

friendly city **TRIBUNE**



Fall 2017 Issue

2017 Warrensville Heights Summer Festival at a Glance



Photos courtesy of Cynthia Moore

A Letter from the Mayor

Greetings Residents,

First, I'd like to thank you for reading the fall edition of the Friendly City Tribune. As you know, we had quite an eventful summer. I hope each of you reading attended our wonderful annual Summer Festival. As always, we had great performances from our bands, delicious food and plenty of entertainment. We enjoyed beautiful weather and a fun time was had by all. Congratulations to the winners of the best dessert contest. If you missed out, be sure to attend next year!



I'm pleased to announce that the Fire Department debuted a new 2016 Ford E-450 Life Line Superliner Type III Ambulance last month. This newest addition to the fleet is a fully equipped state-of-the-art vehicle with the ability to transport and give immediate care to residents in route to the hospital.

Fall is approaching and there are a few things you should do to get your home ready for the season change. Read more in the Building Department update about cleaning and repairing gutters, inspecting your roof, repairing your driveway, sealing your doors and windows and find information about smoke detectors, carbon monoxide alarms and heating systems.

If you need financial assistance to make repairs on the exterior of your home, the Exterior Maintenance Program is taking applications up to November 1st. Please see the Community and Economic Development Department update and call (216) 587-6500 for more information.

The third part of my Workforce Readiness Forum was on September 13th and focused on entrepreneurs. It was a great event and I encourage you to watch the video of the program on our website if you weren't able to attend. Feel free to share our web address with anyone that needs information on entrepreneurship at www.cityofwarrensville.com.

A few reminders before I close. Be sure to read each article as you will find exciting updates, news and information on every aspect of our city. We will be having our annual Holiday Lighting Ceremony November 30th and lastly, the conclusion of my four-part Workforce Readiness Forum series for the year will be on December 6th. Be on the lookout for flyers and additional information for upcoming end-of-year events.

I look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bradley D. Sellers". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mayor Bradley D. Sellers

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WarrensvilleConnect

stay connected with us for news, updates, and more!

City Hall (216) 587-6500

Police Dept. (216) 587-1234

Fire Dept. (216) 587-1760

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This publication is a product of the Warrensville Heights Department of Communications.

Where are They Now? – Former Warrensville Heights Summer Employment Students

Crystal Gaiter

I had the privilege of working with the City of Warrensville Heights in three different positions, beginning as an Intern within the Economic Development Department in 2014. I returned in 2016 after completing my undergraduate degree in Social Work as an Intern within the Strategic Initiatives and Mayor's Office. Upon completion of that internship, I was hired in as a part-time Clerk of Special Projects. Throughout the course of these positions, I have been able to assist with implementation of the Summer Festival, complete grants to assist with upkeep of the city and assist the Mayor and Director of Strategic Initiatives. I had to learn time management and organizational techniques. Because things were always so fast paced at the city, I now am comfortable in those settings without feeling



overwhelmed or anxious. I have learned to be flexible in my capacity to retain and apply the knowledge in various circumstances. After attending a few City Hall meetings, I learned to be able to adapt to thinking on my toes and effectively communicating with both residents and coworkers. I currently work at A Renewed Mind Behavioral Health as a Dual Diagnosis Counselor, and I implement my skills by maintaining structure with my clients, and knowing how to appropriately schedule them so that I do not get “burned out”. I utilize my knowledge of various therapies and interventions on the fly in order to best communicate and assist my clients during crises and therapy sessions. Overall, the City of Warrensville Heights has positively impacted my current and future career aspirations, and I am truly grateful for the personal and professional growth attained while there.

Imani Edwards

I am currently a senior at Ohio University studying Political Science. Over the summer I worked as a citizens support specialist for the City of Cleveland. While working with Warrensville Heights, as an intern at the Building Department, I organized old and new business files. Customer service is my number one focus at my current job at City of Cleveland. Due



to my time as an intern at the Building Department, I was well prepared for this opportunity because I talked to the residents of Cleveland. It is my job to assure them that I can resolve whatever issue they may be facing. Working at the Building Department at such a young age has prepared me for the job I currently have. I plan to continue to use the skills I developed while working at the City of Warrensville Heights.

