologist.

"I want to give back to other children who are hearing impaired," Nakyra says.



Nakyra Carter

She also can offer some great perspective on her situation. "I tell people this isn't much different from people who need glasses to see better or need a wheelchair or cane to get around."

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## Senior Leaves Legacy with Sports Award Named After Him

It was a very emotional moment for Keith Harris at the sports banquet for all student athletes, held at the end of this past school year. At this event, the Tiger Award is bestowed upon a student who displays in any sport abundant leadership qualities, who is very coachable, and who shows personal strengths both on and off the court. It's only awarded if there is a deserving individual. Harris was that guy.

But it gets better. The award was renamed The Keith Harris Tiger Award, drawing inspiration from Harris' spirit and performance over his four years at WHHS. The decision was made by Brian Swift, athletic director and varsity basketball coach, who often joked with Harris that he should make this change in the award's name. Still, it was a massive surprise.

"I was never the best on the team, but my dedication is the best – I worked hard and never missed a practice," he states, adding, "I never want to let anyone down." He admits, however, that he wishes he could have seen more game time, but his excitement never diminished and he always cheered on his teammates, as if he played all 32 minutes.



Keith Harris

Harris is also the recipient of Mayor Bradley Sellers Mayor's Education Award which is a \$2,000 gift toward his college expenses. In addition, he received the Omnova Foundation Scholarship worth \$10,000 annually toward college for all four years. The award is given exclusively to two WHHS students and it delivers on the company's interest in giving back to the

*Continued on Page 11*

## Nakyra *continued from page 10...*

She spent a lot of time working with speech pathologists and audiologists to help her improve enunciating certain sounds that are hard to hear such as P and TH. A word like "path," for example, is nearly inaudible. Her clinical experiences culminated in building relationships with these therapists and contributed to her interest in pursuing the profession.

Early on, hearing aids proved to be the game changer, and with them in place, she can hear and speak normally. Every six years, however, they need to be replaced because new technology continues to improve their performance. They are custom made to fit inside each ear and the batteries need to be replaced every two weeks. The hearing aids cost about \$4,000.

So far, they have only been damaged once. She was playing basketball and the ball hit her ear.

Though she never needed to learn sign language, she enrolled in a class for the past two years to gain those skills for eventual use in her career. She says that she doesn't have any friends with hearing loss, so it feels like "a separate society" to her.

Her father, Michael Carter, director at the Warrensville Heights YMCA, says that Nakyra has always demonstrated lots of confidence, and she takes complete responsibility for her hearing aids. She also has consistently maintained solid grades with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 and placement on the honor roll at the end of every marking period.

She was a member of the National Honor Society, as well as the superintendent's advisory council. Her other extracurricular activities included the ACE (architecture, construction and engineering) mentoring program, diversity club, students of promise and the college upward bound program. She also ran track for two years.

But was she ever bullied in school? Yes. However, she chose to turn the incidents into opportunities to educate others and she wouldn't buy into negativity. "I never let it bother me," she states. On the flipside, plenty of people "flock to her," says Michael. Being a doting dad, however, he always wanted to make sure she consistently had on-trend clothing to eliminate one potential difference from other kids. "I want her to appear as normal as possible," he explains.

Her other source of armor is her magnetic personality. People are likely drawn to her due to a combination of factors. It's her calm energy, her kindness and her self-assuredness. Consequently, many will likely be hearing about her path toward great success. **WH**

## CORRECTION

An error in the spring issue crediting the proper source with its donation to the Warrensville Heights Police Department and its K9 (Jaq) is corrected here: Jaq will be fitted for a bullet/stab protection vest which will be covered by a donation by Consultative Insurance Group, Inc., with a value of \$2000.

## Keith *continued from page 10...*

community. "Education is Omnova's highest giving priority," says Kim Huff, community relations representative.

Additionally, he received a merit scholarship from the school of his choice, Central State University outside Dayton. He plans to transfer, however, to Hampton University or Howard University his sophomore year. The city of Cleveland Heights also honored him with the Jason West Scholarship worth \$1,000 which includes his name on a plaque for Officer Jason West who was killed in the line of duty.

With a G.P.A. of 4.4, he reports that his grade point average never dipped below a 4.0. He says that school came easy to him. But he's certainly no stranger to hard work, holding a range of jobs while in high school. Most recently, he worked up to being a shift supervisor at Adrenaline Monkey, often involving 12-hour days.

