

...At Your Service



Message from the Mayor

Dear Residents,

Earlier this year with the help of John Carroll University Math and Applied Statistics Professor, Dr. Tom Short, I surveyed a small sample of residents about various City services. The services identified were: backyard pickup of garbage and recyclables, yard waste and leaf pickup from tree lawns, special pickup of large items, sidewalk snowplowing, installation of smoke detectors, inspection of car seats, D.A.R.E. program, Juvenile Diversion program and city-subsidized senior transportation. Surveys were mailed to 500 randomly selected residents and made available to residents at the Library, City Hall and online. Survey respondents were asked to rank the services by their relative importance.

In addition to the mailed surveys, a city-wide phone call notified residents of the survey's availability. 285 residents answered the survey, with 72% responding online. The survey responses for all returned surveys ranked the importance of the identified services, from most popular to least popular, in this order: leaf pickup from tree lawns, collection of yard waste from tree lawns, backyard garbage collection, special pickup of large items from backyards, pickup of recyclables from backyards, sidewalk snowplowing, city-subsidized senior transportation, Juvenile Diversion program, D.A.R.E. program, installation of smoke detectors, inspection of car seats. I appreciate your willingness to provide feedback on these services through your survey responses.

I hope you enjoy the holiday season.

Regards,

Susan Infeld
Mayor



Sensible Salting & Snowplowing Policy

The weather has not turned wintry yet but once it does, please remember to drive carefully. We follow a sensible salting policy for streets that is typical for cities in northeast Ohio. The most heavily travelled main streets are completely salted and plowed when snowfall exceeds a few inches. Side streets are plowed but only salted at intersections and on hills. This policy has been followed in recent years by nearly all communities in the County. Our Police Department monitors the traffic accidents reported in the winter months and has not seen an appreciable increase in accident rates as a result of the sensible salting policy.

Leaf Pick-Up

Some of you have expressed interest in the process used by the City for leaf pick up. City crews were scheduled to pick up leaves from tree lawns three times this fall during a six week collection period from October 15 – December 1. The crews followed a route map that was marked nightly for record-keeping. We were lucky that snow didn't fall during the collection period so that leaf pickup could continue uninterrupted.

The same trucks that pick up the leaves are also used to plow snow from the streets. Once the snow falls, the leaf vacuums are removed from the trucks and replaced with snow plows. Any leaves left on tree lawns at that point will not be picked up until the spring.

To ensure that your leaves are picked up for leaf recycling, please put them into brown kraft bags and place the bags on the tree lawn for removal on garbage day. Any bags left next to garbage cans will be removed on garbage day as trash.

Study of Fire Departments in UH & SH Sharing Services

The municipal fire services study, considering the sharing of fire services in University Heights and Shaker Heights, will commence in 2012. This study will be largely underwritten by a grant from the Cleveland Foundation along with a smaller contribution from both cities.

A Request for Proposals was sent to four companies experienced in studying efficiencies and the consolidation of municipal fire operations. Two companies were recently interviewed by a team of officials from both cities. Once a company is selected to perform the study, a presentation about the study process will be made to the City Councils of both cities. The time period for this study is expected to be several months. The conclusions and recommendations from the study will be presented to residents in both cities at public meetings. I look forward to having your input in that process.

Financial Update

Many residents have asked me about the impact of State cutbacks to our City's revenue stream. These cutbacks have been widely announced by the State according to a three-year plan for the reduction of tax money to municipalities. According to that schedule, our revenues will decrease approximately \$600,000 by 2013. This is due to the elimination of 50% of the Local Government Fund over that time period in addition to the permanent elimination of the estate tax in 2013. Please be assured that our analysis of the City's operations and the delivery of services are ongoing with a constant eye on cost containment.

New Year, New City Council

The swearing-in ceremony for the four Council members beginning new terms will take place at the City Council meeting on Tuesday, January 3 at 7:30 p.m. It is a festive ceremony, full of good cheer so please join us in wishing them well.



Senior Lecture Series at UH Library (all programs begin at 2:00 PM)

January 5 – No senior citizen meeting, but best wishes for the New Year

January 12 – Lisa Cellura, Outreach Educator, Cleveland Sight Center

January 19 – John Habat, Executive Director of the Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity

January 26 – Caitlin Lynch, concert violist in Doctoral program at Cleveland Institute of Music, and scholarship student in Judson Manor's Intergenerational Initiative



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