2017 Annual Summer Youth Employment Program Recap

The City of Warrensville Heights had the opportunity to employ 25 students for the annual program. All of the participants lived within the city, and most were Warrensville Heights City School District students and/or alumni. Each student went through an application and interview process and were required to submit a resume. Of the 25 students selected, 15 were high-schoolers and 10 attended college; they all worked between 25 to 40 hours a week. Throughout the course of summer break, they performed a wide

range of jobs and worked within the Civic Center, Service, Building, Community & Economic Development, Communications, Finance, and Personnel Departments of the city. This premier program allowed these students to gain real world work experience and to help serve their community while doing so. This summer, we were honored to have such a great group of talented, young scholars who went above and beyond our expectations! We are duly grateful for their hard work; they will be missed.

A Note from the Council President



Hello City of Warrensville Residents,

Fall is approaching, one of the most beautiful seasons of the year. This season brings very important tasks that we must all complete & encourage our friends and family members to do the same. Election time is here, verify that you are registered to vote from your current address by visiting www.sos.oh.us, the deadline to register is October 7, 2017, so if you must, stop by our local library and register to vote.

Your local elections are the most important to you and your community and demands 100% participation. If you are not available to vote on Election Day, complete an absentee ballot application and vote from home. There are so many reasons why you should vote! Your health, safety and economy just to name a few, are often determined by the officials that are elected into office representing your voice and concerns. So each one take 1, 2 or even 3 people with you to the polls on November 7, 2017 and VOTE!

“The essence of community, its heart and soul, is the non-monetary exchange of value; things we do and share because we care for others, and for the good of the place.” – Dee Hock

Kimberly H. Edwards
Council President, Ward 7

Warrensville Heights City Council meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month in the Council Chambers at City Hall at 7:00 pm. Caucus for Council begins at 6:00 pm. For more information about City Council and its meetings, please contact Deborah Hutton, Clerk of Council at 216-587-6516.



from left: Council President Kimberly Hodge Edwards, Councilwoman Andrea Mitchell, Councilman Matthew Howard, Councilwoman Dorise Hagwood, Councilman Stanley Anderson, Councilwoman Elona C. White, Councilman Walter Stewart. Photo courtesy of Bruce Mitchell Photography

City Council News Telegram

Ward 1 | dhagwood@cityofwarrensville.com **Councilwoman Dorise Hagwood**

Greetings!

Thank you for your encouragement and support. I embrace each day as an opportunity to be a better leader.

I believe that honesty, integrity and character are the three most important qualifications of empathic leaders - these are the marks of true leadership.

Please continue to contact me with any questions, concerns and suggestions that you may have.

You are appreciated!

Dorise

Ward 2 | amitchell@cityofwarrensville.com **Councilwoman Andrea Mitchell**

Greetings Neighbors,

We have had another amazing summer in the Friendly City. Now that school is back in session, please be mindful of school speed limits and children crossing the streets.

Commuting in Ward 2 is a little better as three streets were reconstructed and/or resurfaced this summer: Brookfield, Larkspur and Mayfair Lanes. The next Ward 2 Community Meeting will take place in the auditorium at South Pointe Hospital, on Saturday, September 30th from 11-12:30 pm. I hope to see you and your neighbors at the meeting.

As always, I make a point to visit each of the 22 streets in Ward 2 every month and want to address your questions and concerns. If you missed me while I was on your street, please feel free to send me an email amitchell@cityofwarrensville.com, text or call me at: 216.339.1279.

Cordially,

Andrea - "Your Friend in the Friendly City"

Ward 3 | ewhite@cityofwarrensville.com **Councilwoman Elona White**

Greetings, Residents!