He intends to be a business administration major, then he'd like to attend law school and eventually start his own law firm. To accomplish all of this, he plans to let go of sports, calling college "strictly business."

He traces his solid work ethic and sense of discipline to his mom who raised him by herself. She always led by example.

"I grew up at an early age. By eight years old, I was the man of the house," he says.

His conscientiousness extends to encounters with everyone he meets by making it a self-proclaimed priority to create a great first impression. "You never know who you'll see," he points out.

His serene demeanor and extremely officious manner combine to create the effect of a perfect gentleman. His hobbies also reflect his sense of purpose, with weightlifting happening regularly, along with reading the bible and works of fiction like *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas and the play *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller which was a school assignment ("I liked the characters – they're fascinating"). As another diversion, he enjoys playing the video game NBA 2K.

A common joke among Harris' friends is to mess with his clear demonstrations of maturity by calling him Grandpa Keith or Uncle Keith. He doesn't mind.

"When I go out, I make sure there are no problems."

On the flipside, friends and adults frequently ask him for advice which he says makes him feel good. "I feel extremely happy when people tell me they look up to me. When I hear that, it makes me ask, 'Why me?' then I instantly thank the man above for giving me the gift of positively touching people's lives."

Underlying everything are his very positive feelings about Warrensville Heights. In fact, he always wears his Tiger gear when he steps out and knows that he represents the city when he does so.

"I care so much about this city, and it feels good to give back to receive the same love in return. It's a bond I will cherish forever," he says with clear joy. **WH**

# City Offices

## ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

JEROME A. DUVAL, DIRECTOR

RAYMON TURNER, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

**MOBILE FOOD PANTRY** - Held on the second Saturday of every month at John Dewey Elementary School, we distribute fresh fruits and vegetables. Recognizing that high blood pressure is one of the contributing factors that negatively impacts the residents in our community and neighborhoods, we partnered with Cleveland Clinic South Pointe Hospital to provide screenings and distribute blood pressure monitors to the participants in April, resulting in 118 monitors being passed out.

**EXTERIOR MAINTENANCE PROGRAM** - Beginning April 1st, the program kicked off for this season. It's a partial reimbursement grant that assists residents who have been cited by the Building Department and need to repair and replace specific exterior features. The program has been picking up traction over the last several years, with more residents applying for assistance. The program runs through November 1st or until all funds (\$30,000) have been exhausted. Please visit [cityofwarrensville.com](http://cityofwarrensville.com) for additional information.

**2019 COMMUNITY RECYCLING AWARENESS** - As we continue to raise residents' awareness recycling and the impact it has on our environment, we are utilizing innovative ways to reach out and educate community members of all ages. Last year, we introduced our "WREN" (Warrenville's Recycling Environmental News) mascot who appeared at our Community Shred Days and marched alongside the mayor in our Memorial Day Parade. This year, we will release an animated short video educating residents and students on the importance of recycling. We are very excited for the production of this video. Shred day events were re-confirmed with vendor Shred-it and are scheduled as follows:  
SATURDAY, JULY 29, Green Road Park, 4501 Green Road, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm  
SATURDAY, SEPT. 28, Warrensville Heights Middle School, 4285 Warrensville Ctr. Rd., 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

**2019 MAYOR'S EDUCATION AWARD** - This year was very exciting! We had 11 WHHS seniors apply and we selected two recipients, Keith Harris Jr. and Nadia Connor. Each received a \$2,000 scholarship to assist with college expenses.

## FINANCE DEPARTMENT

KAREN HOWSE, DIRECTOR

LORIE REID, ASSISTANT FINANCE DIRECTOR

Members of the finance department attended the 113th annual National Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Conference held in Los Angeles in May. According to GFOA Executives, "the annual conference is viewed as a 'must attend' professional development event of the year." With 200,000 members from all over the globe, the conference featured opportunities for sharing ideas, sharpening skills, discovering new tools and technologies, and networking with peers from across North America and around the world.

## BUILDING DEPARTMENT

BENJAMIN BROWN, BUILDING COMMISSIONER

**HIGH GRASS NUISANCE ABATEMENT, CHAPTER 945 -** The city has a Noxious Weeds, Plant and Grass Ordinance. It shall be unlawful for the owner, lessee, agent or tenant having charge of any lot or land to permit any weeds, grass, or plants, other than trees, bushes, flowers or other ornamental plants, to grow to a height exceeding six inches. Any such weeds, grass, or plants exceeding such height are declared to be a nuisance. The owner or any other person having charge of such property must assure that the height of the weeds, grass or plants does not exceed six inches. In the event a property is served a written notice which is effective for the entire growing season, then the Building Department, the owner, lessee, agent, or tenant having charge of the lot or land will have three days to abate the nuisance. If the nuisance is not abated within three days, then the city will abate the nuisance administering cost and fees to the owner.

