University Heights
The City of Beautiful Homes

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...At Your Service

Message from the Mayor

Dear Residents,

I hope you're as happy as I am to have longer days and sunshine with warmer weather to come! We are preparing the recreation brochure and expect it to be delivered to you in early May. New this year is the option to pay for your pool pass on-line through the City's website and the availability of passes at the pool when the pool opens.

The hours of operation at City Hall have changed to better meet your needs. City Hall is now open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. We will again offer Wednesday late-night hours this summer for exterior inspections beginning May 4. Please don't wait too long to schedule your late-night inspection because the calendar fills up quickly!

Recently I have spent time with area mayors sorting through the State budget to determine its impact on cities. Recognizing that the State is facing a deficit and will cut monies to cities, we have spoken to our legislators in Columbus with the request to spread the impact of budget cuts to municipalities over a period of years instead of the proposed two-year time period. We believe this will allow municipalities to better absorb the expected cuts in funding.

I am frequently asked by residents if University Heights could save money by pooling resources with other cities to provide services. In response, I want to highlight various programs and activities undertaken by the City to save costs and provide services to residents through collaboration. University Heights is actively engaged with other cities, the County, the State and government agencies to lower our operating costs. All of these arrangements give us a bigger cost savings than the City could obtain by itself:

- Gasoline and diesel fuel for City vehicles is purchased through a State-wide consortium of school districts. Our participation is arranged through the CH-UH School District.
- Road paving projects with nearby cities, most recently Cleveland Heights, Shaker Heights and South Euclid, has provided savings through the bulk purchase of road asphalt and on shared engineering costs.
- Shared recreation programming with other cities allows University Heights to offer residents the use of programs and facilities in other cities. University Heights underwrites the cost for our residents to use the Thornton Park ice rink in Shaker Heights and SELREC programming in South Euclid and Lyndhurst. We save costs by not having to build similar facilities in our city.
- Shared recreation programming with John Carroll University allows our residents to use the University's indoor recreational facilities. Several years ago, the University offered City residents the opportunity to use its indoor recreational facilities when school was not in session between semesters and during the summer. JCU has since expanded this program to include residents of Shaker Heights.
- Solid waste disposal (landfill) fees are negotiated through the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District on behalf of a consortium of seven cities to lower the cost.
- A recycling contract negotiated through the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District for University Heights along with twelve cities gives our City more money back on recyclables because of the collective volume produced by the consortium.
- Road salt savings are greater because University Heights is able to get salt at the same price that ODOT pays through an ODOT buying consortium.
- University Heights shares animal control costs (loose dogs, skunks, etc.) with South Euclid by using a South Euclid employee to cover both cities.
- Joint dispatch for fire and EMS services has been in place for several years with Shaker Heights and Cleveland Heights to offer increased safety for all the residents of the three cities.
- The Shaker Heights Court has provided judicial and court services for decades to Shaker Heights, University Heights, Beachwood, Pepper Pike and Hunting Valley. The costs of operating the court are shared among the participating cities.
- For decades, our City has participated in a bulk buying program for capital equipment items (police and fire vehicles, service department vehicles, office equipment, etc.) through a State-wide purchasing consortium.
- University Heights recently formed a joint police services group with Euclid, South Euclid, Shaker Heights and Beachwood. The first specialized police service that will be coordinated jointly by the participating cities is a shared SWAT team. The cost of operating this specialized team will be shared by all five cities. It is anticipated that more specialized services will also be jointly operated by all five cities.

The 2011 City Budget projects no increase in employee salaries and a slight decrease in income and property tax collections. The year-end surplus is projected to be approximately $260,000. This will be a very tight year financially for the City, particularly with a projected 25% decrease in State funding known as the Local Government Fund.

Last month a survey was made available to residents asking them to rank the importance of various City services. This month, the survey responses will be tabulated by Dr. Tom Short, a John Carroll University professor. I believe the information gathered from the survey responses will help the City in assessing the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of service delivery to residents. I'll keep you posted on the findings!

Regards,

Susan K Infeld

North Taylor Road Community Garden

The City's community garden on North Taylor Road is scheduled to open this year! The Community Garden Committee is finalizing the layout for the garden, the rules, etc. The next committee meetings will be April 7 at 6:30 p.m. and April 20 at 6:30 p.m. Meetings are held in the Conference Room at City Hall.

Future Community Garden on Jackson Boulevard

The empty lot at 2240 Jackson Boulevard will be converted into a community garden with either vegetable plots or flowers, depending on the neighborhood preference. Details will be reported once a neighborhood consensus is reached.

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

April 7 - Dr. Stacey Gorniak, a physician at the Cleveland Clinic, will talk about Manual Dexterity & Aging Media. Sherry Gavanditti from Menorah Park will talk about the program offerings at Menorah Park.

April 14 - Kathleen Crowther, the President of the Cleveland Restoration Society, will talk about the history, mission and impact of historic preservation in the community.

April 21 – The Peace Corps is celebrating its 50th Anniversary! John & Kathy Baker of Cleveland will talk about their experience in Rumania, and University Heights' resident Michael Lonsdale will talk about his experience in Zambia.

April 28 - Virginia Marti Veith, the President of the College of Art and Design in Lakewood, will talk about the Mission to the Fatherless, in Kenya.

Arbor Day Celebration

University Heights has received its 33rd Tree City USA award from the National Arbor Day Foundation and will commemorate Arbor Day on May 3rd at 11:00am on the front lawn of City Hall. Children from our city's schools will help with the planting. Please join us as we celebrate the importance of trees in our community and help us plant some trees! Cookies and treats will be provided to all attendees.

Spring Clean-up – Leaves/Yard Waste

The Service Department crews will pick up yard waste and leaves from tree lawns during the month of April. Happy raking!

John Carroll University News

Happy Birthday, John Carroll University! The University is celebrating its 125th Anniversary in 2011. Visit www.jcu.edu/events for information about free lectures and events commemorating the year-long celebration of the University's 125th Anniversary.

Upcoming campus events:

- April 8 and 9 – Kick-It Tournament
- April 17 – National Youth Service Day
- April 30 – Cultivating Community Day
- April 30 thru May 1 – Relay for Life, April 30 beginning at 1 p.m. and ending May 1 at 7 a.m. This will be the fifth year that JCU will participate in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life event to raise money in support of cancer treatment, research and advocacy programs. Live music, fun activities for families and children, and a solemn candle-lighting ceremony to honor those battling cancer and remembering those who lost the fight. Relay for Life is an outdoor event that will take place on campus on the Hamlin Quad. If you are interested in participating, or sponsoring a team, visit relayforlife.org/jcu.edu for more information.
- A refurbishment of Shula Stadium's track and field is scheduled for this summer.

Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.)

The City's C.E.R.T. is looking for volunteers to join them as they work within neighborhoods to educate and help fellow residents during times of emergency. Team members will receive training and learn to work in cooperation with existing safety and medical groups working in the community. For more information please contact Fire Chief John Pitchler at 216.391.1939 or jpitchler@universityheights.com.

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