Congratulations to everyone who was awarded the Exterior Maintenance funds. It is a positive way to assist property owners with updating code violations.

I want to extend a heartfelt thanks to all of the Friendly City's community volunteers. You help to make our city live up to its name!

I am always available by email, EWhite@cityofwarrensville.com and telephone 216-581-3899, 216-587-6516. Please visit us on Facebook, Twitter and the city website.

Councilwoman Elona C. White
Serving the Residents of Ward 3

Ward 4 | wstewart@cityofwarrensville.com **Councilman Walter Stewart**

Greetings,

I am very elated to announce the formation of The Ward 4 Youth Committee, coordinated by residents Francesca Demming and Elizabeth Ann Sealey.

The Youth Committee's primary objective is to encourage and inspire our youth to become very positive, productive members of the community and the society by enhancing their education, skills and motivating their self-esteem - inspiring them to become role models and mentors for their generation as well as future generations to come.

For more information please call (216) 868-5695 Councilman Walter Stewart

Ward 5 | mhoward@cityofwarrensville.com **Councilman Matthew Howard**

Greetings to all. I hope that everyone had a great summer. Over the summer break, we have had various meetings about safety, sewers, development, and dogs to name a few. More updates will be coming soon in regards to these issues. Council donated a large amount of supplies to the school district for needy students/scholars. With the steady increases in student enrollment, the WHCSD decided to reopen Westwood Elementary School. This means that young families see the greatness that our city has to offer. I encourage you all to make a sincere effort to be involved in community events and/or meetings. This is our village!!! Call me if you have any questions or concerns: 440-561-7990.

Ward 6 | sanderson@cityofwarrensville.com **Councilman Stanley Anderson**

Councilman Anderson is an advocate for transparency in city government. He also believes input from all sides of issues improves communication and builds trust in city government.

He urges Ward 6 residents to call, e-mail, text, or write if they have any questions or concerns. Your suggestions and opinions are important and could be instrumental in improving the quality of life in our fair city.

Councilman Anderson appreciates the confident support and trust that you have shown over the past four years and enjoys serving the Ward 6 community.

Please attend a council meeting soon.

Stanley Anderson
Councilman Ward 6 | 440-419-9444
Sanderson@cityofwarrensville.com

The city received a favorable credit rating of A-1 from Moody’s Investors Service. A bond rating acts as a measurement of the likelihood that the lender will be able to pay its financial commitments and obligations on time and in full. It also determines the interest rate the city pays on borrowed funds.

The city ended the year in a robust financial position. The net unreserved cash fund balance was 31.1% of total revenues which by far exceeds the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) minimum recommended level of 15%. A primary objective of having adequate resources is to cope with emergencies or unanticipated situations.

The 2015 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report was completed and then audited by the accounting firm of James G. Zupka, CPA. An Auditor gives a clean opinion or Unqualified Opinion when he or she does not have any significant reservation in respect of matters contained in the Financial Statements. The city received an “unqualified” opinion - the best opinion you can receive.

An Unqualified Opinion indicates the following –

- The Financial Statements have been prepared using the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles which have been consistently applied;
- The Financial Statements comply with relevant statutory requirements and regulations;
- There is adequate disclosure of all material matters relevant to the proper presentation of the financial information subject to statutory requirements, where applicable;
- Any changes in the accounting principles or in the method of their application and the effects thereof have been properly determined and disclosed in the Financial Statements.

The City was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA).