**REMINDER FOR LANDSCAPE CLEAN UP** - Owners and landscapers should not blow grass clippings and/or leaves into the street during clean up because it causes blockages in the storm drains, posing flooding risks on streets.

## CIVIC AND SENIOR CENTER

JENNIFER LASTERY, DIRECTOR

SANDRA NOBLE, PROGRAM COORDINATOR

### PLAN TO JOIN US! MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Upcoming events requiring sign-up at the center:

FRIDAY, JULY 19 ~ Potluck and a Movie, \$5.00 per person, Bring a side dish or dessert and see a current movie and play games.  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 31 ~ Cruise on the Goodtime III, \$34.63 per person, due July 17th, Lunch and a narrated cruise on Lake Erie  
SEPTEMBER ~ Men Only, \$10 per person, date to be announced a Saturday afternoon at the center watch college football, play cards, checkers or chess. Snack on delicious food and sip. Fellowship with guys.

OCTOBER ~ A trip to Amish Country, date to be announced. An Evening on the Caribbean, October 25th, \$20.00 person, live band, learn how to salsa dance, enjoy food and fun.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

WESLEY HAYNES, CHIEF OF POLICE

We welcomed three new officers to our department, all of whom were appointed April 2. RYAN SUMNER completed the Ohio Peace Officer Basic Training in 2016 and was employed with the Village of Linndale Police Department in 2016 as a part time police officer and then obtained a full time position with Oberlin University Police Department. CHRISTOPHER JORDAN completed the Ohio Peace Officer Basic Training in 2016 and has been employed with the Village of Newburgh Heights Police Department and also with North Coast Behavioral Healthcare Police Department. LAWRENCE MCKISSIC completed the Ohio Peace Officer Basic Training in 2018 and was employed with the Village of Newburgh Heights Police Department.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

HERBERT WAUGH, FIRE CHIEF

### GENERAL GRILLING SAFETY TIPS

- Propane and charcoal grills should only be used outdoors
- Grills should be placed far from the home, deck, railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches
- Keep children and pets at least 3 feet away from grilling area
- Remove grease or fat buildup and clean trays
- Never leave lit grill unattended
- Always make sure the gas grill lid is open before lighting it

### CHARCOAL GRILLS

- There are several ways to start charcoal grills. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel
- If you use starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire
- Keep charcoal fluid away from children's reach and heat sources
- There are electric charcoal starters which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use
- Let coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container

### PROPANE GRILLS

- Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year by applying a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If your grill has a gas leak detected by the bubble test or by odor and there is no flame, turn off both the gas tank and the grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak doesn't stop, call the fire department.
- If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not move the grill
- If the flame suddenly goes out, turn the grill and gas off and wait at least 5 minutes before re-lighting it.

## SERVICE DEPARTMENT

TED SIMS, DIRECTOR

### RUBBISH COLLECTION AND RECYCLING

The following holidays will have delayed trash pickup (look for yellow signs indicating days):

New Year's Day  
Memorial Day  
Independence Day

Labor Day  
Thanksgiving Day  
Christmas Day

All mattresses and cloth furniture must be wrapped in plastic before being placed on tree lawns for disposal. Plastic wraps are available at the Service Department. The following items can be dropped off at the Service Garage for disposal/recycling: tires, paint, oil, computers, christmas lights and electronic equipment.

**REMINDER:** Please report street light outages and any basement sewer backups to the Service Department, 216.587.6570.

**CHIPPER SERVICE:** Available on TUESDAYS and THURSDAYS of each week. Stack all branches with the cut ends toward the street.



### CITY FIREWORKS

Sunday, June 30

At Dusk

WHHS Football Field

# Many local chapters. One world class story.

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 **Cleveland Clinic**  
South Pointe Hospital

Every life deserves world class care.

