

“At Your Service”



Message from the Mayor

State of the City of University Heights, Ohio 2015

Dear Residents:

Hello and happy New Year! As I begin my sixth year as your mayor, I am pleased to update you on the condition of the City. First, I am happy to report that University Heights is financially solvent and is beginning the year with a \$2.1M surplus from last year's operations. The City Administration accomplished this by careful management of your tax dollars while continuing the delivery of excellent municipal services.

The City Administration supplements your tax dollars with grant money to pay for capital equipment and special projects. Your tax dollars fund our safety forces and service workers; street lights, electric and heating bills; pool operations; tree planting and trimming; sewer maintenance; road paving, etc. I am happy to announce that University Heights was recently awarded a Community Development Block Grant from the Cuyahoga County Department of Development to pay for a new Master Plan that will be developed with the planners at the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission. This will be the City's first Master Plan since 2003 and will provide a guideline for future development projects in the City. Once the Master Plan is complete, the City Council and I will return to our review of the City's 60 year old Planning and Zoning code to update it according to today's standards. Over the past year the City has used grant funding for bullet-proof vests for our police officers, fire safety equipment, and motorized patient cots for the ambulances. In 2015 the City will use grant money from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to rebuild four tennis courts at Purvis Park. The new tennis courts will be installed this year for your use during the summer months. The Administrative team at City Hall has worked hard responding to your needs. We provide the training and resources necessary for the delivery of the excellent services you have come to expect in University Heights. Our safety forces undergo regular training to improve their specialized skills. The efforts of Police Chief Steven Hammett, Fire Chief Douglas Zook, Service Director Jeffrey Pokorny, Building Commissioner Eric Tuck-Macalla, City Engineer Joseph Ciuni and Finance Director Larry Heiser have been invaluable in our delivery of services to the community. I would like to thank them and acknowledge their work on behalf of the residents of University Heights.

The City has two significant development projects planned for 2015 that will improve our community's attractiveness. The first project will be the completion of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) study for pedestrian and bicycle improvements along Warrensville Center Road and Cedar Road. This project is being funded through a Technical Assistance Award from NOACA's Transportation for Livable Communities program. The award gives the City free planning assistance for this project from the planners and engineers at NOACA. The second project will be the development of the new park on Fenwick Road. I am delighted that the bond issue for payment of the park construction was approved by voters last November. Although it was a new bond issue, your property taxes will not increase because the park bond replaced the expiring Purvis Park construction bond. This public improvement will give residents a brand new green space with assets including youth play fields, walking paths, a restroom pavilion, a playground area, natural plantings, etc. The one-year construction process will begin this summer.

The City maintains a strong relationship with our major employer, John Carroll University. The university continues to have a positive impact on our City and our region with the \$1M in payroll taxes it pays to University Heights annually and the \$127M economic impact it contributes to northeast Ohio. This past summer the university generously hosted the City's band concerts on the Hamlin Quadrangle. The venue proved so popular to concert-goers that it will remain the host site for our summer concerts. Many concert-goers appreciated the opportunity to continue their musical evening with an ice cream or meal on the patios at Fairmount Circle.

Commercial development in University Heights continues along Cedar Road. A Dunkin Donuts restaurant with a 24-hour, drive-through window will open soon, next to the University Heights Library. Library renovations will relocate its main entrance, next to the parking lot. The owner of the Cedar-Green shopping center has plans to bring new enterprises to his shopping center along Cedar and will make an application to the Planning Commission when those plans are finalized. Unfortunately, the University Square shopping center was sold at public auction in 2013 to new owners who have not paid the property taxes owed. Although the City has suggested to the new owners various commercial uses for the available retail space, there has been no action on that front.

The move of Cleveland Heights High School to the Wiley Middle School site on Miramar will take place this summer, in August 2015. The high school is relocating to Wiley while renovations occur at its current site in Cleveland Heights. The School District estimates the construction time frame for the new high school to be two years.

After the high school returns to its original site in August 2017, Wiley will be the temporary site of Roxboro and Monticello Middle Schools while their schools are being renovated. That construction time period will be two years after which both middle schools will return to their current sites in Cleveland Heights, in August 2019. The School District has future plans for the Wiley site to house an elementary school population. The timing of this will be tied to a future construction bond issue that will be presented to voters for the renovation of the elementary schools.

The School District and the City agree that the safety of our students and the citizens during this process is very important. Beginning in August 2015, the School District will employ Cuyahoga County Sheriff's deputies for the next four years to provide increased police presence in the Wiley area for traffic control and people movement. The City recognizes that adding 2,000+ people at this site will likely require an increased presence of University Heights' police officers as well. Our police department is committed to keeping the students, staff, and neighbors of the new high school site safe.

In summary I would like to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your mayor. I enjoy working for the community and am very excited about the development projects we have planned for the next year. In particular I look forward to the establishment of a new community green space in University Heights with our new park. I would like to thank the City Council for their work on behalf of the City and look forward to our continued efforts to work together for the betterment of University Heights.

Sincerely,



Susan Infeld
Mayor

Sensible Salt Policy & Street Plowing for Winter Snow

A sensible salt policy for the application of street salt was established by the City Council in 2010. This policy has become common for municipalities in our county as a way to limit the overuse of road salt during winter months and to protect the groundwater of our region. All streets will be plowed when the snowfall exceeds 2 inches. Salt will be applied to main thoroughfares, intersections on all streets, and hills. Please be careful when driving on icy and snowy streets during the winter months.

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Sidewalk Snowplowing

City ordinances require homeowners to keep their sidewalks clear of snow for pedestrians. However, the City clears snow from sidewalks in school areas when the snow is 5-6 inches deep. Additionally, if the streets are clear of snow during major snow events and manpower is available for sidewalk plowing, the City will plow sidewalks city-wide.

City Newsletter & Important News from the Mayor is Available by Email

For residents who want to get the City newsletter and important messages via e-mail, sign-up is available by clicking the Newsletter link on the home page of the City website.

2015 Holiday Schedule

City offices will be closed on the dates listed below. Garbage pickup that would normally occur on the holiday will take place the following day. Any garbage collection days remaining in the week will be moved back one day.

- Thursday, January 1 – New Year's Day**
- Monday, January 19 – Martin Luther King Day**
- Monday, February 16 – Presidents Day**
- Monday, May 25 – Memorial Day**
- Monday, September 7 – Labor Day**
- Wednesday, November 11 – Veterans Day**
- Thursday, November 26 – Thanksgiving Day**
- Friday, December 25 – Christmas Day**



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