2016 Capital Expenditures

Capital expenditures for local municipalities are long-term commitments and should provide benefits for multiple years. A capital expenditure results in the acquisition or increased value of a capital asset (e.g. land, land improvements, infrastructure, equipment) and usually involves projects with expenditures over \$1,000. Listed below are the 2016 capital expenditures:

- Streets Resurfacing and Reconstruction \$ 4,127,000
- Emergency Generator \$93,576
- Service Department trucks \$98,566
- (2) Ambulance power loader \$53,928
- (11) Police Car Laptop Computer \$62,425
- Service Department Riding Mower \$11,199
- Fire Department Gear Washer \$7,893
- Service Department Power Lift \$48,660
- Civic and Senior Center bus \$67,115
- Copiers for City departments \$86,580
- Service Department Asphalt Recycler \$25,773
- Dispatch Center Renovation \$110,000

Exterior Maintenance Program

The Exterior Maintenance Program has begun and will run through November 1st or until all funding (\$30,000) has been exhausted. There's still time to maximize on this excellent grant program and make improvements to your home! If you've been cited by the city's Building Department and are interested in making exterior home improvements, call our office for more information on this grant program. There are currently (9) applications in the pipeline; so don't miss out on your chance to get assistance this season. Call us at (216) 587-6500 today!

Homebuyers Education to Homeownership Program

The city's Homebuyer's Education to Homeownership Program kicked off on May 2nd with Homebuyer's Education Seminars, presented by Breaking Chains, Inc. The FREE seminars will be presented until the end of October at the Civic and Senior Center. Go to www.cityofwarrensville.com for dates and times. The seminars will be presented in five sessions of four classes that cover Money Management, Budgeting, Credit and Shopping for a Mortgage Loan. Participants must fully complete one (1) session to attain a certificate of completion towards the federal homebuyer education requirement for first-time homebuyers. Call our office at (216) 587-6500 for more information.

Reminders

Mobile Food Pantry: The Mobile Food Pantry takes place the second Saturday of each month at Randallwood Elementary School, located at 21865 Clarkwood Parkway, Warrensville Heights, OH 44128 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm.

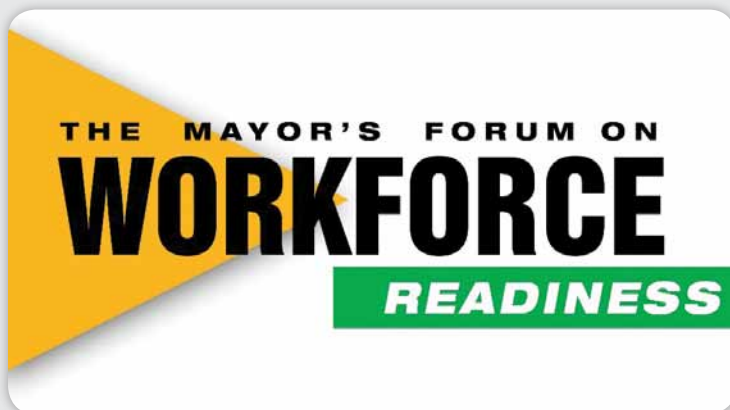
Program News

Recycling Program

The last residential Shred Day of 2017 was Saturday, September 23. During our first Shred Day in June, we had a record number of 394 vehicles that dropped off documents and shredded over 17,000 lbs. The goal of the program is to help improve the environment and to keep resident's information safe.

Cinema Park Development

We're excited to announce the last residential parcel has been sold and developed within Cinema Park. This brings the total to 97 new homes within the development. Home sales have helped to stabilize the housing market values citywide and increase the population as part of the Mayor's 17k Growth Initiative. Coming this fall we will be unveiling a new Cinema Park residential park featuring a water fountain, bench seating and a place for residents to gather and relax.



Don't Miss the Last Forum of the Year...

SAVE THE DATE!

Electrical Construction & Transportation
December 6, 2017

Warrensville Heights Police Officers Retire

Lieutenant Gregory Allan Curtin

After 36 years of loyal and dedicated service to the City of Warrensville Heights Police Department, Lieutenant Gregory Curtin retired July 7, 2017. Lieutenant Curtin has served under five mayors and eight police chiefs during his career. He has also held every position imaginable to an individual in law enforcement – such as Jailer, Dispatcher, Patrol Officer, Detective Sergeant, Detective Lieutenant and Executive Lieutenant. We would like to thank him for his invaluable contributions and wisdom he has brought into our lives and the Warrensville Heights Police Department.