# Aspiring D.O.ctors Precollege Program | 2019 Graduating Class

Lee Abercrombie  
Whitney Young Leadership Academy  
College: Kent State University  
Major: Business

Vanezza Alvayero  
High Tech Academy  
College: Case Western Reserve University  
Major: Nursing

Leann Andino\*  
High Tech Academy  
College: Cleveland State University  
Major: Psychology

Wyquise Berry  
Whitney Young Leadership Academy  
Entering the Armed Forces  
Major: Undecided

Sierra Cook  
Whitney Young Leadership Academy  
College: University of Dayton  
Major: Biology/ Pre-Med

Naaja Davis\*\*  
Warrensville Heights High School  
College: Howard University  
Major: Nursing

Janayzia Flake\*  
Warrensville Heights High School  
College: Central State University  
Major: Pre-Med

Cameron Freeman  
Whitney Young Leadership Academy  
Entering the Navy

Deona Griffin  
Whitney Young Leadership Academy  
College: University of Dayton  
Major: Biology

D'Iviona Hawkins\*  
Warrensville Heights High School  
College: Ohio University  
Major: Health Care Administration

Brittany Haywood\*  
Warrensville Heights High School  
College: University of Toledo  
Major: Nursing  
Gregory Johnson

Whitney Young Leadership Academy  
College: Bowling Green State University  
Major: Biology/ Pre-Med

Rayne Law\*  
High Tech Academy  
College: Kent State University  
Major: Business

Leeajah Lewis  
Whitney Young Leadership Academy  
College: University of Dayton  
Major: Communications

Tarraé Maye\*\*  
Warrensville Heights High School  
College: University of Akron  
Major: Nursing

Jayonri McKinley\*\*  
\$1,500 City of Warrensville Heights Scholarship Recipient  
Warrensville Heights High School  
College: Cleveland State University  
Major: Nursing

Maria Palma\*  
\$1,500 Cyrus Eaton Scholarship Recipient  
High Tech Academy  
College: Cuyahoga Community College  
Major: Nursing

William Quiñonez\*\*  
Warrensville Heights High School  
College: Ohio University  
Major: Biology

Sumiyah Reid\*  
Warrensville Heights High School  
College: Kentucky State University  
Major: Undecided

Jaynesha Wilson  
Whitney Young Leadership Academy  
College: Bowling Green State University  
Major: Psychology

\*Denotes student who completed 2 years in the Aspiring D.O.ctors Program.

\*\*Denotes student who completed 4 years in the Aspiring D.O.ctors Program.

## 96th Birthday

*continued from page 3...*

and she welcomed the chance to become a teacher's assistant. She found a job in a country school with primary – 8th grade students.

This would be the only children she nurtured because the two pregnancies she had with George ended in miscarriages. Other misfortune befell the couple when George got into a fight with some white kids, and though others felt he was right, he feared for any repercussions. So George left for Cleveland and landed in the Quincy neighborhood where he had relatives. Ms. Porter came north by train a few months later when school was finished.

Living here marked the first time she had seen snow, but naturally, it didn't bother her. She was just happy to be reunited with George. "But the girls were after men back then, it was just ridiculous." And they were after George in particular. The couple lasted for five more years, "and that was it." The women were "so brazen." There was an incident once where one white woman in particular looked at him and grinned while Ms. Porter was present.

Ms. Porter held a series of jobs at different facilities including a laundry service and a service station. When she learned about a higher paying job in the defense industry, she pivoted in that direction. She was hired at a division of Chase Brass & Copper Co. to run a machine that made shells for a B-29 bomber. "There were more women in the plant than men since they were in the service."

Nine years later, she married her second husband, Sylvester Porter, in 1957. He had two children from a previous marriage, and sadly, they had two miscarriages together. They moved to Warrensville Heights in 1968 when she found a house on Shadywood Lane for \$26,000. Their marriage lasted 41 years until he passed after suffering a heart attack, later a stroke which paralyzed his left side and then a leg amputation from poor circulation.

Aside from keeping her cool during times of stress, does she hold some secret to longevity? Maybe. She says she eats anything she wants and she's nice to

everybody. She never smoked, although Sylvester did as long as they were together and her parents did, too. She's active in the senior club and in the Eastwood homeowners association. She used to belong to the Democratic Club.

She still drives, her sight is fine with glasses and though she can't walk far, her cane helps her get around. Her nephew, 72, moved into her home soon after Sylvester died and he offers some assistance, although "he has more aches and pains than I ever thought of."

If she had to explain how she has managed through all the ups and downs, she would claim that she is very accepting. She's also very emotionally strong and centered.

To the casual observer, it's clear that she cares about herself and others. Her nails are painted a lovely shade of red, she wears a necklace, earrings and her wedding ring...because it's something Sylvester gave her. She is a lovely picture of vitality and composure. There's a lesson in that for everyone. **WH**

# Warrensville Heights High School

## 2019 GRADUATING CLASS

NAME	COLLEGE/JOB	NAME	COLLEGE/JOB
Quality Atkinson	Career	Chamaurie Jackson	Cuyahoga Community College
Mason Baragas	Cuyahoga Community College	Ariel Larry	Central State
Devonna Ballom	University of Akron	Brionne King	Central State
Jamal Brown	Cleveland State University	Sydney Maclin	The University Akron
Asia Brown	Cuyahoga Community College	Tarrae' Maye	University of Akron
Briance Benson		Angelo McCreaey	Cuyahoga Community College
Belinda Burks	Cuyahoga Community College	Jayonri McKinley	Cleveland State University
Kaleia Brown	Kentucky State University	Tamika Norris	University of Akron
Devyn Byers	Mount Union	Kala Miller	Central State
Da'veyon Cain	Cuyahoga Community College	Tamara Morgan	Paul Mithcell
Koren Caldwell	Cleveland State University	T'Andrea Phillips	University of Akron
Nadia Cannon	Cleveland State	Deshaun Patterson	Kentucky State
Nakyra Carter	Alabama A&M	Davion Porter	Cuyahoga Community College
Cyanne Clarno	Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising	Elaina Price	University of Akron
	Pursuing Career in Photography	William Quinonez	Ohio University
Ryan Clayton	Kent State	Dae'Ron Ransom	Airforce
Qu'ran Cochran	Bowling Green State	Sumiyah Reid	Kentucky State University
Ellisa Collins	Howard University	Brandon Rush	Fairleigh Dickinson
Naaja Davis	Cuyahoga Community College	Briana Sadler	Central State
Onnastie Davis	Central State	Nicolas Smith-wiley	Bryan and Stratton
Cierra Eddings	Cleveland State University	Kevin Taylor	University of Akron
Jamir Emory	Hiram	Charnell Teachey	Cuyahoga Community College
Cyonna Edwards	Central State	Aja'Mare Thomas	Cuyahoga Community College
Janayzia Flake	Community College of Baltimore County	DeAndre Thomas	Trade School
Lamyia Ford	Central State	Rashadd Walker	Cuyahoga Community College
	Career	Michaela Washington	Ashley Watts
Raquan Foster	Tri-C	Samuel Whatley	Kentucky State
Makneequa Gaines	North Carolina Central	KennedyWhite	Coppin State
John Garrett	Central State	Majaiah Williams	Cleveland State
Aiyanna Haley	Navy	Alexis Williams	Cuyahoga Community College
Keith Harris	Ohio University	Jasmin Williams	Career/Art
Mac Harris	Lake Erie College	Sir Davonte Williams	Walsh
D'Iviona Hawkins	Central State	Jayvion Williams	Miami University of Oxford
Kaylin Heard	Kent State-Twinsburg	Raymond Williams	Job/distributor at Flowers Foods
Alvin Henderson	Paul Mitchell	Tashawn Williams	Wright State
Aaliyah Highsmith	Bowling Green State University	Anthony Wright	
Brooke Hodge		Tyrone Yarbrough	
Nyaira Hugley			
Tyrez Hurt			



## community baby shower!

Free and open to the public!

Saturday, June 29

12 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Civic & Senior Center

4567 Green Road

Celebrating your pregnancy and parenting journey

- Health education
- Refreshments
- Raffles and give-aways

Register today:  
[clevelandclinic.org/HealthyYouHealthyfamilies](http://clevelandclinic.org/HealthyYouHealthyfamilies)

text "SHOWER" TO 216.956.5151  
 or email [larkinr@ccf.org](mailto:larkinr@ccf.org)



# THE FRIENDLY CITY MAGAZINE

a publication of...



**Warrensville Heights City Hall**  
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### Credits:

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**Editorial Associate:** Alexa Gullie  
**Design by:** Contempo Design + Communications  
**Cover Photography by:** Rich Facun

# summer festival!



NEW  
**WEEKEND**  
SCHEDULE

Saturday, August 17

12 pm - 10 pm

&

Sunday, August 18

12 pm - 7:30 pm

• GREEN ROAD PARK | 4501 GREEN ROAD •