Officer Daniel William Kantorowski

After 16 years of loyal and dedicated service to the City of Warrensville Heights Police Department, Officer Daniel Kantorowski's wonderful

career in law enforcement was cut short after an on duty accident. On the evening of June 9, 2016, Officer Kantorowski attempted to arrest a suspect who was under the influence of a controlled substance. A physical altercation occurred, at which time Officer Kantorowski sustained career ending injuries to his shoulder, bicep and a rupture of his pectoralis chest muscle. Due to the injuries sustained, he was forced to take an early retirement July 4, 2017.

When any member of a safety force takes their Oath of Office, they swear upon their honor in saving and preserving life and property or other emergency so far as in their power. Sometimes that oath may occur with major injuries or the ultimate sacrifice, but the police officers that serve the City of Warrensville Heights uphold this honor with great pride for the residents of this community.

New Ambulance for Warrensville Heights Fire Department

It is with great enthusiasm that I announce the purchasing of the new 2016 Ford E-450 Life Line "Superliner" Type III Ambulance. This vehicle was placed in service on July 28, 2017. This will be our front line vehicle going out of Station One. It is loaded with all the modern equipment necessary to perform advanced life support procedures, including a Stryker Power Loading Cot. Many thanks to Mayor Bradley D. Sellers and City Council for approving the purchase of this new rescue squad, which will provide the wonderful citizens of our city an efficient and modern means of patient care. This adds to a fleet of rescue squads with the last one being a fully-equipped 2010 Ford E-450, purchased in 2011, which runs out of Station Two.



Trick or Treat

- Halloween **Trick or Treat** will be on **Tuesday, October 31** between the hours of **6:00 - 8:00 pm**.
- Plan **costumes** that are **bright** and **reflective** or consider adding reflective tape or striping to costumes and trick-or-treat bags for greater visibility.
- A **parent** or **responsible adult** should always **accompany young children** on their neighborhood rounds.
- Only trick-or-treat in **well-known neighborhoods** at homes that have a **porch light on**.

Just a Couple Reminders

- Check and change your batteries in your smoke detectors.
- Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 am on Sunday, November 5.

Holiday Trash Pickup

- **Thanksgiving** - Wednesday - normal pickup
Thursday pickup moved to Friday

Fall Services

Leaf pickup begins **October 2** and will continue until snowfall. All leaves must be directed to the tree lawn for pickup (*see daily schedule*). Leaf piles should not include any tree branches, rocks or grass clippings. Chipper service will be available until **September 29**.

Please don't forget the ongoing **Tire Round Up**. If you have old tires, please drop them off before **September 30** - county pickup from facility.

Please report any **street lights** that are out and **basement sewer backups** (*for clearance of debris*) to the Service Department by calling **216-587-6570**.

Rubbish Collection & Recycling

Please remember to use the 95 gallon **dark green bin for trash** and 64 gallon **light green bin for recycle material**. All cloth, leather furniture and mattresses should be wrapped in plastic for trash pickup. Mattress bags are available at the Service Garage, call **216-587-6570**.

Recycle materials such as oil, computers/computer accessories, tires and paint can be dropped off at the Service Garage Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Green Road Park

Green Road Park will close for the Winter on **November 6** or the first snowfall.

Leaf Pick-Up

Monday/Tuesday:

Amherst Rd. | Balfour Rd. | Halifax Rd. | Gladstone Rd.
Shakerwood Rd. | Sunset Dr. | Kings Highway
Lanbury Ave. | Wickfield Ave.

Wednesday:

Ascot Ln. | Brookfield Ln. | Butternut Ln.
Cherrywood Ln. | Cricket Ln. | Eastwood Ln.
Harvard Rd. | Hathaway Ln. | Hickory Ln. | Holiday Ln.
Larkspur Ln. | Longbrook Rd. | Mayfair Ln. | Meadowlark Ln.
Ridgewood Ave. | Shadywood Ln.

Thursday:

Annette Pl. | Aurora Rd. Berry Blvd. | Camden Rd. | Dandridge Dr.
Felch St. | Glenview Rd. | Green Rd. between Emery Rd. & Miles Rd.
Hall Way | Ingleside Rd. | Jennings St. | Lee Hts. Blvd. | Marvin Rd.
O'Neal Pointe | Parkton Dr. | Portland Rd. | Preston Rd.
Ridgeton Dr. | Ruby Ln. | Sumpter Rd. | Vera St.

Friday:

Angela Dr. | Belfiore Rd. | Berrimore Ln. | Brookton Rd. | Du Sable Ct.
E. Frontenac Dr. | Emery Rd. | Donover Rd. | Gary Rd. | Glenmere Cir.
Green Rd. from Emery Rd. & Shurmer Dr. | Hillcroft Dr. | Joyce Ave.
Lawrence Rd. | Longleaf Rd. | Longman Ln. | Lorient Dr. | McCann St.
Merrygold Blvd. | Montville Ct. | Richmond Rd. | Rue St. Anne Ct.
Rue St. Gabriel Ct. | St. Germain Blvd. | Shurmer Dr. | South Frontenac Dr.
Springfield Rd. | Springvale Dr. | Timberlane Rd. | Wolverton Dr.

The Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine

Cleveland is excited to kick off the 2017-2018 Aspiring D.O.ctors Precollege Program with the scholars from WHHS this fall! Up to 80 students in grade 10-12 from WHHS will be able to explore their career interests in science and medicine with OU-HCOM's faculty, staff, and students through the college's immersive hands-on curriculum and academic enrichment activities. 11th and 12th grade students will be part of cohort that includes students from several CMSD high schools. OU-HCOM is also pleased to announce that the Aspiring D.O.ctors Precollege Program was recently awarded a **Community Connectors grant from the State of Ohio in the amount of \$83,038.47!** This generous funding will allow OU-HCOM to expand its programming on campus and with the Effective Leadership Academy while furthering its outreach efforts to local high school and college students.



Twelve graduates from the Class of 2017 received \$650 scholarships through generous donations from the St. Luke's Foundation. Marshé Robinson also received an additional scholarship in the amount of \$1500 provided through funding from the City of Warrensville Heights.

Look out for the September, 2017 - February, 2018 Civic & Senior Center brochure with all the activities and special events outlined in detail!

Attention Seniors & Adults 50+

Starting In September – After Work Classes

Sign up at the Center

Ceramics | Thursdays | 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

\$14.00 Residents | \$16.00 Non-residents | 8 weeks

Jewelry & Glass Fusing | Tuesdays | 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

\$35.00 | 8 weeks

Line Dancing | Wednesdays | 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

\$3.00 per class

Bid Whist & Spades | Thursdays | 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

\$17.00 per year | TriCity residents only

Ballroom Dancing | Tues. & Thurs. | 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

\$5.00 per class

The Senior Club

The Senior Club (for Warrensville Heights residents 60 years and older) meets twice a month and allows neighbors to meet and socialize with each other. The club travels, has an annual picnic and plans other activities that are fun and informative. Each month, club members receive updates on the current affairs in the city from the Mayor, Chief of Police, Fire Chief, City Council and the Board of Education.

Coming in October

Cotton Club Warrensville Style

October 20 | 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm | \$10.00 per person

Live entertainment, great food and fun. Sign up at the Center.

hChoices Wellness Station

Stop by and get your biometric screenings done!

- An onsite health monitoring system
- Live and OnDemand educational programming
- Secure tracking with touch screen interface
- Motivational wellness challenges
- Engaging digital bulletin board
- Accessible offsite with any Internet ready devices
- 100% managed remotely

Van Transportation Services

The Warrensville Heights Civic and Senior Center provides van transportation to the senior residents of the city, 60 years of age or older and who are unable to drive themselves. The van is available for medical appointments, dialysis and physical therapy on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am - 1:30 pm. Transportation is limited to destinations within the eastern suburbs of Cuyahoga County and the University Circle area. Wednesday is reserved for grocery shopping from 10:00 am - 1:30 pm. Transportation is provided to Giant Eagle and Walmart in Macedonia. Trips must be scheduled by noon, two days in advance and scheduling is on a first come basis. Call the center at 216-587-1250 to schedule and to check on availability.

Coming in November

Holiday Bazaar

November 13-17 | 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Shop for your holiday decoration needs! Wreaths, garlands, centerpieces and gifts.

2017 Warrensville Heights Summer Festival at a Glance

The City Would Like to Thank All of this Year's Sponsors:

Bronze Level Contributors

The Avenue Care & Rehab | Burton Carol Management | Car Parts Warehouse
Heinen's Fine Foods | Marcus Thomas LLC | NSL Analytical | Snively Property Company
University Hospital Rehab | William Griswold | Zashin & Rich Co., LPA

Silver Level Contributor

Cuyahoga Community College

Gold Level Contributors

Ahuja | Altercare at Saint Joseph | Calfe, Halter & Griswold LLP | Center Heights Service, Inc.
Cleveland Clinic South Pointe | Embrace Pet Insurance | Infinity Construction
ORG Holdings Limited | Special Metals | W. F. Hann & Sons

Patron Level Contributors

Arslanian Brothers Carpet | Cipriani Investments Co., LTD | Kondik Advertising & Printing
Porath Print Source | Shaker Auto Lease, Inc.

Congratulations to our Summer Festival Best Dessert Contest Winners!

1st Place	Joyce Morrison	Strawberry Punch Bowl Cake
2nd Place	Blanche Mayhorn	Peach Cobbler
3rd Place	Sharon Frizell	Peach Dessert

Thank You to all of the contest participants and the volunteer judges!

A Special Thank You to All of the Summer Festival Senior Volunteers!

Seniors volunteered their time and talents in the Children's Village, Ticket Booths, Bingo Games, Dessert Contest and they helped distribute information at the City Table. Your help was greatly appreciated!



Photos courtesy of Cynthia Moore



The City of Warrensville Heights
4301 Warrensville Center Road
Warrensville Heights, OH 44128

Prsrt Std
U.S. Postage
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Cleveland, OH
Permit #1045



BUILDING DEPARTMENT | *Ben Brown, Interim Building Commissioner*

Fall is a great time to start preparing the interior and exterior of your property for the winter months. Listed are some preparation ideas.

Clean & Repair Gutters

Check your gutters and downspouts to make sure they are properly secured, clean and clear of any debris. If your gutters and downspouts are not properly secured when the heavy snow comes, it can cause them to break away from the house. If your gutters and downspouts are clogged, this backlogs water which can cause damage to your roof and interior walls.

Driveway Repairs

Waterproofing your driveway is very important in order to prevent future damage and cost. Repair all cracks in your asphalt or concrete driveway because the cracks in your driveway can fill with rain or melted snow. When it freezes, it will expand and create frost heave causing more damage to your driveway.

Seal Doors & Windows

If you have any gaps around your doors and windows it can raise the cost of your winter heating bills. All gaps should be sealed with caulking or weather-stripping adhesive.

Inspect Roof

Do a complete walk-around of your property to check for any missing and/or damaged shingles that will let moisture in and have them replaced.

Smoke Detectors/Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Make sure your property has smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms. Smoke detectors must be installed on each level of the house including the hallway outside of sleeping area and in each bedroom. Battery operated smoke alarms are permitted in existing dwellings, but must be hardwired in new construction in the same locations. It is strongly recommended to install a Carbon Monoxide alarm in your dwelling. They should be centrally located outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms. Carbon Monoxide alarms are mandatory in new construction.

Heating System

Check and change any dirty furnace filters. Have your furnace or boiler and chimney serviced and checked by a licensed professional. If you have a fireplace, make sure there is not any creosote buildup in the chimney.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Building Department at 216-587-1230.